



Mayor Allison Silberberg



Vice Mayor Justin Wilson

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Ethics Reform Roils Council

Progressive transparency or potential witch hunt?

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

One month into her term as mayor, Allison Silberberg got the process started on enacting a new set of ethics reforms. At its Jan. 28 meeting, the City Council voted to approve an Ad Hoc Study Group to examine ethics reform. It's the first legislative step forward on an issue Silberberg had put forward as a centerpiece of her election last year. But on the rest of the council, feelings toward the new committee were a little more tepid, some even drawing parallels between Silberberg's ethics reform and McCarthyism.

Even before she was officially sworn in, Silberberg had begun circulating her proposal for a "Transparency Study Group." The group would look into the possibility of an ethics pledge, areas of focus regarding ethics, and at the structures and duties of a future ethics advisory commission.

The item was not formally on the agenda, but public citizens had organized to speak in favor of propositions from Silberberg. Some of the speakers were new faces, but the majority were famil-

iar faces in City Hall, particularly for their vocal opposition to the city's waterfront redevelopment. While council members usually wait until the end of the public comment session to respond to conversation topics raised, the meeting was notable for an unusually large back and forth between council members and the public. Mostly, the public citizens advocated for the sweeping ethics reform propositions informally proposed by the mayor, while members of the City Council defended their ethics reform background and urged greater caution. At the end of the public discussion, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson transitioned the discussion into a more formal vote of approval of a group to study an ethics commission.

The new committee, known as the Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Review Committee, would be tasked with examining the feasibility and usefulness of a commission on ethics. The committee will consist of nine members, seven of whom are appointed by members of City Council. The other two

would be appointed by the city manager and would have experience in improving government transparency, accountability, and ethics. Nominees may not be officers of a political party, elected officials, current members planning commission, board of architectural review, or board of zoning

"I understand an alternative proposal to have each council person appoint [people] to an ethics review committee, but as they say down state, that dog won't hunt."

— Jack Sullivan, resident

SEE WITCH HUNT, PAGE 14

Lining Up Against Beyer

Incumbent gains Republican opponents.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

It's been a little over a year since U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) took office, and both the first term congressman and his political opposition have been busy in that time.

Beyer had what he calls "two and a half" bills passed this year. It's not high profile legislation, but for a congressman in the minority, Beyer says he's proud of them.

IN 8TH DISTRICT

The half-bill was part of legislation attached to the highway bill. Beyer's amendment returned control over towing to local jurisdictions, the beginning of a process to stop the predatory towing that's troubled Arlington County in recent years.

The first full legislation was a science prize bill — essentially, a bounty on the American scientific communities toughest problems.

"NASA has been using cash prizes for years to engage people to solve math problems," said Beyer. "This extended that to the National Institute of Health and the Center for Disease Control. It's engaging more citizens in solving some of the nation's most difficult problems."

The other legislation was a bill supporting resources to the Na-

SEE BEYER, PAGE 22



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)



VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Charles Hernick at the Jan. 27 Arlington County Republican Committee meeting.



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Mike Webb at the Jan. 27 Arlington County Republican Committee meeting.

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NAACP To Honor Local Church Leader

The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley to receive national award.

BY MARISSA BEALE
GAZETTE PACKET

The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church (ASBC) in Alexandria was recently named a recipient of the 2016 NAACP Chairman's Image Award, "an award presented to individuals and organizations using their platforms to be agents of change in their communities."

"He is courageous about addressing issues and he makes us want to be more involved," said Beverly Overby, a deacon at the church and member for 14 years. "We know he's being led by the Holy Spirit."

He is one of eight individuals selected to receive the award this year.

In line with the history of ASBC's leaders, Wesley's decisions have gained atten-

tion outside the church. His sermon, "When the Verdict Hurts," was acknowledged in Time Magazine's July 29, 2013 cover story as one of the best sermons following the Trayvon Martin verdict. The church gained recent notice after also becoming the first, and so far, the only religious institution to donate \$1 million to the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, D.C.

"That Pastor Wesley led the church in donating \$1 million to the NMAAHC is very courageous," said Deacon James Garrett. "[This award] is great and is very significant. It reflects the long journey the church has been on."

"As a Christian and executive I see substance in his leadership and the Biblical soundness of how he's leading," said Jennifer Jones, a member of ASBC for the past



COURTESY OF ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria

four years. "It gives the church greater visibility and influence that can be used in a positive way."

Past recipients of the Chairman's Award include U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., Tyler Perry, former Vice President Al Gore, Aretha Franklin, and then-

Senator Barack Obama. "There is no way to receive an award like that and not be grateful," said Wesley during the Jan. 31 worship service. He said he is honored to be walking the red carpet with his sons in February, and encouraged the congregation to continue advocating for social justice. ASBC's membership currently stands at 7,000. The church's individuals and ministries have taken active roles in the community by recognizing local law enforcement officers, organizing events promoting random acts of kindness and running various donation drives. The NAACP Image Awards "celebrates the accomplishment of people of color in the fields of television, music, literature and film, and also honor individuals or groups who promote social justice through creative endeavors," according to a press release. Roslyn M. Brock, chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, will present the NAACP Image Awards on Feb. 5 in Los Angeles. The event will be televised live on TV One.

Shea Takes Helm of Chamber Board

Robert Shea of Grant Thornton LLP officially took over as chairman of the board of directors of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce at the annual Chairman's Community Reception Jan. 20 at Blackwall Hitch Restaurant.

Despite the surprise sleet and snow that served as a precursor to the weekend's blizzard, more than 165 people turned out for the nautical themed event.

"Alexandria is the crown jewel of Virginia and I am honored to lead the chamber in its 110th year," said Shea, Grant Thornton's principle for Global Public Sector. "The chamber has had a long and proud history in this city."

Dubbed "Set Sail With the Chamber," the networking event featured custom hand-rolled cigars from Pucho Cigars and a signature cocktail called "The Shea."

"Today's chamber is the culmination



Former Chamber board member Roger Parks with 2012 board chair Andrew Palmieri.

of each and every past chair's achievements and vision," added Shea, who takes over from Burke and Herbert vice president Walter Clarke. "I am thrilled to stand here before you as the 2016 board chairman and look forward working with president and CEO Joe Haggerty and our entire board to navigate the chamber through our next chapter."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Robert Shea and ACT's John Porter give a thumbs up to attendees at the Chairman's Community Reception Jan. 20 at Blackwall Hitch Restaurant.



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Haggerty, left, officially welcomes Grant Thornton's Robert Shea as the 2016 board chair at the Chairman's Community Reception Jan. 20 at Blackwall Hitch Restaurant.



Becky Mahood and Katharine Dixon enjoy the Chamber of Commerce Chairman's reception.

Recalling Diana 'Dee' Phillips

Longtime volunteer dies at 76.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Doug Phillips remembers the first time he set eyes on his wife Dee. "She was working for a law firm at the corner of Cameron and Pitt and I was an Alexandria firefighter," Doug Phillips said. "I saw her on the street and that was it."

The two were married in 1991 and spent the next 25 years sharing a passion for boating and volunteer service to the community. On Jan. 19, Dee Phillips died after a three-year battle with colon cancer. She was 76.

"I nicknamed her 'my gladiator,'" said Dee Beresford, a close friend of Phillips and fellow member of the Old Dominion Boat Club. "She just kept fighting. Her spirit was unbelievable."

Born Dec. 25, 1939 in Ashland, Ohio,

SEE RECALLING, PAGE 5



Diana 'Dee' Phillips died Jan. 19 at the age of 76.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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ABSENTEE VOTING

In-Person Absentee Voting.

Through Saturday, Feb. 27, during business hours at Office of Voter Registrations and Elections, 132 N. Royal Street, Suite 100. Absentee voting for Virginia's March 1 Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary is open. Many Alexandria voters are eligible to vote absentee, to learn what circumstances qualify, visit alexandriava.gov/Elections and click on "Absentee Voting," or call 703-746-4050.

Absentee Voting By Mail. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is Tuesday, Feb. 23. Applications must be received in the Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m. on this day. Absentee ballot applications are available at alexandriava.gov/Elections, or by contacting the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at 703-746-4050. Applications may also be submitted online through the Citizen Portal at <http://elections.virginia.gov>. These absentee ballots must be received by the Voter Registration Office no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, March 1.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Civil War Lecture. 11 a.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. "Harriet Jacobs and Julia Wilbur: Friends and Allies in Civil War." Writer, editor, and Civil

War researcher Paula Whitacre will deliver a lecture on Harriet Ann Jacobs and Julia Wilbur, Civil War aid workers who lived in Alexandria during the Civil War and wrote about their experiences. Free. Reservations encouraged, but not required. Call 703-746-4356.

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Family Art Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Family Art Workshop: Valentines Card Making. \$30 parent/child. Call 703-944-4381 or email info@metamorphosisaec.com.

Ad Hoc Group on Signage. 7 p.m. at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St., in the City Council Work Room. This meeting will focus on many types of signage in the City and discuss Zoning Ordinance text changes needed as a result of the recent US Supreme Court ruling in Reed v. Town of Gilbert Arizona, et al (June 18, 2015). Meetings are open to the public. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1PfuPYv> or call Alex Dambach at 703-746-3829.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

City Council Legislative Meeting. 7 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Jackie Henderson, jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4500.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

Old Town North SAP Subcommittee Meeting. 4 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Nancy Williams, nancy.williams@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3858.

Transition to High School Night. 6 p.m. at Hammond Middle School, Address. Join the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and other middle school families for "Transition to High School Planning Night." The event includes: pizza, college planning tips and an overview of scheduling 9th grade classes. Open to all ACPS middle school students and their families. Register at www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers/. Interpretation will be provided with registration.

Old Town North SAP

Subcommittee Meeting. 7 p.m. at City Hall. Contact Nancy Williams, nancy.williams@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3858.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

Low Vision Resource Group. 1:30-3 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library 5005 Duke St. Learn about accessing newspapers and magazines over the phone and more. Presented by Metropolitan Washington Ear. To register, call the library at 703-746-1762. Visit www.youreyes.org.

Waterfront Commission Marina

Committee. 5 p.m. at City Hall, Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

Potomac Yard Metro

Implementation Work Group. 6:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Contact Jason Kacamburas, jason.kacamburas@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4049 or visit the City's Potomac Yard website at alexandriava.gov/PotomacYard.

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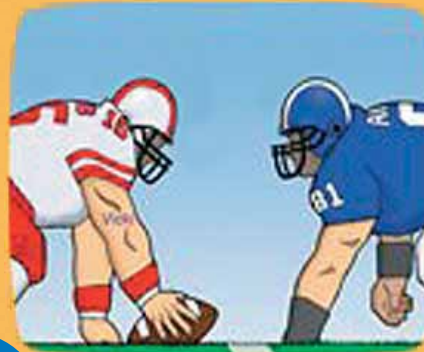
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Beyer to Keynote Breakfast

Event kicks off Parade Day celebrations.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) will be the keynote speaker at the annual Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association breakfast Feb. 15 to kick off the citywide George Washington Birthday Parade day celebrations.

A long-time Alexandria resident, Beyer is serving his first term in Congress. Previously, he served as U.S. ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and was the lieutenant governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998.

After serving as lieutenant governor for eight years, Beyer lost his bid for governor in 1997. But "Plan B" had its advantages.

"Being Ambassador turned out to be better than being governor," Beyer joked when he spoke to the Alexandria Rotary Club shortly after his election. "There was no General Assembly to deal with."

Beyer currently serves on the Joint Economic Committee, the House Committee on Natural Resources, is Ranking Member on the Oversight Subcommittee to the Committee on Science, Space and Technology and a member of the New Democrat Coalition. Prior to his election to



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)

congress, Beyer spent 14 years as chair of Jobs for Virginia Graduates, a high school dropout prevention program, and was active for a decade on the board of the D.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. As chair of the Virginia Economic Recovery Commission, he helped pass permanent pro-business reforms and was co-founder of the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

Beyer used his role as ambassador to advocate for stricter sanctions to compel Iran to begin nuclear disarmament discussions and was integral to U.S. Department of Justice efforts to halt the abuses of Swiss bank secrecy by wealthy Americans.

