



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Fannie Mae and Balfour Beatty volunteers join Rebuilding Together Alexandria Sept. 14 in building a new Teen Center at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Teen Scene Fannie Mae, RTA build teen center.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 55 volunteers gathered Sept. 14 to join forces with Rebuilding Together Alexandria and Fannie Mae to build a new teen center inside the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

"This is going to be an amazing space when it gets finished," said Rebuilding Together executive director Katharine Dixon.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria and Fannie Mae partnered with the Alexandria Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department to build a teen center in the Parker Gray neighborhood. With community input,

a design was created by architectural firms Little and Cooper Carry. Volunteers from Fannie Mae and Balfour Beatty built window storage benches, assembled storage bins and a work island, went through 21 gallons of paint and built a stage platform, all to revamp the Teen Center at Charles Houston Rec Center. The center's renovation has been spearheaded by the Charles Houston Recreation Center Advisory Council and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

"By renovating this space at the rec center, the teen room will provide the young people of Alexandria with a dedicated place to be safe, have fun, learn, and grow," Dixon added.

For more information, visit www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org.



The entryway to the new Teen Center at Charles Houston Rec Center gets a fresh coat of paint from Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteer Helen McNally.

Upward Bound

Despite ongoing accreditation problems, Jefferson Houston celebrates academic gains.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Accreditation is how the state measures school effectiveness. Some of Alexandria's results, like Francis Hammond Elementary and William Ramsey Elementary, are still under review, but nearly every other ACPS school managed to pass accreditation. All except for one: Jefferson Houston.

It's the fourth year the school has been unaccredited. In 2014, test scores fell as low as 36 percent pass rate for science and 46 in math. In the 2016-2017 school year, the school still fell short of accreditation in three of the four subject areas.

"Over the last four years we've seen growth, so we're excited to be here."

— Principal Chris Phillips

Despite its accreditation status, the test results also show progress for the school from 2014 to today. Science, which was scored at 36, has risen to 67. SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 20

A Home for The Providence

Efforts underway to bring tall ship to Old Town.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former U.S. Secretary of the Navy John Warner was on hand Sept. 11 as business and community leaders gathered to announce the planned acquisition of The Providence, a 110-foot Class A tall ship, and its move to the Alexandria waterfront in 2019.

SEE A HOME, PAGE 21



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Providence, a 110-foot Class A tall ship, is a 12-gun, full scale replica of the Continental Navy's first warship. A foundation has been formed to make Old Town the permanent home of the vessel.

Arrest Follows Domestic Homicide

The Alexandria Police Department has charged the suspect in a fatal stabbing that occurred on Thursday, Sept. 14, in the 900 block of N. Henry Street.

Melvin Williams, a 23-year-old city resident was charged with first degree murder on Friday, Sept. 15. Williams is being held without bond.

At a North End Quality of Life Work Group meeting, Police Officer Bartholomew Bailey updated the group on the attack and said the incident was con-

sidered a domestic incident and occurred between two people who were in a relationship.

According to Laura Binz, communications officer for the Police Department, a second victim was stabbed by Williams and was in critical condition, but was released from the hospital on Sept. 19.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Loren King at 703-746-6689.

— VERNON MILES

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Untested Housing Policy

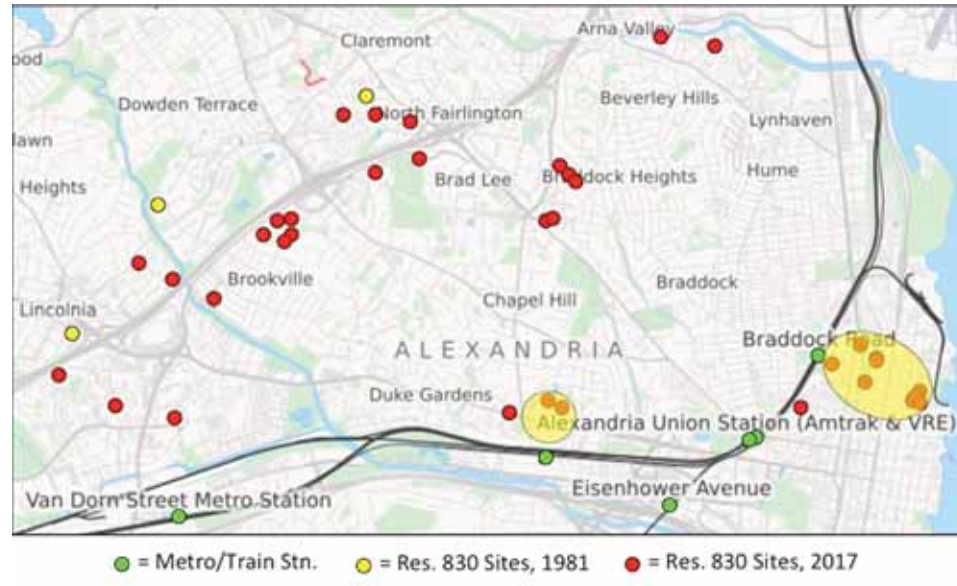
Poverty “deconcentration:” A social good?

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

While top-level city plans assert that public housing dispersal through redevelopment generates social benefits for lower-income people, the supporting hard evidence is spotty.

In keeping with a nationwide policy trend, “the City and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) have long endorsed [poverty] deconcentration.” This has entailed both “scattering public housing throughout the City” and redeveloping “mixed-income housing” in place of public housing. That’s according to the Braddock Metro Neighborhood Plan (BMNP), which guides the redevelopment of an Old Town neighborhood that has historically included four public housing communities: part of James Bland, Ramsey Homes, Andrew Adkins and Samuel Madden. With the exception of the already redeveloped Bland, these sites comprise over half of ARHA’s slated redevelopment. The policy also relates to the imminent revamping of Resolution 830, a city-ARHA agreement to replace demolished public housing units one-for-one. Deconcentration citywide has occurred under Resolution 830 since the 1980s. (See graphic.)

The present logic is twofold. First, to offset dwindling federal subsidies, ARHA wants to generate funds by selling land — particularly valuable property in Old Town — and redeveloping higher-rent units. Second, the city and ARHA present deconcentration as a social good. The BMNP says: “Mixed-income housing produces



Citywide, since the 1980s, public housing once located almost exclusively in Old Town and Cameron Valley has been dispersed through redevelopment under Resolution 830, an agreement between the city and the local public housing authority. “This was primarily to deconcentrate poverty,” said Helen McIlvaine, the city’s housing director. Past redevelopments have resulted in the offsite removal of as much as 77 percent of public housing units. Likewise, current redevelopment plans intend to offsite a third of public housing units from Andrew Adkins, in keeping with the deconcentration imperative in the city’s Braddock East Master Plan.

physical, economic, and social benefits ... making better communities for everyone.” Likewise, the Braddock East Master Plan (BEMP), a companion to the BMNP, intends to be “sensitive to the interests of the residents of the public housing that has been

in the area for generations.” This includes “expand[ing] their education and job opportunities” by integrating them into “social network[s] with residents of higher education and/or incomes.”

Many of these assertions about social ben-

efits — particularly to what extent they accrue to lower-income people — are not empirically validated.

Measuring success would require a “longitudinal look,” which the city has not undertaken, said Helen McIlvaine, the city’s housing director.

Likewise, ARHA doesn’t longitudinally track many related metrics concerning its residents, said Roy Priest, ARHA’s CEO, in a July 10 interview.

Other than anecdotally, ARHA has “not tracked ... the socioeconomic impacts” and has “not empirically studied where people go,” according to Rose Boyd, an ARHA spokeswoman.

Policymakers rely instead on data indicators for “the community as a whole” and on feedback through the budget and development processes, according to Craig Fifer, a city spokesman. Neither indicates cause for concern, he said.

Broader research also offers scant and ambiguous appraisals.

“Few studies have been completed on the economic, social, or other aspects of dispersal programs or mixed-income housing, and these offer mixed results at best,” wrote housing expert Alex Schwartz in his 2015 book “Housing Policy in the United States.”

“Part of the unknown is that the research hasn’t caught up with what policy is doing. So we’re just kind of going off the assumption ... But whether it truly is benefiting and how it’s benefiting people who are low-income is really unknown,” said Derek Hyra, a researcher at American University and a former ARHA commissioner, speaking gen-

SEE UNTESTED HOUSING, PAGE 14



Laura Shawb, left, and Karin Reber in their Campbell & Ferrara parklet that stresses greenspace.



Old Town resident Meg Ziemann looks at the Bug B&B with Karin Reber of Campbell & Ferrara.



The Microunit parklet was a miniature apartment set up by the city housing department to show what the small spaces are capable of.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

PARK(ing) Day Delivers Green Space and Ideas

Turning parking spaces into temporary public places.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

After parking her bike with a two-passenger child trailer linked to the back, Meg Ziemann and son Hugo

walked through the “parklet,” set up by Campbell & Ferrara, one of seven parklets set up on Friday, Sept. 15, dubbed International Parking Day. The parklets are demonstrating other uses for parking spots, and this one had shrubbery, paving stones and

a structure called a “Bug B&B, A Beneficial Hideout” for bugs.

The Ziemann family lives in Old Town and practices a car-free lifestyle, using the bike with trailer as much as possible. “We showed up for a wilderness walk,” she said, walking through the shrubbery that Campbell & Ferrara reps Laura Shawb, and Karin Reber set up.

“This shows the potential for our streetscape,” she said.

The block around the City Hall was dotted with such spots, each demonstrating a different use for the parking spots with a new concept of PARK(ing) Day, which is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces — temporary public places.

