

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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OCTOBER 26, 2017



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kat Gruber, Brooke Curran, Andrea Stoddard, Leah Ramirez and Glen Stone pose for a RunningBrooke team photo at the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon. This was Curran's 111st marathon raising money for several Alexandria children's charities. She finished the course in 3:58:50.

The Few. The Proud.

Local runners take top spots in 42nd Marine Corps Marathon.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In the pre-dawn hours of Oct. 22, Alexandria Vice Mayor Justin Wilson lined up with 30,000 other runners for the 42nd annual Marine Corps Marathon, crossing the finish line 3 hours, 33 minutes and 31 seconds later as part of the RunningBrooke team raising money

for local children's services.

"This was my eighth marathon and fourth time running Marine Corps," said Wilson. "It wasn't my best time but given my training this year, along with the heat, I'm very happy with it."

Wilson, whose best time is 3:19, ran his first marathon in 2008 and has run one every year with the exception of election years.

"My wife only lets me 'run' for one thing at a time," Wilson joked. "I'll probably take next year off given it's an election year, but I'd still like to qualify for Boston one day. I probably need to get a bit older to make that happen."

Wilson was part of the 15-member

SEE IN 42ND MARINE. PAGE 24



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/
GAZETTE PACKET

Bethany Sachtelban, 25, of Alexandria, shattered the MCM 10K course record with a time of 34 minutes and 6 seconds. The previous record was 34:43 set in 2010.



PHOTO BY LESLIE TOURIGNY

Alexandria Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, shown at mile 19 of the Marine Corps Marathon, finished the Oct. 22 race in 3 hours, 33 minutes and 31 seconds. He was part of the RunningBrooke team supporting Alexandria children's services.



Running for Team Manion, Army veteran Jacob Marquis of Bangor, Me., completed his mission to run one step for every combat death since the Revolutionary War - a total of 1,012,000 steps.

Too Much Parking?

New commercial parking standards to ease requirements on businesses.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria has too much parking. As hard to believe as that may be for anyone who has ever tried to find parking in Old Town, an ongoing study of commercial parking standards in Alexandria says the city's parking standards are requiring Alexandria's businesses to provide too much parking.

The study is part of the city's ongoing efforts to update its 50-year old parking standards. In the last five years, 40 percent of the commercial cases brought to the City Council for approval have included requests for parking reductions, all of which were approved.

The study found that commercial parking spaces had 59 percent occupancy during peak usage. Of the 59 sites examined in the study,

all but one had a lower parking demand than they required. Of those interviewed at local restaurants, 52 percent said that they did not drive.

Furthermore, excess parking spaces in the city are taking up land that could be used for other purposes, like school facilities. Across Alexandria, 10 percent of the city is covered in surface parking lots.

As a result, a series of draft recommendations are being proposed to modernize the city's commercial parking standards. One recommendation is a modified map with zones of parking requirement based on their accessibility to transit. An Enhanced Transit Area is marked along Alexandria's current and planned Metro stations and transitways, requiring fewer parking spaces than commercial prop

SEE TOO MUCH. PAGE 24

Two Murders; One Week

Despite the upward trend over the last few years, murders in Alexandria are still relatively rare, but in this past week Alexandria was hit with two separate murders. Few details are being released about either case by the Alexandria Police Department.

The first was the murder of June Saey on Oct. 18. At around 6:40 p.m., police were dispatched to a residence for a welfare check. Inside the home they found Saey, 55, stabbed to death. Officers later arrested and charged a 55-year-old male suspect whom they say knew Saey. The suspect was hospitalized with self-inflicted wounds. However, because the suspect is being held in medical custody outside of Virginia, police

will not release the suspect's identity until he is in Alexandria's custody.

The other murder occurred on Sunday, Oct. 22, at a picnic table in All Veterans Park along Four Mile Run. A shooting was reported around 8:45, and police found two people dead and one injured. One of those killed was 19-year-old Yerson Nunez Lopez, a Maryland resident, who police say shot and killed a 17-year-old girl and shot and injured a 15-year-old boy, before turning the gun on himself. Police say the suspect and the victims were all known to each other, but would not give details. As both of the victims were minors, Virginia law says family permission is required to release their names.

— VERNON MILES

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has been transformed into a gentleman's dressing room with en-suite bath. Two additional bedrooms are completed with en-suite baths and walk-in closets.

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Metamorphosing the Capital Budget?

Task force shortly to wrap governing bodies in cocoon of expert advice.

BY DAN BRENDDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

The clock is running out for public input before a “blue ribbon” task force delivers Capital Improvement Program (CIP) recommendations to the City Council and School Board.

The Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force will present its first of two deliverables: a recommended CIP prioritizing 28 specified city and public school facility projects. These projects represent nearly two-thirds of a billion dollars of investment through FY27, currently underfunded by some \$106 million. Council and the School Board will hear the Task Force’s recommendation to optimize the city-and-schools’ collective spending Nov. 4 and Nov. 9. The public may attend these meetings, as well as offer final preliminary comment at the Task Force’s Nov. 2 plenary meeting. The schools’ superintendent will present her proposed FY19-28 CIP Nov. 30.

