

## Of Lives Lost

**Maximum sentence in murder case ignites brawl in courthouse.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hen the sentence was pronounced, Rashad Lonzell “Snap” Adkins had nothing left to lose. For second degree murder of Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs in 2015 and a related weapons charge, the jury gave him the maximum penalty of 43 years in prison with no chance of parole.

His family wailed while friends shouted angrily at the judge and the jury. As deputies were struggling to contain them, Adkins, who had remained stoic throughout the trial, made a break for the gallery. He shoved the deputies out of his way and nearly broke through into the audience. Broken blue wooden beams knocked out of the divider between the gallery and the court marked his progress before four deputies ultimately pushed him to the ground and were able to restrain him.

The courtroom was cleared and Adkins’ family was not allowed to return as the jury finished the sentencing.

### RASHAD LONZELL “SNAP” ADKINS

The first murder in Rashad Adkins’ life happened months before his birth. In 1994, a car slowed down near Lonzell Adkins as he walked through Del Ray. Court records from the case say the car’s occupants called over to Lonzell Adkins, and, when he came close, Timothy Matthews got out of the car and shot him at point blank range with a silenced pistol.

Danielle Adkins, Lonzell Adkins’ younger sister, was a child when he was murdered. She recalled that Lonzell Adkins was supposed to pick her up from school that day but never showed up. When she started to walk home, she saw a group of people stopped in the street. In the middle of the crowd was her brother, Lonzell, dead in the street. A neighbor who knew her scooped her up and carried her away, but it was Danielle Adkins who



**Andrew Adkins Housing, where the murder of Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs took place.**

had to break the story of her brother’s death to her parents.

What the Adkins family didn’t know was that Lonzell Adkin’s girlfriend, Alisha Johnson, was pregnant. Months after his murder, after Rashad Adkins was born, his mother contacted the family. The mother was unable to provide for Rashad Adkins at the time, so Lonzell Adkins’ family took Rashad Adkins in. Lonzell Adkin’s mother, Constance Adkins, raised Rashad Adkins as her son.

Two years later, Johnson vanished on a trip to the store. A week later, her legs were found in Fauquier County. The rest of her body was never found. Constance Adkins said it wasn’t until around 2009 that police were finally able to confirm that the legs belonged to Rashad Adkin’s mother.

Danielle Adkins said the murder of Rashad Adkins’ father scarred him. She described him as highly obsessive compulsive and superstitious. When he turned 16, the age his father had been when he was murdered, she said he became increasingly paranoid.

“Lonzell’s death had an effect on all of us,” said SEE 43 YEARS, PAGE 9

## New Lines, Old Problems

**School Board approves plan 9a for redistricting.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**or the first time since 1999, the Alexandria Elementary School boundaries are shifting. At the Jan 26 School Board meeting, staff recommended plan 9a, a plan that will shift the elementary schools of 474 students. Amendments and alterations to the plan were proposed during the meeting by board members, but were ultimately voted down in favor maintaining the boundaries

that had been established through the public process. The board voted 8 to 1 in favor of the new elementary school redistricting.

At the center of much of the public discussion was the Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School, the only unaccredited Alexandria school. After the school lost its accreditation in 2012, parents within the school district could choose not to send their child there. By the 2016-2017 school year that option was no longer available for the elementary school, but parents could still opt out of Jefferson-Houston at the middle school level. But parents can also get administrative transfers for their students, a policy

SEE NEW LINES, PAGE 4

## Affordable Housing: Still ‘Ground Zero’

**Mixed progress since 2013 Housing Master Plan.**

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hile the city has implemented some measures from its plan to expand affordable housing, other measures remain undone.

These measures could affect the city’s overall health. “The lack of affordable housing is the ground zero of need in the city,” according to the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations in 2015. The shortage is “the most significant factor affecting progress across the broad range of human services issues.” Affected

issues include disabilities, early childhood education, economic and workforce development, emergency assistance, health, immigrant services, senior services, and youth development. This assessment remains valid today, “without question,” said ACHSO’s Glenn Hopkins.

The city’s 2013 Housing Master Plan (HMP) recommended 23 specific measures — or “tools” — to increase affordable housing. These tools include zoning ordinances, funding assistances, and other city programs. Eight have the highest potential to expand affordable

SEE MIXED, PAGE 19

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# Prisoner Reentry: Some Solutions

Local programs, services help ex-offenders.

## Part II

In a three-part series focusing on prisoner reentry in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hirty-eight thousand prisoners are incarcerated in Virginia with 12,000 adults and 500 juveniles projected to be released each year. Ninety percent of those released return to their communities. Ex-offenders may face stigma, lack of family support, inadequate life skills suitable for making it on “the outside” and difficulty getting and retaining employment.

Local solutions include Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) serving Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church; Guest House located in Del Ray serving women in Northern Virginia; and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Alexandria which ministers to both adult and teen-age former offenders including an employment initiative for teenagers. In addition, the prison system emphasizes intensive reentry training for ex-offenders, and parole and probation officers focusing on ex-offender rehabilitation as well as law enforcement.

OAR provides reentry services to previously incarcerated individuals including transition assistance and employment coaching. A new reentry program begins working with prisoners while they are still in jails or correction centers. On a 12-degree day in January the phone is busy and the reception room of the OAR office on N. Uhle Street in Arlington has a steady stream of visitors. Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, executive director of OAR, says it may be someone with sweatpants and a plastic bag of clothes who has just been released from jail and who needs temporary assistance like warmer clothes, transportation, or snacks while they are filling out the two hours of paperwork.

Sometimes it is a client with a clothing appointment who has come to be measured for a complete wardrobe suitable for that “look good, feel good” job interview or



**Kari Galloway, director of Guest House:**  
“They have had a lot of trauma. They have so many barriers.”

**Jennifer Male, probation and parole officer in Alexandria:** “We don’t want them to think of us as police. We want to help.”



someone with an intake appointment to discuss their community service and work out a schedule around their job and family. OAR manages a community service program that is an alternative to jail or prison. A bright yellow table with crayons and a coloring book sits in the corner. “We want our clients to feel they can come with their children. A lot of them don’t have babysitters,” she said.

OAR’s pilot of the reentry program is based on 20 years of research focusing on criminogenic principles. The case manager does an in-house assessment of the prisoner to determine who is at high risk. “Then we set up meetings with them and give them information on the program and they decide whether they want to participate.” Jones Valderrama says since they launched the program in July 2015 they have worked with 24 participants both pre-and post-release. The first class of five graduated in July. “This program is very labor intensive. It takes 300-600 hours of services for one prisoner each year. “And,” she said “it takes two and a half years of training for each staff member to be able to effectively administer the services offered.”

Jones Valderrama added, “We have changed everything in the last two years since the intensive reentry model.” This program focuses on cognitive development and behavioral thinking. “Before we didn’t focus on the cognitive; we helped people get jobs. We found that in prison they had a lot of groups but people didn’t get individual attention. “That’s when people come back.” She said in the past we were counting a lot of widgets like how many bus tokens we gave out but that didn’t change behavior.” For instance, Jones Valderrama remembers one person who said, “Yes I did steal from that family but they had insurance so they could buy new things. I did them a favor.” She says they have to change that kind of thinking.

OAR’s reentry program serves Haynesville and Coffeewood Correctional facilities and Peumansend Creek Regional Jail as well as the Arlington and Alexandria jails. There are five high-risk prisoners enrolled in the program at Coffeewood out of 1,193 prisoners. “We are trying to assess the need out there,” Jones Valderrama said. OAR works with about 2,100 people in a given year including about 1,600 individuals completing community service hours and 800 men

and women receiving reentry services.

While there are a number of community resources offering food, housing and other assistance to the general population including ex-offenders, there are not many organizations specifically addressing their needs. Jones Valderrama said, “That is a good thing because it is difficult to do this correctly and easy for well-intentioned but untrained people to do harm and frustrate the client. We want our clients to have a positive experience.”

**ANOTHER RESOURCE** is Guest House located in Del Ray for recently incarcerated women who are on supervision. It is the only residential house of its kind serving women in Northern Virginia. There is no comparable residential house for men in Northern Virginia.

The participants at Guest House must be non-violent offenders with priority given to the Northern Virginia area. They must have been free of drugs and alcohol for three months and willing to make serious changes.

Terry Garrett, a nine-year alum of Guest House said, “If I hadn’t come here, I’d probably be back in jail, high or dead. I’m voting for dead the way I was living.” Now she is a speaker for Guest House and a part time monitor responsible for logging the women in and out, distributing passes if they go out, administering breathalyzers and urine tests “just as a precaution.” But she says the best part is sharing her experiences with the women going through the exact same thing — helping them get through the rough spots to know they can make it like she did.

The program offers a three-month residential stay providing a structured home environment with services and support. Each of the 24 women receives a mentor as well as a case manager who helps them develop an individual program with short and long-term goals. It can include visits to doctors, referrals to counseling and therapy, life skills development and mentoring, job counseling, or AA meetings. The after-care program can last 6-9 months.

Kari Galloway, director of Guest House, says both of these parts have to be completed in order to have a successful completion. “I wish we could keep them longer. I can’t even stay on a diet for six months, but we expect them to change their whole life in that period of time.” She adds if they stay

## Resource Fair

A resource fair for inmates will be held at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria from 1-4 p.m. on Feb. 9. This fair is an initiative of the City Reentry Council aimed at pulling together resources for inmates and helping them start building a plan before they return to the community in the next six months.

in the program for a year the recidivism rate is 10 percent, “but they have to go the whole year.”

Galloway says when she came 12 years ago, there were nine beds. The Department of Corrections increased it to 17 beds three years ago and then in July to 26. “There is a huge need. We have a waiting list of 6-12 at a time.”

Galloway said, “There is a misconception about their circumstances. They have had a lot of trauma, domestic violence, childhood abuse. They have so many barriers.”

Garrett said, “We are amazing women who made a mistake.”

Jones Valderrama added, “There are a lot of injustices in the criminal justice system. If they had better counsel or opportunity to grow up in a different neighborhood, they wouldn’t be where they are.”

Jones Valderrama said, “I stay on because I went to Coffeewood in 2010 and saw my friend from childhood incarcerated. So I said to myself wonderful people make mistakes.”

**ST. JOSEPH** Catholic Church on N. Columbus Street in Alexandria has entered into a partnership with the Court Service Unit of the Alexandria Juvenile District Court to help youths on probation find employment.

“We are only eight months into the program; nevertheless, we can already point to some successes,” Michael Diffley said. “Six teenagers have found employment so far with our help.”

Diffley also works with adults, an effort began after meeting panhandlers on the street and finding out who they were. “I connected with them, all homeless and all ex-felons. It hasn’t been without its ups and downs. But we have to help them cross the street from their side to our side. There is a place for programs which help a lot of people, but there is a place for intensive focus — a place for holding onto a guy’s hand while going through a hard time. Guidance on how to help them when they fail. They can’t make it without it.”

Harold Clarke, director of the Virginia State Department of Corrections, says there are intensive reentry programs in 16 of the state’s 39 facilities in an effort to help them get contacts and get out in the community. These programs begin 3-6 months before release from prison or jail.

“We teach motivational interviewing to engage the offender,” he said.

Clarke explains that the culture of prisons depends on which of the six levels the prisoner located in; the higher the level, the more control. “As people move from higher to lower, they approximate outside society.”



