



Residents React to Revenge Killing

**Police chief says
July 2 murder was
“street justice.”**

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The July 2 murder of Saquan Hall in the 1000 block of First Street comes only weeks after the murder of Pierre Clark less than a block away. At a community meeting on July 6, local residents urged the audience to come together. But many

**“Their blood
is crying from
the streets.
When will the
violence
stop?”**

— Patrice Hall,
mother of
Saquan Hall

local resident Joyce Rawlings. “We’re still here, but many of our children didn’t make it. We don’t know how to deal with conflict anymore. Nobody’s

said they couldn’t escape the sense that these same pleas and plans had been spoken again and again at these meetings but the violence keeps occurring.

“We’ve busted up the community, scattered, so we can’t come together like [we used to],” said



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Police Chief Earl Cook discusses the Saquan Hall murder with local residents in the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

talking and nobody’s listening. We’ve been to these things before, and you give your suggestions, and then what happens? We go right back to square one and come out and ask all over again ‘what are we going to do?’ Stop looking for someone to solve this for you. It’s about replacing hate and anger with love and compassion.”

Pierre Clark, a father recently released from jail and working to turn his life around,

was murdered in the street in broad daylight. Saquan Hall and Pierre Clark had a history of disputes known throughout the neighborhood. Police investigated Saquan Hall in connection to the Clark homicide, which Saquan Hall’s mother Patrice Hall said led a close family member of Pierre Clark to target her son. According to police, early on July 2, less than a month after Clark’s murder, the family member of

Pierre Clark, who police would not name, confronted Saquan Hall in the alleyway a few feet away from where Pierre Clark had been killed and murdered the man he believed responsible for Clark’s death.

“This is not random violence, this is targeted,” said Police Chief Earl Cook. “They’re taking to street justice to solve their problems, [but] that is not justice. These people

SEE POLICE CHIEF, PAGE 4

Trying To Ease the Pains of Childhood Hunger



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Rev. Ross Kane, coordinator of Outreach Ministries at St Paul’s Episcopal Church on S. Pitt.

Massive need requires massive effort.

PART I: THE PROBLEM

First in a two-part series on childhood hunger in Alexandria.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Childhood hunger in Alexandria is just beyond the doorstep. Some of the underlying causes include lack of knowledge about the existence of the problem or the resources available to alleviate it. There is the high cost of housing and food in the area, the lag behind other local jurisdictions in improved access to food assistance, and inadequate coordination among the many organizations working on the problem.

A report “Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria,” was released in April 2014, indicating “Alexandria is one of the wealthiest communities in the nation; however, the report estimates that as many as one in five Alexandrians, disproportionately children, are living in households struggling to make ends meet.”

The Rev. Ross Kane, coordinator of Outreach Ministries at St Paul’s Episcopal Church on S. Pitt Street said, “It (the report) showed us hunger was a bigger problem than I had imagined. This report galvanized a lot of churches and

nonprofits to coordinate their concern and to establish Hunger Free Alexandria, a consortium of businesses, faith-based groups and local officials who meet monthly to strategize on how to reduce hunger in Alexandria. You drive

through Old Town, and you don’t see it ... and then you read the statistics on childhood hunger.”

Kane said, after the 2014 report was issued, a team of people including a representative from the

SEE TRYING TO, PAGE 22

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PHOTO BY PRESTON JONES/ GAZETTE PACKET

Food trucks and vendors crowd the street during the birthday celebration.



PHOTOS BY MARGARET CORUM/ GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maestra Victoria Gau during Alexandria's birthday celebration July 9.

Celebrating Alexandria's 267th Birthday

Members of the Alexandria community gathered to celebrate the city's 267th birthday at Oronoco Bay Park on Saturday, July 9. Spectators were able to enjoy an evening of live music along with birthday cupcakes and a variety of food vendors. The night concluded with a performance from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and a fireworks display.



PHOTO BY PRESTON JONES

Birthday cupcakes highlight the evening as they are distributed to the crowd.

People capture the firework display on cell phones and cameras during Alexandria's birthday celebration July 9th.



PHOTOS BY MARGARET CORUM/ GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY MARGARET CORUM/ GAZETTE PACKET

Soldiers responsible for firing ceremonial cannons are introduced during festivities for Alexandria's birthday July 9.



The ceremonial cannons quickly became a popular attraction as they line the waterfront.

PHOTO BY PRESTON JONES
GAZETTE PACKET



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News

Police Chief: ‘Street Justice’

FROM PAGE 1

are indiscriminately taking out their personal vendettas on each other.”

For the third time in the last year, police held a meeting in the gymnasium at the Charles Houston Recreation Center to discuss the latest murder with the community. In the July 6 meeting, many of the local residents recognized that previous calls for unity hadn’t stopped violence in the neighborhood.

“Their blood is crying from the streets,” said Patrice Hall. “When will the violence stop? ... When are we going to step forward and question our children? Does it have to be your daughter before you speak up? Does it take us [dying] before they speak up? We have to take back our neighborhood.”

Patrice Hall addressed the audience, pleading for anyone who knew anything about the crime to talk to the police, even if the information is sent anonymously.

“We are in a state of emergency,” said Patrice Hall. “There’s another [murder in the works] ... Another black male will be executed. We need to stop this assassination or it’s going to go on through the summer. There’s going to be another one here, and if you are not part of the solution, you are a part of that problem. Someone in here knows something ... If you know something and you haven’t told the police, you killed my son just as much as the trigger man.”

Local residents who spoke at the meeting said that public safety measures in the Braddock Road Metro area had been poorly implemented. Deborah Wilson said she’d been trying since 2004 to get lighting in that part of the neighborhood and to make the enclosed area around the generator less appealing to those looking to conduct criminal activity. Wilson brought a folder with all of her letters and emails to local officials, none of which had any effect until Hall was murdered in that exact spot.

Mayor Allison Silberberg told family, friends, and neighbors after Alexandria’s fourth homicide of 2016 that Alexandria is a safe city. But in a neighborhood that has experienced four homicides in the last year, many residents are beginning to feel trapped in a cycle of violence. The sense that the city hasn’t been listening to the needs of the local neighborhood was prevalent throughout the meeting. Leslie Zupan, president of the West Old Town Citizen’s Association, said criminals come into the Braddock Road neighborhood from neighboring jurisdictions because “The city has no community policing,” said Zupan. “It’s drawn a big bullseye around this neighborhood.”

Cook disputed this image, citing the work of the Community Oriented Policing Unit (COPs), the frequent patrols, and the presence of a police officer living in the affordable housing. But the community said some of the measures, particularly the frequent patrols, don’t work as well on the streets as the higher echelons of the administration believe. Robin Paulin said many walk by and see the officers just sitting in their cars.

“I’m afraid they’re afraid of this commu-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Hadr Kamara argues against a curfew and in favor of greater community involvement.

nity,” said Paulin.

When one speaker said they often see squad cars clustered together at the local Post Office, the audience erupted in a roar of agreement. Cook defended his officers, saying that they’re human just like anyone working a job, and are entitled to take an occasional break.

As local civic leaders urged the community to come together, divides in the audience were visible. When Patrice Hall said that the community needed more programs for city youths, a white woman in the audience asked who would pay for those programs. The black woman in front of her turned around and the two began a heated confrontation that volunteers had to be called over to break up.

A woman from a nearby neighborhood spoke and proposed a curfew on the youth in the Braddock Road metro neighborhood. After she sat down, Hadr Kamara stood and addressed her and the audience. Kamara is a 15-year-old black youth and ran through the list of his involvement in local organizations.

“They talk and they say ‘these kids aren’t doing anything,’” said Kamara. “I wasn’t doing anything until somebody gave me the opportunity to come forward and do something with my life.”

Among the audience, both at this meeting and previous ones, many of the local residents felt greater community programs that give the youth productive activities could help steer them away from a life of crime that eventually leads to violent behavior.

“We need to come together,” said affordable housing activist Geri Baldwin. “The youth need activities. The crimes need to stop. It’s ugly and hideous. Sooner or later, there’s not going to be affordable housing, it’s going to be graveyards.”

“We keep talking about curfews for the children, we need to get some curfew for the adults,” said Rawlings. “We have to stop this madness. We’re not going to change it until we say, ‘I’m just like you. I’ve got that same pain.’”

Changes Coming to Victory Center

Planning approves three additions.

The Victory Center has sat empty and untouched for a decade, but after a controversy over the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) potential move to the site, developers are working to make the complex more appealing.

At the Planning Commission meeting on July 7, the commission voted to approve changes that would add three new structures around the building. The plans include retail in front of the main building, in hopes that the city can change the isolated structure into a more community-connected site.

In April the General Services Administration announced that the controversy over the move to the Victory Center would push the TSA's date back to 2020 while the agency went through a new bidding process for its headquarters, meaning the building will have to wait a few more years before there's even a chance that it will host the new tenant.

As it stands now, the Victory Center is a monolithic structure in the middle of a large parking lot. The site improvements would add a proposed annex building on one side and a large parking structure on the other. The annex would be a two- to four-story secure conference facility with office space connected to the main building by a skyway. The parking structure would be set on the eastern side of the building, outside the secure area. A one-story structure in front of the building would have amenity re-

tail and would be open to the public, part of an effort to make the area more community and metro friendly.

"It's been a herculean lift to get this application to move forward in order to respond to the TSA request for more space at the site," said Kenneth Wire, an attorney representing applicants, but said that the site's remote location made it ideal for growth. "This is the only site I've worked on in 10 years that had plenty of floor area, plenty of setback, plenty of parking and plenty of height."

But the project still came with a number of potential challenges. As the project was being discussed, Commissioner David Brown looked at the scale drawing of the site and realized that the dividing line between the parcels on the site would run right through the middle of the new parking garage.

"I don't understand why it would make any sense to divide a lot through the middle of the building," said Brown. Staff said the lines of the parcels would be looked into.

For members of the Planning Commission, the improvements to the Victory Center would depend on how well the site would be able to include the broader Eisenhower community.

"I've watch the West End mature over 18 years," said Commissioner Mindy Lyle. "You don't want retail to go in and then have it disappear because they can't make end's meet. We've lost a lot of retail on the West End because you couldn't get to it."

The Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the site.

— VERNON MILES

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Opening Day Fire Engulfs Al's Steakhouse



Fundraiser to be held at Holy Cow July 14.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Al's Steakhouse, a favorite in the Del Ray community for decades, suffered extensive damage when a three-alarm fire swept through the restaurant July 6, the grand reopening day for new owners Emily Breeding and the Breeding family.

"An extensive overhaul will be needed because of the age of the building," said Alexandria Fire Chief Robert Dube as firefighters from Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County battled the blaze.

In response to the fire, fellow Del Ray restaurateurs Bill Blackburn and "Mango" Mike Anderson, along with the Del Ray business community, will host a pop-up fundraiser at Holy Cow Del Ray to help the Breeding family.

