



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Beverley Park at dusk.

Dark Shadows in Beverley Park

Lights may not be an ideal crime-deterrent.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Beverley Park is a fairly inconspicuous park at the heart of one of Alexandria's northern residential neighborhoods, but locally it has a somewhat more ominous name: the Pit. The steep walls around the park, the thick hedge, and the lack of lighting had not been issues of urgent concern, but all of that changed on Nov. 9 last year when the body of Jose Luis Ferman Perez was discovered at the playground. Perez, 24, was murdered, and as the city begins to prosecute his alleged killers, residents near the park and city staff begin the work on repairing the site's security problems.

On March 21 in the Beverley Hills Methodist Church, just a few blocks away from Beverley Park, a few local residents met with Judy Lo from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities. The meeting was a follow up to a more widely attended meeting earlier in March. The

main topic at both meetings was park safety, with park lighting as the centerpiece. Questions had been raised about whether to go with a duller series of lights along a pathway or a few taller, more brightly lit outposts.

But at the March 21 meeting, Alexandria Police Department crime prevention specialist Charles Lloyd proposed another alternative: no lights.

The local residents were skeptical, but Lloyd said that lighting the park at night could have some surprising detriments to the neighborhood. Lloyd studies crime prevention through environmental design, and noted that the park design is inherently poor for public safety.

"Natural surveillance is big," said Lloyd. "Can the casual observer see all of the park? At Beverley Park, they can't."

The park has several things that could make it an appealing place to commit a murder or hide a body, but Lloyd said natural surveillance is a bigger problem than the lighting.

The sharp inclines around the park, from which it gets its nickname, block views from adjacent streets. In an ideal world, Lloyd said the park would be raised to the same grade as the street,

"I don't like the idea of lights here, it could snowball into something the community doesn't want."

— Charles Lloyd, crime prevention specialist for the Alexandria Police Department

SEE HIDDEN CONSEQUENCES, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

The Rocklands truck outside Port City.

Kitchen on Wheels

Local breweries and food trucks work together to serve customers.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

At Port City Brewing in western Alexandria, the "pearl," a layered dish of macaroni and cheese, baked beans and barbecue meat, is downed with a micro beer so it's known to bring on a "food coma," of sorts. Port City is one of the many microbreweries that serve no food but rely on independent food trucks that pull up outside for their food source. The "pearl" is the creation of Rocklands Barbecue and Grilling Company, one of the trucks known around the circuit.

"They layer it in a bowl, it's fantastic," said Gina Buchholz, a Port City manager. "After eating it, you need a nap but it's totally worth it," she said.

Food trucks serving microbrewery customers are a work-around that fits the bill at many microbreweries across the area. Ever since the Virginia legislators passed State Bill 604 in May 2012, saying "tastings," were al-

lowed at breweries, the number of breweries across the state multiplied. And people drinking beer need food, and that's where the food trucks come in, like Rocklands that makes regular stops at Port City.

"I think people appreciate having that as an option," Buchholz said.

Alexandria resident Derek Fargino, a Rocklands driver, said the menu "depends on what goes well with beer. We mix it up."

Chadwick Kanney, a student from Roanoke, split a Rockland's pork sandwich and beef brisket with her boyfriend. "We like to hit all the breweries around here," she said.

Julie Drews, manager of the Brew Shop in Arlington, loves the food truck convenience when she's sipping on "craft brew." The Brew Shop sells craft beer and home brewing supplies so Drews has her finger on the pulse of the local brew scene. "It's a cool thing, they

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Concept rendering for view of the property from Montgomery and N. Saint Asaph streets.

Old Town North Development Approved

The empty lot in North Old Town, formerly home to Giant, will soon be home for 232-units of residential development. Local citizens protested the traffic and parking impact of the new building, and while City Council did tighten the on-street parking requirement, City Council approved the development at the March 12 public hearing.

While the Giant shared the space with a parking lot, the new structure will take up the entire block. The 232 multi-family residential complex will feature retail on the ground floor with 481 parking spaces below ground. Height of the property ranges between 27 feet and 77 feet, with the architecture highlighting the area's industrial past.

"I know we're wedded to talking about colonial architecture and fancy red brick buildings," said Catharine Puskar, the attorney representing the developer, Edens, "but Alexandria was also an industrial city at one point. What we're trying to do with this point is create that same neighborhood identity in Old Town North."

However, local residents say it's not the outside of the building that has them concerned, but the impact on traffic caused by the residents inside, particularly at the corner of N. St Asaph and Montgomery streets.

While ultimately the City Council voted 6-1 in favor of the redevelopment, residents won concessions on parking. After local residents protested on-street parking permits given to tenants of the new housing, Puskar acknowledged that the garage has more than enough parking for its residents and that the residents would not need on-street parking. Councilwoman Del Pepper and Councilman John Chapman both said they'd visited the neighborhood and had seen the parking problems first hand. City Council amended their approval of the project to restrict on-street parking for residents of the building.

King Street Park Revitalized

Beverly Park isn't the only Alexandria Park looking at major redevelopment. The park at the end of King Street, appropriately named "King Street Park," could be seeing a temporary boost before Waterfront redevelopment transforms the area. Currently the site hosts a small anchor monument and a bench, but expansion into two nearby sites could turn the park into the missing link between the northern and southern parts of the Alexandria waterfront.

"We're looking at ways to improve that space until the ultimate plan is realized [around] 2024," said Tony Gammon, Acting Deputy Director for the Department of Project Implementation. "For the interim, we want to open the [Old Dominion Boat Club] space up to the public as soon as we can with low cost infrastructure for the next seven or eight years."

Gammon says there are three distinct spaces in the immediate vicinity that the city is looking at utilizing, the park itself, the Old Dominion Boat Club building site, and the parking lot to the south.

"The goal is to take the walls and fences down around the lot and use low cost treatments to make it pedestrian friendly," said Gammon. "We want to provide a pedestrian connection between the marina and [the rest of] the waterfront. We want to start to reinforce the idea of the waterfront."

In total, Gammon says the new park would be approximately

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Senior Services of Alexandria Board Chair Donna Shaw, left, with SSA Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson, Mayor Allison Silberberg, Mike Porterfield, Kitty Porterfield, Sue Goodhart, H. Arthur Sauer; Allison Goodhart DuShuttle, Mike Day and Dave Hawkins at the SSA Generation to Generation Gala March 12 at the Hilton Mark Center.

Generation to Generation Gala

Senior Services of Alexandria hosted its annual Generation to Generation Gala March 12 at the Hilton Mark Center Alexandria. The 2016 honorees included Sue Goodhart and Allison Goodhart DuShuttle, and Kitty, Mike, Kirby and Keely

Porterfield. H. Arthur Sauer was awarded with SSA's first Special Service Award. For more information about SSA's programs and services go to seniorservicesalex.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



SSA board members Lynnwood Campbell and Kristin Eagan with honoree H. Arthur Sauer.



City Councilman Willie Bailey with Connie and Bud Hart.



Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, left, with Lonnie Rich; Councilwoman Del Pepper, Mark Eaton, F.J. Pepper and Marcia Call.



Alan and Barbara Anderson



Eileen and Mark Jinks.



Patsy Ticer, left, with Connie Ring and Mayor Allison Silberberg.

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Hidden Consequences to Lighting the Landscaping

FROM PAGE 1

but acknowledged that the solution would be infeasible. The playground equipment, however, is being elevated to street-grade in the Parks Department plans.

Even along the main road, N. Overlook Drive, a thick hedge of bushes and low trees entirely hides the park except for two gaps at the north corners. The park plans call for the removal of the hedge to be replaced with a taller tree canopy that offers a more open view of the park.

Another problem, according to Lloyd, is the location of the playground equipment. The equipment is too far pushed back from the main street and offers too many hidden corners for people to hide in.

"People will loiter and you can't see them," said Lloyd, "no matter what kind of lighting you have."

Lloyd advised that the playground equipment should be relocated closer to the street and have more transparent equipment. Lo said that the new playground won't have as many obstructions and that it is being shifted closer to the grassy area of the park, away from the walls of the Pit.

One of the other security concerns at the park is that the only entrance and exit to the park is along the north wall.

"If you're in the back of the park, you're really stuck back there," said Lloyd. Lo said some of the park plans include alternative



Beverley Park at night.

egresses into the park.

But on the major topic of the night, lighting, Lloyd cautioned that it could accidentally turn their relatively anonymous park into a city-wide attraction for Alexandrians out after dark.

"The problem with illumination is that it attracts people," said Lloyd. "It'll attract teenagers, and we can't enforce the law sporadically. If we get called to the park for a disturbance, we'll have to kick everyone out."

Lloyd recalled, from his own experiences, that kids looking to play football at night would sometimes fill up tennis courts because they were lit at night. With a wide grassy field at Beverley Park, all it needs is that lighting to become a hotbed for late night sports enthusiasts and restless teens.

When some of the residents began saying that they wouldn't want to be "that neighbor," the one that calls the police on their neighbor's children playing in the park, Lloyd added that the assumption that anyone playing on the equipment at night is local could be dangerous as well. If no one calls the police when they see people lurking around the park at night, that only attracts more unsavory characters to the park, and the lighting once again is self-defeating.

Across Alexandria, Lloyd said park and trail lighting needs to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Holmes Run Park, for example, should not be lit, Lloyd said.

"At night, [lighting] invites people in, and there are too many dark areas off to the side of the path."

But parks near the Metro, for instance, should be lit, because people use the park at night whether it's lit or not, he said.