Following his return to Alexandria in 2013, Beyer made the decision to re-enter public service, winning election to replace Jim Moran, who retired after serving 24 years representing the 8th district of Virginia.

"Megan and I had a wonderful four years in Switzerland," Beyer said of he and his wife, who have four children and two grandchildren. "Being ambassador was a wonderful job but it's good to be home and I am excited for the opportunity to again serve the people of Virginia."

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast will be held at the Hotel Monaco at 9 a.m. and will feature the presentation of the Ben Lynt Distinguished Service Award. For tickets or more information, email Bill Kehoe at kehoefd@aol.com or visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Recalling Phillips

FROM PAGE 3

Phillips was the daughter of the late Irving and Ruth Whitt Wiley. The military family moved often with Phillips settling in Alexandria in the 1950s following time spent overseas with her parents.

"She worked for the City of Alexandria Housing Authority back in the '60s," Doug Phillips said. "And she was very involved with the Penn Daw Volunteer Fire Department."

Phillips was a flight attendant with American Airlines and USAir prior to becoming the office administrator for Federal District Court Judge Teresa Buchanan. For more than 15 years, Phillips was the secretary of the Old Dominion Book Club.

"Dee was a great volunteer," Beresford said. "And she was passionate about the Boat Club and the community. She had so many friends and a wonderful sense of humor."

Phillips is survived by her husband, Douglas Phillips; children, Steven Norris and Stacey King; granddaughter, Courtney Yates; sister, Sharon Gower and brother-in-law, James Gower. Phillips' stepson Paul, a captain with the Bonita Springs, Fla., fire department, died in a hunting accident Dec. 20, 2015, just days before he was set to retire.

A Celebration of Life service was held Jan. 25 at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Chapel followed by interment in Mount Comfort Cemetery.

"Dee had such a passion for life," Beresford said. "She loved many things — boating, going crabbing, traveling. But most of all she loved her family and this community. To the end, my gladiator never gave up."



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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ FEBRUARY 4-10, 2016 ♦ 5

Kostbar: Bike Noise Is Epidemic

BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

A week after the big snowstorm, a blue and silver Trek Excalibur sits on a bike rack waiting for its one-year warranty tune up and replacement of the chain links for more speed. Garrett Kostbar, service manager of Spokes etc. on Quaker Lane, will check all the bolts to be sure nothing has loosened up, adjust the head set to prevent slop or play in the bearing assembly, check the brake adjustment, make sure the wheels are true since the braided stainless steel cable can stretch out and break.

"What we need to do depends on how much someone rides a bike," he said. "If they use it to commute they can put on 800 miles in three months and should have check ups every 3-4 months." He adds every bike should have a yearly preventative maintenance check up.

PEOPLE AT WORK

Kostbar removes the eight chain link bolts. "This should take 10 minutes.

Hmmmm, this replacement is a little more difficult than expected. The crank arms are slightly larger.

"Things definitely slow down in the winter. Right now there are three bikes in the shop and a one-day turnaround on repairs. In the summer months we have 10-15 scheduled repairs a day plus walk-ins so there is a 1-1/2 - 2 week turnaround then."

He says with new technology bikes are more complicated and harder to repair. The evolution of material makes carbon fiber more and more popular; it's lighter and stiffer. But it makes a lot more noise and it drives people crazy," Kostbar said. "We have to do noise diagnostics to track what it is. It is usually two press fit components rubbing together. They resonate noise." So he has to pull apart the bike, clean the interfaces. "There is usually grit so we clean it and put on a layer of grease as a buffer. Noise is an epidemic."

He remembers one carbon frame bike with a press frame bottom. It made a creaking racket. He says he did every diagnostic, took the whole bike apart and couldn't find it. Finally after nine hours of work over several days he discovered the rubber grommet was out on the quick release for the tire causing the wheel to rock. "It was the sim-



Garrett Kostbar, service manager at Spokes etc. on Quaker Lane has a Trek Excalibur in for a one-year warranty tune up and replacing the chain rings for more speed.

plest thing; you would never guess." But because of the serious noise issues, he thinks the trend is to go back to the threaded. And he adds the simple Cruisers trend is getting bigger because "we're at a point where people cycle for fun and want the bike as simple as possible."

Kostbar says he started working at a bike store in Nebraska in 2004 sweeping the floor and changing tires. "My motivation was that they also carried skateboards, my passion at the time, and I got a discount." But, "I like hands-on mechanics and fell in love with cycling." He hasn't touched his skateboard for two years. Kostbar moved to Virginia where he started working at Spokes three years ago and became service manager one year later. In addition to bike repair, he hires staff and supervises his four full-time and five part-time staff and makes sure things are running smoothly.

"Dealing with the warranty side is the most time consuming—for instance, when someone has a crack in the frame and I have to take a picture, make sure it fits within the warranty, send it in for repair and then reassemble it later."

The most common repair is a derailleur adjustment or a flat tire. He says there is a lot of glass on the roads here while back in Nebraska it was those hard bristly seed pods. "We can get 20-30 flat tires on a Saturday." And the most difficult bike to fix is not a high-end mountain bike as one might suspect. "The hardest job is a Wal-Mart-type cheaper bike because they aren't necessarily designed to work well. Instead of engineering a bike, they bring in other people's parts and put it together."

Kostbar says he has a specialized Enduro with full suspension and a specialized stump jumper with a hard tail. "The rear end is rigid so it's more responsive and faster. For me the mountain bikes are still the thing. I love them, my passion for sure. Out in the woods, away from civilization. It gets the adrenalin going."



The bike tune up at Spokes etc. includes checking all the bolts to be sure nothing is loosening up, adjusting brakes properly, making sure the wheels are true. The braided stainless steel cables can stretch out and part of it breaks in the process giving the biker a



Garrett Kostbar says the most common repair is a flat tire. On weekends in the summer they can have 20-30 flat tire repairs mostly from families and casual riders. He says bike commuters usually change their own tires.

On Cleod9

SSSAS grad turns love of music into career.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE
SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

According to local music producer Ian McLeod, one of the biggest misconceptions about the music industry is that you have to move to New York City or Los Angeles in order to make anything happen. McLeod, a 2009 graduate of Alexandria's St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, turned down a job in New York City less than two years ago to start his own company, Cleod9 Music. With Cleod 9, McLeod creates original and licensed music for commercials, documentary and film.

Since he launched Cleod 9 in the summer of 2014, the company's music has set the stage for a number of both national and international productions, including this year's award-winning documentary, "Sierra Quitiquit: How Did I Get Here," about Sierra Quitiquit, the American professional skier and model.

"How Did I Get Here," McLeod's first documentary, is a currently a part of the 2016 film festival circuit — having already debuted at Banff Mountain Film Festival and slated to appear at Sundance, Telluride and many others.

McLeod said that being a part of the acclaimed documentary was an honor, although thoughts of film festivals and coveted industry awards never crossed his mind.

"I had no idea," McLeod said. "Awards weren't even on my radar. That was our first documentary, so from August to October of last year, that was the only project we were working on. It's about an hour movie, and we scored 40 minutes total, including the trailer and the opening and closing scenes. Since it was our first documentary, it was a really daunting task. The director, Chris Kitchen, was probably thinking of film festivals — not us. My strategy was to break the music process down to its simplest form, and focus on one song at a time."

Speaking of baby steps, McLeod has had a love of music for as long as he can remem-

ber. He's a classically trained pianist whose father urged him to tinker with jazz music when he wanted to quit piano lessons.

"I started playing in jazz lounges in D.C. during high school," McLeod said. "That's when I got introduced to hip hop, funk and R&B," McLeod said. "I started making beats and selling them to local rappers. That's basically how I made money during high-school summers. I never had a typical day job."

His love of jazz music also



comes from his maternal grandfather, who continues to make music part of his daily life.

"A big-time influence for me was my grandfather, J. Rex Watkins," McLeod said. "He had his own jazz band in Salina, Kansas. He fought in World War II and then traveled all over the world. Through it all, music was always at the top of his list. He continues to be my inspiration."

McLeod graduated from James Madison University in 2013 with a degree in communications and took a job with an advertising agency in Alexandria fresh out of college. He ultimately turned down a job with a New York City ad agency because he knew the grueling hours of corporate advertising would take him away from what he ultimately wanted to devote his life to: music.

"I knew that by going to New York City, I would be working 14 hour days and wouldn't have time to pursue music the way I wanted to" McLeod said. "So, that's when I decided to find a way and make music my career."

McLeod started his own company to help filmmakers and production houses enhance their visual storytelling with music. He is the main composer and producer at Cleod9, and contracts out to four other producers as well as a sound designer.

SEE SSSAS, PAGE 8

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



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Betsy Rutkowski 703.229.3368
ALEXANDRIA / Del Ray \$ 719,900

Gorgeous detached home in the heart of Del Ray located 1 block off "the Avenue". 3BR / 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, a designer kitchen, new HVAC, 2 off-street, parking spaces and much more. Call for details.



Franki Roberts 703.898.0840
ALEX. / Hollin Hills \$ 715,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

2114 POPKINS LN Mid-century modern 2-level on very private lot. 3 / 4BR + den - main level master suite could be easily converted to 2 bedrooms - rec room, 2 fireplaces, carport, screened porch, private patio surrounded by lush shrubs and trees, and systems new in 2015. Community pool and tennis court.



Martine & Alexander Irmer 703.346.7283 or 403.2465
ALEX. / Parker Gray \$ 629,900 OPEN SATURDAY 2 - 4

401 N FAYETTE ST Spacious and wide 3BR / 2.5BA end unit brick townhome. Open floor plan with 1,615 sq ft of living space. Updated kitchens, baths and Pella Windows. 2,000+ sq ft lot with 2 off-street parking spaces.



Renee Reymond 703.507.5330
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 649,900

Classic Clapboard . . . 1880's townhome with addition now available. Original wood details and floor, 2BR, open kitchen and family room with fireplace, bonus sunroom, office, brick patio, steps to grocery, eateries. Ready for move-in. Call Renee.



Elke & Heidi Kohler 703.967.7633 or 609.7367
ALEX. / Waynewood \$ 645,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 3

8417 DOYLE DR A Real Find! A 4BR / 1.5BA, 4-level home in great condition. Remodeled bathrooms, newer windows throughout, plenty of storage, large laundry room in lower level, wood-burning fireplace in living room, separate dining room, landscaping and huge yard. Waynewood School District.



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
ALEXANDRIA / South Meadows \$ 229,990

Ground floor 2BR / 2BA condo just outside the beltway. Gas Fireplace. Full size washer and dryer in unit. Assigned parking and guest and street parking. Community center, swimming pool and tot lot. Close to shopping, restaurants and public transportation.

RENTALS

3078 Abingdon St \$1,450
Fairlington Village Condo 1BR / 1BA
Renee Reymond 703.927.9895

6609 10th St #A1 \$1,595
Belle View Condo 2BR / 1BA
Ellen Young 703.930.7617

6114 Castletown Way \$2,300
Runnymede Townhouse 3BR / 2FBA / 2HBA Frpl 1 Gar
Dave Olinger 703.864.3196

3724 King St \$2,000
Fairlington Towne Townhouse 3BR / 1.5BA
Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433

1413 Belle View Blvd #A2 \$1,600
Belle View Condo 2BR / 1BA
Steve Kindrick 703.683.0400

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SSSAS Grad Turns Love of Music into Career

FROM PAGE 6

"I mainly use a keyboard and computer software to compose all the music," McLeod said. "I joke that I'm a great drummer as long as you keep me on the keyboard. If you give me a set of drums, though, I wouldn't know what to do with it."

The success that McLeod has found with Cleod 9 has not come without sacrifice.

"For the longest time, I couldn't pay myself," McLeod said. "For the first six months, I was making \$25 to \$30 a week. It was really hard. I had to get resourceful."

McLeod would take YouTube videos, strip them of their original music and compose his own. Without a portfolio, this is the work he used to win his first client: National Geographic.

