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June 1, 2017



Representatives of the United States Military Academy Class of 1959 salute during the playing of Taps after placing a wreath at the Capt. Rocky Versace statue May 29 during the Memorial Day Ceremony honoring Alexandria's fallen veterans.

Remembering the Fallen

Families gather to honor veterans.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

rmy Specialist Johnny Jerome Smith was three months shy of his 21st birthday when he died May 20, 1970, in Quang Tin Province in Vietnam. On May 29, he was among the 67 Alexandrians killed or missing in action in Southeast Asia honored during the city's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"I was only 13 when I lost my brother," said

Arlisa Smith Walton, who only last year learned of the memorial to Alexandria's fallen Vietnam veterans. "I have met so many others who were about the same age as me when they lost someone. Coming here is a way for us to share our memories of those we lost."

Until recently, Smith was one of 22 Alexandrians without a corresponding photo in the Faces Never Forgotten database for fallen Vietnam veterans. Through the efforts of childhood friend McArthur Myers, Walton was tracked down, along with others.

"We are down to three missing photos," said Friends of Rocky Versace representative and Me

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 7



World War II paratrooper Chief Master Sergeant William A. Tippins, left, stands with Col. Douglas Stitt as he is honored by the crowd May 29 during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Mount Vernon recreation Center.



Col. Douglas Stitt, left, presents Arlisa Smith Walton the Department of Defense Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Certificate in honor of Smith's brother, Army Spc. Johnny Smith, who was killed May 20, 1970 in Quang Tin.



James Spengler, right, receives the Department of Defense Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Certificate from Col. Douglas Stitt in honor of his brother, Army Capt. Henry Spengler, killed April 5, 1972 in Binh Long.

War Stories

Post 24 gathers at Alexandria's National Cemetery to honor fallen comrades.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

lexandria's National Cemetery is smaller than Arlington's, with a little over 4,500 interments. On Memorial Day, May 29, there's not as much of the ceremony and tradition as at other military cemeteries. It's quieter. It's old soldiers telling war stories: stories about fathers, stories about friends. As they disperse afterwards to find a grave of someone they knew, or to head back to the American Legion Post in Old Town, it's a reminder that behind each flag and under each grave is a

For some, the day was a remembrance of the generation that preceded them. Richard Evans served in Korea and Vietnam, and said he and the other veterans present had warm hearts when they looked out and saw the people gathered to honor their fallen comrades. Evans said as he was laying his wreath,



Regis Monahan recalls the military service of both of his fathers.

he thought back to Bedford, Va. Bedford had the highest capital loss of life in WWII of any town in the United States. Over 95 percent of those were lost on Omaha Beach at the spearhead of the landing. Evans said that as he was looking out across the field of graves, he couldn't get that little town near Lynchburg that suffered so heavily out of his mind.

In 1943, Regis Monahan's father was in a P-38 crash. A mechanic from another squad rushed over

See Honoring, Page 7



Henry Dorton (left) and James "Jim" Glassman (right) lay wreaths at the graves of past American Legion post commanders Ferdinand Clinton (left) and John E. Minnigh (right). Clinton and Minnigh both served in WWI.

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El Galeón's Return

Spanish sailing ship visits Alexandria one last time.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

or the crew of El Galeón, there is one moment that is universally loved. Usually the ship, a re-creation of a Spanish Galeón, is still powered with a motor. But sometimes, in the right waters with the right weather conditions, Communications Officer Bosco Bueno Adorna says the crew gets to cut off the engines and unfurl the sails. The winds carry El Galeón out to open waters, and the crew is transported 400 years into the past.

The ship had sailed into Alexandria for a weekend last November and made one last visit the last weekend of May before eventually heading home.

One year and two months ago, when Adorna first joined the crew, he said he knew virtually nothing about sailing.

"When I first started working around the deck it was like a chicken without a head," said Adorna. "It's a hard life."

Adorna says the crew all live in a cabin together and share bunkbeds. Some of the hardest parts of the journey can be when the ship is sailing in rough waters. El Galeón does not have a keel, so the ship rolls around in stormy seas. But the worst, according to Adorna and other members of the crew, is having to work in the engine room. The room is cramped and burning hot.

"But now, it's normal," said Adorna. "It's all in your head. You just have to stay chill."

And for Adorna, the hardships of life at sea are far outweighed by moments like the ship sails catching the wind and looking down into the crystal blue waters to see dolphins swimming alongside the ship.

Adorna says he hates having to climb to the top of the sails, but for sailor Maria Jose, it's one of her favorite parts.

"I love to climb up to use the sails," said Jose. "You can go all the way to the very top of the masts."

Jose came to the ship with a background in sailing. She'd worked on a variety of smaller boats before arriving on El Galeón four months ago. Like Adorna, she says her least favorite part is the en-



El Galeón



From left: Jon Arrillago, Bosco Bueno Adorna, David Fernaudet, Victor Castellamos

gine room, and she loves when they can power down the motor and just travel with open sails.

Around 10:30 p.m. on May 30, El Galeón set sail out of Alexandria. The ship is heading up the east coast towards Baltimore, then down to Norfolk for a tall ship festival. El Galeón will spend the rest of its summer in Ocean City to do repairs, then is headed back to Spain after a four-year trip in the United States. Adorna said there are three other Spanish tall ships like El Galeón and they are all headed home to celebrate the launch of the Santa Maria, the flagship of Christopher Columbus' expedition.

Sticker Shock

Initial cost estimates for Old Town's sewer replacement come in.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

etween 70 to 100 feet below the surface, one of the largest infrastructure projects in the city's history is in the works. Residents might not notice the physical impact of the city's plan to replace its combined sewer system, but at a meeting on May 30 at the Lee Center, officials warned that they will most likely notice the impact on their wallets.

"Here's the sticker shock: the cost is going to be in the order of \$300 to \$400 million," said William Skrabak, deputy director of Infrastructure and Environmental Quality. "The community will see those costs rise as a result of recent legislation. Originally there was going to be a \$10 to \$15 cost increase per month ... now we're looking at \$25 or \$30, maybe \$35 a the upper end. This is very early preliminary cost estimates. Those numbers will be shifting as we go through the process."

How much of that increase comes from the city side of the water bill and how much comes from the AlexRenew, Alexandria's wastewater treatment facility, is still to be determined.

As part of a mandate to reduce the city's pollution into Hunting Creek, city government was in the process of developing a plan to deal with some of the sewer outfalls that dumped directly into that smaller body of water. However, the city's plans to deal with the largest outfall, 001, were less clear. The state legislature stepped in and set a more clear deadline: the entire combined sewage system must be replaced by 2025.

Now, the city is working to develop plans on how to simulta-

neously address all four outfalls at once. The plan for Outfalls 003 and 004 along Duke Street are clear: the city will build a 10-foot diameter tunnel between the outfalls and the AlexRenew treatment facility. The tunnel will be larger than what is required by the state and will store 1.6 million gallons of overflow. The only impact Skrabak said the state legislation had on the Outfall 003 and 004 was accelerating them by six months.

The larger problem for the city is how to deal with Outfalls 001 and 002. Currently, Skrabak said there are three potential plans for addressing sewage overflow at 001 and 002: each site has a separate storage tank roughly the size of a football field, one side has a tank and the other has a tunnel connecting their sewage line to the other's tank, or both sides share a large tunnel where the water is stored and treated. Over the summer, Skrabak said city staff will be considering the size of the projects, the cost, and the construction impacts to form a recommendation. Plans for Outfalls 001 and 002 will be submitted by June 1, 2018. Construction on each of the projects needs to be started by July 1, 2024 to be completed by July 1, 2025.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Mark Levine cautioned that it was unlikely the city was going to be able to complete the project by the deadline. However, Levine noted that the legislation as passed had included no repercussions for the city if it failed to meet that deadline

Some Alexandrians were concerned about the vagueness and the timing of information related to sewer bills for the average citi

See Estimating, Page 5

Balancing Act A church's struggle to serve its community and live in it too.

By Dan Brendel Gazette Packet

airlington Presbyterian Church (FPC) says its mission includes putting "our whole lives, and our collective resources as a congregation, at God's disposal, so that we might be a blessing to our community and our world." But community pushback against the church's proposal to build affordable housing on its property demonstrates that pursuing its mission is no clear-cut matter.

The church wants to build as many as 81 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

low-income apartments on a portion of its property, located in the West End at 3846 King St. The congregation sees affordable housing as a critical social mission. So does its nonprofit development partner, Wesley Housing Development Corporation (WHDC), which also emerged out of the faith community. But residents worry about the effects of increased population and building density in their community — especially on traffic, parking, public schools, and aesthetics.

FPC's pastor, the Rev. Juli Wilson-Black, described the church's impetus at a May 23

community meeting. More than 50 nearby residents attended.

