



The George Washington Middle School orchestra plays music for those entering the new field.

Welcoming City's Newest Field

Alexandria Renew Enterprises and the City of Alexandria's Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs Department hosted a Family Field Fest on Saturday, Oct. 24, to celebrate the opening of city's new multi-purpose athletic field at 1820 Limerick St.

The day's activities included pumpkin carving, face painting, live music and demonstrations from local companies with a focus on healthy and sustainable living.

The field sits on top of Alexandria Renew Enterprises's sewage tanks.

PHOTOS BY
CORRIN REID
GAZETTE PACKET



Kristina Scrimshaw was on hand to face-paint. Her services were donated by Counseling of Alexandria, one of the local sponsors. The organization offers parent consultations, art-therapy and general counseling to youth and adults with anxiety issues.



Image of the entrance to the sewage tanks on which the field sits. The sewage tanks are concealed by the hill.



Image of the new Alexandria Renew Enterprises' building. It will house an educational center to teach about environmental water recycling services.

Breaking Boundaries

School staff face community in first stages of redistricting.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

To no one's delight, the redistricting process began in earnest last week. The School Board members weren't happy about it. The teachers weren't happy about it. The parents weren't happy about it. But Alexandria's public schools are overcrowded, and the general sentiment among the school community is that redistricting is a chance to make the most out of a bad situation.

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) held its first redistricting meeting on Oct. 22, one night after redistricting was a major topic of discussion at the School Board

Candidate's Forum. The audience was largely the same demographic: parents concerned about the future of their child's education in Alexandria.

Alexandria's schools are overcrowded, and the latest projections from ACPS only show the problem getting worse. ACPS has grown an average of 4 percent over the last nine years. ACPS estimates an additional 2 to 5 percent growth over the next five years, leaving the majority of schools over capacity by 2020 while three schools will remain under capacity.

The representatives from the schools were under no illusions that anyone was excited or happy

SEE WEIGHING, PAGE 34

What's Best For the Schools?

School Board candidates address growing capacity problems.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

At 13 candidates, the Alexandria School Board race barely edges out the 11-candidate City Council race as one of the most crowded of the upcoming November elections. They filled the stage at Minnie Howard during the Oct. 21 candidate forum. Two of the three School Board districts are contested. All of the candidates ex-

pressed the same focus on expanding school capacity, taking care of the schools' teachers, and providing a better education to the students.

There are three candidates running unopposed for District A's three open seats, but the candidates still welcomed a chance to express their views and positions to the voters.

Incumbent School Board member William "Bill" Campbell em-

SEE BOARD, PAGE 6

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The Best in Business

Grant Thornton's Sastry honored as Business Leader of the Year.

Srikant Sastry, National Managing principal of Advisory Services for Grant Thornton LLP, was named the 2015 Business Leader of the Year as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce honored the best of businesses across the city Oct. 21 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

The awards ceremony, presented by Eagle Bank, recognized

businesses in several categories: Association/Non-Profit Business of the Year (tie) — Carpenter's Shelter, Offender Aid and Restoration; Rising Star Business of the Year — Frolick Dogs, LLC; Small Business of the Year — Skyline Wellness; Medium Business of the Year — DiMuro Ginsberg, PC; Large Business of the Year — Stratford University, Alexandria Campus; Overall Business of the Year — Renner

and Company, CPA, PC.

More than 200 people turned out for the awards ceremony, which was followed by a reception that featured food from several of chef Cathal Armstrong's restaurants including Restaurant Eve, Society Fair, Eamonn's A Dublin Chipper and Club PX Lounge. Dessert was provided by Alexandria Cupcake.

"The Chamber's Business

Awards is the flagship awards program in the community that recognizes excellence in business," said Chamber board chairman and Burke and Herbert vice president Walter Clarke.

"We are proud to salute those who contribute to a vibrant and thriving Alexandria business community."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Srikant Sastry accepts the Business Leader of the Year award.



Living Legends of Alexandria founder Nina Tisara, second from left, with Legends Gregg Murphy, Mike Anderson and John Porter.



Winners of the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Business Awards pose for a group photo Oct. 21 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.



Charlie and Sandy Collum with Rick and Ann Droman.



Tom Hicks and Ben DiMuro of Medium Business of the Year winner DiMuro Ginsberg, PC.



Rooftop Chimney Sweeps owner Andy Raycroft, right, and his son Tristan at the reception with Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON

Clinton Takes Market Square

One day after Benghazi hearings, Hillary Clinton hosts rally in Alexandria.



Hillary Clinton, candidate for the Democratic nomination for President.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It's 1:25, five minutes before Hillary Clinton is set to take the stage, and the crowd is getting anxious. The same three Pink, Kelly Clarkson, and Taylor Swift songs had been playing on repeat since the cordoned off segment of Market Square was opened to the public at 9 a.m. that morning, Oct. 23. It's beginning to have an impact on the psyche of the Hillary fans.

"You can use my iPod," one woman yelled to the campaign volunteers, echoed by a chorus of cheers from the crowd. But just as the songs drive the mob to fever pitch, Clinton emerges from Alexandria's City Hall

alongside Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and the crowd's demeanor immediately changes to delight. Many have been waiting for six hours for a chance to see the candidate for the Democratic nomination for President.

McAuliffe, a longtime friend of the Clinton family, declared Virginia "Clinton territory" and described Hillary Clinton as a fighter for women's rights and healthcare reform.

Clinton started with a brief homage to Alexandria's history, noting that American Presidents as far back as George Washington had a connection to the city. In more contemporary politics, she thanked 8th district U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and state Sen.

SEE CLINTON TAKES, PAGE 8



Kia Davis (left) and Shantel Goodman (right) supporting Hillary Clinton at her campaign rally in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES



Paid for by Veronica Nolan for School Board

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NEWS

Party at Patrick Henry

McAuliffe announces Virginia SOL results at formerly not-fully-accredited Patrick Henry Elementary.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In the first few minutes of his visit to Patrick Henry Elementary School, Gov. Terry McAuliffe took student Natasha Maldonado's hand, looked her in the eyes, and begged her to keep doing well on her Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.

"Keep passing those tests, all right?" he asked, "We need you."

McAuliffe and Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton visited the school on Oct. 27 to officially announce that Patrick Henry, along with 200 other schools in Virginia, had officially gone from "accredited with warning" to "fully accredited." To be fully accredited, 75 percent of students must pass their English SOL and at least 70 percent must pass the math, history, and science classes. Three years ago the school had fallen to "accredited with warning" status, which lingered with a warning last year in English and science. However, the 2015 scores revealed a 79 percent pass rate in English, 78 percent pass rate in math and history, and an 86 percent pass rate in history.

Principal Ingrid Bynum said the school staff had undergone intensive professional development training with a focus on data driven instruction. Most importantly, Bynum said the school rededicated itself to making sure there was no sub-group of student left behind in the curriculum.

Like Bynum, McAuliffe and Holton credited the school staff and students with the turnaround, but also added strong praise for Bynum. It was Holton's second time at the school in 2015, joining U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at the school in February to recognize the school's success in its pre-K program. In both cases, Holton cited Bynum's work as pivotal to the school's progress.

"A crucial element to success is strong leadership," said Holton. "If we could replicate you everywhere in the state, we'd be flying high right now."

At a statewide level, McAuliffe and Holton emphasized that there needs to be less focus on a testing-based curriculum.

"Education is about learning in ways that are more than just regurgitating the information on a test," said Holton, "and the statewide level hasn't always helped in that."

"We should not be making students take six-hour



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Gov. Terry McAuliffe presents Patrick Henry students Brock Dotele, Moska Hotak, and Natasha Maldondo with "challenge coins" and explains the military tradition.

reading tests," said McAuliffe, and when one young student let out a shocked gasp, he turned to her and nodded, "I know, right?"

While McAuliffe emphasized that the standards for testing had not changed, the 2015 numbers likely benefited from a new policy that allows students to retake the tests. McAuliffe said it was part of a statewide strategy of relieving pressure on students and recognizing hard work.

"I would rather we try something and fail than not try something new," said McAuliffe, a message that seemed to resonate with the students, with one of them repeating the phrase to himself as he left the school.

In the upcoming budget session, McAuliffe also promised the students to make K-12 education a priority, specifying that the funding needed to go towards school improvements that limit class sizes and

SEE PARTY AT, PAGE 7

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ALLISON'S BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION

- Launched and managed a nonprofit committed to mentoring and teaching youth in Anacostia.
- Served as a volunteer tutor for children at MacArthur Elementary School.
- Taught undergraduate and graduate students at American University for over three years.

"I suggest that the citizens of Alexandria not just listen to what we say.

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And then you will know where we stand, what we stand for and what we will fight for."

— Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, Democratic Nominee for Mayor

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ELECTION '15

Board Candidates Cite Schools' Needs

FROM PAGE 1
phasized education for students beyond the classroom.

"We need to ready our students for the real world," said Bill Campbell. "That could mean college, a career, or the service. It's about teaching life skills and self confidence to make them productive members of society."

Like the other candidates, Bill Campbell acknowledged the need to expand capacity, but noted that the very simple aim came with some very tangled problems.

"We don't have a blank check," said Bill Campbell. "We can't just say that we need a new school, we need to be smart and creative with our solutions."

Hal Cardwell was the first, but far from the last, candidate to raise the issue of redistricting.

"We need to make sure redistricting is successful with a two-way conversation with the community," said Cardwell.

For Cardwell, a key part of that conversation is about changing the tone.

"We need to work on building on the achievements we've gotten," said Cardwell. "Too often the default is bashing the schools, but we have some amazing stuff going on here."

Karen Graf, the current School Board chair, said that a key part of keeping the "amazing stuff" going is continuing to hire qualified teachers. Like Cardwell, Graf added that the schools need stronger communications with the community to change the dialogue around schools.

The real School Board battle, though, is in Districts B and C. Of the five candidates for the School Board in each district, only three can be elected. In District C, incumbents Ronnie Campbell, Patricia Hennig, and Chris Lewis face challengers Darla Dillard and Ramee Gentry.

Ronnie Campbell has served on the School Board since 2006 and says her primary goal has been to improve services for special needs students. Ronnie Campbell noted that summer school programs have been very successful in assisting at-risk students.

To help students receive the best education possible, Dillard says the schools need to focus on facilities, overcrowding, and hiring the most capable teachers. For Dillard, a capable teacher is one that doesn't give up on any of their students.

"Special needs, disabilities, English language learner, low socioeconomic status; none of that means that my child can't learn," said Dillard, "it means that they learn differently."

Gentry focused her campaign around a promise to produce responsible budgets with clear, data driven analysis to make it easier for ACPS to explain their needs to a skeptical community. To do this, Gentry noted that the school system will have to make hard choices and take further steps to prioritize their goals.

Hennig similarly said that student performance needs to be improved with careful analysis of data driven results.

"We need to have the courage to throw



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Alexandria School Board Candidates.

out programs that don't work," said Hennig. "And we need to spend more time in our civic associations."

Lewis is one of the few candidates for School Board without students in the system, but says this gives him an independent perspective on the issues. Lewis says the school needs to focus around "smart redistricting" driven by input from teachers and students.

In District B, one incumbent faces four potential challengers. When the forum broke apart into three smaller, district focused mini-forums, the overwhelming majority of the audience stayed with the District B candidates.

Cindy Anderson is a graduate from T.C. Williams High School, as is her husband, as are her two sons. Anderson served as PTA president at various schools as her students progressed through ACPS, and currently serves as chair of the scholarship fund. Anderson says that one of the school system's current strengths is its strategic plan, and that the school system needs to focus on implementation of those ideas.

On the school capacity problems, Anderson said that the issues are only going to get worse.

"We need to work with the city and community for support on this," said Anderson. "We need to start identifying sites for future schools."

Kelly Booz is the only incumbent running in District B. Booz currently serves on the Alexandria Redistricting Steering Committee and was appointed to the Virginia Standards of Learning Innovation Committee last year by Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"We've seen tremendous gains, but we need to focus on special education and English Language Learners programs," said Booz, also noting that T.C. Williams High School had suffered a recent decline in on-time graduations.

Booz said the schools will be unable to avoid the capacity crisis for much longer, and it will affect the school's ability to attract educators. According to Booz, the only way to truly deal with the capacity crisis is

increasing the school's appropriation levels from the city. For Booz, that funding needs to be dedicated towards modernizing and expanding the classrooms.

Mimi Goff's top priority is a workable budget, which she described as key to education success. Like Booz and many other school board candidates, addressing the school's capacity problems forms a cornerstone of her campaign. In addition to overcrowding, Goff also said many of Alexandria's schools are unsafe. However, Goff's priorities for an increased city appropriation would be towards instructional costs, like teacher pay and books.

Margaret Lorber called on Alexandria to institute a learning environment with a rigorous curriculum, but with one that at all levels would be able to access.

"Language is not the only barrier in our schools," said Lorber. "ACPS could really do a better job of reaching out to all families."

For Lorber, the outreach to the community could provide a two-way benefit. Lorber believes increased communication with families could also make it easier to enlist the public into speaking on behalf of the schools at City Council meetings.

Veronica Nolan emphasized the schools' need to reach out to every student and pointed to her record as executive director of the Urban Alliance from 2002-2014 as evidence of her experience in doing exactly that. During her time as director, the Urban Alliance grew from helping 42 students in one school to 2,000 students throughout D.C., Baltimore, and Chicago.

In terms of increasing the school system's budget, Nolan said that there are no short-cuts.

"We have to earn trust and respect through accountability to what we've been given," said Nolan.

Like Goff, Nolan emphasized that the school buildings are unsafe, and detailed incidents where students have had to evacuate the classrooms due to extensive mold problems.

Though the forum mostly shied away from attacks on other candidates or the

School Board, the District B candidates were asked to identify what they saw as successes and failures of the current School Board.

Booz, currently a member of the School Board, identified a failed vote to add more honors level courses to the curriculum as one of those failures. She said she understood Superintendent Crawley's logic in delaying the decision for a year to work on those courses, but said she regretted that there were students that didn't have access to those honors classes.

Goff regarded the hiring of Crawley as one of the School Board's excellent decisions, but said the School Board had failed to adequately assist high school students who were preparing for careers that didn't involve college.

For Lorber, the expansion of the international and language programs throughout the schools has been a major success, but Lorber was less fond of the current redistricting plans.

"Redistricting won't solve our space problems," said Lorber. "Jefferson-Houston would be full of students if the students assigned to go there did."

Nolan again expressed her satisfaction with the school system's strategic plan, but was disappointed at the ACPS' ability to retain teachers.

"Seventeen percent of our teachers were lost last year," said Nolan. "That's two or three times the national average."

Like Lorber, Anderson was pleased at the way foreign language and international programs have expanded in Alexandria schools, but was disappointed in cuts to the community partners program. According to Lorber, the program was primarily volunteer driven, and the money saved by the cuts didn't outweigh the aid it rendered to the schools.

Many of the School Board candidates attended the redistricting committee forum the next evening. While other problems were raised by each of the candidates, there was near-universal agreement that capacity will be the biggest issue facing the 2016 School Board.

Party at Patrick Henry

FROM PAGE 4
providing teachers with access to whatever help they need.

But there's still over 300 schools in Virginia that remain accredited with warning, and 13 that are unaccredited, including Jefferson-Houston in Alexandria. But even Jefferson-Houston is showing signs of improvement. The school's SOL pass rate increased by 26 percent in science, 18 percent in math and 12 percent in reading.

"Jefferson-Houston made huge strides this year," said Holton. "They went up in ratings, but because they were unaccredited, they don't qualify for partial accreditation. If we adjusted the rules to partially accredit them, that would have taken away the additional resources the school is receiving."

With no potential partial accreditation status, Holton said that there's no benchmarks except full re-accreditation. She deferred speculation on the timeline of that



Gov. Terry McAuliffe (left) with Patrick Henry students Brock Dotele (center) and Natasha Maldondo (right).

accreditation to Superintendent Alvin Crawley.

"This June is the deadline," Crawley said.

"If they make half the strides they made this year, they'll make it," added Holton.

Repeatedly, McAuliffe advised the students to study cyber-security and code writing. Most importantly, he encouraged them to stay local. "You all are going to stay and live in Virginia forever, right?" asked McAuliffe, and after receiving a chorus of cheers from the students, he nodded, "That's what I like to hear."

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

**MARGARET
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FOR SCHOOL BOARD**



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J. Glenn Hopkins, President and CEO, Hopkins House

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NEWS

Clinton Takes Market Square

FROM PAGE 3

Richard “Dick” Saslaw from the 35th district.

“We either build on Obama’s progress,” said Clinton, “Or we give the Republicans a chance to tear it all down again.”

Clinton reflected on the moment when Obama approached her to be Secretary of State and, in a private meeting, confided to her that he believed the state of the county was much worse than the Republicans in power had let the country know.

As President, Clinton said she would fight against pay inequality, student debt, and gun violence.

“We’re fighting to protect families and communities from the plague of gun violence,” said Clinton, “I publicly thank [McAuliffe] for his executive order banning guns in state buildings and for his task force to better prosecute gun crimes.”

Carlos San Miguel, a new Alexandria resident, said that he was happy to hear her address student debt and promise that she would take care of military families. Kerry McKenney, from Shirlington, said he was amazed at how composed and energetic she was the day after the Benghazi hearings.

“I thought she hit a home-run,” McKenney said. “I was happy to hear her talk about lifting up the working families.”

I’m retired, but I see so many young families out there really struggling.”

The crowd is mixed between long time Clinton supporters and some who are still fairly new, or even still undecided, on her as a candidate. Gene Dunn, who was selected to sit in the stands behind the

podium, wore a homemade shirt with the words “Welcome Madame President” emblazoned across the front. Dunn said his daughter had worked with Clinton during her husband’s presidency, and said he was ecstatic to meet her again.

But another common sentiment in the crowd was uncertainty in Clinton before the Benghazi hearings the day before. Ross LaBaugh said he ultimately made up his mind as he watched the hearings.

“Up until yesterday, I wasn’t sure if I’d support Hillary [Clinton],” said Ross LaBaugh, an Alexandria resident. “But she was brilliant. She held up excellently, and I’m very excited to be here now.”

“I feel great about today,” said Matt Barrett, also from Alexandria, “especially after yesterday, when they tried to roast her.”

But I’d still give her an A+. She’s eminently qualified. She’s my candidate, and I really think we need a woman in the White House.”

LaBaugh and Barrett both cited women’s issues as their primary issues in the campaign. Women noticeably outnumber men at the rally by at least a one to five ratio.

“I feel that she has the country’s best interests at heart,” said Shantel Goodman. “She’s vocal about the issues that keep people up at nights. She’s the right person for the job. Obama has done an excellent job getting started turning things around and I don’t think he gets the credit he deserves.”

“Besides,” said Kia Davis, “who wouldn’t want to see a woman as president?”

“The right woman,” Goodman added.

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OBITUARIES

John E. Dohner

John E. Dohner, 85, of the 500 block of Gleneagle Drive, Virgibia Beach, died, Oct. 20, 2015. Mr. Dohner was born Oct. 6, 1930 in Alexandria, the son of the late Bessie Ellis and John B. Dohner. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Sara Amelia Dohner-Harrison. Mr. Dohner was a graduate of the University of Virginia and was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. After his service he went to work for C&P and retired from Bell Atlantic in 1992 as division plant manager. An avid sportsman, he played basketball, baseball and tennis in college and loved his golf.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Aimee Carlin Dohner; his brother, Larry Dohner and his wife, Lynn; his daughter, Perine Pierce and her husband, Mike of Virginia Beach; his son, John E. Dohner, Jr. of Fairhope, Ala.; his six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; three nieces and one nephew.

A funeral service was conducted Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 at H.D. Oliver Funeral Apts. Laskin Road. Entombment followed in Princess Anne Memorial Park. Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association. Online condolence made be may at www.hdoliver.com.

Edwin Calver Granley

Edwin Calver Granley of Alexandria, 94, died



peacefully on Sept. 22, 2015 at Greenspring Retirement Village, where he was a resident. He was born on June 3, 1921 in Bainville, Montana to Ole and Sarah Lucken Granley.

"Ed" is survived by his daughter, Sara Granley Becker and husband Steve of McLean, three grandchildren; John Sidbury Becker of Chicago, Ill., Sarah Grace Becker and Evan Granley Becker, both of McLean; three nieces, Arlene Sellars of Kiefer, Ind., Joyce Schmidt of Wanatchee, Wash., Marion Harrelson and nephew Dave Granley, both of Bainville, Mont.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Norma Sanders Granley, his brothers, Albert Granley and Raymond Granley and a nephew Lloyd Granley.

Ed attended Havre College in Havre, Montana until 1942 then served as an Aircraft Engineering Technician for the U.S. Army during WWII. He graduated from Montana State University with a B.S in civil engineering and worked for the Federal Highway Administration from 1949 until his retirement in 1981.

Ed was a member of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Alexandria for over 30 years. He was a member of the "Road Gang," a group of fellow highway engineers, an active alumnus of Montana State University, a skier, a golfer and an enthusiastic polka dancer.

As a young man in the 1950s, Ed was president of the Washington Ski Club when club members had to groom the slopes. He was a regular at Montana State Society events around D.C.

He will be remembered for his happy personality

SEE OBITUARIES, PAGE 17

Re-Elect

Kelly Carmichael Booz

District B School Board

Committed Educational Professional.

Proven Track Record.



Alexandria School Board

www.kellycarmichaelbooz.com

This ad is paid for by FRIENDS OF KELLY CARMICHAEL BOOZ.

VOTE NOV. 3rd

Mimi GOFF

FOR ALEXANDRIA SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT B



VOTE NOV. 3RD

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Having attended most of the school board meetings and sessions last year, I know the time commitment involved and I am ready for the challenge. I have observed and understand the process and I will be committed to participating in making hard but effective school board decisions.

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

As a school board member I would encourage small class sizes, challenging curriculum, extra support for all students as needed, and a firm commitment to ESL and Special Education programs. Finally and most importantly, I would encourage more parental involvement.

COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In this tough financial climate, we must be accountable and transparent with taxpayers' dollars. There will be tough financial decisions concerning the infrastructure of the schools and thoughtful, long-term planning will be necessary to avoid wasteful spending.

VOLUNTEER

- Special needs student interns from TC
- PTO, Classroom Mom, Auctions
- Age-Group Coordinator and Coach with Alexandria Soccer Association

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY TEACHERS

We must be committed to competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain our teachers and principals. We must make sure our teachers have what they need to be successful in the classroom and have the full support of the superintendent and school board.

30 YEAR RESIDENT OF ALEXANDRIA AND DISTRICT B

BUSINESS CAREER

A business woman with experience developing and maintaining budgets, making critical financial decisions and an effective leader and team player.

- Softball Coach and WAHOOS Swim Team volunteer
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Church Community CYO Director for tennis, baseball, basketball and track leagues for grades 4-8

PAID FOR BY MIMI GOFF FOR SCHOOL BOARD

OPINION

Vote Nov. 3 Read Election coverage at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

If you live in a district with a hotly contested race, you definitely know from the contents of your mailbox that there is an Election coming up. Don't miss your chance to vote.

Many races in Northern Virginia offer very distinct choices between candidates with strikingly different views on topics that matter, like school funding, guns, social safety net, taxes and more.

You can find coverage of many races, plus

short biographies and questionnaires completed by the candidates themselves on our website.

You'll find many interesting ideas in the candidate questionnaire responses, from incumbents and challengers including third party candidates.

Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on Elections on the horizontal navigation bar.

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Call: 703-746-4050, Fax: 703-838-6449, email anna.leider@alexandriava.us or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Elections

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traits for School Board

To the Editor:

This might be entitled: "Margaret Lorber is a Good Choice for School Board."

Margaret Lorber grew up in a family of educators and learned early on about how well-run schools should work. Her nine years as a parent liaison in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) further enhanced her deep knowledge on enrollment issues, facilities, family needs, and how to solve problems as they arise. She retired this past June.

Additionally, Lorber knows well that many families have trouble understanding what children are learning, how to accomplish homework, and is keenly aware that many do not have an appropriate place to study.

Some families may be unaware that the Family and Community Engagement Center (FACE) is available to help with these issues, but Lorber has, as an ACPS employee, informed families who register for school through the English Language Learners office (ELL) that this community group is available to help. Her work and engagement with our families in Alexandria is critical for children to increase their ability to learn

and grow. Moreover, Lorber is bilingual in Spanish and communicates easily to one-third of our student population.

Margaret Lorber supports teachers. Given the ACPS Strategic Plan 2020 where academic excellence and educational equity are goals, she is ready to support competitive pay, provide classroom assistance, and add more planning time to teacher's days. These are well known as three critical components to retention.

Since the middle of August, Margaret Lorber has been walking in District B neighborhoods and knocking on doors, and her love for engaging the city's population has been very successful. She has learned how many citizens, even those with no children, are supportive of the educational priorities of ACPS. Overwhelmingly, there is interest (from the citizens) for asking the City Council to appropriate educational needs support. Many folks have been encouraged by her actions which have been as simple as knocking on doors, meeting constituents, and asking for their important input. This is exactly what all School Board candidates should be doing, and I believe that Margaret is leading in this endeavor.

Not only is Lorber knowledgeable about the city and ACPS, but she also sent her two children through the system. With firsthand experience, she

understands salient topics and needs for making the Alexandria community a well-educated and informed city supporting their children and families. As a long term resident myself, I have known Lorber for nearly 20 years, and worked along with her within the ELL offices doing school entry physicals for immigrants. She is caring, passionate, and deeply interested in providing an education to all students aligning with Dr. Crawley's "Excellence in Action" vision for ACPS.

Margaret Lorber has my vote and 100 percent support because she is a person loving the children, supporting the ACPS system, and fully understanding the educational process.

Nancy Runton, PhD, CPNP
Alexandria

Speaking Up For Neediest

To the Editor:

I had the pleasure of serving with Ronnie Campbell on the School Board of Alexandria City Public Schools from 2006-09. During that time, we worked together on a variety of issues including the need to address the growing achievement gap, particularly among

children of color and from diverse backgrounds. Ronnie understands the importance of speaking out for policies and programs to help our city's neediest children. In fact, she spearheaded the reinstitution of the Summer Program for grades 3-8 for students in need of educational support throughout the year. During her tenure, she pushed hard to recruit teachers early to ensure ACPS has the best, brightest and most committed teachers. She continually supports competitive compensation for our teachers and staff. By far, Ronnie is the most experienced member of the ACPS School Board. Her tireless service to our schools over the past nine years makes her an important asset to our community. She knows what works and what doesn't work. Most importantly, she puts the needs of all children above everything else.

Let's make sure Ronnie Campbell is re-elected to the ACPS School Board.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera
Former School Board Member,
Alexandria City Public Schools

Extensive Experience

To the Editor:

As president/CEO of Hopkins House, I don't often "endorse" candidates for political office. However, in this case, I make an exception.

Hopkins House is a local nonprofit organization that operates education enriched preschool academies for infants and children, summer discovery camps for adolescents, and a college and career development institute for teens and adults serving children, youth, and families in Alexandria and other Northern Virginia localities.

Our organization and the families we serve are privileged with the opportunity to work closely and regularly with elected officials, as well as candidates seeking political office, no matter their party affiliation.