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE PACKET

**Michael Diffley, St. Joseph Church:** “We have to help them cross the street from their side to our side.”



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## News

Elementary School	2016-17 K-5 Enrolled Black %	2016-17 K-5 Enrolled White %	2016-17 K-5 Enrolled Hispanic %	2016-17 K-5 Enrolled Asian %	2016-17 K-5 Enrolled Other %
Jefferson-Houston	65%	12%	18%	*	4%
Matthew Maury	28%	57%	8%	*	5%
Divisionwide	28%	30%	35%	4%	3%

Source: ACPS 10/31/2016 enrollment

\* Sample Size is too small to report

Elementary School	2016-17 K-5 Live-In Black %	2016-17 K-5 Live-In White %	2016-17 K-5 Live-In Hispanic %	2016-17 K-5 Live-In Asian %	2016-17 K-5 Live-In Other %
Jefferson-Houston	51%	24%	20%	*	4%
Matthew Maury	37%	50%	8%	*	4%
Divisionwide	28%	30%	35%	4%	3%

Source: ACPS 10/31/2016 enrollment

\* Sample Size is too small to report

**Data from ACPS shows white students districted for Jefferson-Houston are less likely to enroll in the school than black students.**

# New Lines, Old Problems

FROM PAGE 1

parents at Jefferson-Houston say has been too liberally applied. The effect has been a segregation of the school. Data from the 2016-2017 school year shows that while 51 percent of students zoned for Jefferson-Houston are black and 24 percent of students zoned for the school are white, 65 percent of the school's population is black while only 12 percent is white. Meanwhile at nearby Matthew Maury Elementary, 37 percent of the students zoned for the school are black while 50 percent are white, but only 28 percent of students enrolled at the school are black while 57 percent are white. The schools face a similar disparity in terms of students with Free and Reduced Meals (FARM). 59 percent of the population living within the Jefferson-Houston school district are eligible for FARM, but 73 percent of the school's enrollment is FARM eligible. Meanwhile at Maury, 38 percent of the school's zone is FARM eligible but only 30 percent of the school's enrollment is FARM eligible.

"My impression of ACPS admin process is that the squeaky wheel or well placed individuals can get that transfer," said Deirdre Brou. "It undermines efforts you are undertaking in redistricting. It has to end if we hope to make change in Jefferson-Houston. There's been considerable progress [for the school]. While I believe test scores don't reflect on school, school scores have improved and will improve this year. My child is learning, is reading above grade level and loves the kids he goes to school with. If you send your kids to Jefferson-Houston, you're going to get a great education."

Other parents agreed, saying that the school has bloomed in recent years despite being unaccredited.

"Jefferson-Houston is a great school," said Benjamin Kennedy. "I have a kindergartner there and two more on the way. What you see in [the redistricting plan] is good, but we need to pull out all the stops because there's a lot coming down the road. You have got to motivate other parents to [take their children] to Jefferson-Houston."

Kennedy encouraged the School Board to add several blocks of housing near the Braddock Road Metro with a higher socioeconomic status than much of the neighborhood around Jefferson-Houston.

"It may not seem like a lot, but it could be just

enough to turn the tide," said Kennedy. "Add a few more [homes] and you get close to a school that's accredited. We have got to get this school accredited, but we've got changes in national policy making that could put school choice on the table. If we boot this down the road, we'll get school vouchers and we'll be doing this again. We can't have that. It would crush Jefferson-Houston."

During the voting process, an amendment called Query B that would have shifted Jefferson-Houston's boundaries, failed on a 3 to 6 vote.

The other item of concern raised by parents at the meeting was the redistricting of Planning Block 22 away from Samuel Tucker Elementary. Al Luna, president of the Tucker Elementary PTA, noted that much of Block 22 is literally within eyesight of the school and many of the children living there play at the school playground.

"They live and play there, but will be bused to another school," said Luna. "Busing them is contrary to the criteria you hoped to accomplish. When you vote on 9a, think of the negative repercussions."

School Board Member Christopher Lewis proposed shifting Block 22 back to Tucker Elementary, but most on the board favored keeping the boundaries intact.

"My heart goes out to folks for whom this isn't going to turn out the way they want for their kids, but we did the best we could," said School Board Member Margaret Lorber.

Lewis' motion failed on a 4 to 5 vote.

Other criticism of the plan came from its central criteria of prioritizing walkability for students. While supporting the plan, School Board Member Veronica Nolan said, "Often times, saying you want a neighborhood school or a walkable school is a term used by people to segregate schools," drawing cheers from the room. "[Former U.S. Secretary of Education] John King noted that his number one concern is the segregation of schools; that people use walkability and neighborhood schools to create those circumstances. There is more danger of segregating schools today than when Brown v Board was implemented. It would be disingenuous to say our number one concern is walkability and neighborhood schools when I know what those words are code for."

Lewis said he was aware of the controversy over  
SEE NEW LINES, PAGE 9

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



# Belmont to Lead DRBA

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**ennis Belmont, a resident and small business owner in the Del Ray community, was elected president of the Del Ray Business Association at the organization's Jan. 16 meeting.

"It's an honor to work with such an incredible group of independent, locally-owned businesses," said Belmont. "I'm excited about this opportunity to help our business community continue to grow and share why our neighborhood is the best place in the region to live, work, eat and shop. Del Ray truly has it all."

Belmont takes over from restaurateur Bill Blackburn of Pork Barrel BBQ.

Owner of Belmonster Creative, Belmont has been a small business owner since 2000 and has served on the DRBA board as chair of the marketing committee since 2014. He has participated in multiple CEO training programs, including Vistage, Strategic Coach and Leadership Alexandria. His graphic design work in the community includes designing the DRBA logo and the "Eat, Shop, Live" street banners along Mount Vernon Avenue, plus design work for Holy Cow, the sushi bar and the Alexandria Police Foundation. He has lived in Del Ray since 2005. During his two-year term as president of the association, Belmont plans



Belmont

to focus on expanding opportunities for small business education and growth while continuing to lobby the City of Alexandria for improvements to Del Ray, including pedestrian-scale street lighting.

Also elected to two-year terms on the DRBA board are: Shannon Catlett, of John Marshall Bank; Lauren Fisher, owner of Del Ray Psychological & Wellness Associates; Nicole Jones, owner of Stomping Ground; Sandy Modell, owner of The Wholistic Hound Academy and former DASH general manager; and Hilary Riedermann, owner of Idea Sink Marketing.

They join Mara Benner of Four Directions Wellness, Bill Blackburn of Pork Barrel BBQ, Pat Miller of Art on the Avenue, Anthony Istrico of Istrico Productions LLC, Sue Kovalsky of Jen Walker Real Estate, citizen member Gayle Reuter and Brian Story of AXA Advisors, LLC on the board.

DRBA represents the independently-owned restaurants, retailers and businesses in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The organization also hosts community events, including First Thursdays, Taste of Del Ray, The Del Ray Halloween Parade and the Alexandria Turkey Trot.

Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Council Approves Strategic Plan

The year is 2022, and Alexandria is a city with a thriving waterfront and plenty of affordable housing for everybody in need. The city has an abundant tree canopy while accessible parks and arts define the neighborhoods and communities of Alexandria.

That's the plan, anyway. It's a utopian vision of Alexandria's future, one the city's strategic goals. At its Jan 28 public hearing, the City Council adopted FY2017 through 2022 Strategic Plan. Through FY2018, the plan recommends actions to help the city reach certain goals in various categories related to life in Alexandria.

Ten categories are identified in the plan as areas the city will continue to develop resources, ranging from changes to the waterfront to encouraging citizens to get more exercise. Each item of the plan also includes a selection of actions to be taken for the FY 2018 year. The first item, creat-

ing distinctive and vibrant neighborhoods, could have the most visible impact for most residents of Alexandria.

Action items for FY 2018 include:

- ❖ Construct Interim Fitzgerald Square
- ❖ Design the Waterfront Flood Mitigation with early utility construction
- ❖ Award a design build contract for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Project
- ❖ Digitize historic documents that illustrate changes to city's urban landscape
- ❖ Commemorate and interpret Alexandria's role in WW I
- ❖ Continue preservation of the historic ship and other artifacts from Alexandria's waterfront
- ❖ Complete Old Town North Small Area Plan
- ❖ Conduct update of North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan
- ❖ Begin Mt. Vernon Avenue planning study
- ❖ Provide support for the formation of a Business Improvement District in Old Town.

### Taco Bell Deferred

The public hearing for the Taco Bell set to move in at 4213 and 4141 Duke Street has been deferred until a Feb 25 public hearing at the request of the applicant. The Taco Bell was approved by the Planning Commission to move into the Strawberry Hill neighborhood in Alexandria's West End, but local residents have expressed concerns that the new location could cause additional traffic problems for an already dangerous intersection.

## CRIME REPORTS

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

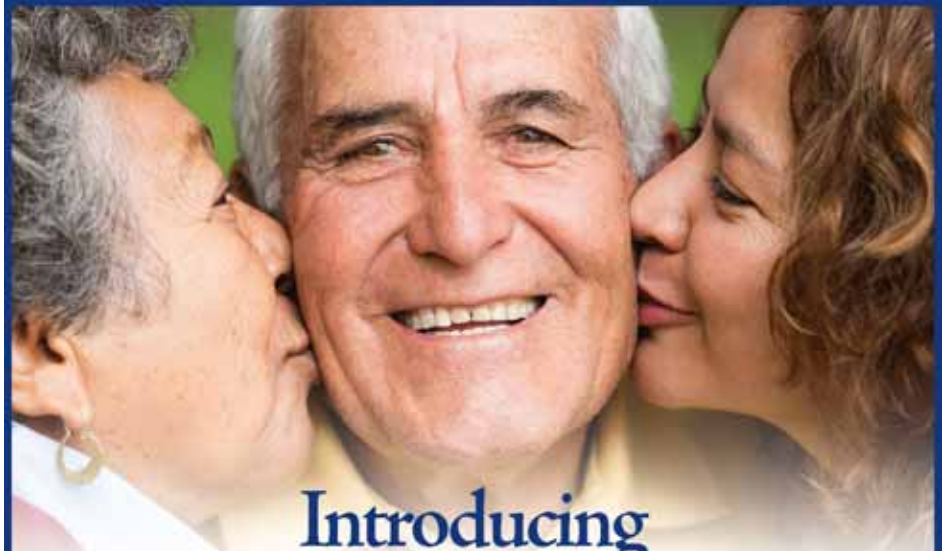
### MONDAY, JAN. 30

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commercial robbery in the 3600 block of King Street. A man implied a weapon and stole cash from a business. There were no injuries.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 200 block of Century Place. Two suspects assaulted and stole food from a delivery man.

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# McCrary Creates the Score, Directs 'The Prodigal Son'

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**nhale, sound 'Hummm.' I need to see your jaws moving. You will feel a buzzing under your nose." Eyes are fixed on John McCrary, director of Music and Liturgy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on W. Braddock Road, who is warming up the special choir practicing for the Feb. 24 concert. McCrary likes to do this concert the Friday before Lent. "Our space is so intimate that even non-concert goers get drawn in."

"This choir is open to anyone who wants to sing." They will perform a major choral work with full orchestra. In addition to his regular duties as choir director, five years ago McCrary began a special series that "focuses on music that nobody does but deserves to be played." Last year it was Handel in English and the year before Berlioz which was a Christmas piece sung in French "We always sing in the original language. We learned that vocal French is pronounced differently than spoken French."

This year they are featuring "The Prodigal Son" by Sir Arthur Sullivan (without Gilbert.) "This is a work that hasn't been performed in the United States in the last 75-100 years." He says a recording came out a few years ago, "and I liked it a lot. I thought, I have a tenor, Phil, who I went to college with."

