



PHOTO BY PRESTON JONES/GAZETTE PACKET

In the last year, morning and evening flights have increased, coinciding with the airport activating a new air traffic control program called Next Generation Air Transportation System, or "NextGen."

## Hundreds Decry Airplane Noise

Flight changes cause deafening conditions at homes.

BY TIM PETERSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

At a meeting convened for community members to discuss airplane noise complaints, the irony of some struggling to hear over the sound of planes taxiing

just outside the packed lounge at Reagan Washington National Airport's historic Terminal A wasn't lost on the audience of more than 300.

"This is quiet compared to what we deal with at home," said Laura Quirk, who's lived in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria for four decades. She used to live in Belle Haven and now resides in Hollin Hall Village.

"I'm accustomed to some noise," she said. "But this is deafening. You can't shout over the noise. It shakes my wall, glasses get knocked over."

Quirk was among numerous speakers at a meeting convened by U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) on Monday night, June 27, to discuss changes that have been made in flight frequency and routing that impact various communities in Alexandria.

In the last year, morning and evening flights have increased, coinciding with the airport activating a new air traffic control program called Next Generation Air Transportation System, or "NextGen."

Citizens as well as local  
SEE HUNDREDS, PAGE 20



From left, David Mould, vice president of Communications and Government Affairs, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority; Ed Donaldson, FAA Capital District manager; and Elizabeth Lynn Ray, vice president of FAA Support Services Air Traffic Organization listen to comments and concerns from community members complaining of deafening airplane noise around their homes in Alexandria.

## Rights Restored

Ex-convicts meet with governor to discuss voting rights restoration.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The right to vote is one of the most fundamental American freedoms, and one denied to many Virginians released from prison on felony charges. On June 29, Gov. Terry McAuliffe met in Alexandria's Northern Virginia Urban League with advocates for the restoration of ex-inmate's rights. On April 22, McAuliffe signed an executive order that restored voting rights to 206,000 ex-felons. Virginia is one of 10 states that does not automatically restore an ex-felons' voting rights after his release from prison. At the meeting, ex-convicts from Alexandria and Arlington spoke about the struggles of being released back into society and how the right to vote being taken away impacts their lives.

"Once I paid my debts, I had to wait five years after probation ended to get my voting rights back in 2006," said Deacon Willie Watts with the Wilson Boulevard Christian Church. "It took six years. I'm proud. I fought through it. Never give up."

For many ex-inmates, the right



PHOTO BY EVAN JENKINS/GAZETTE PACKET

**Kelvin Manurs, founder of Arm in Arm.**

to vote is one felt most keenly when it's lost. Licia White said that before her voting rights were restored she'd never taken an interest in politics.

"We can only press forward," said White. "I'm excited and ready to vote. Thankful for the opportunity to have my voice heard. It plays a big part in the healing process. I just want to be a part of having a voice."

The governor and ex-convicts  
SEE GOVERNOR, PAGE 20

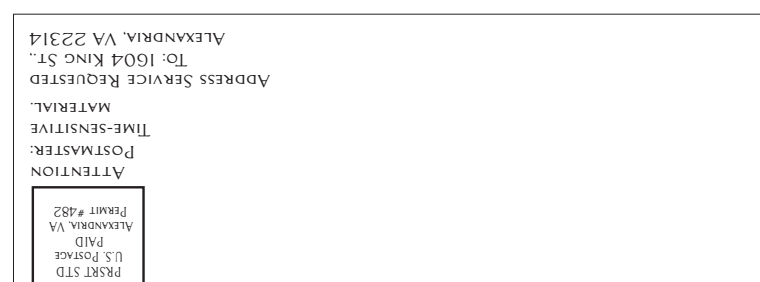
## Police Investigate Homicide

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a murder that occurred in the 1000 block of First Street on Saturday, July 2. At approximately 3:33 a.m., officers responded to the area for a shooting. The victim, identified as Saquan Hall, 23, of Alexandria, was located by police suffering from trauma to the upper body. The victim was transported to an area hospital where

he died.

Police Chief Earl Cook was scheduled to meet with residents at Charles Houston Recreation Center on Wednesday night, July 6. Anyone with information about this homicide is asked to contact Detective Bikeramjit Gill with the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6751.

This is the fourth homicide in Alexandria this year.

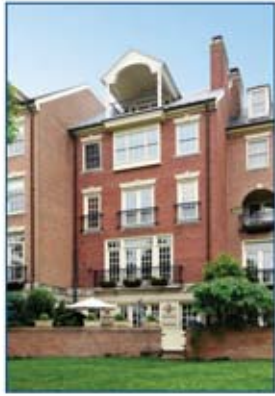


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# Troubling Signs

## Bikeshare installation draws local ire.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Capital Bikeshare's journey into Old Town is off to a bumpy start. While city officials say the Capital Bikeshare has been a success so far, one particular station has incensed local residents who say the city isn't following its own implementation rules.

Residents say their objection to the South Royal Street Bikeshare station has nothing to do with the bikeshare or bikes in the city, but anger over the city installing a colorful sign without any type of approval or public outreach. The issue started in November 2013 when Deputy Director of Transportation and Transit Carrie Sanders gave a presentation to the Board of Architectural Review about the Capital Bikeshare stations in which Sanders said that she would, at the board's request, return to give them another presentation before any stations were installed in Old Town.

"I'm happy to come back to the board if there are locations in the historic district," said Sanders in 2013.

That didn't happen. Sanders did not return to the BAR before the bike share station was installed.

"We would have liked to fulfill that request," Sanders said, "but it does not violate any regulatory requirement. We provide information to the BAR, but the BAR does not have approval over temporary structures in the public right of way."

Because the bikeshare stations are not

bolted to the ground and could be removed by a truck, they are considered temporary structures and are not subject to BAR approval.

"I'm not happy when the city is acting as though they are above the law," said Ayne Furman, a local resident. "This is not about bike share, this is not about bike lanes, this is about the city overstepping their bounds and now following procedure the way they should, the same procedures they impose on us."

Furman expressed frustration that rules that bind ordinary citizens, like having to seek city approval before operating a business that could draw traffic, don't seem to apply to the bike share.

"Did the city overstep their bounds?" Furman asked. "Did the city not perform how they were asked to perform? They did not. They gave City Council the illusion a few years ago that all was good and they'd

been given BAR approval, when they didn't ... They did not engage local community. They did not follow procedures and go to BAR. I think they fell down on the job."

Local resident Barbara Beach also works as an attorney and has represented clients before the city for years. Beach says she's frustrated that the city staff seemed to disregard signage and similar regulations that commercial tenants in the area have to abide by.

"The BAR did not approve this structure, and BAR approval is significant," said Beach. "This is a multi-colored big sign. We wouldn't let McDonalds put golden arches

**"We would have liked to fulfill that request, but it does not violate any regulatory requirement."**

**— Carrie Sanders, Deputy Director of Transportation and Transit**



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET  
**Bikeshare on South Royal Street.**

in old town, but now we have this five foot sign with bright gold .... Government is not exempt from BAR. All signage except traffic or governmental necessity, like street sign or stop sign, but me approved by the BAR. The bikeshare sign ... is not a necessity sign."

But according to city code, the government is exempt from the signage requirement. Section 9-103a says that the signage requirements do not apply to signs displayed by the city, the state, or the federal government in furtherance of government responsibilities.

Beach also noted that the bikeshare station is not actually where it was supposed to be when the City Council approved the implementation. The station was supposed to be at the other side of the block near Wilkes Street. Sanders said that various is-

sues can come up during installation that can cause the location of the bikeshare station to be moved; in this case Sanders said it was about giving proper pedestrian clearance on the sidewalk and giving the solar panels on the station more access to sunlight.

According to Sanders, the FY2017 budget included funding to operate 32 Bikeshare stations. 24 stations have currently been installed with eight more being put in over the next few months.

**"I'm not happy when the city is acting as though they are above the law."**

**— Ayne Furman, local resident**

"We've seen a successful launch, particularly with the Safetrack work with the Metro," said Sanders. "There's 105,000 trips starting in Alexandria, a 50 percent increase over the 2014-2015 year, with an average monthly increase of 40 percent."

While the program is not self sufficient, Sanders noted that few transportation resources are.

"One thing about bike share is that revenues and user fees have covered 63 percent of operating costs," said Sanders. "The initial goal is to cover 30 percent. For other transit modes, DASH revenue and user fees cover 31 percent of operating costs."

Staff will be delivering an update to the BAR about the Bikeshare program at the July 6 meeting.

# Portner Brewing Returns to Alexandria

## Great, great granddaughters of Robert Portner plan to resurrect family legacy in the city.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hough separated by a century and a half, Robert Portner and his great, great granddaughters Catherine and Margaret Portner have a few things in common. They all have an interest in brewing, and more importantly, they all recognize a business opportunity in Alexandria. One hundred years after The Robert Portner Brewing Company was forced to close its doors in 1916 when Alexandria adopted prohibition, the Portner family has returned to Alexandria to resurrect the family business.

It was 1864, one year before the Civil



**Concept rendering for the new Portner Brewhouse**

War ended, and Robert Portner's Company began brewing. By the late 1800s, the company produced 60,000 barrels of beer each year. According to "A Seaport Saga," a book of Alexandria history by William Francis

Smith and T. Michael Miller, the Portner Company was one of Alexandria's largest enterprises. At its peak, the company owned rail cars to spread its product and had branches in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Catherine Portner's background is in biology and business, with a particular interest in brewing, while Margaret

SEE PORTNER BREWING. PAGE 4



**The old Portner Brewing Company.**

# NEWS

## Portner Brewing

FROM PAGE 3

Portner has professional experience in food service and has had aspirations for owning her own restaurant.

“We were in a unique position to combine these aspects into a concept that utilized our talents in a way we thought the community could appreciate,” said Catherine Portner.

While Portner’s brewing company is one of his most visible legacies, Catherine Portner said he was actively involved in the city in a number of different ways.

“He’s most well known for the brewery,” said Catherine Portner, “but also opened the first German bank, had been a city councillor, and attended Abraham Lincoln’s funeral on behalf of Alexandria. He was very civically involved as a first generation immigrant.”

For both generations of Portners, opening a business came with unexpected hardships.

“It’s a continual roller coaster,” said Catherine Portner. “You just hang on and keep going, really. There are plenty of days where there’s exciting, fantastic things happening. Others where you’re scrambling because things aren’t going according to plan.”

While fortunate for the country, the end of the Civil War also meant the loss of the primary clientele for the Portner Company. For Catherine and Margaret Portner, the deal on the original location they were set to open in fell

through.

“We would have been open a year earlier but it was months before we were able to locate another location,” said Catherine Portner. Originally Catherine Portner said they wanted to open in Old Town near the original location, but the tight space and restrictions on the neighborhood made it impossible to operate a brewery. In the end, the Portners decided on a location near the Van Dorn Metro Station.

