



25 CENTS



‘Live Big’

With a musical session and a baseball game, the Miracle League Program and several Alexandria institutions came together to celebrate the unveiling of a mural encouraging Alexandrians to “Live Big.” The mural, inspired by the Courage Wall that went up in Del Ray in 2015, was painted by artist Matt Corrado from Silver Spring. A friend of a friend told him about the project, and he wanted particularly to focus around making the design playful and colorful, but with an overall inspirational theme.

“It is amazing where courage has spread,” said Nancy Belmont, who had started the Courage Wall last year. “Fear is part of the human experience, you’re not alone. We’re all holding back from the world. But when fear is holding you back ... remember that we’re with you.”



The Miracle League Program celebrates the “Live Big” mural.

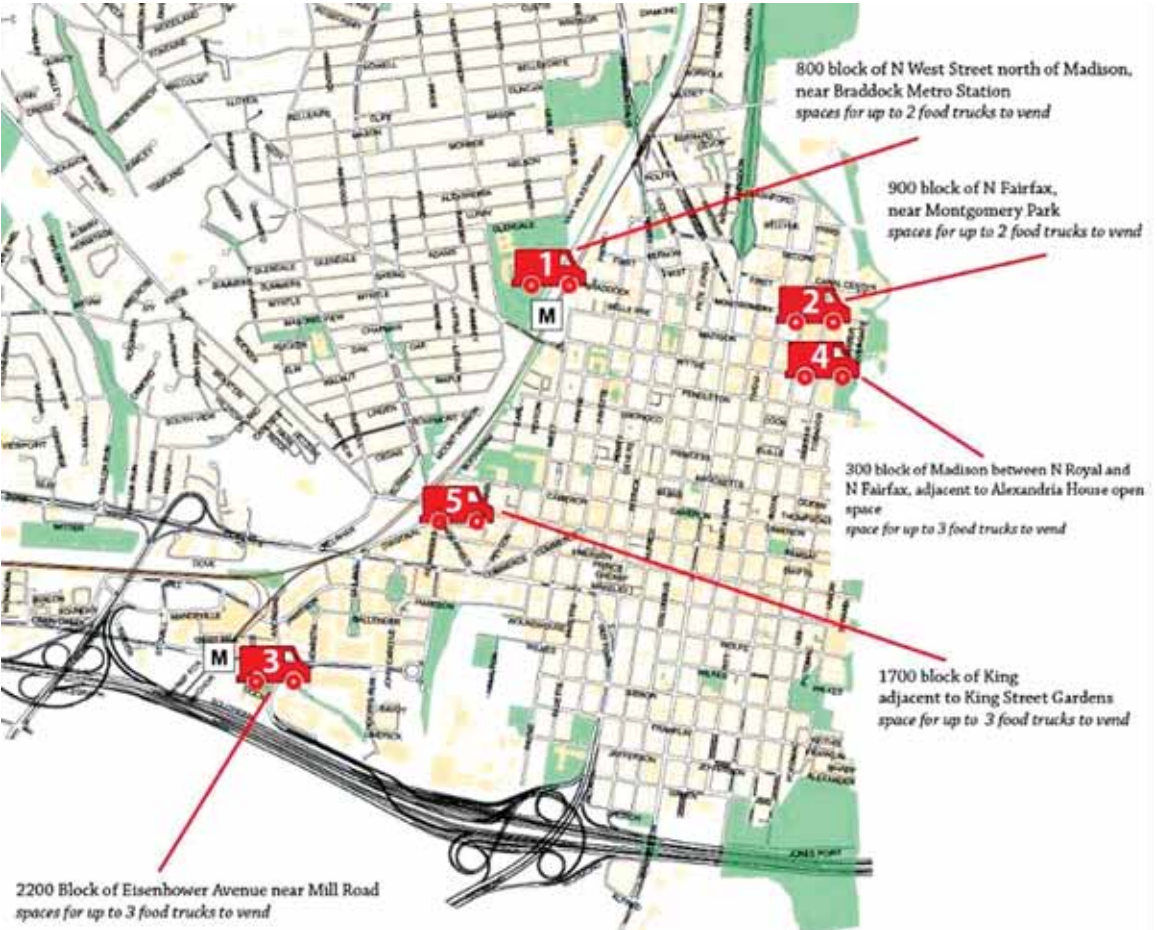
PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Food Trucks Cook Up Trouble in Old Town North

Parking and Transportation Board approves food trucks at Metro sites, but not in Old Town.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

to the elimination of the two Old Town North sites.



Map depicting proposed locations for food trucks in Alexandria.

Food trucks took three steps into Alexandria following a City Council meeting on April 16, but an April 25 Parking and Transportation Board hearing may have set them two steps back.

The council had approved food trucks to move into Alexandria with the locations to be determined. Staff proposed that the trucks be allowed to park at the Braddock, King Street, and Eisenhower metros, as well as two locations in north Old Town. But at the Traffic and Parking Board, skepticism on the board about the proposal’s impact on parking led

The proposal follows the two year-long pilot program that allowed food trucks to set up shop in various parks and city properties around the city. However, the program saw poor participation due to the heavy restrictions. City

staff hope new allowances for food trucks to park around the city will boost participation in the program.

But even before the comment was turned over to the public, members of the board expressed concerns about general food truck issues. Jay Johnson, for instances, argued that eight hours was too long to allow food trucks

“It’s not conducive to the community and not conducive to local business.”

— Margaret Townsend, President, Old Town North Community Partnership.

SEE BOARD OKs, PAGE 27

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Inside the Alexandria Police Department

Part 5: Crisis

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 sixth week of the course, citizens learned more about how the Alexandria Police react to crisis situations, including hostage situations and riot control.

When the police arrived at the Carlyle apartment complex to serve a warrant, one of the officers heard the man inside rack his gun and tell the officers to go away. Soon, police were swarming around the building, and a late night rainy standoff was underway.

In the middle of emergencies, Captain Jamie Bridgeman with the Special Operations Bureau says the Incident Commander is in charge. It's a clear distinction of leadership that keeps the situation from being muddled by tangled chains of command, and afterwards can help provide clarity regarding responsibility for the incident's outcome.

Much of this job involved juggling several competing needs. The public needs to be made aware of what's going on at a site, but Bridgeman said the suspects more often than not are monitoring the news and social media to find out what's going on. The area around the incident needs to be cleared of anyone who might be in danger, and yet the police also aim to minimize the public impact of this crowd control. In the Carlyle incident, police cleared the rooms adjacent to the suspect and above and below, but encouraged others in the apartment complex to remain in place. Given that the suspect had a window view overlooking the courtyard, the police also had to close off the main streets in the area. But in a few hours, the Federal Courthouse next door was going to be opening, and people would start trickling in and out of the area to go to work.

Eventually, the police used a roommate's key to enter the building. They found the suspect in a back room of the apartment, still armed. They flooded the room with a pepper-spray gas, and the snipers across the street saw that he went over to the window to get a fresh breath, at which point the police entered the room and arrested him.

Alexandria police say, on average they see an average of just one or two incidents like this each year.

HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

According to Lt. Scott Patterson, one of the first recorded hostage situations takes place in chapter 14 of the book of Genesis in the Bible. Abram's nephew Lot is kidnapped and Abram gathers his followers to defeat the enemy King and bring his nephew back. Between that time and the 1970s, the primary reaction to an active hostage situation was to use lethal force to end it and to consider the captives expendable. However, during the 1970s, a series of incidents like the Attica Riot and the Munich Olympics forced police in the U.S. to begin to reconsider their tactics. One legal case, *Downs v. United States*, had the widow of a man killed in a hostage standoff successfully sue the government for failing to try and find a peaceful resolution. Patterson said hostage negotiation was born out of that legal case.



Alexandria's Civil Disturbance Unit displays shield and pepper-ball tactics.

The trick to hostage negotiation isn't knowing how to talk, it's knowing how to listen. More often than not, the suspects in these cases just want someone to talk to, and the hostage negotiators give them an outlet. One negotiator, a primary, is ideally on the phone with the suspect and gives them their undivided attention. A coach, meanwhile, listens in on the conversation and offers advice on sticky notes to the primary.

Sometimes it can be difficult to establish that initial connection. Police try to use a phone as the primary form of communication, but they will use whatever means they can if that fails, including at one point passing notes to and from a suspect under the door of an apartment. During the incident at Carlyle, one police hostage negotiator's first time on the job, they were unable to make contact with the person inside the apartment. The negotiator had to keep talking and trying to keep up a one-sided conversation. This lasted over five hours, only for them to discover at the end that the suspect hadn't even been in the room.

Other outside factors can complicate negotiations. Deputy Chief Chris Wemple recalled two instances where police were working to talk down a person attempting suicide off

of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The negotiators would be talking to the suspect about getting them to step down, but then people passing in traffic that had gotten backed up would shout for the man to jump.

"It's empathy," said Patterson. "Identification of, not with, their motives, feeling, or situation. It's not sympathy or being nice."

Most often, someone taking hostages is in a heightened emotional state, so the Hostage Negotiations Team works to bring them back to a reasonable level. That can include bargaining, the most common chip being food, to possibly trade for hostages.

CIVIL DISTURBANCE UNIT

Alexandria has not had a riot in recent

memory. The closest the city has come concerned an Occupy Wall Street rally that was set to take place outside City Hall, but like many politically frustrated and disenfranchised millennials across the country, the police showed up only to find that very few others had, so they packed up their gear and went home.

But, with the idea that it's better to be safe than sorry, Captain Shannon Soreano said the unit was founded by Chief Earl Cook as a reaction to crises like those in Ferguson and Baltimore. It's a 52 unit group, many of whom are also patrol officers, and Soreano said the group's main use so far has been mutual aid to other cities and counties.

For the Civil Disturbance Unit, the priority is to protect public safety. When facing an unruly crowd, the unit targets instigators to arrest, coordinating to open up and scoop them into the police lines if they get close. The unit's purpose is to deal with riots, which often entail citizens throwing objects at the police. In Virginia, throwing an object at a police officer is usually considered assault and a felony, warranting use of force, but force protocol during a riot is a little different for the Civil Disturbance Unit. With shields and heavy armor on, being pelted with trash does not merit use of deadly force. The unit is equipped with a variety of other gadgets, like a gun that looks nearly identical to a paintball gun, to disperse pepper spray into a crowd.

Behind the police headquarters, the Civil Disturbance Unit displayed the tactics in action. For the sake of the other officers and the citizens, real pepper spray was not used.



Alexandria's Civil Disturbance Unit Officer in Riot Gear.

Next week, the Citizens' Police Academy meets the Alexandria K-9 Unit.

Responding to Teen Sex Trafficking

Comprehensive approach seeks to educate teens.

This story is part of a series that is focusing on child sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

In 2012 Fairfax County Detective William Woolf discovered a 16-year-old girl being prostituted by the MS-13 gang. At the time there was little recognition that the problem existed locally. The girl was recovered and since then Woolf has interviewed 300 recovered victims, some as young as 12-years old. After the initial shock, Northern Virginia businesses, faith communities and educational groups sought to understand the extent of the problem.

While Woolf says there is evidence of teen sex trafficking in every high school in Fairfax County, Arlington County Police detective Danny Ohr says that in his 11 years with Arlington County he has never seen a case of teen sex trafficking. Senior Public Safety Information Officer Crystal Nosal of the Alexandria Police Department reports only three cases of teen sex trafficking in the last three years.

The solutions to teen sex trafficking involve education, prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation. "I believe education is the key," Woolf said. "We want to stress prevention so it doesn't get to the law enforcement stage." To further this goal, Woolf, in his previous role as the only human trafficking detective in Northern Virginia, trained law enforcement officers to recognize the signs of human trafficking, serves as chairman of Just Ask, an organization established to educate and prevent teen trafficking and has worked with the school system to incorporate lessons on human trafficking into the middle and high school curricula in Fairfax County.

Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Educa-

tion for Fairfax County said, "The human trafficking court cases started breaking in 2012 and involved so many of our students. The court cases just kept coming. We had to act. We had to ask what did we have in place. As a result, a new curriculum was designed for grades 6-12 grades that incorporated human trafficking into the regular lessons. It involved getting school counselors and resource officers up to speed. We had to train school psychologists. All of this snowballed." In addition, "we had to get over the shock and the myth that it doesn't happen here."

In the summer of 2013, a video was produced to examine the issues and detail the trafficking recruitment process. In March 2014, the new lessons were completed. Payne said all schools were required to have a preview night for parents where the new program was introduced. "Sex trafficking is embedded in the lessons about abuse and community safety," she said. Some parents, mostly of sixth graders, she said, reacted with "My child is too young for this, it isn't happening here, or my child doesn't need to know this." When staff explained the time between 6th-7th grade is when the students gain more independence and may be left at the mall for an hour or two, the message seemed to reach the parents.

The process involves a letter sent home about what the child learned that day with a link for parents. Payne said parents can opt their child out of a particular session or all of it. Last year, out of 13,600 children only 5.5 percent of sixth grade parents opted out, with 1.4 percent of seventh grade parents and .7 percent of 8th grade parents.

Payne said the system is starting to yield results. She said she spoke recently to five middle school girls who had run away and were at high risk. "They said no, no, no problems to me but as soon as I left it was reported to me they started talking about their concern about friends. There is a lot of shame associated with this and the trafficker may have threatened them. But we are finding sometimes they will go to a trusted adult at school," she said.

Arlington Public Schools updated its curriculum last year according to Deborah DeFranco, supervisor of Arlington County Public Schools Health, Physical and Driver Education & Athletics. "Arlington Public Schools has specific health units on human trafficking in grades 7-10. Since it is part of the PE curriculum instead of Family Life, we didn't go through the same procedure as Fairfax County of parental notification — the opt out option and community input. We know sex trafficking is out there and we wanted to get out ahead of the problem. There are so many myths out there; we wanted to give the students facts," she said.

In addition, DeFranco is participating in the Northern Virginia Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. The result of the group's work will be updated and incorporated into these units of study. "It is close by," she said. "We know it is happening locally in south Arlington."



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Education for Fairfax County Public Schools reviews online the new curriculum designed for grades 6-12 grades that incorporates human trafficking into the regular lessons. "The teen sex trafficking court cases just kept coming; we knew we had to act," she said.