"There's a lot of things to consider," said Lloyd, and expressed sympathy for the difficult situation local residents faced. "Having something like this done in your park, I couldn't imagine what that's like ... but we don't want a knee-jerk reaction. ... I don't like the idea of lights here, it could snowball into something the community doesn't want."

Lloyd and local residents agreed that crime issues with the park have been virtually non-existent aside from the murder. Some noted that during park cleanups it wasn't uncommon to find discarded beer cans, and the night of the meeting the area around the entrance of the park reeked of marijuana. Still, the residents at the meeting agreed that the lighting's detriments were more trouble than it was worth.

When it came time for local residents to vote on a plan, nearly all of them supported not lighting Beverley Park.

"That's about as unanimous as you'll get at any civic association," said Bruce Johnson, former President of the Northridge Citizens' Association. Lo said the Parks Department plans to submit plans to City Council in March for approval by the Planning Commission and City Council in June, with construction beginning in fall of 2016.

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PEOPLE

Tiny hands find a space on the bar as their instructor Jessica Petchenick leads them through the *élevé* (on their toes), the *plié* (bending their knees outward), and the *arabesque* (on one leg).



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Lorelei Johnson leaps from one foot to the other in the *pas de chat* and lets out a whoop of delight as she successfully lands on the other side of the pancake set on the floor.

Wiggle Toes Plié Through the Morning

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The warm up music begins from the corner. “Are you ready?” Jessica Petchenick, instructor at Tiny Dancers on S. Washington Street, asks, “Can you dance with your eyes?” Moms and leotard-bedecked children blink at each other. “Can you dance with your nose?” Noses wiggle including five mothers and one father who has accompanied his daughter to today’s Wiggle Toes class for 2-3 year olds. After wiggling ears and patting tummies, at last the answer is “You dance with your feet.”

“Show me your foot, everyone point your toes. No, no back on your tippy toes.” Petchenick’s hands are curved above her head as she demonstrates the *élevé* position. The music changes to “Late Last Night” as the girls all curl up the floor. “1-2-3 wake up.” They stretch and stand up ready to dance. Meanwhile several younger siblings are snuggling with mom, and one sits by the mirror making faces at himself.

Petchenick places alternating yellow and red circles on the floor. “OK Lorelei, jump over the pancake.” Lorelei leaps from one foot to the other in a *pas de chat* and lets out a whoop of delight as she lands on the other side of the pancake. “Good job!”

“Ready for the bar?” Petchenick pulls the pint size bar to the middle of the room. Each girl crowds into a place and clings tightly to a space on the bar, her moves reflected in the large mirror covering the wall. “*Dégagé*,” and Petchenick moves her leg straight off the floor with toe pointed to remind them of the movement. Little feet struggle and point in all direc-



“*Dégagé*,” Jessica Petchenick demonstrates for her 2-3-year-old Wiggle Toes class at Tiny Dancers on S. Washington Street.

tions. “*Plié*,” knees bend outward with feet together. This class has been together since September and even though their bodies may not be entirely cooperative, they know many of the positions.

“Are we ready to read our story?” Little voices respond and run to the corner to get a good place on the floor in front of Petchenick. Today’s story is Pinkleicious. It begins, “It was a rainy day, too wet to go outside.” The story is about a little girl who eats too many pink cupcakes and turns pink herself. It won’t wash off. The girls reenact the story. “Shall we get dressed up?” as Petchenick opens a deep drawer full of surprises. Petchenick pulls out a pink frilly dress and one by one each girl scoots into her identical costume and becomes pink herself. As the girls dance around the circle, they try everything to return to their normal selves. They *plié* over a large sparkling cupcake. “Hold your cupcake up high, take a pretend bite.” No luck — they are still pink. Faces light up as magic wands emerge from the large drawer. “Look mom,” but despite waving them around, the girls are still pink. It is only a bite from the grand blue cupcake that returns them to their normal selves. Petchenick says she likes to work the dance steps into something fun and this way they pick up the basics. But she explains you have to be flexible because sometimes you have planned something and it doesn’t work.

Petchenick has been dancing since she was 3 years old and her mother put her in dance classes. “I played soccer but I kept coming back to dance.” She minored in dance at William and Mary and taught children in the recreational center there. “I really fell in love with the William and Mary program.” She has been teaching for four years at Tiny Dancers in Alexandria and has been the manager at that location for the last year. She teaches 15 classes full-time on Tuesday-Saturday. After college she spent one year as an intern and one year as an employee at Dance Place in D.C.

Petchenick says Tiny Dancers has a creative director who puts together the story boxes. The drawer changes every week with 60-70 different stories available for the theme of the day. The classes start with Wiggle Toes for 2-3 year olds (mom and me — or maybe a dad) and go up to the 10-year-old age group. At 3 the child becomes independent and can attend classes without an adult.

This class is officially over. Moms sit on the floor and chat with each other while tiny ballerinas practice pointing and pivoting and chasing each other. Petchenick says, “We all feel like we’re family here.”

‘Drinking Adventurously’

Book spotlights 52 beverages.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE
SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident Jeff Cioletti had more than a decade of writing professionally about a full spectrum of beverages — from Chinese spirits to bottled iced teas to the best sparkling wines in America. As the current editor-at-large of Beverage World, where he’s held editorial roles for more than 13 years, he decided a few years ago to chronicle his adventures with these beverages in a 335-page book, “The Year of Drinking Adventurously: 52 Ways to Get out of Your Comfort Zone.”

Published by Turner Publishing in November of last year, “The Year of Drinking Adventurously” is laid out so that each of its 52 chapters focuses on a different drink. The tour of beverages also represents a robust taste of what the world has to offer.

“I designed the book by week,” he said. “So the way it’s structured, there are 52 chapters, and each one is a different week and different drink. It is a plan for readers to experience each drink all within a year. All in all, the goal is really to get people to experience something new. Some of these readers, previous to exploring the book, may default to a small group of regular drinks and don’t really go outside that. I wrote this book in part to relay the message that, ‘you may not like all of it, and you may not even like most of it, and there’s background so that you can be more educated about what you’re drinking.’”

Jolene Barto, marketing coordinator of Turner Publishing, said it was a no-brainer to for the company to pursue “The Year of Drinking Adventurously.”

“‘The Year of Drinking Adventurously’ is meant to get readers out of their ‘cocktail comfort zone’ and try interesting, delicious, and adventurous new drinks and spirits,” Barto said. “Each section of the book is divided as a week to learn more about a certain type of



Jeff Cioletti

brew, spirit, and other beverage that might not fit into the generic ‘gin and cran’ and ‘vodka tonic’ field. The book is truly a unique approach to informing readers about their beverage options, and Jeff was undoubtedly an expert in this field, so it seemed like an excellent title to publish.”

Cioletti explained that there is no shortage of libations for people to try in a year’s time.

“As far as distilleries go, there are probably about 1,000 in the country now and that number is growing,” Cioletti said. “Breweries amount to more than 4,000. My book is more about individual beverages themselves though. I go into a lot of international beverages, including Japanese spirits and stuff from Scandinavia, as well as some home-grown concoctions.”

If a reader has a hankering for a unique Japanese sake, Cioletti makes sure most of the drinks are easy enough to find in most places across the U.S.

“I did a fair amount of traveling, including to Japan, the United Kingdom, and even Australia, but I obviously couldn’t get anywhere,” he said. “So, wherever I could get, I would write about it. But, for other places specializing in certain drinks I wanted to highlight, I would go to a bar that specialized in that kind of thing — whether it was New York, Chicago, LA, and even in the Washington D.C.-area.”

Cioletti was able to tap into his previous travel experiences for some of the book as well.

“Belgium, for example, fig

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Local Breweries Bring in Kitchens on Wheels

FROM PAGE 1

don't have to have a kitchen and deal with all that," she said.

According to Jennifer Guild, public relations specialist at Virginia Alcoholic Beverages Control, SB604 was significant. "Sen. Jeffrey McWaters sponsored Senate Bill 604, which added additional privileges to the brewery license. Brewers formerly were required to obtain a second license to sell beer for off-premises consumption, and they had to obtain a restaurant license in order to sell beer for on-premises consumption. Under the new law, brewers are able to operate more like a Virginia farm winery, with on- and off-premises sales privileges combined into the brewery license," she said.

According to Guild, there is no food requirement to hold a brewery license. "More and more breweries take it upon themselves to invite food trucks and outside food delivery to their facility on higher traffic days," she said.

Both the food trucks and breweries benefit from this arrangement, says Jeff Maisey, publisher/editor of Virginia Craft Beer Maga-



Gina Bucholz is comfortable behind the bar serving craft brews while the Rocklands truck out front deals with the food.

zine, a monthly publication for the brew crafters in the area.

"Breweries want to brew and serve beer to their consumers without the hassle and expense of operating a kitchen/restaurant and food trucks have a captive audience at breweries as patrons get hungry" he said.

Although restaurants and food trucks have had disputes before, "most breweries are in industrial areas not directly near an estab-



Neil and Anne Pappalardo frequent the Fair Winds parking lot in Lorton on certain weekends.

lished restaurant," said Maisey. This is true with Port City, which is located in a warehouse area. "The breweries in downtown areas make the inclusion of food truck service less likely — as it should be," said Maisey.

Localities have adopted rules on the trucks as well. In Alexandria, the City Council adopted regulations last May that allow food truck vending in certain off-street locations, including private prop-

erty, public property and farmer's markets, with the permission of the property owners. The demand for the additional food choices provided by food trucks was part of its decision.

