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APRIL 27, 2017

Donald Trilling and his two friends, Thai Phi Le, from Arlington, and Eileen Gaughran, from Alexandria, is running his 30th consecutive George Washington Parkway Classic, at age 89. He is given race number "one" every year to honor his long record of consecutive runs in this race.



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET

Determination at Parkway Classic

Over 5,000 runners participate.

BY EDEN BROWN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jamie Watts will be pleased when she sees her time for the 33rd annual George Washington Parkway Classic. She cut her time down to six hours and 20 minutes, covering the 10 miles with the kind of dedication she shows in the rest of her life. Alexandria residents cheered her on as she closed in on the end of the race in Old Town. Donald Trilling, the oldest participant in the race, will be pleased he once again came in just short of last. His time was four hours and 51 minutes, which is not bad for 89.

The GW Parkway race again proved to be an

inspiring race on Saturday, April 23. Four thousand four hundred and eighty-one runners ran 10 miles. Another 1,318 runners ran the 5K race. As they did last year, Pacers Running Shops handled logistics, busing runners into the start and back to their parking lots, with Two Men and a Truck shuttling belongings, Starbucks offering coffee, the National Park Service taking pictures of participants, bands entertaining, Port City Brewing handing out beers, and local residents, volunteers, and security officials providing a friendly buffer along the parkway.

Once again, running groups raising money for veterans, neighbors in need, and breast cancer were there, getting shout-outs on the public address system.

Meredith Klinger, who was running her first GW Parkway race, and who began to run for the first time in her life this year, finished in just over two hours with a 12:05 mile.

Chris Petrock of Alexandria won first place in the 45-49 age group, running the race in just 1:01.



Alexandria resident Donna Oliver holds a sign up for runners, pouring on the good cheer runners need at that point in the race.

'Here Come The Scientists'

National Science Foundation may bring investment and traffic.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In just a few months, the National Science Foundation will open at its new location along Eisenhower Avenue. In September, the new building will bring more than 2,000 employees into the Carlyle neighborhood. The facade is already complete, new residential towers are completed or in development across the street. So Alexandria is left wondering: what will the new NSF building mean for the city?

An Agenda: Alexandria panel on April 24, "Here Come the Scientists – How Will the New National

Science Foundation Impact Alexandria?" highlighted that while the NSF will bring benefits to the area, it also comes with a share of problems.

According to Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, the Eisenhower Valley has faced stagnation over the last five years after the initial bump from the Federal Courthouse and Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) wore off.

"There [wasn't] a lot of people breaking ground," said Landrum. "So we're already seeing signs of success. The announcement and

SEE PANEL, PAGE 8

'Skeeter' Swift Dies at 70

Remembering a basketball legend.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

He was larger than life — a 6-foot-3, 230-pound athlete celebrated as one of the greatest legends of high school sports in Alexandria in the 1960s. His name was Harley Swift, a chubby kid from the wrong side of the tracks who was known simply as "Skeeter."

"Alexandria is where it all started for me," said Swift during a recent interview with the Gazette Packet. "Ever since I can remember, I had a basketball in my hand. I dribbled that ball

SEE 'SKEETER,' PAGE 4

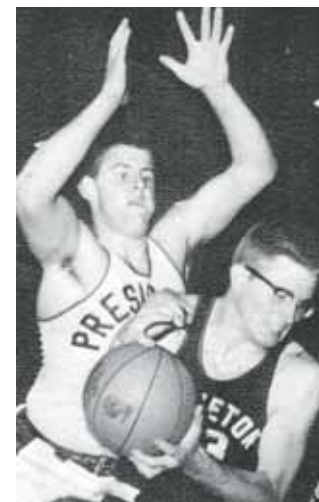


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

An 18-year-old Skeeter Swift, left, playing in a GW High School basketball game in 1965.

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Alexandrians Open Wallets, Hearts to Refugees

Churches, city services, individuals work to meet needs.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

“This is a time of extremes — very welcoming or very unwelcoming for refugees,” said Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission at Historic Christ Church. “Our church started meeting about a year ago. We knew we wanted to do something about refugees but we weren’t sure where we were going. As we continued our meetings I began to see more refugees and asylees coming into our church’s Lazarus Financial Ministry seeking financial assistance.”

Gray said that their effort has grown in past months to include a number of other churches in the Alexandria community, and at the last monthly meeting there were 20 or more people from Grace Episcopal, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Emmanuel Episcopal on Russell, Westminster Presbyterian, Commonwealth Baptist and others. Gray says their group has been working with 10 refugee families who were referred to their Lazarus Ministry by Alexandria’s Department of Community and Human Services. The churches provide temporary rental assistance and such things as rides to the doctor, meals, children’s toys, furniture and moral support.

Upon a refugee’s arrival in the United States, the first phase is assignment to a private voluntary group that provides resettlement services through a cooperative agreement with the State Department. The two-resettlement agencies designated for 21 counties and seven independent cities including Alexandria are Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services. A third group, the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) was just added to specifically handle special Immigrants from Afghanistan and Iraq in the Northern Virginia area.

Sarah Zullo, managing director of ECDC, says these refugees worked for the U.S. military. She has never seen so many people willing to help refugees — “opening their wallet, their homes. The generosity of the American people is overwhelming.”

Patricia Maloof, program director for Migration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, said, “We have



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Mohammad Yaqoobi and his wife Homa sit with Natasha Jones at the Alexandria Workforce Development Center on Beauregard Street getting an orientation to the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) program. The family arrived from Afghanistan five months ago where Yaqoobi was a teacher and served with U.S. military forces.

served 615 refugees from more than a dozen countries since October 1, 2016. We are authorized by the U.S. Department of State to resettle 600 refugees a year, plus an additional 10 percent if there is a need.” She explains they are capped for the year and currently they only receive Central American minors who are joining their parents or family in the greater Fredericksburg area.

Before the refugees arrive, the resettlement agencies have rented a place for them to live and equipped it with basic necessities. They meet the refugee at the airport. Then they provide temporary financial assistance, transportation, health screening and help the refugee with signing up for benefits and getting their children enrolled

in school as well as cultural adjustment to American life.

Malooof explains the resettlement and replacement program covers the first 90 days. Employment services including training, interviewing tips, job development and counseling are provided for the first 180 days. In addition, Malooof says a health liaison assists clients with ongoing medical needs for up to three years and a school liaison helps to register children in school and provide support as needed to children who have special needs in the school system, also for up to three years.

The City of Alexandria offers a variety of assistance to refugees. However, there is no number available on total refugees served by these programs which include public benefits, community

services such as food, clothing, furniture, prescription and burial assistance as well as rental utility assistance. In addition, the Workforce Development Center offers employment assistance to help refugees transition into the workforce. Daniel Mekibib, a program manager at Alexandria’s Workforce Development Center, says refugees are eligible for the same benefits and services that are available to U.S. citizens with the exception of Medicaid which is available to refugees but not to Virginia male residents. Virginia’s local departments of social services determine whether Virginia’s refugees are eligible for public assistance. Local refugee resettlement agencies determine whether they are eligible for employment services.

If refugees meet the requirements of a program, they are eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medical Assistance Program, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Energy Assistance Program, and the General Relief Program. Immigrants who arrive under such categories as work or student visas are not eligible for these benefits. Legislation sets the limitations on length of time each benefit can be received.

Mekibib manages the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare (VIEW) program that provides employment-related services to eligible City of Alexandria residents who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits (TANF). He says the purpose is to assist refugees with employment so that they can become self-sufficient as soon as possible. He has about 300 currently enrolled in his TANF Program and he estimates about 75 percent of this total is refugees. Mekibub, a former refugee from Ethiopia himself, said, “at the Center we focus on what will help them transition into the workforce.” He explains that the refugees generally are highly skilled with graduate degrees and another group

Definitions

Immigrant: A person who is not a citizen or a national of the U.S. and who is lawfully granted the privilege of residing in the U.S.

Refugee: A person who is outside his/her country and who is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Asylee: An individual who is in the U.S. or at the border and has been granted asylum by an immigration court or by the Department of State Citizenship and Immigration Services. They must meet the qualifications under the refugee definition.

Special Immigrant: A person who qualifies for a green card (permanent residence) under the special immigrant program. This includes religious workers, broadcasters, Armed Forces members, Iraq nationals who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government in Iraq and Afghan or Iraq nationals who supported the U.S. Armed Forces as translators.

is mostly women who never had the opportunity to go to school or work due to cultural or socio-economic reasons. He says in order to receive the benefits they must meet a work requirement unless they qualify for an exemption.

But Gray says after a couple of months although Medicaid and SNAP are still in place, the resettlement services such as rental and subsistence assistance end, and often the refugees haven’t found a job yet and can’t pay their rent or buy necessities. So the churches and local groups step in to continue the assistance until the refugees can get on their feet. And Gray says, as she knocks her knuckles on the wooden arm of her chair, “It’s incredible to watch how fast they get on their feet. Seven out of 10 families are stabilized now.”

The churches work together to assign a Care Team of two-three volunteers to assist the families with everything from babysitting while a mother has surgery to tutoring a child, taking the family out for entertainment, sharing meals, finding dentists, accompanying them to interviews for asylee status, refocusing resumes for American culture. They also get tangible things like a stroller “... and usually we get what we need pretty fast.”

Gray says a common denominator for these families is that they are well educated and speak English. “We have an engineer and a translator. They do not want to be asking for help.” She says it is partly emotional because they have been successful in their own countries and now they need help.

Every month there are meetings of the Care Teams to discuss what is working well, what resources are needed, and the status of the families. “We talk about how things are going financially and if a care team member says a family needs clothing, “I come up with a way to do it.”

Other more informal community efforts exist to assist refugees. Suzanne Arnold, who is in charge of community outreach at St. Rita Catholic Church, said, “There are so many people helping behind the headlines.” She says she got involved four years ago when she got a call from a hospital

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7



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NEWS

Skeeter Swift, left, John Wheatley (Wakefield '64) and John Hummer (Washington and Lee state champion '66 team) at a 2011 athletic reunion at George Washington Middle School. The reunion was organized by Swift just months after his diagnosis of lymphoma.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

'Skeeter' Swift Dies at 70

FROM PAGE 1

everywhere and played on every playground I could find from Alexandria to D.C."

A star athlete in football and basketball at what was then George Washington High School, Swift would go on to lead his unheralded East Tennessee State University team to a stunning upset of the Florida State Seminoles to advance to the NCAA Sweet 16 in 1968. A third-round NBA draft pick in 1969, Swift played professionally in the ABA, ending his career with the original San Antonio Spurs.

On April 20, the man noted as only the second Alexandrian to play professional basketball in the U.S. died at Indian Path Hospital in Kingsport, Tenn. He was 70 years old.