SEE LEARNING ON PARK(ING), PAGE 8

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2017 ♦ 3

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Alexandria/Montebello \$249,900
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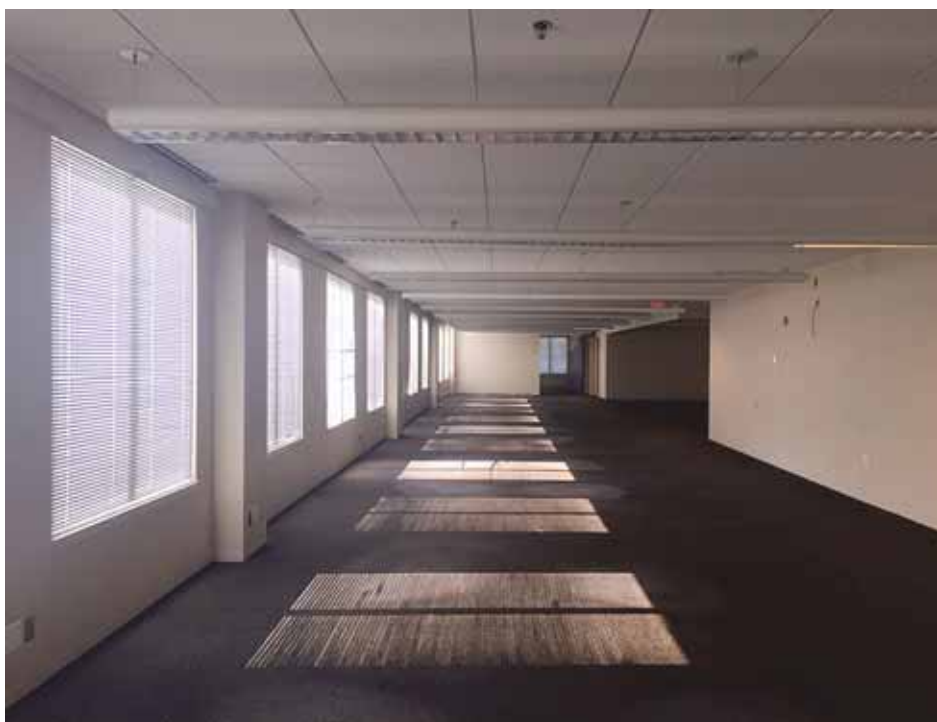


PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The West End school interior spaces will be converted into classrooms.

Cubicles to Classrooms

Converted office space redesigned as newest elementary school.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Inside, 1701 N. Beauregard still looks like an office space. The entrance is fronted by a wide glass lobby. A television by the elevators displays Asian stock market prices and the latest technology and political updates. But there has been an ongoing trend in urban areas across the country that has found a new type of use for empty office spaces. By Fall 2018, the office building will be transformed into an elementary school.

Lack of accessible land has forced many Northern Virginia jurisdictions to look to empty office space as potential schools. Bailey's Upper Elementary for Arts and Sciences in Fairfax was the first, built inside a five-story brick office building.

The West End's first four floors will be converted into the new school, while fifth and sixth floors will be converted to administrative space. Whether that space goes to the schools or the city is still yet to be determined. The two functions are kept separate though, with separate elevators and a gateway on the stairwell. The new elementary school will accommodate 650 students.

Construction on the site is scheduled to begin January 2018. The building was purchased by ACPS for \$15 million, with retrofitting estimated to cost \$23 million. Helen Lloyd, communications director for ACPS, said rent was estimated to be between \$6 to \$7 million each year, but because the building was under foreclosure they were able to get a relatively cheaper price for purchasing the property.

While the exterior will remain mostly the same, the interior of the building is being replaced. New walls will be built to modify the wide hallways into classrooms. The classrooms are located on the outer ring of each floor, so every room will have access to sunlight.

One of the challenges offices being rede-

SEE CUBICLES, PAGE 19

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PEOPLE

Step Out the Door, Return as a New Woman

New mobile hair salon gives door-to-door service.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

A black 28-foot former recreational camper sits in the parking lot behind Enterprise on Duke Street. It has been converted into Hair Nirvana, a mobile hair salon on wheels complete with a shampoo bowl, two hair dryer stations and two salon chairs plus a waiting area. Clippers are wedged in wall racks along with mousse, flat irons, gel and hair spray.

Today Lori Knoernschild has driven from Del Ray to get her regular wedge cut and 6N Neutral hair color. Although Rubie D. Williams, known as Ms. Rubie, often drives to a customer's home on request, Knoernschild explains the streets of Del Ray are too narrow for the van. She says she has been coming to Ms. Rubie for probably 25 years and when Ms. Rubie decided to open her mobile hair busi-

ness, Knoernschild followed her. "I just let her go. She makes it work for me. My mother uses her too."

Ms. Rubie says she got the idea a couple of years ago when one of her regular customers moved to Gainesville and asked Ms. Rubie if she would be willing to come out there to do her hair. "It was a long way but I did it for her. But it was always possible to leave some of my supplies at home or in her house. So she told me I should do a mobile hair salon." Ms. Rubie says that allows her to go to customers who can't get out with everything she needs.

Ms. Rubie remembers she first started out parking her van at the old Fuddruckers parking lot. People would beep and stop and look. "Now it's a dialysis center."

Now Ms. Rubie travels from Ashburn to Marymount to Kingstowne to the Farmer's Market at Cameron Station and a lot of places in between. She says it is mostly the teachers at Marymount where she goes once a month. They send out a notice when she will be in the parking lot, and customers sign up for appointments. "We'll be there again Sept. 28. 'I even did the bridesmaids' hair for a wedding on Solomon Island in May."

Her assistant, Alycia Conner, also recalls a baby shower and a 9-year-old's birthday



Lori Knoernschild has come in for her regular cut and color. She says she has been coming to Ms. Rubie for about 25 years and when Ms. Rubie opened her mobile hair salon, Knoernschild followed her there.



Lasheall Washington inspects the back of her feather cut. She says she just tells Ms. Rubie to trim it where it needs it."

party for seven children where they did hairstyles and nails for the girls. "The girls were all crowded in here with their relatives and everyone was having a great time." She says the girls mostly wanted their hair sprayed colors. Connor says she has been a hairdresser at various salons for 35 years and has been working with Ms. Rubie since she opened her mobile salon.

Ms. Rubie added, "People want change. Colors are trendy right now. A lot of people of all ages are putting in purple. Others like highlights. I guess colors make people happy." Ms. Rubie explains that bobs are popular now although hairstyles often stay pretty much the same but they just add a different name. "History repeats itself."

Lasheall Washington from Alexandria walks in to occupy the other chair for today's feather haircut "and don't cut too much off. I just tell her to trim it where it needs it." Ms. Rubie pulls out a pair of clippers and works around the edges, fluffing up the top as she gets caught up on the most

recent events. Washington will be in again in two weeks for highlights. She says she averages every two weeks for one of her hair treatments. Ms. Rubie hands her an oversize mirror. "Want to see what I did with the back?"

Ms. Rubie says it wasn't easy getting the code for her new business. "I went to zoning but they didn't know what to do. It didn't fit into any category." It wasn't a food truck so there wasn't a code that fit her business. "The manager of zoning was awesome." He told one of his employees to find her a code "because this woman is trying to do a business."

The first appointment is 8:30 a.m. and on a busy day she will work until 5 or 6 p.m. She drives her mobile van on Tuesdays, Thursdays and every other Sunday and Fridays "in an emergency." Knoernschild added, "I'm amazed she can drive that thing."

People at Work is a weekly column featuring people in our community doing their jobs. Send suggestions by email to slrbc@aol.com.

Ms. Rubie, owner/hair-stylist at Hair Nirvana mobile hair salon on wheels with her assistant, Alycia Connor.



PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE/
GAZETTE PACKET

Collaboration Expands Supportive Housing in City



At the Sept. 19 ribbon-cutting were (from left): Jack Gallagher, Richmond American Homes; Chip Devine, Brookfield Residential; Mayor Allison Silberberg; Anne Lafond, Community Lodgings; Lynn Thomas, Community Lodgings; Jerry Berman, M/I Homes; and Kristyn Burr, HomeAid Northern Virginia.

Formerly homeless families now have newly upgraded residences in the city, following the completion of renovations to a Community Lodgings multi-unit supportive housing property led by HomeAid Northern Virginia. An onsite "learning center" was also upgraded, enabling families to take advantage of after school and youth mentoring programs, daily nutritious meals, and computer and English as a Second Language classes for families. The ribbon cutting was held Sept. 19 with local officials, community advocates, homebuilders and construction partners that provided labor, resources and expertise to the project.

The renovation of the 10,446 sq. ft. Community Lodgings building in the Del Ray neighborhood was completed by a consortium of four local homebuilders convened by HomeAid: Brookfield Residential, Evergreene Homes, M/I Homes, and Richmond American Homes. The \$650,000-plus renovation included a complete upgrade of the property's six existing affordable housing, as well as the reconfiguration of space to create a seventh two-bedroom unit.

Lasheall Washington from Alexandria walks in to occupy the other chair for today's feather haircut "and don't cut too much off. I just tell her to trim it where it needs it." Ms. Rubie pulls out a pair of clippers and works around the edges, fluffing up the top as she gets caught up on the most



An interior of the newly-renovated Community Lodgings property in Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood now has seven units for formerly homeless families, as well as an onsite learning center for youth programs.

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NEWS

Learning on PARK(ing) Day

FROM PAGE 3

The parklets were sponsored by the City of Alexandria's Department of Planning and Zoning, Transportation and Environmental Services, Recreation and Parks, the Office of Housing, as well as Alexandria development firms Michael Baker International, Rhodeside & Harwell, and Campbell & Ferrara.

Katye North, the principal planner at Alexandria Transportation, looked at PARK(ing) Day as a chance to "rethink public space use on something other than a car," she said.

The city recently got a \$200,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation to work on different parking technologies, North said. One plan is to get cars into the public lots easier. With the grant, the object is to "make it more efficient to implement more parking technologies," North said.

Parking in Old Town has seen changes through the years. In 2014, the City of Alexandria did a study "to evaluate existing parking standards for development projects and establish updated parking standards for new development projects," according to city information.

