



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

From left: Abraham Lincoln; Mayor Allison Silberberg; Mac Slover, regional program director for Alexandria's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities; Screech the Eagle; and Bertha Coleman, recreation coordinator for the City of Alexandria.

Play Ball Alexandria Summer Camp ends with baseball event.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Mac Slover, the regional program director for Alexandria's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities, loves baseball. He played it as a child in the streets of Macon,



Mayor Allison Silberberg helps teach an Alexandria youth proper batting technique.

Ga. and in high school. He's coached baseball and softball as an adult and his daughter plays it in college. But Alexandria's streets and playgrounds aren't as populated as they once might have been. While the Little League baseball teams in Alexandria have had a resurgence, Slover says he's still noticed a change.

"Kids aren't out playing on their own because there's other, easier things to do," said Slover.

But the "Play Ball" initiative is trying to change that. On Aug. 15, Slover and a team of staff and volunteers helped more than 300 local children from the Power On and Power Up summer programs practice the basics of the game.

At the Lenny Harris Field adjacent to George Washington Middle School, children rotated between stations where they practiced swinging baseball bats or running around bases. Play Ball is a national initiative promoting events themed around baseball through the United States Conference of Mayors.

Alexandria initially signed on with Mayor William Euille and has continued under Mayor Allison Silberberg, both of whom were present at the event. Out in the field, Silberberg and Slover helped teach children the basics of pitching and batting.

"The Play Ball initiative is bringing awareness

SEE 'PLAY BALL', PAGE 20

Testing Positive

Despite a few fumbles, city schools' testing scores on the rise.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The Standards of Learning (SOL) test results are in, and for the most part, Al-

exandria City Public Schools has passed. The Virginia Department of Education released the data for the testing results in Alexandria over three years, showing a steady increase in both reading and science categories.

The data also comes with information on the performance of sub-

groups. Black students experienced a rise in every testing category. Superintendent Alvin Crawley said four or five percentage points is the typical increase, but Black students gained 10 per-

"When you're looking at three-year results, there's variability, but there's momentum. If we continue to sustain our focus, we will continue to see progress."

— Dr. Alvin Crawley, Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent

centage points in reading and science and students with limited English proficiency had a 12 percentage point increase over previous years.

"This year we've made progress in closing those gaps," said Crawley. "The general feeling is one of optimism. When SEE CITY SCHOOLS, PAGE 20

Remembering Roland Branford Gomez

Award-winning theater veteran dies at 86.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It may have been Shakespeare who said "all the world's a stage" but it was Roland Branford Gomez who lived it. A child actor since his first role on the New York radio program Coast to Coast at the age of 6, Gomez



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Roland Branford Gomez died Aug. 11 at the age of 86.

was a tour de force in the Washington theater scene from the minute he arrived in Northern Virginia in 1968. "Roland was the most fascinating man who touched thousands of lives," said Mike Baker, a TV pro-

SEE THEATER, PAGE 9

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The Medical Musical Group and actor Michael York perform celebration.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

The performance had a mix of themes, from Shakespeare to Star Wars to Downton Abbey, but through it all the Medical Orchestra and hosts kept the key focus on celebrating America's veterans. On Aug. 14, the Medical Musical Group (MMG) came together with actor Michael York and others to perform a salute to veterans and their families at the Schlesinger Concert Hall.

After the two-hour performance, families who lost loved ones in the Iraq War were invited backstage to meet with the hosts and musicians.

"Being here, to see people come out and support our men and women serving their country, it's so amazing," said Janice Chance. Chance is a Gold Star mother whose son, Captain Jesse Melton III, was killed in Afghanistan.

The Medical Musical Group is an all-volunteer orchestra and chorus composed largely of medical professionals. Dr. Victor Wahby founded MMG 25 years ago and said it started off exclusively for doctors but the ranks have expanded over the years.

"A group of us in the health field are on a mission of healing on multiple levels," said Wahby. "Over the years, many of us worked in veteran care, so veterans became our core mission."

Half the seats in the audience were reserved for veterans.

Wahby said he believes that music can have a healing, soothing effect on those in attendance.

"There is an enormous, unexplained power to music," said Wahby. "On our very first tour to Russia in the 1990s, people came out of their homes and put flowers

"Being here, to see people come out and support our men and women serving their country, it's so amazing."

— Janice Chance, Gold Star mother



Dr. Victor Wahby, founder and conductor of the Medical Musical Group

up onto the stage. They told us they hadn't heard religious music in 70 years. Music, it has a taming effect."

Wherever they travel, the MMG puts out a call to a network of performers to see who is available to come and perform. The result is a mix of local artists and performers traveling from across the country. Harris Wood is an Alexandrian who's played French horn with the MMG for

eight years. Wood isn't a doctor, but several of his family members are and play in the group.

"Every concert we have is designed to honor veterans and active duty personnel,

so they're all special," said Wood. "It's our way of providing a visual image for the community at large to show that we care."

The concert was hosted by actor Michael York and Hilary Fordwich, president of Strelmark Business Development Consultants. York said he hosted for MMG several years ago and was excited to get the call to do it again.

"It's so extraordinary," said York. "It's a truly extraordinary thing, honoring our veterans, on the anniversary of the end of the Second World War no less."

"These doctors, the Medical Musical Group, it touches my heart," said Deana Martin, daughter of Dean Martin and one of the performers. "They come together from all these different fields of medicine and they give us this feeling of knowing what the music is all about. It brings us back in touch with the past. It just feels fabulous."



Michael Eley performs the National Anthem.



Gold Star mother Janice Chance (center) meets Deana Martin (left) and Michael York (right) backstage.



Darth Vader emerges as part of a Star Wars suite performance.



The Medical Musical Group



Robert MacDermott, a bagpiper from Florida whose grandmother, father, and aunt also perform with the Medical Musical Group.

Sunny Side Up

Alexandria kicks off second year of its Solarize program.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

One month after installing solar panels onto the roof of his Alexandria home, Tyler Orton had a blank energy bill. Orton owed zero dollars and had created more energy than he used. In July, during Orton's family's highest levels of energy consumption, the check at the end of the month amounted to only \$30. Last year, Orton was one of 15 Alexandrians who had solar panels installed on their homes through the SolarizeAlexandria program.

Through Oct. 9, SolarizeAlexandria is engaging in the second year of a campaign to make more Alexandria homes like Orton's. SolarizeAlexandria is the local part of a regional campaign started in 2014. The regional program helps residents make their homes more energy efficient or even energy self-sufficient.

"The City of Alexandria is forward thinking about sustainability and protecting the environment," said Robert Lazaro, director of Regional Energy and Sustainability Policy for the Northern Virginia Commission. "It's a natural fit for the city."

For a couple months every year, Lazaro also gets an energy bill with zero dollars



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Solar Panels on the exterior of Robert Lazaro's home

due. Lazaro says the solar panels he installed on his house in 2014 usually offsets 60 percent of his energy use and in April, May, and October, the solar panels are enough to run all of his energy needs.

While the ultimate achievement is getting solar panel on homes, the program also helps homeowners with free "energy audits" where their home's energy consumption is reviewed.

Bill Eger, Alexandria's energy manager, says the program has three goals: to highlight the city priorities and for solar energy, so educate consumers on the price accessibility of greener energy options, and to help

Alexandria citizens through the often technical and sometimes foreboding process of adding solar panels to a home.

"This is a way for someone interested to have a handhold for this process," said Eger. "It can help you see whether you're eligible and if you get enough light. [We] can help walk you through a highly technical process."

While the ultimate achievement is getting solar panel on homes, those who sign up with the program at no cost are still eligible for a free home energy audit. The auditor shows the homeowner where the highest levels of energy use are and how the homeowner can reduce their energy consumption. Lazaro says the audit can save the average homeowner around \$80 per year. After the audit, those who sign up with the program can also have their household assessed to see if solar panels would make sense for the house.

Eger says the program isn't funded by the city, but by Dominion Power and other contributors. The cost for the homeowner comes if they decide to install solar panels. Prices can vary per home. Lazaro said they can cost as little as \$9,000 but others have had installments totalling more than \$40,000.

Last year, 313 Alexandrians signed up for

the program. One hundred and sixteen had their homes analyzed to see if they would be a good fit for solar panels, and 15 decided to install them.

"It's an order of magnitude less, but that's equated to 70 kilowatts of power that are being installed," said Eger. "Last year was our first time, we didn't have a strict expectation, but we were hoping for around 10 or 15 to sign up. This year, we're doing additional outreach and info sessions trying to push it up to 20 or 25."

Throughout the region, Lazaro said 85 people have had solar panels installed through the program since it started in 2014.

"Since 2013, we've increased solar power's presence by six percent," said Lazaro. "It's helping folks, even if they have no interest in power. Six hundred and three people have gotten home energy checkups. It's about helping people meet their individual goals; whether it's reducing individual impact from CO2 emissions or energy security ... and at the end of the day, nothing is mandatory. It's all voluntary."

To get started with a free home energy check-up and solar site assessment, use the Northern Virginia Solar Map, or learn more about cost-effective home solar power options, visit www.solarizealexandria.org.



