



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Alexandria's City Council candidates at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

'The Math Doesn't Add Up'

Fights over debt and development heats up in final council debate.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The light at the end of the campaign tunnel is within sight. Alexandria's City Council candidates fought their last debate of the campaign season on Oct. 14 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center hosted by the Old Town North Civic Association.

Even among a group almost perfectly divided between Republicans, Democrats, and an independent, there were still a few issues where the whole group agreed. They agreed, for example, that the former GenOn power plant will take time to clean up, but afterwards its use should be determined with the input of neighbors and preferably with substantial green space involved.

On other issues, the debate saw some of the most bitter fighting yet in the campaign. Each candidate was given a small deck of green cards to be thrown over the front of the desk if they wanted to follow up on a statement made by another candidate. On the topic of infrastructure and development, the front of the desk was a flurry of green cards flung towards the audience.

Republican candidate John "Bob" Wood attacked the City Council for failure to invest in the city's infrastructure, referencing overflowing sewers and severely damaged city streets. Townsend Van Fleet echoed Wood's criticism, arguing that the city's current school-overflow crisis is the result of City Council not prioritizing the schools. But it was when Van Fleet added that the City Council continues to increase the debt that Councilman Justin Wilson threw a green card off the table and initiated one of the night's first heated discussions.

"The math doesn't add up here," said Wilson and

pointed back at Wood and Van Fleet's fight against Carr's Indigo Hotel project and EYA's plans for Robinson Terminals North and South. "They oppose economic development and then call us out for not [funding schools and infrastructure]. That debt is being used to finance schools."

Wood noted that it was Van Fleet, not him, that brought up the issue of debt.

Frank Shafroth, the director for the Center of State and Local Leadership at George Mason University, said that the attacks against the City Council's infrastructure plan may not be entirely warranted.

"First, the city has a strong history of financing its infrastructure — most recently having issued long-term debt this year, primarily to fund long-term improvements for buildings, schools, and transportation, as well as to refinance (e.g. lower the city's borrowing costs)," said Shafroth. "Secondly, of course, it is hard to disagree with Councilmember Wilson that they really cannot have it both ways: you cannot attack him for supporting that capital investment and then turn around and accuse Councilmember Wilson and his colleagues of 'not financing infrastructure needs like sewers and schools.' All it takes is a stroll down Mt. Vernon [Avenue] ... The key issues were nightly rat counts pouring out

of too-often flooded sewers compared to the post-capital investment that has made the Avenue today a different, vibrant part of the city's future."

Councilman John Chapman noted that the city has made recent strides towards improving the city's sewer infrastructure and that AlexRenew, a wastewater renewal facility, has expressed an interest in a public-private partnership. Councilman Tim Lovain said that future development in Alexandria needed to focus around metro stations, like the developments at Potomac Yard.

"That's the future of the D.C. area," said Lovain. "That's what employers want."

But Democratic candidate Willie Bailey said the City Council needs to push further in their negotia-

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Joint Efforts

Herring and Lenehan clash, but rally against Bakker's stance on marijuana.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Democratic incumbent Del. Charniele Herring says education reform is one of the top priority of the campaigns, Republican challenger Sean Lenehan accuses the state of not doing enough on the issue, and Libertarian Candidate Andy Bakker just really wants to talk about weed.

Since 2009, Herring has represented Alexandria's 46th District. Herring served as House minority whip and later as the first African-American chair of the Democratic Party of Virginia. Herring says a major part of those jobs is understanding someone's concern about a position and trying to discover what the underlying problem is. It's a skill that's helped her understand the West End more as she makes phone calls and goes door to door during the campaign season. As she goes around the neighborhoods of Alexandria's West End, she still hears many residents expressing concerns about BRAC 133.

"People are still not happy about it," said Herring, "but most people are starting to deal with it."

The building's selection in 2008 was before her time, but Herring said afterwards that she joined in the successful fight to preserve the Winkler Botanical Preserve behind the building.

Lenehan is running as a Republican, which he says seems to be a

rarity when he looks across the political signs in the medians. Lenehan has a background in business, working in brand management for Pirate Brands, particularly working with major grocery stores. He argues that this business background is something sorely lacking in the Virginia legislature, and one Alexandria's West End needs.

But the third candidate in the race has a different focus. Bakker, running as a Libertarian, smokes marijuana. It's currently illegal in Virginia, but Bakker says it helps him cope with a neck injury that still causes pain.

"It's an important issue for me and for Virginians," said Bakker. "We look at states like Colorado, Washington, Oregon: it brings in quite a bit of jobs and industry. It brings in tax money from not throwing people into jail. Beyond that, people have kids, and it means not having to worry about them being locked up."

Bakker knows the stereotypes about marijuana users, but says that they're not an accurate representation. He adds that, as he talks to people, he notices that the stereotype is not as common as people would believe.

"You no longer have to go to the guy on the street corner," said Bakker. "The person in the legal

SEE THREE SEEK, PAGE 3



Herring



Lenehan



Bakker

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Three Seek Seat

FROM PAGE 1

marijuana store is checking IDs. They're not selling to children in the way a drug dealer would."

But neither Herring nor Lenehan share Bakker's enthusiasm for legalization. Legalization of harders drugs, like heroin or meth, concerns Herring. Herring serves on the Governor's Task Force for Heroin Abuse and Prescription Drugs, which has given her exposure to evidence of death from addiction to narcotic substances. As for marijuana, Herring says there is progress, even if it's slower than Bakker would like. This year, Herring said the Virginia legislature legalized cannabis oil, and while she personally recognizes legitimate uses for medical marijuana, she believes it is an issue that should be dealt with on a national level.

But if Herring isn't as close to Bakker's position as he likes, it's Lenehan who sits on the opposite side of the table. To Lenehan, enforcing the current laws is pivotal, and he directly opposes the legalization of marijuana. Lenehan argues that marijuana serves as a gateway drug to use of harder drugs, though Bakker countered that alcohol is actually considered the most common gateway to other substances. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 26 percent of those who reported marijuana use in 2009 said they also tried cocaine, and only 7 percent had tried heroin.

Neither Herring or Lenehan consider legalizing marijuana a priority for their constituency. Herring said she would be in favor of more studies on the topic, but recognized that doing so would be unlikely.

"This process should start with requesting a study, and that depends on the priorities of the leadership," said Herring. "But our constituency is more concerned about education. That's what's on their mind."

"Let Colorado or Washington takes the lead and wait for the data," said Lenehan, echoing Herring's urge of caution. "Colorado might prove that it's not bad, but we don't want to rush in as reckless or dangerous. Virginia doesn't need to be a leader in legalization of marijuana."

But while Herring and Lenehan centered their campaigns around education reform and other local issues, Bakker becomes less interested the further the topic strays from legalization of marijuana.

"I don't have a stance on schools, and healthcare is not a focus on the campaign," said Bakker. "Medical marijuana is the main focus of my healthcare platform. We put [this issue] in people's faces. We get people talking about it. It's what we're focusing on and we're exposing people to the issue."

But if Herring and Lenehan took close positions on the topic of legalizing marijuana, the similarities end there.

EDUCATION

Lenehan and Herring both identified education in Alexandria as one of the top campaign issues. Lenehan accused the Alexandria School Board of mishandling certain schools, in particular Jefferson-Houston Elementary School. Jefferson-Houston lost its accreditation in 2013 and, while test scores have improved since then, as of 2015 it remains unaccredited. In 2013, it was one of four schools in the state that were eligible for takeover by the state, and Lenehan thinks that the state government should have done so.

"We need to get rid of the excuses in this city," said Lenehan. "Parents don't want to hear about a 4 year plan ... Parents should have a choice to leave a failing school."

Herring took a definitive stance against the state taking over local schools, especially in the case of Jefferson-Houston. Herring argued that the local City

Council and School Board are closest to the issue and best know how to address the problems within their system, adding that even the Republican legislative majority had serious issues with the idea of stepping in and undermining the authority of the local elected officials.

HEALTHCARE

"I absolutely support medicaid expansion," said Herring, and highlighted the \$693 million in federal funding the state has lost in its refusal to expand medicaid. "That's our tax dollars and it's all going to other states."

"There are fiscal constraints," said Lenehan. "Federal funding will disappear. The state's burden is too much and it's only growing. It could hamstring our economic recovery ... The current Medicaid limits are fair."

On mental healthcare, Herring not only points to her record fighting for increased mental healthcare availability, but her successes. In 2014, Herring worked with Republican Ben Cline from the 24th District on an enhanced database for bed availability, allowing hospitals to communicate with each other and see which ones had space available.

GUN CONTROL

"I support universal background checks," said Herring, "I support closing the gun show loophole. With the gun violence we've seen, it's going to take courage for all the parties to sit down and seriously look at this."

Herring said her dream would be a task force specifically for gun safety and that she's considering proposing the establishment of one for next year. Previously, Herring says attempts to gather all involved parties to a task force were thwarted when the National Rifle Association refused to participate. This year, though, Herring is hoping for more support from across the aisle, or at the very least a foot in the door on the issue.

"Sometimes, the solution is as simple as picking up the phone and asking to talk about it," said Herring.

But if they're anything like Lenehan, it might not be as productive a phone call as Herring hopes. Lenehan, a gun owner himself, says his policy would focus on enforcing the existing gun laws and background checks, but no expansion beyond those. He noted that, in Virginia, one can't purchase a gun directly from the internet, it has to be shipped to a licensed gun dealer. But for private sales, which are currently unregulated, Lenehan says he doesn't know how more background checks could be implemented.

Gun control is also one of the issues where, as a Libertarian, Bakker weighs in.

"I support gun rights," said Bakker, returning the topic to a familiar parallel. "Prohibition doesn't work. I won't say the answer is more guns, but I'm a medical marijuana patient, it is illegal in the Commonwealth of Virginia, but it is still available."

I-66 TOLLS

The only other position where Lenehan and Herring align is on the proposed I-66 tolls. Lenehan says he sees it as a tax, since the tolls do nothing to add capacity to the roads. More than that, though, Lenehan says the tolls may have the unintended consequence of squeezing the traffic off of the highway and onto the smaller city streets.

"This is a foolish plan," said Lenehan, "It's BRAC 2.0."

At this time, Herring said she would vote against tolling on I-66, but also noted that the potential legislation is still very early in the formative process.

"I don't support tolling at this time," said Herring. "We don't want people paying more just to get to work."

Trading Jobs

FROM PAGE 1

tions with developers.

"We need to hold developers more accountable," said Bailey in reference to developer contributions to Alexandria's funds towards schools, infrastructure, and affordable housing. It was a comment that drew the first friendly fire of the night. Councilman Paul Smedberg, also a Democrat, fired back that the City Council actively courts additional funding towards those programs from developers, and highlighted contributions from the Potomac Yard developers as evidence of that. It wasn't Smedberg and Bailey's only quick spat of the evening. Later, Bailey would say that all of the Community Centers in Alexandria should be free to its citizens, but Smedberg shot back that, with a tough budget, those who could afford to attend those facilities should be required to pay.

Bailey wasn't the only Democrat that said the council needed to go further on developer contributions. When asked if the City Council gives too many exceptions to developers, Chapman answered that they do.

"The pittance we get for affordable housing and infrastructure is not enough for what we give," said Chapman. "[The developers] need to give a lot more."

Some of the Republican candidates took Bailey and Chapman's emphasis on expecting more from developers a few steps further.

"We've got to take back our city from the developers," said Van Fleet. "All of our parking problems in Old Town are developer generated but all we hear about in City Council is parking reductions. It has got to stop."

Republican candidate Monique Miles recalled a tour of Alexandria's affordable housing that the late Melvin Miller had taken her on. Miles stated that, with developer contributions, the city needed to begin enforcing it's 1:1 ratio for public housing lost and gained. Again, Wilson was quick with the green card in response.

"Ms. Miles has misunderstood the entire affordable housing policy," said Wilson. "The 1:1 ratio is solely for public housing, not affordable housing. I'm sure Melvin [Miller] would have told you that. The units are there, the problem is that the rents have increased."

But the topic of expectations vs reality in terms of development carried over into other questions. Republican candidate Fernando Torrez commented that, by the end of his first term in City Council, ground would be broken on the new Landmark Mall, a comment that drew a scoff from Democratic Councilwoman Del Pepper.

"The only way you could break ground at Landmark Mall is if you give more incentives to the developers," said Pepper.

But Independent Phil Cefaratti fired back at Pepper that, during a presentation on Landmark Mall in June of 2015, the Howard Hughes Corporation told the City Council that work would begin on the mall in the first quarter of 2016. But when Cefaratti talked to the company more recently, they said that the estimate for 2016 had not been a realistic one. Cefaratti jumped onto Pepper's comment at Torrez and asked, if she knew that next year was an unrealistic goal, why she didn't say anything about that during the June presentation to the City Council? Pepper's answer was that the situation is still very complicated, particularly because one of the other parties in the negotiation recently changed hands.

"Sears has new leadership, so they had to renegotiate," said Pepper. "This is not an easy slam dunk."

Unfortunately, unlike with the debt and infrastructure issue, Shafroth says there's no clear answer on Landmark Mall and other development questions.

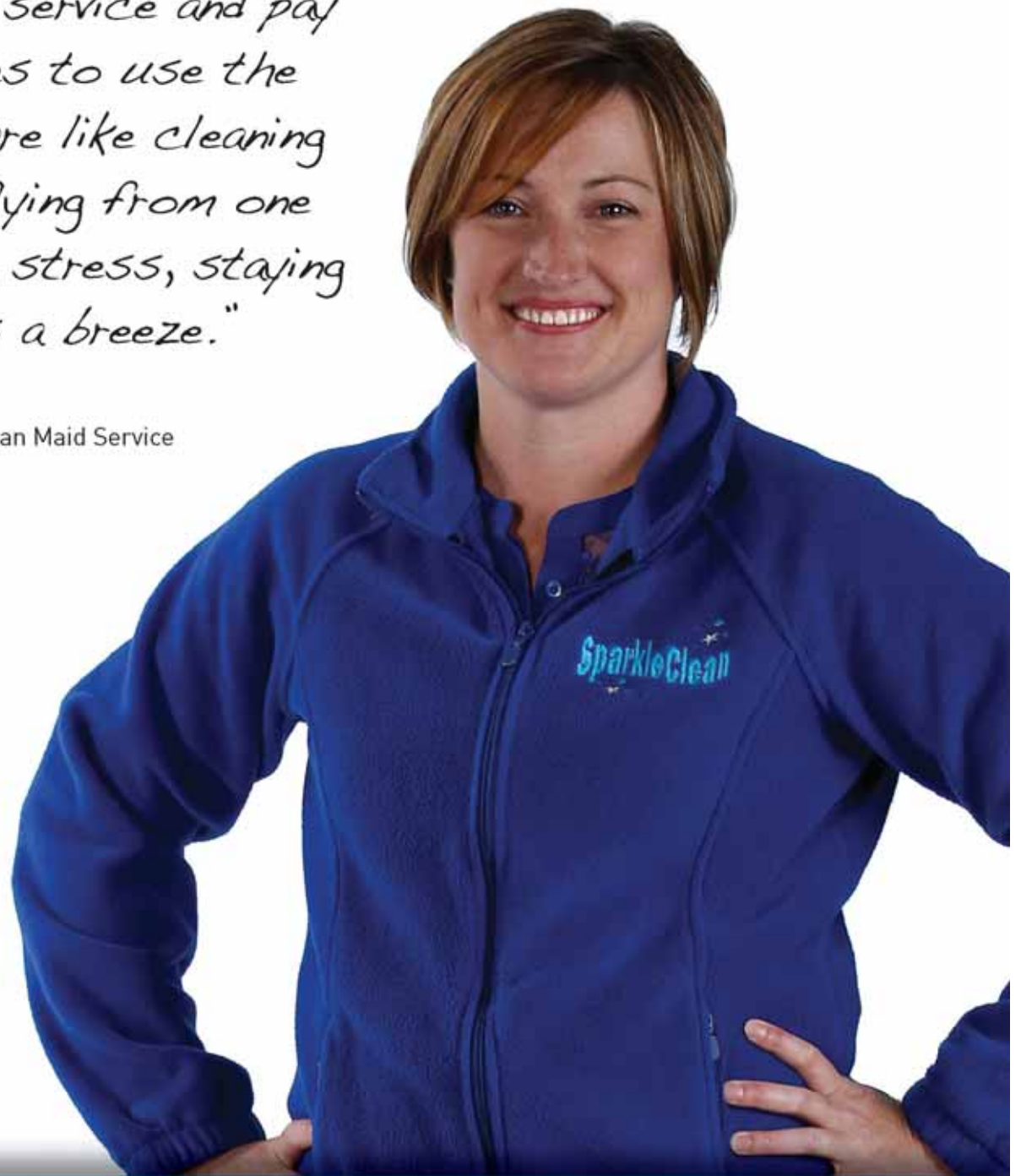
"There can be no certain answer other than time," said Shafroth. "It would seem clear that after Landmark and some of the development near the transit center on Duke Street that the city has gained much experience and lessons learned. No doubt its leaders are watching how Fairfax County is proceeding in almost building an entire new city — and will have learned from the exceptional foresight with which Arlington shaped its future along the Metro corridor."

But as with any future, to do it will will require significant capital investment based upon what Moody's has called Alexandria's 'dynamic tax base.' Not to leverage that dynamic base would squander much of the city's opportunity for the future."

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OBITUARY

Maria Teresa Eneim O'Leary

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was love at first sight when Maria Eneim, an exotic Mexican beauty, first laid eyes on a handsome young Marine during a 1955 visit to Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Combat Center in California. His name was Jeremiah O'Leary and after a whirlwind romance, the two married and headed east, settling in Old Town the following year.

Over the course of nearly six decades, Maria O'Leary raised a family and set the standard for style as the owner of Nuevo Mundo boutique on Cameron Street. On Oct. 13, the woman who defined Old Town hospitality died at the age of 85.

"Maria Teresa was legend in my family for being an elegant beauty," said O'Leary's cousin Christine Zardeneta of Los Angeles in an online post. "She was open, gracious, inclusive and fun. Accomplished in so many ways, she was the heart of her amazing family."

Born Maria Teresa Eneim on July 22, 1930, to Adelina and Arturo Eneim in Los Angeles, O'Leary found an early career in the skies as an "Air Hostess" working for Pan Am Airlines. Between serving meals and tending to passengers, her duties sometimes included modeling swimsuits and formal wear in the aisle.



Maria Teresa O'Leary

After settling in Alexandria, she and her husband, a former Latin American correspondent and White House correspondent for the Washington Evening Star, and later a columnist for The Washington Times, took extended family trips through Mexico, Guatemala and South America. O'Leary became a great raconteur of their many "gallivants," as she referred to them.

In 1963, O'Leary learned of a contest that featured a grand prize of a freezer, stove and assorted premium home appliances that were well beyond her family budget. Being in the midst of trying to rehabilitate a 200-old-year home on a newspaper reporter's salary, O'Leary entered, and won, the Mrs.



Maria Teresa O'Leary and her family at the White House Correspondents Dinner in 1989 when her husband, Jeremiah O'Leary, Jr. served as president of the White House Press Corps. From left: Son, Timothy A. O'Leary, daughter, Moira O'Leary, Maria Teresa O'Leary, Jeremiah O'Leary, Jr., son Brendan O'Leary, President George Bush, daughter Caitlin O'Leary Gage, son-in-law Russell Gage and daughter Deirdre O'Leary Stamper.

Virginia contest.

In the early 1960s, O'Leary worked in the cultural affairs department at the Pan American Union (later the Organization of American States). In 1966, she opened Nuevo Mundo, an Old Town boutique with her business partner Cornelia Noland. Nuevo Mundo featured an extensive collection of antiques, artifacts and jewelry from

around the world and became the premier destination in the Washington area for fashion and art.

One of Alexandria's first woman-owned businesses, Nuevo Mundo became more than just a boutique – it was a salon where people gathered for friendship and to share community news. Daughters Deirdre and

SEE MARIA TERESA, PAGE 9

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PEOPLE

Every Kitchen's a Challenge

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Shawna Dillon's mother let her pick out the furniture for her bedroom and rearrange it when she was 7 years old and, "I've always, always wanted to be an interior designer." Now Dillon and her husband, Jim, own Snaidero Kitchen + Design on N. Fairfax Street. Dillon says she graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design, and then started at a residential firm in Alexandria. She worked at the Chicago showroom of Snaidero, an Italian custom kitchen design company with business in 80 countries as senior designer for eight years. Then she returned home to Alexandria to open her own Snaidero store with her husband.

PEOPLE AT WORK

"Alexandria was a lovely place to grow up and there were a lot of things we missed."

