



William "Bill" Euille (left) and Paul Haire (right).

Reject Hate

Bipartisan friendship in wake of political violence in Alexandria.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

If you go by Eugene Simpson Stadium Park today, there's a good chance you'll find children playing baseball. At the nearby YMCA, people still come and go from workout routine and community events. A few heart decorations and a giant banner that reads "Reject Hate" are all the evidence that remains that two weeks ago, this field was the scene of an attempted assassination and bloody firefight.

The Reject Hate banner is the creation of former Mayor William "Bill" Euille, a Democrat, and his friend Paul Haire, a Republican.

The morning of the shooting, Euille had left the YMCA and headed home to drink his morning coffee. When he got home, he was hit with a barrage of texts asking if he was all right. Confused, Euille grabbed his phone and saw that there was an active shooting back near the YMCA. Euille got in his car and immediately drove to the scene. He got as close as he could and ended up in a nearby coffee shop, where one of the congressmen fled to and explained what happened.

"It dawned on me, this was bad news for the city and the nation," said Euille. "This was a strike



Reject Hate banner over Eugene Simpson Stadium Park.

on democracy."

Euille said he called Haire, who lived near the field in a home over his store, Your Dog's Best Friend. The two of them immediately began to plan what they could do in response to this. That night, they organized a community walk to support the first responders, but it still felt like more needed to be done. This attack was only the latest in a string of incidents to shake the Del Rey community. Euille said the neighborhood persevered

SEE BIPARTISAN FRIENDSHIP, PAGE 8

Lost BID

BID proposal sent back to the drawing board.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was a king who was punished for his perceived arrogance and deceitfulness by being made to push a huge stone up a hill. When it reached the top, it would roll back to the bottom and force him to start all over again.

The Business Improvement District (BID) has rolled back down the hill.

After nearly two years of research and planning, the first stage of the BID was brought before the City Council on Saturday, June 24, only to be sent back to the drawing board on Tuesday, June 27.

A new proposal, put together by City Councilman Paul Smedberg



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/
GAZETTE PACKET

Councilman Paul Smedberg outlining the new BID proposal.

and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and signed by six members of the council, directed City Manager Mark Jinks to put together a new BID proposal that would be smaller than the original one and be more responsive to the public feedback opposing the most recent BID effort. Then, in the fall, the proposal would be voted on by businesses and property owners within the affected area. If the BID proposal

SEE BID PROPOSAL, PAGE 8

Bring in the A-Team

City-schools capital planning task force begins deliberations.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

A new "blue ribbon" task force met for the first time Tuesday, June 27, kicking off a time-crunched process to solve the city and public schools' capital planning impasse.

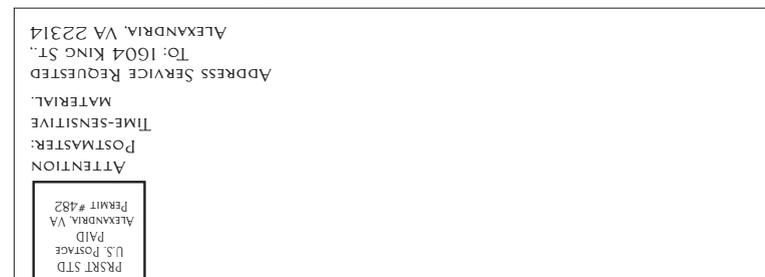
City Manager Mark Jinks called it "probably one of the most important and ... impactful task forces that council has created in some time."

City Council established the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force to surmount

a dysfunctional political relationship between the council and School Board. The two bodies have been unable to come to a meeting of minds about long-term capital improvement. The hope is that a task force of citizen volunteers only — no elected officials — can take fresh look at the problem and offer a mutually agreeable fix.

Council gave the task force a twofold charge: First, recommend a joint facilities Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the council and School Board's consideration

SEE BRING IN, PAGE 5



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Disability Awards

Spotlight on Alexandrians assisting those with disabilities

Life in Alexandria with a disability can be a challenge. The Disability Awareness awards, hosted by the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities and The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, honor those who make it just a little bit easier.

Four categories of awards were given out Tuesday, June 27 at City Hall. The first was dedicated to businesses in Alexandria that hires persons with disabilities. The 2017 recipient was the National Industries for the Blind for its work in employing blind people and combating negative stereotypes in the workplace that persons with disabilities are incapable of performing tasks.

The second award was to businesses that promote awareness of disabilities. The 2017 recipient was Pacers Running for its work to include and encourage persons with disabilities to participate in races.

The Gerry Bertier Scholarship was awarded to Brandon Joseph Edwards, a student with a learning disability from T.C. Williams High School.

The John Duty Collins III Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities Award was given to U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-9), for his continual push to help educate others about the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities.

— VERNON MILES

Lisa Reeves from Pacers Running (center) with Joe Haggerty (left), president and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Allison Silberberg.

PHOTOS BY
VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET



Brandon Joseph Edwards (right) with Mayor Allison Silberberg.



Noah Simon from U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's office (left) with Mayor Allison Silberberg.



Brian Miller (left), incoming chair of the Commission of Persons with Disabilities and Doris Gray (right), director of advocacy for Independence Center Inc. The Independence Center is hosting a march on July 25 in Washington D.C. to support persons with disabilities.

Preparing Students for a Fluid World

Public schools provide integrated learning opportunities.

BY DAN BRENDDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

Through vocation-oriented, real-world experiences in the public schools' Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, students prepare for the world of work and higher education.

Rubaiyat Rhidoy, a 2016 T.C. Williams graduate, exemplifies how CTE can work. He took CTE courses beginning sophomore year, following an interest that he'd had since the age of 12. During high school he also worked as a freelance videographer. As a senior, he and two classmates earned an award from C-SPAN for a short documentary they created.

Following a teacher's recommendation, Rhidoy interned as a senior at Reingold, Inc., a local communications and marketing company. That led to a longer internship after graduation and ultimately to his current part time job. Rhidoy has also attended Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), adding to the college credits he earned while in high school. He intends to transfer to George Mason University, where he will study film. After that, he wants to work at Reingold full time. He says he's especially grateful for mentorship from his CTE instructors and his job supervisor, who also oversaw his senior internship.

Day'Quon Henderson, who just graduated, is another success story. He started "coding" as a freshman. As a capstone project for a sophomore STEM class, he and two classmates, in collaboration with a non-profit, created an app called Worducation that helps youths with developmentally disabilities to learn through word-and-picture matching. As a junior, in a CTE entrepreneurship course, he created a business plan for the app. As a senior he took his plan to a national competition, where he earned a top award. The app is available online through Google Play.

Henderson says a next step is to expand the app's compatibility and availability. He will attend Atlanta's Morehouse College, to which his application included a link to the app. He intends to study business and marketing and one day to work at Google.

THE CENTRAL pillars of CTE are career applicability and hands-on experience.

The gap between "vocational-technical versus academic college prep is getting dissolved," said John Brown, executive director of Curriculum Design and Instructional Services for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).

"So often [education models] stop just with the coursework," said Terri Mozingo, ACPS' chief academic officer. "But students

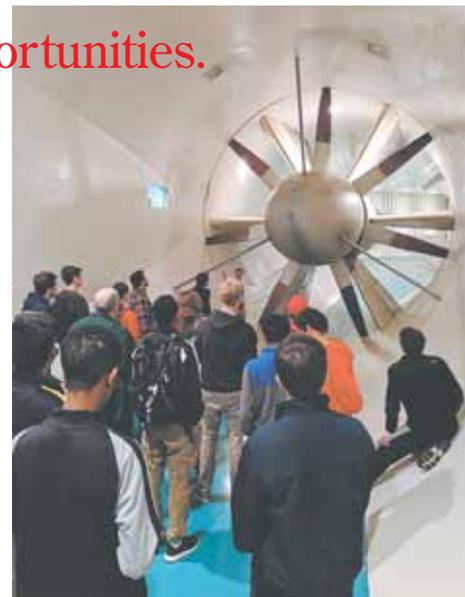


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

T.C. Williams Aerospace class on a field trip at the UMD Space Systems Lab.

really need to know, what are the various occupations that line up with those different courses?"

Starting in sixth grade, students build personalized programs of study, called Individual Career and Academic Plans, intended to guide their coursework through high school graduation. This process involves selecting, based on interests, a "career cluster" and "career pathway." These terms derive from the National Career Clus-

ters Framework, a program developed by Advance CTE, a national association.

"A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. Within each career cluster, there are multiple career pathways that represent a common set of skills and knowledge, both academic and technical, necessary to pursue a full range of career opportunities within that pathway," according to the Virginia Department of Education.

The National Career Clusters Framework includes 16 clusters and 79 pathways. The Information Technology (IT) cluster, for example, incorporates four pathways: Network Systems; Information Support & Services; Web & Digital Communications; and Programming & Software Development. The Network Systems pathway prepares students for jobs such as network administrator, architect or security analyst. For students interested in this pathway, ACPS offers classes like Computer and Cyber Security Solutions and Computer Networking Hardware Operations.

Local school systems tailor their offerings to their regional economies. Last year ACPS offered 21 pathways in 14 clusters, excluding Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources and Manufacturing. ACPS monitors labor statistics, in conjunction with NOVA's Workforce Development Division. The industries with the highest annual growth

SEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PAGE 9

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Members of the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force gathered Tuesday, June 27.

Bring in the A-Team

FROM PAGE 1

in the FY19 budget process. This includes prioritizing some \$700 million worth of identified city and school facilities projects. It also includes figuring out how best to spend an extra \$130 million over 10 years, generated by the recent tax hike, that council earmarked for capital improvement. Second, recommend principles and methods for the efficient and effective execution of those projects — for example, co-locating projects to save development planning time and money.

The timeline is tight. The task force must prepare a first draft CIP for a City Council-School Board work session and community meeting in October. It must submit its final recommendation for another work session and community meeting in December. To meet this challenge, Jinks appointed nine members who are public and private sector honchos — people who are practiced “decision makers,” said Lynn Hampton, the task force chair and a former CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The city and schools’ staff, along with Brailsford & Dunlavey, a project management consulting firm, will provide support.

Task force discussion at the meeting revolved mainly around clarifying its intended purview and considering what sort of criteria it might use to prioritize projects.

“We need to understand a baseline about what’s already been approved by both the city and the school district that’s been accepted,” said task force member Mignon Anthony. “Where can we move and where can we not move, and when are we asked to look at something that’s outside of the box?”

The task force will consider “if [projects] should be programmed, and if so, when” and it will seek to create a joint CIP that is “a coherent statement of the community’s values,” said task force member Elliot Branch.

But it’s not totally freewheeling. It’s not considering the whole CIP, but city and school facilities only — “buildings,” said Jinks, but not “infrastructure in the ground” or “parks.” It’s not considering how to create new money.

“We will know the cash flow of each year of the CIP; that’s already been budgeted,” said Hampton. It’s not untethered from the rest of the CIP. “There are some dependencies” on existing CIP commitments, said Karl Moritz, director of planning and zoning. It’s not reevaluating school capacity needs. “[The city and schools] are all on the same page with our expectations for student enrollment,” said Moritz.