"After Nat Geo, we really found our niche and gained credibility in the Outdoor/Action-Sport world," he said. "We did work for Sony, Red Bull and winter resorts."

McLeod cold-called Jackson Hole Mountain Resort in Wyoming, and was referred to a video production company: KGB Productions. It was good timing, as KGB didn't have a music team anymore. Unfortunately, they also didn't have the funds to pay him for his work.

Still, McLeod composed the music for their promotional video on Jackson Hole Mountain resort. More than 10,000 views



Ian McLeod

later, KGB wanted to work with Cleod9 again. This time, it was for a documentary on Sierra Quitiquit — and they had a budget.

"I said, 'heck yes,'" McLeod said. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but we learned how it all worked, and it turned out great. There's not much like the high you get from seeing a finished product all the way through, especially with your name on it."

Even though the projects and his goals continue to get bigger, the process for accomplishing them remains mostly the same.

"I'm fighting tooth and nail for everything," McLeod said. "I still make 30-40 cold calls a week. I'm constantly forecasting for the business. I keep a six-month, one-year and a three-year plan in my records at all times."

One of McLeod's cold calls led to Cleod9's ongoing collaboration with Wit House Productions, a Colorado-based video production company.

"Ian cold-called me out of the blue one day and told me a little bit about his company," Cole Garrison, Wit House Productions, said. "Previously, we had used other music library companies. Ian's music library wasn't as big as some of his competitors, but what he offered was the ability to work on a more customized scope. He was able to take our project to another level, and we were able to tweak the music to be exactly what we needed."

Since Garrison first answered that cold-call, Cleod9 and Wit House have worked together on a number of different projects, including a web series and a video series for household-name brands. They continue to work together on some projects, and through it all, Garrison has been impressed with McLeod's work.

"On a personal level, Ian goes above and beyond," Garrison said. "I've put him in contact with other companies, too, because of how he handles projects and conducts himself. He is always available for his clients. In order to be successful, he doesn't ever hesitate to go the extra mile."

McLeod said he never considered himself born to start a business. For anyone considering taking that leap of faith, he said the

process has taught him three important lessons.

"First, talk to people who have done it before, and have been successful at it," he said. "People are always willing to talk about their experiences, either on the phone or over a coffee. Secondly, you have to be mentally tough. Starting a business is a calculated risk, but it's a risk nonetheless. There will be slow days and dry spells. No matter what, you have to have confidence in yourself and your product. Finally, if you focus too much on the money, you'll lose sight of the bigger picture. Some of my biggest clients have come from taking a project pro-bono or for a lesser budget. Be flexible and be proud to partner with brands and companies that you believe in and follow."

McLeod said if he had listened to other people's forewarnings about diving headfirst into this industry, he wouldn't be where he is today.

"Everyone told me this is a dying industry, everyone" he said. "That's bull. People will always be willing to pay for good music if it helps tell a story."

Next up for McLeod? Cleod9's first project of 2016 is an international commercial with Nikon. It's another step in the direction toward his next set of goals: to work on more international and national commercials. He ultimately wants to work on music for feature films.

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OPINION

Economic Development in Virginia

The General Assembly prides itself in providing a pro-business climate, but refuses infusion of more than \$3 billion annually.

Hundreds of bills before this year's General Assembly session focus on "business climate," providing incentives for businesses to locate and expand here, extending tax exemptions and tax credits, encouraging international trade, reducing regulation and many other approaches perceived as pro-business.

Previous years of robust economic growth have been fueled by federal spending in Northern Virginia, but now that growth has slowed due to reduced spending on defense, homeland security and other programs.

But ideology and partisan politics have led this otherwise pro-business state to ignore pleas from virtually every business group in the Commonwealth to adopt a policy that would result in more than \$3 billion in economic activity, add more than 30,000 jobs, make the overall population healthier, save the lives of many poor residents and pave the way for solving Virginia's mental health crisis.

Implementing Medicaid expansion in Vir-

ginia would provide a \$3.9 billion boost to the Virginia economy annually, according to an independent study commissioned by Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, and could support more than 30,000 additional jobs. (The multiplier effect results in economic benefits several times greater than the initial injection of funds.)

In no way should the decision on expanding Medicaid be left up to the General Assembly that is gerrymandered to favor ideologically driven members who oppose the Affordable Care Act for inconsistent reasons without regard to the wellbeing of the Commonwealth and its residents.

EDITORIAL

To quote the VHHA study: "Strengthening the existing Medicaid program and potentially extending coverage to an estimated 400,000 low-income adults has far reaching consequences that go well beyond what can be quantified in purely economic terms."

— MARY KIMM

Another Opportunity To Talk About It

Super Bowl Sunday is Sunday, Feb. 7, and often more about the parties than the game. The parties have resulted in a measurable increase in impaired driving on that day.

During Super Bowl Sunday 2012, more than a third of traffic fatalities involved alcohol-impaired drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"It's important to have a game-plan prior to kick-off and to beat this too often deadly opponent," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, president of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), a local 34-year-old public-private partnership.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to party where you can take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain. Plan to call a cab or Uber or Lyft and retrieve your car the next day if need be.

But don't miss the chance to talk to the members of your household and members of your social circle about the importance of keeping impaired drivers off the road.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unintended Consequences

To the Editor:

The law of unintended consequences is the controlling principle of human history, reminding us to be careful what we ask for lest getting it thereby sets the stage for something we consider even worse

than what we tried to prevent in the first place.

Had but the neighbors not succeeded in preventing four instead of three houses on the lot between Woodbine and the Ivy Hill cemetery, there would have been even no more objectionable memory care facility. Had the Clover neighbors not failed in blocking subdivision of an odd-shaped lot, on

what kind of monstrosity on that lot a few years hence might some well-organized advocates have sold our City Council? For most city councilors nothing is too big if the purported public benefits are commensurate.

The only property right most of our City Council can normally be relied upon to protect is that secured with electoral consequence

— whether a flood of emails from some organized pressure group or a pile of campaign contributions. So, while T.C. Williams' neighbors are quite right to insist city hall honor its compact, they should understand most of the rest of the city's voters want "lights at TC" and some resent the neighbors' intransigence.

Normally, abrogated contracts can be bought out, in this instance by compensating impacted neighbors. But what should worry TC's neighbors is an Old Dominion Boat Club redux — the city threatening nearby homes with eminent domain "to provide an appropriate buffer for the facility." The neighbors' objections become the basis for the forced taking by a short conference on the properties' fair value. The freighted racial history of the site will be drowned out by the preponderance of minorities demanding "lights at TC." The city might even be able to resell, at a modest discount, the properties with appropriate covenants exempting the city from liability for present, proposed, and potential future impacts. So it might instead be prudent for the city to offer the neighbors that discount in exchange for waiving their claims under the pre-existing covenant.

The real problems underlying so much of city hall's development

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTELY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

We Pulled Together And We Pulled Through

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG
MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA



Two quick updates. First, we had a little snowstorm recently. Okay, not so little since we got 22 inches of snow in about 36 hours, but who's counting? It was in fact the worst storm since the Knickerbocker Storm of 1922, and we made it through without a fatality. It was inspiring to see how we pulled together and pulled through so well. I am proud of our hard-working city staff and how neighbors helped neighbors and strangers helped those in need. Thank you, one and all. So proud of our city.

Second, over this past weekend, with a unanimous vote, the council passed a resolution regarding ethics and transparency. The council voted for a good step forward.

As Alexandrians know, I have been focused on ethics reform for the past year. It was one of the cornerstones of my campaign for mayor, and it was my first initiative as mayor. We should pursue this not because of a problematic situation, but because it is the right thing to do. And it should be only forward-looking.

Last fall, I spent a great deal of time with a brain trust of legal experts, thinking through all of the issues, and I spent time with community leaders. I developed and then shared my ethics initiative with my council colleagues right before the holidays. In discussions with them, I incorporated many of their ideas, and I worked on a final proposal with help from the city manager, the city attorney, and experts in the field.

The core principles of my proposal included: an ethics pledge, a code of conduct, and a study group to consider the establishment of an ethics advisory commission. The primary purpose of this commission would be to educate and advise those who are elected or appointed. It would help build more trust in government.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

binge are: (1) The side which does not prevail, often the neighbors, must suffer the impacts without fair compensation, thereby effectively subsidizing the prevailing side, usually the city or the developer the city's decision has favored. (2) The development's "hidden costs," which city hall ig-

The study group was to be appointed and apolitical with one nominee each from the Alexandria Bar Association, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and the Federation of Civic Associations, as well as one appointed by the city manager, and four citizens appointed by the council, and one citizen appointed by me to serve as the chair.

I invited five experts, most of whom are Alexandrians, to come forward during the first part of Saturday's public hearing when citizens can speak on any topic for up to three minutes. With a few questions from the council, I assumed this would take 20 to 30 minutes. I was delighted to see my council colleagues engage with these experts. I envisioned far more public dialogue going forward. I expected to reach out to the Bar, the Chamber, and the Federation to hear their thoughts. In fact, I had discussed with the city manager that it was my intention to put it on the docket in the coming weeks. Public discussion had just begun. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman John Taylor Chapman put forward a revised version of my resolution and called for a vote. Their version contains an ethics pledge, a code of conduct, and a study group to create those two things, among other proposals for transparency. Council unanimously approved the resolution with the Wilson-Chapman changes. While their proposal did not include a study group to consider an ethics advisory commission, it was a fine first step. I thank my council colleagues for joining me in this endeavor.

I believe that this is a golden opportunity for our beloved city to be a national leader in ethics and transparency. I will continue to work toward this goal while we work on the many other issues facing our city. I welcome your input.

nores by not bothering to calculate, estimate, or even acknowledge, are nonetheless borne by both neighbors and the general public. Some of those costs translate into tax-funded expenses months and years later which may explain why the city sees itself so revenue starved. Do, for example,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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Homeless in Alexandria: How Many and What To Do

BY SHANNON
STEENE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CARPENTER'S SHELTER



Imagine something goes wrong with your home during a blizzard like Jonas. Even worse, imagine you don't have a home at all to protect your family from the blustering snow. This was a reality for the 61 adults and 21 children who sought refuge at Carpenter's Shelter as 24 inches of snow blanketed Alexandria a couple of weeks ago.

Homelessness is a reality in our community. At Carpenter's Shelter, we have a long history of serving the homeless population, but there is nothing like a snow storm to make us realize that the need for shelter in our community is ever-present.

How big of a problem is homelessness in our community? Groups like Carpenter's Shelter and the City of Alexandria ponder the same thing. At the end of each January, municipalities across the country, including the City of Alexandria, conduct a Point-In-

Time (PIT) count. Volunteers canvass the city and count the number of homeless men, women and children. The 2016 PIT count was conducted on the night of Jan. 28, and although we do not yet have the results of the 2016 count, last year's count was unchanged from the prior year. The total number didn't move. It was one more piece of evidence that the need for shelter and homeless services persist.

We know that homelessness is a lack of housing. With the present need and diminishing supply of affordable housing in our community, we need to be creative when helping individuals or families through their housing crisis. For example, people that are homeless can be successfully re-housed with Rapid Re-Housing funds. These pay for a deposit on an apartment or some portion of the first few months of rent. Individuals or families are able to move out of emergency shelters quickly, and use the money they have saved during their stay in shelter for future expenses.

Here's an example of how it can work. Linda and her family came to Carpenter's Shelter when she had no other housing

options available. While in shelter, Linda continued working full-time and coordinated with her case worker to create a manageable budget. After working with Carpenter's Housing Locator and finding a new home for her family, Linda was approved for Rapid Re-Housing funds. Linda received funds for her security deposit and three months of rent at her new townhome — costs that would have otherwise prevented her family from moving into a new home. Linda and her family moved from homelessness to housed in just over two months.

Rapid Re-Housing funds aren't always enough. Finding and maintaining permanent housing is even more challenging when an individual faces barriers like mental illness, substance abuse, or physical disabilities. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) can be part of the solution to ending homelessness for these individuals. The units allow people to gain independence yet remain close to their support networks.