"We sit on very valuable property, and sitting on it without exploring how it could be used creatively for mission and ministry did not seem like good stewardship," she said. "As we learned about the shortage of affordable housing in our community, we realized that by partnering with an affordable housing developer, we could impact the lives of families in need in our community in a more powerful way than we currently are able to do through our volunteer efforts

.... We know that people within our own

congregation have had to move out of the area because of the high cost of housing here, and the shortage of affordable housing is the number one driver of all other human need in the city."

For its part, FPC would gain about \$4 million from the sale to WHDC. Some of this cash would buy new church parking. The rest would go toward "relieving our congregation of some financial and building-related maintenance concerns ... and free up more time and energy to focus on

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 5

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Alexandria

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Alexandria

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News

Estimating Sewer Costs

From Page 3

zens. Patricia Sanders from the Nethergate Community Association said some of the neighborhoods in the city don't have individual water meters, the communities are billed collectively. Sanders said sewage fees are the largest part of her community's budget, and that the association needs to know about the exact costs to be able to plan accordingly for them.

Dean Naujoks from the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, warned the city to keep the process very transparent and open to the public. Naujoks said the plans for dealing with the outfalls last year were mostly being discussed behind closed doors, which is part of what prompted the public outrage about information about how much Outfall 001 had been polluting. Now, look-

ing at the new proposals, Naujoks said he can already see problems forming in the new process.

"We have concerns about this already," said Naujoks, "but we were cut out of this process, and this is why we are here today."

Levine responded that if the process was rushed and there was a lack of public input, it was the fault of organizations like the Potomac Riverkeeper Network who pushed for tighter deadlines.

"Don't complain that there's not enough time for comment when you're pressing us to get it done by a certain date," said Levine.

Skrabak said the Combined Sewer System Plan Stakeholder Group will be reconvened in the fall of 2017 to provide input on the plans to address the sewer outfalls. All Stakeholder Group meetings are open to the public for input and comment.

Church Proposes Housing

From Page 3

our mission," said Wilson-Black in an email. A resident expressed skepticism about the shortage, saying, "I see cranes all over the city ... I don't really see the demand when there's plenty of projects going on." But most development is priced out of reach for lower income households, according to Tamara Jovovic of the city's Office of Housing. As an illustration, she pointed to Jackson Crossing, a recent affordable development near Potomac Yard: when it opened, 500 households were on the waitlist for its 78 units. "For a 1-bedroom apartment to be affordable, a minimum wage single person must work 3.5 minimum wage jobs," according to a WHDC flyer distributed at the meeting.

Some residents asked about the project's subsidization. Federal tax credits would fund the bulk of the project. These credits are public subsidies for private investors, encouraging the private sector to finance affordable development that would otherwise be uneconomical. And the city would contribute about \$4 million in the form of a low-interest loan, said WHDC's Paul Brown. But public assistance wasn't the overwhelming point of contention — population and building density were the major concerns.

The new development would add about 160 people and 60 cars to the neighborhood.

Community members worried that increased traffic would detract from community safety: More people driving through the neighborhood would endanger children.

Residents also worried about parking. The city allows three spots for every four units in affordable developments of this kind — in this case, in an underground lot. This ratio, which is lower than the requirement for market-rate developments, reflects the city's findings that affordable households own fewer vehicles. But residents doubt the city can guarantee these lower numbers in their specific case.

Residents expressed concern about added pressure on public schools. Trends suggest that FPC's size of development would include a little over 30 school-age youth. Children from FPC's development would attend Douglas MacArthur Elementary School and George Washington Middle School, which already exceed their collective student capacity by 20 percent. The public school system plans to rebuild Douglas MacArthur to accommodate more students, but construction will not occur for several years.

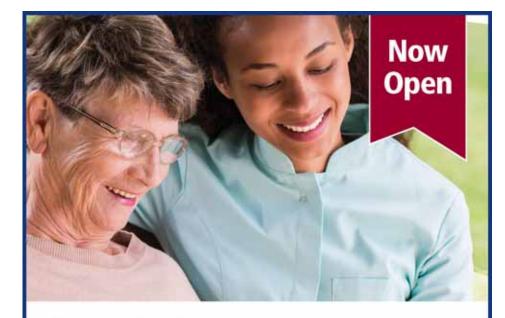
Several also protested the building's size. Zoning allows 81 apartments on FPC's land. But because the housing development will occupy only a portion, the building will have to be taller than if the whole property were redeveloped. Neighbors say the proposed four-story building would not fit in with the surrounding two-story homes and would obstruct their lines of sight.

In general, residents lamented that they have not been included in the planning process. One resident asked if the church would include community representatives on its internal Design Work Group.

"We are still discussing this," said Wilson-Black in an email. "We would want to make sure the community representative would be willing to help us ... improve the project and not just try to derail the project because they are against any type of development on our site. A community representative would also have to be willing to balance all concerns from the community and not just address issues that affect their own property."

All in all, "We know we are not going to have total consensus, but to the extent we can be in conversation with our community, hear their concerns and do our best to address them, we really want to be that type of neighbor and live our values of seeking to embrace and reflect the diversity of God's kingdom. However we recognize that this is hard work and not the easiest path to take."

Interested parties can follow the project and provide comment at www.courb.co/fpc.



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PEOPLE

Ellis Tells Inmates: 'Don't Be Afraid to Change'

If you mess up, there's a brand new box.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE Gazette Packet

orty-five inmates sit in rows in the gym at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center with men in front, women in back. Some have come to get the cookies and soda, others have come for something to do. But as the program progresses, eyes are riveted on Eddie Ellis who was clearly more than a motivational speaker. He had been where they are, and he understood what they felt.

Ellis had been arrested for first-degree murder when he was 16, and the recommendation was that he spend the rest of his life in prison because he was irreparable. He was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 22 years in prison but he said at least it gave him a second chance. He was moved from prison to prison and state to state. Along the way he spent 10 years in solitary confinement. Ellis was released in 2006 after serving 15 years which was half of his life. When they called him to be released he said he thought it was fake. "I didn't know how to do anything but what I was told. You know like a baby has to crawl before he can walk, I was working my way up to a different job." He said in jail "we believe we can do all of this stuff. But you need to make a list of things you can do and things you shouldn't do.'

Ellis said that some people just don't want to listen but he was going to try today. He said the inmates may not be in a place where they can relate to everything he had planned to say. He explains he went through a lot of different phases and he didn't always accept or hear what people said to him at the time. He just didn't want to hear it. "But I went back and told people 10 years later that they said something to help. It is important to try." He explained his change came "when he got tired of it, of being locked down and not able to see my fam-



Eddie EllIs says that some inmates may not be at a place where they want to listen but

it's important for him

says a lot of the girls in the Detention

Center don't want to change like she does. She says they plan to go out and do it again but not get caught.

This program, held May 28, is part of a monthly series offered by the Alexandria Sheriff's office for inmates at the County Detention Center.

change.

Matthew Belland

to be ready for

appreciates Eddie

Ellis' message because

they have been in the

same places and he is

at the point in his life

Rebecca Hamilton says Ellis' comments touched home with her. She has been in the Detention Center for three months. She is facing a mandatory 10-year minimum sentence for sex trafficking. She was 16 "and I had nobody. This pimp found me and told me he loved me and would take care of me." She said she didn't want to prostitute herself the first time but after a while it became normal. "It was just my life."

Then she said that the pimp got sent to prison but it didn't matter because there was a large group of others, and his brother was still there. When she found out "they were laying hands on" some of the younger girls, "I told the girls I would protect them and that's how I got caught." Hamilton had been locked up in Henrico State Prison for seven months and she says when the Federal agents picked her up from state prison to detain her at the Detention Center, "My heart broke. I couldn't do nothing but cry." She will be sentenced July 14.

Hamilton says that she likes it when the person who is a motivational speaker like Ellis has been there."So that was a good thing." She explains that a lot of the girls who are in the Detention Center are there for stealing or crimes that are not too serious. Hamilton says the girls aren't serious about changing; they just talk about doing it a different way next time and not getting caught. For instance, instead of sex trafficking, maybe selling drugs — switching up the trade — maybe stealing because if you get caught, you do less time.

Hamilton said she is focusing on what she needs to do to change so that she doesn't go back to the same ways. She said, "Nothing changes. People are still doing the same things. Your friends try to get you back doing what you were before and you have to say, 'I'm more important than you." Hamilton says that for people to be reached they have to have the mindset for change.

She points to the tattoos curling up her arm and around her neck. "I used these as an excuse not to get another job. I said nobody would hire me with all of these tattoos."

Matthew Belland is 31-years-old. He has been in and out of the system since he was 13 and at the Detention Center since October 2016. He was sentenced for a parole violation related to his earlier armed robbery charge. Belland says Ellis was very inspirational and very accurate because Belland is at the self-preservationist stage in his own life instead of what everybody else says or does. "Preparing myself to do something different, I thoroughly understand." He stressed, "I need a change." He is determined not to come back here one more time. And he knows he needs to change his old ways of thinking.