In August 2015, Arlington launched a pilot program in Rosslyn for food trucks that creates four exclusive zones where vendors can offer restricted curbside lunch spots without having to compete for parking space

with other vehicles, similar to an outdoor food court. In Arlington, the designated spots will be active weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., giving vendors at least two hours more than they are usually allowed in traditional parking spaces. The program is designed to create pedestrian-friendly food truck access for area workers and residents. The participation is voluntary, meaning food trucks can park in other areas of Rosslyn and the county, provided owners observe the parking rules for those streets.

Rocklands driver Derek Farino stops at the New District Brewing Company and even though it's frequented by other food trucks, there's plenty of business to go around. "We're good friends with the other trucks," he said.

The Urban Bumpkin BBQ is one of the food truck competitors that specializes in handmade fried dough topped with a variety of ethnic treats cooked to order on the truck with wonton wraps. "The breweries have a rotation of different trucks for variety," said Urban Bumpkin BBQ official John Nguyen.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET



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PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY TRACY BARBER

Celebrating 100 Years

Friends and family gathered to celebrate William Charity's 100th birthday. The party was held on Saturday, March 12, at the Elks lodge at 227 N. Henry St.



(From left): Jenna Adams, Justin Allen, Dustin Sullivan, John Lawrence, Aaron Watson, Alim Stickney and Anthony Brown, volunteers of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, prepare to unload water at Guiding Light Baptist Church in Flint.

Local Church Members Travel to Flint

BY MARISSA BEALE
GAZETTE PACKET

The water crisis affecting residents in Flint, Mich., captured local attention at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria. Through a partnership made possible with Lott Carey, a missions-based convention, Alfred Street Baptist Church is sending teams to Flint to help distribute water to residents in need and to serve as eye-witnesses to the tragedy.

"I wasn't anticipating the complexity of the problem in Flint," said Aaron Watson, a church member and volunteer on one of the teams.

The problem in Flint began in 2014 after the City of Detroit decided to stop buying treated water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and switch to the Flint River. The decision resulted in lead contamination after the untreated water corroded the dilapidating pipelines in Flint. While residents have been told not to use the water for anything, some still do use the water, and all are still billed for it.

"Some said they were at their wit's end," said Rev-

erend Marcia Norfleet, Director of Missions at Alfred Street Baptist Church who led the first team in Flint. "One [woman] said her husband had dangerously high levels of lead and was sick from the water. He was over 70 years old."

"This is beyond tragic," said Reverend Dustin Sullivan, who traveled with the second team. "It's criminal, unfathomable and blatant. This isn't accidental. This is intentional."

Members of Alfred Street Baptist Church were able to sit down with leaders at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, in Flint, to discuss how the problem started, and what can be done.

So far, more than 8,000 cases of water have been delivered to schools, private homes, daycares, nursing homes and apartment complexes, and the church has raised more than \$50,000 for Flint residents. Alfred Street Baptist Church is sending six teams, in total, to Flint.

The fourth team was scheduled to be in Flint March 21-25.

"It is our place to inform people," said Reverend Marcia Norfleet, Director of Missions at Alfred Street Baptist Church.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

The Local Human Rights Committee is seeking new members, including professionals, individuals receiving behavioral health and developmental disability services through the City, and family members to serve on the volunteer committee. Requires regular meeting attendance quarterly on the third Wednesday of the month, 7-9 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph St.

Responsibilities include performing oversight functions, conducting fact finding hearings and making recommendations for resolution of complaints not resolved informally, and reviewing program policies and procedures relating to client rights. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1RNRgF0> or email elizabeth.hall@alexandriava.gov for more.

THROUGH MARCH

Pothole Patrol. The City began a month-long effort to repair potholes across the City, and is asking residents and businesses to help find and report potholes using <http://1.usa.gov/1p5pTPB>, or by calling 703-746-HELP (4357). Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Potholes.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Old Town North Small Area Plan Advisory Group Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax Street (Washington Conference Room). In June 2015, under the Fiscal Year 2016 Interdepartmental Long Range Work Program, the City Council approved a planning effort to Update the 1992 OTN SAP. This planning process extends to through January 2017 with expected Plan adoption. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1UQdJ9C> for meeting materials and additional information. Contact Nancy Williams, Principal Planner, at nancy.williams@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3858.

Film Screening. 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Alexandria Virginia chapter of the NAACP will show the film "Hidden Colors 3 — The Rules of Racism" at its general membership meeting. The film is the third installment of the documentary series. The film explores how institutional racism affects all areas of human activity, and the rules, laws, and public policies that are used to maintain this system. Hidden Colors 3 features commentary from a diverse group of scholars, authors, and entertainment icons. The NAACP is partnering with the Alexandria Black History Museum, Black Tie Mentoring, and ShopTalk Live in the showing of the film. Open to the public. Call 703-684-6190.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

The Business Leaders Circle. 7:30 a.m., networking breakfast; 8 a.m., presentation at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Learn about Charles Bolden's personal

experiences as NASA Administrator and throughout his career. Bolden will also provide an overview of current NASA activities and answer audience questions. \$25 per person. Space is limited, register at www.campaigncenter.org/events/blc or call 703-549-0111 for more.

Understanding Medical Waivers.

7-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, Minnie Howard Campus - Media Center, 3801 Braddock Road. For parents of a child with special needs, the process of figuring out which waiver might be right for the child and applying for it can be overwhelming. The goal of this workshop is to answer questions parents have about the process. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-824-6865 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Application Deadline: Junior

Docent. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., is now accepting applications from students in grades 4, 5 and 6 for the Junior Docent Program. Applicants must attend an audition, and if selected, must be available for training on Sundays May 1 and June 5, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Questions should be directed to the Curator of Education at 703-746-4739.

Grant Application Deadline.

Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's partner on the 395 Express Lanes project, has launched the "395 Express Lanes Community Grant Program." The quarterly grant program seeks to respond to the needs of direct-impact communities within the I-395 corridor. Visit 395ExpressLanes.com/grant-application.

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NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

the size of Market Square outside of City Hall.

"It's quite a bit of space, with quite a lot of opportunity," said Gammon. "We need to keep the King Street Park green space intact, or make it even bigger."

Currently, Gammon says the only thing delaying the park is the boat club, and says that they won't begin work on the King Street Park space until the boat club begins construction at the Beachcomber site. The budget for the park, including the demolition and surface restoration that would be required as part of the Waterfront plan regardless of park expansion, is \$1 million.

Gammon says the feedback from the public has been generally positive.

"People like the idea of opening up the space and creating a park there," said Gammon. "There isn't even a sidewalk along the Strand, it really disconnects the two areas."

— VERNON MILES

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Interested candidates should send an inquiry along with their resume to Dr. Deanna Ortiz, Project Director, at ssets.gwu@gmail.com.

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OPINION

Purple State

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

While the case of Virginia gerrymandering argued before the Supreme Court on March 21 does not impact Congressional Districts in Northern Virginia, it shows again that partisan efforts have diminished voter power in the Commonwealth.

This is one of multiple challenges in the courts about how political boundaries are drawn in Virginia.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, as we have said in previous editorials.

Here are the actual numbers:

In 2013:

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

In 2012:

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split of five Dems and six Republicans; or five

Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering. Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the voters.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

The courts will have a hand in redrawing boundaries in some Virginia districts. It's past time for courts to challenge political gerrymandering in general. Virginia's current system is an incumbent protection plan. Every incumbent who sought reelection to the General Assembly last November won. Why? Their districts were drawn for them, not for the voters who live there.

Virginia should embrace nonpartisan redistricting that supports the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re-engage After Master Plan Changes

To the Editor:

Like former Mayor Euille's remark about the campaign contributions he takes from folks with business before the City Council not affecting how he decides, Councilman Chapman's insistence that unilaterally upending the

carefully crafted compromises in the Braddock East master plan, arrived at via a community engagement process, "is not unethical by any means" strains credulity.

Reneging on commitments made to citizens and written into law, without any new process to renegotiate those commitments, is not unethical? Not being true to your (by which I mean the City's) explicit, enacted commitments is not unethical? Disrespecting the

citizens' time and effort to work out the master plan, their participation in the give-and-take process, is not unethical?

An affordable housing crisis is beside the point. If amply addressing it necessitated an ad hoc amendment allowing a site to be "spot-zoned," an ethical City Hall would have followed up with a new community engagement process to seek something else to offer the affected neighborhood in lieu of what was taken away.

Like former Mayor Euille, Councilman Chapman's understanding of ethics shows why we need an ethics commission.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Make Our Streets Safe

Letter to the Editor:

On March 25, speed limits on Seminary Road and N. Quaker Lane will change from 35 mph to 25 mph to help Make Our Streets Safe. As a Seminary Road resident, I ask for others in Alexandria to support this change; please drive no more than 25 mph in our neighborhoods.

In June, 2015, a group of residents, primarily from Seminary Road and N. Quaker Lane, met to prioritize our top traffic concerns. Congestion was discussed, but set aside as a city-wide issue to be addressed separately. Safety was clearly the more urgent and important issue.

