

The Battle Without End

20 feet of space and 127 years of controversy.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

One hundred and twenty-seven years ago, the Rev. G.H. Norton thought the Appomattox Confederate statue would help close the wounds of the Civil War.

“May all hatred and strife be buried in their graves,” Norton said, as recorded in the Alexandria Gazette at the time of the statue’s dedication in 1889. “May the memory of our departed heroes inspire us with patriotic devotion.”

Over a century later, at the Sept. 17 City Council meeting, it was clear that some strife on both sides hadn’t been very deeply buried. In 2015, the City Council voted to establish the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names. The group recommended that the Appomattox statue on South Washington Street should remain in place with efforts made to add context nearby, to rename Jefferson Davis highway, and not to change the names of streets named after Confederates unless petitioned under the existing process. But in a series of unanimous votes, the council moved to not only adopt the changes recommended by the advisory group, but to go one step further. The City Council will ask the state legislature for permission to move the Appomattox statue to the side of the street, on a grass plot in front of The Lyceum.

The success of this petition is unlikely.

“I’m skeptical that we could pass legislation to move it unless the Daughters of the Confederacy [who maintains the statue] are involved,” said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). “There would be skepticism about moving it from a place of prominence. A case would have to be made about why this is different, and I don’t know that there’s a case that could convince my colleagues in the House of Delegates. Even with the Daughters of the Confederacy, it’s unlikely. I’d say it’s close to



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Ray Deakins protests Sept. 21 the decision of Alexandria City Council to petition the Virginia General Assembly for permission to remove the Appomattox statue from the intersection of Prince and Washington streets. A local contractor, Deakins is frustrated by council’s decision to ignore a task force recommendation to let the statue remain in place but with added historical context. The statue of the Confederate soldier is located on the spot where an Alexandria regiment mustered to retreat from the city in 1861. It was erected in 1889 and is inscribed with the names of local soldiers who died fighting for the South.

zero percent.”

A law passed through the General Assembly in 1998 prohibited local governments from altering monuments to wars and veterans. However, the City Council of Danville removed a Confederate flag from a historic site and the ruling in a resulting lawsuit at the circuit court said that the law only applied to monuments and statues built after the law was passed. In response, a bill

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Paving the Way For Stormwater Fee

New fee for residential and commercial properties to be based on permeability.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It might be time to plant some more trees and green up the home. A new stormwater service fee proposed by city staff could be directly tied to the permeability of residential and commercial properties. The fee is the proposed solution to an unfunded mandate by the state requiring one quarter of the city retrofitted for stormwater treatment by 2028.

The city is moving in five-year cycles. The current cycle, phase one, only requires a five percent reduction in stormwater runoff. In 2018, Alexandria enters phase two, which requires a 35 percent reduction.

According to William Skrabak, director of Environmental Quality, the city is so far exceeding its current goals with a 20 percent reduction. To meet the second and third cycle goals, the city will be undergoing a variety of environmental changes to assist with stormwater runoff. These changes include retrofitting lakes and ponds across the city, setting new guidelines for streets with bioretention capabilities, and investing in green roofs as part of the Old Town North plan.

Skrabak says the environmental improvements are expected to cost

\$50 to \$60 million, with the entire cost of projects not already in development being covered by the fee.

“The stormwater utility fee is based on the impervious areas of the home, [which creates] increased stormwater runoff,” said Jesse Maines, water quality compliance specialist for the city. “You pave, you pay.”

Maines said the fees will be based on GIS collected data, which is automatically updated every two years. According to Maines, there will be ways to have the fee reduced. Fee structure and reductions will be detailed in a report in the coming months.

“You pave, you pay.”

— Jesse Maines,
Water Quality
Compliance Specialist,
City of Alexandria

According to Skrabak, all residential properties that fall into one of three general categories will be charged the same unless otherwise granted reductions. Residential properties are divided into condominiums, townhouses, typical single family homes, and large single family homes greater than 2,800 square feet.

According to Yon Lambert, Alexandria’s director of Transportation and Environmental Services, the service fee is intended to replace the half cent tax increase for stormwater management, though whether or not to

SEE ‘YOU PAY,’ PAGE 33

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Just south of the American Horticultural Society, this fabulous home offers sweeping views from the entire back of the house, from the living room, dining room, family room, master bedroom and two enclosed sun porches as well as the covered porch off the main level entertaining rooms. The kitchen is a chef's dream with all the bells and whistles, including a full size temperature controlled wine refrigerator and plenty of room to seat ten at the kitchen island.

The master suite overlooks the river and offers a gas fireplace, sun porch, sumptuous bath with spa tub and separate shower, as well as his and her walk in closets. An additional bedroom on this level offers another bath as well as a sun porch perfect for bird watching!

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Last Stop

Sandy Modell retires from DASH.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Thirty-two years after she started driving buses part time in Harrisonburg in college, Sandy Modell is retiring from her position as CEO and general manager of DASH, the Alexandria transit company. For 28 years, Modell led DASH through massive expansions. Since Modell started, the company has grown from one million passengers on 17 buses to four million passengers across 85 buses.

"You get diesel in your blood," said Modell. "The more I helped people out as a bus driver, the more I realized how important mass transit is."

After working to reform Harrisonburg's bus system, in 1984 Alexandria hired Modell to help start its new DASH bus service. When she came onboard, Modell said the main problem she saw was that most of the routes ran through Braddock Road and Old Town. Getting from Del Ray to Landmark Mall or the hospital in the West End was an all-day affair.

Sandy Modell, CEO and general manager of DASH, says one of her first priorities was to move the city's transportation hub to the more central King Street to allow for more direct routes between the different areas of the city.

"For over 30 years, Sandy [Modell] has been the energetic force behind the growth of DASH," said Paul Abramson, chair of Alexandria Transit Company board of directors. "DASH started as a small system and is now a very important service to the city. She has established very strong relationships and been an advocate for DASH, not only with city officials but also with the community. She really helped create a very affordable, safe, and reliable transit system for this city."

Abramson said Modell's friendly work environment comes from being very involved with the employees and being well connected with them. Around the DASH office, Modell seems to know every driver and mechanic, quickly engaging them in conversations about their life and ambitions. Modell takes great pride in the fact that most of the supervisors and administrators, like Modell, started out as bus drivers or mechanics.

"We are a unique system here," said Modell. "Most of our supervisors have come up through the ranks. There can be a tendency for people's heads to swell, but we want them to remember where they came from. I want them to encourage and coach."

"For over 30 years, Sandy [Modell] has been the energetic force behind the growth of DASH ... She really helped create a very affordable, safe, and reliable transit system for this city."

— Paul Abramson, Chair, Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors.



From left: Shah Shafiq, Sandy Modell, Cyril "Kojo" During, and Mercer Crowder.

We have a team approach here, we're like a big family."

In recent years, Modell says the biggest problem has been lack of funding. Increased congestion has forced DASH to add more buses just to stay on schedule, but budget cuts have made it increasingly difficult to keep up with demand.

"We're three years behind in our long range plan," said Modell. "We still have some routes where we're only running one bus every half hour. You're going to miss a lot of people. There's a budget shortfall in the city, so we're competing with all the other urgent needs, like schools and mental health care. Unfortunately, giving to one means another is losing out. My hope is dedicated funding for DASH and the Metro."

Modell says one of the other major challenges in recent years has been hiring and retaining good drivers.

"Without a driver, that bus won't leave the garage," Modell said. "The baby boomers are retiring. Where are the new drivers and mechanics coming from? No-

body wants to be a heavy duty mechanic or do that kind of work now. We're just not making mechanics and drivers anymore."

Modell says the negative perception of work as a mechanic or a bus driver is a shame, because she says it's an exciting time in the industry.

"There's all kinds of new technology on these buses," said Modell. "I drove buses in my day with no power steering or air conditioning. Now, they talk to you, and we're going to have real-time bus information before I leave."

Modell is retiring to launch the Holistic Hound Academy, a school that aims to teach dogs and their owners about positive reinforcement and how to integrate training into everyday life.

"It's been my vision and dream of open-



DASH bus in repairs at the facilities headquarters off of Duke Street.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



Sandy Modell, CEO and general manager of DASH

ing a canine academy, and when I look at my age and the future, I don't know that I could expend that energy into opening up a brick and mortar location in another five years."

As the city looks for a replacement for Modell, she says her successor will need to be innovative to address growing demand with tighter budgets.

"DASH needs someone willing to look at challenges as

opportunities, who reaches out to the community and likes to talk to customers," said Modell. "I would tell that person: go to civic associations and business meetings. Stay alert for new technology. Be good to your employees; if you treat them right they'll be better to the customers. We have a great thing going here. Don't mess it up."



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News



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS LINDSEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Service Dogs Take a Plunge

Every year the Northern Virginia Park Authority has Dog Days at all of its water parks when they are closing for the season. On Saturday, Sept. 10, local dogs from Canine Partners for Life enjoyed an afternoon of swimming at Great Waves Water Park on Eisenhower Avenue.



Gina Tatum and her dog Muzzy (a seizure alert dog). “We’re very lucky to have our pups,” she said.



Toni Popkin and her dog Bud. “Our dogs change our lives,” she said.



Canine Partners for Life, based out of Cochranville, Pa., is a nationally growing organization. The dogs help with mobility, get phones, open refrigerators, pick up dropped items, pay for things on behalf of their owners, and detect health or behavior changes. They must complete a two-year training period, and have to be paired with a specific person, matching the dog’s skills with the person’s needs.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers to participate in a free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in

Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

The Alexandria Library will be celebrating Library Card Sign-Up Month with the launch of its newly designed library cards. Customers

can select from four colors: lime, magenta, teal and white. Replacement cards are free through Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016. After that, replacement cards will be \$2. During the month, visit a different library and collect a sticker. Visit four of the six branches, and be eligible to receive giveaways and prizes. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or contact Anton Murray at 703-746-1770.

THROUGH SEPT. 22

Fall 2016 Classes. The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) is currently offering beginning level English language and literacy, writing, family learning program for parents and their children, and free

skills-based conversation practice classes to adults who wish to learn how to read, write, and speak English. Classes are available in Alexandria, Annandale, Falls Church, Herndon, Lorton, and Springfield. Call the Literacy Council at 703-575-7900 or visit www.lcnv.org/students/class-schedule.

Car Free Day 2016. Taking the pledge to go car free or car-lite automatically makes you eligible to win great prizes such as Capital Bikeshare annual memberships, SmarTrip Cards loaded with fare, retail and restaurant gift cards. Visit www.CarFreeMetroDC.org for more.

Caring for Mental Wellness. 10-11:30 a.m. at Charles Houston Senior Center, 901 Wythe St. "Caring for

Mental Wellness: For You or Someone You Know." September is Virginia Senior Mental Health Month. Hear from local experts that depression is not a normal part of aging and learn about help that is available and effective techniques for treatment. The event is free with light refreshments. Go to seniorservicesalex.org to register.

Braddock Implementation Advisory Group Meeting. 6 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Seniors Room. The Braddock Implementation Advisory Group welcomes community members to attend and participate. Open House on Ramsey

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15



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Betty Crump



(Left to right) Ted Johnson, Erik Dorn, Shannon Catlett, Charlie Collum, Pam De Candio and Kerry Donley

PEOPLE

Stetanova's Secret: Plenty of Coffee

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Kremena Stetanova opens the Caboose Cafe and Bakery on Mt. Vernon in Del Ray Monday and Thursday and leaves at 2:30 p.m. Other days are regular hours. "Well first I turn on the lights and make sure there is plenty of coffee. That's the biggest thing, then put out the muffins."

Stetanova says for the first hour and a half people are getting caffeinated as they are driving to work. You can't run out of coffee. "Maybe they get a muffin; chocolate chip is the favorite, or maybe an apple turnover or a bacon burrito. Almost anything you see around here we bake ourselves at night." She says sometimes the school children from the elementary school across the street grab a muffin for breakfast or something for their lunchbox or they come after school for a snack.

The door opens and Nathan Giordano walks to the counter and orders an afternoon coffee. He says he lives in Del Ray, close enough to walk, and likes to come in for the breakfast sandwich, avocado and tomato on a croissant with egg.

Stetanova says it is time to call and check her wholesale bread accounts. "They order every day." She asks, "What time did you say, 10?"

Two shelves behind the counter are stacked with multi-grain bread, baguettes, pain de campagne and sourdough. "My favorite is the ciabatta, especially the bellefonte sandwich." Stetanova says, "We deliver every morning — bread only. But the whole menu can be ordered takeout."

