

Two Cents Worth

Where city's tax increase is going.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

When the city manager presented his proposed budget to the City Council, it came with a one cent tax increase. But on May 5, the City Council approved a budget with a three-cent tax increase on real estate value. It raises Alexandria's real estate tax rate to \$1.073 for each \$100 of assessed value. So where are those extra two cents going?

For the City Council, that two-cent increase translates into \$6.9 million in expenditures added during the council's add/delete sessions. All of that funding is being directed into capital improvement projects.

The biggest addition to the capital project list is \$3.4 million going towards the retrofit of a leased facility for an Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Pre-School Center. The total project cost is \$8.3 million, but the funding for FY 2017 is set at \$3.1 million in capital cash, with the additional \$5.2 million in bonds spread over several years. In FY 2017, the bond cost is roughly \$300,000.

One third of the total FY 2017 CIP, excluding the self-contained Potomac Yard Metrorail station, is devoted to ACPS projects. The projects, like the pre-school center, aim to modernize aging facilities and help the school district deal with an overcrowding crisis. Jane Richardson, Early Childhood Special Education coordinator, explained that a central early childhood education facility would help the students access age appropriate programming. Richardson said that can be difficult to coordinate currently with various early childhood education programs spread across the school system.

The Pre-School Center would also have an effect on school overcrowding. Currently, the early childhood education programs take up larger classrooms than are needed for their smaller class size, while other classes are forced to take their lessons in hallways and auditoriums.

That bond cost for the ACPS Pre-School Center is the only debt immediately incurred by the add/deletes. Every other project is paid for with cash capital funding, or "pay-as-you-go" funding. Other major additions to the budget



Ruth Brannigan teaches 4th Grade Talented and Gifted Math in a hallway at Lyles-Crouch Elementary School.



Evelyn Johnson teaches a Virginia Pre-School Initiative class at John Adams Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

were \$2.3 million for repair for the General District Courthouse and \$1.4 million for additional DASH replacement buses.

"No one likes to increase taxes," said Councilman Tim Lovain, "But these are capital investments."

"A three-cent increase is painful, for sure," Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper agreed, "but the truth is it's the only way we can keep

up our facilities and keep offering services."

Councilman Justin Wilson noted two incidents that happened around the time of the budget approval that indicated the human cost of neglecting capital improvements: a bicycle crash on Duke Street that left one rider hospitalized and severe flooding at William Ramsay Elementary School

that resulted in school closure on May 6. Wilson specifically noted that the cyclist crash further cemented the city's need for a more comprehensive complete streets program. The cyclist, Ryan Brown, was struck by a car on Duke Street and suffered head trauma. Meanwhile at William Ramsay, Helen

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Responding to Metro Delays and Closures

City leadership and ridership look at upcoming Metro changes.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It's frustrating but necessary. From elected officials to Metro riders just passing through, this has been the response to the long-awaited plan to fix the Washington Metro. The plan comes after years of delays and safety hazards, including the death of Alexandria woman Carol Glover in a fire in early 2015. The plan, released by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) includes numerous scheduled delays and closures throughout the rest of 2016 to fix

the broken rail system.

Sporadically throughout the summer, the Blue and Yellow lines will be single tracking, with portions on the Virginia side closed for two weeks in July. At the end of August, large portions of the Blue, Orange, and Silver lines will be closed for 16 days. For nearly the entire month of December, Rosslyn and Pentagon stations will be closed.

The repairs also will have broader secondary effects. Starting in June, the Metro will close at midnight rather than the usual 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Metro will also not be running

extended hours for special events.

City Councilman Paul Smedberg represents Alexandria on the WMATA board of directors and, at a City Council meeting on May 10, explained that the midnight closures will be put in place to allow more time for Metro staff to get on site and set up equipment. The work, as Smedberg noted, is extensive. WMATA's plans call for complete replacement of thousands of seals, insulators, and railroad ties. Smedberg also warned that these repairs are more about laying the trackwork for future maintenance.

"[This is] about getting a system to a good state of repair to be able to implement regular pattern of maintenance that, quite honestly, should have been happening over

the last decade," said Smedberg. "This tells you that the work needs to be done on an ongoing basis. It just gets us to a good state of repair to start to maintain the system the way it should be maintained."

One of the other major changes Smedberg said he hasn't heard widely discussed is that all non-unionized Metro workers are now considered at-will employees,

meaning the general manager is directly responsible for their continued employment.

With the repairs hitting the Blue Line in early June, Smedberg said Alexandria will be the first locality heavily affected by the metro reforms. In other words: the whole region will be watching to see how Alexandria deals with it.

SEE REACTING, PAGE 22

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Inside the Alexandria Police Department

Part 7: Street to Cell

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 ninth week of the course, citizens met the traffic section on the frontlines of enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter.

Whether it's being pulled over for a traffic violation or being directed around the site of a crash, virtually every Alexandrian has had some interaction with the Alexandria Police Department's Traffic Section. The section is broken down into five units: the Motor Unit, Parking Enforcement Unit, the Hack Inspector's Office, Special Events Unit, and School Crossing guard Unit.

"We're a bit of a jack of all trades," said Sgt. Chuck Seckler.

Seckler supervises the Motor Unit, a 10-man motorcycle squad responsible for traffic enforcement and rapid police response to emergency situations. The motor unit is called out to handle major traffic emergencies that involve road closures and detouring traffic, as well as being called out for special events. These types of events include funerals, VIPs, and oversized vehicles. Seckler says the motorcycle's flexibility and rapid deployment make it a useful tool for the department.

"The motorcycles can go anywhere," said Seckler, "including some places where cars can't."

The Hack Office handles taxis; a job that got a lot more intensive with the recent laws requiring Uber cars to be registered as taxis. The Hack Office processes taxi driver applications, as well as testing and background checks for taxi driver applicants.

Within the realm of traffic enforcement,

Officer Wesley Vitale focuses on intoxicated drivers. In the past four years, Vitale has given out 125 Driving While Intoxicated citations.

"It's sort of my thing," Vitale said.

Intoxicated is classified in Virginia as enough alcohol to affect demeanor, personality, or appearance. It's only when the intoxicated person gets behind the wheel of a car that the exact percentage becomes an issue.

Four beers will usually put a driver at .08 percent blood alcohol content, the legal limit for driving a motor vehicle.

"People think that if you drink water, it makes you less drunk," said Vitale, "but actually it just makes you more drunk. The alcohol is more easily absorbed with water."

When approaching a car, Vitale says officers check for noticeable odors. When approaching the car door, drivers check for glassy or bloodshot eyes. Next, the officer asks for license and registration. Vitale said people would be surprised at what gets handed to them at this point. Once, Vitale said someone reached into the McDonalds bag and produced the receipt to the officer.

At this point, the officer can perform field sobriety tests. The officer moves the driver to a safe location and initiates a number of tests. Vitale says the tests are designed to be fair to the driver, so they don't do the "backwards alphabet" test. But while some tests like the walk and turn or the one leg stand are iconic for DWI stops, others are more telling. Nystagmus is a condition of involuntary eye jerking that, among other causes, is often associated with alcohol consumption. Vitale said that some people have natural nystagmus, so it's not a 100 percent foolproof test, but that there's a 75 percent chance that the person is intoxicated.

After the speech and dexterity tests, drivers can take a preliminary breath test. The driver isn't required to take the test and the results can't be held against the driver in a DWI trial, but it indicates the level of toxic-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET
Cassandra Ford tries out the speed radar.

ity for the police officer. Vitale described it as another check to see whether the observations are true or not.

If the driver is suspected to be under the influence, he is taken to the Alexandria Adult Detention Center where a more advanced device can test for alcohol consumption. This reading is the one that is used in court. The machine is hypersensitive to breath and can distinguish between false-readings other tests might get from diabetics experiencing an attack.

Even if the device doesn't show a BAC over .08, that doesn't necessarily mean the driver can't be charged with being intoxicated while operating a motor vehicle. Vitale remembers one driver who blew a .07, but only after he's previously hit 11 parked cars in a parking lot. But if the officer really wants that BAC to cement the DWI case, he can get a search warrant for the driver's blood and take him to the hospital to have it extracted.

Once the arrest has been made, police control of the investigation begins to be

handed over to the Commonwealth Attorney. In everything from DWIs to serial murder charges, the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney acts as the city's prosecutor.

Bryan Porter is Alexandria's Commonwealth's Attorney. As the Commonwealth Attorney, Porter says most of his work is administrative: dealing with budgets and personnel. Most of the times, one of the office's 14 attorneys handles the day-to-day cases.

However, when there's a major case, the Commonwealth Attorney sometimes takes the lead. That's what happened a few weeks into his term when the Alexandria Police arrested serial murderer Charles Severance.

"It's one of the biggest cases in Alexandria history," said Porter. "It was very stressful, and sometimes I wondered why I took the job."

Ultimately, the Commonwealth Attorney's office won the case, with Severance given three life sentences. So far, Porter says that sentencing was one of the cases he's most proud of.

"It was a complex, complicated case," said Porter. "I believe [Severance] posed a clear and present danger. I truly believe, if acquitted, someone else would have died."

Porter said he was also happy they were able to wrap up the Nancy Dunning murder, which he described as a hole in the local community.

"I will never have a case like that, I don't believe," said Porter.

The most disappointing case happened before he was Commonwealth Attorney. Porter was assigned to prosecute Kashif Bashir, the taxi driver who'd shot police officer Peter Laboy. Bashir was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was sent to a mental facility. Porter said he believed the man who assaulted Laboy had prepared the attack in advance and had full sufficient understanding of right and wrong not to be considered criminally insane.

Next week is the last set of classes for the Citizen's Police Academy, with a look at the communications and resources in the department.

Stamp Out Hunger

Letter carriers food drive set for May 14.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The 2016 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the U.S. Postal Service, will take place Saturday, May 14 throughout the City of Alexandria.

"Last year we collected over 71 million pounds of food nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people," said Stamp Out Hunger area coordinator Brian McCormick. "And all food collected stays local with local food banks in Alexandria receiving over 55,000 pounds of food in 2015."

McCormick hopes to increase that amount

in this year's drive.

"We would love to collect 75,000 pounds this year," McCormick added. "If each customer in Alexandria were to leave one bag of non-perishable food items for their letter carrier to pick up, thousands of families in this immediate area would have enough food to survive."

Now in its 24th year, Stamp Out Hunger is the nation's largest single-day food drive and has collected more than 1.3 billion pounds of food over the drive's history.

To participate in this year's drive, place bags of non-perishable food items by your mail box before your mail is delivered May 14. Donations can also be dropped off at lo-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

cal post office branches throughout the city. "The need for food donations is great," McCormick said. "Most food banks and pantries receive the majority of their donations during Thanksgiving and over the winter holidays. By springtime many are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need."

Donations of non-perishable food, includ-

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), right, with area Stamp Out Hunger coordinator Brian McCormick, Robert Petitti of the Koinonia Foundation and Elizabeth McNally of United Community Ministries after visiting Alexandria's Wythe Street Post Office in anticipation of the May 14 National Letter Carriers food drive.

ing pet food, will be distributed by the letter carriers to local shelters and food banks including ALIVE! Koinonia and United Community Ministries. Examples of non-perishable items include: Peanut butter, canned soup, canned meats and fish, canned vegetables, fruits and juices, boxed goods (such as cereal), pasta and rice.

For more information, contact Brian McCormick at 571-278-3231.

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Extension Volunteers Seek To Meet Needs of Community

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Gardening tips, nutrition demonstrations, professional development for youth and retrofitting low-income housing for energy efficiency are only a few programs offered by the Virginia Cooperative Extension. An open house will be held May 26 at the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center on 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria from 4-6:30 p.m. to highlight a sample of the services provided by the Extension programs.

"We feel like we're the best kept secret and we want to showcase our programs for different city departments and, of course, Alexandrians," according to Donna Brazier, Extension Volunteer and member of the Leadership Council.

