

CONNECTION FAMILIES

Page 16

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Emerald Isle on the Waterfront

an Mulhall has been in the United States for about a week. As the newly appointed ambassador to the United States from Ireland, it's been a whirlwind of meetings. But with his first weekend at his new posting, he spent it in Alexandria celebrating a taste of home.

On Aug. 26, the Ballyshaners hosted an Irish Festival in Waterfront Park, filling the grassy lot with beer vendors and political parties. An opening ceremony was kicked off with a parade by the City of Alexandria's Pipes and Drums, followed closely by an appearance by Saint Patrick, the Alexandria City Council, and Mulhall with his family.

"We're a small country," Mulhall said, "but we're a far bigger country than our population figure ... because of the tens of millions who identify



Ambassador Dan Mulhall



Members of the Alexandria Pipes and Drums performing.

with Ireland. That makes us stronger ... We feel a close, powerful association with those who feel an affinity for Ireland and for those with a family background in Ireland." Pat Troy, chairman emeritus and founder of the City's St. Patrick's Day Parade, called the day's celebration with the ambas-

sador historic.

"I never knew 38 years ago when I founded the parade that it would still be ongoing," said Troy. "It really shows the importance of this ... It's all about bringing fun and enjoyment to this great city."

— Vernon Miles



Alexandria Pipes and Drums marching for the Irish Festival Parade.



Saint Patrick marching in the Irish Festival Parade.

What's Ahead For Alexandria

Council lays out legislative priorities for fall.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

onfederate statues. Affordable housing redevelopment. The Business Improvement District. The Alexandria City Council has a busy year ahead. Before the council goes back into session on Sept, 12, council members shared their thoughts on the upcoming priorities and biggest political issues.

Commercial Development

For Mayor Allison Silberberg and several members of the City Council, one of the biggest items on the council's agenda will be looking at the how to help push forward on Alexandria's commer cial property projects.

There are two troubled sites in particular that Silberberg said need a particular focus: Landmark Mall and the Victory Center. Landmark Mall has faced a long, slow decline. Before the final few stores were pushed out of the main hallways earlier this year, all that was left was a handful of local stores bookended by a Macy's and Sears. The Howard Hughes corporation, which owned the middle section of the mall, acquired the Macy's property after it was announced that store would be closing. The acquisition broke a gridlock that had stalled redevelopment of the site into an open-air, mixed-use community approved by the City Council in 2013.

The Victory Center has undergone its own troubled saga in 2017. After a decade sitting empty,

SEE COUNCIL LAYS, PAGE 4

Amazing Grace

Dance instructor, choreographer Grace Machanic dies at 81.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

race Machanic was just 3 years old when she first stepped into a pair of ballet slippers. When a knee injury in her teens prevented her from becoming a professional dancer, the petite, vivacious blond persevered, sharing her passion for theatre through teaching and choreography. On Aug. 17, the founder of the School for Swans dance studio died suddenly of a pulmonary

See Dance, Page 5



Grace Manly Machanic

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News



A view from the turret below the cockpit of the WWII Boeing B-17 Madras Maiden.



Pilots Bob Hill and Keith Youngblood prepare for takeoff Aug. 28 in a WWII Boeing B-17.



A photo of WWII veterans hangs inside the WWII B-17 Madras Maiden.

Flying Fortress' Restored B-17 honors WWII aviation.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

he World War II Boeing B-17 Fly ing Fortress "Madras Maiden," one of only 12 B-17s still flying today, will take to the skies over Baltimore in its closest stop to Alexandria in the Liberty Foundation's 2017 Salute to Veterans Tour.

Dubbed the "Flying Fortress" as a result of her defensive fire power, the B-17 saw action in every theater of operation during WWII. There were 12,732 B-17's produced between 1935 and 1945, of these 4,735 were lost in combat. Following WWII, the B-17 saw combat in three more wars: B-17's saw service in Korea, Israel used them in the war of 1948 and they were used in

Public flights and ground tours will be available at Martin State Airport Sept. 2-3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Taking a flight in the B-17 is the ultimate history lesson," said Al Pollard, Martin State Airport chief of operations. "We want people to come out to see and experience this airplane."

"Madras Maiden" was built toward the end of the war and never saw any combat. It is painted in the colors of the 381st Bomb Group. The 381st BG flew 297 operational missions during the war, dropping 22,000 tons of bombs. During this time they lost 131 B-17's and downed over 223 enemy air-

"WWII was probably the most transformative event of the 20th century," said Bob Hill, a volunteer pilot with the Liberty Foundation. "If you were assigned to a B-17, you had a 23 percent chance of survival. You



The World War II Boeing B-17 Madras Maiden sits on the tarmac at Martin State Airport Aug. 28. The restored military aircraft will be open to the public Sept. 2-3.

were battling both the enemy and the altitude in an unpressurized plane. It was a horrible environment to exist in."

The nonprofit Liberty Foundation operates the "Madras Maiden" year round in its mission to honor veterans and educate current and future generations on aviation his-

"Other battlefields have their monuments and memorials," said Hill, "but you can never return to the battlefield of the sky."

The B-17 flight experience takes 45 minutes with approximately half hour in flight. B-17 Flights are \$410 for Liberty Foundation members and \$450 for non-members. Passengers can become a Liberty Foundation Member for \$40 and receive the member discount for family and friends. Ground tours of the aircraft are free.

"While the cost to take a flight sounds expensive, it must be put in perspective when compared to the B-17's operating cost," added Hill. "A Flying Fortress burns 200 gallons of fuel per hour and cost over \$5,000 per flight hour to operate. But it's important to the Liberty Foundation to preserve the legacy of courage, valor and sacrifice of our WWII veterans."

more information, www.libertyfoundation.org.

ODBC Invitational Regatta

Sailors representing Australia, Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands and the United States took to the Potomac River Aug. 19 to compete in a series of sailboat races at the Alexandria waterfront as part of the 2nd annual Old Dominion Boat Club Invitational Regatta. At the end of four races, the Netherlands took first place, followed by Canada in second and the team representing the United States in third.

City To Celebrate Constitution Week

ayor Allison Silberberg will sign the official Proclamation commemorating Constitution Week, Sept. 17-23, in Council Chambers at City Hall on Sept, 12, at 11 a.m. The signing marks the country's 230th birthday.

Participating in the signing are students from Mt. Vernon Community School, Jefferson-Houston Pre-K–8, Samuel W. Tucker Public School and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy. Also attending are Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) Interim Superintendent Lois F. Berlin, school staff and members of five local DAR chapters. Chuck Aldrich, a colonial reenactor portraying Richard Conway, merchant and friend of George Washington, will explain how he and fellow Alexandrians saw the events that unfolded in Philadelphia.



Chuck Aldrich as Richard Conway, 1740-1806, an Alexandria gentleman, merchant and politician, as well as a Revolutionary War captain and friend of **George Washington.**

To commemorate the Constitution, students from four city public schools will sing the "Preamble" and "The Bill of Rights RAP." The music was composed by Debra Lindsay, music teacher at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.

Council Lays Out Legislative Priorities for the Fall

FROM PAGE

it looked like the Victory Center in the Eisenhower Valley might finally be filled. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that the location had been selected as the new headquarters. But after a controversy surrounding issues with the contract, on Aug. 25 it was announced the TSA would be moving to a location in Springfield instead. According to Silberberg, other options remain available for the Victory Center and the City Council is beginning to look at them.

But even as the Victory Center looks for new tenants, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said Alexandria is going to have to face the fact that huge federal spending and a general reliance on federal offices as a primary economic driver is a thing of the past.

"We are managing a transition in the economy," said Wilson. "We have to, as a region and as a city, break ourselves from our dependence on regular federal spending increases. Even before Jan. 20 that has been a necessity. That is now more dire with more cuts to federal spending. That's a mortal threat to this region. How we deal with that is pretty important."

For nearly every member of the council, there were different issues related to commercial property development, from the broader scope of city-wide management to helping small businesses transition into the city.

For Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper and Councilman John Chapman, the biggest story on commercial development in the fall will be the return of the Business Improvement District (BID). The BID was a plan put forward by some local business leaders to form a cohesive organization for businesses and property owners in Old Town, which in exchange for 10 cents of every \$100 of assessed value would provide services, promote regional advertising, and bring new activities to Old Town. But the plan faced opposition from other business owners, many of them saying the BID would only add a new cost to an already overtaxed community. After years of planning and public discussion, the BID proposal was sent back to the drawing board by City Council on June 27. Sometime in the fall, a revised BID proposal will be presented to the affected business community. If the new BID can be approved by 55 percent of the businesses in a local election, the plans will

"I'm very interested in the BID conversation," said Chapman. "I'll want to see where that ends up."

"The BID is coming back in a revised form, at least that was the request," said Pepper. "That is going to occupy a good bit of our time and energy."

For Councilman Willie Bailey, the Fall 2017 City Council session will be about finding ways to make it easier for businesses, large and small, to open in Alexandria.