He was able to buy the orchestra parts from a music store on-line. But there was no full score available for vocal singer parts with a piano reduction of the orchestra part. He explains he took the orchestra parts and typed them into the computer using music printing software. McCrary pulls out a weathered book of music to show he has purchased an old vocal score from E-bay. The next step was to type in the vocal parts and painstakingly put it all together him-



**John McCrary says this choir has been practicing since October for the concert featuring "The Prodigal Son" that hasn't been performed in the United States for 75-100 years. He has been working on the score for over a year.**



**John McCrary, with the assistance of rehearsal accompanist Janet Maalouf, leads the special choir practicing Beethoven. This is one of the selections for the church concert Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament.**

self to create a full conductor's score. Finally he typed in a piano accompaniment to create the vocal score for the soloists and choir. "This is what six months of work looks like."



**John McCrary, director of Music and Liturgy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on W. Braddock Road, created the full conductor's score for "The Prodigal Son." He says this is what six months of work looks like.**

McCrary explains that he picks up orchestra professionals for the performance from military bands, including strings from the Air Force and winds from the Army and Marines. "We do a lot of interesting music

that they won't get to play in their band." This year he also has a number of players from the Kennedy Center. Two of his soloists will come from The San Francisco Opera Company, which is dark in January.

He says this group started practicing in October, but he started the score prep a year ago. "Now they practice 1-2 times a week. "The Prodigal Son" is just an hour in length so in order to fill out the program he added Regina coeli, KV 276 by Mozart; Schicksalslied, Op. 54 by Brahms; and Choral Fantasy, Op. 80 by Beethoven. Tonight they are working on Beethoven. "Turn to page 4." They are singing in German. "Remember the r's are rolled." He says, "It's a full quarter note. Let's start right where we stopped." The pianist plays an F chord, and they begin again. "I'm hearing all sorts of creative words right now."

McCrary has been at Blessed Sacrament for almost 19 years. He says he began at St. John Newman in Powhatan, Va. "It was a small parish of 250 families, and I created an adult choir there." Now he directs a traditional choir at the 11 a.m. mass, a contemporary ensemble at the 9 a.m. mass and a five-octave hand bell choir that plays about once a month. In between the six Sunday masses, he practices with the choirs.

McCrary explains the contemporary choir includes vocal and instruments like guitar, clarinet, viola and bass and "sometimes I play the flute. We don't do many traditional hymns but more modern contemporary hymns. We don't do praise to the Lord so much." The choirs range in age from the 20s to 80s. "Some have been singing since the '70s." He says anyone can sing in his regular church choirs. "I don't audition them." Over the years he has had some who weren't as good as others, but "I usually get people to match pitch and fit in." He says the last thing he wants is a choir of soloists.

McCrary raises his conductor's baton. Sopranos begin, basses join in. "Very good. Let's do it all again."

## Kaine Among Boys and Girls Club Gala Honorees

**Benefit to be held Feb. 10.**

**U**.S. Sen. Tim Kaine will be among those honored Feb. 10 at this year's Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys and Girls Club annual fundraiser.

Joining Kaine at the Carlyle Club event will be fellow honorees Keith Burner, senior vice president and financial advisor at Morgan Stanley, and the Northern Virginia alumnae chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

"This will be an exciting evening and an opportunity to support the programs of our local Boys and Girls Club," said Frank Fannon, who serves as honorary benefit chair.

The Alexandria club, located at 401 N. Payne St., first opened its doors in October of 1936. According to its website, its



**U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine.**

mission is "to help boys and girls of all backgrounds build confidence, develop character and acquire the skills needed to become productive, civic-minded, responsible adults." The evening will feature a reception and silent auction beginning at 7 p.m. followed by dinner and dancing to the Moon Daddies Band. The Carlyle Club is located at 2050 Ballenger Ave. and tickets can be purchased online at <https://dunbarbgc2017.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact Daphne Doyle Benbow at [dbenbow@bgcgw.org](mailto:dbenbow@bgcgw.org) or 202-540-2320.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**Members of the flag football winning "Miami Dolphins" team of the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys and Girls Club show off their Super Bowl rings at a recent assembly. A fundraiser for the club will be held Feb. 10 at the Carlyle Club.**



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# Anti-Immigration Ban Rallies Held at Dulles

**Demonstrators, volunteer attorneys and elected officials welcome travelers, extend help to detainees.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**el. Marcus Simon (D-53) brought his two children, 13 and 11, to Dulles International Airport Jan. 28, not to fly, but to witness and learn.

Demonstrations sprang up at airports around the United States over the weekend, following an Executive Order by President Donald Trump that blocks travelers from seven largely Muslim countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia — in the interests of more significant vetting and preventing would-be terrorists from entering the country.

Simon's wasn't the only family in attendance. Many had brought their children to the demonstration.

"You show them this is what you do, how you protest, be patriotic," Simon said, "when the government does something you don't agree with. You expose them to something positive."

**THE BAN** was announced Friday and officials at airports began enforcing it immediately. Travelers from the seven countries are blocked from entering the U.S. for 90 days, and new refugee admissions from the same nations blocked for 120 days. Syrian refugees are blocked indefinitely, according to the ban.

Some individuals who hold valid visas were impacted by the ban, and others with legal status and green cards have been detained at airports. A federal judge in Brooklyn passed a ruling over the weekend that blocked part of Trump's action, and Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a temporary restraining order Saturday night specifically for those detained at

Dulles.

Brinkema ordered airport authorities to grant lawyers access to detainees who are permanent legal residents, and that permanent residents not be removed for seven days.

Simon was at Dulles Saturday and Sunday, as well as state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), asking that some of the more than 20 lawyers present be given that opportunity to meet with the detainees.

The scenes were intense and a little chaotic, Simon said, but the demonstrators were non-violent and positive.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Simon. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting to [the ban]."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.

Connolly was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran. He was in that country receiving medical treatment, Connolly's office said.

"America has always stood for being a beacon of hope," Connolly said in a statement reacting to the ban. "Donald Trump would paint over Emma Lazarus's words on the Statue of Liberty. There are millions of us willing to stand with immigrants coming into our country. There are millions of



**(Right) U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) speaks with Dulles airport security officials, requesting lawyers be granted access to detainees impacted by executive action taken Friday by President Donald Trump.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Other Local Leaders Weigh In

**On her Facebook page Monday, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said:**

"The Executive Order issued on Friday is offensive and counter to what defines this country. We are a nation of immigrants committed to religious freedom. I am committed to keeping Fairfax County a safe and welcoming place. When I was sworn in as chairman, I swore to support the Constitution. I believe this ban on travel is unconstitutional and I urge the judiciary to continue to exercise its role in preventing further damage to our country's values and our reputation around the world."

**U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D), released a statement Friday, the same day as the Executive Order was announced. Warner is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:**

"The Trump Administration Executive Order that indefinitely suspends the Syrian refugee program and pauses visas from Muslim countries runs counter to our American values. While I have always been open to a pause on our refugee program to ensure appropriate time for intelligence and law enforcement experts to ensure we protect our national security, these actions by the President presume the solution before the review is complete. It is a policy targeting Muslims that national security experts have testified would harm, not help, our national security interests. I join the interfaith community in Virginia and around the country in objecting to these moves, and I will work in Congress to block an effort which trades dubious increases in U.S. security for certain alienation of partners with whom we must cooperate to address terrorism."

**The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, released a statement as well, expressing solidarity with refugees:**

"In his statement on the Executive Order halting refugee admissions, Bishop Joe Vasquez, chair of the Committee of Migration and Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, highlighted our nation's long and proud tradition of welcoming newcomers and refugees in a humane manner, even as we have pursued a strong vetting system to ensure our safety and security. Together with Bishop Vasquez and my brother bishops, I encourage Catholics to contact our elected officials to make our voices heard: Our communities have been and will continue to be hospitable to refugees, in keeping with our legacy of welcoming the stranger. Together, we also pray for comprehensive immigration reform and for peace, safety and harmony within our nation and throughout the world."

**The full text of the Jan. 27 Executive Order is available online here:**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>

**IN A STATEMENT** released through her Twitter account on Jan. 29, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) said she supports increased vetting based on national security concerns. However, Comstock said she has consistently asserted: "I don't believe it is constitutional to ban people from our country on the basis of religion."

"The President's Executive Order issued yesterday went beyond the increased vetting actions that Congress has supported on a bipartisan basis and inexplicably applied to green card holders," Comstock continued, "people who are legally within our country who have followed the rules."



**Demonstrations sprang up at airports around the United States over the weekend, including Dulles, following an Executive Order by President Donald Trump that blocks travelers from seven largely Muslim countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia.**



# 43 Years in Prison for Murder

FROM PAGE 1

Danielle Adkins. "Rashad was scared and careful. Same way his dad passed, he was afraid he would too."

Constance Adkins said the death of Rashad Adkins' parents left him very protective of his family. "Could you imagine coming into the world knowing someone took the life of your father and then brutally took the life of your mother?" said Constance Adkins. "I've seen it exhibited in his life and behavior. His sense of security totally shaken by the [idea that] the things that happened to his father would happen to him ... Rashad always had fears. Even as a child, he was always certain to make sure the door was locked." In 2014, Rashad Adkins moved into the Andrew Adkins housing projects to take care of his cousin, Brandon "Bullet" Hughes. Dorothy Hughes, Brandon's mother, said her son was developmentally impaired and people in the neighborhood regularly took advantage of him. "I asked Rashad to move in and take care of Brandon," said Dorothy Hughes. "Things changed. Doors stayed locked. Brandon got back on track [with his medicine]. The house was cleaned up. It was a big difference." But the harassment by the local teens didn't stop. On July 2, Dorothy Hughes gave her son \$20 to go buy cigarettes from the store. When the money was taken by local kids, Brandon Hughes and the teens got into a confrontation, at which point Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs stepped in.

## SHAKKAN ELLIOT-TIBBS

When Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs was a child, his father James Elliot said he would take a massive lunch to school, but wouldn't eat it because he divided most of it among other children who didn't have much to eat. James Elliot said Shakkan's mother would tell him not to, but that he would anyway. This continued as he grew up. Linda Tibbs, Shakkan's mother, said Shakkan didn't ever allowed anyone around him to go hungry. "He always extended himself," said Tibbs. "He didn't allow any of his friends to be homeless or have nowhere to go. His friends who had nowhere to go had Shakkan."

Even for people he didn't know, Tibbs said Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs would try to step in and help. She remembered picking him up somewhere and him insisting on giving a stranger waiting there a ride.

In 2015, it got him killed.

Elliot-Tibbs didn't finish high school, but later went back and finished his GED. James Elliot said it was like something clicked for his son one day, and he started working to get his life on track. He enrolled in Job

Corps to train as a mechanic and had plans to travel to Utah to take advance courses.

"You get an opportunity to get away from this place, you take that opportunity," James Elliot remembered telling his son. "I was so proud to see he had become a man of responsibility. What I had told him sunk in. He had no intentions of coming back. If Job Corps hadn't closed that weekend, he wouldn't have been here."

But Shakkan Elliot-Tibbs did come back that weekend. He was staying with his family in Woodbridge but had gone up to Alexandria to visit family. Elliot-Tibbs was on his way back to the Braddock Metro to meet his mother at Springfield and head home when local teens started getting in an altercation with Brandon Hughes. Elliot-Tibbs stepped in and told Hughes to leave the teens alone. Brandon Hughes left to get his cousin, Rashad Adkins.