She said they had members of the Arlington police gang task force talk to the teachers last spring about known incidents, arrest and inquiries in Arlington. DeFranco added, "We are working on sexual violence prevention. When a child comes to report, they can experience double victimization and we need to be aware of that to avoid it happening. I feel that Arlington Public Schools is ahead of the curve trying to bring awareness, education and prevention skills to keep kids safe from this dangerous trend in the secondary health curriculum."

Education can take place in many different ways.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, who was involved in the enactment of legisla-

tion increasing penalties for trafficking while serving in the Virginia state legislature, said, "I try to inject this information wherever I am. You realize it is going on in your community so if you drive up to a hotel and see some creepy dude with three girls, start talking to them. What's your team or some conversation. You get vibes."

Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for Fairfax County remembers a story of someone who saw an older man drop a pick-up line on two young girls in a mall. After the man left, the person went over and told the girls what he had heard. He gave them the Just Ask website and the

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) human trafficking hotline (1-800-THE-LOST) in case they thought they might have been approached for sex trafficking.

"The community needs to know what to look for as part of the solution," Davies said. "And the community also needs to change their own biases about who we might see as a prostitute."

Beth Saunders approaches it from the business community. Saunders is president of Just Ask, a non-profit that was created specifically to work in Northern Virginia on education and prevention of teen sex trafficking. Saunders says the organization is broken up into sectors managed by volunteers and she is in charge of the business sector. "This is important because many of these kids' parents work in businesses. They can update their employees on the facts about trafficking."

Just Ask also has board members responsible for outreach to schools, churches and law enforcement. "When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives," Saunders said.

She emphasized, "The thing that matters for an organization like ours is hard core data like we got from Detective Woolf in law enforcement. People don't care what we think; actions have to be based on facts, statistics."

Woolf says churches also play a role in education because "it is also a morality issue and we're not educating kids on what sex is."

Deepa Patel, director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield, says sexual normalization is a huge problem: "It's OK for girls to wear skimpy outfits and they slap each other on the butt which is perfectly acceptable for them. Rappers talk about money, sex and power as the three things you need and pimps on TV are glamorized."

"When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives."

— Beth Saunders, President, Just Ask

Michelle Knight, Social Justice and Outreach Minister for Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington, says the church had a program Feb. 12 focusing on sex trafficking because churches have a responsibility. "We want to raise awareness, and it is a much bigger problem around here than most people think. I don't know if we are doing enough but we should be letting our youth know so that they can ask each other what's going on." She said that churches teach respect and dignity — that each person is special and loved by God and it gives less of a need to respond to the traffickers.



Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for the County of Fairfax, says there is a long way to go with this issue but he sees much more coordination than several years ago: "It is important to know where we have found success."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BOHN

Alexandria residents Cindy Way and James Caple, at right, are joined by Old Dominion Boat Club president Richard Banchoff and past president Carolyn Bell following the April 16 ODBC christening ceremony of a specially designed boat that the couple plans to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

Bon Voyage Couple prepares to row across the Atlantic.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria residents James Caple and Cindy Way gathered with family and friends April 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club to christen a specially designed boat that the couple plans to row

across the Atlantic Ocean later next month.

Caple and Way will begin the 2,800-nautical mile voyage on May 16, pushing off from Cape Cod, Mass., and row across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland. All required supplies, including a desalinator to make fresh water, will be carried on board.

SEE ROWING ACROSS, PAGE 26

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PEOPLE

Cleaning King Street from One End to the Other

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Louis Simms has spotted a large wad of paper on the sidewalk across King Street and he brakes his John Deere used as a street sweeper to pick it up. "I have a little bucket back there," he says. "I start on King Street by the subway station and do the street all the way down to the Torpedo Factory. I like cleaning. When I go to my friends' houses, they say, 'Louis, don't start cleaning'."

Simms putts down the street at "about two miles an hour I guess." He says, "you find everything; you'd be surprised." The oddest thing he ever found?

PEOPLE AT WORK

"Oh, oh. That would have to be the really huge live rat. I went to empty a trash can, and he ran out. You never

know what you will find."

Simms waves to a pedestrian crossing the street. "I know a lot of people, but not their names. But they know mine."

Simms has been cleaning streets for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services for 17 years. "I started on a trash truck recycling stuff." Then Simms worked five years in Mount Vernon sweeping the streets and picking up trash. He pulls out a long green handled pincher. "I don't know what this is called. I just call it my picker upper." Simms said Mount Vernon is where it all started for him. "I got real close to the community.



Louis Simms, an Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services City employee, has spotted some waste paper and has hopped out of his green John Deere to sweep it off King Street. Simms says he loves to clean.

"He worked in the Mount Vernon neighborhood for five years. Now he sweeps King Street five days a week from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Simms pops open the door and hops out again to get some stray pieces of paper stuck in the bricks. He explains the key spot in



Louis Simms waves as he takes off to sweep King Street in Old Town from the Metro to the Torpedo Factory. He says he knows a lot of people but not their names. "But they know mine and they call 'Hi Louis'."

Old Town is down by the river. Most people get off the boat there and take their pictures. "I have to stay on top of it so it looks nice." Simms pulls over in front of the olive oil store. "This area on the curb the sweeper couldn't get to so I'll clean it up. "He reaches in back of his truck and pulls out a large

bristled broom and red metal covered pan. "In it goes."

He says, "We're getting to the hardest part right now at Henry Street. Sometimes the parking is so bad that I have to park on the sidewalk and leave room for people to get around. Then I walk a couple of blocks to see what I can find."

Simms says his street cleaning truck doesn't have heat or air conditioning. So when it gets cold, he wears thick clothes and keeps moving. "The lady at the cleaners over there knitted me a nice scarf last year. It came in handy."

He adds, "I just live for days like today." Simms says in the winter he is on shift B that works from 11 p.m.-7 a.m. He fills up the gas tanks for the vehicles coming back in for refills of sand and he logs in what time the trucks come in and how many loads they get. When it rains, "oooooh, we have rain suits I just put on. The rain washes up a lot of things from the river like a catfish one year and an eel, too. And if I know it is coming the next day, I try to clean everything up ahead of time."

Simms said last year he was emptying a trash can at the compactor room "and I moved the wrong way. Whew it popped out. I kept working. Thought maybe the pain would go away. It didn't; it got worse and I had to get rotator cuff surgery. Was out for nine months."

He adds, "People thank me every day for keeping their area clean. It makes me feel good. I just love this job."

Champions of Change Community leaders to be honored at Philanthropy Summit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Bill Butcher opened Port City Brewery in 2011, not only was he committed to producing a quality craft beer, he also made it a goal to use his time and resources to improve the lives of others in his hometown. On May 3, Butcher will be among those honored for his philanthropic contributions to the community at the 18th annual Alexandria Business Philanthropy Summit.

Sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria, the Summit will feature a keynote address by U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald and will recognize local businesses and individuals for their volunteerism and philanthropy.

"I am very grateful to Bill and all of our honorees," said Marion Brunken, executive director of Volunteer Alexandria. "They are all outstanding volunteers who are committed to serving our community."

The Summit will take place at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

"The Summit is being supported by many wonderful companies and businesses who have invested in us and in Alexandria," Brunken said. "I'm very excited to hear from the Secretary McDonald, who will talk about service and we hope that we are able to make a few connections between the organizations and businesses in the room. I'm very much looking forward to a great breakfast event."

The 2016 Philanthropy Summit award winners include:

❖ Ray Crowell – Outstanding Veteran of the Year

Ray Crowell, a U.S. Air Force veteran, who is committed to helping veterans build sustainable and scalable businesses, is the 2016 Outstanding Veteran of the Year. This award is given to a military veteran who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in volunteerism, philanthropy, patriotism and public awareness of veterans' needs in Alexandria.

❖ Whole Foods Market, Old Town – Large Business Philanthropist of the Year

Whole Foods Market Old Town, committed to helping end hunger in Alexandria by engaging its customers and donating funds

and goods, is the 2016 Large Business Philanthropist of the Year. This award is given to a business in recognition of extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and financial support to the Alexandria community.

❖ Bill Butcher, Port City Brewing – Small Business Philanthropist of the Year

Port City Brewing Company's, Bill Butcher is the 2016 Small Business Philanthropist of the Year. Since its inception in 2011, the small company is engaged on all levels to support the Alexandria community. This award is given to an Alexandria business leader in recognition of extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and financial support to the Alexandria community.

❖ Tammy Mann, Campagna Center CEO – Nonprofit Leader of the Year

The Campagna Center's Tammy Mann, who has served since 2011 as the President/CEO, is the 2016 Nonprofit Leader of the Year.



Bill Butcher



Tammy Mann

Under Mann's leadership, the Campagna Center was awarded the 21st Century Learning Center grant for middle school programming and the Family Child Care Partnership Grant, providing increased access to early care and education for children and families. This award is given to a nonprofit executive who has shown extraordinary leadership for his or her organization, and has made a broader impact on the Alexandria community and the region.

❖ Cheryl Malloy, ALIVE! – Nonprofit Board Leader of the Year

Cheryl Malloy, who has supported ALIVE! for many years by leading its board, raising much-needed funds and volunteering countless hours, is the 2016 Nonprofit Board Leader of the Year. This award is given to a nonprofit board leader for their extraordinary commitment to volunteerism, board service and support of nonprofit organizations in the Alexandria community.



Cheryl Malloy

Tickets to the Alexandria Business Philanthropy Summit are \$35 and can be purchased online at www.volunteerallexandria.org.

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BUSINESS

New Shops, Restaurants Crop up across the City

A look at change in businesses.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a good time to dine in Alexandria. According to Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, the city has seen a boom in the last

year of new retail and restaurants. Many of the new locations are taking over old old spaces, one upcoming restaurant restarting a business from Alexandria's prohibition era. "It's a great place to come and dine," said Landrum. "And as more restaurants come in, they tend to cluster together."

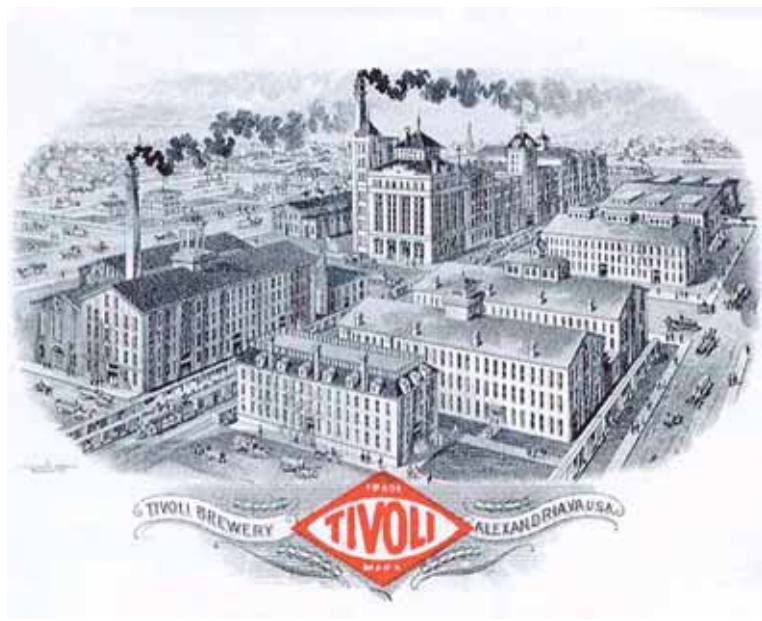


PHOTO BY PORTNER BREWHOUSE

Old art depicting Robert Portner's Brewing Company, which lasted in Alexandria from 1869 to 1916. The new Portner Brewhouse is coming to Van Dorn and is being run by Robert Portner's great-granddaughters, Catherine and Margaret Portner.



The Waterfront Cafe near the Torpedo Factory at the end of King Street is closed and will reopen as Vola's Dockside Grill, named for late city manager Vola Lawson.

PHOTOS BY
VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET



Poppy Nails and Spa, a new salon in the Potomac Greens shopping center.



An interior view of Poppy Nails and Spa.



Stitch Sew Shop, a new crafting supplies store scheduled to open May 1 on N. Fayette Street.



Junction Bakery and Bistro, opening in Del Ray.



Sweetgreen, a salad chain, will replace the Bittersweet Cafe at King Street, with interior construction expected to begin in the spring and an end-of-summer opening planned.



Periwinkle isn't new to Alexandria, but the former Shirlington business recently closed its doors in the West End and reopened them at 111 S. Columbus St.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMAN/GAZETTE PACKET

Above and Beyond

Honorees pose for a group photo with local officials following the April 20 Valor Awards presentation at Belle Haven Country Club. Sponsored by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 16 individuals were honored for heroic actions performed in the line of duty, including Captains Jason Wehmeyer and Wells Wilson, whose photos were inadvertently omitted in an April 14 profile of honorees.



Jason Wehmeyer – Life Saving Award

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Wells Wilson – Certificate of Valor

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OPINION

More Voters Might Not Mean Much More Voting

Governor's action brings Virginia in line with 39 other states.

Last week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements.

This moves Virginia into the mainstream; only 10 states have more restrictive policies about voting for people who have been convicted of felonies. Previously, Virginia had been one of the most restrictive states in terms of restoring voting rights. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

While some claim partisan motivation, with most of those affected presumed to be Democrats, getting these men and women registered to vote and to the polls is unlikely to result in 100,000 new voters in November. Studies show that people who were previously convicted of felonies who are eligible to vote register and vote at lower levels than the general population, according to the New York Times <http://nyti.ms/26kNrS2>, with a registration rate of around 30 percent and about 20 percent actually voting, although some suggest voting rates of between 10-15 percent. If, as the studies suggest, 55 percent of those would vote Democratic, then likely new Democratic voters would be around 22,000.

While that's a lot less than 200,000, it's also more than the margin of victory in quite a few statewide races. Consider that Attorney General Mark Herring (D) won his race by about 900 votes out of more than 2 million cast.

These new voters could have an impact on statewide races.

EDITORIAL

Districts for members of Virginia's General Assembly are so gerrymandered, it's hard to imagine that the impact of these new voters will be huge in terms of local representation.

In a Democracy, it's better when more people vote.