Take David, a Carpenter's Shelter client, for example. For many years, David struggled with chronic homelessness and

substance abuse. Last winter, David frequented the seasonal Winter Shelter, and eventually moved into the Residential Shelter program, which has more structure. While in the Residential Shelter, David maintained his sobriety and worked diligently to secure a part-time job. After several months in the shelter, David was approved to move into Carpenter's Shelter pilot permanent housing unit. The unit provides a permanent home, independence and responsibility along with the supportive services through Carpenter's Community Case Management program.

While major snow events and the recent PIT count highlight homelessness in our community, the need for shelter is ongoing throughout the year. We, as a community, are working together to find solutions to end homelessness. We are on the right track and have shortened shelter stays and reduced reoccurrences of homelessness through Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. As long as there is a need, our efforts won't stop. With creative solutions and collaboration in the community, we will one day be able to say that homelessness is a thing of the past.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

truckloads of construction materials and debris trundled through Old Town make it less desirable a place to shop, dine, recreate, leading to lower business sales tax receipts, to which a development-happy chamber of commerce seems oblivious?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Snow Parking Suggestion

To the Editor:

I noticed that the center of most streets in Old Town were plowed with same size vehicles you see on highways, leaving 4-5 feet of hard-packed snow from the curb. After plowing on Sunday and Monday, many roads would not support two-way traffic as there simply wasn't enough space. For residents of Old Town, many of whom must rely on street parking, snow removal after "Snowzilla" left few available spaces to park in.

I have suggestion: when a large snowstorm is forecast, make public parking available to anyone with a residential sticker, and ban on street parking.

This will make it possible for plows to remove snow up to the curb so that after the storm residents have a place to park, and roads are more accessible to two-way traffic.

Given it's unlikely there will be very many tourists paying for public parking during the storm, the loss of revenue to the city would be minimal.

Joel Goodman
Alexandria



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

More than a week after the blizzard of 2016, snow remains piled up in this handicap parking space in Del Ray.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

More than a week after the blizzard of 2016, snow remains piled up in this handicap parking space across from the Queen Street library in Old Town.

Improve Communication

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Mayor Silberberg for proposing to establish an ethical standard to which our elected officials must adhere, and for choosing now — when there are no ethical conflicts or controversies — to design and implement this standard. Who in their right mind would oppose it?

If there was ever an instance in which council members should keep quiet and let the the public they serve postulate the standard, it's now. And if there was ever a time in which council members should stand foursquare for an ethical standard, it's now. To do otherwise suggests they are looking for escape clauses or wiggle room to justify less than admirable conduct in their capacity as elected representatives

My only complaint: Our new mayor wants

the public to dedicate part of their Saturday to tell in person the council members that it's wise and reasonable to promulgate a standard of ethics for elected representatives. Better would be to appeal to the citizenry to send emails to the all-Democrat city council.

No citizen should have to set aside all or part of a precious weekend day to tell the council members to support what is a patently reasonable initiative. A simple message in an email to each council member should be sufficient.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Clear Those Handicap Spaces

To the Editor:

As a long time disabled resident of Alexandria, I have seen that when we have a

significant snowfall, the snow in parking lots is often pushed into the handicap parking spaces. Handicap parking spaces are already limited and sometimes misused. I know it is frustrating for anyone who is unable to find a parking spot because of snow.

Now imagine having a disability and having to maneuver from the far end of the parking lot, and having to do so for weeks or months until the snow mountains totally melt from the handicap parking spaces. I hope that by bring this dangerous problem to the attention of shopping center owners, they will alert the contractors hired for snow removal to be mindful of the needs of disabled citizens and will push snow to areas other than the handicap spaces.

Toni Popkin
Alexandria

Stay Informed In Emergencies

To the Editor:

Last week, we went through an event that could overwhelm even the best-prepared municipalities. Some streets remained uncleared a week later in every corner of the D.C. metro area, including here in Alexandria.

As expected in the aftermath of a blizzard, the number of passable streets seems to be the measure by which local governments are graded on their response to a snow emergency. But one other factor, which was very apparent at the height of the storm and in its immediate aftermath, is communication. On that front, Alexandria gets more than just a passing grade; the city stepped up.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Nondiscrimination Bills Pass State Senate

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



As the snow thawed and the General Assembly went about its business last week, a number of developments occurred involving LGBT rights.

I am excited that both SB12, my bill prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination in public employment, and Senator Jennifer Wexton's (D-Loudoun) bill SB67, prohibiting discriminatory housing practices, passed the Senate 25-15. Six fair-minded Republicans joined Senate Democrats in passing these bills to promote fair hiring and housing practices that have been endorsed by business coalitions and political advocacy groups alike. My bill SB10, which removes provisions in the Code of Virginia prohibiting same-sex marriage in light of the land-

mark US Supreme court decision Obergefell v. Hodges, was carried over to the 2017 session, awaiting the review of the Virginia Code Commission as to which changes will be necessary to comprehensively update the code to bring the current terms of "husband" and "wife" into alignment with this decision.

Four more of my bills passed the Senate this week and now await consideration by the House of Delegates. They include SB373, which clarifies the scope of food that must be served at restaurants holding mixed-beverage licenses. Under current law, only restaurants that serve "full course meals with a single substantial entrée" can prepare cocktails. This does not reflect the current culinary diversity of the Commonwealth. For example, in Virginia, you can have oysters on the half shell; then enjoy pizza and salad, or head for sushi at another establishment and under current law you would have never consumed a single "substantial entrée" that would en-

able the restaurateur to serve spirits. My legislation, which passed the Senate unanimously, would allow an applicant for a license to serve any food, not just substantial entrees; simplifying the process for independent small business owners. After all, a restaurant menu should be prepared by a chef, not a lawyer.

My bill SB322 — which would end the practice of charging prison inmates exorbitant phone rates to contact their families and loved ones — passed 37-2, while SB420, which simplifies the voter registration process for those who have had their rights restored, also passed 26-14.

I will be holding four Town Hall Meetings over the coming weeks and hope you can join me at one:

❖ **Arlington:** Saturday, Feb. 6, 10-11:30 a.m.

Walter Reed Community Center – 2909 16th Street South, Arlington with Del. Alfonso Lopez

❖ **Alexandria:** Saturday, Feb. 6, 2-3:30

p.m.

Mt. Vernon Community School – 2601 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria with Del. Mark Levine

❖ **Lee District:** Saturday, Feb. 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Hayfield Elementary School – 7633 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria with Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Mark Sickles and Del. Paul Krizek

❖ **Mt. Vernon:** Saturday, Feb. 20, 12:30-2 p.m.

Whitman Middle School – 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria with Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek. Please share your thoughts on legislation and other state-related matters with me by emailing district30@senate.virginia.gov. Follow me on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. You can sign up for my weekly email updates at www.AdamEbbin.com.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

Subscribers to the Alexandria eNews service received regular emergency bulletins about road conditions and the city's progress in dealing with the storm. These communiques were not only timely and concise, but were full of information ranging from plain useful to lifesaving. Alexandria residents, if you're not subscribed to receive bulletins from the City of Alexandria, go to www.alexandriava.gov/enews before the snow flies again. Until you are dug out, stay informed.

Stephen Mutty
Alexandria

Snow Removal Inadequate

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, the ever-shrinking lanes on the city's major roadways and left turn lanes

on the city's major roadways had not yet been cleared. Residential streets were still being plowed/cleared on Wednesday morning.

Is it really that hard to find plow contractors, coordinating with the police or sheriff's office to do a lane closure from 10 p.m. until needed to clear those left turn lanes? Someone needs to dig up the Vola Lawson plan for snow removal that was done some time before she left public service.

Having ventured out to get an emissions test, a run to the grocery store, and to drop off some greens at the animal shelter, I have been surprised to see that little has seemingly been done since Monday on the primary and secondary roads.

I ventured out into western Montgomery County on Saturday to do a volunteer produce run to two animal sanctuaries and to just get out of town.

I must say, having driven down River Road from the beltway to its end to the first animal sanctuary, on into Poolesville, then to Boyd's to the smaller sanctuary, finally to Germantown before heading home via I-270, the roads were in awesome shape. No shrinking lanes, no uncleared snow in left turn lanes, even the residential streets that I saw were better cleared.

There was even a crew out at 3 p.m. in Germantown on the 118 clearing a fallen snow embankment. In all it was even more remarkable since they had three feet of snow where I had ventured out to. Shame on Alexandria, we must have had amateurs clearing our roads.

Ruben "Bill" Duran
Alexandria

Supporting Hillary

To the Editor:

Hillary Clinton is my candidate for President. She has an unparalleled depth and breadth of experience that positions her to be a world class leader. As a moderate, progressive Democrat, her positions on both

domestic and foreign policy are attractive to the broader electorate. She is electable and capable of preserving and enhancing the Obama legacy.

Like many, I do have some conflict between head and heart. My heart is with Bernie in wanting to scream for a more level playing field. But my head says that screaming usually doesn't advance the ball very much; and the extremes of inequality have never been addressed by rants of revolution.

We recently barely achieved a national health care system. While Obamacare can be improved, that will come incrementally by working across the aisle. While I might dream of it, I do not think there any chance in the near or mid-term future that we can enact a single payer system.

While Hillary is hardly perfect, neither is Bernie. He has played the crusty outsider role for too many years — he has refused to share the political struggles within the Democratic Party.

Also, I really don't think there is that much difference between the goals of Bernie and Hillary. But their approach is quite different — Bernie sounds the angry alarms of revolution, while Hillary projects a moderate progressivism that might actually get something done.

My head also says that Hillary is the best, all around qualified candidate, especially on foreign policy. Terrorism, immigration, personal safety are of significant public concern. I do trust her to be a progressive, yet strong Democrat in the international arena. I believe that she is best positioned to beat the Republicans, who are going off the far right cliff. My fear is that the country may seize upon a Republican demagogue as the next shiny object to solve all of our problems and make us great again. Clinton, having been a strong Secretary of State and being an experienced, strong, moderate voice, is the right person to take on either of them.

I also have serious doubts that Bernie can win in the general election against any Republican. I fear that he will be beaten like McGovern, Mondale and Dukakis. I know that Bernie is currently doing well in some one-on-one polls with Republicans, but he has never been vetted by the national Republican trash machine; and he won't be unless and until he is the nominee. By contrast, Hillary has been vetted by Republicans for years; she has withstood the onslaught. And remember the Benghazi hearings — that is Hillary at her best.

Bottom line for me is this — I have always admired Hillary and agree with her on most policy issues. I also believe she will be an effective, strong leader. I am equally convinced that as much as I like some of Bernie's ideas about income inequality — and he has been an important voice — I do not think he would ever be elected. We need to support our most electable Democrat, one who also has a long history of progressive politics. Hillary is that choice.

Finally, it is not insignificant that no U.S. senators, only one member of Congress, no governor and no local elected officials have endorsed Bernie. Many, many, many have endorsed Hillary.

So far, the following elected or former elected officials from Alexandria, have endorsed Hillary for President: U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, School Board Member Hal Cardwell, former Mayor Kerry Donley, state Sen. Adam Ebbin, former Mayor Bill Euille, former Council Member and state Del. Rob Krupicka, state Del. Mark Levine, Council Member Tim Lovain, former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Council Member Del Pepper, Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter, former Council Member Lonnie Rich, Mayor Allison Silberberg, Council Member Paul Smedberg, former Council Member and state Del. David Speck, former Mayor and state Sen. Patsy Ticer, and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson.

Lonnie Rich
Alexandria

A Little Poem Of Praise

As I think of the snow
and its pure beauty
and its grace that is given;
I'm thankful for each day given
and all the little blessings that unfold.

Isaiah 55:10 For the rain come down and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower, And bread to the eater

11: So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing which I sent it. Isaiah 61:11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Geri Baldwin
Alexandria

Progressive Transparency Or Potential Witch Hunt?

FROM PAGE 1

appeals, contractors with the city, city staff, or a person or private entity with a current or pending application contract, proposal or procurement bid for official action by the City of Alexandria.