The task force also began considering its prioritization criteria and how to apply

them.

“We typically see 5-10 established sets of criteria,” said consultant Beth Penfield in a presentation about best practices. “You don’t want too little that it doesn’t distinguish enough; but you don’t want too many that it starts to dilute the conversation.” She says typical criteria include safety; mandatory compliance requirements; alignment with established strategic plans; effect on the operating budget; whether non-implementation or delay would pose a risk; and impact on the environment. Others suggested the “readiness” of a project to proceed, in terms of having already met preliminary planning requirements; “flexibility” to be updated or reconfigured for a different use; present material condition; functional efficacy, in the case of schools; and special criteria for including currently unfunded projects, in the event the task force unencumbers funds by achieving new efficiencies.

Anthony cautioned about the difficulty of selecting uniform criteria, especially if they are to be co-located or jointly used. “There are some different criteria for a school, for instance, than a firehouse or rec center,” she said.

They also discussed ensuring that the criteria are not considered in too narrow a context. “I think we really need to have an understanding of how the existing projects in the CIP would rank against the criteria that we establish, so we can make sure that when we add this incremental sum, that the entire CIP then is in balance,” said Branch. “I would hate to see us focus on a single strategic goal with this income stream and then to find out, when you aggregated it with the existing CIP, that one of the elements of the Strategic Plan is significantly out of balance.” There is not one joint strategic plan; the city and school system each has its own.

Time will tell how well the governing bodies receive the task force’s recommendations. But Mark Williams, a resident who offered public comment, expects “it is highly likely that City Council will be extraordinarily deferential.”

The task force will meet again July 13, 9-11 a.m., in the Council Work Room on the second floor of City Hall. The agenda will include familiarization with identified facilities projects and finalization of prioritization criteria. All meetings are open to the public. Residents can sign up to address the task force during a 10n-minute public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Planning and zoning’s Katherine Carraway will serve as a central point of contact; she can be reached at katherine.carraway@alexaneriava.gov.



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Retirement Bittersweet for Alexandria Teachers

40-plus dedicated years.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Sandra Merrill-Casey has a bouquet of long-stemmed white roses sitting on her desk amid business text books. This is her last day of school. She still remembers her first day of teaching. “It would be 42 years in August. I was petrified, so nervous my voice started shaking.” She started teaching computer keyboarding at John Adams but has spent 38 of her 42 years “right here at T.C. Williams” where she has taught accounting, business law, principles of business management and economics and personal finance.

School buses had come at 2:35 p.m. and Karita Evans sits in her classroom with desks all pushed up against the wall. Evans, second grade teacher at Maury Elementary School, says she can remember her first day teaching kindergarten at Lyles Crouch 41-years ago because she was hired the Friday before Labor Day. “I didn’t know what to expect.” But she had a paraprofessional who was familiar with kindergarten so Evans let her take the lead at the beginning. “We had full day kindergarten so I had 26 in the morning and 26 in the afternoon.” She says 40 years ago everyone was pretty much doing their own thing teaching. Now they follow the standards of learning for the state of Virginia. She thinks kids are learning faster and progressing faster.

Both Merrill-Casey and Evans have seen a change in parental involvement in over 40 years of teaching. Merrill-Casey says parental involvement is not what it used to be. Many parents aren’t at home or the children are from single-parent homes. “The supervision is not there. The responsibility is left on the students and, if they are not internally motivated, they fall by the way-side.”



Sandra Merrill-Casey,
T.C. Williams
High School.

Karita Evans,
Maury Elementary
School.

Evans agrees that she had a little more parental support when she first began teaching but as the years passed she saw parents working more and children had extracurricular activities, music lessons, a lot of sports. “We went through a period where we had to do home visits to get parents to come to the schools. Once parents felt comfortable that a teacher had come into their homes, had tea and a piece of cake, they felt like we were equal and they started coming to the school. “We tried all kinds of things to get them to the building — raffles, cookouts, book drives.”

BOTH TEACHERS thought they started to see this change in the mid-90s. Casey-Evans says, “I think it reflects society as a whole.” But both say the pendulum is starting to swing back the other way. “Our Back to School Night was packed this year,” Merrill-Casey comments, and Evans says she has had the best parents for the last seven years at Maury.

Merrill-Casey has also seen a change in the students. “Oh yes, they want instant gratification without putting in the work to get that A. They don’t spend as much time studying. And now there is a lot of fighting in high school.”

Evans says she notices that her second graders are busier with more activities and

they are definitely tech savvy now. She thinks parents used to read books to their children and spend more family time together. “Now they have a Kindle.”

Merrill-Casey says when she first started teaching her business classes they were using electric typewriters. But she says while the technology is different, the substance of most of her classes hasn’t changed much. “I just try to relate the examples more to their real life. For instance, in business law I use the example of buying a car because that is a contract.”

Merrill-Casey says some policies have changed over time. “There used to be a strict attendance policy. That has gone away. We still have a major attendance problem.” She says computer attendance has replaced a hand tally, and can be good when it’s functioning. “There are a lot of glitches with the computers and every time they change the system we have to learn something new.” She adds that the move from five classes every day to 90-minute blocks every other day takes more planning time for teachers and they have to cover more material.

Evans has seen a shift from letter grades to 4, 3, 2, 1. “I don’t think letter grades are good for children in second grade when they are developing. It doesn’t give a good picture.” Evans sets up her second grade room with tables to instill a community feeling. She creates teams because “I feel like when you are older you are working with people. Everyone has a responsibility. That’s what life is all about.”

Evans says children come into second grade with a lot of fears, a lot of challenges. “But by the end of the year I can’t describe the feeling of success.”

Both Merrill-Casey and Evans have similar advice for a new teacher today. Merrill-Casey says, “I would tell a new teacher to stay focused and be patient. Be able to roll with the punches. Know when to hold ‘em; know when to fold ‘em” She adds, get to

know your students and focus on the student as a whole person; help develop their character.

Evans says a teacher needs to come in with the attitude that all children can learn, but you can’t do it all in one year. “Some teachers get frustrated and you don’t see people teaching for 40 years anymore.” She adds, “Teachers need administrative support; they can’t do it all at once.” She says she has taught under 16 principals in her 40 years. Finally, “Come in with a positive attitude and draw on mentors and teachers with experience.”

Evans says, “I’m a teacher at heart — third generation. My grandmother taught in a one-room school in North Carolina. My mother was my second grade teacher and my father was my high school principal. My son is head of a charter school in Baltimore.”

WHAT NEXT? Both said they were going to rest. Evans commented, “I’m turning off the alarm clock.” She had been used to getting up at 5:30 a.m.

Merrill-Casey says, “I love movies — adventure, romantic — and I’m going to stay active in education.

Evans says she plans to come back and volunteer at Maury but not substitute teaching. “I don’t want lesson plans.” She would rather come back and help children who need extra help.

Evans says she plans to spend more time being a grandmother and she and her husband purchased 20 acres outside of Suffolk, Va. “In our next life we’ll be farmers.”

The last day has been bittersweet with lots of hugs. Evans says, “I had to put on my sunglasses when I went outside to say goodbye to the kids to hide my tears.”

Merrill-Casey says she feels happy and excited and sad at the same time. “Forty-two years is a long time.”

This article on teacher retirement is the first of a two-part series.

All Aboard Local leaders join Seaport Foundation board.

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation announced at its May board meeting the addition of six individuals to its board of directors.

Joining the ASF board are: Tristan Caudron, managing director, Caudron Megary Blackburn Wealth Advisors; Walter Clarke, vice president of Business Banking, Burke & Herbert Bank; Charlotte Hall, vice president, Potomac Riverboat Company; Steve Hernandez, superintendent, Teel Construction; Alex Hume, manager, Advisory Services, Grant Thornton LLP; and Scott Shaw, principal, Alexandria Restaurant Partners.

“One of our highest priorities over the past year has been to take our board to the next level by recruiting members who would bring energy, strategic thinking, community connections and ethnic diversity,” said ASF president and CEO Steve Mutty. “These six new board members are as dy-



Tristan Caudron



Walter Clarke



Charlotte Hall



Steve Hernandez



Alex Hume



Scott Shaw

amic as any nonprofit organization could possibly dream of recruiting. You could feel the energy before the expanded board even had their first meeting together.”

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation operates a workshop along the waterfront where apprentices age 18-22 learn the traditional craft of wooden boat building as a means to acquiring the career, social skills and self-esteem to become productive, responsible adults.

ASF’s Middle School Math Program uses project-based learning on-site in Alexandria City Public School classrooms to improve the skills of middle school students identified by their teachers as at risk of failing math. Through the building of small projects, students increase math competency and improve overall academic performance.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have added six dynamic individuals to our board

in the span of only a few months,” said ASF board chair Joe Bondi in a statement announcing the new members. “This is a testament to ASF’s solid reputation for serving at-risk young people in the greater Washington area for more than 25 years.”

For more information on the ASF mission and programs, visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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Students from Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology celebrate with Jazz the Dream Dog at the June 21 premiere of their original “Lead – Don’t Follow” music video. The video was written and produced by the students as part of the Kids Empowering Kids program.

‘Lead – Don’t Follow’

Cora Kelly students debut music video.

Students at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology premiered the original “Lead – Don’t Follow” music video June 21 as part of the Kids Empowering Kids program of the Dream Dog Foundation.

School Principal Seazante Williams Oliver was joined by Mayor Allison Silberberg in celebrating the debut of the video, which was written and produced by the students. Along with Oliver and Silberberg, the students also starred in the video, which focused on leadership.

“This year students at Cora Kelly created ‘Lead — Don’t Follow!’ to encourage other students to be themselves and not follow others,” said Dream Dog executive director and program coordinator Lorraine Friedman. “This three-week experiential learning program encourages students to take the lead in their education, creating the entire video you see. Through daily creative writing sessions, the students also gained valuable public speaking skills as they got to present their writing to the group each day.”

The original music video can be viewed on the Dream Dog Foundation’s Facebook page. It can also be seen on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/ZXsSkFwY-Cw>.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Principal Seazante Williams Oliver, center, leads students in a presentation at the debut of their “Lead – Don’t Follow” music video.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Students from Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology get a hug from Jazz the Dream Dog at the June 21 premiere of the student-produced “Lead – Don’t Follow” music video.



Cora Kelly students Berhaane and Raceb pose with their sign celebrating leadership at the debut of the school’s “Lead – Don’t Follow” music video.



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PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

City Council reviews the BID proposal.

BID Proposal Sent Back to the Drawing Board

FROM PAGE 1

received over 55 percent support, it would move forward from there.

“Saturday was an interesting discussion,” said Smedberg. “I didn’t see how it was possible, personally, to go forward with the ordinance with such a widespread of opinion that we were receiving for whatever reason From my personal perspective, original proposal was a bit ambitious for the first year.”