“In the end, location turned out better, we’re happy with that decision,” said Catherine Portner. “There’s plenty of things you can’t necessarily plan for.”

In some ways, their new location is still historically appropriate. Catherine Portner said the neighborhood where the original Portner Brewery stood was the West End of Alexandria in its day.

“I think [Robert Portner] would have been thrilled,” said Catherine Portner. “We’ll open exactly 100 years after Robert Portner was forced to close as a direct result of prohibition, government regulation coming in and businesses being no longer allowed to operate. If that hadn’t been the case, no telling if it still would have been in existence. I can only imagine he’d be proud of us celebrating the history that he created and sharing it with the community. We’re in a unique position that my sister and I still carry the family name. We’re still Katherine and Margaret Portner.”

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

#### THURSDAY/JULY 7

**Blood Donations Needed.** 12:30-6 p.m. at Alexandria Chapter House, 123 North Alfred St. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. requires blood or platelets. Donors of all blood types are needed now. Schedule an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

#### SATURDAY/JULY 9

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email [Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov).

#### SUNDAY/JULY 10

**New Library Hours.** The following

Alexandria Library branches will be open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m.: Beatley Central, 5005 Duke St.; Barrett Branch, 717 Queen St.; Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave.; and Burke Branch, 4701 Seminary Road. Alexandria Library’s Local History/Special Collections Branch and Law Library will remain closed on Sundays. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

#### SATURDAY/JULY 16

**Drug Take Back.** The Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, and the Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray are holding a Drug Take Back event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Deputies outside The Neighborhood Pharmacy on 2204 Mount Vernon Avenue will collect expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs, in an effort to prevent abuse of medications. Call the Sheriff’s Office at 703-746-4114 for more information.

#### FRIDAY/JULY 22

**Free Dentistry Day.** 7 a.m.-noon. at Reflection Dental – Little River, 6546 Little River Turnpike. Reflection Dental – Little River will offer a choice of a free cleaning, filling or extraction will be provided per patient. Patients will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 703-256-3313 or visit [www.FreeDentistryDay.org](http://www.FreeDentistryDay.org).

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### Historic Captain’s Row

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Located on the cobblestone portion of Prince Street, one block from the river and one block from the shops and restaurants on King Street. This renovated 1890s brick end town house offers a walled patio for both gardening and al fresco dining and relaxing; a renovated kitchen, bathroom, and powder room. Recent roof and furnace. Three upstairs bedrooms with built-ins, bookcases in living room, and kitchens. Details of 112 Prince Street at [betsytwigg.com](http://betsytwigg.com).



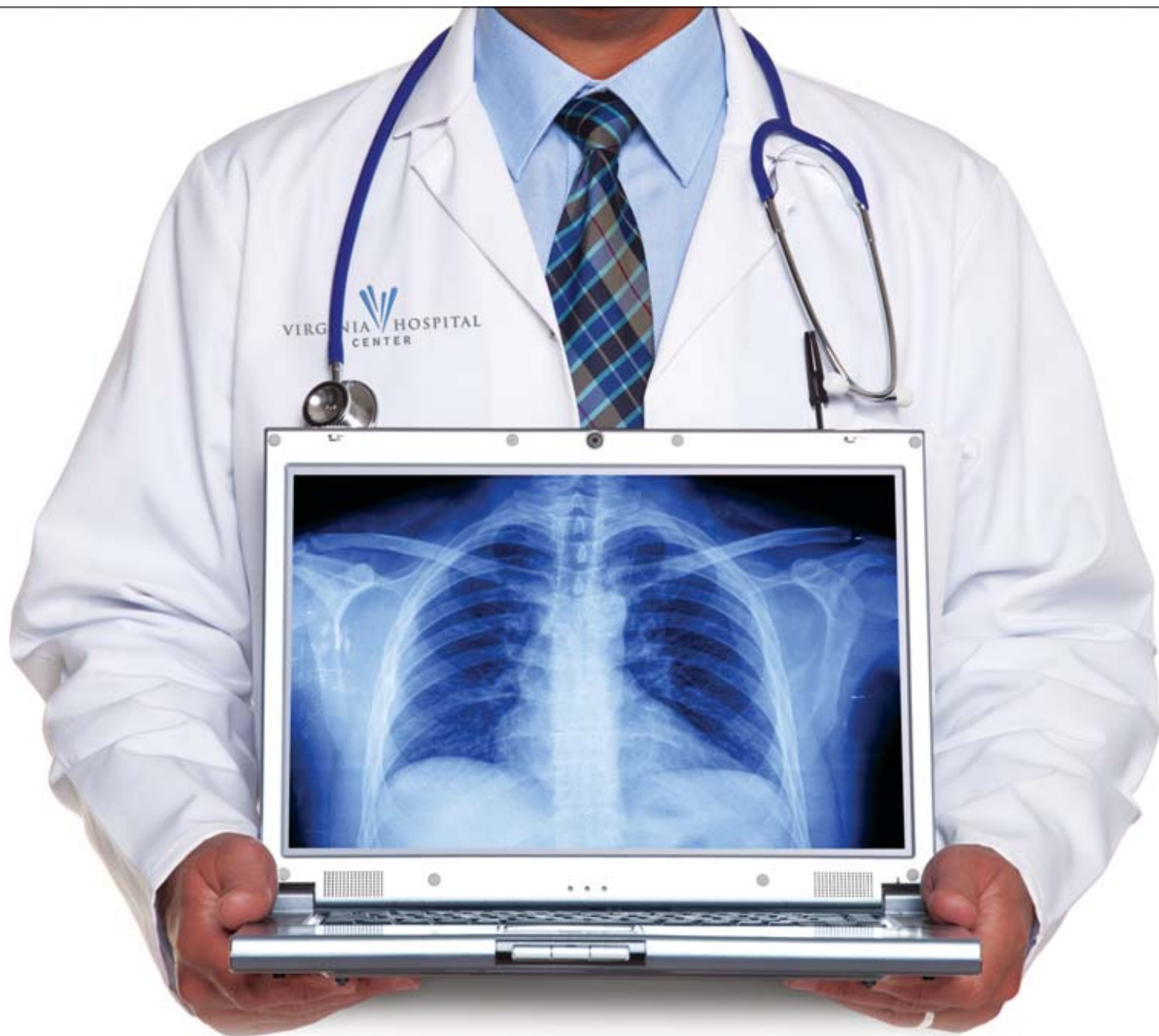


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## PEOPLE

# One Pint Can Save Three Lives

## Robbins manages Red Cross Blood Drive in Alexandria.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was 12:20 p.m., and donors were starting to line up for the American Cross Blood Drive at Alexandria Chapter House. First scheduled appointment was Lane Stone who “has been giving blood so many years I don’t even remember.” She said that there are so many things you can’t do anything about, like Orlando, but you can give blood.

Garrick Robbins, had walked in at 11 a.m., surveyed the site and figured out how to set up the day’s operation. He said, “Each site is different.” The driver, Reuben Lindsay, has just arrived from Baltimore with stacked boxes for the day including blood pressure cups, thermometers, blood kits, hemocue for measuring hemoglobin, a radio that will be turned on to relax any donors with misgivings about the needle. It is currently playing, “I’m gonna hold you ....”

### PEOPLE AT WORK

Robbins said, “We say you can save three lives with one pint of blood. If we use a certain bag we can get red blood cells, plasma and platelets.”

All tables would be set up, blue confidential screens in place, equipment distributed and QC (quality control) on equipment complete by 12:30 p.m. when the doors opened. “It’s sort of chaotic for a while.” Robbins is team supervisor for the Red Cross Blood Drives in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. He says they have 32 appointments on the day’s schedule for this site. “We are totally filled. We hope to get 21 units today.”

He unfolds the blue screening panels and sets them up explaining, “We want the donors to feel they can answer the health history questions in privacy.”

Each patient gets a confidential screening which is a mini-physical to be sure they are qualified to give blood. “You have to be careful who you draw.” He said less than half of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood and of those who are eligible, the rejection rates are approximately 16 percent depending on the geographical area.

Ligaya Narbay, one of the new donor specialists on the team, pulls on blue plastic gloves and wipes down the table with an antibacterial cloth.

Robbins said, “We get a lot of people who donate for the first time. Part of our job is to comfort them. If they have a good experience the first time, they will donate blood again.”

Janaya Patron-Abram, one of the donor specialists, said, “I feel like I use my hospitality skills.”

Robbins said, “It’s kind of like a mosquito bite prick. It shouldn’t be overly painful.” He added, “Summer is always a difficult time to maintain the blood supply. People are on vacation, and school is out for the high school and college students who donate. Robbins says that families come in together and make it a family event. “They bond



**Garrick Robbins, team supervisor for the Red Cross Blood Drive in Alexandria, removes a blood kit. He says three lives can be saved with a certain kind of kit by getting red blood cells, plasma and platelets.**



**Janaya Patron-Abram wheels in blood donor supplies to Alexandria Chapter House for American Red Cross Blood Drive June 29.**

over the experience. And a lot of parents like to be there the first time their child donates.” Blood donors are eligible at 17 years of age or 16 with a parent’s consent.

“OK, time to distribute ....” The donor specialists ready their stations for the incoming donors. The blood drive will run from 12:30-6:30 p.m. with the whole process for one person (from check-in to final snack) taking about an hour. It begins with a health history taken by a donor specialist followed by a confidential screening then choosing the appropriate collection set kit. Robbins said, “There is about a 10-week Red Cross training program for the donor specialists with observation in the field. It takes a few months to learn to draw blood. There is a learning curve and at a year they get really good at it.”

Qualified donors will move to a padded table where they are usually in a sitting position. Drawing the blood can take from 8 minutes up to 20 minutes. “Some people bleed faster than others.” Then on to the cranberry or orange juice and raisin-oatmeal cookies or packages of Cheez-Its.

Robbins was a trained as a medic in the Army and worked at a hospital in ICU when he got out. “Then I was a donor recruiter.” But he said, “This job with the Red Cross just sort of fell in my lap. I thought I could make more of an impact in blood collection, make sure people are seen promptly, good customer service, more control.” He says people give blood to make a difference. “Some people are passionate about it.”



**Al Cox, Morgan Delaney and Major Jonathan Wilbor.**

## At a Garden Party

The Historic Alexandria Foundation held its annual spring meeting and garden party at the home of Major Jonathan Wilbor on June 12. During the annual meeting the historic house plaque was awarded to John Campbell of 305 Cameron St. Preservation grants of \$5,000 each were also given to: The Alexandria Black History Museum for an exhibition, The Athenaeum for repairs in the rear gallery, The Friendship Fire Engine Association to repair to historic fire trucks on display, the Lee Fendall House for reconstruction of the kitchen chimney and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum to conserve two iconic decorative windows.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016, will host “Toasting Our Town” at The Athenaeum. Information



**HAF president Morgan Delaney and Patricia Sanders, board president of the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, a non-profit educational foundation whose sole function is the ownership and operation of Alexandria’s only privately held historic house museum and its only remaining Lee Family property open to the public — the Lee-Fendall House.**

and tickets are available at [www.HistoricAlexandriaFoundation.org](http://www.HistoricAlexandriaFoundation.org)



**Ruthie Apelt, Veronica Szalus and Amy Heiden.**

## Levy Joins MercerTrigiani Law Firm

Douglas S. Levy recently joined MercerTrigiani as counsel to the law firm. Levy has legal experience in representing property owners associations and condominium unit owners associations throughout Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. He previously practiced with firm principals, David Mercer and Pia Trigiani, and more recently has been associated with a Northern Virginia law firm where he represented community associations in matters ranging from corporate board governance to complex construction litigation. A native of Norfolk, Va., and graduate of Emory University, Levy

also received a Master of Arts degree in 1998 from The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs.