"Before I was on the council, I didn't think about it a lot," said Bailey. "But I've been hearing complaints from businesses about red tape; that it's taking longer to open up



From left: Councilman Tim Lovain, Councilman Paul Smedberg, Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilman John Chapman, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, Councilman Willie Bailey, and Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper.

business or pound the first nail compared to other jurisdictions There's been a lot of conversations going on amongst colleagues about what we can do to cut the red tape and make sure businesses can open quicker and make their deadline."

For Bailey, addressing any other issues first requires making sure the city expands its commercial tax base, even in the face of pushback from local residents.

"Every time new business comes up, we get pushback from residents in locations they're moving into," said Bailey. "We can't win for losing. No one wants their taxes raised, but no one wants new businesses brought into city. It upsets me any time we have to vote on that, people that come out during public hearing and want to shoot it down, but don't want their taxes raised either. Those taxes go back to good schools; goes back to affordable housing."

Affordable Housing

Several council members also pointed to the continual battle to maintain Alexandria's affordable housing as one of the biggest issues in 2017.

"We've lost thousands in affordable housing," said Bailey. "Where are these people going? Our nurses, police officers, teachers; where do they live? We need to find somewhere for them to live so they aren't traveling far away."

"We're going to have to deal with housing affordability," said Wilson. "We have to make sure Alexandria is accessible to rent and buy and raise families here."

Some on the council expressed concerns about plans for the upcoming redevelopment of the Andrew Adkins. In the fall, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) will present plans to the council for the redevelopment of the Andrew Adkins neighborhood. The site currently has 90 units of affordable housing. Plans presented in January proposed replacing that housing with 60 low income public housing units, 18 moderate-income workforce units, and 387 higher-income market rate units. Twelve other low-income ARHA units lost from Adkins in this development would be replaced off site. For several members of the council, this deal is

"The most critical thing is returning more of the units to the site at Andrew Adkins,"

said Pepper. "There's 30 units that were not coming back."

"There have been some stumbling blocks," said Silberberg. "We're focused on doing all we can to move that forward and moving that back into development."

Pepper and Chapman said the council is beginning to look at modernizing Resolution 830, originally enacted in 1982, which stipulates that every public housing unit that is displaced must be replaced.

"Right now, ARHA takes that as meaning they must replace the same amount of units," said Chapman, but he noted that it doesn't take into account things like the size of the unit being replaced. Under the current wording, a three-bedroom apartment could be replaced with a studio and still meet the letter of the law for Resolution 830. "We're looking to clarify that."

Schools

Along with affordable housing, several members of the council cited schools as a major issue going into the fall.

"We're going to be looking to see if there's more we can be doing to help our students receive an education," said Silberberg.

After years of arguments back and forth between the City Council and School Board about long-term funding and timelines for projects, in early 2017 the council established an Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force to examine the needs of Alexandria public schools and how to prioritize funding for projects. According to Councilman Paul Smedberg, part of the upcoming discussions on the council will involve how to implement the recommended plans put together by the task force.

With a new joint task force between the cities and schools to address long-term needs for the schools, council members expressed optimism about working with the schools on addressing the school's overpopulation crisis.

"The population is growing," said Bailey. "More kids are coming into the school system. We're going to have to find a way to make sure there's enough seats to put all these butts in and make sure they are educated well. We believe task force will come up with some good ideas for us."

Confederate Memorials

After a series of violent clashes related to

a statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville resulted in the death of a young woman in an attack by a white supremacist, there's been a nationwide discussion on the role of Confederate symbols in public spaces. The City Council's attention again turns towards the Appomattox statue. The statue is at the intersection of Prince and Washington streets and for years has been the subject of local debate. According to Pepper and Councilman Tim Lovain, the City Council will be revisiting the issue again in 2017.

Throughout 2016, an advisory group met to discuss Confederate names and symbols in the city and form recommendations. The group discussed flag policy, potential street name changes, and the Appomattox statue. The statue is owned by the Daughters of the Confederacy and any removal or relocation of the statue would require approval from the state legislature. The council voted to petition the state legislation to allow the city to move the statue, but none of Alexandria's state legislators would carry the bill. However, state Sen. Adam Ebbin announced that he would carry forward a bill this year to ask for permission to relocate the statue.

"[Confederate symbols] are going to be a big discussion," said Lovain. "There are a lot of folks scouring that statute to see see how firm that is. The Appomattox statue is owned by Daughters of Confederacy, but what about the land underneath it?"

Meanwhile, one of the other changes accepted by the council's from last year's advisory group was the renaming of Jefferson Davis Highway. The survey for new names is ongoing until Sept. 15, after which the council will begin discussions about selecting a new name.

Infrastructure

The less glamorous side of city politics, like sewer maintenance and road work, is finding a new spotlight from some members of the City Council.

"We're dealing with issues of deferred infrastructure needs and investments that we're required to address," said Wilson. "That means capacity, roads, municipal facilities, sewers ... infrastructure in general is a big issue in this city, as it is for the country."

For Lovain, one of the focuses of the infrastructure discussion is the ongoing Metro crisis. A year after Metro's "Safe Track" plan required long stretches of Metro closures to do repairs to the rail lines, questions remain about how to fund ongoing maintenance and repairs for the beleaguered transit system.

"The future of the Metro is more than just Alexandria, but it's something we're going to have a hand in," said Lovain. "Now, the big issue is funding for the long-term financial stability. That's going to require new sources of dedicated revenue. That may require action by the legislature throughout Virginia jurisdictions to tax ourselves. That could require federal help, but will require collaboration throughout the area."

News

Dance Instructor, Choreographer Grace Machanic Dies at 81

From Page 1

embolism at her home in Old Town. She was 81.

"I had Broadway talent whenever Grace was my choreographer," said Frank Shutts, a local theatre director who worked closely with Machanic for more than 30 years. "A lot of people have ideas but can't make them happen. Grace knew how to realize those ideas and how to cultivate the talent of each individual student."

Grace Wishart Manly was born Jan. 19, 1936, in Lynchburg, Va. She moved to the Washington area in 1950, graduating from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in 1954. During that time, she began her career as a dancer, first with the Washington Ballet, then as an apprentice with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo when it was touring the U.S.

Following her dance injury, Machanic earned a bachelor of science in education from Madison College, now James Madison University, in 1958. She taught English at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, where she began choreographing the school musicals.

A blind date introduced her to local real estate developer Roger Machanic. The two were married in 1963 and moved to Alexandria in 1965, where they raised two children, Bruce and Laura.

In Alexandria, Machanic began teaching tap and ballet in several studios and cho-



Grace Machanic teaching pointe in her School for Swans ballet school.

reographing for numerous theaters in Northern Virginia. Eventually, she opened her own studio, School for Swans, and has taught more than 3,000 students for 43 years.

For the last 11 years, Machanic choreographed the musicals at Bishop Ireton High School and won the choreography award for her work at Little Theatre of Alexandria for "Spamalot," "Hair," "Forever Plaid" and "Das Barbecue."

"Grace always put her students first," said Shutts, who along with Machanic chaper-



Grace Machanic, center, attended the Broadway
Teacher's Workshop in New York City just a few weeks
before her death. She enjoyed dinner at Sardi's on
July 22 with Alexandria theater veterans Kath
Dillaber, Kevin Tuerff, Frank Shutts and Joanna
Henry.

oned theatre students on trips to New York and Europe. "She knew how to give them something to strive for but never overchoreographed beyond their abilities."

In addition to her passion for dance and theatre, Machanic was an avid reader of historical fiction and non-fiction and had a life-long love of sailing. Since the 1980s, she maintained a second family home on Maryland's Eastern shore where she entertained and sailed frequently.

In recent years, Machanic worked closely with writer and filmmaker Paul Glenshaw

archiving and documenting the papers of her grandfather, Charles Matthews Manly, who was the lead engineer under Secretary of the Smithsonian Samuel Pierpont Langley on the effort to invent the airplane.

"One of the things Mom was the proudest of was her grandfather's role in inventing the airplane," said Machanic's daughter Laura. "Serving as Langley's assistant, Charles Manly manned their first aircraft, the Grand Aerodrome, as had been commissioned by the U.S. Military, twice crash-

See Dance Instructor, Page G

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

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students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Celebrate

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Gazette Parket





PEOPLE

Northern Virginia Urban League Supports Youth Summit

he Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL) participated as a convening partner for the Strong Youth, Strong Communities (SYSC) Youth Summit on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. More than 400 youth, ages 13-18, and community partners were in attendance. Other convening partners included the Greater Baltimore Urban League and the Greater Washington Urban League.

The SYSC initiative is led by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, CENTENE Corporation, and Envolve. It seeks to equip youth with life skills, resources, and leadership-focused engagement to unlock potential; promote active thinking and sound judgment; and connect students with adult leaders and mentors committed to developing youth leaders.

The free SYSC Youth Summit allowed students an opportunity to provide their perspectives for building stronger communities and chat about issues that were important to them by participating in interactive breakout sessions with Pro Football Hall of Famers Darrell Green and Aeneas Williams. Green and Williams also shared real-life experiences that led to their success on and off the football field. A basic vision screening was also made available to attendees with glasses being mailed within three weeks to those needing corrected vision.