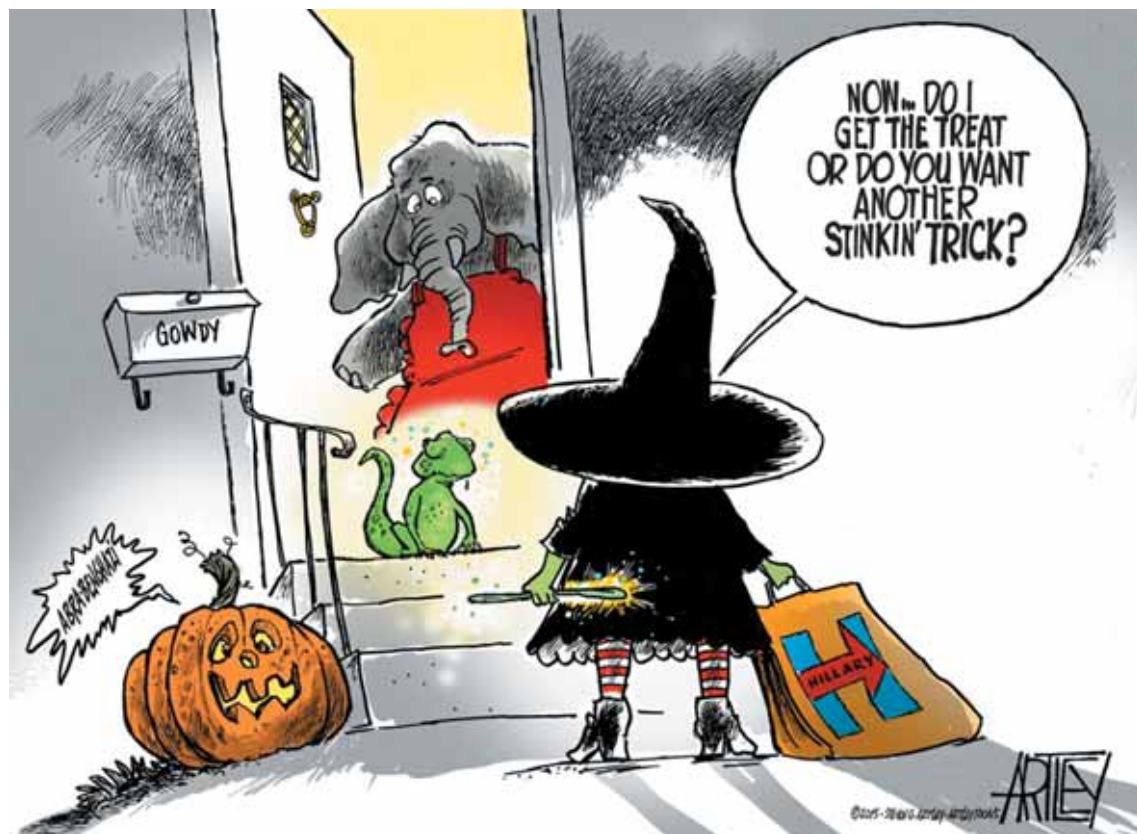
One candidate, with whom I have had the pleasure of working with for more than 20 years, stands out as an elected official firmly committed to the best interests of children, youth, and families in our city.

That candidate is Pat Hennig. She is running for election to represent District C on the Alexandria City School Board.

In addition to being a member of the current School Board, Pat has a record of more than 35 years of community involvement focused on the betterment of our children and families:

❖ Pat has served as a PTA officer at three schools and served as a member of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

four School Board advisory committees.

❖ Pat was a member of the first elected School Board and served on the board's Facilities Committee, which provided guidance and oversight to the system's capital and repair projects. Sadly, that committee was disbanded.

❖ Pat served for 9 years on the Special Education Advisory Committee, served for 10 years on the Substance Abuse Education Committee, including an unprecedented 8 years as chair during a time when Alexandria, and the major surrounding areas were fighting drug abuse and trafficking.

❖ Pat served for two separate terms as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee.

❖ Pat was a founding board member of the Alexandria Police Youth Camp Foundation, which aided APD in funding summer recreation and education programs for our underserved youth.

❖ Pat is now in her second term with the Virginia School Boards Association Government Affairs Committee, representing the 8th Congressional District, which shows that she has the respect of her peers in the Commonwealth.

Pat Hennig has served our city well on the current School Board — she has done her homework, kept a professional eye (she is a corporate controller, after all) on the budget, worked with her colleagues and the staff to improve our school system for all students. Her professionalism and accessibility to parents and citizens from all over the city, not just her district, as well as her knowledge of the city and the history of the system, will serve us well in her second term.

I hope voters agree on Nov. 7.

J. Glenn Hopkins
Alexandria

Understands Education

To the Editor:

The undersigned writers will complete their

terms on the Alexandria City School Board at the end of 2015. We are endlessly proud of the great work done every day by ACPS staff and students. We believe our school system is in as good as or better condition in almost every aspect than it was three years ago. This is despite challenges that keep getting bigger: our buildings are getting older, our enrollment continues to tax the capacity of our buildings, the percentage of students who need ELL services increases, and local and state and federal funding continues to be strained.

While progress is made, these challenges are not going away and ACPS remains at a critical juncture. Leadership is important. We write today to encourage the voters of District B to vote for Veronica Nolan for School Board.

Veronica is exactly the type of person the board needs at this time. She has substantive experience in education with a Master's of Arts in Teaching and five years of serving as an urban classroom teacher in D.C. Public Schools.

After leaving the classroom, she went to work for the non-profit Urban Alliance, helping open opportunities for high school students who would often not otherwise have a path to a wide range of post-high school options.

She has served on the boards of directors of several other non-profit organizations, including Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool, DC Alliance of Youth Advocates, and Capital Area Asset Builders. Her tenure as executive director and CEO at Urban Alliance was nothing short of remarkable. It also included bringing the program to T.C. Williams.

She understands education. She understands and is motivated by the challenges of educating diverse populations.

She has vast first hand experience, both from the perspective of a chief executive serving under a board and as a board member overseeing administrators, of what role a board such as the School Board can and should play in the continued upward trajectory of ACPS.

Her quality of experience and skills makes her a truly unique candidate.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

A WINNING VOICE FOR ALEXANDRIA

★ Phil Cefaratti ★

INDEPENDENT

for
Alexandria

CITY COUNCIL

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Democrats, Independents, and Republicans Unite!

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JOE MURRAY

HAS THE RIGHT PRIORITIES FOR OUR FAMILIES

FIX TRAFFIC GRIDLOCK: Richmond politicians talk and talk about fixing transportation, but never do anything. I'll fight for real reforms and make sure we get our fair share.

BETTER EDUCATION: We need to improve education immediately to ensure our kids have the resources they need. As a father of two, this is imperative to me and so many NOVA families.

LOWER TAXES: We need to reduce government red tape and streamline taxes to create more high-paying jobs.

SOLVE HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS: I will work tirelessly every day to reduce healthcare costs and expand access for Virginia families.

"As a husband and father living in Alexandria and raising his family here, I'm tired of politicians who put their priorities ahead of our families. As the father of two young children I know we need education options, a real fix for transportation problems, and lower taxes on everyone."



Authorized and Paid for By Joe Murray for State Senate.

Joe Murray's "To-Do" List

- ✓ Create real transportation solutions
- ✓ Increase education opportunities for all our children
- ✓ Reduce government red tape to create more high-paying jobs
- ✓ Reduce healthcare costs and expand access for Virginia families

EVERYONE: VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD

By the way

WHO SAID:

PROMISES ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN?

and

OF COURSE I TAKE MONEY FROM DEVELOPERS, SOMEONE HAS TO PAY FOR MY
CAMPAIGN?

NOT ALLISON SILBERBERG

CITIZENS FOR SENSIBLE GROWTH

A coalition of very concerned citizens

ENDORSES

ALLISON SILBERBERG FOR MAYOR

A woman of integrity

The needs and concerns of each Alexandria neighborhood
and of the citizens who live there are:

Allison's #1 Priority

The profits and needs of developers: **NOT a priority**

Allison's promises are made to be kept!!

Paid for by Citizens for Sensible Growth (PAC-12-01325). Not authorized by the candidate.
This AD is intended to support the above named candidate.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

The board would be lacking without Veronica at the table.

Stephanie A. Kapsis

Justin P. Keating

The views are the writers' own and should not be interpreted as official statements by the Alexandria City School Board.

Fought for Residents' Health

To the Editor:

All across our city Alexandrians are discussing and imagining what might replace the GenOn plant and its 25 acres of premium property on the Potomac River. Could it include parks, an art center, beautiful town houses, boutique shops, a unique gateway to the city and the pinnacle of North Old Town? The soon to be convened Old Town North workgroup will help create vistas of exciting edifices as we move forward to actualizing a plan for the site.

With this fascinating and rare oppor-

tunity, we should step back and look at how the city became heir to such a large parcel of prime real estate. Twelve years ago, Councilman Paul Smedberg, on the basis of preliminary testing and residents' concerns, determined that the GenOn (Mirant) coal fired power plant was a health hazard to Alexandrians. Fly ash covered neighborhood homes and toxic-ridden smoke funneled regularly out of the plant chimneys. Working with neighbors and supported by Councilwoman Dell Pepper, Councilman Smedberg led the fight to shutter the facility. It was a tough and lengthy battle.

Councilman Smedberg led the city through a court case, heavy EPA and Virginian Department of Environmental Quality resistance and eventually pushback from the Secretary of the Federal Department of Energy, himself. Paul persisted throughout with strong unwavering leadership, and resolved to protect Alexandrians' health. Downwash was discovered and tests indicated that the plant was greatly exceeding all primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Paul was right in his original assessment — Alexandrians' health was at stake. The GenOn power plant was the largest single stationary source of air pollution in the metropolitan area. Not

long after the downwash test results were released and an interim negotiated settlement occurred, the plant closed down. Paul Smedberg had succeeded in his 12-year quest to protect our health.

Yet that was not all that Councilman Smedberg did. After the shutdown, he insisted that testing the GenOn property for soil contamination must be accomplished. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality oversaw the operation and found old underground oil tanks had leaked and spread into the ground water. Decontamination, projected to take approximately three years, is now underway. Not only did Paul lead and succeed in shuttering the plant, he also insured that the property will be clean for new usage.

Now, as we look toward imagining and planning for the future of this land, let's not forget that it was Paul Smedberg's hard work and dauntless determination that made this property's transformation a reality we are about to embrace. For this reason we strongly support Councilman Smedberg's bid for reelection. Our city needs the type of leadership he has shown.

**Pat Collins, Robert G. Hull,
Judith A. Cooper, Elizabeth
Chimento, Jody Manor, John**

**Rebstock, Lisa Chimento, Alice
Manor, Jesus Medrano, Jackie
Chimento, and Tyler Perez**

Focus on Housing

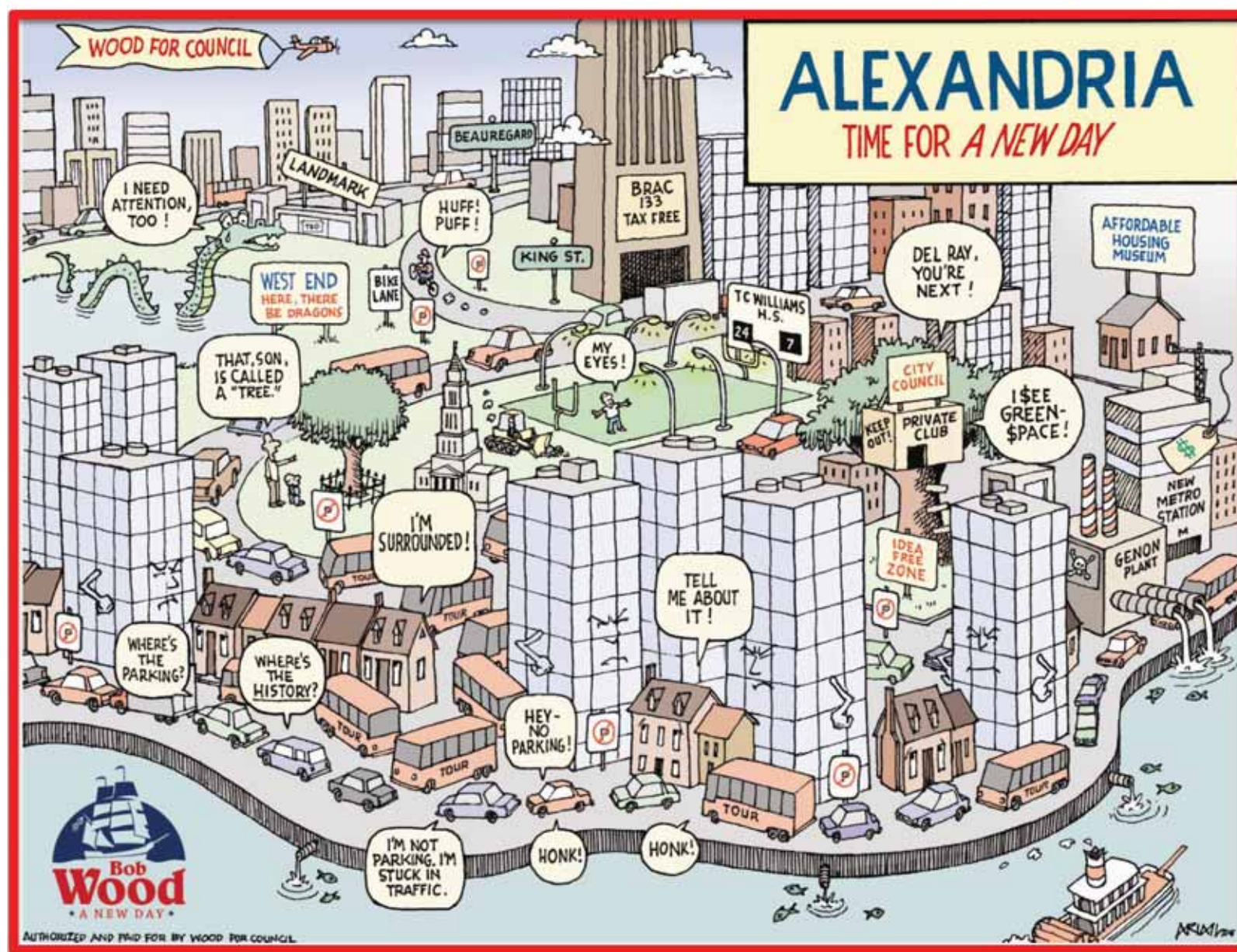
To the Editor:

I knew the moment I spoke with Monique Miles about her candidacy for Alexandria City Council and her vision for the city that I would support her campaign. I had just read an article in the paper about how Monique wanted to make Alexandria a city a more affordable city for all its citizens to live in. She says time and time again that she never wants to hear about citizens moving out of Alexandria because they cannot afford to live here. I am a Democrat, and at the time, I did not know that Monique was running as a Republican. I'm a straight ticket voter. I vote for every Democrat on the ballot without knowing who they are and what they stand for. Monique changed that. After listening to her speak at the at the Departmental Progressive Club and listening to all the candidates, I will no longer vote for people merely based on political party. On Nov. 3, I will be vot-

ing for candidates who genuinely care about all Alexandrians and their concerns for the City. All the candidates have spoken about housing affordability, but Monique has vision and a clear plan on how she will make housing more affordable for all Alexandrians. Everyday, I witness her strong leadership skills and vision for Alexandria. Even within the community and door knocking, I see the community rallying behind her. People answering their doors tell Monique they will vote for her and are excited about the change she will bring to the city. In the community, I have witnessed her not only attend events, but stay the entire time, specifically at a celebration held in the Burg, a historical African American community. Monique continuously engages with Alexandria's diverse community and with citizens of every color, ethnicity, background, social status, and neighborhood. Many parts of Alexandria are changing, and housing prices keep increasing. Sadly, this City Council has not done enough for housing affordability. Over the past 12 years, 12,000 units have disappeared. Regardless of the market rate increases or destruction of units, the fact stands that it happened on council's watch. All of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Elect Bob Wood for Alexandria City Council



Supporting You!

"We must work as a team to preserve the diversity, neighborhood qualities, and history we love so much. Growth is necessary and important but development cannot be out of place, out of scale, and beyond supporting infrastructure. It's time to restore our local voices in planning the future for Alexandria. We need to build a NEW DAY for our city based on balance, trust, and respect."

John R. "Bob" Wood

- Many Voices
- One City
- Our Future

Be Heard!
Vote Nov 3

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MARSHALL ST, MIDDLEBURG, VA - Wonderful end unit townhouse in maintained and quiet neighborhood, walking distance to main street with fine dining and exclusive shopping, spacious floor plan with three entrances, main floor bedroom and bath, 3BR, 3BA, crown molding, wood floors, excellent condition, landscaped courtyard, ample parking, fireplace. \$2,200/m
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Mary Kakouras • 540-454-1604



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Charming 1840 Log/Stone Home on 20+ acres in private setting with potential subdivision of two additional lots-- part of a larger tract deeded in 1845. In 1950 the log portion was remodeled and joined to the original stone kitchen. 4 stall barn, fenced for horses, pool, sauna and wine cellar, mature landscaping & gardens. \$799,000
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MARIES RD, STERLING, VA - 10 acres close to route 7 and route 28. Currently zoned residential as a working nursery with glasshouses, buildings and horse barns (sold as is). There are commercial buildings across the street. Commercial zoning is possible. The purchaser pays roll back taxes. \$5,000,000
Rohani Stewart • 703-244-8540

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OPINION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 2015 Senior Academy Class graduating at City Hall.

First Class of City's Senior Academy

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

The Oct. 13 City Council meeting began with a wonderful ceremony led by Mayor Bill Euille as he and members of the City Council paid tribute to the first graduating class of the Senior Academy. The mayor told the enthusiastic graduates that they were charged to be ambassadors to their communities and encouraged them to get involved.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

The Senior Academy, sponsored by the City of Alexandria and Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA), is a four-week class providing seniors an opportunity to gain exposure to city government functions and to learn about the many organizations that provide programs and services for seniors. SSA and the City's Call-Click-Connect office worked closely together to provide a great overview for the participants, who attended classes in City Hall, Charles Houston Recreation Center, Police Headquarters and Beatley Central Library. Class attendees heard from city of-

fices and local non-profits about everything from how to participate in the annual budget process to what senior fitness programs are available around the City.

There was great feedback from the participants, and one of the graduates commented that "she has lived in Alexandria her whole life and didn't know how much the city has to offer everyone — particularly seniors." Everyone agreed that Alexandria is a great place for older residents.

Volunteerism was also emphasized, and attendees received a list of volunteer opportunities with different city organizations including the Office of Voter Registration, the Alexandria Library, Historic Alexandria, and the many Boards and Commissions in our City. Local non-profits, including At Home in Alexandria, ACHSO, ACT for Alexandria, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, and Senior Services of Alexandria also emphasized the importance of senior volunteers helping those in need.

Plans are already underway for the next Senior Academy, which will take place in 2016. In the meantime, you can find out more about how to get involved on the SSA website: www.seniorservicesalex.org. Your community needs you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

our citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status, deserve a City Council who is responsive and will solve problems. Socioeconomic status should not dictate how the City Council runs the city.

Alexandrians who have a middle level salary, with a Master's level education like many other government employees and residents, still can't afford to live here. Monique and I believe that these situations are unacceptable. Monique Miles remains committed in solving these housing affordability issues that many residents face here in Alexandria. I look forward to her strong, solution-oriented leadership on Alexandria's City Council — and you should too.

Ethel Carol Talley
Old Town author
"The Heart of A Silent Cry"

Money's Effect On Campaign?

To the Editor:

The Mayor and City Council campaign spending

reports for the month of September that were released on Oct. 15 say much about where Alexandria campaigns are headed. If it is our future, it is not an encouraging one for our community.

First, the inflow of campaign money from those who do business with the city and have benefited directly from decisions of Mayor Euille has continued to escalate at an alarming rate. During the month of September alone, Euille received a staggering level of contributions — totaling over \$127,000. His contributor list is dominated by those doing business with the city. To put this amount in perspective, the money given to Euille from his business and developer friends exceeded the total campaign contributions received during the same month by Vice Mayor Silberberg and all 11 candidates for the City Council combined.

Where is Euille spending his developer cash? Alexandria campaigns have long been known for candidates and their volunteers going door-to-door, neighbors hosting candidate "meet and greets" in their homes, yard signs and campaign mailers. Alexandria is not a large media market nor have its elections been prone to the divisiveness that professional campaign consultants have

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

brought to our national politics. This is why it is most disturbing to see in Euille's campaign report for September that his largest expenditure was to hire a Washington-based consultant, M Street Solutions, a firm that specializes in opposition research — the fuel that fires the negativity that has come to plague American politics.

If the Euille campaign, with its huge inflows of conflicted cash and use of outside hired guns to find ways to go negative, is a look at the future of Alexandria politics, we all need to be quite concerned. It is an ugly future and one entirely inconsistent with our community values.

Tom Parry
Alexandria

Public Policy Advocate

To the Editor:

My wife and I have lived in Olde Towne for 25 years, interrupted by a 2 and a half year assignment to Chicago. Since the earliest time we have lived in Alexandria we have known and admired "Van" Van Fleet, a candidate for a City Council seat in the Nov. 3 election. Van has been a close friend since we first met him in 1988. He has always been a vocal and effective public policy advocate. He continues to advocate for "respectful" development in our city. He combines the civic conscience for the poor and elderly as well as the more fortunate citizens who benefit so much from living and working in this truly special environment. Indeed, he can claim a great deal of responsibility for the ambience that makes our city almost magically special. A prime example of the success of his efforts one need look no further than his stand against incompatible development on the waterfront. Van has always stood for the retention of the historical ambience of our city. That is why we, even though we are registered Democrats, stand proudly for the election of "Van" Van Fleet for the City Council.

John and Christa Lyons
Alexandria

Serving the Community

To the Editor:

I write today to ask my fellow Alexandrians to cast their ballot this Nov. 3 for Willie Bailey for City Council. Throughout his life, Willie has

displayed the highest character and personal integrity. Whether it has been his service in the U.S. Army or his work as a firefighter, Willie has always held positions of leadership, which have involved working together to accomplish a common goal. We can all agree that this is the kind of person we need on City Council.

Willie's leadership doesn't end with his service to our country and region. Willie founded his own nonprofit, Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, which I'm a big support of, 15 years ago to help underprivileged children throughout Alexandria and Northern Virginia. Every year, Willie and volunteers partner with Schools, Police, Sheriff, Fire Departments and Recreation Centers to distribute thousands of new coats, backpacks, and toys for the holidays. I have known Willie for years and seen his passion up close. For many of these children it finally gives them the tools and the confidence needed to succeed in school.

Having grown up in public and affordable housing in Alexandria, Willie knows that some kids face greater needs than others. In a city as prosperous as ours, no child deserves to start school already behind their peers. For a city that has done so much for him, he sees it as a simple act of giving back. Its service like this that exemplifies why I support Willie and you should too.

Michael Johnson

Proven, Strong Leadership

To the Editor:

Bill Euille has given strong leadership as Alexandria's mayor. Specific successes are the new T. C. Williams High School building and the exciting changes coming to our city's waterfront. More recent successes are getting significant new businesses to come to our city — the Transportation Security Administration and the National Science Foundation.

My wife and I could not afford to purchase our house at today's market rate prices. We enjoy living in Alexandria today because we purchased our house over 30 years ago. Bill Euille is a strong advocate for affordable housing which is greatly needed by so many people whom we depend on to staff our local stores, restaurants, hotels and other service industries.

For 30 years I managed retirement housing, assisted living, and nursing care for elderly people. I know how important it is for frail elderly people who are no longer able to live at home to get the care they need.

I know how important it is for them,

when they need that care, to get it in the community where they have lifelong friends and family to support them. More and more elderly people are being diagnosed with Alzheimer's and other dementia issues, but not just old people. My sister, who is only 66 years old, had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and is now living in a memory care facility near her family in Missouri.

Our city has very few memory care beds. A few months ago a much needed assisted living/memory care facility came before the City Council for approval. Allison Silberberg, the Democratic candidate for mayor, says she supports the needs of elderly citizens, but when this opportunity came to demonstrate that support she voted against approval — the only opposition vote on the council. Just before the vote she expressed the

lame excuse that the building is too ugly, and reminded her of the buildings in East Germany following World War II. Thanks to Bill Euille, and all the other council members this much needed project was approved.

On Nov. 3 I will be writing in Bill Euille's name for mayor, not just because he strongly supports affordable housing and elderly issues, but because of his good leadership in the past.

Bill Harris
Alexandria

Time To Start A New Day

To the Editor:

Apparently Alexandria's good old boy network has decided that the only way to win the mayoral race is to sling mud at the Democratic candidate, Allison Silberberg and disparage her abilities and accomplishments. Much to her credit Ms. Silberberg has ignored the remarks and risen above the fray. Those of us who have watched this from the sidelines should not be so kind.