Since then, non-auto travel has seen a steady increase in the city in recent years,

and the city is looking at the standard they set for multi-family residential areas and retail and offices. They are also looking at the 72-hour on-street parking ordinance and parking permits for new developments. There is an Old Town Area Parking Study Work Group established as well. At the recent meeting, the task force reviewed recommendations for updated standards for office, hotel, retail, and restaurant uses, all of which haven't been updated since the 1960s, North said in an email.

On PARK(ing) Day, the message was environmental sustainability and "trying to get less vehicles in the city so parking is less of a problem," said Ellen Eggerton of the city's transportation and environmental services. Eggerton manned one of the city's parklets on Cameron Street.

"There's a big push to reduce the single occupancy cars," she said.

Taking up parking spots at lunchtime on a sunny Friday on the streets around City Hall did require some planning beforehand though.

City officials met with area businesses and restaurants in the days leading up to PARK(ing) Day. North looked around from the transportation parklet on Cameron Street. "There's still available spots," she said.



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Meeting Special Needs of Latinos with Cancer

By LAURA A. LOGIE, PHD
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
NUEVA VIDA



The Latino share of the population in the City of Alexandria is 16.6 percent and only expected to grow over the next few decades. The lifetime risk for cancer among individuals of Latino origin is striking: 1 in 2 for men and 1 in 3 for Latino women. With these rates, approximately 8.5 million Latinas will develop cancer in their lifetime, with breast cancer as the most common cancer and cause of cancer death among Latinas. As we enter Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) and Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October), the diagnosis of breast cancer continues to generate fear and turmoil in the lives of many Latino women, who may not know where to turn.

Latino women tend to be diagnosed with later stage breast cancers than non-Hispanic White women. This may be due to lower mammography rates as well as delays in follow-up after an abnormal mammogram. Getting regular screenings (along with treatment if diagnosed) lowers the risk of dying from breast cancer. Screening tests can find breast cancer

early, when the chances of survival are highest. A cancer diagnosis is a major life event that affects a person's physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. This diagnosis can be particularly catastrophic for a Latino person who lacks social support, speaks little or no English, has limited economic means, and has no health insurance. Among the clients Nueva Vida serves, a breast cancer diagnosis can be especially heartrending since hospitals, state, and county programs provide services through a structured enrollment process, which is often confusing and unapproachable to uninsured Latinos facing a complex array of barriers when accessing health care and ensuring quality standard of care symptom management.

Nueva Vida, a community-based organization located in Alexandria, has informed, supported and empowered Latinas whose lives are affected by cancer for the past 20 years. Our high-touch programs are proven to reduce the barriers and challenges Latinos face in navigating the health care system, and subsequently give a clearer understanding of the disease itself and its implications; so, clients may be fully educated in decision making and treatment options to improve their quality of life. We also complement these programs with

culturally sensitive guidance (from the moment a woman is contacted) and culturally competent psychological support (from the moment she is diagnosed).

Most recently, Rosa a 37-year-old woman from El Salvador found a lump in her breast. Rosa had no doctor, no insurance, limited English and worked 12-hour days. Nueva Vida was there to provide Rosa with a diagnostic exam, interpretation, treatment options and transportation to the doctor, enabling a better outcome for survival. Rosa is provided group mental health support among other Latino women breast cancer survivors and given the tools to assist her in this difficult journey.

Given the fact that Nueva Vida continues to identify more Latinas with breast cancer at earlier ages, (under 40 years), understands the unique challenges in services and education and comprehends the needs of this population's understanding of the healthcare system, our work is critical to improve the overall quality of life for Latinas with breast cancer. As Rosa affirms, "Nueva Vida was a lighthouse in the middle of the darkness."

The need for support in Alexandria has never been greater.

To learn more about Nueva Vida, please visit our website at www.nueva-vida.org or call at 202-223-9100.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for Action

To the Editor:

As the schoolbell rings around town, more than 15,000 Alexandria public school students face a disappointing reality. Even though per student spending is among the highest in the Commonwealth, our school system is rated among the worst performing. One would think an affluent city (\$89,134 median household income), a well-educated city (62 percent of Alexandrians older than 25 are college degree compared to 36 percent of

Virginia adults) and a highly literate city (recently ranked three years in a row by Amazon as "best read city in the USA") would both demand and enjoy excellent public schools. Sadly, this is not the case.

The Virginia Department of Education has developed "standards of learning" around four core subjects: reading, math, science and social studies. These standards for Virginia public schools establish minimum

expectations for what students should know and be able to do at the end of each grade or course in these core subjects. All items on these tests are reviewed by Virginia classroom teachers for accuracy and fairness

and teachers also assist the Virginia Board of Education in setting proficiency standards for the tests. These quantitative metrics reveal a shocking trend here in Alexandria: a systemwide 71 percent reading score, math 66 percent, science 68 percent and social studies 76 percent. All four subject scores were lower this year compared to last year. Both the scores and the trends are unacceptable. At the same time, our neighbors in Arlington and Fairfax have continued to produce solid results. For example, Arlington public schools enjoyed 87 percent reading, 86 percent math, 86 percent

science and 88 percent social studies test scores while Fairfax County earned 84 percent reading, 83 percent math, 86 percent science and 90 percent social studies scores. We are getting D's and F's while our neighbors earn A's and B's.

The Virginia Department of Education has standards of accreditation to encourage appraisal of school programs and establish a means of determining the effectiveness of schools. Just 68.7 percent of Alexandria

public schools are fully accredited. Arlington County has twice as many schools and 100 percent are fully accredited while 94 percent of Fairfax County's schools are fully accredited. 86 percent of all public schools in Virginia are fully accredited. Our 68.7 percent accreditation rate is embarrassing. Equally shocking is the persistently low student achievement and performance at Jefferson Houston Elementary in Old Town that has been denied state accreditation for the past six years.

The stark differences in test scores and accreditation ratings would suggest significant underlying differences between the school systems. This is simply not true. According to the School Report Card and School

Quality Profiles at the Virginia Department of Education, the Alexandria school system shares similar dimensions with our nearby peers such as comparable student demographics, similar student-teacher ratios, per-student spending, teacher pay and teacher credentials. Our School Board has decried funding and spending levels, yet our per student spending is among the highest in Virginia and our teachers are among the

highest paid in Northern Virginia. Any emergency needs to fix and improve physical facilities and expand the capital budget stem from an utter lack of leadership, planning, and ac-

countability from our elected members of the School Board and City Council. There has been no sense of urgency. They have been asleep at the wheel and shamefully deflect any responsibility. They have embraced radical political issues at the expense of our children's education. Our school system has misguided priorities.

We must demand quality learning as well as innovative solutions to efficiently deliver and monitor learning and teaching. Let's smartly deploy our considerable financial resources while demanding measurable results. By several metrics, we are shortchanging our children and ourselves. Fairfax and Arlington have figured out how to generate high quality results, and we can too. Strong public schools will bolster residential home prices, attract leading companies and make our city a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. We are an educated, affluent city and should demand accountability and a world class school system full of blue ribbon schools rather than one full of weak test scores, embarrassing accreditation rates and ineffective leadership. Its time for action.

Dr. Sean Lenehan

Chairman, Alexandria Republican City Committee

Discrimination Plain and Simple

To the Editor:

President Trump's July 26th tweet banning transgender service members from serving in the United States military is discriminatory and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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

**Published by
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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



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OPINION

Helping To Keep Seniors Safe

Senior Services of Alexandria and Rebuilding Together Alexandria collaborate.

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Two local non-profits, Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and Rebuilding Together Alexandria, are teaming up to provide free in-home safety inspections for seniors who currently receive Meals on Wheels. This program came about under the auspices of the Meals on Wheels America campaign to provide seniors with a “more than a meal” support so they can remain in their homes as they age.

Earlier this summer “Meals on Wheels” clients received a flyer for a free home safety check by Rebuilding Together Alexandria. Several clients requested the free home repair service from Rebuilding Together and staff responded, developing an “action plan” to correct any hazards. SSA will continue to provide the information about the safety checks to any new clients added to Meals on Wheels program.

“Conducting a home safety check can go a long way in preventing problems that could lead to a fall, other injury, or loss of independence, stated Katharine Dixon, president & CEO of Rebuilding Together Alexandria. By spotting these hazards and taking some simple steps to correct them, seniors can continue to live at home safely.”



From left: Breanne Driscoll, outreach manager, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, and Ellyn Kirtley, Meals on Wheels program manager, Senior Services of Alexandria.

At the core of the Meals on Wheels service is a nutritious meal, companionship and a watchful eye on the health and safety of our seniors. Adding the home safety inspection is just another way of ensuring that Alexandria seniors are remaining safe in their own homes and aging with independence and dignity.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

unpatriotic. As former Vice President Joe Biden stated via Twitter, “Every patriotic American who is qualified to serve in our military should be able to serve. Full stop.” He’s absolutely right. Trump’s tweet is lacks the decency, honor, and respect for the more than 15,000 transgender troops that serve in the United States military. Everyday, they put their lives on the line for their country. The statement by the Commander-in-Chief makes these service members a target by potentially endangering their lives and the statement does further harm by undermining our military readiness. They deserve better. We deserve better.

Ironically, Trump’s tweets came on the 69th anniversary of the executive order issued by President Harry Truman that desegregated the military. Over the objections of many white officers, Truman signed Executive Order 9981, on July 26, 1948, which stated, “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.” Truman’s order began a decades-long, and still imperfect, effort by the military to turn itself into one of the most integrated institutions in our society. In the 1990s, the argument shifted to the role of women in the military and continues to this day.

Arizona Senator John McCain said it best when he noted, “We should all be guided by the principle that any American who wants to serve our country and is able to meet the standards should have the opportunity to do so — and should be treated as the patriots they are.”

Whether Black, White, Hispanic, Native American, or Asian, these patriots include many LGBTQ+ individuals that proudly and bravely serve the United States each and every day. An attack on these brave men and women is an attack on us all. Let’s not dishonor their service.