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PEOPLE

Jones Reinvents Himself at 60

Not a choice: what he was meant to do.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Guy Jones hunches over his clay board panel in Studio 337 working on a pen and ink commission of a guy's dad in Vietnam. "The father is standing there in his uniform but had adorned himself with a beautiful red flower. His son wanted to catch that spin of his father." Jones says he has several pictures of the father as examples and will create a new image. "I sketched the face this morning. By tomorrow I should have it knocked out."

Jones has been drawing "since I could hold a bloody pencil. I'm self taught. My drawing is realistic but stylized."

He adds, "There is energy behind it. I want you to feel the person in this force." He says he rarely does rough drafts. "I pick a subject and go off on it." He explained, "even if I have a vision, it takes on its own form. You have to know when to let it go. It takes off on its own."

After retiring as 25 years as a framer in Alexandria, Jones found a home at Del Ray Artisans gallery on Mount Vernon Avenue. He said it was his platform to grow, "and I was sort of their success story." A scholastic publishing company saw his work on the gallery's website and asked Jones to illustrate some children's books.

"I'd never been published before. I guess they hauled this first book off by the tractor trailer-full." The 14x17 inch color pen and ink of "Wind in the Willows" sits on his desk. He explains teachers turn the oversized pages as they read to their kids sitting in a circle format on the floor.

This book was about a four-month project. "I sat at the kitchen table. My commute was to walk downstairs, make some coffee and turn on a British talk



Guy Jones works on a commission of a "guy's dad in Vietnam" dressed in his uniform but adorned with a red flower. Jones is an illustrator/graphic artist working out of his shared studio in the Torpedo Factory. His work is currently featured in the FUN-derful showing at Del Ray Artisans gallery at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

show host." He would send in each detailed page to the publisher and out of 70 pages they only asked for one modification; it was the map on the last page. Jones says he spent some time on the computer — what did an English cottage look like in the 1900s? "I worked every day. It consumes you. Throw 9 a.m.-5 p.m. out the window. I may take a nap in the afternoon and then wake up at 3 a.m. and start working." He says it is surrealistic — "a world within a world."

Two years ago Jones was accepted as a juried artist at the Torpedo Factory and his work just started snowballing. "But getting a space in the Torpedo Factory was next to impossible."

Then he got lucky when another artist volunteered to let him share her space. Illustrations of crows, owls, and skulls line the wall in his space in the studio. "People love the skulls." A frog with an accordion has been chosen by Del Ray Artisans as the raffle prize at their current FUN-derful show running from Aug. 5-28 at the gallery on Mt. Vernon Avenue. His raffle box was stuffed full of tickets. "I'm making a little noise."

Jones ruminates. "I am a quarter Cherokee Indian and while other boys were drawing machines, I was drawing animals. I am a naturalist." He says he mixes animals with his studies, man and nature.

Jones says he worked with a medicine man for about 10 years learning the ceremonies, "part of my religion and heritage. I wrestled with whether to be a healer or an artist and I found out art is healing." He remembers a man whose son was fighting testicular cancer and the man wanted a portrait of his son as St. George fighting the dragon with cancer symbolically as the dragon. When he came in to pick it up, I didn't charge him. "I said it's not art anymore; it's a prayer." When they returned six months later the son's cancer was in remission. "This is what art can do."

Jones says he isn't out to change the world. "I want to stimulate people's minds — what does this mean to you?"

Part of the journey is to connect with people. "I can go OK, put something on paper and pop, feel something. I'm here. I'm just doing it. This is not a choice. It's what I'm meant to do. At 60 I reinvented myself."

"But," he adds, "the thing about art is I can be dead but I'm still here."



Guy Jones has illustrated a number of large format children's books for a scholastic publishing company. "Wind in the Willows", his first published book, sits open on his work desk in Studio 337 in the Torpedo Factory.

OBITUARY



Tim Ahern was an avid cyclist and died suddenly while participating in a charity bike ride for multiple sclerosis.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

Tim Ahern Dies Suddenly at 68

Navy veteran was participating in charity bike ride.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Tim Ahern, chairman of the board of Agenda:Alexandria and a past president of the North Ridge Citizens Association, died suddenly Aug. 6 while participating in a charity bike ride to raise funds for multiple sclerosis. He was 68 years old.

Ahern was a dedicated volunteer and supporter of several local charities, including Rebuilding Together Alexandria.

"Tim has been an incredible Rebuilding Together fan," said RTA's president and CEO Katharine Dixon. "He supported his wife [Eileen] before and after she led the group and volunteered with his church team for years on National Rebuilding Day. The many causes for which Tim volunteered have suffered a great loss. I will miss tremendously."

Born Timothy Michael Ahern, he was raised in Ridgewood, N.J. and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1970. He continued his education at the University of Rhode Island



Ahern

(M.M.A.) and the Naval War College (M.A.). Following combat service in Vietnam and Op-

eration Desert Storm, Ahern retired as a Captain with 30 years of service.

Ahern first moved to Alexandria in 1985. He was regional vice president of Imagine One Technology and Management for 13 years and a longtime volunteer official and board member for Navy Federal Credit Union.

Ahern is survived by his wife of 40 years, Eileen O'Connell Ahern; daughter, Catherine Ahern Barrett (Jon); son, Timothy Patrick Ahern; sisters, Patricia Arvidson (Bob), Julie Nelson (Dennis); brothers, Jim Ahern (Sandy), Larry Ahern (Debbie); sister-in-law, Kathleen O'Connell; brother-in-law, Peter O'Connell (Edna) and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Julia Ahern and his brother, Dr. Geary Ahern (Mary).

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Aug. 12 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Interment with full military honors will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bike MS at www.nationalmssociety.org or Rebuilding Together Alexandria at www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org.



Tim Ahern and his wife Eileen on their wedding day.

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NEWS



Queen of Apostles Catholic Church hosted an Olympic-style summer camp for preteens with disabilities.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer Program for Youth with Disabilities

Michael Caballero and Gabriel Sampaio, rising seniors at Bishop Ireton High School, wanted to create an affordable program to share the fun that they experienced at summer camp with fellow teens with limited camp opportunities.

With the support of their home parish, Queen of Apostles Church in Alexandria, Caballero and Sampaio created "Olympic Fun 2016" for youth with disabilities. In the Aug. 8-12 summer program, teens with cognitive impairments, such as Down syndrome, were paired with a student counselor to play basketball, soccer, capture the flag, "messy backyard" and other

games.

The participants created their own country flags and walked in a procession each day. Whether painting with broccoli and celery, or making duct tape wallets, the participants had fun with their Bishop Ireton and Bishop O'Connell student counselors.

Co-director Gabriel Sampaio initiated a GoFundMe campaign to fund counselor training, t-shirts, camp supplies and lunches. Six of the teen counselors are 2013 graduates of Queen of Apostles School.

The parish plans to host the camp again next summer.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 17

Registration Open. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' 2016 Fall Program Guide is now available. The Registration & Reservation Office, at the Lee Center at 1108 Jefferson St., is open for walk-in or phone support at 703-746-5414, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation to register online.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Work Life Balance. 7-9 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Join

the Arlington/Alexandria Chapter of Holistic Moms Network for their monthly meeting. Pamm Fontana of More Green for Less Green will lead a conversation about harnessing the power of yes and no. Free. Email rajaenami@yahoo.com for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Extended Hours. Fridays, 9 p.m.-midnight; Saturdays, 6 p.m.-midnight at Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe St. Teen and Young Adult Late Nights are being extended to midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Contact Sheila Whiting at 703-746-5552 or sheila.whiting@alexandriava.gov.

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Roland Branford Gomez, center, as Fezziwig in last year's LTA production of A Christmas Carol.



Roland Branford Gomez died Aug. 11 at the age of 86.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Theater Veteran Dies at 86

FROM PAGE 1

ducer, actor and longtime friend of Gomez. "He had so much charisma and was so full of life. If anybody was going to live forever, this was the man."

Gomez directed more than 100 productions, including over 30 musicals, winning Best Director awards eight times with numerous more nominations to his credit. He was simultaneously directing two shows, including the upcoming Little Theatre of Alexandria production "A Party to Murder," when he died Aug. 11 after a recent diagnosis of acute leukemia. He was 86.

"Roland always believed 'the show must go on,'" said David McCallum, a friend and colleague of Gomez at Weichert Realtors. "He was the most incredibly alive person and certainly had a life well lived."

Born Dec. 2, 1929, in Lynbrook, N.Y., Gomez was the only child of Cuban refugees Celia Campos Gomez and Armand Gomez. He earned a degree in speech and drama at Adelphi University and a master's in radio and television at American University. He studied at the Actors Studio in New York with Lee Strasberg and Uta Hagen.

"Roland did commercials, movies, national TV — the man could really, really act," Baker said. "But he was not a promoter when it came to himself. He took his greatest joy in seeing other people succeed."

