



Recalling 9/11

First responders reflect on the terrorist attack 16 years ago and life since.



The 9/11 memorial ceremony outside of City Hall.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

After 16 years, 9/11 can be a passing thought for many Americans. But Alexandria Fire Chief Robert Dubé thinks about 9/11 just about every day. Dubé was a captain in the Fairfax County Fire Department in 2001. As he was walking down a hallway, a supervisor called him into an office where they were watching footage from the World Trade Center in New York.

"When the second plane hit, we realized it was way more than an accident," said Dubé. "I just started thinking that I have a lot of friends

in New York City. I knew a bunch of guys up there [in the fire department]. My first thought was to them and what kind of challenges they would have fighting that fire."

Dubé said that he was just thinking that they might be called up to assist with clearing out the rubble in New York when the news came in: a plane had hit the Pentagon. Dubé was one of the first responders arriving at the Pentagon and years later, he said the memories from that day still haunt him.

"I was part of the advance team for the task force that showed up early," said Dubé. "We did recon

SEE FIRST, PAGE 8

Veterans Remember 9-11 Gathering at Post 24.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of Alexandria's American Legion Post 24 gathered in Old Town Sept. 11 to commemorate the 9-11 attacks of 2001.

Standing beneath an American flag at half-mast outside Post 24,

commander and Vietnam veteran Doug Gurka led the ceremony, which included remarks from several veterans recounting their firsthand experiences on that day.

"Our nation was under attack that day," said retired Air Force Col. Mike Mixon, who was on temporary assignment to the Pentagon

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 8



Retired Air Force Col. Mike Mixon recounts his experience working at the Pentagon on 9-11.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

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Citizens Young and New

Alexandrians celebrate citizenship with school performance and naturalization ceremony.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

From the oldest Alexandrians to the newest, citizens came together at City Hall for a series of events celebrating the city and the nation.

Constitution Day is an annual celebration of the adoption of the United States Constitution. In Alexandria, this celebration is stretched out into Constitution Week, from Sept. 17 through 23, with events and informational meetings hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

On Sept. 12, the DAR hosted an event in City Council chambers themed around a proclamation by Mayor Allison Silberberg commemorating Constitution Week. Children from several local elementary schools sat to hear reenacted stories about early colonial America.

There are few Alexandrians more qualified to talk about colonial Alexandria than Richard Conway. Conway, played by reenactor Chuck Aldrich, told them firsthand about his friend George Washington and retold stories about the constitutional convention.

The celebration included songs about the constitution and the nation performed by groups of students.

An older group held a similar celebration of citizenship a few hours later. Outside City Hall, 28 people came together from 20 different countries to swear in as naturalized citizens.



Reenactor Chuck Aldrich playing colonial Alexandrian Richard Conway.

At the ceremony, Silberberg asked the new residents not to let the national bickering, violence, and hate speech tarnish their view of their new country.

But for most of those at the ceremony, it was an unnecessary concern. In a small gathering after the ceremony with their families, the new citizens expressed unmitigated joy and optimism about their home.

"It feels amazing," said Det Binn, who was getting ready to go back to work at a late night shift in a data center. "It was about a nine-month process and being here today... it just feel so good."

Tsehai Berehe was one of the older citizens being naturalized, and before calling the others up to the stage, Silberberg and other officials went into the audience to hand Berehe her citizenship papers.



Samuel Tucker Elementary students sing about the U.S. Constitution.

"I'm feeling so happy," said Berehe, an immigrant from Ethiopia. "I really appreciate this. I wish everyone in the world could have this opportunity."

"I'm very proud," said Natalia Farakh from Belarus. "It feels a little different now. It feels like everything is possible. I've been waiting for that for six years."

Kareem Mohammed attended the ceremony with his family. Like the other naturalized citizens, Mohammed speaks English, but for clarity his daughter helped to translate some of his excitement.

"It feels like I was just born today," said Mohammed, originally from Iraq. "It's the most happy day for me in 46 years. I feel like a person with freedom."

Many of those getting their citizenship said the process was easier than they'd expected. Mohammed said that getting his citizenship was easier than he'd thought it would be.

"It was approximately six months and it was a smooth process with nice people along the way," said Farakh. "I was pleasantly surprised."

Now that they have their citizenship, many of the newly naturalized citizens expressed fierce pride for their country.

"It's a protection for people," said Mohammed, pointing to his new citizenship papers. "It makes everyone equal. It feels like being human. I will be loyal to America until the day I die."

Adkins Delay Reignites Old ARHA-City Council Feud

City Council livid over Andrew Adkins delays.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Troubling. Frustrating. Unconscionable. Echoing the sentiments of the Planning Commission in its meeting last week, the City Council expressed outrage over delays to the Andrew Adkins housing redevelopment project. Earlier this year, a proposal from Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) for the redevelopment of Andrew Adkins, a block of affordable housing units near the Braddock Road Metro Station, proposed an overall decrease in the number of affordable housing units at the site rather than an increase. Disagreements between the city and the developers allegedly caused developer Clark Realty (CRC) to stop work on the designs for the building. According to city staff, these delays will almost certainly mean the project is delayed another year. Even if the tax credits are available next year, council members warned the delays could still be costly.

According to Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, the disagreements between the city, ARHA, and CRC were rooted in concerns about the

number of affordable housing units at the site and concerns about how that number affected the bonus density for the site.

"We should not be here," said Wilson. "The committee tried to tease out different ways to arrive at the unit math that I think would create a situation that ARHA and the private development partners would be comfortable with, but we did not get there. That's very frustrating. As we talked about last meeting, while it should cause us to take a deep breath, it should not cause us to sit back for too long, because we still have a tight deadline for next year to get this right."

But delays another year could be costly to the city or even fatal to the project. Wilson pointed to delays by a year for the Ramsey Homes redevelopment that resulted in the project costs increasing by \$1 million. The even bigger concern is that if the project is delayed, the federal tax credits being sought either might not exist or might be underfunded.

"It's more than frustrating, it's a tremendous loss."

— Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper

"Given what's happening in D.C., we do not want to miss tax credit cycles because they might not be there in the future," said Wilson. "That's a very real concern. But right now, combination of the city, ARHA, and private development could not get to a place where we were all in the same place to move forward."

Mayor Allison Silberberg expressed hope that city staff and ARHA might be able to dedicate their resources to this project and get it finished in time for this tax cycle, but City Manager Mark Jinks dismissed the possibility.

"Three months were lost," said Jinks. "There is not physically enough time for a restart of that process to get the tax application done."

Wilson and Jinks also cautioned that rushing the project could have disastrous results, compounded by the fact that Andrew Adkins is the first in a series of scheduled redevelopment projects and could set precedent for future processes.

"We've had experience with what happens when there is too much of a rush to get some

things done," said Jinks. "We had that with Ramsey. And we're not talking about a row of townhouses. We're talking about an entire city block; 500 units of market rate affordable and public housing. This is extraordinarily complicated. It's not a matter of staff, it's a matter of getting the technical work done in order to have a complete application and complete proposal."

"That's just unconscionable," Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper said. "Some of those saying this is frustrating, that's very polite. It's more than frustrating, it's a tremendous loss."

It didn't take long for members of the council to connect the frustrations with the Adkins to other past redevelopment arguments between the city and ARHA.

"We've had numerous restarts with ARHA," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "Again and again, we've had this conversation several times. There's so much at stake here in terms of dollars and commitment and everything... I feel very uncomfortable with where we are right now."

Wilson warned that the frustrations and concerns about affordable housing redevelopment projects were just getting started.

SEE ADKINS DEALY, PAGE 11

News

For Whom the BID Tolls

BID dies in City Hall.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

This is the way the BID ends, not with a bang but with a whimper. At the close of the Alexandria City Council meeting on Sept. 12, City Manager Mark Jinks officially announced his recommendation that the City Council no longer consider the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) for Old Town.

A BID is an organized group of businesses and property owners that, funded by a self-imposed tax, would make quality-of-life improvements to Old Town and help push for greater regional awareness of Old Town businesses. After two years of study, the BID Exploratory Committee put forward a proposal for a special tax district in Old Town that would be the first step towards establishing a BID. The proposal was vehemently opposed by other local businesses that, among other concerns, said the extra tax could cripple an already overburdened commercial sector. Citing public feedback from the business community against the idea, the City Council voted against the creation of the special tax district and proposed that a revised plan be put forward to a vote by local businesses, and the tax district could be established if the BID was approved by 55 percent of the businesses.

"The exploratory committee felt they put forward what was requested by the council and further study would duplicate those efforts," said Jinks. "It was decided that the 55 percent threshold was not attainable."

Jinks noted that many on the exploratory committee were local business owners themselves who had volunteered time for the study away from their stores, which they couldn't continue to do for the duration it

would take for another BID proposal.

But while the BID is dead for now, discussions on the council indicated the idea could resurface in a few years. Jinks and several members of the City Council expressed support for the idea of a BID in some form or another to combat changes facing the city. Some pointed to The Wharf opening in D.C., a \$2 billion investment in waterfront properties many on the dais saw as a direct challenge.

"We've had almost a lock on downtown waterfront kind of entertainment, restaurant, and retail opportunities," said Jinks. "Now, with the work in the district, there is going to be major competition. It may be something we revisit in a couple years. Right now, it's wait and see."

After the meeting, members of the City Council expressed their mixed feelings about the decision.

"I appreciate the work on all sides that went into this. Many of the issues the BID would address could be addressed by the city," said Silberberg, pointing

to a recent commitment by the city to do landscaping work on the tree wells. "But the main issues of Old Town businesses, parking and [competition from the internet], I don't think a BID was going to fix those."

Others on the council said, like Jinks, they believe the idea of the BID will likely be revisited in the future.

"It ended up an orphan," said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. "It's still a good idea, and it will probably eventually come back... There's broad support for improvements to Old Town that we haven't been able to prioritize given our tough budget."

"It's a tool that will have to be implemented sometime soon," said Councilman John Chapman. "It's unfortunate it couldn't move forward. We'll have to see how competitive the southwest D.C. waterfront will be."

"It ended up an orphan."

— Vice Mayor
Justin Wilson

Football Coaches Night Set

Redskins great Darrell Green part of upcoming season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club has released its 2017 meeting schedule, kicking off with High School Football Coaches night Sept. 20 and announcing a special appearance by Washington Redskins great Darrell Green on Nov. 15.

A tradition for more than 50 years, High School Football Coaches Night will feature the head coaches from all four of Alexandria's high schools. Those attending include: Panos Voulgaris, now in his sixth year at Episcopal High School. EHS has a

SEE ASC LINES UP, PAGE 5



James Longerbeam –
TC Williams



Kevin Barger –
Bishop Ireton



Bernard Joseph –
SSSA



Panos Voulgaris –
Episcopal

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Special advisor to the President Ivanka Trump, center, gives a thumbs up after participating in the Volunteer Alexandria 9-11 service day at the Dunbar Alexandria Boys & Girls Club. Volunteers from American Legion Post 24 participated in the Sept. 11 event that focused on emergency preparedness.

Ivanka Trump Visits Children

Boys & Girls Club's 9-11 event focused on emergency preparedness.

Special advisor to the President Ivanka Trump and her children joined veterans from American Legion Post 24 in commemorating the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks with a day of service at the Dunbar Alexandria Boys & Girls Club.

More than 100 children from the club participated in the event, which was sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria and focused on the importance of being prepared in an emergency.

