



U.S. Sen. Mark Warner tries to shake hands with protesters, agreeing to “negotiate” for fair drug prices.



Harriet Sopher (left) and Terry Sopher protest U.S. Sen. Mark Warner's vote.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

## West End School Revealed

Parents express support, but Beauregard future raises concerns from neighbors.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The new West End school doesn't look much like an elementary school because it isn't one, at least not yet. The office building at 1701 N. Beauregard, formerly home to the American Diabetes Association, is scheduled to be purchased by the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) for \$15 million and retrofitted to become a school for \$23.2 million. At a community meeting in John Adams Elementary School on Jan. 17, ACPS officials presented their designs for the new school.

“This is new for us,” said Superintendent Dr. Alvin Crawley. “In negotiation to make sure we involve everyone in the process. We have a community process tonight. Know we have to work with real estate folks ... and need to have conversations as we move forward with process. [We] have to make sure we work with the city process. All of that has to happen simultaneously.”

The first four floors of the building will be school space, while the fifth will serve as office space with a currently unspecified tenant. ACPS will also purchase 1705 N.

SEE NEW SCHOOL, PAGE 8

## Democratic Disunity

Alexandria Democrats unite to support ACA, but Warner draws fire for amendment vote.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the number of uninsured Virginians has fallen by 31 percent. 327,000 Virginians have gained access to healthcare coverage they otherwise would not have had. As Republicans in Congress begin the process of repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), more than 100 citizens from throughout the region rallied on Jan. 15 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in support of affordable healthcare.

**“Healthcare is unaffordable for most working people. For [Warner] and 12 other Democratic senators to vote against this amendment is shocking.”**  
— Terry Sopher, local Democrat protesting Warner's vote

City Councilman Timothy Lovain said that if the ACA is repealed at a national level, it will be the localities that feel the impact. Lovain pointed to local neighborhood health clinics in Alexandria that are currently on the front lines of healthcare issues and are already overwhelmed by the numbers of uninsured in Virginia.

“For Virginia and for the nation as a whole, if

the ACA is repealed, people will be left without coverage,” said former Mayor William Euille. “That's a shame. This is the closest we've come to universal healthcare, and we're talking about dismantling it. It's wrong.”

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, Del. Mark Levine, and other local Democrats spoke out in favor of the ACA. Levine echoed Euille, saying he believed the ACA didn't go far enough towards universal healthcare but that it's still a step in the right direction.

However, the planned show of unity was disrupted by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner's vote on Jan. 11 against an amendment that would have allowed Americans to purchase cheaper drugs from Canada. Warner was one of 13 Democrats who opposed the amendment.

“Healthcare is unaffordable for most working people,” said Terry Sopher, who sat in his wheelchair outside the rally with a sign calling Warner a healthcare traitor. “For him and 12 other Demo

SEE DEMOCRATIC DISUNITY, PAGE 9

## Crawley: \$9.6 Million Gap in Proposed Budget

Despite 2 percent departmental cuts.

Superintendent Alvin Crawley's proposed budget leaves Alexandria Public Schools' with \$9.6 million funding gap, even with 2 percent funding cuts to every school department. With the city facing high infrastructure and Metro costs, Alexandria City Public Schools will have to compete even more fiercely than usual for this year's funding. But Crawley said that figure came with significant cuts that will im-

pact Alexandria students. Crawley said the initial gap was \$16.1 million, but ACPS dipped into reserve funds and required all departments to cut two percent of their budgets for a total \$5 million in savings.

“In terms of impact, in our technology department we will reduce licenses and subscriptions to online programs,” said Crawley. “That means fewer options [for students]. For curriculum and construction, we made reductions there in terms of materials. In the facilities department, we had to reduce allocation around custodial contracts.”

SEE CRAWLEY SEEKS, PAGE 9

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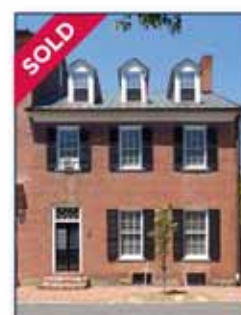
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# On the Front Line

Alexandria deputies to serve at inauguration.

BY HARRY M. COVERT  
GAZETTE PACKET



**Sheriff Dana Lawhorne**

When inaugurations come around, members of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office are always on the front line.

Again on this Friday, 13 members of Sheriff Dana Lawhorne's deputies will be sworn in by the U.S. Marshals Service. These deputies will join the elite protective agencies providing security at the nation's 58th inauguration, rain or shine. "Our team is happy to participate in the Presidential Inaugural. The Alexandria

Sheriff's Office has always been a part of the event. Our deputies are well trained and perform their duties to the highest degree of professionalism," said Lawhorne.

Alexandria city police will be a part of the security forces.

President-Elect Donald J. Trump becomes the nation's 45th president at noon. Moments before this historic swearing in, Vice President-Elect Mike Pence takes the oath as 48th Vice President.

Fourteen vice presidents became president; eight moved up at deaths of sitting presidents; and four went directly to the highest office of the land.

Inauguration planners have been preparing for 900,000 to one million visitors. The parade along Pennsylvania Avenue and festivities will be guarded by more than 28,000

armed law enforcement from the FBI, Secret Service, U.S. Capitol and Park Service police. Joining the security will be about 8,000 uniformed national guard and 5,000 ceremonial Army troops.

Sheriff's deputies from Alexandria are accustomed to bolstering federal police agencies. They are part of drug and special task forces.

Sworn officers representing other localities and states will also be sworn in for special duty.

Alexandria deputies and police will be dressed in their regular uniforms, with duty side arms, body armor and gas masks.

While the local officers are honored to participate in the detail, their duty is serious business and they are prepared, Lawhorne said.

# Chief Brown

Former CHP commander named new chief of police.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET



**Michael Brown**

Michael Brown has been selected as Alexandria's new chief of police. Brown is a former California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer and commander who moved to Alexandria in 2010 to serve as the director of the Office of Impaired Driving and Occupational Protection at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

"The Alexandria Police Department (APD) is a good department, I've seen nothing but dedicated officers," said Brown. "There are opportunities to become even better. I have some ideas on establishing even stronger relationships and ties [with the community]."

City Manager Mark Jinks says the city looked at internal and external applicants for the job, and an emphasis on community policing was one of the biggest priorities for an incoming police chief.

"We went with the best candidate for the job," said Jinks. "We need to expand community policing as part of what officers do every day."

As Brown assumes command of the APD, he faces a police force in transition. While surrounding jurisdictions have begun implementing a body camera program, the APD is still in the early stages of research on the program. Brown said he's talked about body cameras in the past, but that he doesn't have a confirmed opinion one way or the other on their use in the APD.

"They can be an excellent tool, but they don't tell the whole story," said Brown. "It's a question of implementation and cost. We have to see those mechanisms once we get into the department."

Brown's career also has some controversy. In 2008, after three years as head of the California Highway Patrol, Brown resigned amid controversy regarding his leadership. Brown said when he became chief, the CHP was facing a phenomena known as "Chief's Disease," the abuse of workplace injury and medical pension benefits.

"I was asked to address that when I came in," said Brown. "I did address that and turned it around, but when you do that you're not going to make a lot of friends."

Andrey Pankov from the International Chiefs of Police, which assisted with the search, said they were aware of the past controversy.

"That did not give us any concern," said Pankov. "We run searches like this a few times a year, so we've dealt with many of these issues that come up regarding candi

SEE NEW POLICE CHIEF. PAGE 9

# Recalibrating Fight Against Hunger

Setting priorities.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The monthly meeting of Hunger Free Alexandria focused on the accomplishments since the release of the report "Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria" which was released in 2014. The report indicated "Alexandria is one of the wealthiest communities in the nation; however, the report estimates that as many as one in five Alexandrians, disproportionately children, are living in households struggling to make ends meet."

Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission for Historic Christ's Church said, "You can tick off the things that have been accomplished."

Allen Lomax who was chairing the January meeting said, "Where do we go next?"

Melanie mentioned there are some things missing in the report. What are the priorities moving forward? A lot has been done but there is a lot to do."

Gray suggested the number one priority should be moving forward on the inclement weather plan. Lomax said, "We are very close but we need to finish the plan." Gray says the proposal calls for using three centers where people could come and get food ahead of the expected weather "since we usually have information 72 hours ahead of time." The plan has been submitted to the city but approval needs to come from the three sites before they can move forward.

Lomax suggested that the city budget is about to be released. He urged the members of Hunger Free to take three minutes at the upcoming budget meeting or to contact the council about the need for resources

SEE HUNGER FREE. PAGE 8



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Hunger Free Alexandria's January monthly meeting focused on progress in the fight against hunger since the release of the report in 2014 "Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria." But they agree there is much to be done and set priorities for the year ahead.**

# Agenda:Alexandria

Experts to discuss impact of local election changes.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

When Democrats Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain lost their City Council seats to Republicans Frank Fannon and Alicia Hughes in 2009, they put forth the proposal to move local elections from May to November, an initiative that passed the majority Democratic council in June of that same year. The change has resulted in local political races becoming "down ballot" races, placing local candidates lower on ballots that include state-wide and national races. Has this change resulted in a representative government for Alexandria? That is one of the questions to be discussed Jan. 23 at the



**Cameron P. Quinn, international elections expert.**



**Clarence Tong, Alexandria Democratic Committee chair.**



**Chris Marston, past chair, Alexandria Republican Committee.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

ing during the 2000 elections, Alexandria Democratic Party Chair Clarence Tong, and Chris Marston, general counsel of the Republican Party of Virginia and past chair of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. Moderated by journalist Michael Pope, the panel will also discuss the vulnerability for hacking and election fraud as well as the advantages and disadvantages of ward representation for City Council elections.