Gomez was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952 and served in Korea. He returned to the U.S. in the late '50s, opening his own advertising agency in New York City. After moving to Northern Virginia, he opened London Casuals, a chain of women's cloth-

ing stores, and dressed future First Lady Betty Ford.

Gomez sold his retail stores in 1983 and went into real estate, joining Mount Vernon Realty, which was later acquired by Weichert Realtors.

Throughout it all, his first love was the theater. "Roland directed his first show at LTA in 1975," McCallum said. "It was 'The Women,' which had a cast of 40. He always chuckled that it was one hell of a way to start to his directing career."

Gomez served on the LTA board and was the director of educational programs at the time of his death. "When Roland first founded the educational programs at LTA, there were only two classes — one for children and one for adults," McCallum added. "Today there are 16 teachers and dozens of classes. He was very proud of how the program has grown."

Gomez is survived by his son Chris Gomez of Alexandria, granddaughter Dara Rose Gomez, and nephews Joseph Campos and Charles Campos of Long Island. Funeral arrangements are still pending with a celebration

of life planned for later this fall at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Memorial contributions may be made to The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or the Rotary International Foundation, P.O. Box 32066, Alexandria, VA 22320. "Roland was the heart and soul of LTA," Baker said. "Thousands of actors got their start because of him and for 34 years, in everything I ever did Roland was there. It's a real blessing to have someone in your life that long. He truly was an unbelievable man."

"Roland was the heart and soul of LTA."

— TV producer and LTA veteran Mike Baker.



Roland Branford Gomez was a child actor and spent his life in theater.

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Longtime Little Theatre of Alexandria director and board member Roland Branford Gomez, right, with cast members of the musical "Oliver!"

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

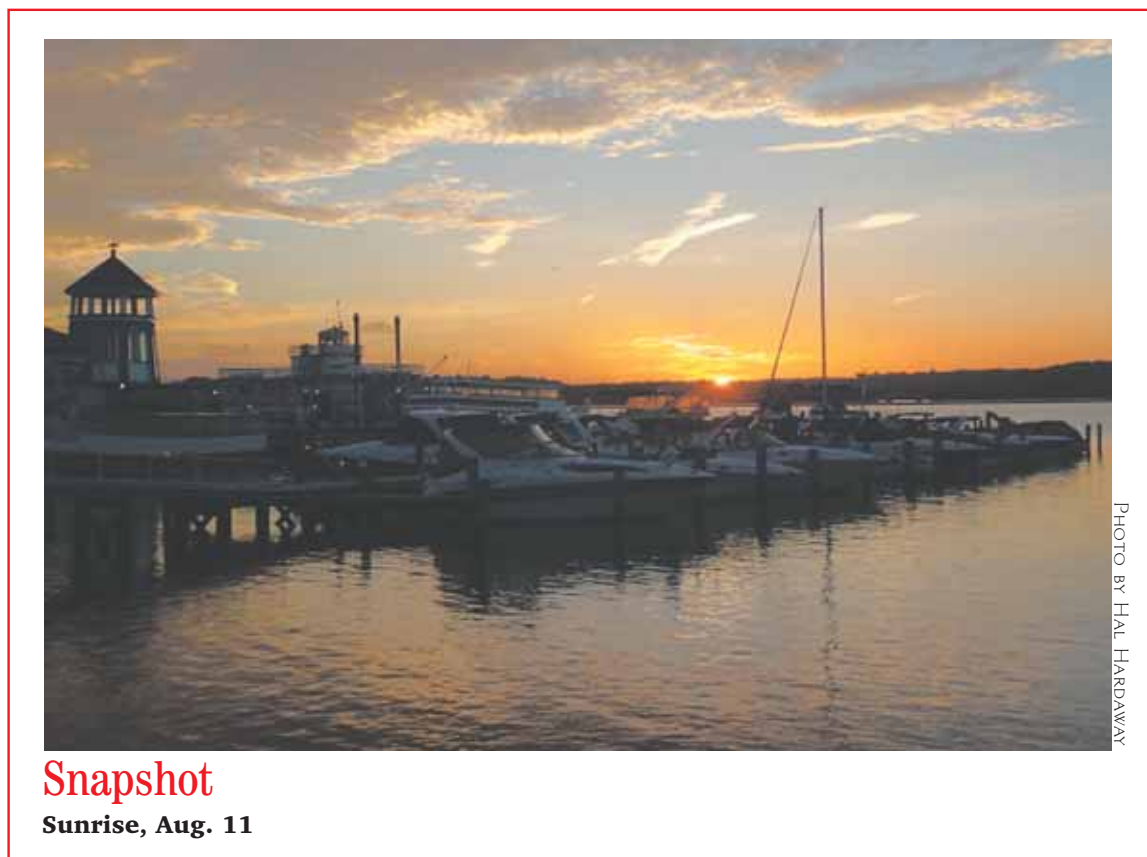
Preserve Neighborhood

To the Editor:

In response to a letter submitted in the Aug. 4 Gazette, I would like to make comments regarding the proposed new hotel at the corner of Harvard and King streets.

The hotel as proposed will remove the current Mellish & Weeks, Naval Reserve Association Building at 1617 and 1711 King Street. The current building was originally built approximately 1928, and by 1930 was established as an apartment building housing tenants. The building is a three-story building, by 1985 the building was renovated to become the Naval Reserve Association.

Since then the building has had several tenants in the ground level of the building. The building still consists of the original bricks and molding for the windows. Harvard Street consists of historical homes of which the Naval Reserve building is only shy by 12 years of being historical. The proposed hotel developers are looking to destroy the building and replace it with a monstrous 6-7 story building that would engulf the entire corner of the block, including the open parking area. The developer was told the height of the original plan was too high, seven stories, so now they are looking to lower it to six stories, but with HVAC equipment and a green roof, this would still have the building consist of seven



Snapshot

Sunrise, Aug. 11

PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

stories which would make it as big as the Hilton Hotel on the corner of King Street just a few doors down. With 124 hotel rooms, there is some underground parking for guests, no parking allotted for the proposed retail on the ground floor or for the hotel employees. They are also suggesting to make part of Harvard Street a two-way street from King Street to the alley that goes behind the current building.

Harvard is a very narrow street, currently one way with parking on

both sides of the street. As it is we have a lot of traffic that travel in the wrong direction along Harvard and Cameron. Cameron is also a one-way street. By opening Harvard, even partially, to two-way traffic will cause a lot of confusion, and take away parking along Harvard.

The suggested construction period for this project would be from 1-1/2 to 2 years. Imagine the problems relating to that along King Street. There are already several hotels within a three block radius

of this corner. A hotel of this size would over tower the homes along Harvard and would also be taller than other businesses going into town.

This end of King Street does not have much touristically inviting, accept for the Metro which would take them somewhere else. Our city has become nothing but a tourist attraction which is now becoming just a lot of new large buildings with plaques referring to the history of our city. Instead of calling us Olde Towne, we should consider renaming our city New Town. Between myself and my neighbor, a lot of history has been dug up regarding this building, we need to keep it, maybe refurbish it back into an apartment building, or maybe condos, but certainly not anything higher than four stories, including the HVAC and other equipment that goes on the roof. If our city government is looking for more revenue, I feel the taxes that could be generated by residents of a condo or apartment would be better than having people come and go and not paying taxes. We must not allow another hotel at this end of King Street, nor the removal of another almost historical building.