"This was a very special day for every-

one," said retired Air Force colonel and Post 24 volunteer Mike Mixon. "Ivanka was very down to earth and so gracious to everyone there."

Mixon and other veterans shared their personal 9-11 experiences and the significance of that day. Students also learned how therapy animals help survivors in counseling post disaster, how to make an emergency plan for their families and the importance of having a survival kit ready in case of an emergency. The day ended with Trump joining students in playing a quiz game based on emergency preparedness.

For more information on emergency preparedness or volunteer opportunities, visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org, call 703-836-2176, or email emergencyresponse@volunteerallexandria.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

ASC Lines Up Meetings

FROM PAGE 4

1-0 record this year and is currently ranked #11 by the Washington Post; Kevin Barger is in his second year at Bishop Ireton. BI is currently 0-3; T.C. Williams coach Jimmy Longerbeam is also in his second year. TC is in a new district this year and currently has a 2-1 record; and St. Stephen's and St. Agnes coach, Bernard Joseph, who is in his ninth year. SSSAS currently has a 0-2 record.

The meeting will be held at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King Stree, at 6:30 p.m. and signifies a move from Tuesday to Wednesday nights for the organization.

The current lineup for future ASC meet-

ings includes: Oct. 18 - Mike Tackett, NY Times Washington Bureau editor. Tackett will speak about his experiences writing the book "The Baseball Whisperer" about a college summer league baseball team based in Clarinda, Iowa; Nov. 15 — Redskins great Darrell Green. Paid membership dues and reserved seating only for this event.

The organization will also recognize the Athlete of the Month, a student athlete nominated by their coach and athletic department who has shown both academic and athletic prowess in the current athletic season.

For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ SEPTEMBER 14-20, 2017 ♦ 5

Green Invigoration? City to update top-level plan for ecological “sustainability.”

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria’s Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) kicked off a 2-year process to revamp and re-energize the city’s Environmental Action Plan (EAP) at a retreat on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The EAP says it is the “road map for city leaders, staff, and citizens to implement the sustainability visions and principles set forth in Alexandria’s Eco-City Charter.” The charter, which City Council adopted in 2008, defines sustainability as a holistic governance philosophy, including both human and non-human dimensions. Sustainability “involves balancing and integrating environmental, economic, health and social issues so as to maximize the quality of life for all of Alexandria’s residents;” ensures “the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;” and “requires us to consider the impacts of our decisions and actions beyond the City of Alexandria.”

The charter outlines its general vision under 10 headings: land use and open space, water resources, air quality, transportation, energy, building green, solid waste, environment and health, emerging threats (namely, climate change), and implementation (namely, collaboration across societal sectors). In 10 corresponding chapters, the EAP lays out specific targets for the period 2009-2030. The city is supposed to review and update the EAP and charter every 5 and 10 years, respectively.

Together, the two documents intend to be at the center of the city’s “constellation of [top-level] plans,” second only to the city’s Strategic Plan.

HOWEVER, certain advocates have ex-



SOURCE: EAP

Together, the Eco-City Charter and Environmental Action Plan intend to form the center of the city’s top-level planning efforts, second only to the Strategic Plan.

pressed doubt regarding the documents’ centrality in practice. The city has deferred

the EAP revision process since 2014, bumping it “relative to other priorities,” said EPC chair Jim Kapsis.

Joe Schilling, formerly of Virginia Tech, now of Urban Institute, who played a role in bringing about the documents, also shared reservations in a June interview. He wonders whether city officials truly want to prioritize sustainability as the city’s integral “guiding principle,” rather than reduce it to just one environmentalist concern among many other concerns. He believes the push for sustainability “ran out of gas,” in part because of a “circle the wagons” budget mentality following the Great Recession — a reaction he called “understandable” but “shortsighted.” “Sustainability could be a galvanizing and effective community and economic development strategy for the city,” he said in a later email. While he acknowledged the piecemeal infusion of sustainability into certain city activities, he would rather see a wholesale reevaluation of the Master Plan “with sustainability at the center,” echoing recommendations he made to the city in 2015.

The city’s recent hiring of Ellen Eggerton as its first sustainability coordinator at least partially fulfills Schilling’s hope that the city would more fully “institutionalize” sustainability.

Kapsis also thinks that having Eggerton onboard will be a “big deal” moving forward. Eggerton has 11 years’ experience working in a similar field in Fairfax County. “One of [her] first assignments with the city will be to spearhead the [EAP] update,” said Craig Fifer, a city spokesman, in a statement.

EPC PRIORITIES discussed at the retreat include honing and tracking the EAP’s goals.

“Our number one charge ... is getting brutally specific about what our priorities are,” said Kapsis. He wants to “avoid a laundry list of things” and focus on 2-3 “relative priorities” per EAP chapter. Echoing this, one Alexandria resident who attended the retreat expressed confusion about the city’s prolific and lengthy eco-related plans.

Zeroing in will require balancing impact potential against feasibility.

For example, the city cannot dictate the manner in which Dominion Energy, Alexandria’s utility company, generates electricity. “Dominion’s fuel mix is our fuel mix,” unless Alexandria creates its own municipal utility, “a very, very difficult and expensive proposition,” said Kapsis.

But the city could more easily increase

SEE SEEKING ECOLOGICAL, PAGE 14

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Vice Mayor Justin Wilson joins Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) members, city staff and others at a picnic at Fort Ward Park, following the EPC’s annual retreat. Mayor Allison Silberberg and Councilwoman Redella Pepper also attended the retreat.

PEOPLE

Celebrating 65th Wedding Anniversary

Charles H. and Ethel V. Nelson, Sr. were joined in marriage on Sept. 20, 1952 by the late Rev. Andrew W. Adkins in Alexandria. Both are graduates of the former Parker Gray High School. Charles served in the U.S. Air Force for four years and retired from Andrews Air Force Base following a career of 35 years.

Ethel, who enjoyed being a nursery school owner for many years in Alexandria, was later employed and then retired from IPMA in Alexandria in accounting.

While retirement has not allowed them to slow down, they continue enjoying life with 17 cruises and most recently they vacationed to Martha's Vineyard with family and friends.

From this happy marriage, two children were born: Charles Jr., now deceased, and Gail O. Nelson of Maryland, three granddaughters, Shaye L. Nelson (devoted friend Aubrey Turner), Toyri W. (Troy) Brandon, Nikia N. (Aaron) Dunivan; four great granddaughters, Preajah Bea, London Hall, Zoe Dunivan, Tiffany Brandon; two great grandsons, Chad Henry Nelson, and Brandon Turner, deceased.

They are still active members of The Shiloh Baptist Church in Alexandria. They are still enjoying activities around town and Charles enjoys working in his beautiful yard and gardening.



Charles H. and Ethel V. Nelson, Sr. will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 20.



1319 Prince St. from past to present.



fibre space Expands

Boutique bought historic flatiron building.

Yarn boutique fibre space has officially landed in its new Alexandria location. In July, owner Danielle Romanetti purchased 1319 Prince St., the only known historic flatiron building in the city that sits at the corner of Commerce Street, Prince Street and West Street. The building use to be Royal Studios.

Located just 1.5 blocks from its former King Street current location, the two-story shop will still include their vast yarn selections, brands and yarn related accessories. The new space has a



Danielle Romanetti

children's play area so yarn lovers can shop while children play.

An open air staircase leads to the second floor and a view of the exposed brick detail where the space will be used for large groups, community gatherings, movie nights, yarn tastings and more. The second floor also features two private classrooms. As part of the building purchase and the commitment to community, fibre space partnered with the City of Alexandria to adopt the public space in front of the building.

See www.fibrespace.com.

The 2017 Athenaeum Invitational

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The Athenaeum | 201 Prince Street, Alexandria



Photo: Icelandic Poppy Garden (detail), Robert Creamer



First Responders Reflect on Terrorist Attack 16 Years Ago

FROM PAGE 1

inside where the collapse had occurred. My initial observations, when I think back, was how much damage done. There were 36 inch in diameter concrete columns obliterated. Everything was destroyed and it was tremendously hot; the heat stayed for three days. It came from the fuel fire and the concrete soaked it in."

Even in the years after, Dubé said he never saw another incident quite like that day.

"I was deployed about a dozen times with that task force around the world," said Dube. "I've seen a number of collapsed buildings, but I'd never been to a plane crash into a commercial building that collapsed."

Dubé couldn't make it out to

Market Square on Sept. 11, 2017, but members of the City Council, Chief of Police Mike Brown, and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne gathered with a small group of local citizens to commemorate 9/11.

"We are not alone as we come together to remember that harrowing time," said Mayor Allison Silberberg. "We continue to hold the families and loved ones [of

those killed] in our hearts."

Brown recalled that he was in an information center in Los Angeles following the events in New York. Brown said the Los Angeles first responders were all watching the footage of firefighters running into the World Trade Center in New York and waiting, any minute, to be called into action to do the same.

"The first responders and others that died should not be forgotten," said Brown. "They should not have

died in vain."

For Dubé, his children were old enough to remember what happened.

It sometimes gets brought up and discussed in his family.

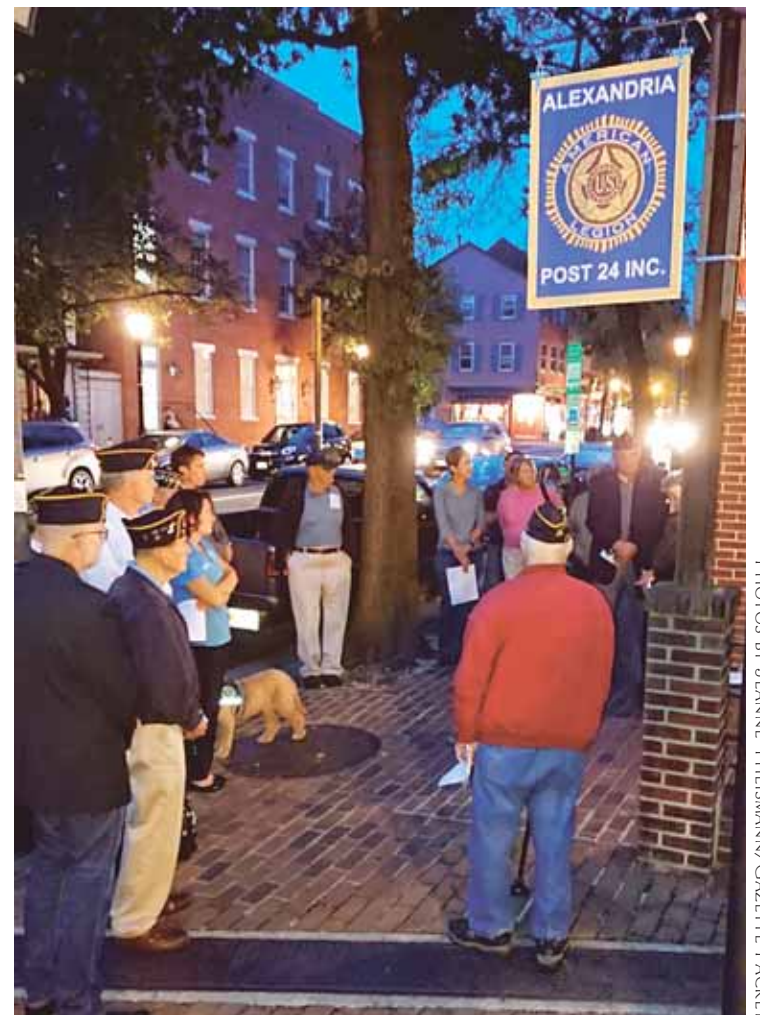
"It never goes away," said Dubé. "I honestly, at some point nearly every single day, I think about it. Everybody there did heroic work. I'm sure everyone was glad they were there and proud to have been a part of that. But it never goes away."