He obtained his law degree in 2002 from William & Mary Law School and served as law clerk for Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. MercerTrigiani is a real estate law firm at 112 South Alfred St. in Old Town Alexandria.

See [www.MercerTrigiani.com](http://www.MercerTrigiani.com).



**Douglas S. Levy.**

PHOTOS BY DENNIS APELT

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

# ART

## New Exhibition At Torpedo Factory

**K**athleen Best Gillmann of Burke has an exhibition of her paintings depicting coastal landscapes titled "Vision at Water's Edge" now on display at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria.

Gillmann is also an associate artist with the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

The works in both acrylic and oil feature fresh- and saltwater shorelines from around the country. The artist's series was inspired in particular by a trip to the north shore Lake Superior, as well as her being raised in southern Maine.

Gillmann's exhibition will be on display at The Art League in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory, studio 21, now until Aug. 7. She's scheduled to host an opening reception and Meet the Artist event Thursday, July 14 from 6:30-8 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780. The Torpedo Factory is located at 105 North Union Street in Alexandria.

— TIM PETERSON



IMAGE COURTESY OF KATHLEEN BEST GILLMANN/THE ART LEAGUE

**Artist Kathleen Best Gillmann's acrylic painting "Beach Houses at Lord's Point (Journey Home, 3)" is an example of work from her upcoming exhibition "Vision at Water's Edge" that opened at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria on July 6.**

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# NEWS

## 40 Under 40 Chamber to honor city's rising stars.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**orty of the city's rising stars will be honored July 28 as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce cel-

brates its inaugural 40 Under 40 awards program.

Sponsored by Eagle Bank, the program was established to recognize top young professionals in a variety of fields including business, technology, nonprofit manage-

ment, civic life, public service, education and the arts.

A selection committee evaluated nominees on criteria including professional and scholastic accomplishments, community and volunteer impact and goals for future

and lasting impact.

The 40 Under 40 reception will be held July 28 at the United Way Worldwide building with an after party at Mason Social. For more information visit [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com).



**Carter Batey** is chair of the city's Social Services Advisory Board and a gubernatorial appointee to the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission.



**Andrew Carlson** is the general manager of Jackson 20 Restaurant at the Hotel Monaco.



City Councilman **John Taylor Chapman** is a community use specialist for the Fairfax County Public Schools system.



**Alessandra Colia** is the executive director of the Northern Virginia program for Urban Alliance.



**Blair Copeland** is the director of case management for the Carpenter's Shelter.



**Chris Denby** is the CEO of Markitecture, an architecture/engineering industry marketing agency.



**Amanda Fanning** is a marketing specialist at the Washington Speakers Bureau.



**Jonathan D. Frederick** currently serves as the executive director of the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation.



**Drew Hansen** is digital editor at the Washington Business Journal.



**Ann Harbour** serves as the government and community relations liaison, East Region for Inova Health System.



**Lindsay Houff** is a public policy research fellow for Meals on Wheels America.



**Amanda Hungerford** is an educator at Grace Episcopal School.



**Garrett "Gee" James** is the 2016-2017 president of the Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network.



**Monika Jones** serves on the Human Rights Commission and chairs the Commission for Women.



**Rev. Ross Kane** is the associate rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Town.



**Seth Kennard** is the principal of Charles Barrett Elementary School.



**Jen Lachman** is head of Lachman Consulting.



**Christopher Joseph Lewis**



**Nathan Macek** is vice chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission and a member of the Waterfront Commission.



**Dawnielle Miller** is the executive director and a founding partner of Casa Chirilagua.



**Claire Mouldoux** is director of communications for Visit Alexandria.



**Rick Muse, Jr.** is an Alexandria firefighter.



**Abbey L. Oklak** is an architectural and urban designer at Cooper Carry.



**Hillary Orr** is the Complete Streets program manager with the City of Alexandria.



**Hillary Orr** is the Complete Streets program manager with the City of Alexandria.



**Allison Priebe** is the jewelry designer behind Queen Bee Designs.



**Dipti Pidikiti-Smith** is chair of the housing law and consumer law practice groups at Legal Services of Northern Virginia.



**Catherine Portner** is president and co-founder of Portner Brewhouse.



**Frances R. Reimers** leads business and client development for PCI.



**Luisa Reyes** is the volunteer and outreach manager for Wright to Read.



**Brittany Rice** is the general manager of Carr Workplaces.



**Danielle Romanetti** is the founder and CEO of fibre space.



**Rebecca Schrier** is a performance analyst with the City of Alexandria's Office of Performance and Accountability.



**Charles A. Sumpter, Jr.** is a senior advisor for congressional affairs in the Department of Defense.



**Justin Wilson** is the vice mayor of the City of Alexandria.



**Eric M. Williams Jr.** is the chief executive officer of the A. Roy Heron Global Foundation.



**Alston Waller** is branch director for the Dunbar Alexandria Olympic Boys and Girls Club.



**Michael Suppa** is the chair-elect of the city council's Child, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission.



**Lisette Torres** serves as coordinator of the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy within the City's Department of Community and Human Services.



**Catharine Grace Young** serves as the Science and Innovation Policy advisor and head of DC Team for the British Embassy.





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**Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 925,000**

This circa 1870 historic building is located on N. Patrick St., just 2 blocks from King St and a short walk to the King St Metro, shops and restaurants. There are 5 offices, 2 with fireplaces, conference room, kitchenette and 1.5BA. There is off-street parking for 5+ cars. *By appointment only with Lister.*



**Jill DiPasquale 571.436.8699**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Rosemont \$ 1,019,000**

Stunning NEW CONSTRUCTION in Rosemont! Spacious 4BR / 3.5BA, exquisite finishes, high ceilings, hardwoods, custom kitchen with island, great room with gas fireplace, slate front porch, office with built-ins, full finished basement. Large fenced yard, driveway parking for 2 cars. Steps to Metro and Old Town.



**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630**  
**Porto Vecchio \$ 1,125,000 & \$800,000 OPEN SUN. 2 - 4**

1250 WASHINGTON ST #205 & 503 Stunning Potomac River views from both units. #205 Kitchen/bath plus the his/her baths in master all updated, 3BR/4BA, slate terrace and 1 garage space. #503 Seldom available 2BR/2BA with views from every room, updated kitchen/baths, open balcony and 2 garage spaces.



**Kim Muffler 703.282.7739**  
**ALEX. / Beverly Hills \$ 880,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**

3507 HALCYON DR Extraordinary 3-level detached home in sought after Beverly Hills. 3/4BR, 4 full BAs, wood floors throughout. Updated kitchen and baths, new paint, finished lower level with full BA, 1/4 acre fenced flat yard and driveway make this a perfect 10!



**Adele dePolo 703.298.5987**  
**ALEX. / Overlook Terrace \$ 749,900 OPEN SUN. 2 - 4**

1026 CROSS DR One owner home has been lovingly maintained and renovated. 4 large BRs includes ML master suite. Expanded / renovated kitchen plus all baths redone. Hardwood on main. Extensive landscaping, hardscape and fenced rear create an inviting outdoor living space. 4BR / 2.55BA and more . . . !



**Pia Taylor 301.661.9974**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Westgrove \$ 699,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4**

6908 ANDOVER DR 3BR split level, coming soon in sought after Westgrove! Freshly painted, with lovely hardwoods plus upgraded kitchen opening to dining room. French doors lead to the fantastic yard, complete with brick patio and "double wide" shed. Hurry, there is still time to plan your Labor Day BBQ!



**Lauren Leggett 703.582.7354**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Dowden Terrace \$ 675,000**

Lovely 3 level, 4BR / 2.5BA home in quiet neighborhood. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with SS appliances, convention wall oven. Wood-burning fireplace in living room, separate dining room, finished basement and screened porch overlooking large fenced back yard. Hardwoods. Brand new 2-car garage.



**Michael Manuel 703.615.6317**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Landmark Mews \$ 619,900**

Spacious Byron Model end unit townhome - THE BEST IN THE COMMUNITY - surrounded by mature trees and large green common area. Freshly painted, carpeted, 3 sides of windows, 2 fireplaces, this 3BR / 3.5BA / 4-level awaits your personal touches. Upper wood deck, LL walk-out patio plus garage.



**Val Klotz 703.303.9744**  
**CENTREVILLE / Westport \$ 619,500**

4,500+ sf in Virginia Run . . . 4BR / 2.5BA. ML features wood floors, eat-in kitchen leading to family room with fireplace, living room, library plus formal dining room with butler's pantry offering extra storage and bar. Bonus room off master. Mud room entry from 2-car garage. Professional landscaping.



**Martine & Alexander Irmer 703.346.7283 or 403.2465**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Parker Gray \$ 599,900**

SO CHARMING! This 3 level, 2BR / 1.5BA Federal townhouse has tons of appeal. Exposed brick beams and architectural details. Original random width period pine floors. The basement has ample storage. Rear private patio great for entertaining.



**Susan Batchelder 703.919.8359**  
**FALLS CHURCH / Madison Lane \$ 498,515**

Beautiful townhome in a great location near Bailey's Crossroads, just minutes to I-395, Pentagon and DC. This 4-level, 2-car garage home offers 3BR / 2.5BA + Loft which could be used as a 4th BR or bonus room. Hardwoods, new carpet, fresh paint thru-out plus gas fireplace, full W/D, balcony, and gourmet kitchen.



**McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885**  
**SPRINGFIELD / North Springfield \$ 449,900**

Fabulous and fresh! 4BR/3BA - Features include hardwoods, freshly painted throughout, updated kitchen and baths, carport, family room with wood-burning fireplace and kitchenette, formal living room with wood-burning fireplace, back yard backs to parkland. Adjacent to Lake Accotink Park, I-495, shops and more!



Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office 703.683.0400  
400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314



# OPINION

## Hungry in Summer

There are hungry children in Alexandria and all over Northern Virginia, more so in summertime.

Summer for most children in Northern Virginia is a time of fun and activities, camp and vacation, trips to the pool and possibly to the library. Specialized camps and activities tuneup sports skills and academic skills. Parents try to ensure snacks are at least somewhat healthy.

In this environment, most of us don't come into much contact with families that might be having trouble feeding their children. We can't imagine that there are children who are hungry in summer.

