

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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25 CENTS

APRIL 7, 2016



The Sierra Club and other local environmental groups gather for a clean energy rally.

Uniting for Clean Energy

Rally spotlights climate change's effects on people.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

A rally to support clean power, held in Market Square on April 2, was interrupted by a heckler denouncing climate change as a fraud. For attendees of the rally, it was an unexpected disturbance, but the legislators hosting the event say it's par for the course.

"That's what we're dealing with in Richmond," said Del. Alfonso Lopez who, along with state Sen. Adam Ebbin and freshman Del. Mark Levine, had just returned to Alexandria from a contentious legislative term. "It's a mindset that says what scientists and academics say is wrong, and that any kind of change is wrong if big business says it's wrong."

Dr. Samantha Ahdoot, an Old Town resident and pediatrician, said she's already beginning to see the impacts of a changing climate on her patients. Ahdoot pointed to longer and more intense allergy seasons brought on by more extreme seasonal shifts and the spread of lyme disease to regions where the disease-bearing ticks were for-

merly unable to survive. But in addition to health effects, Ahdoot says climate change has peripheral social impacts, referencing a case where a young man lost his home in Hurricane Katrina and his displacement made it difficult for him to adjust to a new home or study in school. Ahdoot warned that climate change-related flooding could add to the number of displaced youth and families throughout the country.

Stephen D'Alessio came to the rally from Arlington, and says he was motivated to get involved after hearing about lead poisoning in Flint, Mich. D'Alessio believes that climate change disproportionately affects disadvantaged groups, and agreed with Ahdoot that it is as much a social issue as it is an energy policy one. Molly Pugh, an Alexandria resident and high school teacher, said she came out and attended the rally because she believes that the more people are involved, the more likely they are to spread a pro-green energy message to their friends and peers.

"It can be overwhelming [to be involved] as an individual," said Pugh, "but we're strong as a group."

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Robbery Ends In Murder

Local grandfather remembered as pillar of community.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Melaku Abraha loved walking. It was his favorite way to explore Alexandria, and family and neighbors in particular remember his frequent walks near his home on South Alfred Street. On March 28, at around 9:33 p.m., he was found conscious but badly injured just a block from his home. A robbery and assault left Abraha with serious head injuries. He was hospitalized, but his condition continued to deteriorate and four days later he died.

The first homicide of 2016 robbed Alexandria of a man who worked tirelessly to spread his love of education and civic engagement to those around him, according to family, friends, and neighbors. As one of the citizens living in the affordable housing being moved to make way for the expanding Alfred Street Baptist Church, he attended the discussions and encouraged his neigh-

bors to be involved.

"If there was a community meeting, he was there," said his daughter, Wintana Gebremariam.

Gebremariam said that any time someone from his home in Ethiopia would visit Alexandria, the first place he would take them was the river and the waterfront. From there, he'd take them to GAP to see if they needed new shoes or

new clothes. But the next day, he would encourage them to be independent and explore the city on their own. On one of their first days in the United States, Gebremariam said Abraha told his children to go out and explore, and if they

got lost, to read the maps and talk to people. Abraha told his children that people in this area were friendly and would help them if they asked.

Gebremariam remembered her father as an active reader and one who enjoyed passing on books to others. He would collect books and

SEE ROBBERY ENDS, PAGE 20



Photographs of Melaku Abraha at a memorial.

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

Going for the Gold TC track stars raising funds to reach Rio.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Noah and Josephus Lyles, along with their 4x100 meter relay team from T.C. Williams High School, are headed to the Arcadia Invitational in California this weekend as they continue their quest to reach the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

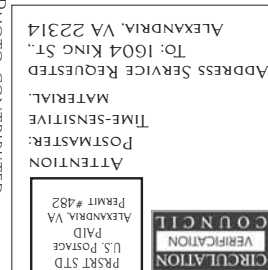
Keisha Caine-Lyles, "Momager" to the nationally recognized track stars, is hoping to raise funds to

SEE GOING FOR THE GOLD, PAGE 20



Noah and Josephus Lyles are hoping to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this summer.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED





Alexandria \$1,350,000

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AnnDozierMichael.com



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McLean \$1,625,000

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www.JoanHome.com

The Undocumented American Story

Dinner with Beyer highlights difficulties facing undocumented immigrants in Northern Virginia.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Pintos are an all-American family. Jerry Pinto, a 50-year-old man with a thick moustache, works in construction. He says he doesn't speak English and he lets his daughter do most of the translating. His wife of 23 years, Elvira Pinto, cleans homes to supplement her husband's income, but she studied tourism and hospitality and still dreams of being a flight attendant. Their daughter Ambar Pinto is preparing to graduate from Northern Virginia Community College and hopes to attend George Mason University to eventually become an immigration attorney. Their sons Jerry (the family calls him Jerry Rodrigo) and Christian attend Fairfax schools and have strong interests in science and technology.

But then there are the ways that the Pinto family is not like the average

"We live just like other American people. We pay taxes, we follow the laws, but we don't have the same rights."

— Jerry Pinto

home: the way Jerry Pinto says that every time he says goodbye to his children as they head out for school, he might be grabbed by the police that day and not see them again.

All of them, except Arlington-born Christian Pinto, are undocumented. While Ambar Pinto and soon the younger Jerry Pinto are protected, a pending Supreme Court ruling leaves their parents in jeopardy.

On April 4, the Pinto family had dinner with U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, hosted by the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights at a home in South Arlington. The Pinto family lived in Arlington until 2009, when they lost their home in a fire and moved to Fairfax. For nearly two hours, Beyer and the Pinto family discussed everything from the possibility of colonization on other worlds to the immediate concerns about Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The Pinto family is one of 91,000 immigrants who would be eligible for deportation deferral, work permits, and state driver's licenses under immigration programs President Obama announced in 2015. However, the State of Texas challenged the executive action, and the fate of the Pinto family hinges on the results of an April 18 hearing on the case.

Nationwide, DAPA dinners have hosted political candidates, senators, and representatives. Ambar Pinto, an activist for immigrant rights who currently lives in Alexandria, said the meetings were about giving legislators a personal understanding of the impact of the executive action on the life of immigrants.

"My parents have lived here for 10 years," said Ambar Pinto. "My brothers don't have any other home. The fact that my family can't access the opportunities to succeed that any other American can is tough."



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer meets with the Pinto family in the home of Leni Gonzalez, chair of the Steering Committee for the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights. "Their plea represents 91,000 in Virginia who will benefit from DAPA," said Gonzalez. "There are a lot of families like this around here, and people don't realize the difficulty of living in a state of constant fear. That's not the American way of doing things."

Ambar Pinto is already protected by DACA, and her younger brother Jerry is currently applying.

Jerry Pinto never studied English, but learned what he knows through work and family. However, if given a chance at citizenship, he said he'd like to go to school to learn more English. Jerry Pinto also speaks Spanish and Quechua, a native South American language spoken in the Andes regions. While all of his children are fluent in English, Jerry Pinto still encourages them to keep up their Spanish

to preserve some of their cultural heritage. In Bolivia, Jerry Pinto was an economist and owned a business, but when a real estate project failed, his family lost everything. He decided their best hope was to try to start again in the United States.

In 2004, Jerry Pinto flew to Mexico with plans to cross the border, set up a job and a life in the United States, and for his family to join him. As part of an eight-man group, he was sent on a route across the desert that they were told would be a seven-hour walk. The actual trip took seven days, with the group stranded in the July heat without food or water. Jerry Pinto says the group found a small lake with green, stagnant water, but that they were so desperate they

had no choice but to drink from it. Soon, helicopters came, and the remaining group scattered, but Jerry Pinto stayed by the lake. He says he believed he was going to die there, but finally calmed down and decided to keep walking.

Sick, dehydrated, and with his feet covered in blisters, he finally arrived at a town. He went door to door asking for water; the first man who answered threatened to shoot him, the second turned off their lights and didn't answer. At the third, a trailer owned by a Native American man, he was taken in and given water, food, and some medicine. When he took a shower, Jerry Pinto said he looked in the mirror and cried when he saw how emaciated he'd become. Once he obtains legal status, Jerry Pinto says he wants to go back to where he crossed over to try and find the man who saved him and thank him.

Jerry Pinto made his way to Virginia and found work to make sure that his family could afford a different means of crossing. Soon afterwards, the rest of his family arrived in Mexico, where Elvira Pinto is from, and were eventually able to obtain a visa. The Pinto family was reunited in Virginia in 2005 and have lived here ever since.

Jerry Pinto's story stunned the room, and for a long moment afterwards no one spoke. Finally, Beyer asked whether the family lives in fear of deportation.

"We live every day not knowing when we leave home if we'll come back or if the police will take me," said Jerry Pinto. Ambar Pinto added that stories about Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, like one at an apartment complex along Route 1 last week, have sent panic through the immigrant community.

While Jerry Pinto holds onto his Maryland driver's license, in Virginia, undocumented immigrants are unable to obtain driver's licenses, and his wife is forced to rely on her husband for rides to work. Elvira Pinto does housekeeping work. She worked other jobs, but was always pushed out once management learned that she did not have a social security number.

"I would be in favor of undocumented immigrants in Virginia having driver's licenses," said Beyer. "We want good drivers on the roads."

Jerry Pinto noted that he has not received a ticket since he moved into the country, and that precisely because of their legal status, some undocumented immigrants tend to be the most cautious on the roads.

"We live just like other American people," said Jerry Pinto. "We pay taxes, we follow the laws, but we don't have the same rights."



From left are Christian Pinto, Jerry Rodrigo Pinto, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, Ambar Pinto, Elvira Pinto, and Jerry Pinto.

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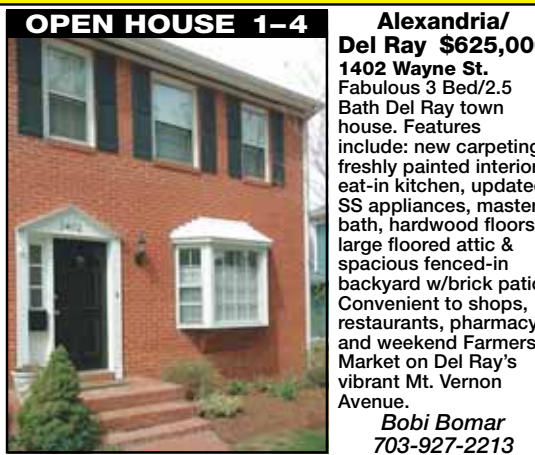
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Long Branch Estates, Fredericksburg **\$449,900**
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News

Faces Behind the Numbers

FROM PAGE 3

An analysis by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that, in 2012, 8.1 million of the nation's 11.4 million undocumented immigrants paid state and local taxes, totalling \$11.8 billion in revenue.

Christian and Jerry Rodrigo Pinto both love math and sciences. Christian Pinto wants to work as an engineer of some kind, while Jerry Rodrigo is currently learning programming and hopes to be a videogame developer. As an avid gamer, Beyer's face lit up at the topic, and the three of them discussed Lego games and other franchises, as well as Star Wars and superheroes. Christian Pinto was frustrated at the cliffhanger ending of "The Force Awakens" and said that he can't wait until he's old enough to see "Deadpool."

It's a familiar scene from any quintessentially American household. In 2009, Jerry Pinto's father died, and soon thereafter Elvira Pinto's mother died, but because of their legal status, the family was unable to return home and attend the funerals. Despite living in Virginia for over a decade, Ambar Pinto was almost unable to attend

college because the family could not afford the out-of-state tuition costs, but was saved in 2014 when Attorney General Mark Herring declared children brought into the country illegally eligible for in-state tuition. The announcement was made at the Northern Virginia Community College, the very same institution Ambar Pinto would later attend.

"It was a big moment for us," said Ambar Pinto, "now we just need to make it law."

After the dinner, Beyer said the meeting left a deep impression.

"This makes the plight of immigrant families real and human," said Beyer. While the decision ultimately rests with the U.S. Supreme Court, Beyer said the meeting reinforced the necessity of the House Democrats' opposition to the Republican majority's amicus brief opposing Obama's immigration reform.

"People look at the numbers of [undocumented immigrants], not the people, not the individuals that made a life here," said Monica Sarmiento, state coordinator for the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights. "They're just like any other family."