Born Harley Edward Swift Jr. in Alexandria on June 19, 1946, Swift's parents, Harley Sr. and Alene Campbell Robey, divorced before Swift entered elementary school.

"Skeeter had to overcome some difficult family and community disadvantages," said Sam Campbell, one of Swift's former coaches at GW, in a Facebook post. "His father had not been in the household for years and the family situation was simply dysfunctional. He was immensely helped by the coaching staff, some good teachers and a family that eventually took him into their house and gave him some stability. He was humbly grateful."

Sports provided a refuge for Swift, who is still remembered for drop-kicking a 28-yard field goal in the opening game of the 1963 football season against Annandale.

"I still remember that game," said Maria Evans, one of Swift's classmates. "Skeeter was always exciting to watch — no one missed many games in those days."

But basketball is where Swift excelled. He played three varsity seasons at GW and in his junior year led the Presidents (20-3) to the league title and state semifinals. He was the lone Virginian and non-African American to be named All-Met in both his junior and senior year, graduating from GW in 1965. At ETSU, he was a three-time all-Ohio valley conference selection and 1968 player of the year.

Swift was drafted by the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks but opted to play for the ABA expansion New Orleans Buccaneers, eventually retiring with the original San Antonio Spurs.

In 2010, Swift was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and in 2014 was part of the inaugural class of inductees in the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame at T.C. Williams High School. In 2011, he organized a multi-school athletic reunion at GW Middle School that drew close to 500 attendees, including past players and coaches, to celebrate the heyday of high school sports in Northern Virginia.

"I needed to do this," said Swift, who had been diagnosed with lymphoma in the summer of 2009 and was undergoing a round of chemotherapy at the time. "There were so many guys I wanted to see."

Following his playing career, Swift entered the field of industrial chemical sales, but not before coaching at six different schools in Virginia and East Tennessee, including Oak Hill High School, an independent private school, where he had a 61-1 record.

"He never saw himself as an outstanding coach, but he must have done something right," Campbell noted.

Swift is survived by his wife of 24 years, Demetria Harr; daughters Susan Swift Arnold and husband Mike, and Stephanie Swift and Jeff Stout; sons Steve Swift and wife Nicole, Scott Swift and wife Kelly, Kevin Harr and wife Stephanie, and Keith Harr and wife Tracey; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; brother James T. Robey; and special niece Janice Harris and husband Freddie.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Sally Midkiff, and brother-in-law, Abe Midkiff.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 29 at 3 p.m. at the Brooks Gym on the campus of East Tennessee State University, 1127 John Robert Bell Drive, Johnson City, Tenn. The family will receive visitors from 1 to 3 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Academy, P.O. Box 396 Blountville, TN 37617 or to the Athletic Excellence Fund, ETSU Advancement, P.O. Box 70721 Johnson City, TN 37614.

Swift, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease late last year and had recently undergone knee replacement surgery, took his health complications in stride.

"All in all, my body has been good to me," said Swift. "I never got hurt playing ball and I was luckier in life than I ever deserved to be. So please don't feel sorry for me."

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New Era for City-Schools Relationship?

Council and school board consider joint planning.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

With simmering miscommunication about long-term capital planning coming to a boil in this year's budget cycle, City Council and the School Board are considering restructuring their interaction.

The challenge stems from a statutory division of powers. Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) build their own budget and manage their own infrastructure projects. The city raises the revenue and foots most of the bill. Neither has any authority in the other's part. Misaligned planning makes long-term commitments unreliable, encouraging front-loading capital projects and fierce competition for resources in the near term.

"We don't really have 10-year CIPs [Capital Improvement Programs]. We have one-year CIPs," said Ramee Gentry, School Board chair. "What we are doing right now is clearly not working."

The new diplomacy follows Vice Mayor Justin Wilson's March 14 proposal to create a Joint Ad Hoc Alexandria Municipal Facilities Plan Steering Committee. While leaving the details vague, Wilson described it as a "blue ribbon group" tasked with "synthesiz[ing] those two [bodies'] visions." It would provide advisory "input" to both the city and schools' budget processes next year. The council approved the proposal in conjunction with setting the maximum tax rate. They tasked City Manager Mark Jinks to recommend a specific implementation plan, which he delivered at the council's April 19 budget work session.

The proposed group, renamed the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force, would tackle an array of interrelated tasks. Its priority task would be to recommend to council and the school board a "joint" CIP — a mutually agreeable "prioritization" of city and school projects

over 10-15 years, beginning FY2019. The joint CIP would utilize "identified available funding," including additional revenue — as much as \$11.6 million — set aside from any tax rate increase above Jinks' initially proposed 2.7 cents.

Other tasks — which Jinks described as pertaining to overall "process and policy" — include recommending opportunities and methods for joint facility/site usage; project planning and "sequencing;" "alternative delivery methods" (e.g., public-private partnership financing); project management; governance (e.g., "a single consolidated Facility Construction Management office," or Councilman Tim Lovain's earlier idea of a "construction management czar within ACPS"); and ongoing facilities maintenance.

Task force membership would comprise "nine highly qualified, disinterested persons who work or live in Alexandria and who do not hold public office or are employed (directly or via contract) by either the city or ACPS." While ACPS Superintendent Alvin Crawley would nominate three members, Jinks would exercise final approval authority. The nine members would include experts in architecture, engineering, and urban planning; education; facilities planning; asset management; construction; finance; business; real estate development; and related law. The planning and zoning department would temporarily reassign staff to support the task force.

Upon completing its tasks, the task force would disband. The council and school board would then hash out and implement — or not — its recommendations, including potential new mechanisms to institutionalize lasting change. For example, at the April 24 City Council-School Board Subcommittee meeting, Wilson and Gentry discussed collaboratively formulating a new "Redevelopment [Memorandum of Understanding]" and future budget guidance.

Council discussed Jinks' task force recommendation at length at its work session. Council members will consider it further and put it to a vote on a date as of yet undetermined. But "there is a time sensitivity," said Jinks; the task force would need to complete its work by "mid-fall," in time

for next year's budget process. "We should formally request input from the schools now" in order to "adopt when we adopt [the budget on May 4], so that we don't waste any time," said Wilson.

Except for Mayor Allison Silberberg, council members expressed their general support.

The task force would cost an estimated \$414,000 — \$300,000 for experts from a consulting firm(s) and \$114,000 for temporary "added backfill staffing" in the planning and zoning department. Worried about this cost, Silberberg suggested that existing city staff or bureaucratic structures might instead assume the task force's intended function.

"Given the Task Force's work is short term and intense, and given staff's limited resources, having a professional firm knowledgeable in facilities planning and project implementation would help the process move along more quickly and with more expert technical assistance," said a subsequent budget memo in reply. Or, as Councilman Paul Smedberg put it, "We're used to putting together these warm puppy piles that take forever to get stuff done, and that's part of the problem."

The budget memo continued: "The Task Force proposal was drafted to be comprised of members with technical and professional expertise in a number of facility related areas, and that is not the composition of either [the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee] or the [City Council-School Board Subcommittee]," two existing entities. "The Task Force is intended also to be 'disinterested' and neutral, which city staff and ACPS staff may not be in regard to the projects for which each of those staffs are responsible."

ACPS leaders have also generally supported the concept.

"There's real value in us coming together and reaching a consensus on looking ahead the next 10 years: how do we prioritize and space out all of these different projects? And then the real key is to then commit to that," said Gentry in an April 10 interview. "Even if the result of that planning requires, on both sides, not necessarily getting what would have been their first preference for

the order and years in which projects happen, the trade-off of ... knowing with a real degree of certainty that your project X will happen in year Y is an extremely useful, helpful item in terms of planning."

Other School Board members voiced tentative hopes at a March 23 ACPS work session. "What I'm really looking for is a narrative across the two bodies that creates ... empathy ... for the other body's issues," said School Board member Karen Graf.

"We haven't had this sort of rational approach to a CIP that covers everybody's needs," said School Board member Margaret Lorber. "I just think it's a new era and that we really do have to look ahead and do things a little differently."

But ACPS has also indicated certain qualms. "We don't need to create more bureaucracy," said School Board member Christopher Lewis, echoing Silberberg. And, as Gentry put it, "joint" means different things to different people. Some expressed concern about a potentially too-large scope and city-tilted bias.

"That is not [the city's] place, to look at line items and try to decide with us what we shouldn't be doing," said School Board member Ronnie Campbell. "But I do think that there's a light at the end of the tunnel as far as working together jointly when it comes to space ... It could really work. But we have to get together and understand what we're going to be talking about together: it's not line items; it's joint ventures."

"The Long Range Educational Facilities Plan only looked at our stuff, and so we never saw it weighed against theirs," said Graf. "If they sort of want to pick at our stuff, well, their stuff should be there too, and we should all pick at the basket together, of stuff that we need to do as a city."

All in all, "we do need to find that sweet spot of joint, collaborative planning and thinking," said Gentry.

The next School Board meeting — the last before council's probable May 4 vote — is April 27, 6 p.m., in the ACPS offices at 1340 Braddock Place. Council has no further public hearings before May 4. But residents can communicate directly with council members via request.alexandriava.gov/CCC.

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PEOPLE

Vogel Provides Memories

Staff works to be king of King Street.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Make sure we have extra towels. We have a high school group coming; we already have a lot of special requests.” Stephane Vogel is holding his daily staff meeting with his managers at Kimpton Lorient Hotel and Spa on King Street. “There will be lots of luggage. Be sure we have extra carts — are we ready? Make a big effort to be sure all rooms are assigned.”

“I double checked.”

PEOPLE AT WORK

He says, “We have a university group who checked out, a baby shower and another social event. We’re going to be super busy.” He reminds the staff, “We want to be the king of King Street.

We’re not a cookie cutter operation.”

“Yes,” one of them replies.

“But this weekend with the number of interactions, it could make us or break us so I’d like you to get these points as you work with your staff.” He explains to them that they have to be very sensitive to the guests because there are a lot of returning high school guests. “We have new furniture and they are used to having a lot of gatherings so you need to explain the them that the arrangement is different. Any concerns as we move forward?”

He asks Shane Conlan, executive housekeeper, to stay behind. They discuss the upcoming hotel renovation as Vogel draws a diagram in his notebook of a bedroom set with a headboard that may need to change. This is the first stab at design. “We are in an important phase now and we have to do it right. If we get behind, it all stacks up at each subsequent step.” He says Conlan spends the most time in the guest rooms so his input is important. “This upcoming renovation is adding to everyone’s day.”

Vogel says to be in the hotel business means always having to look ahead. “If you work on a day-to-day basis, you fail.” Vogel says every day he looks 40-50 days ahead at revenues. “We want to have a clear reflection of our product and what the competition is charging.” Every week he looks ahead for the entire year.