Smedberg said the proposal was a result of the feedback from opposition being targeted at specific pieces of the BID proposal rather than general opposition to the idea of a BID. According to Smedberg, the opposition to the BID seemed willing to compromise where proponents would not.

“One thing that was encouraging from my perspective, after the debate on Saturday, was the emails that we received,” said Smedberg. “What I found interesting were comments coming in from opponents of the BID. Many of them did not want to see this effort die but had very constructive and very good suggestions and comments that could make this work. I did not hear a lot of that from the proponents, I heard something else, which was unfortunate. It was this feeling of ‘if I don’t get everything, then forget it’. We’ve put together an outline trying to respect and take advantage of work being done and different perspectives raised by a lot of folks.”

Smedberg said the main aim of the new proposal would involve scaling the BID down in terms of size and scope of ambition. The tax on businesses and property owners is still undetermined but would be less expensive than the proposed 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The size would focus on the length of King Street rather than the full waterfront and Washington Street. Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, said the scale of the BID was determined after it was decided that more than one BID in Old Town would be infeasible.

For Mayor Allison Silberberg, one of the biggest remaining concerns was the idea of property owners and business owners voting separately. While every business owner within the area of the BID will have one

vote, property owners will have one vote per million dollars in their assessed value. Landrum explained on Saturday and again on Tuesday that the reason the property owners’ vote was separate from the business owners’ vote was because different property owners would be paying different amounts into the BID based on the value of their property.

“One entity, one vote,” said Silberberg. “Some entities would have 70 votes, that was a concern.”

While others on the council were supportive of the idea, Silberberg remained unconvinced.

“Business community overwhelmingly weighed in,” said Silberberg. “I think we would be remiss if we didn’t listen ... In terms of establishing the district, I am still expressing strong concerns. I still have to be convinced of that [in the fall]. I am still concerned about what that means tax-wise and for businesses. I am supportive only in that I want businesses to have that vote.”

Other members of council similarly cited the extensive public feedback opposing the BID from the business owners who would be impacted by it.

“I want a BID,” said Councilman John Chapman, “but if these folks are paying taxes, and tax passed down from property owner, they need to have same rights as property owners. I’m not feeling that 50 percent threshold. There has to be significant buy in. This needs to be the business community’s project for old town. This has to be something that benefits them. I’m worried about us moving forward and not having a number of those.”

The conflict over the BID has divided many of the city’s business leaders. The opposition to the BID expressed uneasy satisfaction at the result, saying they still have concerns but are happy to see the issue being put forward to the entire business community.

“The council is finding its way through a broken path, correcting for errors from the past few years,” said Dan Hazelwood. Hazelwood said that the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and those originally working on the BID had faced the impossible situation of being stuck between providing enough information about the BID for an initial proposal without seem-

ing like the final form of the entity had already been decided on.

After the vote, opponents of the BID faced stern and animated rebuke from supporters in the hallway who accused business owners of getting involved at the last minute and disrupting plans. Danielle Romanetti, who was involved with the BID discussion from an early stage, chastised Hazelwood and other BID opponents for not participating in the discussion earlier. BID opponents in the hallway countered that despite limited outreach to businesses impacted by the BID, the opposition had been expressing their concerns for at least the last year. Arguments continued outside council chambers even after the City Council had retreated into the workroom for a closed session.

“I trust my fellow business people because we’ve worked together to solve problems,” said Jody Manor, former owner of Bittersweet and an advocate for the BID at the Saturday hearing. “A lot of opponents to this operation don’t participate civically. It’s unfair to continue for those of us who volunteer, who run the parades, who do the board meetings, who go to the the 7 a.m. waterfront commission meetings. It’s not fair for all of us to carry it.”

For both BID supporters and opponents, the City Council’s vote still leaves a lot of unanswered questions.

“I think it landed on its feet,” said Stewart Economou, who owned property inside the original jurisdiction of the BID. Economou did say he was unhappy that, despite being very present at the Saturday public hearing, the opposition was not permitted a speaking role during the Tuesday session. “There were so many iterations discussed tonight that it was hard to follow, but I think they will conduct a poll. I think we need that. We should have had that from the beginning. To that extent, I think it has been positive.”

Aimee Houghton, a supporter of the BID, said it was still unclear who was going to be leading and writing the new BID proposal.

“Now the council is going away for the summer, so who does the heavy lifting?” said Houghton. “The work group and AEDP spent two years developing, all of that was volunteer effort by business leaders that was taken away from their business to work on this.”

Over the summer, the new BID proposal will be developed and refined to be voted on by the affected businesses in October.

Bipartisan Friendship

FROM PAGE 1

through the series of murders committed by Charles Severance and racist flyers plastered across the city streets. Knowing that the baseball field would be the scene of national media coverage for days, the two of them decided to put something on display that would show that the Del Ray neighborhood was unafraid and would persevere through this. “We wanted to show that the reaction was one of respect, pride and generosity,” said Euille.

“Del Rey is incredible,” said Haire. “I don’t want that to get lost ... and we wanted the world to see it. I consider myself a Republican, but it doesn’t matter what party the victims are,” said Haire.

“This was the nexus of mental illness and hate. It doesn’t matter who started the violent rhetoric, it has to stop on both sides.” Haire says he worked in the senate during the Ronald Reagan presidency and said he saw moderate Republicans work together with moderate Democrats.

“It starts in people’s hearts,” said Haire. “Let’s have disagreements, but let’s stop having hateful disagreements. I don’t think the shooter would have done this if he didn’t think he’d be seen as a hero afterwards.” The sign will hang above the baseball field until July 8, when the Little League season is over. As Euille walks around the city, he says he’s been proud to see homes and other stores displaying similar signs.

Public Schools Provide Integrated Learning Opportunities

FROM PAGE 3

rates in Alexandria are Health Care and Social Assistance; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Finance and Insurance; and Construction. ACPS is looking to beef up its IT and medical-related pathways, said Sherri Chapman, ACPS's CTE coordinator.

CTE provides students opportunities to earn college credits and industry certifications. A high schooler who takes the "dual enrollment" automotive technology course, for instance, can earn 18 credits at NOVA — nearly enough for an associate's degree. Students can also pursue certifications for retail, nursing aide, cooking, cosmetology, computers, and education.

CTE students might be "completers" or "samplers," said Chapman. Completers finish the requisite sequence of courses for a given pathway, whereas samplers jump around. Completers enjoy a lot of flexibility upon graduation: they can go straight into the workforce, college, or both. By earning college credits in high school, they can cut down on time and money spent in college. CTE "makes it economically feasible for a lot of our families," said Helen Lloyd, ACPS's communications director.

ACPS checks in with completers one year after high school graduation. Of the 2015 graduates captured in the 2016 survey, 94

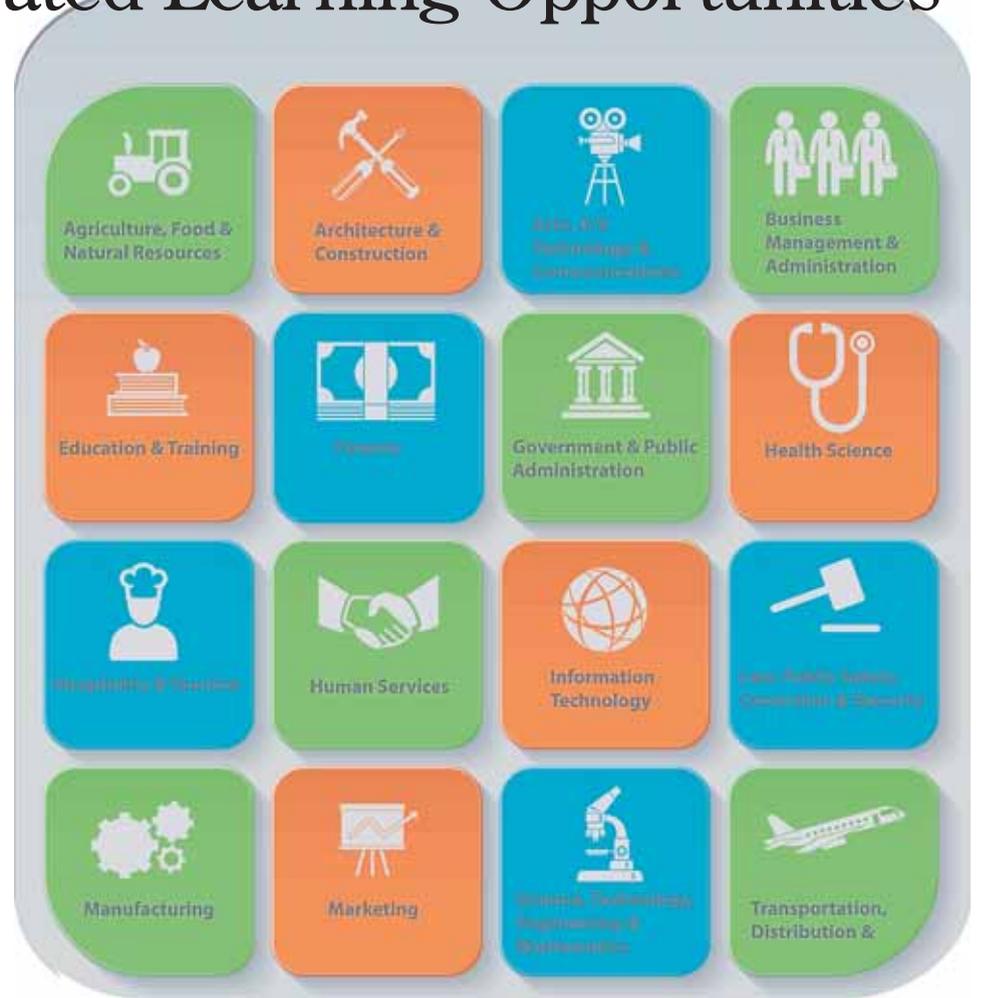
percent went to community or four-year colleges; 4 percent joined the military; and 2 percent got full-time jobs. Seventy-four percent said that what they're doing "somewhat" or "closely" relates to their CTE program of study.

CTE also incorporates real world experiences.

"Brain research tells us that experience is essential for learning. ... You're not a passive receiver of information," said Brown.

CTE students partake in a variety of "work-based learning," including internships and apprenticeships. These can involve money and work product. For example, CTE students run the high school store and build content for ACPS-TV, a local cable channel. Numerous businesses and institutions have provided work-based learning experiences. Examples include Inova Alexandria Hospital; the Tiny Titan Child Development Center; Agenda:Alexandria, a nonprofit; the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and ACPS's own administrative departments.

"The purpose of education is to produce lifelong learners, ethical citizens, and kids who are ready for the world of work," said Brown, paraphrasing American philosopher and educator John Dewey. "That's what I think is the essence of CTE. ... It's really the whole student prepared for a world that is constantly in flux right now."



A career cluster chart



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Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires

Even employer provided insurance would suffer; coverage caps and exclusions of pre-existing conditions could return.