It is 1 p.m. and a customer appears for an appointment, here to pick up samples for a developer to make final decisions. "Are you going warm or cooler?" Dillon asks and pulls out the mink elm and tundra for the final choice. Dillon says the process begins when a client goes through the showroom and Dillon gets a feel for what they are looking for. "I look at how they use their current kitchen, what they do or don't like about the one they have now. Also the types of shopping they do, is the kitchen used for entertainment, how many people cook there at the same time." Then she works out a budget pricing and draws the designs. "I take as long as the client wants to get it right."

She demonstrates the model behind the counter with integrated handles for all of the cupboards, drawers and appliances. "This kitchen is clean, perfect with nothing to hide. It has to be perfect because there is no fudge room." Dillon continues, "Every kitchen I design is different-no plug and play. Each one is a little puzzle that has to be functional, ergonomic."

Dillon says that when she got into residential design of the whole house she found the most enjoyable part was helping people function in homes. "In the kitchen you can really transform how they move and interact. It takes problem solving." She recalls



The Snaidero showroom has one kitchen exhibit designed by Paolo Pininfarina who also designs Ferraris. It is number 5 limited edition with special finishes available only for this kitchen. Shawn Dillon once designed a Pininfarina kitchen that was lacquer red to match her client's red Ferrari.



Shawna Dillon shows client Katie Moore several cabinet wood samples for a final decision-making meeting with a developer later in the afternoon. Shawna owns Snaidero, an Italian custom kitchen cabinet design company with her husband Jim.

one kitchen where a woman both cooked by herself and entertained with caterers in the same space. "So I broke the kitchen into work zones so the team could all have their area to work but she could have her own zone scaled to one person."

Dillon said when she first started "people loved to look but couldn't imagine buying a kitchen like the one you see here. But our life is extremely busy and the outside world very noisy so when people come home they don't want maintenance; they want simplicity." For instance, today she says people are using a lot of melamine that is not wood but a plastic finish applied to a door. "It has more texture than wood, is more durable and environmentally friendly. Europe has long been extremely environmentally conscious. They have a certain way of life." She said when she started going to the Milan Fair she realized things were happening over there way before in the U.S.

Dillon said she found Chicago customers to be more willing to take risks than those in the local area. "It surprised me about the Midwest. People in their '50s and '60s were willing to do something a little crazy, like have a red kitchen and let's have fun." She speculates that the more conservative nature of the D.C. area might be because real estate is a lot more expensive here and with so much turnover that people are looking toward resale."

Dillon moves around the corner to one of the demo kitchens in the showroom. "This is kitchen Number 5 of 84 limited edition designs by Paolo Pininfarina who also designs Ferraris." A bright red toy Ferrari sits on the counter. This limited design kitchen has special finishes that are not available in any other kitchen. She pushes a button and an overhead curved door opens upward revealing neatly stacked dishes inside. "Men just love the gadgets and of course the Ferrari. Women tend to like the functionality."

She says when she was in Chicago she designed one of the Pininfarina kitchens with racing red lacquer to match the client's Ferrari. His house was constructed with the kitchen adjoining the dining room but with a parking space in between to park the Ferrari. "Men go crazy for these kitchens."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Dr. Jesse Dingle, principal of T.C. Williams.

Searching Out Talent

Dingle at TC.

BY AMINA LUQMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

Part 4

Last in a four-part series on new principals in Alexandria City Public Schools.

If you see a couple whizzing past on the Mount Vernon trail, do a double take, because it just may be Dr. Jesse Dingle, the new principal of T.C. Williams High School, and his wife, out for their morning run. "We do about 4 or 5 miles. It's what we've always done," said Dingle about their morning routine.

The two met in college, at Appalachian State University. He ran track-and-field and she played basketball. "Really, our first 'date' was running," Dingle said. He leans in and whispers, chuckling, "But I'm faster."

Dingle is newly arrived to Alexandria from Winchester, Va. and running shoes may be exactly what's in order when it comes to his new job. Former TC principal Suzanne Maxey left big shoes to fill. The school has been on the upswing lately as a result of a host of discipline and instructional changes implemented by Maxey.

Athletic in build, Dingle's body may say runner, however, his demeanor is an almost meditative calm. He's relaxed, mild mannered and seems not easily frazzled. His zen-like way may just be him or perhaps it's a product of years of experience in education. He taught for 11 years, became principal of two elementary schools and a middle school in North Carolina, then became principal at Chapel Hill High School in Chapel Hill, N.C., for three

And More ...

Dr. Jesse Dingle:

Favorite Movie: "Dreamgirls"

Favorite Book: Anything by Stephen King. I've read them all.

Favorite Music Artist: Kirk Franklin

Something surprising about you: I grow orchids. At any given time I'm growing 25 or 30 orchids.

years, and finally went to Headley High in Winchester, Va., where he stayed for three years.

Perhaps his calm demeanor is from his small town upbringing. He's from Fayetteville, N.C. There was his mother, father and four siblings. He faced his challenges. His family was poor and he suffered from a stutter until sixth grade. How did he overcome it? "Well, my mother says it was prayer." That, along with some hard work on Dingle's part.

Even with his challenges, there were those who saw his potential. "In my second grade year, Ms. Blackwell noticed me. I always had a book in my hand. I loved to. She noticed this little boy was an excellent reader." Despite Dingle's stutter, Ms. Blackwell saw something in him.

It's that same talent for searching out potential Dingle brings with him to school. "On that first day, I'll have my eyes open to find untapped potential; in the students and among the staff. There are students who have so much to offer." When envisioning solutions for challenges or needs at TC, Dingle looks around him and sees potential. "So much of what the school needs already exists right here. We have expert master teachers, teachers that can give the best analysis."

Arrival at T.C. Williams has also meant Alexandria becoming a new home for Dingle and his wife. How does he like Alexandria? "Love it," he responds. "I love the cultural diversity." So far he's enjoyed eating at Zoey's and is also a fan of the Pork Barrel. He looks forward to finding ways to engage with the city.

Computer, Firearm Experts Testify

The first few days of the trial of Charles Severance were marked by passionate arguments from the defense and prosecution, culminating in the emotional testimony of the sole witness to one of the murders. However, as the trial enters its third week, the long work of piecing together the evidence begins.

The trial was momentarily stopped on Oct. 19 after Joseph King, head of the defense team, suffered a death in the family. It resumed on Tuesday, however, with the prosecution and defense running the jury through the basics of computer and firearms analysis.

Martin Hoffmaster, a civilian computer forensic examiner for the Alexandria Police Department and former detective in the department, was called to the stand to discuss the data found on Severance's computer. From the five computers the police had analyzed, Hoffmaster said there were 2 terabytes of data to sort through: the equivalent of 2,000 filing cabinets worth if it were all printed. However, there was no sign of any searches for news stories on the murders and no searches for any of the victims or addresses except on one of his parents' computers after their son's arrest. However, Hoffmaster did note that one of the computers did have evidence of a scrubbing software, which made it difficult to determine what may or may not have been

searched.

The prosecution argued that the same type of ammunition being used in each of the crimes, .22 caliber long rifle plain lead hollow point bullets manufactured by Remington, ties the three murders together. In his writings, the prosecution alleged that Severance showed repeated admiration for the specific type of ammunition used in the murders. Three firearms experts: Julien Mason, Ann Davis, and Gary Arnsten, all testified that the only time they'd seen the ammunition used in each of the three murders was in those cases. However, Mason said that either the firearm had changed dramatically between the murders, or a different gun was used in each of the killings. Mason also added that the bullets could not have been fired from the guns confiscated from Severance upon his arrest.

The prosecution and defense also argued over whether or not writings that were focused on the board games invented by Severance would be admissible. Judge Randy Bellows allowed the writings to be submitted as evidence as the game makes specific writing to J.H. Dunning, a possible reference to James Herbert Dunning, who was connected to the protective order that kept Severance from custody of his son Levite. James Dunning was also the husband of Nancy Dunning, the first victim in the case.

— VERNON MILES



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- A track record of innovation locally and nationally to support families and enable students to learn.
- Deep knowledge of our community, our schools, and what works in education.

Margaret's compassion, willingness to listen, and indefatigable commitment to solve students' problems has made her a source of trust and admiration throughout the community.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera and Mimi Carter, former School Board members.

VOTE FOR MARGARET LORBER IN DISTRICT B ON NOVEMBER 3.

Paid for by Lorber for School Board, Tim Gannon Treasurer

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3RD

“As a lifelong Democrat and as an Alexandrian, I am pleased to support Allison’s candidacy for mayor. Allison is a person of integrity with a vision for the future of our great city. I am confident that she will be ever present in our community, and will do her best to help Alexandria stay balanced and prosperous.”

— *Congressman Don Beyer*

Heartfelt Thanks to All the Endorsers!

- ★ Congressman Don Beyer ★ State Senator Adam Ebbin ★ Former Mayor/Formal State Senator Patsy Ticer
- ★ Sheriff Dana Lawhorne ★ Mark Levine, Democratic Nominee for Virginia House of Delegates, 45th District
- ★ Susan Swecker, Chairwoman, Democratic Party of Virginia ★ Former School Board Member Eileen Cassidy Rivera
- ★ The Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5 ★ The Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education ★ LiUNA! ★ NOVA Labor Federation ★ LGBT Democrats of Virginia
- ★ The Alexandria Democratic Committee ★ Democrats for a Better Alexandria

Support the Democratic Ticket: Silberberg for Mayor; and Bailey, Chapman, Lovain, Pepper, Smedberg, Wilson for Council.

allisonsilberberg.com

Paid for and Authorized by Friends of Allison Silberberg.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

Virginia Rehabilitation Code Training. 9-11 a.m. at the Lee Center, 108 Jefferson St. The City of Alexandria is presenting a training session on the 2012 Virginia Rehabilitation Code, which is now mandatory for all existing buildings. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Volunteers Needed: Annual Holiday Sharing Program Registration. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Volunteers are needed to register families to receive gifts from the Annual Holiday

Sharing Program. Volunteers will take information from the parent of an eligible family and enter it in the wish list database. No computer experience is necessary. Spanish speakers needed. Older high school students are welcome. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Process Community Meeting. 10 a.m. at T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W. Braddock Road. The City will kick off the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget process with a series of community meetings to gather input on budget priorities. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Budget.

First-Time Homebuyers Workshop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This training leads to a certificate from the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) and access to VHDA's below market rate mortgage financing. To register, contact Leonardo Martinez

at 703-580-8838, ext. 17 or lmartinez@firsthomealliance.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 26

"Alexandria Schools: Bursting at the Seams." 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Dr. Alvin Crawley, Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools; Arthur E. Peabody, Jr., former Alexandria School Board Member; and Abby Raphael, Arlington School Board will discuss the status of overpopulation in Alexandria City schools. Advance tickets for nonmembers are \$32 and \$37 for nonmembers until Oct. 23 when prices rise by \$5. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

OCT. 26-DEC. 30

Leaf Collection Program. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/leafcollection.

Maria Teresa Eneim O'Leary

FROM PAGE 5

Caitlin worked with their mother beginning in their teens until Nuevo Mundo closed its doors in 2011.

O'Leary quickly became known as one of Old Town's premier hostesses and her Day of the Dead parties were legendary. The event featured large and intricate homemade "ofrendas" and became so popular that O'Leary had to extend the celebration over two evenings, with more than a 100 visitors each night passing through her home.

"How truly charmed we were to have such amazing parents," said daughter Deidre Stamper in a Facebook post.

O'Leary is survived by her five children: Timothy

A. O'Leary of Alexandria and Manila, Philippines, Brendan T. O'Leary of Alexandria, Deirdre O'Leary Stamper of Alexandria, Caitlin O'Leary Gage of Alexandria and Moira O'Leary of Austin, Texas.; 10 grandchildren, a sister Norma Gants (Robert) of Old Town, and a brother Richard Eneim (Kaye) of Scottsdale, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her brother Arthur "Tuti" Eneim of Goleta, Calif. Her husband, Jeremiah, died in 1993.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Oct. 21 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



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OPINION

Election Coverage for an Informed Vote

Find stories, candidate questionnaires, letters and photos.

This week and next week are the last two publication dates before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Our pages and website are full of coverage, letters, candidate questionnaires and photos of the campaign trail in an effort to help voters decide to vote and which candidates hold views closest to their own.

Virtually every state and local office is on

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Quiet On Crime?

To the Editor:

Early this month, Leon Williams was fatally wounded on Belle Pre Way, in the middle of a new mixed-use development steps from Braddock Metro station. This follows the July murder of Shakkon Elliot-Tibbs just a block away. Both killings remain unsolved.

In the latest murder, the Alexandria Police Department has released almost no details. The murder was covered by local television stations, which located and interviewed a man who stated his vehicle was struck by a stray bullet as he drove on N. Henry Street during the slaying. The damaged vehicle was shown on camera. This information has yet to be confirmed or denied by APD. If corroborated, however, this would be powerful evidence contradicting department statements to concerned citizens that all area murders involve perpetrators and victims known to each other, and that innocent bystanders have nothing to fear.

Also not disclosed is that in the same time period an Alexandria School Board member leaving a meeting at 11 p.m. at ACPs headquarters in the Braddock Place complex was mugged inside the Metro station, sustaining injuries. No word about this from the city, WMATA, or the local press.

ACPS and city officials crowed about obtaining Braddock Place space at bargain basement rates. But rates were low due to the persistence of crime around the station. The associated lack of amenities is a factor that has driven away tenants like PBS and prospective occupants alike over the years. Retail at Braddock Place, too, has failed to flourish three decades after the station first opened in 1984.

During SUP processes, the West Old Town Citizens Association has been chided by developers and their attorneys for concerns expressed regarding safety. Yet the Alexandria Gazette's Oct. 15 story noted "City Manager Mark Jinks said that several residents told him that buildings in the area have insufficient secu-

rity, asking that cameras or additional lighting be installed." Indeed, before the Bastille restaurant relocated to the Asher, its owners stated at a Braddock Implementation Advisory Group meeting that security issues were a major concern that emerged from a customer survey about the move.

Please take the time to vote, it matters. In

Years of experience have taught WOTCA to pay attention, not only to issues of height, density, and architecture but also security factors, including elimination of blind spots and obstructive plantings and the installation of good lighting and security cameras. WOTCA has a consistent public record, over many years, of advocacy for residential police and community police officers in the face of budget pressures. With two unsolved homicides, a serious mugging, and on Oct. 18 the report of a commercial robbery on Pendleton Street, it is imperative that the issue of crime be addressed by the city's leadership. If not, we can expect more violence in our community.

The West Old Town Citizens Association Executive Board
Leslie Zupan, Heidi Ford, Keil Gentry, and Donna Reuss

Where Are Our U.S. Senators?

To the Editor:

The conspicuous silence in Alexandria's mayoral race rests with our two Democratic Senators Kaine and Warner. This is highlighted by U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's public endorsement of Vice Mayor Silberberg, as the voters' choice in our Democratic primary.

Will Senators Kaine and Warner join their honorable colleague, Representative Beyer, in endorsing Vice Mayor Silberberg, or will they continue to avoid taking a public stand for a Democratic winner?

Kathryn Papp
Alexandria

Virginia, key races that have affected policy have been decided by fractions of one percent. Your vote can make a difference.

EDITORIAL We will not be endorsing in any race this year.

I'm keeping this short to allow more room for letters to the editor.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Democratic Values

To the Editor:

I've been a lifelong Democrat. I am a Democrat because of my values, not the other way around. So my values have to come first in Alexandria's mayor's race.

Folks know schools and education are my top priority. We have a growing student population as more families choose our improving public schools. Mayor Euille has been rock solid in his support for funding to build new schools, to fund teacher raises and is proposing to expand pre-k services so more kids are ready to learn when they get to kindergarten. Silberberg supported a lower amount of school construction funding than any of her colleagues on council and has shown little real interest or made any effort related to our schools. The quality of life and future of any city starts with its schools and families. Euille gets that.

I care about the diversity of our city and I know we have to provide housing for people of all income levels. My donut shop pays a living wage, but in our region, my employees and many like them struggle to find housing. I want a mayor that will support affordable housing and the hard choices that go with it. Euille is steadfast on affordable housing. Silberberg has repeatedly voted against opportunities for the preservation or addition of affordable housing.

The environment has always been a key issue for me. The mayor has helped transform Alexandria into a green building leader and has led the fight on climate change as well as efforts to acquire new parks. By contrast, Allison tried to de-fund Capital Bikeshare and tried to de-fund Alexandria's popular composting program. She has also voted against plans to create new parks. I want our city to lead on the environment, not move backwards.

For our city to thrive, we need to compete for commercial tenants. They bring in money and put less strain on homeowner taxes. Mayor Euille has helped bring new commercial tenants to Alexandria and has worked to keep our local economy stable, even during tough times. With a weak world economy, Alexandria needs to send a clear message that it will work to attract business to help offset residential taxes. Allison has not shown that leadership. I know Bill Euille will do the proactive work that is needed.

Mayor Euille, with his accounting background, keeps a close eye on the city budget. I worry when Silberberg repeatedly says things about the city budget that demonstrate a lack of understanding for how it works. I also worry that her budget rhetoric implies we should significantly reduce our city infrastructure plans to fix aging sewers, roads and forgo work to make school classrooms less crowded.

I generally like the idea of "new ideas" in politics, but not all ideas are good ones. Alexandria would be a very different place if Allison's "no" votes won the day. We'd have less diversity, less successful small businesses, fewer parks, more crowded classrooms, less funding for basic infrastructure and would abandon our environmental work. Under Euille's leadership Alexandria has survived economic downturns and won countless accolades as a great place to live, with low crime, wonderful arts, improving schools, increased parkland and more.

I won't compromise my my values in this upcoming mayoral election. For any political party to stay healthy, its values have come first, not the organization. My values are not platitudes or empty promises. They are things I've worked on for my entire public career. There is only one candidate in this race that

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTELY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

represents those values. I'm writing in Bill Euille for mayor.

Rob Krupicka
Alexandria

Back to The Past?

To the Editor:

Are we the only ones confused by candidate Van Fleet's mixed messages on business development? Recently he proclaimed a pro-business stance, criticizing Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Visit Alexandria for not attracting more commercial development, "... they're not bringing in a lot of business development, and that's what I support." On the very same day, Van Fleet sent out an email to his supporters that said, "It's time to take our City back from the Developers!" So, which is it: pro-business or anti-business?

Mr. Van Fleet is quick to criticize our current Council and economic development agencies for Alexandria's over-reliance on the residential tax base. Perhaps he's forgotten his obstruction of virtually every commercial project in Alexandria?

As small business owners, we well remember his call for a boycott of any business supporting the Waterfront Small Area Plan. Did he miss the news about the relocation of the TSA and NSF to Alexandria? Is he unaware of the 6,000 jobs or the three quarter of a billion dollars in spending our hospitality industry supports? The facts do seem to be getting in the way of his campaign rhetoric.

The truth is Mr. Van Fleet and his cohorts have created a toxic environment for business in our city — whether it's large development or small businesses locating or expanding here. The persistent opposition to new development and new business has garnered the city an anti-business reputation. Despite his platitudes, his campaign has two planks — no growth, no development. In other words,

maintain the past.

A city needs to maintain positive growth to attract new businesses and residents. That's how we grow our tax base to address the many challenges before us — the exploding school population, our aging infrastructure and transportation needs to name but a few.

We are at a golden moment where can embrace the future and make our city truly grand. Or we can turn around, walk away from the future and back to the past.

Aimee Houghton
Jody Manor

Time for Change

To the Editor:

Mayor Bill Euille lacks the moral compass to lead Alexandria again. He lost the Democratic primaries in June to Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. Rather than concede defeat graciously, he chose to sulk. He reneged on a pledge all three Democratic candidates took that they would not run a write-in campaign if defeated. Now, his campaign has broken the law by using a sample ballot flyer implying that it was endorsed by the Alexandria Board of Elections. Moreover, his yard signs are deliberately misleading, proclaiming that he is "A proven Democrat for Mayor." Mr. Euille is not a Democrat anymore. He renounced his affiliation with the party when he became a write-in candidate for the mayor of Alexandria.

What's more, Mr. Euille is beholden to real estate developers and business groups who hope that he will look favorably upon them when they seek favors, even if they come at the expense of the quality of life of citizens.

I'm supporting Allison Silberberg for mayor, whose ethics are unimpeachable. As vice-mayor, she has had the courage of her convictions to stand

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

Securing Alexandria's Future

www.alexandriasfuture.com

Securing Alexandria's Future is a non-partisan political action committee working for high quality education for all residents, improved infrastructure and parks, a diverse and growing business community, and an active dynamic waterfront. We expect our elected officials to honor our history and manage our finances responsibly. We support candidates who commit to lead in these areas.