McAuliffe said: "If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance. We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Again, this action brings Virginia into line with 39 other states, with more than 20 states having less restrictive policies. For example,

on Feb. 9, 2016, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto and restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote. In Virginia, such individuals have to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

— MARY KIMM

Send in Photos For Mother's Day

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper 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, ages of children, 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 contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correct History

To the Editor:

I am writing to comment on the article about the latest meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names ("Civil War Still Reverberates," April 14). There were some

misinterpretations of history in the article that need to be corrected.

One member of the Advisory Group said the difference between Jefferson Davis and the other Confederate leaders is that Davis never pledged his allegiance to the United States the way Robert E. Lee did. But this is not true. Davis was a West Point graduate, a Mexican War veteran, and a former

Secretary of War. Davis had a record of Federal service similar to that of Lee.

It was also stated in the article that many of the streets in the West End named after Confederate leaders, like Beauregard Street, run through traditionally African-American neighborhoods. But the historical reality is that the extreme West End does not have any

traditionally African-American neighborhoods.

The old original Hammond High that existed from 1956 to 1971 served a white population from the West End. That was the reason for the controversial consolidation plan in 1971. It was to achieve a better racial balance in the city's secondary schools. It took a long time for the West End to become diverse.

I spoke before the Advisory Group at their third meeting on March 28 at the Downtown Baptist Church at 212 South Washington Street.

As a 55-year-old, lifelong Alexandrian with family roots in the city going back to the early 1920s, I felt it incumbent upon myself to do so. I am firmly opposed to changing the names of any streets or schools or moving the statue around. It would be costly and confusing and it would set a bad precedent. We must preserve our heritage, not desecrate it.

Historical study and historical education in the United States today are in bad shape and the causes are varied. We seem to have lost our way as a culture and as a society.

Gregory G. Paspatis
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2016 ❖ 11

Taking Steps To End Gun Violence

BY BRIAN MORAN

SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA



On April 7, I was pleased to be back in Alexandria, the city I love, to stand with Governor McAuliffe at City Hall as he vetoed three bills that will prevent gun violence and protect victims and survivors of domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Since taking office, Governor McAuliffe has been and continues to be a dedicated gun violence prevention advocate and has continuously promised Virginians that he will take action to keep our communities and families safe.

At the ceremony, advocates spoke on the importance of continued efforts and a strong commitment to ending gun violence. Then, surrounded by public safety officials, sexual and domestic violence prevention advocates, gun violence prevention advocates and elected state and local officials, Governor McAuliffe took action and signed

three veto statements.

As a former prosecutor, defense attorney and Alexandria legislator, I was glad to see House Bill 560 vetoed. The bill related to brandishing of firearms and attempted to incorporate

the element of intent into the law by requiring that a person know or reasonably should know that his or her actions would induce fear into the mind of another. This bill would have turned jurisprudence on its head by attempting to get into the mind of an offender and speculate at the offender's intent during a reckless and dangerous situation while also giving credence to the defense of "I didn't mean it."

As is the standard in all other criminal proceedings, the offender's intent can and should be inferred by the evidence; rendering this bill unnecessary. The Governor's veto demonstrates that he will not burden our public safety officials and create an avenue for individuals who recklessly handle

firearms to mount a defense based on fears from gun advocates that they will be prosecuted for brandishing while openly carrying firearms in the Commonwealth.

Governor McAuliffe also vetoed Senate Bill 626 and House Bill 766. These proposals would have allowed individuals seeking protective orders to lawfully carry concealed handguns for up to 45 days without having submitted a concealed handgun permit application or completed any of the necessary training that is essential to safe and proper handling.

This dangerous approach reintroduces firearms into already volatile situations and removes all safeguards currently in place that ensure individuals carrying concealed, particularly victims and survivors of domestic violence, have given careful consideration to the risks and responsibilities associated with carrying concealed handguns. This is not the right approach.

In fact, we know that when firearms are present in domestic violence situations, women are five times more likely to die. Virginia experienced 112 domestic violence

related homicides in 2014, 66 of which occurred with a firearm.

Earlier this year, Governor McAuliffe signed several pieces of legislation as part of a bipartisan firearms agreement, including Senate Bill 49 and House Bill 1391 that addresses this issue head on and will save lives in the Commonwealth. With the Governor's action, individuals subject to permanent protective orders of family abuse will now be required to sell or transfer their firearms within 24 hours. Any person who fails to turn over their firearms will be guilty of a Class 6 felony, resulting in up to five years imprisonment in permanent loss of his or her firearms rights. This will be the toughest domestic violence law in the nation when it takes effect on July 1.

As the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, I share Governor McAuliffe's commitment and dedication to keeping Virginians safe. As a candidate, he made gun violence prevention a top priority and as Governor, he has succeeded in taking real, tangible steps to end gun violence in Virginia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

Airport Noise: City Approved?

To the Editor:

My wife and I just returned after four months in Arizona. We live in Old Town just two blocks from the river. When we left, the noises from aircraft leaving and landing at Reagan National Airport were annoying and barely tolerable. But one would have a hard time arguing that the Potomac River was not a logical flight path.

Upon our return we now discover that our house appears to be a runway for aircraft starting at 6 in the morning to 11:30 at night. Not only are we, and others in our neighborhood with whom we have spoken, annoyed at the considerable noise, but I do worry what the effect might be on our historic homes.

How did the change take place? Was there any input from citizens and/or the

City Council? It's hard to believe that that this change was arbitrary. I find it also hard to believe this coming into our airspace could take place without some discussion with the City Council.

Bluntly put, did the City Council or the City Manager's office actively allow this to happen? And if it was approved by the city, most important, can it be undone?

Ed Spar
Alexandria

Rental Rates Cheat Taxpayers

To the Editor:

The article in the Gazette Packet last week ["Battle at Torpedo Factory"] fails to highlight the problem that the City of Alexandria has been giving the Art League an extraordinary deal on the rent of the building over the past 40 years.

The city currently receives \$370,000 (they want to pay less but that is another

story) per year for 72,500 square feet of prime waterfront space (about \$5 per square foot) plus utilities. This compares to \$20 - \$25 per square foot that everyone else pays for commercial space in the area. The difference between what the city gets and what they could get if they charged a market rate rent is about \$1 - \$2 million per year. If the status quo stands, the taxpayers of Alexandria will be on the hook to pay for this shortfall of potential revenue so that the Art League can continue to enjoy their highly discounted rental rates for the Torpedo Factory.

I contacted the City Manager's office to determine whether there would be an effort to obtain competitive bids to rent space at a market rate (and why wouldn't they do it if they were planning to continue on with the current arrangement). The answer I got from the City Manager was that "... the Torpedo Factory is a City investment in the arts and is not intended to achieve a 'highest and best' in regard to direct fiscal return on investment for the City ... How-

ever, we are interesting (sic) in achieving the best possible outcomes in regard to the use of the Torpedo Factory building for arts/artists' purposes ..."

As a taxpayer I am both sickened and outraged that the city has allowed this situation to continue as long as it has. We have an asset that is worth hundreds of millions of dollars that apparently provides no tangible benefits to the city at large.

And furthermore, there is evidence that no one in the city cares about generating income to lessen the reliance on property tax revenue. After all, the taxpayer ATM is without limit, and we certainly can't expect that special people in the city have to pay what others would pay.

At the same time the city is providing highly discounted rental rates and other perks to the Art League, they are also saying that they need to significantly raise tax rates to pay for essentials (e.g., infrastructure, maintenance, etc.). Yes, we do have a number of essential items that we need and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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HISTORY

Ceremony Honors Firefighters

Remembering those who died in pursuit of John Wilkes Booth.

BY BRAD PENNEY

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 24, honoring the soldiers and firefighters who perished the night of April 23, 1865 during the collision of the steamship Massachusetts and the canal barge Black Diamond. Among the casualties in the maritime tragedy were four Alexandria firefighters who were assigned to the Quartermaster Corps in search of John Wilkes Booth, following the assassination of President Lincoln. The Black Diamond was on picket duty on the Potomac, in pursuit of Booth, at the time of the collision, which claimed a total of 87 lives.

The service was held at the St. Clements Island Museum; the collision occurred just one mile off of the island in southern Maryland, where military intelligence expected Booth to undertake a night-time crossing of the Potomac into Virginia.

The Alexandria Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the ceremony, which was attended by a number of city firefighters who laid a wreath at the museum overlooking the site of the collision. The four Alexandria firefighters are buried

in the Alexandria National Cemetery at 1450 Wilkes St.

The story of the pursuit of Booth by civilian employees of the Alexandria Fire Department has been largely forgotten and overshadowed by the momentous other events of April 1865, which included the evacuation of Richmond; the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox and later General Joseph Johnston in North Carolina; the assassination of President Lincoln; and — the day after Booth was killed at Garrett's Farm — the sinking of the steamship Sultana on the Mississippi with a loss of 1,800 lives, more casualties than were sustained in the loss of the Titanic.

The Black Diamond was an iron hull steam propeller canal boat (or barge) built in 1842. Before being chartered by the Quartermaster Corps during the war, the Black Diamond's normal duties were transporting coal between Washington, D.C. and Alexandria.

The crew of 20 consisted of men from the Alexandria fire department. Unknown to the crew of the Black Diamond, Booth had already crossed the Potomac into Virginia at the time the collision with the Massachusetts occurred.

Plans are currently underway for a monument to be erected on St. Clements Island in honor of the 87 soldiers and firefighters who died in the collision of the Massachusetts and the Black Diamond.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

we need to start paying for these services by eliminating the perks that special interests are getting.

I don't mind paying taxes for services and things that help people who need it, but I do object to paying more taxes just because people don't want to pay their fair share when they can (this includes artists who are probably not starving, developers, insurance companies and billion dollar corporations).

The current contract with the Art League is set to expire in June. Everybody who feels strongly about this issue should communicate their views to the City Council as soon as possible.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

Rational Spending

To the Editor:

I want to thank Mayor Allison Silberberg for her April 21 reflection ["Decision Time on City Budget Deliberations"] on the city's upcoming budget decisions. She continues to live up to her reputation as "A Voice of Reason" as her campaign claimed. I am not intimately involved in all aspects of city governance and decision making. But I have had the opportunity to witness one such process in the planning for a new recreation center in conjunction with the rebuilding of Patrick Henry Elementary. To this day, despite a decision to build a neighborhood (v. community) center, city staff continues to advocate for enhancements beyond its mission, enhancements to the tune of several million dollars that have been consistently opposed by the immediate neighborhood it is supposed to serve. As a taxpayer, I ask, "Are we justified in raising taxes for this? For what other nice but not needed projects will we need to raise tax revenue?"

I am a lifelong Democrat. For the most part, the Party represents my personal ideals for social action and social justice. I have bristled at the label of "tax and spend" often leveled against my Party. I don't mind paying taxes, or even increases in taxes, for what is genuinely needed by our community and its residents. Mayor Silberberg's position is the antithesis of "tax and spend." It is a reasoned approach, acknowledging priorities, including our debt and major infrastructure repair needs. I hope the Patrick Henry process is not reflective of other processes across the city. If it is, then I fear that

those who might accuse us of being "tax and spend" might find justification.

Tom Suydam
Alexandria

What's the Plan For Torpedo Factory?

To the Editor:

Are we seeing only the tip of the iceberg in news accounts about the long-festering friction over the Torpedo Factory's future? Does behind what we see lurk some ulterior agenda, albeit disguised in consultants' reports and other smoke screens? The Torpedo Factory controversy is not just about artists versus accountants, but really about Alexandria's soul.

We hear from city hall a constant litany about the need to "invest" in infrastructure, schools, etc. While in some respects this is merely a euphemism for a gargantuan tax increase, about what we would well wonder might better be why city hall is more than happy to throw millions of dollars at various investments, but not a few hundred thousand at the Torpedo Factory which indirectly returns what the city invests in a dozen times over in tourist-generated tax and business revenues.

On its face, this disparity is so cognitively dissonant that there must be some hidden agenda. Indeed, one lately fears that Mayor Silberberg's transparency and ethics efforts cannot overcome city hall's entrenched *modus operandi* of governance by hidden agenda. For example, out of seemingly nowhere, comes city hall's recent Ramsey Homes *volte face* (about face).

In 2010, the Torpedo Factory artists were cowered into silence by city hall's threat against the Torpedo Factory's governance structure, but their ensuing silence on the waterfront plan may come back to haunt them. Behind the back-and-forth over consultants' reports, the Torpedo Factory's governance structure, and city hall's reluctance to invest in the Torpedo Factory must lurk some unspoken motive likely connected to the waterfront plan and city hall's and the developers' as yet unspoken goal of integrating the Torpedo Factory into the theme of some business model very different from today's *status quo*. Whether an upscale mall, even one specializing in art, studios which double as revenue-generating venues with riverfront views, etc., their ulterior vision

has not yet been publicly enunciated. But be assured its invisible hand is guiding events.

How could it be other than city hall, desperate to assure its controversial roll of the dice with the waterfront plan does not turn up snake eyes, is looking to recast the Torpedo Factory's function? The waterfront plan and other city decisions about the waterfront are drastically altering nearly every other nearby venue. Why would we assume the Torpedo Factory is to be left as is when everything around it is being consciously, purposefully altered? We have not yet been told, however, how or into what the Torpedo Factory is to be changed.

City hall was caught off guard by the waterfront neighborhood's opposition to the waterfront plan. It found itself unexpectedly having to resort to hasty, heavy-handed tactics, such as refusing in a public hearing to even accept the Iron Ladies' petition. City hall, however, is prepared to deal with the artists whose opposition it will have to overcome. That is why it is seeking slowly to undermine them and reduce their influence before steamrolling some drastic alteration of the Torpedo Factory's function fitting some broader, quietly contemplated commercial waterfront vision.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Making Mockery Of Historic Easement

To the Editor:

I have fond memories of growing up in an historic home with a lovely garden on South Lee Street. My mother loved the large garden with its beautiful magnolia tree and

the birds that frequented her feeders.

For more than 40 years, my parents took great pains to behave as stewards of the property, which was built in the early 1800s on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River. They even went so far as to create an easement that is supposed to protect in perpetuity the historic façade of the home, as well as the unique open space that surrounds the property. They saw the easement as a way to help preserve the historic character of Old Town.

But a successful easement requires two things: an owner that respects the easement, and an easement holder that monitors and enforces it.