Stetanova was born in Bulgaria but came to America in 1999. "It was tough times." She says, "Oh I got started, I have always loved serving and making food. It is a very rewarding experience." Her uncle used to own a restaurant in Bulgaria and she worked with him in high school and through college. "Well, I really started by emptying ashtrays." Now she is a licensed food manager at the Caboose Cafe location in Del Ray.

The phone rings and Stetanova says, "I can work a little late until 4:30 but I have tickets for my chil-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Kremena Stetanova, licensed food manager at Caboose Cafe and Bakery on Mount Vernon Avenue, says this is a very neighborhood place and she knows many of the regulars and what they will order.

dren to the planetarium tonight. Did you know that T.C. Williams opens up its planetarium to the public once a month?" She says her 10-year old daughter and twin 8-year old sons are "dying to come here. Sometimes if her husband doesn't want to make breakfast they stop in to see what mommy is doing."

The menu in this Ethiopian-run family restaurant highlights vegan Ethiopian entrees followed by Ethiopian meat entrees and then a number of American standards. She says a customer favorite is the beef alitchar described as chunks of beef with carrots, potatoes and turmeric. The postman stops in to drop off a large box which turns out to be new stainless steel carafes to hold cream for the coffee. The postman is replaced at the counter by Andrew Cohen, who works up the road and estimates he has been coming here for 10 years. "Everything here is great." Today it's a southwest salad. A customer returns her plate from a table outside. "Baba chicken pita — my fav." Stetanova says, "It's pretty slow right now."

Stetanova says this is a real neighborhood restaurant. The man with the bright flowered shirt in the corner has been coming for about 23 years. He orders the soups and likes it because they make their own bread and it is a real family thing. Stetanova says, "We have the most amazing customers and most are regulars. We know them by name and what they will order. See I knew he is having the lentil soup today."



Kremena Stetanova checks her regular bread orders mid-afternoon. She says Caboose Cafe bakes their own bread at night in the kitchen in back and delivers it the next morning.



Andrew Cohen stops by the Caboose Cafe regularly for lunch since his work is just down the way. He says everything is great but finally settles on a Southwest Salad.



At King Street Art Festival

The 14th Annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival was held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17-18.

On white pedestals, some of the glass and acrylic sculptures by Will Grant of Bradenton, Fla.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MUMFORD/GAZETTE PACKET



Artist Garry Childs of Rougemont, N.C., with his display of pottery.



Paul Kosek of Alexandria makes a purchase of a pixelated Lincoln print from artist Cat Clausen of Dwight, Ill.

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'A Labor of Love'

Historic Homes Tour celebrates 75 years.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Dr. William Brown House, considered one of Old Town's most prominent and historic homes, will be one of six homes featured Sept. 24 in the 75th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour benefitting the Twig Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital.

"We have six unbelievable homes this year," said co-chair Elizabeth Wilmot. "The owners of these homes have generously stepped up to make our 75th anniversary tour special."

Wilmot calls the tour "a labor of love" for Twig members and has been working with co-chair Terry Fuller throughout the summer organizing the tour as well as the Diamond Jubilee fundraiser, scheduled for Sept. 23 at Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota.

"We couldn't do this without donors like Jack Taylor," added Wilmot. "And all proceeds from the tour and Jubilee fundraiser will go towards the Twig's \$1 million pledge for renovations to Inova's Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit."

The Dr. Brown House, located at 212 S. Lee St., is on land once owned by George Washington's brother Augustine. Brown was a close friend of Washington's and his uncle, Dr. Gustavus Brown, attended to the President during his last illness.

"There are so many great stories behind these homes," said tour committee member Roberta Stevens.

In 1969, the Dr. Brown House was purchased by Frank and Betty Wright, founders of the Wright to Read literacy nonprofit.

"The executors of Betty Wright's estate have been very generous in opening their home to the tour," Fuller said. "The Wrights were devoted to preserving the history of this home."

The Historic Alexandria Homes Tour is a self-guided walking tour and is easily navigated over several blocks in Old Town. St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be open as a rest stop on the tour, with donuts donated by Sugar Shack Donuts. The tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and tickets are available online or at The Twig Thrift Shop, 106 N. Columbus St.

The Diamond Jubilee Party is also open to the public. It will be held Sept. 23 from 6-9 p.m. at Jack Taylor's Toyota, 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway. Tickets are available online.

"What you see on this tour is the evolution of Alexandria," Stevens added. "Learning the stories behind these homes you can see how the city has changed from its early years and the turn of the century." For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.TheTwig.org.



The Dr. William Brown House, on land once owned by George Washington's brother Augustine, is one of six Old Town homes featured in the 75th Anniversary Historic Alexandria Homes Tour Sept. 24. Tickets are available online at www.thetwig.org and proceeds will benefit the Twig Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital.



The two-story family room with Palladian windows was added by in 1992.



The old kitchen was added in the 1820s and retains its original crane, andirons and bake oven manufactured by the Baltimore firm of Henry Reip and Sons.



A Waterford chandelier hangs above a Biggs reproduction Federal table in the dining room.

The living room features a circa 1765 Gainsborough armchair along with rare collectibles and artwork.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Terry Fuller and Elizabeth Wilmot, co-chairs of the 75th anniversary Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, are joined by committee members Roberta Stevens and Cindy Golubin Aug. 24 to prepare for the upcoming tour and Diamond Jubilee fundraiser benefitting Inova Alexandria Hospital.



The gardens are situated on an adjacent lot purchased by Dr. William Brown in 1790.

PHOTOS
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OPINION

Patriotic Spending: Investing in Community

BY TIMOTHY WONG
ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA

We often align spending based on our personal interests and well-being, without necessarily thinking about impacting our community. That's where patriotic spending come in to play. Patriotic spending is the utilization of personal assets to benefit our community, cities, and inevitably our country. What it means to spend patriotically is to focus expendable income in a way that directly influences and benefits our country.

We are faced with American corporations who often times offshore manufacturing, tech support, and other aspects of their value supply chain. Reliance on other countries to help us meet bottom lines is not patriotic. Money is being invested in countries where labor laws are less stringent, and "sweat shops" are a cheaper means of meeting production demands. According to Reuters.com, currently large corporations hold close to \$2,100,000,000,000 in other countries to avoid U.S. taxation.

A means to spend patriotically is through local nonprofits. Unlike big corporations, local nonprofits are a way to ensure that every



dollar that you spend is benefiting our neighbors directly. Every cent of every dollar

is either being utilized on programs that affect the communities we live in, as well as paying wages for our neighbors, friends, and relatives. Money is powerful, and empowers individuals to become stake holders for activities and causes they care most about.

The report: "Return on Investment: Alexandria Nonprofit Impact Report" delves into just how important this region is for philanthropic work in the Commonwealth, as well as how nonprofits divide their efforts based on different community demands. "Alexandria is a key driver of nonprofit activity in the Commonwealth of Virginia." This rich and diverse city has a broad range of needs, and many opportunities financially to address them. This is part of what leads to "Northern Virginia accounting for 39 percent of the state's nonprofit activity."

What nonprofits and charities in the area do is help improve the lives of American families.

What is more patriotic than focusing on aiding and assisting current and future generations? The report also shows: Homelessness is just a small portion of what nonprofits in the human services sector are tackling, 17 percent to be precise. Twenty percent goes towards child development and elementary education, 7 percent towards family services, and another 17 percent goes towards garnering support for physical and mental disabilities, workforce development, health and mental services, secondary and adult education as well as other pertinent concerns.

Contributing to local nonprofits is not only a means to donate your money, but it also invests it in a way which directly impacts our immediate surroundings. The work that nonprofits and charities do fills in the gaps where government and corporations are least effective. Ultimately we're left with a choice on how we spend our well-deserved assets. Just remember that to spend patriotically is to invest in our community.

Timothy Wong is the marketing and communications intern at ACT for Alexandria.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History's Lessons

To the Editor:

An open letter to Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Your council voted unanimously to approve changing the name of Jefferson Davis Highway. Do you, your council or anyone who testi-

fied know anything about Jefferson Davis?

In case you don't, here is a little background: he graduated from West Point in 1828 (where he would forge strong relationships with future generals who fought on both sides of the Civil War), served as an officer in the Mexican American War, was elected to Congress (both Houses), and

served as Secretary of War under President Buchanan. While a senator, he authored several bills that helped the Union, including one that started the Soldiers Home in Washington, D.C. that serves indigent veterans to this day. Davis also served as President of the Confederate States. It is written that he did not want or campaign for this office. This new "nation"

called on him to be their leader — so after much angst, he resigned his seat in the U.S. Senate, and became President of the Confederate States. He would later call it the saddest day of his life.

None of Davis' achievements or his sadness for leaving the Senate to take the role of President of the Confederacy or the fact that he owned slaves to work his plantation in his home state of Mississippi can excuse his actions. Most of us in today's world (including me) find the concept of owning another human deplorable, especially as we look back with our 21st century glasses. I do however feel it is possible to be proud of one's southern heritage while at the same time denouncing the inhumane practice of slavery.

I also read that you suggested the name be changed to Patrick Henry Highway. While Mr. Henry was a framer of the United States and an eloquent speaker — most known for his "give me liberty or give me death" speech, this man of liberty also owned slaves, and believed fervently in a limited federal government. These two men had very similar views, and historians suggest that Patrick Henry and other Founding Fathers would have most likely been on the side of the Confederacy.

My point is that if we look deep enough into our past, we are likely find something deplorable about

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTELEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

Homemade Stew

BY BREANNE DRISCOLL
REBUILDING TOGETHER
ALEXANDRIA



When you walk in the front door there is the familiar smell of a special stew, made with honey, warming on the stove. Sixty-eight-year-old Stan has lived in his home near the Braddock Metro neighborhood his entire life; he was actually born in it. It is the last original home on the street and was originally owned by a local abolitionist. He was raised here along with his four siblings and has raised his own son in the same home. He comments, "We were well bred and well fed." His favorite place to be is in his kitchen, and as the stew continues to simmer, Stan has his own special pot of stories and history to share with any interested acquaintance.

He recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of graduating from George Washington High School. In 1964, before T.C. Williams was built, he was part of the first fully integrated class. "I, Stan, was the first black to score a touchdown in George Washington stadium." He was also a star wrestler in high school and is willing to share every last detail of his athletic younger years to anyone willing to listen.

Later on in his life Stan was known as "Stan the Carpet Man" and he will eagerly pull out a portfolio of artistic, geometric carpet designs to demonstrate his work over 37 years. After years of success, times became tough after he suffered a stroke and had to relearn basic tasks. Regardless, Stan

remains active and ventures to the library next to Rebuilding Together Alexandria's office every day to check his email. Stan reached out to Rebuilding Together Alexandria when he had received an application in the mail. The organization was familiar to him as a close neighbor told him about the assistance they had received from us. Stan's home was one of nearly 40 homes repaired by teams on National Rebuilding Day, April 30. The volunteer team replaced the roof on his shed, installed a storm door, installed a new bathroom faucet, removed brush from his yard, and many more needed repairs. The connections he made with the team were ever lasting. Volunteers continue to come every few weeks to help Stan with yard work. Stan wrote in a thank you note that the lead volunteer was, "... the quarterback of the group and demonstrated all the qualities of leadership in which validates females as leaders. Her grasp of logistics and mixing amateurs with professionals was a work of art."

During every pause in the conversation and when you leave his home, Stan will ask you about eating some of that stew. If you do not have some there, you will surely leave with a container in your hand to enjoy for lunch. Do you know neighbor like Stan who could benefit from our services? We encourage you to introduce them to us. For more information, call 703-836-1021 or visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

all famous people. I applaud your desire to right the wrongs of the past, but where do we stop? Do we tear down the street signs, monuments and memorials of every person who made bad decisions and fought on the wrong side of the Civil War?

This week in a book club that I lead in one of our local jails, we discussed biographies of famous Americans. After talking about folks like Hamilton, Jefferson and Lincoln, I asked inmates how they felt about proposed name changes like Jefferson Davis Highway. Our book club is a group of native born Americans — seven white, six black, two from the Middle East, one from El Salvador and one from Greece. The vote in this fairly di-

verse group of men was unanimous to keep the name the same. That was more interesting is that two of the men (both black and in their 60s) grew up in Alexandria, lived through the days of segregation and attended Parker Gray High School were the most adamant about keeping the name as is. Their reasoning was that it is better to keep the past alive so that future generations don't forget the struggles they had to endure. The group also felt the money and effort to change the name could be much better spent on some of the poorer neighborhoods of Alexandria. Others felt it would lead to healthy discussions like the one we had this morning. Even though most of these inmates haven't

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

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OBITUARY

Barbara Fox Mason

The founder and former executive director of The Child and Family Network Centers (CFNC), Barbara Fox Mason, died on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016. For 26 years, Mason worked to create programs beyond preschool services for poor and underserved communities in Alexandria and Arlington.