A partial list of SAF supporters:

Janice Albright, Larry Albright, Mike Anderson, Agnes Artemel, Dennis Auld, David Baker, Gina Baum, Omar Abdul-Baki, Rose Berler, Murray Bonitt, Don Buch, Marcia Call, Janice Chang, Regina Chapman, Diane Crawford-Batt, Lynnwood G. Campbell, Dianne Childers, Declan Conroy, Luis Cruz-Pena, Pam DeCandio, Andres Domeyko, Kerry Donley, Scott Donley, Ann Dorman, Rick Dorman, Rob Dugger, Richard Falkenstein, Mark Feldheim, Andrea Fitch, Donna Fossum, Magaly Galdo-Hirst, Pam Goodell, Paul Haire, Barbara Jenell Hamlett, Lynn Hampton, Gila Harris, Andrea Hamre, Calvin Holmes, Helen Holmes, Maria Hopper, Joan Huffer, Scott Humphrey, Arthur Impastato, Julie Jakopic, Verdella Jennings, Dr. Sandra Kabagambe, Glenn Klaus, Rob Krupicka, Charles Linderman, John Long, Mindy Lyle, Mary Lyman, Nate Macek, Alice Manor, Jody Manor, David Martin, Sean McEneaney, Jim McIntyre, Katharine Milburn, Nancy Milburn, Jim Moran, Elizabeth Moon, Page Moon, Robert Nealon, Judy Noritake, Rae Noritake, Jay Palermino, Kevin Posey, Rebecca C. Quarles, PhD, Gayle Reuter, Angela Rice, Lonnie Rich, Don Roepke, Danielle Romanetti, Jon Rosenbaum, David Rutherford, Paula Rutherford, Cathryn Sacra, Robert W. (Bo) Schnurr, Ruth Sharma, Sushil Sharma, David Speck, Charlotte Spinner, Judy Stack, Lauren Kent Stack, Michael Stack, Carol Supplee, Jack Taylor, John Taylor, Christa Watters, Sheila Whiting, Mark C. Williams

We endorse:

For Mayor:

Bill Euille

(fill in the box/write-in name)

For City Council:

Willie F. Bailey Sr.

John Taylor Chapman

Timothy B. Lovain

Redella S. "Del" Pepper

Paul C. Smedberg

Justin M. Wilson

Securing Alexandria's Future (SAF) has endorsed a slate of candidates who we believe will govern Alexandria in the fiscally-responsible manner that most Alexandrians expect. We want to live in a city that has thriving businesses, great and improving schools, and residential communities that we can be proud of. We want to continue to have an Alexandria that is a great place to live, work and play in. It takes strong leadership, a knowledgeable and responsible approach to municipal finance and management, and a Council that will work to enable that. SAF's slate recommends the best candidates who can deliver on that promise.

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4 East Spring Street. Totally renovated 3 bedroom (all upper), 2.5 bath end town house with off-street parking just a few blocks to METRO! Open floor plan with sleek new kitchen featuring 42" cabinets, granite counters and breakfast bar with SS appliances. Three beautifully finished levels, updated baths and fully fenced yard with patio.
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NEWS

Making a World of Difference

**Taste for Giving
to be held Oct. 23.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When the Rotary Club of Alexandria held its annual Contributions Day luncheon over the summer, it presented more than \$112,000 to 45 local nonprofits, continuing a grants program that dates back to the 1930s. The source of those funds is the organization's Taste for Giving, which takes place Oct. 23 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

"Taste for Giving is the vehicle that we utilize to raise significant funds to support local charitable and service organizations in our community," said club president and event chair Larry Alberson. "Community service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities."

When the grants program was originally established, the Alexandria Rotary Foundation focused primarily on the needs of children. Today, the Rotary Club of Alexandria provides support to programs as diverse as the Campagna Center's Head Start, Rebuilding Together Alexandria and Carpenter's Shelter.

More than 18 Alexandria restaurants will participate in this year's Taste for Giving on Oct. 23, a date that holds a special significance for Rotarians around the world.

"We are especially excited about this year's event," Alberson said. "Friday is World Polio Day and in addition to raising funds for local charities, Rotary has been helping to eradicate polio."

In 1988, Rotary clubs around the world committed to eradicating polio, which paralyzed more than 350,000 children per year in 125 countries. Today, that number has been reduced by 99.9 percent with less than 50 cases in two countries to date in 2015.

"Only Pakistan and Afghanistan still report cases of polio," Alberson said. "We are redoubling our efforts to make the world 100 percent free of polio."

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.4 billion to ending polio, which would be only the second human disease to be eradicated, after smallpox. Funds contributed through Rotary, including those through the Rotary Club of Alexandria, are tripled through a 2:1 match by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Proceeds from the Taste for Giving ticket sales and silent auction will remain in Alexandria to support local charities but a table with information and a donation jar for the End Polio Now campaign will be available at the event.

"We have some great restaurants and a winery lined up for this year's event," Alberson added.

"Taste for Giving is a chance to sample some of the best food in the city while supporting the organizations that care for the most vulnerable in our community," Alberson said. "It is a very special event."

Tickets for A Taste for Giving must be purchased in advance. For more information or to buy tickets online, visit www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net.

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Democrat for Alexandria City Council

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• A career educator • A civil rights advocate

John has been endorsed by:

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- Alexandria's police – ACOP Local 5 • New Virginia Majority
- Northern Virginia Labor Federation
- Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR)
- Laborer's international Union of North America (LIUNA)
- Sierra Club • Securing Alexandria's Future

Most importantly, I hope to have your endorsement and your vote on Nov. 3rd!

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ELECTION '15

Candidates for Mayor of the City of Alexandria

Bill Euille

Write-In

Age: 65 **Family:** Single **Education:** B.S. Accounting

Offices held, dates: School Board (1974-1984), City Council (1994-2003), and Mayor (2003- Present)

Occupation and relevant experience: Businessman

Community involvement: The William D. Euille Foundation, which he founded in 1994; the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club; the American Heart Association; 1998-2000 Chairman of the Alexandria United Way Campaign; INOVA Hospital Health System Board; Hopkins House Association; 2001 Chairman of the NOVA Urban League Board of Directors; Alexandria Community Trust; and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

Website: billeuille.com

Email address: eric.williams@billeuille.com

Twitter handle: BillEuille

Name three favorite endorsements: NOVA Association of Realtors, Delegate Rob Krupicka & Former Mayor Kerry Donley



Allison Silberberg

Democrat

Age: 52

Family: Single

Education including degrees and institutions:

The American University, B.A. in History and International Studies.

U.C.L.A., M.F.A. in Playwriting from the School of Theater, Film & Television.

Offices held, dates: Vice Mayor of Alexandria, January 2013 - present.

Occupation and relevant experience: Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg is a writer with over 25 years of community leadership and public service. With an expertise in grant making, nonprofit sector, and civic engagement, she is the author of "Visionaries In Our Midst: Ordinary People who are Changing our World," which profiles individuals who are making a difference. She is the co-author of a forthcoming book about ensuring that women are included in medical research, clinical trials, and drug testing. She is also the commissioned author of a memoir for a philanthropic family about leading a meaningful life. Her writing has appeared on PBS.org, and her columns have appeared in The Washington Post and Dallas Morning News. She worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

Community involvement:

❖ Chair of Alexandria's Economic Opportunities Commission, serving as an advocate for our most vulnerable.

❖ Led EOC to focus primarily on affordable/workforce housing and job creation.

❖ Served on the EOC. (2004 to 2012)

❖ Initiated EOC's "All Hands on Deck," an annual day for the EOC to give back to a local nonprofit, including the EOC's one-day mini-makeover of the city's homeless shelter.

❖ New Hope Housing awarded her the Leadership/Servanthood Award in 2012.

❖ Launched and managed Lights, Camera, Action!, a nonprofit committed to helping youth in Anacostia. For this work, she received two awards.

❖ For nearly a decade, she led monthly charity events that gave all proceeds (over \$50,000) to local nonprofits focused on children at risk and families in distress. She received the Reatig Award for her community work.

❖ Appointee to The World Bank's Community Outreach Grants Committee, which gave \$1.3 million to local nonprofits.

❖ Volunteer tutor for two 4th graders at MacArthur Elementary School.

❖ President of the board of the Georgetown Senior Center. (2010-2012)

Website: www.allisonsilberberg.com

Email address: allison@allisonsilberberg.com

Twitter handle: @A_Silberberg

Name three favorite endorsements: I am honored by all the endorsements, but I will list four: Congressman Don Beyer; Former Mayor/Formal State Senator Patsy Ticer; Alexandria Political Action Committee on Education (A-PACE) and Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5



live in, whether it is in Old Town or the West End? We are a city of great neighborhoods. Throughout the city, I believe we must pursue thoughtful, appropriate development that fits in, is to scale, and protects our neighborhoods and quality of life. We must preserve all the Historic Districts of our beloved city and must safeguard them for generations to come. Historic preservation is a core value of our community, and it needs to be a core value of our elected leadership. I will never sell City Hall.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Restoring the public trust is critical. We need more transparency and fewer executive sessions. The BRAC building is an outcome of executive sessions. BRAC is off the tax rolls and will cost our city over \$60 million over the next 20 years alone, and there was no vote, no accountability. It is an economic disaster for our city. Allison returns campaign contributions from people she knows have development proposals before the Council. Mr. Euille accepted over \$100,000 in contributions from developers with business before the Council. Allison's campaign finance reports are 100% in compliance with State law. Mr. Euille's reports averaged under 15%. It is time for change.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

❖ Encourage matching grants.
❖ Partner with entities such as the National Science Foundation to help students with their core science and math skills.
❖ To deal with part of our school capacity issues, we should utilize empty office space in the city as well as repurpose the Lee Center, which used to be a school.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I envision a city where the citizens know that their elected leadership listens first and then takes action. When I am mayor, when citizens take the time to come to City Hall, they will be heard. I am an active listener and pay attention to the public's concerns. I listen to all sides before making up my mind and seek compromise where possible.

As Vice Mayor, I have hosted a monthly coffee called "Council on Your Corner," where citizens from across the city have joined me to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas. I will continue these monthly coffees as mayor. I am proud of my reputation as someone who respects the voices of our citizens. We must rebuild the people's trust.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

❖ Push back the timeline for certain capitol spending projects.
❖ Cut the use of consultants.
❖ Cut the use of a car from the City Manager's and City Attorney's compensation package. I would curtail the use of city vehicles in terms of employees driving city cars home.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

❖ Increase library hours and maintain the book collection.
❖ Restore Ramsay Recreation Center's hours on Sundays.
❖ Reduce the charge for children to use our public swimming pools.
❖ Reduce charges for using the recreation centers.
❖ Put \$150,000 towards beautification for planting trees and more mowing.
❖ Create a fund for teachers, public safety workers, and city employees to apply for a down payment so they can reside in Alexandria. Upon selling the property, the employee would reimburse the fund.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Alexandria is my hometown. I grew up in public housing and the odds were stacked against me. I wanted to serve so that I could make a difference in our community, by ensuring the success of everyone, and I've served my community for more than 40 years. I will keep fighting and serving to see that Alexandria continues to move forward.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have the experience as Mayor and proven leadership. I will not go quietly into the night when our jobs, kids' education, affordable housing, public safety and quality of life is at risk, due to novice hands and untested leadership. I've built consensus with my colleagues and together we've got things done.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

We must continue to advocate for community and parental involvement. Also, we should be key spokesmen for our school system, voicing and celebrating at their successes.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

By doing what I have always done, being accessible and meeting with citizens to discuss and address their concerns.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

If there was any issue, our first priority is to exhaust every resource before making reductions. But my top three (in no specific order) would be Consulting Contracts, Vacant/Unfilled Positions, and Travel/Meetings and Conferences.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would spend it on funding pre-k initiatives, address homelessness challenges, donate to affordable housing, and provide assistance for our seniors.

COUNCIL NOTES

Transitway Update

Clocking in at just over an hour and a half, the Oct. 13 City Council meeting will probably go down as one of the shortest in recent memory, but one defined by a few key updates to the City Council. Yon Lambert, Alexandria's director of transportation, presented an update to the city's West End Transitway.

According to Allan Fye, principal planner for the West End Transitway, the city is looking into three alternatives for the project at various levels of scale. The least investment would be the no-build option, where transit services share lanes with traffic and no

improvements are implemented other than those already planned. Another proposal would add more transit services along Van Dorn and Beauregard streets, but would not invest in dedicated transit lanes. Finally, the build option adds transit services on Van Dorn and Beauregard streets with dedicated transit lanes along significant portions of the corridor. The total estimated cost of the project is \$140 million, with a mix of funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Federal Transit Administration, and Private Capital Contributions.

Councilman Tim Lovain noted that it's important to keep the total project cost and the federal contributions under certain

thresholds, which the project currently achieves, adding that the federal decision to add costs to the project was part of what killed the Arlington streetcar. Fye acknowledged a possibility that the cost of the project could increase, but said that the staff is continuing to try to push the costs down.

Throughout the fall and winter, city staff will continue public outreach on the project as they finalize the conceptual engineering plans and the economic analysis. During this time, staff will also refine the capital and operating costs of the project before presenting their findings to the City Council again in spring of 2016. Construction is expected to begin in 2018 with operations

starting in 2021.

Free Clinic Day

As a result of work by the Special Advisory Panel on the Health Care Needs of the Uninsured, Mayor William Euille announced that Alexandria will be hosting a "Free Clinic" on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Francis Hammond Middle School. The event will be staffed by licensed healthcare providers who will provide a range of treatments, from health screenings to flu shots, to uninsured Alexandrians between the ages of 18 and 64.

— VERNON MILES

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

up and speak out time and time again even if it meant casting the only no vote on key issues affecting residents of the city. She returned campaign contributions from real estate developers. And her campaign gives strict orders to volunteers to take the high road.

Alexandrians are sick and tired of business as usual. We want a change.

Vineeta Anand
Alexandria

Taxes and Transparency

To the Editor

My latest tax bill includes a breakdown of Alexandria City expenditures, intended to make me feel better as I write my check. It's a good idea, including categories such as "Livable, Green and Prospering City" (\$519) and "Safe, Secure and Just Community" (\$1,128). The amounts are those that a typical property owner will pay for each category, based on an average payment of \$5,317.

But something is missing. Nowhere is debt service mentioned. It amounts to \$65 million in 2015, and perhaps as much as \$80 million in 2016 including new borrowing for the Potomac Metro station.

Given the controversial nature of debt and debt service, and the fact that it is an issue in the current election campaign, one should not be shocked by this omission. It is a good example of the kind of "transparency" the city now practices. But it needs to be fixed.

Robert Pringle
Alexandria

Hindering Affordable Housing?

To the Editor:

On her website, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg states that she would like to "support nonprofit developers who want to invest in our city's affordable, workforce housing." I agree. Unfortunately, it would appear that Vice Mayor Silberberg's words are just that. Her record is one that is demonstrably against the creation of affordable housing at nearly every turn. And, her responses to date, like her responses on many other critical issues confronting our city, are completely devoid of any specifics or even the semblance of a plan.

A sampling of Allison Silberberg's disappointing affordable housing record includes the following:

In January 2013, when the council was presented with a public-private partnership with a nonprofit to build 78 units of affordable housing on Reed

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 32

CORRECTIONS

Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg was president of the Georgetown Senior Center for two years, not 10 as indicated in the Oct. 7 Gazette Packet article "Mayoral Showdown." In the same article, the delay between staff memo on food trucks being released to City Council and the Food Truck Task Force was over days, not months.

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

(en Español); 6:30 pm

Weekday &

Saturday Mornings:

9:00 am Mass, preceded by

Rosary (on First Friday,

Mass followed by Eucharistic

Adoration)

Thursday & First

Friday of the Month:

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preceded by 7:00 pm

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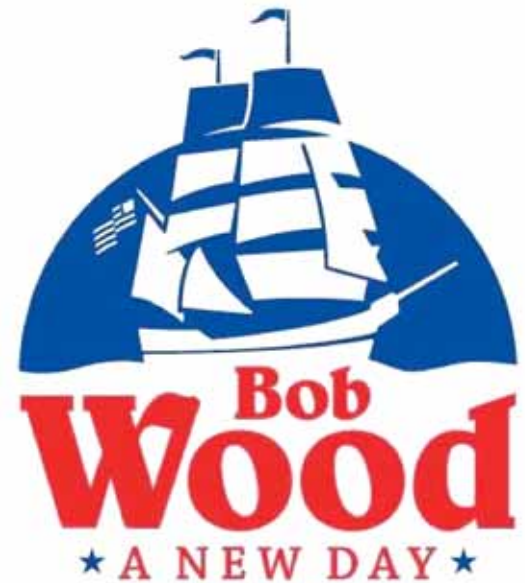
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ELECTION '15

Candidates for Alexandria City Council

Willie F. Bailey Sr.



Democrat
Age: 51
Family: Son, Willie Bailey Jr. and Daughter, Melondey Giron
Education including degrees and institutions: T.C Williams High School

Offices held, dates:
Occupation and relevant experience: Firefighter, Retired military, Community Outreach

Community involvement: Founder of Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, coached Basketball and Baseball for Alexandria Youth Sports Program, serves on the board of Good Shepherd Housing, Volunteer Alexandria, First Night Alexandria, and Coats for Kids.

Website: bailey4council.com

Email address: w.baileyforcouncil@gmail.com

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Firefighters (Local 2141), Teachers (Educational Association of Alexandria) Alexandria Committee of Police (Local 5)

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Having grown up in public and affordable housing, I have experienced the full range of housing services Alexandria can provide. My family didn't stay in public housing for long, but it did give us the chance to save up enough to eventually purchase a home. This opportunity to join the middle class is no longer possible for many in our city. The council is doing much to help promote affordable housing but I believe my experience makes me an especially strong advocate for promoting economic diversity in our city.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I have been a community leader in Alexandria for many years, having coached several sports with the recreation department and having started my non-profit, Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue. For over 15 years I have organized events that donate school supplies, new coats, new shoes, backpacks, and winter coats to local disadvantaged youth. Working with Alexandria's recreation centers and the school system has given me a unique view of the struggle that too many of our families face financially. If blessed enough to serve on council, I would always fight to ensure the city works for all Alexandrians.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

Working with Alexandria's less fortunate children has taught me the impact that a caring adult can have on a child's life. Alexandria is blessed with an abundance of great nonprofits that can do a lot for our schools. Bringing in programs like Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the National Capital Area will put more of our children on a path to success. The city government is uniquely positioned to bring ACPS and local nonprofits together to improve the student experience in and out of the classroom.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Being available outside of traditional City Council hours and events goes a long way towards building trust and an understanding between our elected officials and public. As a firefighter, military veteran, and sports coach, I know that most issues are not issues of Democratic or Republican ideas but just a matter of listening to the community and reaching appropriately.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

If elected, I will be in a better position to speak to programs that are either inefficient or redundant and will target them for reductions. Sequestration and pay freezes by the federal government have shown that despite our efforts, Alexandria remains economically tied to the ups-and-downs of government spending. We need to diversify our revenue base so that a city like Alexandria does not need to cut vital services during tough times.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Reducing or eliminating city fees for use of recreation centers, sports leagues, and pools. Getting our kids involved in activities year-round gets them civically involved, promotes a healthy lifestyle, and keeps them out of trouble.

D. Phil Cefaratti



Independent

Age: 51
Family:
 Wife—Deb Antonini-Cefaratti
 Stepdaughter—Anna Antonini
 Stepdaughter—Gina Antonini
 Stepson—Nicholas Antonini

Education:
 St. Anselm's Abbey School, Washington, D.C. (1982)

B.A. — The Catholic University of America (Major: English; Minors: Accounting/Philosophy), Washington, D.C. (1986)

MBA — Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, Washington, D.C. (1997)

Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA), Level II Certification in Government Contracts (1993)

Offices held, dates:

Occupation and relevant experience:

Lieutenant Commander, Supply Corps, USNR (Active: 1987-1994); (Reserves: 1994-2000)

Disbursing Officer, Ship Store Officer, Food Service Officer—USS Austin (LPD-4)

Contracts Officer—Defense Contract Management Command International (Dayton, OH)

Supply Officer—NAVEODTECHDIV (Indian Head, MD)

Contracts Officer—Deployable Contract Admin Team 4 (Fort Belvoir, VA)

Contracts Manager—Lockheed Martin, Washington, D.C. (1995-1996)

Aide to the CEO—Force Computers, San Jose, CA (1997-1998)

Independent Consultant, Palo Alto, CA; Washington, D.C.; Andover, MA; New York, NY (1998-2001)

Director of Business Development —Sentori, Inc., Laurel, MD (2001-2006)

Associate Broker and Managing Broker—Weichert, Realtors, Alexandria; Great Falls, VA (2007-2013)

President and Principal Broker—Potomac River, Realtors, Alexandria, VA (2014-present)

Community involvement: Alexandria Business Owner as President and Principal Broker, Potomac River, Realtors
 Past President, Seminary Ridge Civic Association

Website: www.philcefaratti.com

Email address: philcefaratti2015@gmail.com

Twitter handle: PCefaratti2015

Name three favorite endorsements: In no particular order: Democratic voters; Independent voters; and Republican voters

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My professional career has been focused on service. I have a continued desire to serve my community and all Alexandrians. My call to action is to ensure our school system improves dramatically. ACPS are ranked 94th in Virginia, while our neighboring jurisdictions ranked first through fourth. Although many students excel, too many are left behind. This is not a condemnation of our City, residents, or teachers. Rather, it is a call to action. Today, I draw a line in the sand and say we will improve our schools and become competitive with our neighboring jurisdictions. We must give all children every opportunity to succeed.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I have several unique characteristics. I am the only non-partisan candidate and will serve Alexandrians equally. Second, I am one of only two candidates with an MBA. I have the broadest range of private and public sector experience. I have served as a Navy officer; worked for high tech companies in multiple sub-industries; and I am currently a business owner in Alexandria. My functional experience includes commercial and government contract management, corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, business development, sales, corporate finance, and business modeling. My broad-based background provides a wide range of perspectives unique to me. I will bring this experience to bear for you when elected.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

City Council needs to work cohesively with the School Board regularly to ensure we are working toward the same goal with the same vision of how to get there. Allocated funds must be spent efficiently and effectively to focus spending on programs and teachers' salaries, with the ultimate goal of providing ALL students the greatest opportunity for success. Additionally, the voices of teachers in the classrooms must be heard to properly understand how they can best educate our students. Finally, we must add a layer to include after-school programs through Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, which should be offered at no charge.