Vogel comes to work early to review financial information as well as communications and guest in-



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Stephane Vogel discusses guest interactions at the Kimpton Lorient Hotel and Spa and how to correct any problems for the future. “You can tell I am passionate about my work.”

teractions, to recall anything that isn’t up to standard or requires extra attention. For instance, “if there is a guest report that room service has delivered cold soup, I trace back to why it was cold to be sure it doesn’t happen again.” He explains if you buy a pair of shoes and they don’t fit you can take them back. “But we sell memories and you can’t change a memory.” Pretty soon Vogel will start walking around the lobby, the corridors, the meeting rooms. He will interact with the housekeepers, touch base with the department heads, look for any changes. “I’m in my office only two-three hours out of 10 every day.”

Vogel attended Les Roches International School of Hotel Management in Valais County in the Alps where he got his 4-year degree. “It was very hands on.” The first year was service and the second year was kitchen. It was everything from small à la carte restaurant to fast food. As part of his final exam he had to run an à la carte restaurant. I had to make a rack of lamb for four with braised cabbage. “I still remember it.” He says they emphasized constant attention to detail. He has been at the King Street location since October 2016 but with Kimpton Lorient Hotels for 10 years. Vogel waves his arms as he proclaims, “You can tell I am passionate about my work.” He says his guests love an environment of care and comfort. “Luxury without pretension comes from the heart.” He adds that the hotel satisfaction rate went up from 92 percent to 94.58 percent last year. “But I tell my teams would you like to fly on an airplane that only lands 94 percent of the time?”



Stephane Vogel, general manager at Kimpton Lorient Hotel and Spa on King Street, holds his morning staff meeting with his managers. They plan the day ahead and exchange communications to be sure they can be the “king of King Street.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCARTHUR MYERS

From left: Gaynelle Diaz, director of the ARHA Ruby Tucker Family Center, and Janyce Jefferson, RDHm, MPH, dental hygienist coordinator on the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures van. “Good oral hygiene is the foundation of all components of health that is physical, psychological, social and even an environmental aspect,” said Jefferson.

Colgate Dental Van Visits Alexandria

BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

ARHA Ruby Tucker Family Center.

The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures mobile dental van, decked out with cartoons and video, cruised to Old Town Alexandria, covering miles in the past from North Carolina to Pennsylvania and beyond.

It took a turn at 322 Tancil Court on April 21 at the Ruby Tucker Family Center, to the welcome of many, including Mayor Allison Silberberg, who offered participants a few dental tips of her own.

“Approximately 60 children were signed up for the Bright Futures dental van visit,” said Gaynelle Diaz, director of the

All participating children received a free dental screening and were taught the way to brush, floss and care for their own teeth. Children received a free toothbrush and goody bag, as well. Typically, the mobile van travels to select communities to provide services to children in need.

Virginia Universal Lodge #1 of Alexandria, ARHA’s Ruby Tucker Family Center, In God’s Hands Ministry and the Colgate Bright Smiles made this event happen through a grant. “Citizens have to be creative to bring resources [to the community],” said community activist McArthur Myers.



From left: A group of all smiles: McArthur Myers, Gaynelle Diaz and Mayor Allison Silberberg with children at the April 21 Colgate dental mobile van event.

Helping Refugees

FROM PAGE 3

emergency room about a refugee “because they knew I was someone who helped people.” Before she knew it, three more families who lived close by to the first family asked for help and as word spread more and more families came. Sometimes they needed household items or children’s toys or some emergency rent when they have not quite secured a job. “They will sleep on the floor until I find a bed for them.” Arnold estimates she is helping 20-25 families right now.

“But they don’t like to ask. They didn’t know they would be given anything and they are entrepreneurs who will work at anything — delivering pizza, pushing a wheelchair in an airport. But there is a reverse brain drain. I’ve met four-five Fulbright scholars and when they come here they end up working at Ross.”

Arnold says there are so many people helping behind the scenes: “We help anyone who calls for help and churches interact to find a resource if they don’t have it themselves. They call and I run out with the welcome wagon. What I do is low key — send out an email to other churches, neighbors and

friends and people respond.”

Gray says money for the multi-church efforts has come flowing in and to date they have received \$42,400 in donations from the congregations, one anonymous \$25,000 donation from a woman who said, “I trust you,” and \$17,400 in small donations. Most of this money is used to pay two-three months rent for the families “although we bought a high school student supplies and helped get a car. Now he is an Uber driver and doing fine. This money buys them 60 days of peace. They can go out and find a job without worrying.” Gray says currently they are serving three asylees and seven refugee families with the asylees from Eritrea, Pakistan and Egypt. “This is part of the beauty of the refugee ministry: Christians helping people in need regardless of where they are from or what they believe.”

The next monthly meeting Care Team group will be to plan a group potluck. The first potluck had 63 people including the refugee families, the care teams and the Muslim-American societies. “There was food from all over — it was cool.”

This is the first in a series of stories focusing on refugees in the community.

Norm Hatch Dies at 96

Norm Hatch, a Marine Corps combat photographer whose footage from the Battle of Tarawa won an Academy Award, died Saturday at his home in Del Ray. He was 96.

Visitation will be held May 1 and 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

A full obituary will be published in next week’s Gazette Packet.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



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Panel Analyzes Possible Impacts of NSF on Area

FROM PAGE 1
decision to move was the domino that kicked off investment in Eisenhower ... Once that domino fell, almost all other parcels [in the area] have sold. That's why we wanted them as a catalyst. The Holiday Inn was closed, renovated, and reopened by a new investor. Paradigm broke ground and developed after the [NSF] announcement."

Frank Cole, president of the Eisenhower Avenue Public-Private partnership, was wary of comparisons to the PTO.

"People in the Eisenhower area have one real bit of history, the PTO, to look back on," said Cole. "I think a lot of people were expecting the NSF to be like the PTO, but a little smaller. But this does not have the number of opportunities that the PTO brought. It brings other opportunities, but not a lot of ancillary businesses [the way the PTO did]. There's going to be some, but not a lot."

Cole said the businesses coming in as a result of the NSF move will likely be high tech contracting businesses. However, Landrum said many of those new tenants won't move into the area immediately. Many of those contractors still have leases at their locations that it wouldn't make financial sense to break from.

"The lesson of the PTO, what we've seen over the last 12 years," is that development

"has followed as people's leases naturally expired," said Landrum. "That will happen at the NSF only if we build the right type of project for people to move into; if we encourage [developers] to build new office space so people can move in as leases expire."

However, with the arrival of the major office comes a concern: can Eisenhower support this new population? Initially, the answer was no. Landrum said the new development would put a large demand on local residential and hotel space. With the nearby Holiday Inn already having a healthy occupancy, Landrum said the area will likely need a new hotel built in the future.

The area has already seen a spate of new residential growth. The luxury housing at Parc Meridian, located across Eisenhower Avenue, opened earlier in 2017. At the City Council meeting on April 22, the council approved three residential towers in the empty lot between Parc Meridian and the Eisenhower Metro Station. The new towers will hold 1,200 residential dwelling units and 67,000 square feet of retail space. As part of the deal to move in, the Hoffman Company also agreed to renovate the Eisenhower Metro plaza.

Cole noted that anytime 2,000 new people show up into an area, opportunities and challenges follow.

"There's retail [in the area], but not as much as what's needed," said Cole. The new retail and grocery stores coming in with the Eisenhower East development helps, but Cole said the area needs more. "Those are the kinds of things we will be looking at growing in the area, things that have been missing in the Eisenhower area. Our growth in retail is pretty significant."

Landrum said her only regret with the project was that the development in the area wasn't worked on quicker to be available before the NSF moves in.

There is another significant impact of new growth that Cole says the area isn't ready for.

"If there is a single concern, it's traffic," said Cole. "Not parking, but traffic itself. Congestion is going to be an issue there as years go on. Several rather large residential projects that by 2020 are going to bring tens of thousands of new people. What they bring in is not a parking problem, but absolutely a traffic problem. There are plans underway for widening Eisenhower, but we know that has been pushed back."

There are infrastructure improvements planned with the new developments, but Cole reiterated that unless Eisenhower Avenue is widened the area will face a major traffic crisis. Cole also said he was worried about how the new food trucks located

along Eisenhower will impact the brick and mortar retail, but said he believes they are inevitable. Eisenhower Avenue was one of the locations approved for limited food truck usage last year by the City Council.

Considering the NSF was brought to Alexandria with the help of \$23 million in tax abatements over the next 15 years, there were questions from the audience about how financially beneficial the project was going to be for the city. According to Landrum, the abatement was the first in the city's history.

"The tax abatement is a big deal," Landrum acknowledged. Landrum said the city contracted with a real estate project evaluator, Delta Associates, to do a return on investment model for the company to ensure that it would be a worthwhile. "[The city] will make \$50 million off this project in real estate taxes alone over 10 years, and that doesn't take into account spin off from other developments or the catalytic impact of a building like this."

If the government purchases the property, Landrum said a clause is built into the contract that payment will have to be provided in lieu of taxes.

Before its move to Alexandria, the NSF was previously located in Ballston. The NSF's lease in Alexandria is for the next 15 years.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ APRIL 27 - MAY 3, 2017 ❖ 9

OPINION

Preserve Buildings Truly Worth Saving

BY BILL HENDRICKSON

Alexandria has relatively few Art Deco-style buildings from the early 20th century, and only a handful of distinctive ones. Most are in Del Ray. They give the neighborhood a unique character, but are potentially at risk of being lost.

Redevelopment pressures are great everywhere in the city, and none of the Del Ray structures has any legal protection against demolition.

Even the George Washington Middle School, formerly the high school and one of the finest Art Deco buildings in the entire Washington, DC, area, is not safe from being inappropriately altered or even torn down and replaced.

COMMENTARY

In November 2013, when I was president of the Del Ray Citizens Association, I organized a Del Ray Historic Preservation Conference. One key purpose was to highlight Del Ray's Art Deco and Streamline Moderne (a substyle of Art Deco) buildings.

Nearly 150 citizens attended the conference, and because of this interest, the city's planning staff agreed to fund research into 15 key buildings, with the intent of nominating them for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, an honorific designation that would make them eligible for state and federal rehabilitation tax credits.

Unfortunately, only three property owners agreed to allow their building to be nominated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

72-Hour Parking Rule

To the Editor:

Alexandria City Code Section 10-4-8 states "the parking of any vehicle in the same place on the streets of the city for more than 72 hours

Also, the City Council has approved redevelopment of one of the properties (1800 Mount Vernon Ave., the current home of Arlandria Floors).

The loss of this building will be unfortunate in the sense that its patterned brick and stone exterior was designed by a famous Washington-area architect, Mihran Mesrobian, who designed the Hays-Adams Hotel and Wardman Tower and Arcade in Washington.