Barbara led CFNC since its beginning in 1984. That year, she joined a group of women living in a housing project in Alexandria, and founded the Alexandria Community Network Preschool (now The Child & Family Network Centers).

From that beginning, she was the driving force behind CFNC's growth from one preschool serving six children to a comprehensive model program, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. CFNC now serves 136 disadvantaged children each year – at no cost – who otherwise would be at risk for school failure.

"CFNC exists because of the fierce devotion she had to the children in the community and her desire that they get a strong start," said current CFNC Executive Director Lissette Bishins. "There is no doubt that she forever changed many lives."



Throughout her tenure at CFNC, Mason received leadership awards from the Washington Area Women's Foundation and the Alexandria Commission of Women for "Outstanding Achievement in Public Education." She was also recognized on two separate occasions by Volvo America: as one of America's top 100 Heroes (out of 4,500 nominees) in 2005 and was one of five heroes selected from Virginia as a semifinalist for the 2007 Volvo for Life Awards.



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OPINION



Alexandria's Poetry Fence

BY WENDI R. KAPLAN

*Poetry is eternal graffiti written
in the heart of everyone.*

— LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI

Some fences enclose, some simply stand without evident function. Some fences provide protection, privacy, or announce a boundary. Renee Adams shows us that indeed *good fences make good neighbors*.

On the quiet corner of Windsor and DeWitt avenues here you will find the weathered, grey Poetry Fence that Renee Adams has created next to her vibrant garden in her Del Ray neighborhood. This fence is an evolving piece of art where she hangs poems, pictures and quotations that she changes weekly and reflects a theme or a season, the current theme being "Blackberries."

POETRY CONVERSATIONS

Renee is a native daughter of Alexandria. She has loved literature all of her life and has written poetry since she was 12 years old. She can still recite her first poems easily. Retired now from the Library of Congress Renee has a long, abiding love of words.

Years ago, when her sons were in school, Renee would pack their lunches and be sure to add a poem to the lunchbox. Her sons would share the poems with their friends. After her sons left for college and eventually found their own paths, Renee found a box of these lunchbox poems and thought she should share them. She began by stapling some on her fence. Then, after noticing how people would stop and read them to themselves and their children and sometimes their dogs, Renee added bulletin boards to showcase several poems. On one end of the fence she hangs adult poems and



on the other children's poems. Now the fence is cheerfully covered with laminated poetry and illustrations for everyone to read and enjoy.

The poetry fence is an Alexandria treasure and well worth a visit. If you are lucky, you may get to talk to Renee as well.

In one of her original poems Renee illustrates her own unique perspective and how the fence and poetry come together.

Poetry Fence

*The leaning wooden fence holds poetry
chosen inside the nearby house from
many volumes, typed up, tacked up,
a way station to entice the passersby to stop
and read.*

*Their dogs appreciate the time to sniff
the other dogs who've wended by, to
question*

*who has been that way before,
their form of meditation while their
humans stop.*

*It's not a Facebook wall, no digital waves
allowing instant feedback to the poster,
no sound bytes to speak the superficial as
mundane.*

*This analog chautauqua doesn't snark and
bark*

*them to agreement with pronouncements
like a cable station. It does what all good
poetry does: asks them, in their solitude,
to pause, to read, to think, to question, and
to feel.*

— RENEE ADAMS

Thank you Renee Adams for reminding us that poetry belongs everywhere.

WENDI R. KAPLAN IS POET LAUREATE OF
ALEXANDRIA.

Swann-Daingerfield Hosts Nursing School's 40th Reunion

BY DIANE DIPPOLD MACINTOSH,
PH.D.

The elegant Federal style mansion on the corner of Prince and S. Columbus streets has also been called stylistically "Italianate," "Second Empire," "Greek Revival" and "almost Spanish Baroque." Architecturally speaking it is all these things. But the nurses who streamed through the ornate double-entrance doors of Swann-Daingerfield House Friday evening, Sept. 9, simply called it "home."

Turns out the Alexandria Hospital School of Nursing (AHSN) — the school itself opened in 1894 — was located at Swann-Daingerfield from 1943 to 1973. Right next door was Alexandria Hospital, where the red brick Atrium building now stands.

MEMORIES The original 1802 mansion, built by prominent Alexandria lawyer Thomas Swann, was enlarged by succeeding owner and shipping magnate Henry Daingerfield. The entire structure was returned to use as a private residence from AHSN. In 1971 the city bought it and later turned it over to developers who converted the more than 50 bedrooms and classrooms used by students into 11 condominium apartments offered for sale in 1977. Swann's original mansion with its 12' 8" ceilings and first floor ballroom, where Lafayette was rumored to have danced, was left intact.

It was in this architectural gem of a building that the AHSN, class of '76, held its 40th reunion. Penny and Jim Haybyrne, owners of the now-three story, restored original mansion, graciously offered their home for a kickoff cocktail-party reception, followed

by house tours of four of the other homes. Sitting on his perch on the porch one day, Jim Haybyrne had been alerted to the upcoming weekend reunion by former student nurse, Linda Freschi Weyrich, '74, now living only a block away on S. Alfred Street.

On learning some graduates had never had a reunion of their classes, the '76 reunion organizers Gwen Poore Miller and Bobbi Kempter Pasternak, decided to open it up to all AHSN graduates. With no formal alumnae association they expected low turnout. But 58 of the women in white signed up.

Although the nursing school did not close until 1987, the class of '76 was the last to have lived in Swann-Daingerfield and that for only one year. The building was then named "Carter Hall" in honor of Miss Fanny Carter, superintendent of nursing and director of AHSN for more than 20 years. They were also the last class to wear starched white cotton uniforms and do clinical rotations in the old Duke Street facility.

From the moment they began swanning through the doors at 6, the nurses were off and running. Classes represented ranged from '71 to '78. They had traveled from as far away as California, Seattle and Texas. The nurses snapped pictures of themselves on the Haybyrnes' handsome grand staircase, which they had once been forbidden to use until after "capping" ceremony at the end of freshman year.

Indeed, the current owners learned more interesting things firsthand from the students about their individual homes than they could ever have imagined. Diane Dippold MacIntosh discovered her master bedroom had once slept three nurses, two in military style bunks and one in a proper single bed. The eldest of them (probably



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Swann-Daingerfield owners and reunion planners on the grand staircase: from left, first row, Penny Haybyrne and Gwen Miller '76; second row, Jim Haybyrne and Bill Garrison; third row, Diane Dippold MacIntosh and Mary-Welby Garrison; and fourth row, Bernard Murphy, Bobbi Pasternak '76, and Claire Burns.

20 years old instead of 19) rated the prized bed. This apartment is now the only one with an enclosed balcony, but back then the "sunroom" was open so the nurses sunbathed there. "It was our refuge," said Connie Butler Ludtke, '73. "And you could see across to the doctors with their binoculars," another piped up.

Marsha and Bernard Murphy and Mary-Welby and Bill Garrison learned the nurses remembered seeing the Appomattox Confederate soldier from their upper-floor dorms as well as appreciated the building's unique sky-high oval windows. Claire Burns learned her S. Columbus Street wing had once housed a chapel. Her wing had earlier been added by Holy Cross nuns who ran the all-girls St. Mary's Academy (now on Russell Road) and who sold the building to Alexandria Hospital in 1942.

The nurses also shared personal stories with the owners, rattling off the school's various thou-shalt-not's. Carol Eldridge Cabrera, '71, recalled: "We were not allowed to stand up and smoke. We were also taught how to roll the ash off a cigarette,

not to tap it. Our uniforms had to be half-calf. We had to fold our apron over our lap so it didn't get wrinkled when we sat down."

The evening ended with the singing of school songs, from the slightly naughty "Carter Hall Song":

Oh, I'm from Carter Hall so pity me.

Not a boy in the vicinity.

to the deeply religious "Bless These Caps":

Bless these caps so pure and white,

Sat like halos beaming bright

Bless the hands that place them there

Hands well versed in others' care.

.....

Bless these candles shining bright

Symbols of thy heavenly light.

As darkness fell, the main difference between 1976 and 2016 was the nurses' candles were replaced by flashlights flickering from cell phones onto the song sheets. The beautiful bones of this house are a testament to its many seamless transitions from old to new. And for one shining night in September, thanks to a lot of people, Swann-Daingerfield was not only still alive and kicking but alive and singing.



The nurses tour their old dormitories.

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40TH SEASON

LIVING LEGENDS

Preserving the Preserve

Jodie Smolik leads Winkler Botanical Preserve.

BY MARY ANNE WEBER

By her own account Jodie Smolik is a very fortunate woman. She found her life's passion early on and gets to wake up every day and go to a job she loves, introducing the children of Alexandria to an urban oasis and all its fascinating life. The Winkler Botanical Preserve, nearly 45 acres of carefully cultivated native plants, bushes, trees and wildlife from foxes to osprey to hawks, is right in the heart of the city, just off I-395.

"Every day I have an encounter with wildlife, more encounters than I did on the 1,500-acre farm I grew up on. This open space off the interstate is a sanctuary and it was worth saving," she said.

Smolik's role with Winkler has been two-fold. At the Winkler family's request, she came to work for them and started an all-encompassing education program in cooperation with the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). Every child in grades one through five in all 13 elementary schools, makes two field trips yearly to the preserve. Their 90-minute lessons are hands-on: digging for earthworms, studying habitat, plants, food chains and simple machines. Combining science, art, and fun is an important part of Smolik's philosophy. She shares that joy with the children. So it is no surprise that when the integrity of the preserve was threatened by highway construction in 2010, she led the charge along with supportive parents, teachers and children, to provide hard evidence that this was a place worth saving.

Smolik began her career in outdoor education at Maymont Park in Richmond running their nature program. With her husband, George, she moved to Washington, D.C. to develop a year-round outdoor education program at Discovery Creek Children's Museum, where the Winkler family found her and asked her to come to Alexandria as their executive director to create a similar program at the preserve.

"I was amazed," she said when she went to visit the preserve in late 1997. It was not only a beautiful spot, it provided much more space to do the kind of outdoor programs she wanted to do. Beginning work in early 1998 overseeing the construction of the Catherine Lodge, joining forces with Dr. Herbert Berg, then Alexandria's superintendent of schools, she opened in 1999 with school programs and a summer camp.

Then came 2010 and the effects of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Process (BRAC), which proposed destroying about a third of the Preserve.

Nobody expected the children's crusade that followed. About one-quarter of comment cards sent to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) were from children. Seventh graders at George Washington Middle School prepared an environmental assessment under their science teacher Mary Breslin.



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO

Jodie Smolik

Todd Harris, a teenage counselor-in-training, created a Facebook page that attracted 2,000 followers. Children and parents came to the public hearing and Virginia DOT officials invited to tour the site were much impressed. The citizens won: Alexandria City Council proposed an alternative plan, leaving the Winkler Preserve intact.

The school program does not cost Alexandria taxpayers a dime. The Winkler Foundation pays for it. Mark Winkler's daughter Tori Thomas, a landscape architect by training who created the preserve, remains involved. The teaching lodge was named after Mark Winkler's widow, Catherine Winkler Herman, whose love of plants and the outdoors inspired her to donate the land and create the Preserve.

As for Smolik "my reward is to watch the children grow up." While the education program continues, the preserve is also open seven days a week except for holidays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the public to learn and enjoy.

Living Legends: The Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org or contact AlexandriaLegends@outlook.com

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

voted or won't be allowed to vote for years, I feel it is important that you heard their voices as well as mine.

I hope you and your council will consider these observations.

Robert Paxton
Alexandria

Who's Watching School Board?

To the Editor:

The ACPS School Board, except for the newly elected members, are incapable of managing its budget of almost \$300 million. Our School Board controls 44 percent of the total city budget — a disturbing and frightening thought. The School Board has a pervasive lack of clarity, and no accountability, resulting in gross overspending — literally a financial circus which has been the norm at the School Board for the past 12 years. We need an oversight committee with foresight and fiscal restraint to monitor school board spending and we need it now.