Agenda:Alexandria meeting, which will also examine if this move, along with elected school boards and state voter ID laws, has resulted in better government. Featured panelists include international elections expert Cameron P. Quinn, who served four years as chief state election official, includ-

The Agenda:Alexandria meeting will take place at The Hermitage, located at 5000 Fairbanks Ave. A cash bar reception begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. Program begins at 7:15 p.m. and ends promptly at 9 p.m. Reservations can be made online at [www.agendaalexandria.com](http://www.agendaalexandria.com).



# A Stepping-Stone into the Future

Program provides work experience for veterans.

By ALEXANDRA YE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hough the laboratory technicians at the Veterans Curation Program (VCP) work with archaeological collections of the past, the program is a stepping-stone into the future for each of them.

The Jan. 12 Meet and Greet event in Alexandria highlighted not only the archaeological methods at work in the laboratory, but also the program's commitment to supporting veterans.

The director of the Center of Expertise for Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, Michael "Sonny" Trimble, started the VCP in 2009 to address a two-part issue. "The archaeological collections of the Corps of Engineers all need[ed] to be found, processed and set up in repositories," said Jake Petrie, archives laboratory manager. "The other side was that he wanted to provide some kind of job training and employment opportunities for veterans."

VCP hires post-9/11 veterans, primarily from the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts, for an employment and training program that lasts up to five-months. It pays veterans a living wage and provides work experience, as well as support for future employment or education. As laboratory technicians, veterans work in both archaeological and archival processing. They gain skills in database management, data entry, and Microsoft Office, among others.

At the same time, lab managers help technicians plan for the future. By bringing in speakers, sharing connections and working on resumes and interview skills on an individual basis, managers help veterans build knowledge and confidence in different aspects of civilian life.

While the program impacts veterans at a particularly pivotal point in their lives, the laboratory technicians' work is similarly crucial for archaeological research.

"The beauty of this program is that we're training veterans, we're developing these great transferrable skills, we're getting them ready for the civilian workforce, but we're



**Kimberly Wade, laboratory technician, positions a prehistoric potsherd for a photograph.**

also rehabilitating collections that are at risk," said Jasmine Heckman, project manager. The laboratory processes archaeological collections, places them in stable archival storage and digitizes the material for future researchers.

"They're going to take these collections that have been sitting on university shelves or repositories for, in some cases, 20 to 30 years, and they're going to get them up to a nice, museum-quality standard," said Petrie.

This process unites veterans with various interests and aspirations. Lab technician Casey Wallace's work with data and digitalization aligns with her interest in the administrative field. Furthermore, she has discovered a personal connection to one of the projects — a collection of historic artifacts came from her hometown, Gallipolis, Ohio. "It's very, very interesting to see these items that had come out of an area that I grew up and never even thought twice about," said Wallace.

For Kimberly Wade, her laboratory work with artifact photography feeds into her plans for studying art history. "It just feels like a natural step in my life and in my growth progression," said Wade. She has learned not only about the artifacts themselves but also the archival skills necessary to photograph them. In the photography room, Wade points out the ridges and fire-

cracked characteristics of a prehistoric cookware potsherd, its photograph illuminated and magnified onto a screen.

"You get intimate with the actual artifacts, and you want to know their story," said Gabriel Brown, lab technician. For Brown, VCP provides a foundation for pursuing his passion for archaeology. "What got me into archaeology in the first place is the idea of pulling things from the dirt and interpreting the story from it ... it's just very satisfying being able to give a voice to people who obviously cannot do that anymore," he said.

"I'm hoping to go on to get my M.A. in archaeology, but I'm trying to keep myself open to any possibility that comes along," Brown said. He noted challenges involving finances as well as job experience. "You need to build your toolbox and fill it with as many tools as you can so that you become marketable, and that can be difficult," he said.

Such tools are equally available — and valuable — for laboratory technicians without direct interests in archaeology. Rodney Calhoun discussed the difficulties of seeking employment after serving in the military: "As a veteran, once we get out, there's not a lot out there for certain [military occupational specialties]," said Calhoun. "This is actually giving me an opportunity to broaden my horizons and build on some of



**Gabriel Brown, laboratory technician, examines an artifact photograph.**

the skills that the military has taught me."

Calhoun underscored the challenge of transferring skills from the military into civilian contexts. Despite having experience with teamwork and communication, it is a transition that most veterans are not prepared for.

"It's really tough. I know so many of my friends have gotten out and they've struggled with not having a job," said Calhoun. "[They think] their skill set doesn't give them anything desirable in the civilian world, but ... it actually does. We just don't know how to articulate [those skills] to a civilian."

Calhoun is currently processing folders and writing asset descriptions of documents on the archival side of the VCP laboratory. He was one of many at the Meet and Greet who spoke of the challenges of transitioning out of the military into the civilian workforce. "I am actually glad that I came here before going into any other job," said Afrah Ahmed, lab technician, "because after leaving the military, all I know is military life — everything was military to me."

Ahmed, who has been scanning negative photographs of archaeological excavation sites, emphasized the teamwork aspect of the VCP laboratory. Beyond working together to process each archaeological col-

SEE WORK EXPERIENCE, PAGE 18

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA YE/GAZETTE PACKET

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# Senators: Clean Up by 2020 or Lose State Funding

**Lawmakers  
poo poo city  
efforts to flush  
raw sewage.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Virginia State Senate say they're tired of hearing excuses about sewage from city officials in Alexandria, and they're pushing ahead with a plan that one senator calls "the nuclear option." Earlier this week, the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill that sets a firm deadline for Alexandria to clean up its act — 2020. If city officials are unable to stop dumping more than 10 million gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River every year, Alexandria would lose all state appropriations until the problem is fixed.

"I don't want to hear any more excuses from Alexandria," said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). "The truth is that they're more interested in building Metro stations and schools than they are solving this problem."

At issue is an outdated series of underground pipes that mix raw sewage with stormwater runoff, a system known as a "combined sewer overflow." As a result, almost any amount of rainfall sends raw, untreated human waste directly into the Potomac River at four different locations in Old Town known as "outfalls." City officials have a long-term control plan to close three out of the four outfalls. But they have not yet completed studies for figuring out what would be necessary to clean up the outfall at Oronoco Bay, which is responsible for about half of the sewage the system dumps into the Potomac River.

"The 2020 deadline, I'm going to be very frank with you, it's an impossibility," said Alexander

Macaulay, a Richmond lobbyist representing the city on this issue. "This is not realistic. There's no way that we could build this facility in this timeframe."

Senators were considering a number of different proposals on the issue, everything from putting together a study committee to setting a deadline of 2027. In the end, a majority of members on the committee decided to go with the most

extreme version — setting deadline only three years away and putting all state funding at risk for failing to comply. Most of the senators on the committee, Democrats and Republicans, said setting a hard and fast deadline was the only way they felt they could get action.

"They didn't just start dumping this today," said state Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28). "They've been

dumping this in for a long, long time, and they haven't done anything about it, and we've got to have some mechanism to hold their feet to the fire."

Three members of the panel voted against the bill. State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) called the idea of removing all state funding a "nuclear option," one he couldn't support. State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) said he was a "reluctant"

vote against the bill. And state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) called the bill "draconian."

"I would rather give the attorney general — as the ability under other state laws — the ability to sue the city if they don't meet my requirements," said Ebbin. "That would be more reasonable."

The House of Delegates will be debating similar legislation later this month.

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## CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

JAN. 17

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in 2500 block of Knight Place. Two unknown suspects forcibly stole cash and food from a food delivery driver. There were no injuries.

JAN. 16

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a felonious assault in the 3900 block of Mt Vernon Avenue. The victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A suspect is in custody.



## PEOPLE

# Green: Color for Sewers and Boots

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**ill Jones climbs into his white city truck and heads for 5375 Duke St. to respond to an emergency ticket. "This is a private complex so I only work sewer. The storm drains are private in different parts of the city," he says.

Jones is utilities coordinator for Public Works Services for the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. He handles sewer and storm.

Jones points to his computer which has been installed facing the driver's seat and is hooked up to the computer on his desk inside the building. Each morning Jones pulls tickets off the computer for work which is required to be completed in the next two days. The tickets come from Miss Utility in Roanoke. If it is an emergency ticket he says, "we have three hours." He says the tickets "come in all hours of the day and night. He pulls a pile off the dashboard. I can get 60-70 in a day." He says last year "I did 16,511 tickets."

As though it is his own private avenue, Jones drives down Duke Street toward the site. He says, "See that manhole. I marked it a couple of weeks ago." Close to the corner of Duke Street and South Pickett he points out a green flag. "There is a storm line under the flag. That fire hydrant will have to be removed." The phone blares as the contractor calls from the emergency site. Jones says, "Where you at over here? Are you on the street? I'll be there in 5 minutes." The contractor work can't proceed until the sewer lines have been identified and marked.

Jones arrives at the complex. "Hi Tia." Tia Fuga is a contractor for Verizon who will be laying the new communication line. "How deep you goin'?" Jones explains his sewer line is 12 inches down there. Jones says a ticket is needed before marking something. There are three parts to a ticket. "Alexandria's part is the the traffic and sewers. The communications company does the communications lines and Utiliquist does the power, gas and water. The finished ticket gets reported to Miss Utility in Roanoke.

Jones says, "Let's go take a look. You see those three manholes. On my map it only shows two." He heads to the first manhole. "Let's see what we got in this hole. Yup, it's sewer; see the water runnin'."