Belland says he has been in and out of a lot of the same places as Ellis. But he says if you have to be locked up, this is the best place to be. He has been using his time to reestablish family relationships and do a lot of reading. He says his 14-year-old daughter comes here to visit and he doesn't want this for her. "She understands I got caught up under something old and when you make mistakes you pay. She is a good girl and has a GPA of 3.5."

Belland could relate to Ellis' message about the necessity of being willing to change. He says this isn't the best place for that because a lot of the people in the Detention Center are set in their ways and expect to return to their former lives. He says he doesn't feel he is falling back but he still wants to do everything to make sure he changes and doesn't come back here again.



ily." His wife sat along the wall as he spoke. She said, "We stick by each other. Everybody has struggles." But she added that

Ellis explains his own story to the group. He had been locked down for 10 years and when he got out they wanted to send him to a "program" and his mind was to go straight to the streets. He said he bucked the program for 25 days. "The counselor said, 'you don't have a drug problem; you have a life problem."

these are more difficult than most.

He said, "I can be a different person but it doesn't happen overnight. Everybody makes mistakes. Everybody makes a choice and says I wish I didn't do that, whether in jail or not. If you don't get yourself out of the streets, you're not trying to get out of

He struggled with panic attacks and insecurity. The only job he'd ever had was in

"I wanted to be a taxpayer, go the Redskins game, all that stuff. Now," he said, "I live my life as a person who is free. I don't want to go back." He says he tells people, "If you can't do the time, don't do it. I don't want to hear it no more." He says you have to save yourself.

The theme running throughout his presentation was "don't be afraid to change. You are the only one holding yourself back. People just make bad choices. Move on; try something different. It's time." He added, "I want to raise my kids and enjoy life. If you mess up, there is a brand new box."

Chamber Names 2017 40 under 40 Honorees

he Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has named the honorees for its 2017 40 under 40 awards. The 40 individuals will be celebrated at the 2017 40 under 40 Awards reception, sponsored by Potomac Conference Center to be held July 27 at the United Way Worldwide building.

The 40 under 40 program was established in 2016 by the chamber to recognize men and women, age 40 and under, engaged in a variety of fields including business, technology, nonprofit management, civic life, public service, education, and the arts, who are shaping Alexandria for the future.

This year's honorees include: Andrew D. Watson, Aseel Elborno, Bill Rausch, Brent McKenzie, Brian Kearney, Craig Fifer, Crystal Nosal, David Lord, David Ramos, Elizabeth Bennett Parker, Emily McMahan, Erica Russell, Fernando M. Torrez, Hope Nelson, Ingris M. Chavez Moran, Jeff Swedarsky, Jennifer Mellon, Jesse O'Connell, Jessica Ruth Killeen, Joseph J. Valenti, Karim Guirguis, Kathy Dalby, Katie Linn Leonard, Kelly Booz, Lauren O'Brien, Lekeisha Terrell, Lindsey Swanson, Matthew Stensrud,

Michael Detomo, Michelle Jorie Millben, Noriane Buttar, Paul Holland, Peter Balas, Quan Leysath, Randy Borland, Ryan Michael Hayes, Sean Kumar, Shanyn Ronis, and Thomas Park.

Winners were evaluated on specific criteria including professional and scholastic accomplishments, community and volunteer impact, and their goals for future and lasting impact.

According to Joe Haggerty, president & CEO of the Alexandria Chamber, "The chamber is proud to once again honor community professionals who will shape Tomorrow's Alexandria. Our honorees represent the diversity of our city and how each, in their individual way, are unique innovators whose accomplishments are vital to our business and civic communities. By honoring their successes, we hope to inspire others to take the lead and work to ensure Tomorrow's Alexandria is a top place for business and careers."

For more information about this program and the honorees, see http:// www.alexchamber.com/alexandria-40under-40-awards.html.

Honoring the Fallen

and pulled Monahan's father to safety. His father's savior was a black man who was working as a mechanic for the Red Tails squadron. The mechanic lost many of his fingers and was badly burned by the crash. After he was discharged, he came back to visit see the family at their 12,000 acre peanut farm. Monahan said the man helped take over operations, helped raised the children, and even taught them to fly airplanes before they earned their drivers' licenses.

Because his family was Catholic and had a black man helping to raise the children, Monahan remembered his family being harassed by men in white sheets, most of whom had gotten exceptions from the draft because they were growing crops.

"I considered him a father," said Monahan. "He made sure we all went to college and drove us 60 miles each day to take us to a parochial school."

For others, it was remembering their comrades in arms. James "Jim" Glassman said that when he and the other soldiers returned from the Vietnam War, they weren't given the cheering parades that greeted the WWII soldiers. Glassman said that when he was in San Francisco he was spit on three times and called a babykiller.

"We may look like anyone else, but deep down, there's still a lot of emotions," said Glassman. "We may look good on the outside, but inside we're tearing up. For months I wanted to be by myself. I told my wife to leave me alone. I told them they wouldn't understand."

Glassman said he's been surrounded by a band of brothers and bless Billy Jack."

that when he got home, he couldn't stop thinking about them. He worried about them constantly.

When he reflects on Vietnam, Glassman said there were fun times as well, like seeing Vietnamese rock groups playing American songs at the enlisted club. At the end of the night, the last song they played was what Glassman called Vietnam's national anthem: the Animals' "We Gotta Get Out of This Place."

Glassman said that if anyone sees a Vietnam veteran, give them a long overdue welcome home.

For Mike Mixon, it was a little bit of both. His father served in the Pacific during WWII. Mixon said as he looks around the graveyard he's awestruck by the great love shown by the millions who served. Mixon also thinks of his friend Lt. Col. William H. Northcutt, called Billy Jack by his friends. In the 1960s, Mixon said Northcutt dropped out of college to serve in Vietnam. When he returned, he continued his career in the military and married his dream girl. Mixon said Northcutt had a great sense of humor. They would be in line together to get meals and the cook would ask what kind of eggs Northcutt wanted.

"Chicken eggs, sir," Mixon remembered Northcutt answering.

In 1989, Northcutt was piloting a KC-135 strato-tanker over Canada when a defective fuel pump caused an explosion, killing all four crewmen. Northcutt left behind a wife and two daughters. Mixon said he called Northcutt's wife on Memorial Day this year and it was still very emotional.

"On this Memorial Day I think of his great sacrifice on that dark day in 1989," said Mixon. "God

Remembering the Fallen

From Page 1

morial Day ceremony organizer Kevin Rue. "We will continue our efforts until all of Alexandria's fallen are accounted for."

Those still with missing photos include: SGT Robert W. Dean; 101st Airborne Division; Pfc Darrell L. Gibbons; 3d Bn, 4th Marine Regiment; and PVT Jeron F, Valentine; 1st Logistical Com-

Miss Northern Virginia, Alice Gyamfi, sang the National Anthem at Monday's ceremony and Saint brother of Capt. Henry Spengler Rita's American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Family members of Alexandria's fallen were presented with the Department of Defense 50th An-

niversary Vietnam War Commemoration certificates and members of the Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution made the Gold Star Family presentations.

Attendees at Monday's event included World War II veteran Chief Master Sergeant William A. Tippins, and James Spengler, director of the City of Alexandria's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Department. Spengler is the and attended with his brother's widow, children and grandsons.

"This memorial is a very special place," said Walton. "It's a real tribute to Johnny and all of the men who never made it home."

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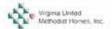
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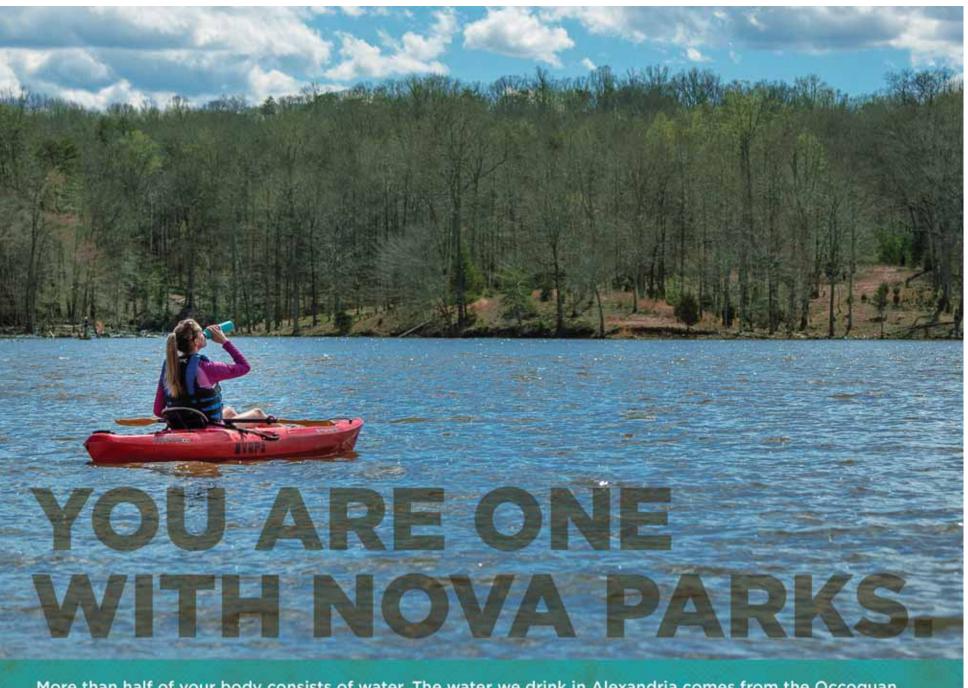


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Come out this weekend and rent a kayak or hike a trail, explore your regional parks, and connect with nature. Pohick Bay and Fountainhead Regional Parks are both located less than 25 minutes from Alexandria.