But many children in our region don't know what their next meal will be in summer. During the school year, many have depended on school to provide breakfast and lunch during the school year. Volunteers have stepped in to provide backpacks to go home with hungry students on the weekend.

In the City of Alexandria, 60 percent of students in public schools qualify for subsidized meals at school.

Alexandria is not alone. In Fairfax County, that overall number is lower at 27.5 percent, but in many areas, more than 50 percent of students qualify for subsidized meals at school. In Arlington, more than 30 percent of students qualify for subsidized meals at school.

Most of the students who counted on school meals during the school year are not in school

for the summer. Even though meals are provided by USDA Summer Food Service Program, only a fraction of the students show up to eat. The reason for the low turnout is not because the students are all out of town on vacation, but because of the lack of awareness that the opportunity for meals is available at sites throughout the city, including recreation center locations and several Alexandria City Public School locations. All meals are free. There are no reduced prices. Anyone 18 years of age or younger is permitted to eat and no previous qualifications are needed.

### EDITORIAL

Anyone 18 years of age or younger is permitted to eat and no previous qualifications are needed.

## Submit Photos to Pet Gazette

The Pet Gazette, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 27, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature,

## Locations for Summer Meals in Alexandria

More than 25 locations provide breakfast and/or lunch to children and teens in the City of Alexandria. All meals are free. There are no reduced prices. Anyone 18 years of age or younger is permitted to eat and no previous qualifications are needed.

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2016/060816/AX-Summer%20Food%20Program%202016.pdf>

It also falls to many nonprofits and food pantries to fill the gaps, and those organizations need help keeping food available.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Re-think Decision

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to Mayor Allison Silberberg and the City

Council.

I am very dismayed and disappointed with your decision last week to disregard the two options that had been put forth for the Ramsey Homes and instead come up with a third, unvetted, idea to

demolish all the historic structures and replace them with more open space along with the new apartment building.

I understand that the city needs more open space, but that is not the way to go about it. It does not

garner faith with your constituents to disregard options that have already been discussed and vetted with something that seems out of the blue. I was at the last Ramsey Homes open meeting and there were some very passionate people there, with a lot of great ideas, and this decision by council is a slap in the face to all those who took the time to come out and voice their opinions.

As the vice-chair of the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review, I take our cultural heritage very seriously, both the physical and the people.

While many may think that the Ramsey homes are not worth saving because they are run-down and a reminder of an era that was not the shining star of American history, I see something that is unique to our city and that has been neglected in an unforgivable manor.

I know that people say, "Why would I want to keep something that reminds me of such a bad time?" but if that's your perspective, then why have we kept the slave quarters at Mt. Vernon? Why do we keep the Japanese internment camps? These are all reminders of bad times in history and by that logic, those should all be demolished, too. I hope that these



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET



## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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**CLEVELAND PARK** \$5,500,000 | 3525 Woodley Rd NW  
Steps from the National Cathedral, the historic house features exquisite period details, high ceilings, an attractive master suite, and original hardwood floors. There are beautifully landscaped grounds, multiple terraces, and stunning Cathedral views. Rare opportunity.  
**MICHAEL RANKIN** +1 202 271 3344



**ALEXANDRIA** \$3,500,000 | 212 S Fairfax Street  
This historic gem in Old Town, sited on 2 lots with towering trees and tranquil gardens, offers 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, high ceilings, wonderful details, light-filled solarium, and 4 off-street parking spaces.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106



**GEORGETOWN** \$2,995,000 | 3220 Volta Place NW  
A historic landmark in the heart of Georgetown, this tasteful home features an elevator, high ceilings, hardwood floors, elegant moldings, an eat-in kitchen that opens to a private brick terrace, and a spacious master-suite. An attached guesthouse has a bedroom and full bath, and there is a garage parking for one car.  
**MICHAEL RANKIN** +1 202 271 3344



**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,800,000 | 2220 Windsor Road  
**Open Sunday 2-4:** Spectacular custom built home sited on a large corner lot. This beautiful 5 bedroom, 5.5 bath home offers tall ceilings, exquisite moldings and architectural detail, gleaming hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, 2 staircases, and a 2-car garage. Perfect for gracious entertaining and comfortable family living.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106



**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,359,000 | 2116 Belle Haven Road  
Located on a beautiful street in Belle Haven, this handsome 5 bedroom, 4.5 bathroom stone colonial is an exceptional offering. The spacious home has beautiful gardens and private slate patio. The lovely architectural detail, beautiful renovations, and wonderful floor plan make this property a must see.  
**KAREN BARKER** +1 703 928 8384  
**WETHERLY BARKER** +1 703 965 9613



**BUFFALO HILL** \$1,375,000 | 3021 Castle Road  
Dazzling custom built home tucked away in a quiet residential location. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and 3-car garage. Dramatic double foyer, family room, gourmet kitchen, and separate mudroom. Custom stonework in backyard. Fully finished walkout basement with bedroom and full bath. Elegant master suite.  
**PAM CORNELIO** +1 571 236 4398  
**FRIDA HOPPER** +1 571 225 1458



**DOMINION HILLS** \$1,199,000 | 859 North Liberty Street  
Exquisitely expanded and renovated. Kitchen is a study in design perfection. Includes inset custom cabinetry, large marble island with farmhouse sink, Subzero, wall oven, and wine refrigerator. Private yard with terrific AZEK deck and flagstone patio. Finished lower level recreation room with bed and bath.  
**DONNA MANK** +1 202 550 5617



**WELLINGTON** \$1,099,000 | 7732 Southdown Road  
Lovely river views from this renovated 5 bedroom, 3 bath Cape. Offering 2 fireplaces, lovely details, gourmet kitchen, beautiful master suite with walk-in closets, landscaped grounds, in-ground sprinkler, and 2-car garage.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106



**RANDALL** \$925,000 | 2207 Shiver Drive  
Stunning new construction in peaceful country setting. 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, views of parkland from kitchen and deck, finished basement, 9-foot ceilings, and a 2-car garage. Available for presale with late summer completion.  
**PHYLLIS PATTERSON** +1 703 408 4232



**BRADDOCK LOFTS** \$899,000 | 1121 Wythe Street  
Original model home with 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 half baths, and a 2-car garage. Open floor plan with gourmet kitchen and island. Gorgeous master suite with 2 en-suite bedrooms. Roof top deck with spectacular views of the city and Masonic Temple. First floor features light-filled office. Steps to Metro, restaurants, shopping, and minutes to DC.  
**PAM CORNELIO** +1 571 236 4398  
**FRIDA HOPPER** +1 571 225 1458



**BELLE HAVEN** \$749,000 | 2312 Windsor Road  
**Open Sunday 2-4:** Light-filled, updated Belle Haven home offering 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces, French doors leading to patio, renovated kitchen, private patio, level fenced-in rear lot with mature plantings, and garage.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106



**OLD BELLE HAVEN TOWNE** \$599,500 | 6311 Barrister Place  
**Open Sunday 2-4:** Charming 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse offering light-filled living room with fireplace, gracious dining room, large family room with fireplace and built-in bookshelves, hardwood floors, crown molding, large private patio, and assigned parking space.  
**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106

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## OPINION

FROM PAGE 10

examples help you to see that the excuse to demolish something just because it has bad memories associated with it is not valid. In fact, because of those associations, it's even more important to keep them, to remind future generations of what not to do. We must have tangible ways to remember our history, we can't replace every historic building with a plaque.

We have already lost so much of the physical representations of African American history in our city, so when we have a perfectly good and viable option to save a piece, why would you all of a sudden change your mind and come up with another idea?

I hope that you will go back and rethink this decision.

I know that the BAR will see this site again soon and I want to insure that we are able to review and approve something that will benefit our whole city and show that we have a real commitment to our citizens, both living and gone, by providing affordable housing while also preserving our history.

This is not an either/or situation — it is most definitely a both/and — and I challenge you to think creatively and progressively when coming up with a final solution.

I never want people to think that Alexandrians care more about their buildings than their people. This is just not true and is offensive to all of us who work so hard to preserve both together because one

cannot survive without the other.

**Purvi Gandhi Irwin, AIA**  
Alexandria

## History Matters

To the Editor:

Two articles caught my attention in last week's Gazette, the first, a report on the council's decision on the Ramsey redevelopment; the other a letter to the editor in support of maintaining the name Jefferson Highway. What was disturbing in both was an underlying cynicism toward mainstream history. In the later the author presented a sympathetic portrayal of Jefferson Davis as victim. In the former a council member expressed his desire to remove a visible vestige of history he found painful and therefore objectionable. I could be wrong but I assume the two have differing views on many issues; however, when it comes to history they share a common skepticism. They both prefer a sanitized version of history supporting their world view.

While I have a differing position on Jefferson Davis, I do not support renaming the highway. It is a visible vestige of a complicated history that precedes the Civil War and lingers to this day; it is a reminder of unresolved issues in our national dialogue. The Ramsey Homes are not esthetically pleasing but they too remind us of a not so illustrious chapter in our city's past. The council voted, what's done is done; no one will see the visible sign of a past these build-

ings represented and in time no one will remember. They will simply disappear, a recurrence in the African American diaspora where all too often history is systematically ignored, erased or suppressed. The legacy of Ramsey Homes is now up to historians and perhaps inclusion in a museum display footnote.

When we relegate painful remnants of the past only to libraries and museums, societal curiosity is diminished, dialogue is circumvented, knowledge and growth suppressed. Outward and physically visible signs from the past might not always be comfortable but they are often powerful and necessary reminders. It is why the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp; and the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. remain visible and standing despite numerous books, documentaries and museums dedicated to these extremely painful reminders of war, inhumanity and racism. Visible physical manifestations make history real in a way books and other representations cannot.

The council member might have been correct when he stated, "If you did a survey, I don't think [African American residents] would care at all about keeping something around that would remind them how they were treated in the past."

I cannot speak for all African Americans in this city; however, I can say had there been a survey, this African American resident would not agree with the council member's assertion. I care and I care that others, including future generations, are reminded of how African Americans were once treated. I am willing to chalk some of this up to political inexperience, a public misstep, a momentary lapse, where the member forgot his office does not entitle him to speak as the voice for an entire class

of citizens. He is of course entitled to express his personal opinion and I defend his right to do so. However, as an "at large" elected council member, he should take pains to dispassionately consider the interests of all Alexandrians. As for the assertion implying that constantly talking about history somehow impedes progress, perhaps an introduction to George Santayana's "The Life of Reason" published in 1905 is in order, where he wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

**Roy R. Byrd**  
Alexandria

## Why Concentrate Poverty?

To the Editor:

Your June 16 lead article, "No Vacancy," is most disturbing. Homelessness is a problem and Bridges to Independence may be an excellent facility, but Carpenters Shelter is our primary concern. Your story references an expansion, a 90-100 unit expansion as guided by City Council.