The current \$1.5 billion project to rebuild our school system, which was never maintained, has already become a financial nightmare as predicted. The Patrick Henry project will now have bus and truck traffic on a neighborhood street resulting in a double whammy of noise and loss of property value for the neighborhood. The reason for this change — as stated by the School Board — is that it stands to save \$1.2 million with the A1 alternative. Listen figures do not lie but the School Board has never saved a cent on

any project. Its specialty is to move funds, add and delete and fund a very prominent slush fund. In 2013 they moved money from many sources including school bus maintenance in order to finance the tennis courts. There was never any dialogue or cost analysis on the choices.

In the past the School Board projects have not come in on budget, having overages from 25 to 230 percent which includes T.C.High School at 42 percent over budget, Jefferson Houston at 30 percent, Hammond field at 230 percent, and the infamous tennis courts budgeted at \$425,000, add lights for \$200,000 total \$625,000. The final total when the bill came in was \$1.4 million, a 125 percent miss. There is absolutely no precedent for the Patrick Henry to come on budget. There is currently no max price.

Our academics remain shoddy at best — the horrific action of Cora Kelly's principal to remove 36 underachievers from taking the test so the scores could be artificially elevated is absolutely inexcusable and he deserves more than a slap on the wrist. We need a complete audit of the other schools to determine if this action was pervasive.

Citizens, we are losing the academic race because the School Board is more interested in athletic infrastructure than academics. A \$450,000 fee for design of TC stadium takes precedent over hiring more excellent teachers.

In addition the School Board chair discussed a possible 15 cent tax phased in over four years to help balance the deficit in the schools' budget. Didn't we just have a 3-plus percent raise in city taxes? Based upon past history, would you give this School Board more money?

To the ACPS School Board, new members excluded,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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Karen Kearns 703-244-6101



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911 Cameron Street. Circa 1820 historic home with expansive formal gardens! A foyer entry welcomes you to the living room with high ceilings, tall south facing windows and a wood burning fireplace flanked with built-ins. An arched doorway leads to the formal dining room that is perfect for gracious entertaining. Light filled eat-in kitchen with brick floors has access to the patio and garden. Two upper level bedrooms, a family room and laundry. Unfinished lower level for storage. Spacious formal garden with paths and established gardens.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Rosemont \$899,000
203 North View Terrace. Lovely 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial just a few blocks from the the King St. Metro, shops & restaurants! Built in 1920 with abundant charm and character. Nearly 2900 sq. ft. of interior space on 3 finished levels. Beautiful yard with a deck and manicured lawn with plenty of room for expansion if desired.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



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Ann Modlin Boehm 703-868-1386



OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 SEPT. 25
Alexandria \$375,000
2218 Dearing Street. Beautiful End unit 2 bed, 1.5 bath In Sought after Farlington Town neighborhood. Condo with LOW Fee. Master is large w/2 closets. Ceramic tile in kitchen w/ new appliances. Bay windows in living & dining room. Fenced in patio w/brick pavers. Walk to restaurants, shops,& transportation. Easy commute to DC, Pentagon, Mark Center & 395.Seller is motivated!!!
Chris Salvatore 757-630-6688



Alexandria \$307,700
200 North Pickett Street, Unit #1204. Renovated with VIEWS! LARGE 2BR/2BA-1295 sq.ft. New windows/SGD. Well run Hallmark. New kitchen-granite. New baths. HUGE rooms, walk-in closet. Full-size W/D. Large balcony-electric grills OK! Great garage+visitor parking. Pool, tennis, exercise, party room. Commuter dream-bus stop in front-easy Metro. Creek and park across street. Foxchase Shops including 24 hour Harris Teeter and new Aldi one block too! Come see or call me at 703-407-6481.
Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481



JUST LISTED
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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Homes project hosted by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority, followed by the Advisory Group meeting at 7 p.m. Topics include Ramsey Homes and the Carpenter's Shelter redevelopment projects. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Braddock.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Cool Yoga. 5 p.m. at the Del Ray Block Party, 2000 Block of Mt. Vernon Ave. Cool Yoga will make a guest appearance at the I "Heart" Del Ray Block Party (4-7:30 p.m.).

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Day Care Provider Appreciation Celebration. Noon at Dunya Banquet & Restaurant, 5951 Stevenson Ave. Infant Toddler Family Day Care (ITFDC), a non-profit organization providing child care resource and referral services in Northern Virginia, will celebrate its 33rd anniversary. ITFDC supports early child care educators who provide high-quality child care throughout Northern Virginia. Visit www.itfdc.com for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

"Gambling on the Future: What Will Maryland's Casino Mean for Alexandria?" 6:30 p.m. cash bar reception; 6:46 dinner; program at 7:15 at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda: Alexandria presents Joe Haggerty, President and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; Ted Pulliam, historian and author of "Historic Alexandria: An Illustrated History;" and Daniele White, Vice President of MGM

Casinos. Dinner \$32-\$42; program only free to members, \$5 for nonmembers. Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

Beauregard Design Advisory

Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m. in the Goodwin House Atrium, 4800 Fillmore Ave. The Beauregard Design Advisory Committee will hold its first meeting, which will include discussion on the Advisory Group mission as well as provide an overview of the Beauregard Town Center Concept Plans and related upcoming projects and studies. Advisory Group meetings are open to the public and members of the community are encouraged to attend and participate. Visit alexandriava.gov/74981 or contact Maya Contreras at 703-746-3816.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

New Faces in Old Town. An associate professor of history and director of American Studies at Mary Washington University, Dr. Krystyn Moon presents "Making Arlandria Home: The Changing Face(s) of an Alexandria Neighborhood, 1960s-1980s" at The Lyceum for the Alexandria Historical Society. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. Free for Alexandria Historical Society members, \$5 for non-members. <https://alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org/>

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

Soil Evaluation and Composting. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn the basics of evaluating soil and how to turn yard clippings and kitchen waste into black gold that will nourish

plants. As leaves are about to fall, instead of bagging them, learn to use them to create a natural and earth friendly soil amendment. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 30

Grant Application Deadline.

Transurban, the Virginia Department of Transportation's partner on the 395 Express Lanes project, has launched the "395 Express Lanes Community Grant Program." The quarterly grant program seeks to respond to the needs of direct-impact communities within the I-395

corridor during the project's development and construction phase. It will provide organizations with grant awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to implement projects that sustain, enhance or protect residents along the project corridor. The program accepts applications and distributes grant awards each quarter. Visit 395ExpressLanes.com/grant-application.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Legal Clinic and Community Fair.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1401 Duke St. The Legal Clinic and Community Fair will feature a host of pro bono attorneys

to discuss matters of criminal record expungements, child custody/visitation, child support, housing, consumer law/credit reports, debt collection and bankruptcy. There will be a number of career readiness workshops including resume building and interview skills. Registration required. To register, visit bit.ly/2cdk8fg.

SUNDAY-FRIDAY/OCT. 2-7

Maintenance Closure Update. The Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center planned closure from Sunday, Sept. 18 through Wednesday, Sept. 21 for maintenance will now occur in early October.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Enforced by Federal law all states must have a transparent website that clearly shows all contractors licenses. If they've ever paid taxes in VA, they're in there. Easily validate your contractor by going to <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>

Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed Contractor?

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

- If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or
- Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or
- Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711.

What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a bond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, **you're the general contractor!** If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, **you're responsible.** If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, **you are on the hook** for that workers' medical bills and lost wages.

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher, and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. <https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/>

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages.

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>.

All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

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PEOPLE

Playground Volunteer Day Spotlights Park Revitalization

RunningBrooke spearheads park cleanup.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

“Parks and playgrounds play an important role in our community.”

— RunningBrooke founder Brooke Curran

The wheels were set in motion back in April, when Brooke Curran solicited 400 donors to participate in Spring2Action to help fund the revitalization of Taney Avenue Park. A plan was approved, equipment was ordered and on Sept. 17, more than

60 volunteers joined Curran in the RunningBrooke Playground Volunteer Day.

“It’s exciting to see Alexandria’s West End come to life,” said Curran, founder of the nonprofit that focuses on the needs of children. “We planted native trees and perennials and installed walking paths through native tree groves. Our work will prepare the site for play equipment, benches, tables, a welcoming ADA-compliant entry plaza and a much needed water fountain.”

The Taney Avenue park playground will serve more than 1,500 kids, many from families that live below the federal poverty line.

In addition to planting 20 Virginia-native trees, volunteers mulched walking paths, cleared invasive brush and pruned existing trees. Garbage and debris were cleared, including rusted bicycles, parts of a metal swing set, bags of trash and a rusted out



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers gather for a group photo Sept. 17 at Taney Avenue Park. Brooke Curran and the nonprofit RunningBrooke spearheaded a Volunteer Day to help prepare the park for new playground equipment.

road sign. The project is designed and guided by the City of Alexandria’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities. Also partnering with RunningBrooke are Rebuilding Together Alexandria, BrightView and Rosemont Landscaping & Lawn care. “We are so pumped about this new playground,” said Curran. “It’s awesome to see so many people from the community come together and give their time and money to help make this park possible for the families who live near Taney Avenue.”

Play areas and equipment will be installed in October with a formal ribbon cutting to be announced at a later date.

“Parks and playgrounds play an important role in our community,” Curran said. “They provide a place for families and friends to explore, reconnect and get active. Now the Taney Avenue neighborhood will have a better-lit community space that will unify the neighborhood and bring families together.” For more information, visit www.runningbrooke.org.



Volunteers plant trees at Taney Avenue Park as part of the Sept. 17 RunningBrooke Volunteer Day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 17

“Turn out the lights, the party’s over. Financial guidance and austerity is needed and overdue.”

William Goff
Alexandria

Disruption For Two Years

To the Editor:

With upcoming plans to reconfigure the bus and parking area of the King Street Metrorail lot, this end of Olde Towne will be very difficult to enter into our city. This project is slated to take approximately two years starting in 2017. There are also plans for a new, large hotel at the corner of

Harvard and King streets which is also planned to be a two-year project. These will happen during the same period of time.

The metered parking will be removed from the Metrorail lot, and parking along King and Harvard will also be disrupted. Has anyone thought about where the current vehicles that park in these areas will park over these two years? Has anyone considered the disruption? What is going on in our city? Are we so hung up on taking in revenue that we have forgotten about the people that actually live and work here? Where does the traffic board and City Council expect everyone to park? Go out of their way to find parking lots? Put up more signs giving detours through our streets?

We already have overflow from people coming from other places, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Arlington and elsewhere

coming to our city parking along our streets, our residential streets. To have the whole area around the Metrorail lot being blocked by construction equipment, then to also have this end of King Street blocked by more construction equipment, how will this affect our businesses? How will this affect our residents? Cameron Street and Harvard Street already feel the overflow. The new hotel is not even planning to provide parking for their employees. There are many commuters that travel by car to get to the King Street Metro to get to work. What accommodations will be made to cater to these people? I know there are a lot of people that think we will have more walkers and more bicycles, but the fact is we still have a lot of people that commute by car. How can one block the whole entryway into Olde Towne with two construction

projects occurring at the same time? Is no one actually paying attention here?

Maybe in two years it will be better, maybe by then just like with the one tracking of Metro, people will have taken other modes of transportation, other routes that do not go through Olde Towne, maybe they won’t come back. There needs to be better planning here. We don’t need another large hotel, we have an existing building on the lot where the proposed hotel will be. Gut the building, do as minimal as possible to disrupt our neighborhood, keep the building, turn it back into an apartment building like it originally was. Keep parking available. You want people in our city, you want revenue. Don’t make this so hard.

Bea Porter
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 20

Enforce All Traffic Rules

To the Editor:

Believe it or not (and contrary to popular opinion) the Virginia Department of Transportation says that motorists and bicyclists are governed by the same laws regarding traffic regulations. In fact, no distinction is made for automobiles, trucks, tractor-trailers, motorcycles or bicycles, which are all treated equally.

If an individual is convicted of a traffic violation, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is notified of this, and it is posted to his/her driving record. At this stage, a certain number of points are awarded for the violation in question. As an example, a failure to stop at a traffic sign or signal results in three points being awarded. A license may be suspended if 12 points are accrued over a 12-month period. This action will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the auto insurance policy of the individual, since suspension or excess points may be subject to stringent underwriting rules.

Since bicycles are not above the law; bicyclists failing to obey stop signs in Alexandria should be mindful of impartiality of the point system, since it applies to the operation of all conveyances. As an example, Charlottesville has long ticketed errant bicyclists, and ensures that the DMV is aware

of these violations.