These good old boys have decided to quit the Democratic party because the by-laws no longer fit their agenda — very simply they did not like the outcome of the Democratic primary. It is interesting to note that they favor the party when it suits their purpose, but abandon it so quickly when it does not. Then again, where have we heard "promises are made to be broken" before? This group seems to believe that public office is their entitlement — that the city is their inheritance and the powers of governance can be manipulated to suit their satisfaction and their needs. We, the citizens of Alexandria, now have to decide whether we are willing to con-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 33



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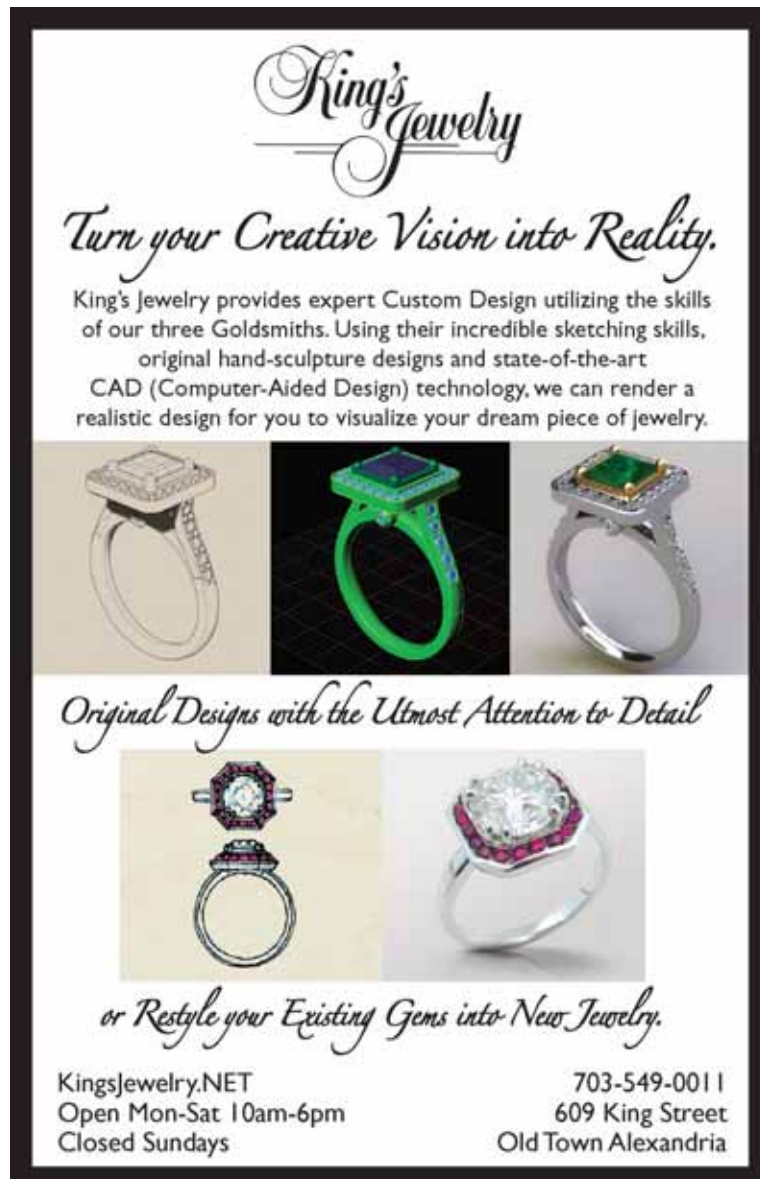


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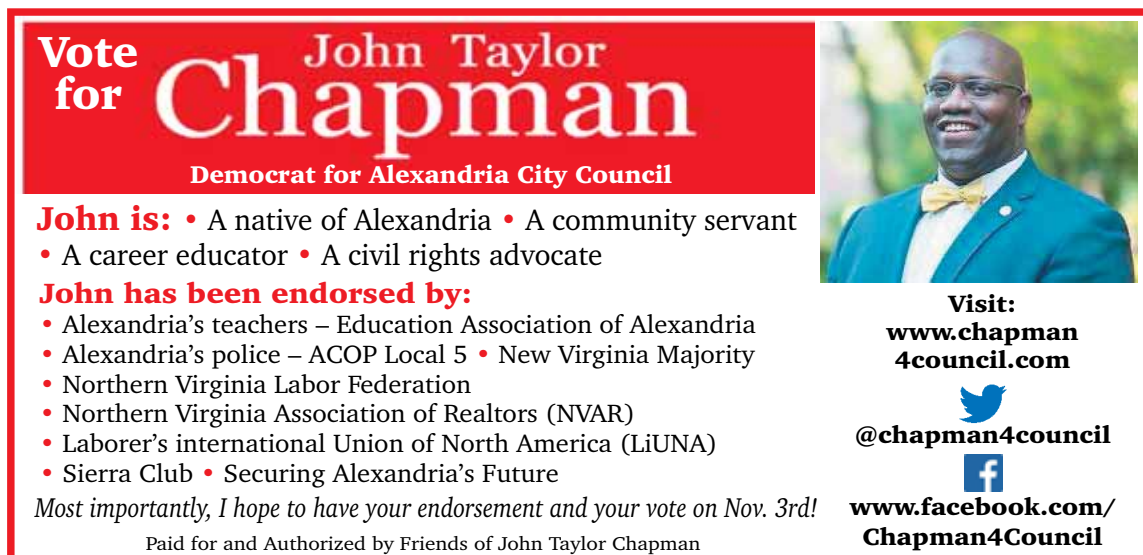
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Democrat for Alexandria City Council

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• A career educator • A civil rights advocate

John has been endorsed by:

- Alexandria's teachers – Education Association of Alexandria
- 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!

Paid for and Authorized by Friends of John Taylor Chapman

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— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

"With my second child on the way and having to juggle doctor appointments and my son's school activities, you can't put a monetary amount on saving time."

- Yvette M.
Dumfries, VA



At eight months pregnant, Yvette has to juggle doctor appointments, work meetings and spending time with her son. Yvette works in Reston and lives in Woodbridge so she relies on the 495 and 95 Express Lanes getting to and from work. Yvette also loves that she's never late to pick her son up from school. Now she has more time for her family—and for herself. Her stress has decreased and she's able to enjoy a healthy pregnancy and being a mom while maintaining her career.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Yvette's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

OBITUARIES

FROM PAGE 9
and his kindness.

Friends and Family will gather to remember him at a future date.

Ed was always happy to help those in need, so in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his name to a favorite charity.

Virginia Brown Guild

Virginia Brown Guild, adored daughter, sister, niece, aunt, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend, died suddenly on Oct. 17, 2015 at St. Mary's Hospital in Henrico, Va.



Born in 1925 in Warrenton, Va., to William Wallace Brown, Jr. and Marianne Wynyard Barker Brown, she was a proud Virginian, "Born and Bred," who exemplified the true spirit of a Virginia lady. Her youth was spent riding horses, playing basketball and teaching riding as a summer camp counselor in Maine.

While working at the University of Virginia she met Henley Guild, the handsome graduate student and lacrosse coach with whom she enjoyed over 65 years of happy married life. Together they made a loving

home in Alexandria, raising three children honored to call them Mom and Dad. She was the room mother, Brownie leader, Sunday school teacher, den mother, swim team Mom, chauffeur and biggest supporter for not only her own children, but for all of the neighborhood kids as well.

She was a gifted cook, seamstress and knitter. But it was in the garden where she found her true calling. Virginia began digging in the dirt of her bare backyard to improve its appearance, and along the way became involved in garden club. She grew beautiful flowers and produced winning floral arrangements with them.

She served as president of the Beverly Hills Garden Club and president of The National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She was a Master Judge of the National Council of State Garden Clubs and taught judging. She was president of The Hunting Creek Garden Club, chairman of the Restoration Committee of GCV and president of The Garden Club of Virginia. During her tenure she presided, on behalf of GCV, at the dedication of the restored Grace E. Arents Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

In 1997 The Garden Club of Virginia awarded her their highest honor, the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. It is inscribed "Virginia Brown Guild: a giver of self and a gracious and gifted leader." For many years she designed and placed arrangements of dried flowers for the Diplo-

SEE OBITUARIES, PAGE 18

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, Murray Bonitt, Don Buch, Marcia Call, Lynnwood G. Campbell, Janice Chang, Regina Chapman, Dianne Childers, Declan Conroy, Diane Crawford-Batt, Luis Cruz-Pena, Pam DeCandio, Andres Domeyko, Gail Gordon Donegan, Honorable Kerry Donley, Scott Donley, Ann Dorman, Rick Dorman, Rob Dugger, Richard Falkenstein, Mark Feldheim, Andrea Fitch, Donna Fossum, Gwen Day-Fuller, Magaly Galdo-Hirst, Pam Goodell, Paul Haire, Barbara Jenell Hamlett, Lynn Hampton, Gila Harris, Calvin Holmes, Helen Holmes, Maria Hopper, Joan Huffer, Scott Humphrey, Arthur Impastato, Julie Jakopic, Verdella Jennings, Dr. Sandra Kabagambe, Florence King, Glenn Klaus, Honorable 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, Elizabeth Moon, Page Moon, Honorable Jim Moran, Robert Nealon, Judy Noritake, Rae Noritake, Jay Palermino, Kevin Posey, Rebecca C. Quarles, PhD, Gayle Reuter, Angela Rice, Honorable Lonnie Rich, Deb Roepke, Danielle Romanetti, Jon Rosenbaum, David Rutherford, Paula Rutherford, Cathryn Sacra, Robert W. (Bo) Schnurr, Ruth Sharma, Sushil Sharma, Camille Shaw, Scott Shaw, Jerry Slominski, Honorable David Speck, Charlotte Spinner, Judy Stack, Lauren Kent Stack, Michael Stack, Carol Supplee, Jack Taylor, John Taylor, Luke Vaughn, Maria Wasowski, 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

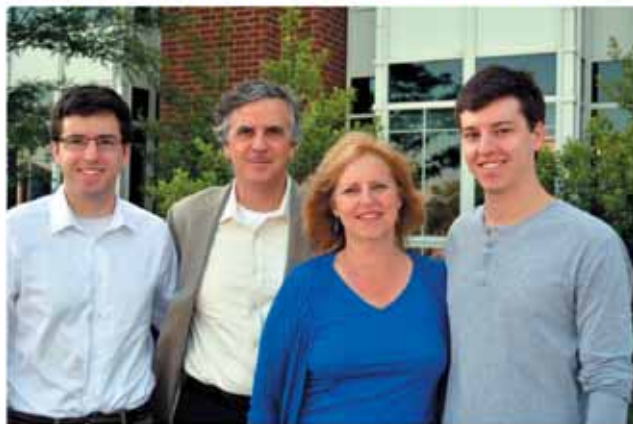
Paul C. Smedberg

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.

*Authorized and paid for by Securing Alexandria's Future.
Not authorized by any candidate.*

**CINDY
ANDERSON**
Alexandria School Board



My entire family has benefited from our Alexandria City Public School education. I want to work with board members, teachers, administrators, parents, students and other community members to make sure current and future students receive an education that prepares them for success.

- Cindy Anderson

I would appreciate your vote on November 3rd.

www.CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard.com



Facebook/CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard

Paid for and Authorized by Cindy Anderson for School Board

OBITUARIES

FROM PAGE 17
matic Reception Rooms at the U.S. Department of State.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother William Wallace Brown III, and sisters Lillie Maddux Brown and Marianne Wynyard "Winnie" Howland; and her husband, Henley Lyman Guild; and their son, Stephen Barker Guild. Left to treasure her memory are her daughter, Susan Braun

(Herbert); son, Henley, Jr. (Debra); and daughter-in-law, Monica Lange; grandchildren, Christian Braun, Kevin Braun, Elli Kale, Sophia Guild, Molly Guild, and Henley Guild, III; great-grandchildren, Carly, Wilson, Gwyneth, and Declan; niece, Adair Ciolfi; nephews, Stuart Brown and Billy Howland; great-nieces Angela and Winnie; great nephew Fitz; and great-great niece Wallis.

A service and commitment to the Memorial Garden at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill in Alexandria will follow at a later date.

Those who would like to remember Virginia are asked to consider a gift to The Garden Club of Virginia, Restoration Committee, Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Visit www.gcvvirginia.org/contribute.cfm.



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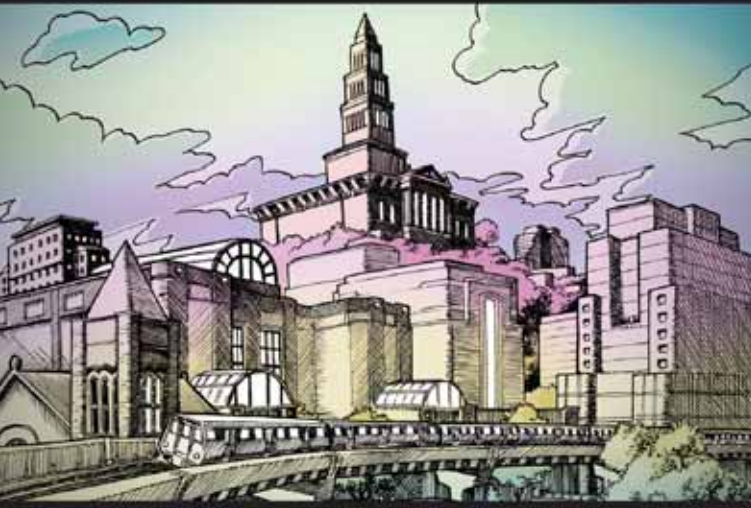
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EVERYONE: Vote on Tuesday, November 3

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A coalition of very concerned citizens

ENDORSES

ALLISON SILBERBERG FOR MAYOR

TIME FOR CHANGE!

“Agreements are made to be negotiated.”

Bill Euille, 12/14/13 City Council Public Hearing
(Sounds to us like: Promises are made to be broken.)

Allison: “Promises to citizens are made to be kept.”

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

Bill Euille, 10/8/15, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Allison: “I do not accept campaign contributions from developers.”

“Mayor Bill Euille (D) disclosed at the start of the meeting that he has received campaign contributions from people involved in the project both in the past and in his current write-in campaign for mayor, but he said he did not find himself in a conflict of interest and would participate and vote.”

10/17/15, The Washington Post

Allison: “The Mayor should have recused himself from any proposed project when he accepted donations from the developer.”

Paid for by Citizens for Sensible Growth (PAC-12-01325). Not authorized by the candidate.
This AD is intended to support the above named candidate.

ELECTION '15

Candidates for School Board District A

William E. “Bill” Campbell

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 53

Family: Married 32 years-Ruby, Daughter-Janay, Son-Cameron, Son-Jaquan

Education: Bachelor of Science-Mechanical Engineer, West Virginia University

Master's Certificate-Paralegal Studies, Georgetown University

Offices held, dates: Alexandria City Public School Board, 2012-2015

Occupation and relevant experience: DoD Mechanical Engineer

Community involvement: Early Education Commission, Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission, Alexandria Citizen Police Academy, Parks & Recreation Youth Sports Coach, TC Williams Athletic Boosters, Parker-Gray Roundtable Taskforce, Braddock Road Implementation Committee.

Website: billcampbell4schoolboard.org

Email address: campbelw1@verizon.net

Twitter handle: None

Name three favorite endorsements: My wife, my children and the Education Association of Alexandria



Hal Cardwell

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 50

Family: married 3 kids, parents in Alexandria

Education: TC Williams '82: B.S. Systems Engineering University of Virginia '86; Ph.D. Water Resources Engineering, Johns Hopkins University '92.

Offices held, dates: none

Occupation and relevant experience: Water Resources Engineer; expertise in collaborative processes / public engagement.

Community involvement: PTA president & board member – Mount Vernon Community School, Cub Scout leader.

Website:

Email address:

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements:



Karen A. Graf

Town of residence: Alexandria City

Age: 45

Family: Husband and three children that are ACPS students

Education: Master's in Technical Communication

Offices held, dates: School Board 2013-15

Occupation and relevant experience: not employed, but worked in the technology industry in design, development, content development and management.

Community involvement: PTA, preschool resource parent

Website: www.graf4schoolboard.com

Email address: graf4schoolboard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @KarenAGraf

Name three favorite endorsements: my husband, my kids and my parents. J



QUESTIONS:

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

Alexandria has a “preparation” gap. This gap affects students before they enroll and when they leave our system. Too many students enter ACPS ill prepared sometimes emotionally and intellectually. This lack of readiness leads to achievement gaps, disproportionate suspensions and continuous intervention requirements. ACPS has historically struggled with necessary interventions and has continued to send students into the world unprepared to be self-supporting and positively contributing adults. Improving the outcomes for our Children with Disabilities, English Language Learners and Free and Reduced Lunch students is what calls me to serve. A multitude of improvements is required: enhanced professional development and support for teachers including quality cultural competency training leading to improved communications, higher expectations and higher efficacy; well designed and aligned interventions; and improved support from parents and our community.

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

I started school in the '60s, grew up in the '70s, became a college graduate in the '80s, a father in the '90s and a legal guardian in the 2000's. Having been a fatherless, poor student of color with a speech impediment, I can truly empathize with the struggles that many of our families and students are faced with. Having now served a term on the board, I know the true challenges facing our schools. Significant foundational elements have been put in place that have begun to move our district toward being high achieving. I want to continue our work toward that goal.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

The board's interactions with Council and the work of the joint city/schools Long Range Planning Committee has led to improved trust and agreement as to Alexandria's capacity challenges. In the next 10 years we will need new schools at all three levels. We also need to modernize many of the spaces in our existing buildings. These realities force us to be creative with solutions. We need to look at things such as: moving PreK to independent centers; reprogramming schools perhaps to K-6 and 7-8 or 7-9 for middle school; additional academies for high school off of the main campus and/or a second high school.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

I've been actively involved at JH for the past decade. This school board and Superintendent have clearly identified the primary deficiencies at JH and are addressing each with a systematic and proven approach. We've provided quality leadership; continuous training and support to teachers; using data to pinpoint interventions; provided outstanding learning spaces; and we have worked to garner more support from the existing as well as the gentrifying community. These efforts have led to positive achievement gains which have, in one year, moved JH two years forward in their three-year plan to become fully accredited. Our kindergarten capture rate has increased, enrollment is climbing and community support is on the rise.

QUESTIONS:

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

I'm vested in ACPS. I grew up in Alexandria and went thru ACPS (TCW '82). After living in other states and countries I returned here in my 30's, and have spent the last 11 years as a ACPS parent with kids currently in elementary, middle and high school. I want to contribute to making sure that my kids and the rest of ACPS's students get top-notch education opportunities like I did a few decades ago. In terms of priorities, redistricting and facilities issues are probably at the top of current concerns with the system's schools bursting at the seams. How will we meet these challenges while remaining committed to meeting the various educational needs of an extremely diverse student population? My long history in Alexandria and within ACPS should help, as will my background in both collaborative processes and systems engineering, and as will my Spanish language skills.

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

Three of us are running for three slots from District A. I look forward to working with Bill Campbell, Karen Graf, and the other members of the next board.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

ACPS is already being creative at meeting the needs of its growing student population, but we need more space. The next school board will need to work with the council and with the community to develop funding and facility solutions — from building new schools to expanding existing facilities. My long history in Alexandria and within ACPS should help address these challenges, as will my background in both collaborative processes and systems engineering.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

There are no easy solutions. We need to understand the needs of individual students, and work with the teachers and staff to develop interventions that work. We need to collect data on what's working in our schools and what isn't, and learn from best practices around the city and around the world. We need to make sure that our teachers have the resources and training to implement new strategies and follow-through rather than moving on to the next shiny idea-of-the-month.

QUESTIONS:

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

For these next three years, my top priority will be to continue pushing academic excellence for ACPS, while addressing our capacity and budget issues. I like to strategize around the improvement of academic support to help schools be effective. By looking at data to identify the division's needs, the budget and staffing models can become more aligned which will result in division-wide improvements in the state benchmarks like we have seen to-date.

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

Process, Persistence, and Performance. With strong processes, members of the Board can be more effective to make decisions and communication the direction. I love building processes. Even with good processes, sometimes it takes a lot of work to get the decision realized. This is where persistence is imperative and I have a lot of it. I will stick with a problem until it is solved or completed. Lastly, whether it is the School Board itself or the division at large, performance is the result of working hard and functioning well. Alexandria City needs a high performing school division and I have the determination to work effectively with many types of people and issues to move towards excellence.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

I do think this is a problem and it does need to be addressed. But I believe in the next three years that we will explore all type of ideas that will align capacity, academic advancement and budget in order to provide for future ACPS families. The most important concept is that our decision making has to advance our academic goals and to create a vision that the community can believe in for ACPS. During the redistricting for elementary schools, I believe we have the opportunity to carefully consider preschool, middle school and the high school crowding issues. I have a host of ideas for the budget and academic models that will be researched in the coming months. As for my skills, my experience in technical communications allows me the ability to play with data and concepts in order to find a solution that is right for Alexandria City. I enjoy researching information, developing strategy and planning communication methods.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

In Jefferson-Houston's case, we are fortunate that Alexandria City has the resources to provide for the school. In the last three years, the School Board and Superintendent have analyzed the academic needs, the staffing models, the school leadership team, and community engagement methods. It has not been easy in the past three years, but this work led to the success we are seeing today. The School Board worked hard to help support that school community so they could get double-digit growth in most all the subgroups and in every subject. The progress made in the last school year exceeded the state's one year goals for the school and nearly all the two year goals. This school, now in a new building, is primed to be accredited this summer. The progress is occurring fast compared to average educational turnaround standards and I couldn't be more excited for the JH community.

Vote Nov. 3

See more election coverage
and questionnaires at
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Click on Elections
on the navigation bar.

ELECTION '15

Candidates for School Board District B

Cindy Anderson

Town of residence: Alexandria (North Ridge)

Age: 53

Family: husband: Mark Anderson (TCW '80), sons: Lee (TCW '11) and Henry (TCW '13)

Education: B.A. Computer Science/ Psychology, The College of William & Mary

Offices held, dates: Chairperson, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, 2014-present, TC Williams PTSA President (2009-10), GW PTA President (2005-6), PTA Council President (2003-2004), George Mason PTA President (2001-2), Board President, Beverley Hills Church Preschool(1997-1999)

Occupation and relevant experience: co-owner, consulting firm; over 10 years experience in high technology sales and training including software training for adults and introductory computer programming skills for elementary school age children.

Community involvement: School Board Budget Advisory Committee (2003-2006), Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Board (2010-present), classroom volunteer and tutor, soccer coach, AFS foreign exchange program host parent and volunteer.

Website: www.CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard.com

Email address: CindyAnderson4SchoolBoard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @Cindy4ACPSBoard

Name three favorite endorsements: Education Association of Alexandria (EAA/APACE), and former board members (Mark Eaton, Yvonne Folkerts, Sheryl Gorsuch, Arthur Peabody and Charles Wilson)



Kelly Carmichael Booz

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 36

Family: Husband, Hendrick Booz; Daughter, Madeline (2 – almost 3); Son, William (2.5 months)

Education: M.Ed. University of Virginia; BA Carleton College

Offices held, dates: Alexandria School Board, 2013 - present

Occupation and relevant

experience: Partnership Development Lead for Sharemylesson.com with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Previous work: Director of Civic Education at the Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier; former civics instructor and Manager of Teacher Programs with Alexandria's Close Up Foundation.

Community involvement:

Website: www.kellycarmichaelbooz.com

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Twitter handle: @kellycbooz

Name three favorite endorsements: Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education, (A-PACE); Senator Adam Ebbin; Alexandria School Board Member Stephanie Kapsis



Mimi Goff

Town of residence: Alexandria district B

Age: I feel young!

Family: married 34 years, two adult children

Education: BA in Economics Trinity College

Offices held, dates:

Occupation and relevant

experience: Dress Barn, Bradlee, Store Manager

Community involvement: Special needs student intern from TCW, Alexandria soccer Association age group co-ordinator and coach, softball coach, Wahoos swim team, Boy and girl scouts, PTO, CYO

Website: mimigoffforschoolboard@aol.com

Email address: mimigoff4@aol.com

Twitter handle:



QUESTIONS:

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

I have had the pleasure to work with young ladies who were new to this country and I have seen the struggles they have encountered in ACPS. College opportunities were never discussed with them and I believe that all students should understand all the options available to them so they and their parents can make a choice as to which educational path to follow. Communication and guidance is so important for all ESL students to help navigate where they want to go and how to get there. Simple one on one meetings can begin the discussion and get the student thinking about their future after graduation. I am running for school board for those students that I have mentored on various subjects as well as helping them study for the SOL's and attempting to instill confidence so they can believe in themselves. They opened my eyes!

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

I have attended most of the school board meetings in the past year and have learned a lot about the current issues and the budget process. The budget is the key to the whole educational process and as a business women I am comfortable with budgets. I am not afraid to make tough decisions and I am open to compromise. I also understand the time involved. I am a 30 year City resident that wants to make the ACPS the best school system for all students, a school system in which all students thrive and learn. Our role is to provide what ever is necessary for have all students to succeed. Great schools will also bring good businesses to our community, as business growth usually follows a community with great school systems.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Over crowding is a combination of increased population in our city as well as the school board's negligence in not providing maintainence to schools as well as not providing more classrooms to meet the anticipated growth of the student population which was initially cited in 2009. We will need to rebuild or update our current schools as well as build a new high school, middle school and elementary school to accomodate our increased student population. Land to build on is a major problem and the ability to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to complete such a project will be challenging. But with a City council more inclined to education as opposed to development anything is possible. The school board will have to make difficult budgetary decisions in order to update the schools and build new schools and will be forced to stop pushing larger projects to further years. The schools need it now, 2020 will be too late. Redistricting is a short term cure for its overcrowding. I am concerned about this issue especially in the west end because of the severe overcrowding and the anticipated changes that will happen to the Beauregard corridor. Patricr Henry as a K-8 will help but that project is several years away. It is the least expensive option for now.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Due to the lack of diversification at Jefferson Houston this school would benefit from re-districting. It is a K-8 school that was suppose to be an IB school that should have been full from day one. I don't know why it isn't full! Every school should be full and the answer is not to enroll students from cross town but rather concentrate on filling schools with children from the neighborhood. Busing students is an additional expense and such funds could be put to better use elsewhere.

QUESTIONS:

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

Academic achievement for students at all levels remains my call to serve. In the past two years, Alexandria has made tremendous gains across the division. Previously accredited with warning, today Patrick Henry has made 20% academic gains across all subject areas in just two years and is now fully accredited. TC Williams was accredited with warning in mathematics last year and is now fully accredited. Jefferson-Houston made two years of academic gain in one year following the state turnaround plan.

While we have a lot to celebrate, we also need continuing improvement. Our special education and ELL test results were flat and remain a focus for us this coming year. We are implementing a new local special education plan this year with new leadership. In ELL, following the success of the TC Williams International Academy, we launched a new academy at Hammond and we are constantly revising our ELL staffing model.

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

Continuity is vital to maintain ACPS momentum and gains made. I am the only incumbent running for reelection in District B and I am committed to continued progress. Education is my profession and I am one of only two current board members with an education background. I have spent the last 14 years working with students, educators, and administrators from every county in the Commonwealth and from all 50 states. Last year Governor McAuliffe appointed me to the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee where we have looked both at accountability and assessments. I want our schools to foster the greatness our children deserve and would be honored to have one of your three votes.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Capacity is a real issue in Alexandria. Our student population is growing at a rate of 4.3% every year as more families remain with ACPS in middle and high school. Today, our current 7th graders will not fit in Minnie Howard when they reach the 9th grade.

The board recommended a 10-year plan that addresses student growth and our aging buildings that require repair rather than a patchwork approach to fixing issues that is neither sustainable nor a good use of tax dollars. The new approach takes a school offline every couple years to upgrade it, modernize it and add capacity.

If I am reelected, I will work with the school board, city council and community to ensure that we secure space and quality educational facilities for our current and future students.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Last year, Jefferson-Houston made two years of academic gains in one year following the state turnaround plan and I am proud to say that the school is now on a path to regaining its accreditation status. We learned that a strong partnership with the state, a strong superintendent, and excellent teachers make the difference when turning around the school. I am confident that the right people are in place to make the gains necessary.

ELECTION '15

Candidates for School Board District B

Margaret Lorber

Residence: Alexandria

Age: 69

Family: Married with 2 grown children, 1 daughter-in-law and a 6 month old grand-daughter

Education: 1968 BA Sociology University of Minnesota, Mpls, MN 1973 MA International Development Studies, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, MA

Occupation and relevant experience:

Public Policy Advocate in Early Childhood Development, Child Nutrition, and Parent Involvement in Education.

Community involvement: Directed 2 national coalitions promoting 1) expansion of National School Breakfast Program and 2) expansion of the Federal Infant Toddler Disability Program.

Directed a statewide collaborative in Maryland promoting implementation of a neuro-scientific approach to Early Childhood Care Giving.

Website: www.lorberforschoolboard.com

Email address: lorberforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: 1) Dana Lawhorn, Sheriff of Alexandria, 2) Sharon Shackelford and Carol Keller, Early Childhood Educators, 3) Eileen Cassidy Rivera and Mimi Carter, former School Board members



Veronica Nolan

Town of residence: City of Alexandria

Age: 40 years old

Family: Married. I have 2 children and have been an ACPS parent for the last 7 years and thanks to my Kindergartner I have 13 more years to go! I have 2 nieces and 3 nephews who are all future ACPS students.