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News

10 Years of Spring for Alexandria

en years. Ten days of service. An estimated \$530,000 in economic impact. That's Spring for Alexandria - a Volunteer Alexandria event in collaboration with the City of Alexandria. Since the first Community Service Day in 2008, thousands of youth and adult volunteers have worked together to improve the city. This year, volunteers completed 1,800 hours of work on 20-plus projects in the community including human service organizations, schools, congregations, city agencies, and parks.

"It's a great annual tradition and it's all about working together and making a difference together," said Mayor Allison Silberberg at the celebration at City Hall after the Community Service Day on May 12.

Volunteer Alexandria extended its appreciation to all of its volunteers, partner organizations, and sponsors who made the day possible.

"We wouldn't be able to accomplish what we have without the wonderful volunteers, donors, and sponsors," said Marion Brunken, executive director of Volunteer Alexandria. "Sponsors and donors made it possible for us to purchase wood, paint, and other materials to build 20 vegetable beds and complete our other projects which will help the community for many more years to come."

Families visiting the Lazarus West End Food Pantry will receive vegetables grown in the new vegetable beds built by volunteers at the Church of the Resurrection. Children and their fami-



Some of the volunteers during this year's Spring for Alexandria.

lies will be able to use the newly painted foster care visitation room at the Department of Community and Human Resources all year round.

"We're grateful to the volunteers and Volunteer Alexandria for joining us on Spring for Alexandria Day and the work they put into beautifying the home the City leases to us for formerly homeless veterans. We're happy to be a part of a community that recognizes the value of serving our neighbors, regardless of their living situation," said Pam Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing.

Ivy Hill Cemetery also saw the impact from the day. "The cemetery reaps a huge benefit

by having these volunteers come to help us. We have 22 acres of age old plantings which our grounds crew does not have time to tackle. In places, the cemetery has become quite overgrown. By working on one section a year, our volunteers are making a remarkable difference in the appearance of our grounds and making it easier to stay ahead of the situation. They are a true gift and a pleasure to work with," said Lucy Burke Goddin of the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society.

Alexandria needs volunteers all year long. For more information or to find a way to help, visit www.volunteeralexandria.org.



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OPINION

Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

n Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to

remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National **EDITORIAL** Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a

minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

EVERY YEAR around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Re-

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen.

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, hen his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicki, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29. 2009. in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell

High School in Arlington.
Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan, 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire. Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a cham-

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

pion slam poet.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of raq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. , 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

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OPINION

City Drains Pool Supporters

The Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) issued the following release this week:

"AAA and its members are committed and dedicated partners with the city," stated Bill Rivers. "By a conservative estimate, the volunteer community has spent over 11,000 hours of its time to help the city improve its aquatics facilities. Over \$800,000 of volunteer time and city funds has been spent on a project that was arbitrarily and abruptly eliminated by the city this year."

The most significant consequence of the city's decision to not move ahead with the new pool at Chinquapin is that both current and future generations of Alexandrians will be deprived of many of the simple pleasures of life that aquatics brings, not the least of which is the life-saving ability to learn how to survive in the water.

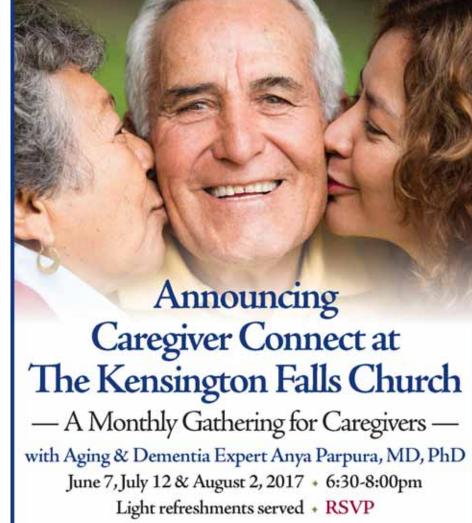
"There are approximately 7,500 kids in Alexandria who don't know how to swim," said Carolyn Griglione, AAA board member. "If every child in our community is to have the opportunity to learn basic swimming and water safety skills we need more pool space in Alexandria. There simply is not enough room in the existing pools to give every child a chance to learn to swim."

A public opinion survey conducted on behalf of AAA in March 2017 showed that the proposed 50-meter pool at Chinquapin has strong support in the community. According to the survey, roughly two-thirds of Alexandria residents favor the City of Alexandria investing \$20 million on a new 50-meter pool at Chinquapin.

In particular, Alexandrians believe a new pool is needed to expand access for local children to learn to swim and to allow residents of all ages to use the facility for exercise, rehabilitation and recre-

Residents also appreciate the economic benefits a new facility will bring to the community. With a state of the art 50-meter pool in Alexandria, local swim teams finally will have the ability to host meets — ranging from events for regional youth swim clubs to high school teams to adult Masters swim teams from the East Coast. By attracting more visitors to Alexandria, the community understands that restaurants, hotels and other local businesses will see an influx of customers.

"Because the design money was not released to begin work at Chinquapin, it is impossible to foresee when Alexandria will get its first and only 50-meter pool," said Bob Ludke, treasurer of AAA. "We had a wonderful opportunity to improve our community for the benefit of all residents. Knowing that an arbitrary decision by the city has closed the window on that opportunity is a bitter disappointment."



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with experts each month. Guest facilitators will offer information, advice and support in a welcoming,

private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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OPINION

Constructing Outdoor Learning Opportunities

BY BREANNE DRISCOLL Outreach Manager

hildren of low-income families don't always have equal access to evidence-based educational opportunities, including outdoor learning spaces. Learning gardens have been shown to improve student engagement and academic achievement (es-

Together

pecially in STEM), increase REBUILDING nutrition and environmental awareness, and increase life skills for chil-ALEXANDRIA dren. Growing gardens are also an effective and en-

gaging way to integrate curriculum and meet learning standards, giving young people the chance to develop a wide-range of academic and social skills.

Experts agree that children need access to nature the same way they need good nutrition and adequate sleep. Learning gardens provide children with the time and space to explore the natural world - something that can occur rarely in today's era of indoor living.

This month, 206 Fannie Mae employees volunteered time and skills during their #7Days2Serve campaign to build gardens and an outdoor "classroom," revitalizing the community garden and inner courtyard



Fannie Mae employees helped build gardens and an outdoor "classroom," revitalizing the community garden and inner courtyard habitat at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.

habitat at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology. The school, which serves a predominantly minority population of students and has a free and reduced meal rate of 86 percent, was in much need of revamped outdoor student space and a renewed growing garden.

Recently on two beautifully sunny days, Fannie Mae volunteers tirelessly built a 40foot retaining wall, assembled five industrial tables and benches, spruced up the front of the school, and built 10 garden beds in the community garden. Stomping and sledging through mud on another day, helpers installed five bird houses, and finished soiling and mulching the community garden. Volunteers enthusiastically accomplished all of their assigned tasks in the span of three short days.

Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, thanks to financial and donated labor resources, now has a functional and safe inner courtyard habitat, littered with 5-plus turtles and wildlife, for students to learn and enjoy and nearby residents have a large rehabbed community garden to grow nutritious and healthy foods.

To learn more about community revitalization efforts and free home repair services, visit www.Rebuilding TogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.