But while the idea was to use the ad hoc committee to look at what kind of ethics commission would be necessary or useful, some of the framework and limitations on the potential commission were already being set and debated between the council members and the public.

One of the biggest changes from Silberberg's original proposal is the selection of the review committee's membership. While the City Council typically appoints the members of Alexandria's boards and commissions, Silberberg and many of the vocal proponents of reform urged for other processes to select members of the ethics commission. In the original proposal, three members of the seven-person committee would be chosen by the City Council, the chair chosen by the mayor, and the three other members selected by the Alexandria Bar Association, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations. However, the approved committee was made up of nine people, seven of whom were chosen by the City Council, and the other two appointed by the city manager.

Members of the public argued that, if the goal was to promote transparency and openness in the government, having commission members be primarily appointed by members of the City Council was a misstep. Jack Sullivan, an Alexandria resident, was among the group advocating for a different appointment system.

"I understand an alternative proposal to have each council person appoint [people] to an ethics review committee," said Sullivan, "but as they say down state, that dog won't hunt."

However, members of the council refuted the idea of bias in their selection of commissioners.

"Every month, we're asked to pick no less than five or 10 boards and commissioners based off of conversations with people, based

off of resumes, their qualifications," said City Council member John Chapman. "I would assume nothing less would be done here."

But beneath the legislative differences is a core concern by many that a Commission on Ethics is just vague enough to be turned into a commission on rumors and gossip. Lovain laid out much of the opposition's concerns about the potential commission.

"I have deep concerns about the possibility of a standing commission," said Councilman Tim Lovain. "I don't think it would be too much of an exaggeration to say, at its worst, we could have ourselves a Committee on Un-Alexandrian Activities, where a series of ethical complaints would be filed. We have a lot of people who are very passionate about the issues that come before City Council and they're very upset when they're on the losing end of a vote, and they're sure that if a decision was made on the merits that they would have won. So they're often convinced there was some kind of funny business if they lost. So even if we had the best group in the world and they said 'no, that's not valid,' you would still have ethics complaints that have been filed. You have a real possibility of people's reputations being dragged through the mud. Insinuations being made, that where there's smoke there's fire. Ethics initiative that we're taking should help strengthen people's faith in government and reassure them that standards have been upheld, but I think there's grave danger of it going in the opposite direction, that it would reduce people's faith in government. I'm so concerned. I think it's inherent in the structure of a standing committee.

I fear for this. I don't think there's any way I can think of to guard against these problems."

David Jonas, policy director for Gov. Terry McAuliffe's state-level Integrity Commission, said that he regularly hears concerns about witch hunts and politicization, but said the alternative of corruption as in the former-Governor Bob McDonnell case, was far worse. And while Jonas acknowledged that there were risks, the good outweighed the bad.

But there was a lot of rapid-fire back and forth between Wilson, Jonas, and others

surrounding the extent of an ethics commission's scope. Wilson quoted an earlier statement from Jonas in which Jonas had said that the horror stories from ethics commissions come from municipal and city ethics commissions.

Supporters differed on whether or not an ethics commission should take complaints from residents. Silberberg's draft proposal doesn't mention a specific stance on the question, but some proponents argued that the commission should allow citizens to hold officials accountable. Others, like Gil Hersch, a new Alexandria resident with experience working on ethics commissions in Israel, and Jonas answered that the commission should be voluntary and established to provide advice to city officials, but Wilson countered that this idea of an ethics commission was already in place, it was Jonas' own

state-level Integrity Commission, part of which assisted local and municipal administrators. When Jonas said that a local commission would help for faster turnaround, Wilson noted that he had filed a question to the state level commission and heard back within eight hours, which Jonas acknowledged was a swift response.

But for some in Alexandria, the prospect of a witch hunt isn't a distant fear, but a very real possibility. Amy Shack has served the city in civic associations, as an officer in the civic federation, and on various boards, commissions, and ad hoc committees, and Shack noted that the kind of rumors and gossip Lovain fears an ethics commission might bring already exist.

"As co-chair of the Land Use Committee, I remember being accused of being unduly favoring the applicant because I addressed him as 'Bud' rather than 'Mr. Hart,'" said Shack. "That's as simple as it can be ... I am

greatly concerned about the implications. I know on the Traffic and Parking Board, there were numerous times where I was accused of taking the food out of their children's mouth, or if I didn't pass this, I was as good as murdering their child. These are things that fall down on us, where the civility is not quite as good as it is in this chamber."

Even as a former officer of the organization, Shack expressed misgivings about the Civic Federation selecting members of the ethics commission. Shack says during her time on the federation, she regularly had

to call out people within the organization for failing to follow their own by-laws.

"So who is it that is going to judge me?" Shack asked. "I appreciate the idea of rules. God I would love to know 'here's where the line in the sand is' or 'here's where I

cannot go,' 'don't even think of going there' when representing my civic association. But who is calling me out and where is their integrity and their ethics?"

Central questions, like whether or not the committee would accept citizen complaints, remain unanswered.

"There is a real blurring of the line in how [people] see this thing moving forward," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "It concerns me that no one has clearly articulated what this commission is and what it isn't. I'm hearing very conflicting views on what people think this is, and that concerns me."

"You're right to ask that question," said Silberberg. "The whole point of this study group is to figure out what it is."

The City Council unanimously approved the establishment of the ad hoc study group, which will report back to the council on April 12 with its findings, including a draft code of conduct and an ethics pledge.

"I don't think it would be too much of an exaggeration to say, at its worst, we could have ourselves a Committee on Un-Alexandrian Activities, where a series of ethical complaints would be filed."

— Councilman Tim Lovain



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WELLBEING

Focusing on Children's Dental Health

Proper proper brushing, flossing and rinsing highlighted in February.

It's time to wage a war on sugar. That's the message that dental professionals are spreading this February, National Children's Dental Health Month. The theme of this year's observance, which is sponsored by the American Dental Association, is "Sugar Wars." Dental professionals are using the month to educate children and families about the role that eating healthy snacks, regular dental visits and proper brushing, flossing and rinsing play in good oral health.

The Northern Virginia Dental Society and local dental professionals will offer free screenings, treatments and education to local, underserved children as part of Give Kids A Smile Day on Friday, Feb. 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Northern Virginia Commu-

Dental Service Programs for Children

ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria Neighborhood Services
4480 King Street (First Floor)
703-535-5568

GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY

Friday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Northern Virginia Community College Medical Education Campus
6699 Springfield Center Dr.
Springfield, VA 22150
For more information, visit <http://www.vdaf.org/Give-Kids-A-Smile/give-kids-a-smile.html>

nity College Medical Education Campus. The annual event happens on the first Friday in February. For more information, visit <http://www.vdaf.org/Give-Kids-A-Smile/give-kids-a-smile.html>.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Community Meeting #2. 6:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3300 King St. The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services Division of Transportation Planning seeks input on proposed design options for the King Street corridor, between Radford Street and Janney's Lane. This will be

implemented as part of a Complete Streets project in conjunction with the resurfacing of this roadway. Open to the public. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1QFlkDq>.

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Boater Safety Class. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592

Richmond Highway. Recreational Boater Training, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. mandatory boating education requirements. \$40 or \$60 for two sharing the book. Contact Jean Ponton at 703-362-7079 or herpomp79@yahoo.com. Visit www.uscgaux.info/?unit=054-25-08.

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Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

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

Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass
En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm;

First Friday,
7:30 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday: 6:00 pm; Thursday: 7:00 pm; First Friday: following 9:00 am Mass & 7:00 pm

Confession:
Wednesday, 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm

En Español:
Sunday, 1:10 pm; Saturday, 6:00 pm

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“U-Street, the Musical.” Through Feb. 6, 7-9 p.m. at Richard Kauffman Auditorium–Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. U-Street, features 12 original songs and eight dance numbers, bringing light to the issue of homelessness in America. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.ustreetmusical.wordpress.com.

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. Through Feb. 7. More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. More than two dozen restaurants are also offering lunch deals at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Visit www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com for more.

“Birds of a Feather.” Through Feb. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery–Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The artist focus on things that go together: ham and eggs, bride and groom, etc. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

George Washington Birthday Cherry Challenge. Through Feb. 11, various times and various locations around Alexandria. Celebrating George Washington’s Birthday, local restaurants offer dishes and beverages featuring cherries in the spirit of the old cherry tree tale. Visit any of the more than 50 participating restaurants during the contest and vote for your favorite cherry based items. The customer sampling the greatest number of competing items will receive the Frequent Cherry Diner Award. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.net/cherry-challenge.

“Fred Zafran and Danny Conant.” Through Feb. 14, gallery hours at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Danny Conant presents compositions inspired by a recent trip to Paris. Fred Zafran’s new work is an allegory of being, time and memory. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

“Mountains: Recent Paintings by Sue Grace.” Gallery hours, through Feb. 22 at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St. Sue Grace’s paintings draw inspiration from the West Virginia Mountains and time she has spent there. These paintings represent her fascination with the representational, abstract, and figurative elements of painting. Free. Email Anthony Brock at abrock@goodwinhouse.org.

“No Holds Barred.” Through Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is named for the “don’t hold back, just let go” approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

“Color and Shape.” Through Feb. 28, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery (TAG) February exhibit features two painters – Jill Finsen and Barbara Muth. Both Finsen and Muth paint moments made vivid through color and shape. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

“Shake Loose.” Through March 6, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8



“First Date” by Barbara Muth (above), “Blue-Vased Blooms on Pink-Striped Table” by Jill Finsen

TAG Exhibit Explores ‘Color and Shape’

Two painters, Jill Finsen and Barbara Muth, paint moments made vivid through color and shape. In a newly-opened show, titled “Color and Shape,” the two use bold color and abstract designs. Admission to the Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory (located at 105 N. Union St.) is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. “Shake Loose” features music and lyrics by Thomas W. Jones II, William Hubbard and William Knowles. It features stories and songs from MetroStage productions including “Three Sistahs,” “Cool Papa’s Party,” “Ladies Swing the Blues” and more. Tickets \$55-60. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Art Exhibit: “Partnerships.”

Through May 15, business hours at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. All artwork is available for purchase through Del Ray Artisans. Artists are donating 20 percent of the purchase price of sold pieces in an equal split between Del Ray Artisans and the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital’s charity of choice, Veterans Moving Forward. Free. Call 703-751-2022 for more.

“Who The Wounded Are.”

Through July 11 at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. “Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital” is about people who lived and worked at this site in Alexandria and their real life stories that inspired the PBS show, “Mercy Street.” Tickets are \$2-12. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.

Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward for more.

Alexandria’s Nurses & Hospitals

During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama “Mercy Street,” with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

Occupied City: Civil War Alexandria Self-Guided Tour.

At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. learn about the real history behind the show “Mercy Street” on this self-guided walking tour, which features significant Civil War Alexandria sites all within walking distance of The Lyceum, which was seized and used as a hospital during the war. Tickets are \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

“Ancient Art of Movement.”

1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue

lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

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

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

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday

of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit. Through November at The National Inventors Hall of Fame–USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

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

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

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

THROUGH FEB. 14

Art League Patrons Show. Gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. This annual event features 600+ works of original fine art donated by Art League artists, Art League Faculty, and Torpedo Factory artists. The number of tickets sold matches the number of works donated. Prior to the drawing on Feb. 14, the show is on view online and in the Gallery, giving ticket-holders an opportunity to study the artwork and note their favorite pieces, so they'll be prepared to select from the available artwork when their names are drawn. Admission to the gallery is free, tickets for the drawing are \$200 for one work of art and one seat, \$250 for a couple's ticket which includes two seats and one work of art. Visit www.theartleague.org/content/patrons_show.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 4-7

"The Outsiders." 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. "The Outsiders" follows the story of Ponyboy Curtis, a teen from the poor side of town. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Call 703-718-2585 or visit www.westpotomactheatre.org for more.