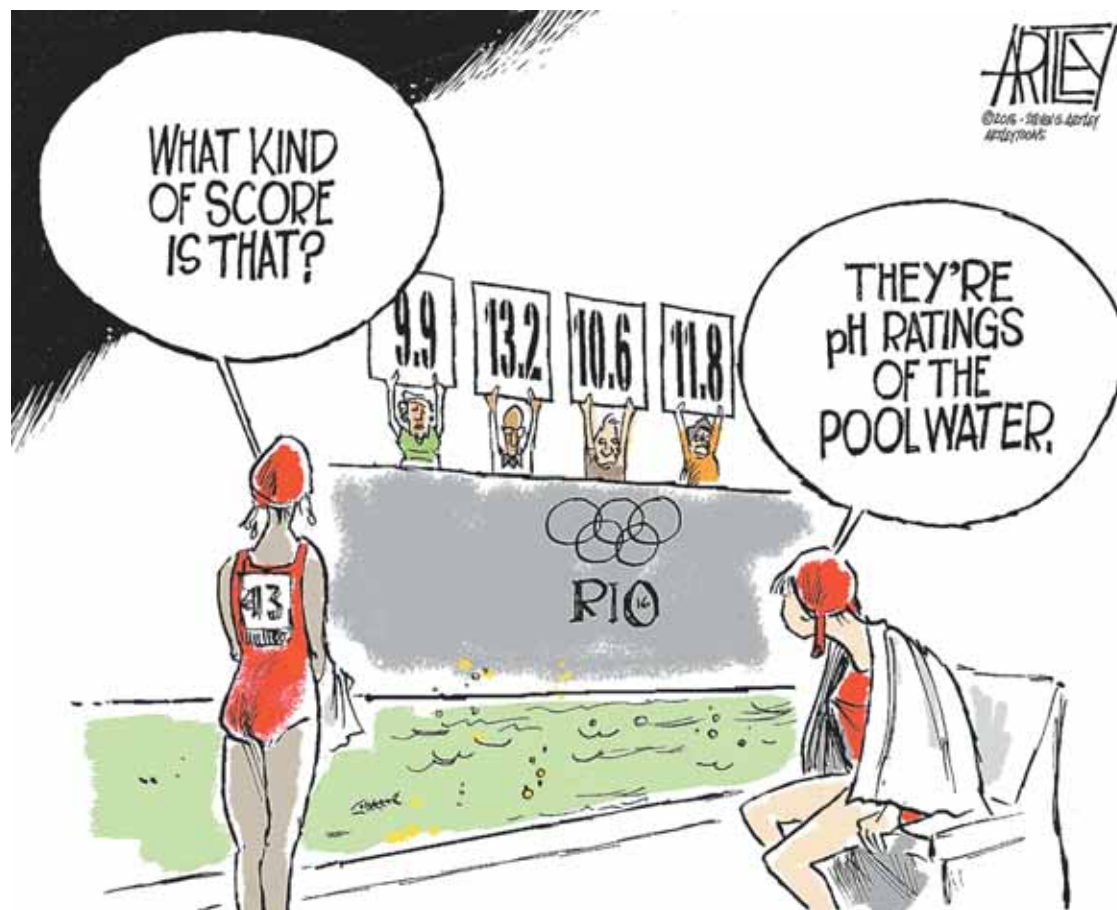
Bea Porter
Alexandria

Ticket Cyclists

To the Editor:

When I attempt to cross Union Street from my home, I do so slowly, since I cannot see ap

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

proaching traffic due to buildings that block my view. One morning, while I was halfway across the intersection, a bicyclist suddenly appeared directly in front of my car, causing me to brake suddenly. When I beeped my horn (thank heavens, I missed him), I received a digital salute in response from the cyclist. What a way to start my day!

The real issue is that most cyclists do not stop at any of the nine Union Street traffic signs from Jones Point Park to Pendleton Street, at which point they can join a dedicated bike path. Citizens have repeatedly asked for traffic enforcement of cyclists, and occasionally, a police officer will ticket an offender, but there is no sustained effort to do so. I have said on numerous occasions that little things eventually turn into big things, so now we also see cars rolling through these stop signs with impunity.

In a recent e-mail, the city's deputy director of Transportation stated that this fall, Old Town traffic will be enforced over an area that extends beyond Union Street. I responded that enforcement is needed now, so if they cannot do

this, citizens may have to practice self-enforcement. Although we citizens need to proceed in a cautious and orderly manner regarding self-enforcement, something must be done if our council fails to support traffic enforcement requirements. The Alexandria Police Department is made up of 304 sworn officers; therefore putting a few officers on Union Street doesn't appear to be asking too much from our overly taxed taxpayers. There are also auxiliary police officers who could be pressed into service for this effort, as can be seen for special events.

The need for traffic enforcement in Old Town comes into direct conflict with the ill-conceived proposal to create a high speed bike boulevard on Royal Street. For a multitude of reasons (highlighted by safety and cost) this project needs to be shelved immediately. The needs of the bicycle community must be balanced against the safety requirements of the larger community, which is why I advocate for traffic enforcement on Union Street, now.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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Create a Back-to-School Game Plan

Educators tell how to make the transition less jarring.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As a single mother of a fifth grade student, Christine Schull is already making back-to-school preparations. Her plans include more than purchasing notebooks, pencils and new shoes. She knows that she and her daughter will have to shift their schedules and prepare to get back into a scholastic mindset.

"She gets up early every day ... but because it is summer, she wants to go to bed late ... about two or three weeks out, I will be much more firm about her bed time," said Schull, assistant dean and professor of Early Childhood Education at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Also, to start getting her academic muscles flexing, I usually supplement with some academic enrichment. I am hiring someone to work with her once a week just to give her a taste of what she will experience in fifth grade."

Whether a child's summer is packed with camps and vacations or filled with lazy days and complaints about being bored, students often find the back-to-school transition to be challenging. From the prospect of reuniting with friends to getting reacquainted with homework, it is not uncommon for children to experience mixed emotions about jumping back into a busy fall schedule.

"Going back to school is really more than just a one-day event," said Dr. Lisa Turissini, Ed.D. assistant professor and chair of the Department of Education at Marymount University. "This type of transition is about the forming of a new habit. Brain researchers agree that the forming of a new habit also includes the breaking of an old one."

Having a conversation with children and assessing their feelings about returning to school is a good place to start, recommends Licensed Clinical Psychologist Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of Psychology at George Mason University.

"Children have a variety of ways of thinking, feeling, and acting toward the upcoming transition back to school," he said. "Some children are optimistic and excited about school and are already preparing for the first day. Others may be anxious or avoid thinking about a new school year, and may need more support, structure, and encouragement from parents to prepare themselves."

He encourages parents to listen to their children's concerns and expectations and empathize with their feelings. "Summarize what they tell you, and tailor your approach to their needs with their input," added Short.

It's not just children who may experience school anxiety. Some parents may be worried about their children starting a new school, changing schools, facing more rigorous academics or dealing with difficult social situations. "Fear of the unknown can cause anxiety," said Turissini. "Working with your children to build resilience and manage their emotions can be beneficial for the whole family. Chil-



PHOTO BY JAMES KEGLEY FOR NORWOOD SCHOOL

Science teacher Sarah Boor works with students at Norwood School. Educators say now is the time to prepare children for a return to school.

dren are extremely capable of dealing with change, and parents can help them by creating an environment at home that encourages them to share their feelings about returning to school."

Reconnecting or connecting with other parents and students for support can help with the transition. "Others may help motivate, empathize, or make school preparations fun," said Short. "There are opportunities to increase children's communication abilities and social skills if they spend time together on school tasks."

Planning ahead and establishing a regimented sleep schedule in August can help parents get their children acclimated to the early wake up times for the upcoming school year. "If you want your child to

have a less painful transition back to a new school year, now is the time to take proactive measures to change your child's bedtime routine," said Turissini.

"...[It] gives their biological clock time to adjust so the transition is not so abrupt," she said. "A regular bedtime and wake up time will build the needed structure into a child's schedule, and this new habit will help [a child] to embrace the new routine that the school year brings."

"Don't do it all at once, do it gradually," said Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. "Start with [moving your children's bed time] one-half hour earlier, then 15 minutes earlier."

Other recommend time adjustments include reestablishing routines that might have been lost during the summer. "If your summer has been schedule-free, get back to some of your old routines now. Start those regular family meal times or game nights," said Turissini.

In addition to rearranging sleep schedules, now is the time to tackle back-to-school shopping and schedule doctor visits. "Take a day to get those school clothes, school supplies, and backpacks purchased," said Turissini. "Make sure your child's physical exam

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8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

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9/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses

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"Going back to school is really more than just a one-day event. [It's] about the forming of a new habit ... the forming of a new habit also includes the breaking of an old one."

— Lisa Turissini Ed.D.,
Marymount University

SEE MAKING TRANSITION, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Making Transition Less Jarring

FROM PAGE 12

is up to date. You know the school medical forms will be forthcoming.”

Completing summer reading lists and other summer assignments can also get students ready to learn. “We want students to return to school learning ready, which means children should be reading for pleasure ... for about 30 minutes a day,” said Karen O’Neill, head of Lower School at Norwood School. “Sustained reading is a skill that requires practice at home.”

Parents can reinforce a child’s interest in books by reading to their child or reading their own book while their children read. “Don’t turn on the television in another room while your child reads,” said Ginsberg. “Have a family reading hour. Modeling the behavior is powerful for the child.” He suggests setting challenging and achievable goals and being mindful of those that could prove unrealistic. “Start with 20 minutes of reading and then increase it from there,” he said.

“At least one week before the first day of school, create the morning routine that will allow your child to arrive at school with time to organize belongings, chat with friends, and create a mindset for learning,” said O’Neill.

Invite children’s participation when creating a back-to-school plan. “From my own experience as a parent and educator, it’s best to engage them in a conversation, rather than telling them what to do,” said Ginsberg. “Rather than being directive, be col-

laborative with the child. Ask them what it is that they think they need to do to get themselves ready.”

Going from a carefree summer to a structured school year packed with activities can be jarring for some students. To ease the blow, Turissini suggests having candid conversations about the upcoming school schedule and ways in which the family can establish balance.

“Create a family calendar of school, extracurricular, and family activities,” she said. “Allow for some downtime on the calendar for each child so they can choose to do whatever it is they would like. Kids don’t inherently know how to add balance to their lives, so as a parent, it is important to look for the opportunities to model balance at home, work, school, and personal pursuits.”

To ease anxiety about back-to-school transportation, Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school for Norwood School, suggests “if your child walks to school or takes a bus, walk the route together or check out the bus stop together.” Whether traveling by car or bus or on foot, talk about what the schedule will look like on school mornings, including any chores that have to be done before leaving the house. Consider inviting your child to write out a schedule for the morning, including the time needed for each task.