Jones heads to the back of his truck where he pulls out a long orange manhole hook which he says is a new model that makes it easier to pick up a manhole cover. And he has a sledge hammer if it proves too difficult.

He heads back to the truck and pulls out a large silver paint container. Jones shakes it up as he heads for the manhole. Jones sprays the lines marking the manhole, and his already green spattered boots get



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Bill Jones marks the manhole cover at the private complex before the communications company can put down a new line. Every morning he pulls 60-70 tickets off his computer for work required to be completed within two days.**

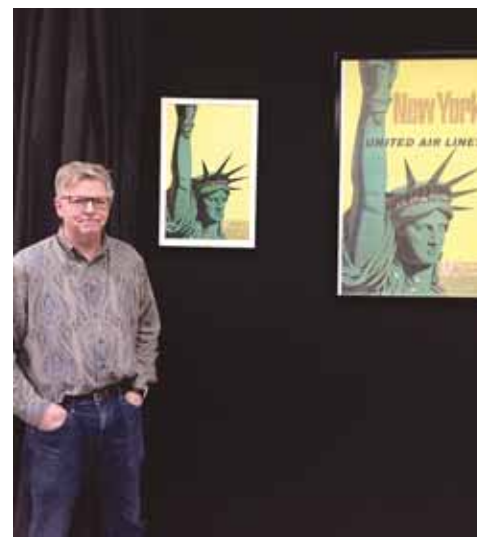
caught in the crossfire. Green is the color for marking sewers for underground utility lines. He says every service has a different color; for instance yellow is for gas, purple for irrigation, and red for electric. Jones says contractors have to get everything marked or even in your front yard. "Here, look at this stop sign." He says, pointing to the ground, "If they had put it right here they would have risked running right into the gas line and creating a leak."

Jones says he works five days a week with Raymond Monk as his partner. "We're out here every day together. He does an excellent job. And if I need more help, they send other guys. it is a group effort. We all work together as a team." Jones has been working on the sewer crew for a little over three years and before that, he was on the asphalt crew. He says he just got taught by the guys that used to do it.



**Bill Jones checks his map on the computer located in his truck before heading to the emergency site to mark the sewer lines. Jones is utilities coordinator for Public Works Services for the City Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.**

**Bill Jones' green boots evidence the color for marking sewers as he lifts the manhole cover with the manhole hook. Jones says every service has a different color with yellow for gas and red for electric.**



**Robert Luther with an early and final version of Stan Galli's New York piece, from a series of United Airlines advertisements.**

## Raiders of the Lost Art

### Alexandria treasure hunter auctions off '50's art.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**obert Luther introduces himself as a treasure hunter. Next Tuesday, the auction for his latest collection starts at \$1 a piece. The prize? A piece from Luther's collection of '50's art legend Stan Galli.

Galli, born in 1912, was an illustrator who worked in magazines like Reader's Digest and the Saturday Evening Post. He is also renowned for his advertising art, doing series of paintings for Weyerhaeuser Lumber and United Airlines throughout the '50s and '60s.

"Art was very much a presence in our household," said Stan Galli's son, Tom Galli. "Every night at dinner he would bring in some art and we would all review it. Since he worked at home, my classmates were invited up to the studio to watch him work. It was an everyday part of life."

Tom Galli said his father was keenly observant, a trait that comes across in his art.

"He could draw anything from any perspective, at any time, at any size without reference," said Tom Galli. "He observed things that carefully. Some things that he did early on are so graphically accurate that at first glance you have a hard time telling whether it was a photograph or a painting."

Luther found out about Stan Galli from a woman Luther worked with who was a distant relative. Luther, who has an interest in vintage cars, was immediately drawn to Galli's au-

tomobile advertising art from the '50s. Slowly, Luther began to build a collection of Galli's art, mainly advertisements he painted or pieces for magazines. Luther's interest was particularly in sketches showing the stages and progression of each piece leading up to the final version. Much of the art was collected by Luther when he flew out to San Francisco to meet Tom Galli, who had kept much of his father's work in storage.

The art fills a warehouse space originally designed for cars beneath Luther's business, a website design company called CountyWebsite.com, but the rooms currently look like a hidden art gallery in the heart of Old Town. Luther says he tried to sell the pieces to museums or universities at relatively low cost, but that both receive so much artwork donated that they weren't interested in paying for more.

The entire collection cost Luther \$50,000, and the bidding at each piece starts at \$1. Luther says there's a good chance he could lose money on the paintings, but Luther says he just turned 60 and it felt like it was time to move on.

"Is it worth it from a financial standpoint? No. It takes a lot of time and a lot of effort. It takes a lot of room. I told my wife not to let me do this again ... But, to me, it's worth the experience."

The art will be previewed on Jan. 24, starting at 6 p.m. at 1207 A King Street. The auction will be held online at [bobluther.com](http://bobluther.com).





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# New School Revealed

FROM PAGE 1

Beauregard and convert the top floor of the existing parking deck into a playspace. In Phase II of construction, a gym will be built onto the site to expand the play area for students.

Chief Operating Officer Clarence Stukes also noted that ACPS had considered leasing the space rather than purchasing, but found that purchasing would save \$28 million over 10 years.

The project is not settled yet. The site is under extended review until Jan. 31, when the closing process begins.

Updates will be provided to the John Adams and William Ramsay Elementary School Parent Teacher Associations in April, with a community meeting in May. The principal will be selected in July before the school is scheduled to be opened in August 2018. Parents at the community meeting expressed approval for the new building, some saying that redesigning office space to become a school was the way of the future for Alexandria schools.

"I'm super excited," said Justin Rosario, president of the William Ramsay Elementary School PTA. "The schools are super crowded. Last year, my daughter had lunch at 10 in the morning because the school lunch room isn't big enough for the number of kids they have. The school definitely needs some pressure taken off."

Rosario says he wasn't thrilled about be-

ing redistricted into the new school, but said he understood the necessity. The new school will have a capacity of 638 students, boosting total K-5 capacity for ACPS to 7612, which still falls nearly 500 seats short of the 8096 students enrolled in K-5 for FY2017.

But other members of the community were not as happy with the new school plans. Some pointed to changes occurring in the West End they did not believe ACPS was taking into account for the new school. Annabelle Fisher said she didn't believe ACPS' projected enrollment charts reflected the changing demographics of the area. Fisher warned that many of the current rental units in the West End are being converted into condominiums, which could mean less families with young children as the current residents are priced out of the neighborhood.

Crawley responded: "When we think about our needs for the next few years, we know that we will continue to grow through 2026. When you look at enrollment projec-

tions, you see that. Enrollment projections have been about 99 percent accurate."

While Seminary West Civic Association President Peter Benavage said he agreed with Fisher's concerns about projection, he also said he was concerned with how the

graphics, and I'm not sure anyone knows how. This is another mini-BRAC in the sense that these decisions are made by the left hand and the right hand is not included."

Crawley said the schools are aware of the BRT issue and are working with the city.



1701 and 1705 N. Beauregard.



1701 N. Beauregard, future home to the West End school.

new West End school will impact regional transportation.

"We need a school in the West End, we need the capacity, but I question that very specific location," said Benavage. "Kids are going to be cutting across bus rapid transit to get into school. Traffic is already [heavy there]. This will be like rolling a hand grenade into the middle of the transportation."

The city's proposed BRT line will run right in front of the new school site. The BRT line, first approved in 2012, will create a dedicated bus lane between the Van Dorn Metro Station and the Pentagon Metro Station running through the West End.

"We are asking for trouble," said Benavage. "What I've heard from the School Board so far ... is that they are unaware Beauregard is being expanded. As these properties are redeveloped, it will change the type and number of people living here. It will impact the demo-

# Hunger Free Alexandria Evaluates, Sets Priorities

FROM PAGE 3

to combat hunger. "Resources are scarce so we need to put in our voice," he said.

Other issues raised revolved around coordination of churches that provide meals, donation of food, transportation to the meals and assuring healthy foods are available. Phyllis L. Johnson, volunteer coordinator from St. Joseph's Catholic Church, reported that the food pantry that opened at Church of the Resurrection on Beauregard Street in October had served 555 — 141 since Jan. 1. This was the first food pantry to open in the West End. She said, "Volunteers are loving it. And people

only take what they need."

Matthew Dela Cuesta added that the family market opened in September at William Ramsay Elementary School was the first National Capital Food Bank family market program to open in the Alexandria area. Once a month they deliver fresh produce and vegetables to about 200 families of students who attend Ramsey. Each family takes home 30-40 pounds of food.

Johnson said, "We need to figure out how to get lists of what kind of food people want in different areas. For instance at the West End pantry "they like dried lentils, fish and chicken but not red meat so much. They

are concerned about their health. You shouldn't just donate something because you have it on the shelf."

Lomax pointed out that there is need for two-sided education, on the part of the donor and on the part of the client.

Diane L. Charles, executive director of ALIVE!, reported that they are currently assessing the inconsistent number of families participating in the last Saturday event where the families are provided with five days of food. There can be up to 600 families who receive the service. One of the theories is that families working two jobs and with small children have transportation

challenges and may not be able to get there. "Are there congregations that have vans; does the city have resources? It is a broad issue moving forward. We need a little more data collection."

Brandi Yee, representing Alexandria Community Trust (ACT), raised the issue of an education and awareness campaign — "what would it look like?"

Yee also alerted the group to "Spring2ACTION," an online fundraising event scheduled for April 5. She said, "It is sponsored by ACT and the funds will go to needs that may come up for the 150 organizations that serve Alexandria."