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**Walk to End Alzheimer's
in Northern Virginia
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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of American Legion Post 24 gather for a 9-11 remembrance ceremony Sept. 11 in front of Post 24 in Old Town.



World War II veteran Warden Foley listens to remarks at the 9-11 remembrance ceremony at American Legion Post 24.

Veterans Remember 9-11

FROM PAGE 1

at the time. "Without knowing any details, my boss thought she had sent me to my death. In the wake of the attacks, I was able to work closely with then Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta and watch our nation — military and civilian — come together in a way that was unprecedented."

The ceremony was highlighted by the singing of the third verse of the National Anthem, chosen specifically for its lyrics, and concluded with the playing of "Amazing Grace."

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OBITUARY

Danielle “Deeder” Dellerson Hayes

Danielle “Deeder” Dellerson Hayes, 37, died on June 22, 2017. She was born in Hollywood, Fla., on Dec. 26, 1979, to parents Dr. Richard and Wendy Dellerson and big sister Lara. Danielle graduated from Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1998. She then attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, but transferred to the University of Montana her sophomore year and graduated with a broadcast journalism degree. Danielle was a reporter, producer and anchor for the local NBC affiliate in Missoula from 2002 to 2005. She then went on to a sales job with Big Sky Brewing, which took her to Seattle with her sister, Lara, where they shared a few very special years as single gals in the city.

In 2007, she started law school back at the University of Montana. She completed her law degree and started an internship at the Senate Finance Committee, working with her career and life mentor, Russ Sullivan.

Eventually, in 2013, she followed Russ to McGuireWoods Consulting where she was a federal tax policy consultant for the timber industry.

She married Colonel James E. Hayes III, USA, on April 15, 2015, in Alexandria, where they resided. Danielle loved being a wife, step-mother to Emma Hayes and Stacy McMarlin-Hayes, and attending Hayes family gatherings in Connecticut.

Danielle especially loved Montana and the time spent there with family and friends over



Danielle “Deeder” Dellerson Hayes

the years. She enjoyed skiing at Big Mountain and swimming in Flathead and Whitefish lakes. As children, Danielle and Lara spent countless hours on the shores of Flathead Lake at their family home. It is this location where Danielle is now resting eternally.

There is a pilgrimage that occurs in Whitefish each year of Danielle and Lara’s closest friends, which was one of Danielle’s favorite times of the year. “Girls Gone Whitefish” ... who later morphed into the “Band of Broads” ... are the women closest to Danielle who provided endless laughs and support through her battle with cancer.

Danielle was diagnosed with

cholangiocarcinoma, or bile duct cancer, in early November 2016. She fought an arduous battle right up until the end. She was able to spend her last few weeks looking at Flathead Lake with her family, and close friends by her side. Danielle died June 22, 2017.

Danielle is survived by her husband, Colonel James E. Hayes III, USA, of Alexandria; her stepchildren, Emma and Stacy Hayes; her parents, Dr. Richard Dellerson of Fort Lauderdale and Wendy Dellerson of Bigfork; sister Lara Dellerson Whorley, brother-in-law Todd Whorley of Bellevue, Wash., nieces Shelby and Ava Whorley, and nephew Patterson Whorley; and godmother Dr. Shirley Moyer of Fort Lauderdale.

In honor of Danielle, and the research she believed in, a website has been set up for donations to Cycle for Survival: <http://mskccc.convio.net/goto/DanielleDellersonHayes>.

Danielle raised over \$100,000 towards cholangiocarcinoma research in her fight to win this battle. All donations made in Danielle’s name will go directly to research for this rare cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering cancer institute in New York City.

Danielle was a gifted writer and wrote a blog, “Danielle’s Big Adventure,” about her battle with cancer at <https://danielle-hayes.com>.

A celebration of Danielle’s life was held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at The Union Station Columbus Club, Washington, D.C.

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OPINION

#CallTextLive — A Hashtag to Remember

BY WENDY GRADISON
CEO, PRS, INC.

It's been a tough year in Northern Virginia as youth and young adult suicides bereaved families, communities and schools. Many adult family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues were lost to suicide as well. In the aftermath, lives were cut short and so much promise left unrealized.

Suicide, a serious issue locally and nationally that claims the lives of 44,000 people annually, is the 10th leading cause of death nationwide and second leading cause for people aged 15-24.

At PRS, Inc., a nonprofit that runs Northern Virginia's crisis hotline and textline, we are marking September's Suicide Prevention Month by launching the #CallTextLive Campaign. We've teamed up with Connection Newspapers for this third annual campaign to engage the community in discussing suicide and encouraging people to get help by calling or texting a hotline.

Using the hashtag #CallTextLive, the Campaign works to educate the community about resources available and actions they can take to bring awareness to suicide prevention and intervention. In fact, a simple call or text to a crisis hotline or textline often provides the empathetic, trained voice that someone in crisis needs to reduce his/her pain and provide alternatives and connections to care.

The #CallTextLive Campaign has a variety of events and actions to bring suicide prevention to the forefront. Throughout the month, we will post these on a web-based interactive calendar at www.prsinc.org/calltextlive. In addition, we will be sharing tips and resources via social media and asking people to share their stories and photos on PRS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #CallTextLive hashtag as well as posting Stories of Hope — video vignettes from survivors, family members, and hotline volunteers.

A highlight of the month is Selfie Day on Sept. 21 when friends, community, and clients show support by tagging themselves on selfies on our Facebook and other social media pages

using #CallTextLive. We have t-shirts available for purchase for PRS Selfie Day. We also encourage the community to join the PRS team (with #CallTextLive t-shirts) for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Fairfax Walk on Sept. 16 and the NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) NOVA and Loudoun Walks, which are both taking place Sept. 23.

For every death, 278 people manage to move past thoughts of suicide and survive. PRS supports this through its CrisisLink program, which handled nearly 34,000 crisis calls and exchanged over 33,000 crisis text messages from the Northern Virginia region last year. Any time of the day or night, the PRS CrisisLink Hotline can be reached at 800-273-TALK [8255] and the textline by texting "CONNECT" to 85511.

Making a call or sending a text to PRS CrisisLink saves lives. Removing the stigma around reaching out, discussing issues that contribute to suicide and encouraging people to get help is key. By participating in #CallTextLive, we can turn up the volume, and make it OK to have a conversation, make a call or send a text.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More School Capacity Needed

To the Editor:

I believe in supporting our community and staying engaged in our children's lives. I also like problem solving and Alexandria City Public Schools faces significant overcrowding. This is why I got involved with the recent redistricting efforts.

ACPS needs more school capacity and it is most needed on the west end. As of fall 2016, ACPS had 8,091 elementary students enrolled, or 116 percent of the 6,998 student capacity. Enrollment is ex-

pected to increase so overcrowding will only get worse. Currently, young children are learning in spaces not designed for education, such as large closets, hallways, and rooms with no natural light. Some of our youngest students have to eat lunch at 10:15 a.m. because cafeterias aren't big enough to handle the large number of students.

I truly appreciate being a Redistricting Review Committee representative for John Adams and the hundreds of hours the community and my fellow representatives spent respectfully engaging. Additionally, ACPS devoted significant resources to engaging stakeholders and furthering the process.

There were many long hours; however, the endeavor resulted in what may not be perfect but is the best available solution to a complex situation.

This solution is predicated on a plan that addresses the needed capacity. While there is ongoing discussion among the School Board and City Council regarding how best to address the mid-to-longer term needs, everyone fully agrees a new school at 1701 N Beaugard is the proper first step to reducing this overcrowding.

... Everyone except our neighbors at 1703 N Beaugard — the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. ASCD is

an educational non-profit opposing the rezoning of the 1701 property that is necessary for the new school. They expressed that having the new school as a neighbor will "result in significant diminution of value for the ASCD Property."

Bill Pfister
Alexandria

Time for Ombudsman

To the Editor:

Since the Alexandria City Council City Council has failed pathetically to engage in any real discourse concerning the establishment of a Citizen's Ethics Commission, an Inspector General (IG), or even an Ombudsman, how do they expect to satisfactorily handle any ethical infractions that may arise?

For years I have proposed that an Inspector General (IG) or Ombudsman be elected to audit the effectiveness of government, or to discover the possibility of misconduct, waste, fraud, theft, and or other types of criminal and unethical activity perpetrated by individuals or groups. The Mayor had a well-intentioned ethics initiative that regrettably was torpedoed by her council colleagues.

An IG or Ombudsman's office would operate independently reporting only to the City Council. He or she would be elected to this job in a non-partisan manner for a period of six years. The job de-

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Hurricane Relief

Kate Papkin, on right, the Team Leader/CEO at Keller Williams Realty in Old Town, stands with her leadership team, Catherine Jouet, Patricia Gonzalez and Jillian Jordan in a room full of relief supplies they collected for the hurricane victims in Houston. The supplies were collected from area businesses, clients and family to support this humanitarian effort. The office has already shipped off a truck load and are working on their second. They will be accepting donations at their office located at 1701 Duke St., Suite 100, until noon, Friday, Sept. 15.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

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A main theme emerging from the task force is the potential to save money through innovative alternatives to proposed capital projects. One initial idea is to consider building school “swing space” on the recreation field behind George Mason Elementary School, over neighborhood objectives, to avoid renovating the

Alternatives and Alternatives

Budding consensus about improving the capital budget process.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

The Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force waded into the nitty-gritty of prioritizing and considering alternatives to capital projects at its third meeting on Thursday, Sept. 7.

City Council charged the Task Force to recommend how to execute city and school projects to close a \$106 million funding gap through FY27.

Discussion unfolded as the Task Force walked through a prioritization process. After refining, this

process will provide a framework through which to develop recommendations. So far it includes three steps: (1) demonstration of need and relative urgency; (2) demonstration of project readiness; and (3) demonstration of value to Alexandria. These steps comprise a total of 13 draft criteria identified previously, plus a few more that the Task Force suggested for inclusion. A criterion that received much discussion is the consequence of delay — in terms both of impact on the capacity to deliver core government services, and also of tradeoffs in community benefits or amenities. Another example criterion is a capital project’s impact on the operating budget.

The notional dry run illustrated a systematic approach to spreading projects, currently frontloaded in the near-term, more evenly across the timeframe of funding availability and projected school enrollment growth. Proposed school projects really are

SEE WORKING, PAGE 12

Adkins Delay

FROM PAGE 3

“Redevelopment requires land-use trade offs,” said Wilson. “If we were to treat public housing redevelopment the way we treat private sector, it doesn’t pencil out... We need to be having that discussion now at the front end of what is going to be the first of a series of large [projects]. Every single one of those is going to be difficult. Ramsey was the easy one, and that wasn’t easy. Every single one of the remaining five is going to be difficult. It’s going to require compromise on the part of all sides.”