## THE MURDER

Though neither of them knew it at the time, Rashad Adkins and Elliot-Tibbs are third cousins; their great grandmothers were sisters. But by all accounts, the two had never met before their fatal confrontation on July 2. When Rashad Adkins approached Elliot-Tibbs, witnesses say the two exchanged heated words before Elliot-Tibbs shoved Rashad Adkins. Several witnesses saw the shove, the physical start of the conflict, which was enough for the jury to charge Rashad Adkins with second degree murder rather than first degree, meaning the act had happened in the heat of the moment and was not premeditated. What happened next is unclear. Witnesses for the defense, both of whom were friends or associated with Rashad Adkins, said Elliot-Tibbs punched Rashad Adkins or at least started charging at him. What all agreed was after this, Rashad pulled out a gun and killed Elliot-Tibbs. He fired four shots from a semi-automatic handgun, two fatally striking Elliot-Tibbs. After the shooting, Elliot-Tibbs stumbled back against the fence and bled out while Rashad Adkins jogged away. Elliot-Tibbs was rushed to the hospital where he died.

"Now I'm all alone," said Tibbs. "Everything is gone. Everything has been taken from me. I still don't know how to deal with that ... I will always love my son."

When Tibbs would lift her son up as a child, he would tell her, "Momma, I love you to infinity." Tibbs said she would joke that she didn't know how to express how much she loved him when he went straight to infinity. Finally, she would respond: "I love you with all of my heart."

# New Lines, Old Problems

FROM PAGE 4

neighborhood schools as code for segregation and said he preferred the term proximity. "We've always used some semblance of proximity or closest school [as our criteria]," said Lewis. "I don't think it's loaded in this case because clearly we're in a city that respects diversity. We have a strategic plan that focuses on serving every student.

I don't think we're coming close to the dangers Ms. Nolan was referencing."

The new boundaries will be implemented for the 2018-2019 school year. A timeline for the transition process, including open houses at each school and opportunities for parents and students to meet faculty and staff at the new schools, will be announced within the next few weeks.



## Announcing Group Interviews for The Kensington Falls Church

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# OPINION

## So Much Happening, Don't Blink

**Demonstrations at Dulles in reaction to travel ban; fast moving General Assembly lacks transparency; other key issues.**

**T**here is so much going on this week: Locally, the effects of a travel ban at odds with American values played out at Dulles International Airport, but stimulated a heartening response, with volunteer attorneys offering help, local, state and federal elected officials demanding accountability and peaceful demonstrators protesting the un-American assault on travel from particular Muslim-majority countries.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Del. Marcus Simon, who used FaceBook Live to share the scene over several days. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting."

See reporter Tim Peterson's story in this paper.

**CROSSOVER** is Feb. 7; that's when only bills that have passed either the House of Delegates or the Virginia Senate can move forward.

As this date approaches, the General Assembly has a serious transparency issue, as it continues to kill most proposed legislation with unrecorded voice votes in subcommittee, with no accountability or record of how members voted.

This was raised to new heights earlier this week, when a House of Delegates subcommittee killed proposed constitutional amendments including non-partisan redistricting and restoring voting rights of felons, along with more than 20 proposed amendments, in a single vote.

John Horejsi of Vienna, who heads the organization Social Action Linking Together, notes that his organization is unable to track what

happens to legislation they support. This headline, which ran last week on [www.roanoke.com](http://www.roanoke.com), says it all: "Bill to require recorded votes dies on an unrecorded vote, again."

State Sen. Creigh Deeds continues important work on mental health reform, citing three priorities this year, requiring most of Community Services Boards around the state to provide same-day service and certain outpatient services; to assess and provide care for inmates who have mental health needs; and long-term supportive housing to help avoid repeated mental health crises.

About 200,000 people in Virginia have had their motor vehicle licenses suspended for a legal infraction that has nothing to do with a driving offense. And 650,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for failing to pay court costs. This is an obstacle to holding a job and being able to meet other obligations, and legislation to stop this counter-productive practice is still alive in the Virginia Senate.

The sale of high-proof grain alcohol in Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control stores passed the House of Delegates earlier in the session, and is just foolish.

**EFFORTS** by state Sen. Adam P. Ebbin and others, supporting repeal of the Virginia constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006 forbidding gay marriage should move forward. The 2006 amendment is no longer valid because the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 legalized same-sex marriage.

State Sen. Chap Petersen introduced a doomed bill to ban contributions from public utilities. "Monopolies like Dominion or Appa-

lachian Power have an undue influence on the political process. That leads to legislation which has a direct cost to Virginia consumers, both residents and small businesses," Petersen said.

It looks like the felony threshold will increase to \$500 from \$200, an important distinction championed by Petersen and state Sen. Scott Surovell.

While the constitutional amendment to address voting rights for felons who have served their sentences died in the above action, Gov. Terry McAuliffe should be commended for restoring the civic rights of more than 128,000 Virginians, and his plans to restore rights for any remaining Virginia citizens who lost their rights. This has been a laborious and worthy process, adapted as needed to meet legal challenges and court rulings.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Submit Photos to Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 15.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Same Old, Same Old

To the Editor:

I expected better. Instead of demanding the removal of impediments, large and small, that hobble the creation of wealth, the Democratic Party faithful who gathered recently in Alexandria clamored to keep the Federal trough full. Don't mess with affordable health care foremost. To make it easy to lobby our elected officials, the Gazette publisher, using her platform, provided their phone numbers.

Here's what they didn't do: Neither the Gazette publisher nor the Democrat activists

had the temerity to even obliquely observe that Uncle Sam is nearly out of money. Unless Federal revenues are increased, more debt is authorized or expenses decreased, or some combination of the three, the Federal government will not have enough funds by 2019 to pay for anything other than defense, a constitutional mandate, and entitlements, e.g., Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

What the Democrats did do was lambast Senator Warner. They found him derelict for opposing a path allowing U.S. citizens to purchase drugs from Canada where they are cheaper. ot a single one won

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

dered why the same drug produced by the same firm is cheaper there than here.

If they did, then surely the senator would have explained there is a law, passed by Congress, forbidding the Federal government from using its massive purchasing power to obtain lower drug prices for Medicare Plan D participants. Now there's something to rail against. Unshackle those chains that keep Uncle Sam from negotiating a better deal, or at least the same deal the Canadians get for its citizens from many of the same drug companies.

But best of all would be if the Democrats figured out that money is not wealth; it's just the means by which wealth is conveyed. When they figure out how to enable the creation of wealth, the wellspring from which all tax revenue flows, and implement policies toward that end, then they will be a political movement to heed. Until that metamorphosis, they will be the same old tax and spend gang, tiresome thus.

**Jimm Roberts**  
Alexandria

## Disappointed By Coverage

To the Editor:

I've been a weekly reader of the Alexandria Gazette for many years. I was shocked when I saw the headline, and then read the story, titled, "Democratic Disunity", in your Jan. 19, issue.

Did the writer of the story attend the same rally that I attended? First, there were more than 100 attendees; I would put the number at approximately 600. This was not a ragtag, small group of people, it was a full-fledged rally of supporters for the healthcare of people in Virginia and nationwide. The pictures on the front page of your paper made it look as though the event had three attendees and it was all about U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, who, incidentally, spoke to the group along with the many other officials, including Congressmen Don Beyer and Gerry Connolly.

To headline the story as "Democratic Disunity" was unfair to Democrats in general, (I'm not sure that all of the attendees were Democrats — concerned citizens would work as a descriptor) to the rally organizers, speakers, and attendees, and to readers of your newspaper. Those who gave up their Sunday afternoon to be present were united in their concern about people having access

## See Washington's Alexandria

BY ELLEN TABB AND  
JOSEPH SHUMARD  
GEORGE WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY  
CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

*This is the second in a series of articles about the George Washington Birthday Celebration. For more information, visit [www.washingtonbirthday.com](http://www.washingtonbirthday.com).*

**T**ake the Cherry Challenge! The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee in Alexandria proudly announces the ninth annual Cherry Challenge. In the spirit of the old cherry tree tale, we are celebrating George Washington's presence in his hometown by encouraging everyone to patronize the participating restaurants now through Feb. 11, and vote for their favorite cherry drinks, starters, entrees and desserts.

### WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Visit participating restaurants and enjoy cherry-themed drinks, starters, entrees and desserts. Go to <http://bit.ly/17CherryC> for more information and an up-to-date list of participating restaurants.

Vote for your favorite cherry challenge item (ballots are provided at each location), rating the taste, creativity, and presentation of the dish.

Share your experience by posting pictures of your feast on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram with the hashtag #gwcherrychallenge! Winners will be announced on our website.

See Washington's Alexandria: Every Sunday in February at 2 p.m., our knowledgeable volunteer guides will showcase some of the most important of the 140-plus places in Alexandria associated with the Father of our Country. These free, 90-minute "Walking with Washington" tours start at the Alexandria Visitors Center, Ramsay House, 221 King St., and do not require advance reservations.

Tour stops include Market Square, Carlyle

House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern (House), Gadsby's Tavern, George Washington's replica town house, the Lord Fairfax Town House, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee's House, and Christ Church.

Our city holds the most sacred historical sites in America, where George Washington's business, political and military career started, developing skills that enabled him to dare to challenge the British army and win the American Revolution against the greatest military power of the day. His business interests related to commerce on our Potomac River led him to urge a closer relationship among the states which culminated in his presiding at the Constitutional Convention. The title of "Mr. President" originated when his friends held a farewell banquet for him at a tavern on our tour when he left for his inauguration in New York.

The tour also includes personal details such as how he got his name, not a traditional one for Washingtons, and what Martha was called in her lifetime — not "Martha." We hope participants will develop an appreciation for Washington the man, the problems and challenges he faced, and how he overcame them, and not remain just a name in history books.

The cornerstone of Historic Alexandria, Gadsby's Tavern was donated to the City of Alexandria by American Legion Post 24 in 1972. The Birthright Banquet and Ball, a signature event of the George Washington Birthday Celebration, is sold out for this year; but there are plenty of opportunities to see the historic buildings. In addition to regular daily tours, the museum has special programs for the Celebration including the Winter Warmer Ladies Tea on Feb. 5; Parade Day Open House on Feb. 20; and on Feb. 22, "George Washington, America's Foremost Entrepreneur" a lecture by Edward G. Lengel, chief historian of the White House Historical Association. Contact the museum for more information via [www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern).

to healthcare. That was the focus of the rally.

The Gazette Packet has offered fine and fair articles on many issues and events relating to our city and beyond. This story was not one of them. Please do not resort to sensationalism.

**Marianne Anderson**  
Alexandria

## Losing Sight Of City History?

To the Editor:

In reading the letter from Mr. Van Fleet, I could not help but think there will now be three projects all in the same few blocks, all large, and all at the same time.

What is this city coming to? What happened to the history of our city? Doesn't City Council or anyone care anymore? The proposed condominium behind the townhouses at the end of Harvard Street looks to be an eight-story project that will tower over the townhouses.

Then directly across the street at the corner of Harvard and King,

we have a beautiful building, the Naval Reserve Building that was originally constructed in 1928 and by 1930 it was an apartment building housing tenants. This building is still the original brick and mortar, only a few years shy of being historical. The developer is trying to purchase the building and the one next to it to tear them down and build another hotel, six-stories high with 124 rooms, and office space and retail restaurant.

Metro is planning to redevelop the King Street Metro Station removing just about all the available parking that is currently there. All three of these projects will be going on at the same time. Does no one except the residents think about this and how it affects the neighbors whether they are residents or retail? With the project at the corner of Harvard and King, they are proposing to make part of Harvard Street a two-way street. Harvard is a very narrow street, and one side is historical, but there are houses on both sides that are at least 100 years old. To make part of Harvard Street two-way, they would have to reduce street parking. They are not plan-

ning to have parking available for their employees which means they will be parking wherever they can, including on Cameron Street. The residents on Harvard and Cameron already have to fight for parking they pay for because anyone else coming in refuses to park at the meters or in a garage where they would have to pay.