Not that long ago Carpenters Shelter, McDonalds and the First Street intersection were listed among the city's top 10 crime sites.

Nearby HOAs still complain. Consider the midday huddles of homeless people who are required to leave the shelter during the day. The unemployed often take refuge elsewhere — in nearby underground garages, in Barrett Library, etc.

If proximity to Metro is an issue, ask Hoffman to consider a trade. Put Carpenters Shelter in Eisenhower Valley. The Valley has both a metro stop and multiple bus lines.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

## Calling All Seniors 60-Plus

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Senior Academy is back for its second annual session starting on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon and will continue every Wednesday through Sept. 28. The four-week course is designed to provide Alexandria's seniors with an opportunity to gain exposure to the city's various government functions, learn about local organizations that provide services and programs for our senior community, and help seniors get involved.

### SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

"The Senior Academy is a wonderful way for seniors to learn what Alexandria has to offer," said Arlene Hewitt, community activist and founder of the Senior Academy. "Participants will be amazed at all the ways in which they can become involved and make a difference."

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is

partnering again with the City of Alexandria's Customer Connection Office for this year's class. Topics include: Getting to Know your City; How you can Make a Difference; City Services for Seniors; Community Resources and Leisure, Cultural and Educational Opportunities.

Every week participants will meet at a different city location including City Hall, Police Department Headquarters, Charles Houston Recreation Center and Beatley Central Library to learn from local city government officials and non-profit executives talking about the different programs and services available.

The Senior Academy is a free program and light refreshments will be served at each session. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be recognized during a City Council meeting in November.

If you are interested in being part of this year's Senior Academy class, you can find out more information and download the application on SSA's website at seniorservicesalex.org or by calling SSA at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Enrollment is limited to 25 people and applications must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 12.

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**Braddock Heights** 2416 Ridge Road Drive, Alexandria VA  
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Donnan C. Wintermute 703-608-6868 MLS # AX9645028



**Hallowing Point River Estates** 5909 River Drive, Lorton VA  
Summers Best Waterfront Home! 7,600 sf, open chef's kitchen with adjoining FR, elevator, huge master suite, basement walkout daylight lower level, deep water boating, EZ access to D.C. 6 br, 5 ba. \$1,995,000 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX8632686



**Open House Sunday 2-4pm Mt Vernon On The Green** 9174 Rosemary Lena Way, Alexandria VA PRICE REDUCED! Colonial with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, covered cooking center with refrigerator, gas fire pit, waterfall, and retractable sunshades on the deck. \$900,000 Bob Hamilton 703-966-8532 MLS # FX9610173



**Harbor View** 10821 Greene Drive, Lorton VA  
Enhanced Pricing! Waterfront! Panoramic views of Occoquan River and Belmont Bay. 4-sided brick exterior, classic open floor plan, an abundance of living space, 4 fireplaces, boating! 4 br, 4 ba. \$879,500 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX8748474

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**Open House Sunday 2-4pm Wayewood** 1009 Potomac Lane, Alexandria VA Great new price! 4 beds/2 full/2 1/2 baths, Expanded/updated/remodeled Mayfield Model, open concept! 1/2 block to pool/park, 4 blks to in-neighborhood elem school! Hardwoods/paint! \$729,000 Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562 MLS # FX9674337



**Open House Sunday 2-4pm Cameron Station** 168 Martin Lane, Alexandria VA Sun-filled, brick end TH w/3 true bdrs, 2.5 baths. Beautiful finishes incl custom closets, plantation shutters & gleaming hardwoods. Entire 3rd flr is owners suite w/upgraded bath. \$579,900 Tanya Blosser 703-310-8053 MLS # AX9627640



**Quaker Hill** 1271 Quaker Hill Drive, Alexandria VA A Beautiful Town House with green space! Offered with a Home Warranty, this 3 Bedroom, 3.5 bath plus an in-law suite is in a great location for commuters. Must see! \$549,900 E.J. Stone 703-627-8663 MLS # AX9682535



**Cardinal Square** 6622 Burlington Place, Springfield VA  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Rabies vaccination effort at the original Alexandria dog pound on East Monroe Street. Poor conditions at the pound led to founding of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria in 1946 and its operation of a new shelter on S. Payne Street.**



PHOTO BY DON MACAFEE, COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**AWLA shelter worker and her furry friends accept a check for a planned addition to the Alexandria animal shelter at 910 S. Payne Street. Photo from June 1969 Alexandria Gazette.**



PHOTO BY DON MACAFEE, COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Rumpelstiltskin the cat and a guardian at the Alexandria animal shelter, 910 S. Payne St. The facility was replaced by the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue in 2002 after a half century. Photo from March 1965 Alexandria Gazette.**



PHOTO BY AWLA, COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**A worker and dog in front of the original Alexandria animal shelter at 910 S. Payne St. The building still stands in Old Town Alexandria. Photo circa 1959.**

# Animal Welfare League of Alexandria: Born 70 Years Ago

## Founded out of concern for animals.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET AND GENTRY SILVER

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Seventy years ago this June the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria was born, and it was one of the first humane organizations in metropolitan Washington. Springing from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, which was founded two years earlier, the Alexandria organization was started by a group of citizens concerned about the welfare of animals in the city. One driving force was the existing Alexandria “dog pound,” located near the intersection of Route 1 and East Monroe Street. Conditions there reportedly were so bad that on occasion well-meaning citizens broke in to free the dogs.

A few months before the June 1946 founding, the citizens met to choose officers. They were:

Chairman: Capt. James Douglas

First Vice Chairman: Dr. Nelson Gray

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman: Mrs. L.W. Corbett

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Stanleigh Swann

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Anne Carter

Treasurer: Mr. Warren Grubbs

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

Plunking an at-risk population described as awaiting treatment in a known crime area, amid public housing settlements, makes no sense. Alcohol, drugs and murder can all be found nearby. Why further concentrate poverty? We wish Alexandria would outgrow its naiveté.

**Nolan Alexander**  
Alexandria

## Try ‘Quiet Fireworks’

To the Editor:

An open letter to our city:

Counsel: Mr. Albert Bryan

Minutes from one of the meetings about the formation of the League reveal that the functions and activities of today’s AWLA have deep roots. The April 16, 1946, minutes conclude with:

“Before the meeting adjourned, Mrs. Miller enlisted the interest of all in trying to locate a police dog by the name of Streaky which had been lost by a (World War II) veteran on his way through Alexandria. The dog had been brought back by the veteran from the South Pacific. It is one of our first acts as a League to endeavor to find the dog and bring him back to his master.”

Some milestones in early AWLA history:

**June 1946:** AWLA is incorporated. City permits the League to use city records of dog tags for a large-scale membership drive.

**1950:** The city of Alexandria provides a desk and phone to the League at the city recreation center. League members begin to set up central files and launch a daily operation.

**1950:** AWLA lends support to a fight against an order that would evict people living in some Alexandria housing projects unless they gave up their pet dogs.

**Jan. 1, 1951:** City turns over supervision of the shelter entirely to the League, providing a budget of more than \$9,000 a year. Soon the League is able to raise \$3,000 to cover veterinary fees and other shelter needs. Devoted friends donate an “electric

The New York Times recently published an article regarding the popularity of “Quiet Fireworks” in Europe. These are beautiful displays without the loud booms of traditional fireworks.

There are many reasons these would be great for Alexandria’s birthday celebration.

- ❖ The traditional fireworks on the National Mall are just one week previous. Let’s not compete.

- ❖ Alexandria claims to be the most dog friendly city in America. Let’s prove it. Dogs hate the noise. They are afraid, they run away, owners won’t leave them at home alone. They suffer, owners suffer.

- ❖ As a city with many soldiers and indi-

viduals exposed to combat and our location near the Pentagon, it would be appropriate to avoid triggers to post traumatic stress.

- ❖ Less disruption to wildlife along the Potomac River.

- ❖ Less chance of damaging children’s delicate eardrums for those in attendance.

- ❖ I think it would be a confirmation of Alexandria’s coolness to be different and so considerate to others.

While one of the drawbacks to the quieter fireworks is the lower presentation of them, I think it would just draw more people and tourists down to the water to see something different. We will not lose tourist dollars, I believe we will potentially

refrigerator, inlaid linoleum and furniture” and build special cages for the dogs, cats and kittens that sit on raised wooden platforms to provide warmth.

**Jan. 20, 1951:** New shelter, at 910 S. Payne Street, opens. Will be open seven days a week. During the first month, more than 1,000 animals are handled, and more than 250 are adopted out.

**1952:** Newspaper story proclaims that the new shelter can “take all animals but snakes and alligators.” The story describes the League’s rescue of a pregnant deer drowning in the Potomac River and states that “few Alexandrians seem aware of the truly marvelous pets available at the shelter.”

**January 1952:** Minutes of an AWLA meeting summarize the progress made in the shelter’s first year, including the following anecdote, relayed by the chairman:

“A few Sundays ago we were called to pick up an injured dog out Russell Road. The dog had been hit by a car and one leg almost completely broken off.

He was taken immediately to the veterinarian, where a sedative was administered. Fortunately, he had a dog tag on. Our members in the area started efforts to locate the owner, and our shelter operator, Mrs. Mullitt, reached Mr. Sullivan, who through the city’s records, was able to give us the owner’s name. The owner was notified, and thus was able to save her pet’s life. The

League is prepared to handle about anything that comes up. We have been called concerning possums, rabbits, guinea pigs, and assisted in retrieving a deer from the river. A couple of weeks ago I was not at all surprised to see a goat in one of the runs. We placed her, too.”

**1989:** AWLA secures official contract with the City of Alexandria to provide animal care, control and operation of the shelter.

**May 18, 2002:** The new Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria is dedicated, with former city manager Vola Lawson and other city officials in attendance. The shelter features more spacious and comfortable quarters for staff and, more importantly, the resident animals.

**May 2015:** AWLA signs a formal agreement with the Alexandria Police Department to create a working relationship on all animal-related matters in the city of Alexandria. Working with officials, AWLA brings forward 25 criminal cases of animal abuse and neglect.

**2016:** Alexandria’s animal shelter is a vast improvement over the squalid conditions of the original dog pound on East Monroe Street.

The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is a model shelter and a leader in national best practices for animals, both pets and wildlife.

gain them as they are reported to be more colorful and different. In conclusion, let’s be considerate to our veterans, be kind to the dogs that are one of our claims to fame and be the hippest town around.

**Liz Davis**  
Alexandria

## Orphaned Intersection?

To the Editor:

If you have ever tried to move through the intersection of King and Union streets

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Strategies for Preventing Concussions This Summer

Area physician is pioneering traumatic brain injury treatment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET



Dr. Michael Lewis

Summer has been dubbed trauma season by health care professionals. Warm temperatures make swimming, biking, hiking, waterskiing and other outdoor activities irresistible during the summer, but this also means a rise in concussions and other injuries. In fact, every 19 seconds someone in the United States sustains a traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The National Institutes of Health define a concussion as a mild traumatic brain injury caused by an external force, such as a blow to the head. Symptoms can include a headache or neck pain, nausea, ringing in the ears, dizziness, or fatigue, while serious symptoms include seizures, trouble walking or sleeping, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination, repeated vomiting or nausea, confusion, and slurred speech.