Despite this, the community supported this redevelopment proposal because it fit in with our vision of the future of the Avenue, as set forth in the 2005 Mount Vernon Avenue Business Area Plan, and small portions of the historic façade will be integrated in the larger new development.

An important point here is that not every building considered to have historic or architectural merit can or even should be preserved.

But I believe that certain other buildings should be designated as priorities for preservation, that the community should be involved in setting these priorities, and that this priority-setting should take place in advance of any possible development proposal. For this to happen, the city will need to provide some help.

High on my list for priority designations would be four distinctive Art Deco warehouses on Leslie Avenue and one at 501 E. Monroe Avenue (corner of Leslie), now occupied by Swing's Coffee Roasters.

The Swing's Coffee building has especially fine architectural features. Notice, for example,

is prohibited." This rule applies to everyone — even residents who are parking in front of their homes or residents with parking permit stickers. The purpose, application, and benefit of this rule raise questions that need addressing.

The vehicle of an Alexandria resident can be ticketed or towed after being parked in the same place on a city street for over 72 continuous hours. Since the violation is for parking in the same spot, would a resident be exempt if their vehicle is moved one foot in either direction? How does one document a moved/unmoved vehicle? How will the city monitor this rule or is it incumbent on residents to expose violations?

In addition to the Alexandria Personal Property tax and decal fee many residents pay an annual parking sticker fee. Even with this sticker, an Alexandria resident is prohibited from parking in their own neighborhood longer than three consecutive days without moving. Why so resident unfriendly? Why is this rule needed city-wide? (If to eliminate abandoned vehicles, there are rules in city code for this.) What message is this rule sending?

Is the city discouraging the use of alternative transportation by mandating a vehicle be moved or used every three days? Is the city encouraging a vehicle be used just to avoid being ticketed? If the problem is limited parking spaces in specific areas, shouldn't the city weigh the need for additional parking when making new development decisions?

The city is considering a temporary exemption of the 72-hour rule if a resident requests

the decorative stone pilaster carved like a fluted Ionic column topped by the visage of a Native American that separates the two doors at the main entrance on Monroe.

Indeed, the Swings building includes features that are as distinctive or even more so than many 18th and 19th century buildings in the Old Town and Parker-Gray historic districts. The exteriors of these latter buildings are legally protected, with enforcement by boards of architectural review. The Swings building has no legal protection at all.

The Swings building and the Leslie Avenue warehouses were built in 1952 and 1953. They may not be old, but they contribute in a fundamental way to the character and vitality of the Del Ray neighborhood.

In one sense, the city has already recognized this: It insisted that a rebuilt substation by Virginia Dominion Power located next door to Swings be housed in an Art Deco style building of the same scale.

During planning for the city's Waterfront Plan, a great deal of thought and discussion took place about which structures had historical significance and should be preserved. In short, priorities were set.

This kind of process and thinking needs to be extended to other neighborhoods. Let's focus in advance of any potential redevelopment proposal on preserving those buildings that are truly worth saving.

The writer chairs the City Council-appointed Historic Alexandria Resources Commission.

the exemption two weeks in advance. Why require two weeks advance notice? The better question, however, is why such a restrictive time limit in the first place? Citizen feedback from the AlexEngage Questionnaire showed greatest support for allowing continuous on-street parking longer than 72 hours and (their even better idea) repealing the ordinance altogether.

Louise Welch
Alexandria

Say No to Wilson's Proposed Tax Increase

To the Editor:

I encourage the members of City Council to take a good look at the current city proposed budget before voting for Justin Wilson's tax hike.

Councilman Wilson's proposed tax increase will likely cost the citizens of Alexandria approximately \$535 more in property taxes once the extra fees for mandated sewer and storm remediation are added. This is almost

\$340 more than the budget proposed by City Manager Mark Jinks in February. In a city with a median income of approximately \$89,134 can the citizens of Alexandria really afford a \$535 tax increase? What will they need to give up to meet their tax obligations — food, clothing, transportation? Just as the citizens of Alexandria make hard decisions every day when budgeting so must the Alexandria City Council.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/GAZETTE PACKET

Spring Adventure

Five-year-old Colleen Bett of Fairlington visits the Alexandria waterfront on April 19.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

cil. Mr. Jinks' budget addresses the most critical of the city's needs without overtaxing its citizens.

Mark Jinks put forth a prudent budget that included enough money for deferred maintenance in our school system, addressed the school capacity issue and allowed enough for other priorities facing the city. Just as

we make tough decisions on our own budgets every day so must the City Council. It just isn't prudent for the council to expect to pay for a Christmas tree of giveaways by overtaxing and overburdening its citizens. I encourage the residents of Alexandria to reach out to each council member and voice their objections to the Justin Wilson tax increase and approval of the Mark Jinks budget.

Denise Duncel
Old Town Alexandria

Walking in Alexandria: Design for Safety

To the Editor:

Two recent letters to the editor emphasized the importance of making our streets safe for people walking. Indeed, there were four pedestrian fatalities in 2016. The Alexandria Fire Department reports person-

responded to an average of 70 pedestrian-struck non-fatal traffic crashes in Alexandria from 2008 to 2015, but they saw 89 last year (2016). I agree with Mr. Van Fleet in his April 12 letter "Enforcing Traffic Laws" that action is needed. I also sympathize with Mr. Ford in his letter of April 20 "Increase Traffic Enforcement" when he points out that many of our most dangerous streets already have 25 mile-per-hour speed limits that are not followed by drivers. As Alexandria and regional population grows, it means more chances that people walking and people biking will come into conflict with people driving cars. As an everyday walker and bicyclist in Alexandria, I would suggest rather than enforcement, we focus on data-driven roadway design changes that slow traffic speeds.

First, Police and Fire Departments should regularly collect and publish the number and severity of injuries from traffic crashes, and the types of crashes that cause those injuries. City staff needs more than location: What are the most frequent traffic scenarios that cause injuries to people walking? Are left-turning vehicles a dominant factor, such as the one that struck Mike Doyle crossing Pendleton Street in December 2016? It may be right-turning vehicles, as was the case in fatal crashes to people walking in crosswalks with the signal in September 2015 (crossing Commonwealth Avenue at Braddock Road) and December 2016 (crossing Mount Vernon Avenue at

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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700 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA

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The Kensington Falls Church is pleased to collaborate with the Parkinson Foundation of The National Capital Area (PFNCA) and Genesis Rehab Services to offer Energized Fitness for Parkinson's. The program provides a high-energy fitness experience geared toward improving mobility and strength while participants share time with others facing Parkinson's.

Energized Fitness is led by Sheetal Yadav, MPT, who brings many years of experience in providing physical therapy to geriatric clients. Sheetal is our ally in striving to maximize health and optimize independence for people with Parkinson's. Please RSVP to join us.



Sheetal Yadav, MPT, has 11 years of experience as a physical therapist, 7 of which have been working exclusively with geriatric clients in a variety of settings. She has extensive experience working specifically with clients who have neurological conditions, including Parkinson's. Sheetal, born and raised in India, came to the United States to Loma Linda University in California to pursue a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy.



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

West Glebe Road). Collecting, analyzing, and publishing what, where, when, why, how, and who is critical for staff to put resources toward solutions with greatest impact.

Second, we need to engineer our roads to be slower, and layer education and enforcement on top of that foundation. As suggested by both Mr. Van Fleet and Mr. Ford, speed is usually the biggest factor in crash severity, but signs and enforcement are not shown to work quite as well as engineering does to reduce speed. No matter how good our skills or intention, poor decisions and human error are inevitable. Narrower streets (shown to reduce vehicle speed), improved lighting (for visibility and reaction time), and other design techniques will both reduce crash severity and help prevent dangerous mistakes in the first place.

Melissa McMahon
Alexandria

Understanding Wildlife

To the Editor:

As a member of the board of the Wildlife Rescue League (WRL), I was gratified to see the educational opinion piece about wildlife written by Barbara S. Moffet of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. As Ms. Moffet correctly noted, many baby birds and mammals don't need our help at all. When people mistakenly "rescue" these babies and juveniles, they are taking them from their parents, who are best able to care for them. Rehabilitators do a great job, but the parents are even better.

Some other things to note about wildlife: once a nest has eggs or babies in it, it is against the law to remove it. Similarly, if a mammal has dened under your deck or in your woodpile and she has babies, you cannot have them removed until the babies are weaned.

Usually, once this happens, the mother and children will move on — unless they have a ready source of food like the pet food you put out for the neighbor's cat.

As mentioned in Ms. Moffet's article, baby squirrels on the ground may not need our help. They may have been accidentally dropped while mom was moving them to another nest. It's best to observe to see if she comes back for the baby. On the other hand, if a baby or juvenile squirrel runs up to you, follows you, is obviously injured, or is shivering, it does need to be rescued and taken to a rehabilitator.

The Wildlife Rescue League, an all-volunteer non-profit organization, runs a wildlife assistance hotline seven days a week from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. We receive over 5,000 calls each year regarding wildlife issues. There is a lot of good information about specific bird and mammal issues on the voice mail messages. You can also obtain help from their website: www.wildliferescueleague.org. If further information is needed, a volunteer will call you back. You may be given additional advice, resources, contact information of a licensed rehabilitator or the name of an ani-

mal hospital that treats wildlife. Call 703-400-0800 to obtain information or leave a call-back number.

The AWLA and its Animal Services officers work in conjunction with the Wildlife Rescue League and area rehabilitators. Its assistance and support, as well as that of the concerned public, help WRL better meet its mission to respond, rehabilitate and release wildlife and to educate, enable and inspire Virginians to appreciate, understand and respect the wildlife in our eco-system.

Carolyn Wilder
Vice President

Wildlife Rescue League

Simple Answer

To the Editor:

It seems to me that a simple answer to two current problems is staring Alexandrians in the face: Ditch the junky Potomac Yard scheme, a disaster waiting for someone feckless enough to set it in motion, and use the money saved for an accelerated Potomac River cleanup. After all, there's plenty of unused space near our existing Metro stops, and Alexandria-by-the-Sewer is hardly the image we want to be projecting to our many tourists.

Beth Vodola

Alexandria

Honest Accounting

To the Editor:

Before the public sits the city manager's 2.7-cent proposed real estate tax rate increase plus another 3 cents City Council added over Mayor Allison Silberberg's objection plus a new "business improvement district" (hopefully only commercial properties will be included) for Old Town plus increased trash-collection fees plus an unprecedented "storm-water fee" on sewer bills equal to approximately a 2-cent real estate tax rate hike.