The Naval Reserve Building is part of our history, it is still a usable building. The building was actually renovated in 1985 and kept the original building, just gutting the inside. Why can't the developer go to a smaller scale and incorporate one of our oldest buildings at this end of King Street into their plans? Why do they have to destroy and take away from our city? Sure this is 2017, but we need to preserve what we have that is historic. Sure, George Washington never stayed in this building, but it was home to many city occupants for many years. Is anyone taking into consideration how much damage all this construction will do to the existing homes or to the businesses at this end of King

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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## NEWS

# Helping Ex-Offenders

FROM PAGE 3

Under Clarke's leadership there has been a new focus on prisoner reentry. He says the DOC is responsible for public safety but "if we help ex-offenders make better decisions and help them become successful, then in the larger picture we are helping create public safety." Clarke adds that it takes a process to focus on the culture of an organization and to help change the mission of an agency. It takes clarity of purpose and "we have annual training seminars and speakers to focus on our mission and vision." Clarke said in Virginia 26 percent of ex-offenders are back within a year compared to over 40 percent nationwide. "We must be doing something right."

Gail Arnall, former director of OAR said, "Under his wonderful leadership Clarke has turned the culture for parole officers from law enforcement to guidance and encouragement."

Jennifer Male, parole and probation officer in Alexandria, says when she first started in 2003 a lot of emphasis was on law enforcement. Now there is also an emphasis on helping the client. "We don't want to be known as

police. We want to be sure there isn't another victim but also that the client enters society successfully. That reduces the number of victims." Male says she has a passion for this job and has so much invested because "It could be him. It could be me."

Male currently has 50 in her caseload but had 100 at a different location. "We're lucky in a small area like Alexandria to have so many resources available," he said.

How often she sees an ex-offender depends on their needs and risk level. Male has an initial meeting with the ex-offender and then does a risk assessment based on background, family history, education, and how they feel. They make a case plan together with a goal. "It doesn't have to be like keeping clean. I let them set the goal and what they have to do to get there. We talk about things. I don't just tell them what to do. This drives the supervision. People say to me 'You must see a lot of bad people.' I say some have been here one time and never again. There are a few revolving doors in and out time and time again. I try to figure out why."

## FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup>

## HOME RENOVATION

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## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass  
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(with Sign Language  
Interpreter and  
Children's Liturgy of  
the Word); 10:30 am;  
12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm  
(en Español); 6:30 pm

**Monday-Saturday:**  
9:00 am Mass  
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

**En Español:**  
Monday, 6:30 pm;  
Thursday, 7:30 pm;  
First Friday, 7:30 pm

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Street? These projects, all of them, will take up to two years. They may have to re-route traffic taking vehicles off King Street and routing them in different directions, this will hinder businesses. You want revenue? Stop destroying what we have and rethink how we can improve what we have and have people want to come to our city.

**Bea Porter**  
Alexandria

## The Fight Begins

To the Editor:

As we enter the first week of the new administration, Congress has made their number one priority diminishing access to health care. President Trump re-instated on his first day in office a federal ban on U.S. funding for international health organizations that counsel women on family planning options that include abortion, through the Global Gag rule. There is a national attack on women's health care.

However, do Congress and President Trump actually know what defunding Planned Parenthood means? It means low-income women eligible for Medicaid will no longer have access to basic preventive health care. This has nothing to do with abortion care as no federal money goes to abortion due to the Hyde Amendment.

This would have devastating effects in Virginia, especially among patients in rural areas and people of color that already face unequal barriers in accessing care. Planned Parenthood health centers are essential. They serve 2.5 million people each year. The majority of their care helps prevent unintended pregnancies through contraception, reduces the spread of STIs through testing and treatment, and screens for cervical and other cancers. One in five women in this country will get care at a Planned Parenthood in her lifetime, and for many Planned Parenthood will be their only health care option.

Legislation that "defunds" Planned Par-

enthood specifically targets patients who rely on federal programs such as Medicaid or Title X — those who are already struggling — and instructs them that Planned Parenthood is no longer a viable option for their health care needs.

The Women's March on Washington proved that together our voices are more than loud enough to drown them out. We're going to fight back. We will not back down but we will fight like hell to ensure that they do not take away our health care.

**Trisha L. Lucero**  
Alexandria

## A Man of Integrity

To the Editor:

I congratulate Congressman Beyer for his decision not to attend the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States. Although Trump lost the popular vote by nearly three million votes, Donald J. Trump is our new President by virtue of the Electoral College. Let's not forget that fact.

Congressman Beyer's decision did not delegitimize the new President. His actions as a candidate, President Elect and now our President has cast doubt on his preparedness and ability to serve as Commander in Chief of the United States. The congressman and many others, approximately 70 Democratic House members, did not want to reward bad behavior that continues daily.

Beyer outlined in a letter to his constituents that he could not be a part of legitimizing a man whose election may have depended on malicious interference of Russian leaders; a person who lies profusely and without

apology; and demonstrates his lack of respect for the disabled, women, and people with different spiritual beliefs.

Thanks Congressman for standing up for your beliefs. It's going to be a long, difficult battle.

**Susan and Dave Cavanaugh**  
Alexandria

# Exploring Senior Housing

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Most older adults say they plan to "age in place" in their community, but very few have seriously considered whether this is a realistic option. Alexandria has so much to offer our senior population: excellent health care facilities, great transportation options, wonderful restaurants and a wide variety of cultural activities. The city has a great sense of community, and there are many volunteer opportunities with city boards and commissions and local non-profits. However, as we get older, it is important to think about whether our homes will continue to fit our needs during retirement and with a fixed income.

Rising property taxes, maintenance costs, rent and condo fee increases, and the need to make our homes more accessible are all important considerations. These issues are not unique to Alexandria, and our local government is working hard to come up with innovative solutions to these problems. Most residents would agree that we want our city to be a "livable" community for all ages.

In 2015 the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations (ACHSO) produced a comprehensive "Needs Assessment Report of the Alexandria Human Services System", which identified affordable housing as the top issue facing the city and its residents. ACHSO and Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) have invited a panel of local housing

SEE SENIOR HOUSING, PAGE 22



PHOTO BY JIM MCELHATTON

**Tariq Kahn drives the train at Landmark Mall, carrying Sawyer and Max McElhatton. The photo was taken one day before Khan must leave the mall on Jan. 30.**

# A Farewell to Landmark Mall

BY JIM MCELHATTON

Hailed as the largest shopping center in northern Virginia when it opened in 1965, Landmark Mall was set to close on Jan. 31 long after most chain stores fled. "Never again," one shopper took to Yelp to complain of the mostly vacant mall. Wrote another, "As soon as you step into the mall, you'll feel so empty and desolate ..."

But if you walked past the dozens of shuttered storefronts, if you talked to the few merchants who remained, you might have felt something else, too: hope. You'd meet people like mall convenience store owner Dessalgne Tiruneh, who came to the United States as a refugee from Ethiopia more than three decades ago.

Tiruneh never could have afforded space in other malls, but the high vacancy rates meant low rents. When just about everyone else gave up on Landmark, these merchants — many of them first generation immigrants — kept the place alive, even if just barely. Landmark was more than just a dying mall to them. It was a place to plant their dreams and for small businesses to take root — a story of immigration and renewal as old as the country itself.

For his part, Tiruneh said he earned a college degree after coming to the United States. He made a good living until he was laid off from an accounting job in 2009. One day, he stopped by the mall and struck up a conversation with convenience store cashier Enku Shiferaw. She, too, came from Ethiopia. They hit it off. Before long, they married. In October, the newlyweds took over running the store — just in time for the mall to close.

Another Landmark business owner, Tesfahun Getu, opened his Ethiopian Twice business back in 2007, selling custom made Ethiopian jewelry and clothing.

"You have to work hard and promote it," he said, when asked how he could have managed to stay afloat with such little foot traffic. "The complaint I hear all the time is Landmark is a dead mall, but we promoted it and gave it life."

Getu said he relentlessly promotes his business online, through social media and

word of mouth. "I always knew it was going to close sometime," he said. "I just never knew when."

It's true Landmark was a big, lonely place over the last few years, but I never found it depressing thanks to another start-up Landmark business run by Tariq Kahn, who came to the United States in 1995 from Pakistan. He ran the Khan Express, a small electric train that zipped all around the mall transporting customers for \$4 per ride (which sounds steep until you learn the train cost him \$20,000).

My 3-year old son and I were frequent and loyal passengers for whom a ride on the Khan Express marked one of life's great and simple joys. Unfettered by foot traffic, Khan delighted in making each ride memorable, zigzagging around poles and spinning his little train around in tight circles in front of deserted stores (and you just can't get service that like at Tysons).

On a recent day, however, Kahn seemed down. He had about a week left on his lease before the mall closed to make way for a big redevelopment project. He slumped, leaning on the little wooden podium next to his parked train. There were no passengers in sight.

Over the years, Khan has held jobs in food service and sales. Before starting the Khan Express 18 months ago, he worked as a security guard. Most of the nearby malls already have trains, and Kahn can't keep his running on occasional birthday parties alone. "Otherwise, it's back to any job I can get," he said. Back at his convenience store, Tiruneh said he, too, is disappointed. His wife, Enku, said she's enjoyed running the business, but wishes the mall would stay open a little longer and that merchants received more than one month's notice to vacate. But Tiruneh said he's been through worse. He doesn't want to look back. He fled Ethiopia 34 years ago as a refugee. When asked why he came to the United States, he paused. Under his breath, almost in passing, he said, "I didn't want to be assassinated."

"I escaped," he said. "I survived. I live in America now. God bless America."

*Jim McElhatton is a freelance writer who lives in Alexandria. He can be reached at jimmcclhat@gmail.com, or on Twitter at @Jim\_McElhatton*



# ENTERTAINMENT

## All In for 'The Gin Game'

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**T**he next production at MetroStage is "The Gin Game," a Pulitzer Prize winning classic play by D. L. Coburn, opening Feb. 2 and running through March 12. It has been produced all over the country and all over the world since it opened on Broadway in 1977, and it is famous for showcasing many famous acting pairs in this two-hander that takes place on the sun

porch of a retirement home. Of course, the most notable acting pair was the husband and wife team, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, appearing in the original production, which received four Tony nominations with Ms. Tandy winning the Tony for Best Actress. There was a Broadway revival in 1997 starring Julie Harris and Charles Durning, receiving three more Tony nominations, and then in 2015, in the same theatre on Broadway, the John Golden Theatre, where it had opened 38 years earlier, it opened with none other than James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson.

Now what does all of this have to do with

MetroStage? First of all MetroStage loves to find the perfect actors to showcase on its intimate stage. (Case in point Tom Story playing 40 characters in "Fully Committed" over the holidays.) Secondly, back in 2015 in our world premiere production of "Uprising" actors Doug Brown and Roz White played opposite each other as Lottie and Charlie Pick. They were so charming on stage together, having been in many MetroStage productions but never together, that I, the producer, said to myself, "I need to find a play for these two actors."

And I guess you could say the rest is history. Here they are in "The Gin Game," following in the proud steps of so many, and we are delighted to be showcasing them together in this production. So grab a seat at the table (a card table that is!) and meet Fonsia and Weller, two remarkable characters, while they get to know each other, playing cards while exposing their lives, the aspirations and the disappointments, and ultimately revealing who they really are. It is a rewarding journey we will be taking with these two, so join these memorable characters and two of MetroStage's favorite actors over a game of cards. Who knew they could be so revealing?

See [www.metrostage.org/](http://www.metrostage.org/).