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COURTESY OF LISA BAILEY-HARPER

President Barack Obama and the first family celebrated Easter at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria for the second year in a row.



COURTESY OF GLORIA ROSEBORO

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama greeted members of Alfred Street during Easter morning's worship service. Pastor Howard-John Wesley described them as "the gorgeous family."

Obamas Celebrate Easter Here ... at Alfred Street Baptist Church.

BY MARISSA BEALE
GAZETTE PACKET

For the second year in a row, the White House's First Family celebrated Easter on Sunday morning with members and visitors of Alfred Street Baptist Church (ASBC) in Alexandria. The church, which is over 200 years old, has more than a 7,000-person membership, and is currently in the process of expanding its building. Other than news about the "special guests" and the excitement of Easter morning, for many members, the crowd did not feel unusual.

"It was not much different than regular service other than metal detectors, Secret Service, TSA, police, street closures and all the cell phone cameras trying to capture the moment," said Alecia Watson, a member of ASBC who attended the ser-

vice on Easter morning.

"It was very organized and orderly," she said. Many, like Watson, waited over an hour in line to enter the church, which is usually packed during all the four worship services held each weekend at the church. A notice about street closures that were in effect from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, went out the Thursday before Easter to inform residents and commuters.

The First Family remained at the service for about an hour before returning to the White House.

The ASBC Psalms of Praise choir led the congregation in worship that morning, and Pastor Howard-John Wesley delivered a sermon encouraging the congregation to surrender to Christ, be fearless in their faith and to have joy in Christ Jesus.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A Tasty Thank You

Owner Rob Krupicka sent Sugar Shack donuts to the nurses at Georgetown University Hospital as a thank you for their care of Alexandria resident Mary Wadland, fourth from left, who underwent an emergency liver transplant Feb. 25 following an excessive dose of acetaminophen. Wadland remains in the hospital but is expected to return to her Del Ray home soon. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help with expenses while she recuperates. See www.gofundme.com/marywadland.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MacArthur Shining Stars

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School students raised \$9,359.33 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Series program. With the support of family, friends, neighbors, and teachers, the MacArthur commu-

nity came together to help those fighting blood cancer. Fourth-grade student Ronaldo Diaz-Paz began saving his coins at the end of last year's drive. For his birthday, Ronaldo asked friends and family to contribute donations for the fundraiser. A group of MacArthur students spent a few hours after school selling pink lemonade and popcorn to commuters on King Street to help raise money. Many students donated their piggy bank savings to help others in need. And hundreds of students donated thousands of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters to help in the fight against cancer.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Welcome

Mayor Allison Silberberg, center, and members of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce were on hand March 31 as Long and Foster welcomed Victoria Kilcullen and Christie's Real Estate to their firm. Kilcullen will launch the Christie's line, a division of Long and Foster Luxury brand, in Alexandria and cover the Northern Virginia region. Shown at the March 31 reception at Principle Gallery are: Former Gov. Jim Gilmore, Christie's International senior vice president Kathleen Coumou, Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Haggerty, Silberberg, Long and Foster President Boomer Foster, Kilcullen, Councilwoman Del Pepper and Chamber of Commerce Vice President Shari Simmans.



ALEXANDRIA \$3,500,000 | 212 S Fairfax Street
One of the finest and most historic homes in Old Town. This stately four level townhouse is sited on two lots with towering trees and tranquil gardens. This exceptional property offers a grand foyer, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 4 off-street parking spots, tall ceilings and exquisite moldings.
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ALEXANDRIA \$2,495,000 | 9407 Ludgate Drive
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ALEXANDRIA \$1,595,000 | 407 Jackson Place
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WELLINGTON \$1,395,000 | 8236 W Boulevard Dr.
Stunning brick colonial along GW Parkway, just steps to Potomac River. Over 5,000 finished square feet with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Recently finished lower level and luxury throughout.
PHYLLIS PATTERSON +1 703 408 4232



BELLE HAVEN \$1,330,000 | 2210 Belle Haven Road
Sited on a large corner lot in one of Belle Haven's quietest and most secluded locations, this beautiful home has so much to offer. Gracious formal rooms, totally renovated kitchen and baths, first-floor family room with a wet bar, screened porch, garage, and lovely fenced lot.
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ALEXANDRIA \$999,000 | 419 N Fairfax Street
Under Contract: Beautifully updated and maintained townhouse with wonderful spaces, a charming patio, off-street parking and access to a private pool and tennis court, just 4 blocks from lower King Street.
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OLD TOWN \$985,000 | 400 Madison Street #2109
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OPINION

Recommendation for Reorganizing Metro

To the Editor:

Metro's problems fall into two categories: management and money. The current management structure vests power and authority in a board of directors that represents the District of Columbia, the states of Maryland and Virginia, and the Maryland and Virginia local governments affected by Metro. This structure served Metro well during its early years of design, construction, and implementation when it was important to know what the jurisdictions comprising the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area had in mind for a public transit system and were willing to fund, and arguably because of the strong leadership of Metro's first general manager, Jackson Graham. Graham resigned in 1976, about the time Metro rail became operational, and as the years passed both the rail and bus systems expanded and became more complex, ridership increased, operational wear and tear and its associated neglected maintenance took its toll, and costs began to rise. The ability to govern and manage Metro did not expand along with the system.

At the same time, the lack of a stable, predictable funding source hampered not only funding but also medium- and long-range financial planning. From the outset, the federal government provided substantial funding for capital improvements, usually through construction grants. The federal government provides ongoing operational funding through transit subsidies made available to its employees who use public transit to get to and from work. Funding is also dependent on current economic conditions that affect travel – both local and national, the impact of the economy on state and local tax revenues, the willingness of local taxpayers to fund Metro, and the willingness of Metro users to absorb fare increases. Too many variables!

Not least of Metro's problems is the combination of seemingly ineffective management and the political jockeying that takes place regularly over who should pay – state governments, local governments, transit users – and how much.

COMMENTARY

The time is now to put an end to the indecision, bickering, lack of planning, and uncertainty regarding Metro's future. Americans are greatly enamored of popular, i.e., citizen-driven/representational decision-making but the Metro board of directors is no longer the place for it. Metro general managers have come and gone over the years and one of the reasons is the political aspect of its management structure. The recent board of directors' stand-off over whether the new Metro general manager should be a transit expert or a managerial/financial turnaround specialist left Metro without a permanent general manager from February 2015 until the selection of Paul Wiedefeld in November 2015. Enough!

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Albert Einstein told us, "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." In the spirit of Einstein, then, let us make the following three changes:

First, eliminate the current structure of the Metro board of directors and replace it with one that emphasizes transit experience, both managerial and financial. Board members could be presidential, congressional, and/or state and local government appointees but not as jurisdictional representatives. The time has come for some benevolent dictators on the Metro board, people with public transit experience who know how to get things done, not represent incumbent office holders or transit system users. The Federal Reserve Board (FRB) is one example of how to structure a new Metro board. Regardless of each FRB board member's responsibilities and powers, they are all selected and appointed to staggered, fixed-length terms for their competence in banking, finance, and/or economics, not because they represent different parts of America.

Second, all Metro infrastructure responsibilities should be assumed by the federal government and placed within the Department of Transportation under the authority of an assistant secretary. Doing so will allow for better long-range planning, funding, and implemen-

tation. Infrastructure should include, but not necessarily be limited to, all the rails and associated mechanisms, rail cars, tunnels, bridges, power supply, stations, buses, and communications systems (local governments would be mandated to establish compatible communications systems). The federal government already contributes substantially to these infrastructure systems at the outset; additional responsibilities for maintaining them would result in additional federal expenditures. Taxpayers nationwide have a responsibility to fund Metro because it is arguably a federal transit system serving the nation, designed and implemented to provide safe, effective, and reliable transportation for federal workers and non-federal workers whose work is federal government related and for visitors – both American and international – to the nation's capital.

Third, operational responsibilities should be assumed by a Metro transit operations division reporting to the Metro general manager. Freed from infrastructure responsibilities, the general manager can concentrate on having the trains and buses run safely and on time. The general manager would be an experienced transit system professional with demonstrable success. With infrastructure costs being absorbed by federal revenues, operational cost-sharing responsibilities can be apportioned among the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia – including their local governments – and mandated by the Metro board, through the regulatory process by the Department of Transportation, or legislatively by Congress if necessary. Operational cost allocations would be based on how much transit service each jurisdiction receives – track miles, stations, transit system users, population and/or whatever other applicable metrics are available – with allowances made for serving the needs of economically deprived neighborhoods.

Metro is no longer a "nice to have" transit system. It is indispensable to the nation's and the Washington metropolitan area's well being. Metro rail and bus are not amusements but essential components of the nation's capital. Running its transit system effectively and efficiently is important business. Let's get on with it.

Thomas C. Brown, Jr., Alexandria

EDITORIAL

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and as usual every year at this time, the Gazette Packet calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos.

Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.



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LETTERS

Funding Pre-K Centers

To the Editor:

Last year, a joint effort by the Alexandria City Public Schools and the City of Alexandria resulted in the creation of a Long Range Educational Facilities Plan (LREFP). The goal of this plan was to “develop recommendations to improve facilities planning and accommodate the growing student population in order to support and enhance the delivery of educational programs and services in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible.” We see many of the recommendations from this plan in the proposed CIP and Operating budgets for ACPS, including the request for funding for a west end elementary school, and swing space to accommodate students while

Correction

The commentary, “Public Policy and Locating Affordable Housing” [Gazette Packet, March 30], noted that “Council members Wilson and Chapman, on March 2, told the city manager the ongoing ARHA-Ramsay Homes review will not include a Memorandum of Understanding.” In a Feb. 25, email reply to Planning Director Karl Moritz; copies to John Chapman, Mark Jinks, et.al., Vice Mayor Justin Wilson wrote: “(3) I want to be clear that this process will not conclude with Ramsey. Perhaps we should show that a short-term goal will be an MOU for moving forward on Ramsey, with a medium-term goal of a similar MOU for the remainder of the redevelopment efforts ... Thanks for pulling this together so quickly.”

major renovations or replacement projects occur at existing school sites.

The Long Range Plan acknowledged the important role that pre-K education plays in our city, and recommended that “discussions between the city and ACPS should continue regarding the delivery of pre-K instruction. Programs housed in neighborhood schools and centralized locations impact future educational facilities and capacity.”

ACPS does not currently offer universal pre-K, but both ACPS and the city recognize the value of early childhood education, and have provided classrooms as funding and space have allowed. As a result, at some of our elementary schools buildings early childhood education is provided either through a state funded grant (Virginia Preschool Initiative) or a federally funded grant such as Head Start.

Currently there are more than 30 classrooms in ACPS that are housing these programs. Over the years, as enrollment at our elementary schools has increased, classrooms that were originally designed to house the early education programs have been transferred to K-5 classrooms. ACPS is committed to supporting our partners providing early education, but is also mandated to address our capacity needs, which are projected to increase over the next decade. In an effort to achieve both goals, the ACPS budgets call for the creation of two pre-K centers, with the first to open in 2017, and an additional center to open in 2022.

These pre-K centers will allow the existing programs to continue as they are currently implemented, with the only significant change to be location. The plan also calls for transportation to be provided for all students attending these centers. The proposed

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Strut with Your Mutt for a Good Cause

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria's Walk for Animals on May 1 will be a first for a 6-year-old toy fox terrier called Gorgeous. A former show dog champion, Gorgeous has walked the 1.5-mile course around Old Town before, but this will be her first time attempting the Walk without vision. Gorgeous lost her eyesight in December to acute glaucoma.

"I am Gorgeous's seeing-eye person," says her guardian, Denise Matthews of Alexandria. "We're taking one block at a time ... Even if we walk slowly at the end of the pack that day, I hope we can inspire others to support and love all animals, including those with special needs."

AWLA Gorgeous may want to team up with Steve, an 8-year-old Parson Russell terrier mix who also is signed up for the Walk — and who also is blind. Despite concerns about his disability, Lisa Antonelli adopted him two years ago from the Vola Lawson Shelter in Alexandria and has learned a life lesson from her pet. "Steve does not think he has a disability," Antonelli says. "I cannot imagine my life without him."