"This is devastating, not just for the Breeding family but for the entire community," said Anderson. "Everyone was anxiously awaiting the reopening of Al's. Now it's time for the Del Ray community to do what it does best — support one another when times are tough."

On July 14, Holy Cow Del Ray, located at 2312 Mount Vernon Ave., will transform into Al's Steak House Pop-up from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Favorites from the Al's Steak House menu will be prepared by celebrity Del Ray chefs under the guidance of Bo Severson, son of the late John "Big Al" Severson. All sales will go to the Breeding family to aid with rebuilding. Holy Cow is located at 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave.

"We also set up a GoFundMe account for anyone who is unable to make it to the fundraiser," Ander-



Al's Steakhouse owners Emily Breeding, standing center, her father James, seated, and staff watch as a three-alarm fire sweeps through the Del Ray restaurant July 6.

son added. FireFlies restaurant at 1501 Mount Vernon Ave. is also accepting donations on behalf of Al's.

For more information, visit www.HolyCowDelRay.com.

Firefighters battle a three-alarm fire July 6 at Al's Steakhouse on Mount Vernon Ave. It was the grand reopening day for new owners Emily Breeding and the Breeding family.

'Not a Box' Now on Display **New installation exhibit at the Torpedo Factory.**

BY MARGARET CORUM
GAZETTE PACKET



Lizzy Lunday's "Tunnel Vision" on display at the Art League Gallery until July 31.

"Not a Box" is the Art League Gallery's first installation exhibit. All 13 pieces transform the gallery space using a range of materials and techniques.

Pieces were selected by Juror Alex Paik, a Brooklyn-based installation artist and director of Tiger Strikes Asteroid, an organization of artist-run spaces.

Gallery Director Whitney Staiger and other gallery associates were inspired by the recent installation exhibition, "Wonder," at the Renwick Gallery in D.C. They decided to bring site-specific installation art to Alexandria.

Staiger was pleased by the initiative of local artists to "expand past medium and try installation for the first time."

Local painter and Art League Gallery Associate Lizzy Lunday took advantage of the "Not a Box" exhibit to create her first installation piece, "Tunnel Vision." Lunday described the experience as "thrilling" and

said the process "lit a fire under me."

On the benefits of installation art, Lunday said, "The medium allowed me to physically recreate the emotions I felt taking the pictures." Her piece invites the viewer to enter a space flanked by two walls of hanging photographs. The enclosing effect provides an intimate glimpse into the obsessions of a woman losing her hair.

Juror Alex Paik awarded Andy Yoder's "Tire Swing" Best in Show. The piece offers a message about the expectations people place on everyday objects and spaces.

Patron Mary Anne Rudy, sister of exhibited artist Beverly Ryan, enjoyed the exhibition. She also said Ryan took a welding class in order to create her first installation, "Drone Free Zone."

Solo exhibition, "Vision at Water's Edge," by painter Kathleen Best Gillman, is also featured at the Art League Gallery until Aug. 7.

"Not a Box" exhibit is open until July 31 and the opening reception will be held on July 14 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Art League Gallery.



Andy Yoder's "Tire Swing," was awarded Best in Show by juror Alex Paik.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET CORUM/GAZETTE PACKET

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News

Transit Improvements Arriving

Governor announces road and rail projects.

The Atlantic Gateway is underway. Gov. Terry McAuliffe discussed the details of the \$1.4 billion plan to reform regional road and rail projects at Alexandria's Union Station on July 8. For Northern Virginia, the program means road expansions and more express lanes, but for Alexandria a big piece of the proposed improvements could be the rebuilding of the Long Bridge parallel to the 14th Street Bridge.

According to Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, the plan is to expand the rail access from two tracks to four. Currently, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) has to compete for rail access with other freight lines moving through D.C. and Donohue said the rail capacity is at its maximum usage. The expanded rail lines will run from D.C. down into Alexandria's Union Station.

"This will improve reliability and it adds capacity," said Donohue.

But the Long Bridge project is the only one of the listed improvements that is only partially funded. The project is a partnership with Washington D.C., which still has to perform an environmental study on the project before it will commit funding.

"We want to be able to advance the Virginia side so we'll be ready when D.C. is," said Jennifer Mitchell, director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Alexandria's political leaders in attendance at the meeting expressed support for the project and for the Long Bridge improvement.

"I'm excited that it's not just roads improved," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin. "I'm happy about the multimodal improvements."



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Gov. Terry McAuliffe unveils Atlantic Gateway plans.

The VRE is an important economic driver for the region."

While the VRE improvements are the primary benefit in Alexandria, officials said any improvements that ease congestion in Northern Virginia is going to be a benefit to Alexandria. A large part of the Atlantic Gateway has been improvements to I-95 south. In Alexandria, this will include an addition of a fourth lane on Edsall Road in the West End. Yonn Lambert, Alexandria's director of Transportation, said the city has been pushing for the improvement for years in its legislative packages. According to Lambert, the improvements are moving into a public outreach phase, and the city will be part of the effort to include citizen input into the improvements later in Fall 2016.

"This is going to help improve our city in terms of congestion," said Mayor Allison Silberberg. "It's a huge announcement, this is a transformation for the area."

— VERNON MILES

OBITUARY

Deborah J. (Dougherty) White

Deborah J. (Dougherty) White died on July 3, 2016, after fighting a courageous battle with cancer. Deborah was born in Alexandria on July 12, 1953 to Patrick Joseph Dougherty (deceased) and Dolly Jean Haynes (deceased). Debbie grew up in Alexandria and graduated from George Washington High School in 1971.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband James H. White, Sr., and children Angela, James, Jr. and Dana White. In addition, she is survived by six grandchildren and her sisters, Denise M. Calabrese and Patrice M. Turpen.

Private interment. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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Mental Health Training. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) offers Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for laypersons and paraprofessionals. MHFA is an eight-hour training and certification on skills to help persons who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Registration is open until filled. Limit 20 participants per class. Visit <http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/> for more;

or visit <http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFA> Registration to register. Course dates include:

- ❖ Youth MHFA July 23, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at 1900 Beauregard St., 2nd Floor Conference Room
- ❖ Adult MHFA, Aug. 2 and 4, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 1900 Beauregard St., 2nd Floor Conference Room
- ❖ Youth MHFA Aug. 8 and 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1900 Beauregard St., 2nd Floor Conference Room
- ❖ Youth MHFA Sept. 13 and 15, 1-5 p.m. at 1900 Beauregard St., 2nd Floor Conference Room

News



Making Way for New ODBC Building

Resident Mike Young (right) and an engineer for a nearby waterfront project watch the demolition of the Beachcomber.



The Beachcomber building on the waterfront was torn down on July 12. The building will be replaced by the new Old Dominion Boat Club building.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/
GAZETTE PACKET



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July 16

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SIGNS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

- Changes in mood
- Changes in sleeping
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- Lack of grooming
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- Low energy
- Missing work/school
- Slurred speech
- Unexplained weight loss/gain

Suspect Problems?

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Many people believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because a doctor prescribed them—they're not.
- More people die accidentally from prescription drugs each year than all types of illegal drugs combined.
- Combining pain killers or anti-anxiety drugs with alcohol multiplies the effect--your heart or breathing can stop.
- Drug-induced deaths now exceed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in more than 17 states.
- Most kids who abuse prescription drugs report they get them from their home medicine cabinets or from friends.

SYMPTOMS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal pupil size Agitation Convulsions Delusions Paranoid behavior Difficulty breathing Drowsiness Hallucinations Nausea and vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-reactive pupils Staggering or unsteady gait Sweating or extremely dry, hot skin Tremors Unconsciousness Violent or aggressive behavior
--	---

Suspect Overdose? Call 911.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA

ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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OPINION

Be Part of Our Annual Community Guide

Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guide.

The Gazette's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 24 with a deadline of Aug. 17. A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's 15 individual editions at Connection Newspapers, but we need help from our readers.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities.

What should someone new to your neigh-

borhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites?

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to new-

comers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, and information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431. See www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising.

EDITORIAL

What Would Dr. King Say?

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG
MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA

Our nation is tragically and inextricably gripped by violence, last month in Orlando, then Minnesota and Baton Rouge, and now Dallas. All of these incidents are unthinkable and heartbreaking in their own way. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have suffered in all of these locations.

Violence is not the answer to violence. It must stop. I find myself thinking about what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would say. His life was a blessing. His message about nonviolence endures. He stated, "Let no man pull you low enough to hate him." We all hope and pray that the cycle of violence will cease



tired, nor more gun violence. What we need is more compassion, more understanding and more peace.

Two weeks ago, I attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors. A highlight of the conference was when the Dalai Lama spoke about the importance of compassion and kindness in our cities and our nation. He implored us to be a compassionate city, wherever we serve and to focus especially on our

immediately. It has been a shocking time.

To paraphrase U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, what we need is not more division, nor more hatred,

youth. I am fully committed to doing this, and I know our community shares that commitment.

On July 6, our city had a community meeting following the death of Saquan Hall, who was only 23 when he was shot and killed during the July 4 weekend. Our hearts go out to Hall's mother, his children, family and circle of friends.

Our hearts are also with the loved ones of Pierre Clark, who was only 28 when he was killed in the same vicinity, leaving behind his children, parents, family and friends. This violence has affected our city as a whole. Like many, I am saddened beyond words.

Any bloodshed in our beloved city is too much. As Alexandrians,

we are not accustomed to it. Our city is very safe, and we are blessed by an outstanding police force. And yet, the recent spike in crime here is disconcerting and must end.

COMMENTARY

In similar situations, our police have made arrests, and those persons have been or are in the process of being convicted. Let me be clear: If there is crime here, we will prosecute those responsible to the fullest extent of the law. I have every confidence that these two recent homicides will be solved. In fact, Police Chief Earl Cook has announced that an arrest warrant has been issued for the Hall murder. Our police and public safety team are out in force, and we thank them for their service.

With the help of our citizens, police, civic leaders, and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), we are working hard to find solutions that may prevent such violence from occurring in the first place. We already have programs such as mentoring, workforce development and GED assistance. We are looking at opportunities to do even more.

Here are a few steps we are taking right now. We continue to ask our citizens for their ideas, thoughts, and concerns.

❖ Our police are proactive about community policing, which puts our officers on more foot patrol and in direct contact with our citizens. We are committed to doing even more community policing to build bridges between the police and the community. We have a robust Resident Officer Program



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

SEE WORKING, PAGE 24

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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OPINION

Lucy on Her Love for Courtney

My mentor-tutor Courtney McSwain has been with me for over six years. It has been such a wonderful thing. Her program commitment was only one year, but she chose to stay on this long with me anyway. What a precious angel Courtney has been to my life. She's the best mentor-tutor anyone could ever have.