The U.S. Senate bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would take more than \$600 billion (yes with a B) from poor children, poor elders and people with disabilities to give a tax cut to people who make more than \$200,000 a year. Households with income of \$1 million, would gain \$50,000 in tax cuts per year. It is a massive transfer of wealth to the wealthiest households in America taken from the most vulnerable and neediest people. It would lead to more sick people and thousands of preventable deaths every year.

While much of the damage is done by massive cuts to Medicaid, affecting poor children, people with disabilities and most people in nursing homes, some of the changes will result in damage to the quality of insurance for those who get their insurance from their employers as well.

What could go wrong?

❖ Millions of people lose their health insurance — 22 million fewer would have health insurance by 2026 according to the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

❖ Loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions, including cancer survivors, people who had transplants, people with asthma, arthritis, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, mental health issues, ADD, etc.

❖ States could opt out of the law's essential

health benefits measure, which requires insurers to cover 10 main benefits, including hospitalization, prescription drugs and other services. That is, companies could sell health insurance that wouldn't actually be health insurance. Would Virginia be a state that opts out? Quite likely.

❖ Ending annual and lifetime coverage caps would also impact people who get health insurance from their employers and the private insurance market. For example, a serious accident or an illness that requires repeated surgeries or bone marrow transplants could put any one of us over the coverage cap.

❖ Medicaid pays public schools for many services for special education students, but the Senate bill removes schools from eligible Medicaid providers, costing Virginia an estimated \$40 million annually; \$3 million in Fairfax County; \$2 million in the City of Alexandria.

❖ \$800 billion plus in cuts to Medicaid puts the funding for most people who are currently in nursing homes at risk. Many of these are people who were middle class and but outlived their savings and coverage.

❖ In Virginia, the proposed changes to Medicaid would cost the state \$1.4 billion over seven years.

❖ Medicaid pays for much of the fight against opioid addiction, including treatment. Cuts would be devastating to efforts to counter the wave of overdose deaths and other effects of

❖ Jefferson-Houston offers peer mentoring for elementary school students by middle school students.

❖ Jefferson-Houston offers Robotics learning as well a special curriculum designed for students with special needs.

❖ The elementary and middle school students enjoy separate learning environments so that they can interact with their own peer groups. In addition, the middle school is smaller creating a close-knit and tailored learning environment for teachers and students.

In addition to academics, Jefferson-Houston appears to be a safe place for my child as well. Campagna offers after-school care five days a week, the PTA has a whole array of after-school clubs and students are, of course, monitored at all times.

I have to wonder what's holding parents back. On top of that, it is clear to me that while the school is great; it will be even better if we all work together to make that happen. I can't imagine a better school for my two boys. To me, Jefferson-Houston School is a true community school that offers the very best for my children to succeed at this age.

I ask that you to go visit the school. Talk to School Board members or Principal Phillips or any of the staff. Meet some of the parents and their lovely children at one of the many play dates hosted by the school and take some time

addiction.

❖ Coverage for mental health treatment, including addiction treatment, is threatened both by cuts to Medicaid and by changes in the private insurance market.

❖ There will be greater need for Medicaid over time. More seniors will be poor, as fewer people who are retiring have pensions or adequate retirement savings. The demand for nursing home beds will be increasing as the population ages.

(This is by no means a comprehensive list of problems.)

If a version of the Senate bill were to pass, the results will be harmful to tens of millions of Americans. Call your senators. Virginia's U.S. Senators, Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, are both Democrats in the forefront of pushing back against this bill. But let them know you expect them to do the extraordinary to hold this up. Call the senators listed below and tell them to vote against it.

Ask family and friends to call their senators today.

If you have family or friends who live in West Virginia, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, Alaska or Ohio, their calls are especially important. Senators Shelley Capito (R-WV); Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Susan Collins (R-ME); Dean Heller (R-NV); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Rob Portman (R-OH) are among those reported to be possible opponents of this proposal.

The U.S. Capitol Switchboard number is 202-224-3121, and a switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

for a tour. See for yourself.

Abhisek Mitra
Alexandria

BID and Winston Churchill

To the Editor:

Having read the letters and sat at the BID presentation at the Lyceum, I cannot but remember Churchill's quip on Christopher Columbus: He was the first socialist because "he did not know where he was going, he did not know where he was, and he did it all at taxpayers expense."

And so it appears to be with the present BID. No budget, no plan on how this budget will be spent, no explanation as to what "improvements" will be: Christopher Columbus! Since the proponents of the plan seem to want to keep us in a fog of smoke and mirrors, I cannot help but think this is nothing more than a plan to finance a seawall along the Potomac (something which has been soundly rejected in the past) in the name of "business improvements." Shame!

Francois Duret
Alexandria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Benefits of Jefferson-Houston

To the Editor:

As a parent of two young boys, one of which will be Kindergarten age next fall, schooling is on the forefront of my mind. Both my wife and I are products of public schooling and want the same for our children.

My family is zoned Jefferson-Houston School. I've visited this school and talked with School Board members, as well as members of the administration and staff. The sense of pride that these individuals have for this school is clear. They put the work in day in and day out for the school to succeed and that includes reaching out to parents to lend a hand. Proud parents of Jefferson-Houston School believe their children are thriving.

The merits of the school speak for themselves.

❖ Jefferson-Houston is a certified International Baccalaureate (IB) school.

❖ Academically, its gains in SOL pass rates in the areas of Mathematics and Science over the last three years rank in the top two percent of all schools across the entire state.

❖ Students begin organized music as early as second grade and foreign language as early as kindergarten.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Assistant Editor
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles
Reporter, 757-472-3435
vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Steve Artley
Cartoonist
artley@connectionnewspapers.com

John Bordner
Contributing Photographer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Rikki George, Shirley Ruhe
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
Display Advertising, 703-927-1364
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd
Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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OPINION

Help Ensure Home Safety

BY BREANNE DRISCOLL
OUTREACH MANAGER

As our fiscal year closes at the end of June, we humbly take stock of the impact over this past year with assisting more than 200 low-income individuals and families in Alexandria. The goal of our work is to ensure that families in need live in safe and healthy homes. Solid scientific evidence shows that multiple hazards posing significant risks to occupants' health and safety disproportionately affect low-income persons living in older housing.

REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Karen, a new recipient of Rebuilding Together Alexandria's services, explains that our program "... lifted a financial burden of the cost of repairs. This is a great community service for people of limited financial means who want to stay safely in their home."

Evidence-based housing improvements and interventions effectively reduce the home risks and can prevent unnecessary illness, disease, and perhaps even death. One out of three older adults falls each year, but less than half talk to their healthcare providers about it. Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries. Many

falls are preventable by recognizing the dangers and taking steps to correct known home hazards. Karen was visited by one of our volunteers who spent a few days installing two grab bars in each of her bathrooms to help prevent falls. She also received four ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), a new stable toilet seat, a CO2/smoke detector, a fire extinguisher, and other various repairs and modifications.

For many of our clients like Karen, even the smallest of improvements can help. Recently, staff and volunteers distributed an ABC-certified fire extinguisher and/or CO2/smoke alarms to more than 15 homeowners who applied to our Safe & Healthy Homes program. Two-thirds of reported residential fire deaths occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Children and adults age 65 and older are twice as likely to die in a fire as the average adult.

Although so much good has already been done by our volunteers and partners this fiscal year, it is evident that there is still great need for health and safety repairs and other improvements for low-income residents throughout the city of Alexandria. If you know someone like Karen who could benefit from our services, we encourage you to introduce them to us. For more information, call 703-836-1021 or visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enjoy a Veggie Independence Day

To the Editor:

Here are the Ten Best Reasons for barbecuing veggie burgers and veggie hot dogs at this year's Independence Day gatherings, rather than ground-up animal body parts:

- ❖ Focusing on traffic and fire-works safety, rather than food

safety.

- ❖ Giving your eyes a break from reading government food warning labels.

- ❖ Not sweating cancer-causing compounds if barbecue temperature is too high.

- ❖ Not sweating nasty E. coli and Salmonella bugs if temperature is too low.

- ❖ Not wondering about the real contents of that burger or hot dog you're chewing.

- ❖ Giving your body a holiday from saturated fat, cholesterol,

and hormones.

- ❖ Not sweating the animal cruelty and environmental devastation guilt trips.

- ❖ Not having to explain to your kids why we cherish Fido but eat Babe.

- ❖ Enjoying the exploration of veggie meal offerings in your supermarket.

- ❖ Celebrating a day of independence from the meat industry.

Ali Gatlin
Alexandria



Photo taken on the first day of summer.

PHOTO BY
GERI BALDWIN

Waves of Clouds

Ocean Breeze Through
The Waves of Cotton and Clouds
Like Fishes Swimming
Through the Sea of Blue
And the Sky of High

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Ocean Boat Rides Too
For It's Summer

— GERI BALDWIN



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Honoring James Campell as Revolutionary War Patriot

More than 200 years have passed since the Revolutionary War patriots were successful in their fight for independence from Great Britain. The Sons of the American Revolution is an organization whose members carry out patriotic, historical and educational activities to commemorate the memory and sacrifices of their ancestors who fought or aided in the American Revolution. One ongoing program locates and marks the final resting place of those who participated in the struggle for freedom.

Revolutionary War patriot and former Alexandrian citizen James Campbell was honored June 22 with a grave marking by the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. The dedication service was conducted at the Trinity United Methodist Church's Old Methodist Cemetery on Wilkes Street. Representatives from several patriotic organizations also participated in the service. The Color Guard was dressed in Continental Army uniforms, Militia uniforms and colonial attire. Taps were played by bugler Sgt. Kari Brewton, USA, retired. Presentation of wreaths, were made by several Sons of the American Revolution chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution chapters, and a Children of the American Revolution chapter. President of Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Mike Elston of Woodbridge, also presented a wreath.

The gravestone was marked with a bronze marker which depicts the familiar Continental soldier with his musket, ready to defend his country. The marker consists of four arms and eight points, each point being decorated with a gold head. The source of



Participants and attendees, left to right: Vern Eubanks, Bill Schwetke, Bill Collier, Dave Thomas, Thad Hartman, Mike Taimi, Mark Almquist, Barry Schwoerer, Jacob Schwoerer, Paula Schwoerer, SGT Kari Brewton, Mike Weyler, Dave Cook, Virginia SAR President Mike Elston, Ken Morris, and Paul Chase.



Gravestone of James Campbell with bronze Sons of the American Revolution Marker.

the cross is the ancient chivalric Order of St. Louis. The cross is connected with a circular laurel wreath, a Napoleonic symbol recognizing faithful service and merit. The year 1775 is inscribed at the base — the

year the “shot heard round the world” was fired at Lexington Green, Mass. By placing markers, the Sons of the American Revolution hope to catch the attention of visitors who may realize they have ancestry to the patriot whose grave is marked.