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121 Queen Street, Alexandria VA LOCATION! LOCATION! PLUS GARAGE! 2BR 2.5BA +Family Room. Eat In kitchen + separate DR, Half bath on Main Level Wonderful southern light! LR boasts 9'ceiling w/ French doors viewing large private patio. Just steps to the Potomac River, Old Town shops and restaurants! Beautiful! Move In Condition! Floored attic suitable for expansion! Superb property in the very best location! \$1,050,000 Jolee Rubin (703) 548-0697 http://bit.ly/2cPbH9t



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6126 Edgewood Terrace, Alexandria VA Contract fell through*2nd chance*Beautifully & completely renovated 2BR stone cape on one of Belle Haven's most sought after streets*2 car gar*sun rm*hardwds*fp*patio*new 50 yr roof*new windows* new Gar Dr. Room to expand. \$25,000 price reduction! \$834,000 Edward Pagett (571) 237-4753 http://bit.ly/2pQgDUb



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7613 Grey Goose Way, Alexandria VA Property backs to woods. This brick townhouse offers 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, Palladian doors and high ceiling in the living room with a view of the trees. separate dining room, and breakfast area with bay window. The master suite has double vanity, Jacuzzi, separate glass shower, and walk-in closet. There is a fully finished basement with gas burning fireplace and full bathroom. A two-car garage completes the property. \$477.000 Bob & Nicole Hamilton (703) 966-8532 http://bit.lv/2odcAwW



River Towers

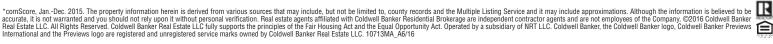
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LETTERS

Just Say No To the BID

To the Editor:

People come from all over the world to experience the unique historic beauty, ambiance and events of Alexandria. I choose to live and work here, because of the preserved historic aspects of our city and the walkable access to many services.

As a resident and a business owner within the proposed BID, I am concerned that this BID has not been created based on discussions between more of those who actually live and work in this district. Many still do not even know of the existence of this proposal.

BID proponents claim they based this proposal on local BIDs citing the Rosslyn BID as one to emulate. In Rosslyn, the BID now also taxes residents within the district. Most small business owners do not want another cost added to the already high cost of operating here. Do the citizens of Alexandria who live within the BID truly want another

City Council voted in a tax increase of \$.057 on \$100. Alexandria now matches Fairfax County as the highest base tax rate in Northern Virginia. By adding in another tax this BID dissuades young creatives from coming to work and create in our city and small businesses from staying. Why drive small business away?

This BID will be a non-representative gov-

erned entity. There are 734 commercial properties owned in the BID. The 40 property owners with most valuable property will have controlling voting power with one vote for every \$1,000 paid in BID tax. This proposal is anti-small business and antismall property owners.

BID supporters claim we need more events in our city to create more revenue. More events will be counterproductive as they will lead to conflicts with the residents' interests (like parking and nighttime noise), a diminishment of residential property values and in time an overall reduction in property taxes collected for the city's needs.

Let's review:

This BID's objectives are poorly defined. It will first tax businesses then, if Rosslyn BID is their model, tax residents whether we like it, can afford it, or not.

It will hire and pay someone who does not know and love our town who could tell us a few years and way too many dollars from now, what to do to create more rev-

How does this make sense?

Many of the BID proposed services are already being performed by city-funded entities. Why not allow the use of a larger city-owned meeting place and support a voluntary organization to make proposals to the city as to how to improve the business district? Voluntarily formed, voluntarily joined, voluntarily run, and voluntarily

I hope City Council members consider the

heavy burden of the new tax increase, the non-representative nature of this BID, the damage it will cause to small businesses, and vote this down.

The last thing we need is another tax for undefined services we do not need and did not request.

> Mary C. Ray Alexandria

Responsible Stewardship

To the Editor:

As residents of the Seminary Ridge neighborhood of Alexandria, we have major concerns about a proposal under review by the city's Planning and Zoning Department requesting approval of a site plan to allow the construction of four abnormally large homes at 3832 Seminary Road, adjacent to Temple Beth El.

After careful study and consultation with experts we feel that the current plan for construction is a bad idea, both economically and environmentally.

Economically, the proposed homes would be built on soils with a high content of Arell (Marine) clay, which has a high shrink/swell factor, posing a problem for building foundations and retaining walls. Two of the houses would be built on the steepest slopes in Alexandria's geologic atlas making them at the highest risk for slope failure. Desta-

bilizing the walls of the ravine would pose a threat to adjacent properties. The large homes, a new street, sidewalks, driveways and extensive tree removal will add to runoff problems.

Construction would require significant soil removal and the addition of fill to each of the four lots. The changes in topography and the addition of impervious surfaces would increase storm water runoff adding to existing water problems and wet backyards for adjacent property owners.

Alexandria has a history of allowing developers to build on steep slopes with unstable soils. This has led to sliding foundations, leaky basements, and runoff problems that were foreseen but ignored. Eventually the unsuspecting homeowners have had to pay to fix these expensive problems.

Environmentally, the three-acre site is a remnant of the wooded areas that existed throughout Alexandria before suburban development. It contains the last headwaters of Strawberry Run that remain in a semi-natural condition. The unspoiled area of the property provides habitat for birds, deer and other wildlife found in the Strawberry Run wildlife corridor. The ravine also has a natural spring and wetlands.

Alexandria is officially committed to being an Eco-City where the stewardship of its land seeks a balance to provide the best outcomes for the human and natural worlds. Our view is that destruction of this

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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ONVECTION

Newspapers & Online

LETTERS

From Page 14

pocket of tree canopy and wildlife for more large houses on unstable slopes fails to find that balance.

Because the interests of homeowners and the environment have too often taken a back seat to development, we have formed The Alexandria Coalition for Responsible Stewardship. Our goal is to work with city officials to honor its environmental sustainability goals and to achieve solutions that protect our neighborhood from potential mud slides, shifting foundations and water runoff into neighboring properties. All of these problems have occurred from construction on unstable slopes in the past. We also seek to protect the Strawberry Run watershed and its wildlife habitat as much as feasible. We welcome the support of other concerned Alexandria citizens.

> The Alexandria Coalition for Responsible Stewardship Loren Needles, co-chair Pat Tokarz. co-chairT

Hometown **Producers**

To the Editor:

Is "local" really local at the Old Town Farmers Market anymore? On a recent visit, I noted baked goods from from all over Virginia and Maryland, but not many from Alexandria itself.

Our farmers' market should prioritize local Alexandria producers over other those from areas of Northern Virginia, let alone the rest of the Commonwealth or another state.

We know that small businesses create jobs and support our local community. Additionally, highlighting Alexandria vendors would demonstrate local pride and show

off the products of our great city to the out-of-town visitors who visit that market. Finally, given the city's current budget, I would think the farmers' market would want to support the growth of our hometown businesses since that growth means more tax revenue for the City of Alexandria.

The Old Town Farmers' Market criteria gives preference to vendors who are located within 100 miles of the market. I have heard of Alexandria-based businesses that meet the criteria, but that have been denied access to the market. Changes should be made to the our farmers' market criteria to give highest priority to hometown Alexandria producers.

> **Morgan Wilson** Old Town Alexandria

Who Will Best Lead Virginia?

To the Editor:

Changing our minds about anything can be a challenging effort, especially if we have to do it in a very public way.

Generally, when we decide significant things, we weigh the pros and cons, research the topic for various points of view, discuss it with our friends and those whose opinions we share, and then we decide. Sometimes it is for mundane things like where to go for vacation, how much to spend on a car or where to have a special meal or outing.

But sometimes it can have major significance, such as how we vote in an election.

This is the challenge facing voters and statewide and local politicians as we edge toward the June 13 Democratic primary.

On Feb. 24, 2015, Dr. Ralph Northam, currently the state's lieutenant governor, declared his in-

tent to run for Virginia's governor. He had the field almost to himself until Jan. 5, 2017, when former U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello decided to challenge him.

In the many months when Northam crisscrossed the state, raising millions of dollars, he was viewed as the "presumptive Democratic nominee," by himself and his party colleagues. They fell in lockstep to support him in the

But this isn't the same race as it was two years ago, and it may be time for voters and politicians to examine more closely the two can-

As CNN noted in its coverage of this close race, "Perriello is viewed as a progressive champion among Virginia Democrats while Northam is view viewed as a more traditional, moderate Democrat." In other words, one wants to shake things up and the other favors the "don't make waves" approach.

Isn't it time we ask our state politicians why they continue to support someone who has openly declared that he voted for former President George Bush twice? Shouldn't he be running in the GOP Primary? Why are our elected Virginia Democratic politicians continuing to support a candidate who freely advocates for fracking, drilling in the Atlantic and letting Dominion Power have the major say in the state's energy and environmental policies? He has voted against Climate Change improvement policies, in a state with the second most vulnerable coastline.

Northam is a decent, hard-working, empathetic man who has brought health care to many. He is a great doctor! No one denies this. But very few lieutenant governors ever make it up the next rung of the ladder.

It's time for politicians and their constituents to examine the stark differences in their leadership style. Northam, in the Washington Post, claims "the Virginia way is, at the end of the day, we are going to do what's in the best interest of Virginia." In response, Perriello challenges that "Leadership is about making tough choices. It's not about accepting a 'Virginia way' that has choked too much of the kind of solutions we need for a new generation."