Charles A. Sumpter, Jr.
Alexandria
Safe Space NOVA

Correction

Two corrections in “Building the Budget Better,” Gazette Packet, Sept. 7: The school system, not the City, first proposed its FY2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in October 2016. And the city manager’s original proposed tax increase for FY2018 was 2.7 cents, not 3 cents.

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NEWS

Untested Housing Policy

FROM PAGE 3

erally. “We do know — I’ll tell you what is clear — it is benefiting cities because they are garnering a higher tax base. ... We can also say definitively it’s benefiting real estate developers.”

Echoing this, the BMNP says: “Property owners within several blocks of transformed public housing sites benefit from significant increases in property values. Cities in turn benefit from the increased property taxes”. Further, the policy has “definitely attracted investment to the city, which the city also needs,” said McIlvaine.

For those displaced, “Families feel safer and in most places they report greater satisfaction with their new housing. But there are conspicuously no benefits in employment, income, welfare dependence, or physical health,” wrote housing expert Edward Goetz in his 2013 book “New Deal Ruins.”

Priest said: “I would probably agree with that. ... Getting a new house or moving to a new location doesn’t change the fact that they may have intrinsic health problems, they’ve got daycare problems, they’ve got limited income opportunities.”

Susan Popkin, a housing expert at Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., says that replacing “distressed” housing generally reduces crime and sometimes spurs economic growth in the surrounding area. But “what it hasn’t done is ... to help people move toward self-sufficiency and dramatically change lives... It didn’t have any effect that we can discern on employment or on kids’ educational outcomes.” Nor has the “theory” proven correct that mixed-income environments would help lower-income residents “get connections to jobs and learn better norms ... What has happened is that people end up in a safer community that has nicer amenities. But the public housing residents and the higher-income residents tend to live very separately and in fact sometimes have a lot of conflict.”

In his 2017 book “Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City,” Hyra said: “evidence suggests that long-standing residents withdraw from public participation in gentrifying neighborhoods” — a phenomenon he calls “political displacement.”

Goetz wrote that many displaced people “report significant disruptions in their networks of social support,” as well as “less-supportive social relationships in their new neighborhoods.”

The BMNP says it intends redevelopments to “sustain a critical mass of public housing residents in order to maintain the strong social and support networks that are essential in low-income communities.” But presently “the only basis for the critical

mass is the [economic] sustainability of operations,” said Priest and Connie Staudinger, ARHA’s chief development officer, in a July 10 statement.

Poverty concentration can be a fuzzy term. Popkin says it means a census tract in which 30 percent of more of people live below the poverty level. Hyra said that “neighborhood effects” — “higher rates of ill outcomes: school dropout, teen pregnancy, poor health, crime” — occur when the figure is 40 percent. Certain local data corroborate this correlation. Violent, sexual and drug-related crimes over the past six months occurred predominantly in the West End, Arlandria, and northeast Old Town, according to LexisNexis’ Community Crime Map. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) also serves clientele located heavily in these areas, according to a February report. These areas generally coincide with tracts where poverty is highest and income lowest.

Still, even at the upper limit of the statistical margin of error, no tract in Alexandria met the 40 percent threshold, and only one — Arlandria — met the 30 percent threshold. At the lower limit, no tract met either threshold. That’s according to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) for the period 2011-15, the latest for which data is available. Alexandria’s public housing communities are also much smaller than huge metropolitan projects — such as Chicago’s Cabrini-Green, a paradigm for the social ills of concentrated poverty. Cabrini-Green comprised more than 3,600 units, many in high-rises; ARHA’s sites range in size from 4-170 units, with a median of 38 units.

Redevelopment that disperses low-income housing from the Braddock Metro Neighborhood may contribute to shrinking that neighborhood’s diversity. ARHA’s public housing tenants are 95 percent minority (86 percent non-Hispanic black) and 5 percent non-Hispanic white, according to HUD’s 2016 “A Picture of Subsidized Households” survey, the most recent for which data is available. But in the coinciding census tract, while the total population did not significantly change from 2005-09 to 2011-15, the non-Hispanic white and black sub-populations significantly increased and decreased.

Whereas deconcentration may previously have served to counteract racial segregation, “What used to be the wrong side of the tracks is now transit-oriented development, it’s the best place to be. ... We’re seeing change occurring at a very quick pace,” said McIlvaine. “And we haven’t measured it, I guess we could say that; we haven’t looked at it in some of these ways.”


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Consensus Leads to Conflict

Neighborhood-School agreement leads to City Council-Planning Commission spat.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Bishop Ireton High School and the surrounding neighborhoods have a history of disagreements. But when the school came forward to City Council with a plan to expand the new school, they came with an unexpected ally: the local Clover/College Park Civic Association.

The school's plans to expand the school were mutually agreed on by the school, neighborhood, and city staff. The building will add three stories in height and add new gyms, cafeterias, fitness rooms and classrooms. Parking at the site will also increase to 286 spaces while the total student population was negotiated to 925 instead of 950, which the school had originally proposed.

"In the past, at times, Bishop Ireton and the neighborhood have had disagreements," said Lisa Porter, representing the civic association. "This [permit] and the new administration goes a long way to forging a new relationship, to new transparency between the school [and neighborhood], and to create a sense of community and understanding between our school and our community. These limitations allow the community and school to work as one."

The City Council praised both the school and the neighborhood for working together on this project.

City Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper said the project was an example of what the council hoped to see more in the community.

"For a long time, it's been school vs community," said Pepper. "I can not tell you how much I appreciate the negotiations that went on for this. A lot of different issues had to be solved. A lot of tensions and feelings had to be negotiated. This is what I like to see. When you bring it here, you've solved almost everything. This isn't us vs them, it's 'this is all our issue and we're going to work together to solve them.' This is what Alexandria is all about."

The drama came in the clash between the City Council and the Planning Commission. When the project went before the Planning Commission, the commission overrode the staff recommendation, and the recommendation of the school and residents, and said the impositions on the school were too difficult to enforce, lacked precedent, and went against the commission's policy of encouraging shared parking. The City Council overrode the Planning Commission's changes and rebuked the commission for exceeding its authority.

"I think that this phrase or kind of thinking exceeds Planning Commission's function and seeks to set a new city policy for its process," said Mayor

SEE CONSENSUS, PAGE 28

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2017 Impact Report

ACPS is thrilled to be working closely with deeply committed community partners like RunningBrooke, and the many other local organizations that were represented both among the panel and in the audience at this year's Move2Learn Summit. It is only in close association with these valued partners that we will be able to effectively change the lives of ALL of Alexandria's young people.

— Michael J. Humphreys, Alexandria City Public Schools PE/Health/Family Life Education Instructional Specialist

Through leadership provided by RunningBrooke, individuals and organizations representing many sectors of society are taking action to ensure that the children of Alexandria, Virginia have many opportunities to participate in physical activity in school and the community. The Move2Learn Summit was an inspiring gathering of champions who want active, healthy, and happy children!

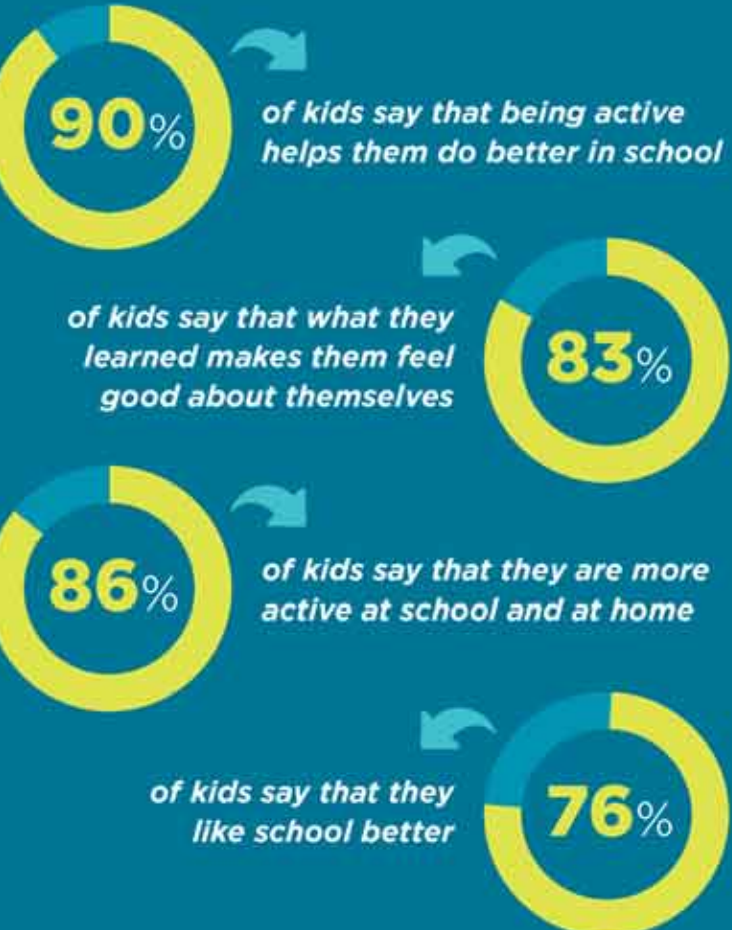
— Charlene Burgeson, Executive Director, Active Schools

Hume Springs Citizens Association would like to thank you for helping make our 2016 National Night Out a huge success! On August 2, approximately 200 members of our community came together to enjoy a cook-out, talk to neighbors, play games and raffles, listen to music, and meet public servants and VIPs. Your generous contribution to Hume Springs Park last year helped create a fantastic venue for our neighborhood to enjoy at National Night Out and many other times throughout the year. We are very grateful to you for supporting our community!

— The Hume Springs Citizens Association



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New Year, New Teacher

How to identify effective teachers.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As a new school year got underway this month, Sebla Tobin, a family therapist in Rockville, Md., noticed an uptick in the number of her patients who are parents, expressing concern about the teachers their children had been assigned.