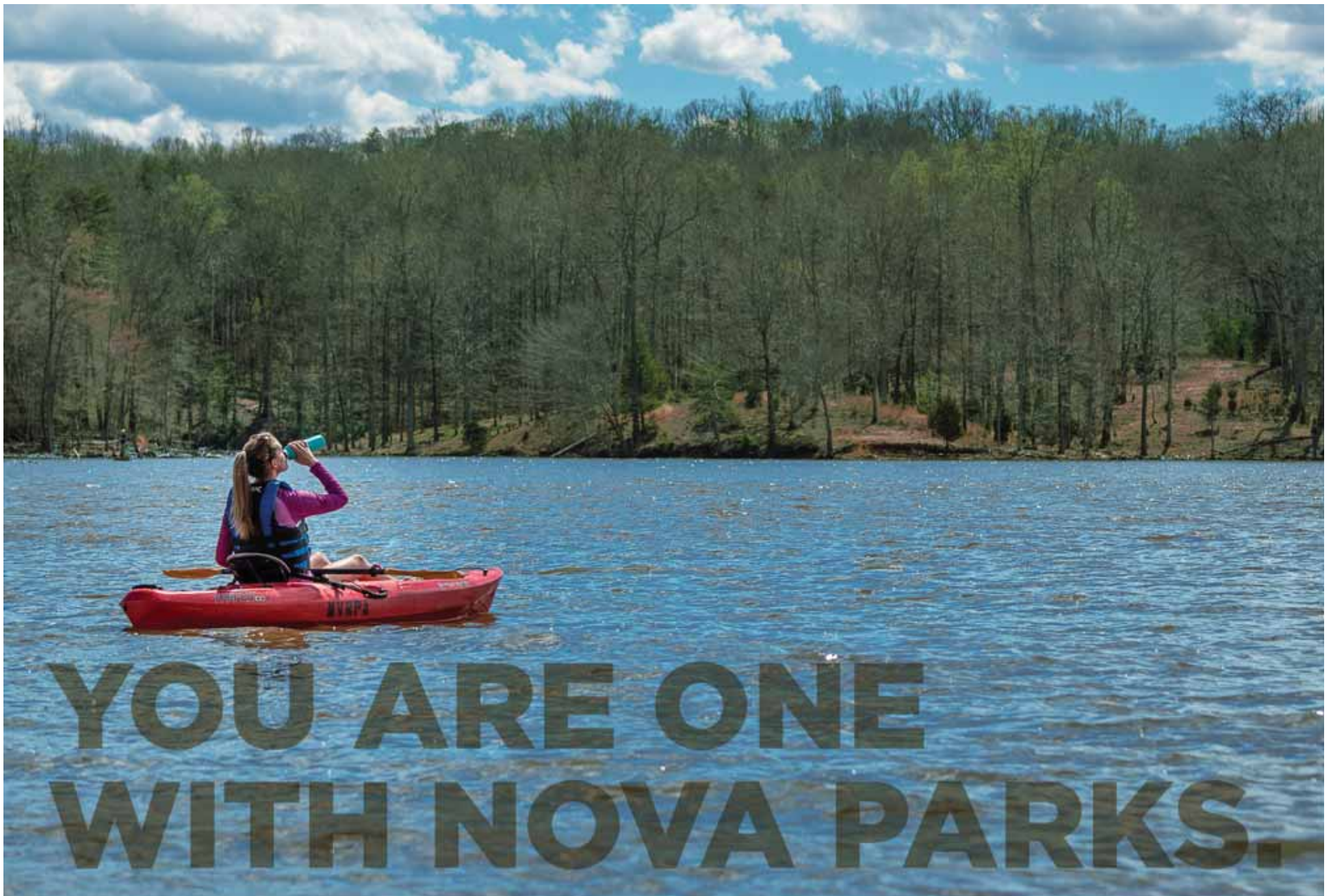
City Hall, more than happy to drop a quarter-billion dollars on a new Metro station at Potomac Yard and half that on the school system's record capital improvement plan (based on anticipated enrollment which ignores a potential unanticipated immigration-enrollment drop), doesn't think this is enough to fund stormwater remediation, so it has instituted this "storm-water fee."

The most morally egregious aspect of City Council's contemplated suite of tax increases is what City Hall has hidden. Currently a portion of the stormwater management program is partially funded by a dedicated half-cent set-aside on the real estate tax rate. What became of this set-aside now that the purposes for which it was devoted are instead to be funded by the "storm-water fee?" Where did it go? On what does City Hall plan to spend it? Any honest accounting of the proposed tax increase would acknowledge the half-cent henceforth to be spent who-knows-how is also a sleight-of-hand tax increase.

When last year's tax increase is included, the current City Council will have jacked up taxes over a dime per hundred dollars of assessed value, twice that for "business

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass
(en Español)

Sunday:
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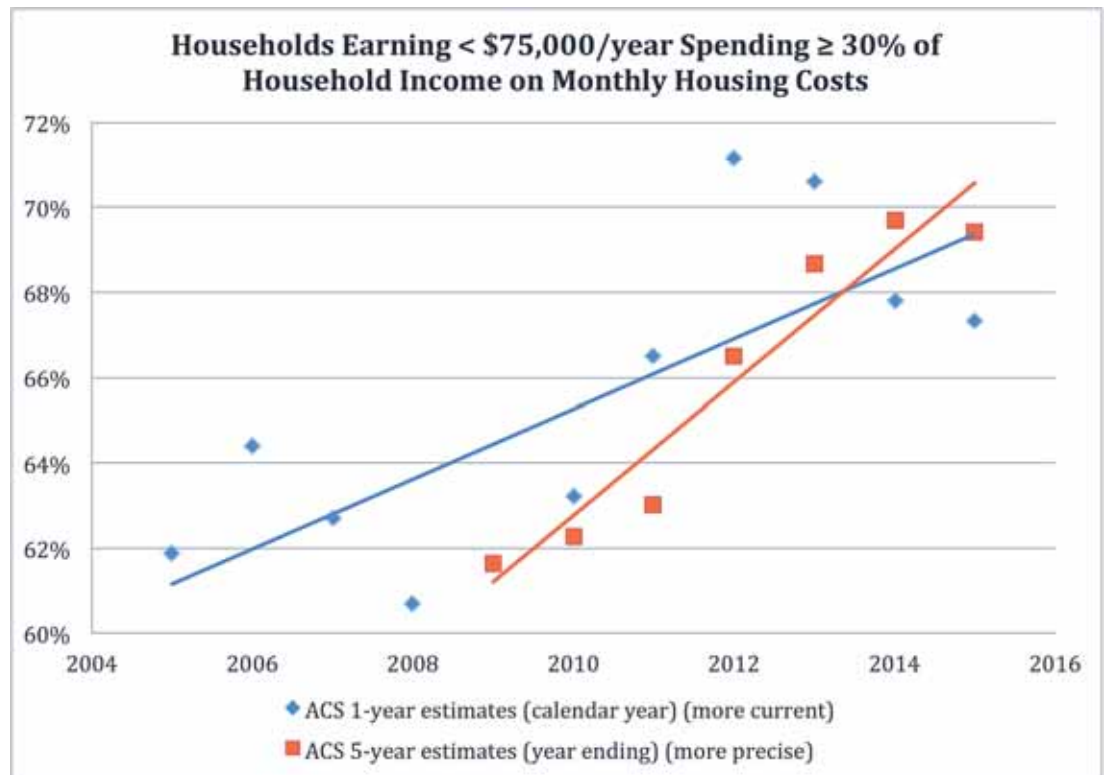
Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence.

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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

OPINION



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, ACCESSIBLE AT WWW.FACTFINDER.CENSUS.GOV.

Consider Housing as Infrastructure

To the Editor:

The following statement was addressed to the mayor and City Council.

My name is Dan Brendel. I am a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church and a member of VOICE. In order to fund the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection's affordable housing project, we ask that you allocate a fraction of any tax rate increase, in some combination with bonds and the add/delete. Even with the maximum rate of \$1.13, Alexandria would still have the second lowest residential and commercial taxes in Northern Virginia.

The family "is the basic cell of society and a subject of rights and duties before the State or any other community," including "the right to housing suitable for living family life in a proper way," said John Paul II. But, he noted, "the delays and slowness with which [society] acts" can hinder these rights.

The Housing Master Plan says explicitly that the private market will not solve the housing crisis, and that "housing for all" will not occur without government intervention. The city has taken certain positive steps. But the simple fact remains that we have not acted decisively to arrest a worsening situation for thousands of our families and other residents. Several churches, including St. Joseph, wrote to you describing a growing strain on their assistance ministries due to housing-related needs. And certain data from the Census

Bureau (above) indicate that the proportion of low-to middle-income households that are housing cost burdened has been rising on average — from 62 percent in the period 2005-2009 to 69 percent in the period 2011-2015. I would note that many teachers fall in this category, such that our request complements rather than conflicts with the schools' request.

We have little hope of transforming this reality without funding projects like Resurrection, which seems like low-hanging fruit. It is hard to imagine a much more golden opportunity than a church voluntarily repurposing its land, at significant cost to itself, for an all-affordable project. Conversely, funding Resurrection would be beneficial in two ways. First, you would help address an immediate need in the Beauregard. Second, more generally, you would incorporate affordable housing into this budget and tax rate's overarching narrative of critical infrastructure investment and capital planning stabilization. While housing should be treated as critical infrastructure, currently it is funded in a mostly ad hoc manner — in this case left to the 11th hour — and excluded from the CIP. By explicitly including Resurrection in this tax increase, you could have the distinction of leading the city in assuming a more effective, forward-leaning posture toward housing-as-infrastructure.

Dan Brendel
Alexandria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12
improvement district" commercial properties.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Rebuilding Minnie Howard

To the Editor:

The rhetoric about the capital project spending in the Capital

Improvement Program (CIP) budgets issued by Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Superintendent Dr. Alvin Crawley and City Manager Mark Jinks, and which are now being considered by City Council, has been particularly intense.

ACPS advocates described Mr. Jinks' proposed CIP as "miserly" and "shameful." At the other end of the spectrum, ACPS has been called "profligate" and "a Ponzi

scheme" with "no accountability."

We respectfully suggest that some facts might clarify the issues.

Alexandria needs additional secondary school capacity. Rebuilding on the Minnie Howard site is the most cost-effective solution because it requires no land acquisition expense. The proximity of the T.C. Williams King Street and Minnie Howard campuses will facilitate coordinated program plan

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LETTERS

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ning.

Messrs. Crawley and Jinks estimate the cost of a rebuilt Minnie Howard at \$118.5 million. According to city budget officials, the project would probably be funded through 20-year bonds at an interest rate of 4.4 percent. Those officials indicate that the annual tax increase for the average residential taxpayer (the average real property assessment is \$528,421) is \$151 per year.

Money is money and nobody enjoys paying taxes. However, an additional average of \$151 per year in taxes to address the secondary school capacity crisis seems reasonable and prudent.