In this case, the current owner appears to have violated the conditions of the easement. He has torn down the front wall and iron fence, and he is now asking the city to approve this violation of the easement, after the fact. It should be noted that the easement provides substantial property tax relief to the property owner.

Last week the Board of Architectural Review for the Old and Historic Alexandria District refused to grant him after-the-fact approval of the demolition of the front wall and fence. That's a good first step, but the easement holder, the Alexandria Historic Preservation and Restoration Commission, should enforce all the conditions of the easement, through legal means if necessary.

This should include forcing the property owner to replace the wall and fence, and requiring that he restore the garden to its pre-construction appearance. Doing anything less makes a mockery of the easement that was created to protect this beautiful home.

Andrew Macdonald
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUMMER 2016

Host Families Wanted. The Alexandria Aces will be playing in their ninth season in Port City, this year, and are actively seeking host families for the upcoming 2016 season. Players need a spare bedroom with access to a washer or dryer during the upcoming months of June, July, and early August. Contact Amy Goodrich at amy_goodrich@comcast.net for hosting information. Visit www.AlexandriaAces.org.


SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO


Free Cab Rides. Thursday, May 5, 4 p.m. through Friday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. Visit www.soberride.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Breakfast With The Principal. 8:15-10 a.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Join Cora Kelly's Principal and FACE Manager for coffee to learn how to be engaged in your child's education. Light breakfast and interpretation services provided.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 24





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Submit nominations online by May 20, 2016 at: www.alexchamber.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

3 Farmer's Market Finds for Spring

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

The dawn of spring brings lots of vendors back to Alexandria's farmer's markets. Fresh lettuce, tomatoes, the short-but-sweet ramp season — it's always a feast for the senses this time of year. Here are three area vendors to pay particular attention to.

Bigg Riggs Farm, Old Town Farmer's Market

Visit the Old Town Farmer's Market more than once and you'll know this farm's tent by sight — and have likely received a friendly greeting by Bigg Riggs' gregarious owner Calvin Riggelman. Come springtime, Bigg Riggs' stand is overflowing, offering spring greens such as fresh lettuce and pac choi, some relics of winter like sweet potatoes, and that delicacy of early spring, ramps.

Ramps can be a bit of an acquired taste. But give them a chance to show off their onion-like, garlicky taste in anything from biscuits to omelets to salads and they'll likely win you over. With green leaves that resemble an unfurled scallion and a white base that looks like a tiny leek, these slight, slender wild onions pack a punch. And their season is short: Just several weeks in duration, their presence is the epitome of making hay while the sun shines. Give them a try before the season passes.

No. 1 Sons, Del Ray and Old Town markets

Who says farmer's market bounty needs



Ramps' availability is sparse each spring-time, but Bigg Riggs has you covered during the season.

to be freshly picked? Over the past several seasons, No. 1 Sons has solidified its status as the D.C. area's resident fermentation experts, offering pickles, kraut, kimchi, and kombucha every Saturday in Old Town and on the first and third Saturdays in Del Ray. And the lines at both locations each weekend shows that the pickle business is booming.

One of the gems of the bunch is No. 1. Sons' "Stinkin' Rye," a sauerkraut that certainly lives up to its name. Don't be put off, though; this kraut is worth its odoriferous introduction. At home on hot dogs, on sandwiches, or even by itself, the Stinkin' Rye quickly becomes the star of the show.

Bagel Uprising, Four-Mile Run Market

Visitors to the Four-Mile Run Market in Arlandria each Sunday have surely seen the line for Bagel Uprising's wares. As soon as owner Chad Breckinridge arrives each week, he's mobbed by dozens of customers waiting to get their Sunday bagel fix, and he's only too happy to oblige.

The first thing you'll notice about Breckinridge's bagels is that they stick to the pure tried-and-trues: plain, poppyseed, everything, salt, and sesame-seed. This purist mentality means you won't see such upstarts as blueberry or asiago, and that's just fine. Grab a baker's dozen of mixes and

Arrive at 10 a.m. on Sundays at the Four-Mile Run Market to enjoy some of Bagel Uprising's goods.



matches and set yourself up for the week ahead. (Hint: They freeze beautifully, though it's unlikely you'll have any left over to preserve.)

As word of Breckinridge's delicious bagels began to spread, it's only natural that opportunity would come knocking. Two weeks ago, Brabo in Old Town began featuring Bagel Uprising's bagels on its Sunday brunch menu, ensuring bagels across town each Sunday. Bagel Uprising fans aren't complaining.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "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 for more.

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 portraiture and still life in tightly cropped compositions. The artist 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.

Musical: "Starlight Express."

Through May 7, 5 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. Saturdays at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac's Beyond The Page Theatre presents an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the imagination of a young boy and his toy trains. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

Spring 2016 City of Alexandria

Tree Sale. Through May 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Trees and shrubs available for purchase include White Oak, Scarlet Oak, American Holly, Flameleaf Sumac, Eastern Red-Cedar, Maple Leaf Viburnum, Blackhaw Viburnum, and American Sweetgum. All trees are \$20. Visit www.alexandriava.gov 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 703-751-2022 for more.

Art Exhibit: "The Hand Speaks."

Through May 22, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center presents work of Kara Hammond and Drew Parris in an exhibit entitled: "The Hand Speaks." Recently juried into the Torpedo Factory, TAG newcomer Drew Parris is primarily self-taught in the medium of graphite drawing. His subjects, often family and friends, offer the viewer a unique emotional connection to his work. Kara Hammond will feature new ink wash drawings each a unique story unto themselves. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Mount Vernon Historic Plant Sale.

Through May 22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. At the Mount Vernon Historic Plant and Garden Sale, historic trees, shrubs

and plants as well as a wide variety of annuals, perennials, heirloom tomatoes and herbs — each carefully nurtured in the Mount Vernon greenhouses—will be available for purchase. Admission is free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Black Pearl Sings!" Through May 29, 8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Black Pearl Sings! is about two women in Depression-era Texas: an ambitious Library of Congress musicologist, searching for the African roots of slave songs, and the discovery of the musical gifts of an African American woman. Tickets are \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now."

Through May 29, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Kellner's site-responsive Paintings in Space use 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 Gallery's New Media Invitational and is funded, in part, by March150 participants. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Exhibit: "A Retrospective Exhibit of Florals and Still Life." Gallery

hours at Goodwin House Alexandria Art Center, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Artist Concetta C. Scott presents her work. Call 703-578-1000 for more.

Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind."

Through June 12, gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

"Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists."

Through June 16, gallery hours at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together watermedia floral and landscape painters from the area. Free. Visit www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

The von Brahler Ltd. Gallery:

"Circuitous Roots." Through June 30, 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

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

Mount Vernon High Presents 'Starlight Express'

West Potomac's Beyond The Page Theatre presents an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the imagination of a young boy and his toy trains. Shows are April 28-May 7, 5 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. Saturdays at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

over three decades, as well as Liberal Studies' Artists from Georgetown University, Anna Katalina, Nan Morrison, Anne Ridder, Robert Murray and Rana Ryan. Free. Contact Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or vbgpromo@aol.com.

"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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

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

Spring Benefit: The Child & Family Network Center. 7-11 p.m. at 165 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md. Based in Alexandria, The Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC) provides bilingual, high-quality, free education and intensive social services to at-risk children and families in their own neighborhoods. This event is "An Evening in Venice." Tickets are \$250. Visit www.cfnc-online.org for more.

APRIL 29-MAY 29

Exhibit: Ethiopian Crosses. Gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. With their elaborate lattice work and geometric patterns, Ethiopian Crosses have a variety of form, and are a decorative artistic emblem. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Jefferson Manor Community Yard Sale. 7-11 a.m. at 6020 Monticello

Road. More than 30 houses in the neighborhood will be participating. Maps and the communal area will be at 6020 Monticello Road. Free. Email khfloyd@gmail.com for more.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Vendors from four states sell native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

The West Potomac High School Marching Band Car Wash. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Belle View Elementary School, 6701 Fort Hunt Road. Help raise money to cover band expenses for the 2016-2017 school year. Donations accepted. Call 254-931-5249.

Boundary Stone Bike Tour. 9:15 a.m. at Entrance to East Falls Church Metro Station. Bike for 35 Miles visiting boundary stones and parks. See 12 historic D.C. boundary stones in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County. Free for Center Hiking Club members, \$2 for non-members. Visit www.centerhikingclub.org for more.

Alexandria Earth Day and Arbor Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Find "Tent Talks," featuring topics such as recycling in Alexandria; choosing native plants in Alexandria; oyster restoration; and live animal exhibits, the Sixth Annual Upcycling Showcase, featuring students from Alexandria City Public Schools who will show their upcycling creations based on the theme "Choose to Reuse—Your Choices Matter," and more. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Earthday.

Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour. 12-6 p.m. at the Hollin Hills Historic District. Attend a self-guided tour of the mid-century modern neighborhood. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 starting on April 29. Visit www.hollinhills.net for more.

"Kids Helping Kids: A Little Music Goes A Long Way." 5 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. West Potomac High School sophomore and trumpet prodigy, Geoff Gallante, will headline a benefit concert. Free, but donations accepted. Visit www.aliceskids.org.

New Hope Housing: Let's Dance

Two. 6:30 p.m. at 600 Dulany St. Five dancers compete for votes and donations to New Hope Housing, which provides program to help end homelessness. Tickets are \$125. Visit letsdancetwo.splashthat.com.

Hollin Meadows Neighborhood Gala. 7-11 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place. Proceeds benefit the school's STEM Lab and outdoor education programs. Tickets are \$100. Visit biddingowl.com/HMPGala.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The ball will include live music, dance instruction and period desserts. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 1

Revolutionary War Weekend. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Step back in time and experience more than 500 Continentals, Redcoats, Hessians, cannon, and cavalry in action at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Meet hundreds of Revolutionary War military re-enactors, learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle re-enactments. This family-friendly event features a youth muster on the bowling green, military medicine and artillery demos, and even greeting "Lady Washington." Tickets are \$17 for adults age 12-61, \$9 for youth age 6-11, \$16 for seniors age 62+ and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Bagels and Bach. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music while children learn to appreciate it. Light brunch provided. Tickets are \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents, and free for children under 5. To register online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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ENTERTAINMENT

Port City Playhouse Stages 'Coming Home'

Story follows HIV-positive woman in South African village.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Athol Fugard's "Coming Home," being staged by Port City Playhouse, centers around an HIV-positive woman who returns with her son to the rural South African village where she grew up, hoping to persuade the man she left behind years before to be a father to the boy after her death. It's a bittersweet story of love and loss, grace and forgiveness.

Director Eleanore Tapscott said what she was trying to accomplish in telling this story is that hope — even the smallest, tiniest seed of hope — is possible even in the bleakest of situations. "Dreams are the undeniable hopes that make all human beings equal," she said. "Having dreams fail is a universal experience. However, when our dreams fail, it is important to be able to come home for rest, reassurance, and healing."

She said her challenges as the director was the dialect/accent. "This play's language is tricky because it is primarily in English but then some Afrikaan words are thrown into the mix," she said. "It was important to ensure there was consistency in the pronunciation of those words."

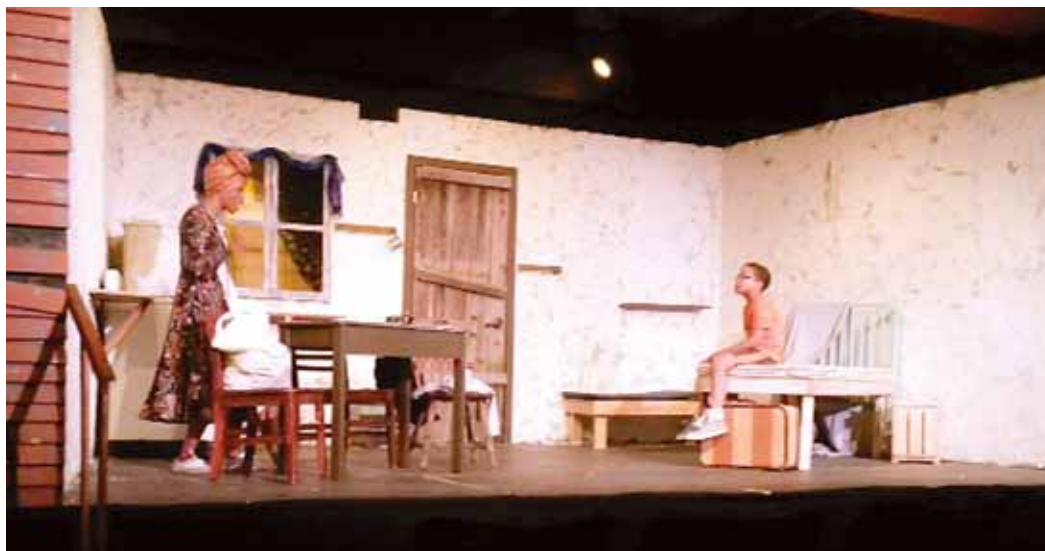
Another challenge was the long monologues spoken by some of the characters. "Not only is it important for the actor saying the monologue to act the intent and relevant emotions of the story, but the other actors on stage have to listen — not pre-

tend to be listening — but actively listen and respond (even when they have no lines)," she said.

She added: "What I found interesting is how the playwright builds on the cultural tradition of story telling — each of these monologues is the base for telling a story — and that oral tradition of telling stories so prevalent in this play's culture — is one I find being increasingly lost in current American culture."

She added that the work is not done when it comes to HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS, there are 36.9 million people globally living with HIV. In the metro-D.C. area, HIV rates remain high among young African-American gay men. "We, as a nation, and in our individual communities, cannot become complacent," she said. "We are all responsible and have a role to play to ensure the continuance of public health policies that provide necessary medical care and medicines — without judgment — to our most vulnerable and at-risk populations."

Producer and Port City Board member Becky Patton said she is excited to be able to showcase Fugard's talent as a playwright and his commitment to bettering the lives of South Africans. "I don't think we have a good appreciation for how devastating HIV/AIDS is in a country (or on a continent, for that matter) that still has large swaths of population that are living so far below what we consider the poverty line and the lack of available government or social services to provide any kind of safety net," she said.



Port City Playhouse is presenting "Coming Home" from April 29 to May 14.