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a local partnership with Virginia Tech and Virginia State University. Brazier said it was originally set up as a way for Land Grant universities to give back to the community. Brazier says that Extension used to be thought of as primarily agricultural because decades ago it was a response to community needs in an agricultural society. But now she explains it is urban agriculture like the Master Gardeners sustainable gardening and environmental issues.

The 4-H programs for youth aren't focused on raising a pig or making jelly from the garden for the county fair any more but personal development and leadership, training youth to be community leaders. More than 20,000 volunteers assist more than 170,000 Virginia youth learn to make good decisions, manage resources effectively and improve communication skills.

Volunteers are trained in specific areas. The Family and Consumer Sciences Master Volunteers focus on strengthening Virginia families with educational programs to develop wellness life skills including health, diet, nutrition and exercise. Volunteers go to community centers, apartment complexes and cook a meal that is healthy while keeping cost in mind.

Sharon Simkin, Master Food Volunteer, says they cook a lot of meals in low-income retirement centers using recipes that have the ingredients delivered from the food banks.

Another group of volunteers work on the



Maxine Chikumbo works on a team which is improving energy efficiency at apartments on Princess Street.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

new energy efficiency program. Brazier explains the energy program is new in Alexandria and "is in response to a regular community assessment on what we should be doing." On April 2, several teams worked on low-income housing units at Princess Square improving the energy efficiency of the apartments. In a demonstration apartment, there had been a 25 percent reduction in energy

costs after the modifications.

Shane Cochran, working in one of the units, explains they will install gaskets, foam covers on outlets, and replace existing bulbs with LED-energy bulbs. "It will take about two hours to do this unit," Cochran said.

Beth Belk, volunteer coordinator for these units, says they will work from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. with 24 volunteers to finish 20 units. She says they work with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority as partners. They reach out to housing authorities to find units that would be appropriate

and facilitate the process with the tenants to give credibility. "And," she adds, "We really like working with them because they also bring us coffee and donuts in the morning."

Cochran says a big part of the program is tenant outreach. He said they gave out notices ahead of time explaining about energy use and what they would be doing.

Maxine Chikumbo works along side Cochran in the kitchen where she is caulking around electrical boxes to prevent leaks. She says they both started last September after taking classroom training for six weeks followed by hands-on-training.

Brazier is a Master Financial Education Volunteer. She gave a recent example of training 300 seventh graders at Kenmore Middle School in Arlington to make financial decisions. "We create a Market Place where each student gets a reality story with an assigned family size, budget, housing needs and transportation." They travel around to a number of booths making financial decisions. "They learn to make difficult decisions."

She remembers a homeless woman who at one time had owned a business of her own but had a lot more money going out than coming in. "She told me if she'd had my class before with common sense tips that she wouldn't have been in the homeless shelter," Brazier said.



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PEOPLE

Mom's Organic To Expand

Owner backs raising minimum wage.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Purple pots of hot ghost peppers, Japanese long eggplant and cantaloupe plants line the storefront. A burnished silver plaque behind the desk at the flagship Mom's Organic Market in Rockville, Md., says, "Mom's purpose: to protect and restore the environment."

Scott Nash, owner of Mom's Organic Market, sits back in his office chair beside a rocker and children's pictures posted on the wall. There is a list scrawled down the wall of anticipated upcoming stores. Nash says he looks at population, demographics, education, entrance and egress roads, parking and competitive landscape when deciding where to open a new store.

"But it is a lot of gut," he said.

"It all started right here in the '90s in Rockville with a little hole-in-the wall store within walking distance from here. Now I have 15 stores including the third store I opened in Alexandria in 2002. The Alexandria store is old and undersized at about 10,000 feet. It will be expanded to double its size in the coming year," he said.

A new MOM's just opened in Arlington. Nash says each store has 90 percent of the same selection but there is always wiggle room at every store. He says that he gets local produce, especially during August when there are lots of cucumbers and zucchini and tomatoes. But he points out the growing season around here is only 14 weeks, and some things don't grow well on the East Coast.

Nash says the concept of MOM's is an independently-owned and operated store, very dedicated to the environment and with higher ingredient standards than other grocery competitors.

"Once you get into organic, it's hard to go back," he said.

Nash says he grew up in Minnesota with Midwest liberal parents who challenged the conventional. He knew as a teenager he wanted to start his own business, "but I didn't know what it would be. Teachers and girlfriends were really worried about me but I knew I'd be OK."

Among its organic choices, MOM's features items from locals. "We find unique products, some weird new drink, an unusual cashew butter," he said.

Claudia Crowder, in charge of purchasing for dry goods, illus-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE

Scott Nash, owner of Mom's Organic Market, and Claudia Crowder, dry goods purchaser manager, explain that they have just added a new section on sustainable protein that features many flavors of crickets, meal worms and other unusual protein.

trates a Speedie B's apple-cinnamon energy bar. "This is made in Charlottesville. And Julie's Daterly started in the Alexandria Farmer's market over two years ago. The Simply Stuffed Dates with organic ingredients like lemon-almond, fly off the shelf." And there is gfJules, a local Maryland producer of gluten-free flours and mixes. Crowder points out Mom's has a separate section of gluten-free products. She says people seem to prefer this to hunting all over the store to find the gluten-free product they want.

Nash points out they have a new section of sustainable protein: "We do have roasted crickets in flavors like Moroccan and honey-mustard as well as meal worms. It will take a while to catch on."

On April 27 Nash spoke at a House Democratic forum about the importance of raising the minimum wage.

"It's w-a-a-y too low, unethically low. Aside from that, it really helps the economy to raise the minimum wage." Nash added, "You could give \$10 million to the uber wealthy and they might buy a jet. But the way the economy works is really from the inside out, to give more dollars to people making the minimum wage."

He said employees are happier when they make more money. They feel more appreciated and secure with less stress.

"I believe, in fact, people are more dedicated and work harder." Nash says they have gradually increased the minimum wage from \$8 to \$11 dollars an hour. He said, "People don't quit companies; they quit people."



Scott Nash, owner of Mom's Organic Market stores, recently testified before a Democratic Caucus in Congress about the importance of raising the minimum wage.



Claudia Crowder, the dry goods purchaser, says Mom's Organic Market likes to purchase from local suppliers such as Julie's Daterly. She says they have a special gluten-free section that appeals to customers who don't like to search all over the store for gluten-free products mixed in with everything else.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

After 28 years as music director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Kim Allen Kluge conducts his final concert with the ASO May 7 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall.

End of an Era

ASO Maestro Kim Allen Kluge bids farewell.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

He refused to say goodbye. Although it was his final concert as music director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Kim Allen Kluge preferred to tell well-wishers "To be continued."

"Our hearts will always be in Alexandria," Kluge said of he and his wife Kathryn Vasser Kluge, who was born at Alex-



Former school board member Arthur Peabody, right, thanks Kim Allen Kluge for his contributions to the City of Alexandria.

andria Hospital. "So tonight is not goodbye. Our journey here

SEE KLUGE, PAGE 23



Kathryn Vasser Kluge and Kim Allen Kluge acknowledge Patsy Ticer, who was mayor when Kluge first joined the ASO.

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Helping Victims of Teen Sex Trafficking

More coordination needed between agencies.

This story concludes this series on child sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

What happens when a sex trafficking victim is rescued? It can be a long bumpy road littered with suspicion, chaotic coordination efforts, lack of rehabilitation facilities, inadequate sensitivity toward the victims and insufficient funding. While there are many organizations and agencies committed to solving these issues, there is no systematic approach involving all of the players to address the recovery of the victims, according to local experts.

RECOVERY Melissa Snow, a child trafficking specialist for National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) which is the congressionally-mandated national clearinghouse for missing and exploited children, said D.C., Maryland and Virginia are lagging behind most states in developing specialized residential placement services for survivors of child sex trafficking. There is currently only one residential facility located in Bristol, Va.

Snow said it can get complicated “because in order to operate a residential placement for children, you have to have a license through the Department of Social Services and in most states they have been reluctant to specialize.”

Snow and others agree coordination of services is a key to a successful recovery. Snow said part of her role is to assist law enforcement and child welfare workers with coordination of victim-centered and trauma-informed recovery planning. Snow said, if specialized victim assistance and response has not been coordinated in advance, there is a high potential for re-victimizing the child.

Sensitization to the victim is another important ingredient to easing the victim back into a new life. “The victims feel very devastated and confused so we need to make sure all of the service providers are sensitized,” Snow said. “This includes the social worker, law enforcement, therapist and community based advocate. We should be, ‘oh my gosh — we are so glad we found you. We have been looking so long.’ Not sending the message it’s your fault. We should expect that kid to run back to the trafficker. We should ask ourselves what are we giving her to get her to stick around.”

Deepa Patel, director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield, said the victim is often treated like an offender instead of a victim.

Fairfax County Detective William Woolf agrees that the victim gets blamed — “it’s you, you, you. There is no talking about what goes into it, and how they are permanently traumatized.”

He said law enforcement needs standard training on how to recognize the signs of trafficking and how to sensitively treat the

recovered victim so they don’t react and return to trafficking.

ALTHOUGH FAIRFAX COUNTY is at the forefront with a human trafficking detective, no other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia have an equivalent position. And in a world of law enforcement priorities with murders, robberies and rapes, this is often at the bottom of the list.

“There is nothing like seeing someone stepping out of a tragic moment where they have been existing second-to-second in survival mode,” Snow said. “There is an overwhelming amount of pain and suffering minute-to-minute in their new reality.”

Snow recalls taking two survivors, both of whom had children by the trafficker, to the hospital: “A trail of people just kept coming into the hospital room that weren’t necessary for their health care. I realized they were coming because they were curious.”

What convinced the girls to change and become someone unrecognizable to their own parents and friends? Sometimes these girls were running away from fractured families or abusive relationships.

One girl told Patel, whose specialty is sex offenders and gang violence, that her current situation “wasn’t so bad; it was better than her last pimp or her family.” The trafficker can become her new family and sometimes the father of her children. Sometimes it was just a lonely teenage girl who didn’t fit in with her friends, or had family issues and gradually and unintentionally got caught up in a system and then found she couldn’t get out.

Patel said, “The victim struggles to form healthy relationships, to understand the boundaries of a normal relationship.” With appropriate intervention they are still at risk but may be a lot better off. Still, it can take years.

“One of the biggest barriers for me is funding sources from state, local and federal. They fail to understand how intensive treatment can be and in 4-5 months say we can’t fund you anymore. They expect me to build relationships and then cut off the funding,” Patel said.

Arlington County Police Capt. Tom Trumble, head of the Narcotics and Prostitution Unit, said their officers get sensitivity training by Detective Danny Orr who is assigned to prostitution cases, but Arlington doesn’t really have the issues of teen sex trafficking right now. Orr said there have been 71 arrests for prostitution and 99.9 percent of those are internet-driven.

“I always offer help with the Polaris resource, but nobody takes advantage of that. They know what they are getting into and are prostitutes to make money,” Orr said.

Crystal Nosal, senior public safety information officer for the Alexandria Police Department, said that Detective Betty Sixsmith is “the resident expert on child sex abuse.”

Nosal added detectives who are working



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Sarah Freeman, Sexual Violence Counselor for Fairfax County.

in this area get sensitivity training but it is not part of the requirements for general investigation. She said Alexandria has prosecuted three cases of teen sex trafficking in the last two years but it is “just not being reported to us as a huge problem. We have had no reports from the schools, nothing through Backpage online recruiting.”

Sarah Freeman, sexual violence counselor for Fairfax County, said she sees a trickle of adult sex trafficking clients. Fairfax County offers 10 free individual sessions with a sex violence counselor and/or a women’s support group. Anybody is eligible.

“We don’t see children because to build a relationship with a child in 10 weeks and then just send them on their way would be unethical,” Freeman said, but she said one can do a lot to address trauma in an adult in 10 weeks.

But Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for Fairfax County, said people take different paths to recovery. For some, therapy is a reminder of their recent trauma or they can’t deal with it and all of the other stresses they have to deal with at the same time.