Courtney has helped me learn how to read better. She brought me to the point I actually enjoy reading. She knows creative ways to make it feel less hard, and more fun. During our time together every week she helped me through creative ways and with interesting activities.

But she's also been so much more to me than just a tutor. She's been a mentor, a friend, a confidant, a role model, a teacher and a family member. She comes out to cheer for me at my school and community performances, is my field trip chaperone, brings me to Wright to Read picnics, holiday parties and sporting events, and even bakes with me.

I admire her so much, and want to be just like her when I grow up. Courtney is kind, and cares about serving others through volunteerism. She exudes confidence and female strength, and believes in contributing to making the world a better place. She likes fashion, just like me. She is a wonderful role model who I am proud and privileged to have in my life.

Finally, she's like a cool aunt, and a creative, big sister, an artistic cousin, and a loving second mom. Our relationship has been so deep and so strong. I have always known how much she cares about me,



Mentor Courtney McSwain.

miss her every day, I also know I will be OK. The tools Courtney has instilled in me make me a stronger person from whom I was when we first met. And I also know we will continue to stay in contact and Face Time over cell phones. So to Courtney I say thank you. My family and I could never find the words to adequately thank you for coming into our lives, and wonderfully changing them, the way you did. I love you Miss Courtney!

— LUCY

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

through the loving, thoughtful ways she's stayed in my life.

Having a bond like this makes it be OK that the time has come for a change. Courtney is moving out of state. While that makes me very sad, as I will

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not Enforcing Zoning Code

To the Editor:
An open letter to City Council:

Every City Council in the history of zoning laws in this city has sought to preserve and protect the residential character of neighborhoods by implementing and enforcing a zoning code ... but not

the current City Council.

The zoning code classifications have been carefully defined by prior councils and were subject to hours of review and input. The RM SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

2016

40

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

zone is one of these residential zones that zealously defined all uses in harmony with residences and prohibited those that were not.

500 S Royal Street in in the RM zoning district. The RM district does not permit a bike rental use. A private person could not open a bike rental shop in the RM zone. This current council apparently feels that as the local government it not only does not have to protect and preserve a RM zoned district but that it is above compliance. The council sits back and allows the staff to advance prohibited uses and to bypass required public hearings and commissions.

I purchased my home knowing I would not be living next to a commercial enterprise. I bought in the RM zone understanding that I could not earn my livelihood fully operating my business out of my home.

Several months ago, the city staff installed a bikeshare station on the corner of Gibbon and Royal streets. In doing so they took a public right of way and narrowed it by half. The result was limiting pedestrian access to a narrow aisle. There was no approved plan or hearing showing a bikeshare station at the corner of Gibbon and Royal Streets. There is no authority for the staff or the City Council to alter or change the use of a public street or sidewalk in the city without public hearings.

City Charter Section 9.06 requires that "no ... narrowing, ... or change in the use of ... public ways, grounds and places within

the city, ... shall be authorized to take place unless such transactions shall have been first submitted to and approved by the (planning) commission."

Bikeshare station structure locations need sign-off from the Planning Commission, City Council and BAR. Every one of those sign-offs require notice, a public hearing and input from concerned citizens. The city government including City Council is not above the law.

The last election we had a very full slate of candidates. I never heard a debate question answered or a platform displayed that said "elect me and I will delegate and not interfere with city staff or city attorney positions as I am just too busy." Yet, that is what is happening ... often. If council members are too busy to manage the affairs of the city, they should not run for office. If council members cannot read and understand the language of the City Code without a legal opinion, they should not run for office. What they should do is their job. Like it or not, the job involves public hearings at the council level. The job involves an open mind and a desire to advance the status of all citizens. The job does not require agreement with all positions but one would hope it would require a continued preservation of the zoning code and the protection of residential neighborhoods. This is not about bikes — it is about residential neighborhoods and protection from commercial uses.

Barbara P. Beach
Alexandria

Effects of Higher Property Taxes

To the Editor:

We have just paid 2016 property taxes on different apartment buildings and the tax increase alone over last year's taxes equates to about an extra \$15 per month per apartment unit. The large majority of our units are one bedroom with tenants that have an average income of \$30-50K. They are hardworking tenants and not on government assistance. We have had one rent increase on existing tenants in the last 7-8 years and adjust the rents to market value when tenants move out.

There are those that say property owners like us should not complain of tax increases because our assessments went up so our buildings are worth more. However, higher assessments and building values don't pay the increase in taxes, employee salaries, insurance, and material cost increases. We have been in business for over 40 years, pride ourselves on having very clean, well maintained apartments and work hard to maintain a nice, safe neighborhood. Hopefully we can continue to stay in business for many years to come.

If we increase the rents by \$15 per month for each apartment unit to cover just the increase in taxes over this past year's taxes and do not include all of our other cost increases, the tax increase alone will force some of our good residents to consider leav-

ing our apartments and leaving Alexandria. All this at a time when the city claims to be concerned about losing affordable housing units.

To many city residents who have higher paying jobs and to retirees with excellent retirement benefits, an extra \$15 per month means little. However, \$15 per month means a lot to our tenants. The tax increases on privately owned apartment buildings create a paradox. On one hand, increased taxes that force us to increase rents create less affordable housing in Alexandria for some tenants. On the other hand, the city increases taxes in order to foster more affordable housing in Alexandria by subsidizing rents or assisting developers thereby indirectly competing against small businesses like mine and making it harder for us to stay in business. We often hear about the big developers and absentee corporations that own apartment buildings in Alexandria who are only concerned with bottom line profits. However, small businesses like ours collectively provide a large number of affordable housing units that have a significant impact on Alexandria.

Our city leaders need to think about these real situations while planning and controlling the budget. (By the way, since 2010 our city property tax increases alone amount to \$82 per month per apartment unit. Again, this is not our total tax, but just the property tax increase over the past six years. That has a direct impact on the cost

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 24

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Elvira Jakovac 571-405-8058



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Jennifir Birtwhistle 703-835-1256



Alexandria
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Bright White White kitchens are a trend with staying power.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

The clean, crisp look of a white kitchen has staying power and versatility, according to the National Kitchen and Bath Association. The organization reports that white cabinetry is the top choice for 67 percent of its members. In fact, the percentage of homeowners requesting white kitchens has increased by 20 percent over the past two years.

The trend is also apparent locally, said designers. When a family of five returned to the Washington, D.C. area after spending 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, they settled into their home in Bethesda, a 1960 brick Dutch colonial that they purchased in 1986. They decided to give the home a makeover because, after being a rental for many years, it felt dated and dingy. The family felt that the kitchen was old, dark and closed-off from the living room. They needed a larger space to accommodate their family of five.

The homeowners knew they wanted the new kitchen space to be free flowing and light-filled. They also wanted to incorporate some of their existing furniture, such as an antique table and chairs.

Designed by Bruce Wentworth of



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

A large picture window is the focal point of this white kitchen by Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc.

Wentworth Inc., the new kitchen is sunny and spacious. It includes white cabinetry and an island with dark gray granite countertops. A large stainless sink, dishwasher, pull-out trash and bookcase for cookbooks make the island functional. Facing the dining room is a shallow cabinet

with mullioned glass doors.

Granite tops the counters in the remainder of the kitchen and white cabinetry houses a sub-zero refrigerator, microwave drawer, small prep sink and a gas range with a stainless steel range hood. "Wall cabinets with clear glass mullioned cabinet doors

[give] visual depth and make space feel larger," said Wentworth.

When the owners of an Arlington home decided to update their dark and dated kitchen, they opened the space to the living and dining rooms and added natural lighting and white cabinetry. The result was a room with a crisp and airy aesthetic. The new, open concept allows the homeowners to better interact with family and friends.

"Prior to the remodel, the kitchen was essentially closed off to the rest of the home," said April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling. "I think the grouping of materials the client selected with us are unique, definitely not cookie-cutter, and these make the space really interesting," Underwood said.

Among the fixtures, accessories and materials used are Caesarstone countertops, a marble and granite backsplash and reclaimed shelving, provided by homeowners, which, "made the kitchen look more unique and gave it an eclectic feel," said Underwood.

"I think in general the perfect combination of the various materials, from smooth and glossy to rough and textured, is simple but interesting and shows beautifully," said Underwood.

SEE A BRIGHT TREND, PAGE 15

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PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Natural lighting and white cabinetry helped transform this kitchen, by Case Design Build, Inc. into light and airy space.

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A Bright Trend

FROM PAGE 14

A large picture window overlooking an expansive backyard is the focal point of a white kitchen in Falls Church. When the homeowners decided to renovate and expand the space, they enlisted the help of designer Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc. The project included adding additional space to the back of the house and removing a wall between the kitchen and the dining room.

“Although we opened up the wall between the kitchen and dining room, one challenge was maintaining a distinction between the two spaces, which was important to the client,” said St. Claire. “In order to create a feeling of separation, while preserving the sense of openness ... [we designed] a custom glass cabinet piece, which is accessible from both rooms,” said St. Claire.

The new unit gives the homeowners extra storage and a place to display their crystal. Sunlight from the new picture window in the kitchen reflects off the crystal stemware and refracts, causing both rooms to glisten with radiant, natural light.

White cabinetry was contrasted

against dark wood as part of a kitchen renovation in Centreville. While the basic layout of the kitchen remained the same, the space, which was designed by Allie Mann of Case Design Build, Inc., was brightened with white cabinetry, a built-in pantry and a custom cherry wood island. “The white kitchen is classic and timeless,” said Mann. “It can work with most color accent palettes.”

A cramped and dark Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened and redesigned to give the home’s owners a connection to their natural surroundings, which included a landscaped yard created for outdoor entertaining.

The kitchen was designed by Jim Rill of Rill Architects who added a working island around which the family can gather and prepare meals. He described the new look as a, “simple clean design with subtle elegance.” “

We added functional space with lots of windows and a place for everything, so kitchen could be cleaned up and used an entertaining area,” Rill said.

The family wanted a white kitchen, he said, because it, “creates a great backdrop for art and accentuates the exterior colors of spring, winter and fall.”

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Making America Pokémon Trainers Again

Pokémon Go is a hit in Alexandria.

BY EVAN JENKINS
AND COREY JENKINS
GAZETTE PACKET

Across the street from Pop's Ice Cream, on a path that runs through Oronoco Bay Park, even down the road from the VéloCity Bicycle Cooperative on Del Ray's Mt. Vernon Avenue — these are all places that digital creatures, known as Pokémon, can appear in the new smartphone game "Pokémon Go."

The game, created by Niantic, Inc. in collaboration with Nintendo, is a spin-off of the original Pokémon game series created in 1996. The game uses smartphone cameras to overlay the digital creatures onto the real world allowing players to catch, train, and battle alongside their friends.