The fervor of some school supporters and the equally intense skepticism of anti-tax advocates and others who doubt ACPS' motives and competence obscures real issues, specifically:

❖ The TC Williams King Street and Minnie Howard campuses are not big enough to serve their current enrollments (2,960 at King Street and 800 at Minnie Howard as of March 31). The middle schools, George Washington (1,346 students) and Francis Hammond (1,443 students), are

also overcrowded.

❖ The capacity crisis will not solve itself. The ACPS CIP estimates continued growth in grades 9-12 to 3,465 at King Street and 960 at Minnie Howard by 2020.

❖ A failure to address the secondary school capacity crisis will lead to years of trailers, substantial risks associated with the movement of too many students at passing times, dismissal, etc. and diminished educational effectiveness.

Communities that fall behind in addressing secondary school capacity endure unpleasant conditions for years. The stopgap measures — for example, students taking classes in the same building in early and late shifts — are never desirable. Alexandria should be able to solve the capacity problem.

The cost of a rebuilt Minnie Howard — \$151 a year on average — is not too much. We urge our fellow citizens to ask the City Council and the School Board to collaborate on a new building at Minnie Howard. This is the perfect opportunity for City Council and the School Board to work together to provide Alexandria's public school students one great

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Fabulous Lipitones'

Musical comedy about a barbershop quartet tackles racism and other issues.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Fabulous Lipitones" from April 22 to May 13.

The musical comedy depicts what happens when a barbershop quartet is forced to take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies. When they meet face to face, the new guy is not what they expected. First-time LTA Director Chuck Leonard said: "When I read the show, I asked to direct it for a number of reasons; first and foremost, I love the comedy, which is family-friendly, yet hilarious. The subject matter is barbershop quartet singing and I have been an acapella fanatic for decades."

He said he loves how the characters are self-aware that their barbershop passions label them as "different," adding: "The Fabulous Lipitones' celebrates the connection of people who have a passion for something that mainstream society labels as something of an awkward niche. I think there is a building acceptance of nerds in current society and a broadening of the definition of a nerd beyond science and tech types. I love to see my children and my students proudly wave their flags of difference, but barbershop singing shows that there has long been arenas for people with shared passions, to bond. The play also explores male bonding, as well as racism."

He said finding the right tone for a play that is so funny, but deals honestly with racism, was crucial to him. "Finding actors who could play this was a challenge, which was made more difficult by the casting limitations," he said. "Because of the themes of race and age in the play, the casting is quite



From left: Jerry Hoffman, John Brown, Peter Halverson and Gurpreet Sarin rehearse a scene from LTA's production of "The Fabulous Lipitones."

specific. Furthermore, each character must fit a specific vocal part and the actors have to be able to blend voices in the barbershop style. I was incredibly fortunate to find the foursome we have."

Gurpreet Sarin plays the main role of Baba Mati Singh (aka "Bob"), who hops around the stage full of energy, optimism, humor and passion. "He loves singing and dancing and interacting with people, which makes him an ideal candidate for 'The Fabulous Lipitones' barbershop quartet," he said. "He's a Sikh man in his 20s, who's firm in his faith and excited at the opportunity to share his experiences with others. As the story unfolds, the rest of the characters learn more about Bob's faith and history."

Sarin said he was blessed to be part of the LTA production for a few reasons. "One, because I truly believe in the message this play delivers. Two, because this happens to be my first play. Being my first play, I experienced a unique set of challenges, as I was

learning a bunch of things every day — but that's what has made this experience so wonderful. It's truly been an honor working with all of the cast and crew," he said.

He hopes the audience has as much fun watching the play as the cast and crew have had in bringing it to life. "I believe this play is about celebrating the uniqueness we have in America — I'm a firm believer that America is a 'melting pot' and that we shouldn't judge a book by its cover," he said.

Peter Halverson plays the role of Phil Rizzardi, the bass who runs a health club and fancies himself as a ladies' man despite the encroaching effects of middle age. "He's brash, ambitious, and passionate. This is a frequent source of friction between himself and the other members of the quartet, but the bonds they've forged through their shared love of barbershop quartet singing have always been able to overcome the occasional flare-up," he said.

He added: "Perhaps that's why Phil



PHOTOS BY HOWARD SOROOS

Jerry Brown (left) and Peter Halverson rehearse a scene from "The Fabulous Lipitones."

struggles the most to accept the changes following the unexpected death of their lead singer. The group has been his foundation, his emotional lodestone, and he's not sure what he will do now that it's different."

He said the role was larger than others that he's done, both in terms of dialogue to master and the complexity of the character. "My training and background is in vocal performance, so I'm accustomed to using the musical aspects of song — rhythm, harmony, dynamics — as means of expression when telling a story. With drama, however, the only thing you're given are words on a page. It's up to the actor to transform those words into something real, someone the audience cares about. I was a bit intimidated by this when I first started," he said.

"I hope people leave with a better appreciation for the art of barbershop quartet singing. It's a unique style, distinctly American, with gloriously rich harmonics and wickedly delicious contrapuntal lines, all of it infused with a wonderful joy," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Fabulous Lipitones" from April 22 to May 13. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

"Breaking the Glass Ceiling — The Sky's the Limit" exhibit. Through April 30, 7-9 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. at Del Ray Artisans. Artists reflect on this metaphor of pushing through barriers. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

UCM Raffle Tickets. Ongoing, the United Community Ministries is raffling off a trip to Cancun at the 'Give From the Heart' Gala on May 6

at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St. \$175 admission, \$25 raffle ticket. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Water Taxi to National Mall.

Through April 16. Departing at 11:10 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. from the waterfront at Cameron and Union streets. Potomac Riverboat Company offers a 30-minute direct water taxi to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to access events of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, including the Blossom Kite Festival. \$28 round-trip for adults, \$16 one-way for adults; \$16 round-trip for children under 12; \$8 one-way for children under 12. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/water-taxi/national-mall/ or call 703-684-0580 for more.

The Mercy Walk Tour. Saturdays and Sundays through April 16, 2:30 p.m. Tour starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. The Mercy Walk tour will give visitors and locals alike a feel for what it was like to live in an occupied city during the Civil War. \$13 adults; \$7 children; \$12 seniors Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com/themeracywalk for more.

3-Dimensional Views Artshow.

Through April 23, various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will also highlight the work of three featured artists: Emma Bednar, Gayle Roehm, and Emma Thompson. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Singing the Blues exhibit. Various hours through May 21 at the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Highlights the work of three featured artists Beverly Baker, Joanne Bast, and Laura Savage. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Native Plants, Herbs, and Heirloom Tomatoes.

Various times through mid June at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.mvuc.org for more.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriaviv.gov/Lyceum or call

703-746-4994.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual

ENTERTAINMENT

history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more

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

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/ or call 703-768-3224 for more.

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

Alexandria's Nurses 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 for more.

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

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

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 or call 703-549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to



Celtic Spring Fling

On Saturday, May 13, the Celtic Spring Fling, 3-7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church at 8531 Riverside Road. Games, crafts, food and drink, plenty of music and dance, face painting, and corn hole tournament. Email MBartel@bartelassociates.com or call 703-548-4250.

build energized abstract paintings. 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.

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.

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.leafendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

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

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

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

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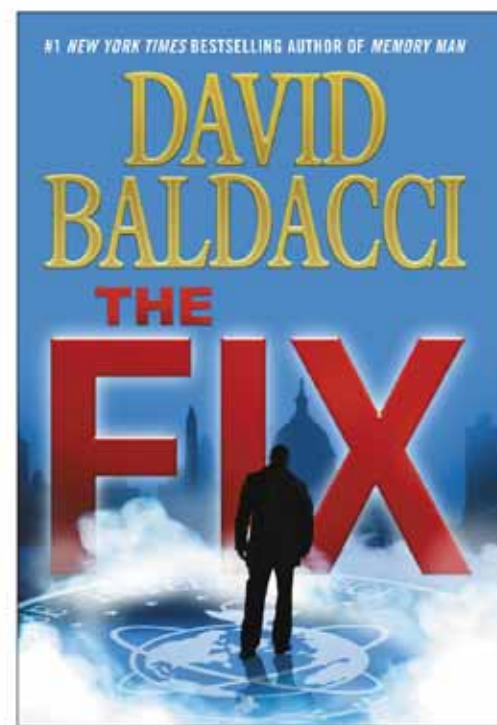


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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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

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

CAMPS, CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

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

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Super Summer Resource Fair. 6-8 p.m. at William Ramsay Elementary, 5700 Sanger Ave. Learn all you need to know about ACPs summer enrichment programs, City of Alexandria summer camps and activities, library reading programs, local summer camps and classes. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

NOVA Student Film Festival. 6-9 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Bisdorf Building, Room 196, 5000 Dawes Ave. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Former FBI investigator Robert K. Wittman highlights "Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures." Free. Call 703-746-1770 for more.

Membership Night. 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Alexandria Virginia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a membership night. Call 703-684-



Revolutionary War Encampments

On May 6-7 more than 300 hundred Revolutionary War military re-enactors are camping out at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle re-enactments. Visit www.mountvernon.org/revwar for more.

6190 for more.
The Everly Brothers Experience. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.
Poem in a Pocket Day. 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In celebration of National Poetry Month and Poem In Your Pocket Day, Wendi R. Kaplan, Alexandria's Poet Laureate, is having a community gathering called Generating Hope. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Musical Tribute. 6-10 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Brencore Entertainment presents a tribute to the music of Marvin Gaye and Teddy Pendergrass. Music by the Brencore Allstars Band. \$30-35. Visit www.brencore.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Yard Sale and Second Hand Boutique. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Large Furniture, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, electronics, appliances, children and baby clothes and toys. Call 703-780-3081 or email office@stjamesmv.org for more.

Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. "A Place Called Home: Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event" is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext 6.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot. Fifteen vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org for more.

Car Show Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Car Show to support the graduating senior class at West Potomac High School. \$20 to enter a vehicle, attendance is free. Visit www.angcwestpotomac.com/ for more.

Horse Riding Clinic. 10 a.m. at Little

Burgundy Farm, 5715 Sable Drive. Paul Belasik is the author of seven books on riding and riding theory and has worked for 45 years with competition riders on national and world stages, as well as with amateurs. \$20. Email inquire.CES@gmail.com or call 703-395-3299.

Alexandria Earth Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. This family-friendly event includes the Seventh Annual Upcycling Showcase, where students from Alexandria City Public Schools will present upcycling creations based on the event theme, "Clean Water Starts with YOU!" Visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

Meet the Author. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Genealogist and historian Char McCargo Bah explores the historical issues surrounding the Ramsey Homes Redevelopment Project. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

"Yet I Stand." 2-4 p.m. at the Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Yet I Stand," is a community play about Elise, a teenager who has been sexually assaulted, the harrowing after-effects and how her family and friends encourage her to heal. Visit www.re-creationsllc.org or call 703-209-6538.