Local community organizations that participated in the Youth Summit via the outreach efforts of the Northern Virginia Urban League included: 100 Black Men of Greater Washington, D.C.; Jack & Jill of America, Inc.; Mount Zion Baptist Church, Arlington; Shiloh Baptist Church, Alexandria; and members of the T.C. Williams High School Titans Football Team.

"Because of the huge investment of time and resources made by corporate partners and Pro Football Hall of Famers Green and Williams for the Youth Summit, lives of youth in our community were impacted and life-long lessons were learned about character, leadership, work ethic, and how to achieve and have success on the field of



Keynote Speakers/Pro Football Hall of Famers Darrell Green (center left) and Aeneas Williams (center right) with members of the T.C. Williams High School Titans Football Team.

life," said Lavern Chatman,

director, Fund Development, NVUL. For more information about the Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org

Convening Partners: (from left) Joyce Larkin, CENTENE Corporation; J. Howard Henderson, Greater **Baltimore Urban League; Lavern** Chatman, Northern Virginia Urban League; and George H. Lambert Jr., **Greater Washington Urban League.**



"I had Broadway talent

— Theatre director Frank Shutts

whenever Grace was

my choreographer."

Dance Instructor, Choreographer Grace Machanic Dies at 81

From Page 5

ing into the Potomac, the second time only nine days before the Wright Brothers made their history-making first flight."

Machanic is survived by her son, Bruce Manly Machanic of Arlington, and his wife Susan Redding Machanic; daughter Laura Manly Machanic, and her husband Tom Dabney of Alexandria; sister Trammell Beall Maury of Kensington, Md.; first cousins with whom she grew up in the same house in Lynchburg Bill Grossmann (Judy Grossmann) of Berlin, Germany, Bob Leigh Grossmann (Sibylle Grossmann) of Petersburg, Va., and Jim Grossmann (Joanne Vinyard) of Alexan-



Grace Machanic with granddaughter Kathryn Machani

Additional survivors include grandchildren Kathryn and Tyler Machanic, stepgrandchildren Emory and Steven Dabney; former step-grandchildren Carlos Raul and Ernesto De La Guardia of Panama; sisternumerous nieces, nephews, more cousins, family requests donations be made to friends, colleagues and students.

She was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Roger Machanic, who died in 2016 after a 13-year battle Alzheimer's disease.

A Celebration of Life

service will be held Oct. 5 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St, at 3 p.m. A reception will follow at the adjoining Norton Hall. That evening at 6 p.m., The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., will host "Encore for Grace," followed by a

in-law Karin Machanic of Underhill, Vt.; and dessert reception. In lieu of flowers, the

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, Machanic's "second home."

"I never imagined my theatre adventures without Grace," said Shutts, who along with Machanic re-

cently returned from a teacher's workshop in New York. "This is a huge loss for the community. But Grace would never want people standing and crying over her. She wants everyone to enjoy life the way she did."

PEOPLE



Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer with Boy Scout Jonathan Nearman



Vice Mayor Justin Wilson helped wash cars alongside the Scouts and friends.

Eagle Project Benefits Carpenter's Shelter

oy Scout Jonathan
Nearman was part of
many car wash
fundraisers while on his high
school track team. But earlier this
month, he planned and managed
his own car wash as his Eagle
Scout project.

His goal was to make sure every child at the Carpenter's Shelter had needed supplies for school.

He succeeded in his Back-to-School Car Wash – with help from his Alexandria Troop 301 members, his Scout cousin from Northeast Maryland and many other volunteers – by raising hundreds of dollars worth of new school supplies while the shelter received more than \$800 in cash to buy additional school supplies for their families.

It was a busy day at the North Old Town shelter as former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer answered Nearman's invitation and brought his car in for a wash. Spicer posed with the volunteers for selfies and group pictures as

oy Scout Jonathan his car was being washed. Spicer Nearman was part of many car wash "White House Press Secretary sers while on his high rack team. But earlier this way in his clean car.

Mayor Allison Silberberg also paid a visit and posed for pictures and chatted with the crowd as well.

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson took it one step further, getting deep into the suds washing cars alongside the Scouts and friends.

Father Andrew from St. Mary's Church – which charters Troop 301 – and Todd Bolick, District Executive from the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council, also had their vehicles washed as a show of support for the Eagle project and Carpenter's Shelter.

The project received support from Sugar Shack for breakfast, Monterey Pizza for lunch, Nova Retail for signs and Carpenter's Shelter Executive Director Shannon Steene and his staff for logistical assistance.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH DEC. 1

Honoring Alexandria's Veterans.

As part of Alexandria's World War One Commemoration, the Office of Historic Alexandria is collecting knitted or crocheted poppies to honor veterans. These poppies will be used in a community art project and displayed during a special event for the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Poppies can be any shade of red, 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Dropoff poppies along with a card with your name or group's name on it for recognition at any Alexandria City Public Library, City Recreation

Center, The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, or Hooray for Books! Visit bit.ly/2uM6M4x.

SCHOOLS

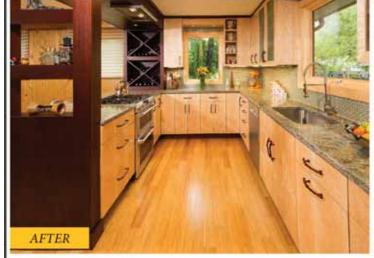
Public Meetings. The Ad Hoc Joint
City-Schools Facility Investment Task
Force will hold two subcommittee
meetings related to its mission to
oversee the development of a Joint
City-Schools Facility Capital
Improvement Plan and provide
recommendations related to further
capital project implementation.
Agendas and relevant materials will
be posted on the project website
prior to each
meeting:www.alexandriava.gov/
97580.

 Alternative Project Delivery Methods Subcommittee meets Friday, Sept. 1,
 SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

Remodeled Home Tour in Arlington!

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Helping After Harvey

Give locally in Texas; give money not stuff.

he scenes of devastation from Greater Houston Hurricane Harvey in Texas will prompt many generous people to contribute to immediate relief efforts.

First, a reminder to give money, not stuff. The organizations on the ground need money now to address particular needs.

As a local paper, it fair to say that if we had a similar disaster here in Northern Virginia, we would want EDITORIAL donated money to go to local

organizations that understand local needs, rules, supply chains, etc. Give locally.

Houston Food Bank

Displaced families and individuals will need to be fed for a long time.

Donate online www.houstonfoodbank.org 535 Portwall St. Houston, TX 77029 713-223-3700

Community Foundation

Will coordinate the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund to accept tax deductible flood relief donations for victims that have been affected by the recent floods.

Donate online ghcf.org 5120 Woodway Dr. Suite 6000 Houston, TX 77056 713-333-2200

The Coalition for the **Homeless of Houston/Harris County**

Tens of thousands of people in and around **Austin Pets Alive!** Houston will be newly homeless as the floods

Donate online www.homelesshouston.org 2000 Crawford Street, Suite 700 Houston, TX 77002 713-739-7514 www.homelesshouston.org/take-action/do-

Houston Humane Society

Donate online at www.houstonhumane.org www.houstonhumane.org/(Give)/giving/ general-donation

14700 Almeda Road Houston, TX 77053 713-433-6421

San Antonio Humane Society

Is housing pets of people displaced by Harvey who are taking shelter at the AT&T Center or other places in San Antonio.

Donate online at sahumane.org 4804 Fredericksburg Road San Antonio, TX 78229 210-226-7461 or 210-518-9742.

This rescue group partners with local rescues. Austin Pets Alive! has been helping shelters in the direct line of Hurricane Harvey. They've transported more than 330 animals to their shelter and are expecting hundreds more.

Donate online www.austinpetsalive.org/donate/donate-now/ or visit austinpetsalive.org/ hurricane-harvey-evacuations/

Jesus Loves Nazis Christian nonviolence and the missed opportunity of Charlottesville.

By Dan Brendel

eflecting on the violence in Charlottesville, a friend noted how hard it is really to be a Christian. He's right. "How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life," said Jesus in his Sermon the Mount. That great discourse on Christian faith and ethics also includes admonitions like: "Offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right

COMMENTARY

cheek, turn the other one to him as well;" "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you;" "Do to

others whatever you would have them do to you." Or, as St. Paul said, "Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good."

White supremacy is an evil that we must vigorously resist. And yet, counter protesters wielding their own obscenities and implements of violence did not represent the kind of conquering good that Jesus spoke of and carried out on the cross. Imagine that the armed protesters had instead met counter protesters on their knees with candles, photographs of lost youth, religious emblems, bottles of water to give away. There would be no question about the righteousness of the latter's cause. Just as there is no question when we see photos from the civil rights movement of unarmed African Americans enduring police truncheons, dogs and fire hoses. Such nonviolence, which unequivocally lays bare the depravity and smallness of the oppressor, recalls the night that Jesus was arrested by a mob. "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?" he said, almost satirically. And when Peter struck with his sword, Jesus said, "Stop, no more of this!"

This is no time to rationalize and romanticize a preferred brand of vigilantism, as some commentators on the left are doing. This is a time to seek the narrow road.

"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that," said the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. "This does not mean that we abandon our militant efforts. With every ounce of our energy we must continue to rid our nation of the incubus of racial injustice. But we need not in the process relinquish our privilege and obligation to love."