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROSTAGE

**In rehearsal at MetroStage with Roz White and Doug Brown for "The Gin Game."**

### NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

porch of a retirement home. Of course, the most notable acting pair was the husband and wife team, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, appearing in the original production, which received four Tony nominations with Ms. Tandy winning the Tony for Best Actress. There was a Broadway revival in 1997 starring Julie Harris and Charles Durning, receiving three more Tony nominations, and then in 2015, in the same theatre on Broadway, the John Golden Theatre, where it had opened 38 years earlier, it opened with none other than James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson.

Now what does all of this have to do with

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**RockNBlades.** Fridays in February 8:45-10:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Skating with music. \$12 admission includes rental skates.**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

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

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 Goldsmith 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.

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224.

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

**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).

**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 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. 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

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Nicecream To Add Some Factory Flair to King Street

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**mid the blocks of bustling King Street, a new factory is preparing to open. But it doesn't need an industrial permit to hawk its wares. No, what's rolling off the line within these four walls is something sweet indeed — handmade ice cream, hot (or, more accurately, cold) off the press.

**APPETITE** Founded in Arlington, the Nicecream Factory is preparing to set up shop in Old Town soon, and co-owner Sandra Tran says her team couldn't be more excited about their expansion to 726 King St.

"We're just really excited to bring the concept to Old Town because we feel that it's very family-friendly," she said. "Kids love our ice-cream store; they love to come and watch us make it."

In the world of ice cream shops, Nicecream — which Tran calls a "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-style place" — stands out.

"We're hand-crafting ice cream the way that ice cream should be made," she said.

And, according to Tran, the way ice cream should be made is this: Fresh and on the spot, with local ingredients (the eatery's fruit comes from Virginia and Maryland, for instance), and flash-frozen with liquid nitrogen before serving.

## If You Go

**Nicecream**, 726 King St.

**Opening:** March 2017. "It's coming quicker than we think," co-owner Sandra Tran laughs.

**Try this:** Peanut butter cup ice cream made with peanut butter, white chocolate chips, spices, and chocolate. "We roast our own peanuts in-house, so whenever we make it the whole place smells like peanut butter," Tran says.

Nicecream will sport a rotating cast of about six to eight flavors a day in its Old Town location, Tran says, which will change character based on the season. Expect "a variety of berries" in the summer and warm, comforting flavors such as caramel, cinnamon, candied walnuts, and the like in winter, she said.

Founded in May 2013 via a successful Kickstarter campaign and beginning sales as a pop-up in Dupont Circle's Science Club, Nicecream opened its Arlington store in May 2014.

"We were just shocked by how many people were so excited about Nicecream" during the Kickstarter campaign, Tran said. "People all over the world were donating. ... It just grew from there."

Setting up shop in Arlington at first was a no-brainer, as well, she said: "We (Tran and her long-time boyfriend and business partner Gilbert Welsford) live in Arlington, so it was just kind of a good fit."

Tran, a native of Falls Church, had always had her heart set on expanding to Alexandria — it was simply a matter of finding the right match.

"We've always been frankly obsessed with Old Town," she laughed.

"... We just have been so happy and excited, and everyone we talk to has just been the most welcoming."

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

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. [maurispotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurispotts@gmail.com)

### CAMPS, CLASSES & 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.

### MONDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30-FEB. 5

**Restaurant Week.** Participating restaurants offer multi-course \$35 dinner, \$22 lunch, and — for the first time — \$22 brunch menus, exclusively available during Restaurant Week. Visit [www.rwdmv.com](http://www.rwdmv.com) for more.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 2

**Coffee and Connections.** 8-9 a.m. at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick St. Join Alexandria Chamber's Professional Women's Network for its first Coffee and Connections event of 2017. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Visit [alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com](http://alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 3

**Garden Talks: Plants that Bully.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardeners highlight the invasive plants and show native alternatives to grow instead. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) for more.

**Mardi Gras in Alexandria.** 6-8:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. Make a Mardi Gras mask or bring one and plan to participate in the evening's Mardi Gras parade. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts).

**Heflebower's Cobblers and Cocktails.** 7-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Come taste tavern keeper Samuel Heflebower's 19<sup>th</sup>-century cocktails, learn a bit of tavern history. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**The Bottle Rockets Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In concert with Marshall Crenshaw. \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

### FEB. 3-MARCH 5

**Ceramic Guild Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Customer Appreciation: Welcome to our World" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org), [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope) or call 703-548-6288 for more.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 4

**Merit Badge Jamboree.** 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. An event for Boy Scouts to attend and earn merit badges. Visit [www.ncacbsa.org/colonial/advancement/merit-badge-jamboree/](http://www.ncacbsa.org/colonial/advancement/merit-badge-jamboree/) or call 703-324-8662 for more.

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Alexandria Warehouse Sale.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Discounts from some of Alexandria's boutiques. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com) or [www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com](http://www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com) 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.

**Connecting Communities Through Art Expression.** 11 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. A celebration of art, hosted by the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter (NoVAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Free. Contact Samantha Sargent, 703-717-2319 or Ashley Jennings, 757-593-1837.

**World Wetlands Day.** noon-2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Come celebrate the importance of wetlands and learn why these unique ecosystems are significant to people, plants and

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# ENTERTAINMENT

animals. Ages 4 and older. \$8 county residents, \$10 non-county. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park) for more.

## Happy Birthday John Carlyle.

Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. A 1770s Celebration for the town founder. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com).

**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.

## Pipeline Playwrights Launch

**Party.** 3-6 p.m. at the National Arts Education Association, 901 Prince St. The launch party will feature scenes from the four new plays in the spring reading series. Call 703-860-8000 or visit [www.arteducators.org](http://www.arteducators.org).

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association dance. \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call 703-860-4941 for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 5

### Philharmonic's Youth Orchestras.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Part of the "Bagels and Bach" Concert Series, light brunch included. \$10/Nonresident \$15, under five, free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/arts).

**Winter Warmer Tea.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18<sup>th</sup>-century desserts while sipping John Gadsby's special blend of tea or take a cup of American Heritage Chocolate. Historic guest Martha Washington will catch you up on the latest Alexandria news during the tea. \$35. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4242 for more.

**Super Bowl Blitz.** 5-11 p.m. at Chadwicks, 203 Strand St. Watch the game on a big projection screen and enjoy unlimited appetizers and drink specials. \$20. There are a limited number of tickets. Call 703-836-4442 for more.

## MONDAY/FEB. 6

### Garden Sprouts: Nature

**Playgroup.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschoolers participate in nature-themed activities while parents meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. \$6. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) for more.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 7

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

## FEB. 7-MARCH 14

**Mixed Media Exhibit.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the St. George Gallery, 105 North Alfred St. Inspirational approaches in mixed media inhabit this art exhibit. Call 703-299-9495 or visit [www.StGeorgeofEthiopia.com](http://www.StGeorgeofEthiopia.com).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Justin Hayward Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon

Ave. Hayward is the vocalist-songwriter-guitarist of The Moody Blues. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 9

**Fort Belvoir Update Breakfast.** 8-9:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club,

6023 Fort Hunt Road. Col. Holbrooke will provide an update on planned improvements. \$25 for Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Members and Guests, \$35 Non-Chamber. Email [info@mtvernon-leechamber.org](mailto:info@mtvernon-leechamber.org) for more.

**Author Charles Mills.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mills discusses his book "The Civil War Wedding," an entertaining look at the customs and superstitions of weddings during the Civil War era. RSVP at [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org)

## FEB. 9-MARCH 19

### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery.

Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Cosmic Sights and Sounds, comes as the winter night sky's grand collection of brilliant stars begins to give way to the vernal equinox. This show will also highlight the work of featured artists Carol Bodin, Mickey Kunkle, and Lynda Prioleau. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**Artists' Reception.** 2-4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Artists' reception for three exhibiting shows for artists Winston W. Harris, John M. Adams and Lonnie Pauls. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/) for more.

**Twig Snowflake Sale.** 4 p.m. at The Twig Shop, 106 N. Columbus St. Everything on sale at this organization dedicated to providing financial aid, volunteer service and support to Inova Alexandria Hospital. Call 571-251-1717 or visit [www.thetwig.org](http://www.thetwig.org).

**Nocturnal Animals.** 5:15-7:15 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Look and listen for owls, beavers and other animals that are active at night. \$8. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/) or call 703-768-2525 for more.

## FEB. 11-12

**All-Mozart Concert.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E Campus Drive. The concert has a focus on musical masterpieces, led by five conductors, anchored by a classical "popular" favorite from the symphonic canon. \$20-\$80, \$5 youth and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885 for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 12

**Live Animal Lunchtime.** noon-1 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring lunch to Huntley Meadows and dine with a special animal guest — a snake, turtle, or toad. Learn about the critter's diet, adaptations and habitat through crafts and hands-on learning. \$7, dessert included. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

**Gardening Author.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Marta McDowell shares the history of the White House gardens and signs her book, "All the Presidents' Gardens" after the lecture. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or

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The Pet Connection will publish on February 22, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# ASO Presents All-Mozart Concert

BY MELINDA KERNC  
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) continues its season of celebrated masterworks on Saturday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, Feb. 12 with a pair of all-Mozart performances. The concert set continues the season with a focus on musical masterpieces, led by five renowned guest conductors. Each concert is anchored by a classical “popular” favorite loved by audiences from the symphonic canon. The February program features all-Mozart selections with the exuberant Jupiter Symphony, Piano Concerto No. 20 and the Overture to the Magic Flute.

The ASO welcomes guest conductor Michael Rossi, a rising star in the orchestral world. Graduating from the Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Rossi has led orchestras from Philadelphia to Xalapa. Maestro Rossi is also the founder and artistic director of the Miami Summer Music Festival, which in just two years has become a major international summer festival.

According to Rossi, Mozart greatly influenced his musical journey. “In my lifetime, little has captured my imagination the way the music of Mozart has,” said Rossi. “When I was 7 years old, like many of us, I saw the famous movie Amadeus and fell in love with the music of Mozart. When I heard the Piano Concerto in D Minor, I wanted to learn to play it.

Years later, that concerto would become the first piano concerto that I would conduct in public.”

Back by popular demand, Thomas Pandolfi will lend his artistry to the piano concerto. Praised by the Washington Post, Pandolfi is “an artist who is master of both the grand gesture and the sensual line.” Equally a master of technique and expression, Pandolfi played to a sold-out house with ASO audiences jumping to their feet in a standing ovation with his premiere of Kluge & Kluge’s American Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in May of 2016.

“I feel a wonderful rapport and friendship with this wonderful orchestra, and we have covered a wide range of diverse repertoire,” said Pandolfi. “This time around, it will be my pleasure to partner with the ASO and Maestro Rossi in Mozart’s dramatic, yet beautiful D Minor Piano Concerto. This work was a particular favorite of Beethoven’s, who even composed cadenzas for it, and is one of Mozart’s few works in a minor key. It displays all of the splendor, mastery and genius of this magnificent composer.”

The fully-professional Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at both the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center (Saturday performances) and the George Washington Masonic Memorial (Sunday performances). Ticket prices: \$20- \$80 adult, \$5 youth, and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. To order tickets and for more information, visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

## CALENDAR

visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/) for more.

### MONDAY/FEB. 13

**Anti-Valentine’s day kickboxing.** 5-6:30 p.m. at iLoveKickboxing, 660 S. Pickett St. Shred Your Ex, a positive way to ditch the Valentine’s Day doldrums and get fit in the process. Free for members of iLoveKickboxing. Visit [www.ilovekickboxing.com](http://www.ilovekickboxing.com) or call 571-429-4290.