The game uses players' GPS locations to determine if there are any nearby Pokémon. Often, players have to venture out of their houses to find and catch them. In addition, many local landmarks such as the Torpedo Factory Art Center on King Street and the fountain infant of the Alexandria Capitol Building are what is known as "Pokéstops." Players can seek out these places in the real world and replenish items and earn rewards in the game.

Sophocles Graphos and Mike Gray from

Fairfax were among just a few people walking around the Old Town Waterfront late on Friday night, July 8, around 11 p.m. They were out to catch Pokémon. If you asked many of the other people in the area, they would say the same. "Within just the last hour I've met so many people," said Graphos, "I've never had a game be so social. To meet strangers and just be like, 'oh, there's some down there? Oh cool, thanks Buddy!' ... It's very fun, very fun."

Two passers-by, Aaron and Madeline Rainwater from Arlington, joined the conversation. They were also out catching Pokémon. Asked what her favorite part of the game was, Madeline Rainwater said, "I never actually played the games as a kid, but the way that it's bringing people together and everyone's suddenly 12 again."

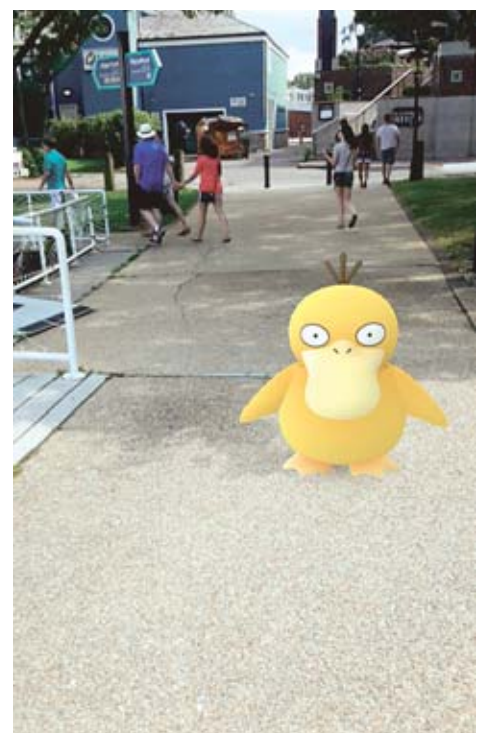
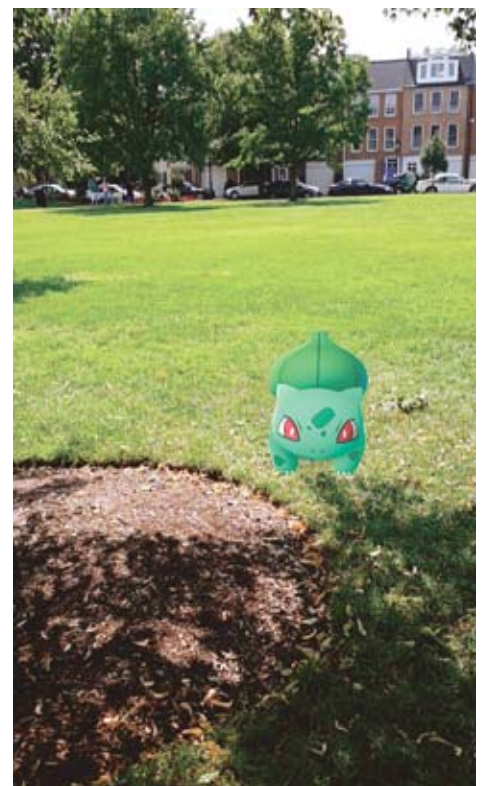
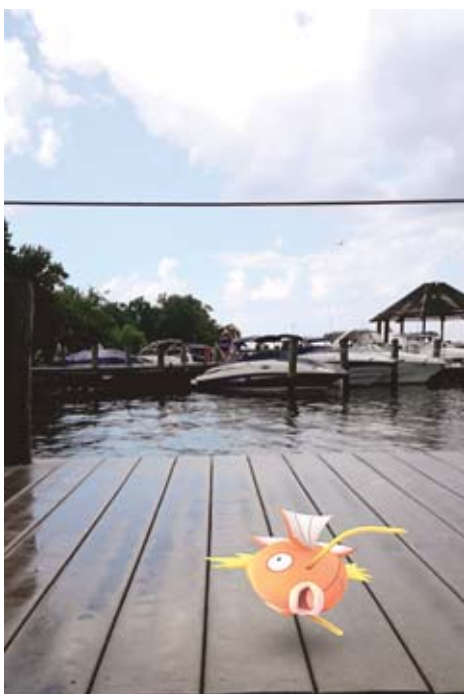
According to Business Insider, as of July 8, 3 percent of U.S. Android smartphone owners were using the game daily. That is .5 percent less than Twitter's daily U.S. Android users. "Even at my office, there's like 50 plus people, and I'd say close to 75 percent of us — we're struggling just to do our jobs," said Aaron Rainwater.

Pokémon Go can be downloaded on the iOS App store or the Google Play Store. More information can be found at PokemonGo.NianticLabs.com.

Digital creatures known as Pokémon can appear almost anywhere in the new location-based smartphone game Pokémon Go. There are 151 types in the game so far, and local players are out to catch them all.



PHOTOS BY EVAN JENKINS/GAZETTE PACKET



BULLETIN BOARD

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

SEPT. 10-21

2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Registration forms will be mailed to previous participants in late June and will be available at community and senior centers, senior residences and event venues. The registration fee is \$12, which covers multiple events. Three events have an added fee, ten pin bowling, golf and orienteering. Deadline for registering is Aug. 27 (by mail), Sept. 3 (online). Call 703-830-5604 or email nvso1982@gmail.com for more. To volunteer, call 703-403-5360.

CRAFTERS & VENDORS WANTED

The Kingstowne Center is hosting a craft fair on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9-3 p.m. The center is looking for crafters and vendors who would like to participate. A 6-foot-by-2-foot table with two chairs is provided for a nominal rental fee. Call the Center at 703-339-7676 or email K.McGraw-Wildman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JULY 14

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 or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Al's Steak House Fundraiser. 5:30-10 p.m. at Holy Cow Del Ray, 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave. All sales from the fundraiser, which will feature favorites from the Al's Steak House menu, will go to the Breeding family to aid with rebuilding the Del Ray institution after a three-alarm fire on July 6. Visit holycowdelray.com.

Town Hall Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1401 Jamieson Ave. The Northern Virginia Urban League Young Professionals Network is hosting a community and justice town hall. "#NoMoreHashtags: Justice, the Movement for Black Lives and YOU" is being held in solidarity with individuals and organizations across the U.S. who are saddened by the recent deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile and five Dallas police officers. Free. Register at bit.ly/29AnGar.

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.

MONDAY/JULY 18

Park Improvements. The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will be improving aspects of the Little League baseball field at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, 426

E. Monroe Ave. Work is scheduled for July 18-Oct. 30. Work hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. The park will be open during construction. Patrons should expect work throughout the day. For more, contact Tyler Specht at tspecht@programmanagers.com or 320-282-0110, or Bethany Znidersic at bethany.znidersic@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5492.

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.

ENTERTAINMENT

Meet the Chef: Sert Ruamthong of Warehouse

Executive chef shares some cooking secrets, keeps others to himself.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It was hot in the kitchen. “You should see what it feels like when all 12 burners are going,” says Sert Ruamthong, executive chef at The Warehouse Bar & Grill on King Street for 26 years. Today he is making pan-seared Chesapeake rockfish with angel hair pasta and crabmeat.

Ruamthong reaches for the tomato-basil vinaigrette. He has mixed extra-virgin olive oil with fresh basil, a sprinkle of black pepper, chopped fresh tomato and red wine vinegar. “This is the basic way to make a vinaigrette. You add Dijon mustard that has whole eggs in it and causes the vinaigrette not to break into vinegar and oil.” He pours the vinaigrette over the crabmeat and leaves it cold. “In the summer we don’t heat this up but we would in the winter when the weather is cold. We make things a lot of different ways.”

Flames shoot up the side as Ruamthong dips into a metal container of liquid unsalted butter and ladles it into a hot skillet. “I will sear the rockfish for one minute on each side and then put it into the oven at 475 degrees to finish.”

The steel counter is lined with containers of crab soup laced with sherry (a little heavy for summer), gumbo with Andouille sausage (a little hot), alligator soup (a good seller) and special Cajun sauces. Chocolate mousse sits in the refrigerator ready for dessert.

A Parmesan bowl sits ready for assembly. Ruamthong has shredded Parmesan cheese, “about half a cup.” He “spreads it all over” a small skillet and cooks it until it is golden brown. “Then this is the secret. I flip the Parmesan pancake over this bowl. Wsssssst. And I let it harden on the bowl until I’m ready to use it.” It takes on the shape of the bowl and can be filled with a number of different ingredients.

Now Ruamthong returns to the crabmeat. He tosses the crabmeat and tomato-basil vinaigrette with a mound of cooked angel hair pasta. He places a handful of frisée lettuce in the middle of a large square plate

and places the Parmesan bowl on top. Then he scoops the pasta-crab mixture into the Parmesan bowl. “I don’t put the rockfish in the Parmesan bowl until the end because I don’t want to crack it.”

He turns to finish the elaborate presentation with a few artfully placed dribbles of basil oil splashed around all four sides of the plate. Next tiny crisp micro greens sprinkled around the edges and finally the touch of balsamic vinaigrette reduction. At last it is time to carefully place the crisply seared rockfish on top of the pasta. He selects two chive strips and drapes them over the edge of the finished dish.

Ruamthong said he was lucky, that he just got this job by accident because they didn’t have a cook at the time. “I learned from scratch.” Ruamthong went to college in Thailand but it wasn’t until he came to America for a better life that he went to the Culinary Institute of America in New York and started on a cooking career. He fondly remembers his mother’s shrimp pad Thai, the traditional dish. He tries different spices in his American dishes, “and ... I make the best jambalaya and étouffée anywhere.” But if people don’t like some spices, or gluten or other things he gives the customer what they want. “I say yes on every customer unless I don’t have the ingredients.”

“I like it because of the variety.” He says that Warehouse is a Cajun restaurant “but we make food the way you like it. And this is why I love it. Some people eat here 4-5 times a week, and if I know they are coming I know what they will want. But you feed 200-300 people a day that you don’t know. Then you win when you figure it out.” Ruamthong says people ask him for his recipes and he will gladly give them a recipe, but he smiles, “I don’t tell you what is in the special spice. Or how much of the spice to put in the recipe.”



Certified Executive Chef Sert Ruamthong says he came to America from Thailand for a better life. He was trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York and has been working at The Warehouse Bar & Grill on King Street for 26 years. “I like to give customers what they want; when I figure it out, I win.”