"So many parents are leery of new teachers or teachers who are young," she said. "I encourage them to give the teacher a chance before passing judgment and marching into the principal's office to ask for a different teacher. Just because a teacher graduated from college last spring doesn't mean that they won't be effective. And a teacher who's been in the classroom for 20 years may be jaded and grumpy."

Teacher effectiveness is a concern among parents as the school year gets underway, says Tobin, and she points to research which shows how teachers can affect student achievement. A 2011 study from Harvard and Columbia universities showed a link between effective teachers and stu-

"An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

— Jessica Lewis, Ed.D.,
Marymount University

dents who were more likely to attend college, have lower teenage pregnancy rates and other positive outcomes. So what qualities constitute an effective teacher?

Effective teachers are knowledgeable of the subjects they are teaching, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. professor of Childhood Studies at George Mason University. "Effective teachers are able to transfer that knowledge to students who have different comprehension levels," she said.

Creating a classroom environment that is safe for student learning is also important, adds Garner. "Overall, effective teachers work hard to create a positive classroom climate which is characterized by providing opportunities for student input in decision making and support for individual differences," she said.

Setting high expectations for all students, but realizing that students have a variety of abilities, is an important factor, believes Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., professor of education at Marymount University. "For some students getting a C is like a medal of

honor and that's OK," said Lewis. "Students want to do well and be pushed, but pushed with support. Knowing that a teacher un-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A positive classroom helps welcome students back to school is an important factor in student learning, says Pamela Garner, Ph.D. of George Mason University.

derstands the student and their abilities sends a positive message that the teacher is on their side when it comes to learning."

A teacher who is able to demonstrate genuine concern for students is necessary to create an effective learning environment, adds Lewis. "Parents often say 'I want a teacher who knows their content,' but I always go back to 'does the teacher care?' If a teacher doesn't care, then they're not going to be effective. An effective teacher motivates students to want to learn."

An ability to form a strong relationship with students is another characteristic that Lewis believes is important. "The more rapidly the teachers can get to know the individual students and things they enjoy like their hobbies, the sports they like, the sooner that teacher can see that students are real little people behind those names," she said. "As a teacher you have to put the heart first and policy second. What factors are going on at home that can throw the student for a loop. If you have a caring adult to say, 'Hey do you want to talk about it?' that can make a big difference."

An effective teacher accepts students for and where they are, adds Lewis. "Students can learn more from a teacher when the teacher shows that they care," she said.

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Cubicles to Classrooms

FROM PAGE 5

veloped as schools face is the lack of outdoor accessibility. The West End project gets around this with a playground and basketball court located on top of the adjacent parking deck and a bridge being built connecting the top layer of the deck to the school.

"The playground was a challenge," said Azuka Bartlet, construction program manager for ACPS. "We had to come up with creative solutions to each challenge."

At its meeting on Sept. 16, the City Council approved the designs for the West End school with a provision that requires the school to construct a physical boundary between the West End School and the educational training facility it shares a courtyard and parking garage with. As the school is being prepared for construction, ACPS is currently in the search for a new principal.

"It's not a normal search," said Lloyd. "They will have to hire the staff for the school, so we're looking for someone in experience with setting up a new school."

When the West End school is built, it will be the first entirely



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The interior lobby of the new West End school with plans for the building's redesign.

new school in ACPS since Samuel Tucker was built in the 1990s. Lloyd said the school system had looked at other locations for a new school, but the chosen location was one of the only ones that offered the needed space at the right price.

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NEWS

Celebrating

FROM PAGE 1

English and Math scores both sit at 66, both an increase over the mid-40s from 2014. Math scores did decline slightly this year, scoring 69 last year. History, which had been as low as 51 in 2014, had increased to 63 last year, and had reached accreditation status at 73 this year.

"Over the last four years we've seen growth, so we're excited to be here," said Principal Chris Phillips. "We're going to have dips, but we stayed where we needed to be."

There are 566 students at Jefferson Houston at a school built with an 800 student capacity. Phillips said their relatively small number of students means a small number of students can have a large impact on the testing scores.

The school has been working through a number of strategies to push test results up. Phillips said the school has a joint program with the University of Virginia and has curriculum instruction at collaborative team meetings. Assistant Principal Mojisola Adejumo said that one of the efforts the school has been undertaking is promoting more collaboration with teachers. The administration hosts weekly team meetings to review material and have assessments. Adejumo also highlighted the school's ROAR Academy, an after-school program where parents can come into the school and review the material their students are learning. Adejumo said she remembered one case where the teachers were working with a parent from Honduras on math issues and discovered that the way division problems in Honduras are laid out is different than their structure in American education, so they taught the parent how the division would be taught to his child.

"It's not about being patronizing," said Adejumo, who said teachers and administrators all go through a similar process, "It's about empowering."

The ROAR Academy was started shortly before testing last year, but Phillips said it will begin in January this year.

"It's about the culture of the school and bringing teams together," said Assistant Principal Veronica Del Bagno, who had previously worked at the school as a teacher before returning to work as an administrator. Del Bagno said part of the new focus is not just having teachers work together with others in their own grade level, but getting to know and collaborate with teachers in other grade levels.

It's not just staff and administration saying Jefferson Houston has turned a new leaf. At a Back to School Night on Sept. 19, parents and students at the school said they couldn't be happier with their school in spite of the accreditation issues.

"He's happy, so we're happy," said Brian Wood, a resident of Potomac Yard whose son is in second grade and has attended Jefferson Houston for three years. "We've had good interactions with the school."

Wood said he sees his role in educating his child as being joint with the school, and said the school's administration has really helped promoted integrating the commu-



From left: Assistant Principal Mojisola Adejumo, Principal Chris Phillips, Assistant Principal Veronica Del Bagno.

nity into the process.

For Tasha DeMarco, her son just started kindergarten at the school a few weeks ago, but so far she says she's been impressed.

"Of course we were a little worried," DeMarco said, referring to the accreditation issues. "But we liked the diversity of the school, and at the first Parent-Teacher Association meeting, so many parents showed up. It was standing room only."

Several parents said they were similarly impressed with the first PTA meeting turnout.

"There were so many people," said Karla Walter, who has two sons. One is in first grade at the school, the other is in pre-kindergarten and will be attending next year. "We love it here. Our son is doing great in classes and the teachers are very engaged."

Walter said the accreditation problems were something her family was aware of, but said touring the school and talking to the teachers left them impressed.

"As a parent, we're often in the strange position of having to explain the school to people," said Walter. "We like that it's a middle sized school, and we like the community here."

As a parent, Amy Witmer was at the school when Jefferson-Houston was going through its lowest points. Her children are in fifth and fourth grades and have been in the school since kindergarten. Witmer said the school's turnaround has been amazing to watch.

"My kids are happy at this school," said Witmer. "I love the teachers here. They are creative and responsive to the needs of all the students. My own child had socializing problems, and the counselor was very responsive."

Witmer credited Phillips with creating a school with high expectations and a strong focus on academics, order, and discipline.

"Of course we were concerned," said Witmer of the accreditation. "All parents, existing or incoming, know about that. And the students are concerned about testing. But I would tell parents to visit the school. Meet a parent of a child that goes here. You will find enthusiasm, safety, and support."

Phillips said when the school lost accreditation, it was put on a three- to five-year recovery plan. Phillips said the school hopes to earn its accreditation back this year.

"We have a lot of work to do," Adejumo said, "but we truly love these children and we want them to be the best. We tell them every day: you are great, you have greatness inside you."

"We come here because we care," said Del Bagno, "and we want to see this school move forward."



Master Shipwright Leon Poindexter, right, adjusts a display of the tall ship Providence prior to a Sept. 11 meeting of business owners to discuss the ship's move to Old Town.

A Home for The Providence

FROM PAGE 1

"Alexandria is the Port City," said local businessman Scott Shaw. "This is the first step towards a more active waterfront."

The Providence is a 12-gun, full scale replica of the Continental Navy's first warship. A foundation has been formed to make Old Town the permanent home of the vessel.

"This is more than just tourism," added Shaw, a member of the foundation board. "There are educational aspects here for kids as well as tourists and local residents."

The Providence was the first command for John Paul Jones, father of the U.S. Navy. It was also the first Navy vessel to land U.S. Marines on foreign soil and was used in the filming of two of the Disney Studios Pirates of the Caribbean movies.

"When I look at a tall ship I see it as a classroom," said Alexandria Seaport Foundation executive director Steve Mutty. "ASF uses project-based learning and increasingly experiential learning to reach at-risk youth. That's where a ship comes in. It is a gateway to all of the STEM disciplines as well as arts and history."

The Providence is currently undergoing repairs at the Newport Shipyard in January 2015 after being damaged by strong winds. Thorpe Leeson, current owner of The Providence, purchased the ship in 2010 from the city of Providence as it sat abandoned and out of the water for four years.

"The Providence was built in 1976 as a replica of John Paul Jones' 18th century first command ship," Leeson said. "The original ship was built by John Brown of Providence and then used to defend the colony's shipping from British attacks. Inspired by the history of the boat, John Nicolas Brown, a direct descendent of John Brown, spearheaded the building of the replica. There's a lot of Revolutionary history here, which is a good fit for Alexandria."



Former Secretary of the Navy and Virginia Sen. John Warner, center, looks over information on the tall ship Providence with owner Thorpe Leeson and Tall Ship Providence Foundation board member Scott Shaw at a Sept. 11 gathering of business leaders at 100 King St. to announce the ship's planned acquisition as a permanent resident of the Old Town waterfront.

Organizers of the gathering, which took place at 100 King St., are seeking to raise \$2 million in order to acquire the vessel and complete repairs. These funds will also be used to operate The Providence during its first two years of operation in Alexandria, slated to begin in early 2019. For information on the project as well as various levels of contributions, visit www.tallshipprovidence.org.