King also wrote, "Nonviolence is power, but it is the right and good use of power. Constructively it can save the white man as well as the [African American]." Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the black clergyman who led South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, made a similar point. He quoted a man who, while being tortured by white police, thought, "By the way, these are God's children and yet they are behaving like animals. They need us to help them recover the humanity they have lost." That is the varsity level opportunity in confrontations like Charlottesville.

Those who suffer from racial prejudices absolutely have a God-given right to see those prejudices redressed. Effecting such change is an imperative upon us all. And yet, precisely because of their suffering, they possess a moral authority to infuse our body politic with a transfiguring love that seeks out the humanity, the image of God, in all people — even Nazis. This anti-racist movement is essentially a good one, but it needs wise leaders. To my knowledge, no such leaders emerged on Aug. 12.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical **But Dirty**

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to Mayor Allison Silberberg Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and members of the City Council.

I am writing to endorse the letter appearing in the Aug. 24-30 issue of the Alexandria Gazette Packet written by city resident, items already pointed out by Ms. ways, especially those abutting Kathrvn M. Huettner. I, too, am Huettner, I must add the poor con-restaurants, have nauseating, constantly annoyed and embar- dition of the brick sidewalks, the smelly streams of grease running rassed by the appearance of our sidewalk trashcans which are of- down them and onto the streets. downtown/Old Town area. Quite honestly, if I were a tourist here, I would include in my description, once home, the charm of the historical sights of the city, but also, surprisingly, the dirty, unkempt streetscape. In addition to the

ten overflowing with their rims covered by ABC gum, drink residue and other sticky objects that have not made it in, but on! There are cigarette butts all over the streets and leaf and tree detritus around the sewers. Many alley-

There is visual clutter from all the signage on posts and poles, often redundant and unnecessary.

I realize that city maintenance is a huge task, but as Ms. Heuttner suggests, we don't need an uber-SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



Perhaps Just Asking 'Why?'

BY KERRY CARTER

ppomattox" has held place at the intersection of South Washington and Prince streets in Old Town since the United Confederate Veterans erected it there in 1889. He stands in a posture of repose, arms folded, head bowed, pondering. He doesn't carry a weapon, just a small pouch that slings across the chest to rest on his right hip. It's the slouch hat, lazily drooping from his right hand that gets attention, subtly conveying the resignation and surrender of a former Confederate soldier. According to the inscription, he grieves for all

COMMENTARY

ing for the cause of the defeated South. The U.S. Civil War

those who died fight-

of 1861-1865 was the most deadly in our nation's history. Estimates are that over 750,000 Americans died in that bloody conflict due to battle, disease, starvation or accident — far more than the total of all U.S. soldiers killed in WW I. WW II. the Korean War and Vietnam. Some two million men fought for the Union, one million for the Confederacy, with the Union side sustaining much greater losses. The average age was 26. One in four men who headed off to war never made it home. The vast majority of dead were buried in mass graves or left behind to decompose where they lay. These are shocking statistics.

Back to our familiar Confederate. I grew up in Alexandria, and even as a kid understood that here was a man whose cause was lost. I always admired the sculpture. His resigned, brooding posture provokes a kind of contemplation, as opposed to any sort of celebration. While he mourns the hundreds of thousands of Confederate dead, we also hear the echo of a greater multitude of young men who perished for the only just cause: the preservation of our Union and the abolition of slavery.

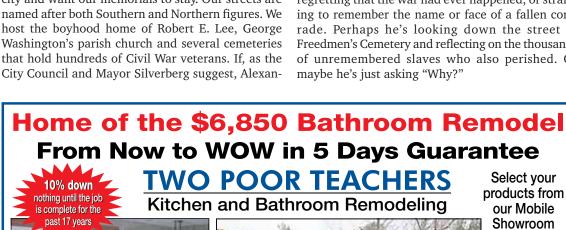
I believe that most Alexandrians are proud of our city and want our memorials to stay. Our streets are named after both Southern and Northern figures. We host the boyhood home of Robert E. Lee, George Washington's parish church and several cemeteries that hold hundreds of Civil War veterans. If, as the



"Appomattox" at 7:27 p.m., Aug. 25, as a huge gray cloud was traveling from the east over Old Town while the sun was setting in the west.

dria should be purged of the names and monuments they deem offensive, our tangible past will be lost. I wonder if future Alexandrians will ever see and learn absent these visual reminders that encapsulate so much of our fascinating, painful past. Saturday night following the Charlottesville debacle, an Alexandria police officer was posted on South Washington Street just opposite Appomattox. I could only surmise it was to guard the statue from a potentially destructive mob. Please, I prayed, not in my city.

Next time you travel Washington Street, take a good look at our dejected Appomattox. He's likely regretting that the war had ever happened, or straining to remember the name or face of a fallen comrade. Perhaps he's looking down the street at Freedmen's Cemetery and reflecting on the thousands of unremembered slaves who also perished. Or



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Help More Local Students Go to College

By Bruce Johnson Board Member and Treasurer Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

s kids across Alexandria prepare to head back to school, many fortunate and talented students across the city are packing up and heading off to college. We should think ahead so that next year all those with the drive, determination and scholastic ability to attend college are not left behind simply because they cannot afford it.

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria works tirelessly to make sure college is affordable and accessible for all Alexandria students. I know this because I've been on

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

the Board of the Fund since 2013. My wife Libby and I have been contributors for about 20 years, beginning when we sent the first of our

three children to T.C. Williams. Over the past 30 years, thanks to the generosity of past and current members of the Alexandria community, the Fund has helped send more than 4,500 Alexandria students with financial need to college and awarded more than \$13.5 million in scholarships to T.C. Williams students who might not otherwise have a chance at college. Importantly, the Fund now also provides comprehensive financial aid advising for students to help them access any-and-all additional private and institutional aid available to help them



ACPS School Board Member Veronica Nolan and 2017 Scholarship Fund recipient Wintana Kiflu who will be attending Howard University this fall.

pay for college.

If you already are a supporter of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, or you are looking for a new way to make Alexandria a better community, there has simply never been a better time to support the Fund. The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria has recently been chosen by the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive select Tax Credit Status. We are one of only 70 educational organizations statewide to receive this designation.

As an approved charity under the Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Program, we can now offer our supporters a 65 percent tax credit for your contribution on your Virginia state income tax return — which when coupled with standard federal deductions



ACPS School Board Vice-Chair Cindy Anderson and 2017 Scholarship Fund recipient Sugeivis Gomez who will be attending Georgetown University School of Foreign Service this fall.

for your contribution, in some circumstances, can add up to over 80 percent after-tax return on your investment in our children. Remember that tax credits are different than deductions. Tax credits result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your actual tax bill. In a few cases, our new tax credit status can even result in zero-cost charitable giving, and the credits may in fact save you more in taxes than the amount of your gift. For instance, the tax credits are applicable to donations of stock and appreciable assets and can allow you to fully eliminate capital gains taxes.

The credits are in limited supply and will be given on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the fall for use on your tax return next spring. Please contact the fund today at scholarshipfund@acps.k12.va.us or 703-824-6730. Our team will be happy to provide you with the necessary information to make the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credit process quick and easy.

Most importantly, however, giving money to the Scholarship Fund is the right thing to do. If you have ever gone to the Awards night and seen more than 150 students walk across the stage, you've seen the smiles on the faces of both the recipients and the scholarship contributors. The montage of diverse student faces and the many and varied life stories of the students receiving scholarships is amazing and inspiring.

With the cost of higher education continuing to rise exponentially, need-based scholarships become more important to more and more families. T.C. Williams has a significant number of bright, deserving and ambitious students from low-income families.

The need for scholarships in this community has never been greater. Just one college scholarship can make a difference in the stability and financial independence of an Alexandrian child and their family, maybe for generations. We have an opportunity to improve our community one student and one family at a time.

Thank you for joining Libby and I, and many other Alexandrians, to support the efforts of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria in changing lives forever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 8

council like BID, to do a good job. We need supervision and oversight to use properly, the city departments that we already have.

Mimi Olinger Alexandria

Southern Heritage

To the Editor:

President Trump was right the first time about the Charlottesville rioters; he condemned both sides. Let me add a third guilty party — the Charlottesville City Council, who voted to remove the Robert E. Lee statue after it stood for nearly a century without controversy.

Congratulations fellows; you can now pass on to your citizens millions of dollars in personal injury lawsuits.

Left-wing violence by Antifa, the "antifascist" league that is pretty darn fascist, will always, tragically, provoke right wing extremist violence.

But what about Robert E. Lee? Was he really a fascist and a racist? To the contrary, Lee represents that rarest of public men.

He was a Christian gentleman who stated, "Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders.

Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice."

The removal of Lee's statue, like ISIS destruction of Buddhist monuments in Afghanistan, is a repudiation of America's Christian heritage and exhibits a lack of respect for more than 70 million Americans descended from Confederate soldiers.