John Taylor Chapman



Democrat

Age: 34

Family: mother, Michelle and sister, Jennifer

Education including degrees and institutions: Saint Olaf College, c/o 2003, 2009 Graduate of Virginia Commonwealth's Minority Political Leadership Institute, 2010 Graduate of University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute Political Leadership Program

Offices held, dates: City Council, elected 2012

Occupation and relevant experience: Community Use Program Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools

Community involvement:

❖ Boards and Commissions-

Eco-City Alexandria Environmental Action Plan Steering Committee 2013-present

Sister Cities Committee 2013-present

Eisenhower East Design Review Board 2013-present

Gang Prevention Community Task Force 2013-present

Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission 2013-present

Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) 2013-present

Metro Washington Council of Governments—Human Services and Public Safety Committee 2013-present

Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, 2011-2012

Alexandria Youth Policy Commission, 2007-2011; Vice Chair, 2009-2011

Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS, 2005-2007; Chair, 2006-2007

ACPS Budget Advisory Committee, 2007-2008

ACPS Special Education Advisory Committee, 2011-2012

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School Alumni Board Member, 2006-2012

Advisory Board Member of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, 2010-Present

❖ Non-Profit work-

NAACP- Alexandria Branch President, 2011-2012

Taylor Run Citizens Association, 2008-Present

Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network, Political Engagement Committee Chair, 2009

Board Member of First Night Alexandria, 2011-2012

Board Member of Volunteer Alexandria, 2008- 2012

Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia, Class of 2010

Virginia Commonwealth University's Minority Political Leadership Institute, Class of 2008

Virginia Commonwealth University's Minority Political Leadership Institute, Program Advisory Board, 2008-Present

Alexandria Lacrosse Club, Coach, 2009-2010

❖ Political

Alexandria Young Democrats, 2005–Present; President, 2006-2008

Virginia Young Democrats, 2005-2010; Minority Caucus Chair 2007, National Committee Member, 2008-2010

Website: www.chapman4council.com

Email address: chapman4council@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @chapman4council

Name three favorite endorsements: Education Association of Alexandria, Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5, Northern Virginia Association of Realtors

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Affordable housing is the issue that has pushed me to run for city council. I believe that our community needs to continue to have housing options for all income levels, local government needs to work with the development community, non-profits and especially our faith-based communities to find creative solutions so that none of us are forced out of a community that we all love.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

My expertise and experience in the field of education and youth policy. I am the ONLY candidate who has served on both the school board's budget advisory committee and also the city's budget and fiscal affairs advisory committee. This is extremely important because school and youth funding makes up over 30% of the city budget, and we need someone on council that has an intimate knowledge of both, especially now when we are looking to deal with school capacity in a fiscally responsible way. I am also the only candidate that has worked full-time in our local schools, so I know the experience of

SEE CEFARATTI, PAGE 33

SEE CHAPMAN, PAGE 33

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Open House Sunday 2-4pm Belle Rive 3900 Picardy Court, Alexandria VA Beautiful, impeccably maintained 5 BR, 3.5 BA brick home w/deck overlooking woods w/winter river view. Located in quiet cu-de-sac w/sunlit interior, high ceilings & 2-car garage \$1,095,000 Jeanne Atkins MLS # FX8773280



Manors of Mt Vernon 8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA Great Price Reduction = Value! 4 br, 4.5 ba, 2-car gar., 3,600+ sq.ft. center hall colonial tucked away in cul-de-sac and central to all commuter routes, bike trail, D.C., OT, 495, MD \$974,000 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8760765



Open House Sunday 1-4pm Mason Hill 1907 Windmill Lane, Alexandria VA Beautiful French Country House in Mason Hill. Gourmet Kitchen with SS Appliances, Quartz, 2 Sinks, Kitchen Island. 5 Large Bedrooms with 4 Full Baths. 2 Patios and 2-Car Garage. \$859,000 Greg Doherty MLS # FX8751957



Open House Sunday 1-3pm The Woodlands 8129 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA Luxurious 1-owner home in Mount Vernon area. Easy commute down G.W. Parkway. 5 Br, 4.5 Ba has open floor plan. 2nd large family room on lower level. >>Just Appraised for \$950K<< \$896,000 Peter Rickert MLS # FX8769051



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Old Town 124 Waterford Place, Alexandria VA Perfect Old Town Location – End Brick TH w/3 br, 2 updated baths, loft, hardwoods on 3 levels, eat-in kitchen, lovely private patio completes the picture – steps from shops, etc. \$809,000 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # AX8769463



Old Town Commons 810 Montgomery St, Alexandria VA Trendy, sophisticated 3 level TH. 3 BR, 2 BA with gourmet kitchen, exposed brick wall, wide plank hardwood floors, patio, rooftop terrace, 2 parking spots. 5 blocks to Metro. \$719,900 Karen Leonard MLS # AX8762027



Wellington Manor 1136 Arcturus Lane, Alexandria VA Charming house in a great location. Precious 3 BR, 2 BA, two level home surrounded by patio, gardens and manicured lawns. Close to shopping, restaraunts and G.W. Parkway. WW School. \$649,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8762034



Cameron Station 5014 Grimm Drive, Alexandria VA Wow! Gorgeously renovated & stately townhome; 3 levels (all w/gleaming hardwoods), 3 beds (all on 1 lv), 2.5 baths, brand new kitchen/island/stainless/Caesarstone, 50K in upgrades! \$610,000 Lyssa Seward MLS # AX8748007



Williamsburg Manor North 2408 Apple Hill Road, Alexandria VA Brick rambler w/3 bedrooms, 2 renovated baths, new kitchen, redone hardwoods, located near bike trail, shops, restaurants and all commuter routes, D.C., OT, MD, 495, 95, etc. \$549,900 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8762757



Amberleigh 6606 Briarleigh Way, Alexandria VA Upgrades galore and only < ½ mile to the Springfield Metro. Three finished levels with 2 br & 2.5 ba. Freshly painted and ready to move in. \$384,900 Liz Bucuvalas MLS # FX8772284



New Listing Masons Passage 7847 Seafarer Way, Lorton VA Luxury 3 brs, 2.5 baths townhome on premium lot, faces and backs to trees. Low HOA fees; updated baths, gas fireplace, custom drapery, hardwood flrs, NEW carpet, NEW upper & lower deck. Gourmet kit w/cherry cabinets & upgraded apps. \$352,500 Katharine Kratovil MLS # FX873380



Bucknell Manor 6850 Radcliffe Dr, Alexandria VA Charming 3 level duplex in great close-in location available for a new owner! Gleaming hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, new windows, nice yard, steps away from Metro Bus \$323,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8769007

Alexandria 310 King St. | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker logo, Coldwell Banker Previews International and the Previews logo are registered and unregistered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. 10713WDC_05/15

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Candidates for Alexandria City Council

Timothy Lovain

Democrat
Age: 67
Family: Wife Beth and daughters Isabella, Kathleen and Ava
Education including degrees and institutions: BA, University of Chicago; MA, Princeton University; JD, University of Washington
Offices held, dates: Alexandria City Council, 2006-2009 and 2012-present
Occupation and relevant experience: I am a government relations consultant who has worked in transportation policy for over 30 years. I have also served as staff for a Congresswoman and a Senator and as an active-duty Coast Guard officer.
Community involvement: Chair of the City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, Board Member of Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, former Chair of the Alexandria United Way Campaign, former Wright to Read tutor, and former Board member and volunteer for several Alexandria non-profits
Website: www.timlovain.com
Email address: timlovain@gmail.com
Twitter handle: @TimLovain
Name three favorite endorsements: ACPS teachers, Sierra Club, Alexandria police officers



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I want to continue to be a champion for Alexandria's kids. I am very proud of my three daughters and my wife's work directing the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. It isn't just a cliché that our kids are our future. I have fought for adequate and rationally-based school funding, safe routes to schools, more playing fields, and stopping child abuse, and I want to expand those efforts. I want to implement the Children and Youth Master Plan I helped shepherd to enactment.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am the proud father of three ACPS students, all at T.C. Williams. I am also a transportation policy professional and want to continue to use that expertise to help address transportation challenges in Alexandria and throughout our region. If I am re-elected, I will chair the Transportation Planning Board for the National Capital Region, where I am addressing transportation challenges facing our entire region. I also have a track record as a careful steward of taxpayer dollars.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

We can ensure better cooperation and coordination among ACPS, City agencies and our non-profits, as promised in the Youth and Master Plan, e.g. "wrap-around services" for at-risk youth and City and ACPS programs at City recreational facilities. We can also attract more high-quality commercial development around our Metro stations to generate tax revenues for schools and other City needs while lessening the tax burden on Alexandria residents. We should also continue and intensify the cooperation between the City and ACPS on anticipating and planning for future development and demand for educational facilities.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I try my best to show citizens that I understand their concerns and arguments and treat them with respect. We have so many well-informed and engaged citizens that elected officials are well-advised to listen closely to them! In the end, I try my best to explain that it is my job to consider all the evidence and citizen concerns and then exercise my best judgment about what is the right course for Alexandria.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

Our top priorities should be public safety, public education, public works and public health, but even those budgets should be scrubbed for efficiencies. We should take a harder look at other programs and focus especially on not filling certain staff vacancies. Finally, we should consider reducing spending on programs that duplicate services supplied by other levels of government and non-profits.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would probably spend it on a program that I coincidentally secured \$1 million for a couple years ago — more sidewalks and crosswalks to improve pedestrian safety and encourage walkable access to schools, transit stops, homes and shopping. These "complete streets" improvements can expand transportation choices, decrease household transportation costs, increase physical activity and make our streets safer for everyone.

Monique A. Miles

Republican
Age: 35
Family: Shirley Miles, Charlie (mini poodle)
Education including degrees and institutions: Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs and Philosophy from the University of Virginia; Juris Doctor from the Regent University School of Law
Offices held, dates: N/A
Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney and Owner of Old Towne Associates, P.C.
Community involvement: Mentor for at-risk youth, former member of Towing Advisory Services Board, member of the Board of Governors for the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, which oversees pro bono legal services across the Commonwealth. I also serve on the Board of Governors of the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference and the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association.
Website: www.moniquemiles.com
Email address: supporter@moniquemiles.com
Twitter handle: MMilesAlexCC
Name three favorite endorsements: Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, BlakPAC, NextGenGOP



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I have been a public servant through community service and youth mentorship for many years. I was asked to run for office multiple times and decided that now I felt I could make an impact. I have a genuine interest in people and I care about our community. The best way to make a positive impact is to become an engaged citizen and run for public office. I would strive to create a close bond between Council and residents all across the City to restore their faith in government.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am a female, minority small business owner. I'm an outlier in the City and would be an outlier on Council. There are no small business owners on Council and that's why my perspective would be so valuable. I would bring that mindset to Council and put it toward solving the problems Council will face over the next three years. Parts of my small business plan have been praised by Democratic and Republican candidates.

Voters should choose me because I am one of the few candidates that say "I am looking forward to reaching across the aisle and working with the opposing party." We must move this City forward together and I'll do just that through strong leadership.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

Children are the future of Alexandria. That's why I support providing all of the funds necessary for them to have the resources they need to learn. Beyond that funding, I would use the Maury School Initiative as an example of how to solve facility and capacity problems that schools encounter. The public-private model that was spearheaded by concerned parents and educators should serve as an example across the nation of how civic engagement can be successful. I would work with individual PTAs, form the important relationships necessary, and watch neighborhoods thrive with stronger schools.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Government is toxic when the representatives think they know best. I am imperfect and do not know the answer to every question. However, the key to a strong community, and something that I believe is lacking is respect and civility. Too many op-eds complain about the current Council's superiority complex.

As your Councilwoman, if we disagreed on something, I'd love to sit down with you and discuss why you feel a certain way and where we can agree. The only way citizens are to remain engaged is if their government remains responsive.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

The most important part about re-ordering budget priorities is preserving the high- quality of life Alexandria residents enjoy. Budgetary cuts should not adversely affect any population in the City. That's why I would pursue cuts to the following: non-essential City personnel functions such as travel restrictions, conferences, and departmental discretionary spending; reducing redundancy through shared services like auxiliary services and facilities (a recommendation from BFAAC); and by paying our debt service we will pay less in interest every year our Council refuses to solve tough problems.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would put the \$1 million towards the Housing Affordability Trust Fund. Through market rate increases and council inaction, over 12,000 affordable units have been lost in the past 10 years. I've said I will bring real solutions to Council and this is the first example.

Redella S. "Del" Pepper

Democrat
Family: Husband: F. Jay Pepper, M.D. ; Son: Murphy Pepper (Soo) and 5 grandchildren
Education: Bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and graduate work at the University of Wisconsin
Offices Held: I am currently a member of the City Council and in that role have represented the City on nine Council-related boards and commissions during this term. I chair the City's Facilities Naming Committee and represent the Council on the Alexandria Commission on Aging. I co-chair Alexandria Works! and until recently co-chaired the Potomac River Generating Station Monitoring Group. I serve as the Mayor's alternate to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, (COG). Previously, I served as the COG President. I currently represent the Council on COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee and on their Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), where I earlier served as its chair. Presently, I serve as the Treasurer of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and chair of its Operations Committee.
Occupation and relevant experience: Long time civic activist/Member City Council/Homemaker
Community involvement: At the present time, I am a board member of the Senior Services of Alexandria and a member of the Optimist Club of Alexandria, the West End Business Association, and the Del Ray Business Association. I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, (Friendship Firehouse). I am a Life Member of the Urban League and the NAACP. I am a former First Vice President of the NAACP.
Website: www.delpepper.com
Email address: delpepper@aol.com
Name three favorite endorsements: Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5; Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education (Teachers Association); Securing Alexandria's Future



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I am concerned that the needs of our at risk population (seniors, youth, disabled, unemployed, etc.) be addressed. Helping this group matters if the members are going to thrive and live healthy, productive lives. Housing, jobs, and support services are fundamental. I work to meet these needs by supporting programs that aim at maintaining and securing affordable housing units wherever possible. I represent the Council on the Workforce Development Center Group (Alexandria Works!) whose goal is job training. I work to ensure that needed support services are provided.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

My years of service on Council — two times serving as Vice Mayor — gives me unique experience, perspective, expertise, and vision, which I believe will be helpful to the next Council and to the community.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

It is important for the School system and the City to work together to look for joint economies. The government (staff and Council) need to ensure that the whole community hears about all the good things that are happening in the school system. The City should continue to help with finding space wherever possible for pre-school and after school programs. The City, along with the schools, should also be encouraging parents to get involved with the schools and their children's homework. The City needs to promote volunteers to become mentors/tutors for the children.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?


I find the most effective way to show that you are really listening to a constituent is to TRULY BE listening. I carefully read the person's e-mail/letter to the editor/or any other correspondence. I listen to a presentation made at a Council meeting or during a conversation. I try to understand what that person is seeing or experiencing . If this is

SEE PEPPER, PAGE 24

Alexandria **BUILD IT** *even* **BETTER**

Bringing together
bright minds
& **bold leaders**
to build a better
Alexandria



An Alexandria  Community Partner

WHAT IS ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA?

As a community foundation, we are committed to helping **build** and **leverage** community assets to develop **bold solutions** to pressing community needs.



OUR ROLE AS A Grantmaker

Providing financial resources to local nonprofit organizations is one way you may have heard of us. We work with generous donors who want to make a difference in our community. We also look for ways ACT can make an impact by investing in organizations that can affect local change.

Through ACT, we've learned about the finest Alexandria nonprofit organizations that provide essential services for our community. By strategically partnering with ACT, we've been able to contribute where we feel our support will have the most effective and beneficial impact.



Tom & Magaly Gallo-Hirst
ACT Board Member and fund advisors



OUR ROLE AS A Community Leader

We offer leadership, spark and smart strategy when there is community energy around taking action to create positive change. With our experience working with donors, nonprofits, grantees and local government, ACT has a unique perspective on our community. This broad perspective provides us a long-range view of community well-being and helps us work with others to address complex issues.

What makes ACT unique is its deep connections in our city. As an Alexandria business owner, homeowner and volunteer with years of board service with local nonprofits, I treasure ACT's special role in our town. Having a community foundation that is responsive to and knowledgeable about the diverse sectors in our city is essential for a city that truly cares.



Allison Cryar DiNardo
Member of ACT Advisory Council, ACT fund advisor and President, King Street Wireless



OUR ROLE AS A Resource Builder

One of our most important functions is serving as a vehicle for local philanthropy. ACT works to both attract and deploy resources for the public good. With the establishment of ACT's first endowed fund, we are developing a stable source of revenue to meet the needs of the future.

We love calling Alexandria home. We chose to open a donor-advised fund at ACT to help this wonderful community thrive, not only now, but well into the future as our fund grows and ACT invests in Alexandria and its residents, both short term and long term.



Mike and Louise Kenny
ACT fund advisors



OUR ROLE AS A Convener

As a neutral convener, we bring government, nonprofit, public and private sectors together on broad initiatives. ACT serves as a catalyst for addressing issues, helping pursue cross-sector solutions by engaging residents and marshalling the necessary resources to improve Alexandria for all.

Collaboration and trust are essential ingredients for large-scale community change. One of ACT's most valuable roles, as a community foundation, is its ability to bring groups of people together to solve issues that affect the entire community.



Tammy Mann
Member of the Early Care and Education Work Group and President & CEO, The Campaign Center



OUR ROLE AS A Sector Supporter

We strive to optimize community resources—financial, human and intellectual—by coordinating efforts, focusing on results and supporting programs that strengthen our social sector. We offer opportunities for groups, organizations and community leaders to come together for knowledge sharing, discussion and action.

By providing local nonprofit professionals opportunities to share resources, establish and build support networks and further develop their leadership skills, ACT has not only been the catalyst for collaboration, but strengthens our nonprofit sector as a whole.



J. Glenn Hopkins
Research Chair, Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO) and President & CEO, Hopkins House



Grantmaker

Community Leader

Resource Builder

Convener

Sector Supporter

ACT is founded by a small group of Alexandrians to leverage an initial donation made in memory of Norma Steuerte, a longtime, generous Alexandrian.

2004

ACT helps establish **The Giving Circle of Alexandria**, a group of more than 300 women who combine resources to make a difference in Alexandria.

2004

ACT hosts the first Nonprofit Excellence Forum, now called **IMPACT: Innovation + Philanthropy**, to convene nonprofit leaders, businesses, government and community members to discuss innovations in philanthropy.

2005

ACT awards its first **Capacity Building Grant** to strengthen nonprofits by investing in infrastructure based projects. To date, ACT has distributed more than \$750,000 through this program.

2005

ACT, in partnership with the City, launches the **Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations (ACHSO)** to share best practices, build relationships and leverage resources among the local nonprofit sector.

2006

ACT helps to establish the **Center for Alexandria's Children (CAC)** through a collaborative, multi-disciplinary effort. The CAC provides a single, supportive environment for victims of child abuse as well as valuable resources for families.

2007

ACT develops **Give Back Alexandria**, a young professionals group committed to philanthropy and volunteerism.

2007

ACT helps launch **Spring for Alexandria**, a celebration of giving and service, which is now managed by Volunteer Alexandria.

2008

ACT, in response to the 2008 recession, creates the **ACT Now Fund** to provide emergency financial, housing, food, clothing and medical assistance for those in need.

2009

ACT launches **ACTion Alexandria**, an online civic engagement platform that connects individuals with needs in the community.

2010

ACT launches **Spring2Action**, Alexandria's online giving day. Spring2Action is 24 hours of giving and has raised more than \$3.3 million over the last 5 years.