“We want to offer them a menu of options and choice, the opposite of the life they had when they were controlled by the trafficker,” Davies said.

Freeman said, “There aren’t really any good overall statistics on what happens to the sex trafficking victims, and I wish we knew more about how many of them recovered.”

The NCMEC numbers show that one in five runaway children are trafficked for sexual purposes. Seventy-four percent of these were missing from child welfare care. “This says to me that we have a pathway to prevention. We can do a much better job. Every kid in child welfare should be getting messages about teen sex trafficking,” Snow said. Part of this issue, she said, was addressed by the enactment of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act in 2014. It required when children run away that it be reported by child welfare to law enforcement and to the NCMEC.

FORMER U.S. REP. FRANK WOLF, who was active in human trafficking issues when he represented Virginia’s 10th Congressional District, said we need to crack down on the Internet that is used for recruitment of young victims. He recounts his efforts

“There aren’t really any good overall statistics on what happens to the sex trafficking victims, and I wish we knew more about how many of them recovered.”

— Sarah Freeman, Sexual Violence Counselor for Fairfax County

with then U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to shut down backpage.com, one of the websites accused of enabling commercial exploitation of minors.

The response from the Attorney General Office of Legislative Affairs on Sept. 13, 2013 indicates, “As a general matter, any prosecution of a website operator for such conduct would require the government (whether federal or state) to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the website operators actually knew or recklessly disregarded the fact that they were accepting an advertisement that offers sex with a child. Sufficient evidence of knowledge of a crime against a child is not indicated where an advertisement on its face is for a legal services offered by someone who appears to be an adult ... Any legislation addressing online facilitation of sex trafficking of minors must be carefully crafted so as to comport with the demands of the First Amendment.”

Last October the U.S. Senate Permanent Select Committee on Investigations, chaired by Rob Portman (R-Ohio), issued a subpoena requiring Backpage to turn over documents relevant to their inquiry into online sex trafficking. A staff report had revealed evidence that Backpage has had a practice of editing advertisements before they are posted by deleting certain words and phrases which likely served to conceal illegality.

Because Backpage refused to comply with that subpoena, Portman and Ranking Minority Member Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced a Senate resolution to hold the company in civil contempt, and it passed unanimously on March 17, the first time in 20 years the chamber has taken such an action. On March 30, the Senate unanimously voted to authorize the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action in federal district court in Washington, D.C., to enforce the subpoena issued against Backpage.

Wolf said, “Remember on the Ed Sullivan Show when Ed spun the plate around very fast but as the plate got slower it started to wobble? I feel like we’re at that stage with human trafficking.”

Davies said 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. There is a better relationship among people who do the response. Our solution has to be as far reaching as the problem.”

News



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Eagle Scout Award

Boy Scout Colin Dickens earns his Eagle Scout award, becoming the first to do so from Alfred Street Baptist Church's Troop 133. Celebrating at the May 10 City Council meeting, he's joined by (from left) Darren Dickens, Rhonda Dickens. Mayor Allison Silberberg, City Councilman John Chapman, family friend Johnny President, Collier Dickens, and Daryn Dickens. For his Eagle Scout project, Colin Dickens marked storm drains that led into waterways in an effort to encourage his neighbors to prevent pollution in the Chesapeake. "The boys that commit themselves to obtaining Eagle, it's a high honor," said Chapman. "It's a testament to the effort that you put forth and to the support system that you have."

Council Approves Food Truck Locations

After a long battle at the Parking and Traffic Board, the proposed locations for Alexandria's Food Trucks made it's way to City Council on May 10 with the two locations in North Old Town removed. Assistant City Attorney Joanna Anderson said staff agreed with the citizen feedback re-

ceived at the meeting that more research on traffic and parking impacts was required before any potential approval of a North Old Town site. The City Council unanimously approved the three remaining sites located near the Eisenhower, King Street, and Braddock Metro stations.

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OPINION

America's Anti-Trafficking Efforts...

... Hollow victories for public accolade.

BY DR. KIMBERLY MEHLMAN-OROZCO

Each day there is more media on the human trafficking scourge in America with heart-wrenching stories about women, men, and children who are forced, defrauded, or coerced into exploitation. Whether it is the pimped child, the indentured migrant laborer, or the domestic slave, the headlines are always the same "victim saved" and "offender arrested," but this narrative masks the reality of the situation. Despite being arrested, few traffickers are ever convicted of human trafficking offenses and those who are typically receive "slap on the hand" sentences. All the while, the majority of trafficking survivors are re-victimized and criminalized through arrest, prosecution, detention, and/or deportation. These victims are rarely "saved" as the media stories suggest, but rather remain "disposable people" in the shadows of heartland America.

I first became aware of this reality gap while sitting in an audience of anti-trafficking policy makers, law enforcement officials, and service providers, listening to Frank Wolf (R), mem-

ber of the U.S. House of Representatives from Virginia's 10th district. There were multiple news agencies recording his speech and taking down notes. He was touting the human trafficking prosecution of Peach Therapy, an erotic massage parlor located in my hometown, midway between my mother's home and my high school. Unbeknown to most in the community that surrounded it, the business was a front for a full service brothel. According to the official Department of Justice press release, the massage parlor proprietor, Susan Lee Gross, was bringing girls from South Korea to New York, and trafficking them down I-95 to my Virginian suburb, for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

Representative Wolf portrayed the conviction as a prime example of the efficacy of his federally-funded efforts to combat human trafficking locally. However, prosecuting erotic massage parlors engaged in human trafficking is often described as "playing a game of whack-a-mole;" shut one down and another will pop right back up, sometimes in the same location or under a different name. Victims are often afraid to cooperate with law enforcement and legal representation for offenders will exploit their credibility gaps, such as undocumented foreign national status, drug use, or coerced co-offending. If law enforcement gets too close, offenders will strategically "sell" the business and change the name in order to evade arrest

and prosecution, bringing investigators back to square one.

Not for a lack of trying from law enforcement, but less than .01 percent of human traffickers are ever convicted for their crimes.

The need to combat human trafficking is one of the few issues that all politicians, Republican or Democrat, can agree on. For example, in the race for presidency, Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton, Marco Rubio, and Carly Fiorina (to name a few) have all discussed the need to address the human trafficking scourge in the United States. However, legislators, law enforcement, and victim service providers need to be forthcoming regarding the lack of efficacy of current anti-trafficking efforts. Without an evidence base of support, passing new pieces of costly legislation may not be the answer. America needs to understand that behind the politicians touting arrests for public accolade and the click-worthy headlines on federal prosecutions, human trafficking enterprises continue to flourish in plain sight.

With human trafficking especially, law on the books has yet to translate to law in action.

Author Dr. Kimberly Mehlman-Orozco holds a Ph.D. in criminology, law and society from George Mason University, with an expertise in human trafficking. She currently serves as a human trafficking expert witness for criminal cases and her book, "Hidden in Plain Sight: America's Slaves of the New Millennium," is contracted for publication with Praeger/ABC-Clío.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lack of Bike Lane Use

To the Editor:

On June 12, 1911 land in the Rosemont Neighborhood of Alexandria was deeded to the Rosemont Development Company.

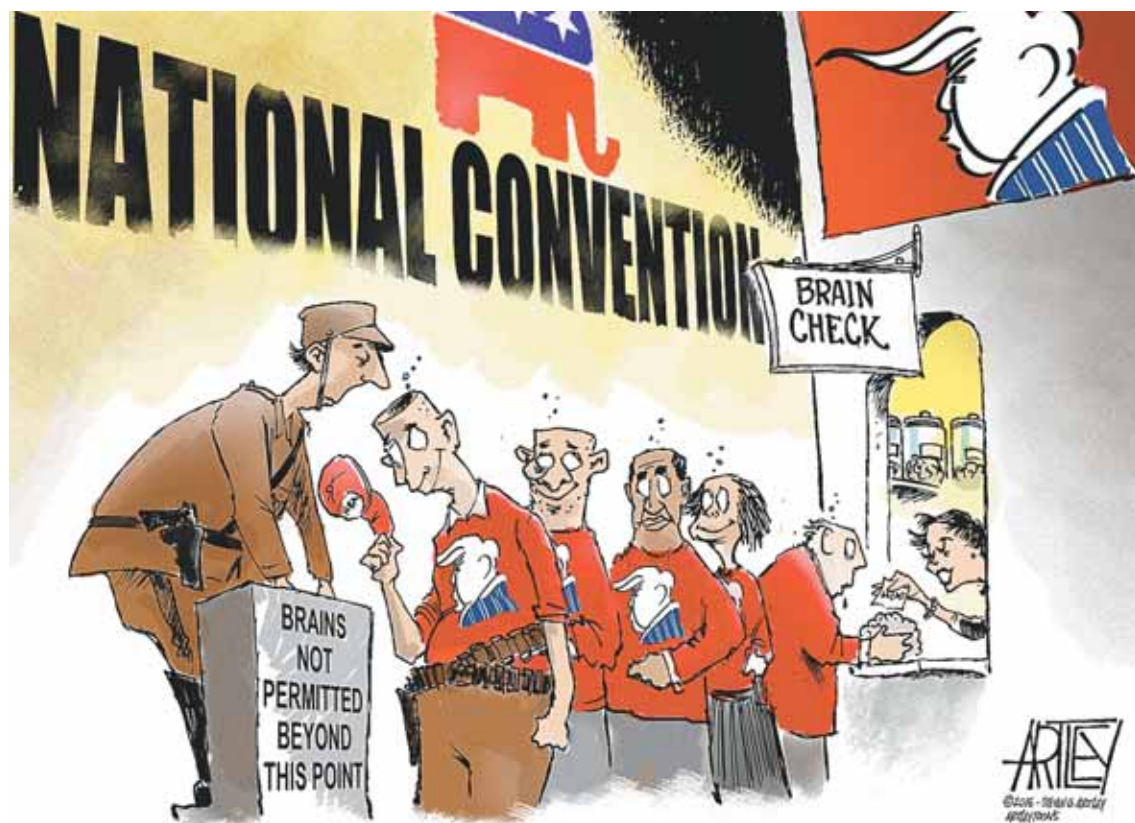
The deed has this restriction: "That the portion of said land designated for parking along the streets and avenues of said subdivision shall never be paved or used for any other purpose without the consent of all the proprietors of lots in the said subdivision." The deed includes Rosemont lots in the 2200,

2300, and 2400 blocks of King Street, the exact blocks where City Council voted March 15, 2014 to remove parking, despite rejection by the Traffic and Parking Board. The development company considered parking in this subdivision important, even in 1911 when the number of cars was "slightly"

lower. In 2014, however, the city removed parking that had been available to homeowners when they purchased their homes and had provided safe access to their homes. The city justified removal of the parking in these King Street blocks on the basis that parking spaces were underutilized. Data supporting this claim is meager. It consisted of observing number of parked cars only 20 times in a one year period; four of these observations at 9 p.m. or later.

Green bike lanes were installed in place of the parking lane. Green paint on bike lanes indicates an "area of conflict." Perhaps that explains the negligible use by cyclists. Based on counts during five rush hours, there was an average of almost 1,000 motor vehicles per hour, at the same time there was an average of only three cyclists per hour. At other times it is rare to see a cyclist using the lanes. Residents in the King Street community are not against bike lanes. We are against the removal of the parking lane that provided safe access to our homes on this busy two-lane roadway. Now, we daily observe the empty, underutilized bike lanes that replaced the parking lane. Unfortunately the Bicycle Master Plan has no performance

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STEVE ARTELEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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Staying Healthy, Staying Happy

BY TERRI LYNCH
INTERIM DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF AGING &
ADULT SERVICES
AND MARY LEE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SENIOR SERVICES OF
ALEXANDRIA

The President has declared May to be both Older Americans and Mental Health month, making it a perfect time to focus on promoting the mental health of older adults. It is estimated that 20 percent of people age 55 years or older experience some type of mental health concern. Without proper treatment it can lead to impairments in physical, mental and social functioning. Although the rate of older adults with depressive symptoms tends to increase with age, depression is not a normal part of growing older, and statistics show that in 80 percent of cases it is treatable. Risk factors include the loss of a spouse, the stress of caregiving and/or physical illnesses. However, older adults are resilient. A lifetime of experience helps put garden variety aggravations into perspective. Using common sense activities can help alleviate common stressors and help to maintain brain health:

- ❖ Proper rest. Getting enough rest helps the brain recover and rejuvenate. Good sleep habits include having a bedtime routine; 7-8 hours is a good night's sleep for

most people. Get plenty of exercise during the day. Limit naps; use power naps or short naps, but not late in the day. Keep pre-bed time low stress and relaxing.