Gorgeous, Steve and hundreds of other dogs and their "humans" will gather at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 1, in Old Town's Market



PHOTO BY DENISE MATTHEWS

Gorgeous

Square to give their heart and soles to Alexandria's animals and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which operates the Vola Lawson shelter. The relaxed stroll around Old Town will include a new feature this year — a scavenger hunt for youngsters. Stuffed animals will be hidden in various spots along the course, and children who find them will be encouraged to turn the "animal" over to Animal Control Officers stationed along the route, following the procedure AWLA recommends for people who find stray animals on the streets of Alexandria.

Now is the time for people interested in taking part in the Walk to sign up at AlexandriaAnimals.org/Walk. Walkers can



PHOTO BY LISA ANTONELLI

Steve

participate as individuals or as part of a team. Walking with teammates is a great way to raise more money for the shelter. Citizens can join existing teams, already listed on the website, or create one of their own by recruiting friends, family members, coworkers or any other animal enthusiasts in their lives. Some teams have specific missions: Denise Matthews and Gorgeous have joined the "Sarah's Fund" team, which will benefit a special AWLA fund that aids shelter animals who need costly medical treatment.

Special opportunities to participate are also available to businesses: Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, VCA Animal Hospitals in Alexandria, Old

Town, MacArthur and Beacon Hill, and Hayfield and Fort Hunt Animal Hospitals have committed to being this year's "Premier Sponsors" with pledges of \$2,500 each. Those that pledge \$1,000 become "Animal Heroes" and receive Walk registrations for a team of five along with extensive recognition at the event. "Tail Waggers," who donate \$500, receive Walk registrations for a team of two along with special recognition. Elaborate prizes — including theme parties, spa services, free AWLA summer camp stays and AWLA merchandise — will go to the top adult and youth fund-raisers and top adult and youth teams.

Veterinarian Katy Nelson, host and executive producer of "The Pet Show with Dr. Katy" on News Channel 8, will serve as host of the Walk, and Alexandria Mayor Allison Silverberg will join in the festivities. Alexandria's Animal of the Year, a stray-turned-well-loved pet named Doug, will be the event's top dog, accompanied by his "people," Joseph Gillmer and Leah Mazar-Gillmer. Joe Gillmer, who is chairman of the AWLA board of directors, says it was a proud day when Doug was selected to grace the cover of the AWLA's 2016 Calendar. Doug will appear on stage to help the AWLA encourage the crowd to submit their pets' photos for this year's calendar contest.

Follow the Walk on Twitter at [#WalkwithDoug](https://twitter.com/WalkwithDoug).

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Alexandria—2509 Leslie Ave (Del Ray) 22301 \$1,099,000



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Alexandria—1130 Arcturus Ln (Wellington/Ft Hunt) 22308 \$999,000



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

timeline calls for the west end Pre K center to open in the fall of 2017, moving 20 pre-k classrooms out of our elementary schools into the new center. This timeline allows the next 18 months to be a period of planning between ACPS and our early education partners to ensure a smooth transition that maintains and builds on the existing quality of these early education programs.

This timeline also aligns with our current plans to have redistricting boundary changes implemented in the fall of 2017. Repurposing 20 classrooms in our elementary buildings by fall 2017 helps address our capacity crisis. It will reduce the need for redistricting boundary adjustments, while still preserving early education offerings to our community. The City Council and School Board adopted the Long Range Educational Facilities Plan as a roadmap to guide our joint efforts to serve our community's children. Funding for the pre-K centers is just one of the many tools that can help us achieve our goals.

Ramee Gentry
School Board member

Selective Taxing

To the Editor:

This past Friday, the Governance Subcommittee of the Waterfront Commission met at the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership's (AEDP) headquarters in a work session led by Charlotte Hall, who is the Waterfront Commission chairwoman. There was no published agenda, and Stephanie Landrum answered almost all the numerous questions posed by the 30 or so citizens and business leaders who attended the meeting. Although she is not a mem-

ber of the Waterfront Commission, she is apparently a member of the Governance Subcommittee, which is required to recommend which waterfront improvements outlined in the waterfront plan can be accomplished with non-city governmental generated funds, the impetus being that the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the next 10 years has only half of the programmed \$120 million for these improvements. In addition, an assumption was also made that operations and maintenance were also fully funded, which is not the case, so the validity of the entire plan is questionable.

Obviously selling the waterfront plan approved under the auspices of a "Waterfront for All" mantra didn't materialize, because now the Governance Subcommittee is recommending that a Community Improvement District (CID) be established, which will impose an additional tax for all businesses. The boundaries are from Jones Point Park to Potomac Landing along the waterfront plan boundaries, and from the waterfront all the way up King Street to the Metro (includes one block either side of King Street). All owners of business properties in that zone would be taxed. This concept is very much like the two special tax zones set up in Potomac Yard to fund the new Metro Station.

Of course, the affected property owners will pass this increase along to tenants, which will in turn pass the increase on to their customers. If raising funds for the "Waterfront for All" is so economically important to the city as a whole, then everyone living in the city should be taxed. It is very apparent that the governance of the waterfront should continue to run by our own city government and not by a business-elected body with taxing authority. What the city really needs is a "green eye shade" accounting

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Old Town Alexandria \$950,000 Historic Captain's Row



sweet garden shed. Details of 112 Prince Street at betsytwigg.com

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 3

review of the waterfront budget, down to limits that are reasonable and acceptable to all. The City of Alexandria should not wish to drive away further small businesses, and to impose taxes on only a part of the city when the entire city ostensibly stands to benefit. To do so is undemocratic, insulting, and unconscionable.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Constructing History

To the Editor:

History books – and instructors – are not infallible. For example, although our Massachusetts President John F. Kennedy's Thanksgiving Proclamations issued more than 50 years ago acknowledged Virginia's Berkeley Hundred Thanksgiving celebration on Dec. 4, 1619, American history texts and teachers still credit the Pilgrims' 1621 event as the first on these shores by the English. Why do the texts mostly written and edited in Boston and N.Y. not credit Virginia's pre-eminence? Why should we care?

Because our texts misrepresent an easily determinable fact as noted above, how can we trust those same writers and editors to convey truthful and complete information about a complex subject like the reasons for one of our most divisive conflicts: The War Between the States — and not to demean Southerners and their history covertly if not overtly? Whence rose the propaganda that

the racist and evil Southerners fought only to preserve slavery, and the noble cause for which the Northerners fought with God's blessing was to eradicate it? Did God earlier bless slavery owners and their hugely profitable enterprise?

All the high school and college American history texts I have seen omit other important information, e.g., Southern states paid their costs for the Revolution when it ended, but Northern ones did not. Bailing out those debtor states was a paramount goal of Northern politicians like Alexander Hamilton who advocated a National Bank for that purpose, among others. He declared paying off a common debt would help unify the states. That stratagem meant the Southern states would also pay the Northern states' debts. Southerners protested in vain. Resentments for this and other reasons continued to fester.

Congress required Southern but not Northern states to pay tariffs that funded most expenses for the growing federal government and internal improvements almost entirely in the North. Southern resentments increased. The agricultural South was generally wealthier than the North, which relied on hardscrabble farming, fishing and its most lucrative business, importing slaves from Africa who were sold in the North but much more widely in the South. Northerners made impressive fortunes in the slave trade.

By 1860, 87 percent of the costs of the federal government were paid by four Southern states: Virginia, North and South

Carolina, and Kentucky. After the first three seceded, Lincoln resolved to compel the seceded states back into the Union. He maneuvered to have Southern forces fire the first shot at Fort Sumter to justify his invasion. He said he had been elected President of all the states and intended to be so. There were other causes of the War, but money and power were key concerns for him. He did not mention abolishing slavery as a reason for his invasion; in fact, abolition was then an unpopular cause in the North.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Volunteers Are Champions

To the Editor:

April 10-16, 2016 is National Volunteer Week. It is a time to reflect on the civic traditions that make American communities great, and one of the best times to recognize and thank volunteers for their incredible efforts and inspiring actions. I encourage all of your readers to not only thank a volunteer today, but to take action themselves and discover the joy and impact that they can create when they give of themselves through volunteerism.

Can you imagine our community without volunteers? Who would deliver hot meals to the elderly and homebound? Respond to local disasters like tornados or floods? Men-

tor our youth and tutor at-risk children? Run food pantries, donate blood, or repair homes? The list goes on and on — volunteers are making a huge difference every day.

As a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism I am proud to announce that last year more than 2 million Virginians volunteered and served more than 300 million hours utilizing their talents and skills to improve the Commonwealth. Their collective impact can be valued at \$8 billion. Thank you to all who serve.

Please take time during this special week to thank a volunteer and encourage others to do the same. These individuals are truly champions in our communities — providing the support and services so many of our families and individuals need.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering in Virginia, please visit www.vaservice.org or call toll free 800-638-3839.

Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Governor's Advisory Board
on Service and Volunteerism

Unnecessary Expense

To the Editor:

The City Council's proposal to remove a statue memorializing our city's common-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

The Anniversary Gala

THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA
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T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

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ENTERTAINMENT

From Sauces to Spices, She Peppers Packs a Punch

Two-woman team of pepper
purveyors is expanding its reach.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Many of Alexandria's gardeners are just beginning to put their spring vegetables in the ground, last minute frost be damned. But for Stephanie Freeman and Vickie Lucas, the business of peppers is a year-round affair. Instead of waiting until April to till the soil, they've been awaiting the beginning of farmer's market season — and the expansion of their sauce-and-spice business, She Peppers.

The dawn of She Peppers came in the form of friendship and a side hobby. Freeman and Lucas began their business in autumn of 2014 after taking stock of their home gardens and realizing they had a surplus of peppers ripe for the picking.

"The idea for (She Peppers) came from our roots in gardening. Both of us have been gardening for years. We both just kind of gravitated toward growing peppers, and we just realized we were growing so many varieties," Freeman said. "We've been best friends for over 10 years now, and we've been sharing sauces and produce and pictures of our bounty."

Now, they're sharing it with Alexandrians and the larger region.

She Peppers' first year was a crash course in business, Lucas and Freeman say.

"Just learning the sauce business, learning the business side, which events to do, which not to do," Freeman says, has been a full-time education. And Lucas agrees.

"As we've learned, we've learned that we need more and more space for our gardens to grow our peppers," she said. "The garden has taken over my entire back yard. ... Luckily, I love growing the peppers."

The varieties of peppers are as plentiful as the products that they become. For a kick that brings plenty of spice along with some rich tang, the YOLO sauce can't be beat, Freeman and Lucas say.

"Pretty much every event that we do we sell out of the hottest sauce that we have, which is (YOLO)," Freeman said. Rather than being merely a condiment that brings the heat with no flavor, this top seller packs plenty of punch that goes well beyond the heat factor.

"You can still taste the flavor in our sauce," Freeman said. "And that's what important to us."

The Dragon Fire is another top seller — and a completely different direction from the YOLO. Much milder, the Dragon Fire brings a garlicky taste that fuses quite nicely with the green-jalapeno base.

"I like the smoked flavor that we have in that one," Lucas said.

She Peppers has found a base camp in the Four-Mile Run Market each Sunday. The market, which has been indoors for the winter but will soon venture back outside, offers a wealth of vendors selling a variety of wares, and She Peppers has made itself right at home.

"During the farmer's market season, we are regulars at the Four-Mile Run," Freeman said, and this season the team will also have a presence at the Crystal City, Ballston, and Silver Spring markets. Further, their sauces and spices are now a mainstay at Bazaar Spices in Washington.

"We're ramping up and getting our ducks in order so that we can approach more stores, so we expect that to grow in the very near future," Freeman said.

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



She Peppers may be best known for its hot sauces, but the company also offers a variety of spice blends for any occasion. Left: made from the Carolina reaper pepper, YOLO Hot Sauce is She Peppers' hottest variety.

Details

She Peppers

Where to find them: Four-Mile Run Market on Sundays; Crystal City Farmer's Market on Tuesdays; Ballston on Thursdays; and Silver Spring on Saturdays.

Try this: The Slow Walk Sriracha. "It's one of the first hot sauces that I made and I love the way it's thicker than the sriracha style, thicker than the other hot sauces. I like the burn on it," says She Peppers' Stephanie Freeman. "It's not overly hot, but it kind of lingers and goes well on what I like to put hot sauces on."

Hidden gem: Harissa chili paste. "I didn't realize how versatile it was" until cooking with it, Freeman says. "I've used that to marinate my chicken in it for a couple of hours, then cook that, either bake it off or sauté it. ... I've added it to my greens and it's been delicious."