Education: BA from University of Virginia, Masters in Art of Teaching from Trinity University and Nonprofit Management Certificate from Georgetown University

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience: Former classroom teacher.

As CEO led Urban Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing training, mentoring and internships to over 2,000 students annually (including students at TC Williams). Have served on 7 boards of youth-serving organizations. Currently an adjunct professor at Trinity University.

Community involvement: For last 20 years I have served youth in the DC metro region and have received several recognitions for my community involvement including: Washingtonian of the Year, the Meyer's Exponent Award, Washington Business Journal's "Real Women Who Mean Business" and a finalist of the Washington Post Nonprofit Excellence Award. I'm in the 2010 Class of Leadership Greater Washington and also served on several boards including: Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool and currently serve on Urban Alliance's board (a program that provides internships to TC Williams' students.)

Website: www.veronicaforschoolboard.com

Email address: veronicaforschoolboard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @vote4veronicaSB

Name three favorite endorsements:

- ❖ Education Association of Alexandria
- ❖ Stephanie Kapsis, Current school board member
- ❖ Kitty Porterfield, Founding Executive Director of the TC Williams' Scholarship Fund



District C

Ronnie Campbell

Town of residence: Alexandria City

Age: 59

Family: Mother of three: Erika, Crystal, and Wyatt, all ACPS graduates (Wyatt graduated in 2014).

Education:

Offices held, dates: Alexandria City School Board - Member, 2006 – Present

Occupation and relevant experience:

30 year USPS employee, all customer service related positions

Community involvement:

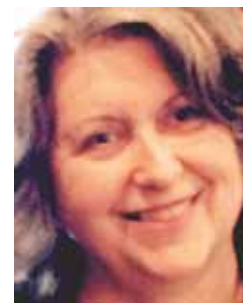
- ❖ Member of the Virginia State PTA board of Managers from 2005-06
- ❖ The 1st Assistant Director of the Fairfax District PTA (the regional PTA for Alexandria City) 2005-06
- ❖ President of the Alexandria PTA council 2003-04
- ❖ President of John Adams Elementary PTA 2001-02
- ❖ Alexandria City Intervention and Prevention Gang Task Force 2006-Present
- ❖ School Board Budget Advisory Committee 2004-06
- ❖ School Board Calendar Committee 2003-04
- ❖ School Board Health Advisory Board 2002-04
- ❖ Special Education Advisory Committee 1998-2006, Vice chair 2003-05
- ❖ Therapeutic Recreation Committee 2000-06
- ❖ City Before- and After-Care Committee 2004-06
- ❖ Alexandria Soccer Association Certified Coach 2000-06

Website: www.RonnieCampbellCan.org

Email address: CampbellCan@comcast.net

Twitter handle: @rc_cares

Name three favorite endorsements: The teachers (APACE, of the Education Association of Alexandria), Congressman Don Beyer, State Senator Dick Saslaw



QUESTIONS:

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

I deeply believe in the mission of public education to help all children reach their potential, a mission that is challenged by the diverse needs of our student population at a time of increasing enrollment. It is not sufficient to celebrate diversity in our system; we must make it work for all students by providing the learning environment and strong academic program that enables all our students to succeed. Schools must be in good repair, with sufficient space to accommodate all students; teachers must have the supports essential to respond to the needs of our diverse student population, and parents must feel welcomed and empowered so they can help their children succeed. To create this environment I would place a high priority on improved planning for capital and operational needs that include a new or expanded high school, renovated elementary and middle schools, classroom supports for teachers, and more intensive outreach to parents. These initiatives should be coupled with engagement of the entire Alexandria community to develop support for the financing needed to achieve the plan.

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

For 25 years, as a parent of two children who attended Alexandria's public schools and more recently as the bilingual parent liaison for our schools, I have been a passionate advocate and committed innovator to improve our programs, support our families, and promote equity and excellence in education in our city. I have been recognized for my success in improving communication between families and schools — which resulted in academic improvement — and creating a tutoring program at the high school, to support students who will be the first in their families to attend college. That leadership, combined with a track record of national advocacy for nationwide expansion of the school breakfast program and increased services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities, demonstrate that my background and experience have prepared me well to serve on the Alexandria City School Board.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

We need to do three things: first, plan for maintaining current facilities while expanding capacity. Overcrowding is affecting all of our schools from K - 12. Piecemeal maintenance without comprehensive planning has resulted in schools that are overcrowded and sorely in need of repair; second, reach out to the larger Alexandria community to help citizens and the City Council better understand our budget and the needs of our schools; third, provide confidence to the community by engaging in rigorous budget oversight, including ongoing accountability to citizens through the revived budget advisory committee.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Jefferson-Houston has a history of educational challenges, but has made progress. It is now on a course to become accredited ahead of schedule. But Jefferson-Houston also illustrates the need to be more rigorous in our approach both to achieving academic excellence and to designing and maintaining our schools. The community needs to be more deeply involved than it was in the core policy decision to create a large K – 8 school at Jefferson-Houston. Strong and consis

QUESTIONS:

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

I am passionate about all children being provided with a top quality education that is differentiated according to their needs because I believe an education has the power to transform lives. I believe supporting and retaining quality teachers, principals and staff is paramount to all children receiving an excellent education.

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

I would be a strong school board member due to my work style and experience. With regards to my approach I am collaborative, have a servant leadership style and know how to identify a concern as well as a plan of action after listening to a variety of engaged stakeholders.

Moreover I have a unique background that differentiates me from other candidates. I'm the only person running in District B that has classroom teaching experience. On the other hand I also have a business and leadership background having been the CEO of Urban Alliance for 12 years, a high school internship program (that also serves TC Williams). Moreover I am the only candidate in District B that currently has children attending ACPS schools so I have a pulse on the existing parent perspective.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Research new streams of funding should at the very least be explored given the limitations the current budget and funding sources provide. We should also investigate public/private partnerships with the city council to see about creative space options that could exist throughout the city. We should also research what other districts have done in similar circumstances.

As a nonprofit CEO I successfully built more than 300 public/private partnerships which allowed more youth served and an increase in funding. Having led a nonprofit (that grew during the recession) I'm used to operating a lean budget that does not sacrifice quality. Moreover I'm used to using data (with context) to drive my decisions and being held accountable for such decisions.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

For the past 20 years my professional background has been working in and alongside schools similar to Jefferson Houston. Jefferson Houston presents an exciting opportunity to soon be a model for schools that have rebounded from accreditation challenges and effectively serves diverse populations.

The good news is Jefferson Houston has shown progress which

SEE NOLAN, PAGE 24

QUESTIONS:

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

To ensure ACPS students graduate prepared to be successful in life. Whether they started with ACPS in preschool or arrived in high school, plan to pursue continued education or begin working after high school, are receiving free or reduced school lunch, are English language learners, or have special needs, all students need to believe they can be successful in order to succeed. If students aren't properly prepared and supported, they may not graduate in the first place

SEE CAMPBELL, PAGE 27

Daria Dillard

Town of residence: Alexandria (West End)

Age: 32

Family: Daughter, Sydney Dillard (9 yrs old)

Education:

- ❖ BA in Philosophy; University of Michigan
- ❖ MAT in Secondary Education and Mathematics; American University
- ❖ JD; American University

Offices held, dates: No previous elected office

Occupation and relevant experience: Alexandria City Public Schools (PS) Math Teacher, current; Fairfax County PS Math Teacher and Department Chair; Prince George's County PS Math Teacher; DC Public Schools Math Teacher

Community involvement:

- ❖ Alexandria Recreational U8 & U10 Girls Basketball Coach of the Rockstars!
- ❖ Alexandria City Public Schools Stakeholder Committee member 2014-15
- ❖ SCAN, Toast to Hope 2014 Volunteer Coordinator
- ❖ Samuel Tucker Elementary School PTA President, 2013-2015
- ❖ Samuel Tucker Elementary School PTA Vice-President, 2012-2013

Website: www.dariadillard.com

Email address: dillard4schoolboard@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @dillard4ACPS

Name three favorite endorsements:



QUESTIONS:

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

One issue that defines my call to serve is serving the needs of each and every child. As a teacher I understand what it means to meet each student where they are and provide them with the best education possible. Our children are our future. No amount of money is ever too much if we are investing in our children and doing what needs to be done to make sure they are all receiving a high quality education. With that, we also need to make sure our teachers are receiving the training and support they need because they are the ones in the classroom with our children every school day.

SEE DILLARD, PAGE 27

ELECTION '15

Candidates for School Board District C

Ramee Gentry

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 41

Family: Married to Mike, mother to Nicholas and Nora, both in 8th grade

Education: BA in History, MA in Museum Studies

Offices held, dates:

PTA President, Samuel Tucker Elementary 2011-13

PTA Vice President, Francis C. Hammond Middle School 2013-14

Chair, School Board's Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee 2013-2015

Co Chair, Superintendent's Honors Review Committee 2014

Occupation and relevant experience: Exhibitions Coordinator, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Community involvement: Decade volunteering for young adults with intellectual disabilities, volunteer at local Food Pantry for low-income families

Website: rameegentry.com

Email address: rameegentry4schoolboard@gmail.com

Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements:

Teachers! [Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education]; also community leaders including Gwendolyn Lewis, Dak Hardwick



Patricia Hennig

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: Not relevant

Family: Christopher John Hennig TC Williams graduate, his wife and 3 granddaughters

Education:

Offices held, dates: Member, first Alexandria City elected School Board 1992–1995

Occupation and relevant experience: Corporate controller and accounting professional

Community involvement: Over 34 years of community involvement as a parent, PTA officer at three (3) schools, member of four (4) School Board Advisory committees including: 7 years on the Special Education Advisory Committee; 10 years' service on the Substance Abuse Education Advisory Committee, including 8 years as Chair of this Committee, 4 years (1990–1992 and 2010–2012) as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee and PTA liaison from PTA Council in the 1980s

Member, Health Advisory Committee (previously Substance Abuse Advisory Committee)

Founding Board Member, Alexandria Police Youth Camp Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) entity. Served as Board Member and Treasurer.

Worked with the Alexandria Police Department on other citizen assistance projects like the Car Safety Seat Education and Installation program.

Leader, Cub Scouts, William Ramsay Elementary School and adult advisor to the Alexandria City Police Department Law Enforcement Explorers Post for 9 years.

William Ramsay Elementary PTA, Past President and Treasurer; Jefferson Houston Elementary PTA, Past Treasurer; Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Past President (two terms) and Vice President

In my second term as a member of the Virginia School Boards Association Federal Affairs Committee, representing the 8th Congressional District

Website: www.pathennig.com

Email address: pathennigforschoolboard@gmail.com or

patriciahennig2819@comcast.net

Twitter handle: N/A

Name three favorite endorsements: Education Association of Alexandria – I think that teacher approval is most important



Christopher J. Lewis

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 36

Family: Single

Education: Bachelors Degree, Harvard University

Offices held, dates:

Alexandria City School Board - District C, January 2013 - Present

Vice Chair, Alexandria City School Board, January 2014 - Present

Occupation and relevant experience:

Vice President for Government Affairs at public interest nonprofit, Public Knowledge

Community involvement:

Board Member, ACT for Alexandria

Member, Alexandria Commission on Information Technology

Veteran Community & Political Organizer

Former Board Member, George Mason University Center for Social Entrepreneurship

Former Virginia State Director, Generation Engage, a youth civic engagement initiative

Website: www.Lewis4ACPS.org

Email address: chris@lewis4acps.org

Twitter handle: @Lewis4ACPS

Name three favorite endorsements:

APACE, Political arm of the Education Association of Alexandria

Congressman Don Beyer

State Senator Adam Ebbin



QUESTIONS:

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

Communication. I am frustrated by communication breakdowns among school staff, families, and the community. Parents don't know who to contact with questions or concerns, or worse are rebuffed after an initial query and disengage. Teachers that create effective classroom strategies don't have the opportunity to share their ideas with colleagues. Alignment of expectations and curriculum from elementary to middle to high school is compromised. Fortunately, I've also been able through my work in schools to help bridge communication divides and see positive outcomes as a result. I have a passion for this kind of work and will strive to bring all of us together. We all want the same thing — excellent schools for our city.

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

Leading division-wide committees and PTAs has taught me how to reach out to the wider community and build consensus. My volunteer work has given me knowledge of the unique needs of students with disabilities, ELL students, low-income families, and students identified for gifted/talented services. ACPS staff and families consistently name our schools' incredible diversity as our greatest strength and I concur. However, with this diversity comes the challenge of meeting the needs of many different students, and that includes the so-called "average" student. My dedication to all these different types of learners will guide my decision-making. I want every student to succeed and I want no family to feel neglected.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

We must complete redistricting by the start of the next school year. Redistricting will not resolve our overcrowding issues, but it is a crucial step in identifying where the most urgent capacity issues will be. School Board and City Council must have more frequent and earlier discussions regarding budgets. Education funding makes up the bulk of any city's budget, so we must have consensus about our needs. It will require a combination of creative short term (renting vacant office space, installing temporary classrooms) and thoughtful long range construction planning. In my professional life, I am responsible for all projects in an exhibition space that sees over a million visitors a year. All work must be phased, due to budget constraints and the requirement to remain open to the public while work continues. Identifying needs, establishing priorities, tracking progress, and evaluating programs are the kinds of skills I can bring from my job to the board.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Jefferson-Houston was hobbled by a building with outdated features that hampered learning. It also suffered from a lack of urgency when scores initially began to drop. Once we reached "crisis" mode, the school experienced so many new programs and administrators it was impossible to identify which systems were working and which needed to be removed. In addition, some programs were allowed to continue despite less-than-favorable results, and/or evaluations were timed too late in the school year to implement course correction. With the significant gains we've seen in the last year, the best course forward for Jefferson-Houston is to hone in on the programs, personnel, and policies that can be tied to this success and ensure that sufficient supports are in place to maintain and expand these accomplishments.

QUESTIONS:

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

The main issue is that we continue to improve and enhance the academic achievements of our schools by assuring all programs are those that support and develop exemplary schools; having each school fully –staffed with the necessary number of teachers, paraprofessionals, psychologists, social workers and other support staff; ensure that each school is a first–rate educational environment.

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

My service in the schools and the City has always been focused on education and improvement of the lives of our children and their families. I am the only currently serving member of the Board who knows the history of the system, past programs, successes and failures. And if we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Redistricting of the system is the first step to address overcrowding, but it is not the complete answer. The Board needs to work with City Council to create and implement a long–term plan for creative use of available buildings and space. This will require open and clear dialogue with the community fully involved.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson –Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Jefferson –Houston was accredited prior to the previous school administration. That can be confirmed on the Dept. of Education website. "New ideas" and "new education" made the school an experiment not a place of learning. Dr. Crawley has placed an excellent principal in that building, and while accreditation was not achieved in the first year, I believe that solid policy and practice will lead to that.

QUESTIONS:

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

Our top issue is academic achievement for all students. Serving all students is the charge of a public school division. This begins with closing gaps for our priority gap groups: students in poverty, students with disabilities, minority students, and English language learners. However, to support achievement for all students we must provide a broad and rigorous curriculum with targeted supports to the individual needs of all students. While ACPS is committed to this in theory and policy, the Board must continue holding administrators accountable to this task while giving teachers the support to meet these goals, including addressing overcrowding to keep class sizes small.

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

My voice as an independent advocate. As the only childless board member or candidate, I represent the majority of Alexandrians who don't have kids in the system but still demand a high quality school system. In 2012, I stepped up to run when we needed new leadership and few were willing. I have developed a reputation for open dialogue, accountability, and consensus building resulting in my colleagues electing me Vice Chair. I believe that to become a great school division, we must continue to rally support of the greater community which I represent.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

To address overcrowding in the short and long term we must both redistrict to rebalance attendance zones across the city, and build new space to meet the agreed projections for enrollment by the city and school staff. Since my first month on the Board I led fights to preserve capacity building projects targeted in budget cuts. I've led the push to begin the difficult process of redistricting as soon as possible and to meet the capacity needs accurately projected in our CIP budget. Council must either work with the School Board to find new dedicated funds to pay for these needs, or agree to fall short of housing our students properly. All citizens, with or without children, must rally behind this goal and I will continue to work with City Council to build community support to meet these needs, with all funding options on the table. Our ability to meet this challenge will impact the City's reputation for years to come.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

I'm proud our Board defended the rights of localities to control its own tax dollars in preventing the takeover of Jefferson Houston. Alexandrians must fix it, with support from the State Board of Education, and for 18 months this has been a model for success. As we learned in the successes at Patrick Henry and TC Williams, turnaround begins with leadership from the principal and a unified vision with staff and community over multiple years. Jefferson Houston has already begun these steps, hitting the two year benchmarks of a three year state-approved plan in one year. The school is on a path to full accreditation in the third year of the plan just as Patrick Henry did. We must see this turnaround to the end with full budgetary and community support.

ELECTION '15

State Senate District 30

Adam P. Ebbin (D)

Incumbent

Town of Residence: Alexandria

Age: 51

Education: American University, BA, 1981; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, 2001 (University of Virginia); Senior Executives in State and Local Government, 2012, Harvard University Kennedy School

Occupation, experience: Consultant, former Virginia Chief Deputy Commissioner of Labor and Industry Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals, former member;

Virginia State Central Democratic Committee, former member; Parent Teacher Leadership Institute of Alexandria, Advisory Board Member

Website: www.AdamEbbin.com

Twitter handle: @AdamEbbin

Name three endorsements: Northern Virginia Technology Council, Virginia Education Association, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Humane Dominion, AFL-CIO



QUESTIONS:

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

Standing up for the little guy is the principle that guides my work as a public official. Most people with pressing needs don't have powerful lobbyists, including children in poverty, immigrants, LGBT people, seniors and the disabled, and lots of working people just trying to get by.

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

I have been an outspoken and effective advocate for more than a decade and brought together leaders from both parties to deliver results.

3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggest you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

I have passed legislation to expand Medicaid to cover prenatal care for immigrant mothers, eliminate the punitive tax penalty on hybrid car owners, make it easier to vote absentee and see that more of those votes are fairly counted, and boost workforce development. Relationships I have built with colleagues from both parties have made these successes possible.

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

Use the Federal funds already available to offer health coverage to 400,000 poor Virginians; fight the tide of gun violence that is claiming the life of a Virginian every 10 hours; increase per pupil state education funding that has suffered since 2008; continue to diversify and strengthen Northern Virginia's economy; and enact provisions to protect government and private sector workers from discrimination.

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

Since 2005, the 30th Senate District has seen significant population growth. Housing costs have dramatically outpaced incomes. Student enrollment has skyrocketed while state education per student spending has fallen, increasing budget pressures on our localities. New housing and employment patterns have added stress to our transportation systems, particularly on Route 1 in Fairfax. Our air quality has improved with the closure of the dirty GenON/Mirant coal plant in Old Town.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Yes, I will continue to oppose these predators who gouge lower-income residents with exorbitant interest rates.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Yes, I will continue to support the funding needed to successfully transition foster children into adulthood.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

I have voted in favor of a bipartisan effort to accept federal health care funds for 400,000 low-income Virginians, most of whom are in working families, including 21,000 veterans. I will continue to work with members of both parties to find common ground. It's important for voters to know that the Medicaid expansion offered under the Affordable Care Act is already being paid for with their payroll taxes and Virginia is turning away \$1.5 billion annually by not accepting these critical funds. Those who would be covered use the emergency room as their primary care center, causing health insurance premiums to rise for everyone else.

Candidates for State Senate in District 35

Terrence Modglin (D)

Independent Green for Senate 35

Town of residence: Falls Church (Fairfax County not City)

Age: 69

Family: Son Matthew and daughter Rachel, and five grandchildren

Education: Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Masters of Public Administration, American University

Occupation and relevant experience:

Consultant; legislative experience - eight years U.S. House of Representatives Committee staff, involved in high-profile Panama Canal issue; public safety, health, and community involvement experience - 25 years working with youth, schools, and communities for crime-free and drug-free lives; level of responsibility - four years U.S. Army officer, including 20 months in the Republic of Vietnam.

Community involvement: Vice-President, Woodlake Towers Condominium Association, Seven Corners; former Past President, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, 173d Airborne Brigade Association; Member, several Board of Directors; Knights of Columbus charity work; 28 consecutive years youth basketball volunteer coach, Falls Church Parks and Recreation Program.

Website: www.terrymodglinforvasenate.com

Email address: modglinforvasenate@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @TerryModglin



QUESTIONS:

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

It is difficult not to state that the unborn child's right to life is at the apex of issues, because it sets the parameters for whether a life can literally be taken, but it is also commands our attention that through policies we decide for our environment, we are setting the conditions today for the quality of life today and tomorrow — in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat. If we do not change the direction of today's world, future generations will face catastrophic conditions. We will be most successful by using clean "green" technology for the goods and services we produce. More trains mean less traffic and fewer headaches. We should restrict fracking and be very careful about offshore drilling.

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

If there is one distinction between me and my opponents, it is the reference point from which we come. I am unconnected to lobbyists and Political Action Committees, and I am from and of the community, and therefore the decisions I make are more likely to build a better future than is suggested by the inertia of the present power relationships in Richmond that characterize my opponent's incumbency.

3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

First and foremost, the nature of an Independent Green candidacy is that we place people over party and we invite the exchange of ideas that lead to new policies rather than continually beating the party drum to stir up the base for more campaign contributions. I have been a bridge builder through my adult life. In college campus student politics, in a committee staff position on Capitol Hill on a high profile political issue, in my 25 years of work to build safe and drug-free communities, I was able to communicate with the most diverse of elements to find solutions. I take pride to say that I have seen the streets and the suites, and am able to understand diverse perspectives.

4. In order, list your top 5 legislative priorities.

My legislative priorities are to help create a clean environment, to protect the lives of the unborn, to promote safer and stronger communities, to innovate in education and employment matters, and to maintain a reasonable state tax and state budget environment.

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

The 35th Senate District has become a much more diverse place in the last ten years. It is an example of how the USA has developed and it provides us an opportunity right here in Northern Virginia to be leaders in a global age.

Consumer protection is very important to me. My relatively humble origins have shown me how adverse financial situations can be exploited by financial institutions.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Fostering Connections has been one of the most important and successful of programs for young people that have had a more difficult life. We should find the funds to support it.

8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

I support the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, but only under the condition that it can be financially accommodated without future tax increases. Healthy people are more productive people but state overspending can produce disastrous results for everyone.

Richard “Dick” Saslaw (D)

Incumbent

Town of residence: Springfield

Age: 75

Family: Eleanor (wife)

Education: B S Economics

Offices held, dates: HOD

1976-80 Senate of VA 1980 -present

Occupation and relevant experience: Semi retired; small business owner

Website: www.dicksaslaw.com

Email address: vasename35@aol.com

Name favorite endorsements: VA Education Association; NVTC; Benevolent Police



Statement from Senator Dick Saslaw

Thank you for this thoughtful community service when developing a voter's guide. As a long serving elected official, Senator Saslaw has a very extensive voting record on key issues. Serving as the Democratic Leader in the Senate (both as majority and minority leader as well), he has demonstrated a unique ability to work with both sides of the aisle as well as both elected bodies in the best interests of Virginians across the Commonwealth. Senator Saslaw is a pro-business, pro-education and pro-choice candidate with key endorsements from many sectors.

This November all 140 seats of the legislature will be elected to new terms. Once the members are sworn in and bills introduced, the Senator will access the best strategies for developing good public policy as well as thoughtful fiscal responsibility. You may find his voting record on line at www.lis.virginia.gov.

Veronica Nolan

FROM PAGE 22

most recently was displayed by the increase in test scores. The staff and principal should be applauded for their work.

It's imperative that every school is assessed for both strengths and challenges and that the weaknesses are met with specific goals that address the concerns. With regards to Jefferson Houston, we need to provide classroom teachers the time to scrupulously review their students' academic gains and receive coaching from experts on how to reach struggling students. We also need to provide real differentiated learning so that students who are not struggling are being academically challenged. Moreover we need to support and retain top quality staff as well as provide them with tailored professional development training and coaching that meets the school's unique needs. If students are identified with struggles outside of the classroom that's preventing their learning, then we need to provide intervention services to ensure all children have access to Alexandria social support services they need in order to be successful inside the school.

As a non-incumbent what I wish had been done differently is that much earlier, an infrastructure was established where a robust data analysis was routinely set in place so that struggling students could receive tailored intervention services as quickly as possible.

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ELECTION '15

Candidates for State Delegate in District 46

Charniele L. Herring (D-46)

Incumbent

Town of residence: Alexandria, VA

Age: 46

Family: Carolyn Herring, Mother

Education: BS in Economics from George Mason

University; JD from Catholic University of America

Offices held, dates: Virginia House of Delegates, 46th District 2009-present

Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney

Community involvement: Trustee, Hopkins House;

Former Board Member, Parent Leadership Training

Institute of Alexandria; Former Chair/Member,

Alexandria Commission for Women; Former President

West End Business Association.

Website: www.charnieleherring.com

Email address: info@charnieleherring.com

Twitter handle: @C_Herring

Name three favorite endorsements: Virginia

Education Association, Virginia Sierra Club PAC,

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?

Making the Commonwealth a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We deserve to live in a place that has opportunity — opportunity for everyone to succeed. If you work hard and play by the rules, you should be able to share in the American Dream. To me that means making sure that we are attracting good, well-paying jobs to Virginia. It means that we should not discriminate based on race or sex or sexual orientation. It means that we fully fund our public schools and make sure college and job training are accessible to everyone. It means that we ensure the safety of our community and put programs in place that will deal with the root of problems — like mental illness and addiction, not focus solely on incarceration. Creating an environment where people have the opportunity to succeed, that is my call to serve. I went from homelessness to being a college graduate. If it weren't for a helping hand, I may not have had that opportunity, and if our region were not thriving I would not have had the chance to open my own small business.

I plan to keep working toward this goal. This means working across the aisle and standing up against policies that would take us backward. It means supporting Governor McAuliffe's call for a 21st Century Economy, not standing in the way. I plan to keep my voting record reflecting this goal, and will continue the work that I have already started as a member of the Virginia State Crime Commission and the Governor's Taskforce on Heroin and Prescription Drugs to make the Commonwealth a safer place.

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

I have been honored to serve as your representative from the 46th District since 2009 when I won a special election to fill a vacant seat. Even before my election, I was heavily involved in our community through the West End Business Association, the Commission for Women, Rotary, and the Youth Policy Commission. Since my election I have been very successful in a very difficult legislature. With a long history of civic involvement, an understanding of the realities of the policy process, and a track record of successfully passing legislation, I believe I am the best candidate in this race to represent you in Richmond.

3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

Since taking office in 2009, I have passed numerous pieces of legislation. This has only been possible by working across the aisle. From restoring money to homelessness prevention programs in the state budget, bringing transportation dollars to the district, and advocating for women's healthcare, I have helped enact important legislation for the Commonwealth. Examples include making state contracting more accessible and competitive for women and minority owned small businesses, increasing the effectiveness of emergency protective orders, and updating missing persons search and rescue procedures to make them more effective. I also serve on the bi-partisan State Crime Commission, where I was appointed by the Republican Speaker of the House. I will never hesitate to stand up for our district



and our values, but that does not mean I cannot continue to work across the aisle to do good work for Virginia.