Our group identified four safety concerns: Excessive speeds as indicated by 85th percentile speeds of 43 mph compared to 25 mph, which is the commonly-used speed limit for neighborhood streets in Alexandria. Walking safety, where crossing four lanes of traffic is hazardous and parents will not allow their children to walk or bike to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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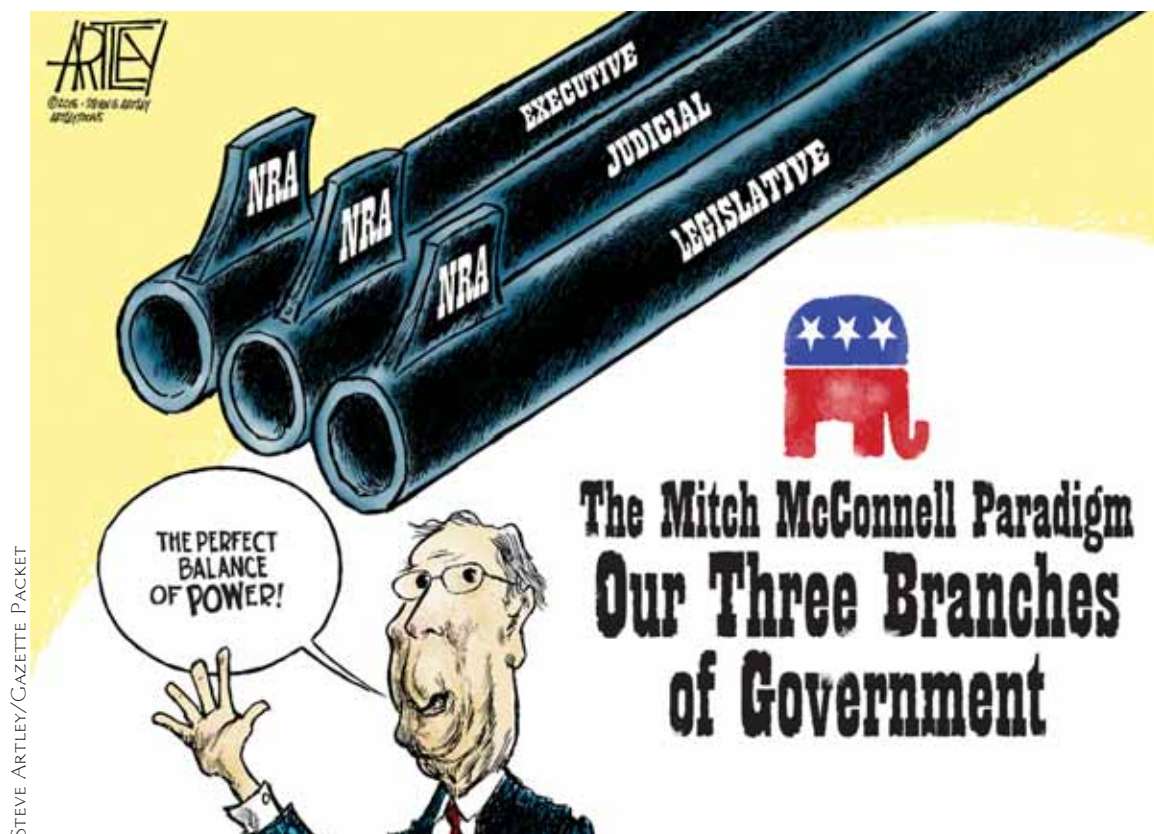
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

school. Entry /exit risks. People are afraid to enter/exit side streets and driveways – one N. Quaker Lane resident spent 18 months in physical therapy after being rear-ended by a speeding car as she turned into her driveway. Reported crashes of more than 60 on each street over a 5-year period (and many crashes that concern us are not reported).

Our goal: make Seminary Road and N. Quaker Lane safe for all, safe for people to cross and walk along these streets, to bike on these streets, and to drive along or enter/exit.

We narrowed near-term options to a four-part solution: 25 mph speed limits, with \$200 fines and education and enforcement. (The City's plan does not include \$200 fines, but that may be considered later if planned measures prove ineffective.)

We sought and gained community support: Members of our civic association voted in favor of the four-part solution 55-to-8 at our November annual meeting. 267 Alexandria residents, including 83.5 percent of households on Seminary Road and N. Quaker Lane (representing 96 percent of households contacted) signed a petition for these measures. Following a public hearing in February 2016, Traffic and Parking Board members voted 6-0 (with one abstention) in favor of the City's proposed speed limit change to 25 mph.

We ask that Alexandria residents under-

stand and appreciate our safety concerns and support the City's decision for 25 mph speed limits to help Make Our Streets Safe.

Kevin Durkin
Alexandria

25 MPH Please

To the Editor:

I recently met a neighbor who required physical therapy for 18 months as a result of being rear-ended by a high-speed vehicle while she turned into her driveway. Up the street, another neighbor witnessed a high-speed vehicle lose control and jump the curb, taking out a road sign and crashing into her stone wall. That neighbor no longer lets her children walk to school. These two crashes occurred on Quaker Lane.

Residents tell of similar experiences on Seminary Road, for example, with people taken to the hospital and telephone poles



taken down from high-speed crashes. You can read these stories and more at the Make Our Streets Safe Facebook Page: <http://bit.ly/MOSSsafe>.

City staff informed us that reported crash rates are among the highest in Alexandria: more than 60 reported crashes on each street in the past 5 years and many crashes that concern us are not reported.

Do you see many people walk along or across Seminary Road or Quaker Lane? Not many do – mostly school children on their way home, or those who take the bus. Who wants to risk their lives walking directly next to 45 mph (and faster) traffic? Is it any surprise that residents recently petitioned the City for 25 mph speed limits, \$200 fines and education and enforcement?

This petition was signed by 267 Alexandria residents including people representing 96 percent of households/properties on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane.

Seminary Road and Quaker Lane residents and neighbors are also concerned about congestion, but that is a broader issue, with difficult challenges that should be addressed separately. "Won't 25 mph speed limits make congestion worse?" some asked. No, because congestion is caused by intersection throughput limitations, not vehicle speeds between intersections. Will 25 mph speed limits "push" traffic to nearby streets, such as W. Taylor Run? Not really. W. Taylor Run provides a route that is four to six minutes faster than Quaker Lane at rush hour because of the backup from Duke Street and

Telegraph Road. Speed limits are insignificant during those back-ups.

On 25 March, the City plans to implement and enforce 25 mph speed limits on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane. Residents on and near these streets will greatly appreciate your understanding our safety concerns and ask that you drive 25 mph to make our streets safe.

Jim Durham
Alexandria

Donate Blood, It Could Save a New Mother's Life

To the Editor:

April is Accreta and Cesarean Awareness Month and I'm grateful to be alive to celebrate my survival story and host two blood drive events to help save the lives of more mothers. Most people have heard of a cesarean birth but few have ever heard of the life-threatening pregnancy complication called Placenta Accreta that is a potential risk of future cesarean births. Two organizations, Hope for Accreta Foundation and ICAN (International Cesarean Awareness Network), are coming together to educate those with risk factors for Accreta and to encourage people to donate blood. This gift

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

The Anniversary Gala

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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317
ALEXANDRIA / Pitt Mews \$ 1,195,000

Beautifully renovated 4BR/3.5BA, brick townhome with 2,700+ sq ft centrally located in the heart of Old Town. Warm wood floors, updated baths, wood-burning stone fireplace, private rear fenced stone patio. Finished attic. Plenty of storage. Just blocks from King St, Potomac, shops, eateries. No HOA!



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town "Church Square" \$ 1,249,900

Gorgeous, totally renovated top-to-bottom 3-level townhome! Expanded gourmet kitchen with granite, SSA, wine fridge, tray ceiling. Refinished hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, crown moulding, plantation shutters. MasterBR with sitting room, walk-in closets and fab bath. Private fenced patio. 2 reserved parking spaces.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739
ALEXANDRIA / General Washington Club \$ 1,299,000

Masterful renovation of historic George Washington Club with one private residence available. Over 3,000 sq ft of finished space on 3 levels/3BR/2.5BA, large formal rooms, high-end appointments, private outdoor patio with fireplace plus 3 indoor fireplaces, 2-car garage, secluded gated entry.



Anita Vida-D'Antonio 202.460.1809
ALEXANDRIA / Wellington Estates \$ 969,000

Stunning center hall Colonial in Wayneswood school district. Custom built in 2007, 3,300 sq ft on 2 levels, main level hardwoods, gourmet kitchen, wine-cooler, separate dining room. 4 large BRs including master suite, 3.5BA, heated floors all baths, 2-zoned HVAC, 2-car garage, storage + large fenced yard.



MEET DORINE FERREIRA

Dorine loves teaching her clients about the process of buying and selling properties. Her MBS helps her navigate her clients through a fluctuating real estate market. She has been successfully making her client's home dreams come true for the past two years.

Dorine settled in Virginia 15 years ago. She is energetic, very involved in the school community, speaks Portuguese and Spanish, and as a former military wife, understands the challenges of relocation.

Welcome Dorine as one of our newest additions to the Old Town Historic District office.



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ALEX. / Porto Vecchio \$ 399,900 - \$ 1,150,000

If you have never seen the building, now is an opportune time to see a variety of size residences from 1BR - 3BR. Call for information regarding this unique waterfront building and start making plans to live a carefree lifestyle. Extra security, garage parking and efficient staff.



Louise Devers 703.795.9944
ALEXANDRIA / Portner Brewery \$ 854,950

A convenient location! Elegant NY loft-style condo. Living room with exposed brick and soaring 12 ft ceilings, Palladian windows, wood-burning fireplace, Georgetown style patio off breakfast room, 2 MasterBR, one with large terrace - Carrera marble steam shower in second. Den. 2 parking spaces.



Cindy Nelson 202.412.8885
ARLINGTON / Windgate of Arlington \$ 560,000

Totally remodeled home with all SSA, granite, hardwoods main and upper levels, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, custom built bookshelves, fresh paint, neutral carpet. Family room on lower level, private deck backs to trees and bike path. Great location - just minutes to Shirlington and DC. Move-in ready.