Richard T. Hines, President,Save Southern Heritage

Wrong Side Of History

To the Editor:

Speaking as a white southerner (born and raised just outside of Charlottesville), a noble gesture in my opinion would be to take down the statues of Confederate leaders whom we now recognize were on the

wrong side of history. Rather we should erect what we construe as leaders who are on the right side of history and represent what is truly American. This constitutes soldiers and generals who died defending not

rebelling against America; writers and artists who articulated the freedom and ideals of a just not unjust America; explorers and inventors who propelled this great country forward not backward; and educators and

marchers who fought to integrate rather than segregate our society.

Many local and national Americans of all ages, colors, and genders are there to choose from. Plus by doing this, we will continue the desirable effort to have teachable public art in our public spaces that recognizes the values we want to instill in our children, and each other, as we go about our daily lives. And it would only be right in celebrating these values to now take down the statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville and, in its place, put up a statue of Heather Heyer, on this same pedestal, who died there defending the rights of all, not just white, Americans. This would be a true and better representative of freedom in today's age, fitting for Emancipation Park in Charlottesville, which should be copied in other parks in other cities (including our own) on the numerous pedestals that are now available for the heroes of 21st century America.

> **Richard Dorrier** Alexandria

Hardly Perfect Judgment

To the Editor:

While reexamining their mission is an admirable undertaking ("Courting Contro-

versy" Aug 20), the article raised some concerns as to whether the Planning Commission is really sensitive to the desires and concerns of the ordinary citizens of our city. Mary Lyman, a member of the commission, seemed to dismiss residents' opinions by stating that the overall good of the city takes precedence over the concerns of the neighborhoods. Although there is some truth to this statement, it comes across as fairly arrogant, particularly since the Planning Commission is apparently going to be more aggressive in pursuing and approving controversial projects. It also implies that the Planning Commission has the right priorities and exercises near perfect judgment, qualities that they have not consistently demonstrated. Like many small municipalities, Alexandria is a city of neighborhoods, which form the foundation of our community. The concern and desires of their residents should be a predominant factor regarding any planning decisions.

My concerns were heightened by Nathan Macek's comment lamenting the slow progress with the waterfront redevelopment plan. This plan has been controversial from the beginning for a number of reasons, two of which are that it was not desired by the Old Town neighborhood, and it was poorly conceived and of little value to the rest of Alexandria. There were no credible costbenefit and economic analyses ever pub-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Honor the City's Best

By Harry M. Covert

ince renaming of streets has gone hog wild throughout the Old Dominion, otherwise known as the Commonwealth of Virginia, I wanted to give Alexandria city a few suggestions. I know there's a committee seeking names to replace the Jefferson Davis Memorial Highway, also known as U.S. Route 1.

COVERT MATTERS

Quite understandably perhaps there are many who prefer to keep the current designation but prefer to be quiet to avoid any verbal abuse from nonhistory lovers.

To be somewhat fair, Arlington is in the process seeking to blot out the name of the Kentuckian, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America from 1861 to 1865. In 1913, the United Daughters of the Confederacy put together plans to building a transcontinental road to run through the south. Today the Davis Highway still runs through Virginia, Alabama and other states.

Transparency requires me to note that President Jimmy Carter pardoned Democrat Jefferson Davis and restored his rights to full citizenship 1976. Congress restored General Robert E. Lee's citizenship in 1978, giving him absolution as well.

Now for the sake of good citizenship, community goodwill and all around honors, I have some nominations to name U.S. Route 1. It is rather convenient at this point to place the following great people in the process. My selections could all rank at the top of the list:

- Mayor Patsy Ticer Expressway
- ❖ Judge Daniel Fairfax O'Flaherty Highway
- Corporal Charles William Hill Memorial Highway
 - City Manager Vola Lawson Highway

PATSY TICER was Alexandria's first female mayor and served four terms as state senator. She died at age 81, Aug. 7. A city native she was a political ex-

pert who devoted her life to Alexandria and her achievements are well recorded.

JUDGE DANIEL FAIRFAX O'FLAHERTY served 42 years on the city's General District court and retired as chief judge in 1998. He died at 89 on March 26, 2015. A strong community leader and beloved for his creating the Ballyshaners, sponsors of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

VOLA LAWSON died at age 79 on Dec. 10 2013. She served as Alexandria's City Manager for 15 years. She was assistant city manager from 1981 to her appointment in 1985. Her achievements in the city are well recorded and admired. She was named a Living Legend in 2007.

CPL. CHARLES WILLIAM HILL, 40, was a distinguished and courageous member of the Alexandria Police Department. He was shot and killed in the line of duty on March 22, 1989. Five people were held hostage by a gunman armed with a shotgun.

Most certainly there are other individuals more than worthy to be honored. The list would be too long to list here. The honors would truly be for every citizen of Alexandria where women and men as I've mentioned have given themselves for the people. My list stands out. Average citizens in a community like Alexandria usually aren't acquainted with leaders as I've mentioned. Each one was unselfish and caring people who made differences for the public good every day. They are worthy of the highest honors and would blush at the thought of highways or freeways in their names.

The brief biographies of each of my nominations could be expanded ad infinitum. Each could pass background checks for the highest public trust. This is the kind of journalistic endeavor that's a pleasure to file and an example for every person.

Maybe their pictures could be on the walls of every city public school classroom.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 10

lished and no documented tradeoff studies, and as a result projected cost has risen far above estimates projected at the time. If this is an example of good planning and a Planning Commission decision benefiting the entire com-

commission's activities in the upcoming year.

The Planning Commission and our elected officials need to be more open to the concerns and desires of the entire community, not just local business interests. The commission and the City munity, then I worry about the Council also need to reevaluate

their increasingly futile attempts to expand the tax base faster than expenditures, which is becoming an endless downward spiral and is adversely affecting the attractiveness and livability of Alexandria. The comments in the subject article reflect a certain imperious-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

Route 1 Legal The one route to peace of mind A NON-PROFIT LAW FIRM WITH AFFORDABLE SLIDING-SCALE FEES FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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Entertainment

Pipeline Playwrights in Page-to-Stage Festival

Four Alexandria playwrights will have plays presented at The Kennedy Center on Sept. 4.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

our Alexandria playwrights who are part of the Pipeline Playwrights will be doing readings of their new short plays at The Kennedy Center's 2017 Page-to-Stage New Play Festival scheduled for Monday, Sept. 4, at 3:30 p.m. The free event will be held in the North Tier Opera Lounge at The Kennedy Center.

"Each of the plays is different. They range in tone from comic to serious, light-hearted to dark. The plays will feature a company of eight fine actors, all veterans of the local theater scene, in overlapping roles: Hartley Erickson, Allison Frisch, Deborah Hensley, Carolyn Kashner, Peter Pereyra, Faith Potts, Lonny Smith, and Kanysha Williams," said Patricia Connelly of the Pipeline Playwrights.

Three plays will be directed by Jordan Friend, artistic director of 4615 Theatre in the District, and Playwright Ann Timmons will be directing the fourth play, her own "Hank & Gracelyn Go to New York."

The four plays that will be read at the festival include the following:

❖ "Hank & Gracelyn Go to New York" by Ann Timmons — a darkly comic, updated version of the 'Hansel and Gretel' story. To escape poverty at home, Hank and Gracelyn catch a bus to New York. When they arrive at Port Authority bus terminal, they find themselves unexpectedly without resources. The plot thickens, as they fall prey to the mysterious Miss Pamela, who has her own plans for them.

* "I Love Desilu" by Nicole Burton is a love letter to Lucille Ball. Almost everyone knows Lucy was a comedic star, but who's aware that she and her husband and costar, Desi Arnaz, were successful entrepreneurs, recasting the artistic and technical aspects of TV production, and that Lucy became the first woman head of a major studio?

* "Final Assignment" by Jean Koppen takes place in the future, when androids not only look like humans but can also be programmed with specific memories. In the play, Patricia is visited by her daughter Maggie, a daughter she never had. Maggie tries to learn from Patricia how she can be fully human.

❖ "The Holiest of Sacraments" by Patricia Connelly — 7-year-old Molly is the last in line to make her first confession. She must get through this in order to make her first Holy Communion the next day. It's getting very late and, after a day of first confessions, Father O'Hearn has little patience left.



From left: Pipeline Playwrights from Alexandria include Ann Timmons, Nicole Burton, Soo-Jin Lee, Patricia Connelly, and Jean Koppen.

Molly has been trained well, but she has trouble confessing. What sin has Molly committed? The play is a look at the Catholic sacrament of confession through the eyes of a 7-year-old.

Connelly said the annual Page-to-Stage festival is a tremendous opportunity for local theater companies to present their new work at The Kennedy Center.

"For Pipeline Playwrights, it is an opportunity to introduce ourselves and our work to a broader audience of theatergoers, people who may not have seen our work before, people who are there to sample the variety of work being developed locally," she said. "It is the one day a year when we can

present our work with other local theaters and see how our work fits within the larger theater community."

She continued: "We have all participated individually in Page-to-Stage in the past, but no matter how many times we've been part of it, we are always excited to be included in this annual theater event. The Kennedy Center staff works hard to present more than a hundred readings and performances each year; they essentially lay out the red carpet for the local theater community."

"Is it a big deal? Yes! Indeed, it is a great honor to be invited to participate and we look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones on Sept. 4," she added.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

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.