FEB. 4-MARCH 13

"Wings from Chains." Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists consider the roles and responsibilities in society. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

"Wings from Chains" Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate the launch of this exhibit considering the roles of women in society. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The George Washington Cherry Challenge invites patrons to visit more than 50 restaurants during the contest and vote for favorite cherry-based items. The challenge runs through Feb. 11. Pictured here: the winning entry from Evening Star Restaurant in the appetizer category in the Sixth Annual Cherry Challenge. It is a cherry, pistachio terrine with spinach compote. Participating restaurants are listed at www.washingtonbirthday.net/cherry-challenge.

"Trending: Contemporary Art Now!" Opening Reception. at the Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Celebrate this all-media exhibition featuring works by self-identifying women artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more.

Mardi Gras in Alexandria. 6-8:30 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Make a Mardi Gras mask with Metamorphosis Art and Enrichment Center or bring your own and participate in the evening's Mardi Gras parade. In advance, tickets are \$5 for residents, \$10 for nonresidents. At the door, tickets are \$10 for residents, \$15 for nonresidents. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac and register using class code 355203.01.

"Joshua." 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Blessed Sacrament music director John H. McCrary will conduct the Blessed Sacrament festival choir, along with an orchestra of professional DC-area musicians in Handel's oratorio, "Joshua." Featured soloists are Michelle Kunz and Joshua Hong, Washington National Opera, and Sally Mouzon and Phillip Pickens, San Francisco Opera. Free. Call 703-998-6100 ext. 103.

FEB. 5-28

"All aBoard." 7-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Eight board members, Ron Blank, Michele Reday Cook, Kim S. Joy, Stephen Lally, Marlin Lord, Elizabeth Guerry Mead, Kathy Turner and Joan Woodill, display their work. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/show.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Winter Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria-400 Courthouse Square. Each year, the Old Town Boutique District hosts a warehouse sale featuring designer clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings, and more at up to 80 percent off retail. Admission to the sale is free. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com for more.

Preparing for a Ball. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Explore the tavern where famous balls like George Washington's Birthday Ball were held and practice the tasks involved in preparing for a ball. Includes an 18th century dance lesson and a craft to take home. The program begins each 45 minutes. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

John Carlyle Birthday Celebration. 12-4 p.m. at The Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Celebrate the birthday of Alexandria town founder John Carlyle with 18th-century dancing, live music, Scottish history and more. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

"The Green Family of Cabinetmakers." 1:30-3 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how the Greens made their money and became a prominent Alexandria family. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.

Cissa Paz. 8-10 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Brazilian singer Cissa Paz will lead a concert of Brazilian Carnival dance music. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 7

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. starting at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Visit George Washington's hometown, historic Alexandria, and view some of the sites connected to the General, like where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 138 N. Royal St. Drink a special blend of tea or a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, eat period-inspired delicacies, with "Mrs. Martha Washington." During the tea, "Mrs. Washington" will be sharing stories from her life and visiting with each guest. Also take a tour at 2:15. Tea is

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 20

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Valentine's Weekend Menu



Appetizers (choice of one)

- Fried Feta Martini – Cubes of deep fried feta served over a bed of mixed greens
- Calamari Fritti – Served with pesto aioli and marinara sauce
- Caprese Tower – Stacked fresh mozzarella and tomatoes drizzled with fig balsamic

Entrées (choice of one, includes salad)

- Beef Medallions – Filet mignon sautéed with portabella mushrooms and reduced in a creamy Marsala sauce, served with couscous
- Lobster Ravioli – Tossed with a lobster-based Alfredo sauce, covered with mozzarella and baked
- Lemon Rosemary Chicken – Chicken lightly floured and seared, topped with a lemon rosemary sauce
- Swordfish with Herb Pesto Sauce – Marinated in a citrus blend and seared, served with couscous

Dessert (choice of one)

- Limoncello Gelato – Lemon sorbet, with lemon liqueur served in a champagne glass
- Red Velvet Cake – Moist red cake with sweet cream cheese frosting
- Espresso Crème Brûlée – Custard tart topped with caramelized sugar and espresso



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First Night in Alexandria finally turned 21 in 2015 but we're still alcohol-free! First Night Alexandria relies on the generosity of area businesses and individuals to throw the largest family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration through the performing arts in the region! The sale of admission badges covers less than one-half of the annual cost to produce the event. In addition to the many goods and services provided pro bono or far below retail, \$260,000 is needed to cover the expense of First Night Alexandria. These businesses and individuals make it all possible.

We are grateful for their generosity and hope you too will thank them by doing business with them.



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FirstNightAlexandria.org



ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

\$35 per person, all inclusive, reservations are required. To make reservations call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Partners in Art. 2-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Creatives gather to discuss art and exchange ideas. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Lecture: Women of Alexandria. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Women of Alexandria, from Antebellum to the 20th Century" will depict the effect of the Civil War on the lives of Alexandria's women before, during, and after the war. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

Interfaith Dinner. 6:30 p.m. at Beth El Synagogue, 3830 Seminary Road. Maureen Fiedler, founder and host of public radio's preeminent religious news magazine program, "Interfaith Voices," will be the keynote speaker at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation/Fairlington United Methodist Church Interfaith Dinner. Tickets are \$15. Email Ron Sturman at rgsturman@msn.com to RSVP.

Workshop: Vegetable Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Walter Reed Recreation Center, 2909 16th St. South, Arlington. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, (Arlington and Alexandria) present a workshop for the beginning vegetable gardener. Program will address best practices for site selection, soil requirements and soil improvement, as well as guidance on crop selection and planting schedules. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

FEB. 10-MARCH 13

"A Salute to Primary Colors." 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 9 p.m. on second Thursday of each month. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents primary colors in all forms including as gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

Birtnight Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birtnight Ball on Feb. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are \$12 per class or \$30 for the entire series. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Mount Vernon Chocolate Dinner. 6:30-10 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Find a four-course meal in celebration of Valentine's Day featuring peppercorn crusted steak and triple chocolate cheesecake. Tickets are \$125 each. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

Beyond the Battlefield Walking Tour. 10 a.m. starting at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Discover the real-life stories and locations of soldiers, citizens, and former slaves that inspired the PBS drama "Mercy Street" in this walking tour of Old Town. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Birtnight Banquet and Ball. 5:30-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Attend a recreation



The Pink Palm is one of 29 participating stores in the 11th annual Boutique District Warehouse Sale set for Feb. 6 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel.

Warehouse Sale Set for Feb. 6

The Old Town Boutique District will hold its annual Warehouse Sale Feb. 6 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel, a change in location from last year's sale, which was held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

"We've outgrown the space of the Masonic Temple, which necessitated our move to the Westin," said Elizabeth Todd, owner of the Shoe Hive and founder of the sale. "We have more stores than ever. Not only are merchants from Alexandria participating but also many from D.C. as well."

Founded by Todd in 2005, the sale has also grown in attendance, which now averages more than 1,000 shoppers throughout the day.

"This is the longest running sale of its kind in the region," Todd said. "We like to call it the Super Bowl of shopping since it usually takes place on the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend."

According to Todd, there are 29 boutiques participating in this year's sale, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"A lot of the same shoppers return each year," Todd added. "Mothers and daughters, girlfriends — many are very loyal and make it an annual outing, which speaks volumes for the longevity of the event."

Participating merchants include: Betsy Fisher, Bishop Boutique, Blue Elephant, Coco Blanca, Duchess M, Estiletta, Eye2Eye, Fornash, Gossypia, J. McLaughlin, Kiki Lynn, Lokal5, Lululemon, Mystique Fine Jewelers, Olio Tasting Room, Queen Bee Designs, Periwinkle, Pink Palm, Sara Campbell, She's Unique, Sherman Pickey, Stuart Nordin, The Shoe Hive, The Tea and Spice Exchange, Top it Off, TSALT and Wrabyn.

There will be limited street parking but garages in the area will be open with most charging \$5 for the entire day. A free shuttle will also run from the King Street Metro. There is no cost to attend the sale.

"We are still the only sale of its kind in the area that does not charge to attend," Todd added.

The event will also give away four early entries into the Warehouse Sale. Visit www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/ALXWarehouse for details.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

of a celebration of Washington's Birthday. The evening includes an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation, character re-enactors, and General and Mrs. George Washington. Tickets are \$125, \$150 for dinner in the same room as the "Washingtons" and \$250 for a spot at the same table. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 13-14 Presidents Day Weekend

Celebration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Join "General Washington" for a sample of "hoecakes swimming in butter and honey," mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world, take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18th-century dancing

demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green, and more. This event is included in admission: adults, \$20; children ages 6-11, \$10; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"The Dramatic." 8 p.m. on Saturday at Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, 3 p.m. on Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs love duets from "La Bohème" and "Madame Butterfly" by Giacomo Puccini, Respighi's "Pines of Rome," Vivaldi's "Double Cello Concerto" and selections from "The Godfather." Tickets are \$5-80. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

**SUNDAY/FEB. 14
George Washington Classic.** 8 a.m.

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

On Saturday, Feb. 6, the public is invited to celebrate the founder of Alexandria, John Carlyle's birthday at his historic mansion. Festivities will include 18th-century dancing, live music, Scottish history, a birthday treat and more. Admission to this event is free. The Carlyle House Historic Park is located at 121 N. Fairfax St. Visit www.novaparks.com.



at the US Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Participate in the 10K race or the 2K Fun run. Registration is \$10 for fun run, \$40 for 10K. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Revolutionary War Reenactment. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Parade Day Open Houses. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., and the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Find a collection of herbs and botanicals at the Apothecary museum, see leath water buckets and hand-drawn fire engines at the friendship firehouse, and more. Free. Visit

www.historicalexandria.org for more. **Music in the Gallery: The Navy Concert Band.** 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Navy Band Chamber Music Series features musicians from the U.S. Navy Band. This chamber music recital will feature traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. starting at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Visit George Washington's hometown and view some of the sites connected to the General, such as where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Adulteration of Chocolate Tasting. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn more about 18th century tavern beverages and American Heritage Chocolate. Find multiple courses of beverage, chocolate, and food pairings. Tickets are \$45. Visit

www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more. **Art League Patrons Show Drawing.** 4 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. For 10 days prior to the drawing, the show is on view online and in the Gallery, giving ticket-holders an opportunity to study the artwork and note their favorite pieces, so they'll be prepared to select from the available artwork when their names are drawn. New this year: an app called "Art Thief" that helps build a list of art and keep track of it during the Patron Show drawing. Admission to the gallery is free, tickets for the drawing are \$200 for one work of art and one seat, \$250 for a couple's ticket which includes two seats and one work of art. Visit www.theartleague.org/content/patrons_show.

Lenten Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Celebrate the season of Lenten. The evensong will feature romantic music by British composers Ley, Stanford, Walford Davies, Walmisley. Free. Call 703-549-3312.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

FEBRUARY

2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

MARCH

3/2/2016.....Wellbeing
3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2016....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is March 27
4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I
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Two Republicans Enter Race Against Beyer

FROM PAGE 1

tional Science Foundation for research into the causes and treatment for dyslexia. Beyer's cosponsor on the bill was Lamar Smith, a Republican representative from Texas. While politically opposed on many issues, Beyer says he was surprised by how cordial relations were between members of the two political parties.

"It's actually friendlier than I thought," said Beyer. "The outside

"We often have to speak in defense of existing [environmental legislation] and resist attempts to overthrow them."

— U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)

perspective is that it's dysfunctional and everyone hates each other, but that's not true. It's very easy to walk on either side of the aisle and have positive conversations. A lot of people, I think their votes would be different if they were secret, but the great fear is being primaried and facing attacks from the extremes in their party."

In his own district, Beyer doesn't face any pressure from more hardline Democrats challenging his reelection bid, at least not yet.

However, the Republican challengers are already starting to line up. Two Republican candidates stepped forward at the Jan. 27 Arlington County Republican Committee meeting to take on Beyer: Mike Webb and Charles Hernick.

The loudest voice of opposition so far has been Webb, a Republican and a retired army officer. Webb has attacked Beyer on everything from climate change to Beyer's handling of minority groups within his district. Webb's campaign has started as grassroots as they come in the 21st century, with a Facebook page, and then local farmer's markets and churches when that started gaining a following.