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# Democratic Disunity

FROM PAGE 1

cratic senators to vote against this amendment is shocking. If you're for affordable healthcare, you should have supported this."

Sopher and his wife Harriet travelled to the rally from Annandale. Terry Sopher said he had occupational toxic exposure that left him with long-term health problems.

"We had income and retirement funds, but it costs \$25,000 a year to keep me alive, and we're better off than most," said Terry Sopher.

Inside the center, a dozen citizens scattered throughout the room held up similar signs, ranging from some asking why Warner opposed the amendment to others like Terry Sopher's labelling Warner a traitor. "We Democrats don't always see eye to eye," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), "But this is no time to call each other names."

But Connolly's call for unity was less than effective. As Warner got up to speak, someone in the crowd shouted "explain your no vote."

"We need to negotiate on drug prices," said Warner. "There will be a time to have a debate on that ... That's the thing about Democrats, we can agree to disagree."

Outside of the recreation center, Warner clarified what he meant by negotiating on drug prices.

"The way Canada is able to get drugs so cheaply is through government purchasing," said Warner. "We don't do that here. That would actually deal with the problem. We need to try for a permanent fix first, and if that doesn't work we can look at other options."

Warner also said the government needs to ensure a speedier path to drug approval for pharmaceutical companies. But for many citizens, health care costs are an immediate crisis.

Marsha Wallace is a senior citizen who says she lives on a fixed income with a preexisting condition. With the imminent repeal of the ACA, Marsha says she's worried about a friend with a brain tumor whose insurance made it possible to be treated before the issue was critical. Wallace also said she was concerned if ACA was overturned the Republicans could target Medicare next.

David Kuebrich was one of the citizens holding a sign calling Warner a traitor. Kuebrich said he was disappointed more people weren't here to hold Warner accountable for his vote. But for many in the audience, the politics of the ACA and the votes around it were less important than the fear for loved ones who could soon be without insurance.

## Crawley Proposes Budget

FROM PAGE 1

The \$261.8 million proposed operating budget is a 3.3 percent increase over the previous year's budget. The remaining \$9.6 million gap is largely a \$4.8 million step increase for ACPs employees. ACPs employees have received step increases the last two years. An FY 2016 Washington Area Boards of Education report found that the average teacher salary in Alexandria was \$74,431, lower than Arlington's average teacher salary was \$78,002 but higher

than Fairfax's \$67,589 or Loudoun County's \$65,581 average.

"As we look at enrollment growth, we have to continue to attract more teachers into classrooms," said Crawley. "A step increase is one of the strategies in terms of systems of support to be competitive. As we grow in enrollment, want to continue to recruit and maintain staff."

\$2.7 million of the remaining budget gap is a state-mandated increase in Virginia Retirement System payments for staff.

— VERNON MILES

## New Police Chief Named

FROM PAGE 3

dates and what may qualify or disqualify them. Specifically regarding that, we did our due diligence into and did not present any kind of disqualifier. We reached out and spoke to individuals more familiar with what happened in that instance to have a global perspective, not just what it seems [on the surface] ... Brown is not just the most qualified, but the most

qualified to lead Alexandria."

Jinks concurred, saying that the city was aware of these issues and Brown was thoroughly vetted before he was chosen.


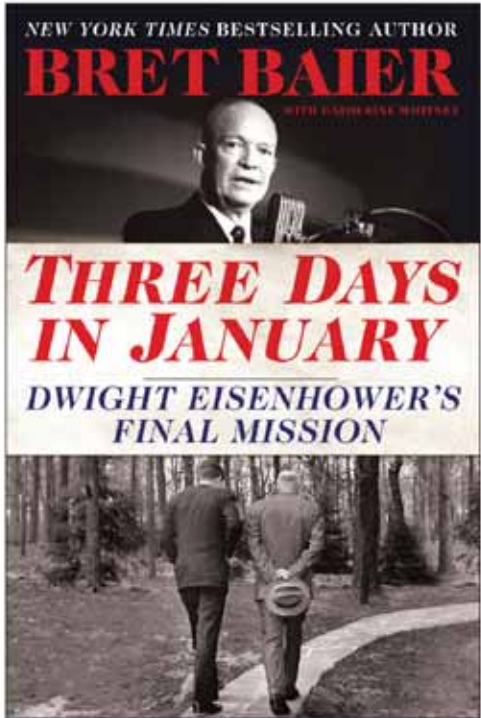
"In a career as long as he's had in as controversial an area [as he was], you're going to run into some bumps," said Jinks.

A welcome reception will be held for Brown on Jan. 24 from 6-7 p.m. at the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall.

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# OPINION

## Counting on Our Reps in Congress

**Sound the call to action; resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters.**

**W**hile most voters in the United States did not vote for Donald Trump for president, it was all the more so here in Northern Virginia. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote nationwide by 2.9 million votes.

In Virginia, Clinton won 49.75 percent to 44.43 percent over Trump; 1,981,473 votes for Clinton to 1,769,443 votes for Trump.

In the City of Alexandria, Clinton won 75.56 percent of the vote, with 17.54 percent voting for Trump; 57,242 to 13,285 votes.

In Arlington, Clinton won 75.83 percent of the vote, with 16.64 percent voting for Trump; 92,016 to 20,186 votes.

In Fairfax County, Clinton won 64.43 percent of the vote, with 28.61 percent voting for Trump; 355,133 to 157,710 votes.

Most people in this area didn't vote for the kind of changes that might be coming with this change of administration and party. They didn't vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They didn't vote to give massive tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest families, in many cases millions of dollars per family. Certainly they didn't vote for broadside attacks on Medicare, or to undo progress on climate change. This list could go on for some time.

With all of this and much more under consideration, we rely on our members of Congress, including our two U.S. senators, to fight, to stand up and resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters, to sound the call to action in every case it is needed.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says he will not attend the inauguration.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner rallied with thousands in Alexandria last weekend to oppose the repeal of the Af-

fordable Care Act.

Even the one Republican member of Congress from the region, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), spoke out against Trump during the election. Comstock could play an important role standing up for the values of voters in her district, and will play an important role in representing the interests of the region.

Call your representatives and tell them what matters to you. Every Virginia resident is represented by Virginia's two U.S. senators and one member of Congress. Of course this pertains to those who supported Trump as well.

Beyer: 202-225-4376

Connolly: 202-225-1492

Comstock: 202-225-5136

Warner: 202-224-2023

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

We welcome your letters to the editor; submit at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Then Time Limits for All

To the Editor:

Regarding City Council's recent vote to limit the number of speakers to 12 during the "open mic" comment period, (Gazette Packet, "Talking about Talking," Jan. 12) with Mayor Silberberg voting "no," this major policy change deserves a public hearing and extending this matter to a broader group.

This vote happened during the oral report

meeting of council's legislative meeting on Jan. 10 and clearly is an issue that should have been docketed for a public meeting. Councilman Willie Bailey stated that "we are engaging the public on everything and we don't have to engage here." Guess Councilman Bailey didn't get the memo re: Process in Alexandria. Since Alexandria adopted its civic/citizen engagement format several years ago, if council now wants to "throw the baby out with the bathwater," then we should all be part of this decision.

This matter works both ways and the mayor and council speak too much and too often too

long when not needed. When there are items for discussion that require a vote, the mayor usually asks if there are other comments before the vote is taken and often many members of council and the mayor will make comments they have already addressed and appear to be talking for the sake of talking. I believe it is time to limit the mayor and council to a 3-5 minute rule and the clerk can alert them when they have reached their 5 minute limit.

It is also time for city staff to limit their presentations to 10 minutes. The mayor/council already have a copy of these reports and can ask the appropriate questions as needed. Also, since the attorneys for the applicants they are representing have no time limit, it is time to limit their presentations to 8-10 minutes max.

Finally, I am suggesting that if weather conditions are such that council needs to delay the start of the public hearing for more than two hours, these meetings should be rescheduled. Therefore, I am making a motion that a time limit is placed on city staff presentations; attorney presentations and all comments made by the mayor and members of council as cited above. I suspect this motion will be seconded by a majority of citizens who attend council meetings and want to be heard, knowing that our elected officials have already made their decisions regarding a particular docket item. This motion should be placed on the docket for a public hearing at the February council public hearing.

Silence is golden!

**Annabelle Fisher**  
Alexandria

## Lights Wouldn't Disturb Neighbors

To the Editor:

I believe that the fighting over the lighting  
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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## OPINION

# Growing the State's Economy

BY CHARNIELE  
HERRING  
DELEGATE (D-46)



**L**ast week, the 2017 Virginia General Assembly session began with a call from Governor McAuliffe for us to work across partisan divides in order to help nurture the New Virginia Economy and make the Commonwealth a place that we all want to live in. In the past year we have seen unexpected election results, economic downturn in states that prosecute our LGBT brothers and sisters, and other states that have raised the minimum wage have seen a positive impact on their economies. We

can all agree that we need to work to make our economy strong. However, what have we seen in our current Virginia legislative session? Legislation that is distinctly similar to North Carolina's infamous HB 2 has been filed and once again a woman's right to choose is under attack. We have seen bills that would basically prohibit localities from providing better broadband access and put guns in the hands of untrained individuals.

As always, my focus is working together to help make sure that we grow Virginia's economy and make this the kind of place a person wants to live and raise their family. However, I feel that it is important to take the time and stand up against HB 1612 the "Physical Privacy Act," which is the same type of bathroom bill which is bringing turmoil to North Carolina. Businesses left because this type of legislation gave the message that North Carolina isn't welcoming

to individuals who are different.