Sert Ruamthong places a piece of Chesapeake rockfish on high heat to sear it on both sides for one minute, then into the oven at 475 degrees for eight minutes.



Above: Sert Ruamthong mixes angel hair pasta with fresh tomato-basil vinaigrette and chopped fresh tomato and red wine vinegar with Dijon mustard. **Right:** The finished Chesapeake rockfish dish is garnished with a spoonful of tomato-basil vinaigrette added to the top and slivers of chives draped artfully on the side of the rockfish to give the final touch.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE AND EVAN JENKINS/
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

www.connectionnewspapers.com

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 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 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.

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

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 for more.

“Last Five Years.” Through July 23, 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School - Kogelman Theatre, 6500 Quander Road. Students and teaching artists from Rambunctious Theatre Company and Beyond the Page Theatre Company of West Potomac High School are working in

conjunction to produce the show as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.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 for more.

Art Exhibit: “At Water’s Edge.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Through July 31, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A photographic exhibit by Maureen Minehan. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Generations.”

Through July 31, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center – Studio 306, 105 N. Union St. Realist artists James Dean and Kara Hammond bring together their space related works to celebrate the early days of space travel and exploration. Free. Visit www.karahammond.wordpress.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.

“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 www.ourconvergence.org for more.

“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; murmurations and birdsongs, and organic grids of color and light. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Streets Meets Glass.”

Through Aug. 15, business hours at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The exhibit features the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

Fort Hunt Concerts. Through Aug. 28, Sundays 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. A different band performs each week. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp for more.

Collage and Ceramics – Kathryn Horn Coneway. Through Aug. 28, gallery hours at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Free. Visit www.kathrynconeway.com for more.

Women of Civil War Alexandria Tour. Through Sept. 3, 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Learn more about women's roles during the Civil War in Alexandria. Presented by the National Women's History Museum (NWHM). Tickets are \$15, \$12 for NWHM members. Visit www.nwhm.com/get-involved/event/walking-tours.

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

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

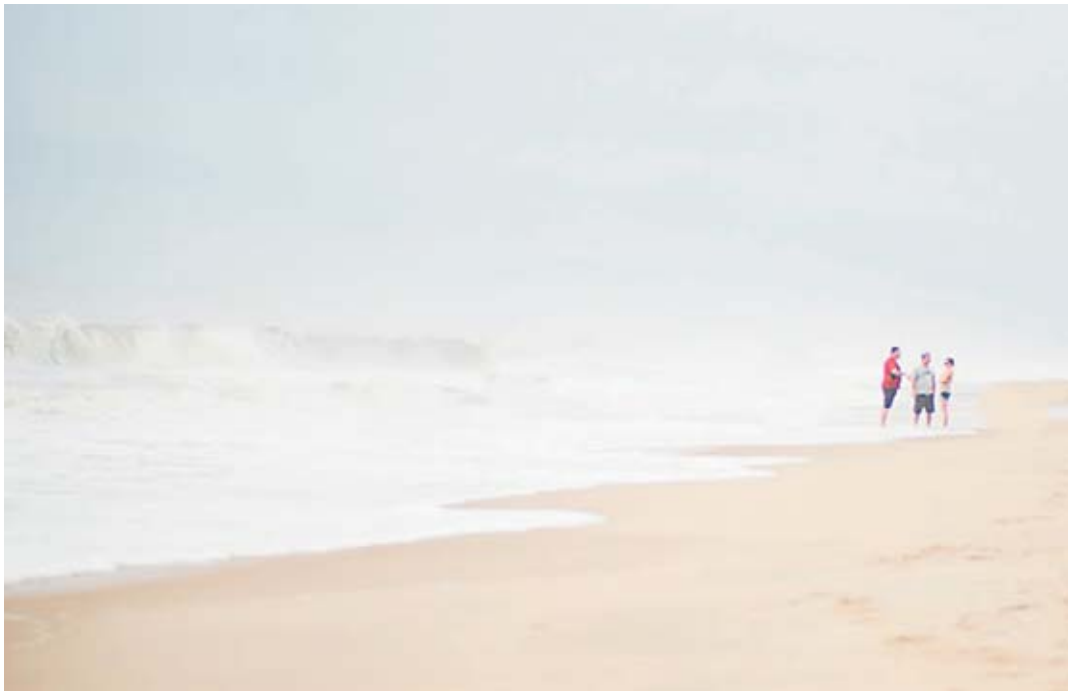


Exhibit Features Muted Beach Scenes

Maureen Minehan celebrates beach scenery in her exhibit, “At Water's Edge” on display at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. through July 31. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

www.alexandriahistory.org for more. **Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward for more.

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

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

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La

Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffé & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

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

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame

Exhibit. Through November at The National Inventors Hall of Fame–USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum,

105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Doggy Happy Hour. Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monaco-alexandria.com for more.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit www.baseballboat.com for more.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Olympic Champions Camp. July 25-Aug. 26, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club, 401 N. Payne St. The Olympic Champions Camp incorporates “Triple Play” to engage mind, body, and soul. Campers participate in reading, STEM, sports, meditation and more. Prices vary. Visit www.bgcgw.org for more.

Theatre Camp. Through Sept. 2, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Offering a variety of camps for age 3 through 8th grade, covering creative play, acting, singing, dancing, musical theatre and improv. Sessions also include comedy, scene study, Shakespeare and drama. Tuition prices vary. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com for more.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

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 mgarlalex@gmail.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Restaurants To Help Pack Your Picnic

Running short on time but still want to dine al fresco?

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

By this point in the year, outdoor movies, jazz concerts, and wine festivals are in full swing. And with the Fourth of July in the rearview mirror, the summer picnic season is well under way. Here are three restaurants to help you pack your picnic when you're short on time or inspiration — or if you want to keep the kitchen cool as a cucumber and still reap the rewards.

Perfect Pita, 1640 King St.; 951 N. Fairfax St.; 3101 Park Center Drive

What could be cooler on a hot summer day than freshly made Mediterranean food? From hummus to falafel to baklava, the Perfect Pita — with three locations in Alexandria — offers up the perfect picnic spread for a plethora of occasions.

One thing the vegetarians among us will notice right away is the number of meat-free options the Perfect Pita offers up without even working at it: The

hummus sandwich, complete with a **APPETITE** hearty helping of the chickpea puree along with lettuce and tomato, is one of the eatery's best options, and the falafel pita isn't far behind. But meat-eaters will also find plenty to munch on, ranging from a Boardwalk Pita starring salami, ham and provolone to the Sir Caesar, a pita take on the namesake salad. Pick up a side salad from the refrigerated case to round out the meal — and don't forget a slice or two of baklava for dessert.

Bombay Curry, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

At first blush, Indian food doesn't seem the most picnic-friendly fare. But give it another look — the rice, the meat and the veggies all conspire to provide a full, portable meal in a tidy package. And whether it's for an outdoor movie or an al-fresco date night at Oronoco Bay Park, Bombay Curry stands ready to help.

Ready for a hearty meal? Give the butter chicken, a charcoal-broiled meat served with a creamy tomato curry sauce, a try. Or for something a bit lighter, the vegetable biryani — a rice dish bursting with vegetables and dusted with plenty of spices — will do the job in an instant. Be sure to order some samosas



PHOTO BY MICHAEL POPE

The combination sushi meals at Momo Sushi offer picnickers many great options.

to nibble on throughout your picnic meal, and if you've got a cooler, the rice pudding is a great sweet treat to end the evening right.

Momo Sushi, 212 Queen St.

Let's face it: Sushi is a perennial champion when it comes to picnic fare. Light, portable, easy to eat with one's fingers; it has everything going for it. And when Momo gets involved, you've got a treat that's teeming with flair.

To max out the variety in your sushi order, go for one of the combination meals. The maki roll combo, featuring six pieces each of California, tuna, and salmon rolls, offers up a hearty picnic dinner in a small package. Going meatless? The veggie roll combo offers diners a choice of three among cucumber, avocado, asparagus, oshinko, and inari. To round out the meal, why not serve orange slices, as the Momo chefs do? It will be sure sign of a great feast's conclusion.

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

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

Le Refuge Restaurant

Summer Specials

- Cold Soup Trio
- Stuffed Avocado with Crabmeat
- Fresh Jumbo Softshell Crabs
- Cold Salmon Platter
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ENTERTAINMENT

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

FRIDAY/JULY 15

Big Band Jazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Bob Gibson Big Band with vocalist Maureen McDonnell playing vintage to modern Big Band Jazz. Free. Visit www.bobgibsonbigband.com.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

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.

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 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.

Tons of Trucks. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Chinguapin Park, 3210 King St. All ages are invited to explore and get behind the wheel of more than 20 different vehicles from seven City departments. Vehicles include a fire engine, armored ambulance, front-end loader, dump truck, bucket trucks, trash truck, sewer truck, vacuum truck, buses and more. \$5 per person or \$15 per family of four upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation or contact Lindsay Burneson at 703-7460-5457 or Lindsay.Burneson@alexandriava.gov.

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.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Ashley Watkins. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The music of contemporary flutist Ashley Watkins features a mix of classical works and jazz numbers. Compositions performed will be selected from Charles T. Griffes,

Claude Debussy, Otar Taktakishvili, Allen Vizzutti, Claude Bolling. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

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.

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 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 or call 703-768-4101.

JULY 19-AUG. 14

Exhibit: "Decathect: a verb." Gallery hours at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of very personal studies illustrating Richard

Greenway's progression from when he first began painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Port City Community Give Back Night. 4-9 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Port City Brewing Co. and the Friendship Firehouse Company present a Community Give Back event. Help raise money to restore two historic hand-drawn fire vehicles from the 1850s. Events of the evening include Port City beer, Rocklands Red Hot BBQ food truck, a raffle to win a fire bucket, door prizes, silent auction, fun "fire" contests, photo ops, and more. Visit Alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse.

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/.

Reception: "Decathect: a verb." 4-6 p.m. at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of very personal studies illustrating Richard Greenway's progression from when he first began painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

Arlandria Quality of Life Walk. 9-11 a.m. at The Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. This annual event is designed for City Staff and Arlandria residents to collectively walk the Arlandria neighborhood and observe and document areas or issues that need to be addressed or improved. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arlandria.
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. Meet the artist. Free. Visit 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.
Summer Concert. 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Surprise band performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

MONDAY/JULY 25

The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. lesson, 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Learn the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-

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ENTERTAINMENT

cha, and samba. For beginning and advanced dancers. Tickets are \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998.

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 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 more. Free. Visit 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 for more.

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.

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Children’s Art Workshop: “The Beauty of Infection.” 2 p.m. 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 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.