"When people see this tall ship, they will see something that brings history alive," added Mutty. "The Providence will be a physical demonstration of Alexandria's deep roots in maritime history."

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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ONGOING

“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.

Local Artists Exhibit. Through Oct. 3, various times at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Patricia Miller Uchello, award-winning artist and Alexandria resident for over 30 years, is showing 86 floral paintings in oil on canvas. Call 703-768-5700.

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.

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

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

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

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

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

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



rec/mtvernon/ or call 703-768-3224.

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

Alexandria’s Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama “Mercy Street,” with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who

served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum.

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

Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit. Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired “Mercy Street,” the new PBS’ series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House.



Photo Exhibit

Young girl with family, Beulah Baptist Church, 1985, is part of the photo-documentary studies of worship in Alexandria by Nina Tisara, who will be on hand Thursday, Sept. 28 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road.

PHOTO BY
NINA TISARA



PHOTOS BY SHIRL WALLEY

Art Exhibit

Local artist’s exhibit is on display through Oct. 3 at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Patricia Miller Uchello, award-winning artist and Alexandria resident for over 30 years, is showing 86 floral paintings in oil on canvas. Call 703-768-5700 for more.

www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. www.nfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria’s citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink

coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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

Dinner for the Washingtons. 11 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$7 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

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

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

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

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

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday’s near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke St. near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

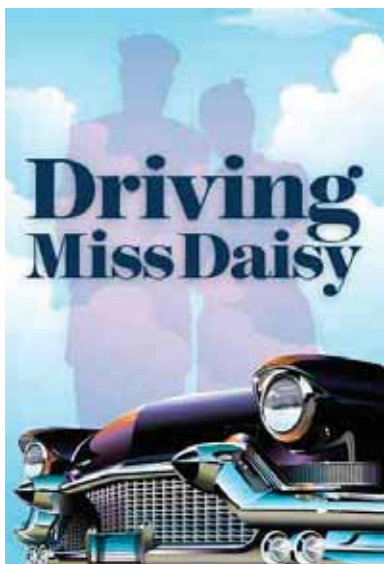


More than half of your body consists of water. The water we drink in Alexandria comes from the Occoquan Reservoir, and NOVA Parks has over 4,000 acres of forests around this body of water providing a natural buffer. NOVA Parks has an additional 4,000+ acres of parkland adjacent to the Potomac River. These lands offer opportunities for people to reconnect with nature while hiking, camping and boating. They also protect our natural resources. These same lands provide sanctuary for endangered species like the Eastern Wood Turtle, and the Small Whorled Pogonia, as well as habitat for Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron and many other species.

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



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ENTERTAINMENT

3 Ways to Celebrate Oktoberfest

BY HOPE NELSON

Oktoberfest — that annual beer-and-food festival native to Munich, Germany, and now celebrated worldwide — officially kicked off on Sept. 16 and stretches to Oct. 3. But don't fret: You haven't missed the celebration just yet. Here are some ways to celebrate (and lift a glass) without having to dust off your passport first.

Topgolf

Stein-Hoisting Competition, Sept. 29

Burn off some of those beer calories by holding a full liter beer stein steady — and win a prize in the process. Topgolf Alexandria is hosting what it bills as “the go-to sporting event of Oktoberfest” on Sept. 29. Participants will aim to hold their arm straight out from their body and keep the stein perfectly still; once their elbow bends or a drop of beer spills, they're out of luck. Winners receive Topgolf gift cards. 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Free; registration 6-8 p.m.

Immanuel Oktoberfest Celebration, Oct. 1

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School host their

“biggest event of the year” on Sunday, Oct. 1 — a family-friendly Oktoberfest celebration complete with German cuisine, live music, and, of course, a biergarten for the adults. From noon to 3 p.m., bring your dancing shoes and your appetite and get ready to celebrate the best Germany has to offer. 1801 Russell Road. \$12 for adults (\$15 after Sept. 25); \$5 for youth; kids 4 and under free. Noon-3 p.m.

Port City Brewing

Oktoberfest Outdoor Party, Oct. 7

Food trucks and games complement the amply flowing beer at Port City's outdoor celebration. Take a taste of the brewery's Oktoberfest beer (or any other offering — you can't go wrong with a Colossal or the Optimal Wit, no matter the season) and pick up some grub from one of the food trucks on site. Tired of the usual beer suspects? Port City's new Rauch Marzen — a German smoked lager — and its annual edition of Long Black Veil will also be ripe for the tasting. Free admission (beer and food incur a cost). Noon-9 p.m.; tour at 3 p.m.

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

CALENDAR

day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

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. 21-OCT. 15

Fall 2017 Native Plant Sale. at the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. The Department of

History

Local author and tour guide Don Hakenson will be discussing “Gray Ghost” Col. John Mosby’s attempted abduction in Alexandria of pro-Union Virginia Restoration Gov. Francis Pierpont at the first 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. Free. Email mtooley@theird.org for more.



Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is offering a native plant sale to help grow Alexandria's tree canopy and undergrowth. Call 703-746-5559 or visit www.alexandriava.gov.

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 mountvernonfleaemarket.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@nvct.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”

ENTERTAINMENT

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

A Talk with Don Hakenson. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Don Hakenson presents the Civil War in Virginia and tells of the soldiers buried at Ivy Hill. \$5. Call 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413.

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 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 Bressee are in concert. \$15/18. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

What's in That Alley?. 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Inventorying Old Town Alexandria's Historic Alley Network, presentation. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 26

Science for Teenage Homeschoolers. 4-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Older scientists, 12- to-14 years, can jump into hands-on field work studying natural sciences. This group will look at aquatic ecosystems, soil, biodiversity and wetlands. This class meets for six sessions. \$106. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Italy Trip Information Meeting.

5:30-6:30 p.m. in Carr Workplaces, 500 Montgomery St., Suite 400. Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is planning a 2018 trip. Visit web.alexchamber.com.

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." E-mail black.history@alexandriava.gov, or call 703-746-4356.



Cinderella

Anna Maria Shockey stars in Cinderella, The New Musical, Sept. 22-Oct. 1 at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. An Infinity Stage production. \$15-35 online, \$20-\$40 at the door. Visit www.InfinityStage.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 27

Hump Day Fall Happy Hour Series.

5-8 p.m. at the Courthouse Square Park, 400 Courthouse Square. Celebrate getting over the work week hump, the next few Wednesdays through Oct. 11. Call 703-746-5559 or visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Spiritual Discussion. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Many Paths: More Than One Way Home. Rev. John Baker. Free. Visit www.stadainsepiscopal.com.

Fish Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join City Historian Dan Lee for a discussion on the role of fish in Alexandria's history, from prehistoric times to the 21st Century. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

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

Mansion Illuminated by Light Art. 8-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Swiss light artist, Gerry Hofstetter, has a light show on the west side of George Washington's Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/lightart.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

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

Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Nina Tisara

will discuss her photo-documentary studies of worship in Alexandria. Email KKincannon@aldersgate.net.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

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

Mummies in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Funk rock band "Here Come the Mummies," in concert. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

Film and Discussion. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St, Alexandria. In the 23-minute film, Sam Ford, local television reporter, talks about being a descendant of Africans owned by Native Americans. \$5. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory.

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

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

Mansion House Whiskey Tasting.

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

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

OktoberFest. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Benefit for The Campagna Center and the New Neighbors Program. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/.

TUESDAY/OCT. 3

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

Essential Oil Workshop. noon-1 p.m. at Caring Acupuncture, 2111 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 402. Free class — Essential Skin Care: How to Nourish and Maintain Healthy, Beautiful Skin with doTerra Essential Oils. Email jennamdaniel@gmail.com or call 479-426-2525.

Swan Lake Ballet. 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M.Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, The first time the Russian Grand Ballet has ever performed in Virginia. Visit www.RussianGrandBallet.com.

OCT. 6-8

21st Annual Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. Meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Guests experience an evening tour of the Washingtons' home and are invited to visit the basement where he stored his wine. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Mount Vernon's Blue Room Reopens. 7-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. The Blue Room in the Mount Vernon Mansion will reopen marking the completion of a major seven-month restoration. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

OCT. 6-14

Alexandria Live Music Week. Various times at venues throughout the City of Alexandria. Over 50 venues and more than 175 artists are set to perform over the course of the nine days. Visit www.alexandrialive.com.

OCT. 6-21

Drumming with Dishes on Stage. Various times at Arts on the Horizon, The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. A children's story about a girl and her imaginary friend, who discover they can use ordinary kitchen objects to make extraordinary music together. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. More than 300 artists such as jewelers to silversmith and beaders, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptures, and fabric artists, and musicians. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

Port City Oktoberfest Party. noon-9 p.m. at Port City, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Call 703-778-0874 or visit www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events.

Oktoberfest. 3-7 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and Day School, 8531 Riverside Road. German food such as knockwurst, bratwurst, potato salad; sides, beer and cold drinks, live Oompa band, bake sale, children's games, petting zoo, moon bounce. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com or call 703-360-4220.

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

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Museum Geek Tour. noon-1 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Basement tour. Call 703-746-3852 or visit alexandriava.gov/apothecary.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 10 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting their 34th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Floral Fantasy." Proceeds will go to several agricultural projects. For further information and tickets contact: Kathy Ichter, Ichter@verizon.net or call 703- 780-8700

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

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

Watershed Cleanup Day. 9-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from your local waterways. Visit bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean.

Touch-A-Truck. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. An interactive event that allows children to see, touch, and explore their favorite big trucks and heavy machinery, as well as to meet the personnel who protect, serve, & build the Alexandria community. \$5, children under 2 are free. Visit www.FortHuntPreschool.com.

Scottish Heritage Day. noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Scottish music, dancing, and fashion as well as tours of the Carlyle House. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.CarlyleHouse.org.