The Alexandria police need to be more vigilant in identifying bicycle traffic violators, and judges need to support the prosecution of these violators. Once the word gets out that Alexandria is serious about enforcing traffic rules for all modes of transportation, then citizens in those areas impacted by the current traffic chaos can fully participate in the amenities of living in Alexandria, since the antics of the bicycle scofflaws will be curtailed.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Scapegoating Confederate Heritage

To the Editor:

At the Sept. 17 public hearing on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, I asked City Council to pass a resolution expressing Alexandrians' shock and dismay at the murder of nine people in Charleston, S.C., in June 2015, conveying our sympathy for their loss, and sending our condolences. I also asked that a copy be sent to the Charleston city government and each of the victims' families. The Ad Hoc Group had not included this recommendation in its report to council as I had requested. As a speaker at the hearing said about another matter:

It's never too late to do the right thing. However, no one on council expressed approval — just stony stares.

I learned later that the Sons of the Confederate Veterans had expressed its sympathy to the families immediately after the tragedy, and The United Daughters of the Confederacy followed suit after the last victim was laid to rest. I commend them for acting appropriately as Americans.

Council's ignoring the victims' painful losses and only wrongly scapegoating our Confederate heritage does them and our city no credit. I am greatly disappointed councilors obviously used the Charleston murders as an excuse to pursue their anti-Confederate agendas.

Some councilors, like the Ad Hoc Group and other citizens, misstated facts. Some attacked the location of "Appomattox" as a traffic hazard. However, my recent Alexandria Gazette letter and Sept. 13 memo, which all councilors acknowledged receiving, provided Alexandria Department of Transportation figures proving it is not a traffic hazard; more accidents have happened at other Washington Street intersections.

The councilor who said he thought Confederates intended to keep slavery forever seems unfamiliar with the Constitution of the Confederate States of America and other aspects of American history. That document prohibited the importation of slaves. As noted earlier, Davis' first veto — with a

stinging criticism to the man raising the issue — was to prevent creating more slaves. Responsible Southern slave owners wanted gradual emancipation, first educating their slaves for freedom. (Washington set an early example — and he was the model for the new confederacy, appearing on the CSA seal.) Freeing all the slaves at once would have ruined everyone, including slaves with no means of support. Unfortunately, that happened at the war's end. Former landowners had no means to employ them, so many became sharecroppers abused by Northern carpetbaggers or went to an inhospitable North.

By contrast, the U.S. Constitution never ended the importation of slaves. Slavery existed under the U.S. flag for decades, including in the four slave Union states during the War.

Yankee ships brought slaves here at great profit. Yankees profited again from slave labor when they reaped the benefit of tariffs levied only on Southern goods and used for internal improvements made almost entirely in the North. History books written/edited by Northerners neglect to mention such.

Amazingly, the 13th amendment extends permission for slavery, even though we are taught the Unionists ended it. Surprises abound when one looks closely.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

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OUT & ABOUT



PHOTOS BY ERIK KVALSVIK

John Carlyle built the Carlyle mansion for his wife Sarah Fairfax. Scotland's stone architectural culture influenced Carlyle, and his use of stone was unique for the Alexandria area where wooden structures were the norm.

A Tale of America in the Making

BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

The Carlyle House, located at 121 North Fairfax St., opened as a museum in 1976, and was the first historic house to open during the Bicentennial year. Recently, it celebrated its 40th anniversary of that event this July with an open house at no cost to the public. With that, Alexandria also celebrated its founding in 1749. So begins the tale of Carlyle House.

Carlyle House is an 18th century mansion built by John Carlyle, a wealthy British merchant and a founder of Alexandria. He completed his stone residence in 1753, built with the labor of slaves. His mansion is an example of Georgian residential architecture.

In addition to building a grand home to host social and political events, Carlyle raised Arabian horses for racing purposes. "Carlyle was a Renaissance man

and wanted to say he's a big shot in the community," said Jeff Ouellette, docent and weekend supervisor.

Carlyle's mansion attracted the likes of British General Edward Braddock in 1755 when Braddock made Carlyle's home his headquarters to plan out the French and Indian War with other colonial governors. "But when Braddock came to visit, he was not a good guest," said Susan Hellman, historic site manager. He took over Carlyle's house, broke furniture and showed no respect for the colonialists, Hellman added.

PBS picked up on the Carlyle House's intrigue with its historical fiction series "Mercy Street." Here Carlyle House served as a hospital for Union soldiers. And in the 1970s, Carlyle House functioned as low-income housing. Later, it was acquired by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and underwent a six-year restoration.

Admission fee is \$5 for persons over 13 years of age. See www.carlylehouse.org.



Bright green wallpaper decorated the mansion's parlor. Such colors signified wealth in its day.



The largest room in Carlyle House was the dining room where guests were served and danced, and where General Braddock held meetings during his visit with John Carlyle and colonial governors in 1755.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adding a Swamp Chestnut Oak

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Dr. Richard T. Olsen, director of the National Arboretum which donated the Swamp Chestnut Oak to the city, plant it in Oronoco Bay Park on Monday, Sept. 19.

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 1200 block of Bashford Lane. A suspect brandished a firearm and stole cash from a victim. There were no injuries.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 17

The Alexandria Police Department is

investigating felonious assault in the 900 block of N. Patrick Street. Two women known to each other were involved in an altercation that resulted in minor injuries to both. The suspect was apprehended.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a report of "shots fired" near Harwich Court and Sanger Avenue. No injuries have been reported.



PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/THE GAZETTE

Ductless HVAC units are energy efficient and noise-free. These are wall-mounted. The one shown like a frame can be modified with family pictures.

Learn To Be Energy Smart

A new retail showroom and lab — The Energy House and Solutions Center — opened Sept. 10 at 4603A Eisenhower Ave. It showcases state-of-the-art products for weatherization, insulation, solar, HVAC and more. The center also offers plans to save money and simple steps to become energy efficient. See <http://energyhouse.us/solutions-center>.

— RIKKI GEORGE

Homework Overload

Some educators say less can be more, stress balance when it comes to homework.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Paula DeMarco dreads one time of day the most: weekday evenings at 5:30. It's the time she has set aside for her children begin their homework. That means no screen time, music or other distractions.

"When my son entered fifth grade last year it was like running into a brick wall," she said. "We were in shock by how much more homework he had than when he was in the lower grades. It was stressful and there were a lot of tears shed — both mine and his."

For many parents and students, homework can be anxiety inducing, especially when there's a lot of it, when it's intense, when there's pressure to succeed and when it's used as a measure of accomplishment.

In fact, a study published in the Journal of Experimental Education in 2014 found that students in high-achieving communities who spend excessive amounts of time on homework are more prone to more stress, physical health problems and a lack of balance than students who have moderate amounts of homework. Researchers found that students felt obligated to choose homework over other interests. As a result, they didn't know how to find balance in

their lives.

Homework in a competitive environment that doesn't leave time for hobbies or sports can also put a strain on family relationships.

"Homework becomes stressful because parents take on the role of homework police," said Ann Dolin, president, Educational Connections Tutoring in Fairfax and Bethesda. "It's a role they never envisioned and they don't want, but before they know it, their relationships with their children become defined by academics."

Dolin points to the "Ten-Minute Homework Rule," guidelines approved by the National Education Association, which recommend 10 minutes of homework per grade level. A first grade student, for example, would have 10 minutes of homework each night, while a fourth grade student would have 40. Any more than this would be counterproductive.

"I have known first graders who've had an hour or and hour-and-a-half of homework," said Dolin. "That is unrealistic."

Locally, Margaret Andreadis, lower school principal at Bullis School in Potomac, Md., says administrators and teachers at her school have restructured the way they assign homework to focus on quality over quantity.

"We've scaled back to emphasize our purpose for homework: teaching students goal

setting and time management," she said. "We're not using homework as busy work. Our philosophy has been to create a balance between academics, life at home with family and activities like sports."

"The emphasis is on small successes. We want students to feel good about themselves," said Andreadis. "If a parent is having to interact with their child over homework, it's not an independent assignment."

This homework structure can actually create balance in the lives of students, she said. "I think the stress comes from kids wanting to get things perfect and parents wanting their children to be successful," said Andreadis. "Kids need time that is unscheduled so that they can be creative, find new passions and be kids."

Researchers say unstructured play, reading, and other child-initiated activities have as many benefits for children as academics. "Children learn conflict management skills, develop imagination and creativity, self-regulation of time and interest, and independence," said Shannon N. Davis, associate professor of sociology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research has shown that children who are given time to play in an unstructured manner, read or otherwise determine how they spend their time are much less likely to say, 'I'm bored' when they have free time. They know how

to entertain themselves rather than needing an adult to structure their time for them."

Navigating that course, deciding how much independence to give children when it comes to managing free time and their homework, while at the same time making sure they have the support they need to succeed can be challenging, parents and educators agree.

"I don't think these two areas are mutually exclusive. We want our kids to take ownership of their priorities, but they need some foundational knowledge in order to make these choices from an informed perspective," said Sean Aiken, head of school at BASIS Independent in McLean. "We need to empower our students to make some of these decisions early on and then allow them to experience the consequences."

Some educators acknowledge that a relaxed approach might push parents, particularly those in high-achieving communities, outside their comfort zones. "This involves some risk taking on the part of us as parents and educators, but I think the benefits are worth it," said Aiken. "We need to pair that with a lot of support and discussion about why academic achievement matters, specifically that we are learning things in order to make connections and ask questions about the world around us."

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ENTERTAINMENT

2 Restaurants Hidden in Plain Sight

Finding these gems requires a bit of searching, but the result is worth it.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Tucked away amid retail shops, barbershops, and numerous other storefronts, some of the city's restaurant gems are a bit tricky to uncover. But the result is worth the search. Here are two of Alexandria's best strip-mall selections.

May Island, 1669 N. Quaker Lane

It's easy to miss May Island, sitting adjacent as it does from a 7-11 near Fairlington. But when you've got a hankering for sushi, don't drive by without stopping to see all the restaurant has to offer.

The first surprise is the ambience. Step through the doors and you'll see that the mirrored windows out front are obscuring a wonderfully quaint sushi bar with more tables than you might expect before setting foot inside. Order a sake — May Island has plenty to choose from, from higher-end selections to the more day-to-day options — and peruse the menu, which is extensive.

By this point, the breadth and depth — and taste — of the sushi menu shouldn't be a surprise at all. Each roll is well done and each platter brings artistic flair, from the arrangement of the sushi itself to the little birds whittled out of sweet potatoes. Whether ordering a la carte — maybe an Alaska roll filled with salmon, avocado and cream cheese or a shrimp asparagus roll — or by the platter, which offers up a range of options, there's little room for error. And vegetarians won't be left out of the mix, either; the vegetable-sushi selections are copious and interesting, deviating from the standard avocado and/or cucumber roll

(though there are those too).

While sushi is certainly May Island's hook, there are other alternatives as well, ranging from teriyaki to General Tso's, from lo mein to yaki udon. A well-rounded restaurant deserving of an evening meal, indeed.

Thai Lemongrass, 506 C&D South Van Dorn St.

Tucked away in a corner of the Van Dorn Station shopping center, Thai Lemongrass is an unassuming storefront with a kitchen that's bursting with flavor. Walk into the room and you'll inhale the aroma of deep, rich curries and Thai spices; sit down and order and you'll get a taste of some of the best Thai in town.

If you're looking for the hottest in upscale ambience, you should probably turn away from Thai Lemongrass. Its dining room may seem a bit workaday, but its food is anything but bland. Start off with the spring rolls or a bowl of Tom Kha Gai (coconut soup with chicken), and then launch straight into dinner. The panang curry is a star — whether paired with chicken, beef, seafood, or tofu, the curry is rich and creamy, spicy yet smooth, and makes the taste buds sing. Or give one of the lo mein dishes a try — the noodles and their accompanying vegetables and protein are fresh and flavorful, without a lot of the additional oil that can be so prevalent in Thai-for-American-palate cooking.

Thai Lemongrass also offers a "Lunch Box Special" on weekdays, where diners can get many of their favorite dishes for lunchtime prices — a perfect reason to sneak away from the office for a meal out.

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



Above: May Island offers an abundance of sushi selections, complete with artistic adornments to each platter.



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

Face Off 2016. Through Sept. 23, gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Face Off 2016 is a live painting demonstration and exhibition of new works by artists Cindy Procius, Mia Bergeron and Elizabeth Floyd. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com for more.

ReelAbilities Film Festival. Through Sept. 14, various times and places throughout Northern Virginia. The 5th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Northern Virginia, powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV), is a lineup of award-winning feature and short films and a preview of guest speakers and special events. ReelAbilities is the largest film festival of its kind in the nation dedicated to showcasing films by and

about people that experience a disability. Opening and Closing Nights: advance tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for JCCNV members, seniors (65+), and for groups of 10 or more, \$10 students with valid student ID. All tickets are \$20 the day of the opening and closing events. Other ticket prices vary. Visit www.northernva.reelabilities.org for more.