**Vegetable Gardening Lecture.** 7-8:30 p.m. at the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation. Free. Email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) or call 703-228-6414 for more.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 14

**Submission Deadline.** 2017 Needlework Show & Sale mail-in entries: Jan. 11-Feb. 14; walk-in entries: Feb. 12-14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Looking for needlework pieces that showcase many techniques in both traditional and contemporary designs. [woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org](mailto:woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org)

### THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Business After Hours.** 5:30-7 p.m. at The Wharf, 119 King St. Enjoy refreshments and hors d’oeuvres with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce while networking with other business and nonprofit professionals. Members \$10, non-members \$25, and members at the door \$25. Visit [web.alexchamber.com/](http://web.alexchamber.com/) for more.

### FEB. 17-26

**Winter Restaurant Week.** Neighborhood restaurants throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and the West End. \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select

locations offering lunch from \$10-20/person. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or call 703-746-3301 for more.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**Eco-Savvy Symposium.** 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn why plant and animal life biodiversity is critical to a healthy ecosystem and what can be done to bring diversity to your own backyard. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**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.

### FEB. 18-19

**Presidents Day Breakfast Sampler.** 9 a.m.-noon at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Join “General Washington” for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

**Visit with George Washington.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. Mingle with costumed characters from George Washington’s world, followed by an 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration, birthday

cake and wreath laying ceremony. Adults, \$20; children ages 6-11, \$10; and children under 5 free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Top 10 Plants for the Garden.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturists Karen Rexrode and Keith Tomlinson of Meadowlark Gardens and Judy Zatsick discuss their favorites. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/) for more.

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Pianist Thomas Pandolfi playing Paderewski’s Piano Concerto in A Minor, and Duke Ellington’s The River. \$20; children 8 and under are free. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) for more.

### MONDAY/FEB. 20

**George Washington’s Birthday.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington’s Birthday by visiting his home and burial site free of charge on this day, and watch a variety of activities. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony.** 11 a.m.-noon at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they host colonial military and civilians to honor the soldiers of the Revolution. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday) for more.



# Mixed Progress Since 2013 Housing Master Plan

FROM PAGE 1  
housing, some proponents say. Of these high-impact tools, the city has implemented four so far, according to a Jan. 5 progress report from the Office of Housing.

“The costs associated with developing affordable housing are the same as if you were building market rate housing [but] the lower rents do not cover the cost,” said Jon Frederick, a nonprofit developer, in an email. “High impact tools are those that most improve this economic reality.”

Two such tools eased requirements for parking, a major development expense.

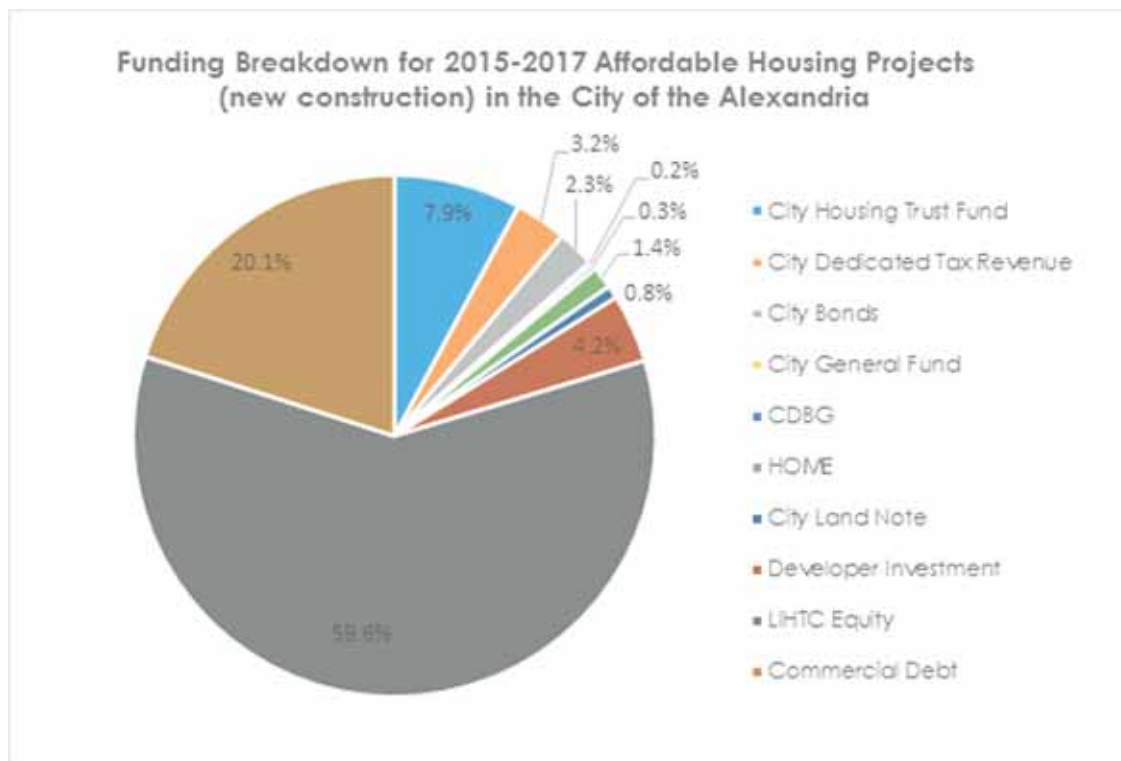
Beginning 2014, the city let developers overhaul more existing affordable housing without also upgrading parking. In 2015, the city decreased parking requirements for new construction. “Market-rate” units, whose rents are unrestricted, now require a ratio of 0.8-1.0 parking spaces per unit. A tiered system requires only 0.50-0.75 spaces per unit for “committed” affordable units, whose prices are capped at or below 60 percent of the area median income.

Residents of affordable developments pre-dating the new rules do not use, on average, 28 percent of available parking, according to the HMP. The Station at Potomac Yard is a case in point. “We ‘parked’ that facility at about a 1.25 or 1.5 ratio, and we have a whole floor of underground parking that’s not being used,” said Frederick. “At \$50,000 a space, you think about the cost of that.”

By building parking more in line with utilization statistics, the savings “can be reinvested to provide deeper subsidies or additional units,” according to the HMP. Tamara Jovic of the Office of Housing compared four hypothetical 100-unit scenarios. They show that a developer could save roughly \$2-4 million in parking construction by building affordable rather than market rate units.

The third tool, passed in 2014, lets the Office of Housing finance \$5,000 per unit of “predevelopment” costs. “These expenses might include engineering studies, architectural design or other types of professional consulting services,” according to the HMP. They “are typically hard to finance [privately] due to the risk that the project won’t go forward and the funds invested will not be recovered.”

“I think that the city deserves some praise for this,” said Frederick. “There [are] not



many places in the country where they’ll commit \$5,000 a unit ... [T]hree, four, five hundred thousand dollars [for 60-100 unit projects] is really the tough money to get.”

A fourth tool, passed in 2014, amended Section 7-700 of Alexandria’s Zoning Ordinance — better known as the bonus density/height provision.

Under 7-700, the city allows a developer to build a building with a larger footprint or more floors than what zoning would otherwise permit. A bigger building means more units, which in turn means more rents and more profit for the developer. In exchange, the developer agrees bindingly to cap some bonus units at affordable price points for a certain period.

The revamped ordinance allows bonus units off site, or cash instead of bonus units. These options enable the city to stretch resources farther at another location if possible. The amendments also “increase the bonus density standard from 20 [percent] to 30 [percent] if authorized by the relevant small area plan,” said the Jan. 5 progress report. The Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee will consider a proposal on Feb. 2 to raise the standard to 30 percent for the whole city.

“The [7-700] amendments would fall into the ‘high impact’ category in that with them there is a greater potential to produce more units from new housing developments,” said Michael Butler, CFO of Paradigm Management, in an email.

The city has not fully or permanently implemented four other high-impact tools.

Among these are three tools under the shared heading “general fund direct allocation support.” These tools could bolster “a consistent, reliable source of annual funding,” which the HMP says is the “best” means of accomplishing its goals.

“[P]redictability and regular, local funding that’s set aside specifically for housing would be one of the best things that an individual could advocate for, or that they could request of [their] government officials,” said Hilary Chapman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. “Real estate development takes a long time ... You can’t solve it quickly in the space of one budget cycle.” Regular funding would help developers “plan ahead” for the “scale and scope of those resources,” giving them “some confidence that [the money] will be there.”

“[A] dedicated source of revenue ... might bring in more activity. But ... [i]t’s hard to say. If we have the money I suspect we’ll get more projects,” said Helen McIlvaine of the Office of Housing.

But the city mainly takes a project-first rather than a funding-first approach. “[I]f you bring us a good project, we will do all that we can to ... take it forward,” said McIlvaine. “That’s kind of been the environment in which we’ve worked.”

The city has reasons for its project-first approach. Other demands — schools, sewers, Metro — compete for limited dollars. Some City Council members prefer being “flexible in terms of making funding decisions” to making “forward allocations,” said McIlvaine. The city also risks “overinvesting” up front and becoming uncompetitive for federal tax credit subsidies, says Eric Keeler, also of the Office of Housing.

Even so, Keeler believes two local revenue streams — the Housing Trust Fund and a dedicated portion of the real estate tax — are sufficiently consistent and predictable.

“The city ... is figuring out a way to get \$4 million on a pretty straight [trend] line” through 2021, largely “between the Trust Fund and dedicated [tax] revenue.” It’s more complicated than simply adding the two budget line items together. This figure takes into account other sources and fluctuation from year to year. But, on average, “We would have confidence that every year we could come up with about \$4 million.”

The Housing Trust Fund combines voluntary developer contributions, the repayment of city loans, and other monies. The Office of Housing can forecast HTF revenue about two years out. That’s about the same lead-time that developers need to plan ahead, says Keeler.

The city also dedicates 0.6 cents of the real estate tax rate — more than \$2 million annually — to subsidize affordable housing. Around 80 percent, or more, goes to pay out existing bonds for past projects.

This debt service is a steady city investment in housing, only amortized, says Keeler. And the remainder — up to several hundred thousand dollars — can go to new projects.

But anticipated development needs exceed the city’s reliable \$4 million. The Office of Housing expects a cumulative \$12 million deficit for projects already “in the pipeline” through 2021.

Michelle Krock of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance estimates that the city should dedicate \$7-8 million per year to affordable housing. This would require about \$3-4 million in new revenue per year to top up existing predictable revenues, says Keeler.

“[A]ffordable housing is a big thing, it’s not the only thing,” said McIlvaine. Still, “everything that ... has ended up in the city’s strategic plan, in terms of being inclusive and diverse, depends on them maintaining and adding to the city’s stock of affordable housing. Those are truly empty words if we don’t get the funding for affordable housing.”

The general fund direct allocation tools could provide additional consistent and reliable funding, according to the HMP.

The fourth would-be high-impact tool is “tax abatement for substantial rehabilitation.”

Financing from the city for a given affordable housing project will “be paid out of cash flow over 20-30 years,” said Butler. “But to some extent the biggest expense that any of these properties have ... is real estate taxes. .... So to the extent that you can reduce the expenses of that affordable unit, then ... a third party lender would provide more financing .... [T]he city would have to advance less money, and theoretically would have more money to put into more properties.”

Readers interested to learn more about the master tools should consult Appendix 7 of the Housing Master Plan, available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/HousingPlan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/HousingPlan).

**“[P]redictability and regular, local funding that’s set aside specifically for housing would be one of the best things that an individual could advocate for, or that they could request of [their] government officials.”**

**— Hilary Chapman, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**



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## WELLBEING

# To Move Or Not To Move

## Local family moves mother into newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

One of the most heart-wrenching decisions that Denise Schossler, her two siblings and her 95-year-old mother had to make was whether or not to move her into an assisted living facility, leaving the home where she's lived since 1954. Physical limitations and a need for social interaction drove the decision to relocate to the newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

"My mother has managed to stay in her home all this time with the help of an aide who comes every day, but she realized that it just couldn't continue. One of the main things is the isolation and the loneliness," said Schossler. "She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."