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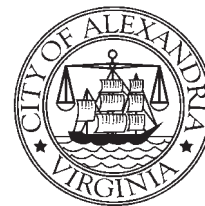
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A City license decal and residential parking decal, if applicable, were mailed with the personal property tax bills to most residents. The City license decal should be removed from the back of the bill and applied inside the front windshield next to the vehicle inspection decal. The residential parking decal should be applied to the driver’s side rear bumper.

Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/payments. Pay in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City. Personal property tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34899, Alexandria, VA 22334-0899. Business property tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34901, Alexandria, VA 22334-0901. Payments can also be made with cash only at Global Express Cash Payment Centers located throughout Northern Virginia. For a complete list of the available cash payment centers, please visit the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/payments.

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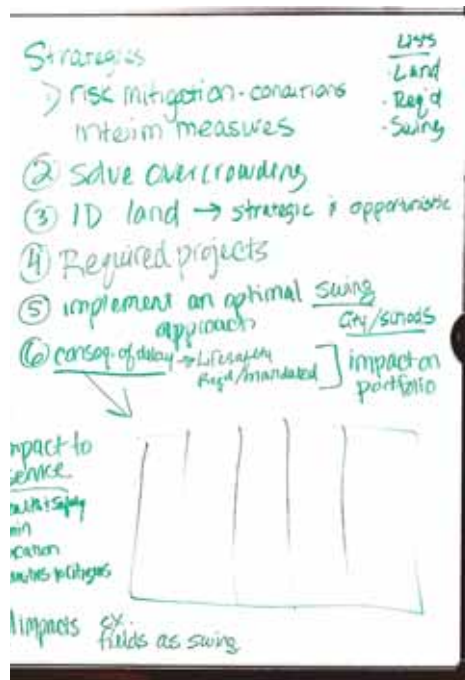
FROM PAGE 11

frontloaded, resulting in a \$70.4 million funding gap (66 percent of the total) in the first three years of the Task Force's purview. And the city and school system expect pre-k and elementary enrollment to increase steadily, by nearly one percent per year on average, through FY27. The Task Force would work to stack the best mix of urgent, ready and value-added projects to the left on the timeline, and to bump other projects to the right.

In particular, the Task Force discussed how to achieve what consultant Beth Penfield dubbed the "optimal swing [space] approach." Swing space is a temporary facility for students while permanent schools are constructed. The city administration will also need swing space while its facilities, including city hall, are renovated.

"In my looking at this, [optimal swing space] is the log jam for unlocking the entire CIP [Capital Improvement Program]," said Task Force member Dwight Dunton.

Revisiting an idea raised at an earlier subcommittee meeting, he suggested that a possible alternative to swing space is building a new school on the recreation field behind George Mason Elementary School. This could prevent the need to convert the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center into a temporary school, at a projected cost of \$42 million under the current plan.



An ad hoc joint city-school task force collected notes from a first dry run through its draft capital project prioritization schema.

"I think there are some of those opportunities. But, for whatever reason" — resident opposition to losing open space, in the case of George Mason's field — "those may not have been embedded in the current list of

recommendations ... And I think we need to dig in and find where those opportunities are and say, 'We understand the schools made a good decision in the context of the schools' needs. However, in the context of the entire city, we're suggesting to close George Mason field to build that [new] school while the kids remain in the [current] school' — for instance, as an example."

Others echoed his sentiments.

"We have developed schools without using swing space," said Task Force chair Lynn Hampton. She suggested weighing the cost of doing construction at a school site while it's still in use "against the moving kids across town and the cost of swing space. We have to look at those alternatives. ... There are some schools that are needed in the outlying areas. There's other needs in the outlying areas. Does it make sense to build something and use it as swing space, and then when it comes around that all swing space [needs are] gone, you can use it for a school, or use it for housing, or use it for some other purpose?"

Task Force member Amy Liu. said: "I do want to register quite directly ... my discomfort of putting criteria and staging and sequencing on a set of projects, as if we are endorsing the projects as they are. ... I want to raise a lot of questions about the actual projects. I know that they have gone

through a process. I don't want to question the wisdom that has informed those things. But I also ... don't know that there's enough public debate on some of these issues."

Specifically, she questioned "the consolidation of all the pre-school in one building. ... I know that most households, particularly low-income people, think of pre-school as a neighborhood asset ... So I don't want to just sign off on that." She also questioned the Minnie Howard campus "as the automatic second site for the expansion of high school. ... There's a lot of embedded assumptions in that decision ... These larger community conversations need to happen — there seems to be a disconnect or some major fundamental priors before we can put forward these recommendations."

Task Force member Elliot Branch said, "There's this whole set of implicit assumptions that drive you to a solution and a project definition that have not been exposed to any level of public discussion. So I'd like to understand what it is. It's like, you only get half credit in math class if you don't show your work."

Members concurred that they should not stray too far from their task to sequence existing projects. At the same time, their ultimate goal is not just to provide one finite project list, but also to "give the city methods so that ... it's not necessary to have the Task Force ever again," said Hampton.

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NEWS



This Romanesque home, on the 76th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, is nearly 5,000 square feet plus a rooftop deck.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Homes Tour Benefits Hospital

Twig to host 76th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.

The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, will hold its 76th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Old Town. Participants can learn the history and enjoy the interior design of eight homes, all located on North Columbus Street and within easy walking distance of each other.

The buildings on display date from the turn of the 19th century to the present. Current usage of the homes shows how to retain historic essence while modernizing, living easily in a small space, and experiencing the joys of living green. Here are some of the tour highlights:

- ❖ A townhouse in a historic landmark built in 1812 that was the first free school for girls in Virginia, and was then used as a prison for Confederate spies during the Civil War.

- ❖ The home of a Corcoran-trained painter filled with her landscapes and portraits of animals and

people.

- ❖ A LEEDS Silver certified home heated and cooled by a geothermal system; the architect/builder will be on site during the tour to talk about the home's energy efficient and environmentally friendly features.

- ❖ The ingenuity of furniture created from industrial equipment, such as a lift made into an end table, in a large Romanesque home designed by architect and historian Glenn Brown.

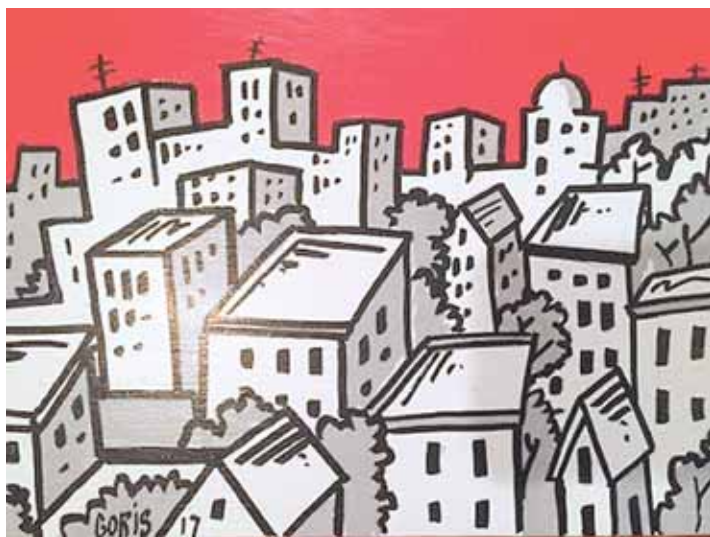
- ❖ A garden where a large tree that came down in a storm has been replaced by metal trees crafted by the owner to retain privacy and muffle sound.

All proceeds from the tour benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are available either online, TheTwig.org, or at the Ramsay House Visitor Center; price is \$40 in advance or \$45 the day of the tour. On tour day, exchange tickets for the tour book and map either at the Twig Shop, 106 N. Columbus St., at Ramsay House, 221 King St., or at the Lloyd House garden on the 200 block of N. Columbus Street.

The Twig is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing financial aid and support to Inova Alexandria Hospital. Since its founding in 1933, The Twig has donated nearly \$4 million to the hospital.

'Twisted Masterpieces'

Join Del Ray Artisans for an evening of art at Port City Brewing Company. "Twisted Masterpieces" silent auction of 2D and 3D artwork and live auction of funky furniture is on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 6-9 p.m. at 3950 Wheeler Ave. Purchase tickets (\$25 each) in advance only online or at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. Details and ticket sales at: DelRayArtisans.org/event/twisted-masterpieces.



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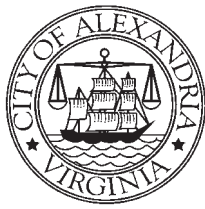
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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, September 16, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way adjacent to the property at 700 South Pitt Street (VAC No. 2017-0001). The proposed ordinance vacates a 739 square foot rectangular portion of the public right-of-way, located at the intersection of South Pitt and Franklin Streets, immediately adjacent to the property at 700 South Pitt Street. The area was previously approved for an encroachment (ENC #2016-0002) on April 16, 2016.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of a renewal of a three-year license agreement with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation for docking the Maritime Heritage Center at its present location at the Alexandria City Marina.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-7 (APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES) of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance updates the language of City Code Section 2-4-7 to provide more options for an appointee to take the oath required for persons appointed by the City Council to any committee, First, Virginia notaries qualify as other officers authorized to administer oaths or affirmations pursuant to Virginia law (Virginia Code § 47.1-12) so rather than going to the Circuit Court Clerk's office, the appointee can take the oath verbally in front of a notary public. Additionally, the proposed ordinance would allow appointees to take the oath in writing on a form provided by the City Clerk and Clerk of Council. As currently written, the revised code would allow the oath in writing without being notarized so the appointee could sign the form and send it in.

City Council Public Hearing and consideration to rename the Cora Kelly Recreation Center the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-5-11 (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIRED) of Article B (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE) of Chapter 5 (OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance updates the language of City Code Section 2-5-11, regarding required financial disclosures for certain public officials, employees, and citizen board and commission members, to make it consistent with recent amendments to the Virginia Code. The proposed changes update the reference to the Virginia Code, removing an expired code section, change the annual reporting deadline to January 15, and note the role of the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council, which is now charged with preparing the financial disclosure forms.

Public Hearing and Consideration to name the Four Mile Run Park Edison Street Entrance in honor of Betty King.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by City Council to replace the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan with an updated small area plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0003 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0003 to amend the City of Alexandria Master Plan by replacing the North Potomac Yard Small Area Plan with updated small area plan approved by the City Council on June 13, 2017.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by City Council to replace the Old Town North Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan with an update small area plan including the Old Town North Urban Design Standards and Guidelines as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0002 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0002 to amend the City of Alexandria Master Plan by replacing the Old Town North Small Area Plan with updated small area plan including the Old Town North Urban Design Standards and Guidelines approved by the City Council on June 24, 2017.

AN ORDINANCE to repeal Section 13-1-25 (MINORS PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC POOLROOMS) of chapter 1 (GENERAL OFFENSES) of Title 13 (MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance abolishes the prohibition of minors in public poolrooms or billiard rooms. The ordinance currently prohibits minors in public poolrooms and billiard rooms and punishes the minor, the establishment, and any employees for a violation with criminal or civil penalties. The ordinance is outdated, no longer addresses a need in the City, and is not being utilized by law enforcement.

City Council Public Hearing and consideration of an amendment to the Water Taxi License Agreement between the City of Alexandria and the Potomac Riverboat Company.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday. GLORIA A. SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

NEWS

Seeking Ecological 'Sustainability'

FROM PAGE 6

its utilization of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset the electricity consumed by city-owned buildings, said EPC vice-chair Praveen Kathpal. RECs are a means of purchasing renewable energy on the electric power grid, even if from a non-local source, thereby "help[ing] the renewable energy market to grow," according to an EPA tutorial.