Claeys also recommends taking time to review the curriculum for the upcoming year with your children, if it is available, and talk about some of the things they will be learning. “Hopefully this will inspire excitement about all the learning to come,” she said.



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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Groceries to Go Volunteers Emmy Freedman and Dianna Baltimore with Giant Food employees checking out groceries for delivery.

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Not Gone on Vacation Yet?

Tips on how to pack for a last minute stress free getaway.

BY PAGE CASTRODALE
OWNER OF CURATED

Look at the calendar, folks. We're half-way through August and sadly, summer is winding down. But if you haven't made it out of town yet, or you need just one more weekend in the sun before summer is over, there's still time to plan a quick getaway. Places like Ocean City, Charlottesville, Annapolis or Harpers Ferry offer plenty to see and do and you won't be in the car for more than a few hours.

The Monticello Wine Trail's website is a great resource for planning a trip to wine country. You'll find a list of vineyards, upcoming events and even a route generator that will help you plan your road trip. If you're planning a picnic while you're gone or you'd rather head to the beach, pick up a few Turkish towels from Red Barn Mercantile. They're available in several colors and won't take up a lot of space in your bag.

When packing, do so lightly and simply. Grab your overnight bag and clothing that

doesn't wrinkle easily. Ladies, a breezy dress and some sandals are perfect for any day-time exploring you might be doing. And look for classic, casual jewelry to wear while you're out and about. Curated's Jones Market necklaces are made of cotton and wood, so you don't have to worry about anything getting tangled in your bag. But for dinner, trade the necklace for a shawl. Bishop Boutique carries a beautiful lavender Julie Collection shawl that will add a pop of color to your outfit and keep you warm as the evening temperatures drop.

If you're bringing the kids, don't forget some entertainment for the car. Stop by 529 Consign where you'll find coloring mats and flash cards that can be put in a basket for some fun backseat activities. Add drinks and snacks and they should have all they need. S'well bottles are perfect for keeping everyone hydrated because they come in a variety of sizes and keep drinks cool for 24 hours. You can find several colors and patterns at the Shoe Hive. Bag up some trail mix and (hopefully!) you'll have a car full of happy travelers.

Roadtrip Trail Mix

2 cups Virginia peanuts
Half cup of sunflower seeds
Half cup of dried fruit, like cranberries or blueberries
Half cup of something sweet, like chocolate chips or M&Ms
Mix all ingredients and package in an airtight bag or portion out individual servings in small mason jars.

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Spots to Pencil in for Restaurant Week

The city's offerings are their most diverse ever.

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's summertime Restaurant Week is back in action for another season, and diners will find plenty of options that are sure to appeal to every appetite. Here are three to be sure to try.

Carluccio's, 100 King St.

For a taste of Italy, Carluccio's has made quite a name for itself on lower King Street since opening last year. For breakfast, lunch, or dinner, you'll find couples, families, and colleagues lingering over a cup of coffee or glass of wine in their outdoor tables — and an indoor dining room.

The eatery is offering a three-course menu filled with some of the restaurant's favorites, from a funghi crostini appetizer to a summer vegetable soup; half-moon agnolotti filled with burrata cheese or truffle bavette, steak grilled with rosemary potatoes and truffle butter; and a spongy zuccotto cake with whipped cream for dessert, to name a few.

Bombay Curry Company, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

Variety is the watchword with Del Ray's Bombay Curry Company, a perennial neighborhood favorite. When it comes to Restaurant Week, the sky's the limit: The dinner menu offers a starter to share, two entrees, and two desserts for \$35, with nary a limitation to be found.

For an appetizer, the samosas are well worth your time. Flaky and airy, these potato-filled pastries are the perfect way to whet your appetite for the main event. And about that main event: The thali is a wonderful way to see the culinary world, offering diners a taste of several vegetarian Indian favorites — from the spinach-rich saag paneer to lentil dal — all on one plate. Or try one of Bombay Curry's biryanis, rice medleys mixed with chicken, lamb, or vegetables and plenty of aromatic spices.

Save the rice pudding for a sweet finish to the meal and toast this neighborhood gem.

The Majestic, 911 King St.

The newly renovated Majestic has hopped



Sit outside or dine indoors at Carluccio's during Restaurant Week.

right into the Restaurant Week game with a passel of menu options to give diners a taste of what the newly staffed kitchen is offering.

From an appetizer of stone fruit salad, diners can have a choice of three entrees and two desserts. The Cheshire pork chop is especially appealing, served with polenta

and balsamic cherries alongside, and for dessert, you'd be crazy to miss out on the famous Majestic coconut cake. Although the Nutella budino is certainly worthy of attention as well. Better bring a dinner date!

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Exhibit: "The Silent World."

Through Aug. 27, 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 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 to conversations about the way creative nature changes over time. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

Exhibit: "FUN-derful." Through Aug. 28, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites you to a curated exhibit humorous art. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

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.kathrynhornconeway.com for more.

"Dotted Space." Through Aug. 28, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit will feature site-specific installations and a series of artist pop-up books that use dotted lines to demarcate rectilinear spaces. When viewed from

a particular angle, the dotted lines seem like three-dimensional shapes, some of which appear to penetrate the gallery walls. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Cool Yoga. Wednesdays through Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. at Just ASK Publications and Professional Development parking lot, 1900 Mount Vernon Ave. Cool Yoga is a community event taught by Maureen Clyne. Each class ends with a Senzu Juicery "After Party" with complimentary cold pressed juices. Free. Visit www.prasadayoag.com for more.

Family Golf Days. Through Aug. 31, all day at Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike. Parents pay for their 9-hole round of golf and their son or daughter (ages 8-17) will receive their round and a pull cart rental for free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc for more.

Latin Expressions Exhibit. Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Two dozen artists have contributed to an exhibit titled "Magic and Color." Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

"Materialized Magic." Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Art Center will house a colony of handmade fabled creatures in the New Project Studio for the month of August. Led by Virginia artists Stacy Cantrell and Erika Cleveland, more than 130 local volunteers spent nearly a year crocheting, felting, and knitting all of the flora and fauna featured in "Materialized Magic: Mythical Creatures in a Yarn Artistry Habitat." Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org 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.

Call for Artists: "Día de los Muertos." Through Sept. 9, 5 p.m. Arlington Arts Center is accepting submission for an annual exhibit. Free to apply Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org for more.

Summer Chamber Series. Sundays, through Sept. 11, 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association presents the 26th annual chamber music series. Free. Visit wmpamusic.org for more.

Exhibit: Kit Keung Kan. Through Sept. 18, 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.

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

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured

represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

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

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.

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ENTERTAINMENT



On Saturday, Aug. 27, 12-3 p.m. families are invited to a day of 18th century crafts and games. Decorate an 18th century fan, paint a selfie (self-portrait), make a necklace, and have the chance to play colonial games such as Graces, and Hoop and Stick. This event is designed for children ages 3-12, but all are welcome. Free. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. 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.

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.

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/AUG. 18

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the demonstration gardens with Master Gardener docents. Hear about Green Spring's history, educational mission and more. Tickets are \$32. Visit Call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987 to register.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Garden Fresh Garden Dinner. 6-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Enjoy a four-course meal paired with Port City beers. Tickets are \$75. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500

Shenandoah Road. Owen Hammett conducts the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

AUG. 19-28

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week. Various times throughout Alexandria. For 10 days and two weekends, more than 50 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 20

National Honeybee Day. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Meet a beekeeper, see the inside of a beehive, learn a bee dance, join a bee scavenger hunt and learn how bees are important to our food supply. You can get tips on growing a pollinator garden and purchase your own pollinator starter garden. Tickets are \$12. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Beeswax Votive Candles Workshop. 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about the materials, wicks, waxes, fragrances and containers needed for making poured beeswax jar candles. Pour two votive candles to take home. Tickets are \$35 for Fairfax County residents, \$37 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

FootGolf National Championship Qualifier. 2 p.m. at Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike. The tournament combining soccer and golf is open to all skill levels, including beginners. Participants receive a swag bag, food and beverage specials and discounted merchandise. Tickets are \$22 for American FootGolf League members, \$27 for non-members. Visit www.footgolf.us for more.

Summer Concert. 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Howard University's DuPont Brass performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. lessons, 7:30-10 p.m. dance at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 26

Film Screening: “Zootopia.” Movie starts at dusk, activities start at 6 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit www.fourmilemovieseries.com.

Movies Under the Stars: “Alice in Wonderland.” 8 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. The public is invited to attend an outdoor movie on a three-story high movie screen. Free. Call 703-746-5592 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Swim for Engie. 8-10 a.m. at Hunting Park Pool, 7000 Canterbury Lane. Alexandria Masters Swimming is holding a swimathon for Inova’s Schar Cancer Institute in honor of Engie Mokhtar. It is open to the public of all ages who can swim laps. Registration fee is \$5. Visit www.crowdrise.com/SwimforEngie2016.