If someone discovers that they have a Patriot in their lineage, they can contact the Sons of the American Revolution to start the process of acknowledgement and commemoration. To proceed with the ceremony and acknowledgement, the person must prove ancestry and prove the ancestor was a patriot, much like the process to acknowledge James Campbell.

Colonel William Grayson Chapter President Mike Taimi presented the biography of James Campbell — his fifth great grandfather. James Campbell was born about 1745 in Scotland. He came to America, initially settling in Somerset County, Md. where he was recruited to serve in the Continental Army from July 30, 1781 to Dec. 10, 1781. His rendered service to the cause of American Independence establishes that James Campbell was a patriot of the American Revolution.

James Campbell married Leah and later settled in Carrborough, Va. in 1788, a port

city on the Potomac River, now known as Quantico. By 1793, James Campbell moved to Alexandria, where he was jailor from 1798 to 1816. In 1816, James was appointed messenger to the Alexandria Town Council and he retained this position until his death in 1821. A review of the Alexandria Town Council minutes reveals that James Campbell also served terms as town crier, constable, and Captain of the Watch. He was also known to have leased a blacksmith shop. He had three pieces of property in what is now Alexandria's Old Town; one on Cameron Street, one on Prince Street and one on Columbus Street. He lived and subsequently died in his Cameron Street house. The home still exists today, with an address of 313 Cameron St. and is the site of a ladies boutique.

His tombstone, reads: “In Memory of Captain James Campbell, a native of Scotland who departed this life March 18, 1821 in the 76th year of his age.” His obituary which appeared in the Alexandrian on March 20, 1821 referred to James Campbell as “a long and respected citizen of this place.” That he was, and, now his legacy includes that he was a patriot of the American Revolutionary War.



Presentation of colors by the combined Sons of the American Revolution/Daughters of the American Revolution/Children of the American Revolution Color Guard.



Jacob Schwoerer salutes as he presents a wreath from the Children of the American Revolution.

Fundamental Freedom — A Different Angle

BY DAN BRENDL

The June 15 editorial, “Fundamental Freedom to Marry,” which celebrated a legal parallel drawn in 2014 between interracial and same-sex marriage, highlighted the following quotation: “Government has no business imposing some people’s religious beliefs over others.” I have every confidence that this quotation, both in its original and editorial context, is well meant. Even so, it should raise hackles about the consistency of progressive ideology and the freedom of religion in the public square, with respect to marriage or any other issue. For democratic government functions precisely to adjudicate between interests, which are rooted in all sorts of beliefs, and to impose some over others in the positive administration of justice and the common good.

At best, this quotation’s editorial usage implies a gross misapprehension of what actually happens. Eighty-three percent of American adults — including about a quarter of the religiously unaffiliated — are “absolutely certain” or “fairly certain” that “God or a universal spirit” exists, according to

Pew’s 2014 Religious Landscape Study. When asked what source they look to “most” for guidance on questions of morality, 33 percent said “religious teachings and beliefs.” That’s second only to “practical experience and common sense” (45 percent), but well ahead of “philosophy and reason” (11 percent) or “scientific information” (9 percent). And of course the influence of religion is not a binary question; religion inevitably informs even the less zealous in many indirect and subtle ways. It is implausible that all those people are totally compartmentalizing their religious beliefs, assumptions, family and cultural formations, etc., or could do so even if they wanted to. It is implausible that our government, being of and by the people, is not routinely and in various degrees imposing some religious beliefs or their ramifications over others.

In many cases progressives gladly approve. This is undoubtedly true with respect to the quotation in question. Mildred Loving originally spoke these words reflecting on *Loving v. Virginia*, the 1967 Supreme Court case that legalized her interracial marriage in Virginia and stuck down all state anti-miscegenation laws. On the other hand, the Virginia judge, whose 1958 decision put the case in motion, said that the

global dispersion of the races indicates God’s intent that they not intermarry. On the other hand, several Catholic bishops submitted an amicus curiae brief on behalf of the Lovings. In it they reaffirmed that race discrimination is “contrary to God’s intent” and said that marriage is a constitutionally protected “exercise of religion.” The Fourteenth Amendment was the case’s deciding factor. It too issued from a political context — the Civil War and Reconstruction — deeply infused with contending religious claims. So, at least in some degree, favoring certain religious beliefs over others is exactly what the government did in Loving’s own situation.

This leads to a second implication: that religious beliefs today are not strictly welcome in the public realm, unless and until they pass a test of partisan orthodoxy. What liberal faults the Church for entering the public fray in favor of interracial marriage? That’s the “right” kind of religious belief; its assertion is permitted. But its opposition to same-sex marriage, which it sees as a different proposition entirely, is construed as conservative bigotry. That’s the “wrong” kind of religious belief; its assertion is not permitted. Even though the intent derives, not from bigotry, but from deep and honest religious convictions about the moral order

that God laid down, not least for the ultimate good of the human person and of human civilization.

This brings me back to the fact that attaining to the “good” is government’s positive charge. This we have always understood in objective and transcendent terms. As the theologian John Courtney Murray noted, the corollary of the opening lines of the Declaration of Independence is that “There are truths, and we hold them, and we here lay them down ...”

That there are constraints on what government can impose in any case, that government has no business forcing individuals to believe or worship a certain way, and that societies have erred in their application of religion, are granted. But the great world religions have been in the truth business and the civilization business for millennia.

Many of our highest cultural achievements — not least democracy — are inextricably rooted in them. That religious people should not assert their religiously formed consciences in society’s process of framing and codifying public truths is both unrealistic and undemocratic.

The author, an Alexandrian resident, writes on faith issues for the Gazette Packet.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

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Alexandria **Gazette Packet**



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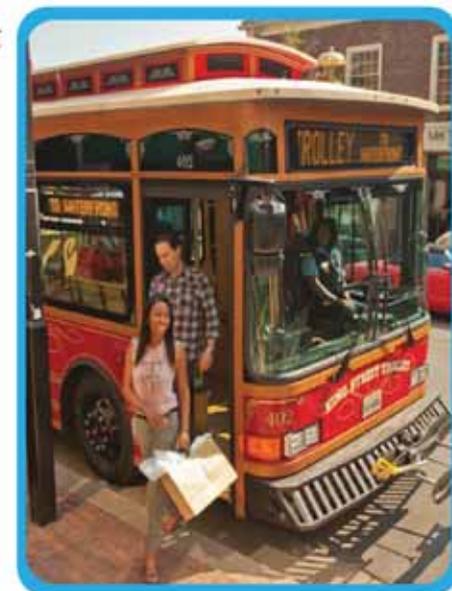
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Special thanks to Alexandria **Gazette Packet**

LIVING LEGENDS

Bill Euille: Still Focused on 'One Alexandria'

BY DONNA WALKER JAMES

Civic engagement in Alexandria is an integral part of the life experience of former Alexandria Mayor William D. "Bill" Euille. As a lifelong Alexandrian, helping the city and community of Alexandria thrive and prosper have been and remains Euille's life blood and his life's work. Euille grew up in an area of North Old Town Alexandria in public housing then known as "The Berg" where there is now a street named after him. He lived with his mother, Doris C. Euille, who died in 2001, his sister Sharon Drakard who lives in Del Ray, and his brother, Stanley, who died in his 40s.

Euille learned to value community service at a very young age. As a child, he went everywhere with his mother as she volunteered for Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Red Cross, the March of Dimes and various civic causes. Euille was baptized at Ebenezer and later helped out in Sunday School before and after college. From elementary school through college, Euille was actively involved in school activities and took on leadership roles. He graduated from T.C. Williams High School and earned a B.A. at Quinnipiac/University in Connecticut where he now serves on the Board of Trustees.

As a new college graduate, Euille joined an Alexandria construction company as an accountant and soon advanced to vice president and controller. In 1987, Euille formed his own general contracting firm: Wm D. Euille & Associates, which operated until 2010. Currently, he is founder/president

and chief executive officer of The Euille Group, LCC.

In 1974 Euille became interested in a vacant seat on the Alexandria School Board. Just two years out of college, he became the youngest School Board member ever appointed and served on the board for 10 years. While on the School Board, Euille served as liaison to the United Way; while also volunteering with the Northern Virginia Urban League, the NAACP, and the Red Cross.

Continuing his community involvement, Euille created the William D. Euille Foundation (1984-2010) which helped youth, young adults, and seniors. The Foundation supported the Alexandria Scholarship Fund, programs for youth in public housing, a youth leadership program, and numerous other activities and services.

In 1994, Euille was encouraged to serve in public office again. He was elected to City Council in 1994, and re-elected in 1997 and 2000, with one term as vice-mayor. In 2003, colleagues encouraged him to run for mayor. Once elected, Euille became the first African American mayor of the 254-year-old city. He won re-election in 2006, 2009, and 2012 becoming the city's longest-serving mayor.

In his election for Mayor, he took on the theme "One Alexandria." His background as an entrepreneur, community activist, Civil Rights activist, business leader, and philanthropist helped him to bring together businesses, nonprofits, and the faith com-

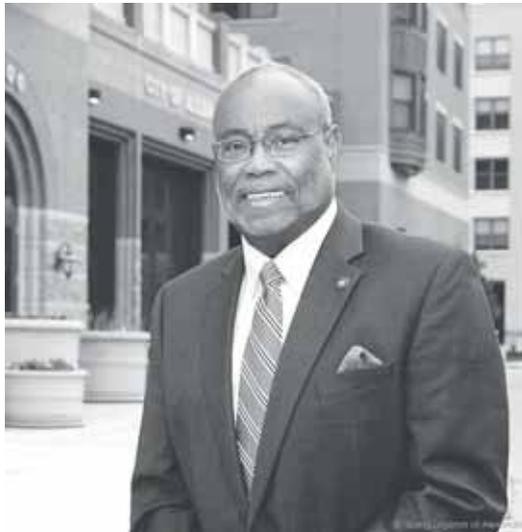


PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO

William D. "Bill" Euille

munity to build consensus around Alexandria issues.

Euille describes his approach as being a good listener, a consensus builder, a team player and an implementer. He says, it's all about teamwork: it's all about listening, understanding all the facts, hearing both sides of the issue and then making it happen."

Euille's many accomplishments as city councilman and mayor are due to this consensus-building leadership style. Euille left his mark on housing, schools, public transportation, safety, the environment, health care, athletics, arts, and economic development. He is especially proud of two of his ideas that were initially laughed at by some:

Living Legends: The Project

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

putting housing on top of a fire station to serve two competing community needs with one pool of developer dollars; and establishing the Old Town Trolley to help Alexandria compete with the newly developed National Harbor in Maryland. Also close to his heart were decisions on increasing home ownership, creating homeownership fairs, revitalizing public housing and introducing mixed-income development, rebuilding public schools, creating the Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying, and holding a free city health fair two years in a row.