"I have a straight conservative message," said Webb. "I'm not watering that down. I'm not a progressive or a liberal."

Webb's priorities sync up with his image as a true-red conservative.

"My main issue of concern is the Right to Life," said Webb. "I do not understand how we can forget those without a voice and call it 'pro-choice.'"

While the legalization of abortion

was ultimately a U.S. Supreme Court decision, Webb says he would support everything from defunding Planned Parenthood to a constitutional amendment to stop abortions. On the topic of removing funding from Planned Parenthood, an organization that has been at the center of national controversy, Webb said that taking away government funding from the group was necessary.

"Legislation isn't a scalpel," said Webb. "It's not a surgical remedy, but you can apply a hammer to things that are wrong. When you're killing innocent babies, there's nothing more wrong than that."

As a military veteran, Webb also expressed concern that the United States is not sufficiently supporting its armed forces.

Webb said that his priority would be ensuring that the military, especially the overburdened special operations branches, receive sufficient funding for their operations.

Webb also noted that, had he been in Congress at the time, he would not have supported a nuclear deal with Iran.

While Webb's main focus is on broad social conservatism, his competition is honing in on more legislative priorities. Hernick says he's running as a Republican because he believes the government can function more effectively. Taking the recent snowstorm as an example, Hernick noted that many employees were able to work as efficiently from home as from their office.

"With better technological approaches, we could be able to keep the federal government running [during crises like this]," said Hernick. "We need to work to improve our technological access and our workplace flexibility."

While Hernick and Webb both agree on national security issues, there is at least one substantial issue where Hernick has taken a more progressive stance. Webb has been critical of Beyer's positions on climate change, but even if he disagrees with Beyer about the solution, Hernick agrees with Beyer that climate change is a major problem.

"I believe in climate change and believe we have to do something about it," said Hernick. "I think this is an issue where there is growing consensus for younger folks that something needs to be done. We have two options. It's a real problem, so we can do something that would be a big government approach, or find ways for private markets to work well and towards an approach. Carbon cap and trade markets work well, but I am not an advocate for a carbon tax. A carbon tax at a federal level ignores work and leadership demonstrated by states [in cap and trade], particularly in New England."

The 8th District hasn't had a Republican representative since 1990, when Jim Moran unseated Republican Stanford Parris. But Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for

State and Local Government Leadership, said that the possibility of a Republican congressman can't be so easily dismissed.

"This year politics has been turned on its head: to what party does Donald Trump belong?" asked Shafroth in an email. "Remember, the conventional candidate, Governor Bush, seems an almost afterthought. There appears little evidence that the anger with Washington and 'politics as usual' has rubbed off at the local level, but it was not all that many years ago that [Northern Virginia] had Republicans: Tom Davis being the most recent."

The question, says Shafroth, is how great is the local dissatisfaction with the current Congress?

"In the 1974 election, there was a 'throw the bums out' vote that produced the largest freshman class in the nation's history," said Shafroth. "voters did not want 'business as usual.'"

— Mike Webb

However, Shafroth noted that many of the politics of Republican candidates might not appeal to the broad range of ethnicities in places like Alexandria. But even on economic issues, Shafroth says Virginia is doing very well, and that the strong recovery is usually tied to strong approval ratings for legislators.

So, while possible, the Republican candidates still face an uphill battle for a congressional seat in the 8th District. In the 2014 election, Beyer claimed 63 percent of the vote, with a 64,292 vote over Republican challenger Micah Edmond. On the surface, Webb admits he and Edmond share similarities. Both are conservative African-Americans with a military background. However, Webb says the similarities end there. Webb says Edmond failed to capitalize on the strong African-American communities of faith. For that matter, Webb says Beyer has also neglected the African-American communities of faith.

Webb says his campaign has two things going for it: Webb's strong roots in the local African-American community, and an incumbent he has accused of "not doing his job."

Where Webb is hoping to win with what he sees as an untouched evangelical majority in the 8th District, Hernick is aiming for the younger vote.

"Conventional wisdom is that this is a blue district, but I see things differently," said Hernick. "I believe there's a new generation of people interested in free enterprise, equal rights, fiscal responsibility, national security and faith."

The differences between Hernick and Webb are already emerging in their campaigning styles. Hernick emphasized civility and has said he's focused on running a positive campaign rather than a negative one towards Webb or Beyer. Webb, on the other hand, says he isn't afraid to fight dirty.

"This is a deep seated base," said Webb.

"This is not going to be a gentleman's fight ... Fortune favors the bold. You have to attack. People need to know what the difference is between us and them."

Where Hernick has focused on emphasizing his own strengths and experience as an environmental consultant, Webb targets Beyer.

"[Beyer] says 'critical pieces of legislation have passed', but one is an amendment for towing legislation," said Webb.

"it's not the most important issue."

But Beyer says he spends as much time in Congress playing defense as he does pushing forward legislation.

"On the [House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology], we tend to be dominated by climate change skeptics and deniers," said Beyer. "We

often have to speak in defense of existing [environmental legislation] and resist attempts to overthrow them."

But as the minority, Beyer says he doesn't always come out on the winning side of that fight. In particular, Beyer says he's been fighting against H.R. 2295, a bill that would allow natural gas pipelines rights-of-way through all federal lands, including National Parks.

"I fought that at committee level and floor level, and I lost both times," said Beyer, "but I don't think it will pass the Senate or President. In the meantime, we've created a lot of arguments about why that was a bad bill."

There's not a lot of instant gratification in legislation, one of the lessons Beyer has learned from his first term in congress, and one he hopes he'll be able to expand on in a second term.

"You have to be patient and take the long view, especially being in the minority party," said Beyer. "My top priority is still the carbon tax and economic dividend ... but, you also realize you're not going to get it done in the 114th Congress. But maybe I can get it done in the 115th or 116th. I just have to make the case as best I can."

"I believe there's a new generation of people interested in free enterprise, equal rights, fiscal responsibility, national security and faith."

— Charles Hernick

HISTORY

Creating the PBS Civil War Series 'Mercy Street'

An interview with Filmmaker and Executive Producer Lisa Wolfinger.

BY ROBIN LINDLEY

The Civil War was the bloodiest conflict in U.S. history with a death toll of 750,000, according to recent studies — more than twice the number of American troops killed in World War II and two percent of the population in the 1860s. If a similar number of Americans died in a war today, the toll would reach about 7.5 million. And two-thirds of Civil War deaths were from illness.

Hundreds of thousands more troops were wounded or seriously ill. To alleviate the suffering of Union and Confederate soldiers alike, women stepped into the fray and at least 20,000 volunteered to serve in capacities related to medicine from nurses to laundresses to hospital staff, including about 6,000 Union Army nurses, many under the command of renowned reformer Dorothea Dix, the Superintendent of Army Nurses.

At the time, the U.S. was considered a medical backwater, and virtually anyone who had the desire to be a doctor could practice whether or not they had a medical degree. And even trained physicians were

unprepared for the challenges of the devastating carnage of the war, the hordes of traumatized men.

The nursing profession was in its infancy, and most of the women volunteers came with a desire to help others but no medical training. They learned to care for severely wounded and seriously ill men, advocate for their patients, cut red tape and persist as they battled blatant sexism, squalid conditions, the resentment of many doctors and military leaders, and gross inefficiency as a gruesome flood of sick or injured men flooded medical facilities.

"Mercy Street," a new dramatic PBS series, tells the story of the Civil War medicine and nursing through the professional and personal lives of the staff at the Mansion House Hospital in the Union-occupied Southern city, Alexandria, in 1862. The series focuses on two women: Mary Phinney, Baroness von Olnhausen, a Union Army nurse and abolitionist, and Emma Green, a Southern belle and daughter of the owner of Mansion House, a former luxury hotel, and a hospital volunteer.

The series also captures the frenetic world of occupied Alexandria, a melting pot behind the lines, where Confederate sympathizers mingled with Union troops in a city populated by longtime residents, civilian refugees, freed African Americans, escaped slaves, wounded men from both sides, corrupt officials, prostitutes, women volunteers, and others.

Lisa Quijano Wolfinger, executive pro-

ducer and co-creator of "Mercy Street" with David Zabel, talked about the creation of the groundbreaking PBS series.

Robin Lindley: Your interest in history is evident in your record of films, with work on the "Mayflower" and the Salem witch trials and much more. How did you decide to become a filmmaker?

Lisa Wolfinger: I actually thought I wanted to devote my life to the theater and become a director or an actor. When that didn't pan out, I thought film would make sense because both are about storytelling. I fell into filmmaking and then into documentary filmmaking through my husband, Kirk Wolfinger, a documentary filmmaker. Early in my career, I was given the opportunity by History Channel to use my theater background and apply it to historical documentaries. I was given stories to tell about early American history and had little to no visual material to work with. So I had to find a new way to tell these stories within the confines of a documentary format and fell back on what I knew and that was drama.

With "Conquest of America," "Witch Hunt" and the "Mayflower," I created dialogue from primary source material and wrote fully dramatized scenes. I developed a genre that was somewhat unique in that it was basically scripted with minimal narration and occasional talking heads. The historians were used as commentary, the dramatic scenes drove the action. The new approach did very well for History Channel. "Desperate Crossing, the Untold Story of the Mayflower" was their highest special in 2006.

Robin Lindley: Did your dramatic mini-series "Mercy Street" grow out of your past films or was it inspired by other research you did?

Lisa Wolfinger: The first iteration of it was a character driven docudrama primarily because I thought that was something PBS would be interested in. It was a docudrama about Civil War medicine from the vantage point of doctors and female volunteer nurses who were, in many ways, the unsung heroes of the war, and I found that intriguing.

It evolved because I realized that PBS wanted something new and they wanted to enter into the world of episodic drama. And I also had a wonderful partner on board, David Zabel, who was the showrunner and writer on "ER" for many seasons, so I had a seasoned episodic TV dramatist and executive producer. It made sense to take that leap.

Robin Lindley: You relied on a panel of experts in history and I wondered how you found the experts and how you used their expertise.

Lisa Wolfinger: I realized very early on that we cover so many different aspects of Civil War history from military to medical to women in the old South and African Americans. There were so many different aspects that we couldn't find one generalist to cover it all, so we recruited several historians. Now we have a panel of 10 or 11 who I can send a quick email to or phone

with a question. They also vet our scripts.

We have everyone from James McPherson, our military historian, to Shauna Devine who wrote a wonderful book, "Learning from the Wounded," a medical history of the Civil War, and is now writing another book on Civil War medicine from the vantage point of the South. We have Anya Jabour, a professor at the University of Montana, who wrote "Scarlett's Sisters" on young women in the antebellum South. We worked with Thavolia Glymph at Duke University who has written about the transition from bondage to freedom. It wasn't an easy transition.

So we have quite an array of historians and each one has a very specific expertise. We send the first drafts of each of our scripts to the entire panel. We get back all of their notes. Because they're historians and because history is about interpretation and can be somewhat subjective, we as dramatists go to the notes and, when they are divergent, we discuss it and come up with a truth that works for our fictional world and is rooted in history.

Robin Lindley: Your series plunges the viewer almost immediately into the chaos of Alexandria, Virginia, a Southern town occupied by Union forces. It may be surprising for viewers to see Alexandria during the war where Confederate sympathizers seem to move freely in a town that's under the control of Union troops. What was the situation in Alexandria?

Lisa Wolfinger: One of the things that drew us to the story was Mansion House Hospital. It was located in Alexandria — the only Southern town occupied by the Union for all four years of the war.

We were excited by the interesting North and South intersection because Alexandria was an army town, a hospital town, and fully taken over by the Union. However, many Alexandrians chose to remain in the town. When the Union came in at the beginning of the war, many residents fled, but for those who remained the question was how to live with an occupying force. It's interesting for Americans because the idea of living in a town under enemy occupation is not uncommon in Europe, and most countries experienced it at some time in their histories. But it's quite alien here. And then being occupied by fellow Americans, perhaps someone you went to school with, was very odd. So we were excited about exploring that idea and the effect it would have.