Michael Lewis, M.D. is the president of the Brain Health Education and Research Foundation in Potomac, Md. Lewis, who retired from the U.S. Army after more than 30 years of service, is dedicated to improv-

ing public health. He spent the last five years of his military career working on nutritional interventions to help prevent and treat brain injuries from physical and psychological trauma.

His interest in brain injury treatment was sparked by the 2006 explosion at the Sago coal mine in Sago, W.Va. The blast and collapse trapped 13 miners for nearly two days.

"Only one guy survived," said Lewis. "They used high dose omega-3 fish oil to help his brain recover from carbon monoxide poison. I wondered if it would help soldiers recover from traumatic brain injury. I put together a program to do that kind of research for the military. How can we improve from the inside out for any soldier or athlete who is at risk for head injury?"

Lewis' focus is on the clinical use of omega-3 fatty acids for the prevention, acute treatment, and rehabilitation of brain injuries from traumatic brain injury and concussions, stroke, PTSD, and other conditions.

On a more personal level, Lewis' 16-year-old son Isaac attends Winston Churchill High School and plays two sports often associated with concussions: football and la-

crose. Lewis says his son has never sustained a concussion, but he is working with the school's athletic staff on strategies to prevent concussions among athletes. He also makes sure his son takes fish oil every day.

"The value you get from sports far outweighs the risks, but we should mitigate the risks as much as possible," Lewis said. "I implement this with my own 16-year-old son." He also advises his patients to "take a fish oil supplement every day or eat good sourced salmon."

Symptoms of a concussion might not be immediately apparent. "The more subtle symptoms are those that appear days or weeks after an injury," said Lewis. "The personality might change, a person might become more irritable, have brain fog or have trouble thinking, or their head feels like it's stuffed with cotton."

Among the signs that one might have sustained a concussion are a "loss of consciousness, followed by marked confusion," said Robert Wade, Ph.D., dean of Nursing, Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus, "Most likely a headache too."

No two injuries are the same. "Each concussion is different, which means the same child could have different symptoms during different concussions," said Ryan Wildenhain, head of Sports Medicine at Marymount University.

When students are back in school, parents should watch for another common in-

More

For more information on concussion prevention see [www.cdc.gov/headsup/](http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/)

indicator of concussions in student athletes. "One of my warning signs are grades that are falling off," said Lewis. "A straight 'A' student whose grades drop is a warning sign. A good kid who all of a sudden becomes irritable should prompt questioning. Kids are not always good at telling, they tend to want to play through it — it's part of our culture."

Wearing proper protective equipment is recommended as a way to prevent concussions. "Minimizing the risk of a child sustaining a concussion is extremely difficult and dependent on the type of activities the child does," said Wildenhain. "Every child should be properly educated on how concussions occur, the signs and/or symptoms of a concussion, and how to avoid dangerous situations for the specific activity they intend to do."

Lewis warns that even protective equipment isn't foolproof.

"Even if you're wearing a football, hockey or motorcycle helmet, when you hit something, another helmet or another head, it causes injury," he said. "If coaches see anything that is any way questionable they should get them off the field and out of harm's way. I think it's a parent's duty to stop the game and pull the kid out of a game if they see something that a coach doesn't see or doesn't respond to."

## Healthy Summer Entertaining

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

While summer means weekends filled with trips to the beach, backyard grilling and al fresco dinner parties, the food that accompanies these gatherings is often laden with fat and calories (think ice cream, potato salad, hot dogs, s'mores and summer cocktails) and can wreak havoc on a healthy balanced diet.

"Summer here is by the far the best time for food in the Mid-Atlantic region and it goes

all the way through September," said Nick Phelps of From the Farmer. "Unfortunately, that's when most people are out of town."

An online food delivery company, From the Farmer delivers fresh, primarily local produce, sustainable meats and artisanal pantry items to clients in Maryland and Northern Virginia, including Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County.

Phelps recommends serving plenty of fresh fruit when planning summer entertaining. Fruit has a high water content and is not only refreshing, it's also filling and can satisfy a

craving for sweets. "The most exciting [locally grown producer] are fruits like peaches and plums, which come out mid-summer," Phelps said. "There are still some spring produce like strawberries and blueberries."

Summer ushers in fresh vegetables that are bursting with color and packed with fiber. Eating them raw or cooked minimally helps preserve the amount of fiber and vitamins.

"I think entertaining is easier during the summer," said Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac, Md. "There's so much available

Tips for serving bounty of tasty, fresh produce.

More

From The Farmer  
<https://shop.fromthefarmer.com/>

that can be cooked or prepared easily, and there's just so much that you can do with the produce and the fresh herbs that we have in season now."

The bounty even yields alternatives to ubiquitous ice cream. "You can make sorbet with fruit and beautiful berries," said Carr.

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## Be Part of The Pet Connection in July

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 20.

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## BUSINESS

# Opening a Business?

Here are a few tips.

BY DANIELLE ROMANETTI  
OWNER, FIBRE SPACE

When I decided to open a retail store in Old Town Alexandria, I was looking for an opportunity to do something that I loved, be my own boss and be able to walk to work everyday with my dog. What I quickly realized was that starting my own retail business was indeed as rewarding as everyone says it is. But planning and opening the business was also one of the most stressful periods of my life. Owning and operating a business is definitely not for everyone, and taking the time to properly plan and build a strategy can provide you with the best foundation for a successful venture.

The SBA reports that one third of businesses with employees will fail in the first two years and half will fail in five. With these kinds of odds, I recommend making sure that you know what you are getting into before starting off on

and support for start-ups, which you don't always get from your coworkers, family and friends. Which leads me to ...

❖ Take the criticism with a grain of salt. Not everyone can understand striking out on your own and operating your own business. They may not know your skills, passion or planning process or anything about your industry. I found that the friends in my life who were the least satisfied with their own profession were also the most critical of my decision to change mine. Listen to the naysayers; gather what tips you can from their concern and then move on.

FROM THE OLD TOWN  
BOUTIQUE DISTRICT

❖ Utilize your local and/or free resources. The Alexandria Small Business Development

Center is a free resource for existing and new businesses. They can provide everything from sample business plans to referrals for legal advice. Join a professional association for your trade, which will likely be able to provide market data and national sales data for your industry in addition to referrals and others in your field that may be willing to talk about your business concept.

❖ Write your business plan. Once you have these support systems in

Owning and operating a business is definitely not for everyone ...

your own and cutting ties with your steady paycheck. Here are some tips:

❖ Know your strengths and weaknesses. Take the time to sit down and evaluate what you are good at and what you should learn or hire out. Do you know basic book keeping and accounting? Do you know how to create and manage a marketing strategy? Have you ever done inventory management? Do you know how to set up a database or point of sale program? Not having these experiences doesn't necessarily mean that you can't start a business, however knowing your weaknesses will help you to hire the right help or take the right classes before you open.

❖ Join a local business organization. Meeting other small business owners can provide you with referrals, resources and energy. There is no need to spend time trying to figure out the best local insurance agent when you can ask your fellow business owners who they recommend (and who they don't). Business organizations also provide wonderful encouragement

place, start writing a business plan. The process of writing the business plan is what will help you determine the best legal entity for your business, your start-up costs and cash flow needs for the first five years, the services and products you plan to provide and pricing structure for them, your market and how best to reach them, your employee mission and purpose and so much more. There are many sample business plans online, and the SBA can provide you with one as well, but no one should write your plan except you. It is your guide for opening the business and should serve as your work plan long after you have opened.

❖ Continually update your business plan. I spend a few days each year updating my business plan with new market research, a new marketing calendar and financials. The updated plan helps me to evaluate what we are doing and adjust my operations accordingly. The best way to not be one of the 50 percent of small businesses that do not survive five years is to do your diligence in carefully planning your business.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## ACCT Presents 'The Dixie Swim Club'

It's a little "Steel Magnolias" meets "Same Time Next Year" meets "Golden Girls" and "On Golden Pond"

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**ldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is presenting "The Dixie Swim Club" from July 8-24. It's the story of five Southern women, whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team, who set aside a long weekend every August to recharge those relationships. Free from husbands, children and jobs, they meet at the same beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks to catch up, laugh and meddle in each others lives. It's a little bit of "Steel Magnolias" meets "Same Time Next Year," but it resonates with notes of "Golden Girls" and even "On Golden Pond."

As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging) that life flings at them. And when fate throws a wrench into one of their lives in the second act, these friends, proving the enduring power of teamwork, rally round their own with the strength and love that takes this comedy in a poignant and surprising direction.

Producer Jean Coyle said this is a story of lifelong friendship growing ever deeper despite very different personalities among the women. "There are some hilarious moments, as well as some truly poignant ones," she said. "The audience will identify with the characters and laugh and cry with them as if they, the audience, were right in the middle of the Pemberton College Swimming



PHOTO BY CHRIS MOMAN

**From left: Edye Smith as Lexie, Janette Moman as Dinah, Lorraine Bouchard as Vernadette, Tina Anderson as Sheree, and Lise Downing as Jeri, in "The Dixie Swim Club" presented by Aldersgate Church Community Theatre in Alexandria.**

Team. I hope the audience will leave pondering their own friendships and those they love — and remember to tell them of that love."

Director Eddie Page said he decided to direct "The Dixie Swim Club" because, growing up in Hampton, Va., he was always traveling to Nags Head, N.C., in the Outer Banks. "In fact, for many of those years, it was a "guys" weekend to mile marker nine at the See Sea Hotel. When I first started reading the script it was so contagious I couldn't put it down."

He added: "Good friends stick together through the good and bad times, but friendship doesn't just happen, it has to be maintained. These ladies can teach us all something about what we need to do to keep these lifelong bonds strong."

As far as challenges, he said the play takes place over a 32-year period and the actors have to "age" through this time in looks, tone, and attitude. "Getting that balance correct is both a challenge and an opportunity to explore how we age."

He added: "The play is a celebration of friendships — the kind that last a lifetime and endure through joy and hardship. The audience should feel like the sixth silent roommate — right there in the beach house."

Janette Moman plays the role of Dinah Grayson, a sharp-witted, wise-cracking, high-powered Southern lawyer who enjoys these weekends with the girls to let her hair down. "She enjoys her martinis and has not been very successful when it comes to love and relationships until midlife," she said. "She and Lexie have a special bond being the only two in the group who have not had children. She considers these ladies the only real family she has and finds ways to take care of them when they aren't aware of it."

She said just like the Dixie Swim Club, relationships among friends are complex. "And my relationships with this wonderful cast of women has had its ups and downs. We have laughed, we have cried, we have dealt with each others' weaknesses, benefited from each others' strengths, and

learned that togetherness and understanding make us better."