Annual Spring Gala Fundraiser. 6 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Fundraiser to support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Tickets to the Gala and sponsorship opportunities are currently available at www.501auction.com/sfa. Individuals or businesses interested in donating goods or services to the Gala and Silent Auction may contact the Scholarship office at 703-824-6730 or email Beth.Lovain@acps.k12.va.us.

Transforming Lives Gala. 6 p.m. at the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Auction, cocktails, dancing and desserts to help transform the lives of families on the brink of homelessness by providing affordable housing through Good Shepherd. \$175. Visit www.goodhousing.org for more.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Victorian-era ball will feature the waltz, Virginia Reel, and more, as well as live music, desserts, and a cash bar. Period attire, either military or civilian, encouraged. \$45 Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

APRIL 29-30

Grand Opening Weekend. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday at Home On Cameron, 315 Cameron St. Interior designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz announce the opening of their new shop that focuses on design concepts. Visit www.homeoncameron.com or call 703-888-1475 for more.

The Spring Annual Barley & Music Fest. noon-6 p.m. in John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Craft brews from 18 artisanal breweries, live entertainment, and food vendors. The event will also take place again in September. Visit www.barleymusicfest.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 30

Ballet Performance: "Cinderella." Three seatings: noon, 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$12. Visit metropolitanarts.org/ for more.

Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Learn tips to entice birds and other beneficial pollinators to the yard. Master gardeners and Audubon at Home volunteers will be on hand to offer tours, answer gardening questions, and distribute free seeds. Visit mgnv.org for more.

Book Talk with Fred Knops. 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Alexandria resident Fred Knops has written a tour book of Old Town Alexandria focusing on its colonial heritage. Sales from the books at this event will benefit ACT, the Alexandria Library Special Collection at the Barrett Branch, the Christ Church Foundation, and the Boy Scouts Troop 1515. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/MAY 1

Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Nature-themed activities to meet other playgroup parents one Monday each month. A staff member is on hand to put out nature sensory bins, direct games and activities or lead a garden walk. An adult must accompany registered child. The topics for May is butterflies and Mother's Day. \$6/child. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/MAY 2

Meet the Author. 7:30 a.m. at the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Frank Sesno will discuss the changing role of the media in America and outline his new book, "Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors, Uncover Solutions, and Spark Change." \$25. Call 703-549-0111 for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. Swing dance with Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes. \$10. Call 703-751-8900.

MAY 4-5

Disney's "High School Musical." 7-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre Arts presents Disney's "High School Musical" with characters from the movie, plus some new friends, as they navigate first love, friends and family, their classes, and extracurricular activities. Visit mvhstheatrearts.com for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 5

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. In this "Speak Your Mind," exhibit, May 5-28, artists express the message of what they see, feel or think through art. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.
Family Game Night. 7-10 p.m. at St.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Call 703-780-3081 or email office@stjamesmv.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Spring Art Market showcases original artwork from local artists in a wide range of mediums. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

Water Discovery Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1500 Limerick St. Water Discovery Day is a free, family-focused, community event that will give attendees the opportunity to go behind the water cycle scene to explore, learn and create through a series of hands-on activities. Visit alexrenew.com/ for more.

Java Jolt Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union Street, #327. Jay Roberts will discuss his new book, "Lost Alexandria: An Illustrated History of Sixteen Destroyed Homes in and Around Alexandria." Learn about the houses and their environs, as well as the owners and dwellers including Col. William Fairfax, Benjamin Hallowell, Portia Lee Hodgson, and John "Jacky" Parke Curtis. A book signing will follow the lecture. Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399 for more.

Disney's "High School Musical." 2 and 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre Arts presents Disney's "High School Musical" with characters from the movie, plus some new friends, as they navigate first love, friends and family, their classes, and extracurricular activities. Visit mvhs theatrearts.com for more.

Meet the Author. 4-5:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meet author Fred Knops while he discusses his new book "Historical Tours: Alexandria, Virginia: Walk the Path of America's Founding Fathers." All profits from this book will be donated to Alexandria charities: ACT for Alexandria, The Alexandria Library, Christ Church and Boy Scout Troop 1515. Email pamela.larson@actforalexandria.org or call 703-739-7778 for more.

Hyland Humanitarian Award. 6 p.m. in the Madison Building Atrium, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Celebrate Honorary Co-Chair Gerry Hyland, Former Supervisor, Mount Vernon District Fairfax County, with the inaugural Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Event emcee will be David Culver, NBC4 News4 Reporter. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N.



Opening Reception

Artist Avis Fleming's opening reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at Printmakers Inc., Studio 325 (third floor) of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A one-artist show of etchings, lithographs, monotypes, paintings and ceramics runs May 1 through June 28. Call 703-683-1342.

Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association event. NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Seminary Organ Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Featuring organists Julie Vidrick Evans, Michael Lodico, and Benjamin Straley. Music of Bach, Duruflé, Langlais, Persichetti, Phillips, Sowerby, and Wammes. Free. Email clm@vts.edu, or call 703-461-1792 for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 6-7

Revolutionary War Encampments. Various times at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Meet more than 300 hundred Revolutionary War military reenactors, learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle reenactments. Visit www.mountvernon.org/revwar.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Wetlands Awareness Day. noon-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Wetlands Awareness

Day takes on new meaning this year as Huntley Meadows Park is honored with the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Gold Medal for its successful wetlands restoration project. Call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meet the Artist. 2-4 p.m. at Printmakers Inc., Studio 325 (third floor) of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A one-artist show of etchings, lithographs, monotypes, paintings and ceramics by Alexandria and Loudoun artist Avis Fleming, opens May 1-June 28. Call 703-683-1342 for more.

Choral Arts Society of Washington. 5-7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Join Scott Tucker, the conductor of the Choral Arts Chamber Singers for Music for Chamber Voices. 4:30 p.m. reception, wine and cheese served. \$40. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Master Class Concert. 7 p.m. at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Music direction by Joseph Walsh, featuring Ilona Dulaski as Maria Callas. Call 703-548-9044 for more.

Joe Crookston and Villa Palagonia. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

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SPORTS

TC Crew Hitting Its Stride at Season Mid-Point

Women's/men's boats compete at different regattas.

Half way through their season, the T.C. Williams Men's and Women's Crew teams traveled to different regattas on Saturday, April 22 and continued to build and refine their boats. The Men went south to Occoquan for the Ted Phoenix Regatta, with 37 other clubs and over 270 entries. The TC Women and boats from half a dozen other elite rowing programs headed east to Middletown, Del. for Noxontown Regatta # 4 at St. Andrews School. These rain-soaked events came at the mid-point of the Titan rowing season, as TC gears up for the Virginia State Championships in mid-May and potential invitations to national regattas later in that month.

At Occoquan, the TC Men's Varsity First 4 won their qualifying heat and finished second in their final with a time of 5:40.8, 3.8 seconds behind Bishop O'Connell. The Men's Varsity Second 4 also claimed the second spot in their race with a time of 5:38.6, 3.3 seconds behind Lake Braddock. The TC



The Women's Varsity Second 8 at the Noxontown Regatta.

Men's Frosh 8, in their best race of the season, rallied to post a second-place time of 5:30.2, 2.6 seconds behind Oakton's Frosh. The Men's Varsity Lightweight 8s "raced up" against 13 Varsity First 8s and one other light boat, posting a time of 5:09.4, 27.2 seconds ahead of the other light boat.

In Delaware, the TC Women's Second Varsity 8 boat led the charge with a 2.5 second win over Merion Mercy and a time of 5:20.2. After the race, TC Senior Tori Cook said that she and her teammates "knew the [2V 8] category would be competitive going into it, but we were confident because of all the hours we spent practicing." Teammates and fellow TC Seniors Caroline Hill and Ella Benbow said the team "really got into a good rhythm and connected during the race. Our boat has a strong bond, which really shows on the water."

"I think the reason we won is that this boat has a really positive energy," continued Cook. "We have one goal and one mindset. We're building each other up. Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend my last race at St. Andrews." Other rowers on the Women's 2V 8 include Ailysh Motsinger, Grace Fluharty, Grace Hogan, Emma Carroll, and Charlotte Carey, and coxswain Camila Cardwell.

Other senior TC Women's boats in tight races on Saturday included the Varsity Third 8, which posted a second-place time of 5:46.7, 2.7 seconds behind Merion Mercy. The TC JV 4 finished third in their race with a time of 6:33.2, behind Whitman and St. Andrews. In their third match this season against other freshmen boats, the TC Women's Frosh 8 claimed their third victory with a time of 5:45.5, 2.5 seconds

ahead of Whitman. The TC Women's Frosh 8 features Ava Elkins, Lydia Greenwood, Madeline Toaso, Madeleine Allen, Julia Clements, Felicity Brock, Lila Arnold, Alaina Browand, and coxswain Sara Rider.

Joining their more senior teammates as Noxontown Regatta winners on Saturday were the TC Women's Novice 8A boat, with a time of 6:33.3 and a roster that included rowers Libby Padilla, Katherine Donnellan, Grace Yokitis, Claire Kenealy, Anna Hill, Katie Rose Milone, Riley Bucholz, and Olivia Carroll, along with coxswain Caroline Miles. TC dominated the Women's Novice 8s competition, with the TC Novice 8B and 8C boats finishing second and third, respectively.

On Saturday, April 29, the Titan Women and Men compete together again at the Charlie Butt Regatta on the Georgetown Waterfront.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

high school on two state-of-the-art campuses.

**Yvonne and Brian Folkerts
Nancy and Marc Williams
Brooksie Koopman and Mark Eaton**

Proposed Hotel's Impact

To the Editor:

Despite there being a surfeit of hotels/motels in/or around Alexandria, a developer proposes to replace the almost 100-year-old Naval Reserve Association building at the corner of Harvard and King Streets with a six-story, 124-room hotel with an 80-seat dining room, along with some 24 business offices. Six hotels (plus a time share facility) are within a short walking distance to the King Street Metro. Of course, the City Council will most likely acquiesce to this developer, given the council's past history. Unfortunately, since this building is across the street from the Parker-Grey Historic District, it does not come before the purview of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR).

Harvard Street is a single, one-way street that runs from King to Cameron Street. It consists of some 25 two-story residences, most of which were built in the early 1900s. The proposed six-story hotel will dwarf the houses directly across the street from them. This is not a "boutique" hotel as advertised. If it were 45 rooms like the Morrison House on Alfred Street, then it could be called "boutique."