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

My main legislative priority is to help make Virginia a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. To me that means

making sure that educational opportunities needed to succeed in the 21st Century are available to everyone in the Commonwealth — adequately funding our public schools and ensuring access to higher education and career training. It also means making sure that we live in a safe place: combating the disturbing rise in deaths caused by opioids and ending the cigarette trafficking that is helping to fund organized crime and terrorism. It is also imperative that we preserve the integrity of the civic process to make sure voting is accessible to Virginians — that means enabling no excuse absentee voting and making sure that people's rights are restored when they have served their time and made reparations.

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

Over the last 10 years we have seen any number of changes from development to demographic shifts. One of the most shocking and difficult was the addition of the BRAC-133 building at Mark Center in the middle of the district. While the decision to build it in its current location was before my time as an elected official, I am proud of the work we did as a community to ensure it did not negatively impact the Winkler Botanical Preserve. The impact this installation has on the district has required working with federal and local officials, while also bringing in additional money for transportation from the state. I will continue to work to alleviate the impact this building has brought to our home.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

Yes. Predatory lending is bad for families and bad for our economy. That is why it is a practice that I worked across the aisle to end in the bail bond industry in Virginia. There are places in Northern Virginia that are hotbeds of this kind of lending, and it is unacceptable. I support legislation that requires fair and honest lending practices in Virginia.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Creating a Virginia that gives everyone the opportunity to succeed is my top priority. That includes making sure that young people have the chance at becoming their best selves. This funding will allow a program to be put in place to help young people make the transition from the foster care system and receive the support they need to get education and training in order to become productive members of our society. Sometimes, all it takes is one program to make the difference in a person's life. I know from personal experience that without the STEP program at George Mason University, coming from being homeless, I may not have been able to attend college. STEP allowed me the opportunity to prove I could do the work. I was able to earn a degree in economics and then go on to get my law degree.

8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

I support expanding Medicaid. As we watch millions of Virginia's tax dollars go to other states while nearly 400,000 people here at home are without insurance, I am astounded that there are those who are fighting against this measure. Expanding Medicaid is also necessary to shore up our medical infrastructure and lower costs for our hospitals. A healthier Virginia means a better workforce and a more stable medical infrastructure for all of us. I will continue to work with the Governor on his plans to make sure Virginians have the best possible access to medical coverage and vote for the measure whenever it comes to the House of Delegates.

Sean Lenehan (R)

Republican
Challenger
for
Delegate
District 46

Town of residence:
Alexandria

Age: 45

Education:
Bishop
Iretton HS
(Alexandria);
BA

Economics
from Hampden-Sydney College (Virginia)
and MBA through University of Maryland

Occupation and relevant experience:
Brand Manager

Community involvement: Years of active
leadership on boards and commissions
throughout the city: literacy, youth
sports, food bank, parks, Boy Scouts, my
HOA.

Website: www.SeanForDelegate.com

Email address:

Sean@SeanForDelegate.com

Twitter handle: SeanLenehan

Name three favorite endorsements:

Friends of Four Mile Run, Alexandrians
for Sensible Growth and Watergate
Working Group on Education



my strong business, personal and political ties throughout the Commonwealth from Tidewater to the Roanoke Valley from Southside to Northern Virginia.

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

(1) Economy: Enable a vibrant business environment.

(2) Education: Develop blue ribbon schools, including school choice for students in failing schools.

(3) Environment: Forward thinking environmental stewardship

(4) Health: Accessible mental health resources

(5) Infrastructure: Develop safe, modern infrastructure. Regional approach to traffic-defund the outrageous and foolish proposal from the Governor to tax I-66, strangle small businesses, tax working families and clog Alexandria streets with overflow and diversion traffic.

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

We can do much better. Our schools have fared poorly compared to neighboring districts. We have lost local retail options such as Best Buy, Staples and several grocery chains. We have vacant building shells such as Landmark shopping center that undermine our tax base and depress residential real estate demand. In addition, traffic and congestion have reached staggering levels. Over the past ten years, residents of Alexandria have experienced a decline in the quality of life and services that they deserve in terms of the most meaningful metrics- schools, economy and traffic.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

I support individual, fiscal responsibility. The federal government currently caps interest rates on loans to members of the military. In addition, Virginia has consumer safeguards in place today on these types of loans.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

Yes. President Bush signed this bill into law in 2008. I proudly stand with those that enable foster families to provide care to our most vulnerable citizens.

8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

Medicaid expansion is one of the fastest growing items on our state budget, about 8% a year and consuming more than 20% of the budget and is simply not sustainable. Medicaid expansion is a deceptively inefficient approach as most of the additional funding will go to larger, profitable hospitals that can readily afford to provide charity care. I would propose that Medicaid be turned into a federal block grant with wide latitude for governors and state legislatures. This managed care approach must include competition, personal responsibility for costs, care coordination, and incentives payments based on outcomes.

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ELECTION '15

Candidates for State Senate in 39th District

George Lincoln Barker (D)

Incumbent Senate District 39
Town of residence: Clifton
Age: 64

Family: wife Jane; son Erik and his wife Mahjooba and two grandchildren; daughter Emily and her husband Jeff

Education: Harvard College, A.B., Economics and Public Health; Harvard School of Public Health, M.S., Health Policy and Management

Offices held, dates: Senator, 2008-present

Occupation and relevant experience: Executive Director, Greater Prince William Community Health Center, 2015; Consultant, 2000-2015; Associate Director, Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia, 1975-2009

Community involvement: Member, Education and Health Committee, General Laws and Technology Committee, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, Small Business Commission, Housing Commission, Joint Commission on Health Care, Substance Abuse Services Council, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board, Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

Website: senatorbarker.com

Email address: senatorbarker@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: Fairfax Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Education Association; Virginia Police Benevolent Association

QUESTIONS:

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

Mental health care. It matters because many Virginians with mental health problems suffer needlessly and sometimes die because we are not doing enough to help them. I worked on the issue before I was elected and have helped improve our system since I took office, but much more needs to be done. After similar bills had been repeatedly killed, this year I got a bill passed to help get immediate support to college students contemplating suicide. I serve on a legislative study committee taking four years to propose a revamped and adequately funded system that will meet the needs of people with mental health problems rather than putting them on a waiting list.

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

I differ from my opponent in the following ways:

I have a detailed knowledge of most issues addressed in the General Assembly;

I understand the different issues of people in different parts of the district;

I have a record of getting results, getting more bills passed than almost any other Senator;

I consistently work with Republicans to find common ground and compromise to get things done rather than simply spouting partisan platitudes;

I still run from house to house



throughout the district and ask voters what are their priorities and what do they want me to do; and

I show up, such as at a recent debate before Hayfield seniors, where I

answered their questions alone for an hour because my opponent reneged on his commitment to participate.

3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

My record shows that I frequently work closely with Republicans, often jointly sponsoring bills, and bridge any partisan divide to get things done. Allowing Virginians to keep their health insurance, prohibiting censorship of sermons of chaplains, texting while driving, giving Virginians a tax refund check rather than a debit card, giving protective orders to those threatened by former intimate partners, and putting more money in the Rainy Day fund, and shared work programs are examples.

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

Transportation, Education, Economy/ Jobs, Military and Veterans, Those Who Need Help

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

There is greater racial and ethnic diversity, with housing integration rather than segregation throughout the district. This has happened because we have opportunities here, people want to live here, and we appreciate both differences and our common humanity.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

I will support legislation that restricts unfair lending practices and that provides people with limited options the ability to get loans, as we did with payday lending a few years ago.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

My wife and I were foster parents to 13 children over many years. I have already supported this legislation.

8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

I will support any reasonable proposal to get insurance for those eligible under the ACA, whether its expansion of our highly regarded Medicaid program or an alternative, such as a private insurance plan that we passed in the Senate. I am happy to help negotiate a deal that addresses concerns of some while getting coverage for those who are eligible.

Joe Murray (R)

Challenger, Senate District 39

Town of residence: Alexandria

Age: 40

Family: Katie (wife), Ella (Daughter, 8 years old), AJ (Son, 22 months old)

Education:

J.D., Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Minor: Economics), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience:

Current: Director of Government and Legal Affairs for a national rare disease non-profit called debra, the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association, a disease that afflicts my daughter Ella.

Previous: 10+ years experience on Capitol Hill, including a wide array of legislative policy and leadership roles in both the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate with an emphasis in health care, entitlement, and educational areas.

Community involvement:

♦ Active member and former senior officer of our home civic association.

♦ Proud participant of my daughter's public school Parent Teacher Association.

♦ Deacon and Sunday school teacher at our church

♦ Co-Chair of our neighborhood's snow and debris removal association.

Website: www.murrayforvirginia.com

Email address: info@murrayforvirginia.com

Twitter handle: @MurrayforVA

Name three favorite endorsements:

♦ Congressman Tom Davis

♦ Delegate Tim Hugo

♦ Fairfax Co. Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity

QUESTIONS:

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

Serving in the Virginia General Assembly would be the highest honor. It is the oldest, continuous law-making body in the free world, and I would never take for granted being a part of this body for the benefit of Northern Virginians. As a father of two young children coming up through the public school system, improving our school system is a top priority for me. There are a couple of improvements we can immediately enact. First, I think the local school board, not Richmond, should determine when the school year starts for testing preparation of our students; that's why I would repeal the "King's Dominion" law. I would also work to get more education funding directly into the classroom and give teachers the resources and tools they need to help our kids succeed. Furthermore, reducing red tape and streamlining the tax code, along with working to get our fair share of transportation funding would be high up on my to-do list given that 1/3 of the Commonwealth's population lives in Northern Virginia.

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

My family faces a lot of the same challenges as families throughout the district. I've felt the economic crunch from the high cost of living and a sluggish economy. I have spent too much time commuting to work on public transportation for years in gridlock, and I worry about the education my kids and all of those in Northern Virginia are receiving. Unlike my opponent, these problems directly impact my young family everyday, and I have the strong incentive to address and fix them and not just talk about these problems. There are real solutions to improve our communities but it's going to take the political will and bi-partisan leadership to make them happen. I'm ready to get to Richmond on behalf of all Northern Virginia families and get to work on their behalf.

3. Given the political makeup of the state legislature, what examples from your own experience suggests you can successfully bridge the intense partisan differences there?

I spent nearly a decade on Capitol Hill working with elected officials and staffers from many different and competing



political philosophies. My ability to forge agreements through compromise comes from growing up in a large family of seven siblings. I learned through experience that you can disagree with someone, and still respect their opinion. I know that's an uncommon practice in both Washington DC and Richmond politics, but it's true. Too often respect and common decency are lost as people fight to make a political point. I have a much different

personality. Through my work experience, legal education training, service to my community, and being a father to a special needs disabled daughter, I have demonstrated the willingness to listen to other people and respect their opinion while solving vexing problems that impact our lives.

4. In order, list your top 5 specific legislative priorities.

♦ Reduce government red tape to create more high paying jobs

♦ Repeal the "King's Dominion" law and give local school boards more control

♦ Encourage Public-Private Partnerships to expand the transportation grid and ease congestion

♦ Increase the number of charter school to improve education through competition

♦ Simplify and streamline our tax code

5. How has your district changed in the last 10 years? What caused those changes?

The district has seen an incredible amount of growth in the past 10 years, from the West End of Alexandria all the way down to Prince William County. People were drawn to the area for the same reason my wife Katie and I were, because it's a great place to raise a family. Unfortunately, that growth has side effects from congested roads to overcrowded schools. We need to deal with those side effects now to keep before they impact our quality of life any more.

6. Will you support legislation restricting high interest lending including car title loans?

On a bi-partisan basis, the Virginia General Assembly acted to reform the industry practices. If more work needs to be done to ensure the law is followed where consumers are protected from unlawful or immoral business practices, I will sincerely work with my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle to ensure protections are put in place.

7. Will you support funding for Fostering Connections which would result in an influx of federal funding for foster children aging out of foster care?

I am open to federal support for Fostering Connections. Providing a social safety net for those in need is an important role of government, and our foster care system is critical to the future development of our children's and community's well-being.

8. Do you support expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and if so, what would you do to make that happen?

As currently proposed under the ACA, I do not support expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults. There are better ways to reform our health care system to help increase health insurance access and affordability for able-bodied adults without implementing a polarizing and flawed federal law that one party in the United States Congress forced into law. One of my main priorities as a State Senator for Northern Virginia will be to craft a bi-partisan solution to this complicated public policy problem. As a health care public policy professional for a rare-disease non-profit organization and a father of a special needs daughter, I bring a unique perspective and background to the Virginia General Assembly on this important topic. From a funding perspective, studies show that expanding Medicaid under the ACA will require deep spending cuts to other critical General Assembly priorities such as our education programs, to pay for the expansion. I am not supportive of spending cuts to educational programs for our K-12 or Community College students as a trade off to expanding Medicaid.

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ELECTION '15

School Board District C

Campbell

FROM PAGE 22

or, if they graduate unprepared, they may not have the tools needed to be successful moving forward.

I will continue to push for support for the whole child. Mental health is an area that needs our continued support — it isn't just about academics or test scores. Without proper support, the pressure to succeed can be too much.

The Youth Risk Behavior survey (a voluntary survey taken approx. every two years) results came out recently. From 2011 to the most recent (2013/14), results show three risk categories that have gone down- substance abuse, aggressive and violent behavior, & sexual behavior (ACPS is below national average). However, the percentage of grades 10 & 11 students who feel sad or hopeless went from 23% to 30%.

I advocate keeping classroom sizes down, the student to counselor ratio low, and for professional development for teachers and staff to understand & work with students with mental health issues.

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

As a single parent of three Hispanic children (one of whom received special education services and one of whom was in TAG), I represent a diverse population that may otherwise not be represented well. I understand what's needed and will listen & act on parent concerns, as I've experienced many of the same issues. Since I have been an ACPS parent from 1995- 2014, I know past and current issues. Additionally, I have more school board professional development than any other candidate and have received awards for my work on the board from the state.

3. How can Alexandria address over-

Dillard

FROM PAGE 22

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

I am a teacher and a parent. I have been in the classroom with our Alexandria City students as well as in our neighboring school systems. I have worked with and/or taught all levels from K-12th grade. None of my opponents have been in a classroom so they have no idea how school board policies truly impact teachers and students in the classroom. With this experience, I am very familiar with the impact of school board policies on the students we are trying to educate and the teachers who are doing the hard work during the school day.

3. How can Alexandria address overcrowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

Alexandria is standing at a crossroads where the future of our schools depends more than ever on making smart decisions. At one direction is the rapid growth of our community and at the other is heavier than ever limitations on school funding. That said, we are on the right path.

Although, the current School Board has begun the process of redistricting, this has no impact on TC Williams High School as there is only one high school in Alexandria City.

Reducing overcrowding is a multi step process. A reduction in class size will have little effect without

crowding within the current budgetary confines? What ideas and skills do you bring to solving this?

We have to think creatively and outside the box. Two schools began the school year with additional classrooms and more are planned. We're currently looking at buildings that can be convertible to classroom space and I have spoken with City Council members about converting city buildings and private vacant buildings to address capacity concerns.

This, with current redistricting efforts, would free up classroom space across our district. I have experience as a board member on this issue and with maintaining communication with Council members, also as an advocate for students prior to my service on the board.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

Starting with what has been learned: There were far too many programs, and issues with implementation and alignment. We needed fewer programs and a better system for monitoring programs.

I'd like to change the negative discussion of continuing problems to continuing progress at Jefferson-Houston. With Superintendent Crawley, we have put into place necessary leadership to advance student achievement and the school has aligned itself with rigor to boost academic achievement. The instructional programs are now aligned with state standards. We are focused and this is evident by recent standard achievement results which show two years of progress in one year. Jefferson-Houston is on course to being fully accredited and enrollment has increased significantly.

well-qualified teachers and instructional supports. If we are to keep our outstanding teachers then we need to give them every tool necessary to facilitate optimal classroom learning environments.

We also need to have enough classrooms and teachers to teach in the newly created classrooms in order to reduce class size. This is where a change in perspective is needed. We need to think outside of the box to address facility needs today not just 20 years from now. Budget requests should support swing spaces during renovation, team teaching, utilization of unused commercial space and other creative approaches to address the increasing enrollment numbers.

4. While the majority of Alexandria schools remain accredited, what can be done about continuing problems facing Jefferson-Houston? For incumbents, what lessons have been learned from the problem? For non-incumbent candidates, what would you have done differently?

I am a math teacher and a parent. The current School Board has only two members with education experience and only one of the two is seeking reelection. This education perspective provides a unique lens in which to view the needs, accessibility and inclusionary practices of diverse populations and how to better weave those into sustainable educational goals and policy that makes our community and future workforce strong, capable and innovative.

News



PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Historical Marker Dedication

The Parker-Gray High School 50th Year Reunion Committee, from left, are, first row, Lucky Elliott, Brenda LeVere Elliott, chair, Lawrence Carter, Keith Seay, Charles Sias, and second row, Sharon Jones Frazier, Sandra Bond Scott, and Nolan Dawkins. Missing is Gola Studevent Austin.

Marking Site of Parker-Gray High School

The Parker-Gray High School 50 Year Reunion Committee and co-sponsor the Office of Historic Alexandria hosted the dedication of the historical street marker for Parker-Gray High School Saturday, Oct. 17. Approximately 120 former students and faculty attended.

Parker-Gray High School was the only high school for Black students in the city until desegregation began in 1963.

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

On June 11, 1965 the last class graduated from Parker-Gray High School. The school became a middle school and was subsequently closed and torn down in 1984 to make way for new housing.

The marker is located in the 1200 block of Madison Street at the site of the old school building.

Legion Seeks Oratorical Contestants

Deadline is Nov. 8.

Alexandria's Post 24 of the American Legion is seeking applications for the National High School Oratorical contest. Deadline for submissions is Nov. 8 with the local contest tentatively scheduled for Dec. 6.

The National High School Oratorical Contest is open to junior high and high school students who are under the age of 20 and citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States. Applicants must prepare an oration on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the du-

ties and obligations of citizens to our government. Each individual state winner certified into and participating in the first round of the national contest receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Additional scholarships of \$100-\$250 will be awarded to the local winners.

Early registration is encouraged and the oratorical committee will only accept 10 valid applications.

For more information on the application process, contact Patrick Hawley, Post 24 Oratorical Chairman at Post24Oratorical@gmail.com or visit www.valegionpost24.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnews.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. 29

Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Conference Room #1101, 301 King St. In June 2015, under the Fiscal Year 2016 Interdepartmental Long Range Work Program, the City Council approved a planning effort to Update the 1992 OTN SAP. This upcoming planning process is anticipated to extend 16 months from October 2015 through expected adoption in January 2017. The planning process will be a collaborative effort between the City, a citizens Advisory Group, and the community. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/planning.

THROUGH NOV. 10

SolarizeAlexandria is a program to make it easier and more affordable for residents to install solar power systems. The program provides a home energy efficiency check-up and solar site assessment; discount pricing through bulk purchasing; project facilitation and qualified installation; financing and federal tax incentive options; and qualification for the City's Solar Energy Equipment Tax Exemption. Free. Visit www.solarizealexandria.org for more.

THROUGH NOV. 20

Fall Coat Drive. The Fund for Alexandria's Child invites Alexandria residents to help children in foster care or at risk of abuse or neglect keep warm this winter through its annual Fall Coat Drive. Call 703-746-5663 or email thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov.

Vote Nov. 3

See more election coverage and questionnaires at
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Click on Elections on the navigation bar.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife

A middle-aged Upper West Side Doctor's wife is shaken out of her mid-life crisis. Filled with passion and humor.

SHOW DATES:
October 24–November 24 2015

Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496
www.thelittletheatre.com

Visit These Houses of Worship

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español) Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español) Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309 Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday , Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration) Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
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Middle School Open House: November 3, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
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JK-5: 703-212-2705 6-12: 703-212-2706

PETS

Inside World of Guinea Pigs

Dozens turned over to Alexandria Shelter every year.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Life at Alexandria's Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is about more than cuddly cats and adorable dogs. A variety of “small animals” — rabbits, ferrets, turtles, snakes, even the occasional chicken — make up the shelter's diverse community. And then there are the guinea pigs, each with its own personality.

“Some of the guinea pigs will start making a whistling sound, especially when one particular volunteer arrives — they really bond with her,” says Joanna Fortin, the shelter's Community Outreach and Adoptions manager. They get excited when she stuffs an empty toilet paper roll with hay and fruit — fruit is a favorite guinea pig treat — and hangs it from the ceiling of the cage. “They grab it over and over with their mouth, and it swings like a piñata until it cracks open and the food comes out,” Fortin said.

About 80 guinea pigs arrive at the shelter every year, she said, often resulting from “accidental litters” born to pets in Alexandrians' homes. After a medical checkup, those “pigs” deemed ready for adoption are sustained with daily supplies of hay, pellets and a variety of vegetables grown in the shelter's garden or provided by green-thumbed volunteers.

But guinea pig psychology can be complex, especially when trying to pair two of the animals in the same cage. So the shelter, which is operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, recently invited Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue (MGPR) to demonstrate best guinea pig practices for staff and volunteers. A copper-colored neutered male guinea pig called Copper and a tri-color female named Camellia came along to help out.

Guinea pigs come in dozens of breeds, each with its own distinct personality, MGPR Director Becky Wilson and her colleague Deb Jackson told the group. American Shorthair guinea pigs tend to be playful and inquisitive. Abyssinians — known for the rosettes of fur all over their coats — are on the pushy side, wanting everything on their own terms. And the long-haired breeds tend to be sweet and submissive and just want to be cuddled. All guinea pigs need abundant, fresh hay every day; gnawing on it helps keep their constantly growing teeth in check. High-quality

pellets and a rich variety of vegetables should round out their diet.

Determining the gender of a guinea pig is difficult, Wilson said, as she showed the group how best to do that. And spaying and neutering guinea pigs can be challenging for veterinarians, so it's important to find a vet who has extensive experience in the procedures.

Guinea pigs hate to live alone, Wilson said. “Imagine sitting in a cage day after day, waiting for someone to come and provide some diversion,” she said. But MGPR doesn't advise putting two males in the same cage — they often will fight, sometimes viciously. And pairing two females requires a special protocol to ensure healthy bonding: The family female pet should be temporarily removed from the cage, and the cage

thoroughly scrubbed to banish her scent. New food and water bowls should be provided. Then, the new female “pig” should be introduced to the cage, followed about 20 minutes later by the original pet. Bonding should follow, and one of the two animals generally will emerge as dominant.

Wilson and Jackson provided some guidelines for those about to enter the world of the guinea pig:

* Guinea pigs are not the best starter pets for young children. For one, they are generally too large for a young child to handle. And, parents should realize that the average well-cared-for guinea pig lives five to eight years, well beyond the attention span of many young children.

* Guinea pigs need extensive space to move around in, so cages should be larger than most people believe — at least 4 square feet. Small cages always tend to be dirty and stinky, Wilson says, which is unpleasant for both the animal and the owner.

* Guinea pigs want more out of life than sitting in a cage — they want people. They need to be taken out of the cage for at least 20 minutes a day to play and even brought outdoors if possible. When given the chance, some of the younger guinea pigs will charge around the house like a racehorse. Others like quiet time. “Many guinea pigs will sit in your lap to watch TV or read with you, and they will purr when you scratch their head, just like a cat,” Wilson said.

Operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is at 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.alexandrianimals.org or call 703-746-4774.



Animal Care Technician Miriam Diemer meets a visiting guinea pig called Copper.



PHOTO BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY
Guinea pigs Camellia and Copper, visiting from Metropolitan Guinea Pig Rescue

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Tale Of the Allergist's Wife'

Comedy blends New York and Jewish humor.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," a comedy written by Charles Busch, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 14.

The play revolves around Marjorie Taub, a middle-aged Upper West Side doctor's wife, who is devoted to mornings at the Whitney Museum, afternoons at the Museum of Modern Art and evenings at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Plunged into a mid-life crisis of Medea-like proportions, she's shaken out of her lethargy by the re-appearance of a somewhat mysterious childhood friend, Lee.

Director Michael Kharfen said he wants to have audiences laugh. "Our daily lives can be very challenging and we all need a little break by enjoying a very funny play," he said. "Second, we get to share Charles Busch's wonderful blend of New York and Jewish humor with its mocking and colorful expression, which is telling it like it is, from the heart, without filter."

He said a challenge was finding the perfect cast that can create these slightly kooky characters, which he was fortunate to get with such a gifted group of actors. "With comedies, another challenge was to not have the characters become cartoonish or caricatures," he said. "I am so grateful for the talented cast in giving us genuinely natural, funny people."

Jack Stein plays the role of Dr. V. Ira Taub, the allergist referenced in the title of the play. "Ira is a 'helper' by nature and has retired from his practice to pursue helping the needy and disenfranchised while at the same time being the great mediator between his ever-arguing wife and mother-

in-law, both to whom he's devoted," he said. "He's also a frustrated Catskills comedian, which emerges in just about everything he says and does."

He added: "Ira is great fun to play, but in such a comedic piece it is important to balance the broad with the nuanced. It's easy to go 'too big' with his character. Thanks to our terrific director, I've been able to find the humanness of this man while enjoying his bigger-than-life personality."

Janice Zucker plays the role of Frieda Tuchman, an older woman living in the same apartment house as her daughter Marjorie and her son-in-law Ira, on the upper west side of Manhattan. "She's a Jewish mother who doesn't get along with her daughter and pretty much never has," she said. "She's very sure of herself and what she believes in, and because of her age, she pretty much says whatever she is thinking. There's no filter and she doesn't hold anything back."

Marianne Meyers plays the role of Lee Green, a woman of mystery, who's worldly and glamorous. "She seems to know everyone and has been around," she said. "Lee is not necessarily trustworthy and you may not know what her true motives are; perhaps she doesn't even know herself."

She added: "I hope people laugh; the play is very funny and the show is well-cast. The dynamics between the characters are just a riot. There are wonderful questions about the meaning of life, friendship, and what makes a family work together. The audience is in for a good time."

Omar Rocha plays the role of Mohammed, who came to the U.S. from Iraq many years ago. "His father wanted to partake in the American dream and wanted his family to benefit from it, as well Eventually,



The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" from Oct. 24 to Nov. 14.

Mohammed found his calling as a doorman; his father is quite proud of him."

Co-producer Jay A. Cohen said he wanted to produce the show because he had seen it in Florida where his mother played the role of Frieda, and he thought it was hysterical. "The fact that Michael Kharfen was directing didn't hurt as I wanted to work with him," he said.

He added: "I think it is a great play about many of life's challenges. You have Marjorie that is going through a midlife crisis and is feeling rather small as we all do from time to time. You have Lee who is the free spirit we all wish to be, and the unfortunate Frieda who is how we will eventually wind up. I think from these three any of us can identify."

Assistant Producer Brooke Angel said she wanted to produce the show because, "I'm actually friends with producer Jay Cohen outside of theatre, and he approached me with the possibility of becoming a producer-in-training. I was both honored and thrilled to be asked, so I immediately said 'yes.' I must have been half asleep, because I said

'yes' to being assistant producer, co-stage manager, and to help on set construction."