Under his watch, Charles Houston Recreation Center was built and the police have a new headquarters building. Euille has also been credited with raising teacher pay, maintaining the city's AAA bond rating, supporting green buildings, and adding new parks and sports fields to the city. Serving on the boards of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority and the

SEE EUILLE, PAGE 20

Jen Walker Makes Volunteering Contagious

BY JOSEPH CERQUONE

Jen Walker remembers what happened like it was yesterday. She had begun hosting an annual summer event for her Del Ray community. There was plenty to do to get ready — elbow grease chores like loading and unloading, carrying things and unpacking them.

Suddenly, she heard something — a child's voice. "What is the movie tonight?" It was Lucy, a little neighborhood girl. Walker answered her and then Lucy ran off. Figuring she would see her later, Walker resumed setting up Cinema Del Ray, a free outdoor theater that, through her vision and sponsorship, rises anew each summer from the field beside the Mount Vernon Community Center.

Next Walker heard something else, and not from whom she expected it. "Do you need help?" It was Lucy again. She had turned back, away from play and straight for the job of serving others.

So goes the story Walker chooses to tell when she is asked for a favorite from her years of community involvement. Her choice makes perfect sense. In Walker's world, few pursuits top volunteering. Lending a hand like Lucy did, "costs nothing but

time," according to her, "yet it can make a huge difference in people's lives."

Walker found the time despite a full-time career as a Realtor since 1999. Her background brims with enough volunteering for 10 people. Service on local boards and committees? She has given countless hours of it to the likes of the Del Ray Business Association, Alexandria YMCA, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, Campagna Center, Leadership Alexandria, City of Alexandria Wayfinding Committee, Burke & Herbert Bank, and Del Ray Home Tours.

Sponsorships? Same thing. Besides being the sole funder of Cinema Del Ray, Walker has long provided critical support for wide range of events, organizations, and entities. They include Art On The Avenue, First Night Alexandria, Alive!, Senior Services, Alexandria Police Foundation, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Northern Virginia Aids Ministries, Kelly Cares, Miracle Field, and Mount Vernon Community School.

"I can't tell you how many times Jen has come up to me and said, 'I'll pay for that,' or 'I want to do that,' and handed me a check," local civic leader Pat Miller said. "She's magnanimous."



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO.

Jen Walker

And then there is Jen Walker, provider extraordinaire of everyday kindness that means so much to its recipients. It consists of actions like walking neighbors' kids to school; shoveling snow that threatens to shut in the elderly; doing home repair for a hospitalized friend; and, going out of her way to offer rides to passersby lugging groceries.

This lesser known side of Walker is a big reason Miller nominated her as a Living Legend. "People like Jen are rare," Miller said, "she is extremely giving. It all comes from the heart, too. She doesn't like the limelight, but she deserves every bit of it."

Others concur. Del Ray citizens have honored Walker with a Heart of Del Ray Award. And her exceptional community service has been recognized by the Del Ray Business Association and The Alexandria Commission on Women.

Walker has achieved this regard driven partly by selfless personal standards. "Each day I try to be the best person I can be." And she aims to leave a legacy one day of having been "someone who could be counted on." Already, you can depend on Walker to be the least impressed by what she does for the community. "I'm just me," she said, shucking the focus like it is ill-fitting clothing. "Many others do much more than I do. They deserve recognition."

Walker's drive comes from another source, too — her unflagging commitment to giving back to a community that has been

SEE WALKER, PAGE 20

CONNECTION FAMILIES

A Week of Area Independence Day Celebrations

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks at Lake Fairfax Park. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Water Mine Park, boat rentals, live music, food, puppet show, camping and fireworks. \$10 per car. The rain date is Sunday, July 2. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/.

Workhouse Arts Center Festivities. 5-9:30 p.m. at The Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$20. Golf course lecture, hole-in-one challenge, fireworks. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/JULY 3

History Day Tours. Tours at 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Test your knowledge of U.S. history at Sully Historic Site with political trivia, games and fun facts. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Firecracker 5K. 8-10 a.m. Reston Town Center, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Live music and American flags while rooting for the runners in the "Battle of the Branches" competition. Call 703-912-4062 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Autism Speaks 5K. 8 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, Md. Fundraiser for autism. Registration, packet pick up at 6:30 a.m. Call 202-955-3111 or email AutismSpeaks5K@AutismSpeaks.org.

Great Falls Hometown Celebration. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at at Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Great Falls 5K Walk/Run starts at 8 a.m. and then view the floats, antique cars,



People capture the firework display on cell phones and cameras during the 2016 celebration of Alexandria's birthday.

horses and the bike brigade in the 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m. After the parade, food, music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green. At 6 p.m., the gates open at Turner Farm Park featuring music, games, contests and food trucks until the Fireworks Show gets underway just after dusk. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Mount Vernon Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Troop inspection, wreath laying, citizen naturalization, music, fireworks and cake. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Fairfax Independence Day Parade. 10 a.m. On Main Street in downtown Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration.

City of Fairfax Evening Show. 5:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. Children's activities (inflatables, face painting, and balloon artists), Oon-stage entertainment with a fireworks display that follows. The rain date for the fireworks only is July 5. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf, smoking, alcohol and animals (except service animals) are not permitted on the football field. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

Fairfax Station Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

Great Falls Fireworks. 6 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. As part of the Village of Great Falls Independence Day celebration, Christ the King Lutheran Church invites members, friends, and members of the community to gather on the church's front lawn to enjoy the fireworks from this premium vantage point. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

Arlington Independence Day. 5-10 p.m. at the Long Bridge Park, 475 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington. Family-friendly activities including live music, food vendors, games, and a view of the Washington, D.C., fireworks display. Games and activities will include face painting, balloon art, moon bounces (weather permitting), cornhole, bocce, and more. No on-site parking at the event. Free event shuttles will run continuously from 4:30-10:30 p.m. between Long Bridge Park and the



Celebrate Independence Day at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Food, water games, pie eating contest and more. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Pentagon City and Crystal City Metro stations. Free. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/july-4th/.

Vienna July 4 Festival and Fireworks. 6:30 p.m. at at Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Food available from the Vienna Little League snack bar, those who register can get their taste of America in the form of two eating contests: Children ages 5-10 can sign up onsite to participate in a pie-eating contest. Adults can give their chomping skills a try in Vienna's second annual hot dog-eating contest. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

McLean Independence Day. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Musical entertainment by a local disc jockey, as well as food trucks selling a variety of entrees and snacks. Off-site parking and shuttles available. Admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks show will be presented at 8 p.m. on the rain date, Wednesday, July 5. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Herndon Independence Day Celebration. 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Family-fun event featuring games, patriotic arts and craft activities, live music, family games,

bingo, food, balloon artists and more. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july.

Falls Church Celebration. 7-10 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Live music. Visit www.fallschurchva.gov/.

Montgomery County Sparkles. 7:30 p.m., Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington. Montgomery County celebrates Independence Day with live music featuring Gringo Jingo. Fireworks are at 9:15 p.m. Shuttle bus at Westfield Wheaton North Building. Handicap parking only available at Einstein High School. Food vendors on site. Raindate is July 5 for fireworks only. Call 240-777-0311.

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 6

Patriotic Music. 1-2 p.m. at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. \$2 or free for residents. Visit www.holidaypark.us/.

Summer Under the Stars Concert. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Main Street Community Band. Visit fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration. 5-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Event to celebrate the 241st birthday of the USA and the 268th birthday of the City of Alexandria, featuring entertainment, cannon salute during the 1812 Overture, food and beverage sales, and fireworks at 9:30. Call 703-746-5592 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com/alex-bday/.

Riverfront Fundraiser. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Del. Mark Levine's house, at 805 Rivergate Place, Alexandria. Refreshments include "impeachment punch," "Orange Russians," wine and beer, soft drinks, and food. And great views of the fireworks which begin at 9:30 p.m.

Come early to get a good lawn seat or come later after the festivities next door at Oronoco Park.

You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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.

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.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, at 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-354-2905 for more.

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times through Aug. 31 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.

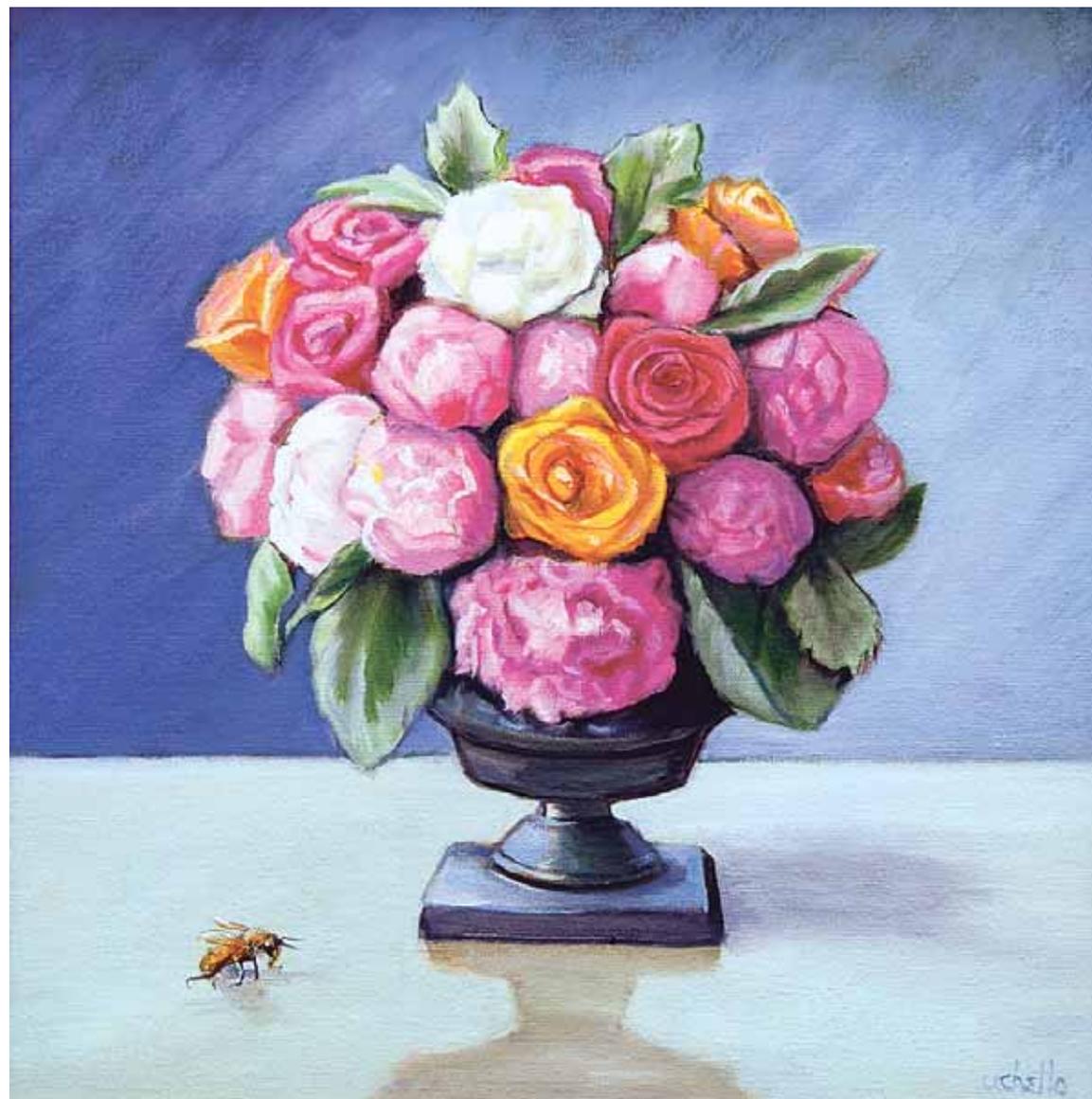
Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

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 for more.