Exhibit: "A Solo in Abstract."

Through Sept. 25, 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.

Photography Showcase.

Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Custom Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographic works by Fred Eberhart, Geoff Livingston, Hannele Lahti, Joseph Romeo, and David Sloane. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net for more.

Deadline: Call for Artists. Through Oct. 2. Now in its third year, the Post-Graduate Residency Studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center is seeking applicants for the 2017

program via torpedofactory.org/PostGradCall.

Exhibit: "Impressive Expressions: Patterning in Clay." Through Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 N. Union St. See clay art that can be touched, held and brought home as a private collection. Free. Visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

Exhibit: "The Art of Politics."

Through Oct. 2, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Through a street art aesthetic, artist Michael Fischerkeller offers a commentary on today's political, economic, and social issues. His stark yet elegant paintings span large canvases, the size and weight consistent with the gravity of the issues to which they speak. Using acrylic spray paint, a street artist's medium, Fischerkeller boldly and symbolically relays his message, as the "street" is most often and most deprived of social justice. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Exhibit: "Explorations Part II."

Through Oct. 2, 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.

Art Exhibit: "Fire and Earth."

Through Oct. 2, 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.

Blackberry Daze.

Through Oct. 9, 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.

Photo Exhibit: "Never Forget."

Through Oct. 16, 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 for more.

"A (Mis)Perceived Physique:

Bodyscapes by Three Women Artists." Through Oct. 16, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents work by three women who use the female body to explore issues of equity, power, politics, and memory. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Exhibit: "Garden Muse."

Through Oct. 23, 9-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. Sunday at Green Springs Garden — Horticultural Center, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens is featuring the award-winning photographs of Cindy Dyer, a graphic designer, photographer and USPS Stamp Artist. Free. Visit www.gardenmuseshow.com for more.

Exhibit: "Song of the Woods."

Through Oct. 24, gallery hours at Green Springs Garden — Historical House, 4603 Green Spring Road.

ENTERTAINMENT

Artist Mary Exline displays her abstract expressionist paintings. Free. Visit www.artis.com/maryexline for more.

Exhibit: "In All Things." Through Oct. 29, gallery hours at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Convergence Arts Initiative will feature the work of artist and educator, Glenn Howell in his latest exhibit, "In All things." The title of Howell's photography and print show reflects the diversity of his image making and his belief in the promise of redemption of all things. It is a juxtaposition of the "dystopian" elements seen in our world with a vision of Heaven as evidence of God's grace. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

"Oh The Joy." Through Nov. 6, Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Artists from across the region were asked to interpret the theme, "Oh! The joy!" The selected entries represent the wealth of art being created in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Grand Opening: Amanda Davidson Real Estate. 4-7 p.m. at 6485 Old Beulah St. Ribbon cutting and networking in celebration of the new real estate office. Free. Visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.org for more.

Native Plants 101: Why Go Native? 7:30-9 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. This program will benefit individuals interested in the "why" of using native plants and is designed for gardeners and homeowners who are interested in using a portion of the property to support biodiversity. The

program covers the inter-dependent relationships between plants and animals that are crucial to the stabilization and success of future generations. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/potowmack for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 22-25

Old Town Boutique District Shop & Stroll. All day in Old Town. Browse and shop, while collecting stamps at each location to be entered in a grand prize drawing that includes \$1,000 worth of gift cards. Additionally, buy a stylish event bag for more savings and goodies. Free. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com for more.

THURSDAYS/SEPT. 22-OCT. 13

Crybaby Art Studio. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. CryBaby Art Studio is an art class designed for parents with infants (0-1) to relax and exercise their creativity learning watercolor techniques each week with baby by their side. Registration is \$100 for four-week series / \$25 per class (art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

SEPT. 22-DEC. 8

Thursday Mornings with Kathryn Conewey. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The themes in the book, "The Artist's Rule," will be a foundation to share experiences with creative practice. Each session will begin with a quiet time and exploration of materials before transitioning to a discussion of the themes and practices outlined in the



The 21st annual Art on the Avenue festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The event is free and open to all. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

chapter. Participants should purchase a copy of "The Artist's Rule" and read the introduction and first chapter prior to the first meeting. Registration is \$50. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening for more.

SEPT. 23-NOV. 13

John M. Adams: "Current Interrupted." Gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit www.thefullempy.com for more.

SEPT. 23-NOV. 14

Matthew Grimes: "(In)Material" and "Pliant." Gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/

schlesingercenter.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties and more. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 13 vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

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.

Historic Pohick Church Annual Country Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The purpose of the Pohick Country Fair is to extend a welcome to members of the local community and Fairfax County, inviting them to visit the historic grounds for a day of fun and relaxation. The fair includes games, booths, pony rides,

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ENTERTAINMENT

moonbounce, barbecue, funnel cakes, homemade apple butter, historic church tours, living history reenactors, organ concerts, live music, a classic car show, a Boy Scout camping and cooking demo, a bloodmobile and more. Free. Visit www.pohick.org 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 \$40 in advance and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$45 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.

Organ Recital. 11:30 a.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ will include selections from J. S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Dietrich Buxtehude, and Georg Berg. Free. Visit www.pohick.org for more.

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 for more.

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 for more.

Alexandria Seaport Day. 12-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Alexandria Seaport Day is an annual community event celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and Alexandria's maritime heritage. Enjoy children's activities, a wooden boat display, nautical activities, boat rides, live music, local restaurants providing food, beer and wine, local boutiques and ASF's annual "Anything that Floats" race. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaSeaport.org/

Events.

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.

Lecture: "The Real Frank Stringfellow." 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Eric Buckland, a retired Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, Vice President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, member of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and author of five books about some of the men who rode with Mosby's Rangers, will give an account of the exploits and personality of Frank Stringfellow. Buckland's presentation will be followed by a Q & A, and he will have his books for sale and for signing. \$10 suggested donation. Call 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413.

Reception: "Current Interrupted." 4-6 p.m. at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Artist John M. Adams will be present to speak briefly about his work. Free. Visit www.thefullempy.com for more.

The Mercy Walk. 5:30 p.m. at 221 King St. Walk the same streets as the Green family and other favorite characters from the PBS series, "Mercy Street." Based on the new PBS series, Mercy Street, Alexandria's The Mercy Walk tour will give visitors and locals a feel for Alexandria. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, \$12 for military/law enforcement/seniors, and \$6 for children of military/law enforcement. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com or call 703-519-1749.

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/.

Simpson Gardens Open House. 1-3 p.m. at 426 E. Monroe Ave. Visitors are invited to drop by and tour the demonstration gardens, which include a Waterwise Garden, a Flagstone Garden, a Tufa Garden, a Scented Garden and a Butterfly Garden. Native plants will be featured, including host plants for butterflies and their larvae. Light snacks and drinks will be served. Free. Visit www.ext.vt.edu.

John Flynn and Josh White Jr. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Josh

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 28



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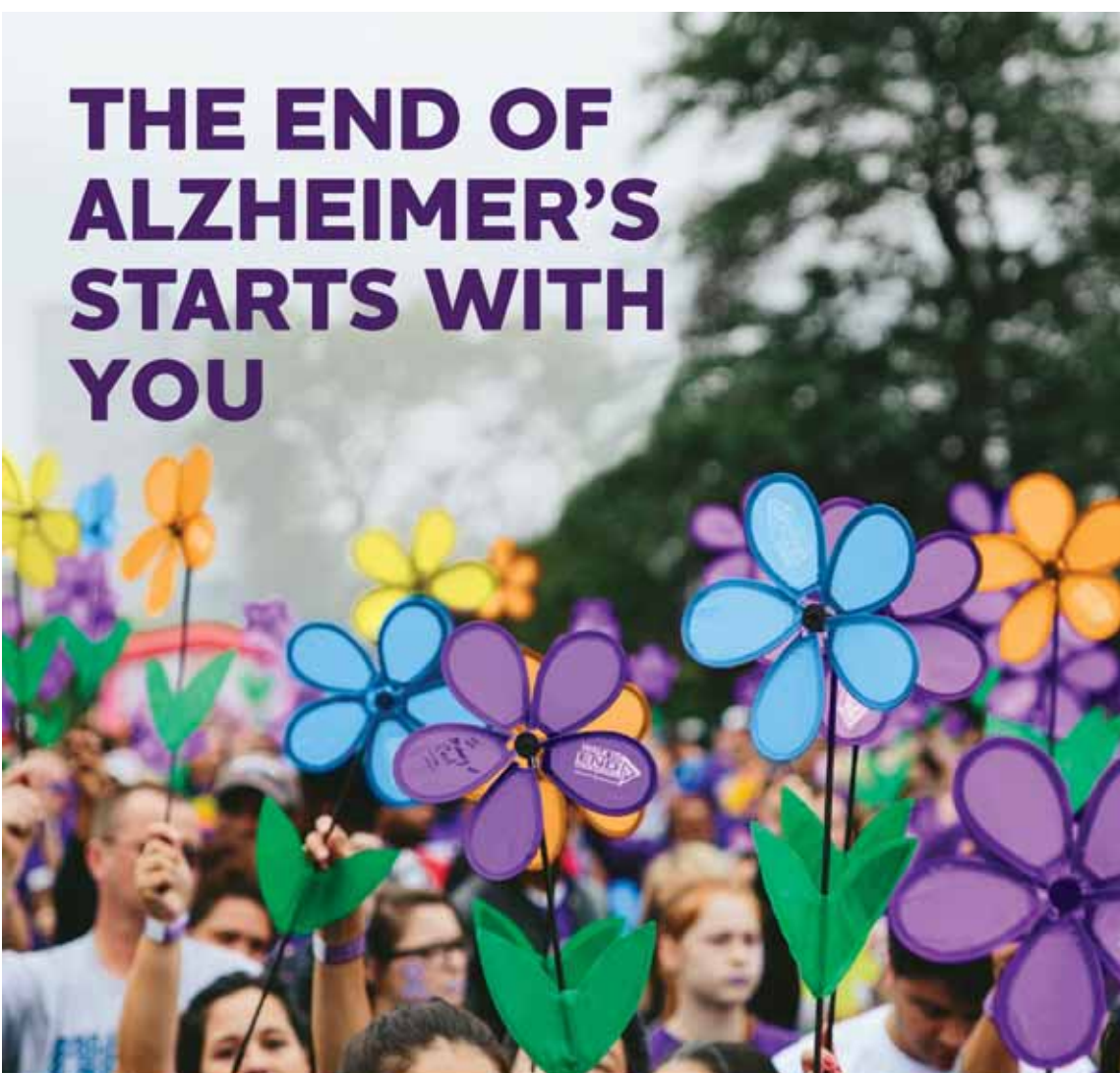
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ENTERTAINMENT

New Musical Enhances Historical Mystery

MetroStage stages "Blackberry Daze."

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

MetroStage in Alexandria is staging the world premiere musical of "Blackberry Daze" now through Oct. 9.

"We are so pleased to be able to bring the popular novel by Ruth P. Watson, Blackberry Days of Summer, to our stage," said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. She said MetroStage regulars Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles have written the book, lyrics and music with Watson, a Lynchburg native, that tells her compelling story with opportunities for actors to bring gospel, blues and jazz to the story and the stage.

The musical features an all-black cast of many artists who are already known to MetroStage. Set in 1919, it follows spirited characters living in rural Virginia with occasional forays into Washington, D.C., and the heart of the blues scene in Shaw where the Howard Theatre thrives today.

In this historical romantic mystery, a black

womanizer is murdered for raping his stepdaughter, and even though suspects abound, no one is trying too hard to find his killer. The characters all have compelling stories to tell, interrelated lives, and face challenges that remain current today, said Griffin.

"To bring this terrific story to the stage is a gift to the readers of Watson's series and will introduce others to her popular novels," said Griffin. "On our stage, music and choreography add another dimension to the storytelling that so many follow in Watson's novels."

With much of the drama set to music, some of the songs include "Save the Sinner," "Take Me Glory," "Layin' It Down," and "Rhythm of the Blues," to name a few.

Appearing in the show is Roz White as Mae Lou, celebrating her 11th season at MetroStage; TC Carson as Herman Camm ("Bessie's Blues" and TV's "Living Single" with Queen Latifah), Ayana Reed as Carrie, and Duyen Washington as Ginny/Annie



The ensemble performs in "Blackberry Daze" at MetroStage in Alexandria.