Ceramics Exhibition. Various times through Sept. 3 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyrations." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org.

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 703-7464242 or visit

www.gadsbystavern.org.

Wizard of Hip. Various times through
Sept. 17 at MetroStage, 1201 North
Royal St. Featuring Thomas W Jones
II as he journeys from adolescence to
adulthood as Afro Jo with original
music by William Knowles and two
back-up singers. Call 703-548-9044
or visit www.metrostage.org.

Student Art Exhibit. Various times through Sept. 15 at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) gallery, 901 Prince St. NAEA is exhibiting artwork from across the country created by students who are members of the National Art Honor

Society (NAHS/high school students) and the National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS/middle school students). Call 800-299-8321 or 703-860-8000 or email info@arteducators.org.

Alexandrians Fight The Great War.
Various times through Nov. 11 at The
Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. This
exhibit shares some of the stories of
Alexandrians during the war and
their more active participation in the
American war effort after April 1917.
Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum
or call 703-838-4994.

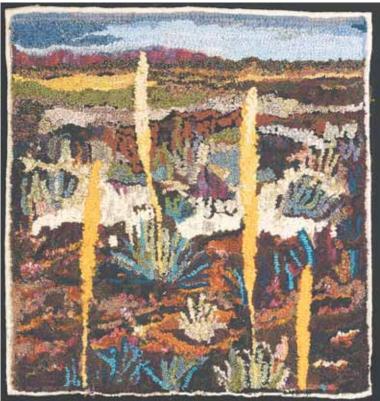
Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.

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



Desert After Rain

From Sept. 6-Oct. 31, Dolly Rowe's hooked artworks called "Painting in Wool and Silk" will be on display in the Fireplace Alcove, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Contact dollyrowe73@yahoo.com.

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 HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Celebrate Honeybee Day. 10 a.m.noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603
Green Spring Road. Meet a
beekeeper, see inside a beehive, learn
a bee dance, do a bee scavenger
hunt, learn how bees are important
to the food supply and get tips on
how to help honeybees.Call 703-6425173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
parks/greenspring.

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 7:36 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan in "When Harry Met Sally." Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 3

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3

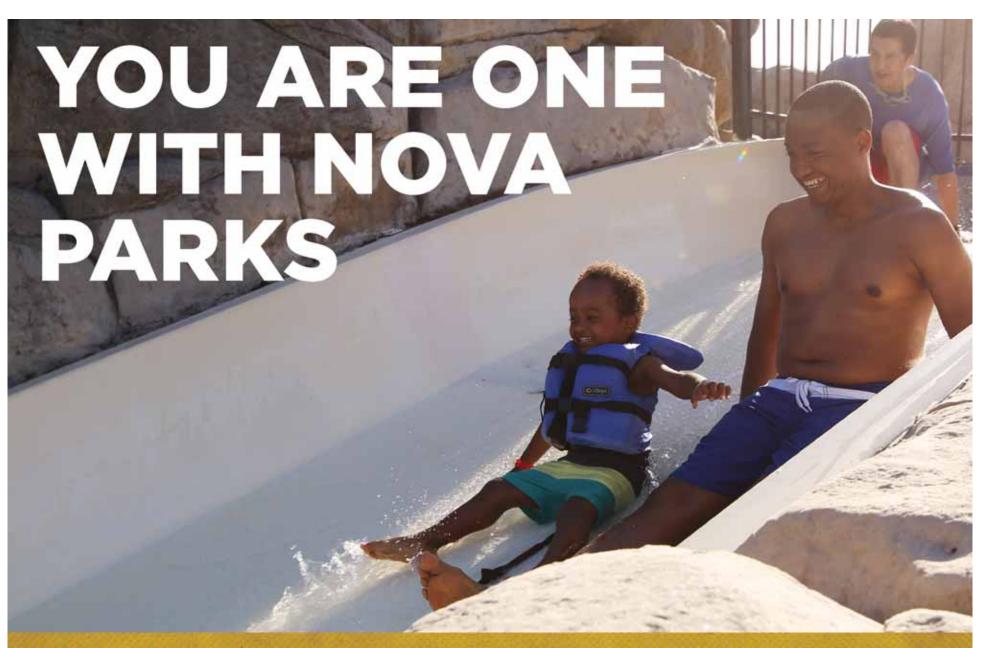
p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Naval Academy Band Wind Trio playing the music of Mozart, Beethoven, and Jenni Brandon. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

SEPT. 6-OCT. 31

Artists Exhibit. Various times in the

See Entertainment, Page 14

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



If you are one of over 100,000 people a year to go to Great Waves Waterpark at Cameron Run Regional Park, you know the joy of a great day at the waterpark. You know how much the children love this place. Cameron Run has long been the best water parks in the region with its wave pool, various slides and features.

The joy of a day at the water park is a summertime right of passage. And with NOVA Park's 5 waterparks adventure awaits with themes that capture the imagination. So before the summer is over, take the family and spend a day at one of these wonderful places:

Great Waves at Cameron Run Regional Park, City of Alexandria Ocean Dunes at Upton Hill Regional Park, Arlington County Pirates Cove at Pohick Bay Regional Park, Fairfax County Atlantis at Bull Run Regional Park, Fairfax County Volcano Island at Algonkian Regional Park, Loudoun County





novaparks.com

ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 12

Fireplace Alcove, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Dolly Rowe's hooked artworks called "Painting in Wool and Silk" will be on display. Contact dollyrowe73@yahoo.com.

SEPT. 7-OCT. 1

"Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia." Various times at The Art League 105 North Union St. Printmaker M. Alexander (Alex) Gray illuminates forgotten local history through the images in his exhibit, "Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia." Gray, a lifelong Virginian, wants to bring these lesser-known, historic sites back into the public eye. Call 703-683-1780 or visit

THURSDAY/SEPT. 7

www.theartleague.org.

Meet The Ballerina. 3:45 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Children of all ages have the opportunity to meet a ballerina from The Washington School of Ballet. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-

FRIDAY/SEPT. 8

Patriot Day Golf Classic. 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. 4th Annual Patriot Day Golf Classic to benefit two veteran and wounded warrior organizations. Visit www.bellehavencc.com/golf/ patriotday.

Concert. 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Violinist Sonya Hayes, cellist Igor Zubkovsky and pianist John McCrary will perform a program including the Vitebsk Trio of Aaron Copland, the Piano Trio of Leonard Bernstein and the First Piano Trio of DvoYák. Donations are encouraged to support the concerts given at Blessed Sacrament. Email jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or call 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

Fall Garden Day. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Numerous local plant and garden craft vendors will have gardening materials, while a silent auction, bake sale, live music, food and kids' activity tent add to the festivities. Free. Call 703-642-5173.

Ethiopian New Year Celebration.

Noon-5 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The Ethiopian music and rhythms performed by "Dankira," a troupe of Ethiopian musicians and the "Ethio-American Eskista Group" of dancers who will celebrate the Ethiopia's tradition. \$5. Call 703-746-5565 or

cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov, or visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts.

SEPT. 9-20

Northern Virginia Senior

Olympics. Various times and locations, more than 50 different events taking place at more than 25 venues across Northern Virginia. Call 703-403-5360 or visit www.nvso.us.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

Residency Studio at Torpedo Factory Art Center is now open at torpedofactory.org/artopps. Questions about the residency or applications can be directed to torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4570.

4 Dates to Circle in September

Road. Preschoolers learn through

while parents meet other playgroup

Everywhere." Adult must accompany

registered child. \$6/child. Register

online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

401 2701 or call 703-642-5173.

Using Native Plants. 7-8:30 p.m. at

about tried and true garden

parks/greenspring using code 290

the Mount Vernon Recreation Center,

2701 Commonwealth Ave. Curious

performers? Want to attract birds to

your yard? All this and more will be

covered as we walk through different

September's theme is "Pollinators

nature-themed toys and puzzles

parents one Monday a month.

By Hope Nelson

he summer may be coming to a close and back-to-school time looms large, but the calendar of food-and-drink events proceeds unabated. Here are some of the month's best

Brake for Brunch at Osteria Marzano,

Combine your love of brunch and your love of Italian racing with this unique event at Osteria Marzano. Watch the Italian Grand Prix on the restaurant's five TVs while enjoying meals like smoked salmon eggs benedict, spa-

APPETITE

MONDAY/SEPT. 11

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30

Green Spring Road. This class

vinyasa method which helps

a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603

features a gentle introduction to the

participants increase the strength.

for gardening. Class held indoors.

online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov,

parks/greenspring using code 290 426 2401 or call 703-642-5173.

Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m.at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring

Garden Sprouts: Nature

flexibility and endurance necessary

\$123/person for 11 lessons. Register

ghetti carbonara, and pizza bianca al salmon – a breakfast pizza topped with smoked salmon, eggs mimosa,

microgreens, and a touch of olive oil. Wash your meal down with some Italian coffee - and if you've got a hot rod of your own, bring it to park in front of the restaurant, where a professional photographer is poised to capture the moment. The festivities start at 7:30 a.m. 6361 Walker Lane.