TUESDAY/AUG. 2

“West Side Story.” 7 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See a performance of Little Theatre of Alexandria preceded by a reception. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/westsidestory for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

Babes in the Woods. 9:30-11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Explore the parks of Northern Virginia with your babies in backpack carriers. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-228-6535 for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 4

Let’s Grow Garden Club: “Sunny Days.” 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Kids will learn why the sun is important to photosynthesis and cook garden-fresh pizzas in a solar oven. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.
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 for more.

AUG. 4-SEPT. 18

Exhibit: Kit Keung Kan. Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Kit Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

AUG. 5-27

Exhibit: “The Silent World.” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays at Gallery @Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. “The Silent World” explores the intricacies of creativity and the effect of society, education, and age on the creative process. Students from preschool to graduate level are asked to respond to the prompt: “95% of the ocean is still unexplored. Make something that’s never been seen before that you think lives in the deep ocean.” Their responses will make up the Silent World Exhibit and lead participants and viewers to conversations about the way our creative nature changes over time. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the City of Alexandria Fire Department. Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the special role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship.

The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus.

The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Free. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Lecture: “A Fine Beginning.” 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. In August 1753, John Carlyle and his wife, Sarah Fairfax Carlyle, moved into their new home in Alexandria.

That night, Sarah gave birth to a son, William. Visit the museum and learn about 18th century colonial family life. Children can also play 18th century games on the front lawn. Free, \$1 suggested donation. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

Youth Arts Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. This festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. Free. Call 703-549-7115 ext. 370.

Tavern Day Open House. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Experience Alexandria’s five-star hotel of the 18th century, made famous by John Gadsby, whose guests included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Explore the museum with costumed guides, learn more about 18th century foodways and enjoy period music and dancing in the historic ballroom. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer.

SUNDAY/AUG. 7

Kit Keung Kan Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Celebrate this new exhibit. Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

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 for more.

Escaping Reality

The growing trend of the escape room.

BY EVAN JENKINS
GAZETTE PACKET

Darren Sonnier was traveling in Prague when he and his wife, Ginger Flesher, decided to do their first escape room together. After a few more, they were hooked.

“[We] signed our lease in Glover Park [in D.C.] before we even got home,” said Sonnier.

Flesher was a teacher and department head for math and science at high schools around the country, so she’s used to creating problems for students to solve; Sonnier was a green beret in the military.

“We always wanted to be on King Street,” said Sonnier. “It was really hard initially to find someone to rent to us because the real estate is tough around here.”

Sonnier and Flesher built up their reputation as #1 Fun and Games on TripAdvisor in Glover Park and brought Alexandria council members to try out their escape rooms. That sealed the deal for getting their foot in the door in Old Town.

Since 2014 Google searches for escape rooms have been growing drastically, the search term “escape room” has grown by 500 percent in the last two years. The concept is simple: A group is locked in a room and tasked to find clues and solve puzzles to get the key for their escape. What makes places like Escape Room Live in Alexandria and D.C. engaging is the way in which the puzzles are presented. In one of the Alexandria location’s newest rooms, “Poe-ranormal Activity” guests are asked to go to Edgar Allen Poe’s old study and discover what happened to a historian who went missing, as well as search for the “Lost Manuscript” that he was looking for. The rooms make use of technology such as pressure sensors and augmented reality as well as simple fill-in-the-blank puzzles to guide guests towards their goal.

As with any new industry, escape rooms have been going through different design benchmarks. Generation 1 rooms were the first to appear.

“All the games in the nation were Gen 1,” said Sonnier. “They were more puzzle oriented and almost no technology, no hidden magic, nothing.”

Now, the rooms at Escape Room Live are Generation 2 or 2.5, while their newest location, which is opening in July on M Street, is going to be labeled as Generation 3. “We actually partnered with movie studios for



EVAN JENKINS/GAZETTE PACKET

Escape Room Live is designed for participants to unlock their exit by solving puzzles.

the themes of the rooms,” said Sonnier, “We’ll have Hollywood set designers come in, so it’s going to be like Disney Land, Disney World, Universal Studios quality sets.”

Escape Room Live isn’t the only escape room company opening their doors in the D.C. and Northern Virginia area. Many businesses and individuals are trying their hand at making puzzle rooms for people to escape throughout the region. Businesses identifying as escape room suppliers are beginning to spring up as well, such as a company entitled N.E.R.D., or New

Escape Room Designs, Inc., based out of London, Ontario in Canada. Potential escape room owners across the continent can buy everything from story ideas to complete room layouts from suppliers like N.E.R.D.

Andrew Parr, the owner and puzzle designer at N.E.R.D., agrees that the escape room industry is changing, but it may not need to. “The general public, even after a couple years of escape rooms being huge in North America, they’re still learning what the game is, and they still haven’t played their first game yet.” said Parr, “I think it’s the owners who are pushing the suppliers, like me, to use more technology, more cutting edge, maybe even these movie tie-ins as well, but I don’t think we’re ready for that yet, I don’t think we need to do that yet.”

While the debate over trying to use the latest technology versus more traditional methods is found in every industry, both Sonnier and Parr have the same goal in mind. “I think the end result is that players have a good time,” said Parr, “and that they come away telling their friends that they’ve got to try this room, for whatever reason that may be.”

For more information or to book a session at Escape Room Live in Alexandria or D.C. go to escaperoomlive.com. For more information on N.E.R.D go to newescaperoomdesigns.com.



Trying To Ease the Pains of Childhood Hunger

FROM PAGE 1

city as well as St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Christ Church started a food rescue program at the Alexandria Farmer's Market. "Someone is there from one of our churches each week to glean leftover food from farmers, bag it and distribute it at St. Paul's on Tuesday and Christ Church on Thursday."

Kane said that generally 70 percent of the people who come to the churches for food are single mothers. "They spend 60-80 percent of their income on rent so if they can get free food ..."

Housing statistics for Alexandria show that housing is often the largest expense faced each month by residents with an average monthly rent of \$1,520, higher than the nation as a whole. In addition, about 53.3 percent of renters pay less than 30 percent of their income on rent which it calls, "a measure of affordability."

Kane said, "I'm talking about the other 50 percent. That number is pretty high."

A 2015 report by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition indicated the hourly wages necessary to rent a two-bedroom home in Alexandria are \$28.04 per hour while the minimum wage is \$7.25 and the average renter wage \$16.55 an hour. This same report shows that the City of Alexandria is the most expensive jurisdiction in Virginia.

Programs exist to address the problem of childhood hunger but each faces its own



Isabel Perez, Community and Schools coordinator at Francis Hammond Middle School.



Michael J. Routhouska, principal at William Ramsay Elementary School.



Carolyn Hemingway serving lunch at Ramsay Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

challenges. Lack of transportation is an underlying theme whether it is to the Summer Feeding Program or to a Last Saturday food site. Sometimes it's lack of resources or volunteers. Sometimes it's lack of information for eligible recipients about the programs available to meet their needs. Or it may be refusal to eat the free meals based on the stigma attached to the childhood fear of being labeled poor. Often it's the practical issue of insufficient food storage or refrigeration.

Food assistance for children comes in many shapes — from programs provided in the schools directly to children such as the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program, universal breakfast program, Blessings in a Backpack (BIB) weekend supplementary food for the neediest and the Summer Feeding Program. However, only four schools out of 16 currently offer the universal breakfast program, three schools offer BIB and according to Greg Tardieu, Alexandria grants manager, "We are feeding 200 in the Summer Feeding Program and we should be feeding 2,000." In addition to the school-based programs, Alexandria has an Emergency Food System comprised of soup kitchens, food banks and pantries, meals served outside to the homeless or at shelters. These programs are intended to fill the gaps for people who have fallen through the cracks of government assistance.

But a survey of Emergency Food Programs (EFP) released in the 2014 report detailed a number of logistical issues. Only half of the EFPs have sufficient storage space. Other problems were lack of parking, lack of refrigeration, food preparation space, and shelving, and accessibility for clients with disabilities.

Michael Routhouska, principal of William Ramsay Elementary on Sanger Avenue, says his school area has the most affordable

housing but the fewest resources. For instance, there is no food bank in the area or storage. They would like to set up a food distribution program at the school but they have to work out a number of logistics such as how to get pallets for food into and out of their parking area.

Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission at Christ Church, says they are

working on how to support the West End. She says they can get food but need "people power" to make it work.

ALIVE!, the largest private safety net for the needy in Alexandria, was founded in 1969. Several years ago, in order to address the issues of food storage, Alexandria made available a warehouse space at 801 S. Payne for ALIVE!. After the issuance of the 2014 report on hunger, the city doubled the space

with an agreement that organizations would cooperate and work together on their efforts to alleviate hunger.

Diane Charles, executive director of ALIVE!, says the city provides \$30,000 a year for operation of ALIVE! programs which include the Last Saturday Program that provides food at three sites once a month for approximately 2,000 individuals, including many children, and the emergency feeding program that delivers food to needy low-income elderly.

Charlotte Martinsson, chair of the ALIVE Food Program, says this operation takes more volunteers than one could imagine. For instance, it takes 50-60 volunteers at each Last Saturday food distribution site. "We could solve world hunger if more people got involved."

In 2016 the percent of enrollment in Alexandria City Public Schools who are eligible for free and reduced price meals averages 59 percent. Cora Kelly Elementary School tops the list with 87 percent eligible, up from 51 percent in 1995 with Ramsay

Donate Food

ALIVE! Most Wanted Foods in Priority Order

- ❖ Canned meat (beef stew, chicken, etc.)
- ❖ Canned fish (tuna, salmon)
- ❖ Peanut Butter
- ❖ Cereal *
- ❖ Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, etc.)
- ❖ Rice "Kid-friendly" single-serve entrees ** (e.g. microwavable macaroni and cheese or soups, tuna salad and crackers)
- ❖ Canned fruit *
- ❖ Canned vegetables
- ❖ Spaghetti sauce/canned tomatoes (sauce, diced, etc.)
- ❖ Cooking oil (vegetable, canola, etc)
- ❖ Canned soup *
- ❖ Canned beans
- ❖ Jam/Jelly ***

Notes: * Healthy choices, such as low or no-sugar added cereals and fruits, and low-sodium soups and vegetables, preferred

** For distribution via the ALIVE! Weekend Care Bag program to children in Alexandria schools

*** Avoid glass containers whenever possible

Elementary School not far behind at 85 percent, up from 69 percent in 1995. Patrick Henry Elementary School is third on the list at 78 percent, up from 64 percent in 1995. A school lunch costs \$2.65 per student in grades K-5 and \$2.85 for grades 6-12. The guidelines for eligibility reflect a scale of income levels depending on size of family and timing of pay periods. For instance, a family of four is eligible if their income is \$3,739 a month or lower.