Norma Gants 703.408.2560
ALEXANDRIA / Watergate of Alexandria \$ 720,000

Walk to everything from this townhome with a renovated kitchen, re-done baths, 2 underground parking spaces and a Palladian window overlooking Koi pond. Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space. norma.gants@longandfoster.com



Annelise Smith 703.505.2533
ALEXANDRIA / Marlan Heights / Villamay \$ 625,000

Solidly built 1-level brick rambler with a full basement - situated on a lovely street in this highly desirable neighborhood. This home has 3-4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces and 1/3 acre lot. For more information, please call Annelise.



Val Klotz 703.303.9744
SPRINGFIELD / The Forest at Southrun \$ 445,000

Impeccably cared for home / move-in ready. Bright eat-in kitchen with all new appliances opens to family room with fireplace and deck. Wood floors thru-out main level. LL rec room has closet and full bath. MasterBR with separate shower and soaking tub. Backs to woods. Ample guest parking.



Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485
ALEXANDRIA / Townes at Cameron Parke \$ 617,500

Stunning 2-car garage end unit townhouse. Fantastic kitchen redesign opens to main living areas. MasterBR has cathedral ceiling, large BA and walk-in closet. Huge 4th floor private suite for guests/office. Mouldings/wood floors on main level. Rec room with gas fireplace. Large deck and private patio. 4BR/3.55BA.

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OPINION

My Mentor, My Friend: Alex and Allisson

From Allisson

Each week Ms. Alex and I go to the library and read together. We started when I was in third grade, so we have been reading together for a year and a half. We read The Bailey School Kids series, and we read books about animals (non-fiction).

We also like to read bilingual books and I help Ms. Alex with her Spanish. Something that I have learned from Ms. Alex is how to summarize what I have read and also how to skim to help me find an answer.

Some special things I have enjoyed doing with Ms. Alex were going to IHOP and doing a scavenger hunt throughout Old Town Alexandria. I also liked when we used modeling clay to show what was happening in a story. Ms. Alex is a wonderful mentor, because she helps me to be a better reader and understand what I'm reading. Tutoring has helped me with vocabulary, and I have gotten a lot better at spelling tests.

From Alex

Working with Allisson and the Wright to Read program over the past year and a half has been extremely fulfilling and fun for both Allisson and myself. Our Wednesday sessions at the library are a consistent bright spot in my week, and they almost always seem to go by a little too quickly. I've come to view our time in the car going to and from the library and various Wright to Read activities as just as important as our time spent reading together, for that's when the mentorship aspect of our relationship can really develop. I enjoy hearing about what she is learning at school, what she likes



Mentor Alex Wuedemann

to do for fun, and answering the multitude of questions she has for me.

Since we began working with the program, the most noticeable change I've seen in Allisson is her confidence. She doesn't hesitate to take on challenging words or make predictions about what is going to happen in a particular chapter. She often pauses to tell me additional information or how she is making connections between what is happening in the book to something she has experienced or learned in her own life. She has also made great strides in her reading comprehension and vocabulary. I love to see her excitement about her progress and continuing success. I'm very proud of Allisson, and know her family is as well—and can't wait to see what kind of things she will accomplish in life.

Wright to Read provides volunteer-based one-on-one sustained literacy tutoring & mentoring relationships to City of Alexandria elementary school children in need, and collaborates with families, schools and community partners to create a comprehensive support network that guides each child to success. Wright to Read is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit www.wrighttoread.org or to learn more about AMP, visit: www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

of life could save mothers with Accreta and anyone else in need of a blood transfusion.

Three and half years ago I experienced one of the most dangerous pregnancy complications. I lost approximately 4 pints of blood after the birth of my son, almost half of the blood in my body. Placenta Accreta is a condition in which the placenta embeds into the uterus wall and grows through it, sometimes attaching to other organs. Placentas are supposed to just hover over the wall of the uterus and then detach after birth. But some have a mind of their own and decide to cause a whole lot of trouble — life-threatening trouble. Life-threatening because it can cause catastrophic hemorrhaging putting the life of the mother and child at risk.

When Accreta is either diagnosed prior to birth or found surprisingly after birth, physicians and blood banks must be prepared. If the placenta will not detach they must do everything they can to prevent hemorrhaging and the mother's death. Hospitals typically gather a large group of experts to handle the situation, usually performing an emergency hysterectomy, and blood donations must be available in case of massive blood loss and a blood transfusion is necessary.

Placenta Accreta now affects 1 in 333 pregnancies and the rates are increasing, according to the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists believes the increase of Placenta Accreta seems to parallel the increasing cesarean delivery rate. This rise in Accreta cases puts great pressure on local blood banks and they must be ready to handle the increased demand for blood.

On Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 the Northern Virginia chapters of the Hope for Accreta Foun-



Do The Right Thing

To the Editor:

When I first moved to Alexandria, I would often run and walk around the water in Old Town. However, I started to notice the endless amount of litter in and around the Potomac River. I was shocked. This is the nation's capital and somehow our river is one of the dirtiest in the United States.

This is unacceptable. What is more alarming is that the Potomac River provides drinking water for over 5 million people. It makes you think twice about what you are really drinking.

My friends and I have done several clean-up projects on and around the Old Town Water-

front, Founders Park and Oronoco Bay Park. During our clean-up efforts, we found disturbing items like: tires, mattresses, large amounts of styrofoam, shoes, an endless amount of plastic bottles and wrappers. I even took a log of styrofoam (almost the size of me) out of the river — see photo.

It is our job to protect our local waterways and keep our city beautiful. When you see something, do the right thing and pick it up.

Caleb Laieski

Alexandria

Advocate for the LGBT Community, Public Safety, and the Environment

dation and ICAN will co-host community blood drives in partnership with Inova Blood Donor Services. The drives will be held at the Inova Blood Donor Center in Sterling,

Virginia on April 1 from 10-4 and American Horticultural Society's River Farm in Alexandria, Virginia

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel

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Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass
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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
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

En Español:
Monday, 6:30 pm;
Thursday, 7:30 pm;
First Friday, 7:30 pm

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

3 Spots for Al Fresco Dining This Spring

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's time to grab a menu and eat outside.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Despite Mother Nature's detour over the weekend, signs of spring are popping up everywhere. Cherry blossoms and Easter bunnies are sure signals of renewal, but when it comes to eating out, there's only one way to tell spring is here: The patio furniture is dusted off, set out, and poised to welcome diners once more. Here are three restaurants that are ready to greet the season.

Los Tios Grill

2615 Mount Vernon Ave.

On the first warm day of spring, you'll find half of Alexandria waiting for an outdoor table at Los Tios, the venerable Tex-Mex/Salvadoran restaurant on Del Ray's main drag. Don't get discouraged and leave; put your name on the list and linger with your neighbors, because the wait is worth it.

Once you snag a table, you'd be remiss not to order a margarita or mojito. (Pro tip: When your server asks you whether you want a regular or large beverage, be advised that the large is indeed quite hefty.) Munch on some chips and salsa while you peruse the menu, which has something for everybody, from the hardest-core carnivore to the most resolute vegetarian.

If you're aiming to get some vegetables in for the day, consider the tostada salad, which incorporates a choice of proteins (including a vegetarian black-bean version) with a heaping helping of lettuce, tomato, radish, and cheese. Lest you feel this is *too* virtuous, it's also served in a tortilla bowl — and it's a strong person indeed who can forgo snapping off pieces of tortilla through-

out the meal. Or consider the enchiladas, which sing under the cooks' attention. Each style of enchilada comes with a sauce that complements the filling: a green tomatillo sauce for the chicken enchiladas, for instance, or a ranchera sauce with the beans.

Regardless of what you decide on, be sure to say hello to German Mejia, Los Tios' gregarious, ever-present owner. He'll make sure you're part of the family before the night is over.

DRP Belle Haven

1401 Belle Haven Road

Surprised to learn of a newer sister restaurant to the tried-and-true Del Ray Pizzeria on Mount Vernon Avenue? You're not alone. But the popularity of the Belle Haven storefront is growing, and fast — it's not uncommon to find a lengthy wait for a table, inside or out, at the popular pizzeria these days. But if given the option, choose an outdoor seat, even if it means a few minutes' wait. The patio is well worth the time.

At first blush, the patio seems like a bit of an afterthought — off to the side of the building, nestled in next to an adjacent parking lot. But order a beer and take a closer look around and you'll find a lot of neat hidden elements in plain sight. Most impressive is the vegetable garden the restaurant tends to just behind the patio, growing seasonal veggies all year as the weather allows. And as night falls, look above you — the glowing lights strung up from on high add an air of ambience to the casual scene.

When you're ready to take a break from looking around, order up some grub. As pizza is DRP's stock-in-trade, you'd do well



Outdoor dining is available at the historic (and controversial) Wales Alley at Virtue Feed and Grain.

to order one. The Garden offers up a spring-time buffet with mozzarella cheese, mushrooms, peppers, spinach, and fresh arugula on top; the Buffalo chicken gives diners a version of wings-on-a-pizza, right down to the blue cheese. Order some roasted cauliflower or tater tots for the table and be prepared to share — and to come home left-over-less. It'll be worth it.

Virtue Feed and Grain

106 S. Union St.

Virtue's outdoor-dining space is perhaps the most controversial in town. The alley the restaurant's al fresco tables sit on, Wales Alley, was the source of some consternation between the city of Alexandria and the Old Dominion Boat Club for quite some time, with the case progressing all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court before a final decision was handed down a couple of years ago. Now, diners can enjoy Virtue's outdoor accommodations in relative peace. Good thing, too, because the scenery — from the

historic brickwork and buildings to the Potomac River within Frisbee-tossing distance — is quintessential Alexandria.