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



PICTURE BY PATRICIA UCHELLO

Art Exhibit

Oil Paintings by Patricia Uchello are on display July 14-Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Free. Call 703-768-6983 or visit www.patriciauchello.com for more.

are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more
The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

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

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

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

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

Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit. Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired

"Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at The 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.

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

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

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the

conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

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

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

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

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

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

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

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

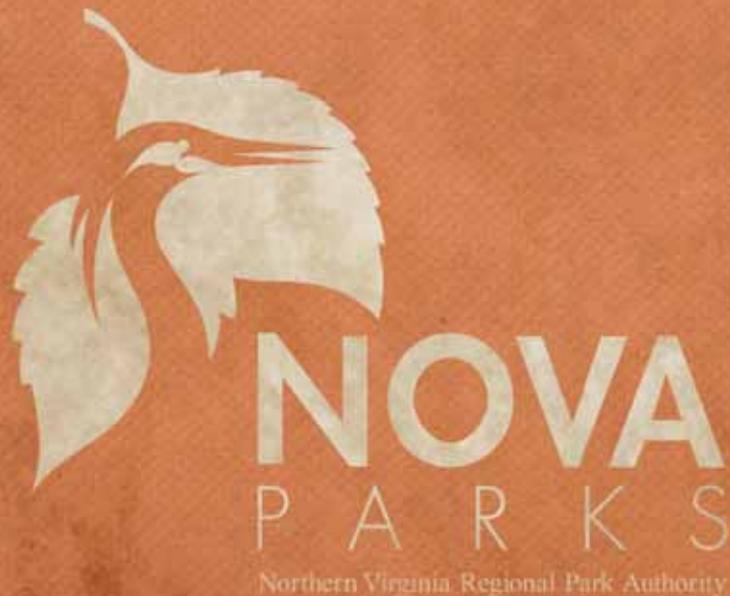
Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme for more.



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ENTERTAINMENT



Bacon Brothers

Bacon Brothers in Concert, July 28-30, 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Kevin and Michael Bacon's band, find out if the six degrees of Kevin Bacon separation are true. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Piano Concert. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Pianist Lydia Frumkin in an afternoon of music by Schubert as part of their summer chamber concert series. These weekly performances are free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. Email wmpa.execdir@gmail.com for more.

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 Cinema at Carlyle. 8:37 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Top Gun is the first of this series. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Classical Music Concert. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Classical music by Benjamin Scott on the piano and violin as part of their summer chamber concert series. These weekly performances are free and open to the public. Donations are welcome. Email wmpa.execdir@gmail.com for more.

JULY 3-30

Ceramics Show. Various times at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. The "Rough around the Edges" Kiln Club show. Call 703-548-6288 or visit scopegallery.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Event includes a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military reenactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all guests. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$18; children ages 6-11, \$9; and children under 5. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme.

WayneWood Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the WayneWood Recreation Park, 1027 Dalebrook Drive. Plant sale is after the community parade. Call 479-221-0883 for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 6

Great War Discussion. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entrance into the Great War, Historian Dr. Mitchell Yockelson will tell the story of some of the individuals who fought in the Meuse-Argonne. A book-signing will follow the lecture. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

JULY 8-AUG. 5

Adult Woodworking Class. 5-8 p.m. at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Union St. Woodworking 101, hosted by ASF's Middle School Math Program Manager, woodworker, and furniture designer Nicole Reidinger of Habitat Woodworks. \$250. Visit

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

JULY 17-21

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017 for more.

JULY 18-20

History Camp for Kids. 9 a.m.-noon. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Engages children in American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to nearby historic places. \$105. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum, or call 703-746-4994.

JULY 24-28

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017 for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

www.alexandriaseaport.org or call 703-778-0977 for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 9

Behind the Scenes Geek Tours.

noon-1 p.m. at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Outside of the regular tour parameters, an expert guide leads this tour, including the rarely open basement and 3rd floor of the historic pharmacy. Tour recommended for adults only. \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Apothecary or call 703-746-3852.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Pairs : Fiber Art from New Image Artists." Curated by Trudi Van Dyke, Pairs is an exhibition by 13 contemporary fiber artists who are members of the New Image Artists group. Exhibit runs from June 29-Aug. 6. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

No. 9 on the 9th. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the at No. 9 Lounge, Evening Star Cafe, 2000 Mt. Vernon Ave. The Alexandria Young Democrats are relaunching the chapter. Visit www.alexyoungdems.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 12

Play: "Hay Fever." 7:30 p.m. at Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House Lawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Picnic Theatre Company and Woodlawn/Pope Leighey House Present the only showing in Virginia of Noel Coward's 1929 play about the dysfunctional family. Visit dumbartonhouse.org/events for more.

How to Get Started in Scuba. 7:30 p.m. at Boat US HQ, 880 South Pickett St. Lecture by Rob Curren of Patriot Scuba of Occoquan discusses how to get started in scuba diving. Visit www.PatriotScuba.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 13

Coffee and Connections. 8-9 a.m. at The Potomack Company, 1120 North Fairfax St. A networking Alexandria Chamber of Commerce event with a lecture by Elizabeth Haynie Wainstein on her career in auctions. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Visit alexchamber.com.

Artists Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union



Raku by Klaudia Levin

Through July 1

Ceramic Show 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.

Street. "Sarah Nesbitt: Making Sense of What We Have," exhibition open July 13-Sept. 3. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Artists Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, Studio 21, 105 North Union Street. Sally Davies' "Global Views: Light & Shadow" exhibition open July 6-Aug. 6. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Kasey Chambers with Garrett Kato Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. New double album "Dragonfly." \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

JULY 13-29

By the Seashore. Various morning hours 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.

JULY 14-AUG. 31

Oil Paintings by Patricia Uchello. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Free. Call 703-768-6983 or visit www.patriciauchello.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

Jazz at Meade. 4 p.m. at the Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Musicians Tony Craddock, Jr., and Cold Front. \$20 donation. Visit www.meadechurch.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 18

The Mastersons in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the demonstration gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will narrate with stories

of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

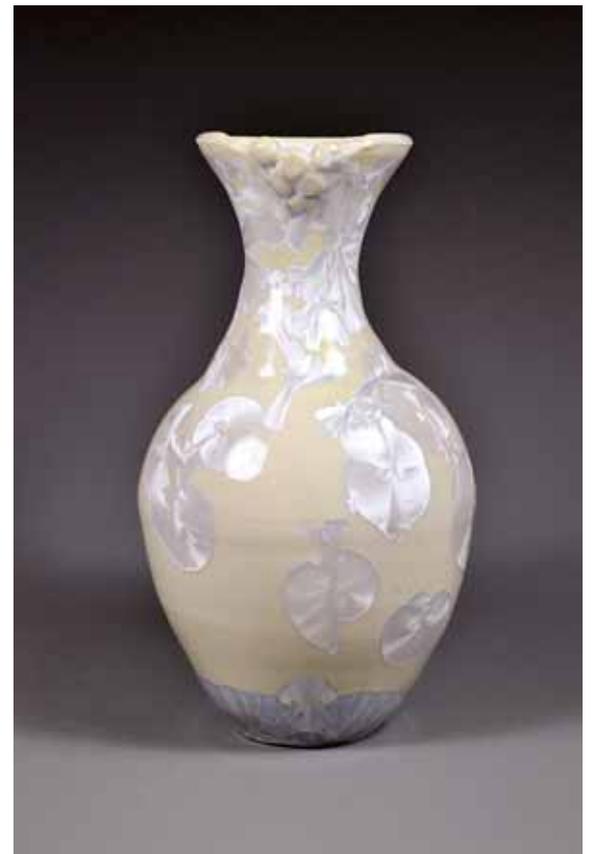
Russian Folk Music. 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 625 First St. Festival concert of more than 100 musicians from all over the world marks the end of the International Music Convention of Russian Folk Instruments. Visit www.bdaa.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

40 Under 40 Celebration. 6-9 p.m. at United Way Worldwide, 701 N. Fairfax St. The 40 under 40 program was established in 2016 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to recognize top 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. \$89. Visit alexchamber.com.

JULY 28-30

Bacon Brothers Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Kevin and Michael Bacon's



Vase by Norma Hintze

band, find out if the six degrees of Kevin Bacon separation are true. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 8:14 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Caddyshack is the second of this series. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

An Outlandish Geek Tour. noon-1 p.m. at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. Tour recommended for adults only. \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Apothecary or call 703-746-3852.

Documentary Film Tour. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria. Hosted by Calek and SIR NOFACE Producer Justin Holstein, the "SIR NOFACE LIVES" tour offers attendees the chance to be among the first to see Calek's mind-bending SIR NOFACE documentary, which chronicles the Australian Government-sanctioned paranormal investigation of Cockatoo Island. Visit sirnoface.com.

SUMMER SUNSET MOVIES IN MOUNT VERNON

The Mount Vernon Rec Center at 2017 Belle View Boulevard will be the location for family-friendly movies throughout the summer. Twice a month, from 7-11 p.m., movies will start at sunset.

- ❖ June 30 - "Nine Lives"
- ❖ July 14 - "The Jungle Book"
- ❖ July 28 - "Secret Life of Pets"
- ❖ Aug. 11 - "The Lego Batman Movie"
- ❖ Aug. 25 - "Beauty and the Beast"



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LIVING LEGENDS

Euille's 'One Alexandria'

FROM PAGE 14

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority at the same time, he was in a position to be instrumental in transportation decisions, like the Bus Rapid Transit on Route 1. Euille also helped create the Alliance for Alexandria's Uninsured bringing attention to the plight of about 5,500 low-income uninsured residents who had no health insurance because Virginia refused to expand Medicaid.

Euille maintained his interest in "One Alexandria" and listening. He also made the hard choices incumbent upon leaders — especially those serving long term. His choices won him both supporters and critics. In a vocal and engaged city, there are those who do not see positives in the arrival of the Patent and Trade Office, Waterfront Development, bike trails, new schools, a new home for people with Alzheimer's, or other decisions in which Euille had influence and a decisive vote.

Euille usually sleeps only five hours a night and describes himself as a workaholic and an "Ener-gizer Bunny." Rather than taking

a break from civic life, he has joined multiple boards of directors including: Alexandria Boys and Girls Club, Alexandria United Way Campaign (Chairman, 1998-2000), INOVA Hospital Health System, American Heart Association, ACT for Alexandria, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria, Friendship Firehouse, Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria, The Heron Global Foundation (Alexandria), NOVA Urban League Board (chairman, 2001), and Healthy Families Alexandria. He has also served as chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, a member of the Governor's Council on Virginia's Future, and was president of the Virginia Municipal League.