What happened because of that message? Simple, It is 2017 and we're talking about discriminating against a group of individuals. This bathroom bill is a job killer. We saw what happened last year to our neighbors in North Carolina. According to a November estimate by Forbes Magazine, HB2 has cost North Carolina at least \$630 million since March. Deutsche Bank, PayPal, the NBA, and the NCAA have withdrawn investments in that state. The tourism industry is a critical to Virginia's economy, and it is most at risk by this kind of legislation. In 2015, tourists spent \$23 billion on transportation, lodging, food, amusement and recreation, as well as retail shopping in Virginia. Our tourism industry is the fifth largest private employer in the state and directly supports 222,000 jobs. Tourists spent \$63 million a day in Virginia during 2015, which yielded \$1.6 billion in tax revenue. We can't afford to damage this industry in Alexandria or the Commonwealth.

It is my hope that this legislation will be defeated, though Governor McAuliffe has already signaled his intention to veto it, should it reach his desk. While this type of anti-business legislation has been presented and we are fighting back against it, I am happy to note my colleagues in the House Democratic Caucus have proposed legislation to ease the burden of student loan debt, raise the minimum wage, and I have proposed my own legislation to encourage youth entrepreneurship. All of these are all focused on growing our economy.

*Charniele Herring represents Alexandria City's 46<sup>th</sup> District in the Virginia General Assembly where she serves as House Minority Caucus chair and on the Courts of Justice and Counties, Cities, and Towns committees. You can follow Delegate Herring online at [www.charnieleherring.com](http://www.charnieleherring.com).*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

over T.C. Williams High School's football field is ridiculous. TC should be able to have lights like many schools in its district. I think that in a sense, they are missing out on a true high school experience, by not having a lit field for night games. I see the concern from the neighborhoods around the community but in Alexandria, the game would have to be over by 9 p.m. and not cause any disturbances in the surrounding neighborhoods. I am a short walking distance of the TC fields, and I do not share the concern that the lit field would be harmful to the neighborhood. I hope to one day attend a game at TC under the lights.

**Davis Hyre**  
Alexandria

## Valuable Addition to City

To the Editor:

The proposed Alexandria Veterans Commission will be a valuable means of coordinating the many contributions veterans are making to our city. I hope that one of its functions will be to help publicize busi-

nesses owned by veterans, and to let us know which corporations employ veterans. And I certainly hope that the city itself, and firms doing business with the city, will be prominent among them, because, obviously, veterans are a mature and well trained human resource. In the event, heaven forbid, of any Alexandrians losing their lives in the line of duty, I trust the commission will ensure that a street name will honor them.

**Elisabeth Vodola**  
Alexandria

## Deplorable Decision

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's rather deplorable decision to boycott the U.S. tradition of the peaceful transfer of power is disappointing. Beyer noted that despite U.S. intelligence community universal denials to the contrary, he would not "be part of legitimizing a man whose election may have depended on malicious foreign interference ..."

Perhaps Beyer would do well to listen to President Obama who said of Donald

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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## ONGOING

### Simply Abstract” Art Exhibit.

Through Jan. 29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features local area artists’ expressions of abstract art using shape, form, color, and line in 2- and 3-dimensional work. Artists tossed their colors and media in the air to release their inner energy in this display of artwork.

### Portrayal of Women in Visual Arts Exhibit.

Through Jan. 31, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. The artist’s perspective of women inspired by in part by their experiences residing in Ethiopia. [Alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com](mailto:Alexandria@StGeorgeofEthiopia.com) or 703-299-9495

### DASHing Words in Motion.

Through Feb. 1, The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest “DASHing Words in Motion.” Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company’s DASH buses motto which is “Keep Alexandria Moving,” or bus stops, neighborhoods, roads, or other modes of transportation within the City of Alexandria.

[www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts), email at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov), or by phone at 703-746-5565.

### Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Feb. 12 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson’s A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan’s McDowell County, WVA. [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com)

“Sanctuary.” Through Feb. 18 in the Commons Fireplace Alcove of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Selected black and white photographs from Nina Tisara’s “Sanctuary” series, shot in Huntley Meadows Park. A closing reception will be held on Feb. 18, 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by a concert by Nova Chamber Orchestra beginning at 7:30 p.m. Email Nina Tisara at [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com) or call 703-765-5950 for more.

### Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

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

### The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.

Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

### Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.

Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical

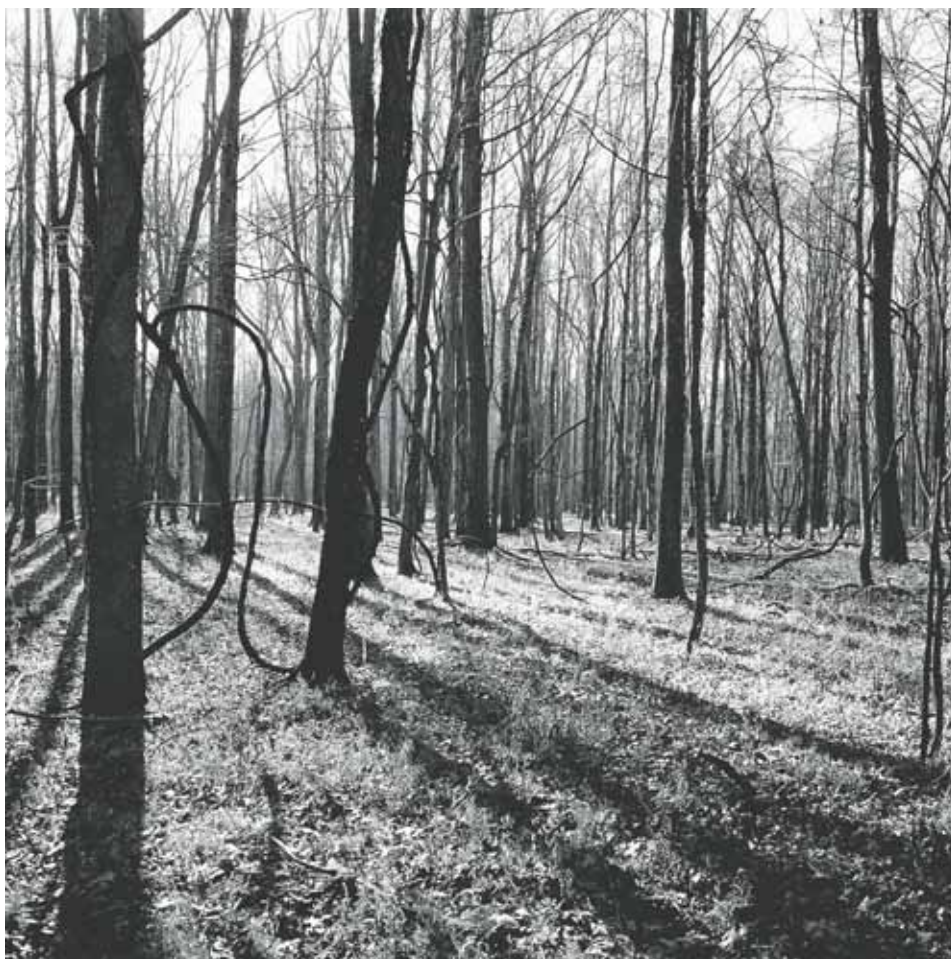


PHOTO BY NINA TISARA

## ‘Sanctuary’

**Selected black and white photographs from Nina Tisara’s “Sanctuary” series, taken in Huntley Meadows Park, will be on display through Feb. 18 in the Commons Fireplace Alcove of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. A closing reception is planned for Feb. 18, 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by a concert by Nova Chamber Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Email Nina Tisara at [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com) or call 703-765-5950 for more.**

instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/fortward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward) for more.

### Alexandria’s Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.

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

### Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.

Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal’s Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington’s defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

### Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.

Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired

“Mercy Street,” the new PBS’ series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

### “Ancient Art of Movement.”

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

### Color Disorder Exhibit.

Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

### Flamenco Show.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

### French Movie Night.

Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

### Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.

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

### Alexandria Cars and Coffee

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

### Fifty Years of Collecting.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

### Dinner for the Washingtons.

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

### Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m.

## Dairy Godmother Says Goodbye to Del Ray

It was a surprising move for a longtime neighborhood eatery in Del Ray: Just a few days after announcing the start of her annual winter hiatus, Dairy Godmother owner Liz Davis has revised her message and announced that the venerable custard purveyor is closing for good.

**QUICK BITE** “While the almost 17 years of owning The Dairy Godmother have brought me great joy, I will not be reopening in the spring,” she wrote

on the restaurant’s website on Jan. 12. Davis has offered to sell the business, part and parcel, but will not be responding to communications until she returns from her hiatus abroad, she said.

What began as the Del Ray Dreamery has become a mainstay in the neighborhood for nearly two decades, offering up unique custard flavors (such as Cicada Crunch during the cicada outbursts of recent years) and adding extra zeal to the 2300 block of Mount Vernon Avenue daily, especially during the warmer months. In the summertime, it wasn’t unusual to spy a line snaking out the door, especially on the weekends, where frozen custard lends itself to languid after-dinner noshing, either in the café or on the benches out front.

While Davis is away, the Salt | Bagel pop-up shop that is set to open Friday will continue for the next six weeks as planned. The joint venture of Bagel Uprising and No. 1 Sons was already in the works prior to Davis’ announcement and will remain in residence through February.

— HOPE NELSON

Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

### The Monday Morning Birdwalk

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

### Civil War Sundays.

1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).