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

All City High School Visual Art Exhibition. 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.

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.

Art Exhibit: "It's Black and White!" Through April 24, 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 for more.

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 landscape, abstract and figurative work. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

Broadway Gallery April Artist Showcase. Through April 27, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featured will be the pastel and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net for more.

Art Exhibit: "The Shape of Water."

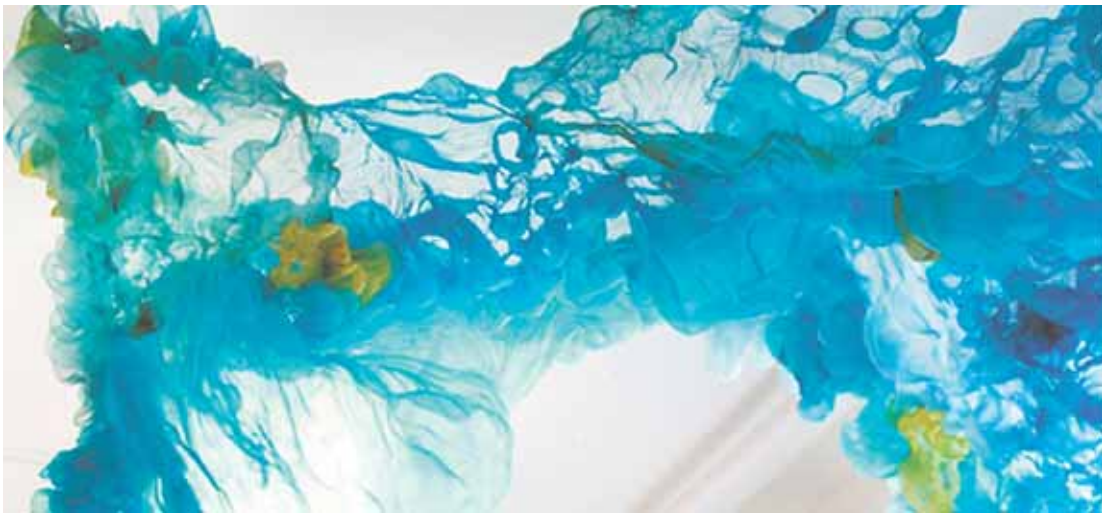
Through April 30, gallery hours at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. "The Shape of Water" features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Free. Visit www.oenonehammersley.com.

Exhibit: "Creatures from the Sea." Through May 1, 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 for more.

Art Exhibit: "Misfits." Through May 1, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Artist Teresa Oaxaca's latest paintings blend together portraiture and still life in elaborate, tightly cropped compositions. The modern master poses 21st Century individuals in Victorian and Baroque costumes, paired with dolls, bones, teacups, fresh flowers, and masks. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

DASH for the STASH. Through May 15. Learn about investing with DASH for the STASH, an investor education contest hosted by the Alexandria Library. Read four game posters at any Alexandria Library location, get a quiz question related to each, and submit your answers to have a chance at winning a \$1,000 retirement investment. Game posters are on display at all Alexandria Library locations. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

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



“Chamber, One,” installed at Ascent Contemporary in New York., 2014. Right: “Ice Melts Tyrant Spell,” at Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, Maine, 2012. Both by Lisa Kellner.

Site-Specific, ‘Always Into Now’ Opens April 16

Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, will become canvas for Maine artist Lisa Kellner’s site-responsive installation, “Always into Now.” Kellner uses silk organza for her work, she sews thousands of bulbous shapes and creates structures that seem to grow from the walls and ceiling. The public is invited to meet Kellner on April 10, and watch her as she works. The exhibition will then be on view April 16-May 29. Admission is free. The Torpedo Factory is located at 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

703-751-2022 for more.

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

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the

Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/forward for more.

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

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

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

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-

8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

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

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

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 7

NOVA Idol. 6 p.m. at the Rachel M.

Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. This year, the show welcomes former American Idol contestants Rayvon Owen and Sara Sturm to help judge this year’s participants and perform some of their favorite songs. NOVA Idol will include students from all six campuses as well as students from local high schools. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

First Thursday: Hats Along the Ave. 6-9 p.m. along Mount Vernon Ave. The April 7 First Thursday features music from Mars Rodeo (at the Farmers Market Lot), a hat parade, photo booth by Meghan LaPrairie, discounts for showing off hats at select local businesses, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

Opening Reception: “The Shape of Water.” 6-7:30 p.m. at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. “The Shape of Water” features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Find a wine tasting and an appetizer. Free. Visit www.oenonehammersley.com for more.

Materialized Magic. 6-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery hosts Ericka Cleveland and Stacy Cantrell’s CRAVE-sponsored “Materialized Magic” community art project. The meet-up provides free lessons in crocheting, knitting, and felting. Participants help create a magical Yarn Bomb habitat and also have a chance to be featured with the key artists in a culminating display. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Opening Reception: “Misfits.” 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Celebrate artist Teresa Oaxaca. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Charity Basketball Game. 7 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Stratford Landing Elementary School staff competes against Wayneood Elementary staff to raise money for Leukemia Lymphoma Society (LLS) and United Community Ministries (UCM). Free. Donations accepted. Contact Kara Anderson at Kanderson1@fcps.edu.
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.

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.

“Hairspray Jr.” 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, additional 1 p.m. performance on Saturday at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. GWMS presents Hairspray Jr. inspired by Baltimore’s John Waters original film, adapted for the stage by Thomas Meehan, Mark O’Donnell, Marc Shaiman, and Scott Whitman and directed by Robert McDonough. Tickets are \$5. Contact Robert McDonough at robert.mcdonough@acps.k12.va.us.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Alexandria’s African American Civil War History. 10-11 a.m. at Alexandria Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, 1001 S. Washington St. Join City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg and Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey Davis as you learn about the history of contrabands (escaped slaves) buried in the cemetery, the fascinating archaeology behind its rediscovery, and how the site became a memorial. Free. Call 703-746-4399 or 703-746-4356 to make a reservation.

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.

Lecture: “What a Photograph Tells Us.” 2-3 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn how Charles Joyce traced the history of Francis Snow’s historical photograph of United States Colored Troops (USCT) at L’Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria. Images of USCT soldiers are uncommon, and remarkably, each man is identified on the back of this albumen photograph. These names provide an unusual opportunity to determine what happened to the men after the Civil War. Free. Call 703-746-4356 for reservations.

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 Their music combines country, southern gospel, and contemporary. 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/parks/greenspring.

Dance in the Gallery. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Veteran Athenaeum performers, ACW Dances perform new work by Artistic Director Abigail Wallace and core company members. Stay for a Q&A where audience impressions become part of the art making process. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

“Bach and Beer.” 3:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Cellist Steuart Pincombe presents a program of Bach’s Cello Suites with short explanations of Steuart’s historical, interpretive approach along with

ENTERTAINMENT

comments on the historical brewing method of each beer. Each suite will be paired with one of Port City's own brews. Tickets are "Name-Your-Own-Price" plus the cost of beer. Visit www.musicinfamiliarplaces.com.

Spring Forward. 5-8 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. program includes recording artist The Intruders, 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.

Art + Architecture Panel Discussion. 6-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. For Virginia Architecture Week the Torpedo Factory Art Center will co-host a special reception and panel discussion with the American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia. The program focuses on the relationships between art and architecture. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Pohick Church Coffeehouse. 6-8 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Pohick Church Episcopal Youth Community will present an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. The event is free, but donations are accepted. Proceeds go toward the Senior High Summer Mission Trip. Contact Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or rusty@pohick.org.

APRIL 10-16

Exhibit: "Intersection of Art and Architecture." Gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. For National Architecture Week, the American Institute of Architects will have a display in the main hall featuring architectural designs created by institute members. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.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/.

Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day. 12-8 p.m. at 703 S. Union St. In addition to free ice cream, learn more about local non-profit organizations. Visit www.benjerry.com/scoop-shops/free-cone-day for more.

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



PHOTO BY JIM ARBOGAST

JJ Grey & Mofro will be performing live at The Birchmere on Wednesday, April 13. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

planting and how to use herbs they've grown. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

JJ Grey & Mofro. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Blues/Funk ensemble performs. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Author Event: "Civil War in Northern Virginia." 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Author William Connery will discuss his book, "The Civil War in Northern Virginia 1861." Book sales and signing to follow. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

2nd Thursday Live: Jane Franklin Dance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A mixed repertory performance of Forty+ features new works by Andie Ligon de Vault, Emily Crews, and recent works by Jane Franklin. The music is by Truman Harris of Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, an Alexandria-based music ensemble. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Gardening with Wildlife in Mind. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find out about habitat gardening, and how it incorporates the birds, bees, pollinators and others, all with native plants. Free. Visit www.vnps.org.potowmack/events.

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 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.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 14-16

Save Our Ship Tours. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every 30 minutes. Special behind-the-scenes tours are being offered of our 18th-century ship, before it is moved to a conservation facility. Reservations required, \$10 suggested donation. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov/SelectEvent.aspx.

"Honk Junior: A Children's Musical." 5 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday at Carl Sandburg Theater Arts Department, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. This musical is based on the story of the Ugly Duckling. Tickets are \$5. Contact joycewn@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 15-16

"Hairspray Jr." 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, additional 1 p.m. performance on Saturday at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. GWMS presents Hairspray Jr. inspired by Baltimore's John Waters original film, adapted for the stage by Thomas Meehan, Mark O'Donnell, Marc Shaiman, and Scott Whitman and directed by Robert McDonough. Tickets are \$5. Contact Robert McDonough at robert.mcdonough@acps.k12.va.us.

"Guys and Dolls." 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday at Mount

Le Refuge was rated #1 in Alexandria on TripAdvisor. Thank you for your continued support.

Le Refuge Restaurant

Spring Specials

- Cold Soup Trio
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- Cold Salmon Platter
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ENTERTAINMENT

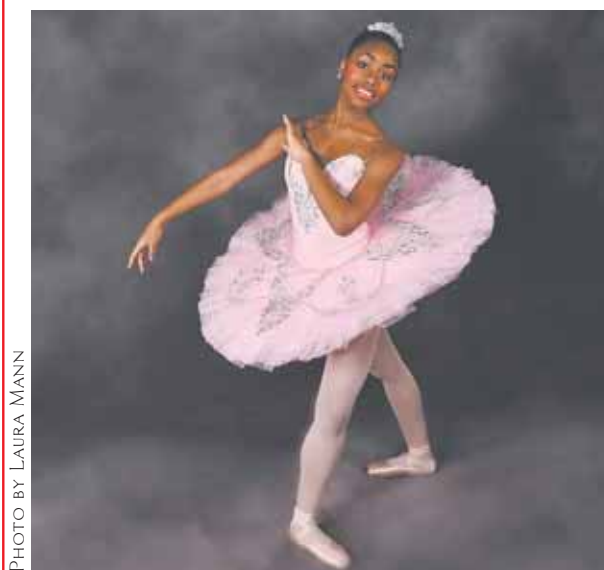


PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

MSA to Perform 'Sleeping Beauty'

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) youth ballet is performing Sleeping Beauty on May 1 at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Pictured here: Seemka Ogunfiditimi, Metro School of the Arts, 10th grader of Alexandria.

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.mvstheatrearts.com for more.

Gallery's New Media Invitational and is funded, in part, by March150 participants. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

context. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. All Wheel Jive will provide the music. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more.

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.

"Phantom of the Opera." 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Watch the restored 1929 silent horror masterpiece "The Phantom of the Opera" with live improvisation by acclaimed organist Dorothy Papadokos. Not for children younger than 10. Free. Visit www.vts.edu for more.

Concertos by Mozart. 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra will be joined by hornist Tim Huizenga, clarinetist Parker Gaimis and pianist John McCrary. Each will perform a concerto by Mozart. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-998-6100 Ext: 103.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-23

"Hairspray Jr." 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, additional 1 p.m. performance on Saturday at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. GWMS presents Hairspray Jr. inspired by Baltimore's John Waters original film, adapted for the stage by Thomas Meehan, Mark O'Donnell, Marc Shaiman, and Scott Whitman and directed by Robert McDonough. Tickets are \$5. Contact Robert McDonough at robert.mcdonough@acps.k12.va.us.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Fort Hunt Preschool Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane. Find baby and children's clothes, toys, books, and more. Free to attend. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com for more.