She added: "I would love for the audience to walk out of the theater thinking, 'Gee, I thought my life was weird; these people are plain crazy.' This play is nothing short of 'Frasier' category humor: intellectual references mixed with modern-day humor tactics."

Co-producer Jim Howard said he's seen this show at least two times before. "Once, I barely sat through the production, and the second time I thoroughly enjoyed it. So I was curious as to how (director) Michael (Kharfen) would bring to life this comedy. He has succeeded in keeping me laughing throughout all the rehearsals," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," from Oct. 24 to Nov. 14. Showtimes are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 to \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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 lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, 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 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.

"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 children 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. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Torpedo Factory's Post-Graduate Studio. Through Nov. 29, during gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. To wrap up the inaugural year of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's post-graduate in-house residency program, the Target Gallery will feature the work of the four participating artists in a group exhibition. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

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.

"George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation." Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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.

Special Halloween Storytime. 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Children are invited to storytime with the Community Oriented Police Section of the Alexandria Police Department. During this storytime, the officers will be giving trick or treat safety tips. Officers will be dressed in uniform including weapons. Free. Call 703-299-9124.

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

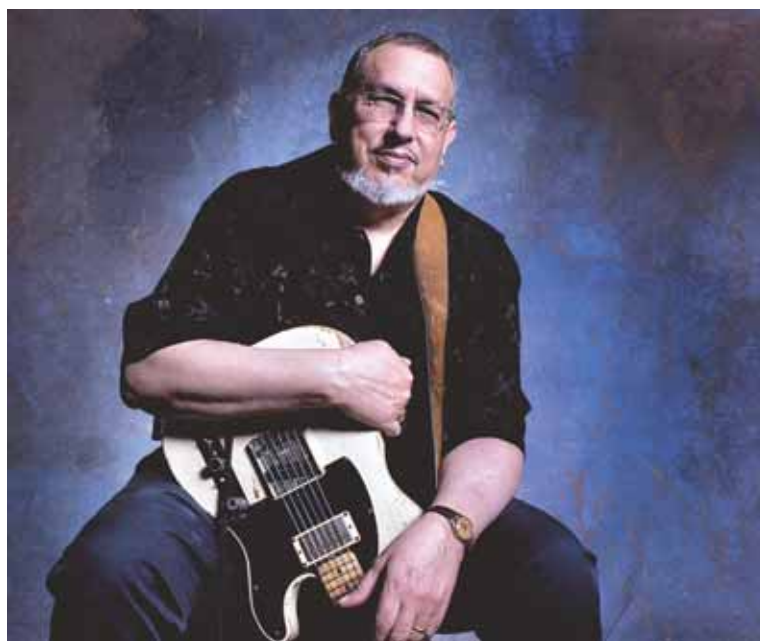


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The David Bromberg Band will perform at 8 p.m. on Oct. 30 at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

instructors. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Spooktacular Sounds in the Haunted Hall. 7:30 p.m. at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert and Arts Hall, 915 E. Campus Drive. Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor," will be featured with other "spooky" classics. There will be prizes for those dressed in costume. Free. Call 703-845-6252.

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.

OCT. 29-DEC 13

Mike McConnell: "Flip Side."

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.

October Fest. 5-8 p.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. Children ages 5-12 are invited to enjoy a haunted house, arts & crafts, spooky musical chairs, face painting, scary movies, dance and more. Tickets are \$7. Call 703-746-5558.

Family Masquerade Ball. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center,

2701 Commonwealth Ave. Families are invited to enjoy dancing, photo opportunities, a costume contest and refreshments. Tickets are \$9. Call 703-746-5556.

Fright Night. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Ave. Zombies and goblins will roam through the Haunted House and exhibit rooms. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-746-5554.

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

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5-8 pm**

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ENTERTAINMENT

Heart,” along with well-known poems “The Raven” and “El Dorado.” Tickets are \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

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.mvcc.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Ghost and Goblin Archaeological Tours. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. 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.

Bats & Owls & Snakes! Oh, My! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Learn about the animal myths associated with Halloween. Call 703-746-5525 for more.

Halloween Fun at Sugar Shack. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sugar Shack Alexandria, 804 N. Union St. The store will feature holiday-themed donuts and kid-friendly activities, including a coloring contest, balloons, a fortune-teller and more. Free. Visit www.sugarshackdonuts.com.

Hume Springs Park Grand Reopening. 11 a.m. at Hume

Springs Park, 100 Dale St. Celebrate the reopening of Hume Springs Park which will now feature new play equipment, fencing, fitness equipment, water fountains, benches, and more. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and games for children. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Halloween Family Legends

Bookmaking Workshop. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Children and their adult family members are invited to enjoy pumpkin pie, share stories and make them into Family Legend storybooks. Led by book artist Sushmita Mazumdar. Free, but reservations required. Call 703-746-4356 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.

Preschool Fall Fun Festival. 1-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4625 Taney Ave. Children ages 2-5 are invited to enjoy games, prizes, face-painting, music and more. Free. Call 571-257-8686 or visit www.landmarkchurchva.com.

All Hallows’ Eve. 5-7 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Children are invited for trick-or-treating at one of the city’s “most haunted dwellings.” Free. Visit www.novaparks.com.

Trunk or Treat Block Party. 5-7:30 p.m. at Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Go “trunk-or-treating” or play games. Suggested for ages 12 and under. Free. Call 703-746-5550.

Trunk or Treat. 5-8:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center,

901 Wythe St. Free. Call 703-746-5552.

Nightmare on Wythe Street. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Enjoy storytelling, sing-a-longs, a costume contest and an indoor Haunted House sponsored by ARHA. Suggested for children ages 6-15. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-746-5552.

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

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.

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 McKenna 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.

TUESDAY/NOV. 3

Lecture & Book Signing. 7-8:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Author Garrett Peck will be available to sign copies of his book “Walt Whitman in Washington,, D.C.: The Civil War and America’s Great Poet.” Peck will detail the definitive account of Walt Whitman’s decade in the nation’s capital and Alexandria. Free. Call 703-746-4994.

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

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Alexandria Gazette Packet




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MORE INFORMATION and rules at
FirstNightAlexandria.org/battle

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Dominion

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 for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

ACPS 2020: Every Student Succeeds. 5:30-8 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Cameron 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.

Sadie Hawkins Dance. 6-8:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Peter Kasper, featured caller and The Boomerangs Square Dance Teaching Council set the stage for this hillbilly country dance. Guests are invited to square dance and wear denim, paisley, red handkerchiefs, straw, and close-toe shoes. Tickets are \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents in advance; \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents at the door. Register at www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac with Activity Code 255202.01.

"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 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.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 6-8

Alexandria Film Festival. AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 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 year, the festival brought more than 60 films and 50 filmmakers to Alexandria from as far as Sri Lanka and Uruguay. All ticketed events will be held at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22, with Beatley Central Library offering free programs to the public. Visit www.alexandriafilm.org.

"Songs for a New World." 8 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518



PHOTO BY PAUL GILLIS

Local Dance Company to Perform in DC

"See Between the Lines" is a set of three collaborations between Jane Franklin's dance company and visual art. In "Incidence," a life-size kinetic sculpture created by Howard Connelly is manipulated by the dancers. "Nested" is performed with Rosemary Covey's "Not A Day Goes By," a visual art piece created by using eight wood blocks printed on Japanese paper and painted. "Wash Over You," uses text via foot lockers, picket signs, and shelf paper. Artwork for "Wash" is created in real time by artist Susan Miranda. Performances are on Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. at Cadriz Foundation Theater - Dance Place, 3225 8th St. NE, Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$15-30. Visit www.danceplace.org or www.janefranklin.com.

Workhouse Way, Lorton. Metropolitan Youth Theatre students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria and Lorton, Va. will present its student-directed and produced performance of Jason Robert Brown's "Songs for a New World." Tickets are \$20. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 6-7

Playfest 2015. 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse presents Playfest 2015. The event is titled "All Voices Matter." Tickets are \$10 and \$12. Call 703-998-6260.

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

"Beyond the Battlefield." 10 a.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Lee-Fendall House will offer "Beyond the Battlefield," a guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. Participants will see locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. Stops on the tour will include locations to be featured in the upcoming PBS drama, "Mercy Street," which airs in January 2016. Advance tickets are \$15, or \$20 on the day of the program. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Fort Ward Museum Veteran's Day Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Two 90-minute tours will be conducted by Fort Ward staff member Kevin Moriarty, who will portray a Union army veteran reminiscing about his military service at Fort Ward during the Civil War. Participants will learn about Civil War veterans organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the design and construction of Civil War

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

Fort Hunt Preschool Fall Festival.

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane. Find pony rides, inflatables, games, food and more. Free. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com.

Docent-Led Tour. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S. Alfred St. Take an in-depth tour of Friendship Firehouse led by a trained docent. Tickets are \$5 for adults, and \$4 for children 10-17. The tour is recommended for children 10 and over. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net for more.

"A Behind the Scenes of Mosby's Rangers." 1-3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Eric Buckland, a retired Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, Vice President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, member of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and author of five books about some of the men who rode with Mosby's Rangers will tell tales of the Rangers' history, tactics, operations and lives during the Civil War era. \$5 suggested donation. Call 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413 for more.

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 for more.

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.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15
tinue to accept this type of governance.

The perceptions of Ms. Silberberg as stated by the good old boys totally misrepresent who she is and what she stands for. She was elected vice-mayor of the City Council in her first election, garnering the highest vote count of any council candidate — a resounding victory which even Bill Euille was unable to accomplish. Three years later she won the Democratic primary — a victory so outstanding and perceived as so impossible by the opposition that the good old boys are now running for the exits from the Democratic party in order to conduct a write in vote to save face.

So there must be something about Ms. Silberberg that the good old boys fail to grasp — namely her uncanny ability to draw people to her. She listens and she asks questions. It is not about politics for her, but about neighborhoods, academics, schools, controlled development and what is best for the city. She has our trust. With Ms. Silberberg as our mayor, city issues will be discussed openly and decisions will be based upon inputs from the citizens, unlike the executive sessions and backroom politics of today (e.g., BRACC). The citizens of Alexandria will be able to go to a City Council meeting (or School Board meeting) without fear that the vote (or fix) is already in. Ms. Silberberg's intention was never to go it alone, because this city is blessed with brilliant and well connected citizens who are eager to have their voices heard. This attitude displayed by the good old boys, this ridiculous notion that Allison Silberberg is not ready for office rests in the fact that Bill Euille lost an election he was expected to win. After all he was the incumbent who had raised over \$200,000 from developers who were (and still are) trying to help keep him in office. Mayor Euille did a lot of good things for this city in his day, however, now it is time for him and his good old boys to go quietly into the night. Let this city start a new day on Nov. 3.

Francis Bires
Alexandria

Choices Made

To the Editor:

Twelve years a mayor, and what has this incumbent wrought?

1.) Sewage, raw untreated sewage, dumped into the Potomac River when rainfall overwhelms the century-old combined sewer and storm water system in Parker Gray and Old Town areas. Only now, in 2015, has the planning stage begun, under orders from the Virginia DEQ.

However, the Pendleton Street sewage outflow is not included in these initial plans, and will continue to foul Oronoco Bay, the floating docks at the T.C. Williams Boat House, and all along the river past the “World Class Waterfront” this mayor plans to build.

\$400 million to solve this environmental disaster will most certainly be exceeded, and yet the mayor seldom mentions this huge capital expense project's impact on future city budgets.

A King Street Trolley and bicycle “sharrows” on city roadways do not warrant the mayor calling himself an environmentalist while City Hall toilets flow directly into the Potomac when it happens to be raining.

2.) Children denied access to recreation facilities due to increased fees presents opportunities for gang recruitment and will contribute to an increase in crime. A \$5 fee at the Jerome “Buddy” Ford Nature Center prevents neighboring Beauregard children from participating — \$5 will buy a gallon of milk needed by the family.

A \$2 fee for one child plus \$3 for the

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accompanying adult on a hot summer's day at city pools may as well tell a child that they are barred from the facility. The “Financial Assistance Policy” has forms to complete and documentation to provide, which if approved, grants a family a 40-50 percent discount. Children from dysfunctional families who are most at risk are not be able to participate. But dogs swim free at summer's end.

Reduced funding for city recreational programs results in only two facilities open to teens after the others close at 6 p.m. Only Charles Houston and Ramsay centers are open until 9 p.m. weekdays and until 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. A true gang prevention program starts at the well-staffed, open neighborhood recreation centers; not the courthouse and juvenile detention facility.

Only a hypocritical mayor would vote for increased recreation fees, shortened hours and reductions in staff, and still say our children's future is a priority.

3.) The city's 2016 budget proposed eliminating property tax breaks for low-income senior citizens, and only a large, loud outcry across the city caused this property tax relief provision to continue. A similar Affordable Home Ownership Preservation program for low-income residents was discontinued in 2009, and there's been no proposal from the mayor to reinstate it.

Eliminating property tax breaks for low-income residents to balance the city budget makes one question the mayor's self-touted support for affordable housing.

For true environmental, child-friendly and affordable housing policies in our city, elect Mayor Allison Silberberg and Wood, Van Fleet, Bailey and Chapman for City Council on Nov 3.

Maria Wildes
Alexandria

City Council Decision-making

To the Editor:

At the last council meeting, City Council once again clearly demonstrated they are listening ... to the developers but not the citizens of this community. Their vote to approve the conditions for a Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for the redevelopment of the Robinson Terminal North (RTN) site blatantly shows they value protecting developer profits over the well-being and safety of the residents of that area and Alexandria citizens at large.

The Bogle Chemical Company operated on the RTN site for almost 51 years during which time it became contaminated with arsenic trioxide, sodium arsenite, 2,4,5-T and Silvex ... all highly toxic chemicals.

As stated in the RTN DSUP, 51,500 cubic yards of that contaminated, toxic soil will be excavated to develop an underground garage. While barging is a safe, viable and affordable method of transporting that hazardous material from the site, the developer has refused to use barging on the Potomac River because it would increase their construction costs. To accommodate the developer, city staff backed away from their initial requirement to barge the material and now the council has approved the use of over the road trucking of more than 5,000 truck loads of toxic, contaminated soil through the streets and neighborhoods of Alexandria ... right on the very streets, sidewalks and playgrounds where our children play and our pets roam.

The primary role of government is the protection of its citizens and their property. Developer profits should not be

more important than public safety nor should the citizens of Alexandria suffer the tax burden when it comes to fixing streets and other city infrastructure damaged by unnecessary overuse.

This is not a case of “don't build in my back-yard”... the city needs development, but it needs responsible development. The RTN DSUP approval clearly points to irresponsible city councilors ... councilors that have turned a deaf ear to the citizens of Alexandria. Next Tuesday is an opportunity to “express our opinion” and show the incumbent City Council, in particular the ringleader Bill Euille, we are tired of them not listening and tired of developer influence. Don't wait to be then next victim... vote for a new City Council that will put the interests of citizens ahead of developer profits.

Richard Platt
Alexandria

Need Trust In Candidate

To the Editor:

One of the inherent problems in politics is corruption. Not just of money, nor of cheating on spouses, but of breaking one's word.

No finer example can be Bill Euille's reneging on his pledge after losing the Alexandria Democratic mayoral primary to Allison Silberberg.

How can we trust Mr. Euille with the stewardship of our city?

A city's mayor should be a role model for all, but especially for the young. For parents of all parts of Alexandria, Bill Euille is not the man we need to point to as someone to emulate.

Allison Silberberg may not to the best candidate for some, but for all she is the perfect choice to be the mayor of Alexandria because she is the one we can trust — and be proud of.

John Arnold
Alexandria

Evaluate Bike Lanes

To the Editor:

It's rare to see a bicycle rider using the King Street bike lanes. To install these lanes parking was removed, traffic lanes were narrowed, and the bike lanes were painted green. The city is sweeping the lanes most weeks to keep them clean. And still the bike lanes remain empty 99.99 percent of the time.

City Council voted to install these lanes in March 2014 in spite of objections of the city's Traffic and Parking Board and the safety and access concerns of many residents. As a concession City Council agreed to evaluate the results after 18 months or by November 2015. The question is, how do you define success for these bike lanes?

Consider that on Car Free Day, Sept. 22, I counted a total of three bicycle riders during the morning rush hour (7 to 9 a.m.). One of these three rode on the sidewalk, just two in the bike lanes. During the same time frame there were a total of 1,999 motorized vehicles, including 73 large buses and 34 large trucks, yet, now, 30 percent of the roadway is allocated for bike lanes and traffic lanes are more narrow.

Consider also that some of the bike riders choose to ride on the sidewalk rather than in bike lanes beside the narrower traffic lanes used by 13,000 motorized vehicles per day. Consider the dangerous overlap of vehicles into the bike lanes documented by residents. Consider the bizarre design where sepa-

OLD TOWN NORTH

October 22, 2015

ADVISORY GROUP APPOINTMENTS

HOA and At Large Community Representatives
1. Stephen Goodman (Garrett's Mill - Southwest)
2. Engin Arsel (Rivergate - Central/East)
3. Christa Waters (Canal Way - Central/North)
4. Elizabeth Clemente (Pitt Street Station - Central/North)
5. Carolyn Griffin (Mesa Stage - North)
6. Anna Bentley (Shador Terrace - North)

NOTICE Representative
7. Thomas F. Joseph (POTOMAC Watergate - Central)

ABHA Resident
8. Kevin Harris (Chatham Square - South)

Business Representatives
9. Carlos Mejias (Old Town School for Dogs - South)
10. Bruce Mechanic (Montgomery Center - Central)

Property Owners
11. Krista Silvestri (Silvestri ABC/Gard Site - Central/West)
12. Austin Rappier (Can Hospitality owns 3 properties: Holiday Inn, Crown Plaza & VOTM, Pot St)
13. Jeff Stupp (Canal Center - Waterfront/Central)
14. Steven Arlino (PAG - North)

Commissioners
15. William Conley (Park and Recreation Commission)
16. David Speck (Alexandria Economic Development Partnership)
17. Scott Barlow (Environmental Policy Commission)
18. Daniel Stroud (Urban Design Advisory Committee)
19. Chip Carter (Board of Architectural Review - Old & Historic District)
20. Maria Wozniak (Chair Planning Commission and Transportation Commission)



Hand-Picked Advisory Group?

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria chose seven community representatives for the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group. In doing so, it has, once again, demonstrated its insensitivity to the community. The largest issue in the Old Town North Small Area Plan will be the reuse of the Power Plant site.

The Marina Towers Condominium Association sits directly across the street from this site. Marina Towers contains 283 condominium apartments, with some 500 residents.

However, despite my candidacy for the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group being identified as the person the board of Marina Towers wanted to represent it, neither I nor anyone else from Marina Towers was selected for the Advisory Group.

From the outset, residents from Marina Towers can only note that either the Old Town North Small Area Plan is flawed from the outset, or that, despite all the conversation in the cur-

rent City Council election about residents feeling City Hall is deaf to their concerns, the Alexandria City government is oblivious to those concerns.

What is especially galling is that one of the “community representatives” does not live within the Old Town North Small Area Plan boundaries. That person represents a business located in the community.

There is a separate category for business representatives.

The location of the residences of the community representatives have been plotted on the attached map. Further, two community representatives live in the 1200 block of N. Pitt. That's two representatives for a block with far fewer residents than Marina Towers.

As the first meeting of the Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group will be held later this week, there is still time for the city to correct this error. I am, however, not holding my breath.

Herb Cooper-Levy
Alexandria

rate bike lanes on both sides of King Street exist for only three blocks — riders must enter or exit traffic lanes before and after these three blocks.

The Complete Streets Policy strives for safe transit of pedestrians, bicycles, mass transit, and motorized vehicles through the city, it does not mandate separate bike lanes (or corridors). It is

not logical for the city to remove parking for residents or businesses because they decide it is not being used enough and replace it with bike lanes that are sparsely used. Nor is it logical or safe to add separate bike lanes to narrow two-lane roadways, designed primarily for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 36

Weighing into Redistricting

FROM PAGE 1

about redistricting.

"This is often a very emotional process," said Superintendent Alvin Crawley. "It raises questions and it can be divisive. But we have an opportunity to come together as a community and make good decisions on behalf of our students."

The redistricting process is managed, in part, by a Steering Committee and a Review Committee. The Steering Committee is composed of School Board members and directly oversees the redistricting process as a liaison between the School Board and the Review Committee. The Review Committee is composed of 35 members, including two representatives from each school, and serves as a communication link with the community. Chris Lewis, vice-chair of the School Board, said that while they are actively seeking the community's input in redistricting, the ultimate decision lies with the School Board.

The current timeline has the new school boundaries put into effect in July 2016 for implementation in the 2016-2017 school year. The schools have been undergoing data collection throughout October and are beginning the community engagement process as they move into November. In January, the committees will have to put forwards a recommendation with the final vote in February.

Stephanie Kapsis, a School Board member and head of the steering committee, said that the only steps the School Board has taken on redistricting has been establishing a review committee and selecting Reingold LINK as a partner in the process. The School Board selected Reingold LINK, a D.C. area communications and stakeholder engagement firm, as a partner largely due to the firm's experience dealing with Arlington's redistricting and a program that allows community members to try their hand at redistricting and see how each decision affects the school numbers.

Michael Akin, president of Reingold LINK, didn't mince words when he told the parents what to expect.

"This is hard and it gets messy," said Akin.

The last systemwide redistricting took place in 1999. Akin said that Alexandria's 15 years between system-wide redistricting is fairly average for the region. Washington D.C. only redistricts every 30 years, Akin noted, whereas Arlington partially re-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Patience Kplivi, mother of a transfer student, expressing parents' concerns about "bad schools."

districts almost every year.

"We can bring in the national best practices," said Akin, "but ultimately it has to fit the community."

Patience Kplivi's daughter was in the middle of being transferred to a new school when she suddenly told her mother that she absolutely did not want to attend her new school. Kplivi thought it was probably the same anxiety that usually accompanies a change in schools, but then her daughter began talking about all of the security guards posted around the school. Speaking

on behalf of parents whose students might be transferred to schools they would consider less than ideal, Kplivi asked what was being done to fix Alexandria's "bad schools."

"You may or may not like the answer," said Lewis, "but this is a public school system. We take everyone and anyone in the school. We're seeing an upwards trajectory, but you don't get a guarantee of what school [your child] will go to. You can get a guarantee that we will try to make the school as good as it can be."

Robert Frobian, representing Tucker Elementary, said that he was concerned about the possibility of his child having to figure out a new school schedule after they had just adjusted to Tucker's, which differs from the rest of the city's schools.

"It's always going to be someone going to change schools," said Lewis. "It will be tough, but it will be more equitable across the city."

Redistricting may have an effect on more than just the students. Mary Zambrano, a parent and teacher at Macarthur Elementary, questioned whether school staff would also be transferring between schools. Crawley said that, as soon as a decision was made on the matter, it would be announced.

Trisha Christopher, a science teacher at T.C. Williams High School, said she hoped that some staff would be moving with the students to supply additional help and resources where needed.

Craig Gary, a member of the Review Committee with a son at Lyles Crouch, said that parents and the community might be more understanding to the necessity of the redistricting process if Crawley gave them some kind of an idea for what would happen if the schools don't redistrict.

"Without redistricting," Crawley said, "the challenges that already exist throughout our schools would be exacerbated."

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NEWS

Panel on Uninsured Hosts Health Fair

Coverage gap remains issue for some low-income and unemployed.

BY EDEN BROWN
GAZETTE PACKET

For the past year, members of the Mayor's Advisory Panel on the Uninsured have been meeting to discuss how they can help Alexandrians caught in the so-called "Coverage Gap."

Due to the Virginia General Assembly's refusal two years ago to accept the governor's recommendation to expand the Medicaid program — as allowed under the Affordable Care Act in 2014 — some of Alexandria's low-income residents continue to lack health insurance coverage. In the fall of 2014, a small group of citizens who were skeptical about Medicaid expansion happening soon, and believed the city and community ought to focus on those who were being denied comprehensive insurance, approached Mayor Bill Euille to request his support for an effort to bring attention to the uninsured.

The mayor responded by appointing a 13-member Special Advisory Panel to examine the potential health consequences of lack of insurance coverage for residents and to offer some recommendations that would improve access to essential health services. "Thanks to the mayor's leadership," said Richard Merritt, one of that original group, "the City of Alexandria may be the only local jurisdiction in the Commonwealth to have taken some positive action on behalf of its uninsured while others continue to debate the issue in Richmond."

The panel was chaired by Dan Hawkins, senior vice president, Public Policy and Research, National Association of Community Health Centers. Hawkins is a 25-year resident of Alexandria and an expert on preventive and primary care approaches targeted at low-income uninsured and underinsured populations across the country. Also on the panel were representatives of organizations concerned about health care access, including Neighborhood Health, the city's one federally-supported community health center; Inova Alexandria Hospital; the Public Health Advisory Commission; the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority; the Northern Virginia Health Foundation;

the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria and its Mental Health Anti-Stigma HOPE campaign; an expert in local health and community service policy; a representative of a local foundation; and a representative of the private medical community. The panel received technical assistance from the Alexandria Health Department and the Department of Community and Human Services. The Public Defender, whose office, under the auspices of Enroll Virginia, is hosting the efforts of a healthcare advocate to assist indigent clients of her office, their families and other uninsured city residents in obtaining health care coverage, was also engaged.

The advisory panel focused its attention on the approximately 5,000 Alexandrians who would have been eligible for health insurance had the General Assembly expanded Medicaid in Virginia. According to a Kaiser Foundation study released in October 2015, current analysis cites 131,000 people in the entire Commonwealth who have a coverage gap. These individuals are too poor to qualify for tax subsidies toward the purchase of coverage but also too rich for Virginia's limited Medicaid plan.

Details

- ❖ More than 90 percent of uninsured Alexandrians are between the ages of 18 and 64;
- ❖ In Virginia, more than one fifth (21 percent) of people in the coverage gap are poor parents whose incomes place them above Medicaid eligibility levels;
- ❖ Women account almost half (44 percent) of adult Virginians in the coverage gap;
- ❖ More than two-thirds (70 percent) of people in the coverage gap are in a family with a worker, and 54 percent are working themselves;
- ❖ A majority of these individuals are people of color (although the largest subset is non-hispanic whites).

Panel members cited the Arlington Interfaith Health Alliance, made up of mostly African-American churches, as a good example of initiative in the healthcare gap arena. They also noted that making smoking cessation available to lower income people was a good example of why this is a health disparity issue: equal numbers of low income people and high income people should be encouraged to stop smoking.

One of the first recommendations of the panel was a free health fair, upcoming on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hammond Middle School. The fair will offer free flu shots, dental education, HIV tests and counselling, glucose tests for diabetes, blood pressure tests, BMI screens, anemia screens, mental health screens, hearing and vision screens, and physical therapy demos. Participants will also be able to learn about Alexandria's Health Care and Social Services; get free one-on-one help filling out an "Obamacare" application; and apply for SNAP food assistance benefits. Free fitness and health workshops will be offered throughout the day. Any uninsured resident of the City of Alexandria is welcome to attend, particularly those between 18 and 64 years of age, those who have no access to a doctor, and those who need help getting health insurance. Email alexvauninsured@aol.com. or call 703-746-4357.