- ❖ Diet and nutrition. Limit caffeine later in the day. Limit use of alcohol. Adding "smart foods" to your diet can increase the chance of maintaining a healthy brain. These include blueberries – one doctor calls them "brain berries"; deep-water fish such as wild salmon that are rich in omega-3 essential fatty acids; nuts and seeds; avocados; whole grains, and limited amounts of dark chocolate.

- ❖ Daily exercise. Exercise helps us rest better, reduces stress and improves circulation – all three conditions important for raising our moods.

- ❖ Keep chronic medical conditions well controlled. Keep your blood sugar, your blood pressure and your cholesterol within the healthy range.

- ❖ Reduce stress. In addition to the items mentioned above, socialize. Stay connected with friends and family. Don't be hesitant to reach out for help when you need it.

- ❖ Stay involved with your community. Volunteer – there are people and organizations that need you; try new things; use your imagination.

If you are a caregiver, don't overlook the impact of caregiving has on you. Stress can

negatively affect your health, well-being and ability to provide care. It's important that caregivers take care of themselves, because both parties are depending on the caregiver. Caregivers need to find balance in their lives, although that's easier said than done. They need to take care of their own physical, emotional and spiritual needs in order to care for others. The prescription is the same as listed above – get sufficient rest, eat a balanced and nutritious diet, exercise daily, keep chronic conditions under control, don't become isolated – reach out to others and maintain relationships, find time for your own interests, and be sure to laugh.

There are two active caregiver support groups that meet monthly in Alexandria. The city's Division of Aging and Adult Services group meets the first Wednesday, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Adult Day Services Center, Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria. For more information email joann.callendar@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5999. A second group sponsored by Griswold Home Care meets the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel Church on the Hill located at 3606 Seminary Road in Alexandria. For more information about the group call 703-739-2273. These groups are run by trained facilitators,

and provide meaningful connections for those struggling to maintain a balance in life while caring for an elderly loved one.

The city also sponsors a Mental Health First Aid public education program. This eight-hour training opportunity helps demystify mental illness by using role playing and simulations. It introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. The program gives participants the tools to help assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect persons to professional, peer and social supports as well as self-help resources.

For more information about these programs and other services available to older adults facing mental health challenges go to www.alexandriava.gov/aging or call 703-746-5999. Senior Services of Alexandria's monthly Senior Speaker Series also provides information about all Alexandria has to offer to help seniors and their families. To find out more go to www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

If you are interested in finding out more about Older Americans Month go to <http://acl.gov/olderamericansmonth>.



Lynch



Anderson

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high ceilings, vintage wood floors and architectural details. Seller providing garage parking nearby. Details of 112 Prince Street at betsytwigg.com

Alexandria **\$819,000** Beverly Hills



Located at the top of a private cul-de-sac with commanding views of trees and skyline, this home offers a large, level rear yard with exceptional expansion potential. Renovated high-end kitchen with professional gas range, breakfast bar open to dining room and gener-

ous storage. Doors from dining room lead to pergola covered patio and gorgeous yard. Three bedrooms, three updated baths, fireplaces in living room and rec room. Recent roof. HVAC, water heater, fresh paint and refinished wood floors. Details of 3900 Gresham Place at betsytwigg.com



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CLEVELAND PARK, DC 3525 Woodley Road NW
\$5,995,000
Built in 1918 by the second dean of the Cathedral, the home has exquisite period details, high ceilings, an attractive master suite, and original hardwood floors. There are beautifully landscaped grounds, multiple terraces, and stunning Cathedral views.
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344



ALEXANDRIA \$3,500,000 | 212 S Fairfax Street
One of the finest and most historic homes in Old Town. This stately four level townhouse is sited on two lots with towering trees and tranquil gardens. This exceptional property offers a grand foyer, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 4 off-street parking spots, tall ceilings, and exquisite moldings.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106



BELLE HAVEN 2210 Belle Haven Road | \$1,295,000
Under Contract: Sited on a large corner lot in one of Belle Haven's quietest and most secluded locations, this beautiful home has so much to offer. Gracious formal rooms, totally renovated kitchen and baths, first-floor family room with a wet bar, screened porch, garage, and lovely fenced lot.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106



MASON HILL 1604 Mason Hill Drive | \$1,139,000
Custom built, better than new brick colonial on a serene, beautifully maintained half acre lot. Completely updated with gourmet kitchens and baths, hardwoods, and a finished lower level with kitchenette-possible nanny/in-law suite.
BETH SHEEHY +1 703 298 8143



TTR Sotheby's International Realty is pleased to welcome **Pam Cornelio** and **Frida Hopper** to the Alexandria Office!



BELLE HAVEN 6401 Olmi Landrith Drive | \$1,065,000
2.26 acres. Stunning park-like setting with a botanical garden feel. Four-bedroom home offering a charming main level living option. Living room, family room, and master bedroom overlook 2 stone terraces. Set on the hillside next to Belle Haven.
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WETHERLY BARKER +1 703 965 9613



BEVERLY HILLS \$939,000
3305 Old Dominion Boulevard
Remodeled Cape Cod out of the pages of a magazine. Interior designed by premier local design group. 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, open-concept kitchen/family room, screen porch, and deck.
PHYLLIS PATTERSON +1 703 408 4232



ALEXANDRIA 5232 Winter View | \$899,900
Maintained home with high end finishes throughout and gorgeous views of trees and wildlife from over-sized windows and large deck. Recent improvements include Pella windows, gas fireplace, water heater, stucco, irrigation system, appliances, deck, fence, garden house, high ceilings, and more.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK 2600 King Street
\$839,900
Sunny, exceptionally maintained and upgraded home filled with charm and character. 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, garage, special garden, and fenced yard. Great views and sunlight throughout. Close to King Street Metro.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



POTOMAC YARD 2408 Potomac Avenue #102
\$795,000
This pristine residence located on a desirable lot in Potomac Yards with park view offers 2 spacious levels with 3 bedrooms + 2 dens. Gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, a master suite with custom closets, spa-like bath, and dens with built-ins.
BRENT JACKSON +1 202 263 9200



ALEXANDRIA 6863 Signature Circle | \$429,000
Magnificent Manchester Lakes home with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, and 2 half baths. Open floor plan, large living area with new hardwood floors, gas fireplace, a gourmet kitchen with an eat-in dining area, and outdoor patio. Second living area located on garden level. Garage parking.
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WILDLIFE

Rooftop Drama

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Brendan Barb knew that becoming an Animal Services officer for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) would be a challenge. The officers are responsible for enforcing all city codes and ordinances involving animals, both domestic and wild, and routinely rescue animals in trouble. Barb, 26, had experience working on adoptions and animal behavior training at the

AWLA Vol. Lawson Animal Shelter, which is operated by the AWLA, but he didn't imagine what was waiting for him in his very first week as an Animal Services officer.

Responding to a citizen call, Barb and fellow Animal Services Officer Sgt. Tammy Doran headed out to North Armistead Street in Alexandria. There, a red-tailed hawk had become trapped in the fenced roof of a one-story-tall heating and cooling unit on top of an apartment building. Somehow the bird had made its way through a hole in the fence atop the unit and couldn't find his way out. A second hawk flew around in nearby trees, calling to him.

Donning thick wildlife-handling gloves and grabbing a butterfly-style net, Barb ascended the ladder to the area where the



Animal Services Officer Brendan Barb with rescued hawk.

hawk was stuck and attempted to catch the bird. Officer Doran worked at distracting the bird. "The hawk flew around the net several times," Barb recalled. "Cornered birds of prey will lash out, so I had to be pretty careful. I could see a lot of fear in his eyes."

The rescue attempt went on for several minutes until finally, success: Barb and Doran captured the hawk and were able to bring him down to the ground safely. A quick check of his wings, beak and feet showed no injuries, so the officers decided to release him. He flew off to join his friend waiting in the tree.

It was baptism by fire for newcomer Officer Barb but an experience he treasures. "That's why we do this job — every day brings a chance to help animals in trouble."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

measure for usage or remedy when usage of bike lanes doesn't materialize.

Less stressful alternate routes to the King Street bike lanes were rejected that may have proven safer for cyclists and increased usage. These would have avoided the need to eliminate the lane that provided parking and safe access that was important in 1911 and essential to daily life now.

Louise Welch
Alexandria

Disregarding Citizens?

To the Editor:

In addition to suffering through some ill-fated decisions by this City Council, we are now seeing end runs without any public discourse whatsoever. Three examples immediately come to mind:

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Dedicated \ Results-oriented \ Doer
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 Advocate \ Grower \ Thinker \ Giver

DO THESE WORDS DESCRIBE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

Alexandria's future leaders are here in our community working hard to make our city a better place to live, work and play. Recognize their efforts by nominating them to Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural 40 Under 40 Class.

- Nominees must live, work or volunteer in the city of Alexandria and be under 40 years of age.
- Membership in the chamber is not required.
- Individuals may nominate themselves or others.

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT!

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NOMINATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS BY MAY 20, 2016 AT
WWW.ALEXCHAMBER.COM/ALEXANDRIA-40-UNDER-40-AWARDS



ENTERTAINMENT

Farmer's Market Takes Root in North Old Town

The small but mighty market is ready for an all-year presence.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Tucked neatly into the small parking lot on the outskirts of Montgomery Park, a smattering of farm vendors have started selling their wares. For just a few hours last Thursday, the all-week rain took a little break as neighbors celebrated the launch of the North Old Town Farmer's Market.

The small but mighty space will soon play host to half a dozen or more **APPETITE** local farmers and entrepreneurs every Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., says market master Margaret Townsend.

"I'm such a believer in the positive energy of small business," Townsend said.

She says she believes that the market is another way for neighbors to reinvest in their own community and strengthen the neighborhood bonds — and for local businesses to get involved, too.

"We're trying slowly to increase the vitality of this whole area of the park," Townsend said. "I envision people picking things up at the market ... and then perhaps picking up something lovely at (restaurants like) A La Lucia and then having a picnic in the park with their children."

The origin of the market has been a slow and steady effort over nearly five years, Townsend says. From first envisioning the concept to now, the permits, buy-in, organizational hurdles, and more have been slow-going, but the final product was worth the wait.

"We're trying very hard to place farmers from different markets — perhaps who haven't been in Alexandria before, as well as farmers who are familiar to Alexandria. ... We're trying to follow some of the precepts of the Smart Market movement," focusing on farmers who hail from 200 miles or less away and grow their own produce.

One thing you'll notice when visiting the market is the diversity of products. Rather than lining the lot with several vendors selling similar produce, Townsend was committed to a more diverse approach.

"We've been really careful to make sure there's no vendor overlap so there's no competition," she said. Such diversity leads to a plethora of options, ranging from delicious bread to bright, colorful tomatoes. And Relay Foods, an online grocer, has designated the market as a pickup site for neighbors' weekly orders, giving shoppers even more options.

One of the linchpins of the farmer's market so far is Twin Springs, a farm based in Orrtanna, Pa., that is no stranger to Northern Virginia markets. Its stint in North Old Town is a first in Alexandria for the farmers, and Townsend has high hopes.

"We are their first Alexandria market," she said. "They have a strong following throughout the area but have not been able to make it into Alexandria before. I think this is going to be great for them and great for folks who (already) come down to them at Sherwood Hall."