May. It also stars Nia Harris as Hester, Duane Richards II as Simon/Willie, and Yvette Spears as Pearl (who portrayed Sarah Vaughan in "Ladies Swing the Blues.") On piano is William Knowles and on guitar is David Cole.

Griffin said that buses carrying people from Atlanta, Lynchburg, Philadelphia and Baltimore have already come to the show.

MetroStage in Alexandria, a venue with 130 seats, is staging the world premiere musical of "Blackberry Daze" now through Oct. 9. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.; and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and \$60. The theater is located at 1201 N Royal St., Alexandria. For tickets, call 703-548-9044

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 27

White Jr. is a vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, actor, adult and children's concert performer and recording artist, teacher and social activist. John Flynn's songs call us together as they speak for the wounded, the weary, and the afflicted; for the prisoner, the soldier, and all the forgotten ones who walk unseen in our midst. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance. Visit www.focusmusic.org for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 27

Fall Robust Walkathon. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Ben Brenman Drive. Guest instructors, including the originator of Robust Walking, Dr. Dan Kulund, will lead groups through stations showing participants how to use simple exercises while walking that will help increase strength, agility, flexibility

and help to maintain balance. There will be a "Cool Down Social" after the walk with music by Janna Audey. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the park. There is a \$10 registration fee. Register online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Civil War Walking Tour. 1-2:30 p.m. at Begins at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. See first hand how the Civil War changed Alexandria. For those who have heard of the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," this is a family-friendly introduction to the occupied city. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov to register.

SEPT. 27-OCT. 23

Exhibit: "The Fanciful in Daily Life." Gallery hours at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo

Factory, 105 N. Union St. "Upside Down: Inside Out: The Fanciful in Daily Life" features three-dimensional work by Erika Cleveland. This imaginative fiber artist explores the fanciful in daily life with her needle-felted dolls, from life-sized to small, flying from a trapeze to hanging from a vine. Free. Call 703-524-5723 or email assoc.gallery@gmail.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

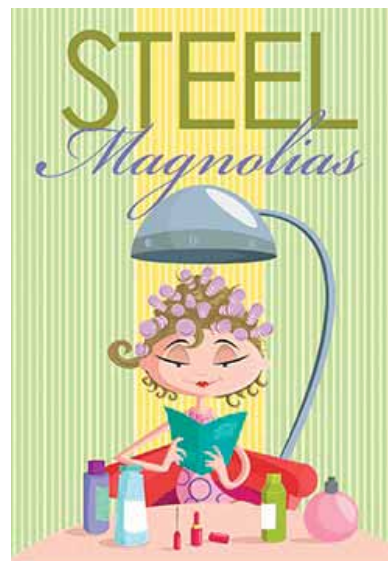
Community Supported Art Pick-Up Party. 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Interested consumers/collectors can purchase a "share" consisting of six pieces of locally produced artwork (one from each artist). Shares will include photography, glass, pastels, watercolors and ceramics. Only 50 shares will be available. Shares cost \$250 each and will be distributed at the Pick-Up Party. Visit

www.alexandriava.gov for more. **"Making Arlandria Home."** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Prince St. Alexandria began as a tiny port town on a wide spot in the Potomac River, founded by a small group of local farmers, Scottish tobacco buyers, and their African slaves. Two and a half centuries later, it's a city of more than 148,000 people, with nearly 30 percent of those people born outside of the United States, and more than 100 native languages spoken among its' school children. Much of this change occurred in the 20th century, and Professor Krystyn Moon has studied its impact in the Arlandria neighborhood of Alexandria. An associate professor of history and director of American Studies at Mary Washington University, Moon presents "Making Arlandria Home: The Changing Face(s) of an Alexandria Neighborhood, 1960's-1980's." Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Visit

alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org. **Mature Spirituality: Engaging with the Mystery.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Dr. James Hollis, well-published author and renowned Jungian analyst, is the Executive Director of the Jung Society of Washington. Join him for a discussion on the development of a mature spiritual life woven out of our own experience. Free. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/SEPT. 28-29

Yoga and Music with Wah! 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ease Yoga and Cafe, 3051 Mount Vernon Ave. Wah! teaches yoga and plays live music at the end of class. Registration is \$40 per session. Visit www.easeyogacafe.com for more.



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—John Wooden

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

New Neighbors Oktoberfest. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The 2016 school year marks the 15th anniversary of The Campagna Center's New Neighbors program and the many contributions it makes to adult refugees and immigrants in Alexandria who strive to improve their English skills. Celebrate with a night of beer, brats and more. Tickets are \$60. Visit www.campagnacenter.org for more.

Soil Evaluation and Composting. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The program will cover the basics of evaluating soil and how to turn yard clippings, kitchen waste and fall leaves into compost, a natural and environmentally friendly soil amendment that will nourish landscape plants. No more need for bagging leaves. Free. Visit mgnv.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

Virginia Genealogical Society Conference. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday at Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC) at Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Ave., Manassas; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 2500 Neabco Common Place, Woodbridge. Virginia Genealogical Society and the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society are giving a conference. On Saturday two tracks of lectures will be conducted. Donald L. Wilson, MLS, Virginia Librarian of the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History at Bull Run Regional Library in Manassas, Va., will speak on researching at RELIC. Charles S. "Chuck" Mason, Jr., C.G. will speak on genealogy basics and records of the Works Projects Administration. Sharon B. Hodges will speak on various topics. Free on Friday, \$44-\$55 on Saturday. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 8

2nd Annual Alexandria Live Music Week. Various times at various locations throughout Alexandria. The 2nd Annual Alexandria Live

Music Week, presented by Alexandria Live and On Tap Magazine, is a citywide music event featuring Alexandria's diverse music scene and musicians, as well the clubs, bars, restaurants, shops and venues that feature and promote live music in Alexandria. This year there will be over 50 participating venues and over 300 performances, including a full schedule of music during Del Ray's Art on the Avenue. Admission varies by venue. Visit www.livemusicweek.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Wounded Warrior Caregiver 5K. 9 a.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit organization that helps the families of servicemembers, veterans and wounded warriors by offering emergency and other financial assistance, caregiver support initiatives, back-to-school supplies, and programs that provide short-term transitional housing and mortgage-free homes. The registration fee is \$30 through Sept. 25 and \$35 from Sept. 26 through Sept. 30. Visit www.Caregivers5KAlexandria.com or e-mail Sponsorship@Caregivers5KAlexandria.com.

Civil War Soldiers Fighting in Style. 10 a.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 431 W. Braddock Road. Civil War interpreters wearing several types of uniforms will conduct the program, discussing the evolution, symbolism and style of military clothing and accessories of the period. Presenters will address questions such as: Why was wool a preferred material for uniforms? How was color used to designate branches of the service? How did foreign military styles influence American Civil War uniforms? Free. Visit www.fortward.org.

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating the community's diversity through the arts. The event takes place along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, and features over 350 artists, live music, free children's crafts and entertainment, artist demonstrations, a pie-baking contest, and more. Free. Visit www.artontheavenue.org for more.



Photo: Willy Hoffman

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20 Feet of Space and 127 Years of Controversy

FROM PAGE 1

passed by the legislature earlier in 2016 to retroactively grant coverage protection to monuments and memorials built before 1998, but the bill was vetoed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Where that leaves Alexandria if their petition to the state is denied remains unclear. "I'd be surprised if the members

of the General Assembly were inclined to wade into this controversy," said A.E. Dick Howard, a professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, in an email. "Tempers run high on both sides: those who see Confederate monuments as a legacy of a racist past, and the heritage folks who oppose erasing history. Legislators might well see themselves as hav-

ing little to gain by embarking on this debate."

According to Howard, the Appomattox statue isn't just the center of a city debate, but a statewide controversy over whether localities can control Confederate memorials.

"Those in Alexandria who want the matter to be decided at a local level would, I imagine, appeal to the notion that local people know more about local feelings and therefore ought to make the decision about the monument," said Howard. "They could point to other communities, such as Charlottesville, where a spirited debate is taking place over the prominence of statue of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson in local parks."

Toni Travis, a professor of Political Science at George Mason University, agreed that the state legislature approving of the statue move seemed unlikely.

"It's left in the hands of the state legislature, it's a Republican majority and they have every right to say no. Nothing in Virginia moves very quickly, not in Richmond at least. It's going to take a while. It may come five or 10 years down the road. The Civil War isn't over yet. It's in people's minds and in the cultural fabric of Virginia. This is just the beginning of a battle over locals saying we'd like it moved and people in Richmond saying no."

Travis also said the Virginia legislature's refusal will have an element of Dillon Rule in its justification, where powers not expressly granted to a local government are by default a power of the state. But Travis also said the sentiment in the Virginia legislature will run a little deeper than that.

"But underlying that, there's a lot of sentiment that Richmond is the capital of the Confederacy, and that we have dead who were war heroes who should be remembered," said Travis. "Publically, the face is going to be that [the state] has the right to decide. But there's really two levels."

Travis also said it isn't an issue that cuts cleanly across party lines.

"More conservative members, be they Republican or Democrat, are not going to be for moving the statue," said Travis. "The perhaps younger, more urban, more liberal would say that maybe it's time to say, but I don't think changing it from Republican to Democratic legislature will be enough. I don't think it's party based, I think it's Virginia history."

Even Ebbin, a Democrat repre-

senting Alexandria, Arlington, and parts of Fairfax, said he had mixed feelings on the proposal.

"I wouldn't mind it moved to the corner by the Lyceum, but on the other hand it's been there for a hundred years. It's a forlorn soldier looking south, sad and defeated towards his colleagues, but I also don't really like honoring the Confederacy."

The proposal's unlikely prospects at the state level did not go unnoticed on the City Council dais. Councilman Tim Lovain motioned to approve the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's recommendation to add context to the site, and Mayor Allison Silberberg added the recommendation to ask the state for permission to move the statue.

"We're asking staff to ask a question we already know the answer to," said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. "The code is pretty straightforward. We don't need to ask what the code means, we know what it means."

Wilson referenced the Danville case, which is currently being appealed.

"Portsmouth is having a similar conversation and is waiting on the outcome of the Danville case," said Wilson. "There are things going on around the state, legal changes that could affect our authority on this matter."

Silberberg said the City Council will continue to work to get the Daughters of the Confederacy onboard with the statue's move, but that the city will ask for the state to allow the change whether or not the group has signed on.

"For some who say this is not possible: you don't know until you ask," said Silberberg.

The statue was the most contentious of the three issues considered at the meeting. No change was recommended for renaming streets potentially named after Confederate leaders, with the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's recommendation citing the vagueness and complexities of the history of some street names. The council also unanimously agreed to direct the city manager to begin the process of renaming Jefferson Davis Highway and to generate recommendations for a replacement name. Some informal names were thrown around during discussion, most prominently Patrick Henry Street as the road divides into Patrick and Henry streets as it passes through Alexandria. Wilson expressed concerns that this might cause some navigational confusion and Councilman Paul Smedberg noted that the city would be re-

placing a street named after one slave owner with a street named after another slave owner.

While the council was unanimous in its decisions, the public speakers on the topic were sharply divided. Most said they believed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group reached an acceptable balance of preservation and progress. Others said the group was washing away Confederate history.

"Jefferson Davis was a hero," said Bernard Berne, an Arlington resident. "He believed secession was constitutional. President Lincoln had started a war by invading ... Slavery to some people was really bad, but to him it wasn't. This is a whole thing of the north denigrating Davis; he was a tragic hero. He believed he'd done the right thing."

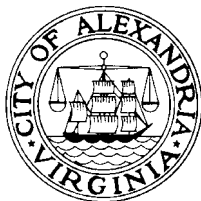
For others, the group wasn't doing enough to respect the lives of black Americans kept in slavery by the Confederacy.

"I think the [group] failed miserably," said Greg Thrasher. "I am sick of compromises. A compromise labeled me and my ancestors as three-fifths of a person. I'm offended by compromise. I'm offended that we have, even today, commissions to define my ancestor's dignity ... How long does it take for us to get this humanity? We're not a civil nation anymore. You failed us. This [group] failed us. I'm not compromising, never again. Black lives matter."

"It was clear from the beginning that we weren't going to please everyone," said Mary Lyman, chair of the Planning Commission and advisory group.

Councilman John Chapman addressed citizens speaking on both sides of the argument, rebuking the idea that Confederate leaders didn't understand that slavery was evil, but saying that the statue and street names were still a learning opportunity for Alexandrians.