APRIL 16-JUNE 30

The von Brahler Ltd. Gallery: "Circuitous Roots." Gallery hours at 7931 E. Blvd. The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, announces the Opening of an Exhibition, "Circuitous Roots: A Celebration of Art" at George Washington's River Farm on the Potomac, home of the American Horticultural Society. The exhibition will honor artists represented by VBG over three decades, including Vladimir Ovchinnikov (d), Yuri Kokoyanin, Nikolai Antuychin, Armen Kankanian, Tatyana Zhurkov, Otari Shiuk (d), Mark Coffey, Nathan Leibowitz, and James Mathias Sanders as well as Liberal Studies' Artists from Georgetown University, Anna Katalkina, Nan Morrison, Anne Ridder, Robert Murray and Rana Ryan. Free. Contact Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or vbgpromo@aol.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 17

Music in the Gallery. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The music of the contemporary flute and guitar duo MIN features flutist Sais Kamalidin and guitarist Rick Peralta performing a chamber music program. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

NOVA Community Chorus. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. NOVA Community Chorus (Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director) will join the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra to present a concert of music to celebrate the arrival of Spring. Tickets are \$20. Call 703-845-6097 or email mwhitmire@nvcc.edu.

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.metamorphosisaacc.com/mama/classes/.

Genealogy and Maps. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Tracking five generations of a family as it migrates across the country, genealogist Sharon Cook MacInnes, Ph.D., talks about using maps to locate ancestors, track migrations, reveal family relationships, and uncover historical

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Fashion Show Luncheon. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Event begins with shopping and silent auction followed by buffet, fashion shows, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit www.aldersgate.net for more.

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

Military Appreciation Night. 5 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road. Hayfield School Boys Lacrosse hosts 2nd annual Military Appreciation Night. The event will also raise funds for Fisher House at Fort Belvoir, a "home away from home" for military families when a loved one is undergoing medical treatment." Last year the event raised over \$800 for Fisher House, and Hayfield Boys' Lacrosse hopes to raise over \$1,000 this year. Free admission will be offered to all military members and dependents with valid military ID. Young military dependents without ID must enter the stadium with military parent/guardian. Admission is \$5, free for children under 6 and seniors over 60. Visit www.hawksathletics.org.

John Smith. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Folk musician John Smith has released seven solo albums. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance and for Focus Music members. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

APRIL 16-MAY 29

Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now." Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Kellner's site-responsive work uses the room as a canvas. She creates organic, ethereal forms from silk. Viewers experience the intimacy of being absorbed with a room-sized painting. This is the first exhibition as part of the Target

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A Proposal for Interim Fitzgerald Square Plan

BY BERT ELY

I propose an interim plan for Fitzgerald Square that differs significantly from the two “schemes” city staff has proposed. Specifically, this plan will (1) maximize the use of the existing facilities at the Fitzgerald Square location, (2) meet pressing parking needs in the immediate waterfront area, and (3) cost much less than the schemes staff has proposed.

The essence of the plan: Keep the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) building, utilizing it for various public purposes; convert the club parking lot into a public pay lot, with possibly ity employees using the lot during the week; retain the boat launch ramp; remove the existing fencing; and construct a continuous promenade on the river side of the property that extends from Waterfront Park to the plaza area in front of the Torpedo Factory. I will now discuss each aspect of this plan.

❖ Utilize the existing building. As an ODBC member, I am quite familiar with the club’s facilities. Although old, the club’s building has been well-maintained. The large room on the ground floor could provide room, for example, for Seaport Foundation activities, such as boat-building, as well as room for the Foundation’s offices.

Alternatively, archeological finds related to the waterfront, such as timbers recovered from the Carr hotel excavation, could be displayed in that room. It is important to note that there is a sizeable kitchen on the ground floor, which broadens the range of potential uses for that floor. While there are no bathrooms presently on the ground floor, it would be fairly easy to install bathrooms on that floor accessible to the public from outside the building given the kitchen’s water and sewer connections. The ballroom on the second floor could be utilized as public meeting space or rented out for private events, as the club now does. Additionally there is a small, but recently updated and actively utilized kitchen on the second floor, bathrooms, and a separate bar and lounge area with great views of the river. Perhaps a portion of that area could be leased to a food-service operator, which would generate rental income to help cover building operating and maintenance costs.

❖ Retain the parking lot. With the ongoing loss of parking in the waterfront area, due to the elimination of street parking spaces and the forthcoming closure of the parking lot on Strand, and increased parking demand due to additional restaurants in the immediate area, notably the expanded Waterfront Market, there is a des-

perate need for additional parking in the lower King Street area. Therefore, the existing club parking lot should be retained and converted into a pay lot operated by a contractor in a manner comparable to the existing riverfront lot on Strand Street. The profits from that lot would help to cover the costs of running and maintaining the clubhouse building and park facilities on the site. Perhaps the lot also could be used to provide additional parking during the week for city employees so that they could then stop parking on residential streets.

❖ Retain the launch ramp. Although not widely known, there is a well-used boat launch ramp on the east side of the parking lot. That ramp could be utilized as a place to launch kayaks, rowboats, small sailboats, peddle boats, etc. Perhaps in nice weather there could even be a boat-rental facility there. That ramp also would continue to be available for launching emergency rescue craft and other government boats.

❖ Remove the existing fencing. Removing the existing fencing on the club property would extend the present King Street Park to the area in front of the clubhouse building for very little cost. However, it is important to keep in mind that very secure fencing will have to be installed to keep people off the docks where ODBC members will continue to dock their boats. Unfortu-

nately, that fencing will impede public views of those docks and the river, but installation of that fence is a required element of the club’s forced move to its new location.

❖ Construct a continuous promenade along the river’s edge. It will be quite feasible to construct a continuous promenade along the water’s edge from Waterfront Park to the plaza area in front of the Torpedo Factory. The only challenge in extending the promenade across the parking lot would be providing for an approach to the boat-launch ramp crossing the promenade. However, that would not be a serious challenge as the ODBC has to address a similar challenge at the location of its new clubhouse. Further north, the promenade would run outside the security fence that will keep the public off the ODBC docks. That hardly presents a serious construction challenge, though.

In closing, in this time of seriously constrained city finances, city staff and council should try to maximize the use of existing facilities at the bottom of King Street rather than bulldozing what exists and then discovering that it lacks sufficient funds to build an attractive replacement.

Bert Ely is co-chair of Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront and vice president of the Old Town Civic Association, but this comment is his and not on the behalf of either of those organizations.

BUSINESS

Teaism Goes Cold By the end of April, healthy food restaurant Teaism will close.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

After four years as part of the first wave of the North Old Town renaissance, the Teaism Restaurant on N St. Asaph Street will close on April 24. Co-owner Michelle Brown said that sales had been flat, with no growth, and that the restaurant couldn’t continue to support a space that had been too big for them.

The North Old Town branch was the first foray into Alexandria for the 20-year-old, D.C.-based Teaism franchise, and Brown said she believed initially that the brand would build attention and interest in the

restaurant, but that when they arrived they were virtually unknown. Brown says the restaurant had to struggle against that, and a series of misconceptions, throughout the restaurant’s life.

“People saw ‘Teaism’ and thought ‘I don’t drink tea, so this isn’t really a place for me,’” said Brown.

Brown said that they had added restaurant onto the name, but by then it had already been almost a year and the first impressions had been made. The owners had hoped a Harris Teeter arriving down the street would bring new people into the area, especially with new apartments go-

ing in over the grocery store, but Brown said the store actually had the opposite effect.

“The Harris Teeters actually sapped our lunch crowd,” said Brown. “We saw sales go down after the Harris Teeters opened.”

With a \$750,000 investment in the build out, Brown said the franchise is taking a loss on the property. Brown noted that the city had done very little in terms of outreach to assist other than to cater one event.

“The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership is in the same building,” said Brown, “[they] sat there and watched us crumble.”

In the meantime, Brown says the store



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES

A look inside Teaism Restaurant in North Old Town

has a small but dedicated core of regulars, and will continue operating until the end of April.

“It’s sad, because we have a great team and a hard working staff,” said Brown, “but I still believe, in about three years, the new developments around here will make this area viable.”

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Inside the Alexandria Police Department Part 2: Evidence

An occasional series, drawn from the Alexandria Citizen's Police Academy.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Citizens' Police Academy is a 10-week course hosted by the Alexandria Police Department (APD) to offer citizens a better understanding of how the department works. Throughout the course, participants sit in on emergency calls and ride along with police officers on patrol.

In the fourth week of the course, the tour of the APD's Criminal Investigations Section continued with a focus on the collection and processing of evidence.

VIOLENT CRIMES

One has to really love police work to work the violent crimes unit. While various other police offices highlight civic engagement or technology skills, according to Sgt. Dave Cutting, the violent crimes unit is the most traditional investigations unit, and one of the most taxing.

"You're only in this unit if you like your job," said Cutting. "This is the unit most often called back to work in the middle of the night. You have to have a family that's OK with not being home."

Three detectives work on homicides, but while the city only experienced four total homicides in 2015, the detectives look at every unattended death to rule out the possibility of foul play. This averages to about 10 cases each week. Investigators in violent crimes also look into all serious assaults and all adult missing persons cases, which averages to approximately two per week.

When assigned to a case, Cutting says the work doesn't end when the case is solved. Each investigator stays with the case



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

throughout the trial. For Cutting, that recently meant testifying in 2015 at the Charles Severance trial for a case he'd started working over a decade ago with the murder of Nancy Dunning.

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

The Special Victims Unit handles most child-related crimes, and Sgt. Jeff Harrington says it can be as troubling as that sounds. Most of the investigations center around suspected abuse and sexual assault of children, many of which are reported by teachers or counselors. Like the Violent Crimes Unit, many of the Special Victims calls come in the middle of the night. More than once, Harrington says he was woken up in the middle of the night to go out to a hospital to investigate whether the bruises on an infant indicated that it could have been abused.

The unit also handles runaways, and interviews each of them after they are found to assess the risks at their home life and their experiences while on the street. In March, there were 25 runaway cases, and one detective is assigned to cover all of them.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS

Crime Scene Investigators do exactly

what their name implies; they arrive at the scene of a crime and search the areas for clues, collecting fingerprints, physical evidence, and carefully photographing each stage of the process. In an ideal world, Crime Scene Investigators arrive at a scene and work through their processes from least intrusive investigations to most destructive, but it doesn't always work out this way. Investigator Tom Israel noted that the last homicide that he worked on, there was impression evidence, blood and prints in the sand near the water. But as it started to rain, the evidence started washing away, and the investigators had to move quickly to preserve that evidence.

Crime Scene Investigations often encounter a variety of obstacles, including animals. "If you die, your cat will start to eat you as soon as they get hungry," said Patterson. "In rural areas, wild animals can carry a crime scene miles apart."

These scenes are often grisly, but Patterson says investigators get desensitized to it in college.

"It has to be part of the job," said Patterson. "Some things still get to you after years, like smells, but we still have to do the job: for the family and for the victim."

COMPUTER FORENSICS

Alexandria Police's secret weapon, according to Captain Gregg Ladislav in Criminal Investigations, is Martin Hoffmaster. Whether it's a murder or a scam or a child abuse case, all computer evidence is processed through Hoffmaster's lab. Ladislav said that other agencies from around the region regularly call asking for Hoffmaster's assistance on cases.

Hoffmaster works in a sealed interior room with no windows and virtually no company. The room is filled with comput-

ers of various sizes and types, monitors lining the walls. This is Hoffmaster's crime scene, and tucked inside each of the computers could be evidence vital to solving a case.

"Detectives interview people, I interview computers," said Hoffmaster.

Computer forensics is the preservation and analysis of computer data to present in court. However, Hoffmaster says in his over 10 years of working computer forensics, he's only had to go to court seven or eight times, including a recent appearance at the Severance murder trial.

"Most times when I find something on somebody's computer, they don't want that out in the open," said Hoffmaster. "And if it's there, I'm going to find it."