We encourage people to "change their minds" in the privacy of the voting booth, or in the public conversation surrounding this election. We either go forward or backward. That's the choice, not marching in tandem with a campaign vision fashioned 15 months ago, not one for now.

> Kathleen M. Burns Alexandria

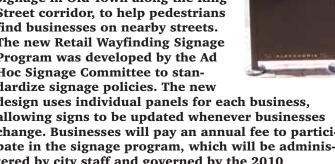


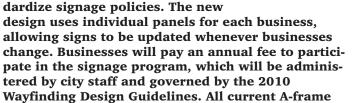






The City of Alexandria has begun installing new retail wayfinding signage in Old Town along the King Street corridor, to help pedestrians find businesses on nearby streets. The new Retail Wayfinding Signage Program was developed by the Ad Hoc Signage Committee to standardize signage policies. The new





signs along King Street will be removed by June 9.

Entertainment

LTA Presents 'Red, White, and Tuna'

A return to the Tuna, Texas franchise where actors play multiple comedic roles.

By Steve Hibbard

Gazette Packet

n the hilarious comedy, "Red, White, and Tuna," the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) returns to Tuna, Texas, the state's third smallest town, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to the OKKK radio station. In this third installment of LTA's 2009 production of "Greater Tuna," two actors again create the population of Tuna, including a few hippies who have returned to their roots for their high school reunion. The show runs from June 3 to June 24, 2017.

Stephen McDonnell plays the role of Actor 2, whose many characters range from an aging vegan hippie, to a macho Texan radio man, to a mild-mannered animal lover, to the first lady of Tuna society (with an overdeveloped sense of what constitutes right and wrong). There's also a woman who lives to "shoot first and ask questions later," he said. "Each one is recognizable and outrageous ... perhaps that's what makes them all funny."

McDonnell used to act in New York City, but his real love was stand up comedy and improv. "Rediscovering all the little tricks that actors develop to learn their parts has been both a challenge and a joy," he said, adding that memorizing the line load was daunting. "Also, I have never had a role with so many costume changes, so many wigs, so many characters. Keeping them straight is an added challenge."

He said he wants people to laugh, of course, after all it is a comedy. "But I also want audience members to leave knowing that these people exist throughout the country. It's fun to laugh at these folks, but they are recognizable and deserve, in some way, respect," he said.

Dave Wright is playing the role of Actor 1, which is actually 10 different characters. "I like them all, but I am particularly fond of Bertha Bumiller, the aging bride-to-be,"

he said. "We all know someone like her. She has a sharp wit, insecurities, a strong moral core, complexity, and a willingness to learn, which we discover in the end. I also like the way her wig looks on me."

He said he is always looking for good character roles, and this show has given him several. "The challenge is developing 10 distinct characters with 10 distinct voices, and 10 distinct motivations, and then having each of those characters ready to appear instantly," he said. "Moving so quickly from one character to another is exciting, and it demands every trick I've ever learned on the stage over the years. The one thing that was not a challenge was working with Steve and Mike Baker to develop the characters. That part was a pleasure."

Co-producer Marian Holmes, who visited Tuna, Texas, as the producer for LTA's "Greater Tuna" once before, couldn't resist visiting again. "I relish the excitement of the fast changes for the actors backstage; it was an indelible theater experience," she said. "But one of the charms of live theater is that you never actually replicate an experience — even from performance to performance within a run, but the palpable sense of fun which surrounds all the 'Tuna' shows is quite narcotic."

She added, "Our hope is first of all to entertain. We want to hear the audience giggle and guffaw as they meet the array of Tuna residents — with all their foibles. However, there are tender moments and warm relationships between the characters which we hope they will remember and carry away with them when they leave the theater."

Co-Producer Russell Wyland, who has produced almost 20 LTA productions, said he decided to produce because he loves the Tuna, Texas, franchise with Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. "But I come from a small town — Wisconsin, not Texas — and the kinds of small town characters are almost like comfort food to me. I laugh at them, but only because I recognize they are a part



Dave Wright plays the role of the Mayor in LTA's production of "Red, White, and Tuna."

of me as someone raised in that kind of place. It also helps that I married a Texan, and jokes about SMU, Oklahoma, and Aggies make sense to me."

He added, "It would be difficult, I think, for audience members to leave the theater without amazement that this show — with its jokes about liberals, conservatives, gun owners, vegetarians, pet owners, beauty pageants, etc. — is as relevant today as 20 years ago when the play was written."

Director Mike Baker Jr. said the play makes fun of our ability to transform and accept personal responsibility, accountability, and possibility — similar to that of the "EST Movement" (EST-Werner Erhard Seminars Training in the 1970s) satirized in this play. "In charting each of the character's arcs, I found many do take responsibility for their actions, admit imperfection, and embrace the changes that may come," he said. "This took some real creative work on the part of the authors."

He said the biggest challenge in directing was not losing sight of the humanity within. "There are a number of tender moments of realization that could have easily



Stephen McDonnell rehearses the part of Arles, one of about 10 characters he plays in LTA's production of "Red, White, and Tuna," now through June 24, 2017.

been glossed over. I think the actors and I found each of them. These only serve to heighten the comedic moments that follow," he said.

When he interviewed Jaston Williams and Joe Sears for the Bravo Cable Channel TV series, "National Arts," he said they made it a point to tell him that these characters were real people. "Most were penned somewhat lovingly; others were made fun of for the buffoons they are," he said. "No doubt, the audience will recognize characters just like these in their own communities. Folks mired in pettiness which holds many of them back."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Red, White, and Tuna," from June 3 to June 24, 2017. Tickets are \$19 to \$22. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit the website at 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

Ceramic Show. various times through July 1 at Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The "Classic Wedding Whites" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

Gods, Heroes, and Fools. Various times through June 4 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 21, 105 North Union St. Artist Lesa Cook sets the Greek and Roman gods into a contemporary context in "Gods, Heroes, and Fools. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: Pattern and

Repetition. Various times through June 25 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists Reni Gower and Stephen Boocks use repetitive shapes and patterns, combining both precision and randomness to create meditative and mesmerizing pieces. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035

"Master Class" on Stage. Through June 11, 7 p.m. at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Music direction by Joseph Walsh, featuring Ilona Dulaski as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's valentine to "La Divina." Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

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.

Flora and Fauna Artshow. Through June 25, various times at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will highlight the work of artists Jeanne Bohlen and Floris Flam. Visit

www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Castumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Relics.

Various times through Labor Day at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn the history of the museum, the purchase and see the original woodwork. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8

a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm

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

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

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.

www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

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

www.nfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

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.

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 Second Thursday Music

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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Family Game Night. 6-9 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081 for more.

JUNE 2-AUGUST 31

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times at Huntley Meadows Park Nature Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Local artist-photographer Nina Tisara will share some of her mosaic work in an exhibit entitled "Inspired by Nature." Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Athenaeum Yard Sale. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. For sale, art and historical artifacts covering their 52-year history as an organization and 150-year historic building. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Clean the Bay. 9 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. The Fairfax County



Organ Concert

On Friday, June 9, David H. Brock will be performing an organ concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com/news-and-events/.

Park Authority is partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to pick up litter and debris in Fairfax County waterways. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

City and Museum Tour. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. The Alexandria Commission for Women and Historic Alexandria presenting the 2017 Alexandria Women's History Guided Tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Alexandria City. Email Alexandriawomen@gmail.com or call 703-566-0856.

Archaeological Excavation. 10-noon and again 1:30-3 p.m. behind the Masonic Memorial parking lot, 101 Callahan Drive. Discuss recent findings and interpretations with city archaeologists and students from George Washington University. visit

www.gwmemorial.org for more. **Building an Evening Container Garden.**10:30 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road.

Horticulturist Judy Zatsick introduces you to plants that work best for evening viewing and explains how natural history developed these night beauties. \$38 for the program and \$25 for supplies. Call 703-642-5173 for more. **Wine on the Water.** 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront, 211 N. Union St. Come out to the Alexandria's waterfront for an evening of wine/charcuterie, music, silent/live auctions, wooden boats and camaraderie. \$85 advance, \$100 at door. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org for more.

Evening Tour with Martha Washington. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet Lady Washington while enjoying refreshments and live music. \$28. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Thanks For All The Fish" Exhibit. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Exhibit showcases the artwork of members who have made exceptional volunteer contributions to support Del Ray Artisans. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits for more.

APPLY BY JUNE 4

Call for Artists. The City of Alexandria's Office of

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Gazette Packet





40/ **40**

40 under 40 is a region-wide awards program, with the aim of recognizing emerging leaders less than 40 years of age.