What lies beyond the statistics? Every child has a story. Some educators say hungry children can't concentrate on learning and classroom disruptions are more frequent. Routhouska said, "Food is steel for their minds. We are a focus school and we want to focus on instruction but we want to have food in their bellies. We don't want to have them distracted by hunger." He says before they started the universal breakfast program, "I could tell they were hungry. They might tell me directly."

Keisha Shirley, sixth grade teacher at Francis Hammond Middle School,

said, "A lot of kids were just making it in time to school so I would buy granola bars so they could eat. One day a young student who was always late saw me eating my fruit salad and asked if he could taste it. He ate the whole huge bowl my husband had made me so I knew he was hungry."

Shirley added, "Some of the other kids could often see he was hungry after eating one breakfast bar and showed compassion. They would tell him they had already eaten and he could have their banana bread."

Many agree the biggest problem is lack of knowledge about the existence of the problem in this wealthy area.

Isabel Perez, Community and Schools coordinator at Hammond, said, "People in Alexandria are generous with their resources when they understand the situation. But I feel like I'm living in two worlds. I work in the West End where 75 percent of the students are eligible for reduced or free lunches, and I live in Del Ray where I still have to explain what reduced and free lunches are."

Next week: "Childhood Hunger in Alexandria — Solutions."

Get Involved

For information on services or how to volunteer:

❖ ALIVE! non-profit organization of volunteers from over 40 religious congregations and the community serving as the largest private safety net for the needy in the city of Alexandria
info@alive-inc.org

Executive Director: Marsha Clarke
Director, Food Services: Charlotte Martinsson

❖ HungerFreeAlexandria, consortium of local businesses, non-profits and faith-based organizations
hunger-free-alex/RESOURCES

❖ Center for Children and Families, Department of Community and Human Services

Director: Deborah Warren
Warren-deborah.warren@alexandria.gov

❖ "Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria," 2014 report
healthieralexandria.org

❖ Alexandria Public School Grants
Greg Tardieu, ACPS Grants Officer
703-619-8336

Learning about Civil War from a 'Drill Sergeant'

Nine children — eight boys and one girl — aged 9 to 12, participated in Fort Ward's Civil War Kid's Drill Day on Saturday, July 9, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Before the activities began, Fort Ward Museum Director Susan Cumbey gave the youngsters a short history lesson.

During the Civil War, Fort Ward was a Union fort, and is currently the best preserved fort that participated in the defense of Washington.

"Drill Sergeant" Alan Spaulding taught the children a variety of drills from the Manual of Arms. Spaulding demonstrated with a real musket; the children used wooden cutout props.

Spaulding also explained the specifics of a soldier's uniform and equipment.

Spaulding, a longtime Civil War reenactor, said he enjoys giving the young participants a "taste of what new recruits had to do to become a company of soldiers. The kids have fun, I have fun," he said.

Later, inside the Fort Ward library, participants made civil war canteens using paper plates, and



"Drill Sergeant" Alan Spaulding explains how to load and reload a musket to the participant.

illustrated their creations with patriotic designs. The children left sporting a Civil War kepi, a military cap.

— ANTONELLA NICHOLAS

Youths line up tallest to shortest, as a real company of soldiers would fall in, to receive their prop muskets at Fort Ward's Civil War Kid's Drill Day.



"Drill Sergeant" Alan Spaulding shows the new recruits a marching drill.



PHOTOS BY ANTONELLA NICHOLAS/GAZETTE PACKET

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 Friday, July 15th vs SS-Takoma Thunderbolts
 Saturday, July 16th vs Bethesda Big Train
 Monday, July 18th vs Bethesda Big Train

Games start at 7PM
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 or complete our online form at
connectionnewspapers.com/pets

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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

of rental units in the city. Ask someone who is making \$30-50K per year the impact of \$82/month on their budget.)

Clifford Wilkening
Wilkening Rental Properties, LLC

City Government Extravagance

To the Editor:

The Alexandria Bike Share program is a case of a good idea badly executed. No doubt it began when someone decided the public should be enticed to use bikes in lieu of using cars. So far, so good. But when it came time to convert concept into reality, instead of turning to the private sector, it went Venezuela. It became a government-owned venture.

Big mistake. Governments do not operate profitably; they only excel at spending other people's money. Consequently, the Bike Share program is a money-losing enterprise. According to the Gazette Packet article I read last week, its costs exceed by 33 percent the revenue it generates. Who makes up the shortfall? Why, you and me. We subsidize this money-losing government-owned business by paying more tax.

Bigger mistake: Alexandria's Bike Share program crowds out tax-revenue generating bike rental programs from the private sector. After all, who among the entrepreneurial public wants to risk their hard-earned money to create and operate a bike rental business when their government-owned competition is publicly subsidized and tax exempt?

To add insult to injury, the bike rental business owned by our city government is also exempt from all the hearings, permits, forms, community approvals and administrative folderol required by businesses owned by the public. Alexandria's Bike Share managers can put its bikes where they want when they want without public consent and, worse, can operate their business inefficiently because Alexandria taxpayers have no choice but to pony up its operating loss shortfall.

But if you want to really get steamed, wait for the Potomac Yard Metro (PYM). Of all the needs our city faces, borrowing money for this contrived Metro stop sets a new level for the misbelief we can use ever more debt to reduce our tax burden. Like the bike program, the public wasn't clamoring for the PYM. It was foisted on us by former council member Krupicka and current council member Wilson. Wilson candidly admits it's not a transportation project. Instead, the PYM is intended to create more revenue for the city by attracting near it more residents and, hopefully, businesses to tax. His candor is refreshing but here's what he doesn't mention: As more people make Alexandria their home or place of business, our taxes increase.

The taxpayer-subsidized, city-owned bike rental program joins the impending PYM, waterfront and swimming palace as but another extravagant example of how our City Council makes Alexandria a needlessly

indebted, crowded, expensive city in which to live, especially for those entering the workforce, the elderly, our teachers and police.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Statue: Not A Traffic Hazard

To the Editor:

Members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names failed to ask important questions and gather necessary facts about several essential matters before voting on their recommendations to City Council. I have already noted that members recognized but chose to ignore the inconveniences of time and cost to residents and businesses on Jefferson Davis Highway if its name is changed (minimum of several hundred dollars to each address for a title change). Also disregarded: cascading other associated expenses and confusion to others within and outside of our city resulting from outdated electronic directions, etc.

In another example of ignoring important and relevant facts, a member repeatedly alleged that the intersection of Washington and Prince streets is unsafe because "Appomattox" [the statue] is a traffic hazard. However, during all the hearings, no one ever asked or reported about the number of accidents there or compared that number with those at other Washington Street intersections. In fact, the city's accident statistics indicate the statue is not a traffic hazard. How nice to know that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy this notable memorial to Alexandria's dead, knowing it does not pose a particular danger.

In response to my recent inquiry, the city's Traffic Engineering Office noted: "This intersection has an average accident rate when compared to the rest of the intersections on Washington Street ... and historical crash data does not show that the statue is creating any problems."

"For the past five years all of the Washington Street intersections combined have an average of five accidents per year per intersection. The intersection of Washington and Prince for the same time period has an accident rate of five, which means it is average. By comparison, Washington and Duke averages nine accidents per year. The last time the statue was hit was in 2011. ... Washington and Prince does not have an abnormally high accident rate and the island with the statue does not appear to be creating a hazard."

Although Washington Street has long had a two-block-long island immediately north of the statue, no group member or other speaker at the public hearings declared that median area or those intersections dangerous.

I am very disappointed members did not investigate their stated concerns during their six months of hearings. Ignoring important and relevant facts shows a troubling lack of responsibility to the duty they ac-

cepted and want of consideration for fellow citizens.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

Here's How Citizens Feel

To the Editor:

Our City Council hardly hesitates to backhandedly dismiss citizens' thoughtful concerns about whatever deal-du-jour City Council fancies — Ramsey Homes, Woodbine, Colonial Inn, North Old Town Giant site, hardly used bicycle lanes on King Street Hill, La Bergerie, etc. These all are more recent than city hall's controversial Waterfront Plan. In several of these examples, a City Council supermajority backhandedly dismissed impacted property owners' petitions, each time insisting the project would benefit the whole, even if implying dismissively that maybe nearby residents would bear the brunt of these changes' immediate impacts, they should shut up and suck it up.

How city hall caterwauls, no differently from citizens whose concerns it so backhandedly dismisses, when the shoe is on the other foot and city hall's concerns about traffic, parking, etc., the same concerns citizens have raised about many of the projects city hall has OK'd, are backhandedly dismissed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission hell-bent on siting a ferry stop on Alexandria's waterfront.

Doesn't city hall grasp that, even if nearby residents and businesses would bear the brunt of ferry service's immediate impacts

on traffic, parking, etc., ferry service would benefit the whole community: Senator Warner and Representative Beyer could replace sitting in traffic with a straight shot across the river to Capitol Hill. Ferries would take cars off the most congested commuter routes to D.C.'s waterfront. Our military and homeland security facilities are indispensable to public safety and civic well-being. Once in a while, we have to make some reasonable sacrifices to accommodate these facilities which serve us all.

As Councilwoman Pepper put it so aptly about the ferry, "They get the benefits, we pay the price, and what's the problem?" How many times has City Council said the same to its citizens when the shoe was on the other foot? Rather than remonstrating against a ferry stop on the Old Town waterfront, which benefits the whole, city hall needs to work overtime to get the feds to agree to site it at the Wilson Bridge where it impacts us least.

Our mediocre city government apparently cannot see more than one move ahead. Did they not foresee that their one huge "ask" from the feds to encroach on national parkland and environmentally sensitive areas for their Potomac Yard Metro station to suit economic development would obviate their ability to beseech the feds again? How much credibility will be left after another "ask" allowing buildings commemorating our WW II war effort to be demolished for another of their developments? Let us hope that, in spite of their political incompetence, the feds will graciously allow us a third huge "ask" when this one affects something the feds really want.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Working on Solutions Together

FROM PAGE 12

and police liaisons with civic associations throughout our city.

❖ Lighting, an issue mentioned by many residents, is a top priority. Staff is already working with Dominion Virginia Power to address lighting deficiencies.

❖ ARHA is installing cameras at its locations.

❖ City officials and ARHA are working together to enable the swimming pool and other fee-based activities at the Charles Houston Recreation Center to be free for ARHA residents.

❖ A 15-year-old student from T.C. Williams spoke movingly at the community meeting. I spoke briefly with him and asked him to call me. He and I will be meeting with a number of his friends to discuss their concerns and ideas.

❖ I will be reaching out to my newly formed Clergy Council for their advice and counsel.

❖ As far as national concerns regarding racial profiling, for many years, our police have been committed to training in diversity, racial bias, and de-escalation.

❖ I have been asked to meet with senior White House staff this week to discuss criminal justice reform. Six months ago at a White House meeting, I expressed my strong support for this initiative.