### Doggy Happy Hour.

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

### Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-



# ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit [www.baseballboat.com](http://www.baseballboat.com) for more.

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. [maurisapotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurisapotts@gmail.com)

## CAMPS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

## JAN. 20-22

**Inauguration Weekend at Gadsby's Tavern.** Various times at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Free tours, ladies tea, plus other hands-on activities. Call 703-746-4242 or visit

[www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 21

### Family Owl Outing at Huntley Meadows

4:30-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Discover the secret world of owls and learn what makes these raptors excellent predators of the night. After the presentation, hike the trail at Huntley and hopefully hear or spot one of the park's resident owls. \$7. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/) for more.

### The Lee-Fendall House as Civil War Hospital

10 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "This Tide of Wounded" tour of the museum and grounds highlights the Lee-Fendall House's role as a hospital during the Civil War. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

### Experiences of Slavery

2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "From Slavery to Freedom," this tour interprets the Lee-Fendall House from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the experiences of slavery in the city. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

## JAN. 21-MARCH 5

### New Target Gallery Exhibition.

Various hours at Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria artist Suzanne Vigil is among the artists exploring their Individual Identities. Public reception on Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. Visit [torpedofactory.org/](http://torpedofactory.org/) for more.



## On Exhibit

**"My Three Sisters" by Simone Welsh** is one of the art-works in the New Target Gallery Exhibition, Jan. 21-March 5 at the Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Public reception on Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. Visit [torpedofactory.org/](http://torpedofactory.org/) for more.

PHOTO BY  
SIMONE WELSH

## SUNDAY/JAN. 22

### Classical Music Performance.

3-4 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Enjoy a classical music performance by the Friday Morning Music Club featuring classical works by various composers. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/](http://www.alexandriava.gov/) Lyceum or call 703-838-4994 for more.

## MONDAY/JAN. 23

### "City Elections: Are We Getting It Right?"

6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Discussion by Chris Marston, former

Alexandria Republican City Committee Chairman; Cameron P. Quinn, International Elections Law Expert and former head of the Virginia State Board of Elections; and Clarence Tong, Alexandria Democratic Committee Chair. Cash bar reception and dinner with reservations and cancellations by Jan. 20. Members \$32 nonmembers \$37. Call 703-548-7089 or [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

### Ballroom Dance Classes.

7:45-8:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Gary Stephans teaches the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. For all skill levels. \$15 per class. Call 703-

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*Cavalier Whispering to a Lady, signed*  
Oil on canvas: 30 x 20 in.

**Tom Clancy's Golf Cart**

**Soviet Army Gray Wool Overcoat**

**Vintage WWI American Green Painted Metal Bi-Plane Model**

**Wood & Hughes Coin and Sterling Silver Five Piece Tea and Coffee Service**  
Prov: Dumbarton House Museum

**Attr. John Greenhill/ (British 1618-1680)**  
*Portrait of a Lady*  
Oil on canvas: 29 1/4 x 25 1/2 in.  
Prov: Estate of James Rees

**PA Chippendale Walnut Tall Case Clock, Inscribed John Schalleberger, ca. 1780**

**Francis Brass Searchlight on Tripod Stand**

**Garrison Rousseau Modern Shagreen Veneered Cabinet**

**Vintage Russian Made Soviet Military Trench Periscope**

**PA Chippendale Walnut Tall Chest of Drawers**  
Prov: Estate of James Rees

**Japanese Arita Charger with Dragon and Tiger, Meiji Period**



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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Hosting a President for Lunch

**Fireflies' owner looks back on the day President Obama paid her restaurant a visit.**

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Obama administration's time in the White House comes to a close this week. During their tenure in town, the president and his family were known to venture across the river for dinner on occasion, visiting the likes of everywhere from Restaurant Eve to Del Ray Pizzeria to the Majestic. On one summer day in 2014, President Obama found his way to Fireflies in Del Ray for lunch, much to the surprise and delight of his fellow diners. Here's a look back on the occasion from the vantage point of owner Marylisa Lichens.

**APPETITE** In November 2013, Lichens wrote a letter to the president expressing her concern and dismay regarding the state of the federal government. On the heels of the government shutdown that October, Lichens wrote the president that she was dissatisfied with how the shutdown was affecting American small businesses and closed by saying she knew he enjoyed a good burger — he was welcome at Fireflies any time.

"Sure enough, (about) six months later, we got a call" from the president's staff, Lichens said. "... My chef called me and said, 'So, the president's coming for lunch.'"

There was only one problem from Lichens' point

of view: That day in June was the first Tuesday she'd taken off in months, and she was miles away. She spun the car around and headed back toward Alexandria.

"Meanwhile, I'm driving down 66, trying to get down to the restaurant in time," she said, until she received a call from the president's team, who advised her to lay off the gas pedal; Obama would be dining and leaving before she would be able to get back to Del Ray.

"Apparently the president walked into the restaurant and said, 'Hey, where's Marylisa — I wanted her to know I read her letter,'" she said. Upon realizing she was away from the restaurant, there was only one thing for the president to do: Reach her by phone.

"The whole car ride, until he actually called me, I was practicing" what to say, Lichens said. "As soon as I heard his voice I started sobbing into the phone. ... His final words to me at the end (of the call) were: 'I hope this helps you out.'"

"I was very touched that — you kind of send these letters out into the ether and never know if they're going to touch base or not ... and I've always been a fan of his, and it was just really cool that he read it and knew my name," Lichens said.

And as for the meal of the day? Lichens can rattle it off from memory.

"He ordered the American burger, which is always on our menu — of course he had to order the American burger — but he did substitute white cheddar for the American cheese, no mayonnaise, no onions, and he added Dijon mustard," she said. "He said it was a really good burger."

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## CALENDAR

505-5998 or visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

homes with Laura Clerici. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

Workshop students partner up to create abstract art.

**DelRayArtisans.org/event/hands-on**  
**Chairman's Voyage: To Boldly Go...** 7 p.m. at Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 2834 Duke St. Hear the future of the City of Alexandria and welcome our new Board Chair Dak Hardwick and celebrate the possibilities to come. Call 703-549-1000 or visit [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 29

**Marine Chamber Orchestra Plays Water Music.** 2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Music by George Frideric Handel, Ned Rorem and John Knowles Paine. Call 703-845-6156 or visit [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).

## TUESDAY/JAN. 31

**Mathew Brady Civil War Photographs of Alexandria.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Alexandria historian Tom Schultz of DC Military Tours will lead a discussion on seven subject photographs and the new discoveries found in them. Wine and cheese will be served. Free. RSVP at [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.  
**Tom Clancy Auction.** 10 a.m. at The Potomack Company 1120 N. Fairfax St. Auctioning items from the estate of novelist Tom Clancy, author of "The Hunt for Red October" and "Patriot Games," including designer furniture and the author's golf cart. Preview of the Clancy items opens on Thursday, Jan. 19. Email [Lucie@potomackco.com](mailto:Lucie@potomackco.com) or call 703-684-4550.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 26

**Vegetable Gardening Part 1: Jumpstart With Seeds.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Get the scoop on seed selection, hybrid vs. heirloom, what seeds to start indoors, germination tips, and best bets for seed saving. Find out how to make your own starter pots, and easy-to-create lighting systems to bring the sunlight inside. Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).  
**Dinner with the Gray Ghost Winery.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Start the first course and conversation with Gray Ghost Vineyards, with links to the "Gray Ghost" Confederate John S. Mosby. \$125. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).  
**Songwriter Scott Miller and Mac McAnnally in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 28

**Watercolors in Workshops.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and instructor Marni Maree demonstrates techniques and guides you in creating your own watercolor painting. \$88. 703-642-5173 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).  
**"Hands on: Collaborate Abstractly"** 2-3:30 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 24

**Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S. Alfred St. See how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

**Dyke Marsh Walk.** 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Dyke Marsh, 6401 George Washington Memorial Pkwy. Join leader Tom Nardone to scan the river for waterfowl and enjoy a walk through the marsh and woodland areas. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Club. Visit [www.nvabc.org/](http://www.nvabc.org/) for more.  
**Speaker Series on "Technology for Seniors."** 10 a.m.-noon at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This workshop will discuss how technology can enhance lives. Call 703-836-4414, ext. 110 or visit [Seniorservicesalex.org](http://Seniorservicesalex.org) for more.  
**Volunteer Alexandria Open House.** 4-7 p.m. at 123 North Alfred St., 1st floor board room. Meet friends and learn how to get engaged in the community. Visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org).  
**Iconography: Prayer in Images.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDS4PEACE

**The Kids4Peace Interfaith Summer Camp is aimed at helping to break down religious stereotypes.**

## Planning for Summer Camp

**Local camp fairs help families navigate the maze of summer camp offerings.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**n an effort to confront religious intolerance, a group of local middle school students will attend a camp aimed at bringing together children from different religions and giving them the chance to come together, make new friendships, visit houses of worship, learn about other traditions and practice dialogue to confront Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism.

"Campers will get experiences in synagogues, mosques and churches," said Shoshana Abrams of Kids4Peace. "They'll see how others pray, how they celebrate and what they believe. It's helping to break down stereotypes. A lot of interfaith action is needed to combat Islamophobia and bring together people of different faiths."

Kids4Peace's Interfaith Day Camp is one of a diverse variety of summer camps available to local children. From performing arts, wilderness adventures and sports to language immersion, standardized test prep and community service, the summer offerings in the Washington region are plentiful. Though warm weather is months away, this is the time to start planning for camp and finding the best fit, say child development experts. "You want to include your child from the beginning of the process," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Explore options by following their interests. I like to ask kids 'What problem would you like to solve?' For instance, would they like to learn how to

play basketball, how to make a rocket, how to see other galaxies, how to paint with acrylics, how to star in a play? These [questions] will point you in a direction that is good for both you and your child."