A dearth of social interaction is one of the factors that can lead seniors into assisted living facilities. In fact, a recent study published in the Journal of Gerontology shows that seniors living in assisted living facilities have fewer unmet needs such as companionship, help with cooking, bathing and doing laundry than those who live independently. However, the survey of more than 4,000 people over the age of 65 shows that even in such retirement communities, unmet needs still exist. To address this challenge, local gerontology experts say that families must determine whether a loved one's needs meet the criteria for assisted living candidacy and once placed, work to ensure that those needs are being met.

"In counseling families making this diffi-

cult decision, I focus on safety factors for the patient and other family members," said Maureen Moriarty, D.N.P., assistant professor of nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often cognitive impairment is the reason for assisted living. Perhaps memory is affected so the patient can no longer safely drive or remember the steps in carrying out activities of daily living such as cooking, bathing or management of finances."

In making this decision, an evaluation by an objective gerontology expert can be necessary, says Patrice Winter, DPT, assistant professor at George Mason University in the Department of Global and Community Health. "They come out and evaluate the house and the person as well," she said. "You have an objective, unemotional person instead of an adult child going, 'Mom you can't live here anymore.' and the mom saying, 'Stay out of my business.'"

Such an evaluation will show that there are times when a lifestyle adjustment is all that is needed. "Sometimes they can offer simple solutions that can make huge changes," said Winter. "Could it be that they need their eyesight and hearing checked? Or the washing machine moved upstairs"

so they can do laundry more frequently?"

When seeking an evaluation, Winter recommends local social service agencies such as the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging. "The issue may not be cognitive, but the need for a living envi-

ronment with more support may be triggered by physical limitations," added Moriarty. "Perhaps a chronic degenerative illness such as Parkinson's Disease has left the patient with physical care needs beyond the scope of family members."

Safety can become an issue when family members' physical limitations restrict the quality of care they are able to offer. "This opens issues not only to patient safety but also the family member may be frail or have their own physical limitations that limit their capacity to assist someone who, for instance, has balance loss," said Moriarty. "The key assessment as a clinician for me is that the family no longer has the resources to care safely for this individual in a home environment."

Schossler says that her proximity to the Kensington Falls Church will allow her to be in regular contact with both her mother and the staff.

"My mother has grandchildren and great-grandchildren and we can visit her because the Kensington is just a few minutes away from where I live," she said. "My mother has already made connections with three people who will be there, so she's looking forward to moving. We happened to find the right fit at the right time."

**"She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."**

— Denise Schossler

## Local Resources

- ❖ Alexandria Area Agency on Aging <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging>
- ❖ Arlington Aging and Disability Services Division <https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/>
- ❖ Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/>
- ❖ Kensington Falls Church Open House, Feb. 1, 5 and 22, 4:30 to 7 p.m., 700 West Broad St., Falls Church

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000663, Emergency and Winter Shelter Services for Homeless Individuals and Families

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: February 6, 2017; 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time, 2355 A Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Request for Proposals Closing Date and Time: March 6, 2017, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

For general inquiries contact Kaylin Gaal, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4286.

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

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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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### OBITUARY



**Joan Argiro** of New York City and formerly of Alexandria, VA passed away on Monday, January 23, 2017. She was born on August 3, 1933 in Kearney, NJ and was raised in Phoenixville, PA. A beloved member of the community in Alexandria, VA, she became the doyenne of Public Relations and Marketing and helped many businesses launch and thrive in the area. Her passion was connecting people. She was a matchmaker for both businesses and couples. She successfully matched two couples from Alexandria and it was one of her proudest accomplishments. She was known for her elegant style with her signature red silk rose and dramatic glasses. She is survived by her beloved husband Vincent Argiro, her son Paul of Miami, FL, her daughters Megan (Scott) and Kathlin of New York City, and Grandchildren Abigail, Kayla and Annabel. In addition she is survived by her brother Vincent (Joyce) Gallagher of Mission Viejo, CA; her sister Mary Therese Gallagher of Madison WI and was predeceased by her sister Kathryn Allen. A Memorial Mass will be offered at the Church of

St. Francis Xavier, 46 W.16th St., NY, NY 10011. A celebration of her life will take place following the Mass at the Harvard Club in NYC. In lieu of flowers mom had asked that contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517.

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November 8, 2016

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lead Agency: Department of Army

Title of Proposed Action: Supplemental Environmental Assessment of Communications Line Extension, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Affected Jurisdiction: Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Prepared By: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Approved By: Colonel Angie K. Holbrook, Commander, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Abstract: This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents potential impacts to the physical, biological and human environments associated with the extension of a new underground communications line from the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir to Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). The proposed ductbank is required to provide enhanced voice and data telecommunications connectivity to DAAF from the existing communications network within Fort Belvoir. After evaluating communications network needs at DAAF, Fort Belvoir network personnel identified a single viable alternative, extending the ductbank along the Poe Road corridor (Proposed Action). This Poe Road Alternative was selected based upon the location and availability of existing network infrastructure connection hubs at either end of the alignment and required communication system diversity needs. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for evaluating impacts of the Proposed Action. None of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are considered significant. As a result, it is anticipated that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Review Period: Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI during a 30 day period. Please submit any comments to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Attention: Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or email your comments to: [usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil).

The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the internet at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp>. Documents were also provided for public review at the following libraries for a period of 30 days:

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Lorton, VA 22079-2124

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Alexandria, VA 22306-2799

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## OPINION

# Nonpartisan Redistricting Needed

BY CHARNIELE HERRING  
DELEGATE (D-46)



At the core of our Democracy we find a central figure ... the vote. Voting is how we elect leaders who make the laws that shape our society. It is how we know we are free people and our

That is why making progress in this area is so difficult: Small subcommittees with minimal debate scheduled for the early morning hours when it is unlikely to have people there to testify. Unfortunately, this week we saw some legislation that would take us in the opposite direction of progress and dilute

## COMMENTARY

voices are heard. It is why politicians of all stripes listen to what we say when we write or call or protest. There is nothing more sacred than the ability to cast your vote and have it matter. During the 2017 legislative session voting rights have been a key figure for debate in Richmond.

This year I sponsored legislation modeled on Oregon's automatic voter legislation law. It would have made it so that any interaction with the Department of Motor Vehicles would automatically register you to vote (or update your registration) unless you opted-out. Unfortunately, this legislation was laid on the table, meaning it will not advance to the floor for a vote.

Every year I sponsor or co-sponsor legislation to make accessibility to the ballot box less strenuous and more in-line with other states that provide opportunities to vote early and make voting more accessible to populations that need special consideration like the elderly or disabled. This year was no different. There was legislation to make it easier to vote early by doing away with the need for a legal reason to cast an absentee ballot before Election Day. This works for many other states in increasing turnout and shortening long lines on Election Day in many places. There were less sweeping proposals aimed at helping the elderly, but they were all unceremoniously killed in subcommittee early one morning.

the power of our vote. HB 1425 is modeled on an idea we have seen over the years which would allocate our state's Electoral College Votes by Congressional District. While I like the idea of the popular vote choosing the President, this will not accomplish that. Our Congressional districts had to be redrawn by court earlier and a case is still pending before the Supreme Court about our state house districts. Under this kind of legislation Electoral College votes would be split and given to candidates based on who won in gerrymandered districts, not the state as a whole or a breakdown based on the percentage of the popular vote.

This is one of many reasons we need to put redistricting in the hands of a non-partisan or bi-partisan commission, taking it out of the hands of the elected officials who could be tempted by the power to draw the lines of the districts which they represent. While there were several bills in the House that would accomplish this, they were also killed in an early morning committee meeting without much debate. I have joined my caucus in calling for an up or down vote on the floor on the redistricting legislation. So far we have been met with silence.

*Charniele Herring represents Alexandria City's 46th 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.*

# Exploring Senior Housing

FROM PAGE 14

experts to address the issue of senior housing options at a Community Forum on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This forum will explore the current status and future plans related to affordable housing for our senior population. There will also be a panel discussion about staying in one's home and how to adapt it to make it "age friendly," as well as the services and programs available for seniors who wish to remain in their homes in Alexandria.

The Senior Housing Forum will take place at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road in Alexandria from 10 a.m. – noon with registration beginning at 9:30. This event is free and light refreshments will be provided. RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

This is going to be a very informative session, and we hope you will come make your voices heard at the Senior Housing Forum. We want to hear your thoughts and concerns about this very important topic.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## WEDNESDAYS FEB. 1-APRIL 15

Credit Counseling. 6:30-8 p.m. at Alexandria Dept. of Community & Human Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave. A volunteer will help access

credit reports for free and offer confidential, one-on-one credit coaching. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 2

Application Deadline. The Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. For a complete list of vacancies, go to www.alexandriava.gov/boards.



2

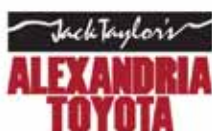
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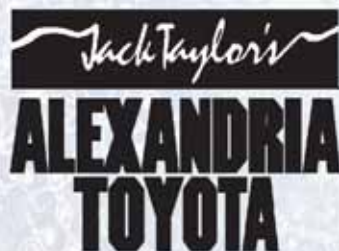
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OPEN SUN 2/5, 1-4

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## Waynewood \$838,000

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**George Myers 703.585.8301**  
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OPEN SUN 2/5, 1-4

## Alexandria \$559,500

Luxurious 4 level town-home in desirable 30 unit community. Renovated gourmet kitchen with space to eat in! All bedrooms have own private bath. Entertain in separate dining room or enjoy living room with 20-ft ceilings, fireplace and access to flagstone patio through French doors. 3811 Woodlawn Court

**Suzanne Morrison 703.863.3110**  
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OPEN SUN 2/5, 2-4

## Alexandria \$465,000

Townhouse style condo with 3 finished levels, 3 bedrooms & 3.5 baths. Hardwood floors throughout main level, new water heater & all kitchen appliances replaced in 2016! Great storage, 2 assigned parking spots, a finished walkout basement & a deck that backs to trees. [thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/5002-domain-place-3/](http://thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/5002-domain-place-3/)

**Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221**  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



OPEN SUN 2/5, 2-4

## Del Ray \$559,900

Spacious 3-bedroom, 2-bath Del Ray townhome. Large family room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, stainless steel appliances & sliding door to deck. Upper level includes master with walk-in closet, en-suite bath with double vanity, separate bath and shower. Entry-level bedroom & full bath. Garage. Move-in ready. 31 Herbert Street

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## Del Ray \$649,900

All-brick, end-unit, corner townhouse. 3 levels, 3-bedrooms, 2.5-baths, main floor family room or use as eat-in kitchen, fireplace on main level. The basement is unfinished with high ceilings and great space; sliding glass door from living room to backyard. This needs some updating, but what a perfect location!

**Gordon Wood 703.447.6138**  
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## Alexandria \$435,000

Open living/dining with gas fireplace and main level hardwood flooring. Granite eat-in kitchen with new stove and microwave. Updated baths. Spacious lower level includes separate laundry room, flexible work/play spaces, and extra storage. Quiet street with water views. Convenient to Wegman's and Metro!

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OPEN SUN 2/5, 2-4

## Alexandria \$319,900

Sunny condo with 2 master bedrooms each with walk-in closets & en-suite baths. Plush carpeting throughout, an updated kitchen with granite & newer appliances. Private balcony with storage room. 1 garage parking spot. Community pool, fitness, & tennis. [thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/4561-strutfield-lane-3209/](http://thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/4561-strutfield-lane-3209/)

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