As far as audience takeaways, she said: "I believe audiences will appreciate this show because these are strong women who are resilient and smart, powerful, yet vulnerable. Friends make you stronger. Relationships are what life is all about."

Lise Downing plays the role of Jeri Neal McFeeley, the most upbeat and empathetic of the characters. "Jeri Neal's life changes along the way bring her from naive innocence to grounded maturity," she said.

She said it was a challenge "Adapting my dry New England humor and realist attitude to Jeri Neal's perky Southern optimism ... I hope people are enticed to take a weekend out of their busy lives to stop and smell the biscuits."

Lorraine Bouchard plays the role of Vernadette Sims, a fun-loving gal who enjoys the annual special weekends as a great escape from the black cloud of rotten luck that follows her. "I adore Vernadette. She's feisty. She embraces who she is and stands up for what she believes. I am very lucky to play a gal who can make you both laugh and cry," she said.

She added: "I hope that the audience members will reach out and call their old buddies. Treasure those rare, long friendships that cheer us on and support us along the bumps in our lives."

Tina Anderson plays the role of Sheree Hollinger, the cheerleader, the All-American mom, group leader, health nut, and eternal tomboy in the group. "Seriously, I can really identify with Sheree, and I really wish I had her energy," she said.

She added: "I hope that the audience is so delighted by this bone-tickling, heart-warming story of lifelong friendships that they will feel compelled to re-connect with old friends after the show."

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is presenting "The Dixie Swim Club" from July 8-24. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and \$15. Aldersgate Church Community Theater is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://acctonline.org>.

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**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.

**Caribbean-American Jubilee Arts Exhibition.** Through July, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Second Art Impact USA Caribbean Jubilee

Arts Exhibition is in honor of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Free. Visit [www.artimpactusa.org](http://www.artimpactusa.org) for more.

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

**Grown Ups Art Camp.** Through July 15, various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans is offering more than 30 workshops and sessions to choose from. Prices vary. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for more.

#### Indoor Arts Supplies Yard Sale.

Through July 15, various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Art supplies will be for sale a half-hour before and immediately after each Grown Ups Art Camp workshop. Free to attend. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GUAC](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GUAC).

#### Target Gallery: "Please Touch."

Through July 17, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Sixteen national and international artists, including four people from Virginia, were juried into this group show. This all-media exhibition features 20 works with which audiences are invited to engage. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

#### Art Exhibit: "Out and About."

Through July 17, gallery hours at The

Associates Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. TAG member artist and oil painter Ellen Kolansky presents a grouping of her landscape paintings. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

#### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

**"Circuses."** Through July 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the juried show "Circuses." Artists' derive inspiration from clowns, animals, trapezes, jugglers, ringmasters, sideshows, crowds and other big house trappings. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

#### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

**"Circuses."** Through July 24, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Potomac

Fiber Arts Gallery announces the juried show "Circuses." Artists' derive inspiration from clowns, animals, trapezes, jugglers, ringmasters, sideshows, crowds and other big house trappings. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**Summerquest.** Various times at various libraries in Alexandria. SummerQuest is divided into three groups: SummerQuest, Jr. (ages 0-5), SummerQuest (ages 6-12) and Teen Summer Reading (ages 12-18). This year's theme is "Read for the Win!" Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

#### "Violent Grace: A Retrospective."

Through July 30, gallery hours at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Free. Visit



# ENTERTAINMENT

## THURSDAY/JULY 7

### Let's Grow Garden Club: "Dig In."

1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children will visit Green Spring's greenhouses and nursery areas to see the garden staff at work, help them start some seeds for late summer planting, and trek down to the veggie patch to talk about what plants need to grow. Make a plant marker for the garden and pot a plant to bring home. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Artist's Reception.** 6-8 p.m. at The Associates Gallery, Studio 311, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. TAG member artist and oil painter Ellen Kolansky presents a grouping of her landscape paintings "Out and About: Environs of DC." Her style is loose, noted for its rhythm, color, and grace. In the current show, scenes depict the C & O Canal, Potomac river, Frederick Maryland train station and Great Falls and more. Visit [torpedofactory.org/](http://torpedofactory.org/) for more.

**First Thursday: "A Nation's Celebration: Red, White & Blue."** 6 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. First Thursday takes place along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, and features patriotic activities; discounts for veterans and military families at various businesses; plus music by Mars Rodeo, an old-fashioned cake walk (and treat walk for dogs). Free. Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JULY 9

**Civil War Kids Drill Day.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Children ages 9-12 can learn more about the daily life of the Civil War soldier. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) for more.

**Herb Container Workshop.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to care for and harvest herbs and share some of your favorite herb recipes. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

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

**Film Screening: "This Little Light of Mine."** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Director Robin Hamilton will discuss her work to shine a light on the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, an often-overlooked heroine of the Civil Rights Movement in this documentary film. A question and answer session with Hamilton follows the film. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-746-4356.

**"Eating Right on the Run."** 11:30 a.m. at Williams-Sonoma Old Town, 825 S. Washington St. Presented by Certified Wellness Master Ruvu Makuni. Free. Visit <https://ruvu.typeform.com/to/x2ioCE>.

**Carlyle House 40th Anniversary Open House.** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Birthday festivities will take place throughout town that afternoon and evening. Free. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

**Our American Girl.** 1-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon's own American girl, "Nelly Custis" on a tour of



"Secrets Revealed"



"Back Creek Spring"

## 'Vision at Water's Edge' Features Oils and Acrylics

Artist Kathleen Best Gillmann uses a realistic style and carefully developed palette to represent the ambiguity of the natural landscape. Her style is similarly influenced by moving water. "Vision at Water's Edge" will be on display at The Art League (105 N. Union St.) through Aug. 7. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

George Washington's estate. Enjoy refreshments with "Lady Washington" and create colonial crafts. Bring your favorite doll. Tickets are \$35 for youth, \$25 for adults. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Old Town Pub Crawl.** 2-4 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria. It will be an open-house-type crawl, meaning you can visit participating bars and restaurants in any order. The reward for visiting all of the stops will be a limited-edition pint glass. You will have until 5:30 p.m. to get your pass punched by a Port City staffer. Free to participate. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com](http://www.portcitybrewing.com) for more.

**Alexandria/USA Birthday Celebration.** 6-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Visitors celebrate America's 240th birthday and Alexandria's 267th along the Potomac waterfront at Oronoco Bay Park and enjoy live music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, patriotic birthday cake, food vendors and a fireworks display. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/alex-bday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/alex-bday).

## TUESDAY/JULY 12

**"Casablanca."** Garden reception at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. at Woodlawn-Pope Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Picnic Theatre

Company returns to Woodlawn estate for a one-act garden party theatre performance of "Casablanca." Tickets are \$15-25 plus a service fee. Visit [www.facebook.com/PicnicTheatre](http://www.facebook.com/PicnicTheatre).

## THURSDAY/JULY 14

**Rejuvenate the Midsummer Herb Garden.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn how to keep your herb garden going strong in hot summer weather through good maintenance practices and occasional replanting. Learn tips and techniques to use and preserve herbs, including how to flavor vinegars. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralalex@gmail.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 15-16

**Alexandria Comcast Outdoor Film Festival.** Gates open at 5:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Two movies will show on a 40-foot inflatable movie screen, with the Alexandria Waterfront as the backdrop. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer).

## SATURDAY/JULY 16

**The Sounds of Dyke Marsh.** 5:15 a.m. or 7:45 p.m. at Haul Road entrance bulletin board just off Belle

Haven Marina Road. In celebration of World Listening Day, global annual celebrations encouraging awareness of our acoustic environments, participants will listen in Dyke Marsh, recognizing changes in sounds of the past, present and future. Free. Call 703-765-5233 for more.

### Family Fun Day: The Wright

**Flight.** 10-11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Celebrate the 107th Anniversary of Orville Wright's historic flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria and test the basic principles of flight. Like the Wright brothers, work together as a family to create a hypothesis and conduct test flights to learn which design is the best. Tickets are \$8 for children, free for adults. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx).

**Canine Cruise.** 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. With four-legged friends in tow, board a Potomac Riverboat Co. cruise and tour the Alexandria Seaport on this popular 60-minute waterfront excursion. Dogs must be on 6-foot flat leash at all times. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$10 for children, free for dogs. Visit [www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com/canine-cruise.php](http://www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com/canine-cruise.php).

## SUNDAY/JULY 17

**Presidential Salon with James Madison.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Join President Madison as he discusses and engages guests about political and personal issues of 1816. Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer).

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 18-22

**Del Ray Artisans Art Camp.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites young campers to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day only gallery show held on July 23 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$300. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for more.

## TUESDAY/JULY 19

**Searching Adoption Records.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist and adoptee Susan Palma talks about adoption records through time and gives tips on finding family. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org) or call 703-768-4101.

## THURSDAY/JULY 21

**Let's Grow Garden Club: "Bee Quest."** 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Test your pollinator spotting skills in the gardens with our pollinator game. Figure out how pollinators help us grow food and what plants they like to visit. Visit bee hives and sample flower honey. Take home some pumpkin seeds for planting. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

## FRIDAY/JULY 22

**Closing Reception: "Violent Grace."** 6-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**"West Side Story."** 7 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. This musical will raise funds for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center.

\$40 suggested donation. Call Tina Barry at 703-683-5778 ext. 1.

## SATURDAY/JULY 23

**Del Ray Music Festival.** 3-8 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. The 9th Annual Del Ray Music Fest is a celebration of local talent. Free. Visit [www.DelRayMusicFestival.com](http://www.DelRayMusicFestival.com).

**Summer Concert.** 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Surprise band performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 25-29

**Del Ray Artisans Art Camp.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites young campers to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day only gallery show held on July 30 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$300. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for more.

## JULY 26-AUG. 28

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Explorations Part I."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Artists' take inspirations from the early explorers: Vikings, Phoenicians, Marco Polo, tall ships, discovery of the New World and other. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Jane Austen Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing. Tickets are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-746-4242.

## FRIDAY/JULY 29

**Film Screening: "Back to the Future."** Movie starts at dusk, activities start at 6 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit [www.fourmilemovieseries.com](http://www.fourmilemovieseries.com).

## SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Children's Art Workshop: "The Beauty of Inflection."** Through July 31, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Julia Bloom and Susan Hostetler have created complementary bodies of work, in both two and three dimensions, inspired by nature. The artists will conduct a workshop for children ages 8-12, to explore various media including making stencils and create work reflecting the nature of the show. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 30-31

**Harry Potter Birthday Weekend.** At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Saturday features adult-only tours of the museum from 7-10 p.m. that includes an adult beverage, make-and-take activity, photo opportunities and time to explore items familiar from the Harry Potter series and their real-world uses. Event ends in time to join the midnight release of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - Parts I & II" at Hooray for Books. On Sunday, celebrate Harry Potter's birthday with family-friendly tours of the apothecary from 1:30-6 p.m. Hooray for Books will sell Harry Potter merchandise and leading Harry Potter trivia. Tickets are \$15 for Saturday, \$6 for Sunday. Visit [shop.AlexandriaVA.gov](http://shop.AlexandriaVA.gov).