Painting in the Park. noon-4 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria. 300 John Carlyle St. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun

Outlandish Event. 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Tour the historic apothecary and learn about a

ENTERTAINMENT

few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels from cascara to dauco seeds. \$18. Call 703-746-3852 or visit alexandriava.gov/shop.

Long Black Veil Happy Hour. 6-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy Port City beverages. \$25. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/events.aspx.

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

OCT. 14-15

42nd Annual Virginia Wine Festival. noon-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Wine tasting from many Virginia wineries. \$35-65. Call 202-244-3700 or visit www.virginiawinefest.com.

DEADLINE OCT. 15

Photo Contest. Submit photos taken in the city with the theme "Support the well-being of Alexandria's residents by ensuring access to a variety of quality recreation, park and cultural experiences." Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more information.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Walk to Bust Cancer. 8 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. National Breast Center Foundation's Walk to Bust Cancer to increase awareness and celebrate survivorship. Email Martha Carucci at Martha.carucci@nationalbreastcenter.org

or visit www.walktobustcancer.org.
Free Speech Forum. 7 p.m. at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.wmal.com/freespeechforum/ or www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Mega Bazaar/Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Over 30 crafters, silent auction, bake sale, and door prizes. Call 703-765-4573.

Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah. 3-6 p.m. in the Madison Auditorium of the Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith. Visit alexandriavabahais.org/bicentennial/.

OCT. 24-DEC. 19

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Meet the Author. 8:15-11 a.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Author Beth Kanter discusses "The Happy Healthy Nonprofit: Strategies for Impact without Burnout," that will help steer your organization away from burnout while boosting all-around performance. Call 703-683-2007.



Live Music

Mummies in Concert, Friday, Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Punk band "Here Come the Mummies," in concert. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Film and Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. "Breathe in the Roots," film tells the story of Ty Christen Joseph, a young African-American English teacher, who takes a spiritual journey of discovery from

Addis Ababa to Lalibela in Ethiopia. Following the film, Indrias G. Kassaye, the film's writer, photographer, and producer leads a discussion. \$10. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Meet the Authors. 2-5 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Robert Siegel, host of NPR's "All Things Considered." \$25. Visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

PEOPLE

Skills Competition

Senior Olympics' Football and Frisbee Throw and Softball Hit and Throw events were held at Wakefield District Park in Annandale on Wednesday, Sept. 13.



Doug Hastings from Alexandria hit the softball 189 feet to earn a silver medal in the 65-69 age group.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING
/GAZETTE PACKET



Barry Shelkin from Alexandria, with his son Paul Shelkin standing by his side, throws the football in the 85-89 age group.

Swimming

Senior Olympics Swimming was held at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling on Friday, Sept. 15.



Joanne Shabelski from Alexandria waits for start of the 50 yard breaststroke in the 55-59 age group. She won a silver medal in the event and is an Alexandria Masters Swimming member.



Maureen Pan from Alexandria warms up before completion begins in the discus in the 50-54 age group.



Doug Hastings from Alexandria lunges forward with raised arms in the standing long jump in the 65-69 age group.

Field Events

The Senior Olympics' Field Events were held at Falls Church High School on Sunday, Sept. 17.



Maureen Pan from Alexandria warms up before completion begins in the discus in the 50-54 age group.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA UNCLAIMED PROPERTY FOR REPORT YEAR 2017

In conformance with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Unclaimed Property Act, the City of Alexandria is publishing a listing of unclaimed property held at June 30, 2016.

Property Code	Last name	First name	Property Code	Last name	First name
657546	ADA'S KITCHEN ON WHEELS		666524	LINDSAY	LUCAS
666843	ADVANCED MARKETPLACE INC		649760	LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION LLC	
649318	ADVANTAGE FUNDING		668621	MANGU	PAMELA
	COMMERCIAL CAPITA		667945	MANTECH SRS TECHNOLOGIES, INC	
663242	AL BANNA	WISSAM	672742	MARKETSHARE PUBLICATIONS INC	
650494	ALESSI	ROGER	663783	MERCEDES BENZ OF ALEXANDRIA	
667869	ALEXANDRIA WOMENCARE PC		663784	MERCEDES BENZ OF ALEXANDRIA	
669882	ARLINGTON COUNTY TREASURER		668636	MILLER	ROBIN
655497	ARS NOVA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA		670374	MONARCH TITLE INC	
652631	AUBURN VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM		664656	MONARCH TITLE INC.	
662582	AVAYA INC		670008	MONARCH TITLE, INC	
669601	BANK OF NY (DEL) TRUSTEE DCFS		658471	MOORE	MERIDITH
669602	BANK OF NY (DEL) TRUSTEE DCFS		665458	MT JEFFERSON CIVIC ASSOCIATION	
669603	BANK OF NY (DEL) TRUSTEE DCFS		665998	MUELLER	JOHN
669604	BANK OF NY (DEL) TRUSTEE DCFS		660386	MURRAY	JOAN
669613	BECK	CDR FREDERIC	666252	NAMUS, LLC	
669614	BECK	CDR FREDERIC	655004	NEW VIRGINIA TRACTOR LLC	
669100	BERRY	TIMOTHY	667021	NGUENY	MAKOL
644259	BEST USA TKD LLC		655780	NILT AS TRUSTEE FOR NISSAN INFI	
671414	BLACKMON	LAHPITHAM	654181	NORTHERN VIRGINIA AHEC	
644772	BLAIR	MONISHA		AREA HEALTH EDUCATION	
668508	BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD		671698	NWIJI	DAKEHELALH
651962	BOOZ	KELLY	669705	ODONNELL	MARGARET
667662	BOOZ ALLEN & HAMILTON, INC		658922	PANGO USA LLC	
657548	BORINGQUEN LUNCH BOX		660266	PARK PLACE CONDOMINIUMS	
670972	BOYER	THOMAS	646825	PEREZ	OSCAR
673408	BRODERICK	BONNIE	665984	PHAM	HIEN
669048	CALVERT HOMES INC		668657	PHILLIPS	TRACEY
646232	CAMPBELL	FLORENCE	664658	PINNACLE TITLE & ESCROW, INC.	
646233	CAMPBELL	FLORENCE	653136	PLATT	JOHN
660796	CANDLER	MONET	663146	QI	ROBERT
661721	CANN	CYNTHIA	666981	RYAN	DAVID
664654	CLARK WEBSTER	MARY	650472	SALEHI	MOHAMMAD
651503	COLARULLI	DANA	672800	SAMUEL FORD INC	
665412	COOK	NANCY	673086	SANCHEZ	LUIS
665413	COOK	NANCY	670938	SANITECH CLEANING & RESTORATION	
652753	CROCKETT SHIPPING CENTER LLC		660860	SANTANDER BANK NA	
649807	CROCKETT SHOPPING CENTER		665771	SDC 700 SOUTH WASHINGTONIC	
671917	CUEVAS	FAYE	651059	SHTAYYEH	RIYAD
662074	DAY	DIANA	655249	SKYLINE ULTD. INC	
665966	DC SOCIAL SPORTS		651675	STEWART ENTERPRISES INC	
653981	DEAN	LAWRENCE	666737	SUDNEY	ASHLEY
672958	DEBESSAY	ALGANESH	652502	SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	
646438	ELHAJUJI	MINA	652504	SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	
668705	FISHER	ZACHARY		& LEASING	
670679	FLORES	ANASTACIO	652503	SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	
662938	FOWLER	DAVID		& LEASING	
663088	FOWLER	MARITA	652505	SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	
663821	FREEZE	RONALD		& LEASING	
650918	GARCIA-SALCEDO	ERICK	668242	THIELMAN	JASON
663727	GOODWIN HOUSE INC		670124	TORUNO	BRIGITTA
668990	HARRY BRASWELL INC		667713	TRIUMVIRATE ENVIRONMENTAL	
662078	HARTLEY LAW GROUP			BALT, LLC	
664952	HOWSER	BETTY	667714	TRIUMVIRATE ENVIRONMENTAL	
653823	HUDSON	CHRISTOPHER		BALT, LLC	
653549	IERSEN	LAUREN	667715	TRIUMVIRATE ENVIRONMENTAL	
653591	JACOBSEN	RAYMOND		BALT, LLC	
644123	JAMISON	DARRAL	663109	TRIVUNOVICH	NICK
666754	JBG MARK CENTER, LLC		668277	TROJAN-OMIDYAR	PAULA JEAN
673426	JONES	ROBERT	651691	URBAN OUTFITTERS	
658760	KEBEDE	YODITH	647298	VARGAS	JACQUELINE
660718	KEY EQUIPMENT FINANCE INC		649883	WEBB	LEAH
660719	KEY EQUIPMENT FINANCE INC		670988	WEBB 2016	
660720	KEY EQUIPMENT FINANCE INC		659805	WINDSOR	HANNAH
671935	KIM	JOHANNA	661699	WOLDESREGAY	BLEN
651563	KLEM	JEFFREY	656697	WORK	NATHAN
647931	KOWN	HANNURI	644411	YOUNCE	GLENDA
648432	KUFLOM	MIKAL	663602	ZIARKO	JOSEPH
653372	LEE	YI-HUA			ANTHONY
666018	LESNAK	MATTHEW	672968	ZUEHLKE	ANOUCHE

If you or your company is listed above, contact the Accounting Division of the City of Alexandria's Finance Department prior to October 12, 2017. For more information concerning this ad, please contact: City of Alexandria, Finance/Accounting Division, P.O. Box 178, Alexandria, VA 22313 Telephone: 703-746-3905. The above shall be published in The Alexandria Gazette on September 21, 2017.

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Consensus

FROM PAGE 15

Allison Silberberg. "It's not within the Planning Commission's purview. I would caution the commission to be careful and not redefine the city's powers for itself or for the council."