This is a good start. Like many communities, we have to make a choice as a city. Either we will come together, or we will pull apart. This is our time to pull together. Please join us in this endeavor. There are many volunteer opportunities where you may make a difference. As Dr. King believed, "Everybody can serve ... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

Together, we are far stronger than a handful of those who settle their differences with guns. Please join us as we carve a path forward together.

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OBITUARY

On Saturday, July 9th, 2016, **Grady C. Frank, Jr., 69**, of Alexandria, Virginia, loving husband of Beth Jones Frank and devoted father of Grady C. Frank III.

Visitation is Tuesday, July 19th from 5pm-7pm at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home at 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at 10:30am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-07-03

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for Elevator # 1 Modernization at George Washington Middle School.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB # 16-07-03, Elevator # 1 Modernization at G.W. Middle School will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, Tuesday August 16, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., August 5, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. A pre-bid conference/site visit will be held on July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the address listed above.

No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB.

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

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
Senior Buyer

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Husband and Wife, Sunday Morning, Detroit, Michigan, 1950, Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation

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ALEXANDRIA, VA.....

Edward Washington Cather II, 80, of Alexandria, died Friday June 24, 2016, at Bridgepoint Hospital in Washington, DC of COPD and heart failure. Ed was born on January 21, 1936 in Winchester, VA to Roy A Cather and Pauline Shoop Cather. Surviving in addition to his wife, Indie, are 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, a brother Roy and sister-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister Anne Cather Bowie. A summary of his many accomplishments and interests can be found at the Advent Funeral Home website along with online registry and expressions of condolences. www.adventfuneral.com/archives/edward-washington-cather-ii.htm

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
GRG Inc, trading as Los Tios Grill, 241 S Van Dorn St, Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine and Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. German Mejia, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

The future comes one day at a time.
-Dean Acheson

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21 Announcements

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-06-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Pest Control Services.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 16-06-04 Pest Control Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 2, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

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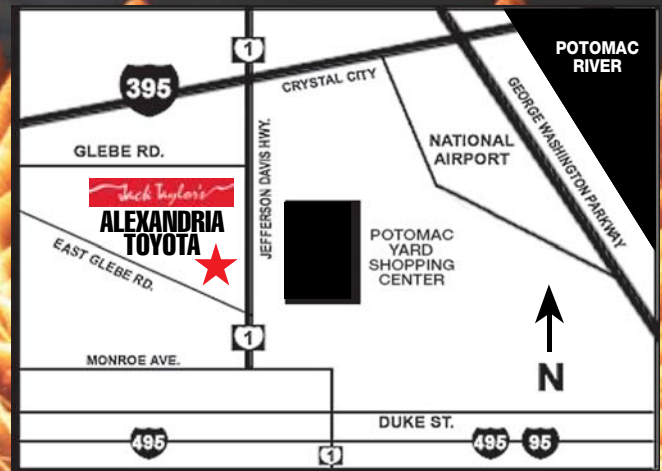
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DEALERSHIPS
IN THE NATION
TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR



ServiceCenters
Keep Your Toyota
a Toyota

TOYOTA
Owners
ToyotaOwnersOnline.com

TOYOTA
LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Mufflers • Exhaust Pipes • Shocks • Struts
Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks, struts
and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the
original purchaser for the life of the vehicle
when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer.
See us for full details.



TOYOTA
Let's Go Places



TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**BUY 3 TIRES AND GET
4TH FOR
\$1**

Got Tires? NO CHARGE road hazard protection, tire
warranty, and free courtesy MULTI-POINT inspection.
Price match guarantee. See service advisor for details.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL
ALIGNMENT FOR \$49.95**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**BRAKE
SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵**

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota
front brake pads, inspect front & rear
rotors & drums, check tire condition and
inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.

**MACHINE ROTORS
AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.**

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES. PLEASE SEE SERVICE
ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE
PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**TRUE START
BATTERY SPECIAL
\$139⁹⁵**

INCLUDES: BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month
FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside
assistance, 60 month prorated. PLUS we'll
check all battery cables & connections.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE
PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX
AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**SUMMER
MAINTENANCE
SPECIAL
\$59⁹⁵**

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.

SYNTHETIC OIL \$149.95 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER
OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST
BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

SUNDAY ONLY SPECIALS

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE
\$29⁹⁵ \$49⁹⁵**
NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC
PLUS FREE TIRE ROTATION

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**\$20 OFF
ANY FACTORY
RECOMMENDED SERVICE**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**DETAIL SPECIALS
STANDARD HAND-WASH
& VACUUM
Recommended Monthly
\$39⁹⁵**

Vacuum carpets, floor mats, upholstery & trunk, wipe down dash board,
console & door panels, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand wash
exterior door jams, and dress tires.

**QUALITY HAND-WASH
VACUUM & WAX
Recommended Every 6 Months
\$139⁹⁵**

Hand wash exterior door jams, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand-wash
or glaze, vacuum carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather,
clean dash board, vents, console, door panels & windows, and dress tires.

**PREMIUM FULL DETAIL
Recommended Every 12 Months
\$295⁹⁵**

Full interior & exterior detailing, including trunk, shampoo carpets, upholstery &
trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather plus conditioning, wash wheels, tires, fender wells
& door jams, hand wash exterior, buff & polish, wax or glaze application, tar & sap
removal, dress tires, rubber molding & trim, clean dashboard, vents, console plus
door panels, clean overhead liner, ashtrays & windows, and engine cleaning.

All details by appointment only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER
SERVICE SPECIAL
\$29⁹⁵ \$49⁹⁵**
NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
VARIABLE DISCOUNT
\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**VENTILATION SERVICE
\$49⁹⁵**

INCLUDES: Clean condenser fins, check
A/C performance, inspect drive belts for
tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**COMPLIMENTARY
MULTI-POINT
INSPECTION**

INCLUDES: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers,
lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

Plus Take **15% OFF** your bill if you
choose to perform the repair with us.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE
PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT
\$79⁹⁵**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire
wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints,
struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**WE WILL
MEET OR BEAT
ANY LOCAL TOYOTA
DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT
ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE
PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

GENUINE TOYOTA
**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES
\$10 OFF**
ANY PAIR
Sight Line only

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**15% OFF
ANY ACCESSORIES**
• Apparel • Window visors
• iPad adaptors • All weather floor mats
• Toyota bedliners

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**30000 MILES FACTORY
RECOMMENDED
SERVICE
\$159⁹⁵**

Synthetic \$10 More
INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts),
rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure,
measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout,
replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace
engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light
(if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/16.

SUMMER SAVINGS



**New RAV4s, Priuses
Scion IMs and IAs
ALL ON SALE
LIKE NEVER BEFORE**
Spring is here and so are the SAVINGS!
Ask one of our sales managers,
George, Mike, Yared or Rocky
703-684-0700
**WE ARE HERE
TO MAKE DEALS!**

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA / SCION

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3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
703-684-0700 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!



**Let's
Go
Places**



OPEN
SUN 7/17, 1-4

Belle Haven \$1,525,000

Classic, gorgeous brick home in Belle Haven—updated completely with five bedrooms, four full and two half baths! Amazing master suite and a kitchen LIKE NO OTHER! Outdoor brick patio with fireplace all situated on a double lot. This is move-in ready!

Janet Caterson Price
703.960.5858
www.JanetPriceHomes.com

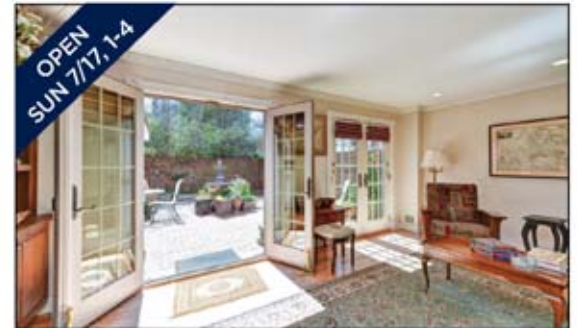


OPEN
SUN 7/17, 2-4

Del Ray \$849,900

Wonderful all-brick colonial. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Over 2500 sq.ft. of living space. Classic details include archways, built-in cabinets, fireplaces, and crown molding. Renovated kitchen and bath. Screened porch & deck backs to mature trees. One-car garage. 3301 Russell Road.

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN
SUN 7/17, 1-4

Old Town \$1,299,900

NEW PRICE! Gracious, sunfilled corner townhome. Renovated and beautifully maintained, this 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath property, 2 blocks to the Potomac River and Park, has 2 fireplaces, family room off kitchen, walled garden, off-street parking. New windows and bonus room. 500 S Fairfax St.

Cherie Wilderotter
703.371.3345
www.CherieWilderotter.com



OPEN
SUN 7/17, 1-4

Alexandria \$619,500

Gorgeous 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with gourmet kitchen, cute patio and balcony, and 1 assigned parking space. Great amenities in upscale community just a short walk to Metro, shops, and restaurants. 1308 Roundhouse Lane

Meiling Yang
703.944.8403
www.MyTopAgent.com



Alexandria \$349,900

Beautifully maintained, two-level, two-bedroom, one-bath condo with deck. Newer kitchen. Extra storage bin. Hardwood floors on main level. Off-street parking, steps to Mount Vernon Trail, close to everything.

Phyllis Sintay
703.472.3563
www.PSintay.com



Alexandria City \$1,500,000

Unique, but in ALL the right ways! A full acre of land surrounds this one level, easy living 4-bedroom, 3-bath home in a remote, private spot in the city. Lushly landscaped grounds with plenty of room for tennis court, sports court and/or a pool. Unlimited expansion possibilities.

Betty Mallon
703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



OPEN
SUN 7/17, 2-4

Potomac Greens \$879,900

Great location in the Potomac Greens neighborhood! Stunning 4-level 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom townhome with serene parkland views. Lots of updates including a completely renovated spa-like master bath and new HVAC. Gourmet kitchen, deck and rooftop terrace. 1720 Carpenter Road.

Jennifer Halm & Holly Beville
703.851.2255 | 703.622.8840
www.McEneaney.com



OPEN
SUN 7/17, 2-4

Cameron Station \$389,000

Rarely available corner Devon model in Cameron Station across from lake and Brenman Park. Two bedrooms, two baths, freshly painted with new quartz countertops and stainless appliances. One car garage space. Walkable to Cameron Station amenities.

Noel Kaupinen
703.200.1165
www.NoelK.com



Alexandria South \$399,900

RARELY AVAILABLE! Gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom end garage townhouse! Located in the quiet landscaped enclave just minutes to shopping, Fort Belvoir, Pentagon and DC. Large eat-in kitchen. Fenced-in lower level deck. Cozy main level family room with fireplace. Master with walk-in closet. Upgraded designer carpet and colors.

Suellen West
703.981.0984
www.SuellenWest.com