"I pass the statue on the way to city hall every time," said Chapman. "The Confederacy is something that I cannot agree with. I cannot support it. I believe if the Confederacy had won, the makeup of this dais would not be the same. Looking at the Civil War, it's not North vs South, it's freedom or not. Looking at this case, I can understand why generations would want to have it torn down, but I think it's a terrific teaching point that we are not all equal yet. We have not sewn up our wounds from civil and racial conflict."



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA 2016 PERSONAL AND BUSINESS PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE OCTOBER 5, 2016

Personal property taxes, decal fees and residential parking fees, if applicable, must be paid no later than October 5, 2016, to avoid late payment penalty and interest. Business property taxes must also be paid by October 5, 2016. Please see the City's website at alexandriava.gov/finance for more information.

A City license decal and residential parking decal, if applicable, were mailed with the personal property tax bills to most residents. The City license decal should be removed from the back of the bill and applied inside the front windshield next to the vehicle inspection decal. The residential parking decal should be applied to the driver's side rear bumper.

Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/payments. Pay in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City. Personal property tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34899, Alexandria, VA 22334-0899. Business property tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34901, Alexandria, VA 22334-0901. Payments can also be made with cash only at approximately 70 Global Express Cash Payment Centers located throughout Northern Virginia. For a complete list of the available cash payment centers, please visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov/payments.

For vehicle assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email vehicletax@alexandriava.gov or call Personal Property at 703.746.3995. For business assessment questions or to receive a tax bill, please email businesstax@alexandriava.gov or call Business Tax at 703.746.3903, option 2. For payment questions, please email payments@alexandriava.gov or call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, option 8.

SCHOOLS

TC Gone Cyber

T.C. Williams students learn about the digital industry at summer camp.

This summer at T.C. Williams High School students ditched the endless hours of free time at home for something different. From July 11-22, TC hosted a summer Cybercamp for rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. The camp was free of charge and hosted approximately 30 students participated.

Students at the Cybercamp enhanced their digital skills through programming robots, learning coding, and going on field trips to local digital business. In addition, students learn public speaking and resume building as well as listen to guest speakers.

One such speaker was Dr. Phyllis Schneck, the chief cybersecurity official for the Department of Homeland Security. Schneck spoke to the students about topics such as how to get a job in a digital industry and how to succeed in getting noticed as digital pioneer. "At what point do you trust computers to make decisions?" said Schneck, illustrating the ongoing need for digital experts in emerging fields.

In a robotics class, Cesar Alfaro, a student on the Cybercamp's blue team, demonstrated his robot. The three-wheeled circuit board car had two infrared detectors on the front which made the vehicle turn any time the IR transmitters detected something blocking the robot's path.

Daquan Henderson, a rising senior at TC, took a slightly different approach. His ro-



Cesar Alfaro

bot uses two antennae that stick out from the front of the machine. When the antennae come in contact with an object it causes the robot to switch direction. "My favorite part [about the camp] is getting to meet these different people," said Henderson, "it gives us an opportunity to learn something outside of school and gives us an opportunity to have more options once we get out of high school."



Dr. Phyllis Schneck addresses Cybercamp participants.

Henderson has had previous experience in this field. During his sophomore year, he and two classmates created an app to help with word association for students with learning disabilities. Not all of the students had prior experience. Adam Elnahas, a rising sophomore, began at TC at the Minnie Howard STEM academy. Apart from that, this was his first experience formally learning about cyber technology. "I'm going stay

in STEM until I'm a senior," said Elnahas, "and then I think I'm going to take more computer-related classes, maybe computer sciences and stuff along the lines of that."

"The kids had a lot of fun breaking the mold," said Chris Outlaw, one of the Cybercamp's instructors and technician, "and it was part of the camp the whole time for them to go beyond what was expected of them."

PHOTOS BY EVAN JENKINS/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summa Cum Laude Sponsor Award

At the 2016 National Junior Classical League Convention held at Indiana University in July, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School Latin Teacher Ian Hochberg was awarded the Summa Cum Laude Sponsor Award for his service at the local, state, and national levels of the Junior Classical League (JCL). The JCL is a youth organization that sponsors competitions for students of Latin, Greek, and the classics. Hochberg was one of three teachers awarded this year. Hochberg has managed the SSSAS Upper School Latin program for the past 14 years. The award-winning Saints Latin club involves more than 100 students who participate in a variety of different events throughout the school year. In addition to Middle and Upper School classes, events include: in-school activities, field trips, overseas trips, conventions, certamina, and national exams.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Sheila Otwe, of Ghana and Alexandria, is one of three University of Virginia students awarded a Davis Projects for Peace grant for their proposal to promote civic engagement in Ghana. Otwe, a fourth-year anthropology and sociology major, plans to spend a month this summer at the University of Ghana at Legon, facilitating civic engagement for youth. Otwe is an events coordinator for the Organization of African Students and treasurer of United Sisters, an organization dedicated to the issues affecting women through education, discussion, service and an emphasis on improving self-esteem and creating a culture of sisterhood among marginalized women. A graduate of T.C. Williams High School, she is interested in community organizing or public service before going to graduate school.

Steve A. Brown, of Alexandria, received a Citation of Merit award from the MU Ag Alumni Association April 14 at the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources' annual awards ceremony. Brown earned three degrees: a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in agriculture education. Brown currently serves Future Farmers of America as a national advisor, helping to unite the leadership efforts of more than 629,000 members at more than 7,700 FFA chapters nationwide.

Keith Streicher, of Alexandria, was among 19 post 9/11 military veterans who completed the Entrepreneurship

Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities this past April at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Streicher is an Army veteran.

Dr. M. Annette Haggray, has been appointed as NOVA's next provost. Haggray holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Iowa State University, Ames; an M.A. in Instructional Technology and Educational Media and a B.A. in History and Education from North Carolina Central University. Haggray is currently vice president for academic affairs at Harford Community College. She is set to start at NOVA this summer.

The 2016 Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award was presented to **St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School**. Over the past decade, SSSAS has worked to make its buildings efficient, optimize transportation systems, and reduce solid waste through recycling, improved purchasing, and paperless communication. To increase awareness of energy consumption and encourage responsible energy use in classrooms and offices, the school maintains a real-time energy dashboard that reports school progress of energy consumption. The school also integrates sustainability into its curriculum, engaging students through hands-on activities at many of Alexandria's waterways and participating in cleanups along the Potomac River. The Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award is named in memory of Ellen Pickering for her lifelong dedication to local preservation and conservation. She was a member of the Alexandria Sanitation Authority's Board of Directors and served on the

Alexandria City Council and numerous boards and commissions.

Salvador Antonio Benitez Jr. and **Michael Robert Dormer** graduated from Hampden-Sydney College (Farmville, Va.). Benitez, the son of Mirna Benitez of Alexandria, graduated with a B.A. in Spanish. Dormer, the son of Robert and Bonnie Dormer of Alexandria, graduated with a B.A. in government.

Laura Fry, of Alexandria, graduated from Minnesota State University (Mankato, Minn.) with a B.S. in psychology, Summa Cum Laude and a B.S. in women's studies, Summa Cum Laude.

Emily Lynn Copps, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Copps received a degree in Master of Library and Information Science.

Rachel Voorhies, of Alexandria, has graduated from the University of Kansas. Voorhies received a Doctor of Philosophy in the history of arts.

Tevin Isley, of Alexandria, was recognized by Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.) for outstanding achievements during the 22nd annual awards banquet.

Christopher Gerlach of Alexandria, a junior double majoring in meteorology and geography, earned honorable mention in Virginia Outdoor Writers Association/Hunt's Best Collegiate Outdoor Photo category for his image of a hawk at sunset in his backyard.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

In Loving Memory Of
Nalls, Margaret E.
1/9/1931 - 9/20/2014

It is now two years since I lost you.
Thank you for showing me patience, strength and decency.
You were all those and more. You are truly missed.
Continue flying with your bluebirds, until we meet again.

Your Loving Daughter,
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the Office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

RFP No. 00000615: Design Services for the Renovation of Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library

Non-mandatory Site Visit and Pre-proposal Conference:
Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time at 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.

RFP Closing Date and Time: October 25, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4298.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

Randy Burns, Purchasing Agent

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Unfiled, St. Louis, Missouri, 1950; Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

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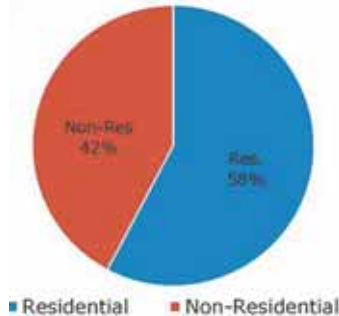
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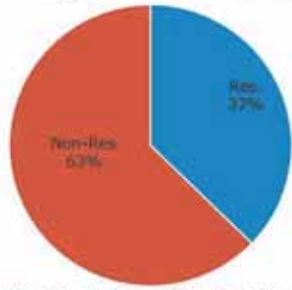
Tax vs. Fee Funding

Existing SWM Tax Burden



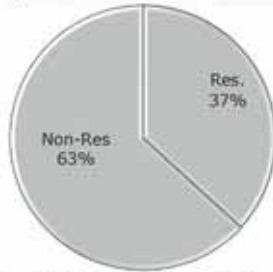
■ Residential ■ Non-Residential

Proposed SWU Burden



■ Residential ■ Non-Residential

City-Wide
Impervious Area Distribution



□ Residential □ Non-Residential

Existing stormwater management taxes use residential tax dollars to subsidize non-residential stormwater use, while the new service fee will adjust the rate to equal city-wide impervious area distribution.

You Pave, You Pay

FROM PAGE 1

keep that tax remains up to the City Council. The fee will shift the primary burden of the cost towards non-residential properties to match the current city-wide impervious area distribution. The plan will be refined throughout the fall and is scheduled to be presented to the City Council in May 2017 as part of the budget process. If approved, billing will begin May 2018. Currently, staff is reaching out to groups across the city to inform them about the service fee.

“The city has been good about informing the [Civic] Federation on this project and its anticipated cost with annual updates over the last several years,” said Roy Byrd, chair of Alexandria’s Civic Federation, in an email. “That said the extent of the bill citizens will have to absorb continues to be of great interest. [There are] concerns that the projections are too conservative. However, for the Federation and its members the larger issue is the cumulative impact of a

number of projects — stormwater, Metro (the Potomac Yard Station and the WMATA budget shortfall), property tax increases (direct and through value assessments), personal property tax (auto, to include paying for the right to park). We are asked to pay more and more in the form of direct and indirect taxes while delivery of basic services decrease — crumbling infrastructure, increasing density and traffic — impacting safety and the quality of life throughout the city.”

While most of the focus is currently on the second phase, Skrabak said staff has similar concerns about cost projections in the project’s third phase, which will require a 60 percent stormwater reduction over five years.

“We’re a bit concerned about the third permit cycle reduction,” said Skrabak. “If we don’t meet those goals, Alexandria is subject to enforcement measures and could be fined.”

Tier	Property Type	ERU Portion (1 ERU= 2,062 sf)	Est. Rate Range (yr.)	Est. Rate Range (mo.)
1	Condos	0.28	\$35-\$40	\$3
2	Townhome	0.42	\$50-\$60	\$4-\$5
3	Typical Single Family Home	1	\$120-\$145	\$10-\$12
4	Large Single Family Home	1.67	\$200-\$242	\$18-\$20

Residential property stormwater service fees broken down by house type.

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Just completed! New quality construction by Madison Homes. Exciting new open floorplan. Nine foot ceilings, Over 6,000 square feet on three levels. Discovery, Williamsburg, Yorktown School District. \$1,795,000
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Two fantastic new homes to be built by Madison Homes! Projected delivery: Fall 2016. Open floorplan, five bedrooms, four and a half baths. Close to East Falls Church Metro. Yorktown School Pyramid. \$1,535,000
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www.JenWalker.com



Alexandria **\$934,000**

Glamorous and oh-so-livable, this striking 2010 Colonial home, just further expanded, now offers 5+ bedrooms, 5.5 baths plus new fully-finished lower level with rec room, new deck off the kitchen/family room, tall ceilings and windows galore on a half-acre lot! 8826 Camden Street

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Del Ray **\$639,900**

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Accokeek, MD **\$649,000**

The Bealle-Marshall House! This charming 10+ acre estate is ready for a new owner! The main house, built in the 1800s, has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, and 5 fireplaces. 1-bedroom guest house and beautifully landscaped gardens & patios! Less than 25 minutes to DC & Old Town!

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Cameron Station **\$419,000**

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