As far as challenges, she said: "You would think casting a show with only four people would be easy — it's not. We have such a wealth of community theatre in the D.C. metropolitan area that it made choosing just four very difficult."

She added: "It was exciting to watch our designers interpret the playwright's directions on sets, costumes and lighting. The Port City Playhouse space at the Lab at Convergence really challenges designers to be creative and gives them a chance to shine."

As far as audience takeaways, she said, "While HIV/AIDS is still a devastating illness that has tremendous repercussions across entire societies, the strength and courage with which individuals deal with the hand they are dealt is inspiring. There is hope and with commitment to that hope, we can find peace."

Actor Mack Leamon plays the role of Alfred Witbooi, a simple man with a simple life. "His big dream in life is to own his very own bicycle," he said. "He possesses a child-like innocence about the big world around him."

He said the biggest challenge with the

piece was some of the language. "It is a South African play, so learning the different sounds and speech patterns was a big challenge, but also very interesting and fun," he said.

He hopes the audience will first and foremost be entertained. "I also hope that they are able to feel every emotion in the play. I want them to be a part of our little family," he said.

Actor Justice Alexander Ervin plays the role of Manneltje Jonkers, of which he said: "I like Manneltje. Sometimes he's a little hateful to Alfred, but he could think that Alfred is going to go away like his real father. He definitely loves his mom."

He said the challenge with the role was getting stopped all the time in rehearsal and trying to hold still during all his speeches.

"I think the audience should walk away believing that this show is amazing," he said.

Port City Playhouse is staging "Coming Home" April 29-May 14. The Lab Studio Theatre venue is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. See www.ourconvergence.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

webtrac and use 455208-02 code to register.

Celtic Spring Fling. 12-4 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Celtic music, Irish dancing, games for kids, petting zoo, crafts, maypoles, blacksmith demonstrations, food and drinks. Free. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

Wetland Awareness Day. 12-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Stroll the woodland and wetlands trails, meet a raptor up close, and enjoy interactive displays. Free. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Metropolitan School of the Arts: "Sleeping Beauty." 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. The Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) youth ballet presents "Sleeping Beauty" with two students; Seemka Ogunfeditimi, MSA 10th grader and Elpida Voryas, MSA 9th grader as leads. Tickets are \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

Reception for "Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." 1-3 p.m. at Green

Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together some of the area's top watermedia floral and landscape painters. Free. Visit www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Reception for Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind." 7-9 at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

MONDAY/MAY 2

Garden Sprouts: Nature

Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. This new playgroup features nature-themed activities one Monday a month. A staff member is on hand to put out nature sensory bins, direct games and activities or lead a garden walk. The theme for May's playgroup is "Butterflies and Mother's Day." Learn how butterfly babies turn into mothers. Tickets are \$6 per child. Visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 202 8702 or call 703-642-5173.

Film Screening: "Healing Voices."

7 p.m. at , Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Screening of a new documentary, "Healing Voices" that explores real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. Free. Call 703-324-7006.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 2-6

Visitor Appreciation Week. 11 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Free gardening and history events each day, and afterwards enjoy afternoon refreshments. On Monday, join the Master Gardeners for a roundtable conversation; take a tree walk on Tuesday and receive a free tree sapling; on Wednesday, enjoy a special tour of the historic house; visit with the gardeners at the edible garden on Thursday; and on Friday, learn about Green Spring past and present on a tour led by a Master Gardener docent. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

[greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call 703-642-5173.

MAY 2-28

May Artists Showcase. Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery Fine Art & Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Find paintings of several local artists, celebrating the colors of Spring. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Simpson Park Garden Stroll. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at 420 E. Monroe St. VCE Master Gardeners who maintain Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens invite Alexandria residents and others to stroll by the gardens. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

Train Like an Astronaut. 3:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Get moving with NASA-inspired activities used to exercise the same body parts as astronauts do in training and on missions in space. Grades K-5. Free. Call 703-746-1721.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Winterthur and Mount Cuba. 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at Green Spring

Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Travel to Wilmington, Delaware, to see woodland gardens at Mt. Cuba Center and Winterthur Gardens, both former DuPont family estates. Tickets are \$120 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 292 1901 or call 703-642-5173.

Mentor Recruitment Boat Ride. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 0 Cameron St. The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is seeking community members to help make a difference in the lives of the City's youth. Help celebrate 10 years of successful mentoring in the Alexandria community, and learn more about AMP's 12 mentoring programs. Wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. Free, but donations accepted. To RSVP, contact Lily Rowney at lily.rowney@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4455 by Saturday, April 30.

"An Extraordinary Young Man: The Early Years of George Washington." 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, will explore various facets of our early national history through

www.connectionnewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT

the lens of George Washington and his childhood. While no one could have imagined the unique role that he was to play in our nation's founding, Henriques demonstrates that Washington was no ordinary young man. \$12 per person, \$10 for members of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby's Tavern Museum volunteers. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

Choral Evensong for Ascension Day. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. The church's adult choir performs music by Josef Rheinberger and Ralph Vaughn Williams. Free. Call 703-549-3312 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

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 for more.

Reception "Surrealism: A Photography Exhibition." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 6-8

Mother's Day at Roy Rogers. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. at 8860 Richmond Highway. With the purchase of a kids' meal, moms get a special Roy's shopping bag (while supplies last) and a combo meal of their choice – free of charge. Free. Call 703-799-1070 for more.

MAY 6-29

"Surrealism: A Photography Exhibition." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Stabler-Leadbeater Museum Volunteer Tour Guide Training. 9-10:30 a.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Ideal volunteers should enjoy meeting and talking with people of all ages, love American history, and want to learn more and share this knowledge with others. Experience speaking/giving presentations a plus, but not required. The training process is simple and designed to be flexible to fit the volunteer's schedule. Free. To apply to become a docent, complete an application online through www.apothecarymuseum.org or email michele.longo@alexandriava.gov.

Chintz Room at Mount Vernon Reopens. 9 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The Chintz Room, formerly known as the Nelly Custis Bedchamber — a space that more than one-million visitors experience every year during their visit to George Washington's Mount Vernon — will re-open to the public after being closed for almost two years. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, free for children 0-5. Members of the military and their dependents are eligible for a \$3 discount off adult

general admission tickets. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Great Plants for Wildlife Gardens. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attract beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife to a garden with native and eco-friendly plants. Horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol reveals choice annuals and perennials and gives design tips for planting so a garden looks great into fall. Tickets are \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 284 5701 or call 703-642-5173.

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Spring Art Market showcases original artwork from local artists in a wide range of mediums. Rain or shine. Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

Del Ray House & Garden Tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the Del Ray neighborhood. A biennial project of the Del Ray Citizens Association, the tour serves as a fundraiser for neighborhood projects and the Alexandria Scholarship Fund. The 11 homes on this year's tour range from a house featured on the cover of "Country Living" magazine to one with a modern addition and a rooftop garden. Tickets are \$20 each until May 1, then \$25. Visit www.delraycitizens.org or the Del Ray Farmers Market for tickets.

Mother's Afternoon Tea. 1-4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 332 N. Alfred St. An afternoon tea service, games and live music. \$20 suggested donation. Call 703-549-1334 for more.

Fungi in our Forest. 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Biologist Amy Milo will give a short introduction of the basics of fungi types and their life cycles before taking to the woods to find and identify spring fungi. Free. Call 703-746-5525 for more, use code Activity #66980.

Monopainting Family Art Workshop. 2-3:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Create a work of art using one color and it's different shades. In the workshop you and your child will learn a simple art technique called monopainting. Workshop fee is \$30 parent/child (all art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes.

Secretive Salamanders. 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Participants will be guided on a 1.5-mile walk through salamander habitat to try to spot salamanders and learn about the role they play in promoting healthy forests. This event is designed for those 7 and older, and children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$6. Participants should remove all dirt and mud from their shoes before arriving to help prevent the spread of pathogens. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Bowties & Belles. 4:30-8 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center present an annual fundraiser featuring food, mint juleps, wagering, silent auctions, hat and bowtie contest, and more. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/bowties-belles-for.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. lesson, 7:30-10 p.m. dancing at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members

\$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

"The Transformative." 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Listen to Gershwin, Zimmer, and more. Tickets are \$20-80, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 8

Mother's Day Tea. 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Relax in the Magnolia Terrace and attend educational program "First Lady Firsts." Find personalized tableside service and food catered by Calling Card Events. The event costs \$40 for adults; \$20 for children ages 5-17; free for children 4 and younger. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlylerentals@nvrpa.org.

Mother's Day Tea. 1:30-3 p.m. and 4-5:30 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find a Mother's Day-themed tea menu. Take the Mother's Day quiz to learn all about this traditional rite of spring and earn the opportunity to take home a door prize. Tickets are \$47. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.

TUESDAY/MAY 10

Train Like an Astronaut. 3:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Get moving with NASA-inspired activities used to exercise the same body parts as astronauts do in training and on missions in space. Grades K-5. Free. Call 703-746-1721.

Excellence in Aging Awards. 5:30 p.m. at Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, 301 King St. Five awardees will receive awards in four categories. Free. Call 703-746-5694.

All About Composting. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how to turn yard and garden clippings and kitchen waste into "black gold" that will enrich the soil in your garden. Free. Register at mgnv.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 11

Parent Child Art Class. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Metamorphosis will present a free parent child art class at the MOMS Club of Alexandria South monthly meeting. Children of all ages are welcome at the meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email southalexmomms@yahoo.com or visit southalexandriamomsclub.webs.com or www.facebook.com/southalexandriamomsclub.

The Wonders of Wildflowers. 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. A presentation on Virginia's native wildflowers by Laura Beaty and Alan Ford of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Virginia's native plant communities are the foundation for complex relationships between plants and animals (insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals), evolving into amazing partnerships. The speakers will highlight many native plants. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-768-2525.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Attend a DJ swing dance featuring the great recorded music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and even some contemporary songs. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MAY

Mother's Day is May 8

5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

Memorial Day is May 30

5/25/2016..Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

JUNE

6/1/2016.....Wellbeing

6/8/2016.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts

6/8/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

6/15/2016.....A+ Graduations & Summer Learning

6/15/2016.....Father's Day Dining & Gifts

Father's Day is June 19

6/22/2016.....Independence Day Preview

6/29/2016.....A+ Adult & Continuing Education

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PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Roz White and Teresa Castracane in "Black Pearl Sings!" at MetroStage.

Origin of a Song

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
METROSTAGE

As a producer of plays I find the playwright's inspiration for a play to be fascinating. Is it a historical base or inspired by or simply a jumping off point for a purely fictional story? In the case of "Black Pearl Sings!" it is all of the above. Playwright Frank Higgins was intrigued by the research happening in the 1930s where ethnomusicologists were traipsing around the country trying to locate indigenous American folk songs and then trace them back to their origins whether it be Ireland, Africa or Appalachia. Musicologist John Lomax is famous for his recordings of more than 10,000 folk songs during that period that have ended up at the Archive of American Folk Song of the Library of Congress. His most famous discovery was Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter in a Louisiana prison who became one of the most acclaimed folksingers of the time.

The other influence is equally compelling as described by playwright Higgins in an email about the documentary film "The Language You Cry in." He writes, "It's how I became aware of the story behind the African song that appears at the end of 'Black Pearl Sings!'. Back in the '30s a professor recorded a Gullah grandmother and her granddaughter singing what

to them were nonsense syllables in what sounded like a children's song. Decades later, a professor from Sierra Leone heard the recording and thought that there were words that sounded like a dialect from his country. The filmmakers searched for years and finally found a woman in an inland village who recognized the song. The filmmakers then brought the granddaughter (now a grandmother herself) and her granddaughter to Sierra Leone to meet the woman who knew the original African song."

In "Black Pearl Sings!" we find musicologist Susannah in a Texas prison discovering Pearl who just might have information about the origin of a song that can be traced back to its original roots in Africa. A fascinating relationship arises from this unlikely partnership. References to Pearl's family in "the islands" with that funny name, "Hilton Head," and many other clues make the play particularly interesting when you know some of the background. There is even a reference to Zora Neale Hurston, the famous author but also folklorist and anthropologist, who is a supposed neighbor of Susannah's in Greenwich Village, where we find our two characters in the second act. Those are all the clues you are getting. Now you will have to come see the production to find out how it ends. Running through May 29, so call the theatre today for tickets.

NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER



Scholarship Fund Of Alexandria Gala

At the 30th Anniversary Spring Gala of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria were seven scholarship winners, all students of the International Academy at T.C. Williams High School, from left, Daniel Villarroel, Jesusina Abankwa, Isha Rashida Sankoh, Eyosias Agonafer, Subinuer Aikebaier, Nada Elhawary and Melak Alradhi.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MUMFORD/GAZETTE PACKET



Three people with major roles in the education of Alexandria's youth, from left, are Mark Eaton, co-chair of the English department, T.C. Williams High School; Cindy Anderson, board member, Alexandria City Public Schools; and Jesse Dingle, principal of T.C. Williams High School.



From left: Beth Lovain, executive director, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria; Rosie Wiedemer and Albie Dickson, gala co-chairs; and Kathy Conrad, chair of the board of trustees, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.



Subinuer Aikebaier and Thomas Ahern. Subinuer spoke to dinner guests about her determination to leave western China and come to the United States, her struggle with homelessness here and her successful quest to graduate from high school and pursue a college education. The audience applauded when she said she will attend the University of Virginia this coming year. Thomas and Marcella Ahern are her guardians.

From left: Allison Silberberg, mayor of the City of Alexandria; Charniele Herring, delegate for the 46th district in the Virginia House of Delegates; and John Porter, president and chief executive officer, ACT for Alexandria and former principal, T.C. Williams High School.



SPORTS

SSSAS Girls' Lax Eager for Rematch with Bishop Ireton

Successful Saints lost to BI in last two VISAA state finals.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

It took 37 seconds for Ellie Carson to score a goal, with an assist from Zoe Belodeau, and give the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team a 1-0 lead against Collegiate on April 22. Less than a minute later, Belodeau was on the receiving end of a Carson pass and found the back of the net for a 2-0 Saints advantage.

By the end of the first half, six different Saints had scored at least one goal and St. Stephen's led 10-1.

It was business as usual for the Saints during this Friday home game. St. Stephen's built a 10-goal advantage early in the second half, triggering a running clock, and cruised to a 14-4 victory over Collegiate.