2011

ACT launches **LEAD (Leadership, Excellence and Development)**, a coaching program for executive directors that provides peer sessions and one on one mentoring. ACT was recognized as **Nonprofit of the Year** by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

2012

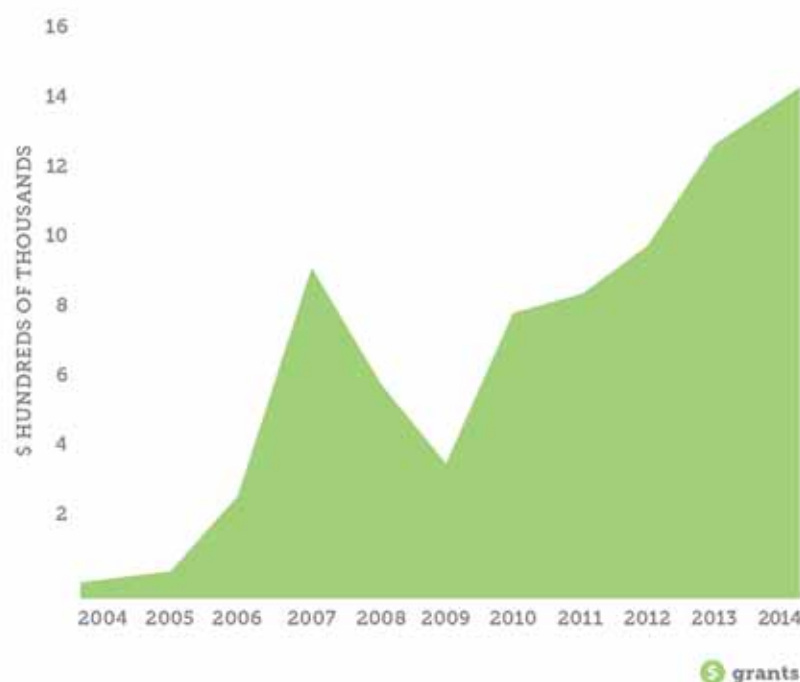
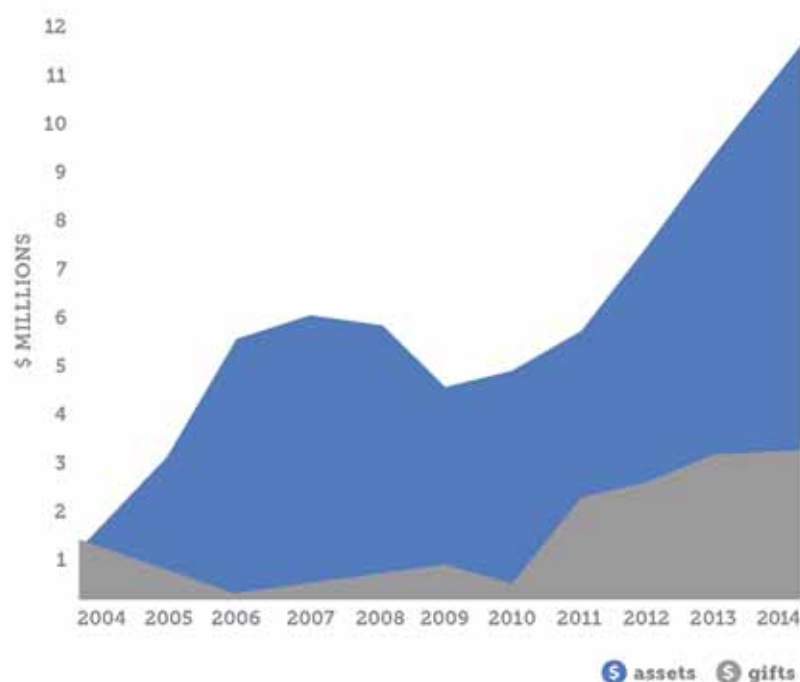
ACT convenes the **Early Care & Education Work Group**, comprised of representatives from the Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Health Department, Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation, City of Alexandria, nonprofit providers and the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission.

2013

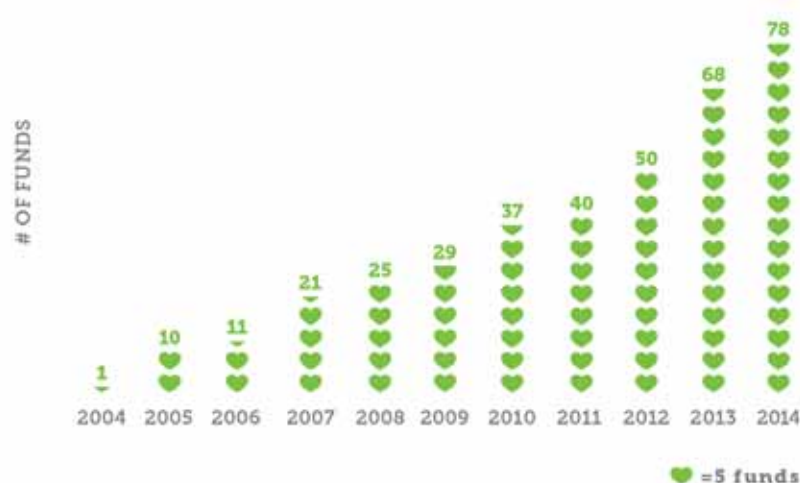
ACT celebrates its **10th anniversary**. In addition, ACT pilots **Fall into Giving**, a virtual good drive for local nonprofits.

2014

GIFTS, GRANTS & ASSETS



CHARITABLE FUNDS



Please find our most recent audited financial statements, IRS Form 990 and donor listing available at www.actforalexandria.org

ACT for Alexandria

1421 Prince Street, Suite 220
Alexandria, VA, 22314

Phone: (703) 739-7778
www.actforalexandria.org

Dear Fellow Alexandrians,

Through the generosity of many Alexandrians, ACT for Alexandria and its many donors have been able not simply to channel financial resources to local charities, but to help establish partnerships, foster collaborations, nurture vitality and build community – all to benefit Alexandria.

During the past *10 years* our donors have channeled more than \$9 million in grants to nonprofit organizations within the city and beyond. Through ACT they have also been able to offer hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of expert technical assistance to encourage excellence and strengthen the leadership within the local nonprofit sector.

While many know ACT as a **GRANTMAKER**, we also strive hard to work with the community as: a **RESOURCE BUILDER**, directing financial investments from individuals, corporations and organizations to make a lasting impact in Alexandria; a **COMMUNITY LEADER**, partnering with others to address pressing challenges; a **CONVENER**, bringing together people from across the community to discuss and explore ways to work together; and a **SECTOR SUPPORTER**, facilitating opportunities to strengthen our nonprofits through technical assistance and educational opportunities.

As we look forward to our second decade of service, we promise to continue joining you in rolling up our sleeves to build an even better Alexandria for generations to come. Please continue to dream with us about that future and let us know how we can serve you and the city even better. And thank you, thank you for all you have done with us over the past decade.

Gene Steuerle
BOARD CHAIR

John Porter
PRESIDENT & CEO

PARTNER WITH US

You can make an impact now. **GIVE** to ACT for Alexandria online today and know that you are investing in effective, long-term solutions to build an even better community. Go to www.actforalexandria.org

ELECTION '15

Candidates for Alexandria City Council

Paul C. Smedberg

Democrat

Age: 54

Family: Michael Molesky, Partner

Education including degrees and institutions: B.S. Economics & B.A. History, Allegheny College; Fellow, Sorensen Institute, University of Virginia

Offices held, dates: Alexandria City Council Member 2003 to present

Occupation and relevant experience: Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy, AAPM&R

Community involvement: As long as I have lived in the City, I have served on a number of community boards, which has bettered the lives of Alexandrians. I currently represent the City on several inter-jurisdictional commissions in a leadership role – VRE, Northern VA Transportation Commission & Northern VA Regional Commission

Website: www.PaulSmedberg.org

Email address: SmedbergforCouncil@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @Paul_Smedberg

Name three favorite endorsements: A-PACE, Alexandria's Teachers; Alexandria Committee of Police, Local 5; Mt Vernon Sierra Club



Fernando Torrez

Republican

Age: 34

Family: Kamila Lipowska-Torrez and Alexandra Torrez (wife & daughter)

Education including degrees and institutions:

United States Air Force Community College Associates Degree

Devry University Bachelors of Science in Business Administration

Microsoft Certified Professional CompTia

Network + CompTia

Offices held, dates: I am a candidate.

Occupation and relevant experience: NanoTech IT Support - Small business owner

Community involvement:

Board Member - Alexandria Regional Council, United Way

Board Member - Alexandria Sheriff's Office's Correctional Services Advisory Board

Board Member - Government Relations Committee, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

City Commissioner - Alexandria Commission on Employment, Department of Community and Human Services & Center for Economic Support

Member – American Legion Post 24

Member – West End Business Association

Member – Old Town Business Association

Member – Old Town Civic Association

Member – North Old Town Civic Association

Member – Alexandria Sportsman's Club

Website: fernandotorrez.com

Email address: friends@fernandotorrez.com

Twitter handle: torrez4council

Name three favorite endorsements:

Former City Council Frank Fannon

Former Virginia Governor George Allen



Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet

Republican

Age: N/A

Education including degrees and institutions: BS Engineering, West Point; MS Public Administration, Shippensburg State College, PA

Offices held, dates: None

Occupation and relevant experience: President of Van Fleet Associates a Governmental Relations Company based in Alexandria; Company founded in 1981

Community involvement: President, Old Town Civic Association (3 years), Member Waterfront Commission (8 Years), Board Member of the Federation of Civic Associations (15 Years)

Website: www.vanisyourman.com

Email address: van@vanisyourman.com;

vmgthehill@aol.com

Twitter handle: twitter.com/vanisyourman

Name three favorite endorsements: Bob Wood, Monique Miles and Fernando Torres



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Since first being elected to serve on City Council, I have been single-minded in assuring the health and safety of the Alexandria community and I will continue to pursue this as a defining call to service. This represents to me the primary function of local government and I intend to remain committed to this goal. This can only be accomplished through a concerted effort to maintain fiscal soundness and efficient management of municipal resources. I believe that this can be achieved through disciplined determination that assures the continued financial security of the City.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I pride myself on the ability to listen first and speak second. To me this is an earmark of an effective representative seeking to affect an interchange of ideas that will eventually lead to a viable solution or compromise. (A successful, effective dialogue between individuals is a result of the ability to listen and learn from others. I have demonstrated the ability to be forthright and straight talking in my conversations and dealings with the community. And this has served we well.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

While funding is one of the keys to a quality school system there is no doubt that there are other methods whereby elected officials can assist in achieving excellence in education. The financial acumen and the accumulated experience of many City departments provide a resource to the school system on an ongoing basis. However, I believe that the continued cooperative dialogue between Council and the elected Members of the School Board provides a platform to address issues and emphasize to all residents that the School system is a highly valued component of a strong and stable community.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

As I mentioned above in Question 2, I have demonstrated the ability to be forthright and straight talking in my conversations and dealings with the community. I approach my interactions with city staff in the same manner. I do not hesitate to ask tough questions and have frequently arranged meetings between residents and staff to discuss issues. Many of my questions to staff during Council work sessions and meetings are a result of communications from residents. This has earned me the respect of many with whom I share a different position.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

We have been effectively dealing with this issue for a number of years and I can assure the voters that while these frequent "hiccups" have resulted in a wide variety of reductions we have done so with enlightened moderation across the board. I honestly cannot simply list three distinct areas to cut. That of course would be the simple approach just shut down this program, slash that budget, reduce that initiative by a whopping percentage, etc. Instead I would with the support of the public and working with my fellow Council members, city staff and boards and commissions seek ways to deal with the reductions that has the lowest possible impact on the health and safety of the residents of the city.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Given the importance of a strong preschool education and the statistics, which so amply bear this out I, would use this money to assure access to quality preschool for all children in the City. I believe in the overriding importance of this and would welcome a windfall of one million dollars to achieve this goal.

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QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a small business owner, Air Force Veteran, and immigrant I bring a unique perspective and set of skills. I believe in the American Dream and am proof that anyone in this great nation can achieve their goals if they join together work hard, work smart, and persevere. City Council has ignored the business community, city's infrastructure, education for far too long and it is time these issues are in the forefront of our city representatives. As a first time father, I have a greater desire to see the City of Alexandria in a better path. I want my daughter to receive an outstanding education and live in a vibrant area.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

In 2008, I started NanoTech, a small IT business that supports small to medium business throughout the City of Alexandria. For the past seven years, I have been involved in the City's business community, which has allowed me to understand the struggles that small businesses have experienced in starting or expanding within city limits.

As councilmember, the first order of business would be to streamline the licensing, and permitting process. Relieving small business owners from burdensome regulations will make Alexandria business friendly. By bringing in new and expanding small businesses, Alexandria will be able to expand its commercial tax base.

As a military veteran, I want to focus on tapping into our veteran community, which is currently 8% of our population, and work to incentivize these "vetrepreneurs" to choose the City to locate their businesses.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

My wife and I have recently become new parents and our daughter, Alexandra, will become a student in the Alexandria City Public School system in the next few years. Just like every parent, it is very important for us to provide our daughter the best education possible. ACPS's challenges come in many forms, including budget cuts, overcrowding and accreditation issues, as in the Jefferson Houston Elementary case. From my perspective, the City needs to work to increase community awareness, support creative instructors and administrators, and strengthen the relationship between City Council and the

SEE TORREZ, PAGE 33

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Our debt has ballooned 300% in the past 10 years, from \$130 to \$540 million. We have a yearly debt service of \$66 million, which will jump to \$80 million when the Potomac Yard Metro Station development occurs. Our AAA bond rating could be in jeopardy, as we have massive infrastructure costs projected for our schools and for our combined sewer system. The City's Five Year Projection estimates that the debt will increase an additional \$128 million and property taxes will rise 21% by 2020. This is only sustainable if property values continue to increase. A complete efficiency and effectiveness audit of all the city's financial accounts is absolutely necessary.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am a 30-year Alexandria resident. I am a 23-year Army Veteran. After graduating from West Point I served in a number of assignments throughout the US, Germany and Vietnam. I am currently the President of Van Fleet Associates, an Alexandria based governmental relations firm. I am very adept at reaching across the aisle and working with other parties and individuals representing the other side of the arguments on a vast number of issues. I have served 3 years as the President of the Old Town Civic Association, eight years as a member of the Waterfront Commission, and 15 years on the Board of the Federation of Civic Associations where I was served as the Vice Chair.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

Council Members need to be proactive in pushing for excellence in our schools. Early education is an absolute must along with smaller classes and apprenticeship programs. The scholarship apprenticeship program my campaign instituted during this election cycle is a terrific model for teaching high school seniors how the inner workings of their local political system and government operate. In the future, all candidates for Council should consider using this program. When elected, I will work very closely with our School Board members to help insure that our Alexandria schools are academically on the top rung in all of Northern Virginia.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

From my many years of being active participant in monitoring our local government, I have learned that the most effective and innovative ideas originate from the citizens. Alexandria is one of the most educated cities in the U.S. Our citizens possess a vast amount of knowledge on just about every subject matter imaginable. Therefore, It would be an extremely rare instance that I might disagree with the positions postulated by the citizens residing in one of our numerous neighborhoods. This Council has failed miserably to adequately address the many needs and desires of the citizens in almost every neighborhood thus making poor decisions regarding a myriad of issues throughout the entire city.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

That is why an efficiency and effectiveness audit is so impor

SEE VAN FLEET, PAGE 24

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ OCTOBER 22-28, 2015 ♦ 23

Candidates for Alexandria City Council

Pepper

FROM PAGE 18

Justin Wilson

Democrat

Age: 36

Family: Wife, Son (10) & Daughter (8)

Education including degrees and institutions: Bachelor of Science, Information Systems, Virginia Commonwealth University

Offices held, dates: Alexandria City Council July 2007 – July 2009; January 2013 - Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Director Infrastructure Program Management, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

Community involvement: Virginia Board of Juvenile Justice; Virginia Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice; President, Del Ray Citizens Association; Chairman Alexandria Transit Company (DASH Bus); Alexandria Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Website: www.justin.net

Email address: campaign@justin.net

Twitter handle: @justindotnet

Name three favorite endorsements: Sierra Club; Education Association of Alexandria; Alexandria Committee of Policy, Local 5



Lt. General (Retired)

John R. “Bob” Wood

Republican

Occupation and relevant experience:

US Army (Retired), 36 years

Founder, Star Strategies Group, Alexandria small business, 2009 - 2013

Senior Executive, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, International, 2013 - Present

Community involvement:

Member, Alexandria Waterfront Plan Workgroup

Co-Founder, Capitol Post (Veteran Service center and Business Incubator, Alexandria)

Board member, Old Town Civic Association

Board member, The Fairfax Military Retirement Community, Fort Belvoir

Website: WoodforCouncil.com

Email address: woodforcouncil@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @woodcitycouncil

Name three favorite endorsements: Alexandria PAC for Education (Teacher endorsed); Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR); Carlyle C. “Connie” Ring, Former Member of Alexandria City Council, Former Alexandria School Board.



QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed is a central focus of my campaign, and my service on the City Council. During my tenure on Council, I have successfully worked to restore painful Federal cuts to Head Start, reduce the waiting list for early childhood education, and tackle growing student enrollment.

Far too many children start Kindergarten with no preschool experience. For many of our kids in need, we waste after-school and out-of-school time opportunities. Our education infrastructure is aged and in need of new investments, and our play-spaces are too scarce and not well maintained.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

As a current member of the Alexandria City Council, an ACPS parent, a state-wide leader in Juvenile Justice, champion of early childhood education and experienced civic activist, I believe I bring a unique perspective and collection of experiences to the City Council.

More than experiences, I bring a record of success on the City Council.

Instead of talking about how Alexandria grows and diversifies its economy, I've spent my tenure on Council doing just that, working to attract thousands of good jobs to our City, strengthening the City's municipal balance sheet, and removing the red-tape the can inhibit job growth.

Instead of just talking about the success of our children, I've worked to expand early childhood education, identify funding for school capacity needs and shepherd a plan to handle school capacity growth long into our future.

Instead of just talking about easing congestion, I've worked to revive the dream of a Metro Rail station at Potomac Yard, pushed for modern parking standards, and advocated for the first new transit on the West End in decades.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

With the highest poverty level of any school system in Northern Virginia, Alexandria's schools have a unique challenge in ensuring the success of our kids. But we cannot make excuses, we must make results.

Yet in a tad more than 32 hours per week, our schools cannot ameliorate every challenge that faces our children outside of the schoolhouse. This is where the City must be an essential partner with our schools to create an environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Whether it's pre-school, after-school, or out-of-school time, we have an opportunity to improve the coordination, rigor and results of how our kids are served.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Throughout my tenure on the City Council, I have worked to provide the kind of accessible and responsive government that the residents of this City deserve.

We are not always going to agree on every issue, but I work to ensure that every resident is heard, respected, and their concerns are addressed in some form.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

Every budget tells a different story, with different emergent needs and priorities. I've served on Council during one of the most difficult fiscal environments our City has ever seen. Every year I've served, I've identified efficiencies and reductions to City spending to help our City adopt budgets that respect our wallets and reflect our values.

All of those proposals are available online in detail at www.alexandriava.gov/budget

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I believe there is no better investment that City government can make than in the future of our children. I would use an additional million to continue my efforts to clear the waiting list for pre-school services in our City and finally bring universal pre-school to Alexandria.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Restoring trust in city government. We need to rebalance perspectives, representation, and experiences in our City Council. We confront challenges to our collective future from debt, development, business, education, and environment. These challenges can certainly be solved, but not with the same, single set of voices and old set of assumptions and ideas. One way is no way to guide change in today's complex environment. Too many residents feel ignored, underrepresented, and underserved. The result is decreased engagement and ultimately loss of trust. We need the energy and involvement of our remarkable citizens in active and constructive conversation to evolve the city and build its future. I will listen, consider, understand, and represent all of our city's residents to the very best of my ability as a respectful, on occasion critical, but always productive member of council in support of our residents.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

In my 36 years of military service and, now, my 6 years in both small and large business, I've had the education and experience needed to help Alexandria solve its present problems and build its future. From lieutenant to lieutenant general (3 stars), I led small and quite large organizations, managed entire communities, resolved local to international disputes, and solved complex problems requiring judgment, tact, and innovation. As the Army's senior strategic planner, I helped change the Army to succeed in the post 9/11 world. I've been a School Board President, a University professor at West Point (Economics, Finance), and head of the Army's Command and General Staff College (staff training for U.S and international officers). In business, I've founded a successful small consulting business in Alexandria, a business incubator for veterans, and now manage the largest line of business and revenue for a major non-profit organization working in the Federal information technology space. I bring experience, education, and dedication to support our citizens and our city.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

I see three issues facing our Public Schools and several steps to help solve them:

a. Serving the needs of a transient and extremely diverse student population while meeting and advancing education standards for all students.

b. Promoting excellence in education, across all functions, within available resources.

c. Convincing citizens that their “return on investment” of tax revenues in public education is not only sufficient but also increasing.