Local camps fairs such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, offer access to a variety of both day and overnight options in one location. "We want parents to know that there are many different options out there, and they're going to find out all the specifics about many camps," said Jacky Dooly, of Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo and Washington Parent in Bethesda, Maryland. "There will be specific sports camps like swimming and martial arts. Maybe child has academic issues and they need to get caught up. If so, there are academic programs."

Before attending a camp fair, Dooly suggests that families prepare themselves, and there are questions that she recommends parents ask prospective camp officials. "Does the camp offer early morning care as well as later evening care?" she asks. "Find out information about the food that is offered at the camp. How much activity will your child get during the day? If you're interested in a particular camp, find out if it fits within your budget."

"I'd also want to know how they are going to keep your child safe, how they encourage participation, and the percentage of returning camp counselors and campers," added Lorente. "If you have a camp with high return rates that indicates that it is a place where people want to be."

Mandarin immersion, public speaking and science exploration are among the choices that will be available this summer at BASIS Independent Summer McLean. Noting that this will be the camp's inaugural summer, Asha Bruot, spokeswoman for McLean BASIS, says that there will also be "a traditional day camp for students in first through fifth [grades] with thematically-linked activities, classroom projects, outdoor games, drama, music, and art."

"Summer camp should be a place for your child to explore, play [and] become," said Lorente. "The school year has become so structured. I would want a camp that has embedded in it time for child-directed exploration [and] free-time."

### For More Information

#### 2017 CAMP & SUMMER FUN EXPOS

**Sunday, Jan. 29:** The Montgomery County Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center/Rockville, Md.

**Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25-26:** The Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Dulles Town Center Mall, Dulles, VA.  
[www.washingtonparent.com/](http://www.washingtonparent.com/)

**Kids4Peace Camp:** <http://www.k4p.org/chapters/washington-dc/>

**Tips on Trips and Camps:** (Feb. 12, 1-3:30 p.m.) Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd. Bethesda, Md., 301-881-0547 or <http://tipsontripsandcamps.com/dc/>

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## OPINION

# Reaching for Excellence

BY BILL CORBETT

The Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) created the "Reach and Rise for Excellence" (RARE) after-school mentoring and tutoring program for Hammond Middle School students. The STEM focused program meets four days a week to help students with math, language arts, leadership and life skills which include introduction to entrepreneurship, computer coding, parent engagement and more. Leah Swanson is the RARE Mentor of the Month.

Leah is in her second year as a math tutor for RARE students, helping them do online math drills as a blended approach to improve their skills.

"Most of the math I do with the students is introductory algebra. We figure out integers, how number lines work, and positive and negative numbers. Some of the students are doing the math of triangles in geometry, too.

"I've been volunteering to work with kids since I was in high school.

When I'm with RARE students, I enjoy talking with them about things they enjoy in life outside of math and outside of school. I think it's important that the kids have adults they can talk to who can relate to them who aren't authority figures, just people with some experience to offer.

"It's been interesting to see all the different ways students learn, and how they explain it all. Having them explain a problem, and how to solve it, has



Leah Swanson with Morgan.

shown me there are a lot of ways to do math and think about it. Especially with kids for whom math is not a strong suit, when you talk to them and share enough that they can explain the problem back to you, it's very rewarding. It makes them very proud of themselves."

One of Leah's students says, "Miss Leah is good at listening to whatever we want to talk about. And she asks us a lot of questions that make us think."

Be a math tutor (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) at RARE. Volunteers are needed to help RARE students drill on VMath Live, an online instructional tool for common core-aligned math instruction. To learn more, contact Bill Corbett at [williamcorbett@verizon.net](mailto:williamcorbett@verizon.net). RARE is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. January is National Mentoring Month and AMP program members are hosting various activities this month. To learn more about AMP and the activities taking place in January, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.

## MENTOR OF THE MONTH

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

Trump, "We are all rooting for his success." Or to follow Hillary Clinton's example as she sits in a place of honor to witness and congratulate Mr. Trump and Gov. Pence as they take the Oath of Office. It should be noted our congressman will boycott the first African-American to administer this sacred Oath. I might remind Mr. Beyer that such condescending behavior will marginalize his effectiveness as he represents us on critical issues such as federal employee concerns and the billion dollar WMATA bailout resulting from decades of neglectful Democrat party mismanagement. At precisely the time when Northern Virginians need a mature and reasoned voice at the negotiating table, Congressman Beyer has elected to give up his seat.

**Dr. Sean Lenehan**  
Chairman, Alexandria  
Republican City Committee

## Mayoral Accomplishments

To the Editor:

A year ago, my friend, Allison Silberberg, was sworn in as Alexandria's new mayor. As I reflect on Allison's first year as Mayor of Alexandria, it is remarkable what she has accomplished in 12 months.

Immediately after taking office, Mayor Silberberg took prompt action and set a new tone for open government by putting forward an ethics and transparency initiative. By spring, the council voted for the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and Ethics Pledge. This was an important pillar of Mayor Silberberg's campaign, which gained wide support

in the community.

Her compassion for people can be felt in a new environment that she has promoted at City Hall and throughout Alexandria. She emphasizes a culture of inclusion, civility, acceptance and respect. This passion led her to initiate the city's first-ever Statement of Inclusiveness, which was issued by Mayor Silberberg and the City Council in collaboration with the Alexandria Human Rights Commission.

The issue of four sewer outfalls into the Potomac River has been an environmental problem in our city for decades. Since 1994, the city has been under a state mandate to fix the problem at three of those four outfalls. But last year, Mayor Silberberg and this council voted to move forward with a plan to fix the three outfalls as well as accelerate plans for the fourth outfall at Oronoco Bay. We all know this will take a decade or more to complete, and she believes we cannot allow any more time to lapse. We must begin.

For over 40 years, Alexandria has had a tradition that at the beginning of every Saturday Public Hearing, people of all backgrounds can come forward to speak about any issue for up to three minutes. Without public notice or input, City Council voted 6-1 to change this tradition and limit the number of speakers during this portion of the meeting to 15. No docketed item at this hearing has a limit on speakers. Mayor Silberberg spoke out against this and was the lone dissenting vote. She believes in more civic engagement, not less.

Mayor Silberberg puts her whole heart and mind — and an incredible amount of energy and hours — into this awesome responsibility. She will continue to build bridges of understanding among our citizens and move us forward on a host of issues in the years

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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# CLASSIFIED

## 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-10-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for an Emergency Alert System at Francis C. Hammond Middle School and George Washington Middle School.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-10-05 Emergency Alert System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 31, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACP's website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACP's web site.

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

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

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)  
ACPS Senior Buyer

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## 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

OBITUARY  
THOMAS-SEMONIAN  
PATRICIA ANN THOMAS-SEMONIAN (Age 76)



of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Friday, December 16, 2016 in Thetford house (Assisted Living) with her husband by her side. Beloved wife of Edward Semonian, Mother of Pamela Jennings, Brett Thomas and the late Rhonda Clark. Grandmother of Meghan Crum (Jennings), Kenneth, Katie and Andy Thomas, and Nephew, Blake Ramsey.

A Memorial Service will be held in the sanctuary at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 on Friday, January 27, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Reception to follow in the Faith Activities Center at the church.

## 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

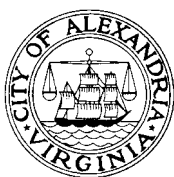


Dr. Mark William Frankena, age 73, of Alexandria, VA passed away peacefully at his home on January 11, 2017. He was born on December 7, 1943 in Ann Arbor, MI to the late William Klaas and Sadie Roelofs Frankena. Dr. Frankena earned a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a B.A. with highest honors from Swarthmore College. Dr. Frankena served as the Deputy Director for Antitrust in the Bureau of Economics of the FTC. During his tenure at the FTC, Dr. Frankena also served as Assistant Director in the Bureau of Economics Division of Consumer Protection, and Deputy Director for Economic Policy Analysis. Between 1988 and 2004, Dr. Frankena worked as Special Consultant for Economists Incorporated. Prior to joining the FTC, Dr. Frankena was a tenured associate professor in the economics department at the University of Western Ontario. He has coauthored a book and authored or coauthored several articles on antitrust issues. Mark was an avid collector of antique office equipment and was curator of the Early Office Museum ([www.officemuseum.com](http://www.officemuseum.com))

Mark was the beloved husband of 30 years of Kim S. Frankena, loving and devoted father of Morgan and Gregory Frankena, brother of Karl Frankena.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, January 17th, 2:00 pm at Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA followed by a reception. Graveside services will be held at 11:00am on Wednesday, January 18th at Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA. The family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center ([www.lombardi.georgetown.edu](http://www.lombardi.georgetown.edu)) or the International Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia Foundation ([www.IWMF.com](http://www.IWMF.com)). Please view and sign the family guestbook at [www.everlywheatley.com](http://www.everlywheatley.com). Arrangements by Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA

## 21 Announcements 21 Announcements



### TAKE NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Alexandria will be attending VML Day at the Capitol, Wednesday, January 25, 2017, at the Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. There will be three or more Council members in attendance.

For more information, please call 703-746-4550.

Jacqueline M. Henderson  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

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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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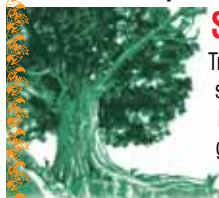
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## News

# Work Experience for Vets

FROM PAGE 4

lection, the technicians support each other as fellow veterans. "Here, we learn from each other," she said, "and the managers help us every single day."