The field of computer forensics was popularized by the investigation of the B.T.K. killer in the early 2000s, where police were able to track the computer he was using from metadata collected off of a floppy disk he had mailed into the police. Lately, Hoffmaster says the job has been getting a little more difficult as the devices and hard drives are getting larger and larger and store more data. One common type of forensic investigation centers around suicide. Ladislav says that less than 20 percent of suicide victims leave a note, and that many families have a hard time believing that there was no foul play.

"It's not a crime, but we run a computer search to help give closure to the family," said Hoffmaster. "We've have families cry harder when they accept that it was a suicide than when they first found out their loved one had died, because it means accepting it."

Next week, the Citizen's Police Academy takes a trip to an abandoned corner of Landmark Mall to examine the use of force and defensive tactics employed by the APD.

Robbery Ends in Murder

FROM PAGE 1

send them home to his family in Ethiopia, but every morning he would take the metro and read his magazines, and leave them there when he was done in hopes that someone else would read them too.

Neighbors recalled Abraha helping to shovel snow in front of their homes. It had become a yearly tradition for him.

Lately, Gebremariam said she had warned him not to go out and shovel snow out of fear that it might strain his heart, but sure enough, she heard when she came to visit that several neighbors were grateful for him coming out into the snow and helping him shovel. If Abraha couldn't do it, he'd find someone who could.

Zalika Cole, who lived near Abraha, said that he would arrange for his son to give her rides to the metro or into D.C. when she needed them.

Abraha's walks were what Cole and other neighbors remembered best. Cole said Abraha was normally a man who seemed quiet and content to go about his business, but when he would walk by her home he would always say hello; asking each time how her day had been going.

"It's devastating," Cole said. "I'm missing him."

Geri Baldwin, a local activist and friend, said that even after she'd moved away from the neighborhood, he always reached out to her and made her feel welcome. Cole and Baldwin said that, eight or nine years ago, South Alfred Street was a rougher neighborhood to live in, but that in the years since it had been improving into a close knit community.

"Years ago, it was rough, but it's quiet now," said Cole. "Everything's changed, everything's friendly. People get out and talk, that's the kind of neighborhood it is. But I have a teenage daughter who walks to school, and I'm very worried now."

In a central area of an apartment complex in western Alexandria, Abraha's family and friends gathered to pay their respects.

"He was the rock of the family," said his niece, Jerusalem Berhe. "He's one of the best people you could meet."

Police say they believe the crime was carried out by a single suspect, but so far no other information about the investigation has been released. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Detective Bikeramjit Gil with the Alexandria Police Department at 703- 746-6751.

Going for the Gold

FROM PAGE 1

help her sons reach that goal.

According to a post on the GoFundMe page set up by Caine-Lyles, Noah and Josephus will be competing for spots on the USA Junior National Team and the USA Olympic Team. The World Junior Team will be competing in Poland this summer while the USA Olympic Team will be competing in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

"We are excited about our goals but we can't do it without your prayers and/or financial support," said Caine-Lyles in the post. "Your financial contribution will assist with paying for training equipment, massages, chiropractic care, nutritional support, airline

flights, meals, entry fees and hotel fees." More than \$4,800 of their \$8,500 goal has been raised in the last month to help the brothers compete for spots at the USA Olympic Trials to be held July 1-10 in Oregon.

Some of the 2015 accomplishments for the brothers include: 2015 USA High School National Champion (400m); 2015 USA High School National Champion (100m, 200m); 2015 Gold Medalist at the JR Pan Am Games (200m); 2015 Silver Medalist at the JR Pan Am Games (100m); 2015 Silver Medalist at the World Youth Games (400m); and 2015 Bronze Medalist at the World Youth Games (200m).

Visit www.gofundme.com/Lylesroadtorio.

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For job descriptions & locations go to:

www.bellnursery.com/careers

FROM PAGE 14

soldiers who died to protect their state, homes and loved ones from invaders should be unthinkable. And erase all Confederate street names? Must we be defined by such misguided and ignominious acts? George Washington's, George Mason's and Robert E. Lee's hometown must set a better example — not destroy our American heritage.

Here are some suggestions for council to express our feelings after the brutal murder of nine innocent people in Charleston, S.C. by a clearly mentally disturbed young man.

Pass a resolution decrying this heinous act and expressing our deepest sympathies to the families of those senselessly killed. Send each family a copy. This should have been done immediately.

Establish a committee of people knowledgeable about Confederate history to create a city-supported museum to present and preserve our 19th century heritage, especially the antebellum, War, Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction periods. Remarks at the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names at the March 28 public hearing revealed we have many citizens unfamiliar with that perspective and/or have mistaken but firm misunderstandings. The resulting sharp bitterness among our citizens must be addressed constructively. For 50 years Fort Ward has presented frequent programs about the Union side, but there has not been an equal city-backed effort for the Confederate side although Alexandrians were Confederate-leaning despite occupation. ...

Many speakers who claimed to love and know history admitted not knowing why our streets were named for Confederate officers and wanted the names changed. Wanda Dowell's Feb. 8 testimony and Gazette letter noted that for the War's Centennial, the city spent \$500,000 for Union Fort Ward and has funded its expenses since. Council named new West End streets for Confederate officers. Because street signs were needed, the city incurred no extra expense for the Confederate remembrance. For this "balanced" approach, Alexandria received rare honors: its first All-America city award and a Congressional resolution.

If council changes the streets' names, including Jefferson Davis Highway, hundreds of citizens and businesses will incur extra expenses and inconveniences — and memorable irritation. Also, council will have to return our All-America City Award.

A city in debt and facing large necessary expenses should not spend money unnecessarily. Those favoring these unnecessary proposed changes must bear all their expenses and make the necessary adjustments so those affected experience the least trouble and disruption. That also includes taking care of "Appomattox," a priceless antique art treasure. If not, they are not entitled to call the tune; their demands are just "whistling 'Dixie.'"

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Obituary



Obituary for Carolyn N. McDonald

On December 22, 2015, Carolyn N. McDonald, longtime resident of Alexandria, VA, passed away after a brief illness. Surviving Carolyn are her brother Kent Miller; daughters Margaret McDonald and Lara M. White (Brandon); granddaughter Nancy McDowell (Scott); three great-grandchildren (Zeke, Zack, and Zoey); and an extended family in several states. Carolyn was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 61 years, Roy, who passed away in 2007. Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service on April 9, 2016 at 11:00 am at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA.

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OBITUARY



On Tuesday, March 8 2016, **Lee Ann Patterson**, 86, a long-time resident of Alexandria, VA died

Lee Ann Crowe was born on April 5, 1929 in Frostburg MD, the eldest of four children born to James Leroy Crowe and Ann Germaine Crowe (nee Creegan). After raising four children, she enjoyed many years working as a receptionist at the Barton House in Arlington.

She is survived by Dona Sherrill (Gary), Gary Patterson (Eileen), Paula Rodney (Eric), and Amy Poeppelman (Kevin) and four grandchildren Kristen Jaffee, Justin Sherrill, Emma Patterson, and Lauren Rodney and seven great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her brother, James Crowe (Carolyn) of Frostburg, MD.

She is preceded in death by her husband Joseph Patterson (1920-1997) and second husband Mark Boerner (1934-2013), her parents, one sister (Elizabeth Homer), and one brother (Raymond Crowe).

A funeral mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. on April 5, 2016.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000606: Market Square Plaza and Garage Repairs Design Services

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

The City will hold a Non-mandatory pre-proposal conference on April 7, 2016, 10:30 a.m., prevailing local time at 108 North Fairfax Street, Market Square Plaza Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.3921.

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

OBITUARY

SIROP "TONY" FERNEZIAN

Fernezian, 51, of Alexandria VA and Beirut Lebanon, entered into eternal rest on Good Friday, March 25, 2016. He is survived by his devoted wife Anna Estdad Fernezian, loyal brother Levon Fernezian, niece Christina Fernezian, and nephews Joseph Fernezian, Ryan and Jeff Kowalcuk, and a host of other relatives and friends living around the world. He was preceded in death by parents, Karazik and Hovsep.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday, April 14 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home on W. Braddock Road, Alexandria VA. Funeral services will begin at 9:00 AM on April 15 with a mass to follow at St. Rita Church at 11:00. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions in Tony's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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ABC LICENSE

Kumo Asian Bistro Inc. trading as Kumo Asian Bistro, 7025 Manchester Blvd, ste F, Alexandria, VA 22310. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ren Yong Cai, Proprietor

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

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Machuca, LLC trading as Kings Corner Chicken, 6128 N. Kings Hwy, Ste B, Alexandria, VA 22303. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages

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.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-04-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Elementary Science and Literacy Summer Enrichment Materials.

Unsealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-04-01 Elementary Science and Literacy Summer Enrichment Materials will be received via email at christopher.guy@acps.k12.va.us. Proposals shall be transmitted with a date and time stamp on or before 3:00 PM on April 14, 2016. 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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TC Boys' Soccer Falls to West Potomac

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams boys' soccer coach Peter Abed was pleased with the way the Titans played in the second half of Monday's match against West Potomac.

TC's performance in the first half, however, led to the team's first loss of the season.

The Wolverines led 2-0 at halftime and held on for a 3-1 win over the previously unbeaten Titans at T.C. Williams High School.

The Titans entered the match with a 3-0 record, including a 2-0 win at Lake Braddock on March 31, but couldn't get it going against West Potomac until it was too late.

"I think we came out flat," Abed said. "I told the guys at halftime, you can't [just] show up in this league and win a game. You've got to bring it every night. The difference between the way we played on Thursday night against Lake Braddock and out here, it's a big deal. ... Second half was much better. They came out with energy. I

thought we dominated in the second half."

Senior midfielder Bright Somuah gave West Potomac a 1-0 lead with a goal in the 20th minute. Right before halftime, the Wolverines' lead increased to 2-0 following a TC own goal. West Potomac junior defender Gabriel Caicedo sent a corner kick into the box and the ball deflected off a Titan player's head into the net.

"That was tough," Abed said. "When it's 1-0, you can come in and say, 'OK, we played a really bad first half, but ... it's 1-0' and you can still come back — one goal changes everything. When it's 2-0, it's a little bit deflating, especially right before the half. That's always a deflating time to have a goal scored on you."

Somuah increased West Potomac's lead to 3-0 with a goal in the 52nd minute.

Sophomore defender Mohanad Ibrahim scored TC's lone goal came in the 55th minute. Ibrahim was originally ruled offside, but the call was overturned.

West Potomac improved to 3-1 overall.

TC traveled to face Lee on Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Titans will travel to face Annandale at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 8.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT BY JON ROETMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

Jose Bonilla Sosa and the T.C. Williams boys' soccer team suffered their first loss of the season against West Potomac on Tuesday.

"The best thing about having a match right away is you erase this one and you move on to the next one," Abed said, "but you've got to take the lessons from the match before into the next match or you're

not growing as a team. ... I thought, overall, the whole team played a better second half than the first half, but the first half is what lost us the match."

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

T.C. Williams senior Tavaris James will compete in the DMVStream.com Nova Challenge on April 10 at Marshall High School.

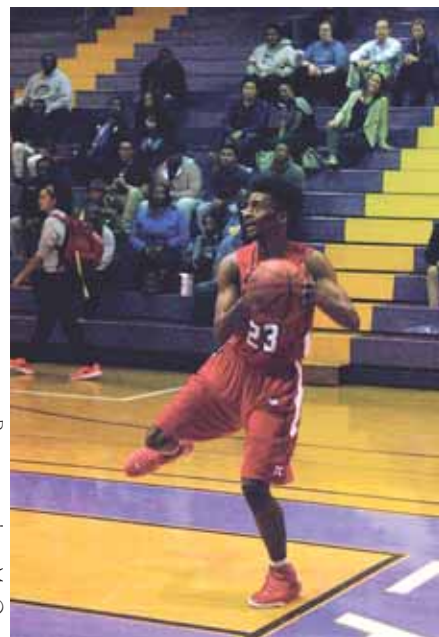


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior Jordan Jones will play for the Fairfax South team at the DMVStream.com Nova Challenge on April 10 at Marshall High School.

TC Teammates to Play In All-Star Game

T.C. Williams seniors Tavaris James and Jordan Jones will play for the Fairfax South team during the DMVStream.com Nova Challenge on Sunday, April 10 at Marshall High School.

The event will feature two all-star

games, a 3-point contest and a dunk contest.