Just a couple of weeks into the market's existence, Townsend has her sights set on even more success this summer. Coming soon: "(A) free yoga in the park program, and we'll be working on some biking events for folks who want to ride their bikes to the market." Townsend's also working up tentative plans for a "Taste of North Old Town" event that would begin at the market and spill over into nearby local restaurants.

But for now, she'll work on getting the market up and running at full capacity. After several preview weeks, the grand opening is slated for May 19.

"(It's) a real heartfelt project because I believe it's so valuable to the community," she said.

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



Cherry tomatoes are ripe for the taking at the Twin Springs Fruit Farm booth at the North Old Town Farmer's Market.

Twin Springs Fruit Farm, one of the first vendors at the North Old Town Farmer's Market, offers a plethora of apple varieties.



PHOTOS BY
HOPE NELSON/
GAZETTE
PACKET



Spring onions abound at the North Old Town Farmer's Market.

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

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, Parris is primarily self-taught in the medium of graphite drawing. His subjects, often family and friends, offer the viewer an emotional connection to his work. Hammond will feature new ink wash drawings each a 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.

May Artists Showcase. Through May 28, 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.

Exhibit: Ethiopian Crosses.

Through May 29, 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.

"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.

"Surrealism: A Photography

Exhibition." Through May 29, 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.

Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now." Through May 29, gallery hours at

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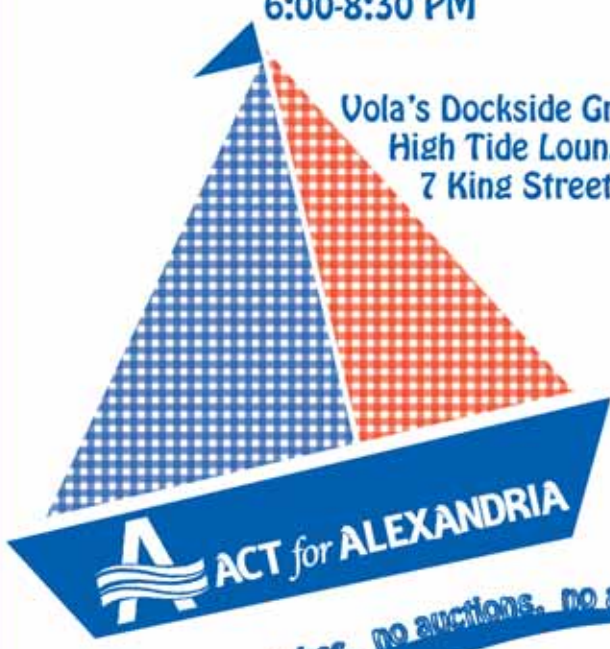
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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photography by Soomin Ham. Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Photographer Soomin Ham exhibits new work. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photos by E. E. McCollum. Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. McCollum's work explores familiarity, simplicity, and the commitment to place in a series of photographs made over the course of a year at a small, suburban pond. Working in black and white, McCollum brings a sense of intimacy to a small, and easily dismissed, landscape. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

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

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

are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

Alleys Tours. Saturdays, May-October, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Attics and Alleys is a three-hour walking tour featuring the rarely seen spaces of four sites—the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, and Carlyle House Historic Park. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 12

Red Day: Visit "The World's Cutest Pups." 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1701 Duke St., Suite 100. Visit dogs and donate to the Operation Paws for Homes. Visit www.ophrescue.org for more.

Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour some of the demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will share stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 historic house. Tickets are \$32. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.

"Digging In: Understanding Archaeological Protection in Alexandria." 7 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. The City Archaeology team will explain how archaeological resources are protected and update attendees on current findings. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Artist Meet & Greet. 7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Art Center has a brand new mural on the loading dock door, facing Union Street. DC-based artist Erin Curtis finished her newest work, "Beaded Curtain," last week. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

How Bugs Make the World Go Around. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Michael J. Raupp's presentation will explain how insects and their relatives help make the world go around by providing important ecosystem services, linking members of food webs, pollinating plants, and providing biological control. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/potowmack for more.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 12-13

Browne Academy Spring Musical. 6 p.m. at Browne Academy, 5917 Telegraph Road. Browne Academy's drama department presents "Seussical, Jr." Free. Call 703-960-3000, ext. 1006 or email emorrow-schap@browneacademy.org.

Unplugged: A Night of Dance, Film and Theater. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac Academy Dance and Professional Television Production students are teaming up with West Potomac High School's Beyond the Page Theater Company to produce a dance, theater, and film festival—Unplugged. Free. Contact cjbetz@fcps.edu or nemantelli@fcps.edu.

FRIDAY/MAY 13

The Howard Gardner School Not-So-Silent Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road. Join The Howard Gardner School community for our annual auction to benefit the Fund-A-Student program. Featuring music by The Tyler Rose Band, beverages, appetizers, and a buffet dinner provided by La Prima. Free. Call 703-822-9300 or visit hgsauction.weebly.com.

Hunger Free Alexandria Benefit Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. The benefit concert will feature Stetson University's Concert Choir who is traveling from Florida and passing through Alexandria and performing here as one stop in a week-long spring tour. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.hungerfreealexandria.com for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 13-15

Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Mount Vernon's Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour celebrates the history of wine in Virginia with evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by "George and Martha Washington," and live jazz on the east lawn. Historic interpreters will conduct tours of the Mansion throughout the evening. The interpreters will discuss Washington's attempts at creating a vineyard and highlight various wine-related items inside the Mansion, including the basement's brick vaults where Washington stored his wine. To accompany the wine tasting, fruit and cheese boxes are available by advance purchase for \$29.99. Tickets are \$40 for Friday, \$48 for Saturday, and \$36 for Sunday. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 14

In Their Shoes 5K Run/Walk. 7 a.m. at United States Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. The Iraqi Children Foundation (ICF), a 501 (c) (3) charity, is hosting its Fourth Annual In Their Shoes 5K Run/Walk to benefit Iraq's most vulnerable children, orphans, street children and those fleeing ISIS. Funds raised through the 5K are invested in emotional care for traumatized children, access to education for children displaced by violence, providing nutrition and health care, legal aid, and more. Registration is \$30 in advance, \$35 starting April 1. There is a discount for groups. Visit www.iraqichildren.org/in-their-shoes-5k-2016 to register.

Spring Garden Day. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. More than 40 local garden vendors descend on Green Spring Gardens plants to fill spring gardening needs. Growers and Master Gardeners will help with plant selections and gardening advice. Sponsored by Friends of Green Spring. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

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

"What's The Point?" 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at 206 S. Union St. Hear all about bricks and mortar at this hands-on workshop about repointing. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Revolutionary War Patriotic Ceremony. 4 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church Cemetery, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will hold a grave-marking ceremony for Revolutionary War Patriot Abraham Faw. In January 1775, Faw was appointed to the Frederick County Committee of Observation, charged to prevent any infractions of the Association and Resolves of the

ENTERTAINMENT

Provincial Congress. In 1777, the State of Maryland contracted with Faw to construct a "proper powder magazine" which, when completed, handled orders for powder from around the state. Free. Visit www.gwsar.org for more.

MAY 14-21

Just Between Friends Kids Pop-Up Sale. 12 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Clothing, books, DVDs, toys, puzzles, games, baby equipment, and more. Free to attend. Visit www.easternfairfax.jbfsale.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 15

Photography Bicycle Ride. 1-4:30 p.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Improve photography abilities with a mobile phone's camera. A short class covering photographic techniques, composition, lighting, the phone's settings, and photographic apps will be integrated into a bicycle ride to sights in Alexandria to put new skills to the test. Area photographic artist Jason Horowitz will answer questions. Other cameras are also welcome. Free. Call 703-746-5525 for more, use code Activity #419801 for more.

Stories in the Garden. 4-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Local musicians perform, and tell stories. Free. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com for more.

"Life: A Comic Opera." 7 p.m. at Catholic University – 620 Michigan Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. Alexandria playwright Neal Learner presents a public performance of his most recent work. Free. Visit www.monumentaltheatre.org.

MAY 15-AUGUST 15

Art Exhibit: "Streets Meets Glass." Business hours at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The exhibit features the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

MONDAY/MAY 16

Act for Alexandria Community BBQ. 6-8:30 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront Dock, 7 King St. Find food, music, and more. Tickets are \$50, free for children 12 and under. Visit www.actforalexandria.org for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 17

My Art/Mom's Art Playgroup. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Fun class for parents and preschool children to enjoy learning simple watercolor techniques together. As mom finishes artwork, the children explore other art materials. Workshop fee is \$35 parent/child (art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes.

Genealogy and The Internet. 1-3 p.m. at at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., uses an interactive case study to show both how complex research problems can be solved online and the limits of material online today. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-768-4101.

MAY 17-JUNE 12

Potomac Fiber Arts: "Horizons."

Gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists' interpretations of separations between sky and earth, landscapes, seascapes, sunsets, sunrises. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited and for sale. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 18

CryBaby Art Studio. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. CryBaby Art Studio is a special time for new parents to relax and exercise their creativity learning simple watercolor techniques with baby by their side. Workshop fee is \$25 (art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes.

Chamber Golf Classic. 1-7 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce will host the 18th Annual Chamber Golf Classic. This is a fundraiser for the Chamber's Scholarship Fund. Tickets start at \$200. Visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

Lauren Bruce Art Show. 4-8 p.m. at Victoria at Home, 1125 King St. Lauren Bruce displays her oil paintings. Champagne and snacks will be served. Visit www.victoriaathome.com for more.

Lecture: "What Do You Mean?" 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Listen to a panel of preservation experts discuss the meaning of "cultural significance" with respect to local, national and international places. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

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Franz Kline, Untitled, circa 1957, Oil on paper board, 9 1/4 x 11 3/8 inches. Est: \$150,000-250,000. Auction: May 10 in New York
Diamond Ring, Ap. 5.20 cts. F color, VS1 clarity. Est: \$75,000-100,000. Auction: May 16 in Los Angeles

DOYLE.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra.

7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Santa Fe's Grammy award nominee Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra come to town to celebrate their new release "Waiting + Swan" featuring music by Bob Marley. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 20

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Lovely Annuals & Perennials.

1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardeners show how soil preparation, mass plantings and the right flower selection can give a lush flowering garden from spring to fall. Tickets are \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 202 9101 or call 703-642-5173.

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: "Streets Meets Glass."

7-9 p.m. at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Celebrate this exhibit which features the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead, who combined their art mediums for this exhibit. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

Live Piano Concert.

8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. A program of piano sonatas, the "Appassionata" Sonata, Opus 57 by Beethoven and the Piano Sonata Opus 1 by Brahms. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-998-6100 Ext. 103.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 20-21

GospelFEST.

6-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Former Mayor William D. Euille, Master of Ceremonies, will guide the audience through the history of Gospel music through the ages. Songs for the "Alexandria - gospelFEST" will showcase a variety of Gospel music styles, including spirituals, contemporary, traditional, choral, call and response, and praise



"If I explain it to you," Kara Hammond

'The Hand Speaks' Now Open at The Associates Gallery

The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center presents work of Kara Hammond and Drew Parris in an exhibit titled, "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. The exhibit will hang through May 22 at 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

workshop music. Tickets are \$5. Visit alexandriava.gov to register.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Hodge Podge Yard Sale.

7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Pohick Episcopal Church, the colonial church of George Washington & George Mason, will be holding its annual "Hodge Podge" Yard Sale. On sale will be furniture, collectibles, household goods, books, clothing and much, much more. All proceeds will benefit the many ministries of Pohick Church, which serves the southern Fairfax and northern Prince William County areas. Free to attend. Visit www.pohick.org for more.

Garden Container Potting Workshop.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Bring a 16-inch (or smaller) container to Green Spring Gardens, where horticulturist Judy Zatsick will give a short talk on

successful container gardens. Tickets are \$12. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 287 5801 or call 703-642-5173.