Kathpal believes the city could invest about \$80,000 per year to offset 100 percent of its buildings' electricity usage through RECs, up from 19 percent currently. He thinks the city could compensate for this expense simply by upgrading more city lighting with LEDs; installing LED lighting in four parking garages has already realized an annual savings of \$38,000.

Increasing REC usage could stimulate the "branding effect of Alexandria as a clean energy city," attracting "clean energy and other sustainable industries," he said. "Washington, Trump administration or not, is going to be a hotbed of that activity. ... And what better way to signal that we want Alexandria to be a home for this cluster of industries that's growing than by saying that we're going to be 100 percent and actually taking some action towards that?" He cited several cities — including ones in Red states and with similar oversight from their state legislatures — that have already taken similar action.

THE RETREAT also emphasized improving the city's system for assessing progress.

"Talk is cheap. At the political level, cities go around signing up for every single little thing. And it's great for groups of mayors to come together and high-five each other," said Kathpal, paraphrasing a June article published by Greentech Media, a clean energy market analysis firm. He mentioned several commitments and endorsements made locally, including, most recently, the city's joining the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change. "But what we really want as a community is,

'Where's the accountability for tracking our progress against these commitments?' ... These are things we need answers to."

The city "maintain[s] three items related to the EAP," said Fifer: an inventory, currently being updated, of city environmental policies, plans and programs; an annual Eco-City progress report; and an "internal spreadsheet" of unspecified function "that is not used to track targets and is not regularly updated." None of these indicates current progress toward achieving the 27 specific objectives that the EAP comprises, as compiled in an appendix.

In a 2015 report, Jimena Pinzón, then a Virginia Tech graduate student assisting Schilling, critiqued the 20 indicators that the annual progress report tracks. He rated all but two of the indicators "fair" or "poor," reckoning that several do "not link to any specific goal in [the] EAP" and/or are "not meaningful" to the general public. The city has slipped against the two indicators that Pinzón rated as "good," according to the 2016 progress report, the latest available on the city's web site: Per capita energy use increased 12.8 percent as of 2014 (data is not given for 2015 and 2016) and per capita water use increased 0.9 percent as of 2016, both against 2005 baselines. Nine indicators are missing data for at least one year, and 14 do not indicate corresponding targets.

The city tracks other indicators as totals rather than on a per capita basis. For example, the progress report tracks the city's solid waste recycling rate as a percent, but not, as specified in the Eco-City Charter, by "volume."

"The City is working on ways to both better summarize all EAP-related tracking data in one place, and to improve how we communicate progress on goals with the public," said Fifer.

The EPC currently plans to meet twice a month from October to June. All meetings are open to the public. Residents can access EPC materials online at www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.

COUNCIL NOTEBOOK

Trouble in River City

Minors rejoice and parents beware, the threat of pool halls corrupting the innocent youth of the city may yet return. At its Sept. 12 meeting, City Council unanimously abolished the prohibition of minors in public poolrooms or billiard rooms.

"The ordinance currently prohibits minors in public poolrooms and billiard rooms and punishes the minor, the establishment, and any employees for a violation with civil or criminal penalties," the proposal states. "The ordinance is outdated, no longer addresses a need in the city, and is not being utilized by law enforcement."

According to Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, sponsor of the legislation, overturning the ban is part of an ongoing effort by city staff to look through the city code and identify outdated pieces of legislation.

Riding for Free

Changes are underway for Alexandria's DASH bus system that will make transit free and more accessible for some. Starting on Sept. 25, City Manager Mark Jinks said high school students with a valid student ID will be able to ride DASH buses for free. According to Jinks, it was determined that most Alexandria high schoolers ride at off-peak times, so the change will come at little cost to the bus system.

Additionally, in October, Jinks said MetroAccess passengers will be able to ride DASH at no extra cost. MetroAccess is a shared-ride, door-to-door paratransit service for people whose disability prevents them from using other bus or rail lines.

"Hopefully it will encourage those living near Metro lines to ride the DASH bus with no extra cost," said Jinks.

NEWS



Protesting

Protests organized by Grassroots Alexandria and attended by many different groups of activists are taking place every second and fourth Sunday of the month. At 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, there were about 50 activists displaying signs and handing out literature. The protests have been taking place since Spencer moved his white nationalist organization, the National Policy Institute, to the second floor of this building at 1001 King St. in early 2017.

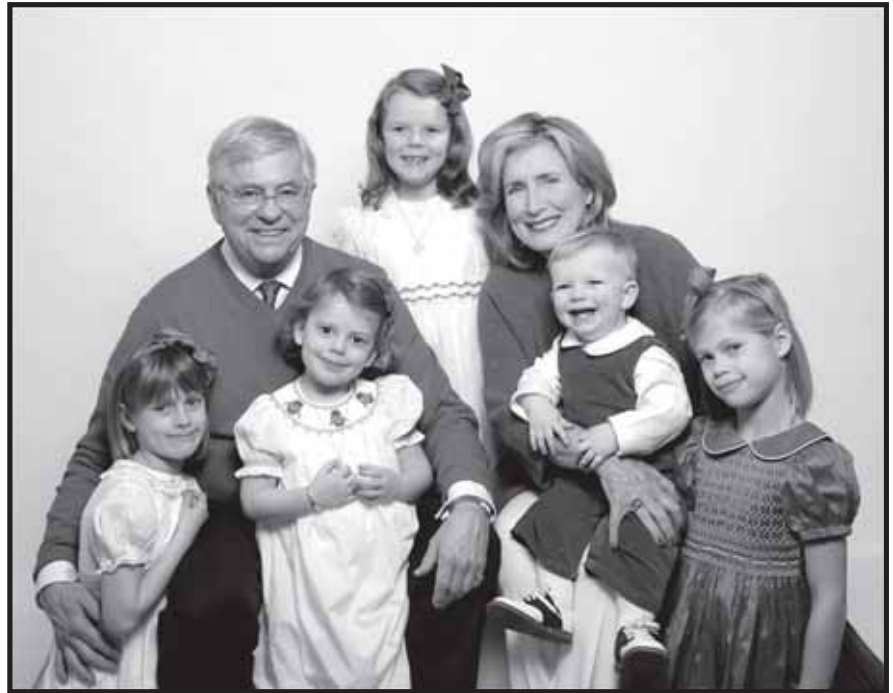
Grassroots Alexandria representative Jonathan Krall said the protests at King and Patrick Streets would continue until Richard Spencer leaves Alexandria, but he added that the protests are not just about Spencer's presence in Alexandria, but to voice opposition to policies that are being promoted by people on the right side of the political spectrum, like rescinding DACA and reducing support to Planned Parenthood. Fair and affordable housing, equitable education, and other issues are on the agendas of those who are protesting. Different groups are protesting at the King Street location, including church groups and the Tenants and Workers United organization, which is interested in building the power of low-income communities of color – primarily immigrants – to create change and improve the quality of life in Northern Virginia.



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET

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Home LifeStyle



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY WILDER DESIGN BUILD/PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

Blues and greens are great in bedrooms because of their calming effect, says Dana Schwartz, designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

The Psychology of Color

Using color to set the mood in a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When it comes to interior design, color has the power to make or change the feel of a room. Whether cheerful and inviting for a kitchen or serene and comfortable for an office, the right shade can be transformative.

"Colors trigger emotional reactions, associations, and memories," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, George Mason University. "The red spectrum colors tend to elicit more arousal and the blue spectrum colors tend to elicit more calmness. People's favorite colors often boost their mood and disliked colors lower their mood."

Part of designing a space is using color to create mood and feel, says interior designer Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. In fact, she employed this technique when designing a kitchen space for a recent client. Her goal was to create a room that would be a calming place for the homeowner to derive inspiration for party planning, so she chose a light shade of blue.

"The vintage aqua in the china pantry was meant to evoke a calm and happy space to envision and plan for gatherings and social events," said Subaran. "We wanted the aqua in the cabinetry and on the ceiling to inspire creativity. It's a highly functional space, but it's also one that celebrates that which is being housed and organized."

Lighter, neutral colors help lighten a space and make it feel larger, said

Dana Schwartz, designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build. "Darker, moodier colors can help a room feel cozier and create a dramatic effect."

"Neutrals like white, black, gray and brown are valued for their flexibility," added Amanda Mertins, president, Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "You simply add or subtract color to liven up or calm things down. Choosing room colors depends on your personal taste and the room's purpose."

Warm colors such as red and orange often elicit a range of feelings from warmth to anger, said Short. "This may be due to our associations with blood, face flushing, or stop signs," he said. "Cooler colors like blue and green often elicit feelings from relaxation to sadness. This may be due to our associations with a blue sky [and] grass."

When it comes to interior design, "red is known to pump adrenaline, so keep red to a minimum in nurseries or bedrooms,"

said Schwartz. "Blues and greens are great in bedrooms because of their calming effect. Yellows and oranges have an energetic effect, great for communal spaces like kitchens, dining rooms, and bathrooms."

"Choose a color that inspires you or a color that you love," said designer Melissa Cooley of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "Choose a color that is reminiscent of your childhood, favorite car or perhaps flowers," she said. "It will help create a positive emotion upon entering the space. Color creates



Dark colors, such as those in this room by Susan Nelson of Home on Cameron, can add warmth to a space.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN NELSON

an emotion; therefore create the space you wish to feel. This is a perfect example where beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder. Make sure to carry that color throughout the space, creating a cohesiveness within the space."

The amount of natural light a room receives can also play a role in color selection, says Cooley. "In a basement space, limited sunlight can sometimes cause a damper on one's mood," she said. "A pop of color even in a bathroom can enlighten and lift one's emotion. Adding a pop color creates an oasis or a place of bright escapism."

Color can be added to a room in a variety of ways, advises designer Susan Nelson of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "Typically walls are painted, but it's important to remember that accessories and furniture ...

are other ways to insert color into a room."

When choosing colors for an outdoor space, play off natural elements. Air and water tones such as blues, soft greens and light neutrals bring a sense of tranquility and calm to a space because they are reminiscent of water views and blue skies, advises Madeline Fairbanks at Country Casual Teak.

"Create a calm, cool retreat by mixing blues and whites that remind us of waves, water and sand to sooth the nerves and invite relaxation," she said. "Earth and fire tones like rich browns, oranges and reds can energize and animate a space and bring inviting warmth outdoors. Warm colors are thought to stimulate the senses and whet the appetite, so are perfect for outdoor spaces where guests will be entertained."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN NELSON

In this room by Susan Nelson of Home on Cameron, the soft gray and lavender tones provide a backdrop for the brightly colored sofa and accessories.

Home LifeStyle

This Fairfax kitchen was enlarged to create a space for entertaining for a family of five.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
NICELY DONE KITCHENS
AND BATHS



1970s Fairfax Kitchen Gets Makeover

When a Fairfax family of five decided that their 1970s-era kitchen needed to be brought into the 21st century they enlisted the help of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. The homeowners also wanted more space for entertaining and to accommodate their large family.

"This was a particularly interesting project," said designer Cathy Goss of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. "It involved incorporating four different functions into one uniquely-sized space."

Two adjacent rooms were combined to allow space for an island, pantry, command center and a station for cooking and the subsequent clean-up. The de-

sign team removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a larger kitchen area. They also incorporated two different backsplashes into the design: a marble subway tile with a marble accent under the range hood and a cut stone surface at the glass cabinets. LED under-cabinet lighting accents the quartz countertops.