Diversity in our schools is a driving demographic fact. Understanding student needs requires outreach, counseling, and adaptable education programs. Celebrating excellence in education must match sports reporting in the press. The appearance and condition of our facilities must reflect the city's care and support for public education. Community contact, conspicuous commitment, and regular communications can affirm the value and quality of our schools. Ultimately, the performance of our schools must be at least as important to the city and its residents as any bond rating or other accolade.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

The courtesy of an answer is an important first step. A sincere and thoughtful effort to understand the point being made is another step. I find I learn something from every conversation, every citizen, in every aspect of city and community business. If I disagree, it very often is in degree or in some aspect of detail. An explanation of my position is most often inclusive of citizen comments to the amount possible and not dismissive as just wrong.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

a. Redundant management functions across all city entities and city services are natural areas to investigate for potential consolidations and cost savings.

b. Restructured debt obligations and/or reduction of borrowing

c. Delay or extend capital investments and capital intensive replacements

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would invest it in Pre-K schooling, particularly to expand the facilities to support our non-profit educational partners who do so much, for so many, with so little.

a development issue, I will visit the site in question, attend a community meeting if possible, and seriously consider both sides of any issue. There are very few black and white issues. There are some worthy points on both sides of an issue. In the end, if I have to disagree with the citizen, I will explain why that is so.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which areas would you turn to first?

(1) I would look for efficiencies (doing more with existing or reduced funding) in all departments. (2) If at all possible, I would look for capital projects that could be deferred without harming the essential services our residents expect. (3) I would ask all departments to look for possible service reductions for Council to consider if that becomes absolutely necessary.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I would give it to the Alexandria Food Center for future expansion, for the purchase of a walk-in freezer, and for food when needed. This is a food storage center whose activities are coordinated by ALIVE! The Center is made available to other non-profits who need a place to store food before distributing it to needy recipients.

In addition to helping the Center, I would share the funds with other food programs in the City. What could be more important than making it possible for food to be available for those in need?

Van Fleet

FROM PAGE 23

tant. When former Governor Wilder chaired a commission to do a complete state-wide efficiency and effectiveness audit, his group was asked to identify permanent and sustainable savings. In response, the Wilder Commission pinpointed over \$3 billion in accounts receivable that were not collectible and \$1.3 billion in inefficiencies. On a smaller scale, Alexandria needs to replicate what the State has done. The purpose of the audit needs to be widely disseminated from the start, and the audit should include at least the following: identification of redundant and ineffective services; streamlining and consolidating agencies and programs; reviewing use of technology to improve service delivery and to reduce costs; and lastly, identifying and recommending management tools in order to make the services more efficient.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Our safety net is the most important city service provided to our citizens. At present the Alexandria Police Department (APD) is under staffed. That affects each and every one of us daily as we look to them to provide us with protection against not only against violent crimes but also in insuring our streets are safe and trafficable.

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Top Restaurants for Carb-Loading Before Big Race

The Marine Corps Marathon is this weekend—here are a few top spots for getting your starch on.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

For many area athletes, it's all over but the shouting — and the running of 26.2 miles during Sunday's Marine Corps Marathon. In advance of the big race, runners will need to load up on carbs of all kinds in order to have enough fuel to propel them all over the District of Columbia with 30,000 of their closest friends. Here are three top picks.

Hard Times Café, 1404 King St.

Admittedly, a chili joint may not sound like quite the appropriate venue for a big pre-race meal, but Hard Times turns the tables a bit with its chili mac. The "mac" is the important part here — spaghetti serves as the base for your chili of choice. If you're new to Hard Times, ask for a taster — and if you're running the next day, maybe lay off the spiciest varieties. The Texas and vegetarian chilis may be your best bets; your non-running friends might be willing to give you a bite of their Cincinnati or Terlingua concoctions so you can see what you're missing.

While spaghetti is of course the traditional carb of choice for these sorts of events, it's not the only one of import on Hard Times' menu. If you're looking for something a little different — but still marathon-friendly — give their "chili taters" a try. Again, choose

your favorite chili, this time served atop a bed of tater tots. Cheese, sour cream, tomatoes, and the like are optional, but you'll be running 26.2 miles the next day. So why not?

Thai Peppers, 2018 Mt. Vernon Ave.

When it comes right down to it, Thai food makes for an excellent prerace meal. It might not seem so at first — some of the dishes can be spicy or too heavy in advance of a long stretch on your feet the next day — but give Thai Peppers' menu a closer review. Pad Thai. Drunken noodles. Fried rice. A plethora of entrees served with jasmine or brown rice. There are starches everywhere you look if you only know what to look for.

For a filling, hearty meal that won't weigh you down, give the Pad-Pak-Ruam (a mixed-vegetable dish) a try with your choice of protein (chicken, beef, pork, shrimp, or tofu). If you're craving something with a little more octane, you can't beat Thai Peppers' curries. Their Pa-Nang curry certainly stands out, and isn't quite as spicy (and therefore more run-friendly) than some of the other varieties.

Bugsy's Pizza, 111 King St.

Known best for its sports bar and deep-dish pizzas, Buggy's has quite an array of pasta options, as well — perfect for someone looking to go the distance the next day



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON/GAZETTE PACKET

Bugsy's Pizza may be known more for its pies and sports bar than its pasta, but give the spaghetti with tomato basil cream sauce a try.

and fuel up in the classic Italian manner. From alfredo to marinara, parmigiana to primavera, Buggy's knows its way around all of carby greats.

One of the menu's standouts is the spaghetti with tomato basil cream sauce. At first blush, a cream sauce may seem a bit heavy the night before a race, but this one is heavy on the tomato and basil and lighter on the cream. The result is a flavorful melding of tomato-based tang and a smooth undertone

that really sets the dish apart. For a non-dairy-based meal, consider one of the linguines (the restaurant offers several seafood varieties as well as a vegetable version), which will give you all of the starch and protein with less of the guilt.

See you at the finish line!

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Whimsy & Wonderment

Set for Nov. 7-8.

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

How does one create parody in music, especially in instrumental music where one doesn't have the benefit of using words and language? How does one create satire, sarcasm or

MUSINGS FROM THE MAESTRO

the macabre in music? Stravinsky and Prokofiev were masters in this arena, and I have always felt a strong kinship between their music and Danny Elfman's scores to the Tim Burton movies. So I wasn't at all surprised when I heard Elfman mention that these two composers were the strongest influence on his music. Recently when speaking with Richard Kraft (Elfman's agent) I learned that Stravinsky's "Soldier's Tale" was absolutely Elfman's favorite piece of music. This was merely an intuition on



my part when I programmed these pieces a year ago.

If you listen closely to these composers you can hear that they all delight in creating simple melodies and then slightly distorting them to create the desired effect of parody, sarcasm or the macabre. They manipulate these simple melodies through changes in the metric accents (by putting the em-PHA-sis on the wrong notes), or by slipping in a surprise repetition of a musical motive (creating musical em-PHA-sis-PHA-sis), or by using an unusual range of an instrument or striking juxtapositions of instruments (very high trumpet against extremely low clarinet). They delight in creating melodic caricatures — skewing the melodies a bit to give them a fresh sound — but a sound that often shocked audiences.

Prokofiev and Stravinsky were the "bad boys" of music in the early 20th century. Elfman and Burton would undoubtedly be flattered to have the same designation today.

See you at the concerts!

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Apple Brandy Distilling. Through Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Distillery, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the process of apple brandy distilling. Admission to the distillery is included in the cost of admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which is \$9-17. Visit www.mountvernon.org/distillery.

Coopering Demonstrations. Through Oct. 23, 1-5 p.m. at George Washington's Distillery, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Master cooper Marshall Scheetz will be on-site for coopering demonstrations. Watch as broad axes, planes, and drawknives are used to craft barrel staves, which are then heated and bent into shape, and held together with hoops or bands. Admission to the distillery is included in the cost of admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which is \$9-17. Visit www.mountvernon.org/distillery.

Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition. Through Oct. 25, 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.

"Artifact" Exhibit. Through Oct. 25, gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and during performances at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. In this exhibit artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture

with the naturally occurring textures or "gestures" in the wood. John James Anderson will also share the space. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

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.

"Seven Deadlies." Through Oct. 31, Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sculptor Karen Swenholt explores envy, and pride. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

Sugar Shack's Halloween Goat Scavenger Hunt. Through Oct. 31, at various locations. Sugar Shack is hiding 31 goat figurines around Alexandria. Each of the small goats are worth 12 donuts, and there will be five larger goats worth bigger swag packs. Hints will be posted daily during the second half of the month. Most goats are hidden in local shops, restaurants, and parks. Free. Call 703-577-9023 for more.

Immanuel Pumpkin Patch. Through Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. At this fundraiser find pumpkins, gourds, baked goods, hearty soups, and autumn crafts. All profits go to charity. Free admission. Visit www.icoh.net for more.

"Skeletons: Exploring Under the Surface." Through Nov. 1, Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; and Sundays 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Experience 2D and 3D artwork in a wide range of mediums that digs deeper and discover what is 'under there,' literally and figuratively. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Sheila Harrington: "Each Day is a Celebration." Through Nov. 1, during gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Artist Sheila Harrington is inspired by the

ENTERTAINMENT

cyclical, seasonal changes of life, how human beings respond, and the juxtaposition of the natural and man-made. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

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 attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. Children under 12 are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/.

"Superstition and Belief." Gallery hours at The Art League, 155 N. Union St. Artists explore myth, religion, belief, fantasy, and dreams. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint." Through Nov. 8 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This show that will include works by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

"Safari." Through Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Resident fiber artists display work inspired by the wild. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.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.

Young at Art Juried Art Show. Through Nov. 20, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. On Thursday, Aug. 20, artists can bring their work to the Durant Center from 10 a.m.-noon to be registered and displayed. Artists must fill out a Entry and Artist/Lender Agreement and pay an entry fee of \$20 for up to three works of art, \$5 for any additional pieces. Entry forms can be found at www.seniorservicesalex.org or by calling Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, extension 111.

"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance. Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscffeeepub.com.

PHOTO '15. Through Nov. 29, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 155 N. Union St. Senior Curator and Head of the Department of Photographs at The National Gallery of Art Sarah Greenough will jury the "PHOTO '15" exhibit. Thirty-one fine art photographers will display their work. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

"Nature's Journey." Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free.

Visit www.darlenekaplan.com for more.

"George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation." Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This exhibit will detail the history of Thanksgiving at Mount Vernon. On October 3, 1789, Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for "the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving." Admission to the exhibit is included in Mount Vernon ticket prices. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org/thanksgiving.

VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital Art Show. Through Jan. 31 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. The artwork is on display in waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

"Ancient Art of Movement." 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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

www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffé & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation 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 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 and 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.



McLain Ward and RH Carlos Z.

WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW

★ OCT 20-25, 2015 ★
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Portrait by Sharon Lynn Campbell

LONGINES

AMERICAN FLAMINGO



"The Hermitage is where I've finally found my family."
—Helena Scott

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The residents at the Hermitage stay busy. Just ask Helena Scott, who was confined to wheelchair for 30 years because of Multiple Sclerosis and with regular physical therapy at the Hermitage, can now walk a mile a day when the weather permits. In her spare time, Helena knits scarves for fellow residents, volunteers in the beauty salon, sits on the Health Center Committee and delivers mail. Our residents also rave about our superb dining service, our courteous and helpful staff, and an overall feeling of caring and security that comes with living at the Hermitage.

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ENTERTAINMENT

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

“Alexandria Surrenders to the British.” 7 p.m. at John Strongbow’s Great Hall, 710 King St. Have dinner followed by a discussion of Alexandria’s submission to the British at the end of the War of 1812. Free. Call 703-329-3075 or email herald@medievalmadness.com to register.

The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum: Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Attend a concert titled “Music for Brass Ensemble” featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass led by Technical Sgt. Christine Purdue. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 23

Brewing History: Beer Tasting, Tour and Dinner. 6:30-9:45 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about beer-making in Colonial America with a mansion tour, beer brewing demonstration, beer tasting and four-course dinner. Tickets are \$100. To register, visit www.mountvernon.org.

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Watch “Harvest of Empire,” a documentary that exposes the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today, as part of the Immigration Film Festival. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Short Film Screenings. 7 p.m. at Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs, 1021 Prince St. As part of the Immigration Film Festival watch “I am Ayotzinapa,” about Mexican artists commemorating missing students believed to have been kidnapped by government militias; “Ger Kler: A Journey of Untold Strength,” about a young team of students documenting the migration from refugee camps in Burma and Thailand to the U.S. Three other short films will also be screened. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Ghost and Graveyard Special Halloween Tour. 7-9 p.m. at



PHOTO BY DAVID MCCLISTER

Musician Webb Wilder will open for Dave Alvin & Phil Alvin with The Guilty Ones on Oct. 31 at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are 29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Alexandria Colonial Tours will end its special one-hour Halloween tour in the very room where the “Female Stranger” died at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com for reservations.

Taste for Giving. 7-10 p.m. at Patent and Trade Office, 600 Dulany St. A selection of Alexandria’s restaurants will offer tastes from their menus, beer (Port City Brewing Company) and wine (North Mountain Vineyards), music (Megan and the Dads), and both live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$75. Visit www.tasteforgiving.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$12 for children participating in the hunt. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or contact John Christiansen at 703-548-1789 or contact@leafendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Heritage Craft Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. The Belles Craft Sale and Marketplace Café features handmade items, a “select treasures”

sale, and a bake sale/café. Free to attend. Visit www.heritagechurchva.org for more.

Library Bicycle Ride. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Library is hosting its third annual bicycle tour of all Alexandria Library locations. Bring your bike and join library staff for a leisurely 2-hour loop. Free. Registration required at www.bit.ly/alexlibrarybiketour.

Behind the Scenes: Curator’s Tour at Carlyle House. 10-11 a.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join a guided tour of the Carlyle Mansions with curator Helen Wirka. Wirka will take visitors on a private tour of the museum focusing on selected objects in the collection and their history, use and how they tell the story of John Carlyle, his family and friends like George Washington. Tickets are \$20. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

Family FieldFest. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Multi-Purpose Athletic Field, 1820 Limerick St. The first-ever Family FieldFest will have activities for children and adults, including pumpkin carving, face painting, live music and free demonstrations from local companies with a focus on healthy and sustainable living. Free. Visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org for more.

International Festival. 12-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. The international cuisine area will feature Thai, Ethiopian, Armenian, Afghan, American and more available for purchase. Guests are invited to come dressed in ethnic clothing and otherwise showcase heritage. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Hallowe’en Pumpkin Hunt. 1:30



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Alexandria Schools: Bursting at the Seams



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Abby Raphael,
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Board



Art Peabody

Monday, October 26, 2015



5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria, VA

Reception at 6:15 p.m. (Cash Bar)

Buffet Dinner featuring food by Bittersweet at 6:45

Program at 7:15 p.m. (\$5 for non-members)

For reservations, call 703-548-7089 or register online

Special thanks to **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

agendaalexandria.org

ENTERTAINMENT

MVCCT Presents 'Mary Poppins'

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will give six performances of the classic Disney musical "Mary Poppins." On Oct. 30, Nov. 6, and Nov. 7, there will be a 7:30 p.m. performance; a 1:30 p.m. performance on Oct. 31, and 3 p.m. performances on Nov. 1 and Nov. 8. The play will performed on the Bryant Alternative High School stage, 2709 Popkins Lane. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the door and online at www.mvcct.org.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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and 3:30 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Children are invited to search the grounds for toy-filled pumpkins. Guests will also find crafts, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, refreshments, ghost stories, and more. Tickets are \$12 for children in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets for adults are \$5. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org for more.

Raven's Night. 5 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. "Raven's Night" is a Halloween costume party featuring belly dance performances, a dinner concert, live music and more. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

Fearless Fifteneers Young Adult Author Panel. 5 p.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. Six young adults authors: Maggie Lehrman, author of "The Cost of all Things;" Sharon Roat, author of "Between the Notes;" Marci Lyn Curtis, author of "The One Thing;" Kim Liggett, author of "Blood and Salt;" Cordelia Jensen, author of "Skyscraping;" and Lauren Gibaldi, author of "The Night We Said Yes" will discuss their books. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com for more.

David Brock in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Organist and Alexandria native Davide Brock will perform music by St. Paul's Organist-Choirmasters Grant Hellmers and that of Handel, Pachelbel, Bach, Roekleing and more. Free. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-25

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn

with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides, apple-roasting and a straw bale maze. The event is included with purchase of admission to Mount Vernon; tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, \$16 for seniors and free for children 5 years and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. 1 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. St. Crispin's Day, is the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. The Oxford University Society, DC Chapter will host a screening of Kenneth Branagh's 1989 film, "Henry V." Historian Ed Furgol will discuss King Henry V, and the importance and historical significance on Agincourt. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Doggy Trick or Treat. 1-3 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. Pick up a goody bag and a map of over 25 participating businesses at The Dog Park, then lead your pet around Old Town to find treats. The Dog Park will also host a costume contest for individuals and groups—groups can be all dogs, or dogs with humans. Winners receive gift certificates to The Dog Park. Free. Call 703-888-2818 for more.

Mad Science! 1-3:30 p.m. at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St. This 45-minute tour starts every 30 minutes and features historic medicines with surprising side effects. Admission is \$6 for people age 5 and up. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

19th Annual Del Ray Halloween

Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue, south of Bellefonte Avenue. Awards will be given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home, and Best Decorated Stroller. Awards will be presented in a brief ceremony after the parade, along with refreshments and goodie bags for the children. Adults, children and dogs are all welcome to join. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

New Dominion Chorale Concert. 4

p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Lane. New Dominion Chorale, under the direction of Founder and Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will open its 25th season with a performance of Gioachino Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle." Ticket prices are \$30 (general admission), \$25 (seniors), and \$15 (youth ages 5-25). Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. Visit www.newdominion.org for more.

"The List" Screening. 5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. "The List" is about Kirk Johnson, a young American fighting to save thousands of Iraqis whose lives are in danger because they worked for the U.S. to help rebuild Iraq. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 27

AARP Alexandria Dinner Club. 4-8 p.m. at Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St. AARP has reserved the private room at Clyde's at Mark Center for members and their guests to enjoy dinner together with a 20 percent discount. Email VRasmussen@aarp.org for more.

Tree Selection and Care. 7-8:30

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ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Kirsten Buhls, extension agent for Alexandria, will be speaking on Tree Selection and Care. Topics will include the benefits of native trees, planting trees to reduce your energy costs, improving soil, correcting drainage issues, and removing underperforming plants. Free. Visit www.mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.

OCT. 27-DEC. 27

Green Spring Gardens Art Show. Gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Daniel Bennett Group Concert. 7 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Jazz group from New York celebrated the release of "The Mystery at Clown Castle." Free. Visit www.danielbennetgroup.com for more.

Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria's Sixth Annual Uncorked. 7-9 p.m. at a private residence, West Alexandria. Attend an evening of wine and cheese pairings, catered by River Bend Bistro to benefit Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$50. Contact Genevieve Moorhouse at 703-401-5902 or gmoorhouse@mcneearney.com.

"Slave Labor in the Capital." 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Bob Arnebeck, will give a presentation titled, "Slave Labor in the Capital: Building Washington's Iconic Federal Landmarks." Admission for members of the Arlington Historical Society is free, \$5 for nonmembers. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Doggy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Celebrate Halloween and the finale of the Doggy Happy Hour series with Doggy Howl-o-ween, where up to 50 contestants compete in a costume contest benefitting the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). Guests can purchase Halloween-themed cocktails and light fare. Complimentary doggy treats and fresh water bowls will be available for all canine friends. Registration is \$15. Visit www.jackson20.com for more.

Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Treaty of Ghent Ball on April 18, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

MacMaster and Leahy Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Fiddlers and husband-wife-duo Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy make a stop on a nationwide tour. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Attend "An Evening of Music for Jazz Combo" featuring members of the Airmen of Note led by Technical Sgt. Tedd Baker. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.uasfband.af.mil for more.

OCT. 29-DEC 13

Mike McConnell Exhibit. During gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mike McConnell was a commercial illustrator who recently dedicated himself to fine art. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 30

Boo! It's Halloween. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Public Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children 2-5, accompanied by an adult, are invited to participate in a Halloween-themed storytime with songs and other early literacy activities. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

branches/mw.