Virtue's menu has transformed over the years, and this iteration is its best yet. Come in ravenous or peckish, eat meat or don't, and you'll find something worthy of your attention here. For outdoor dining, the street tacos add an air of authenticity to the experience: Pork barbacoa, fresh fish, steak, or mushroom varieties will give you plenty to chew on. Taste the fresh grilled flavors and revel in springtime.

Or consider the burgers — the umami burger brings a blend of discrete flavors together in symphony. Or the beet bourguignon, a vegetarian take on the meat version that is sure to knock your socks off with its earthiness and herbiness. Toast the evening with a signature cocktail, inhale the spring air, and relax.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "Contradictions."

Through March 26, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit: "March Melee."

Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday,

12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This exhibit features artists' "boldest and wackiest art." Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows.

Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition & Sale.

Through March 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The show will feature both contemporary and traditional needlework. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

All City High School Visual Art Exhibit.

Through April 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the "Alexandria City High School Art Exhibit," a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams

High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative pursuits of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from each of the four schools have collaborated in what they hope will be an annual event. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

Art Exhibit: "Art into Fashion/Fashion into Art." Through April 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Fiber artists explore art inspired by fashion designers and fashionable wearables inspired by artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit. Through April 24, gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. Ethiopian artist Daniel Taye will display his art. Taye is known for his evocative landscape, abstract and figurative work. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

Georgia Nassikas: "Oils and

Encaustics." Through April 24, Thursday, Friday, Sunday 12-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. In her wax and oil paintings, artist Nassikas explores the intersection of the abstract and the representational. She focuses on the elemental lines, shapes, and colors at the core of nature. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Book Signing: "Steps to the Promised Land."

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Gregg Riley, an inspirational speaker, author and retired U.S. Army Colonel will read from and sign copies of his new book "Steps to the Promised Land." Free. Call 703-746-1702.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 24-26

Book and Art Sale.

1-5 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The Chapel has art, nonfiction hardcovers, and children's books. Hollin Hall has fiction, paperbacks, cookbooks, travel, and more. On Saturday, books in the Chapel are half price and books in Hollin Hall are \$5 per bag. Visit www.mvuc.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 25-27

Guided Tour: "The Mercy Walk."

2:30 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Walk the same streets as the Green family and all of your favorite characters from "Mercy Street." Based on the PBS series, "Mercy Street," Alexandria's "The Mercy Walk" tour will give visitors

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Good Friday
Friday, March 25, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Self-guided Prayer Vigil.

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 27, 10:45 a.m.
Celebration of the Resurrection with all
choirs, bells, strings, organ, and trumpet,
concluding with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.
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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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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MAUNDY THURSDAY
THURSDAY, MARCH 24
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir and the stripping of the altar

GOOD FRIDAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 25
7:30 a.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday
12:00-1:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, joint service with Christ Church at St. Paul's
5:30 p.m. Family Service
7:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY
SATURDAY, MARCH 26
12:00 p.m. Holy Saturday Service in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 27
6:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at St. Paul's Cemetery
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music
9:00 a.m. Family Service with Holy Eucharist, Children's Choir, and Brass
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

and locals alike a feel for Alexandria and what it was like to live in an occupied city during the Civil War. This tour includes stops at the former Marshall House, the Confederate Statue, James Green's furniture factory and the only portion of the Mansion House Hotel still standing today. Tickets are \$7-13. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Woodlawn Appraisal Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Meet with one of two expert textile appraisers, Newbie Richardson of Past Crafts LLC or Sarah Hill of Curzon Antiques and see what your item might be worth. Slots are available for appraisal for \$20 per item. General admission tickets are available for \$15. Call 703-570-6903.

Sketch Hike: Spring Ephemerals. 10 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join park naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler for a hike focusing on spring wildflowers and learn sketching techniques to enhance your observation skills. \$7 for residents of Fairfax County, \$9 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Tune Into Nature News. 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Get in-depth reporting out in the field about the latest eco-updates throughout Huntley's habitats. \$7 for residents of Fairfax County, \$9 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Lecture: Preserving Our Textile Heritage. 5 p.m. at Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Join Costume and Textile Specialist Newbie Richardson for a lively and discussion of how to preserve new or old family heirlooms. Guests are invited to bring something for the question and answer section. Tickets are \$27.24. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/preserving-our-textile-heritage-a-lecture-and-demonstration-by-newbie-richardson-tickets-22499982052.

Evening Woodcock Walk. 6:45 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

The Salute to Women Awards Ceremony. 6 p.m. at The United States Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Alexandria's Commission for Women has announced the names of the honorees for its 36th Annual Salute to Women Awards. Twelve women will be recognized for their accomplishments in civic life and for the improvements they have brought to the well-being of Alexandria's women. Tickets are \$75. Contact Ellen Lamm at 703-746-3132 or ellen.lamm@alexandriava.gov.

#FreshAlexandria. 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda: Alexandria presents "#FreshAlexandria: Eating Local and Growing Your Own" with Pamela Hess, executive director of Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture; Dean Norton, director of horticulture at Mount Vernon; and Fred Sachs, proprietor of Grapewood Farm. Tickets are \$32-47 for members, \$37-42 for nonmembers. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Craft Supply Swap. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke

St. Bring in your unwanted crafts supplies and abandoned projects and pick up something that's new to you. Swap items may be dropped off at the Information desk in advance. Free. Call 703-746-1769 or email jhshea@alexandria.lib.va.us.

Lecture: "Beyond the Call of Duty." 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join Chris Foard MSN, RN, for an in depth lecture on the diverse practices of male and female Civil War nurses. Discussion includes an important but largely neglected aspect of Civil War nursing—roles and responsibilities of nurses in relation to current practices of today. Lecture is based on historical analysis from letters, documents, books and diaries from The Foard Collection of Civil War Nursing. Admission is \$10. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Music at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. "Music at Mount Vernon" is a three-part series designed to educate through music. Tickets are \$175 for all three events, \$125 for members and supporters. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

MARCH 29-APRIL 24

Art Exhibit: "It's Black and White!" Gallery hours at The Associates Gallery (TAG), 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery will feature two member artists in "It's Black and White!" in a complementary scheme of black and white rendered in two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

CryBaby Art Studio. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple art techniques and exercise your creativity with your baby by your side. Tickets are \$20. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaec.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

"Celebrating Poetry in Alexandria." 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. To kick-off National Poetry Month and to acknowledge Tori Lane Kovarik's contributions to the Alexandria community, Kovarik will read a selection of her works and works of others. This will be her last official reading as Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria and before leaving the Alexandria area. Free. Call 703-746-5565 for more.

Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to a concert. Free. Visit www.vts.edu/chapel for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

First Friday: "Fools' Day Merriment." 6-8:30 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Guests are invited to dress in silly clothes, listen to music and jokes and more. Advance per person reservations: \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. To pay online (455205.01): www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac.

Reception: All City High School Visual Art Exhibition. 7-9 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the "Alexandria City High School Art Exhibit," a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative pursuits

of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from the four schools have collaborated. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-2

Children's Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Buy or sell children's clothes. Free to attend. Call 703-329-9327.

APRIL 1-MAY 1

Exhibit: "Creatures from the Sea." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans interpret real and imagined "Creatures from the Sea." Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Fort Hunt Preschool Touch a Truck. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children are invited to get up close and personal with buses, trucks, and fire engines. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com.

Circles & Pastels: Draw Like Kadinsky. 1-2:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Parent and children are invited to learn simple art techniques inspired by Master artist Wassily Kadinsky. The workshop fee is \$30 for a parent and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

Children's Cherry Blossom Festival. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Visitors can hear a story, try their hand at origami and chopsticks, paint a Japanese style lantern, and seek out beautiful cherry trees on a cherry tree hunt. Admission is free, craft tickets are \$10 each. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

UCM Spring Gala. 6 p.m. at the United States Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. United Community Ministries will host a "Viva Las Vegas" themed benefit. Tickets are \$175. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Magi-Whirl 2016. 7 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. This five-act magic show will benefit the Bishop Ireton Theatre Department. Tickets are \$17, \$15 for students 14 and under and seniors 65 and over, \$55 for a family pack of four, and free for military in uniform. Visit www.familymagicshow.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Lushness & Lyrical. 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Jenny Oaks Baker headlines a program of classics telling tales of fancy, fairies and fantasy. Tickets are \$20-80, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

An Evening in the French Quarter. 7 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. The annual Fostering the Future Gala benefits the Fund for Alexandria's Children. Tickets are \$75, adults only. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild.

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 8-9

Spring Garden Market. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. members meeting Friday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday at American Horticultural Society's headquarters at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. This year's Spring Garden Market at River Farm in Alexandria will feature a variety of plant and garden-related vendors, demonstrations, kids activities, and more. More than 30 vendors from across the Mid-Atlantic region will offer a large selection of edible and flowering plants, as well as garden art, tools, and other accessories. Parking is \$5, admission is free. Visit www.ahs.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Braddock Day. 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn more about the French and Indian War. Meet "General Braddock" and meet costumed interpreters. Tickets are free, \$1 suggested donation. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

Transforming Lives Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services holds its annual fundraiser featuring silent auctions, cocktails, dinner and more. Tickets are \$200. Visit www.goodhousing.org for more.