Daisy Scouts: Flower Garden Journey.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how seeds grow, plant seeds and take some home. Tickets are \$10 per Girl Scout. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

Soldier-Led Tours.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Dressed in Union uniform, Museum Curator Brian Briones will present an orientation to the Defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. Learn about the fort's history, how a Civil War fort was built, soldier life in the



"Duality," Drew Parris

Washington area, and weaponry of the period. In addition to viewing many of the fort's preserved earthen remains, participants will visit the reconstructed Officers' Hut, furnished as a typical quarters in the Defenses of Washington, the fort's reconstructed ceremonial entrance gate, and the fully restored Northwest bastion of the fort. Tours are 90 mins. Free. Visit www.fortward.org for more.

Lauren Bruce Art Show.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Victoria at Home, 1125 King St. Lauren Bruce displays her oil paintings. Champagne and snacks will be served. Visit www.victoriaathome.com for more.

Beneficial Insects.

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Beneficial insects play triple roles as pollinators, predators and parasites to help you maintain a healthy yard and garden. Learn how to distinguish friend from foe and how to attract beneficial insects. Free. Advance registration is

requested at mgnv.org.

Junior Scouts: Gardener Badge. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Identify wildflowers, create a bookmark and make a bouquet. Tickets are \$12 per Girl Scout. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 4501 or call 703-642-5173.

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront between Founder's Park and Blackwall Hitch. Attendees will be able to view wooden boats built by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's apprentices, listen to live island music and enjoy silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$60 until May 13, \$70 after that. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

Ladies Night Out Workshop.

7-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn about blind contour drawing and complete your artwork with watercolors. The workshop fee is \$45 (art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes.

Raise a Glass, Raise the Chimney.

7-10 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. According to local legend, Robert Downham, then-owner of the Lee-Fendall House and local liquor wholesaler, lost his license after news spread around Alexandria of his entertaining President Woodrow Wilson with lavish amounts of alcohol at a dinner party. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Prohibition party. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Opening Reception: New Photos by E. E. McCollum.

2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery - The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. McCollum's work explores familiarity, simplicity, and the commitment to place in a series of photographs made over the course of a year at a small, suburban pond. Working in black and white, McCollum brings a sense of intimacy to a small, and easily dismissed, landscape. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

In the Company of President James Madison.

3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. "President Madison" discusses life in 1816. Public questions and opinions related to the salon topics are welcomed and encouraged. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass
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Sunday:
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(with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm
(en Español); 6:30 pm
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Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass
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Monday, 6:30 pm;
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Creating Space for Family Oasis

Local designers unveil recent projects and offer tips.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Lured outside by rising temperatures and blue skies, homeowners are deciding that it's time to spruce up patios, gardens and other outdoor living spaces. Local tastemakers are hard at work transforming winter-worn al fresco spaces into lively oases in time for a season of warm-weather entertaining.

"I have already been extremely active this season working with various clients in the region to focus on their outdoor spaces so that they may entertain outdoors as much as possible, for as long as possible this season," said Philip Smith, design consultant for Offenbachers, an outdoor furniture and accessories company with showrooms in Springfield and Fairfax. "I have looked to fresh, light and natural palettes, making an effort to mix materials whenever possible."

"Outside living areas should be an extension of your indoor space and style, so focus your energy on quality products," said Smith. "Consider accessorizing with throw pillows, rugs, lighting and potted plants, and leverage bright colors to be even more playful and on trend each season."

Smith points to a recent project in which he anchored the client's covered porch with four of their existing white Adirondack chairs, adding fresh pops of color with teal and yellow cushions. "It created a great transition from their kitchen, making it a natural extension of where they say most of their guests gather," he said.

Color is the anchor on a Bethesda, Md. porch that Kelley Proxmire, principal of Kelley Interior Design completely recently. "We used yellow as the main theme and added complementary elements such as plates displayed on the wall," she said. "Adding mirrors to an outside or seasonal space [also] gives it dimension and interest."

Families with luxurious outdoor living spaces are eager to use them often throughout the warm weather months, that's why it's a good idea for homeowners to "invest [and] choose quality pieces that are easy to maintain and can withstand weather, but easily be updated for style as needed over the years," Smith said.

When shopping for outdoor furniture, look for materials that can stand up to longer use and weather elements. High quality fabrics, says Smith, will not retain moisture and attract mosquitoes.

A longer season also means the need to factor in aesthetically appealing heat solutions, such as a fireplace or fire pit. "They serve as a great focal point and can aid in deterrence of mosquitoes," said Smith.

Creating a seamless transition from a home's interior to an outside living area is a trend that Smith recommends. "For another client whose dining space is closest to the patio entry, I actually brought in a new outdoor bench cushion to use in their dining room to tie in the new grey Lloyd Flanders Mackinac seating just outside on their patio," said Smith. "Since they experience a great deal of direct sunlight, then early shading due to their trees overhead, we [added] an underlit umbrella to give the most shade during peak times and offer ambience once the sun sets."

Foliage is another weapon in the war on mosquitoes. "Think succulent plant options to minimize water consumption and excess moisture [and] keep mosquitoes away," said Smith. "Feel free to mix materials and pieces to suit what looks and feels good to you to refresh what you already have."

Michael Winn, principal/owner of Winn Design + Build, transformed the deck of a McLean deck home. He advises those con-



PHOTO CREDIT COURTESY OF OFFENBACHERS

Philip Smith, design consultant for Offenbachers, recommends Kingsley Bate outdoor furniture. He advises clients to invest in quality pieces.

sidering adding such a space to design an outdoor area which can accommodate larger groups of people when entertaining. For example, he suggests "selecting doors, such as a quad-panel gliding door or full-swing French door, to create a large opening for joining the interior and exterior spaces."

Using a variety of levels for decks and patios is a trend that Winn advises homeowners to avoid. "They may look good, but they often limit the functionality of the spaces and can be tripping hazards for unaware guests," he said.

The guidelines for lighting an outdoor space are the same as interior spaces: ambient, task and accent. "All three should be considered for a layered effect," said Winn.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

The first issue is the BikeShare program, which has obtrusive bike racks springing up all over the city. One would think that these rack locations would be vetted by the Board of Architectural Review (BAR), the Traffic and Parking Board, the Planning Commission, and the City Council in conjunction with citizen input. However, that is not the case. A few months ago, City Council approved a process to allow the placement of racks without any public interaction whatsoever, and more importantly, without a public hearing.

A second issue concerns food trucks, which is an issue that is almost as egregious as the BikeShare problem. Last year, an Ad Hoc Food Truck Committee established a pilot program and then the committee was disbanded. However, in November of last year, the city manager recommended the establishment of another task force. Regrettably, this recommendation was apparently ignored. Then in April, the city attorney's office (in conjunction with input from the Transportation and Environmental Services Department) recommended five food truck locations in Old Town, which were approved on April 16 by City Council. Subsequently, two of these locations were disapproved by the Traffic and Parking Board, but City Council placed the program on the docket at one of its Tuesday meetings (May 10) wherein citizens are not allowed to comment. This is just another program that has been approved without a public hearing. The final injustice is that the food truck

vending fee of \$250 has been waived, with no public input on this matter.

A third issue is the Waterfront Plan. When this was approved by City Council, \$120 million was allocated over the next 10 years for improvements, half of which was unfunded. Some of the unfunded \$60 million was dedicated to keeping the waterfront in tip-top shape. To help with funding these improvements, a Business Improvement District (BID) could be created for Old Town. The Waterfront Commission established a Governance Subcommittee to study the BID issue. If this group agreed on a BID proposal, it would send its recommendations to the Waterfront Commission, which would in turn decide whether or not to send the BID request to the City Council for approval. To date, the Waterfront Commission has not approved the BID special taxing district, which runs along the waterfront from Jones Point to Potomac Landing, and from the waterfront, along King Street to the King Street Metro. However, one must question why this boundary runs along King Street to the Metro, if the beneficiaries are actually the businesses on the waterfront?

Moreover, this past week, City Council approved the FY 2017 budget, which included funding to study a BID in Old Town, and which was accomplished without any public discourse. This is a circumvention of due process, since the City Council acted without the Waterfront or Planning Commission's approval. It also excludes citizen input, and casts a doubt on why we even have commissions.

These three examples are symptomatic of a complete disregard for the citizen's opinions. Without citizen input into the decision-making process, no real democratic decisions can be made, and the city eventually ceases to be a democracy. One might make the case that Alexandria now has taxation without representation.

Townsend A. Van Fleet
Alexandria

Hidden Agenda Behind Project?

To the Editor:

Meetings for the construction/remodeling of the Patrick Henry Recreation Center (PHRC) began around 2004, headed by the Patrick Henry Parent Advisory Board. Since that time, feasibility studies and other surveys have been conducted by the City of Alexandria. This project also included various architects, the former mayor, and present and former members of the City Council. During the construction of the Charles Houston Recreation Center, the Patrick Henry Recreation Center was put on the back burner and a portion of the Patrick Henry Capital Improvement budget was rerouted to help fund the construction of the new Charles Houston Recreation Center.

On 2008, the Parks and Recreation Cultural Activities Department (RPCA) began to seriously conduct public hearing for PHRC. The Patrick Henry School and PHRC were combined and considered as one

project. In 2015, a Patrick Henry Advisory Council was established to act as liaisons for neighbors and the groups they represented to provide input on issues and opportunities throughout the planning and design process for the new school and recreation center. To support the project, RPCA conducted a PHRC Neighborhood Needs Assessment.

Programming options were:

1. School Centered Scenario — Focuses on before and after school care and programs for the students and their families enrolled at Patrick Henry School, etc.

2. Neighborhood Recreation Center Scenario — This model has a market focus of the 1-mile radius surrounding the site, in addition to the Patrick Henry School students and families.

3. Community Recreation Facility Scenario — This model includes programs that attract users from the entire City.

Program option 3 was chosen based on the Feasibility Study Feedback from the community.

❖ 78 percent of respondents chose the Community Recreation Center.

❖ 24 percent of respondents chose the Neighborhood Recreation Center.

❖ 52 percent of respondents chose the School Rec Center.

Although the vote for the Community Recreation Center was unanimous, the director, James Spengler, of RPCA recommended that a Neighborhood Recreation Center be built for the PHRC and his rec-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 26

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Updates include landscaping, hardscaping and waterproofing (2015/16), bathrooms (2016), furnace (2016), kitchen (2013), A/C (2004), and replacement windows (2000). Though no known defects, home is being sold as-is.

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Saturday, May 14, 2016



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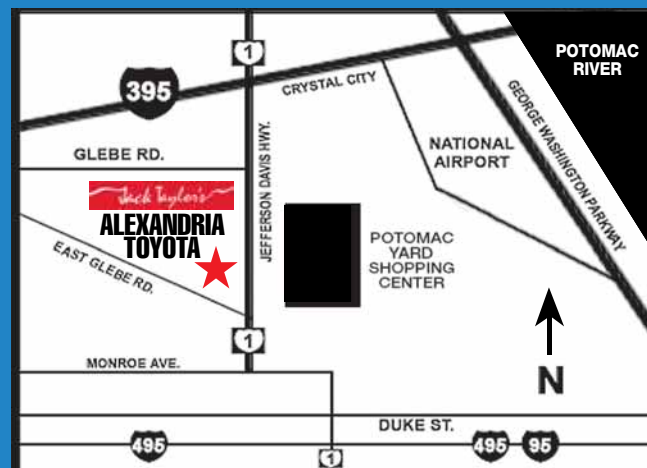


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Let's Go Places

Reacting to Metro Changes

FROM PAGE 1

Yon Lambert, Alexandria's director of Transportation and Environmental Services, said during the initial repairs it will be very difficult for trains from Franconia to head into Alexandria. Metro will be running shuttle buses between Pentagon and Franconia, and Lambert said the city is currently looking into how it can expand its bus services. During those times, Lambert said there will be an increasing number of Yellow Line trains from Huntington, and the city is looking at expanding parking options at the nearby Eisenhower Metro Station.