Portner Brewhouse Oktoberfest, Sept. 16

Since its opening. Portner's has always skewed a bit into the German territory, so it's no surprise that the brewhouse and restaurant would take Oktoberfest very seriously. The festivities kick off promptly at noon and run through 10 p.m. - noon to 4 p.m. is all-ages, and 6-10 p.m. is 21+. Each session will begin with a keg-tapping of the

brewery's golden Festbier. Diners can feast on pretzels, schnitzel, and other German fare to get into the spirit of the season. Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$30 for designated drivers, and \$15 for children. 5770 Dow Ave.

Lena's Family Pizza-Making Class, Sept. 18

It's a family affair over at Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, and the pizza purveyor is set to let kids in on all the chef secrets from the kitchen. On the heels of the restaurant's own Oktoberfest festivities Sept. 16, Lena's takes on a more childfriendly vibe once more with this pizza-making class. Adults and children alike will roll up their sleeves and become one with the dough - and taste the results of their hard work. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for kids. 401 E. Braddock Road.

Mansion House Whiskey Tasting at Carlyle House, Sept. 30

Cap the month off in style with the Carlyle House's food and whiskey pairings. Diners will taste four whiskeys paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres, each one reminiscent of the bygone era when the historic site was the home of the Mansion House Hotel. Take a tour of the Carlyle House while you sip, and confer with local historian Rich Gillespie to brush up on your facts. Tickets are \$100. 121 N. Fairfax St.

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

> native plants and how to use them to create beautiful and sustainable home landscaping. Free and open to the public. Registration is requested at ALXnativeplants.eventbrite.com. Email AlexandriaBeautification@

TUESDAY/SEPT. 12

Sidewalk Sale. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 529 Hollin Hall. Call 703-765-4110 or email hhvs@vacoxmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13 Museums Temporarily Closed. All

gmail.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

Java Jolt Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Feature Paula Whitacre's new book, "A Civil Struggle for Purpose." Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399

SEPT. 16-17

Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 480 King St. King Street from Washington Street to the waterfront is transformed into an outdoor art than 200 artists from the U.S. and abroad. Featuring live music, and interactive art activities, as well as The Art League's Ice Cream Bowl Fundraiser. Visit www.artfestival.com/festivals/

Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Children will be able to create their own piece of art at Carlyle House to take home. Children will get the chance to paint their own version of a floorcloth, a popular 18th Century floor covering. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.



Circle Vases by Klaudia Levin

'Flexibility in Clay'

Ceramics Exhibition through Sept. 3 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyrations." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org for more.



Bottles by Polina Miller

house museums not operated by OHA, will be open during their regular hours. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/historic or call 703-746-4554. THURSDAY/SEPT. 14 Gardening Excursion. 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green

Spring Road. Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pennsylva–nia is a blend of art and horticulture. Trip includes

motor coach, entrance, guided tour, and lunch. \$124. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-941-7987.

day, the Office of Historic Alexandria.

agency of the City of Alexandria, will

the comprehensive public history

be holding a full-day retreat for all

staff. Alexandria Archaeology Museum; Alexandria Black History

Museum; Archives and Records

Friendship Firehouse Museum;

Gadsby's Tavern Museum; Lloyd House Administrative Offices;

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary

and the Lee-Fendall House and

Alexandria's History Museum will be

Gardens, separate Alexandria historic

closed. Carlyle House Historic Park

Museum; and The Lyceum,

Center; Fort Ward Museum;

Meet the Artist Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League, 105 North Union St. Printmaker M. Alexander (Alex) Gray illuminates forgotten local history through the images in his exhibit, "Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia." Gray, a lifelong Virginian, wants to bring these lesser-known, historic sites back into the public eye. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

History By The Glass. Various times at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 North Royal St. Enjoy drinks at the tavern, which historically served a wide variety of beverages, and learn about the history behind them. \$50 for drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Call 703-746-4242 or visit

www.gadsbystavern.org. Nomination Deadline. Nominated a Living Legend of Alexandria. Look at these current Living Legends of Alexandria for inspiration to add to that list. by submitting nominations for consideration by Sept. 15 online at www.AlexandriaLegends.org

Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's

gallery with original artwork by more alexandria-king-street-art-festival. **Crafts at Carlyle.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at

Entertainment



King Street Art Festival

The 15th Annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 16-17.

File photo by Richard Mumford Gazette Packet

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

Jazz at Meade. 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Featuring The Vibe Collective: Afro-Cuban-Latin Jazz. \$20 donation, Call 267-463-7936.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Researching Aviation Pioneers. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mary Lipsey talks about researching biographical information about aviation pioneer Dr. William Wallace Whitney Christmas of Clifton. Free. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Gardening Film Screening. 2-4 p.m., at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Karyl Evans screens her new documentary film about the career and life of 20th century landscape gardener Beatrix Farrand, who designed dozens of gardens. \$20. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-941-7987.

Bourbon in the Basement. 7-9:30 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. Fundraiser to restore the foundation and commemorate the Lee-Fendall House's Prohibition-era history. \$50. Call 202-215-1250.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. Michael Rossi, guest conductor. Visit www.nvcc.edu/ schlesingercenter/.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

U.S. Navy Concert Band. 1:30 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Chamber music recital series will feature traditional and contemporary music. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Michael Rossi, guest conductor. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Jesse Cook Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

"Twisted Masterpieces." 6-9pm at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Del Ray Artisans host silent auction of 2D and 3D artwork and live auction of furniture. \$25. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/twisted-masterpieces.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Georgetown Saxatones. 7 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Proceeds to benefit the Saxatones' preferred charity the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. \$15/\$10 members. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Alexandria Seaport Foundation Festival.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

noon-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St. Community festival celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation featuring live music, wooden boat display, Anything that Floats race, children's activities, nautical activities, beer/wine and local food. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

Write Like a Woman Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A networking workshop with KaNikki Jakarta for women writers that uplifts and inspires through writing. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Mansion House Whiskey Tasting. 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Local historian, Rich Gillespie, will share stories of the Civil War in Virginia and guide the whiskey tasting journey. \$100. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Floral Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway, you learn tips and tricks of the trade to apply to your floral arrangements at home, and Halloween designs. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join yoga instructor Barbara Douglass for vinyasa flow yoga on Carlyle House's Magnolia Terrace, every Tuesday in October. Please bring water, a towel, and yoga mat. Classes are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 classes. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 6:41 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Featuring Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Drawing Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and instructor Caroline Hottenstein shows how to use pen and ink, watercolor, graphite and colored pencils to capture and highlight details in insect illustration. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

Members Support Party. 7-9 p.m., at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association invites members and friends to join us for La Vie en Rose, a French evening in the Athenaeum Gallery. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

OCT. 24-DEC. 19

Watercolor Exhibit. Various times at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. See "Nature from Three Points of View", the work of Jan Burns, Madeleine Chen, and Shari MacFarlane, at the Horticulture Center. Sunday, Oct. 29 is the Artists Reception. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.







10 2017



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CONNECTION FAMILIES

Time for School

Making the transition from summer to the classroom.

"Consider easing into

the early morning

routine by adjusting

your sleep schedules

several days before

progressively earlier

- Sean Aiken, head of school,

BASIS Independent McLean

school starts with

wake up times."

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

s children savor the last days of summer, many families are gearing up for the start of a new school year. From first day anxiety to new bedtime routines, local educators offer suggestions for a seamless transition to the classroom.

"I have always loved the rhythms of the school calendar because of the beginnings and endings and the possibilities for reflection and a chance to refresh and renew..." said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. "I think the ritual of back-to-school shopping, whether that means a new binder and notebook, a new backpack, or a pair of new sneakers ... remains important for us because it offers opportunity to think about school anew."

The start of a new school year is an ideal time to help children set reasonable expectations, an important concept for high school students who begin to manage an increasing amount of responsibility and must learn to create a balance in their lives, says Best. "Put things in perspective," she said. "Sometimes the goals [that are] focused on personal growth, like learning how to advocate for yourself with a teacher, or navigating the halls, are as important as identifying academic milestones."

"It's useful to revisit points of struggle and perhaps more importantly, triumphs from the previous year. Reminding a student how they successfully managed a difficult issue is helpful," said

Gone are the days of staying up late and sleeping in the next day. A healthy bedtime routine must be re-established gradually, advises

Sean Aiken, head of school, BA-SIS Independent McLean.

"Consider easing into the early morning routine by adjusting your sleep schedules several days before school starts with progressively earlier wake up times," said Aiken. "Building the routine before the first day of school will help the adjustment on day one."

"In the week before the school year begins, families should revisit the expectations for bedtimes and morning routines and choose an evening and following morning to practice the routines," said Jalene Spain Thomas, Lower School Director St.

Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "Children will appreciate knowing that the new routine for this school year includes a slightly later bedtime or more time for independent reading or shared reading with a parent."

For younger students, separation anxiety may become an issue as they move into a parent-free environment each day, says Aiken. "In these cases, con-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The ritual of back-to-school shopping offers an opportunity to think about school anew, says Amy Best of George Mason University.

tact the school and establish a go-to adult for your child to talk to in the event they miss you too much during the day," he said.