12th Annual Rum Punch Challenge. 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local distilleries, restaurants and caterers and vote for your favorite. Also find period and modern food. Tickets are \$50, VIP tickets are \$100. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

The Walkers. 10:45 a.m. at Church of God of Prophecy, 6409 Telegraph Road. The Walkers is a southern gospel trio with more than 20 years of experience in performing and ministering. Free. Visit www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/artist/12491 for more.

Madame Butterfly Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attend a Japanese-themed tea at the Madame Butterfly program built around the short story that influenced Puccini's opera of the same name. Discover the prevailing attitudes that brought these characters together in Japan and the "temporary wives" who became real-life "Butterflies." Tickets are \$42, \$12 for the program alone. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Spring Forward. 5-8 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. program includes Motown-style music by local band HALO and

music by two other musical groups, live auction (bid for a stay in a country home outside of Paris, a Cancun villa that sleeps 8 and more) to benefit Community Lodgings. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door, \$40 for guests under 40. Visit www.communitylodgings.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 12

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/.

Workshop on Planting and Using Herbs. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Participants will learn the elements of an herb garden, tips for successful planting and how to use herbs they've grown. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

The Church. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Church will perform two full sets. The first will feature The Church's classic second album - "The Blurred Crusade." The second set will consist of selections from the band's new album "Further/Deeper" along with other classic tracks. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 15-16

"Guys and Dolls." 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre students perform the musical "Guys and Dolls." Tickets are \$7 for students, \$8 for seniors, military, and Mount Vernon High staff, and \$10 for everyone else. Visit www.mvhsdtheatrearts.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Huntley Farm Day. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Find baby animals from Frying Pan Park, homemade ice cream, story-telling, and re-enactors. This prominent farming family owned Historic Huntley from 1868-1946. Tour the house, and stop by the various information stations highlighting local farming history, such as the Woodlawn Agricultural



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Above: Thomas Pandolfi, Kim Allen Kluge, left
Symphony Season Ends With 'Lush & Lyrical,' 'Transformative'

"Lushness & Lyrical" on April 2 (Schlesinger Concert Hall) and April 3 (George Washington Masonic Memorial) pairs James Newton Howard's score to "Peter Pan" with three compositions: excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," Smetana's "The Moldau" from "Má vlast" and Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy," continuing the season-long theme of "Symphony & Cinema." The season culminates on Saturday, May 7 with "The Transformative," a one-night-only performance at Schlesinger Concert Hall, featuring the music of American composers. Visit www.alexsym.org.

Society and Green Spring Gardens. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Call 703-768-2525 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Carlyle House Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Stock up on herbs and other plants grown in

Mount Vernon greenhouses. Check out the selection of items offered by local artisans and crafters. Browse through gently used coffee-table, children's and audio books. Enjoy performances by local musicians. This event is free, however admission to the Carlyle House museum is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

83rd Annual Alexandria Historic Homes & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria. Celebrating the 83rd anniversary of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, this tour features privately owned Old Town homes and gardens plus historic properties like the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Carlyle House Historic Park and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 day of, \$25 for single-site tours. Visit www.vagardenweek.org for more.

Civil War Medicine Living History. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site will sponsor a Civil War medical living history program presented by Civil War medical historian and interpreter Von Barron, who portrays U.S. Army Regimental

Surgeon Captain Turner Kitt in a field hospital setting that features a variety of medical tools and equipment of the era. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard.

Screening: "An American in Paris." 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch 1951 Gene Kelly musical. Free. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Annual George Washington Parkway Classic. 8 a.m. at Old Town Alexandria, starting places vary. This course, with lush scenery and river views, takes runners down the George Washington Parkway and through the iconic brick buildings lining the streets of Alexandria. Registration is \$10-80. Visit www.RunPacers.com/race/parkway-classic.

Georgia Nassikas Gallery Talk. 3 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The artist will give a gallery talk where she will discuss, among other things, her organic beekeeping and the process of using the wax from her hives in her encaustic works. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

An Evening of Poetry and Music. 5

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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Christ the King Anglican Church, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. An Evening of Poetry and Music with Dana Gioia, Poet Laureate of California and The U.S. Army Chorus; guest soprano Nancy Scimone. Gioia will read from his new collected works, "99 Poems: New & Selected," interspersed with the choral music of Morten Lauridsen. Free. Visit www.ctkalexandria.org.

APRIL 26-JUNE 16

"Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." Gallery hours at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together watermedia floral and landscape painters from the area. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

APRIL 28-JUNE 12

Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind." Gallery Hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Art League challenges mixologists from local restaurants to each select a piece of artwork as inspiration to whip up a new, artistic cocktail and pair it with an appetizer. Early-bird tickets are \$55, \$65 regular priced. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Easter

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 25-27

Easter Egg Hunt. 3 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. the museum's garden will be filled with hundreds of colorful toy-filled Easter eggs. Other activities include games, crafts, refreshments, stickers, temporary tattoos, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter Egg, and each egg hunt session has two prize eggs. All children of elementary school age or younger (ages 0-12 years) are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults may participate in other activities. Advance tickets are \$12 for ages 0-12, and \$5 for all others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Eggstravaganza. 10:45 a.m. at Four Mile Run Park, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria, National Community Church invites all Arlington and Alexandria area families to this year's event, featuring Easter Egg Hunts, games, bike raffle, food, live music, magic show, Easter Bunny and more. Free. Visit www.eggstravaganzadc.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Sunrise Easter Service. 7 a.m. at the Circle in front of George Washington's Historic Mount Vernon. Join the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club and Boy Scout Troop 993 for a Sunrise Easter Service. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Rotary Club. Usher Services provided by Boy Scout Troop 993. There will be limited seating provided, please bring lawn chairs. The event will be followed by a pancake breakfast hosted by Troop 993.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Fair Trade Eggstravaganza. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Prize-filled plastic eggs will be hidden throughout the store for customers to find. Eggs may include mini-chocolates, coupons for store discounts, jewelry, and other merchandise to be redeemed at the counter. Free. Call 703-684-1435 for more.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

on April 2 from 10-3. Local mothers, blood recipients, and survivors of Placenta Accreta will share their birth stories, answer questions, offer support, and help educate men and women about the risks of uterine surgeries.

All donors and volunteers will be entered to win door prizes from generous donors and businesses including AuPairCare, Bathologie, Team Beachbody, DRP Belle Haven, Greenplicity, Jamberry, Lemongrass Spa, Stella & Dot, Soupergirl, Sugar Shack Donuts, Usborne, Wegmans, and Zoobooks. Both events are family friendly — the Alexandria blood drive will feature a crafts table, hosted by Arts on the Horizon, for children to keep busy while parents donate blood. Additionally, diapers and baby items will be collected for nonprofits My Grandmother's House and It Takes a Village, Baby to help provide health and happiness to mothers and babies in need.

The goal is to attract at least 60 donors at the blood drives. By donating just one pint of blood, donors have the potential to save up to three lives. Anyone who is in generally good health and meets the eligibility conditions can donate blood. The entire process takes about an hour, and all blood types are needed. Donors should bring a photo ID. To schedule an appointment to donate blood call 866-256-6372, or visit www.inovabloodsaves.org and use

sponsor code: 8131. The events are free.

More details can be found at www.facebook.com/HopeforAccretaNorthernVirginia, www.facebook.com/events/528882323981558/ and www.facebook.com/events/451221828401301/

I'm a survivor of Placenta Accreta and postpartum hemorrhage and I'm alive today thanks to many generous blood donors. Most do not realize or understand that massive blood loss during and after childbirth is a possibility. However, we can be prepared, and we need the community's help and generosity to 'Give Local, Save Local'.

Alexis Carena
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette Packet
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444
or email
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

PEOPLE

'Drinking Adventurously'

FROM PAGE 6

ures prominently in the book, and I've been there a number of times even before I started writing "The Year of Drinking Adventurously," he said. "I had also done a distillery tour of Scotland. Everything else that I wrote about, I drank in the states when I was traveling for work."

While Cioletti has expertise on energy drinks, sodas and other beverage without an age requirement for consumption, "The Year of Drinking Adventurously" focuses on adult beverages.

"The book is all about alcohol," he said. "It's a little bit of wine, though not the usual types like cabernets or merlots," he said. "What I talk about are fortified wines like madeira, ports and sherry. They are off the beaten path kinds of wines. There is also a lot about spirits and special beers — everything from Chinese spirits to fermented beer like Japanese sake. There's a chapter on coffee beers, barrel age beers. Then there are a couple chapters on cider."

And, whether the chapters are on cider or whiskey, Cioletti ensures he features the treats that really are often new to the taste buds.

"I write about what is really intense and funky and things that people aren't used to," Ciolettie said. "I tried to keep it interesting and not focus on anything basic. I cover alcohol that runs the whole gamut — and not anything too mainstream."

Cioletti said he is proud that the book isn't just about downing 52 different beverages in a year — it really is about experiencing different tastes of the world without necessarily having to stray too far from your hometown. He said this is especially the case in an area like Alexandria.

"While it's not a travel book, it is arm chair travel," he said. "You don't have to leave your town to have these experiences. While I encourage people to travel, it's my favorite thing to do, and obviously I got a lot of my ideas from traveling, the point of the book is that you don't have to break the bank to have these international experiences, provided that you don't live in the middle of nowhere. Here in Alexandria, you have easy access to most of what's in the book. There are lots of ethnic communities in the greater D.C. area that run liquor stores specialty grocery stores."

Reception for the book nationwide has been more than Cioletti initially expected, and that while there are no explicit plans, he hopes to make an appearance locally on behalf of his book.

"I've gotten a couple of good mentions here and there, and have been featured on good podcasts," he said. "I know a lot of people who are actually following the book week by week and are blogging about it, which has been great. While I did do one signing in Arlington in December, I'm hoping to do some events in Alexandria in May and June."