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A Halloween ‘Shock’ for Alexandrians

BY JANE CLINGER
SAPCA YOUTH BOARD MEMBER
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION
COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA

This Halloween, cases of beer and other alcoholic beverages often popular among teens will be wearing “costumes;” well, maybe not costumes, but small red stickers that resemble stop signs. The purpose of these “costumes” is not to scare people or disguise themselves. Instead, their mission is to inform. Labeled “STOP! Know the Law: It is illegal for any person 21 or older to purchase

or provide alcohol to minors. Fines are up to \$2,500 or one year in jail,” these messages will adorn alcoholic drinks in convenience and grocery stores throughout the city.

The annual Sticker Shock campaign, put on by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, serves as a warning to adults of the consequences of buying alcohol for youth. Many adults nowadays think that it’s OK to serve their children alcohol as long as they are at home, or even throw alcohol-fueled parties for their kids and their friends.

The Sticker Shock campaign helps to remind both parents and adults with teenage

siblings or friends that it is never, under any circumstances, acceptable to provide underage teens with alcohol.

Especially around Halloween, many teens turn to drinking to make their nights and parties more exciting.

The consequences of this, though, are substantial. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “23 percent of drivers aged 15-20 involved in fatal motor crashes were drinking” in 2012. This percentage is shockingly high, and while it is important to remind teens not to drink and drive, this number would certainly go down if they did not have ac-

cess to alcohol in the first place.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria and its partners (Alexandria Community Services Board, Alexandria Department of Parks and Recreation, Alexandria Police and Sheriff’s departments, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control) are working together to ensure the wellbeing of the city’s teens, especially through solving substance-related issues such as the underage consumption of alcohol.

This Halloween, think carefully about what you can do to help with this important issue.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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motorized vehicles, that are now at, or over, capacity.

Evaluating the King Street bike lanes based on real data (dimensions, configuration, useage, etc.), supports the decision to eliminate the the block “bike lane island” on King Street. Implementation in the future should acknowledge and address actual constraints and concerns of affected residents and businesses and define criteria that must be met before installing bike lanes or corridors (versus sharrows, etc.).

These steps are critical, considering the draft map of the City-wide bicycle network proposes miles and miles of new “enhanced bicycle corridors” throughout Alexandria.

Louise Welch
Alexandria

Spending Problems

To the Editor:

I attended the Old Town and North Old Town candidates’ forum on Oct. 14. Justin Wilson’s heated rebuttal of Mr. Van Fleet’s desire to cut spending while meeting our actual needs, did not come off as well in the room as the Gazette’s description would make readers believe. As a general rule, yelling never wins an argument. Mr. Wilson’s agitated manner stuck in the minds of the audience more than anything he actually said and a number of attendees commented on it afterward.

Then there is the matter of fiscal prudence. Under Mayor Euille, the city is using new development to pay for previous development, which is tantamount to a Ponzi scheme. It is accommodated by increased debt with a dramatic increase in recent years.

In 2007 the city needed a new high school, so council made a commitment of \$89 million with cost overruns that drove the ultimate cost to over \$120 million. Recently we replaced Jefferson Houston School at a cost of \$45 million.

After my retirement, I spent six years as a volunteer, tutoring elementary school children chosen for tutoring by their teachers. I learned then and continue to be painfully aware how the school system fails the many children from disadvantaged backgrounds, or with a different cultural heritage, or who may not have books and magazines in their homes. The city has not learned how to meet their needs. Shiny new buildings won’t do it.

In recent years I have gotten to know Van Van Fleet well because he has been active in the same civic groups I have and has assumed leadership positions.

There is valuable training for public service in these activities. Today I am doing what I know is the right thing and placing my Van Fleet sign in the front yard. He has demonstrated a good understanding of our spending problems and our true needs and deserves a place on Council.

Katy Cannady
Alexandria

Campaign Distortions

To the Editor:

Alexandrians should be tired by now of the daily unsupported attacks on Allison Silberberg based on votes taken out of context and distortions of her public policy views. Despite the negative campaigning Allison has kept to the high road and continued to focus on issues. Before you vote on Nov. 3, please keep in mind:

A life-long Democrat, Allison is the Democratic nominee for mayor:

Allison has always worked for Democrats, including Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. She has been involved in many Democratic campaigns. As the top Democratic vote-getter in 2012, she was elected Vice Mayor. Allison is endorsed by many prominent Democrats, including Rep. Don Beyer, Former Mayor and State Senator Patsy Ticer, and State Senator Adam Ebbin.

A person’s word is their bond:

The three candidates in June’s mayoral primary pledged they would honor the outcome of the election. However, Mr. Euille reneged on that pledge, took a “leave of absence” from the Democratic party. Allison is a staunch advocate for Affordable Housing: As an advocate for affordable housing, Allison voted against the Beauregard Plan, because she wanted more affordable housing units — not less. Although the Beauregard Plan included 800 new affordable housing units, it authorized the demolition of over 2,400 units, a net loss of 1,600 units. Allison urged as a compromise that the developer build more than the 800 affordable housing units.

Allison is an ardent supporter of quality education:

Education is a top priority for Allison. She has focused on providing better educational opportunities for children. She has worked with and mentored children. She has consistently voted for sufficient funding for Alexandria public schools.

Allison believes in thoughtful, appropriate development:

Allison is not against development or developers, but she champion’s development that is rational while protecting our neighborhoods and historic nature and character of Old Town.

Please consider these facts and cast your vote for Allison Silberberg as Mayor on Nov. 3.

Carolyn Roehrenbeck
Alexandria

Opposes Bad Development

To the Editor:

“Back to the Past” [Letter, Gazette Packet], written by Jody Manor in your Oct. 22 edition, is a complete mischaracterization of “Van” Van Fleet’s beliefs and actions. First of all “Van” Van Fleet is not anti-development and has said so verbally and

in print a vast number of times over the last 15 years. The reality of the situation is that he is against “bad development” not “development.” He continues to fight tirelessly against developments that are not compatible and don’t fit in to their neighborhoods. He has rallied against most of the new monolithic waterfront developments because their architecture is alien to the old and historic district.

The assertion that “Van” has been an obstruction to virtually every commercial project is simply not true and unsubstantiated. Ironically, he sure didn’t object to Mr. Manor’s expansion of Bittersweet’s restaurant operations down to the waterfront. Saying that “Van” and his cohorts (whoever they are) have created a “toxic environment” against business is absolutely preposterous. He is a small Alexandria based businessman himself and he has always been helpful to those wanting to start their businesses here in Alexandria. Truth be told, The city itself has been an impediment against small businesses, not “Van” Van Fleet.

Mr. Manor claims that “Van’s” campaign has two planks, no growth and no development, both of which are untrue. He favors both; only they have to be done the right way. In addition, I am positive that “Van” didn’t miss the news about TSA moving to Alexandria. However, I think Mr. Manor missed the news that there was a GAO bid protest to the TSA building being sited at the Victory Center instead of at another location in Springfield. So, while the City Council is patting itself on the back, the reality of the TSA building is that it is now in litigation and if upheld will return our commercial vacancy rate back to 17 percent.

This is the real issue, the city starts taking credit for projects that are either “not final” or still “in process” and use these projects to bolster their popularity. A lot of these developments, the citizens don’t want. “Van” Van Fleet speaks for the citizens not for himself or his “cohorts” as Mr. Manor would have you believe. I would challenge Mr. Manor to point out a single development wherein “Van” Van Fleet was not on the side of the overwhelming majority of the views and beliefs of the people in whose neighborhood the development was being built. Quite simply put, “Van” Van Fleet’s advocacy against bad development is not keeping us in the past but shepherding us into the future with an eye on preserving the important historical aspects of our past.

Michael Harris
Alexandria

A Pivotal Election

To the Editor:

Nov. 3 is election day for our Alexandria, and it is a pivotal election.

The question we all must ask is, where is our community headed? Our traffic continues to get worse, planned developments are being implemented without residents being consulted, our

property taxes and rents are increasing, and more headaches are on the way. While I like several of our currently elected officials, I strongly believe that we need a change in leadership and a diversity of views.

For too many years Alexandria’s City Council has been saddled with the same party in control. This one-party-rule infects city planning because as the saying goes, power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Here is how Alexandria’s one-party-rule absolute power corrupts absolutely: Many important issues are simply not discussed by the City Council because any motion presented by a dissenter — most often, a person like Allison Silverberg serving as the voice of the people — is not taken up because it is voted down 6-to-1. Existing rules require that there needs to be a “second” to get a motion discussed, but one-party-rule votes as a slate, squashing any dissent.

Nov. 3 is our time to vote in the opportunity for us — the people — to be heard again. It is time to end one-party domination of the City Council and City Hall. It is time for us Alexandrians to stand up and say: Enough. We want important issues discussed, we want our neighborhoods to be heard and respected. We do not want to be ignored any longer.

That is why I am joining – and I encourage others to also join – in voting not for a particular party, but for people who will represent us – Allison Silberberg for Mayor, and Bob Wood, Van Van Fleet, Monique Miles, and Fernando Torrez for City Council.

We can make a difference.

Michael Sauls
Alexandria

A Positive Difference

To the Editor:

City Council candidate Townsend A. (“Van”) Van Fleet is both a proven leader and a team player. A West Point graduate, he led a distinguished career in the U.S. Army. Since retiring, he has been a successful small-business owner in Alexandria, where he has lived the past three decades. He knows how to get things done, focuses on his goals, and works hard to accomplish them. He still maintains a punishing schedule. He has years of experience in leadership positions with civic organizations across the city. Van has a genuine concern for Alexandria’s citizens and is not afraid to speak out on the issues. He will bring the same level of understanding and dedication to the citizens of Alexandria that he brought to his military service.

Van is concerned that — despite regularly increasing our taxes — the current city administration has not provided adequate resources for the three main functions of government: a secure “safety net” (fire and police), adequate schools, or sufficient attention to our

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Is It Smart or Dumb Growth for Alexandria?

BY HANK SAVITCH

Politicians claim we can improve our fiscal health by promoting more development. When the red ink turns up we are told to “grow ourselves out of debt.” And when asked how, the same voices invoke the sobriquet of “smart growth.” Whether we really can “grow out of debt” is another matter and whether our growth has been “smart” or “dumb” is also up for contention.

Smart growth has become a buzzword, loosely thrown around by developers, but it does have a real meaning. For one it signifies that development is commensurate with the fabric of a neighborhood; next, it means that growth does not overpower the capacity of a neighborhood to absorb new residents; and, it also means that new development does not mar or exhaust the immediate environment. Not the least, a central component of smart growth is its cost efficiency and whether it deepens our fiscal hole. We should consider whether our current growth really has been smart and question assumptions about “growing out of debt.”

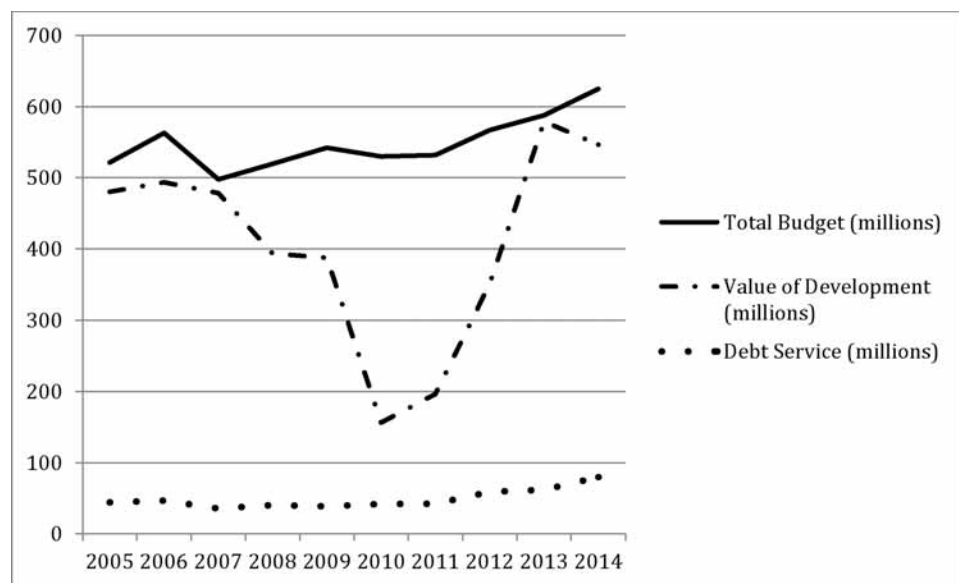
Let’s look at what we do know about Alexandria’s budgets and its development. Over the past decade budgets have tracked upward. With the exception of the great fiscal crisis during the years 2008-2009, debt service has moved upward along with recent development (calculated as the value of new construction). The table above shows that pattern.



The solid line shows mounting budgets, beginning at a modest \$521 million just 10 years ago and rising to well over \$625 million as of last year. Development also rose from \$480 million to \$546 million.

These statistics tell us that increased budgets are associated with the dollar value of new construction (development). Digging more deeply, we know from the numbers that 18 percent of the city’s budget can be accounted for by new construction. Development does incur costs. For every million dollar increase in development we have a corresponding rise of \$180,000 in budgets. Even more important, debt service has risen over this period from 8.4 percent of the budget a decade ago to 12.7 percent by last year. The simple fact is that Alexandria is in the midst of rising budgets, rising development and rising debt service — all occurring together.

This is not necessarily bad. Supporters of the “grow out of debt” theory would point out that population and business have also increased; that debt service is still a small proportion of Alexandria’s assessed property values; and that increased expenditures are investments in the future. They would be right on the first count and largely misleading or irrelevant on the others. For one, the question is not only whether our tax base has increased, but whether those in-



creases lagged behind expenditures. Second, increases in assessed properties also mean higher taxes. The issue here is not whether Alexandrians can handle higher taxes, but are we willing to incur the costs of growth.

Third, all this begs the greater question of whether our current pattern is an investment in the future or a disinvestment in the real assets of our city.

Certainly, growth can be good if it is done smartly, but it can be bad when done dumbly. Smart growth means that we should examine every stick and brick about to be constructed to determine whether it really adds value to the city. Budgets that grow without enhancing capital infrastructure or improving services should be suspect. Increases in the proportion of budgets

consumed by debt services should be worrying. Even on these points we are not simply dealing with numbers but with quality of life. 21st century congestion choking 18th and 19th century streets does not make for a better city; nor do modern buildings that block sunlight and obstruct waterfronts help us. Most especially for Alexandria, the relationships between numbers and quality of life are interdependent. We should not make the mistake of believing we can compromise our quality of life without this coming back to haunt our fiscal health.

Hank Savitch is Emeritus Brown and Williamson Distinguished Professor of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville and a Visiting Fellow at the Metropolitan Institute, Virginia Tech. He lives in Alexandria and can be reached at hvsavi01@vt.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 36

aging infrastructure. (Parts of the city’s combined sewer system date to the 19th century and demand increasing attention and maintenance.) To address these issues, Van proposes to request a bottom-up review of city expenditures to determine how better to use our limited resources to provide these services without over-taxing the ability of the citizenry to support them.

Early in this bid for office, Van encouraged his campaign organization to support a unique, five-week scholarship competition for Alexandria’s high-school juniors and seniors, with the goal of immersing the students in the inner workings of a political campaign. This experience is providing them with an in-depth understanding of the political process. It gives them exposure to all of the City Council candidates, encourages them to become aware of city-wide issues and of candidates’ positions on them, and demonstrates the importance of voting. The program is neither partisan nor ideological but reflects Van’s concern that students understand how our system of government really works. As he has emphasized, the challenges facing the city are neither Republican nor Democratic but are civic issues.

We urge you to join us on Nov. 3 in voting for Townsend A. (“Van”) Van Fleet for Alexandria City Council. We also support Bob Wood, Monique Miles, and Fernando Torrez for City Council and Allison Silberberg for Mayor. Together, they can make a positive difference for Alexandrians in all parts of our city.

Hugh and Sue Van Horn

Clear Choice

To the Editor:

“Follow the money” is a aphorism in American

politics that comes out of the Nixon scandals of the 1960s. Following the money is not easy, however, in assessing the write-in candidacy of Bill Euille. The Virginia Department of Elections (VDE) has rated Euille’s completion rate for his Sept. 30, 2015 campaign finance statement at 10.39 percent.

Of the \$131,660 Euille reported in contributions or in-kind gifts, only 23 entries were complete with the donor’s name, business, type of business, or location. More than 200 entries were incomplete. As a result of these omissions, for example, the occupations of contributors are “undetermined” for \$10,470 in gifts. Following the money is made difficult and replicates the pattern of incomplete reporting that marked Euille’s primary run for mayor.

Out of Euille’s faulty report, however, it is possible to piece together some picture of what is going on. As listed by the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), the largest single occupation group supporting the Democratic primary loser for his independent run is “real estate/construction” at \$46,335. Those are the developers. One developer who gave Euille \$20,000 in the primary has followed up with \$10,000 this time.

The second largest donor group were car dealers and gas station owners at \$18,150. Add in contributions from developer lawyers, bankers and other interests and it is clear where the money trail is leading: To individuals who do frequent business with the City of Alexandria.

Allison Silberberg’s Sept. 30 financial report, by contrast, has been rated 100 percent complete by the VDE. She will not accept contributions from developers. By following the money to Ms. Silberberg one finds transparency and good government practice. The choice for mayor on Nov. 3 should be clear.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

Rooting for The Home Team

To the Editor:

In all athletic competitions, from the kindergarten Peewees level, to the adults engaged in professional sports, there are penalties for “unsportsman-like conduct.” Since the current contest for Mayor of Alexandria can now be consider a contact sport, perhaps it’s time to apply some of those penalties to the electoral battles underway.

Let’s start with some of the “flagrant fouls” that could be called against current Mayor Bill Euille and former mayor Kerry Donley as they engage in the verbal and written jousts against Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg, who is the only duly nominated Democratic candidate for Mayor, based on her winning the public primary vote of June 9. Let us also remember she is not a neophyte, but the leading voter getter among all the candidates for the earlier 2012 election, and has served for three years. She has listened to the many residents who spoke at countless public hearings, while her council counterparts turned a deaf ear.

Let us also take the Title 9 legislation that “prohibits sex discrimination” in sports and add it to the political sphere in Alexandria, where two male politicians lost at the polls to a woman, so now their comments often have a definite misogynist touch. Women can and do compete on the field, on the court, in the stadiums, in the arenas— and at the ballot box. This mayoral race isn’t about gender or race. It’s about two male politicians who can’t believe that the voters turned them out — so there must be something wrong with “the process.”

Euille and Donley are joined in their assault against Silberberg by various surrogates. There are some so-called Democrats who line the

political field as cheer leaders. But they forget their job is to “root for the home team,” not for the players who were thrown out of the game in the June 9 election.

On Nov. 3, every voter gets to be an umpire. Voters can throw out Euille and Donley again, just like they did on June 9. This election isn’t about men versus women. It’s about \$540 million in debt, unfettered growth, traffic congestion, an uneven tax base, overcrowded schools, plummeting numbers of affordable housing, and too little recreational and open space for our significant population. None of these items are “new” problems. Euille and Donley helped create many of these problems. Now it’s someone else’s turn to step up to solve them in a realistic way. Let’s start with Silberberg as mayor and with a council that isn’t hard of hearing when it comes to listening to the residents.

Kathy Burns
Alexandria

Level of Maturity

To the Editor:

There have been numerous comments in regard to Allison Silberberg’s experience. In my opinion Ms. Silberberg possesses the experience, wisdom, humility and compassion to be a wonderful mayor and lead us into a new era. Ms. Silberberg’s ability to listen with an open mind as opposed to coming to the table with preconceived ideas is refreshing and needed. It takes wisdom and experience to realize that listening to your constituents is a better long term leadership strategy than believing your

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intelligence and ideas are superior to those of your constituents.

At a recent council debate, a couple of comments solidified what I believe is the problem with the current administration with the exception of Ms. Silberberg. One councilwoman made a comment that I'll paraphrase as "we know things that you don't"; her comments were directed to a fairly well educated audience including several PhDs, a Harvard MBA, and an astrophysicist, as well as numerous engineers, lawyers and successful business people. Another councilman on several occasions spoke loudly that the challengers were wrong, misinformed, and just didn't understand. Maybe he was right factually, but his approach was arrogant, and regardless of the "facts," he failed to see the "truth" in the issues being raised. Budgets regardless of capital or operational need to be funded by revenue. Interest on capital expenses erode what revenue is available for required services, so no matter how accurately you can describe the "words," the concept remains that we have a problem. In regard to housing affordability, those who raise the issue are more correct that those who place their heads in the sand of facts.

Ms. Silberberg truly cares about this city and can set an agenda of caring, thoughtfulness, and listening that I believe is sorely needed. That level of maturity and wisdom is why I am supporting Allison Silberberg on Nov. 3.

Joe Demshar
Alexandria

Break with The Past

To the Editor:

If there was ever a time to refresh our City Council, it's now. Regardless of your political preferences, be bold. Replace the same-think, city congesting mayor and council incumbents; bring in Silberberg, Wood, Van Fleet, Miles and Torrez. We need their experience, vigor, knowledge and especially their respect for citizen concerns. And courage.

We'll get courage in spades by voting into office Wood, Van Fleet, Torrez, Miles and Silberberg. The first three are wartime veterans of whom Wood and Van Fleet are West Point graduates. Along with attorney Miles, the daughter of a veteran, and administrator Silberberg, electing them will give us badly needed fresh perspectives unsullied by the density-loving, pro-developer bias that afflicts our current mayor and his rubber-stamping council.

Voting for Silberberg, Wood, Van Fleet, Miles and Torrez will also guarantee a more thoughtful consideration of future citizens, many of whom have not been born and who have no advocate. These are the souls who will have to pay the debts being rapidly incurred by our fleckless current city council and mayor.

Make no mistake: the debts I'm talking about are the frothy borrowings that occur when the elected are disconnected from the electorate. Of course, we need good schools, well maintained streets and superior safety, but we do not need public palaces, seldom used bike paths and gutters over-engineered to withstand falling asteroids. And it's the schools, streets and safety that must be foremost; not a new metro station or a waterfront walkway for a half a billion dollars the pair.

Another benefit of electing sensible change agents will be a more vigorous outreach to the entities that create wealth and the fresh tax revenue this new wealth engenders: the risk taking, job creating entrepreneurs. Arlington vigorously courts these wealth makers. We don't.

Jimm Roberts

Experience Matters

To the Editor:

Last month I celebrated my 70th birthday. I have spent my entire life living, working and serving in the City of Alexandria, and I sometimes feel like I can never fully express how much I care about this community without coming across as corny. But I have been presented with and confronted by a choice in our election for mayor, and with some

trepidation I write regarding the decision facing Alexandria voters.

I supported former Mayor Kerry Donley in the Democratic primary. He lost, but I still respect the process — that's life — and politics. Vice Mayor Silberberg received more votes than either of the other two candidates, and the griping that some of her voters may have been "R's" is just that, griping. It was an open primary and she won.

But I am also a big believer in competitive elections, and one of things that I absolutely abhor is elections by default. I wish that the Republican Party in Alexandria had nominated a candidate for mayor or that someone filed to run as an independent, but that did not happen. Up to this point I have neither supported nor opposed Bill Euille's write-in effort, but the griping that he lost the primary and has no right to mount such a campaign is just that, griping. He has chosen to mount a serious effort because he believes that his vision and ideas are better than Allison Silberberg's. Voters — all voters — now have a choice. That's good politics.

Some people like to frame election choices as "good versus evil." This election is anything but that. Two serious, caring public servants, with decidedly different skill sets and visions for Alexandria, both want your vote—one by a checkmark, one by writing on the ballot. I have made a decision to support Bill Euille, to write-in his name on the ballot, and to encourage others to do so, as well. Three important considerations led me to this decision.

First and most important is municipal finance. Everything we do as a city, every problem we want to solve, every need we try to meet is driven by our ability to manage our finances. We are landlocked by our boundaries (as is every independent city in Virginia), and taxes, debt, and spending are solely ours to manage. Harsh words maybe, but any candidate for public office who focuses his or her campaign on the "danger" of Alexandria's current debt in my opinion disqualifies him or herself from serving in public office. Alexandria is not even remotely in danger because of debt, and when current or aspiring office holders just throw out numbers without context they are either deliberately misstating the facts or woefully uninformed.

My second consideration is Ms. Silberberg's unwillingness to engage in debate with Mayor Euille. If she believes that her vision and ideas are the correct ones for the city's future, then she should not be afraid to present them and defend them in public and under challenge.

The third and final consideration for me was the result of watching a recent City Council meeting when Vice Mayor Silberberg proposed a change in the disclosure requirements for elected officials. Her explanation was confusing, imprecise, clearly lacking in any consultation with her colleagues, and sounded more like a "solution" in search of a problem. This was an embarrassing, but recurring pattern to her time on council. Being the "1" in 6-1 votes may make you a hero to some people, but you become an outlier to most. This is not leadership. Leadership is persuading others to join you.

I am supporting Mayor Euille because the stakes are too high not to have an experienced, steady hand at the wheel and that is why I will write-in Mayor Bill Euille on Nov. 3.

David G. Speck
Member of the Alexandria City Council,
1991-94, 1996-2003, 2012

‘Nightmare on Union Street’

To the Editor:

At the Robinson Terminal North City Council hearing on Oct. 17, I fell through yet another cosmic bunny hole at city hall.

To wit:
* The introductory briefing on the project I took to be from the developer. Only after someone told me did I realize it was being briefed by city staff. Used words like "celebrated." Hardly objective.
* RTN proximity to the eastern terminus of the King Street Trolley was repeatedly misrepresented as a "couple blocks," in a staff effort to justify the developer's request for a waiver for city-required onsite parking for four restaurants. Where I grew up, a "couple" equaled two. Only after questioning by Vice Mayor Silberberg did the truth emerge. Five blocks.
* Only after a press by the vice mayor did staff

utter the word "arsenic," the presence of which at RTN had been obfuscated all afternoon.

* Approximately 5,000 truckloads of arsenic/other chemicals-laden soil will be trucked from the site through Alexandria's residential neighborhoods and the haul routes of other municipalities. The soil also contains lead and petroleum byproducts, at a minimum. Neighbors pleaded for bargaining, but ...

* Staff recommended trucking, due to the "cost differential." The developer added that "on any project a developer has to fund, it's all about the entire cost."

* Talk at the Ad Hoc Waterfront Construction Monitoring Group, a citizens/city entity, was spun by staff to indicate the group's approval. That's not what I've observed at every one of its meetings.

* Multiple missteps and "growing pains" at the Carr hotel site are being used by the city as "lessons learned" to "get it right" at RTN. Seems to me a city chartered in 1749 would have gotten it pretty much right by now. The city is now looking at "staffing recommendations" to try and monitor development properly.

* Multiple violations of the city's own Waterfront Small Area Plan were pointed out by citizens, in the areas of parking and architectural context, to name a couple. But the developer invoked the same Waterfront Plan as a guiding light, and staff talked of compliance with the plan. Guess to whom council listened?

At this hearing, citizens spoke unanimously against the project, for multiple, valid reasons. But council approved it. It is quite clear living here for 16 years and from at least three years of fairly close City Hall observation that development and developer profits trump the safety, welfare and concerns of Alexandria citizens, and the

character of the third oldest historic district in the United States. City Council, staff and appointed boards and commissions side with the developers against the will of the citizens in almost every instance.