Focusing on the positives about a child's school environment can help ease anxiety. "Younger students may want to draw a picture of what they think their new classroom will look like," said Thomas. "Older

students may enjoy writing a list of what they hope to accomplish in the school year that the family opens together in January."

Start with an organized workspace and shared family calendar to keep the family organized from day one, advises Aiken. "Folders and binders for home organizational systems are just as important as those your child will bring to school," he said. "Post a large calendar in a common area of the home so early due dates, back to school nights, and extracurricular activities can be seen by everyone in the family."

"Parents, remember to take some time for yourselves in those early days, too," said Aiken. "You've worked hard all summer arranging camps, play dates, and other great activities. Maybe it's time to take a long lunch break together or catch a cheap matinee once you're safely assured that you children are off and running in their new learning adventures."

News



To Be Rebuilt

The American Water Charitable Foundation has provided a grant of \$22,500 to support the Union Sportsmen's Alliance's 100th Work Boots on the Ground project at the Jones Point Park. The alliance will support the National Park Service by replacing a fishing pier at the park originally constructed in 1950 that is in need of repair. The grant helps cover expenses to rebuild the fishing pier. Virginia American Water provides drinking water service to the City of Alexandria, and the company's Alexandria District employees will help rebuild the pier by supplying some of the skilled union workers to complete a portion of the project. SEIU Local 32BJ covers Virginia American Water field operations employees in Alexandria.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 17

ness on the part of our government. An immediate improvement that may help make the commission more attuned to citizen needs would be limited terms for Planning Commission membership; however, the problem goes well beyond that.

> William Rogalski, Jr. Alexandria

A Better Strategy

To the Editor:

Your article on the Planning

Commission ("Courting Controversy") was most intriguing, particularly the comments of Commissioner Nathan Macek that it was neighborhood concerns that "watered down" a good Waterfront plan and has led to stalled development. As the British would say, that is "tommyrot." Plans for the North Terminal development were severely flawed from the outset since they did not take into account the stench from the sewer outfall nearby, nor the need for the city some day to put a sewage holding tank on the SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 7

9-10:30 a.m. at City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000 $\,$

THURSDAY/AUG. 31

Application Deadline. The

Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions, and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record Form no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017 for consideration at the Sept. 12, 2017 City Council meeting. For a complete list of vacancies, go to www.alexandriava.gov/boards.

Orientation for Prospective

Volunteers. 3:30 p.m. at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. in the large meeting room. RSVP

Northern Virginia, the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older, will hold an orientation for prospective volunteers. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking. To sign up for the Aug. 31 orientation email chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call

703-403- 5360. Visit rsvpnova.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 7

Nomination Deadline. Volunteer

Alexandria is calling on organizations and City agencies to nominate volunteers for the 23rd Annual *Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria* award. To become an award sponsor, email Katie at

Katiewatson@volunteeralexandria.org or call 703-836-2176. For more information about the awards, visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org.



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Obituary

Minnie I. Lilly

August 5, 1920 - August 18, 2017

Minnie passed away peacefully in Columbus Georgia at Savannah Grands Hospice on Friday, August 18, 2017. Minnie was predeceased by her daughter Gloria J Lilly and son John H. Lilly, four brothers, two sisters.



She is survived by her daughter Doris L. (Carthor)Crenshaw, beloved sister Bessie M Schutz. Also grandchildren Michael(Selena) Crenshaw, Fran C.(Allen) McPherson, Beth C.(Tim) Gaskin, David (Stephanie) Crenshaw, Katana F. Crenshaw, Shannon L.(Peter) Parker, Dan(Nicole) Lilly; 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends at Cunningham funeral home at 9:30 AM and graveside service will be held in Mount comfort cemetry, Alexandria Virginia at 11 AM August 28, 2017 with Pastor Tim Bobbit officiating.



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Bathroom Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I write this column in all sincerity, but what are you asking me for? A rhetorical question if there ever was one. To what I refer is the question I was asked earlier this morning by one of the home-improvement tradesman working on my upstairs bathroom. Having made significant progress on the bathroom in the five weeks or so since I published "And So It Begins," a column detailing the few facts I retained about the demolition/renovation and the anxiety I felt about it, today's task was waterproofing the shower enclosure/bathroom floor in preparation for the tile, if I understand correctly. Now, as further context, I know very little about home improvement (car repairs, computer technology, lawn and garden; shall I go on?). Moreover, I know very little Spanish. Combine the two, as happened this morning, and you are asking (literally) for trouble.

The waterproofing man arrived at 8:45 a.m. The day before, his boss/presumably the owner, had stopped by for a walk-through and to drop off materials for the job. I thought I would see him again, I was wrong. The only person on the job is the person whose English is better than my Spanish and the only Spanish I know, I know from a cartoon character, "Speedy Gonzales, the fastest mouse in all of Mexico," I grew up watching on Saturday-morning television. After directing him to the upstairs bathroom, within a few minutes, the man walked downstairs and asked/motioned for me to follow him back upstairs, I figured there was likely a question that needed answering so immediately I got off the couch to assist.

Once we were both inside the bathroom, he started pointing to the walls (front, back and sides), ceiling, niche and planned-for bench within the enclosure, to ask for - so far as I could understand, what needed to be waterproofed (I'll spare you any details about the process since I'm unlikely to do so accurately). Now, other than asking the project manager Simple-Simon-type questions about what is going on, what has gone on (literally and figuratively) and what is planned to be going on, I am out of any kind of loop. The workmen come in. I point them upstairs. Then I go into my office and mind my own business. I rarely check their progress. Generally speaking, I only look to see what's been done after they've left. I am not in anybody's way and I don't serve as any kind of resource other than answering the most basic questions: "Is that the basement door?" " Do you mind if we shut off the water?" "Is there a hardware store nearby?" As such, I am the least-bit helpful.

The man working today is new to me/the project. He's not been here before. But I did open the door to let him in and I did direct him to the upstairs bathroom. For all he knows/has experienced so far, I seem to be somewhat helpful. Ergo, after a bit, rather than calling his boss, he came back downstairs to solicit my help. Limited though I knew it would be, I was happy to try. As the conversation began, it became clear to me that not only did I not know what he was talking about (job wise), I couldn't even understand what it was that he was saying. I was lost in translation and lost in intention. As I attempted to answer/explain/guess what he was asking while we were both pointing/gesturing/talking, I quickly realized that this was a language match not made in heaven. Nevertheless, we eventually came to some sort of an understanding of the task at hand and back downstairs I went.

Sitting on the couch, I began to feel uncomfortable about the instructions I think I had just given/agreed to. As a result, I considered calling my project manager at home on a Saturday morning to get some clarity/confirmation about what I think had just transpired upstairs. Not at all bothered by my weekend intrusion, and after listening to a condensed version of this column, Stefan assured me that what seemed to be happening here was supposed to be happening.

And here I thought outliving my lung cancer prognosis by six-plus years was a miracle.

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



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-Thomas Fuller

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LETTERS

From Page 17

land. Developers are rightfully skittish about prospects at the site.

In this case, it was city staff and the Planning Commission that failed in diligence not the neighbors. I have been dealing with Alexandria Planning Commissions since 1980 and have testified before that body more than three dozen times over the years. The current commission is the worst I have encountered for its treatment of citizen concerns. Members seem convinced that the developers know best - and the rest of us should shut up.

Chairman Mary Lyman expressed dismay that citizens often are concerned with their neighborhoods and "not what's good for the city as a whole." Such a comment ignores the fact that Alexandria is made up of neighborhoods and that they are key to its welfare - a concept recently adopted as part of the city's strategic planning process. Nor is it always clear what is good for the city as a whole. Case in point: The utter failure so far of the Beauregard Plan, adopted over the objections of many neighbors.

Instead of courting more controversy, the Planning Commission should be looking at what has caused the lack of progress on the Waterfront, in the Beauregard Corridor and at Landmark. It may find that it bears more than a little responsibility for its rubberstamping of developer plans. It also may discover that listening to residents might have been a better strategy.

> **Jack Sullivan** Alexandria

Genuine Leader

To the Editor:

Ed Gillespie has lived the American Dream. His father was brought to America by his grandfather, who found work here as a janitor. Ed's parents ran a grocery store, and he worked there as a young boy stocking shelves and sweeping floors. Ed worked his way through college — including as a Senate parking lot attendant — and eventually became counselor to the President of the United States. His life experience has made him the man and leader he is today, and proves again the greatness of this coun-

I have known Ed for many years now. What you see is what you get — he is genuine, compassionate, steady and wise. He is a talented and dedicated public servant, as well as a loving husband and father. He cares passionately about our nation and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

My family and I live in Alexandria. As a working mother of three children, I know the decisions our next governor will make will greatly impact their futures. I trust Ed's judgment completely. He will make the right decisions for Virginia. He is committed to putting forward policies that ensure the same opportunities he had - and even greater ones — exist for future generations of Virginians.

Ed will work to unify our Commonwealth as he moves us forward. He will be a governor for all Virginians. I will cast my ballot for Ed, and I urge you to do the same.

Susan Butler

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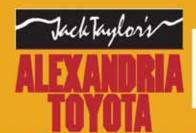
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