"The cabinetry is a beautiful example of reverse raised panel paired with eclipse glass doors," said Goss. "The project resulted in a beautiful and ultra-functional centerpiece to this Fairfax family's home."

— MARILYN CAMPBELL



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DC DESIGN HOUSE

The 2017 DC Design House, located in Potomac, Md., will be open to the public from Saturday, Sept. 30 until Sunday, Oct. 29.

Design House Designers Revealed

The designers who will transform the 10th Annual DC Design House were announced recently.

Among the 23 men and women who will give the Potomac, Md. home a makeover are Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz; Lisa Tureson of Herndon; Margery Wedderburn of Great Falls; Mary Amons of McLean; Josh Hildreth of Reston; Keira St. Claire-Bowery of Cabin John, Md.; and Bethesda, Md.-based designers Kelley Proxmire, Lorna Gross, Marika Meyer, Erica Burns, Karen Snyder and Camille Saum.

The selection process is competitive and being chosen to design one of the home's rooms is con-

sidered one of the most prestigious honors in the industry.

The Washington, DC Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design show house event for the Washington, D.C. area. Each year, local designers donate their time and talent to makeover a grand home that opens to the public for tours. Proceeds raised from tour ticket sales benefit Children's National Health System.

This year, the home is located at 9004 Congressional Court in Potomac, Md., and will be open from Sept. 30 through Oct. 29. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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SPORTS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Community Rowing Women's Open C8+ (Bronze)



Alexandria Community Rowing Women's Competitive Sweep Team members at Melton Lake, Oakridge, Tenn.

Alexandria Rowing Team Wins at Nationals

Alexandria Community Rowing's (ACR) Competitive Women's Sweep team recently returned from US Rowing Masters' National Championships, the highlight of the summer sprint season for rowers over age 21.

After spending months practicing sprints on the Potomac, the team traveled to Oak Ridge, Tenn. for the 4-day regatta. Eighteen rowers competed in eights, fours, and a pair in age categories ranging from A (27-35 years) to D (50-54 years), as well as light-weight and sculling events. The team medaled in six events (2 bronze, 2 silver, and 2 gold) and ACR rowers won gold and silver as part of multi-club composite boats.

This fall, ACR will field scull and sweep boats in 5,000 meter local and regional head races. These include the Head of the Potomac, Occoquan Chase, Head of the Charles (Boston), Head of the Schuylkill (Philadelphia), Head of the Occoquan and Head of the Hooch (Chattanooga). The full schedule can be found at www.alexandriarowing.com/calendar/

Experienced and beginner rowers can get involved in ACR in several ways. For novices, the club hosts an annual Learn to Row day event; a one-day, free hands-on experience that introduces community adults to rowing technique both on and off the water. In the summer, ACR provides novice sweep and sculling programs over two-week sessions. These coached programs meet three days per week in the afternoons and provide entry for novice or less-experienced rowers to gain skills to prepare them for the fall and spring coached novice and recreational rowing programs. More information about programs and contact information for coaches can be found at www.alexandriarowing.com/programs.

In the winter (November – March), community members may consider winter training – three days per week of indoor rowing (Concept 2 ergometers) and weights to prep



Women's Open B4+ (Gold)

for competitive teams in the spring.

Finally, ACR welcomes individuals to get to know the club as a volunteer and/or competitor at the MidAtlantic Erg Sprints (Feb. 17-18, 2018), the second largest indoor rowing competition in the world. The Alexandria Crew Boosters hosts this annual event as a fundraiser for the T.C. Williams High School crew program. For more information, see www.ergsprints.com.



Women's Open D4+ (Silver)



Women's Club C8+ (Bronze)



PHOTO BY BILL VOCKE

TC Against Tuscarora

Titans QB Diondre Charlton #13 during the Friday, Sept. 8 match against Tuscarora. T.C. Williams varsity football team lost the non-conference game against Tuscarora by a score of 24-14.

SPORTS



J. J. Smith from Alexandria, wearing bib #510, won the 60 meter dash for the 75-79 age group. Smith ran hurdles years ago while attending St. Albans School for boys in D.C.



Lisa Bridges (left) from McLean and Sheila Laszlo from Ashburn both won gold medals in their championship matches.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

Senior Olympics Athletes Gather For Opening Ceremonies

Tennis and indoor track last weekend.

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics kicked off its 35th anniversary season on Sept. 9, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. The opening ceremonies included the T.C. Williams High School Army JROTC Color Guard, remarks by NVSO committee Chairman Jim Mackenzie, and the carry-

ing of the Olympic Torch. This year there are 752 competitors. The first day of competition took place on Sept. 9 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center and included indoor track events. Tennis singles (50-69) took place on Sept. 11 at Wakefield District Park in Annandale. The Senior Olympics runs through Sept. 20. See <http://nvso.us>.



Jim Mackenzie, NVSO Committee chairman, welcomes the competitors to the 35th Senior Olympics.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'Driving Miss Daisy'

Story shows 25-year relationship between strong-willed Daisy and black chauffeur Hoke.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "Driving Miss Daisy" from Sept. 9-30. It's 1948 in the Deep South just prior to the Civil Rights movement. The wealthy, strong-willed Daisy Wertham is a Jewish woman living in a WASP-dominated community. Hoke, a dignified, unemployed black man is hired as her chauffeur. This 1988 Pulitzer Prize-winning play spans their complex 25-year relationship to show that friendships are found in even the most unlikely circumstances.

Director Jim Howard said the many messages of prejudice, segregation, and anti-Semitism primarily in the south during this time period is always a painful thing to convey. "It's a reminder of where we've been and how far we've got to go," he said. "It strikes a chord in today's environment, I hope."

He said the challenge was to tell this story of Daisy, Hoke, and Boolie through 27 scenes and time changes without a break. "During one of those scenes the Jewish temple in Atlanta is bombed and Daisy asks Hoke, 'Who could have done that?' and his reply is one of my favorite lines in the play: 'It's always the same ones,' he said.

He added, "This play was a labor of love to direct. LTA provides the resources and talented people to accomplish this story telling."

Patricia Kratzer is playing the role of Miss Daisy, a widow with one son, Boolie. "She is feisty and never the diplomat ... She doesn't appear to have many outside interests as she ages, only family and the synagogue," she said. "Aging can be a lonely business, particularly when her independence is threatened. So, it is no wonder that she resents the hiring of a chauffeur after she crashes her car and her son decides she can no longer drive."

She said the challenge was understand-

ing the prejudices of the early 20th century that surrounded Miss Daisy, and Hoke growing up in Georgia took some research on her part.

"Exposing her naivete of the world around her, without losing her innate goodness (she teaches Hoke to read and write) was a balancing act," she said. "Of course, the aging is difficult; we jump months and years in such a short time."

She added that we should appreciate that the history lesson in the play is as relevant today as it was those many years ago. "We need to recognize that racism and anti-Semitism are still with us today," she said.

Joel Durgavich is playing the role of Boolie Werthan, the only son of Daisy. During the show he is dealing as best he can with his aging mother as she needs more care from her 70s to 90s. He runs the family printing business and is a respected member of the business community. "Although not racist, he is concerned about how any perceived support of the advancement of rights for colored people will affect his business," he said.

Since the play spans 26 years, there were several costume and make-up changes to help depict the passage of time. "Some of the scene changes allowed for little time to complete those costume/make-up changes; so getting things done efficiently was sometimes challenging," he added.

Durgavich said, "We should take away the importance of respecting one another and at least attempting to see things from another person's perspective — (Hoke says, 'How you know the way I see, less you lookin' outta my eyes'). It is very easy to have one's own blind spots in terms of prejudice."

Kevin Stockwell plays the role of Hoke, an African-American country gentleman who ages from 60-85 during the course of the show. He describes him as "a loyal and honest man who has seen a lot of the world as a driver, father and grandfather, and being an African-American in an ever-chang-



PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK

Patricia Kratzer stars as Daisy and Kevin Sockwell stars as Hoke in LTA's production of "Driving Miss Daisy," which will be playing until Sept. 30.

ing South."

He said the show offers a series of vignettes so each section is an isolated piece of acting in and of itself without much build-up into a situation. So his challenge is just remembering what comes next in the show.

"As an actor, I have been trained to connect with an acting partner by looking at them and relating. As the driver, my acting partner is behind me most of the show, so I never see her face-to-face for almost the entire show but pretend to see her in the rearview mirror and need to connect," he said. "This is exacerbated by the fact that the Hoke-Daisy relationship is slightly contentious at the start, so there's little eye contact at the start."

Producer Carol Strachan said producing at LTA is exciting due to having their own theatre and not being kicked out of rehearsal space due to time constraints. "The group is extremely well organized and has a great resource of set designers, light de-

signers, costume designers, and sound designers, and filling these key positions early on in the game is essential for a smooth-running show. The producer's job at LTA is 'never-ending,' but it is so worthwhile to work with such an organized theatre group," she said.

Strachan has been a member of LTA for more than 10 years and has produced "Scapino," "A Christmas Carol," and "Witness for the Prosecution," and has appeared on stage in five LTA plays. She's also ushered and been props designer for "A Party to Murder."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "Driving Miss Daisy" through Sept. 30. Performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22 (plus service fees). To buy tickets or for more information, call the LTA Box Office at 703-683-0496 or visit thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

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.

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.

"Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia." Various times through Oct. 1 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.

Artists Exhibit. Various times through Oct. 31 in the 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.

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.

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.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Artists Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Alexandria artists Floydetta McAfee and Michael Holt are part of the exhibit "Culture Shock" that explores socio-political issues through the lens of pop culture and street art. The exhibit runs from Saturday, Sept. 9 through Sunday, Oct. 22. Visit torpedofactory.org.

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.

Penny and Sparrow Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Performing their new album Wendigo with opener Lowland Hum. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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

A photograph of a man in a red coat and black hat, likely a historical reenactor, sitting at a table and playing checkers with a young girl. The girl is wearing a floral shirt and is focused on the game. The man is looking at the board with interest. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and outdoor setting.

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Fresh Take on 'Cinderella' Adapted from Russian Play

September performances at Lee Center.

BY NATALIA MEGAS

When producer and composer Steven Rodgers read an English translation of Yevgeny Shvarts' 1938 play "Zolushka," he instantly fell in love with it. But it would take over a decade before he could pursue the Russian version of the classical tale, "Cinderella."

"It's extremely expensive to produce a musical, and I finally had the money to risk on the venture," he said.

Rodgers, who composed the musical's original scores with lyrics by British writer Wendy Christopher, says local theaters turned him down, worried that audiences might confuse "Rodgers and Christopher" with "Rodgers and Hammerstein."

"So, as they say, if you want to get something done, you have to do it yourself and I did," said the Oregon native who moved to Virginia to study drama at the University of Virginia.

"Cinderella," which will premiere later this month at the Lee Center in Alexandria, is adapted from the Russian version and offers a modern take of the classic tale.

"It is much wittier, with sophisticated humor and interesting, tongue-in-cheek characters and plot twists," said Rodgers of Lake Ridge.

It features a wide array of characters, "from the befuddled king who keeps threatening to join a monastery when things don't go his way to the forest keeper, Cinderella's father, who is a great warrior but becomes a bit of a wimp when confronted by his domineering wife, the Stepmother," said Rodgers.