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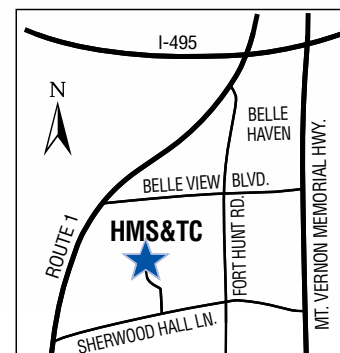
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Abed Takes Over as TC Head Boys' Soccer Coach

Titans improve to 2-0 with victory over Gar-Field.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

After taking a 1-0 lead into half-time, T.C. Williams boys' soccer coaches cautioned the Titans that their opponent, Gar-Field, would put forth a passionate effort in the second half.

Sure enough, the Indians struck 12 minutes into the second half, netting the equalizer. The Titans, however, didn't take long to respond.

TC senior midfielder/forward Maverick Argueta scored in the 63rd minute and the Titans held off Gar-Field for a 2-1 victory on March 17 in Alexandria.

Senior midfielder/forward Kevin Nunez assisted Argueta's game-winner and scored the Titans first goal in the 38th minute.

"We knew in the beginning this was a tough opponent," Nunez said. "We knew they were going to come very strong from the first minute to the end. Once we saw that they scored, we just kept going at it. We didn't put our heads down. We told teach other to keep on going. We're a hard-working team, so we don't stop."

T.C. Williams, no stranger to strong starts in recent seasons, improved to 2-0 with the victory. While the Titans took care of business as usual, there was one subtle difference for TC.



PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

T.C. Williams senior Kevin Nunez finished with a goal and an assist during the Titans' 2-1 victory over Gar-Field on March 17.

Martin Nickley, who took over as head coach of the T.C. Williams boys' soccer program in 1990 and led the Titans for a quarter of a century, is back on the TC sideline, but as an assistant. Peter Abed, who spent four seasons as JV head coach and four more as a varsity assistant, is now the varsity head coach.

Nickley and Abed said not much will change for the coaching staff, other than titles and paperwork. The duo has experienced success together, including the 2014 season during which the Titans won the Conference 7 championship, captured their



Maverick Argueta and the T.C. Williams soccer team defeated Gar-Field 2-1 on March 17.

first region title since 1974 and took home the program's first state championship.

Abed, 34, is in his ninth year as a coach with the Titans.

He graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1999 and played four years of soccer under Nickley.

"I feel like this is one of the bigger programs in the area," Abed said. "We've always been successful and I think it's a great opportunity moving forward. The area is only getting better for soccer; the quality of the kids coming through is just getting better and better."



PHOTO BY
JON ROETMAN

Peter Abed is in his first season as T.C. Williams head boys' soccer coach.

Abed and the Titans are off to a strong start in 2016 and Nunez and Argueta will likely play major roles in whether the success continues. The seniors will be relied upon as primary goal-scorers, and Nunez, a captain, will at times drop back and become a distributor.

"Maverick is one of the most skilled guys in the region, I'd have to imagine," Abed said. "Technically, his ability is unbelievable. Kevin, he's been here since that state team. He was a starter on that state team as a sophomore, so that speaks to his ability right there."

He's got an amazing shot from outside the box. When he was a sophomore, he won a district championship [when he] hit two bombs from outside the box."

Senior midfielder/forward/captain Reuben Bosompem and junior defender Colin Zack will also be key players for the Titans.

TC played each of its three goalkeepers against Gar-Field. While Abed said it's nice to have depth with senior Isaac Alvarez, senior Jonathan Nunez Hernandez and senior Jose Castro Gallegos, the preference would be for one to step up as the starter.

T.C. Williams will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 31.

T.C. Crew Kicks off Spring Season with Wins

The T.C. Williams Crew team took to the water Saturday, March 19, for its first races of the year, a scrimmage against Washington-Lee and West Potomac High Schools at the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town. Seasoned Potomac River rowers, the Titans met the challenge of winds and choppy water to score impressive performances.

The Titan Boys Second Varsity Eight (2V) boat won a decisive victory in its race, crossing the finish line about 18 seconds ahead of a boat from the Washington-Lee Generals. The T.C. Girls' Second Varsity 8 and Girls Freshman 8 captured first and second places in the Second Varsity category. The Titan Freshman Boys also powered to the finish line, beating Washington-Lee by a second. Showing the depth and strength of the Titan team, the T.C. Girls Third 8, the Boys Novice 8, and the Girls Novice 8 all crossed the finish line in first place. Faced with tough competition from Washington-Lee, the Boys First Varsity 8 and the Girls First Varsity posted powerful second place finishes, with the Girls Lightweight Varsity 8 only seconds behind the First Varsity.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The T.C. Girls Second Varsity 8 and Freshman 8 captured first and second places in the Girls 2V category.

"I'm encouraged," said T.C. Crew Boys Head Coach Pete Stramese when asked about the results. "But I also know it's a long season, and what happens from one weekend to the next depends entirely on the hard work that's put in on the days in between. Our guys have been working hard this spring. It showed last Saturday. The job now is to keep it up."

The March 19 Scrimmage continued a tradition that dates back to March 1949. W-L Crew's first race ever was against Alexandria's George Washington High School (now GW Middle School) in March 1949. GW had started crew two years ear-

lier, and W-L was the second high school team in the area. This was the first time that West Potomac had joined the scrimmage for a number of years, making the competition even more challenging. It provided a good opportunity for all the boats to test themselves against strong rowers from the other teams and prepare for their spring seasons.

"The scrimmage against Washington-Lee and West Potomac is a great way to start the season, and we faced some tough competition that will help our girls train for future races," said Patrick Marquardt, Head Coach for the Titan Girls Crew team. "We

will be travelling to the Noxontown Regatta at St. Andrews Prep School in Middletown, Del., next weekend. The girls will race against some outstanding boats there. So, they will be using this spring break to train hard for what is ahead next week and throughout the season."

Stramese and Marquardt head up a coaching staff that includes Peter Hearing, Enoch Cleckley, Spenser Allin, Jeff Coan, and Colin Cantfil on the boys side, and Jaime Rubini, Gracie Barbara, Mary Carey, Cara Donley, Chris Oattie, Catie Serex, and Andrea Huggins.

Visit www.tcwcrew.org for more.

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-03-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide an Integrated Library Management System.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-03-04 Integrated Library Management System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, April 18, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

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ABC LICENSE
Hebir Exiotic Ethiopian Restaurant, LLC trading as Hebir Exiotic Ethiopian Restaurant, 410 East Glebe Rd A, Alexandria, VA 22305. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer/Mixed Beverage Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Kenubish Wondem, Officer

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

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-03-03

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Preventative Maintenance, Installation, Repair and Emergency Services for Refrigeration, Freezers and Institutional/Commercial Cooking Equipment.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-03-03 Preventative Maintenance, Installation, Repair and Emergency Services for Refrigeration, Freezers and Institutional/Commercial Cooking Equipment will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, April 8, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

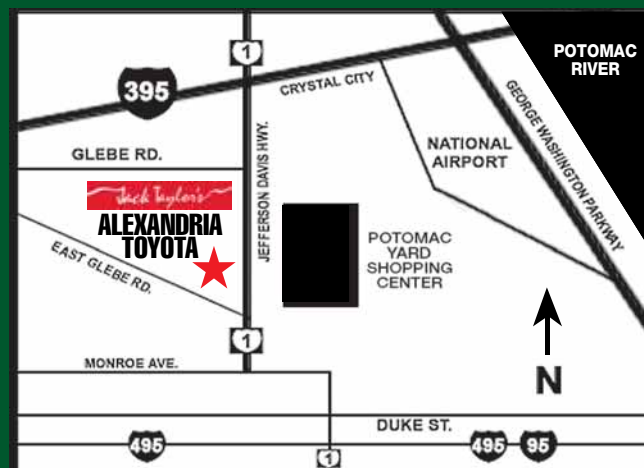
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www.AnnDuff.com



McLean \$1,625,000

The exquisite Cameo kitchen and the lushly landscaped private lot will take your breath away. This six-bedroom, seven-bath Olde Swinks Mill colonial also offers a captivating view of the in-ground pool and lush yard from an expansive sun room.

Joan Shannon & Chris Pritchard
703.507.8655 | 703.475.7520
www.JoanHome.com



OLD TOWN \$899,900

Stately 1,800-SF, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath brick townhouse, just 2.5 blocks to King Street's shops & restaurants! Updated kitchen with Viking range & wine fridge. Bright, open living room with gas fireplace & built ins. Master bedroom with vaulted ceilings and en-suite bath. Hardwood floors throughout, fenced garden & reserved off-street parking. 326 S. Alfred St.

Wendy Santantonio
703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



Old Town Alexandria \$725,000

NEW PRICE! Delightful Victorian freshly restored with many period details, gorgeous wood floors, new kitchen, baths, and garden. Located on a fantastic light, corner location at corner of North Patrick and Cameron Streets. Also zoned commercial. 1001 Cameron Street

Paul Anderson
703.408.0676
www.paulvanderson.com



Old Town \$2,595,000

This classic, mid-19th century, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath, brick residence exudes sophistication in its gracious double parlors divided by period pocket doors, a noble dining room awash in light and a chef's kitchen with adjacent keeping room opening to the courtyard garden replete with outdoor kitchen. With secured off-street parking for one vehicle, the enticements of Old Town are easily attainable.

Lauren Bishop
202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com