Trick or Treating at Mount

Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Take part in a scavenger hunt stopping at 12 locations on the estate. All trick-or-treaters are invited to join in the children's costume parade around the mansion at 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the best "George" and "Martha" costumes. Admission is \$10 for ages 10 and up, \$5 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Ancestors and Good Spirits: Rhythm and Roots Players. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate West African culture

through music. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Bark or Treat Halloween Canine Cruise. 7 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company invites guests and their costumed dogs to cruise around the Potomac River on this 60-minute ride, set to some classic Halloween tunes. Halloween doggie treats will be provided and a photographer will be on hand. Tickets are \$16 for adults \$10 for children and dogs ride for free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

The David Bromberg Band. 8 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Bromberg Band celebrates the release of their latest

album "Only Slightly Mad." Tickets are \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-9:15 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz re-creates Edgar Allan Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before he died. The program always includes a story or two such as "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," or "The Tell-Tale Heart," along with well-known poems "The Raven" and "El Dorado." Tickets are \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

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ALEXANDRIA ROTARY FOUNDATION

ENTERTAINMENT

OCT. 30-NOV. 8

“Mary Poppins.” Various times as Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre presents “Mary Poppins.” Tickets are \$12. Visit www.mvct.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Ghosts and Goblins

Archaeological Tours. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. On Halloween Alexandria Archaeology is hosting an Open House at the Shuter’s Hill archaeological site located on the property behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Alexandria archaeologists will be on hand to conduct site tours and show the latest finds at this late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation site. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Trick or Treat with the Boo-tiques.

11 a.m.-6 p.m. at various places in Old Town Alexandria. Dozens of shops of the Old Town Boutique District will be giving out treats to guests of all ages. Free. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Murder Mystery Dinner. 7 p.m. at The Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. The Grille at Morrison House hosts “The Morrison House Murder Mystery.” Celebrate Halloween with a 1920s themed dinner and show where guests will participate in a murder mystery theater experience. Themed costumes are encouraged. The evening will start with live piano music and a cocktail hour, followed by a three-course dinner, with a choice of red or white wine and optional cocktails. Tickets are \$100 and include dinner, show, one cocktail, and one glass of wine. Visit www.thegrillealexandria.com for more.

Dave Alvin and Phil Alvin with Webb Wilder and The Guilty Ones. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Webb Wilder will open for Dave Alvin and Phil Alvin and The Guilty Ones. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Del Ray Artisans Halloween Costume Party. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This adults-only party will feature music, food and more. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

Art Show and Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artists Carol Higgs, Joan Wolfe, and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein will celebrate a new exhibit opening Oct. 27. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

“Naked Mountain: The Delights and Challenges of Owning One of Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves.” 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Marcia S. Mabey will explain how Naked Mountain, a 284-acre property in Nelson County, Virginia came to be and the discoveries and obligations inherent within the preserve that continue to this day. Free. Visit www.vnps.org.

“PHOTO ‘15” Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 155 N. Union St. Celebrate the exhibit juried by Senior Curator and Head of the Department of Photographs at The National Gallery of Art Sarah Greenough. Thirty-one fine art photographers, who will display their work, will also be on hand. Greenough will give a juror’s talk and two awards will be presented. Free. Visit

www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

Book Club Meeting. 2:30 p.m. at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub at 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Women’s History Museum’s monthly book club will read “A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation” by Catherine Allgor. Free, but reservations required. Visit www.nwhm.ticketleap.com/nwhm-book-club-dolley/.

Exhibit Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate former illustrator Mike McConnell’s new exhibit. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

U.S. Army Band Concert. 4:15 p.m. pre-concert talk, 5 p.m. performance at Christ the King Anglican Church, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The U.S. Army Brass Quintet & Friends will perform. Free. Call 703-535-6815 for more.

“Just Earl: The Life and Journey of Earl Francis Lloyd.” 6 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. The Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame Project is producing the play, “Just Earl: The Life and Journey of Earl Francis Lloyd” written and directed by McKenya Dilworth of The Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse, Inc. The play focuses on the life of the first African American to play in the NBA, his childhood in Alexandria and the life lessons he learned along the way. Tickets are \$35. Call 571-217-9951.

All Saints’ Day. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, will direct the choir in an All Saints’ Sunday Choral Evensong. Free. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 5

An Evening on John Singer

Sargent. 7 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Richard Ormond, former Director of London’s National Maritime Museum and former Deputy Director of London’s National Portrait Gallery, is also one of the world’s leading authorities on his great uncle and artist John Singer Sargent. Ormond will share anecdotes about and insights into the world of this leading portrait painter of the late 1800s. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Damon Fowler and Delbert McClinton. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Guitarist Damon Fowler opens for The Delbert McClinton Band. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 5-7

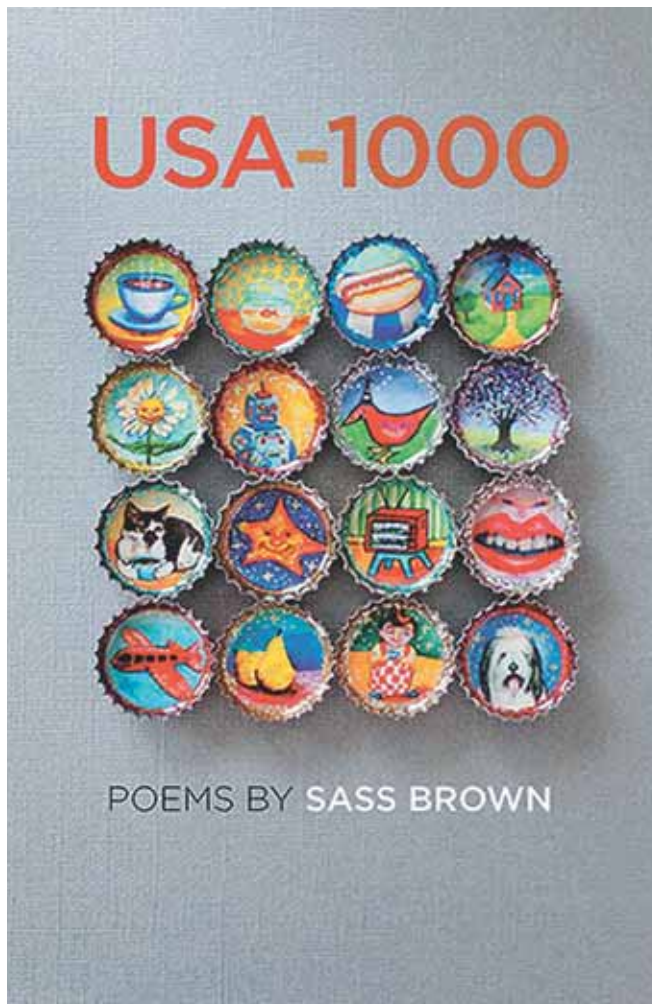
Duncan Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m. on Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. on Friday; and 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m. on Saturday at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Thousands of donated books, DVDs and CDs will be on sale. Free to attend. Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

ACPS 2020: Every Student

Succeeds. 5:30-8 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Commonwealth St. In honor of the launch of “Every Student Succeeds,” Alexandria City Public Schools is inviting the community to a celebration featuring circus performances, live music, food and more. Free. Call 703-619-8003 for more.

“Under \$100: Affordable Masterpieces” Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate the opening of an exhibit showcasing artwork for \$100 or less. Patrons can own and take



Poet and Artist Celebrate ‘USA-1000’

Poet Sass Brown will celebrate the release of “USA-1000,” a compilation of poetry on loss and longing in pop culture, on Thursday, Nov. 12, 6-9 p.m.. Sculptor Lisa Schumaier, who created the cover art for “USA-1000” using recycled bottle caps with tiny paintings inside, will also be on-site for the party. This event, part of The Torpedo Factory’s 2nd Thursday Art Night, will include a reading, book signing, open studios, and refreshments. The Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union St. Admission is free. Visit www.sassbrown.com, www.keenthings.com, or www.torpedofactory.org to learn more.

home art when purchased. Free admission. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Art on Tap. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Craft beers from local breweries have been paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create a complementary appetizer. Tickets are \$35, \$45 after Oct. 3. Visit www.theartleague.org.

The Recessionists. 8 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. An improv group accepts suggestions from the crowd for scenes and games. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

NOV. 6-26

“Under \$100: Affordable

Masterpieces.” During gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans showcases artwork for \$100 or less. Patrons can own and take home art when purchased. Free admission. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 6-8

Alexandria Film Festival. AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival brings together short and feature length films of all genres from emerging and established, local and international filmmakers. Last

forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers’ Hut and ceremonial entrance gate, and the fort’s fully restored Northwest bastion. Free. Call 703-746-4848.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at The Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

SCAN’s 14th Annual Toast to

Hope. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. “Toast for Hope” is an opportunity to support Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN). Tickets start at \$75. Visit www.scanva.org.

Kitty Donohoe and Kristin

Rebecca. 7 p.m. at Focus Alexandria/Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Ann Arbor-based songwriter and Michigan Emmy recipient Kitty Donohoe is joined by Maryland based songwriter Kristin Rebecca. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Visit www.focumusic.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 7-8

“Whimsy & Wonderment.” 8 p.m. on Saturday at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive; 3 p.m. on Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents the music of Danny Elfman and classical music that shaped Elfman’s style. Tickets are \$20-80 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for youth. Visit www.alessym.org for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 8

Ruffled Wreath Workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create a Christmas wreath with felt ruffled rosettes. Adults only. Tickets are \$22. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

The Navy Concert Band. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Navy Concert Band will perform at part of the “Music in the Gallery Series.” Hear traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Capitol Steps Benefit. 5 p.m. at U.S. PTO Madison Auditorium, 600 Dulany St. The Capitol Steps Benefit is a performance featuring satire based on headlines. Tickets are \$80. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Pianist George Winston. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. This concert by solo pianist George Winston will be accompanied by a food drive benefitting Carpenter’s Shelter. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

MONDAY/NOV. 9

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom

Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. class and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dancing at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ballroom dance professional Gary Stephens teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Tickets are \$15. Contact garystephans@me.com or 703-505-5998.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Volunteer Awards Celebration.

6 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. The 21st annual Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria celebration will honor Gene Steuerle, for The Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award; and Isabella Lovain, for The Youth Volunteer Service Award. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org for more.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

Avenue, Vice Mayor Silberberg voted, “No.”

In April 2013, when the council was presented with the largest developer contribution to affordable housing in the city’s history, in the form of the Beauregard Plan, Vice Mayor Silberberg voted, “No.”

In January, when the council was presented with another public-private partnership with a nonprofit to build 93 units of affordable housing on Fillmore Avenue, Vice Mayor Silberberg withheld her support. In April, when the council was presented with new parking standards to reduce the costs of affordable housing development, Vice Mayor Silberberg voted, “No.”

Just last month, when the council was asked by ARHA to allow them to build 53 new units of affordable housing, Vice Mayor Silberberg voted, “No.”

With the incredible loss of affordable housing in our region over the last decade, and the incredible financial demands on hardworking Alexandrians, we need a mayor fully committed to the cause of expanding not thwarting affordability options. Unfortunately, it appears Vice Mayor Silberberg pays affordable housing lip service, and nothing more.

Silberberg’s “No” history is not a visionary policy agenda for Alexandria on issues critical to our continued progress, vitality and diversity. Rather, Silberberg’s “No” mantra is a response, regrettably, from an erstwhile well-intentioned politician either ill-prepared, unready or unwilling to at least publicly address the difficult and challenging issues confronting our city. The job demands much more. It demands policy not platitudes absent of details. It demands well-reasoned planning and not public posturing. It demands continued hard work and not simply plucking the low hanging fruit often the stuff of divisive neighborhood issues. I will vote for the candidate for mayor that I know has worked tirelessly on issues such as affordable housing, public safety, education and the environment. On Nov. 3, I am writing in “Bill Euille.”

Ludwig P. Gaines

The writer served City of Alexandria City Council (2003-2006, 2006-2009); City of Alexandria Planning Commission (2001-2003); City of Alexandria Human Rights Commission (2003, 2010-Present, chairperson); City of Alexandria Affordable Housing Work Group (2007-2009, chairperson); Washington Area Housing Partnership, (2008-2009, chairperson); City of Alexandria Landlord-Tenant Relations Board (2000-2002, chairperson)

Whose Interests?

To the Editor:

Many thanks to Ernie Lehmann [Letter, “Follow the Money,” Gazette packet,

Oct. 15-21] for pointing us to the Virginia Public Access Project (www.VPAP.org/committees). This is a precious tool to determine the candidates’ interests: theirs or ours? Mayor Euille finance report spells it clearly: Real Estate, law firms, transport and finance are massively supporting him (\$171,000). Out of these contributions, his campaign has been paying out about \$82,000 to consulting. This amount is more than Allison Silberberg’s total budget which is mostly made up of contributions under \$250, meaning you and me.

It is time we get a mayor and a council concerned about our issues, not a party’s interest or outside contributors. These issues are road maintenance (what is the use of bicycle lanes if the cracks in the road are large enough to engulf a bike tire), schools (why spend more than any other city if results are not there), city expenses (have you noticed that all city motors are brand new and that parking enforcement officers ride full size sedans rather than the trikes of the past? What next, chauffeur driven limos?). City budgets (instead of looking to developing new taxes, how about cutting city expenses?). Rather than going on, may I suggest voting for those who seem to have our interests in mind rather than theirs. After all they are the one asking to

represent us, we are not forcing them into it.

Francois Duret
Alexandria

Need Two-Party Council

To the Editor:

In a few weeks Alexandrians will have the opportunity to return to a two-party democracy with the Nov. 3 City Council elections. Why an all Democratic City Council now governs us lies in the hands of the current crafty council members Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain who lost their council seats in May of 2009 to local Republicans Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes.

Within five days of the Wilson-Lovain loss, Wilson set forth a docket item to move the next election from May 2012 to November 2012 to coincide with the presidential election. This allowed (the) local Democrats to ride the coattails of the Presidential race. After much debate at the June 2009 City Council Public Hearing, the two lame duck council members had a plan in place to get back on council. In November 2012, the two incumbent Republican City Council members were in fact defeated at the polls.

In a few weeks the engaged, active and concerned Alexandrians will have a chance to return a two-party system of government to our city. For the last eight years under one party rule, the voices of Alexandrians have not been heard. Alexandrians should reflect on what the current City Council promised and what was delivered. Did they seek public engagement prior to making de-

cisions on issues impacting the city and citizens? Think about the infrastructures issues of the city – roads, sewage, bridges, parking, affordable housing, taxes, fire, transportation and police services, quality of life/standard of living – have there been improvements in these areas?

We need a two-party council system to bring balance to the management of our city for ensuring Alexandrians voices are heard.

Randall McDonald
Alexandria

Moneyed Special Interests

To the Editor:

In a recent letter to this paper, Mindy Lyle questions Ms. Silberberg’s judgement by suggesting absurdly that her opposition to development was essentially a failure to reach a consensus with her fellow council members. Ms. Lyle neglects to say that she, Ms. Lyle, is a member of the Planning Commission and a staunch supporter of its corporate CEO /mayor, Bill Euille. The Planning Commission’s members are appointed as part of a patronage system that provides the council with cover for their development decisions.

Under Mayor Euille’s administration, and that of former mayor Kerry Donley before him, development and more development has always been the only real agenda. Who on council today doesn’t support this agenda? The answer is that everyone on council, with the exception of Ms. Silberberg, does most of the time.

We need a new City Council that is not beholden to the moneyed special interests that are transforming a one-of-a-kind historic town into just another generic tourist destination. Even if you don’t live along the river, you should be concerned about the city’s future. Problems like the lack of parkland for a growing population, rapidly rising taxes and debt, destruction of affordable public housing, and a general loss of the city’s unique neighborhood identity will worsen if the current City Council remains in place.

Scrap the destructive business policies of Mayor Euille and his predecessor Kerry Donley. As a former vice-mayor of Alexandria, I urge you to elect a fresh City Council on Nov. 3 with Ms. Silberberg as mayor. Let’s usher in a more enlightened citizen-based government.

Andrew Macdonald
The writer is a former member of the City Council.

Money and Governing

To the Editor:

Now that I’ve stopped laughing, it’s time to put pen to paper and reply to Mayor Euille’s comment in your Oct. 8

edition that “It takes money to run campaigns. When I make decisions, it has nothing to do with whether or how much a developer contributed.”

Really Mr. Euille?

According to the Virginia Pubic Access Project, Mr. Euille has accepted donations well in excess of \$100,000 from the real estate/construction sector. That does not include tens of thousands of dollars more in contributions from the legal and financial sectors.

For a job that pays \$30,500.

I’ve often heard Mr. Euille say before a City Council vote on a development project that he has taken donations from the applicant. And instead of recusing himself (which many citizens might think appropriate), he goes right ahead and votes for the applicant’s project.

In fact, I can’t recall an occasion on a major development project where Mr. Euille has made a similar declaration and then voted against his donor’s interest.

That helps explain his comment during a May primary debate at Minnie Howard School that “We are not in the business of telling private property owners what they can do with their own real estate.”

But isn’t that the whole point behind the city’s Master Plan and Zoning Code? Those laws tell property owners what can and cannot be done with their property.

I’m glad the Democrats have nominated a mayoral candidate in Allison Silberberg who actually returns donations from developers. It’s a principled action that all the members of the next City Council should follow.

Rod Kuckro
Alexandria

Nice Vs. Needed

To the Editor:

Bill Eiuille was defeated in the Democrat primary, but now is campaigning as “A Proven Democrat for Mayor.” How ethical is this?

Euille says the election is not about his ego, but that the city needs him. Really? What about his efforts to get a job in the McAuliffe administration or his campaign for Krupicka’s seat in the state legislature?

Alexandria cannot afford three more years of Euille’s leadership. Under Euille, Alexandria’s debt has nearly quadrupled from \$144 million to \$540 million. This explosion occurred as Euille, the City Council, and School Board have been unwilling to distinguish between expenditures that would be “nice” and “essential.” They argue that our 4 star bond rating indicates nothing is amiss, but this is premised on the notion that we are an affluent community that can “afford” substantially higher taxes to pay our debt. But is this what we want?

The Crystal City Potomac Yard Metroway dedicated bus line cost \$21 million to build, but the buses often run empty. The annual operating losses are going to be colossal. Now the City Council has decided on the most expensive option for the proposed Potomac Yard Metro station at a cost of at least \$268 million. Our city leaders claim that this will be a “free lunch” for most city taxpayers, but will their rosy projections turn out this time to be true? Or is it another case of “borrow, build, and pray?”

What is particularly troubling about the city’s leaders’ constant penchant to build gold-plated facilities is that it is done without regard to future spending needs such as the EPA’s requirement that our combined storm water and sew-

age system be upgraded. This could cost the city at least \$100-180 million and with one option running as high as \$400 million. Adding to our debt are decisions made by this School Board. While many students receive instruction in temporary modular class rooms or those in need of repair and we must build more than 100 classrooms over the next five years, how is it that we can find \$1 million to provide lighting to T.C. Williams’ tennis courts and are considering spending \$3-4 million to “upgrade” its football stadium including money for its “press box” because its present state is “embarrassing.”

Not only did we spend \$45 million on expanding Jefferson Houston to include space for grades 6-8, but have decided to do the same at Patrick Henry and possibly at Douglas MacArthur. At the same time the long range plan calls for a third middle school. Which is it: K-8 or use middle schools for instruction?

The iron triangle of our current mayor/city council, development firms, and compliant city government employees has resulted in increasing density, road congestion, an exacerbation of the shortage of parking in Old Town, and a loss of affordable housing. The latter is ironic as our city leaders constantly harp on the need to increase affordable housing, but take actions that drastically cut availabilities. During Euille’s tenure the number of affordable rental units has been slashed almost in half from over 12,200 units to 6,600. The most egregious example was the 2013 decision to allow developers to demolish The Hamlets on Beauregard Avenue In this single move, 2,475 affordable apartments were lost to condominiums and luxury rentals. The city’s “fix:” subsidize the rent on 800 units. Twelve years of Bill Euille’s “leadership” is enough. Vote to retire the mayor on Nov. 3 and elect a new City Council that can distinguish between “nice” and “needed” expenditures of our tax money.

Tom Slayton
Alexandria

Support Women’s Voices Theater

To the Editor:

This fall the Washington metro area has seen more than 50 professional theatres produce more than 50 world premiere plays and musicals by more than 50 female playwrights as part of the Women’s Voices Theater Festival. MetroStage, Alexandria’s professional theatre, was proud to represent Alexandria in the Festival with the world premiere of Gabrielle Fulton’s “Uprising.” Taking place in the aftermath of John Brown’s raid at Harper’s Ferry, it was especially poignant to be here in Alexandria almost in the shadow of Harper’s Ferry.

The play portrays a little-known period just prior to the Civil War and has a collection of memorable characters portraying the life, loves, struggles and decisions confronting them during this perilous time. We are especially pleased to be introducing a remarkable 9-year-old actor Jeremiah Hasty who plays young Freddie in his first professional stage work. The play with original music and choreography enhancing the storytelling on our stage must close this Sunday so if you haven’t seen it already, please plan to attend and support innovative, exciting, original theatre in your own backyard.