A sneak peek at rehearsals promises humor for all ages, sweet romantic moments, hilarity, and a talented cast who bring the characters to life. The Stepsisters, played by Catholic University graduates Julie Britt and Elizabeth Colandene and the Step-

mother, played by Jackie Salvador, are more rounded, dynamic, modern characters, using a selfie-stick to hold a mirror, for example, and making the audience sympathize with them.

Influenced by a mélange of musical genres like Queen to the Beatles to Cole Porter and Mozart, Rodgers says the musical scores are eclectic, representing elements from pop to classical music.

"It is a more contemporary sound, with some Pink Floyd-inspired ballads, some rock numbers with jazz influence, backed up with musicians from the [local] blues-rock group, 'The Nighthawks,'" he said.

It was the music, says stage director and choreographer Cristina Cayere, that inspired her join the production.

"Steven's music just makes you want to move," she said. "I wanted to show how movement underscores the music and provides another layer [to storytelling]."

"Cristina Cayere's modern, energized cho-

reography makes even non-dance enthusiasts like me suddenly sit up and take notice," Rodgers said.

Cayere, who grew up in the Washington, D.C. area, incorporates many different dance styles including upbeat tap, modern, grand waltzes, and classical ballet.

"It's all in there," she said. "As Juliana Cofrancesco and the costume mistresses add the layers of color and texture to costumes, the whole show becomes a treat for your ears, eyes, funny bone and heart."

While many cast members hold multiple jobs and continue auditioning for other shows, the actors "have dedicated extra time above and beyond rehearsals to learn choreography and improve their skills. And their energy is fantastic," said Cayere.

The cast members include students, teachers, a former police officer, a nanny, a former journalist, all coming together for the sake of art. They're all triple threats too, singing, dancing, and acting, some as young as 9 years old.

Anna Maria Shockey, who plays the lead

of Cinderella, is a high school student at Robinson High School. She says she was drawn to the story because of the "earthy characters going through relatable experiences."

"Cinderella is very grounded and understanding. The journey she takes from 'a shy young girl' to 'a fairy princess' completely changes her outlook and she finds she can't go back to the life she had before," she said.

She added, "the Prince is a troubled boy navigating his way to become a man through his love for a stranger. Cinderella's stepsisters and stepmother, who are used to getting everything they want, have to accept consequences for their actions. This story is very much a coming of age fairytale."

Christopher Miller, who moved to the D.C. area from Mississippi, plays the Prince. He describes his character as a romantic. "But he's also got a royal air about him."

Mike Baker, Jr., who has won seven Emmy awards, plays the King throwing temper tantrums, habitually threatening to go join a monastery whenever things don't go his way.

"We were quite blessed to find such talented actors, dancers and singers. That part was not at all challenging," said Rodgers. "What is challenging is to get potential audience members to get excited about something that they know nothing of. They don't know me, they don't know the actors, they don't know the music. When people see the actors, and hear the music, and see the dancing, they always love it, but how do we get the word out?"

The new musical runs: Sept. 22, 23, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m., and Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Free parking, premium seating and special prices available online at infinitystage.com. A free special needs performance for special needs families and those working with special needs children will take place on Sept. 15. Donations collected will go to Easterseals.



PHOTO BY JULIA MACINNIS

Cinderella (Anna Maria Shockey), the Stepsisters (Julie Britt and Elizabeth Colandene), and Stepmother (Jackie Salvador) rehearse.

CALENDAR

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.

Celebrate PARK(ing) Day. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. outside City Hall, 301 King St. City of Alexandria will celebrate PARK(ing) Day, a worldwide event promoting the importance of preserving and creating public green space in urban areas. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Free Outdoor Fitness Series. Noon-1 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. This is the first Friday in a series of 30-40 minute full body Tone & Flow lunch break workout by fitness studio Pilates Pro Works. Every Friday through Oct. 8. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

Itty Bitty Doggie Dive. 4-7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center Memorial Pool, 901 Wythe St. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac.

Swing Band Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance and

listen to swing music. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/.

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 Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose." Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399.

Itty Bitty Doggie Dive. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Old Town Pool, 1609 Cameron St. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac to register.

Civil War Artillery Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Learn about the role and equipment of Civil War artillerymen in the Defenses of Washington. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 7:36 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria, 300 John Carlyle St. Film "When Harry Met Sally," which was rescheduled

date from Sept. 2 that got rained out due to Harvey remnants. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SEPT. 16-17

Mount Vernon Colonial Market and Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Colonial-attired artisans demonstrate 18th-century crafts and sell traditional wares such as baskets, woodcarvings, tin and ironwork, leather-workings, weavings, and furniture. \$20 adults; \$10 youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

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 gallery with original artwork by more 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/alexandria-king-street-art-festival.

Crafts at Carlyle. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 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.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 17

Free Outdoor Fitness Series. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. This is the first Sunday in the Slowdown Sunday's series geared towards mind and body, restorative workouts lead by studio Mind The Mat. Every Sunday through Oct. 8. Free. Bring Your Own Mat and Water. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

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.

MONDAY/SEPT. 18

Monday Morning Birdwalk. 7 a.m. at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bird

watching takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance. Call 703-768-2525.

Civil War Round Table. 7-9 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St. New monthly Civil War Round Table featuring talks by local historians has formed. Featuring local author and tour guide Don Hakenson discussing "Gray Ghost" Colonel John Mosby's attempted abduction in Alexandria of pro-Union Virginia Restoration Governor Francis Pierpont. Free. Email mtooley@theird.org.

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-

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Alexandria Restaurants to Celebrate Ethiopia's New Year

BY HOPE NELSON

Ethiopia rang in its new year on Monday. Locally, this makes for an excellent time to delve more deeply into the African nation's multifaceted cuisine. Here are three great places to try.

Hawwi, 1125 Queen St.

This little café on the corner of Fayette and Queen streets is admittedly easily overlooked. But don't be fooled: Its unassuming façade is the antithesis of what goodies lie behind the front door. Walk in and you'll find a light and airy, casual ambience — and you'll be hit with the wonderful aromas of Ethiopian spices.

And no matter what you order, expect to leave full and happy. Come for breakfast — the restaurant offers several egg dishes, each offered with pita bread or injera, the traditional tangy, slightly sour, spongy bread of Ethiopia — or pop in for lunch or dinner, where you can order piecemeal or via a combo platter. Ethiopian cuisine is known for its accessibility to vegetarians, and the vegan sampler doesn't disappoint on this front. With nine different recipes to taste, ranging from red and yellow lentils to collard greens and beets, you'll go home satisfied. Or bring a guest and max out your caloric range with the Queen Combo, which kicks off the festivities with a course of sambusa and moves on to a hearty combination entrée featuring the likes of doro wat (a chicken stew) and beef dishes, with a vegetable course for good measure.

Jolley's, 654 S. Pickett St.

On the other end of the spectrum for Hawwi is Jolley's Restaurant and Lounge on the West End. Tucked away in a strip of businesses on South Pickett Street, the restaurant is a tale of two venues. Stay in

the front bar and dining area for a casual dinner, or venture further back in the establishment for a full-fledged hookah bar and club atmosphere. Jolley's offers live music multiple times each week and hosts football-watching parties and other sports events. Naturally, it was an excellent place to ring in Ethiopian New Year.

But don't let all the razzle-dazzle get in the way of the restaurant's comprehensive menu. From Gored Gored — raw cubed beef simmered in a red pepper sauce — to Lega Tibs — cooked beef sautéed with spices in a butter sauce — the possibilities are endless. Vegetarians will find a thorough presence on the menu, as well, with Gomen Wot (collard greens), Fitfit (pieces of injera mixed into a salad of fresh vegetables) and Kik Altcha (yellow lentils) all taking their rightful place.

Enat, 4709 N. Chambliss St.

Still further afield on the West End, Enat is at once a cozy sports bar and a tour of Ethiopia's signature cuisine. Pop in to watch a soccer match or to have a quiet dinner for two or more — either scenario works well with Enat.

Your best bet at Enat is a combination platter. From lamb and vegetables to Enat Agelgel, which features six different dishes, your options are wide-ranging and the results are good no matter which direction you go. Not a strict vegetarian? Add whole fish to your veggie combination for some additional protein.

And, for that matter, not a fan of Ethiopian food whatsoever? The menu also sports spaghetti, grilled chicken, and more for diners who are just along for the ride.

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

CALENDAR

768-4101 or visit

www.mvgenalogy.org.

Fibre Space Open House. 5-8 p.m. at Fibre Space, 1319 Prince St. In their new historic flatiron building in the city that sits at the corner of Commerce, Prince and West streets. Call 703-664-0344 or visit www.fibrespace.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Four Women, Four Stories. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Cheryl White Mason, Ruth Walkup, Solveig Eggerz and Joyce Morgan Young tell their story about human culture and more. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

SEPT. 21-24

Old Town Boutique District Shop and Stroll. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at various boutiques throughout Old Town. Browse and shop, collect stamps at each location to be entered in a grand prize drawing that includes \$1,000 worth of gift cards. Visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

SEPT. 22-OCT. 1

Cinderella, The New Musical. Various times at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. An Infinity Stage production. \$15-35 online, \$20-\$40 at the door. Visit www.infinitystage.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. Refreshments will also be on sale. Admission is Free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

Kayak Cleanup on Hunting Creek. 9 a.m.-noon at the Old Stone Bridge off the George Washington Parkway. Bring a canoe or kayak to help clean up the Hunting Creek tidal wetlands and shoreline in Alexandria just upstream from the Old Stone Bridge off the George Washington Parkway. Email rhilyer@nvtc.org, or call 703-354-5093.

Mayor on the Corner. 10-11:30 a.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Join Mayor Allison Silberberg for her monthly meet and greet. Free. Visit www.allisonsilberberg.com.

Woodlawn Historic District Tour. 10 a.m. at the Woodlawn Mansion, 9000 Richmond Highway. Join Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck local historians and trail planners in a one-mile walk that includes interpretation at Woodlawn Estate, Arcadia Farm, and Pope-Leighey House and a free tour of the George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill. Visit www.novaregion.org.

Historic Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. get tickets at Ramsey House Visitor Center, 221 King St. Visit eight

homes in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Visit www.thetwig.org.

Firefighting History Walking Tour. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 Alfred St. Explore Alexandria's firefighting history on the "Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History" tour. Visit www.alexandrava.gov/friendshipfirehouse.

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 Beatrice Farrand, who designed dozens of gardens. \$20. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-941-7987.

River Farm Gala. 6-10 p.m. at the River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. The event's theme of "America's Garden Legacy: From Sea to Shining Sea" highlights horticulture's contributions to the beauty and prosperity of our country. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/gala or contact AHS Director of Development and Engagement, Susan Klejst at 703-768-5700, ext. 127 or sklejst@ahsgardening.org.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

ASO Presents Season Opener with Conductor Michael Rossi

BY MELINDA KERNC
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents an unusual season this year, featuring four final candidates for music director. The finalists are diverse, conducting symphonies from Xalapa, Mexico to Lucena, Spain — from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Washington National Opera. One final candidate will be chosen as the ASO's next music director to conduct the 75th anniversary season in 2018-2019.