# Governor Discusses Voting Rights Restoration

FROM PAGE 1  
were joined by local civil rights and restoration leaders.

"This is a first step towards battling stigmas," said Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, executive director of Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR). OAR is an Arlington-based organization that works with offenders and individuals impacted by the criminal justice system. "Restoration brings recidivism rates down," she said.

Kelvin Manurs is a local civil rights activist and an ex-convict. Manurs leads a 501c group in Arlington called Arm in Arm, which helps returning inmates and veterans work at adjusting back to civilian life. Manurs was both a veteran and an inmate and said the world can be a very intimidating place for both groups. For years, Manurs struggled with drug addictions, particularly to cocaine. However, even after Manurs beat his drug addiction after a 2006 arrest, he says he was still stuck in the drug lifestyle and continued dealing drugs until his arrest in 2009.

Originally, Manurs started Arm in Arm while in prison as a way of connecting with other drug dealers who wanted to escape that lifestyle. But Manurs discovered that many of the issues he faced also impacted other prisoners: low self esteem, low self worth, and negative self images. The group now offers counseling and support services



**Gov. Terry McAuliffe (right) surprises Robert McNeil with his officially restored voter paperwork.**

PHOTOS BY  
EVAN JENKINS  
GAZETTE PACKET

to help deal with those issues. Manurs said that stripping away the right to vote can make many of those already depressed ex-convicts feel like second class citizens. But for many of the younger members of their communities, Manurs says it's more difficult to explain how big of an impact it is to lose that right. "I tell young people, 'what would it be like if someone took away your music? Or, for older people, what if they took away your flower bed?'" said Manurs.

For ex-convicts, the loss of voting rights is particularly painful around election seasons.

"Every time there's a voting situation, you

think about it," said Robert McNeil, an ex-convict, "but now, we can move forward."

McNeil described the day he heard the McAuliffe's announcement on the radio.

"It made me pay attention because there was a possibility that I could vote," said McNeil. "I'm 62 years old and I've never had the opportunity to vote. That day I stood a chance. I wanted to be a part of it. I went into the poll, they accepted me, gave me an application, and the whole process took six or seven minutes. I walk with a cane but I was ready to dance."

McAuliffe currently faces a lawsuit from political opponents who allege that



**Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, executive director of Offender Aid Restoration (OAR)**



**Courtney Hill with Northern Virginia Restoration Initiative.**

McAuliffe abused his executive privilege in his voting rights restoration.

"Every civil rights struggle is hard work," said McAuliffe, "that doesn't mean we don't do it."

# Hundreds Pack Airplane Noise Community Meeting

FROM PAGE 1

elected officials including Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg and Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said the changes in flights and patterns have drastically increased airplane noise over and around the Potomac River, and that community members weren't involved in the process whatsoever.

"What happened?" Storck said repeatedly. "Things were good."

"It's about engaging the community before you make changes," Storck said in an interview after the meeting. "It's undemocratic to not do so. This has gone on too long. The noise is unacceptable. Nobody's talked to the community about it at all."

That was the overwhelming sentiment of citizen speakers as well as the occasional outburst from audience members.

People complained of not being able to sit on their deck or work in their yard without battling acute noise pollution. Others referenced Hollin Meadows Elementary School, which after the flights change they said now has planes passing over every three minutes.

"The students can't live with it," one woman said. "No one should have to live with it."

One community member asked if an environmental impact study had been done before the flight changes were made.

Elizabeth Lynn Ray, vice president of Support Services Air Traffic Organization for the Federal Aviation Administration, said that



**The irony of some struggling to hear over the sound of planes taxiing just outside the packed lounge at Reagan Washington National Airport's historic Terminal A wasn't lost on the audience of more than 300.**

only an "environmental assessment" was required, which they completed. The assessment did not call for canvassing communities and interviewing residents, she said.

In her comments, Ray referenced the Reagan National Airport Community Working Group that was established to give com-

munity members a say with regards to aircraft noise south of the airport.

Applause went up when Ray said the working group is considering solutions.

"We continue to work through the working group," she said, "to put airplanes over water longer to the north and south sides."

Ray gave the estimate of nine to 12 months for any changes to occur, due to the length of process design.

"At least now there's listening happening," said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) who lives in and represents the Mount Vernon area in the Virginia General Assembly.

"People who don't live under this don't understand," he continued. "It's really ridiculous. It was foisted upon us."

Krizek praised the Mount Vernon community for their calls that the flight traffic not simply be "pushed down to someone else's community." "They're victims of noise, they don't want anyone else to be victims."

Among other ideas, Krizek wondered about the possibility of alternating days or weeks of flight patterns to give residents at least some relief from the noise pollution.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) said his and other elected officials' job is to keep informing the public of the process, of the federal government making changes that trickle down to the community members — or changes that sound like "planes falling out of the sky at two in the morning," as one citizen put it.

"Tonight shows not just how big but how engaged this community is," Ebbin said.

Though Beyer's staff said he wasn't able to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict, Ebbin said the fact that he put the event together shows his concern over the issue.

For information on how to submit a noise complaint, visit [www.flyreagan.com/dca/reagan-national-submit-noise-complaint](http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/reagan-national-submit-noise-complaint).

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-Dagobert Runes

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-Thomas Fuller

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

26 Antiques

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**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene at 4:00 PM on Friday, June 30, 2016, at 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 3008, Alexandria, Virginia, for the purpose of equalizing real estate assessments. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss meeting dates, docket order and processing, and other administrative issues. There are no scheduled public hearings for this meeting, however members of the public are welcome to attend. Additional information about this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Department of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 2600, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday in person, in writing, or by calling 703.746.4180. The deadline for filing an appeal is June 1, 2016, however this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments made pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3292.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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BANK BRANCH APPLICATION**

Notification is given that **Access National Bank**, 1800 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 310, Reston, VA 20191 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on May 16, 2016 as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a staffed branch office at:

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Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for District Licensing at the northeastern district office of the

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

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-St. Francis de Sales

## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Mayor Allison Silberberg addresses inmates during a graduation ceremony at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center.**

# Inmates Honored at Ceremony

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and his staff held a graduation ceremony on June 21 to honor several inmates at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center for their recent educational achievements.

During the ceremony, guest speaker Mayor Allison Silberberg addressed the honorees, congratulated them and encouraged them to continue striving for success.

Silberberg and Lawhorne then joined education coordinator Krista Sofonia as she presented two inmates with Certificates of Achievement for passing their General Educational Development (GED) examinations. Kaylah Davis and Julio Quiroga wore caps and gowns and were cheered by staff, other inmates and family members attending the

ceremony. Three other inmates also recently passed their GED exams but were released prior to the ceremony.

In addition, Christopher Banibashar, John Langhorne, Neico Mills and five other inmates who did not want to be identified were also honored for successfully completing the Thinking for a Change (T4C) curriculum. The Sheriff's Office partners with Alexandria Probation and Parole (District 36) to deliver T4C to inmates prior to their release and Lisa Stapleton, Alexandria's chief probation and parole officer, joined the mayor and sheriff in recognizing the T4C participants. T4C is a behavioral change program for offenders that includes social and problem-solving developmental skills.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 14

on a weekend or holiday, you most likely would comment: "It's a zoo!" There are cars, pedestrians, motor coaches, trolleys, bicycles, joggers, and skate boarders all in competition to cross the street, and absolutely no one trying to rationally sort this mess out. Once in a while, you might see a police officer or two stationed at the corner, but they do not intervene with traffic.

A few years ago, after I complained to the city manager at that time about this mess, it was forwarded to the Old Town Assistant Police Department Sector Commander, who replied that they did increase police presence at that site on weekend nights, but that they were on extra-duty detail status — paid to come in on their days off to provide more police coverage. He also indicated that they would love to have enough officers to staff this important area at all times, but since they don't, it is not reasonable to keep them there round the clock in case occasional issues arise.

I have often said that this situation does not need a police officer, per se, but a parking enforcement officer, or one of the school crossing officers could bring some sort of sanity to what is now uncontrolled chaos. This small intersection is a magnet for whoever comes to Old Town, and is without a doubt the busiest thoroughfare in the entire city, yet no one in our city government takes responsibility for it. In addition, it is amazing that no one has been seriously in-



PHOTO BY CERI BALDWIN

### Correction

**This photo, published June 30, of Old Glory, on the first day of summer, was flown at Heritage at Old Town.**

jured in attempting to cross this intersection on a busy day.

When this City Council passed the Waterfront Plan, they alluded to it as a "world class waterfront," which is a misnomer and a travesty, since no one traversing this intersection is going to praise our waterfront. At the current time, it resembles a third world crossing point. If we truly want citizens and guests to extol our uniqueness, our history, and our walkability, then we must create order out of chaos at this, the most visible intersection in the city on weekends and holidays. To do any less is to admit indifference and acceptance of the status quo.

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**BRAKE SPECIAL \$99<sup>95</sup>**

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**SUMMER MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$59<sup>95</sup>**

**INCLUDES:** Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil\*, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air Alexandria Toyota's 27 pt. inspection & cabin air filters.

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**SUNDAY ONLY SPECIALS**

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NON-SYNTHETIC \$29<sup>95</sup> SYNTHETIC \$49<sup>95</sup>  
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**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL**  
NON-SYNTHETIC \$29<sup>95</sup> SYNTHETIC \$49<sup>95</sup>

**INCLUDES:** Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
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**QUALITY HAND-WASH VACUUM & WAX**  
Recommended Every 6 Months \$139<sup>95</sup>

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**Alexandria** **\$1,174,900**

This 5-bedroom, 3.5-bath home includes all the bells & whistles that appeal to today's buyers! Classic & modern features, with top brand appliances, master with en-suite bath, finished basement, media room & great outdoor space. www.thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/3717-taft/

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**McLean** **\$1,499,000**

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**Alexandria** **\$410,000**

Spacious 3-story brick townhouse with fenced back yard. Hardwood floors main & upper levels. Updated kitchen & separate dining room. Upstairs has 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Finished family room downstairs. Assigned parking space. Close to Mark Center, I-395, buses to Pentagon, Metro.

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703.216.4501  
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**Alexandria** **\$635,000**

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**Del Ray** **\$649,900**

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**Jefferson Park** **\$799,000**

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**Alexandria** **\$670,000**

Charming historic farm house nestled on secluded 0.8-acre lot just a short drive from Mount Vernon. This 4-bedroom, 2-bath home boasts: newly remodeled family/sunroom, kitchen with granite and marble floor, first-floor bedroom, and lots storage in loft of detached 2-car garage.

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**Del Ray** **\$679,900**

Located in sought-after Del Ray! 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with extensive updates. Completely new kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, great deck and fenced backyard and close to 2 Metro stops, shops and dining. www.thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/8a-e-alexandria/

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