Carlyle House Family Event. 12-3 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Decorate an 18th century fan, paint a selfie (self-portrait), make a necklace and play colonial games. This event is designed for children ages 3-12, but all are welcome. Free. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Ice Cream at Historic Huntley. 1 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Make and enjoy hand-cranked ice cream as Huntley’s Harris family may have done. Discover how the histories of ice cream and Huntley follow a similar path from elite luxury to family fare. Tour of ice well and Historic Huntley House included. Tickets are \$8 for Fairfax County residents, \$10 for residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

Face Off 2016 Reception. 1-4 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Three painters will all be painting the same model, live in the gallery. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 27-28

Begonia Show and Sale. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, 12-3:30 p.m. Sunday at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm.

SUNDAY/AUG. 28

Children’s Art Workshop. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artist Kit-Keung Kan offers a workshop for children based on his art in “Fall, Waves, and White Water.” Free. Call 703-548-0035 for reservations.

Lesson Zero. 7 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Free. Visit www.myspace.com/lessonzero.

AUG. 27-SEPT. 23

Face Off 2016. Gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Face Off 2016 is a live painting demonstration and exhibition of new works by artists Cindy Prociuous, Mia Bergeron and Elizabeth Floyd. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 29

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-cha, and samba. For beginning and



Ceramic mugs crafted by potter Dan Finnegan.

‘Fire and Earth’ Opens Sept. 2

The “Fire and Earth” exhibit celebrates two classical elements in a hybrid exhibit that combines a National ceramic cup exhibit with a regional 2-D exhibit. This exhibit honors how fire in the kiln transforms earth (clay) into functional drinking vessels. The exhibit is juried by Dan Finnegan, a nationally and internationally recognized potter. The exhibit will hang at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

advanced dancers. Tickets are \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998.

AUG. 30-SEPT. 25

Exhibit: “A Solo in Abstract.” 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artist Donna K. McGee works in large format abstract acrylics. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

AUG. 30-OCT. 2

Exhibit: “Explorations Part II.” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center – Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Artists derive inspiration from contemporary explorations: Africa, the Amazon, North and South Poles, Mount Everest, and more. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

SEPT. 1-OCT. 9

Blackberry Daze. Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. This is an adaptation from the novel “Blackberry Days of Summer” by Ruth P. Watson. Tickets are \$60. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

SEPT. 2-OCT. 2

Art Exhibit: “Fire and Earth.” Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Fire and Earth” exhibit celebrates these classical elements in a hybrid show combining a National ceramic cup exhibit with a regional 2-D show, exploring how fire transforms earth. The exhibit is juried by Dan Finnegan, an internationally recognized potter. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Step back in time and join “Lady Washington” for a cozy fireside tea as she shares memories of her and the General’s life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at their beloved Mount Vernon. Following the program, guests are invited to a

self-guided exploration of the estate and Mount Vernon’s beautiful decorative arts collection. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 6

The Twig Thrift Shop Reopens. 10 a.m. at 106 N. Columbus St. The Twig Thrift Shop is full of men’s and women’s clothing, furnishings, jewelry, household goods, books, art and collectibles. Free to attend. Visit www.thetwig.org for more.

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

SEPT. 6-OCT. 16

Photo Exhibit: “Never Forget.” 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at Multiple Exposures Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The photographs in this exhibit follow photographer Alan Sislen’s 15-year photographic journey beginning before 9/11, and continuing today. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

Gentleman Distiller: Whiskey Tasting & Dinner. 6:30-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. The evening begins with a reception at George Washington’s Distillery & Gristmill, where guests will get a first-hand look at how whiskey was produced in Washington’s time. The event continues on the estate with a brief talk by Mount Vernon’s resident distiller, followed by a whiskey tasting and seated dinner at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Tickets are \$125. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

The Cecilian Players. 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Violinist Sonya Hayes, clarinetist Parker Gaims, cellist Igor Zubovsky and pianist John McCrary will perform a program including the Clarinet Trio of Robert Kahn and the Second Piano Trio of Saint –Saens. Free, but donations accepted. Contact John

McCrary at jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or 703-998-6100 x 103 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 9-11

Hope Fest. Various times at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Find youth concert and community basketball game. Free. Email Info@cityofhopemetro.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

9/11 Heroes Run. 8:30 a.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Honor our military and first responders and remember those who died on 9/11 and in the wars since. Registration is \$22.50-80. Visit www.911heroesrun.org for more.

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

Civil War Artillery Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. The program features reenactors from the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery, a Union regiment that was stationed at Fort Ward during the Civil War. The unit will interpret the duties and soldier life of typical artillerymen assigned to forts in the Washington area. Activities will include cannon firing demonstrations in the restored Northwest bastion of the fort, artillery equipment displays, and camp life scenarios. Visitors can also view the Museum exhibit, “The Art of the Artilleryman in the Defenses of Washington,” which features a variety of original equipment and personal items. Free. Visit www.fortward.org for more.

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Step back in time and join “Lady Washington” for a cozy fireside tea as she shares memories of her and the General’s life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at their beloved Mount Vernon. Following the program, guests are invited to a self-guided exploration of the estate

and Mount Vernon’s beautiful decorative arts collection. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SEPT. 10-21

33rd Annual Senior Olympics. Various times at various locations. Participants over 50 years old will participate in track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, scrabble, duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mexican train dominoes, pickleball, racquetball, handball, volleyball, badminton, bocce, eight ball pool, cycling, horseshoes, yo-yo tricks, American style Mah Jongg, 5K run and more. Admission varies based on event. Visit www.nvso.us.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

The George Washington Patriot Run. 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Run the first USATF-certified road race to enter George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Organized by Mount Vernon and the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, the race will take runners up the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Return down the Parkway to trace Washington’s footsteps through the historic area at Mount Vernon. Registration is \$50, spectator tickets are \$10. Visit www.mountvernon.org/run for more.

Photo Exhibit Opening Reception: “Never Forget.” 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The photographs in this exhibit follow photographer Alan Sislen’s 15-year photographic journey. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

Garden Talk: Grow Beautiful Bulbs. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Colorful bulbs can turn an ordinary garden into extraordinary. Planted in mass displays, small groupings or containers, they are a welcome sight in any garden. Learn from master gardeners about a variety of beautiful bulbs and how to plant and care for them. Admission is \$10 for county residents, \$12 for out-of-county residents. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 16-17

Children’s Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Call 703-971-7957 to become a seller, or email CUMC.CCS@gmail.com for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Lush Autumn Container Workshop. 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. With creative help from horticulturalist Nancy Olney, pair colorful edibles and showy tender perennials for a lush autumn mix of container plants that are sure to grab attention. Admission is \$35 for county residents, \$37 for out-of-county residents, plus a supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Case Remodeling Seminar. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Case Mosaic Tile Showroom, 821 S. Pickett St. Case Design/Remodeling experts will help participants gain insight into the latest trends and different levels of kitchen and bath remodeling, as well as project timeframes and budgeting.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Free. Visit www.casedesign.com

Barley & Music Fest. 12-6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park. Attend the first annual Barley & Music Fest to find over a dozen craft breweries, music, and more. Admission to the festival is free, but drink tickets are \$15 for 5, additional tastes may be purchased for \$1. Visit www.barleymusicfest.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 17-18

Colonial Market And Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at King Street from Washington Street to the Potomac River waterfront. Outdoor Art Festival featuring multiple art vendors on King Street between Washington and Union Streets with over six blocks of artwork by more than 200 artists. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com/cities/alexandria.

Kingstowne Area Arts Show. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Sunday at Snyder Center, 6450 S. Van Dorn St. Work in a variety of media will be on display. Free. Visit www.kingstowneartists.org for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 20

Beating the Odds: Using Indirect Evidence to Solve Brick Walls 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist

Vic Dunn talks about using various types of indirect evidence to "prove" relationships when direct evidence is lacking. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-768-4101.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Civil War Talk. 12-1:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St. Washington Street UMC will host a lunch talk on the church's history as a hospital during the Civil War. The speaker will be church member Mark Tooley, who has written books and articles on the Civil War and church history. Free. Call 703-836-4324.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also fresh produce from a nearby farm, entertainment provided by a guest guitarist and two local pianists. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net or call 703-765-4342 for more.

75th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 75th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and

may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N. Columbus St. Visit www.thetwig.org/homes-tour for more.

Garden Program: All About Figs.

10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Smithsonian Gardens educator Cindy Brown will share some history and fun facts about figs. Learn how to successfully grow a delicious crop of figs and get a few recipes to try at home. Admission is \$15 for county residents, \$17 for out-of-county residents. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Workshop: Autumn Seed

Collecting. 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Join horticulturist Judy Zatsick to learn the basics of seed saving: when and how to collect seed, cleaning, drying and labelling seed, how to store your seeds and when to plant them for best results. Admission is \$18 for county residents, \$20 for out-of-county residents, plus a supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Mount Vernon Celebration! A Community Showcase. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. The 2016 Celebration will feature a church choir competition. Inova will provide health screenings and the Bloodmobile will come for a community blood drive. Free. Visit www.celebrationmvl.org.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Family Fall Festival. 12-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Find activities for kids, live music, food trucks, beer, wine, and

more. Tickets are \$20 for adults, free for children 13 and under. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Step back in time and join "Lady Washington" for a cozy fireside tea as she shares memories of her and the General's life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at their beloved Mount Vernon. Following the program, guests are invited to a self-guided exploration of the estate and Mount Vernon's beautiful decorative arts collection. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Run! Geek! Run! 8 a.m. at Potomac Yard. All proceeds from Run! Geek! Run! will go directly to support the nonprofit Capitol Post. Capitol Post offers veterans in the Washington, DC., region personalized guidance through mentoring, business counseling, and access to key resources, programs, and leaders. Their mission is to establish and cultivate the top community for veterans to start a business, grow a business or explore a new career. Registration is \$30-50. Visit www.rungeekrun.net for more.