Euille has received numerous awards from many entities including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Northern Virginia Urban League, Virginia NAACP, the Washington Post, and Hopkins House. Most recently he was named 2016 Man of the Year from the Nu Xi Zeta Sorority.

Walker's Volunteering by Example

FROM PAGE 14

very good to her. After moving in 20 years ago, Walker went on to become a successful real estate agent with McEneaney Associates. Love and gratitude wind through her comments about Del Ray. So, too, does her assertion that the locals can't be beat: "I have met the best people volunteering."

Any doubt Walker means what she says evaporates when she gets a report that a volunteer is seriously ill. Walker tears up, looks down, and struggles for composure as the bad news sinks into her. "Volunteers are part of my family," she said.

The moment takes time to pass. Walker and others were preparing to bedeck Del Ray's main street, Mount Vernon Avenue, with year-end holiday decorations. Somewhere, too, is a reservoir of consolation fed by the steady flow of good done by the volunteers whom Walker regards so highly. It can be a hedge against life's rougher edges.

Cinema Del Ray is one place where those edges never intrude. "Parents and kids are able to go out together and have fun," Miller said of the crowds who now come by the hundreds. Though they arrive from a wide variety of backgrounds and walks of life, they don't leave that way. The

event has a way of bringing everyone together.

"Some movies have songs and the whole audience will sing along together," Miller said. "Jen also passes out glow bracelets to the kids. They wear them and run around. After a while, the entire area looks covered with fireflies."

Walker doesn't put just any old film up on the screen, either. Her first step is to ask people what they want to see. "It is their event," she said. For such reasons, Cinema Del Ray has become a beloved community happening. When bad weather threatens, Walker will get phone calls from would be attendees worried about a potential cancellation. Time and again, too, parents share their families' fond memories of spending summer evenings at the event.

Meanwhile, Walker keeps her own memories close. They involve peering through the cloud of imaginary fireflies Miller said forms as children with glow bracelets run about playfully. In those moments, Walker still finds Lucy, a young woman now, her past marked with helping out many times at Cinema Del Ray. The child grew up to become somebody truly special — a dedicated volunteer.

The fact that Lucy's giving heart struck an early beat because of something she created and sponsors is reward enough for Walker. For everyone else, it is what Living Legends do.

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The Pet Connection will publish on July 26, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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Announcements

Complaint For Absolute Divorce Of Jeffery Opoku Boateng and Yvonne Mecheel Sharpe issued in the state of North Carolina In the General Court Of Justice District Court Division File No. 17CVD00702 5/26/17. Address and phone number are as followed:
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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.

WELL-BEING RESOURCES

The City of Alexandria reminds the community of resources to help cope with uncertainty or fear following the June 14 shooting incident at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park. Such tragic events—in addition to ongoing violence, political turmoil, and rapidly unfolding world events—can result in added stress, uncertainty, fear and depression.

For those who are experiencing these feelings, know there are resources that can help.

- ❖ If you are in crisis and need to talk to someone, call or text the PRS CrisisLink Hotline at 703-527-4077 or text “connect” to 855-11 (TTY, please dial 711).
- ❖ The City offers resources for coping with uncertainty and fear (www.alexandriava.gov/92897), with information about reactions to and ways to cope with these feelings, tips on managing general stress, and how you can help support the reactions of children and adolescents who are experiencing these feelings (www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-parents/helping-children-cope-parents_146810.pdf).
- ❖ City employees have access to a free, confidential Employee Assistance Program with 24/7 telephone and online access.

For immediate police, fire, or emergency medical assistance, call 9-1-1. As a reminder, the City’s emergency



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Legendary Service

Living Legends of Alexandria president Jennifer Ayers, center, presents Linda Hafer and Bill Kehoe certificates of appreciation June 21 for their dedicated service to the LLA board of directors. Hafer and Kehoe, who was named a Living Legend in 2012, are leaving the board after several years of service to the organization.

hotlines also include the child protective services hotline at 703-746-5800; the domestic violence hotline at 703-746-4911; the emergency services for mental health or substance abuse crisis hotline at 703-746-3401; the adult protective services hotline at 703-746-5778; and the sexual assault hotline at 703-683-7273. All emergency hotlines operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app’s “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

Legals

Legals



Alexandria City Public Schools

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NUMBER 170601

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking information from qualified Offerors to provide **secondary literacy consulting services** for a minimum of (4) four secondary literacy professional development sessions. Each professional development session may last (6) six to (8) eight hours each with 25-50 participants.

Sealed electronic proposals shall be received in **ACPS’ Vendor Self-Service System on or before 3:00 p.m.** July 7, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the system time stamp in the Vendor Self-Service System. Mailed paper proposals shall not be accepted.

Offerors submitting proposals in the Vendor Self-Service System shall also send (1) one original response on a USB flash-drive, labeled as “Secondary Literacy Consulting Services, RFP 170601”, on or before 3:00 p.m. on July 7, 2017 to Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. The time of receipt for the mailed or hand-delivered USB shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement Office.

Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the offerors responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. **Registration on the Vendor Self Service system at <https://acps.muniselfservice.com/> is required.**

All questions must be submitted via email, with the notation, “**Secondary Literacy Consulting Services Question**” **before 3:00 p.m. on June 27, 2017.** If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS Vendor Self Service site (registration with login is required).

Information submitted may not be withdrawn. However, ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP.

Meloni Hurlay
Procurement Manager

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

SCHOOLS

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

Phoebe Otchere, of Alexandria, has been named as a new member of the 24th class of Honors students at the Honors College of Youngstown State University of Youngstown, Ohio. Otchere is a Combined Science major at YSU.

Sidwell Friends School alumnae **Matthew McLaughlin**, graduated recently from Bates University in Lewiston, Maine with a degree in politics and economics.

Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy won \$2,500 in a Michael and Son Services jingle contest. Lyles-Crouch finished second in the Northern Virginia category behind Terra Centre in Burke.

Taylor Logue, of Alexandria, was named to the dean's list for the 2016 fall semester at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Ga.

Khalila Karefa-Kargbo, of Alexandria, was inducted into the Randolph-Macon Academy chapter of the National English Honor Society.

Molly Ann Undersander, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in December. Undersander earned a bachelor of science with distinction from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Connecticut Wilson, of Alexandria, has been named to the chancellor's list for the 2016 fall semester at Troy University (Troy, Ala.).

Eugenia Miller, of Alexandria, made the dean's list for the fall 2016 semester at the University of the Cumberlands (Williamsburg, Ky.).

Brooke Barwick, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2016 semester at Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.).

Kiran Easterbrook, of Alexandria, has earned a place on the dean's list for the fall 2016 semester at Dean College (Franklin, Mass.).

Victoria Catalina Voellm, of Alexandria, a junior at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.), received the girls' varsity tennis Most Valuable Player Award.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 21

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FEMALE MENTORS NEEDED

Designing, crafting building, innovating...at **Space of Her Own (SOHO)**, preteen girls experiment with art and uncover unique talents with the encouragement of caring mentors. Girls are paired with professional adult female volunteers and engage in visual arts and life skills lessons to open their worlds to new possibilities. Pairs meet in a group setting one night a week for the initial program year, which ends in a team effort to give each girl's bedroom a makeover.

Information sessions for potential mentors will be held:

❖ **Thursday, July 6**, 6-7:30 p.m. at Dr. Oswald Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St.

❖ **Wednesday, July 19**, 6:30-8 p.m., Arlington Career Center (in the Common Area), 816 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington.

To register, visit www.spaceofherown.org. For more information, email Sarah Maroney at recruitment@spaceofherown.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Nomination Deadline. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission is accepting nominations for the Bernard "Ben" Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The Brenman Award, established in 2007, is open to businesses, organizations, families, professional preservationists, volunteers, students and other individuals who have demonstrated work or efforts in archaeological investigation, research, site protection, education, public interpretation, open space design, collections, or conservation. Nomination forms are available at www.alexandriava.gov/28180 or 703-746-4399.

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Infusing is Rarely Amusing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Four weeks out of every five, it appears as if I don't have cancer. Fortunately, I don't look the part. Nor do I act the part – in my opinion. However, there is one week out of every five when I most definitely feel the part: the week after my chemotherapy infusion, when eating is a particular challenge. The look, feel, taste and thought of food and/or drink is nearly impossible to swallow – literally and figuratively. And though I'm not in any pain during this post-chemotherapy weak, I am compromised nonetheless.

Friends and family who are familiar with my "normal" eating habits (I'd order off the children's menu if I could) have joked that since I'm unable to eat any of the usual and customary Kenny selections, perhaps I should try eating foods that I would never select: Brussels sprouts, grapefruit, tuna fish in a can, fresh fish on a platter, all condiments other than mayonnaise, all legumes and a million other foods that you probably love. Plain and boring is how I roll (a potato roll is my preference), repeatedly.

The problem is that when I'm post chemo, nothing satiates: salty, sweet or "snacky;" hot, cold or medium; fast or slow; store-bought, home-made or restaurant-ready. It's all merely a variation on a theme where my back stiffens, my head tilts back and down and my eating mind says "no." It's been this way for about two and a half years now. And though I don't look the least bit undernourished, I am overwhelmed by these week-long post-chemotherapy eating fits and non-starts.

Naturally I have discussed this side effect with my oncologist. When asked how long this situation lasts, my seven-ish day struggle seems about average, according to my doctor, maybe even slightly shorter than some other patients he treats who are infused with the same chemotherapy drug as I am. Apparently, there are other patients where the eating challenges last even longer than mine. And since there's nothing to be prescribed/recommended to affect this eating problem/lack of outcome, all I can do is live with the consequences of my treatment. Live being the operative word. So unless I stop treatment, this eating challenge will persist, presumably. (Although, there's scant clinical information regarding side effects on stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients still living after eight years and four months as we're a patient population that doesn't much exist. We're not exactly unicorns, but neither are we ponies at the Fair.)

Fairness – and normalcy for me was officially gone on Feb. 27, 2009, the date of my diagnosis and the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. But so what. As of that date, my perspective/orientation became about living forward, not recriminating backward. Sure, the present was important, but the future was more important, and the past, well, it had passed. No more could I afford to consider who, what, where, when, why and how I ended up in this predicament. My goal was to remain positive, take the bad with good, survive until the next drug approval by the FDA (of which there have been half a dozen in the last two years specifically for the treatment of lung cancer) and try not to impose my problems on anyone else.

Which I believe I've succeeded in doing. Oh sure, I've imposed myself on you regular readers, but what I've imposed on you have been my experiences. Considering the context, I'd like to think I've shared, not self-indulged. Moreover, I'd like to think we're all better off for the 'experience.' I know I am.

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

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