Carolyn Griffin
Producing Artistic Director,
MetroStage

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

The **Alexandria Archaeology Museum** seeks an educator to assist in presenting 45-minute hands-on programs to groups of four to seven middle school students. The program focuses on the people, artifacts, and historical records from a late 19th century African American

archaeological site, once located on the 400 block of S. Royal St. Contact Ruth Reeder at 703-746-4399 or ruth.reeder@alexandria.gov .

The **City of Alexandria** is looking for volunteers for the 2015 USA Track and Field (USATF) 12K Championship Race Nov. 13-14. This entails handing out participant shirts, assigning bib numbers and answering questions runners might have about race day. You will need to help with

runners looking up their name and ensuring they are registered for the proper race. Visit www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org.

Wright to Read Seeks Volunteers for the 2015-2016 school year. Volunteers will meet individually with a student for one hour each week to help improve their literacy. Contact Luisa at lreyes@wrighttoread.org for details.

ELECTION '15

City Council Candidates

Cefaratti

FROM PAGE 16

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

Most of my professional life has been spent in customer service and as a negotiator, requiring empathetic listening skills. When addressing issues with another party, I listen to their viewpoint, assess it, and provide feedback to confirm my understanding of their position. Creating a feedback loop may not result in agreement, but it will create mutual understanding and mutual respect. By taking the time to listen and explain my understanding of a position, I demonstrate I've listened, even if I do not agree with the position.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

First and foremost — regardless of economic hiccups — I will push for improvements in the operational efficiency of our

City government to maximize the effectiveness of our current tax dollars. Looking at specific budget cuts, I would focus first on an across-the-board cut for all external consultants, an expensive crutch used by the City for years. As I have stated before, I will turn to the following resources: students at local universities willing to work for credit; and local residents with subject matter expertise. The second target will be the Patrick Henry school project. Even Councilmembers Chapman and Smedberg have expressed apprehension about the project, which needs to be reconstituted as a renovation and expansion, rather than a rebuild. Lastly, Potomac Yard Metro poses a great financial risk as currently planned: requiring a special residential tax district of which I don't approve; forecasted business tax revenue; and no allowance for cost overruns. Any additional financial hiccups make the risks even greater.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

Simply put, I would use \$1M to enhance my existing plan to eliminate fees for children at recreation centers. Any additional monies would go toward improving maintenance of facilities and equipment and also increasing the number of free after-school programs offered.

Chapman

FROM PAGE 16

students and staff, and understand the supports they need from the city.

I believe you should choose me because we should not have a governing body which does not have members that don't intimately know and understand 30% of its own budget.

3. Beyond funding, how else can city government help the school system?

City government can support the school system by leading the community wide discussion on pre-K programs, after school programs and workforce training programs. By ensuring that the schools and community partners and non-profits all understand their own place in each of those three programmatic areas, this city can create a successful and seamless transition for our students throughout their lives and ensure that the proper supports are available for them so that they become successful students and then successful adults.

City government can also ensure that social service programs are available to ensure that we have healthy families and we need to continue to fund libraries and make sure our families have access to improve literacy and the love of learning.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

I believe that you have to take the suggestions of citizens, and explain the specifics of how or why a suggestion does not work, maybe because of lack of funding or other unintended consequences. I also believe that constant dialogue with citizens will allow for greater transparency with decision making, and also better align policy making with the will of the citizens.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

The first thing that I would look at is the city's equipment replacement policies, for things like the city's car fleet, because by slowing down how quickly we replace well maintained equipment, we would save money. I would look to adjust some of our partnership and funding formula with third party organizations such as WMATA and I would also look at city positions, such as in our courts, where the city is subsidizing jobs that are the state's responsibility to fund fully.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I am torn — For immediate impact, I would want to spend it on improving our road surfaces, but also I would want to use it to tackle one of our communities biggest issues — affordable housing, because we have seen that \$1 million, when loaned to one of our non-profit developers, can be used to retain affordable housing in the city.

Torrez

FROM PAGE 16

School Board. These steps are best accomplished by electing members to each respective body of governance that bring a new and diverse representation. We can then look into its core: the teachers and school principals — those individuals that interact daily with our children and into whose hands we place the minds of our young. Their needs must be supported in order for them to achieve success.

4. How do you convince citizens that you are truly listening to them even when you have to disagree with them?

There will always be those who will agree to disagree. It is important that City Council members understand the reasoning or both sides of whichever issue is being discussed by the City Council. This is why it is important to have a diverse and energetic Council with new ideas. Communication between the Council and the citizens is a critical step in striking a balance. As a case in point, this past summer I was part of the A-frame and digital signage Ad-hoc committee which was assigned the task of considering the 'sandwich boards' that many small businesses display as a marketing tool, on the sidewalks just in front of their stores. It was important for me to make sure that the community at large understood this form of marketing helps attract customers and that not allowing them will hurt our business community, which is already a small 28% of our tax base. By communicating this point at several meetings of the Committee, I successfully convinced the committee of the importance of this marketing strategy.

Community engagement between City Council, residents, and small business owners is of critical importance.

5. Any number of economic hiccups beyond the city's control (federal government, economic downturn, etc.) could force re-ordering of city budget priorities. For reductions, which three areas would you turn to first?

All business owners have gone through this before. However, it doesn't always mean that we need to constantly cut down on the budget. If anything, this is a warning sign to diversify our services, streamline procedures, and expand our reach to attract more clients or in this case more business into our city. I believe we have turned most pages except for the technology sector. I have reviewed some areas within our operational budget that without any further detail it made me question myself if we are really investing on scalable technology and maintenance. I have also brought this up during the first meeting for FY2016 at the Durant center this past week.

6. If you were given \$1 million to spend any way you would like for the betterment of the city, how would you spend it?

I wouldn't spend it right away. I would use this \$1 million to start a fund and promote public-private partnerships for one of the items below. The factor that would determine where the money would be allocated will be determined by the type of partnership and most advantageous deal for the city.

- Affordable housing
- Revamping our technology through the city
- After school programs or programs for kids with disabilities

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

NOVEMBER

11/4/2015 Wellbeing

11/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle

11/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools Schools

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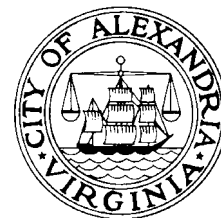
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The second half 2015 real estate tax and refuse fee must be paid by November 16, 2015, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

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Real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources on that webpage, there is a link for Real Estate Tax History and Payments, which provides detailed tax balances and payments. For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, Option 8, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410.

The Finance Department is open, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 16, 2015 to be considered on time.)

Getting In: The Private Schools Admissions Process

Navigating the application and increasing the chance of getting an acceptance letter.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Although the school year just started, the application process for the 2016-2017 school year is underway at more than 80 local independent schools. From open houses, school tours and applicant interviews to transcripts, essays and teacher recommendations, the process can be arduous, say parents, especially with application fees that can soar higher than \$100 a piece.

Making sure a child's abilities and interests are in line with a school's offerings and requirements can narrow down the list.

"Parents need to be realistic about their child's strengths and weaknesses and learning style," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School in Potomac, Md. "Have an open and honest conversation with schools during the application process. Schools will tell you whether they can or cannot meet any special needs your child might have."

ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS say that practical considerations of all sorts should

help parents whittle down their list of schools. "Do they want a big or small school? How far are they willing to travel each day? Does the school offer academic support if their child needs it? Can they afford their tuition?" asks Mary Herridge, director of enrollment management, The Madeira School in McLean.

Getting to know a school's culture and paying attention to the school's mission can also help families choose a school.

"School structure, single sex versus co-ed, dress code, religious affiliation, teaching pedagogy and parent involvement all influence school culture," said Mulligan. "Each school has a distinct and intentional mission statement. Sometimes that distinctiveness may be subtle so parents should also look at school mottos, belief or promise statements and portraits of a graduate, too."

An example, says Herridge, is a parent who values being deeply involved in helping a child with their homework. "As a school we value the student doing their own homework, managing their homework and coming to the teacher and self advocating if they need help," she said. "We encourage parental participation, but in high school



Independent schools such as St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in Alexandria require an extensive application process aimed at familiarizing the applicant and the school with one another.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
ST. STEPHEN'S &
ST. AGNES SCHOOL

we wouldn't expect a parent to sit and help with every single aspect of their homework. We can have that conversation early on and decide that this is not a good fit.

"If they come to a school with a rigorous academic program, are [parents] going to be OK with their student being really challenged in class and having that reflected on their transcripts?" she continued.

"Nowadays, in school literature and marketing materials, all schools say they're good at certain things and offer certain things like small class sizes and low student teacher ratios, but nothing can replace going and sitting in a classroom and seeing how the teachers teach and how the students react with one another," said Herridge. "Talk to

the math teacher. Have a conversation with the coach."

If a school boasts hands-on learning, are students engaged in experiments in a science class or are they sitting behind desks and looking at a chalkboard?

A tour, Herridge said, is crucial for students. "When they see other students and meet the teacher they'll be able to say, 'Yes this is a good place for me,' or '... we can take this school off our list because it doesn't make sense for our family.'"

"Most tours will give you an 'aha' moment that clarifies why independent education is worth the investment," added Benita Cathey, director of admissions, Grace Epis

SEE NAVIGATING, PAGE 35

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Navigating Admissions Process

FROM PAGE 34

copal School in Alexandria.

Patti Culbreth, head of school, Grace Episcopal School, said, "A look at the curriculum to include the 'specials' offered will give you an overview of the opportunities for your child."

Delve deeper than a tour organized by the school, however. "Talk to parents [of students] who already attend the school," Mulligan. "If you don't know anyone, ask the admissions office to provide a few families you can contact."

EVEN AFTER A FAMILY has whittled down their list of potential schools, the road to admission can still be long. Competition can be fierce, with many schools receiving 10 applications for every available slot. Most require not only an application, but test scores, essays, interviews and letters of recommendation, a process that can baffle many parents.

In preparation for the interview, admissions officials suggest applicants think about their own interests and attitudes toward academics.

"It's a good idea for a student to reflect on what they love about school, what they like to do outside of the classroom and how they see themselves as part of the school community," said Jon Kunz, director of middle and upper school admission, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "We don't approach it as an interview. It's more of a one-on-one conversation. We want them to be themselves and to be comfortable."

Students should use specific and concrete examples to demonstrate passions and talents. "For example, if a student is passionate about science they might

say, 'I started this project on my own and created this amazing invention.' That helps us see their passion," said Linda Stratton director of communications, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

In the face of such a confusing and competitive process, many parents have turned to educational consultants for advice and assistance.

Getting to know the child helps educational consultants identify schools that are a good match. "Does the student do better in a hands-on environment or sitting at desk and the teacher writes on a blackboard?" said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. "We have so many wonderful schools in the area. We come up with five to seven schools that are the best fit for the family."

AFTER HELPING families decide where to apply, education consultants sit down with families to review test scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations and other application requirements.

"It's important to have an open and honest conversation with the parent," said Cahill, a former teacher. She stressed that educational consultants cannot sway admissions decisions. Instead, "we look at the areas of strength. Rarely do you have a child who doesn't have any areas of strength."

In the end, everyone's goal is to find the best matches for both the students and the schools. "It's something that the parents don't have any control over," said Cahill. "One thing we really try hard to work with the parent is seeing this as a learning adventure. ... Their child will end up in a school somewhere."



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T.C. Williams senior Alex Milliken inserts a corner during Tuesday's Conference 7 tournament quarterfinal matchup with Annandale.



T.C. Williams head field hockey coach William Heresniak talks to the Titans after Tuesday's 3-0 win over Annandale.

PHOTOS BY JON ROETMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

TC Field Hockey Advances to Conference 7 Semifinals

TC beats Annandale, improves to 16-1.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The No. 1 seed T.C. Williams field hockey team had won its last 11 games and led 1-0 at halftime of its Conference 7 tournament quarterfinal matchup with No. 8 Annandale, but the Titans weren't convinced the outcome was decided.

"During halftime, I said a goal is not a lead," T.C. Williams senior Philomena Fitzgerald said. "They could score one and then be tied and there's a possibility of us going into overtime, and our record [in previous years] with overtime is not good."

The Titans didn't take any chances, add-

ing a pair of second half goals on their way to a 3-0 victory over the Atoms on Tuesday night at T.C. Williams High School's Minnie Howard Campus. The Titans earned a trip to the conference semifinals, where they will host No. 5 West Potomac at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22.

One reason the Titans remained focused on finishing the underdog Atoms was the bitter experience of failing to qualify for the regional tournament last season. T.C. Williams started 8-0-1 in 2014, finished the regular season with a 12-3-1 record and earned a top-four seed in the conference tournament. The Titans, however, were upset at home by Woodson in the opening round, ending their season.

"I think it helps that last season we were super confident coming in and we lost [in the] first round," said Fitzgerald, who is committed to play at College of the Holy

Cross. "I'm guessing we have a lot returning players this year and we have that mindset that we can't be overconfident and we have to take it one game at a time."

Fitzgerald helped T.C. Williams strike first Tuesday night, assisting a first-half goal by Josie Brocato, giving the Titans a 1-0 lead. In the second half, Fitzgerald extended TC's lead to 2-0 when she scored with 25:09 remaining. Brocato scored her second goal of the night with an assist from Sophie Johnson with 17:05 left, boosting the Titans' advantage to 3-0.

"We were determined to put in another [goal]," Brocato said, "and we weren't satisfied with just one."

T.C. Williams wasn't playing to keep its season alive (the Titans had already secured a berth in the regional tournament by earning the No. 1 seed in the conference) but the Titans took care of business against

Annandale, anyway.

"I think the desire to win," Fitzgerald said, "is more prevalent on this team."

Tuesday's victory was another step in a stellar season for the Titans, who improved to 16-1 and extended their win streak to 12 games. T.C. Williams, which went undefeated during conference play in the regular season, has outscored opponents 54-4.

"[I have] extremely high expectations," T.C. Williams head coach William Heresniak said. "We don't want to plateau out. We keep intensifying practices, we keep intensifying drills. ... We want everybody to keep notching up, keep striving ..."

Next up is Thursday's semifinal matchup with rival West Potomac. "We definitely want to win the conference this year," Fitzgerald said. "We showed in the regular season that we are able to, but I think right now we're just taking it one game at a time."

ODBC Rowers Finish Strong in Rowing Competition in Boston

Racing in the world's largest two-day rowing competition in Boston on Oct. 18, Alexandria's Old Dominion Boat Club Select Crew team showed the racing prowess that has made it a strong contender all season.

ODBC boats competed against many of the best boats from around the globe at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. The Women's First Eight placed 22nd out of 85 highly competitive boats, and the men's first eight finished 24th out of an 85 boat field.

In addition to enjoying the excitement of their own competitions on this challenging course, the Alexandria rowers and supporters embraced the opportunity to participate in this unique racing tradition on Boston's Charles River. The Head of the Charles attracts approximately 11,000 athletes from 32 countries, as well as 400,000 spectators, including Olympians and national champions.

The ODBC Select boys' first 8 led the way, putting in a powerful performance in the men's youth 8 category. Completing the course with a time of 16:05.427, the ODBC boys captured 24th place out of the 85 out-

standing boats that competed. This outstanding finish against some of the world's fastest boats was a significant improvement over the 50th-place finish in 2014. The boat included Jake Wadle (coxswain), Nicholas Alpi, Carter Weitekamp, Ian Esteveao, Kevin Salmon, Asher Elkins, Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Alek Blumberg, and Addison Guynn.

The ODBC Select girls' youth 8 continued to demonstrate the strength that has resulted in big wins this season at the Head of the Potomac and the Occoquan Challenge. Racing down the 3-mile course in Boston, the ODBC girls scored a time of 18.11.077, capturing 22nd place in a competitive field of 85 boats in the Women's Youth 8 category. Members of the ODBC Select crew girls' first 8 include coxswain Brooke Teferra and rowers Maria Justiniano, Kaela Wilbur, Amelia Bender, Kathleen Murphy, Reed Kenny, Mia Cleary, Catherine Zysk, and Eileen Gaffney.

The Crew's next race takes them on the road again to compete at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, which will be held on Oct. 25 in Philadelphia.



Members of the ODBC Select Girls First 8 put in a strong performance at the Head of the Charles, finishing 22nd out of a field of 85 outstanding boats.

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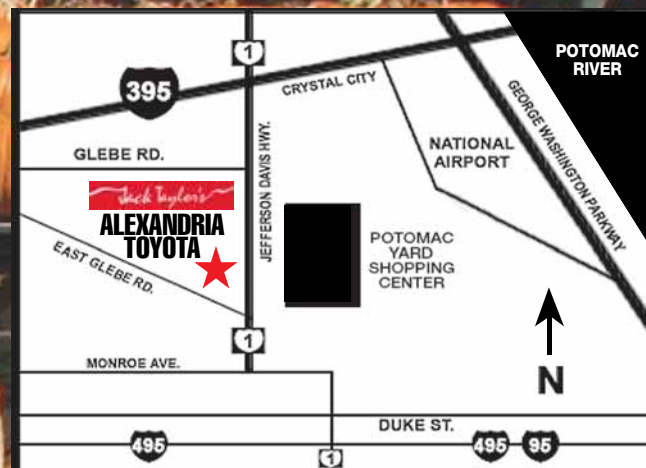
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POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139⁹⁵
BRAKE FLUSH \$139⁹⁵
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FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR V FLUID ADD \$10.00.
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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
BRAKE SPECIAL**

\$99⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect
front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and
inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.
DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES. PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.
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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30000 MILES FACTORY
RECOMMENDED
SERVICE**

\$159⁹⁹

Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts.), rotate
tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad
thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped),
replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if
applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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Alexandria \$1,399,500

Builder's Own! Gracious living with both luxury master & in-law suite on the MAIN level. Family room with stone fireplace off upscale kitchen. 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. Rec room with theatre & game room. Oversized 2-car garage & 2 decks. 9417 Macklin Ct.

Susan Taylor
703.927.3000
www.CallSusanTaylor.com



Rosemont \$660,000

Enjoy easy access to the Metro and main commuting roads from this 3-bedroom, 2-bath brick Rosemont home. A new kitchen and new roof are major updates that make it move-in ready. The flagstone patio is great for barbecues. 1414 Ruffner Road

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



Alexandria \$815,000

Great home with 4 bedrooms & 2.55 baths. Main level living option. Finished lower level & a spacious updated kitchen! Improved bathrooms, fresh paint, new carpets, lots of storage, walking distance to local schools & close to Old Town & DC. 1026cross.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Old Town \$379,999

Drenched in sunlight, this quiet 2-bedroom, 2-bath, end-unit condo features a garage space, balcony, loads of closets, updated kitchen & baths, wood floors. Amenities include fitness center, pool, 24-hour front desk, bike path & more! 501 Slaters Lane #624

Nada Seide
703.350.3803
www.callnada.com



Alexandria \$649,000

Corner lot home with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Spacious living room with fireplace, dining room addition with high ceilings and an eat-in kitchen with granite counters. Two main level bedrooms and walkable to Metro and Old Town. 160hilton.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Beverly Hills \$765,000

5-bedroom, 3-bath Cape Cod. Main level master and bath; fireplace in living room; a finished lower level with family room, guest bedroom and bath; large lot; fenced rear yard; and a driveway. Quiet neighborhood with mature landscaping. 3000 Edgehill Dr.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Rosemont \$1,249,900

Experience the changing seasons from this 5-bedroom, 4-bath gracious colonial on quiet street boasting generously proportioned rooms, awesome natural light, and open floor plan! Pleasant stroll to the Metro and Old Town! This is living! 106 W Linden St.

Sally Z. Harper
703.517.2849
www.SallyZHarper.com



Warwick Village \$524,900

Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath Warwick Village townhouse. Bright and open end unit. Updated kitchen and finished lower level with family

room. Superb location. Walk to "The Avenue" in Del Ray. Enjoy the shops, restaurants and year-round Farmers Market.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Alexandria \$714,900

NEW PRICE! Located close to the GW Parkway, Braddock Metro and tempting restaurants, this well-maintained townhouse is ideal for any-

one who craves easy living. There are 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a new roof, a spacious kitchen and a wood-burning fireplace. 913 Rolfe Place

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



Del Ray \$544,900

Highly desirable townhome is a short walk to Braddock Road Metro, restaurants and shops. Beautiful hardwood floors and wood-burning

fireplace highlight the living room. Large dining room. Kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Top level has incredible pine floors and 3 bedrooms.

Chris Hayes
703.944.7737
www.HomesByHayes.com



Cameron Mews \$1,125,000

Located near the waterfront, this brick end townhouse has a spacious floor plan with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Crown moulding and

hardwood floors plus built-in cabinets and shelves complement each room. Plenty of storage and off-street parking!

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