But the metro shutdown impacts only get worse from there. Later in the summer, Lambert estimated the closures along the Blue Line will affect 50,000 weekday trips. "These are significant disruptions for us," said Lambert. "We have begun having staff meetings for mitigation strategies."

Lambert said some of those strategies include additional satellite parking locations, shuttles coordinated with the DASH bus service, and adjusting traffic light signals to account for changes in traffic patterns. Within the city staff, Lambert said that departments are looking at potential telework plans.

"This is akin to preparing for a major snowstorm," said City Manager Mark Jinks. "We know it's coming, but don't know all impacts or how people will behave We will be ready on July 6 and prepared to make amendments. We will also be first [impacted], along with Fairfax County. People will be looking at us to see how things perform."

Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper expressed concerns about the impact of additional buses on city traffic. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said he was concerned about the potentially unseen financial ramifications of the shutdown.

"We don't yet know what these costs will be, but we'll know it will be higher than what we have budgeted," said Jinks. "We may have to reallocate money in the CIP and see where we are on state transportation aid, but we don't know how Metro will choose to use their costs. We're going to have to pay very close attention and ... think about when we make commitments for spending in the coming year. We'll have to write a bigger operating or capital budget, either this year or in the coming year."

Smedberg acknowledged that the repair would come with a significant financial impact, not only in terms of capital costs and mitigation efforts, but with the dramatic decrease in metro revenue.

"It's something that has to be done," said Smedberg. "We have no choice."

In an email, Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University, said it will take careful planning for Alexandria to navigate the Metro crisis.

"The Metro Safe Track surge program can best be compared in Arlington or Alexandria to a major snowstorm — except with a little more time to anticipate," Shafroth said in an email. It's coming; it will bring major uncertainties. "It means that Arlington and Alexandria — especially, need to plan how to mitigate the impact in regard both to their residents — who largely commute out of the county and city, the business and federal government workforce that largely commutes in from other jurisdictions, and their respective county and city own government workforces, who largely commute into the county and city. Each jurisdiction will be forced to think out of the box with regard to traffic and parking management. Because this is such an unanticipated event, they will have to demonstrate signal flexibility; they will have to closely monitor, and — especially — they

will have to be flexible and primed to adjust to the impacts as they occur."

But Shafroth said a lot of questions remain about WMATA's planning. "Because there are so many unknowns, each jurisdiction will also have to closely track the fiscal impact on tax revenues and the cost of the surge: this, after all, was not an anticipated event in the adoption of the budget — and, unlike a major storm — it will last much, much longer.

On the trains themselves, riders seemed to have a universal opinion on the delays.

"It seems necessary," said Andrew Sue-Ako, a rider waiting at the King Street station. "Better than people dying, assuming all of the disrepair is true."

"I think it's necessary," said Alex Moore, riding the Blue Line. "Conditions have deteriorated, but the timing could hurt. Virginia closures during the summer could impact us young people going out to bars and restaurants in the evening. Summer is the time when you could really get drivers off the road. The timing, relative to the season, could pose a risk."

Megan Cole, a friend sitting near Moore, says she's not as frequent of a Metro rider as he is, but the closures don't make her more likely to ride.

"Van Dorn is my Metro station, and I don't know what I'm going to do once the closures hit," said Cole. "I guess I'm just not going into D.C. those days when it's closed, because I refuse to drive into the city."

For others, while the repairs are important, there's other areas the Metro needs to improve. Sandy Nevzil lives in Reston and recently began using the Silver Line to commute to her work in Alexandria. But Nevzil is legally blind.

"It's frustrating, because the signs don't always agree with the trains," said Nevzil. She says the stories about the fire Federal Center scare her, but she's willing to wait out the delays in hopes the Metro will improve.

At the Rosslyn Station, the platform is packed. NuNu Deng and Samara Stevens are discussing their 20-minute wait for a train during rush hour. Like Nevzil, Stevens says the communications needs to be improved.

"The information online and sent out by [WMATA] can be incorrect," said Stevens, saying that one day she was told that the Silver Line was closed, but then showed up at a station where it was running. She didn't get on the train, and when she asked the station manager about it a moment later, she was informed that it had been running that day and the website was incorrect. Sometimes, Stevens says information seems to change depending on which station manager you talk to.

"There's a lack of communication and consideration," said Stevens. Once on the train, Stevens said the speakers in each car need to work, and there should be some uniformity to the conductor's announcements. "We had one conductor announce all of the stations and what the connections were. It made all the difference in our ride."

Deng and Stevens both noted that it was frustrating to pay full price for a service that's so broken.

"In L.A., you can get a month of rides for \$75," said Deng. "In D.C., you can spend \$100 getting across the city in just one week."

Still, Metro riders say they're ready to get through the worst of it if it means having a reliable transit system. "We want to fix it now before something even worse happens and it becomes an emergency. I just hope they can stick to their timeline," said Jessica Mallow, riding the Silver Line. "It's unfortunate that it has to happen so immediately, but from people I've talked to, it seems that most are willing to weather the storm."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Aloha

As part of its worldwide voyage, the Hawaiian canoe HMkklea will make a two-day stop in Old Town Alexandria. Tours of the canoe and dockside outreach will be offered by crew members May 15 at Waterfront Park from 3 to 5 p.m. and May 16 at the City Marina from 1 to 5 p.m. The visit is part of the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, which will cover 47,000 nautical miles, 85 ports and 26 nations. Visit www.hokulea.com.

Two Cents Worth

FROM PAGE 1

Lloyd, director of communications for ACPS, said an aging water pipe inside the building had burst and resulted in severe flooding that forced the school to remain closed on Friday and over the weekend.

Mayor Allison Silberberg said she pushed for the increase to stay at two cents or slightly higher.

"We have to look at what's mission critical," said Silberberg. "Those of us at City Council and in the School Board have to be careful stewards [of the city]."

Silberberg said she would have reduced the funding for the Courthouse renovations. The Courthouse and Health Department were the two lowest scoring buildings in an ongoing assessment of city facilities, so the Courthouse was the highest on the list for internal renovations. While Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter said his office has not been directly affected by issues with mold, the issues with mold and missing ceiling tiles on the building's fourth floor were widely known.

It was the first budget session for Willie Bailey, first term city councilman, who said the biggest lesson from being up on the dais was that he could no longer solely fo-

cus on issues he had a personal interest in. Both Silberberg and Bailey said their biggest budget regret was the cut to fire hydrant maintenance. Typically the fire hydrant replacement works on a five-year cycle, costing \$202,000. The city manager's proposed budget cut that to \$101,000 operating on a 10-year cycle. By adding in \$17,720, the city was able to push that to roughly an 8-year cycle.

The operating additions in the budget were all funded through re-estimated revenues, a higher refuse fee, and a higher tobacco tax. Operating expenditures added during the add/delete process included \$79,862 to extend library hours to 1 - 5 p.m. every Sunday afternoon, funding to begin studying the possibility of a Business Improvement District in Old Town for \$25,000, and a handicap accessible door at City Hall for \$10,200. Now, the budget goes to the School Board, whose capital costs are fully met but still face a \$900,000 gap in operating costs. Stacey Johnson, chief financial officer for ACPS, said the School Board will have to look back at their own add/delete work and find a way to close that gap. The School Board will meet on May 19 and 24 to discuss the budget.

"A three-cent increase is painful, for sure, but the truth is it's the only way we can keep up our facilities and keep offering services."

—Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper

PEOPLE

Kluge Bids ASO Farewell

FROM PAGE 6

is to be continued.”

Kluge’s final concert with the ASO featured the world premiere of Kluge’s American Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, which was co-written with his wife Kathryn. At the conclusion of the May 7 concert, board president Ronal Butler presented Kluge with a plaque declaring him the ASO’s first Maestro Emeritus.

“What a bittersweet evening,” said Old Town resident Joan Bondareff. “It was an incredible performance but sad to know Kim Allen Kluge is leaving us.”

While the search for Kluge’s replacement is underway, the 2016-2017 season will feature concerts led by world renown guest conductors including James E. Ross, Kathleen Kelly, Michael Rossi, Scott Tucker and Emil de Cou.

“Kim Allen Kluge has brought the ASO tremendous growth and recognition,” said board co-vice president and longtime supporter Carl Behnke. “But we still have many exciting times ahead of us.”

For tickets or more information on the upcoming Alexandria Symphony Orchestra season, call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.



PHOTO BY PAUL FRIEDMAN

Mayor Allison Silberberg, left, reads a city proclamation recognizing the contributions of Kim Allen Kluge to Kluge and his wife Kathryn Vasser Kluge.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

David Blake, of Alexandria, graduated from Troy University (Troy, Ala.) during Term 3 of the 2015/2016 academic year. Blake attended TROY Online and graduated with the Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences.

The following Virginia Military Institute cadets from the Alexandria area were named to the dean’s list for the first semester of academic year 2015-16.

❖ **Maxwell L. Cormier**, a senior, is majoring in civil engineering. Cormier’s parents are Dwayne P. Cormier and Tiffany Lea Cormier.

❖ **Emily A. Dickson**, a freshman, is majoring in chemistry. Dickson’s parent is Margaret A. Dickson.

❖ **Patrick W. Doolin**, a sophomore, is majoring in history. Doolin’s parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joel A. Doolin.

❖ **Conrad W. Jenne**, a sophomore, is majoring in applied mathematics. Jenne’s parents are Mr. and Mrs. Kirk E. Jenne.

❖ **Mason S. Malone**, a junior, is majoring in

mechanical engineering. Malone’s parents are Gale A. and Marvin S. Malone.

❖ **Thomas A. Nicholson**, a freshman, is majoring in biology. Nicholson’s parents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Nicholson.

❖ **Patrick K. Piedad**, a senior, is majoring in physics. Piedad’s parent is Maria A. Madrigal.

❖ **Edward L. Wilkinson Jr.**, a senior, is majoring in history. Wilkinson’s parent is Edward L. Wilkinson.

❖ **William O. Woodward Jr.**, a sophomore, is majoring in history. Woodward’s parents are Capt. and Mrs. William O. Woodward Sr.

❖ **Haotian Xia**, a sophomore, is majoring in international studies and modern languages and cultures. Xia’s parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Petito.

Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla, Mo.) has named **Emily Hutcheson**, a freshman studying engineering, to the honor list for the fall 2015 semester.

Na Zhao was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in agricultural and applied economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s winter commencement ceremony.



The Kids Helping Kids Junior Board and representatives from the 2016 nonprofits Lemonaide Day will be supporting this year at the February Lemonaide Day Kickoff. See www.khkalexandria.org.

‘Lemonaide Day’ To Be Held May 21

Youths from all over Alexandria will put up lemonade stands on Saturday, May 21, as part of a day-long effort to raise money to benefit nonprofits supporting at-risk children in Alexandria. Lemonaide Day is sponsored by the non-profit organization, Kids Helping Kids (KHK). This year marks the 14th Anniversary of Lemonaide Day and like last year, will be part of a celebration of giving and service in the City of Alexandria called Spring for Alexandria (www.springforalexandria.org).

In 2015, a new group students from numerous local schools joined together to continue in the Lemonaide Day tradition. After raising over \$15,000 for local non-prof-

its last year, the students returned with the goal of doing it again this year. The 2016 Kids Helping Kids Junior Board is comprised of Annie Tuttle, Eliza Marcus, Olivia Morton, Olivia Petretich and Majlis Walker. They recruit youth volunteers, spread awareness about the event and the nonprofits they choose to assist, gather sponsors, and organize all the logistics for the event.

The KHK Junior Board selected five nonprofits to receive Lemonaide Day proceeds: Alexandria Police Foundation, Carpenter’s Shelter, The Fund for Alexandria’s Child, Space of her Own and Wright to Read.