The Saints are once again one of the top teams in the nation, ranked No. 5 in the latest Nike/Lacrosse Magazine national poll. Friday's victory improved their record to 14-1, with their only defeat coming against No. 4 Good Counsel on April 2.

In the last decade, St. Stephen's never lost more than three games in a season. From 2007 to 2013, the Saints won seven consecutive VISAA Division I state championships. Head coach Kathy Jenkins is the all-time leader in career victories for high school girls' lacrosse, surpassing 700 this season.

While St. Stephen's has an impressive resume and appears on its way to another successful season, the team's inability to beat fellow Alexandria private school Bishop Ireton in the state final each of the last two years has left the Saints with a lingering desire to finish the job.

Ireton defeated St. Stephen's for the first



PHOTO BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes goalkeeper Molly Dougherty had four saves against Collegiate on April 22.

time ever in the 2014 state final, 9-7. Last year, the Saints entered the championship game with an undefeated record, but the Cardinals won a second straight title, 12-10.

Bishop Ireton is ranked No. 6 in the nation and improved to 14-3 with a win over Bishop O'Connell on Tuesday. The Cardinals and Saints will not play during the regular season, but could meet again in the VISAA state final for a third straight year.

"Bishop Ireton is such a strong program every single year, so we are always keeping [the losses] in the back of our head," Carson said. "... Ever since those two games, we just always are ... thinking about Bishop Ireton in the back of our head, sort of get-

ting excited for that game. We think of all of our big games as preparation for that."

Carson, a senior attacker who will play for Dartmouth, finished with two goals and an assist against Collegiate on Friday. Sophomore attacker Grayson Offutt had four goals and one assist, Belodeau totaled three goals and two assists and freshman midfielder Briana Lantuh scored two goals.

Junior attacker Lea Cox had one goal and four assists, and sophomore attacker Annie Dyson and junior midfielder Caroline Wiseman each scored one goal.

Senior goalkeeper Molly Dougherty had four saves.

"This season, we've definitely taken it game by game," said Belodeau, a Penn com-

mit, "but [the losses to Ireton are] always in the back of our head. We're always working for that. We're just really excited this year to get another shot at it. This team, this is a great team. It's different this year because I think we have seven attackers that ... have had the same amount of goals, we have seven great defenders, we have subs ... so I just think we're just really, really excited to get the opportunity to prove ourselves again this year."

One game that could help St. Stephen's come playoff time is its loss to Good Counsel. The Saints entered the game with a 6-0 record, having beaten each opponent by more than 10 goals. They came out of it with their first loss and a better idea of how to handle pressure.

"By having a hard game like that early in the season that we did end up losing, it was actually beneficial to us in the long run, I think," Carson said, "because then [during] our harder games for the rest of the season, we think about that game and think about how we didn't come back and come out strong in the second half like we needed to ..."

Belodeau said the loss was a reminder to keep working.

"It's really good for us to see that we are beatable," she said, "so we have to ... work hard every minute of the game."

St. Stephen's improved to 15-1 this season with a 16-2 road win over Bullison Tuesday. The Saints will travel to face Flint Hill at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

The ISL AA tournament final is scheduled for May 16 at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, Md. The VISAA state final is scheduled for May 21 at the University of Richmond.

"I would love to be back on top of it," Jenkins said about the Saints' meetings with Bishop Ireton, "but I think we have to continue preparing ourselves for it because they're an excellent team, they have a lot of speed, too, they play a great defensive game. We know that we're working toward that in every game we play."

TC Crew Girls Extend Winning Streak at Noxontown Regatta

The T.C. Williams girls' crew team won four key races and captured second place in two others, during the Noxontown Regatta at St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Del., on Saturday, April 23. The TC team captured the Ward Wallace Cup, a trophy for the annual race between TC Williams and St. Andrew's.

While the Titan boys did not compete on Saturday, the TC girls faced tough competition from regional crew powerhouses such as St. Andrew's in Delaware, Kent from Connecticut, Georgetown Visitation from, and Thomas Jefferson from Virginia.

The Titan first varsity lightweight 8 boat captured a big win for the second week in a row, posting the fastest time for a TC boat, at 5:31.6. The Lightweights started strong, advanced their lead throughout the 1,500-meter race, and sprinted to the finish line.

They beat rival Kent by almost 6 seconds.

Members of the lightweight 8 include Paige St. John (coxswain), Anissa Ashraf, Lauren Kelly, Sierra Arnold, Leeann Richards, Tori Cook, Olivia Anthony, Sarah Scroggs, and Emily Debodene. Jaime Rubini coaches the boat.

The TC freshman 8 girls pulled off the most dramatic win of the day, crossing the finish line 20 seconds ahead of rival Georgetown Visitation, with open water between them. This continues a season in which the TC freshman girls are undefeated. Members of the freshman 8 include Paula Filios (coxswain), Chloe Marsh, Grace Fluharty, Blythe Markel, Ailysh Motinger, Marley Osborne, Charlotte Milone, Elspeth Collard, and Anna Guynn. It is coached by Patrick Marquardt.

The TC junior 8 also continued its string



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 continue their undefeated season with a win at the Noxontown No. 3 regatta at St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Del.

of strong performances, outpacing all competitors to finish with a time of 5:58.0, about 8 seconds ahead of rival Kent. As the first boat racing for the day, the junior 8 set

the standard for the rest of the team. Members of the junior 8, coached by Mary Carey, include Victoria Anthony (coxswain), Hope

SEE TC CREW, PAGE 24

SPORTS

GW Parkway Classic: 'Moving' Experience

Runners came from near and far to support causes and each other.

BY EDEN BROWN
GAZETTE PACKET

They came from as far away as Cali, Colombia and Bristol, England. They were from Arlington, Burke, Alexandria, Lorton, Reston, Falls Church, and from Colorado and Canada. They were old — 88 — and they were young — 12 year olds and babies in strollers. One woman from Silver Spring was running at 7 months pregnant. One runner was blind.

The Star Spangled Banner resonated across a crowd of 5,330 runners in the sunlight near George Washington's home; American flags snapped in the breeze. People had goosebumps, and not just from the cold air at 7 a.m. because the most moving thing about the George Washington Parkway Classic, now in its 32nd year, was the number of runners who came out to support veterans, the poor, the sick, and the homeless.

The race was supported by an army of volunteers, some of whom have been coming for 20 years. They handed out water and gatorade. The moving company "Two Men and a Truck" took runners' belongings and transported them. Starbucks served coffee. And all along the track, residents came out to cheer on moms and dad, grandmothers and grandfathers, neighbors, and team members.

Sometimes called the "Prettiest run this side of the Potomac," the annual George Washington Parkway Classic 10-Mile and 5K races are for serious runners, new runners, and runners with a cause. The 10-mile race starts in Mount Vernon, and passes through Riverside Park, Fort Hunt Park, Collingwood Park, the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, on past Windmill Hill Park and Founders Park before coming along the finish line at Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town, Alexandria.



Volunteers for the Alexandria Police Foundation won the Rock Star award from race sponsor Pacers Running for having the best organized water stop.



Two volunteers from Alexandria, James Darling and Reginald Maye, have worked at the George Washington Parkway Classic for 16 and 11 years respectively.

And that's when the party began. The runners drank water and ate snacks handed out at the finish line. They took pictures with their teams, and listened to the live band, The Joe Chiocca Band, which did some great "rootsy rock" numbers, and were given a free brew by the Port City Brewing

Company. And they met up with other runners, comparing times and causes. One local Alexandria resident was just glad to finish: Donald Trilling, 88, who has been running the race since 1987, and who was honored with running bib number 1— didn't come in last.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Alexandria Police Foundation executive director Ginny Obranovich, right, prepares water cups for runners along the GW Parkway Classic route in Old Town.



Silver Medalists

The Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club's "Titans 12" ended its 2016 season as the Chesapeake Region's Silver Medalist at the Regional 12s Club Gold Championships held April 24 at the Discovery Center in Boyds, Md. Members of Titans 12 include (front, from left) Milan Rex, Harper Lucchesi, Anna Harrington, Natalie Keough and Maura Munson, (back, from left) Annalie McCarthy, Jill Jones, Ella White, Lila Randall, Rachel Wilson and Kaitlin Peters. Adeline Fielding was missing from the photo. Titans 12 are coached by Ripley Forbes and Stephanie Murphy.

TC Crew

FROM PAGE 23

Parsons, Rachel Sedehi, Emma Carroll, Tess Moran, Fatima Chavez, Catherine Mellette, Cleo Lewis, and Brielle Quarles.

The girls' novice 8 also won its competition, finishing the race in 6:27, 20 seconds ahead of Georgetown Visitation.

The girls' first varsity 8 also put in a strong performance against strong competition, taking second place in its category with a time of 5:33.5. Besting St. Andrew's School, the boat captured the Ward Wallace Cup, a trophy for the annual race between T.C. Williams and St. Andrew's. A second girls' novice 8 boat finished second in its category, with a time of 7:13.7.

The Titan girls' and boys' crew teams reunite next Saturday, April 30, for the Charlie Butt Regatta on the waterfront in Georgetown.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

with registration. Register at conta.cc/1MNXYi5.

School's Out For Summer. 6-7:30 p.m. at William Ramsay Elementary School, 5700 Sanger Ave. June 24 will be here before parents know it and schools will close for summer break. Learn about: ACPS summer enrichment programs, City of Alexandria summer camps and activities, and library reading programs. Light dinner, interpretation services and childcare provided with registration. Register at conta.cc/1RA031e.

Historic Preservation Happy Hour. 6-8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Courtyard, 134 N. Royal St. Join fellow historic preservationists to informally discuss preservation in Alexandria. Cash bar and tavern fare are available for purchase. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Membership Reception. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. The Commonwealth Republican Women Club's Membership Reception honors men and women who work for conservative principles. The keynote speaker is the state Sen. from Fauquier County, Jill Vogel, who will speak on "Getting Our Mojo Back as a Party — Transforming Ideas into Action." Buffet at 7 p.m., presentation at 7:45 p.m. The reception is open to the public, no charge. Visit www.alexandriacrcw.org/

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 29-30

Princess For a Night "Shopping." Young ladies in need of a dress for prom, may "shop" at T.C. Williams on Friday, 3:30-6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon. Students from throughout Northern Virginia are welcome. It is strongly recommended that parents participate in dress selection. Dresses are free, but donations will be accepted. Visit www.facebook.com/princessfanight or email eleanor.muse@acps.k12.va.us.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

10th Annual MV Big Flea. 7 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Rec Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The Flea is Mount Vernon Community School's largest annual fundraiser and a terrific community event in support of a dual language school where the free/reduced lunch rate is about 60 percent. Visit mvbigflea.wordpress.com or www.facebook.com/mvbigflea/ for more.

Rent or Buy? 10-11 a.m. at @Home Real Estate, 111 S. Alfred St. Realtor Cookie Balcha presents this free seminar. Visit www.athomedcmetro.com for more.

Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., adjacent to the George Washington Middle School. Admission is free; food and beverages will be sold. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Earthday for more.

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21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Tabitha Monet, Inc trading as Monet Gogh Sip, 1101 Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for an Art Studio license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tabitha Monet, owner
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.

21 Announcements

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

21 Announcements

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

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking applications from qualified applicants for the provision of Administered Commonwealth of Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (VPI).
Initial responses with the notation RFQ# 16-04-03 Administered Commonwealth of Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (VPI) must be sealed and received on or before 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 2016 in the ACPs Procurement Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia. Responses received after 3:00 p.m. will not be considered in the initial review or award. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. This RFQ will remain open until August 19, 2016, and applicants may submit applications in response to this RFQ during that entire period. RFQ documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFQ from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-04-06

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and their Teachers at ACPs Schools.
Emailed Proposals with the subject line notation RFP# 16-04-06 Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and their Teachers will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 26, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the email time stamp. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>
All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPs web site.
No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.
ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

The Board of Directors of the Alexandria Transit Company will hold a public hearing in Room 2410, Council Workroom, Alexandria City Hall, at 5:30 p.m., May 11, 2016, on the ATC 2017 Transit Development Program and proposed route and service changes.
1. No increase in the DASH base fare; the price of the monthly DASH Pass will remain at \$40.00.
2. Proposed changes under consideration to take effect July 2016 are:
- AT1 – Improved peak period service frequency to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes
- AT2, AT4, AT5, and AT8 – North Old Town service realignments
- AT7 – Southwest Quadrant improved accessibility
- AT9 Saturday route extension to Mark Center

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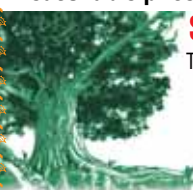
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 -Dagobert Runes

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Official Sock Burning

The Commodore of the Old Dominion Boat Club, Bill Gard, presents a pink sock to Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, to toss into a fire pit. The sock burning is the celebration of the beginning of the boating season.

PHOTO BY
 LADONNA HALE CURZON

Rowing Across the Atlantic

FROM PAGE 5

Caple, who rows competitively for Alexandria Community Rowing, is a software engineer and 1991 graduate of the Citadel. He completed his first Ironman Triathlon in 2012 and ran the Marine Corps Marathon in 2013.

Way, a seven-year Navy veteran, is the chief learning officer in the Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research division at NOAA. She also rows competitively for Alexandria Community Rowing and is finishing her doctorate in education at George Washington University.

"I am super excited to start this adventure," said Way, who is using the ocean row as research for her dissertation.

Caple and Way will begin their voyage on the Cape Cod shore near Tabor Academy. Current students there will host a

launch party for the couple on May 16 and the couple will depart as soon afterwards as weather permits.

The 2,800-nautical mile journey is expected to take about 90 days, with plans to make landfall at Dingle, Ireland, a coastal town west of Cork. Their boat, which has been used by other crews on previous transatlantic voyages, is equipped with a satellite phone, emergency beacons, a VHF radio and assorted safety features. They will carry sufficient food for the entire trip and use a desalinators for fresh water.

Upon successful completion of the voyage, they will be the first American pair, the first mixed pair and Way the first American woman to complete an ocean row across this route. To learn more or to follow the couple's progress, visit www.1000leagues.com.