Family Fun: Fall Flower Tea Party. 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a small bouquet to take home and sample different flower teas. Admission is \$15 for county residents, \$17 for out-of-county residents. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

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TABLE 1
Alexandria City Public Schools
Federal SOL Performance by School: 2013-14, 2014-15 & PRELIMINARY 2015-16

School	Content Area														
	Reading			Mathematics			History			Science			Writing ^a		
	Final 2014	Final 2015	Prel. 2016	Final 2014	Final 2015	Prel. 2016	Final 2014	Final 2015	Prel. 2016	Final 2014	Final 2015	Prel. 2016	Final 2014	Final 2015	Prel. 2016
John Adams	63%	68%	74%	65%	69%	59%	81%	76%	91%	47%	52%	58%	75%	N/A	N/A
Charles Barrett	76%	87%	89%	81%	90%	87%	87%	95%	95%	83%	88%	88%	73%	N/A	N/A
Patrick Henry	62%	74%	79%	61%	68%	84%	70%	84%	88%	62%	68%	67%	65%	N/A	N/A
Jefferson-Houston	45%	57%	60%	40%	58%	63%	51%	51%	58%	34%	60%	57%	31%	28%	40%
Cora Kelly	65%	78%	76%	72%	83%	79%	77%	86%	70%	63%	67%	46%	71%	N/A	N/A
Lyles-Crouch	86%	89%	95%	85%	86%	92%	94%	98%	97%	89%	93%	92%	90%	N/A	N/A
Douglas MacArthur	73%	77%	76%	73%	80%	72%	89%	82%	84%	80%	82%	73%	74%	N/A	N/A
George Mason	77%	75%	81%	73%	75%	78%	93%	90%	93%	89%	83%	79%	88%	N/A	N/A
Matthew Maury	78%	80%	83%	85%	83%	82%	81%	79%	90%	82%	82%	77%	80%	N/A	N/A
Mount Vernon	61%	64%	65%	67%	69%	70%	65%	85%	87%	67%	51%	59%	61%	N/A	N/A
James Polk	60%	69%	71%	73%	75%	73%	80%	84%	80%	71%	67%	78%	78%	N/A	N/A
William Ramsay	48%	64%	59%	46%	52%	53%	57%	76%	56%	33%	61%	42%	42%	N/A	N/A
Samuel Tucker	72%	78%	80%	70%	78%	78%	86%	88%	89%	68%	78%	76%	86%	N/A	N/A
Francis C. Hammond ^b		60%	68%		60%	69%		80%	89%		66%	67%		60%	63%
George Washington ^b		76%	76%		77%	72%		77%	80%		73%	71%		74%	70%
TC Williams	82%	79%	79%	60%	66%	59%	77%	75%	74%	68%	68%	72%	81%	76%	75%
Division	66%	71%	73%	64%	69%	68%	76%	77%	77%	66%	68%	69%	71%	70%	69%

^a Final 2013-14 results include 5th grade writing scores.

^b Based on the middle schools' reconfiguration, data for this school year were not made available by VDOE.

Department of Accountability
Data as of August 6, 2016

Results from Alexandria's Standards of Learning tests.

City Schools' Testing Scores on the Rise

FROM PAGE 1

you're looking at three-year results, there's variability, but there's momentum. If we continue to sustain our focus, we will continue to see progress."

Several schools have shown substantial improvements. Aside slight exceptions in one year for science and writing, Jefferson-Houston improved steadily in every category over the last three years. The school's math scores jumped from 40 percent in 2014 to 58 percent in 2015, then again to 63 percent in 2016.

A few problems remain. Across several schools that saw dramatic score increases in 2015 there were one percent decreases in 2016, which Crawley said was common balancing. Throughout the school district, scores in "writing" saw a minor but steady decline over the last two years, from 71 percent in 2014 to 69 percent in 2016. Crawley said this was part of a national trend in declining writing scores. However, Crawley said after these results that the schools will take another look at how writing is taught in the schools.

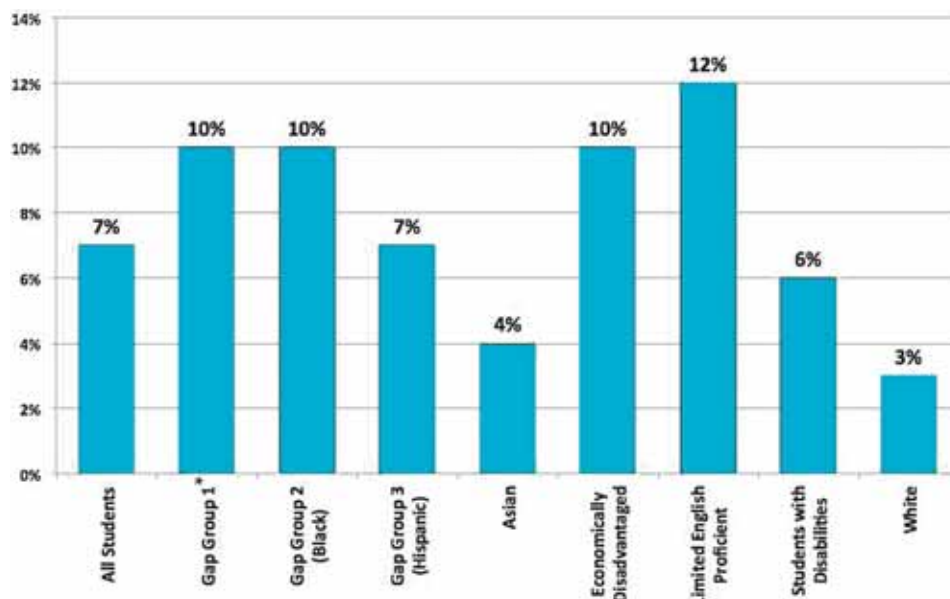
"This is not a quick fix," said Crawley. "It takes time, but I think we're on the right

path."

While most schools saw fluctuations or increases across the five categories, T.C. Williams High School had an overall three-year decline in every category except science. Crawley said the data is fresh and the schools still need to do an item-by-item analysis of the assessment with the individual school leadership teams. Currently, principals from the Alexandria schools are planning for the upcoming year with their school leadership teams. Crawley said these groups will look at the testing data before sending their plans to the central office for approval.

At T.C. Williams, Principal Jesse Dingle made it clear that math is the school's priority. T.C. Williams had the highest scores in writing from throughout the school district and ranked average for the other categories, but fell to 59 percent for math in 2016, a seven percentage point drop from 2015.

Our biggest focus is on math," said Dr. Dingle. "We had a drop [in math] this year. Sometimes, when there's big gains, you see a drop. That's what happened in math, and when you look across the state that's com-



Reading score increases for various student populations between 2014 and 2016.

mon."

Dingle said the school's leadership team is currently looking at the data and looking for ways to incorporate math across the curriculum.

"We always want to make sure students are being successful," said Dingle, "and we're continuing to look at the data to see what is successful and what is not. [T.C. Williams] is about continual improvement."



Mayor Allison Silberberg shows her batting technique.



Children run the bases at one of the activity stations.

'Play Ball' Initiative Strikes Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

to something non-traditional for a lot of these kids," said Bertha Coleman, recreation coordinator with the City of Alexandria, who runs the Power Program summer camp. "Most of the kids around here prefer football and basketball."

But for Slover, there's something special about baseball that makes it important for children to learn. "Baseball is an individual and a team sport at the

same time," said Slover. "You have to work hard on both levels. It teaches self-discipline."

Slover says the program is also huge on teaching good sportsmanship. After each game, Slover says the opposing team picks a player on the team based on their sportsmanship and hustle during the game.

"We try to make that a centerpiece," said Slover, "and most of all, the kids have to have fun, or else you're going to lose them."

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Obituary

Vincent A. "Chip" Carlin III, Vice Chairman of the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review - Old & Historic District, died unexpectedly in his home on July 29th, at the age of 62.

Chip was born on August 6, 1953 in Maryland to the late Vincent A. Carlin and Harriet Grimes Carlin. Chip grew up locally on Church Street, at the southern end of Old Town. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in architecture, and moved back to Alexandria to practice locally. He renovated his first property on Commerce Street in 1979. Chip later founded his own architectural business, The Carlin Company. Chip is survived by his son, Jack Thomas Carlin Harrell, and many loving friends and family from Virginia to Kentucky.