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

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

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See other MLS listings:

Alexandria — FX9526374, FX9528814, FX9628761, and FX9567517
Arlington — AR9555136 and AR8734738
Annandale — FX8733393
Oakton — FX9618345

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PHOTO BY BECKY ORFILA

A Wild Visitor

A female Turkey hen stayed around most of the afternoon on May 5 on Skyhill Road enjoying some of the lush green grass. Deer, fox and coyotes have been seen in the Seminary Walk park too.

SPORTS

Boys' Lax Earns First Region Tournament Berth Since '11

Titans beat West Potomac in first home playoff game since 2007.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The stage was set. The T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse team had earned its first home playoff game since 2007. Now, all the Titans had to do was beat rival West Potomac to return to the region tournament for the first time since 2011.

No sweat.

T.C. Williams scored the first six goals of Monday's contest, led 12-1 at halftime and finished off West Potomac by the final score of 18-3 in the opening round of the Conference 7 tournament on May 9 at Minnie Howard.

T.C. Williams, the No. 4 seed, faced No. 1 South County in the conference semifinals on Wednesday, after the Gazette Packet's deadline. The Titans will compete in the first round of the 6A North region tournament on Tuesday, May 17.

"It's huge," TC head coach Mike Mulherin



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams senior attackman Phil Reilly scored four goals against West Potomac on Monday.

said about Monday's win. "It gives us a couple more weeks of playing as a team. We've proven we belong in the top half of the conference and now we can go challenge ourselves against teams in the region that we haven't seen yet this year."

Monday's game, however, was hardly a challenge. Three different Titans scored four goals against the Wolverines and seven scored at least once.

Seniors Phil Reilly and Dillon Smith, and sophomore Brody Dickson each had four goals for TC. Senior Sammy Zang finished with three goals, and seniors Scott

Passalugo and Chase Larsen, and sophomore Ethan Hall each had one.

"We're more of a team this year compared to a couple years ago, [when] we were individuals," Passalugo said. "This team, this year, like you saw tonight, evenly distributed all the goals [and] assists. It's something special and I'm happy to be a part of it."

While teamwork might set this TC team apart, skill and confidence are other areas in which the Titans have improved.

The 2011 team that qualified for regionals was still developing skill-wise and finished with a losing record. The 2016 team, thanks to an offseason of hard work, has improved its stick skills enough that the Titans go into games expecting to compete. The result is a 10-5 record following Monday's victory — the program's first winning season since 2007.

"We set it as a goal at the beginning of the season: to be in the top half [of the conference standings], to host a home playoff game," Mulherin said, "and ... [these] guys, they lived up to the goals they set for themselves and it was all through hard work in the offseason and a lot of effort by the players and team captains."

Mulherin said qualifying for the region tournament is just as special now as it was in 2011, but this team is different.

"The 2011 team, it was a much different collection of folks we had," Mulherin said. "It was still the very building blocks, we were trying to develop skill across the board in every position for the team and we were still fighting through a lot of inconsistencies. We've gotten to the point now where the expectation is everybody has stick skills and is an essential player in initiating the transition and starting ... the offense. It's a much different attitude with the guys on the team."

How have the Titans handled increased expectations?

"We're just a fun group of guys," Smith said. "We're excited. We're up for the challenge. We love getting everybody out here to the games and this was the year to do it and we're doing it."

Teams from Conference 7 will be matched up against teams from Conference 5 in the opening round of the region tournament. Two-time defending state champion Robinson, Centreville, Westfield and Chantilly are the four teams from Conference 5 to qualify for the region tournament.

Seeding is based on the results from conference tournaments.

"You hear about these stories and we're finally on a team that's something special," Zang said. "It feels amazing and all the hard work that we've done, it's paid off."

TC Crew Freshman Girls Win State Championship

On May 7, the T.C. Williams girls' freshman 8 boat captured a gold medal, winning the Virginia Championship Regatta for Lower Boats and claiming the Ted Phoenix trophy that is presented annually to the Commonwealth's fastest freshman girls boat.

Two other Titan crew boats also medaled, taking bronze medals in highly competitive contests. The state competition took place at Sandy Run Park on the Occoquan Reservoir in Fairfax.

The girls' freshman 8 boat sprinted down the 1,500-meter course to win its heat in the morning in 5:55.8. Facing the fastest boats in the state for the afternoon final, the freshman girls once again turned on the power, crossing the finish line about 11 seconds ahead of rival National Cathedral School. With a final time of 5:45.5, the girls

claimed the gold medal and brought back to Alexandria the Ted Phoenix Trophy. This victory continues the freshman girls' undefeated season for 2016. It is also the third time in four years that TC has claimed the state championship for freshman girls.

Members of the Freshman 8 include Paula Filios (coxswain), Chloe Marsh, Grace Fluharty, Blythe Markel, Ailysh Motinger, Piper Bucholz, Charlotte Milone, Elspeth Collard, and Anna Guynn. It is coached by Patrick Marquardt. "I am really proud of the efforts the freshman rowers have made this season," Marquardt said. "They have trained hard and stayed focused in every race. I am looking forward to seeing their results in the upcoming competitions when they face some of the country's best boats."

The frosh 8 were not the only Titan boat to visit the medal dock at Saturday's Championship Regatta.

The T.C. Williams boys' novice 8 barreled down the course to win its heat in the morning, with a time of 5:44.8. They returned in the afternoon to face the fastest boats in Virginia and claimed a bronze medal in a highly competitive contest in which they finished only five seconds behind winner Robinson. Their time was 5:41.2. Members of the boat include Townson Cocke, Lars Kirchoff, Owen Malone, Joey Subyak, Carl Chidlaw, Jack Lutzer, Matthew Cheung, Emmott Cocke, and coxswain Emmanuel Teferra. Colin Cantfil, Spencer Allin and Jeff Coan coach the novice boys.

The T.C. girls' novice 8 boat took second in its heat, fighting its way into the finals. The novice girls came out strong and fought



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The freshman girls 8 boat captures a gold medal for T.C. Williams at the Virginia Championship Regatta for Lower Boats on May 7. Boat members include Paula Filios (coxswain), Chloe Marsh, Grace Fluharty, Blythe Markel, Ailysh Motinger, Piper Bucholz, Charlotte Milone, Elspeth Collard, and Anna Guynn.

the competition the entire course, capturing the bronze medal with a time 6:31.7. Members of the T.C. girls' novice 8 include coxswain Sara Rider, Lila Arnold, Julia Clements, Ava Elkins, Maria Lyons, Alyssa Umpar, Cammi Cook, Sophia Cavanaugh, Alaina Broward (coxswain). The Girls Novice coaches are Andrea Huggins, Cara Donley and Catie Serex.

The boys' freshman 8 also turned on the power during the petit men's final, battling with Woodbridge down the entire 1,500-meter course. With a final sprint, Woodbridge edged ahead at the last moment, with T.C. finishing .43 seconds behind it, to earn second place in 5:34.03.

The T.C. Williams crew team will compete next in the Virginia Championship Regatta for Upper Boats, which will be held at Occoquan on Saturday, May 14. Qualifying boats will then compete in major national competitions, including the Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia on May 20-21 and the Scholastic Rowing Association National Championship Regatta in Nashport, Ohio on May 27-28. The final race of the season is international: the Canadian Scholastic Championship Regatta in St. Catharines, Ontario on June 3-5.

The Titans are guided by boys' head coach Pete Stramese and girls' head coach Marquardt.

Bishop Ireton Girls' Lax Wins WCAC Title

The Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team won the WCAC championship on Monday, beating Good Counsel 10-9 at the University of Maryland.

It was the Cardinals' second WCAC title in the last three years. Good Counsel defeated Ireton 9-7 on April 8 during the regular season.

The Falcons are ranked No. 4 in the nation in the latest Nike/Lacrosse Magazine poll. The Cardinals are ranked No. 6.

Bishop Ireton will host a first-round VISAA state playoff game at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17. The semifinals are Friday, May 20, and the state championship game is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 in Richmond.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-05-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Plumbing and Related Services.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 16-05-01 Plumbing and Related Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 18, 2016.

The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACP's website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO), that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot on a proposed set of amendments to the ASCO Bylaws through ASCO's official website, www.asco.org/bylaws-vote between April 22 and May 23, 2016. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or her designee for to be cast at a special members' meeting to be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 9:30-10:00 AM, Eastern Time, USA, at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email ASCOBylaws@asco.org or call 571-483-1316

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, May 14, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to repeal and reordain Chapter 11 (Aquatic Health Ordinance) of Title 11 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance would amend the Aquatic Health Ordinance to align it with current science and technology to make pool management easier while continuing to protect pool users safety and public health.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article G (Posting of Signs in the Right-of-Way) of Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment approved by City Council on April 16, 2016 to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Section of the Transportation Master Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2015-0005 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2015-0005 to amend the Transportation Master Plan to include the new Pedestrian and Bicycle Section approved by the City Council on April 16, 2016.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 700 South Pitt Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for a fence at that location for the period of one (1) year. (Approved by City Council on April 16, 2016)

The proposed ordinance permits the owner of the residential property at 700 South Pitt Street to construct and use a fence within the City right-of-way for a period of one (1) year.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Tenant of the property located at 535 East Braddock Road (Parcel Address 501 East Braddock Road) to construct and maintain an encroachment for a raised deck and outdoor dining for the Dos Amigos Tex-Mex Restaurant on the sidewalk right-of-way at that location.

The proposed ordinance permits the restaurant located at 535 East Braddock Road (Parcel Address 501 East Braddock Road) to establish outdoor seating in the adjacent sidewalk area.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 054.05 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (Official Zoning Map and District Boundaries), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 699 North Patrick Street from, RB/Townhouse Zone to CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment approved by City Council on March 12, 2016 as Rezoning No. 2015-0003.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2015-0003, to rezone the ARHA Ramsey Homes at 699 North Patrick Street from, RB/Townhouse Zone to CRMU-M/Commercial Residential Mixed Use (Medium) Zone.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment approved by City Council on March 12, 2016 to the Braddock East Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2015-0003 to amend the land use and development framework tables pertaining to the Ramsey Homes property and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2015-0003 to amend the Braddock East Master Plan as it pertains to the Ramsey Homes Property approved by City Council on March 12, 2016.

21 Announcements

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 20

ommendation was approved by the City Council and presented to the public during the community meeting.

During the first community meeting, several designs were presented and discussed during the breakout sessions and concerns shared with the community group. Prior to the conclusion of the meetings, the community was asked which design they preferred. At this polling, Option A (bus routes coming off Taney Avenue with bus loop off Taney and easement off N. Latham for emergency equipment) was the preferred design.

At the second meeting, the design selected during the first meeting was not approved by the School Board. Again breakout sessions were conducted and Design Option A-1 was presented. Once again, the community polled the A-1 design as the preferred option. The bus loop is now coming off of Taney Avenue and N. Latham Street. The part of N. Latham Street that is affected consist of a two-block radius, not the entire N. Latham Street area. The eight buses will pick up and drop off for 20 minutes morning and afternoon.

Again, the results were unanimous.

This vote for Design Option A-1 was again overturned once presented to the School Board, yet another design has been developed and was presented at the community meeting on May 4. The community residents are attending these meetings faithfully. Is anyone listening to the community or just the N. Latham Street residents?

The area in question consists of a two-block radius, not the entire N. Latham Street area. The public was informed during this Community Meeting that the previous design (A-1) was not approved by the School Board. Instead, another design (Option C-1) was presented. Another breakout session was conducted and the community questions why Option A-1 was not approved since the polling at the previous meeting reflected that the majority voted for this design.

The Patrick Henry Recreation Center has always served a large, diverse community on the West End. There are more than 100 children currently attending the center's after-school program, which includes Samuel Tucker, Polk and Hammond schools. PHRC should not be limited to a particular community as all Alexandria recreation centers have always been open to all city residents, regardless of their zip code.

It is becoming apparent that there is a hidden agenda for this project. The Patrick Henry School is the more expensive of the two projects. If this is a joint project, why is the recreation center being singled out?

Why do Latham Street residents have so much control and power over the PHS/Recreation Center project?

Clarice Chandler
Amanda Henderson
Alexandria

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