Second Chances

Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the State of Virginia, outlines the state's recent legislation addressing the problems and challenges of prisoners. Moran was the

keynote speaker at the Offenders Aid and Restoration (OAR) Second Chance breakfast on April 6. He said Virginia now has the second lowest recidivism rate in the country. "In this year's budget we have requested 16 mental health specialists to address the problems of prisoners and we offer free college credits to provide education so they can get jobs on reentry." OAR was founded 42 years ago as a community-based non-profit serving Arlington County and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. They provide reentry services for men and women returning home from incarceration. In fiscal year 2015 OAR served 2,698 clients: 1,863 community service clients, 556 reentry clients and 463 pre-release clients.

Board OKs Food Trucks at Metro Sites, But Not in Old Town

FROM PAGE 1

to stay on the streets, both out of the possibility that they'd be blocking the rush hour traffic home and that they'd be cutting into the local restaurant dinner hours.

While the conversation was ostensibly about the impact of the food trucks on parking and transportation, many business owners and private citizens expressed fears that the food trucks would destroy the community.

"They will be right across the street," said Michael Naieri, owner of A La Lucia, which sits almost directly across from the Madison Street location. "The businesses in Old Town are already suffering, this is not going to help. We pay rent and taxes, and this hurts us."

Rebecca Beard, a manager at A La Lucia, said that the food trucks would not only poach their business, but take up parking that customers already say is scarce.

"It's not conducive to the community and not conducive to local business," said Margaret Townsend, president of the Old Town North Community Partnership. "We're opposed to the ones in Old Town North, but throughout the city we don't think we have enough parking for this."

The exclusive possession of the parking spaces in North Old Town upset more than just the local restaurants. The Art League sits across from the food truck location on Madison Street, and Art League executive director Suzanne Bethel said that many of her students are carrying heavy equipment to the studio and need to be able to park nearby.

The board made special note of a suggestion by local resident Engin Artemel, who suggested that this discussion should have been part of the Old Town North area study, which specifically analyzes parking needs



The potential 300 Madison Street potential food truck location.

in that neighborhood.

BEYOND TRANSPORTATION, one source of discomfort for the board was concerns about the outreach process used by city staff called AlexEngage. The survey, managed by an outside group called Peak Democracy, received over 2,375 responses, the largest in the history of the program. However, Peak Democracy uses an algorithm that sorts responses into several categories, one of which is listed as "uncivil." The reasons for this categorization can be unclear, said Assistant City Attorney Joanna Anderson, but one way or another: over 500 responses, a quarter of those who responded, were listed as uncivil.

One of the possible reasons for exclusion would be too many responses within a narrow window of response, or multiple answers from the same IP address, but Darrel Drury, president of the north Old Town civic activist group VISION and former professor of advanced quantitative methods and research design at Yale University, said that response window lines up with when his organization sent out an email to their



The 900 North Fairfax Street potential food truck location.

membership telling them about the survey.

At the City Council meeting on April 16, Anderson included a chart with both of the numbers at the end of her presentation, but during the discussion only referenced the numbers with the 500 responses excluded when she argued that the majority of the survey responses were in favor of allowing food trucks.

"We didn't leave the information out," said Anderson. "We needed [City Council] to know, in full transparency, that we did get this information from the vendor. There are a lot of questions out there. The safest course was to present them both."

Anderson said that the council had access to both of the sets of numbers in the presentation. Anderson also downplayed the role of the survey in the final decision, noting that it's a means of gathering public feedback but that it's not a scientific measurement and that it's just one piece of information. But for Drury, the survey is vital, arguing that it proves a systematic bias against the local residents. Drury argued that arguable exclusion of the 500 results touches on the deeper ethics issues of the city that exist beyond the levels of individual conflicts of interest.

While the board included their concerns about the process, parking was the issue that ultimately doomed the two north Old Town locations. For some on the board, the two issues were interconnected.

"I don't understand how there is such an enormous gap between staff saying that [parking] is not an issue and everyone's experience that it is," said board member William Schuyler.

"We need to be able to feel a confidence in that data," said Ana Tucker. "We need to be able to trust that."

Though the decision was based around parking, the input from local businesses had an influence on the board.

"We're hearing an obvious story about these locations," said board member Melissa McMahon. "The small area planning process going on there now, that would be to raise these issues. I don't want to put a big X on the future for food trucks, but I don't want to detriment the local businesses either, so I don't recommend those two [North Old Town] sites."

McMahon suggested, in the future, that staff speak with Arlington businesses to find out about the impact of food trucks on businesses there. Rosslyn and Old Town are dif-

ferent sites in a lot of ways, but Mary-Claire Burick, president of the Rosslyn Business Improvement District, said in an email that the reception to food trucks in that area has been well received by customers and that businesses had learned to live with it.

"With the consumer in mind, the Rosslyn BID worked in close partnership with Arlington County, property owners, restaurants, and food trucks to develop and launch a mobile vending pilot project that we think benefits everyone," said Burick. "Consumers have safe, convenient access to more food options; Food trucks have a guaranteed place to park (removing uncertainty); and owners of brick and mortar restaurants are able to retain easy access and visibility for their customers. So far, we've received positive feedback from consumers. The BID conducted an online survey of the zones in late 2015 and found that a majority (69 percent) of respondents approved."

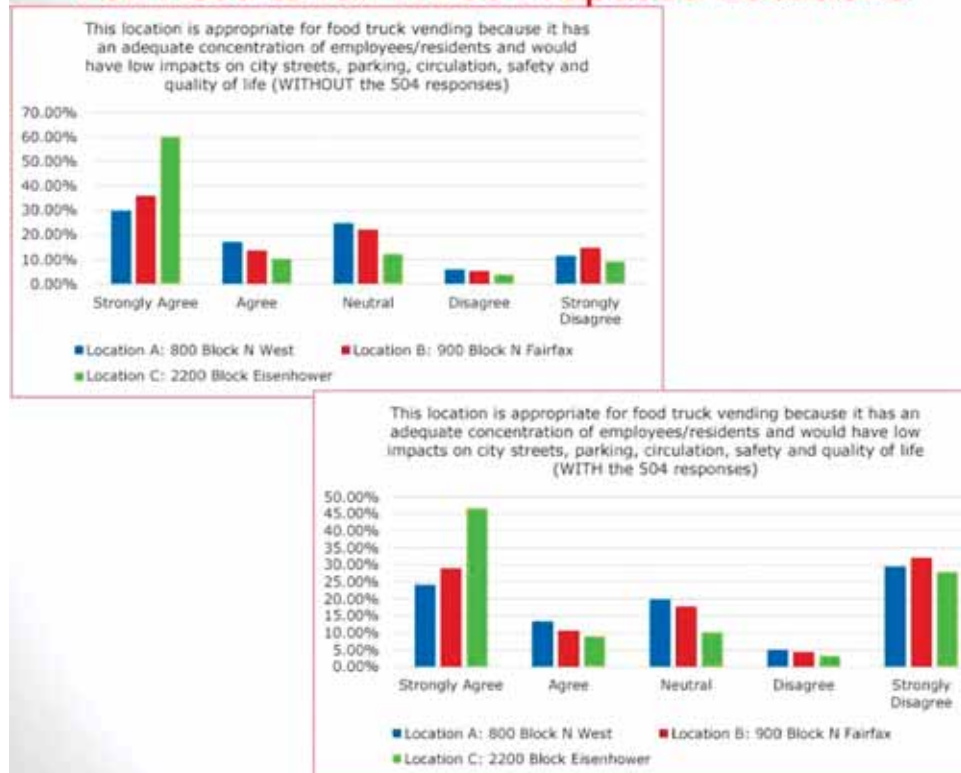
Najiba Hleml from the Food Truck Association said she was also disappointed with the process, but in that she'd hoped the city would consider zones of allowable food truck locations rather than specific parking spots. Hleml said the association was grateful to the three locations that trucks would now be allowed to sell in, though she was still disappointed with the perception of an anti-food truck bias on the board, especially after City Council had been so approving of the plans.

"The board made their decision on what is best for the businesses," said Hleml, "but they shouldn't be able to decide who gets to compete. That's for consumers to decide."

The day after the meeting, Mike Tam, catering director for Perfect Pita, said he was satisfied with the two locations being taken out of consideration. Tam said the store in Tysons Corner had to deal with a food truck vending illegally across the street, which was eventually moved into a nearby lot, but when Gov. Terry McAuliffe lifted the ban on food trucks from state-run roads in 2015 the truck was back out across the street and the store's business hasn't recovered. At the King Street location, Tam says he isn't as concerned because there's already competition in the area, and the food truck might even bring new business to the area.

"But here it would be tripling our competition," Tam said, pointing across the street to the parking space that could have been filled with a food truck. "I breathed a sigh of relief when I heard."

Poll Results for Three Proposed Locations



Graph from the city presentation depicting survey responses with and without the 500 "uncivil" comments.



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This pretty 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, all brick, 3-level townhouse backs on to woods behind the Masonic Temple and is a 10 minute walk to King St Metro. Renovated kitchen, hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, deck and brick patio. 4th bedroom, 3rd bath and family room on lower level could be au pair suite. 2 unassigned parking spaces.

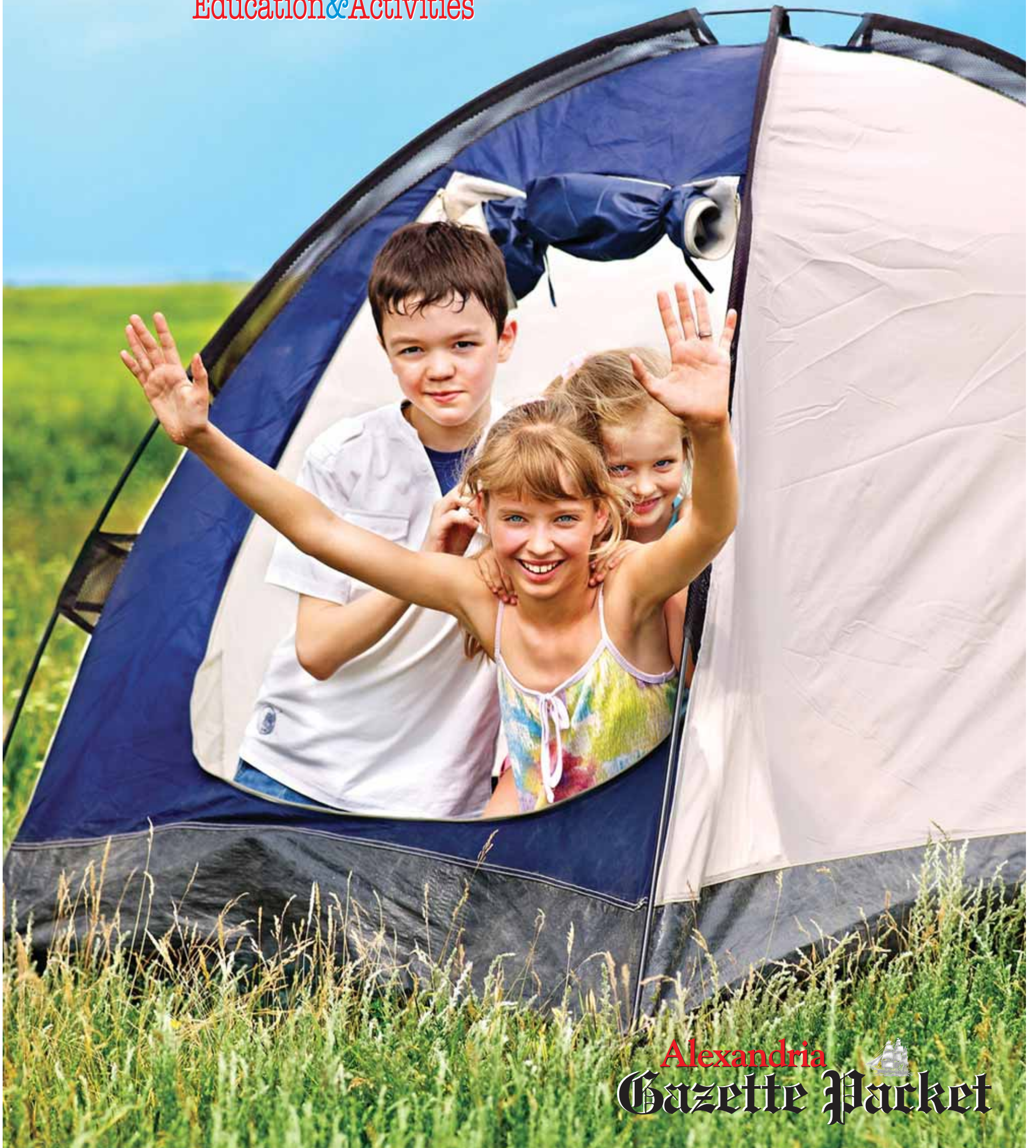
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Summer 2016 Camps

Education & Activities



Alexandria
Gazette Packet

***** The Little Theatre of Alexandria *****

SUMMER THEATRE CAMPS

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Join us at our beautiful Old Town theater, where we offer the best in theater education for children ages three through 18. LTA is the premier Alexandria location for summer fun and drama!

<p>Preschool (Ages 3 - 5) Drama Tots • Musical Tots</p> <p>K - 2nd Grades Little Stars: The Play's the Thing Little Stars: Musical Theater</p> <p>3rd - 5th Grades Act Out Loud! Dance Your Shoes Off Dr. Seuss World Film Favorites Heroes and Villains: From Screen to Stage</p>	<p>3rd - 5th Grades cont. Live from LTA: It's Friday After- noon Musical Theatre Madness Mystery Improv Shining Stars: Musical Theatre Sing and Dance on Stage</p> <p>3rd - 8th Grades Singing for Musical Theater</p> <p>6th - 8th Grades Act Out The Song: Devised Theater Creating A Story: Write/Act in a Play Rising Stars: Musical Theatre</p>	<p>6th - 8th Grades cont. Scripts on Stage Show Tunes: Sing and Dance Skits, Scenes, and In-betweens So You Want To Dance On Broadway The Bard Meets Broadway! Triple Threat Musical Theater</p> <p>K - 5th Grades Frozen Camp!</p> <p>K - 8th Grades Performer's Playground: Roundabout Theatre</p>
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For detailed camp descriptions and dates, instructor bios, and registration information, visit our website at www.thelittletheatre.com and click on "Education" or call the business office at 703-683-5778, ext. 2. Camps run from Jun. 6 - Sep. 2. Camps fill up fast, so don't delay.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria • 600 Wolfe Street • Alexandria, VA 22314
Michael Page, Camp Director • Roland Gomez, Governor of Education



The Art League offers a range of weekly camps for all ages, including teens, from June 20- to Aug. 19.