The developer has proposed widening

about 70 percent of this narrow one-way street (where cars are currently parked on both sides) to a two-way operation using an alley on the west side of Harvard. This in itself would be destructive to the entire neighborhood, since the residents park on the street. If the proposed valet parking of the hotel is serviced from Harvard Street, then the problems would be exponentially worse. Moreover, the Lorien and Hampton hotels continually block traffic to load and unload tour bus visitors on King Street opposite Harvard Street, which also creates an additional problem for this neighborhood.

Parking at this location will be an absolute nightmare, since 107 parking spaces are required for hotel and office use, but the developer can only accommodate 86 spaces, of which 24 will be designated for office use. Only 62 spaces (plus three handicapped spaces) remain for the hotel's 124 room guests, the expected 95 restaurant patrons, and the 60 or so workers for the three shifts at the hotel. This is a massive parking reduction that will have a direct impact on the neighborhood. So what does the council do to alleviate the city's parking problems? They sell off several of their parking lots. What can go wrong with this?

The City Council needs to return this proposed development back to the drawing board. The mass and scale, the detrimental impact to the adjoining historical neighborhood (specifically Harvard Street), plus the direct impact on neighborhood parking calls for much closer scrutiny.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

'Yes' to Reductions

To the Editor:

The mayor and City Council need to show they can do the right thing and stop increasing taxes wherein Alexandria has become a place to live for the very wealthy. Property taxes are going to increase as will rents which fall under commercial property taxes; fees which are just another word for taxes are going up due to the fact this town is run by Democrats who have no idea what it's like to run a business and just keep crying poverty. So I want to suggest the following things for our mayor and council to say "Yes" to as they deliberate the budget process.

- ❖ Eliminate pre-k classes within ACPS and give that money back to those providers who can provide pre-k. Have the boundaries at Jeff Houston School go back to the original boundaries so that all children who live in the neighborhood can attend Jeff Houston, eliminating busing these kids to other schools and save some much needed money. Also, decrease the amount of money you are planning to give to ACPS for their CIP projects. You have the power to reduce ACPS request for capital projects and this year they are asking for more money than ever, without needing to prove how they are spending their CIP funds and deferred maintenance, which they have been extremely negligent in completing. City Manager Jink's budget gives ACPS a 62 percent increase, the largest amount ever proposed. Say "Yes" to reducing ACPS CIP request to 25 percent.

- ❖ Currently there are three deputy city managers. For a small town the size of Al-

exandria, it is not necessary to have that many. It's time for you all to request a reduction of two deputy city managers who were promoted during Rashad Young's tenure. And these folks should not be moved to another department, thus continuing to take a nice salary with benefits. Say "Yes" to this proposal.

- ❖ Every year the city receives thousands and thousands of dollars from parking tickets which go into the general fund. It is time to change this policy, think outside of the box and put these funds into the police budget. Say "Yes" to this proposal.

- ❖ City loans to various housing groups: Have these loans been paid back and/or how long, i.e. number of years do they have to repay their loans? It is time for those housing groups to start paying back their loans and not have council extend their loan payments.

Current city needs/taxes are now at an all time high and our elected officials need to remember they have a fiduciary responsibility about how they spend Alexandria taxpayers' money. There is no getting around the huge amount of money the city now needs to pay for projects they have overlooked for so many years. They can no longer "kick the can down the road." And they cannot fund projects from every group in Alexandria asking for more money.

Hopefully, the mayor/council will not cave as they usually do and finally get a budget that might not make everyone happy, but is responsible and show Alexandria taxpayers that they are no longer "clueless," but are listening and making the hard choices that must be made this year.

Annabelle Fisher/Alexandria

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SBA BTS, LLC proposes to construct a 38.1-meter tall monopine telecommunications tower. The tower would be located at 8426 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309. SBA invites comments on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on Historic Properties. Comments may be sent to Newfields, ATTN: Ms. Seagrave, Two Midtown Plaza, 1349 West Peachtree Street, Suite 2000, Atlanta, GA 30309. Ms. Seagrave can be reached at 404-969-0973. [VA17993-B]

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

ABC LICENSE

Mission BBQ Alexandria, VA LLC trading as Mission BBQ, 6482 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stephen S. Newton, Manager. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Obituary



Anne Finn Shoemaker

On Saturday, April 15, 2017, Anne Finn Shoemaker died peacefully at her home in Alexandria, VA. A longtime resident of the Mount Vernon community, she is survived by her husband of 55 years Sidney L. Shoemaker of Alexandria, VA and her daughters Mandi Maier of Alexandria, VA and Tara Mickelson of Williamsburg, VA.

She is also survived by her sisters Victoria Finn of Philadelphia, PA and Richie Reid of Savannah, GA. She was preceded in death by her sister Carol Robertson of Savannah, GA and her parents Richard C. Finn and Mary T. Finn of Saint Simons Island, GA. Anne grew up on Saint Simons Island, GA and graduated from Glynn Academy, Class of 1958. She attended Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, GA before marrying and starting her adventures as a military wife.

Anne and Sid travelled all over the world during their many assignments with the U.S. Air Force, including one of their favorites at Tempelhof Central Airport, West Berlin, Germany. There Anne served as President of the Officer's Wives Club Tours Program, which enabled her to travel all over Europe. Between assignments, Anne worked for the late Senator Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia, as Director of Special Programs and Projects. In that role she flourished, her love of politics realized and sense of service continued until her last day. Any opportunity to help another, she was there. After an election loss for Senator Talmadge, Anne turned to local politics in the Alexandria area. She coordinated fundraisers and campaigned for the former Governor Charles Robb, former Lt. Governor Don Beyer, and former Virginia State Senator Toddy Puller.

Anne was also known for her kindness, generosity and kind words to anyone that crossed her path. A devoted wife and mother, her family was always a priority. She never gave up an opportunity to surround herself with her four adored grandchildren, Olivia Maier of Alexandria, VA, Gavin, Hunter and Colton Mickelson of Williamsburg, VA. In true southern fashion she made every visit an event.

Anne will be deeply missed not only by her devoted family but also by her many close friends. A memorial service will be held at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309 on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 1:00pm. She will be laid to rest on Saint Simons Island, GA at Oglethorpe Memorial Park at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or to Hospice of the Golden Isles, 1692 Glynnco Parkway Brunswick, Georgia 31525. Arrangements by, DEMAIN FUNERAL HOME, Alexandria, Virginia www.demainfuneralhomes.com

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News

New in Old Town

Retail shops open on Cameron, S. Union.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

After soft openings last month, two new retail shops are set to mark their arrival in Old Town with grand opening celebration events this week.

Home On Cameron, a retail and design service shop located at 315 Cameron St., will host an opening night reception April 27 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The shop is a collaboration of designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz.

"Our opening night will be a 'block party' of sorts," said Nelson. "The other retailers on the 300 block of Cameron are joining in with their own specials that night. It should be a fun evening for everyone."

Home On Cameron features a curated collection of upholstered furniture, custom dining, console and coffee tables crafted by a local DC cabinetmaker, antiques, couture chandeliers, lamps, colorful ceramics, wooden toys and dog items.

"We want the store to be fun," added Nelson, who is an Old Town resident. "Decorating your home should be a fun experience. Our goal is to take stress out of it for the customer."

Hours for the shop, which is closed on Mondays, vary: Tuesday by appointment; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday – 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday.

"Of course Todd and I are flexible," said Nelson. "If someone needs to come by after hours, we will make ourselves available by appointment."

Contact Home On Cameron at 703-888-1475 or www.homeoncameron.com

At 105 S. Union St., Valerie Ianieri has opened The Old Town Shop in the space formerly occupied by Firehook Bakery (and briefly by Ladyburg Bath and Body Apothecary). The store offers a selection of custom gifts and Old Town Alexandria merchandise.

"Ever since The Virginia Shop closed, Alexandria has not had a shop celebrating Old Town and our historic heritage," said Ianieri. "I've tried to capture what makes us special in custom merchandise and products from local artisans."

In addition to custom items celebrating Alexandria's maritime heritage, The Old Town Shop features a variety of local arti-

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THURSDAY/APRIL 27

19th Annual Business Philanthropy Summit.

7:30-9:30 a.m. at Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N. Alfred St. \$35. David Gardner of The Motley Fool is the keynote speaker at the Summit. Visit squareup.com/store/volunteer-alexandria or call 703-836-2176 for more.

Old Town North SAP Advisory Group

Meeting. 7 p.m. in City Hall, 301 King St., Sister Cities Conference Room 1101. The meeting will include further discussion on transportation and implementation strategies. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/86032 for more.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Susan Nelson and Todd Martz have opened Home On Cameron, a furniture and design shop at 315 Cameron St. An opening night party is set for April 27 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and neighboring shops in the 300 block of Cameron Street will join in with special events that evening.

san products that are offered at the Old Town Farmers Market in the section of the store called "Locals' Alley."

"Not everyone can make it to the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings," added Ianieri, who is an Old Town resident. "This is a way to highlight some of our unique products."

In addition, The Old Town Shop has created custom designed "OTX" and Old Town Alexandria branded merchandise. Other gifts include gourmet food, books, collectives and hospitality gifts. "The Port" is the section of the store that promotes the history of Alexandria, known as The Port City, with a representation of 12 state mile markers to depict the historic importance of the area.

"Old Town is a very special place," said Ianieri. "My goal is to celebrate what makes us unique and to share that with residents as well as visitors to Alexandria."

Hours for The Old Town Shop are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sundays. 703-684-4682 or www.theoldtownshop.com.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Owner Valeria Ianieri adjusts a merchandise display April 20 at The Old Town Shop at 105 S. Union St. The shop opened last month and will celebrate with a grand opening April 28.

4

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Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep
minds engaged when
school is out.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year. Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertime Camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. The camp will be offered during two sessions: July 10-14 and July 17-21 with half and full day options for students ages 6 to 12.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment. “Campers will be in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Academic camps such as this one at Marymount University allow students to maintain academic skills while having fun.

small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio and guided by Marymount University Department of Education faculty, students, and alumni,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

High school students who want an in depth study of globalization can attend Marymount's D.C. Institute from July 9-12. During the camp, named The Global Village, students will live on campus and earn college credit.

“We will talk about how increasing global connections shape our lives today,” said Dewitt. “Students can expect classroom discussions that focus on a series of central questions followed by field trips to area museums and site visits.”

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burn-out by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child's natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”

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Nursing Camp for HS Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small group

projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will con

SEE NURSING, PAGE 4

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Introduction To Nursing

FROM PAGE 3

tinue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “Then they may have some time in our nursing simulation lab, working with a [simulated human] patient and using some of those skills to practice caring for the patient,” said Urban. “On another day, they will spend several hours in one of the local hospitals on a nursing unit, observing the nurses in-action, and learning about what nurses do there. They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates’ of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard,


but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not.”

— Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N.

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