The Green family was a way to explore what it was like for a Southern loyalist family who decided to stay in their home in a town occupied by the enemy and try to survive. There are many interesting themes there. How do you hang on to your dignity, your loyalty to the South, and yet do business with the Union?

Robin Lindley is a Seattle-based writer and attorney, and the features editor of the History News Network (hnn.us). His articles have appeared in HNN, Crosscut, Salon, Real Change, Documentary, Writer's Chronicle, and others. He has a special interest in the history of conflict and human rights. His email: robinlindley@gmail.com. This article originally appeared on History News Network.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN MARQUIS

Neon Snowfall

During the day on Saturday, Jan. 23, with the snow still coming down in the Seminary Valley area.

How the snow looked as it started to cover up the neon letters on the home's roof.



SPORTS

Episcopal Boys Beat St. Stephen's

Nicholas Reed and George Mawanda-Kalema combined for 46 points and the Episcopal boys' basketball team defeated Alexandria foe St. Stephen's & St. Agnes 62-48 on Tuesday.

Reed led all scorers with 26 points. The senior guard from Louisville, Kentucky, made a trio of 3-pointers and shot 11-for-17 at the foul line. Mawanda-Kalema, a junior guard from Geneva, Switzerland, finished with 20 points.

Senior forward Edwin Ebube (San Juan, Puerto Rico) scored 11 points for Episcopal and sophomore forward Zach Pfaffenberger (Midlothian) added five.

The Maroon led 36-20 at halftime and 46-34 at the end of the third quarter.

The victory improved Episcopal's record to 17-3. The Maroon have won 10 of their last 11.

Junior guard Denmark Slay led St. Stephen's with 16 points. Senior forward Andrew Trainer finished with 11 points, freshman Christian DePollar had nine and sophomore guard Donovan Toatley added eight.

The Saints fell to 13-6.

Episcopal will travel to face Georgetown Prep at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5. St. Stephen's will travel to take on St. Albans at 5:45 p.m. on Friday.

TC Boys Win Fourth Straight Conference Game

The T.C. Williams boys' basketball team defeated South County 63-59 at home Tuesday night, giving the Titans four straight Conference 7 victories.

Tavaris James led TC with 17 points. Jordan Jones finished with 14 points, Fahmmi Mamo scored 11 and DeJuan Robinson added eight.

"I feel we played well," James wrote in an email. "We played well as a team, we shared the ball well and got the job done."

The victory improved TC's record to 9-6 overall and 6-3 in the conference. The Titans have won four in a row, five of their last six and seven of their last nine.



Xavier Johnson and the Episcopal boys' basketball team defeated St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on Tuesday.



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes senior Andrew Trainer drives to the basket against Episcopal on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN



Episcopal's Nicholas Reed scored 26 points against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on Tuesday.



Episcopal senior Edwin Ebube goes up for a shot against a pair of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes defenders on Tuesday.

On Monday night, the Titans beat Lake Braddock 62-58 at home.

Next up for TC is a road game against first-place West Springfield, which improved to 14-1 overall and 8-0 in the con-

ference with a 62-39 road win over Mount Vernon on Tuesday. The Spartans beat the Titans 60-55 on Jan. 12.

What will it take for the Titans to beat the Spartans?

"Continue to work hard in practice and get better," James wrote. "Continue to run through our sets no matter who our opponent is. Play defense and hit open and timely shots."

SPORTS NOTES

Looking for Umpires

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association is in need of umpires for youth leagues, high schools, and collegiate-level baseball and volleyball games. Experience is helpful, but not required. Will give classroom and field training to aid you in acquiring skills needed. Contact John Porter at 703-978-3601 or assignor@umpires.org.

Potomac Field Hockey Registration

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring FUNdamental program for Pre-K through second grade and Youth Rec league program for grades 3-8. No experience necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Technical skills sessions included. Season begins March 28 and runs through June 4. For more information or to register, visit

www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Field Hockey Coaches, Umpires Needed

Coaches and umpires are needed for our upcoming spring season. Umpires needed for youth games on Saturdays. Send coach inquiry to info@potomacfieldhockey.org;

send umpire inquiry to umpire@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Field Hockey Open House

Learn more about field hockey. Potomac Field Hockey will be holding open houses on March 1 and March 3 from 5-7 p.m. Drop in any time. Equipment provided. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000587, Construction Management and Inspection Services for Windmill Hill Park/Park Improvements

Closing Date and Time: February 29, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference on February 12, 2016, 10:00 AM prevailing local time at 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Shawn K. Brooks, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4289.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Emily Preadable Corbin of Stratford Landing in Alexandria, Va., died peacefully on January 30, 2016, in her home of over 50 years. She was surrounded by loved ones, music, prayers and many tender touches and whispers of love. Family came from as far as France, Japan and The Netherlands.

Emily was born in Washington D.C. at Sibley Hospital on September 25, 1929. She attended Elliot and Bryan schools and graduated from Eastern High School. She worked for President Eisenhower in the Women's Division, traveled the world with the International Monetary Fund and was a skilled asset to the Arent Fox law firm. After retirement, she continued a life full of friends, family, travel adventures and an eloquent humanity.

She spent hours at the Boys Club as a youth, was a charter member of the Stratford Women's Club and served as recording secretary. Her favorite things in life were bridge, music, traveling and tennis. Most family and friends have an oil painting or two hanging on a wall painted by Emily. She loved watching sports on and said "sports were the only true, unbiased thing on T.V." Her intelligence and quick wit made her fascinating and a great joke teller.

She is survived by her four daughters and one son, Catherine McGinn Ahmad (John), John Alan Corbin (Claudie) of France, Robin E. Kelly (Mike), Tracy Edith Corbin and Erin E. Buhrman (Rob). She is also survived by 10 grandchildren, four great grandchildren, nieces and nephews, by her sister, Catherine Thames and many dear friends. She was predeceased in death by her husband, John R. Corbin in 1986 and grandson, Neil David Kelly in 2013.

She was unselfish and generous and a beautiful influence on all that were fortunate to have known her. And like one daughter said, "she was our rock".

She donated her body to the Georgetown University Department of Medical Science.

In lieu of flowers, please made a donation to a charity of your choice.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Chicken Boxx, LLC trading as Chicken Boxx, 2303 Huntington Ave. Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off premises/Keg Permit & Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Julie Lien Owner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

OBITUARY



Carolyn Carter Chandler, born April 22, 1949 in Altus, Oklahoma, passed away on January 30, 2016 in Austin, Texas.

Carolyn received her Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and her Master's in Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Nashville. Carolyn worked as a social worker in Alabama before becoming a stay-at-home mom while raising her two sons in Alexandria, Virginia. She pursued real estate investing with her beloved husband Roy in the early 2000's and managed several rental properties during that time. She loved spending time with her family and became a grandmother in 2014.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband of 34 years, Roy A. Chandler, Jr., who passed away unexpectedly in September 2014.

Following Roy's death, Carolyn moved to Austin from her home in Virginia to be near family while battling Alzheimer's disease.

She is survived by her sons, Carter Chandler of Denver and Ryan Chandler of Austin, daughters-in-law Rachel Hartgen and Kristin Chandler, and grandson Hayes Chandler. Her father-in-law Roy A. Chandler, Sr, her sisters-in-law Somer McElyea and Judy Callahan, brother-in-law Corey Chandler, nephew Brandon Browning, and niece Kelly Putman, all of Alabama.

A memorial service will be held Saturday February 6, 2016 at 10:30 am at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home at 2620 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. A page in her honor has been setup at: act.alz.org/goto/CarolynChandler.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home South Congress, 2620 S. Congress, Austin, TX 512/442-1446. You may view memorials at www.wcfish.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Buxton-Donald Clarke Casey, 77, died in his home in Buxton on Friday evening, January 29, 2016.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Louise (Holbert) Casey and his four children: Jean-Louise (Casey) Dixon and her husband David of Buxton; John D. Casey and his wife Kimberly of Carlsbad, CA; Michael C. Casey and his wife Ansley of Manteo, NC; and Eilyn Clare Casey of Kill Devil Hills, NC.

Born and raised in Johnson, Nebraska, the son of D. Clarke Casey and Lois (Carle) Casey, he was a longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia until his retirement to Buxton in 2006.

Mr. Casey attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1961 with a degree in Chemical Engineering. In 1964 he earned his Law Degree from the University of Nebraska as well. He earned his LLM in Patent Law from George Washington University in Washington, DC in 1966. He met his wife Louise in Lincoln where they were married. In 1964, he joined the JAG Corps of the U.S. Army until his honorable discharge in 1969 as a Captain. He served in the Pentagon for his entire military career.

Mr. Casey practiced patent law in Washington, D. C. and Alexandria, Virginia for his entire career. He was active in local politics, serving on the Alexandria, Virginia City Council for three terms from 1977 to 1986. He retired from private practice in 2006. He was a member of the Beverly Hills United Methodist Church in Alexandria.

During his later years Mr. Casey's two passions were his gardening and his grandchildren. Mr. Casey is survived by eleven grandchildren: Jacob, Noah and Jonah Dixon of Buxton; Connor and Nora Casey of Carlsbad, CA; Fletcher, Wallace and Bryson Casey of Manteo, NC and Hayden Harper and Oliver and Elliott Barker of Kill Devil Hills, NC.

He volunteered at the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Hatteras, NC. He was also active in the Cape Hatteras Masonic Lodge 698, serving as Master of the chapter at the time of his death.

A memorial will be held on Wednesday, February 3 at 3:00 pm at St. Johns United Methodist Church in Avon, North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Hatteras Island Youth Education Fund at PO Box 750, Avon, NC 27915.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Gallop Funeral Services in Nags Head and expressions of condolences are welcome at www.gallopfuneralservices.com.

OBITUARY

Dateline: Hanover, NH

Alison McCallum May, age 85, died peacefully at home in Hanover, New Hampshire, on January 30, 2016, surrounded by family.

Born July 13, 1930 to James Dow McCallum, a professor of English at Dartmouth College, and Margaret Beck McCallum, Alison was raised in Hanover. She graduated from Vassar College in 1952, with a major in Economics.

In 1954, she married Donald H. May. While raising their four children, she was actively involved in community affairs in Alexandria, Virginia. She worked with the NAACP, the National Conference for Community and Justice, and the ACLU in their efforts to overcome the racial unrest of the 1960s. In subsequent years, she served on the Alexandria School Board and was a driving force in the desegregation of that school system. She was a successful stockbroker and financial planner before retiring with Don to Norwich, Vermont in 1994.

Alison remained loyal to Vassar and chaired several reunions. In Norwich, she worked tirelessly as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Norwich Public Library, spearheading a major capital campaign for the library's expansion. She served on the town's Finance Committee, and the Norwich Selectboard, including several years as its chair. She was an active member of the Norwich Women's Club. For many years, she enthusiastically maintained their town directory.

In 1996, Alison and Don co-founded the Salikenni Scholarship Fund, a non-profit organization that supports and mentors students in the rural village of Salikenni in The Gambia in West Africa. She was particularly proud of the program's efforts to educate girls.

She was a role model to many for her volunteerism, leadership, and active community participation. She was admired for her dedication and determination to better the world around her.

Alison was a passionate gardener and enjoyed sharing this love with passersby, often adding a good story or some political advice along the way. Her gardens in Norwich, Prince Edward Island, and Alexandria were admired by many.

She is survived by her husband, Don, and the families of their four children: Anne and Henry Hart (Chestertown, MD), Steve and Liza May (Bonita Springs, FL), Dave May and Katherine Kiluk (Hingham, MA), Libby May and Eoghan Mahony (Santa Monica, CA). She also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and her sister Anne McCallum von Maltzahn (Halifax, NS).

To view an online memorial and or send a message of condolence, please visit www.rand-wilson.com

A memorial service will be held at St. Barnabas Church, Norwich, VT, on February 22, 2016 at 11 a.m. Alison was buried in a private family service on February 2nd at Pine Knolls Cemetery in Hanover.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to The Salikenni Scholarship Fund (www.salikenni.org) or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Rand-Wilson Funeral Home of Hanover, NH.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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