FROM THE ASO

Opening the season is Michael Rossi, founder and artistic director of the Miami Summer Music Festival. Recognized as a rising star among young conductors, Maestro Rossi presents a program of love and longing on Sept. 23 and 24. Richard Strauss' signature tone poem of the legendary lover, "Don Juan," features the ASO's stellar brass



Michael Rossi

No. 5 in C Minor. Rossi, himself an accomplished trumpet player, began his career in the Kennedy Center Opera Orchestra and is a graduate of the Washington National Opera's esteemed Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program.

"The music of Richard Wagner has always had a special place in my heart," says Rossi. "During my 15 years at the Washington National Opera, I have had the wonderful opportunity to perform a majority of

section. Wagner's star-crossed lovers shine in excerpts from "Tristan und Isolde." A signature of Beethoven himself, at his stormiest and most heroic, the program concludes with his Symphony

Wagner's greatest music in the orchestra and learn from the best Wagnerian conductors and singers." This fascination with Wagner inspired Rossi to form the Wagner Institute for Professional Singers which is now in its third year and drawing singers across the world as well as mentors such as Christine Goerke and Alan Held.

Maestro Rossi is following the path of many conductors who began their careers first as instrumentalists. At the age of 22, he won the position of Second Trumpet in the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. He has conducted the world's leading orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa. As an opera conductor he made his international debut conducting Plácido Domingo and the Chinese National Opera Orchestra in Beijing in a live television broadcast, and his Washington National Opera Main Stage Debut conducting Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro."

Concert attendees, musicians and com-

munity members will be invited to provide feedback after each performance in order to assess the four final candidates. The ASO plans to announce the new music director following the final concert set of the season, and special events are planned to introduce him to Alexandria and the surrounding community.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturdays at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Adult subscriptions start at \$65 with \$20-\$80 adult tickets, \$5 youth, and \$10 student and military, senior and group discounts available. To order tickets and for more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

CALENDAR

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 or call 703-548-0035.

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.

Masonic Concert. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Peter

Mayer plus Jerry Bresee are in concert. \$15/18. See focusmusic.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 26

Film Screening. 7 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Director Matt Spangler, filmmaker and writer,

discusses his film "Forgotten Warriors of the Empire." Call 703-746-4356.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

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

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Obituary

BARTON

Joan C Barton (Age 88)

of Ft. Belvoir, VA. Died at Fairfax Inova on Sept. 3, 2017 of a stroke. Beloved wife of 42 years to Colonel Robert Barton and loving mother of Kenneth and his wife Lisa of Reston, Eric of Annandale and Robert and his wife Cathy of Leesburg. Sister of the late Anne Bartley, Francis and John Colpoys. A lifelong educator and teacher, in 1983 she founded Alexandria Country Day School where she served as principal until 1996. Arrangements will be at later date for a memorial mass at Good Shepherd Catholic Church and chapel service and interment at Arlington National Cemetery.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

The Snack Bar, LLC trading as The Snack Bar, 2419 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott Mitchell, Member/owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Obituary

Obituary



Joan Argiro of New York City and formerly of Alexandria, VA passed away on Monday, January 23, 2017. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, September 18 at 8:45 am at Joint Base Meyer-Henderson Hall Old Base Chapel, 204 Lee Ave, Fort Myer, VA followed by her burial at Arlington National Cemetery. A reception will be held immediately following the services at Fort Myer Officers Club, 214 Jackson Ave, Fort Myer, VA.

Joan was born on August 3, 1933 in Kearney, NJ and was raised in Phoenixville, PA. A beloved member of the community in Alexandria, VA, she became the doyenne of Public Relations and Marketing and helped many businesses launch and thrive in the area. Her passion was connecting people. She was a matchmaker for both businesses and couples. She successfully matched two couples from Alexandria and it was one of her proudest accomplishments. She was known for her elegant style with her signature red silk rose and dramatic glasses.

She is survived by her beloved husband Vincent Argiro, her son Paul of Miami, FL, her daughters Megan (Scott Gilly) and Kathlin of New York City, and Grandchildren Abigail, Kayla and Annabel. In addition she is survived by her brother Vincent (Joyce) Gallagher of Mission Viejo, CA; her sister Mary Therese Gallagher of Madison WI and was predeceased by her sister Kathryn Allen.

Obituary

Obituary

Eleanor Boothe Smith 1939-2017

Eleanor Boothe Smith, born February 12, 1939, Washington, D. C., died September 8, 2017, Alexandria, Virginia.

The daughter of Armistead Lloyd Boothe (1907-1990) and Elizabeth Peelle Boothe (1911-1991), Eleanor was an alumna of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 1957, a student at Sweet Briar College 1957-59, St. Claire's Hall, Oxford, England, 1959-60, and received a B. A. in History from George Washington University, 1962.

She married the Rev. John Moffett Smith of Bluefield, West Virginia, August 18, 1962. Alongside her husband, who served as Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, from 1975-1998, Eleanor mentored adult Education for Ministry (EFM) students for fourteen years, and graciously hosted many church gatherings in their Rectory home.

Working vigorously to help pass the Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL) Bond Referendum in 1984, Eleanor participated in building The Loudoun Library Foundation, Inc., defining the LCPL mission, "A modern, technological library system for the informational needs of all people of ability and disability," and developing long range plans that led to the renovation of four existing branches and the construction of the Leesburg Rust and the Eastern Regional branches. She served on the Board of Trustees of the LCPL, 1987-92, and as Chair from 1991-92.

Upon retirement in 1998, Eleanor and John made their home in Farrington Village, Pittsboro, N. C., and traveled to the West Coast and New England to visit family and to vacation. In June 2017, they moved back to northern Virginia, settling in Arlington.

Eleanor is survived by her husband, three children, and six grandchildren: a son, John Douglas Smith and wife Julie Gil Lynn, Los Angeles, California, and children Zoe Lynn Smith and Jack Smith; a daughter, Katherine Smith and husband Brian Alexander Young, Arlington, Virginia, and daughters Gabriella Grace and Isabelle Sophia Young-Smith; and daughter Sarah Elizabeth Smith and wife, Katherine (Katie) June Hester, Seattle, Washington, and children, Benjamin Harrison Hester and Lucy Hamilton Smith. Also, sister Julie Boothe Perry, Boothbay, Maine, her husband Charlie, and beloved nieces and nephews. Eleanor was predeceased by a sister, Elizabeth Boothe Davis, Richmond, Virginia.

A service to celebrate her life will be held on Sunday, September 17, at 2 pm at the Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia. Expressions of gratitude for Eleanor's life may be directed to the Armistead Boothe Holy Land Fund at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

"Kenny's Story"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ordinarily I wouldn't have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly printed in red script on top of a white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding his left foot across his right knee talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the "shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain." It was odd seeing someone named Kenny on television referring to a problem that not-on-television Kenny also has, though my symptoms are not from diabetes; they're from eight and half years of chemotherapy. Nevertheless, as Babe Ruth said about the sound of his throat-cancer-ravaged voice on "Babe Ruth Day" at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: "It feels just as bad."

Campaign to date, according to iSpot.tv, within the last 30 days, "Kenny's Story," as it's identified, has had "74 commercial airings." And though I don't think for a moment that this Kenny could be confused with that Kenny, considering that he's an auto mechanic who "grew into a free-wheeling kid" and "enjoyed every step of fatherhood," and I'm not 'free-wheeling,' not a father and know zero about cars, I do feel his pain – literally.

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not that all Kennys have identical personalities or life's experiences but knowing how little familiarity I have with this product makes me distrust him somehow. My name is Kenny and I'm not prepared to make those statements. How can he?

It reminds me of a long-ago M*A*S*H episode when Major Frank Burns was feeling paranoid (as he said: "I'm only paranoid because every one's out to get me") because he thought "someone else is using my face." None of which makes any more sense than my not believing spokesperson-Kenny just because his name happens to be Kenny.

But there's no accounting for viewer reaction, probably. That's likely why there were a total "1,271 airings" of Lyrica diabetic nerve pain commercials nationally over the last 30 days. "Kenny's Story," at 74 airings, was a small percentage of at least a dozen variations on this theme as well as a parallel campaign to address Fibromyalgia, a similar condition also treated by Lyrica.

It's odd, of the multiple spots that have appeared on television, all of which show people living active lives – and being grateful for using Lyrica, only three: "Kim's Salon," "Michael," and yours truly are "given-named." All the others: "Coach," "Grandpa," "School Teacher," "Keep the Beat Going," "Helping Others", as a few examples, are not.

I'm wondering if "naming"/invoking names in these spots does in fact personalize the experience for viewers in a way that the pharmaceutical companies think is counter productive? Maybe naming the spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction among Kims and Michaels that yours truly is feeling/writing about?

Moreover, given that "Big Pharma" probably doesn't want to limit its reach by excluding a segment of the market because of name recognition possibly lends some credence to the presumption that using a name to identify the individual in one of these spots is rare because it's unhelpful. As it relates to these spots and their names, perhaps less is more, given how many research/clinical dollars (hundreds of millions of dollars we're often told) are invested in the process of bringing FDA-approved products to market? Accordingly, I suppose "Big Pharma" can't afford to leave any potential stone/"prescripsee" unturned.

I certainly don't know the answers to any of these questions. I can only wander – and wonder what is it that makes sense here and where I fit into their universe. The commercials have hit their intended target: me, a patient with "shooting, burning, pins and needles ...", but I have to tell you: I don't like "Kenny."

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

scription outlining what expertise this individual must possess would start with a demonstrated high degree of integrity and additionally possess professional credentials in the areas of accounting, auditing, investigations and public administration. A greater amount of time expended by this individual would be in auditing, inspecting and generally conducting in depth investigations of the city's programs. There is no doubt that millions of dollars of the taxpayers money could potentially be saved annually.

At the state level, just go back and look at what then Governor Warner's Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness led by former Governor Douglas Wilder reported out from its investigation of statewide services several years ago. They were asked to identify ineffective and redundant services; recommend what agencies could be consolidated and/or streamlined; and show how technological improvements could improve the delivery of services cheaper. Their mandate was to see how many services could be streamlined using the private sector as a model.

Two important findings resulted from this commission. The first one being the fact that the state had \$3.1 billion of uncollectible accounts receivable. Not only were their billing means deemed to be ineffective but their collection procedures were equally delinquent. In addition, by streamlining the way the state does business they could save approximately \$1.3 billion annually. Obviously these funds would come in very handy when the state attempts to balance its annual budget.

The City of Alexandria should perform the same analysis of its programs in the city's operating, capital improvement programs and schools budgets. There is absolutely no doubt that we the taxpayers would benefit greatly from this service. It is hard to believe that the City Council, city staff and various boards and commissions never encounter ethical dilemmas, especially concerning management of new developments. As an example, although there are zoning laws that have been in existence for years, a developer need only make a quid pro quo "proffer" of \$100,000 to Bikeshare in order to build a structure that is at variance from the originally enacted zoning layout of the community. This "paying to play" brings up a number of potential ethical concerns, yet no one seems to curb this business practice that has been tolerated over the years. Another lesser concern would be the staffing of boards and commissions. For example why do we allow one individual to be the vice chair of the Planning Commission, the Waterfront Commission, the Old Town Area Parking Study (OTAPS), and the chair of the Parking Standards for New Developments/Commercial Uses? No ethics problem there?

All in all, there is definitely a place for an IG or Ombudsman in the City of Alexandria. Other jurisdictions have faced up to this challenge, yet Alexandria is content to remain mired in timidity and hesitation where the oversight of ethics is concerned.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet

9

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