Theater and Art

Local summer camps offer traditional and nontraditional learning experiences.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Albert Einstein did it. So did Mark Zuckerberg, Denzel Washington, Lady Gaga and Sandra Day O'Connor. What do they have in common with millions of other children across the nation?

They all attended summer camp.

"In our summer camps we try to create a safe environment for kids to express their creativity," said Michael Page, the summer camps coordinator for The Little Theatre of Alexandria. "Most classes focus on performance while others work on storytelling through play. But they all help kids grow in self-confidence while having fun."

According to the American Camp Association, research shows that camp experi-

ences often increase a child's confidence, self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership qualities, adventurousness and connection to nature.

First Lady Michelle Obama served as a summer camp counselor, an important role as children learn new skills and develop interpersonal relationships.

"We also have a new Counselor in Training camp for high schoolers," Page said. "This class is for students who are interested in furthering their education and getting a chance to work in a leadership role in a theatrical setting. We also try to find a nice balance for all of our campers - those who have been coming for many years and those who are just starting in theatre. It's a great experience for everyone involved."

SEE BANISHING BOREDOM. PAGE 3



Jewelry camp is a popular class at the Art League.



Memberships Available Now

(Sign up by May 31 and receive 10 FREE guest passes)

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2500 Woodlawn Trail, off of Elba Road
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- Northern Virginia Swimming League Division 8 (2016) Swim Team (ages 5-18)
- Mount Vernon Community Tennis youth and women's tennis teams
- Family activities and social events
- Friendly and close-knit member community

Check out our website at www.hollinmeadows.org

 Hollin Meadows Swim and Tennis Club

 @HMSwimAndTennis

For more information:
Contact our Membership Chair at membership@hollinmeadows.org

Special thanks to
 



Banishing Boredom with Arts

FROM PAGE 2

A large variety of summer camp classes are available at LTA for preschool through 8 the Counselor in Training class open to 9 through Sept. 2. For more information or to register, contact Michael Page at mbpage1990@gmail.com or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Extended child care is also available from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$10 per hour. Child care registration is done by phone after camp registration is completed. Call 703-683-5778, extension 2, for more details.

For budding Picassos, the Del Ray Artisans invites campers ages 8 to 14 to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day-only gallery show held July 23 and July 30 to show off the students' work from their week of camp. The first camp session will be held July 18 — 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily followed by a second camp July 25 — 29.

Art Camp will be held at the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, contact the Art Camp Administrator/Youth Programs Director at Youth@DelRayArtisans.org.

For campers ages 5 to 15, The Art League offers weekly half-day or full-day camps in painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fiber, drawing, cartoons and more.

Weekly sessions begin June 20 and run through Aug. 19 at The Art League's Madison Annex in Old Town. Visit www.theartleague.org for more information.

The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities offers a traditional slate of outdoor and sports related camps. But for those that as-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Little Theatre of Alexandria offers the largest variety of summer drama camps in the area for preschool to 8th grade level children. Classes run June 6- to Sept. 2.

pire to be the next Bill Gates, there are also camps for video game design and development, 3D game design, Minecraft animation, chess camp and Jedi engineering with LEGO to name a few.

Registration for the city's 2016 summer camp programs is open to both Alexandria residents and nonresidents and can be done online or in person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. A complete Summer Camps guide is available at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation and free

printed brochures are available at City Hall, recreation centers and public libraries.

The Summer of Smiles Summer Camps Guide contains a variety of camps available to youth ages 2-17, including sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure,

Out of School Time (residents only) and

classic camps. An index lists camps available by week offered and age group. Call 703-746-5414 for more information.

"The Little Theatre creates a wonderful learning environment for students of all ages," Page said.

"A camp experience is one of tremendous growth for any child."



Classes at The Little Theatre of Alexandria are available for students as young as 3 years old and run from June 6 to -Sept. 2.



Students at the Art League's fibre camp show off their crafts.

From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they'll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.



“During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost.”

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D.

“I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right,” said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. “During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish.”

SPECIALTY CAMPS offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

“The name is definitely tongue in cheek,” said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization’s founder. “We teach personal finance, leadership and innova-

tion. We give them life skills that they aren’t learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade.”

RIISING FIFTH- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this summer at Mount Vernon’s Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington’s estate and learn about his legacy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON GAME & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate’s heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

“The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun,” said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. “[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard.”

For More Information

Game and Technology Summer Camps

potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/

Future Millionaires Bootcamp/ Stock Market Acres

moneynewsforkids.com/

Camp Washington and more at Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/

YOUNG GAME DESIGN aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy’s (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

“We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William,” said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

“We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers.”

MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.

SCHOOL NOTES

Suzanne Ketcham, of Alexandria, was named to the dean's list at Salisbury University (Salisbury, Md.) for the fall 2015 semester.

Erin McCarty, Alexandria resident and a student at Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, N.Y.), was named to the president's list in the fall 2015 semester.

Megan Jackson, of Alexandria, earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2015 semester in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kan.).

Cullen Scheland, of Alexandria, has been named to the 2015 fall semester dean's list at Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.). Scheland is a graduate of American International School.

The following Alexandria-area students have been named to Clemson University's (Clemson, S.C.) dean's list for the fall 2015 semester: **Ann Elizabeth Barletta**; majoring in political science; **Elise Margaret Bell**, majoring in political science; **Sydney Elaine Fenstermaker**, majoring in bioengineering; **Andrew R. Perham**, majoring in civil engineering; and **Kristin Anna Snow**, majoring in communication studies.

Madison Hardimon, a member of the class of 2016, from Alexandria, has been named to the fall 2015 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland (Baltimore).

Hailee Reeder, of Alexandria, participated in the seventh annual Intercollegiate Art Competition, a juried exhibit of artwork by students from Abilene colleges and universities, at the Center for Contemporary Art in Abilene. Entries were juried by professional, contemporary artists.

John Mulberger, of Alexandria, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus (Madison, N.J.) has been named to the honors list for the fall 2015 semester.

Dawit Tsigie, of Alexandria, was named to the Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa) dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. Tsigie earned honors.

Carla Cisneros, of Alexandria, was one of eight Mary Baldwin College Staunton, Va.) students who attended this year's Algernon

SEE NOTES, CAMPS PAGE 7

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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- Children 4-12 will enjoy camp on Burgundy's 25-acre "hidden gem" Alexandria campus, in 5 sessions June 20-August 12. We're also looking for counselors in training age 13-16!
- Options for every age—weekly themes for young children, customizable fun and educational days for older campers.


Visit www.burgundyfarm.org/
summer-programs to register!

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SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!






One of the fastest growing and most transformational community programs in the region today, the **Mason Game & Technology Academy** integrates all of the STEM core competencies in a challenging, fun, and engaging way. This program combines both the sciences and the arts, with creative & critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Questions? Contact Director **Vera Lichtenberg** at vlichten@gmu.edu or call 703-993-9889.

Registration & admin support powered by Mason's Potomac Arts Academy:
www.PotomacAcademy.org (Summer Programs)

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Plus pre-college Residential option!

Academic Camps Combine Education and Fun

Local camps help students maintain school skills in a relaxed environment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

One summer Ana Lado created a summer camp activity for students at her neighborhood pool. The Marymount professor set up a picnic area, and included activities and books. Her plan was to engage the students and give them the opportunity to read and build reading skills while still enjoying fun activities traditionally associated with summer.

"I got six kids who were older to read to six kindergartners. I chose kids who had potential, but who were at risk," said Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington. "Reading with a kindergartner or first grader for 15 minutes got the students reading and built their confidence."

This summer Lado and her colleagues at Marymount are offering "3E: Explore, Enrich, Enjoy," one of several area camps with an academic component. Their goal is to enable students to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

Marymount's 3E camp enables campers to choose what they focus on at camp. In addition to traditional camp activities, the camp will include academic projects like exploring science through nature and electronic gadgets, studying math by making boats, language arts by writing their own stories and fine arts by creating plays and cartoons.

For those who want an in-depth review of a school subject and the chance to participate in hands-on summer camp activities, academic camps fill both needs.

"[Academic camps] supplement what students are getting during the school year and allow them to experience subjects and topics that they're not getting in public school," said Dan Stalcup, Associate Director for Fairfax Collegiate, a Herndon-based organization that offers summer programs for students entering third through ninth grade.

Programs at Fairfax Collegiate run the gamut from filmmaking and robotics to engineering and classic children's literature. For example, third and fourth grade students can learn to craft their own short stories during a Story Writing course in Alexandria, Chantilly and Ashburn.

Campers who enjoy reading and want to delve into award-winning novels by authors such as Madeleine L'Engle or Rebecca Stead can take "Reading Newbury Winners" with sessions in Chantilly, Ashburn, Fairfax, McLean and Reston. Students can spend two weeks reading books that have been



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Kara Dedon, a Marymount University graduate student, will be the director of the school's camp.

awarded the Newbery Medal for excellence in literature for children.

Fifth and sixth graders who love math and want to hone their analytical and logical thinking skills can spend their time engaging in chess, Stratego and

other mind-bending activities in the "Brain Games" camp, which will be offered in Chantilly, Reston, Herndon, McLean, Alexandria and Oakton.

Future detectives might enjoy taking a forensic science class in Alexandria, Chantilly, Herndon, Ashburn, Falls Church and McLean. "Students learn about the science in criminal justice, like blood-typing and fingerprinting by actually doing the experiments and seeing them in action," said Stalcup.

"Students get a lot of personal attention because the classes are small, and the instructors either have or are pursuing a degree in the topic they're teaching," said Stalcup. "They're all very passionate about the subject they're teaching."

Academic camps might be a good fit for students who are curious about a particular area of study. "Many parents want something that is both fun and educational, meaning it will help their child keep [busy] and develop skills needed during the school year," said Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University. "I think both parents and



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COLLEGIATE

A fifth grade student learns about the structure of the human heart during a Human Biology and Anatomy at Fairfax Collegiate.

educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

The decision to send a child to a camp that focuses on reading, science, math or another school subject instead of a purely recreational camp is a personal one, says Lado. "There are some kids who can visit their grandparents in Maine all summer and they come back to school in the fall and pick up where they left off," she said. "Then there are other kids who can't pick up easily. Those are the kids who would benefit from an academic program."

Students appreciate the ability to focus on one subject in a relaxed atmosphere in an academic camp. "If kids are taking a subject at a fast-clip pace, but they don't do well, they miss key skills. The next year they

"I think both parents and educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

— Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University.

move to a higher level class, but the same problem still exists," said Lado. "When they take a week or two during the summer and immerse themselves in a subject, they go stronger into the next school year. In camp, it's the only thing they're doing academically and they can concentrate on it."

For example, The Madeira School in McLean is offering summer programs in Trigonometry and Geometry. "These courses are intended for advancement into higher level math classes, and based on our classes taught during the academic year," said Ashley Smith, Associate Director of Communications

at Madeira. "A student who is interested in math and wishes to advance to higher levels will benefit, as well as students who need a refresher or a better understanding before moving ahead."

When choosing an academic camp, parents should look for camps that are not all work and no play. "I want to make sure it has a healthy balance of recreational and educational enrichment activities," said Morris. "If the campers are enjoying the activities and the counselors are skilled, the program should, as a natural effect, promote the building of positive relationships with their peers and their counselors."

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM CAMPS PAGE 5

Sydney Sullivan Ignite Retreat Oct. 16-18 at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, N.C.

Lara Barth, of Alexandria, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Barth was initiated at College of Charleston.

Molly Adler, daughter of Reid Adler and Jacqueline Arnold of Alexandria, has been named a Fulbright Fellow to teach English in Russia for the 2015-2016 academic year. Adler studied International Business and Russian at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., earning a bachelor's degree in May. Adler gained international experience at Juniata College. After her freshman year, she spent a month at a language institute in St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the College's Bard-Smolny Program.

Bishop Ireton High School senior **Isabel Anderson** has been awarded a President's Volunteer Service Award for her service. The award, which recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities and their country,

was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Bishop Ireton nominated Isabel for national honors in recognition of her volunteer service. Anderson started the Charity through Medicine Club at Bishop Ireton. Club members visit and hold events for sick children at Georgetown University Hospital.

Hailee Reeder, of Alexandria, received awards at the 2016 McMurtry Student Art Competition, a juried exhibit of artwork now on display in the Amy Graves Ryan Fine Arts Gallery. Reeder received awards for Abilene Framen-Art Award for Live for the Light but Remember the Night/2nd Place - Advanced Ceramics/HM - Advanced Ceramics/HM - Advanced Photography.

Nasser Yasin, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list for the mid-term spring 2015-2016 academic year at Wentworth Military Academy and College (Lexington, Mo.).

David Blake and **Ryan Land** have been named to the provost's list for Term 3 of the 2015/2016 academic year at Troy University (Troy, Ala.).


PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Alexandria Gazette Packet will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Alexandria Gazette Packet,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

MARINER SAILING SCHOOL



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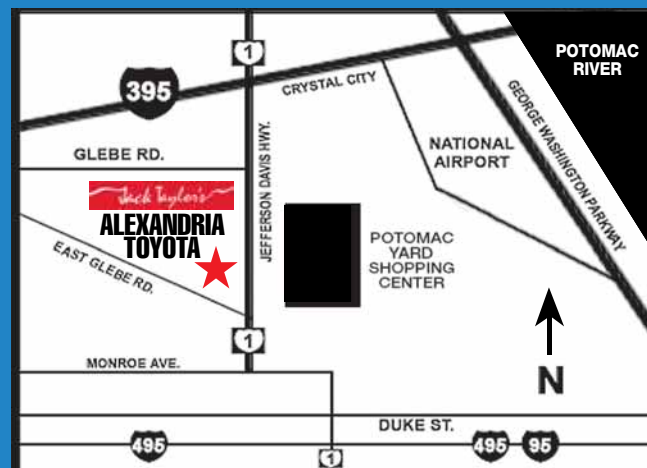
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