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ENTERTAINMENT

the Arts invites artists and artist teams living and working in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to submit their qualifications for a temporary public art project for the Duke Street Pedestrian Concourse. Contact Jimena Larson, Office of the Arts, at 703-746-5503 or e-mail jimena.larson@alexandriava.gov for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Bagels and Bach Concert. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Solos and duets will be performed by Kevin Kirby, musician, playing Bach Suites on the Mandola. Resident \$10, nonresident \$15. At the door tickets: resident \$15/ nonresident \$10. Children under 5 years old are free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac for

Tiny Dancers. 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Nearly 300 young dancers will do a choreographed performance of Cinderella, which includes ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Harrow Fair Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. To open for Tab Benoit. Visit www.Birchmere.com for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 6

"Red, White & Tuna." 7-10 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Friends of United Community Ministries special showing of "Red, White & Tuna" where two actors create the population of Tuna, Texas. \$30. Visit www.ucmagency.org/events for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 8

Meet the Author. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet Vivian Thomson, former state air board member during the Alexandria, Wise and Roda issues, as she presents her new book, "Climate of Capitulation," which narrates both scientifically and politically these three cases. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

United States Air Force Band. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince



Poetry Inspired

Poetry and dancing on Sunday, June 11, from 3-4 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Community School Auditorium, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Dancers created choreography inspired by poems with their teachers. Wendi R. Kaplan (Alexandria's Poet Laureate) will be the featured reader. \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for adults. Visit www.localmotionprojet.org for more.

St. A traditional orchestra and strolling segment. Questions will be entertained by the band members at intermission. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/JUNE 9

Art on the Vine. 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Art auction and wine tasting party. \$55. Must be 21+ to attend. Call 703-683-1780 for more.

Organ Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. David H. Brock will be performing an organ concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com/news-and-events/.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. This annual living history event features military and civilian reenactors in camp settings. Suggested donation is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. The program is weather dependent. Call 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.

Old Town Arts and Crafts Festival.

10-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A
Prince St. Food, beverages and
snacks provided by Bunny & the Bear
Food Festival; Rockland's BBQ and
Grilling; Red Hook Lobster Pound;
and Talk Of Di Town II. Email
mbrunken@volunteeralexandria.org
or call 703-836-2176 for more.

Artists Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The Light of Day exhibit featuring Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, Rajendra KC. Exhibit will run through July 15. Visit torpedofactory.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 11

Poetry in Motion. 3-4 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Community School Auditorium, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Dancers created choreography inspired poems with their teachers. Wendi R. Kaplan (Alexandria's Poet Laureate) will be the featured reader. \$5 for ages 3-17, \$10 for adults. Visit www.localmotionprojet.org for more.

Vaughn Ambrose Quartet. 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Part of the Jazz at Meade series of concerts. \$20 donation, free street parking, free intermission buffet. Call 703-549-1334 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

Civil War Nurse Descendent. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Anne Reading, a descendant of a nurse portrayed on Mercy Street, will discuss her Great, Great Grandmother's book "The Journal of Anne Reading." \$10. Visit visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum for more.

JULY 13-29

By the Seashore. 6-8 p.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Produced by Arts on the Horizon. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

 $\textbf{Summer Sunset Movie Night}. \ 7\text{-}11$

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4572

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.

MAY 31-AUG. 25

Summer Theatre Camps. Various times at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Preschool-8th graders can learn acting, musical theatre, dancing, improv, Shakespeare, film making. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

JUNE 26-28

Civil War Mini-Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Camp participants will explore life during the Civil War through fun and educational activities such as drilling and marching, hands-on craft lessons, 19th-century games, and learning from guest reenactors. Ages 9-12. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Entertainment



District Taco's breakfast burritos are a hit first thing in the morning (or any time of the day).



DRP Belle Haven's patio is worth the wait on a nice summer's evening.

Eat Your Way Through a Summer Day

By Hope Nelson

n a busy summer day, whether heading to work or to the pool, it's easy to lose track of time. Here are some go-to spots for every meal of the day (and dessert).

Breakfast: District Taco, 701 S. Washington St.

On your way out of town to go tubing or hit the beach? Stop by District Taco before you go to pick up a breakfast that will keep you fueled for hours. The locally owned chain of taquerias has been an Old Town neighbor for a year and a half now, and

APPETITE within that time it has created quite a following. Don't be surprised to find a line, even at breakfast time.

District Taco's breakfast burrito is a must-order. Stuffed full of black beans, potatoes and eggs, it's wrapped up tightly and served with lettuce and salsa on the side. The burrito itself is a great onthe-go, one-handed meal (the lettuce and salsa make things a little more unwieldy, so consume with caution). Looking for a lighter start to the day? Order a Basic or Healthy taco – or one of each – filled with eggs (or egg whites) and toppings to fit the bill.

Lunch: Perfect Pita, 1640 King St.

Whether packing a picnic lunch or grabbing a bite to eat on your way back to the office, Perfect Pita has you covered. This longstanding pita shop runs the gamut in all things Greek, from a standard hummus or falafel sandwich to pizzas topped with hummus (or with a more traditional red or white sauce).

For your picnic, order your sandwiches – the hummus veggie is always a winner, as is the boardwalk pita, filled with ham, salami, provolone, and vegetables – and if you've got many mouths to feed,

pick up a salad as well for the side. The Zorba is the shop's take on a Greek salad, and between the olives, feta, cucumbers, and peppers, it doesn't disappoint

Dinner: DRP Belle Haven, 1401 Belle Haven Road

At first blush, al-fresco dining doesn't seem to be in the cards over at DRP Belle Haven, but your eyes deceive you. There's a wonderful little patio off to the side of the friendly restaurant, and it's worth the wait on a pretty evening. Sit down, order a beer, and gaze at the restaurant's kitchen garden, a 1,000-square-foot patch of land that grows the majority of DRP's salad blends.

DRP Belle Haven offers a great many salads, sand-wiches, and entrees, but their mainstay is pizza, and it would be silly not to order one. Go traditional with a Margherita variety, or scale things up a bit with the Maui Wowie (ham and pineapple). Looking for more kick? You could do worse than the Midnight Marauder, a pie topped with chipotle marinara, crushed red pepper, and spicy pepperoni, chilled out with mozzarella.

Dessert: Sugar Shack, 804 N. Henry St.

Dessert. Doughnuts. Need we say more?

Anyone unfamiliar with the venerable doughnut bistro by now should plead willful ignorance. But despite its well-known status around town, Sugar Shack remains a top-notch spot to score a sweet treat no matter the time of day. Order a tried-and-true flavor, such as maple or salted caramel, or venture further afield with the likes of a Key Lime pie or Oreo sundae, and go home happy.

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

Calendar

p.m. at Mount Vernon Rec Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd. "Sing," is the first of a series of movies throughout the summer. Visit www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

Anne Hills and Jay Ansill in

Concert. 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. \$15 in advance and for members, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/buytickets to purchase.

JUNE 27-JULY 30

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 29. Show is called "Under the Big Top," highlighting the work of three featured artists: Janet Barnard, Paige Garber, and Anne-Sanderoff Walker. Call 703-548-0935, or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's

Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-

9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme for more.





TC's Fernandez and Kelly Win Silver at Nationals

.C. Williams seniors Cecelia Fernandez and Lauren Kelly continued their award-winning season on the water by capturing the silver medal in the Women's Lightweight Doubles category at the Scholastic Rowing Association of America (SRAA) National Championships on May 26-27.

The Titan duo, fresh off a silver medal performance at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia, once again engaged in a pitched battle against the Light Doubles from the all-female Baldwin School from Bryn Mawr, Pa. in the 1500-meter final.

"We were strong off the start and all I could think was 'don't fly and die," said Kelly, noting the importance of running a smart, strategic race from start to finish. "I anticipated that Baldwin would separate themselves from the rest" of the boats in the race.

But in a contest with the six fastest women's lightweight doubles from roughly the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada, Kelly and Fernandez never let Baldwin pull too far away from them. "We were even with Xavier Prep and Germantown Friends leading up to 750 meters," the halfway point in the race, Kelly recalled.

"Then we made our move and inched ahead of both of those boats. At that point I knew that we had a chance for second, maybe even first. The moment we hit the sprint, I knew we had to leave it all on the water.'

"The sprint was my favorite part of the race," said Fernandez. "We started the sprint off great, exactly the way we had been practicing and planning, picking up the stroke rate every few strokes."

But after more than 1200 meters of a grueling competition, she continued, "I had trouble towards the end taking the stroke rate up any higher. That's when Lauren said 'just go for it!' Something clicked and we were able to pick up the stroke rate even higher than we originally wanted to," said Fernandez.

As the crowd cheered the two-boat dash for the finish, the Titan duo closed the gap with Baldwin but could not pass them before the finish line intervened. The TC seniors finished the race with a time of 5:49.956, three seconds behind Baldwin and clearing the bronze medal duo from Xavier Prep by over five seconds.

"The moment we crossed the finish line, I knew that we gave it our all and can honestly say that was the best race we've ever had," added Kelly. Fernandez concluded that "Lauren and I are really looking forward to our race at St. Catharines [at the Canadian Nationals], our last race with TC Crew."