Councilman John Chapman suggested a conference with both the Planning Commission and the City Council, an idea suggested previously by members of the Planning Commission at their retreat a few weeks ago, where the two sides can clearly define what they see as the Planning Commission's powers and responsibilities.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH DEC. 1

Honoring Alexandria's Veterans. As part of Alexandria's World War One Commemoration, the Office of Historic Alexandria is collecting knitted or crocheted poppies to honor veterans. These poppies will be used in a community art project and displayed during a special event for the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. Poppies can be any shade of red, 2 to 4 inches in diameter. Drop-off poppies along with a card with your name or group's name on it for recognition at any Alexandria City Public Library, City Recreation Center, The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, or Hooray for Books! Visit bit.ly/2uM6M4x for more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Adult Day Services Open House. 1:30-4 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The open house is intended for family members, professional caregivers and City of Alexandria employees who wish to access this benefit while caring for an elderly loved one. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/adultservices for more.

SEPT. 22-24

Saint Mary's Academy class of 1967 is holding its 50th reunion Sept. 22-24 in Alexandria. Organizers haven't located all classmates and hope to have them present in September. Contacts are Patty Hagan, 703-742-8137 or pattyhagan13@gmail.com, and Sue Adamson Mairena, 817-903-3528 or mairena2@att.net.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Refugee Advocacy Workshop. 3-5 p.m. at Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King St., Alexandria. Free, hands-on training from NGO experts for legislative developments affecting refugees now. Hosted by NOVA Friends of Refugees. Free. Register at mail.welcomingrefugees@saintgeorgeschurch.org.

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Announcements

COUNSELING SERVICES: Integrated Counseling Services LLC provides individual counseling to adolescents, adults and single-parents (consults and parent-child counseling). Accept BCBS/CareFirst (commercial and federal), Cigna or self-pay. PPO plans only. 218 N Lee St. Suite 319, Alexandria, VA 22314. 703.348.7647. douglasrizzolpc@gmail.com. www.douglasrizzolpc.com.

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Announcements

Employment

ROSEMOUNT CENTER

HR Coordinator: Early Childhood/Family Services Center. Part-time. Salary negotiable. BA required in HR or related field. Consultants welcome. Bi-lingual a plus. Send resume to info@rosemountcenter.com. No phone calls.

Employment

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS NEEDED!!

Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean, VA, is hiring Certified Nursing Assistants to join its health care team. CNAs are responsible for providing residents with personal and restorative care under the direction of a registered and/or licensed nurse.

- Various schedules available.
- Current Virginia Nurse Aide Certificate.
- Current CPR certificate.

Vinson Hall Retirement Community offers competitive pay and benefits including health, dental, and 401(k). Apply online at www.vinsonhall.org. Vinson Hall is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Commonwealth Blue Ribbon Restaurants, LLC trading as Famous Dave's, 6630 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Virginia 22306 in Fairfax County. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Elliott Baum, LLC Manager. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Employment

ROSEMOUNT CENTER

Deputy Program Director: Early Childhood/Family Services Center. Full-time. Salary negotiable. Generous benefits. BA required in ECE/Social Work or related field. Proven management skills. Able to problem solve. Bi-lingual a plus. Send resume to info@rosemountcenter.com. No phone calls.

Employment

FULL-TIME DRIVER NEEDED!!

Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean, VA is hiring a full-time Driver to provide daily transportation services for the residents and Vinson Hall staff.

- Minimum of 4 years driving experience required.
- Valid Virginia driver's license with good driving record.
- Valid CPR/First Aid card preferred.

Vinson Hall Retirement Community offers competitive pay and benefits including health, dental, and 401(k). Apply online at www.vinsonhall.org. Vinson Hall is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D.

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.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.

-Arthur Wing Pinero

Announcements

Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP) ACTIVITY

VRP Project Number VRP00682
Potomac Yard Landbay G, Parcel A-2
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Participant
PAEGR Properties LLC c/o National Industries for the Blind
1310 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

The subject property is participating in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The property is a portion of the Central Operations Area of the Potomac Yard rail yard, which operated from 1906 to 1990 and was used for locomotive repair, maintenance and fueling. Environmental investigations have identified petroleum and metals contamination of soil and groundwater. The petroleum constituents are associated with diesel fuel and heavy oils, and the metals are associated with cinder ballast ash fill material. Remedial actions to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment from the contaminants have been proposed by PAEGR Properties LLC c/o National Industries for the Blind and accepted by DEQ. The remedial actions consist of: a groundwater use restriction; installation of an impervious surface cap or a minimum 2-foot thick clean soil cap, an Impacted Material Management Plan; an Environmental Health and Safety Plan; institutional controls such as an Operations and Maintenance Plan for engineering controls, and vapor mitigation controls or clearance by a vapor intrusion investigation/risk analysis. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation will be requested of the VDEQ VRP for the site. Questions or comments regarding this notice will be accepted for 30 days from the date of publication and should be addressed to the contact below:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
John.Diehl@eccfirst.com
(703) 327-2900

Brian Campbell
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Brian.campbell@deq.virginia.gov
(804) 698-4075

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2 Separate Parcels of Buildable Lots & 2004 29' Fountain Fever Boat & Trailer
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Auction will be held live in Norfolk and simulcast over the internet for remote bidders

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2> Lots 34 & 35, Deerview Dr., Hertford, NC 27944 • 42,000 SF

3> 2004 29' Fever Fountain Boat and Trailer • 500HP - 74 + MPH w/100 orig. hrs

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Athletes at the 2017 Erg Sprints

City To Host World Indoor Rowing Championships

On President's Day Weekend in February 2018, athletes from around the world will descend on Alexandria to compete in the 37th Annual World Indoor Rowing Championships.

The 2018 WIRC will be held in conjunction with the Alexandria Crew Boosters' 31st Annual Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints, both at T.C. Williams High School.

Saturday, Feb. 17 will feature races for junior (age 19 and under) rowers, with competitions for collegiate, masters (male and female, by age categories), and adaptive rowers on Sunday, Feb. 18. Several events from the Erg Sprints – including the marathon and half marathon, 20- and 30-minute races, relays, parent-child races, and 500 meter sprints – will continue to be held.

The Erg Sprints has grown to become the second largest indoor rowing competition in the world. 2018 will be the first year that the WIRC will be held outside of Boston.

Registration for the two-day event will begin in mid-October. Additional information may be found at www.ergsprints.com.

AWLA Offers Pet Care Clinic

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) will host a pet care clinic on Saturday, Sept. 23. The AWLA is coordinating with the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Virginia Department of Health to provide rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats of Alexandria city residents as well as behavioral advice, basic grooming and nail trims.

The clinic will be held in the courtyard in front of the Ruby Tucker Family Center at 322 Tancil Court, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dog owners are asked to bring their dogs to the Sept. 23 pet care clinic on a leash; cats must be safely enclosed in carriers. Leashes and carriers can be provided to those who need them. All pet owners will receive an official rabies certificate with each vaccination, and dogs will receive a rabies tag. Spanish-speaking personnel will be present to assist with translation as necessary.

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Talking the Walk



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Our long, local, overnight nightmare is almost over. By the date this column publishes: Sept. 20, 2017, I will, for the first time in nearly nine weeks, not had to have snaked down in the dark, our “turny-twisty” and narrow 150-year-old staircase to walk from the upstairs master bedroom to the downstairs and only usable commode. Though the renovation of this upstairs bathroom is not entirely complete nor ready for primetime (it is mostly usable as the water is now running and flushing), the demolition/renovation process apparently must go on/adhere to a schedule so, on Tuesday, Sept. 19 the downstairs bathroom, with all its fully functioning amenities will come under the sledge hammer – among other tools, and provide no further use until on or about Oct. 24.

This heretofore (“Good Will Hunting”) logistical challenge has not presented too many difficulties for my wife, Dina. But given that I’m a male of a certain age, quite the opposite has been true for me. Once or twice and occasionally even more per overnight depending upon how late and how much I’ve had to eat or drink before bedtime, I’ll need to visit the bathroom to attend to some very personal business. To be clear, the ‘challenge’ to which I refer is getting to the bathroom, not starting and/or finishing what I intended once I get there.

Moreover, when the task at hand has been completed, of course I need to retrace my steps – usually in the dark, and walk back upstairs. Though not nearly as difficult as walking downstairs; nevertheless, at the time I am going down and back up, in the middle of the night, my vision might not so readily acclimate and my balance is, let’s just say: inconsistent, especially when trying to avoid the miscellaneous bathroom-remodeling boxes staged in the living room on the very route I must travel.

Needless to say, having this nightly nonsense come to an end is most definitely a column worth writing. Not necessarily to self-indulge anymore than usual but more so to amuse you regular readers and possibly even prepare you for your own in-home renovation. And considering that this renovation is our first – and we have minimal experience with these matters, I thought it useful to write it forward and perhaps share a less-than-obvious impact of taking the one-and-only-on-the-same-floor bathroom out of service. Sinks, mirrors and shower/tub issues notwithstanding, all of which can be withstood and endured with the reorientation to the downstairs bathroom, the commode issue, considering its unpredictability, naturally trumps all other real or imagined difficulties.

Though the upstairs bathroom is incomplete and lacking multiple finishing elements, its transformation so far is incredible – to our eyes. I’ll spare you any details because that really would be self-indulgent and not at all the point of this column. But the two months or so it will have taken for the upstairs bathroom to become operational again and the nightly effect it’s had on me appears to have been worth the wait.

As concerns the downstairs bathroom, we are now ready, willing and able to integrate its destruction into our routine. Given that it is more of a powder room than a master-type bathroom – though it will include a shower-only enclosure, no longer will it be my twice-nightly destination. In addition, I am looking forward to its transformation because the interim process will not prevent me from going anywhere I regularly go nor inconveniencing my wife, Dina, when she readies for work in the morning.

Monitoring its progress will be more of a curiosity than a calamity, since, in my mind, there will be no sense of urgency about the pace of this project as there had been with the upstairs bathroom because my bathroom access will not be affected in the least. And in the most, I am extraordinarily grateful – and relieved.

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

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