Wade echoed this statement. "It just feels good to be around people who understand me, who get me, who have been through similar things as I have," she said. "The managers who are civilians are very understanding of what the veterans go through," she added, referencing struggles with disability, in addition to the difficulty of transitioning into the civilian world.

Wade and Wallace both identified camaraderie as a significant and positive aspect of the laboratory. "It's so nice to have that camaraderie, because everyone here has served," said Wallace. Calhoun hypothesizes that the technicians bring the military aspect of closeness and teamwork into the laboratory. "It's not like a regular office," he said. "We're all very close."

The current five-month program session started with 18 technicians. One has already obtained a job and will depart from the program next week. According to Petrie, there were six technicians managed by two lab managers when he started working at the Alexandria laboratory as a technician three years ago. There are now six managers, working in a building that an April 2016 expansion doubled in size.

Heckman notes that the program has grown exponentially. The VCP currently

employs 50 technicians and 14 lab managers across its three facilities in St. Louis, Mo., Augusta, Ga. and Alexandria. A joint venture comprised of Environmental Resource Group and New South Associates (ERG-NSA JV), an environmental consulting and cultural resource management firm, manages the program. It also operates smaller labs in Nespelem, Wash., and Tempe, Ariz., and is affiliated with the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR), the Colville Confederated Tribes in Wash., and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Laboratory, which hire veterans who graduate from the VCP.

As of November 2016, 373 veterans have been or are currently employed by the VCP, with 73 percent obtaining permanent employment and 17 percent continuing their education at colleges, universities, and in certificate programs.

Further growth of the VCP will be contingent on the congressional funding that the organization receives. "As a program, we are trying to help as many veterans as possible, so we really push the amount of money we get," said Heckman. "We're spending every cent of that on getting more veterans helped."

While the program has limited spaces, Heckman encourages anyone interested to apply. "Even if we can't help [applicants], we try to get them in touch with other veteran resources and try to make a nice collaborative effort in terms of furthering them in their transition from the military."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 16

ahead. We are lucky to have Allison leading our city during such challenging times in our country.

**Eileen Cassidy Rivera**

Former School Board Member,  
Alexandria City Public Schools

## More Glass For Old Town?

To the Editor:

Several years ago, I advised the Alexandria City Council that the all-glass building at the Edmonson Plaza was totally out of place in the Old and Historic District, and that it served as a signal to use glass elsewhere in this district, specifically at the North and South Robinson Terminals. The city's planning staff and most of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) are apparently taken with the idea of more glass in the historic district, since they want to approve another massive all-glass develop-

ment for a 56-unit condominium building (King Street Gateway Project) located at 1604 to 1616 King Street. This particular development would be located directly in back of five town houses that were built in 1912. To their credit, at least two BAR members have expressed deep concern that this latest glass project is not in keeping with a historic district that is predominantly red brick. Obviously, the BAR will revisit this development again before it hits the Planning Commission and council.

Those of us who live in the Old and Historic District are concerned that an infusion of structures that are predominantly glass dilutes the character of the Old and Historic District. If this second all-glass development is approved, it is another yet another nail in the Old and Historic District coffin. At this rate, the Old and Historic district will soon be little more than a few scattered buildings to remind us of days gone by. The example of Chinatown in the District of Columbia comes to mind, where only the name of the district, the ornate Chinese Gate, and a few Chinese businesses remain, next to the Goethe Institute, Hooters, and Potbelly Sandwiches. As in the case of Chinatown (where tourists are bemused and confused by its transformation), the Old and Historic District may become a distant memory sooner than later. Once eradicated, it is difficult to restore the essence and atmosphere of a particular district.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## BULLETIN BOARD

**SATURDAY/JAN. 21**

**Water Taxi to Women's March.** 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 10 a.m. departure times. \$30, \$20 one-way. Potomac Riverboat Company's special water taxi service from Alexandria's waterfront in Old Town directly to the Southwest Waterfront in Washington, D.C., six blocks from the event starting point. Return times 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. Visit [www.potomacriverboatco.com/water-taxi/womens-march](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com/water-taxi/womens-march) for more information.



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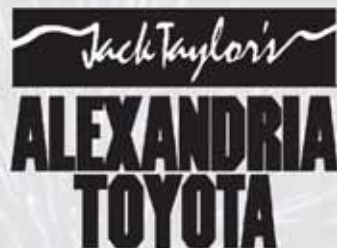
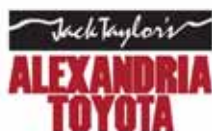
VIRGINIA

2017

# Special VIP Offer for your Toyota



3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305 • 703-684-0710 • [www.alexandriatoyota.com](http://www.alexandriatoyota.com)



3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



**Service & Parts Dept. Hours:**  
Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 9:00pm  
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

**ToyotaCare Customers**  
Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.  
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000  
Mile Services  
Call your ASM for details  
**ToyotaCare Plus \$299<sup>00</sup>**  
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles



## VARIABLE DISCOUNT

**\$5.00 OFF** with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99  
**\$10.00 OFF** with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99  
**\$15.00 OFF** with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99  
**\$20.00 OFF** with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99  
**\$50.00 OFF** with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/17.

## SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES

**\$10 OFF**

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/17.

## BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR

**\$1**

SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.

**GOT TIRES?**

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY.

AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

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## TRUESTART BATTERY SPECIAL

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



INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty,  
24 month **FREE** replacement,  
24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL \$99<sup>95</sup>

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

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

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES. PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/17.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE \$29<sup>95</sup> LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$49<sup>95</sup>

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

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE COMPLIMENTARY 15 MINUTE ALIGNMENT CHECK

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. GOOD THRU 1/31/17.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159<sup>95</sup>

Synthetic \$10 More

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

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

- Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors •
- All weather floor mats • Toyota bedliners •

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Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 10% OFF OVER THE COUNTER PARTS

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



# Alexandria trusts McEneaney Associates

McEneaney.com



there when it counts



OPEN SUN 1/22, 2-4

## Alexandria \$759,900

With 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, this light-filled property offers updates throughout, a finished walk-out basement, a beautiful sunroom, a tiered deck for entertaining and a fenced backyard. Close to major interstate access, DC, & Old Town. [thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/1722-oakcrest/](http://thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/1722-oakcrest/)  
**Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221**  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



OPEN SUN 1/22, 2-4

## Alexandria/Belle Haven \$1,849,000

Not Just Another WHITE HOUSE. Fabulous update of stately 6-bedroom home located one mile south of Old Town. Nanny suite, media room, wine cellar, private patio, balcony and garage. High-end staging sold separately. Move-in Now! 1906 Belle Haven Road  
**Janet Caterson Price 703.960.5858**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



## Alexandria \$1,049,000

6-bedroom, 5.5-bath colonial in the heart of Alexandria. New construction. Over 3,500 SF with 2-car garage. Open floor plan perfect for today's lifestyle. Large kitchen with island and eat-in bar. Luxurious owner's suite. Finished lower level rec room plus bedroom and full bath.  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



## Alexandria/Braddock Heights \$2,375,000

Stunning new custom-built home on a beautiful corner lot. Large gourmet kitchen, breakfast room, great room with wood-burning fireplace, & library. Master suite with dual baths, sitting room, fireplace, & walk-in closets. Oversized 2-car garage. Media room & lower level bedroom/bath.  
**Sarah King 703.864.5050**  
[www.saraheking.com](http://www.saraheking.com)



## Alexandria/Wellington Heights \$969,900

Exceptional 4/5-bedroom, 3-bath home in Wayneswood ES. Move-in ready, completely renovated, hardwoods, half-acre of gardens, gazebo, spa, fenced yard, slate patio off spacious master suite. Enormous two-car garage, downstairs family room suite on quiet cul-de-sac.  
**Robin Arnold 703.966.5457**  
[www.RobinArnoldSells.com](http://www.RobinArnoldSells.com)



OPEN SUN 1/22, 2-4

## Alexandria/Colecroft \$429,900

This light-filled 6th floor balcony condo has 2 bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Unobstructed views from both the living room/balcony and the master bedroom. Newly updated kitchen, ample closet space, hardwood floors, stacked washer/dryer, built-ins & garage. 545 Braddock Rd #601  
**Jessica Richardson 703.864.3438**  
[www.JessicaRichardson.com](http://www.JessicaRichardson.com)



## Old Town \$2,100,000

Circa 1850, this detached townhouse has been totally renovated with a Lobkovich kitchen, new baths, in-floor heating and finished lower level rec room. 12-foot high ceilings, original floors, tall windows, 7 fireplaces and exquisite chandeliers are just a few special features. Historic smoke house and off-street parking.

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)



## Old Town \$523,000

Fantastic fee-simple, 2-level residential/commercial office townhouse close to Braddock Road Metro & Potomac Yard. Easy access to DC and Reagan National. 1,746 total SF. First floor leased until 2018. Upper floor: 3 office spaces plus reception area. Cathedral ceiling. HOT location! New development all around!

**Suellen West 703.981.0984**  
[www.SuellenWest.com](http://www.SuellenWest.com)



## Alexandria/ Carlyle Towers \$899,000

Over 2,100 SF of comfortable living in this spectacular 20th floor 3-bedroom condo. Flexible floorplan with 3.5 baths, eat-in kitchen, office, and 2 sunrooms. 2 parking & 2 storage spaces. Secure building with on-site gyms, pools, outdoor recreation facilities. Walk to shops, Metro & PTO.

**Chris Hayes 703.944.7737**  
**Gordon Wood 703.447.6138**

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