Unlike Stotesbury, which includes a range of competitors, only the cream of the crop are invited to Nationals, which returned this year to the Cooper River in Camden, N.J. Kelly and Fernandez's ticket to the dance followed their gold medal win at the Virginia state championships. Six other TC boats also qualified for this select competition, including state champions from the Men's First 4 and the Women's Junior 8 and Frosh 8, the Men's Lightweight 8 (which won the gold in Virginia racing as a Junior 8), and TC's elite Women's First and Sec-

As the competition began on Friday, May 26 with heat races, all seven TC boats advanced to succeeding rounds. After exciting races in semi-final rounds, three TC boats - the Men's Lightweight 8, and the Women's Second 8 and Frosh 8 - joined Kelly and Fernandez for a hard-earned spot in the six-boat national championship finals in their respective categories.



Silver medalists Lauren Kelly and Cecelia Fernandez, along with Coach Shannon Hoff.

TC ends the spring 2017 crew season at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association National Championships at St. Catharines, Ontario, on June 2-4.

Cardinals Finish Strong in Season of Rebuilding

he 2017 Spring Softball season was one of change and rebuilding for Bishop Ireton softball. In her first year as head coach, Coach Ann Krebs and her assistant coach Olivia "OC" Compton, were faced with the task of rebuilding a Varsity softball squad that had lost five graduating seniors after the 2016 season. All five of which were experienced and talented travel ball players when not on the field for the Cardinals.

Krebs still had a good core to build around starting with the battery of Erin Rockwell and Sawyer Warren. It helped that Erin and Sawyer played together in travel ball in the off season as well. There were also four "battle tested" Varsity players returning: Dominique Gill, Eva Gilbert, Julianna Beck, and Izzy McGuire, two of which (Dominique and Eva) play travel ball.

Krebs was still faced with fielding a competitive team of mostly younger players, albeit talented, in a strong softball WCAC conference, and in a relatively short amount of time. In an effort to "jump start" her initial season as head coach, Krebs held optional pre-season workouts for the softball wannabes, at least in part to get a look at the personnel she was to work with. By the time the season rolled around, the Cardinal coaches, along with team manager Margaret Kettel, had the team as ready as any team in the WCAC could be given the short amount of time for practice before the WCAC season starts.

By opening day, the roster was ready, Krebs added some mostly younger promising players, namely: Marina Ekman, Christine Davis, Ailita Whalen, Alejandra Cabal-



Head Coach Ann Krebs

lero, Sarah Milam, Lily Wohnig and Erin McGuire. Krebs also had talent that she could pull up from the JV squad when necessary, and did do so with good success during the season in the form of Grace Chang and Alice Innis.

The season opener was tough as it was against the always tough WCAC softball powerhouse St. Marys Ryken. The Cards lost that opener, but won their next two conference games 27-4 against Holy Cross Academy, then 5-1 against PVI. The cards found themselves 2-1 in conference play to start their rebuilding season.

The team lost its next seven games in a row, however, to the credit of the team and the head coach, four of those seven losses



The Bishop Ireton Cardinals after the WCAC quarterfinal win over Elizabeth Seton.

were very competitive games. Three one run losses and a two run loss. Those four games against Good Counsel, St Johns, and PVI (the one-run losses) and the two-run loss against Elizabeth Seton were battles that, though losses, proved the Cardinals were strong in the rebuilding process. The two other losses were by wider margins to the WCAC's top two teams - O'Connell and Ryken.

ISL Powerhouse Flint Hill then came to Luckett and handed the Cards a 15-5 loss at home. The Cards hit a new low for their rebuilding season.

Nevertheless, the Cardinals finished the season winning four out of their last six regular season games. Three of those wins

were "payback wins" against McNamara, St Johns, and Good Counsel all of which had handed the Cardinals losses earlier in the

The Cardinals ended their regular season Conference play with a second regular season loss to Elizabeth Seton 8-1, but roared back the very next day to defeat the #3 seed Seton in the WCAC Championship Quarterfinal game 5-4 for yet another pay-

The season of rebuilding for the Bishop Ireton Cardinals in the WCAC ended the way it started, with a loss to WCAC powerhouse St Marys Ryken, this time in the WCAC Championship Tournament Semi-finals.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS PAPER, CALL BY MONDAY 11:00 AM 703-778-9411

Obituary

Obituary

Dr. William Francis Cavender, 84, of Alexandria, passed away peacefully at his home on April 29, 2017, after a valiant and brief battle with cancer.

Dr. Cavender, known as Bill to friends, was a long time resident of Alexandria, moving into the area in 1969.

Born in Geneva, IL on April 11, 1933, Dr. Cavender had a long and rich life centered on his faith, family, and country.

He was always proud of his small town roots - his quiet strength and modest manner were reflections of this. He recently completed a novel centered on the life of a man growing up in the Midwest during the Second World War.

After graduation from high school in Batavia, IL, where he played basketball and football, he moved west to the University of Colorado in Boulder. After one year he returned to his native Illinois to finish a pre-med program at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. This was followed by the University of Illinois Medical School in Chicago where he earned his M.D. He then entered the United States Navy to work as a psychiatrist, with posts in Oakland, CA; Bethesda, MD; Guam; Philadelphia, PA, and Long Beach. CA.

After leaving the Navy he returned east to Alexandria, VA, where he lived and worked for the remainder of his life.

He loved his family and beautiful home. Bill loved to read and listen to music, and was always ready for an engaging conversation about history, philosophy or religion.

A devout Catholic, he was deeply connected to his parish at St. Louis Church, where he served as a lay minister, worked with RCIA, and spent many hours both in service and in prayer.

He was a world traveler, who always appreciated new places and cultures. During his time in the Navy he visited Hawaii and Japan. Family trips included stops in Bermuda, England, the Netherlands, West and East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands. Ireland, and Italy.

Survived by loving wife Virginia, son William Robert, daugthers Amy and Virginia; Granddaughter Olivia, Grandson Mitchell, Granddaughter Caroline, Granddaughter Mary, Grandson Luke, Sister Alice Savage.



Legals

ABC LICENSE

PTO SEAFOOD, LLC trading as WHISKEY & OYSTER, 301 John Carlyle St, Alexandria, Va. 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage on Premise & Beer and Wine on Premise, license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Anderson, Manager Partner authorizing advertisement. 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.

Announcements

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Restaurant Eve on the Water, LLC and Carr 220 South Union LLC trading as Humming-bird, 220 South Union St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCO-HOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a wine and beer on premises, mixed beverage on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Troy Englert/Member. 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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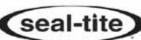
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Price Points – In the Wrong **Direction**

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/nontypical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless; I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's longstanding — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner ound after it's headed difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: dessert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers



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-Thomas Fuller

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OPINION

Memorial Day 2017

From Page 10

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being been seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010,

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

- Mary Kimm

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH JUNE 4

Temporary Public Art Project. Artists are invited to apply to create art for the Duke Street Pedestrian Concourse. Located south of the King Street Metro Station, the tunnel connects the Metro station and the Carlyle neighborhood. Applications will be accepted through Sunday, June 4. See www.callforentry.org/ festivals_unique_info.php?ID=4429.

THROUGH JUNE 16

Renaming of Center. The public is invited to provide comment on a proposal to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center as the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. Those interested in providing comments will be able to record their comments by email to jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, subject line: Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, or by mail to Recreation and Parks, Attn: Jack Browand, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314. The City Council Naming Committee will review all comments received or postmarked by Friday, June 16.

SATURDAY/JUNE 10

Free Training. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street. Titled, "Amending Governing Documents for Condominium Communities," board members and interested residents alike, will learn how to revise governing documents from attorneys at the Alexandria-based law-firm MercerTrigiani. Participants will have ample time to ask questions of the presenters. To register for this class, email shane.cochran@alexandria.gov or call the City's Office of Housing at 703-746-

THURSDAY/JUNE 15

Office of the Arts Open House. 7-9 p.m. at the Alexandria Police Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave. The City of Alexandria has commissioned Baltimore-based artist David Hess to design a unique public art piece at Lake Cook. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the project and provide feedback on the proposed public art, expected to be finalized by the spring of 2018. Individuals who are unable to attend the meeting may send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Jimena Larson, Public Art Coordinator, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, e-mail jimena.larson@alexandriava.gov by 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7.

22 & Alexandria Gazette Packet & June 1-7, 2017

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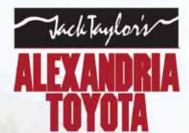


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OPEN SUN 6/4, 2-4



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OPEN SUN 6/4, 2-4



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Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802 www.WendySantantonio.com

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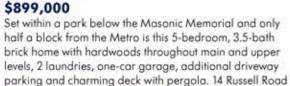


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Lisa Groover 703.919.4426 www.LisaGroover.com

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OPEN SUN 6/4, 2-4

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