Funeral services will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church located at 310 S. Royal St in Alexandria at 12:00pm, followed immediately by a celebration of Chip's life at St. Mary's Lyceum.

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-08-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide a Grade Level Feasibility Study.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-08-05 Grade Level Feasibility Study will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 30, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

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Procurement Manager

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-08-02

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for a Phonics Program at John Adams Elementary School.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-08-02 Phonics Program will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 22, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPS web site.

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

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-07-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Commissioning Agent Services for Patrick Henry Pre-K8 School and Recreational Facility.

Sealed Proposals with the notation "Commissioning Services", RFP# 16-07-05, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, September 1, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 4:30 p.m., August 26, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

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

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

YANINA TULL, Personal Representative of VIKTOR CHORNYI,

Plaintiff,

Case No: CL 15001224

v.

Kathleen M. Cleland, M.D., et als.

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The reason for this cause is to notify Igo Chorny and Genadij Chorny who are persons having an interest in the estate of Viktor Chorny of a hearing for the purposes of the approval of a compromise settlement in the above-referenced matter on or about September 27, 2016 at 9:00am in the Alexandria Circuit Court. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that Igo and Genadij Chorny, interested persons in the settlement of the above referenced cause, cannot be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the persons to be served, and the last known whereabouts of Igor Chorny was in Ukraine and the last known whereabouts of Genadij Chorny was in Ukraine or Russia.

Upon consideration whereof, this Order of Publication is granted, and is ORDERED that the above-named interested persons do appear here on or before September 27, 2016 which date is no sooner than fifty(50) days after entry of this Order of Publication.

It is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four(4) weeks in the Alexandria Gazette newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Alexandria, Virginia and that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the courthouse wherein this Court is held. Entered this 28th day of July, 2016.

WE ASK FOR THIS:
Wayne Mansulla, Esq VSB#14435
4900 Seminary Rd
Suite 650
Alexandria, VA 22311
Counsel for Plaintiff

C.J. Steuart Thomas, III VSB # 26279
TIMBERLAKE, SMITH, THOMAS & MOSES P.C.
25 North Central Avenue
P.O. Box 108
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Counsel for Liza Do Le, M.D.

21 Announcements

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

On Naming City Streets

To the Editor:

The name of the Jefferson Davis Highway should be changed.

It needs to be pointed out that slavery was not “widely viewed as a normal institution” (Gazette, Aug. 11) in America. Certainly our slave-owning presidents didn’t endorse it. In 1785, for example, Thomas Jefferson tried to get it abolished by Virginia’s legislature. In 1819, James Madison proposed a program of gradual emancipation, with the federal government reimbursing slave owners for their loss of property.

In the event that these American leaders forgot for a moment how hypocritical they were being, British intellectuals were happy to parody their two-faced calls for freedom, and, of course, the French made abolition of slavery here a condition of their helping us in the war, only to be let down.

But in any case, though we can’t do anything about the past, except to understand it better, we can do something about the future. At a minimum: immediate change of the Jefferson Davis Highway’s name, and an agreement, cast into law, that for the next 250 years all our streets will be named either for Alexandrian soldiers or police officers killed in the line of duty, or for renowned African Americans, and, when those names are used up, the names of slaves associated with Alexandria. This will cost nothing and inconvenience no one, and benefit us all.

Elisabeth Vodola
Alexandria

Disservice To the City

To the Editor:

Last week (Aug. 11 edition), you ran a letter concerning Jefferson Davis. That letter, which presented an implied contextual defense of slavery, segregation, and other deprivations of civil rights, was a bizarre aggregation of rhetoric and false-fact.

You have essentially exclusive control over the stories, letters, and editorials that you run. That is your right. You seek to influence, and you do influence, the views of thousands who live, work, and visit here. That is likewise your right. You often decline to run letters to the editor that manifest disagreement with your editorial policies. You are entitled to so refuse.

But your exercise of those rights seems to be peculiarly divorced from the historical and present-day facts of our city. You should commit yourselves to the serious reconsideration of how you should use the power that you have as the oldest press outlet in town. Your choice to run that letter was not an accident; that letter did not leap on to your pages on its own. You made a decision. That decision reflects poorly on you, and does a great disservice to the city.

Mark C. Williams
Alexandria

Editor’s note: The Gazette Packet frequently publishes letters with which it disagrees.

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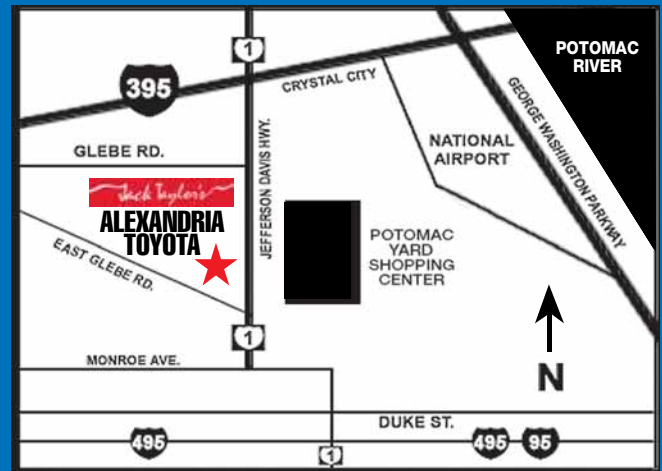
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
**BRAKE SPECIAL
\$99⁹⁵**

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. MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. SALES ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/16.

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 protraction, 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 PURCHASE. SALES ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/16.

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 & cabin air filters. Alexandria Toyota's 27 pt. inspection.

SYNTHETIC OIL \$149.95 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. SALES ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/16.

SUNDAY ONLY SPECIALS
TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE
\$29⁹⁵ \$49⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC PLUS FREE TIRE ROTATION. SYNTHETIC PLUS FREE TIRE ROTATION.

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SUMMER SAVINGS

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.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
QUALITY HAND-WASH VACUUM & WAX
Recommended Every 6 Months
\$139⁹⁵

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

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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 wax 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, seatbelts & windows, and engine cleaning.

All details by appointment only.

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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.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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\$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

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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.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

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

Plus Take **10% OFF** your bill if you choose to perform the repair with us.

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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.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

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• I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats
• Toyota bedliners

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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.

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Sue & Allison Goodhart
703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Old Town **\$850,000**

Historic 4-bedroom home in the heart of Old Town. Classic charm built in 1818 offers spacious rooms, two wood-burning fireplaces, large master with separate library. Enjoy the luxury of living steps to the shops and dining options Old Town has to offer. 307washington.mceneaney.com

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Belle Haven **\$1,525,000**

Better Than New! Classic, gorgeous, brick home in Belle Haven - updated completely with five bedrooms, four full and two half baths! Amazing master suite; kitchen like no other! Outdoor brick patio with fireplace - this is move-in ready! 6012 Grove Drive

Janet Caterson Price
703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



Arlington/Forest Hills **\$762,995**

Renovated 3-level brick townhouse with open staircase, built-in bookcases, updated gourmet kitchen, formal living and dining room, grand master suite with WOW bath, fireplace and walk-in closet! Family room with built-in bookcases and wet bar. Garage and elevator too! A 10+!

Kate Patterson
703.627.2166
www.KatePattersonhomes.com



Seminary Ridge **\$1,050,000**

New on the Market! Freshly painted and hardwood floors refinished. 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath colonial. A cook's kitchen with two dishwashers, gas cooking and top-of-the-line appliances. Full finished basement. A stunning garden with patio. Two-car garage. 4108 Fort Worth Place

Ann Dozier Michael
703.608.5218
www.AnnDozierMichael.com



Alexandria **\$285,000**

Light and spacious, 1,170-square-foot, 2-bedroom plus loft. Updated kitchen. Cathedral ceilings. Built-ins. Wood-burning fireplace. Balcony. Parking. Pool. Pet friendly. 30-minute bus ride to the Pentagon. 6610 Jupiter Hills Circle #J

Chris Fischer
703.930.6349
www.FischerRealEstate.com



Old Town
\$1,174,000

New Price! This 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath Church Square townhouse offers a renovated kitchen with sunny breakfast room, spacious master suite with 2 walk-in closets, hardwood floors, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, private patio and 2 off-street parking spaces. Prime location in the heart of Old Town - walk to restaurants, shops, dry cleaners and the Metro. 120 N Columbus Street

Babs Beckwith
703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Potomac Greens
\$935,000

Delightful and convenient! Four-level, three-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath townhouse with roof top deck and two-car garage. Kitchen with granite counters and island open to dining/living room with fireplace on main level all with wood floors. Third bedroom plus den opening to roof deck on top floor. Plantation shutters throughout.

Donna Cramer
703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com



Warwick Village
\$529,900

3-bedroom, 2-bath Warwick Village townhouse on quiet tree-lined street. Large kitchen with plenty of storage opens to living and dining rooms. Expansive back deck with views of the city is the perfect spot to relax or entertain. Finished basement with access to back yard. Short walk to "The Avenue" in Del Ray. 249 Tennessee. mceneaney.com

Jen Walker
703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com