At 2 p.m., the Fairfax South all-stars will face the Prince William all-stars. After 3-point and dunk contests at 4 p.m., the Fairfax North all-stars will take on the Loudoun all-stars at 5 p.m.

Titan Crew Excels

Six boats claim first- or second-place honors at St. Andrews Regatta.

Undaunted by occasional downpours, the T.C. Williams crew team excelled in the St. Andrews Regatta on Noxontown Pond in Middletown, Del., on Saturday, April 2. The Titan crew team finished first or second in six separate races, with the girls' freshman team capturing victory in the second varsity category, which pitted them against more experienced boats. The freshman girls started strong, battled with boats throughout the 1,500-meter race, and sprinted to a victory in a time of 5:28.9. They finished 4 seconds ahead of crew powerhouse Holy Spirit. Members of the T.C. girls' freshman 8 are Paula Filios (coxswain), Chloe Marsh, Grace Fluharty, Blythe Markel, Ailysh Motsinger, Elspeth Collard, Piper Bucholz, Charlotte Milone, and Anna Jane Guynn. Titan head girls' coach Patrick Marquardt guides the freshman 8.

The Titan girls' second varsity team captured third place with a time of 5:35.5.

The boys' first varsity 4 maintained a strong pace throughout the race, sprinting to a second place finish in 5:31.2, behind Chaminade High School. Members of the boys' first 4 include Preston Tracy, Carter Weitekamp, Sarin Suvanasai, Gareth Markel, and Coxswain Kai Linehan. Peter Hearing is the coach for the boys' varsity 4.

The Titan girls' first varsity 8 boat took second place in a hard-fought race against Holy Spirit. With a time of 5:13.7, the TC varsity team finished only 1.3 seconds behind Holy Spirit. It beat the Washington-Lee High School first 8, which had bested the Titans in a prior contest in Alexandria. Members of the girls' first varsity include Brooke Teferra (coxswain), Maria Justiniano, Alyssa Forbes, Katie Murphy, Grace Asch, Amelia Bender, Reed Kenny, Hannah Posson and Caroline Hill. Veteran coach Jaime Rubini coaches the first 8.

The T.C. boys' second varsity 8 boat also captured a second place prize, charging down the 1,500-meter course in 4:49.8. Only Chaminade High School, a strong regional contender, bested them. Members of the boys' second 8 include Brianna Zuckerman (coxswain), Stefanos Psaltis-Ivanis, Conor McGivern, Ian Wilmore, Wogan Snyder, Jacob Souza, Addison Guynn, Drew Jones, and Peter Laboy. They are coached by Boys Head Coach Peter Stramese.

The T.C. girls' junior 8 took second place in its category with a time of 5:49.6. Members of the junior 8, coached by Mary Carey, include Victoria Anthony (coxswain), Hope Parsons, Rachel Sedehi, Emma Carroll, Tess Moran, Fatima Chavez, Catherine Mellette, Cleo Lewis, and Brielle Quarles.

Demonstrating the depth of the T.C. crew team, the T.C. Girls Fifth 8 also captured second place in its category with a time of 6:46.0.

The Titan oarsmen and oarswomen will compete next week at the Walter Mess Regatta at Sandy Run Park on Occoquan Reservoir on Saturday, April 9.



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Senior Living

APRIL 2016

Alexandria
Gazette Packet



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Senior Living



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Deputy Derek Gaunt, HR Manager Chris Whelan, Captain Robyn Nichols, and Deputy Chief Tim Gleeson

March for Meals Champions — Spreading the Word about Senior Hunger

Senior Services of Alexandria along with elected city officials, city employees, school and community volunteers delivered Meals on Wheels in March to celebrate March for

Meals, raising awareness around senior hunger. Mayor Allison Silberberg proclaimed March as “March for Meals” month in Alexandria.

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Diana Franklin, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and daughter, Dolores Viehman

Speaker Series

Senior Services of Alexandria will present Aging Well, Working Together for a Livable Community for all Ages, next in a speaker series, on Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria.

City representatives will discuss plans for making Alexandria a “Livable Community”

for all ages and improving the lives of senior residents, programs and opportunities currently available to seniors and priorities for the future.

Register for this free event by calling Senior Services of Alexandria at 703 836 4414 ext 110 or visit <http://seniorservicesalex.org/april-speaker-series-aging-well-in-alexandria/>.

Senior Living

March for Meals Champions — Spreading the Word about Senior Hunger

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson and Councilman John Chapman



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and Stephanie Beyer, Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilwoman Del Pepper, and Fire Chief Robert Dube



Councilman Will Bailey, Shahnaz Ahmed from the Rotary Club of Alexandria, Councilman Tim Lovain and Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson



Todd Turner and Alisha Jackson, Meals on Wheels America



Alexandria Commission on Aging Jane King and Carol Downs



Esthefanie Zepata, member of Alexandria's Black Firefighters

Threading Your Way Through the Maze

One family's journey finding help to care for husband with dementia at home.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Laura “Fayse” Howard lives in the house her husband Allen built in South Arlington. The side entrance looks out on bird feeders hanging from a tree he planted. There is a bench big enough for two in the garden. The kitchen is the way kitchens used to be: cozy, galley size. In the living room, there are pictures of family, an antique organ, crocheted blankets, and a rescued dog named Diva who is keeping an eye on things from “her” armchair.

It feels like home, and it has been home to the Howards since Laura, or “Fayse” as her husband nicknamed her, came to Washington from southern Virginia, at age 17, to work at the FBI, and met Allen Howard, who had just been demobilized after serving the Coast Guard on a destroyer escort in WWII.

It was here that Allen Howard, 91, died recently, at home, with his wife and daughter Joan, and his nighttime caregiver, by his side.

Allen Howard had dementia, he probably had it longer than anyone knew, his wife thinks. He was 91. At Christmas, a year ago, he started really showing it. He went upstairs to be by himself while his much loved family was visiting downstairs in the family room; that wasn't like him. He accidentally set things on fire in the kitchen, leaving burners on. He put the outside water hose into the dryer vent.

In January, they sought medical advice. Their neurologist did tests and reported that Allen Howard had dementia. His wife couldn't leave him alone anymore. She had a good neighbor up the street who would come watch him while she ran to the supermarket. Otherwise, she was with him, 24/7. He was disoriented. He fell a lot.

Howard's daughter, Joan Davis, had come home for Christmas and saw how things were with her father. She didn't know how bad it had gotten, though, because over the next two months, her mother didn't let on how much the disease was taking a toll on both Allen as patient and Fayse as caregiver, or how little help they were getting. She didn't want to burden her children.

In late March, Howard called Arlington County to get hospice care set up because she had been told by their doctor that it was a way to get help. When she called Arlington County's Office on Aging and Disability, she says they told her over the phone that he didn't qualify.

Everyone kept suggesting Adult Day Care, but Fayse Howard said, “No, he's upset enough. That will upset him more.”



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE GAZETTE PACKET

Fayse Howard at home in Arlington with her dog, Diva.

THAT WAS BEFORE the accident.

On May 12, as Fayse Howard guided Allen into the dining room for lunch, he fell backwards, on her, and she fell too, breaking her hip. They lay on the floor. Neither of them could move for a while. Then she helped him get up to a sitting position and asked him to try to reach the phone; he handed her the TV remote control. She talked him through it, finally getting him to pull on the telephone cord. She didn't call 911 first. She called her neighbor to come watch her husband before she went to the hospital.

Davis came out from Wisconsin to help as soon as she could: she was surprised things had gone downhill so fast with her father. She got the doctor to intervene on the hospice option: Allen definitely qualified for hospice services which began right away.

But that wasn't enough care. Davis started diving into the problem. She wanted to make sure her mother was never left alone with her father again. She knew there were many options for help in the Arlington area: the Elderly Disabled or Consumer Direction Waiver (EDCD), PACE, the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, Arlington County Office on Aging and Disability. Davis started keeping a journal to help her thread her way through the daunting maze of options.

Fayse Howard had already enlisted the help of Arlington County's office of Aging and Disability Services after the fall. She

needed someone to come in and watch Allen while she was in the hospital. Arlington had given her a list of caregivers. Some were very good, and very expensive, she said. She paid out of pocket for the care. But later, when her daughter got involved, and because she stressed that both parents were disabled now, they were more helpful. Howard said, “I would have given up after the first voice message. My daughter just kept on them.”

Because both members of the family were disabled, Arlington provided paid care from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. five days a week. But as soon as Howard's hip was healed the benefits stopped.

Howard said she was distraught and tired. “I just gave up”, she said. “All I cared about was my husband and his comfort.”

Davis called the County and got more help. They were then able to get 15 hours of care a week, but by June 30 time ran out for that application; they had to reapply for help. Howard had trouble with the online application and said she wishes Arlington would offer paper applications to those who didn't grow up with computers.

But there was still not enough support. It was up to the family to fill in the hours with private caregivers, paying them out of pocket, to help take care of her husband. Howard said she paid an assortment of part-time workers about \$6,000 a month for 8 months in order to keep her husband at home.

Davis's research showed that there were benefits due Howard because of his veteran status. She called the Veterans Administration Hospital and they agreed to evaluate him in D.C.

Davis described a series of events that she said was almost comical. There they were, her mother on a walker, her father in a wheelchair.

Howard remembers the social worker suggesting her husband “really needs to be in a nursing home.” Their own doctor too had said the place for the Howards was not in their home, but in a facility. But Fayse Howard didn't think that was the right solution for her.

Both she and her daughter remember that painful day at the VA, filling out the long, involved forms, listing their finances. The VA sent them home that day with no plan, and said they could do more the next time he came.

HOWARD SHAKES her head in dismay telling the story. “Do they have any idea how hard it is to get a dementia patient out of the house, into a car, into a large hospital, on time, without an accident?” She had to hire a caregiver just to help get him into the car.

Then the Howards were put on a waiting list because there was no staffing for them. “Imagine,” Howard said with a wry smile. “They put a 91-year-old man with late stage Alzheimer's on a waiting list.”

On Sept. 9, the VA social worker finally organized care at home. The care from the VA Hospital was helpful, Howard said, but there were many challenges.

Howard remained the chief caregiver, despite the help. She managed the new challenges thrown her way as the disease progressed.

“He would hold pills in his mouth,” she said. “They'd find them later on the floor when he spit them out.” His dentures no longer fit so he couldn't chew his food anymore so Fayse pureed three meals a day for him so he could eat.

Fayse Howard found that she alone could get him to swallow when he resisted, or calm him down when he was upset. He would hold her hand, and give it a squeeze. Sometimes, he'd give her a smile that made it all worth it, she said.

Although their doctor took good care of her husband, Howard says she had to tell him one day to stop telling her to “remember you are not alone.”

“I am alone,” she said. “I've been alone since he got sick. When a decision has to be made, I make it. When I'm all alone in that house with him and he looks at me for consolation, it's I who have to take his hand and hold it, and try to keep things even.”

And fewer people came to visit. Those who did found that Allen Howard always perked up when an old friend or family member came by, even if he didn't remember them by name. Howard was so housebound that many times she felt iso-

SEE DEMENTIA, NEXT PAGE

Senior Living Finding Help

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

lated, and would have really lost her ability to cope had it not been for her neighbors, particularly Woody and Margaret Staeben. Woody, she said, comes in once a week to have a beer with her. “We call it our “meeting”, she laughed. It meant she and her husband had not been forgotten.

Howard said she had never heard of any of the services of Arlington County, like the Personal Advocate. She hasn’t been to any community centers. She has a computer, but doesn’t use the internet. “I guarantee you without my daughter, I wouldn’t have made the second phone call,” she says of the effort to find help. Allen Howard had run his own business. Fayse Howard had given up her retirement fund to add money to the business when it was having trouble. They worked hard, raised three children, sent one to college. They had enough to live on, just not enough to manage a long health crisis.

Davis says the thing that bothered her the most is that “there was no one to tell us what to do, no road map.” There were so many moving pieces.

Patty Sullivan, Interim Operations Manager of Arlington Neighborhood Village (ANV), agrees it is a real maze. As a member of the Arlington Commission on Aging, she knows there are many services available to Arlington residents, but is not sure why the word is just not reaching those who need the information, despite the brochures Arlington hands out.

“There isn’t a system,” she said. “Medicaid and Medicare, Social Security, State programs, County programs — none of them overlap.” You can hire a “care manager” to help you thread your way through the system, but that is prohibitively expensive, or you can join Arlington Neighborhood Village which provides some personal advocacy.