If you're sitting near properties that can be developed or redeveloped, you're next. The only way to stop this systematic plunder of our neighborhoods and heritage is to vote to replace the incumbent City Council with responsible individuals who will put the interests of citizens ahead of developer profits. We have that opportunity next Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Hal Hardaway
Alexandria

Whom Do You Trust?

To the Editor:

Before the June mayoral primary all three Democratic candidates signed a pledge to honor the primary results and not run independently. That pledge was a promise and a moral contract.

In choosing to break that pledge, William Euille has shown his word is worthless. I cannot vote for a man who does not keep a promise. How can any citizen, in the face of Euille's blatant disregard for a pledge, trust anything he says?

I have voted for Allison Silberberg, a candidate with integrity.

Anne Monahan
Alexandria

Focus on Families

To the Editor:

The next 3 years are critical for our schools. Over the past three years, City Council has embarked on several youth related planning processes, each designed to support the health, education and success of our city's young people.

With the approval of the Youth Master Plan, we now have strategy to ensure that youth-related services are accessible to all and that the city remains accountable for these program successes.

As an educator, I know that we must address ACPS's capacity issues.

However, our young people are more than just schools. This Thursday, the city along with ALIVE! will open the Alexandria Food Center to ensure that no child goes hungry in our city and families

have food security.

While we've achieved much, the next three years will be critical in laying out a successful future for Alexandria's youth. For young people remain a top policy priority, we need someone on Council with the professional expertise and experience to lead the charge.

With nearly one-third of the city's annual budget supports our youth and families, it is essential that we continue to have a professional perspective on council as the city's updates and implements youth and education policies.

As a career educator, I hope to continue to bring perspective to these issues and work to make our families and communities stronger. I ask for your vote on Nov. 3 for that reason.

John T. Chapman
Councilman

No Chance To Debate

To the Editor:

Recently, the Alexandria Chamber claimed the "voters of Alexandria are entitled to a debate where they can hear from both candidates, side-by-side, at the same time ... (to) independently evaluate each candidate's ideas, visions for the city and how they intend to lead."

While this call was for the mayoral race, I only wish this would apply to all political races here in Alexandria. We deserve it.

As the Republican candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, I have been denied the same opportunity the Chamber claims in so important and vital. Transparency, accountability and open communication are foundations of our democracy. The upcoming General Assembly at the statehouse in Richmond will include many important issues. Yet, my incumbent opponent has chosen to not participate in any debate. Sadly, this should have been quite simple as this district is exclusively in the city, and does not include any part of Fairfax or Arlington.

This past spring, during the Democratic Primary Debate to replace Rob Krupicka, debate moderator Julie Carey asked some fantastic questions on charter schools, Dominion Power, redistricting and the minimum wage along with 16 other questions. The space in this letter do not permit a response, and my views are available on my campaign website. Rather, I would like to respond to one of the best questions that night, "what bills will you propose on your first day?"

Here is my Day One agenda and five bills: (1) Blue Ribbon Schools; (2) protection for our Animal control officers; (3) immediate action on Landmark Mall; and (4) fund

the region's 668 untested rape kits, including 91 untested rape kits right here in the city. (5) I will fight the proposed \$17 tolls on I-66. They will strangle small businesses, tax working families and clog Alexandria streets with cut through traffic. It will become BRAC 2.0, and I will not stand for it.

I have strong roots in the city and know good governance is expected by our educated citizens. While the voters have been denied accountability and transparency, we have a real choice next week. When I run for re-election, I promise to hold open debates and forums across our great city. I ask for your support and your vote on Nov. 3.

Sean Lenehan
Candidate House of Delegates,
46th District

An Independent's Choices

To the Editor:

As the only Independent candidate running to win a seat on City Council, I have chosen to identify and endorse the candidates I believe will best serve the needs of Alexandria. In the spirit of true non-partisanship, friendship, and camaraderie, I recommend Alexandria voters support the following candidates (listed in alphabetical order): Willie Bailey (D), D. Phil Cefaratti (I), John T. Chapman (D), Paul Smedberg (D), Fernando Torrez (R), Justin Wilson (D).

As an aside, I would be remiss in failing to ac-

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 38

knowledge the great 30 years of service provided by Councilwoman Del Pepper. Her decades of commitment and caring for the needs of residents in our great city have been nothing short of remarkable, and my first act on City Council would be to work with the mayor and my fellow councilmembers to create an honorary position for her as “City Councilwoman Emeritus.”

Each of the 11 candidates for Alexandria City Council offers unique personal perspectives. I believe the six candidates identified above would be the most effective team to work together to address and to solve the city’s issues over the next three years and beyond.

I trust the character and ability of each of us to work together positively and proactively to reach beneficial decisions, despite inevitable differences of opinion. Ultimately, we will be sharing our passion and firm resolve to make Alexandria the best it can be.

As an Independent candidate, I do not seek endorsements, follow any party ideology, or cater to special interest groups. My Independent candidacy gives me the opportunity to represent all Alexandrians across the full political spectrum.

This past summer, Alexandria voters sent a clear message that they seek changes at City Hall. Please help effect that change by voting for me, along with the candidates I endorse. I look forward to joining them in helping to serve you for the next three years, my fellow Alexandrians.

With Democrats, Independents, and Republicans working together, we are a winning voice for all Alexandrians.

Phil Cefaratti
Independent for
Alexandria City Council

Total Commitment

To the Editor:

My decision to run for School Board was not predicated on my children’s education or experience in school but rather on an incident which occurred at my place of employment. My children did not attend ACPS, they attended religious schools, so I run for School Board with no ax to grind, no preconceived notion as to what is right. I am totally impartial and my only goal is to make it right.

I work in a retail store very close to T.C. Williams H.S. and I hire ELL students from ACPS on a part time basis. The students wanted to attend college, but there were never any discussions about college and that was wrong. So my commitment is not personal — it is for others who wish to go to college or what ever career path they chose to be given the opportunity.

I have attended most School Board meetings and facilities meetings this year so I understand the protocol, the issues at hand and the time commitment. My goals are reachable and relevant: I want a total commitment to quality education for all the students. I advocate small classes, extra teacher support for students in need and a firm commitment to ELL, CTE, and special education programs. In addition we need to foster a more active parental involvement which is essential for student improvement.

I advocate a total commitment to teachers-competitive salaries and annual raises based on performance. Our starting salaries are higher than other jurisdictions, however our raises are not and must be increased to reward excellence. I advocate more teachers and teachers assistants in the classrooms. ACPS spent less in classroom instruction percentage than our neighbors.

We must spend wisely; we need to be accountable for funds spent. The budget drives the educational success of ACPS. The school budget must be adequate to fund our expenses. It is absolutely shocking that we have to spend over a billion dollars to renovate and rebuild our school system. Stick to the proposed budget. We need to tackle these issues now. When the Long Range Facilities Committee looked at modernization of the schools

they did not want to tell the cost to the community as it was too expensive but were finally persuaded to do so. When the plan was presented to council, council asked if the elementary schools are overcrowded where is the plan for the new elementary, middle and high school? The budget must reflect everything. It must be totally transparent.

We have ignored the capacity problem. The capacity issue with our schools was brought to light in 2009 — six years ago. Why were we so reluctant to move and face the problem as Jefferson Houston and Cora Kelly are the only schools with space? We need three new schools a elementary, middle and high school. What land is available? I have concerns about redistricting especially in the Beauregard corridor and Landmark area. These will be new developed areas. I pledge to you I will work to make our schools clean, safe and competitive. I will forcefully act — not just react to the problems. I want to to get it right. I will earn your trust but I need your vote to do this.

Please vote for Mimi Goff on Nov. 3.

Mimi Goff
School Board Candidate District B

Champion For Education

To the Editor:

A couple of weeks ago, our nine-year-old daughter, Carmen, looked at our mail and saw a flyer we received from the Write-In Euille campaign, asserting “our kids can’t afford Allison Silberberg to be their Mayor.” The flyer was a blatant misrepresentation of Allison’s record on education and incorrectly attacks her voting record on funding for public education.

Carmen picked up the flyer, read it from front to back and said to me, “Really? These guys have no idea what they’re talking about.”

This comes from a fourth grader who has known Allison her whole life and has always known her to be enthusiastic about education. In fact, Allison has taken a special interest in all of our kids, frequently asking them how they are doing in school, what are their favorite subjects and always encouraging them to do their best.

As a former School Board member with Alexandria City Public Schools, I never questioned Allison’s commitment to education. Over the past three years as vice mayor, she voted for full funding of every school budget. She understands how critical it is to dedicate resources to public education. She is active in the local school community and tutored children at MacArthur Elementary School. The Alexandria Political Action Committee for Education endorsed Allison’s candidacy for mayor.

Allison understands the importance of education because she is a former teacher. At the height of the crack wars in Washington, D.C., she launched and managed a non-profit called “Lights, Camera, Action!” to mentor and teach youth and help them reach their potential through film. Seven out of the eight participants went to college. She also was an adjunct professor at American University where she taught undergraduate and graduate students for more than three years.

As mayor, Allison will continue to push excellence in our schools. She will continue to support early education. She will continue to work with the School Board and Superintendent Crawley to keep our class sizes small and manageable. She will seek more tutoring resources. With her support of the National Science Foundation’s move to Alexandria, she will find ways to help students with their core science and math skills.

These are just a few examples of what Mayor Silberberg’s vision for education in Alexandria.

I am proud to endorse Allison Silberberg to be Alexandria’s next mayor.

I have no doubt Allison will continue to be our city’s champion for education.

Even a fourth grader gets that.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera
Former School Board Member, Alexandria City
Public Schools



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lowe’s employees worked with Rebuilding Together Alexandria to get a local home ready for winter.

Time To Prep for Winter

BY KATHARINE DIXON
PRESIDENT AND CEO
REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

As the days get shorter, our Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers are scurrying around the city to get ready for winter.

Alexandria has an aging population of homeowners, many that are low-income or on a fixed income. A number of these long-time Alexandrians cannot afford to move since prices have increased dra-

Rebuilding Together Alexandria
matically over the years. However, these same homeowners also find it difficult to afford the maintenance on their homes — which is critical to helping them remain and live safely in them.

Helping these citizens stay in their homes is a key part of Rebuilding Together Alexandria’s mission. That’s why when the leaves start turning colors, we start focusing on weatherization and winterizing. We know that keeping these aging and struggling homeowners warm will help them save money and live more comfortably.

Recently we teamed up with Lowe’s employees to help John, a 93-year-old WWII veteran who has lived in his home in the city for the past three decades, get his home ready for winter. John was overwhelmed by the generosity of the volunteers, who spent over a week sealing windows and doors, fixing lights and floors, insulating and more. He could not stop smiling and thanking our Rebuilding Together volunteers for the free, high quality repairs and upgrades.

Our job will continue to grow as Alexandria’s population of those over 60 years old is expected to double by 2030;

while the availability of affordably priced housing will continue to shrink, according to the Alexandria Office of Aging. To keep people like John in their homes, many houses will need to be adapted to accommodate homeowners’ fixed incomes and diminished physical abilities.

For our clients, we always start with an energy audit to determine what upgrades are needed and which make the most sense. Some of the common energy-saving upgrades we recommend include:

❖ Insulate attic hatches: Adding more insulation to attics — including attic doors — are a great way to make a home more comfortable and efficient.

❖ Set water heater to 120 degrees: According to the Department of Energy, every 10 degree reduction in water temperature will save 3-5 percent in energy costs.

❖ Caulk around doors and windows: Caulking — along with weather-stripping — will cut energy use, saving nearly \$200 a year.

❖ Seal windows: Applying plastic film to windows saves money and minimizes cold drafts.

❖ Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills: By using a programmable thermostat, homeowners can save about \$180 annually.

These upgrades are important since many of our clients live in older homes and typically spend about 14 percent of their income on energy, as compared to 3.5 percent for higher-income households.

A few simple upgrades can change a life, save energy, and help strengthen our community. If you know an Alexandria homeowner who could use our help getting ready for winter, please visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

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PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams field hockey team won the Conference 7 championship with a 3-0 victory over Woodson on Oct. 26 at Minnie Howard.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

Philomena Fitzgerald helped the T.C. Williams field hockey program win its first conference/district title since 1995.

TC Field Hockey Wins First Conference Title Since 1995

Titans beat Woodson 3-0 in conference final, improve to 18-1.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

After members of the T.C. Williams field hockey team gathered to be recognized following Monday's Conference 7 tournament final, principal Jesse Dingle handed the championship plaque to head coach William Heresniak, who passed the award to senior Philomena Fitzgerald.

With the postgame celebration continuing, Fitzgerald, a team captain, started to get emotional while describing what the Titans had just accomplished.

"It means a new beginning for TC field hockey," she said. "We're definitely a threat for the conference level, and the region. I'm just excited to see how far we get [in] the region."

No. 1 seed T.C. Williams defeated No. 3 Woodson 3-0 on Oct. 26 at Minnie Howard, earning the Titans their first conference/district championship since 1995. TC dominated throughout, building a 2-0 halftime lead before adding an insurance goal with 3:05 remaining in the contest. The Titans held a 17-1 advantage in corners.

T.C. Williams produced quality teams in recent seasons, but had failed to end a championship drought that would have reached 20 years if not for Monday's victory. The Titans advanced to the Patriot District championship game in 2012, but lost to South County. Last year, a 12-3-1 regular-season record went for naught as the Titans were upset by Woodson in the opening round of the conference tournament, ending their season.

This year, TC's regular-season dominance has extended into the postseason. Monday's victory over the Cavaliers improved the Titans' record to 18-1 and extended their win streak to 14 games.

"When I got moved up my freshman year (2012), we went to the conference finals and we lost [in the final minutes], and that experience as a freshman made my love for

field hockey so much stronger," Fitzgerald said. "To be here three ... years later in the same place but winning just means so much."

None of the current T.C. Williams players had been born the last time the Titans won a district championship.

"That's crazy," senior Tatiana Gold said. "It's kind of mind-boggling, honestly."

Fitzgerald, who will play at College of the Holy Cross, is a standout and one of the team leaders in goals and assists ("We would not be here without Phil," Heresniak said), but the Titans' success has come mostly through evenly distributed goal scoring. TC outscored opponents 8-0 during the conference tournament, with five different players scoring at least one goal.

On Monday, Claire Bilodeau scored with 22:01 remaining in the first half, with an assist from Josie Brocato, giving TC a 1-0 lead. Gold scored with 11:30 left in the first half, extending the Titans' lead to 2-0. Sophie Johnson had the assist.



T.C. Williams senior Josie Brocato had an assist during Monday's win over Woodson.

Celia Holubar scored with 3:05 remaining in the second half, giving TC a 3-0 lead.

"It's not somebody scoring 13 or 15 or whatever," Heresniak said. "I've got ... at least four players who are scoring six or more goals and they're at different positions. Some of the scoring comes off corners, but a lot of it is just off of ball movement as we're working the ball down field. That's been our key is ball movement, and almost anybody's a threat."

Gold's goal was her first since returning from a broken thumb she suffered on Sept. 17 during a game against Mount Vernon. Gold needed surgery on her right thumb after being hit by a line drive and missed a month. She returned for the Titans' conference tournament quarterfinal matchup against Annandale on Oct. 20, wearing a padded brace. She also wears a brace on her left knee due a torn ACL she suffered while playing soccer as a sophomore.

"She's had a couple unfortunate injuries the past two years, and you knock her down, she gets back up; you knock her down, she gets back up," Heresniak said. "She put a couple goals in in key games at the beginning of the season, then she broke a bone in her hand and had pins in it. She came up

to me about ... 10 days ago and she came back from the doctor and she said, 'Look, my pins are out, I can play,' and she's there. She's just a great kid. Nothing keeps her down."

Gold is in her third varsity field hockey season.

"Going through two major injuries has given me a new perspective," Gold said. "I've really gained an appreciation for sports. Coming back and seeing my team work so hard ... [and] to recover from injuries and to keep going and pushing myself as hard as I can, knowing that this could be the outcome is just something that's really special to me."

With Monday's victory, T.C. Williams secured Conference 7's No. 1 seed in the 6A North region tournament and faced McLean, the No. 4 seed from Conference 6, on Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The winner of T.C. Williams and McLean faces the winner of Osbourn Park and Robinson at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 29.

How did Heresniak, who has coached at T.C. Williams since 1996 and took over as head coach in 2009, describe the accomplishment of winning a conference title?

"It's huge," he said. "There's a lot of history that goes with it."



T.C. Williams senior Tatiana Gold (15) scored a goal during Monday's win over Woodson, six days after returning from a broken thumb that sidelined her for a month.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

25 Sales & Auctions

2 Apartments

2 Apartments

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

OBITUARY



Roberta Rand Robinson Fede

Roberta Rand Robinson Fede of Alexandria, Virginia passed away in her home on Sunday, October 18th in the comfort of her family and nursing aides following a 15-year battle with breast cancer. She was 72 years old.

Roberta was born on January 5, 1943 in Tacoma, Washington to John W. Robinson and Doris P. Hill Robinson of Brown's Point, Tacoma, WA, both deceased. Roberta was predeceased by her husband Frank Joseph Fede and Frank's daughter Marcia Fede Egge of Alexandria, VA. She is survived by her two loving daughters: Franchesca Rand Fede Gomez of Staunton, VA (son-in-law, Greg Aldridge) and Courtney Jane Fede Preusse of Renton, WA (son-in-law, Andrew Preusse), her stepchildren from her marriage with Frank: Susan Fede Schott of Chattanooga, Tennessee (stepson-in-law, Ron Schott), David Fede of Fairfax, VA (stepdaughter-in-law, Teri Fede), Honor Elizabeth Fede of Alexandria, VA, her grandchildren: Kari Ann Schott, Brian Schott, Nathan Egge, Noah Egge, Samantha Fede, Michael Fede, Natalie Gomez and Isabel Gomez, her brother: Robert Reid Robinson of Tacoma, WA (sister-in-law, Mary Robinson), and her dear 15-year old Scottish Terrier: Teddy.

Roberta attended Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington and graduated at the top of her class. She then went on to attend Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where she worked a full time job to pay for school and, again, graduated at the top of her class. She moved to Washington, DC shortly after graduation to work for Congressman Brock Adams and later, the US Department of Transportation for 32 years. Roberta stayed in the area, where she met Frank, a negotiator for the US State Department.

Roberta enjoyed traveling, kayaking, hiking and swimming. She enjoyed friends and community life for many years. She leaves behind more wonderful friends and fond memories than a person could ever wish for. She will be remembered for her grace, loving nature, optimism and practicality.

A memorial service will be held at Pohick Church at 9301 Richmond Hwy, Lorton, VA 22079 on Tuesday, October 27th at 11am followed by burial. A celebration of life will be held at the Brown's Point clubhouse on December 6th for family and friends on the west coast. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Roberta's name can be made to The Historic Pohick Church Foundation (www.pohick.org/historic.html) or to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA (www.fredhutch.org/en/ways-to-give.html).


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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



GAHRES

Dr. Edward E. Gahres (Age 85)

Of Alexandria, VA passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 following a stroke. He was born January 9, 1930 in Somerville, NJ to the late Frank A. and Mary H. Gahres, and is survived by his devoted wife of 64 years Colleen M. Gahres, his son James E. Gahres (Jeanne), daughter Catherine E. Gahres (Jim), and grandchildren Cameron Gahres and Elizabeth Woolford.

Dr. Gahres did his undergraduate work at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ, received a master's degree in genetics from George Washington University and a medical degree from the University of Virginia. He was a dedicated and caring obstetrician and gynecologist, delivering thousands of babies during his 50 year career in Alexandria and the District of Columbia. Thirty of those years were in practice with his friend and colleague Dr. Luis Radice.

A champion for his profession and his patients, Dr. Gahres served two terms as chair of the OB-GYN department at Alexandria Hospital, and was a past president of both the Virginia and Washington Obstetrical & Gynecological Societies. In the 1980's he spearheaded the creation of the Virginia Birth Injury Fund to help address the decrease of OB-GYNs in the state. Dr. Gahres was a clinical professor of OB-GYN at George Washington University School of Medicine, and a fellow of many medical societies, including The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

Dr. Gahres was a loving husband, father and grandfather, loyal Yankees and Redskins fan, train enthusiast, purveyor of jokes, handyman extraordinaire, and well-known for his ever-present bow tie.

A memorial service honoring Dr. Gahres' life will be held Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 pm, in the Chapel at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson Street, Falls Church, VA. Donations honoring Dr. Gahres may be made to the University of Virginia Medical School Foundation, P.O. Box 800776, Charlottesville, VA 22908.

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OBITUARY

Edwin Calver Granley of Alexandria, VA, 94, died peacefully on September 22, 2015 at Greenspring Retirement Village, where he was a resident. He was born on June 3, 1921 in Bainville, Montana to Ole and Sarah Lucken Granley.

"Ed" is survived by his daughter, Sara Granley Becker and husband Steve of McLean, VA, three grandchildren; John Sidbury Becker of Chicago, IL, Sarah Grace Becker and Evan Granley Becker, both of McLean, VA; 3 nieces, Arlene Sellars of Kiefer, Indiana, Joyce Schmidt of Wanatchee, Washington, Marion Harrelson and nephew Dave Granley, both of Bainville, Montana.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Norma Sanders Granley, his brothers, Albert Granley and Raymond Granley and a nephew Lloyd Granley.

Ed attended Havre College in Havre, Montana until 1942 then served as an Aircraft Engineering Technician for the US Army during WWII. He graduated from Montana State University with a B.S in Civil Engineering and worked for the Federal Highway Administration from 1949 until his retirement in 1981.

Ed was a member of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA for over 30 years. He was a member of the "Road Gang", a group of fellow highway engineers, an active alumnus of Montana State University, a skier, a golfer and an enthusiastic polka dancer.

As a young man in the 1950's, Ed was President of the Washington Ski Club when club members had to groom the slopes. He was a regular at Montana State Society events around DC.

He will be remembered for his happy personality and his kindness.

Friends and Family will gather to remember him at a future date.

Ed was always happy to help those in need, so in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in his name to a favorite charity.

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

and

**THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-09-05**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools and the City of Alexandria, Virginia are seeking proposals for Architectural & Engineering Design Services for Patrick Henry PreK-8 School and Recreational Facility.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-09-05 – A/E Design Services PH,

RFP 15-09-05 will be received in the Financial Services Department, Procurement Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, November 30, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 4:30 p.m., November 20, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 10:00 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in the third floor conference room 310-3B, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend.

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

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OBITUARY

Elizabeth Stewart Clement was born on September 24, 1928, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and died on September 27, 2015, in Alexandria, Virginia, after a brief illness. She is survived by her devoted husband of 67 years, Col. Coleman C. Clement, Jr., USA, Ret. She is also survived by her children: Catherine R. Clement (Sandy Modell), Clare Stober, Richard L. Clement (Laura W. Clement), her six grandchildren: Coleman P. Schenning (Lauren Rash Schenning), Catherine E. Schenning Pearson (Michael Pearson), Lee D. Clement, Jackson S. Clement, James E. Clement, Mollie E. Clement, and her great-granddaughter, Margaret Pearson. She is also survived by her sister, E. Jacqueline Stewart and brother, Richards O. Stewart, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Elizabeth attended the Telfair Academy in Savannah, Georgia, and the High Museum of Art School, in Atlanta Georgia. In 1948, she married Coleman C. Clement, Jr., a U.S. Army officer, and managed the family for 25 years at various postings in the United States, Europe, Asia and Central America. Coleman and Elizabeth lived in Alexandria from 1968 to 1980, during which time Elizabeth was a founding member of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. In 1980, they retired to Winter Haven, Florida, where Elizabeth continued to pursue her career as a painter and teacher of art. In 2007, they moved to the Washington House, Alexandria, Virginia.

On November 1, 2015, Fr. Carlton C. Clarke, of All Angels Anglican Church, will conduct a brief memorial service at 3:00 p.m. at the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to All Angels Anglican Church, 5515 Cherokee Avenue Suite 303 Springfield, VA 22312.

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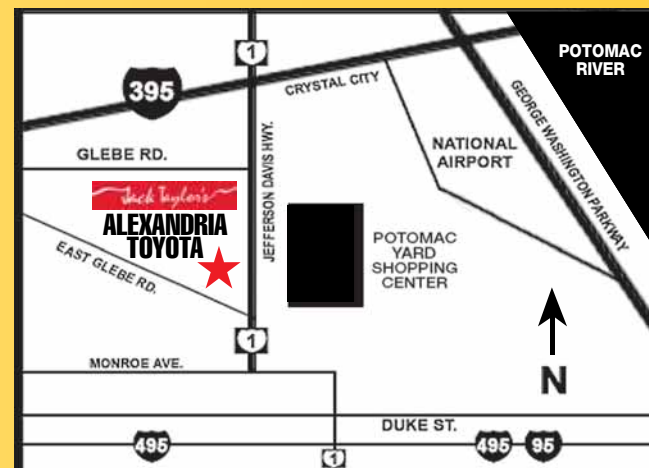
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Alexandria \$845,000

Captivating 4-bedroom Cape Cod with open floor plan and gorgeous wooded setting. Beautiful upgrades throughout include remodeled kitchen, main level master bedroom suite and fully finished spacious rec room. 905 E Timber Branch Parkway

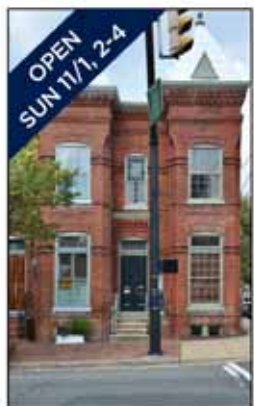
Kristie Zimmerman
703.786.6155
www.kristieismyagent.com



Alexandria \$545,000

With a nature preserve next door & a location on a dead end street, this updated house and yard are remarkably quiet. The slate patio leads to a big backyard surrounded by mature trees. Inside is a brand new kitchen and renovated baths. 1045 Rynex Dr.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



Old Town \$750,000

New Price on this delightful Victorian freshly restored with many period details, gorgeous wood floors, new kitchen, baths, and garden.

Located on a fantastic light, corner location at corner of North Patrick and Cameron Streets. Also zoned commercial. 1001 Cameron Street

Paul Anderson
703.408.0676
www.paulvanderson.com



Overlook \$324,000

Fantastic value for a townhouse/condo inside the Beltway! Lower level foyer with direct garage access...perfect for colder weather. Filled with natural

light! Two spacious baths...perfect for roommates. Located close to all major roadways...perfect for commuting in all directions.

Betty Mallon
703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



Old Town \$1,299,900

Great Potomac River views! Sunny end unit townhome in Old Town that overlooks Oronoco Bay Park. High ceilings, crown mold-

ing and chair rail accents, gleaming hardwood floors & recessed lighting. 2 master suites! 2-car garage & close to Airport. 124madison.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Del Ray \$599,900

Updated 3-bedroom, 2-bath row house located just steps from everything Del Ray. Fully updated kitchen with stainless appliances & granite

counters opens to a large dining room. Lower level rec room with tall ceilings, full bath. Fenced rear yard, rear porch & off-street parking with carport.

Bob Bazzle
703.599.8964
www.BobBazzle.com