“Arlington County doesn’t have the capacity to handle all the issues with the elderly that are now coming into play,” she said.

Allen Howard will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on June 24.

Fayse Howard has a little more she’d like people to know.

“I want people to know it’s not all bad. When he looked across at me and smiled, or held my hand”, Fayse Howard said, “I knew I was doing the right thing. Knowing they depend on you, and that the

sound of your voice would still make a difference to them, even in the late stages of dementia, added a dimension to the meaning of marriage that some people might find hard to understand but it’s just as beautiful as some other stages.”

Advice from People who have been there:

What to do if you have a family member with Dementia:

- ❖ Plan for this even if both parents or spouses are healthy now.
- ❖ There are shortcuts: find out what they are. Tell your caseworker you don’t have much time.
- ❖ Ask for help; don’t try to do it alone.
- ❖ Don’t take “no” for an answer: keep asking and adding information. Often no doesn’t mean no.
- ❖ Insist on having a social worker assigned to you from the beginning, especially at the VA.
- ❖ If you are rejected by the Veterans Administration, don’t appeal: file to “reopen with new evidence.” Otherwise, you could be waiting years.
- ❖ Plead and beg: this is not a time to act self-sufficient. Don’t underestimate how bad your problem is: be graphic about the need.
- ❖ Plan ahead for this: no one wants to plan for Dementia, but if you don’t, you could end up being unable to arrange care; consider long term care insurance or find a living situation where there is a bedroom on the ground floor and room for a relative or caregiver to stay there overnight.
- ❖ Keep a journal with careful notes about who you have spoken to and what you were told. It will be invaluable when you have to call people back or remind them what they had agreed to last week.
- ❖ Be understanding when a child can’t or won’t help. Different people react in different ways.
- ❖ Get hospice early, check eligibility early.
- ❖ Volunteer: you can learn a lot about opportunities for the elderly by being part of an organization, and it will help keep you plugged in.
- ❖ Ask multiple sources about available resources. Everyone has a different piece of information to add.
- ❖ Get physical therapy for the patient for as long as possible.
- ❖ Don’t be ashamed to tell others. Dementia now affects 5.4 million Americans.
- ❖ Encourage visitors; some people shy away from visiting because dementia patients don’t always know who they are or respond appropriately, but they know when they are being visited; it provides relief for the family member too.

“Imagine putting a 91-year-old man with late stage Alzheimer’s on a waiting list.”

— Fayse Howard



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Senior Living

Taking the Long View

BY JOHN BYRD
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Budgeted, incremental improvements are the key to effective planning, aging in place.

When they decided not to move-on after retirement, seniors Mike and Sandy Nusbaum slowly began enlarging their long-term residence with several goals in mind.

Ten years and four improvements later, the couple's Alexandria home is ideal for extended visits with children and grandchildren—and all sorts of everyday pleasures.

Home improvements can come in many sizes: life-changing or simply necessary; comprehensive, or something to please the grandkids.

The real problem is practical: how to conveniently and affordably implement a list of desired improvements—especially when experience tells you that securing a satisfactory outcome for even a basic household repair can be challenging.

In this context, it's heartening to talk with Mike and Sandy Nusbaum, retired empty-nesters who have executed mid- to large-scale renovations to their thirty-year-old south Alexandria residence in phases, about once every two years and for more than a decade.

Plainly, the Nusbaums like their house, a circa-1980s Colonial-style home where they raised three children. While somewhat space-constrained at its original 2,100 square feet, the structure's location adjacent to woodland and minutes from historic Old Town made it hard to beat.

As retirement neared, however, the couple began cautiously reassessing their home's basic assets, even briefly considering a move to a bigger place.

"You have to ask yourself whether the next house will actually improve your quality of life," Sandy Nusbaum says, recounting her thoughts of twelve years back. "When we looked at the alternatives ... we realized there were only a few things about our house that we didn't like."

AND SO IT BEGAN. Plans for incremental changes. Kitchen and screened porch. New family room and deck. Lower level. Enlarged Garage ... Facilitated by a new relationship, with 30-year veteran remodeler David Foster, principal of Foster Remodeling Solutions.

"We met some homeowners at a local home show who raved about David," Sandy recalls. "David has a low-key style, and a strong service orientation that helps us make informed decisions."

Looking back, while the remodeler's fresh design ideas were critical, the couple also appreciated his clearly-stated, always-reliable cost projections.

"WE WERE ON THE CUSP of retirement and didn't want debt," Mike Nusbaum says. "Our first thought was to make targeted improvements to the kitchen while keeping our options open for the larger family entertainment suite we might undertake as



Mike and Sandy Nusbaum have enlarged their home four times in the past ten years. Each phase has improved the home's overall functionality, which has transformed it into a preferred gathering place for children, grandchildren and extended family. The garage and storage units have resulted in a dramatic improvement in available space and eliminated clutter.



Only 150 square feet was added to the family room, but the four-window course with "eyebrows" creates a visual continuum that makes the room feel significantly larger.



The first phase of a 10 year remodeling plans entailed replacing the kitchen/living room divider wall with a dining counter/serving station. The revisions allowed light from three directions. Maple cabinets and Silestone quartz surfaces provide a tonal and textural contrast.

we assessed the budget issue."

Foster was not only supportive of such thinking, but, as the Nusbaums learned, considers "phased remodeling" an integral part of his company's service.

"I grew up in Fairfax County and have learned my business by helping homeowners find a process that will work for them as they think ahead," he says.

Once work began, the Nusbaums particularly noted the foresight Foster brought to each improvement.

"Ten years ago, we wanted the rooms extending from the kitchen to function better as a place for entertainment. We had a small dining room that wasn't being used much. The back rooms were too dark," Sandy Nusbaum recalls.

In short order, the wall between the kitchen and dining room disappeared, replaced by a three-stool Silestone counter that has become the couple's primary kitchen gathering area. That counter surface was also positioned as a serving sta-

tion for the new elevated 16-by-16-foot screened porch that is now a much-used fair-weather dining spot.

A new window over the kitchen sink adds natural light and a lovely view of the backyard. "When you walk from the kitchen to the screen porch, it feels like you're walking in the air through the trees," Sandy says. "This gave us a wonderful re-discovery of our own backyard."

From there, it wasn't long before the Nusbaums began planning an extension of the rear family room, an open-air grilling deck and a pathway that permits children, grandchildren and guests to circulate freely through a wide-ranging suite of rooms used for social gatherings.

"It was at this point that we started having holiday gatherings for up to thirty," Sandy says. "Such fun!"

WHICH LED TO THE THIRD PHASE: Transform the 800-square-foot lower level into an exercise room that doubles as a guest

suite. Here a comfortable Murphy bed folds out of a discrete closet. There's a full bath, and built-in serving station with refrigerator and microwave. The Nusbaums refer to it as "the family suite." On holidays, it can be occupied for two or three days a stretch.

Then, just last year, Foster created a second bay for the garage by building a wing off the side elevation. The new construction is supplemented by a garden shed accessed from the yard. The contents, pruning tools, mower, freed up floor space in the garage, which now (for the first time) has room for something special: two cars.

"What we really appreciate about David Foster is there are no bad surprises, and frequently there are good ones," Mike Nusbaum said. "Last year, for instance, he repaired a window that was out of warranty and didn't charge us. That kind of service encourages you to think ahead."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

Luxury Condos are a Growth Market for Seniors

Active retirees seek options for independent living, including condos in Alexandria, Arlington, Tysons, Reston, McLean, Bethesda and Chevy Chase, among others.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

When Joyce and Don Lipman decided to move out of their Potomac, Md. home, they opted for a high-end townhouse instead of a retirement community. They gained a cosmopolitan environment and lost the burdensome maintenance of a large home.

"My husband always hated taking care of the grounds and he didn't want to pay someone to do it, and we weren't ready for a retirement community," said Joyce Lipman, who is 71. "Now I can walk to the shopping center and to my doctor's office. I couldn't believe it the first time I was able to go without my car. It was like a new lease on life."

When another active retired couple decided to downsize and move out of their home, they opted for a high-end condominium instead of moving to a retirement community. They enjoy traveling and own a beach home where they often spend time. When it came time to design their new living space, they sought the help of Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md.

The couple wanted "a pretty, yet practical home and also a place they could lock and leave on a moment's notice," said Proxmire.

Condominiums and townhouses are growing in popularity for midlife couples because unlike large homes, they don't require a lot of maintenance, and they offer opportunities for living independently.

"In the next three to five years, luxury condominiums are going to be extremely popular with that age group, those who feel the colonial home is too big and they don't want the ... mentality of retirement communities," said Debbie Miller, an Arlington-based associate broker with McEneaney



Kelley Proxmire designed plush interior for a retired couple who downsized from a larger home into a luxury condominium.

"In the next three to five years, luxury condominiums are going to be extremely popular with ... those who feel the colonial home is too big and they want the freedom of locking and leaving their home."

— Debbie Miller, McEneaney Associates

Inc. who specializes in the 55 and over real estate market. "Luxury condominiums provide a great option."

Miller says that in addition to proximity to shopping, dining and public transportation, amenities such as a 24-hour concierge

service that can handle requests such as meal delivery and grocery shopping make high-end buildings sought after among well-heeled retirees.

The buyers Miller works with are looking for condos "that provide a 'lock-and-leave' advantage for residents who ... like to travel or who spend six months here and six months elsewhere."

Such condominiums are prized and often hard to obtain.

"There are some that are very exclusive and [others that] don't come on the market very often," she said. "I sold a unit in the Rotonda [in McLean] a year ago and had multiple offers that were all cash."

ONE REASON THAT retirees opt for condominiums over retirement communities is freedom without restrictions, such as the frequency or length of stay for overnight guests. "In a retirement community, your

grandchildren might only be able to visit for two weeks. Condos provide more of an independent feel," said Miller. "Owning a condo allows them the opportunity to pay the condo fee and come and go as they please and someone else takes care of the maintenance."

Another reason is proximity, with a condominium community more likely than a retirement community to be in an urban environment like Arlington, Reston or Tysons.

Among the most favored luxury condominium properties in Northern Virginia, says Miller, are The Palladium of McLean, Midtown at Reston, the Porto Vecchio in Old Town Alexandria, and the Turnberry Tower in Arlington.

"There are many other high-rises that appeal to the 55 and older crowd due to convenience and lots of amenities and that are walkable," she said.

Gerontology experts offer perspective for retirees who are looking to buy a new home. "The main thing is to consider safety," said Beverly Middle, DNP, RN, Assistant Professor of the College of Health and Human Services in the School of Nursing at George Mason University. "Communities where there are other older adults tend to have services in place to support them."

Middle recommends using evidence-based design when creating dwellings suitable for seniors. "It's a new science that's geared toward older adults and is very specific to their needs," she said.

Addressing retirees' desire to live a vibrant and active life that takes freedom and safety into consideration, some retirement communities are working to broaden their appeal to a wider group of seniors. For example, Sunrise Senior Living, based in McLean, created a Live With Purpose program which offers residents structured programs that include activities for volunteering and learning.

"No matter your age, each of us has interests, desires and activities that make us feel whole and help contribute to a meaningful, healthy life," said Rita Altman, senior vice president of Memory Care & Program Services for Sunrise.

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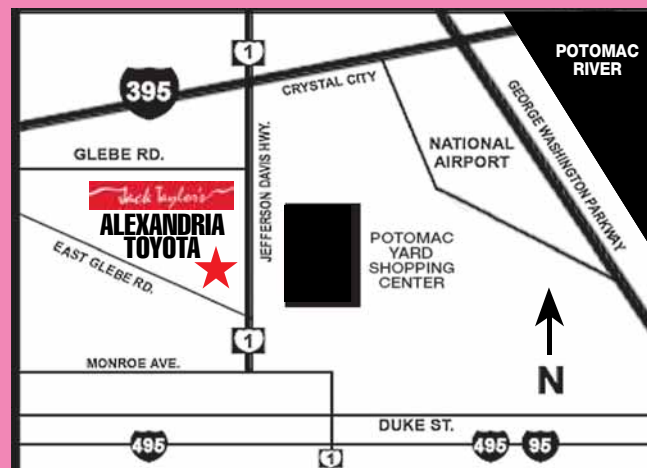
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