The schools in particular have frontloaded projects, outpacing funding over the CIP’s 10-year scope. The Task Force has been sifting projects according to their need and relative urgency, readiness and overall value to Alexandria, and then pushing lower scoring projects to later years. Some members believe certain projects, however urgent, have not been adequately and transparently vetted in order to proceed immediately. These include converting a recreation center for school “swing space;” a new high school; vehicle maintenance facility over-



Task Force members consider facilities’ co-location possibilities.

hauls; and beefing up city pools. Such projects might benefit from additional “seed money” to explore more options.

“It is inherent in public organizations ... to spend money that is in budgets,” said Task Force member Elliot Branch. “So if we put that money there, that money will get executed. Whether it’s well executed or not, it will get executed. And that’s a problem.” He added later: “Have you ever tried to kill a project inside a government? ... They’re like zombies. So I’m very careful about when I say ... that project really ought to go [forward].”

Next, the task force will turn its full attention to its second deliverable, due in December: suggesting improvements to overall capital planning and implementation processes.

“This is a problem that will not go away,” said Branch. “We can solve this problem in this CIP, and when I’m retired playing golf

in 10 years there will be another nine people sitting around the table doing the same kind of prioritization if we don’t fix the process.”

Some recommendations the Task Force has been honing so far include:

❖ **Systemic Perspective:** CIP decisions should include “the whole portfolio: schools, city, [Information Technology], highways, parks, facilities, etc. — all of that,” said Task Force member Eric Wagner. “We’re way compartmentalized on this,” he reiterated later. Similarly, Task Force member Dwight Dunton thinks government players work “in their silos” on the “perfect solution” rather than the “good-enough solution.” For example, Alexandria’s educational specifications include “everything under the sun,” but without reference to cost. Citizens may interpret anything less than “the perfect prototype” as a “cut” rather than a “bonus” on top of a more moderate baseline. Good-enough could open up funds for additional investment “in the context of the entire city.” The task force can serve as “a giant spotlight” on the city’s currently crowded out needs.

❖ **Outcomes not Outputs:** “Governments deliver capabilities to citizens; they don’t deliver projects,” Branch has said repeatedly. Nevertheless, he discerns a “bias” toward project-based solutions. For example, the city needs the capability “to maintain rolling stock,” but not necessarily fleet maintenance facilities. The city should investigate consolidating with the schools’ nearby maintenance facilities or outsourcing to a private company. The school system’s 2007 efficiency review from

Virginia Department of Education recommended the former. That the city has not already explored the possibility is “just insane,” said Branch. Dunton says outsourcing can actually improve accountability because “it’s easier to fire a contractor than it is an employee.”

❖ **Alternatives Analysis:** “Go look at all potential alternatives; don’t take anything off the table until factors eliminate themselves. And finance that,” said Branch. Ample exploratory financing — “seed money” — could save in the long run. For example, some members think three existing schools have sufficient adjacent space on which to build new schools without moving students. This could obviate the \$42 million expense of converting a rec center for swing space. But, as it stands, the schools’ don’t have the money to research those alternatives, said Michael Herbstman, the schools’ CFO. Governing bodies also need to consider alternatives’ long-term ramifications. The school system initially considered building a new school for use as interim swing space before transitioning to its permanent use — a cost-saving option the Task Force favors. Though it would have cost more up front — \$55 million — this alternative also would have obviated rec center conversion. The schools opted for the rec center conversion because the city’s appropriation wouldn’t cover a new school, said Herbstman. “Short-term savings versus long-term savings,” Task Force member Amy Liu said, and then laughed out loud. Lastly, projects should not advance without

SEE METAMORPHOSING. PAGE 25

2017 Best in Business Awards Chamber honors local businesses.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce presented its Best in Business Awards Oct. 18, honoring local businesses as well as restaurateur Bill Blackburn as the 2017 Business Leader of the Year. Held at the George Washington

Masonic National Memorial, awards were presented in the following categories: Association/Nonprofit Business of the Year — Rebuilding Together Alexandria; Rising Star Business of the Year — Four Directions Wellness; Small Business of the Year — GEICO NOVA Local Office; Medium Business of the Year (tie) — Fleet Transportation and VIPdesk Connect, Inc; Large Business of the Year — United Bank; and Overall Business of the Year — Ironistic.

Blackburn, of the Home Grown Restaurant Group that operates Pork Barrel BBQ, Holy Cow, the Sushi Place and Sweet Fire Donna’s, follows in the footsteps of his partner, “Mango” Mike Anderson, who was honored as Business Leader of the Year in 1999.

See www.alexchamber.com.



Rebuilding Together Alexandria board chair Joe Collum, second from right, accepts the organization’s award as Association/Nonprofit Business of the Year.



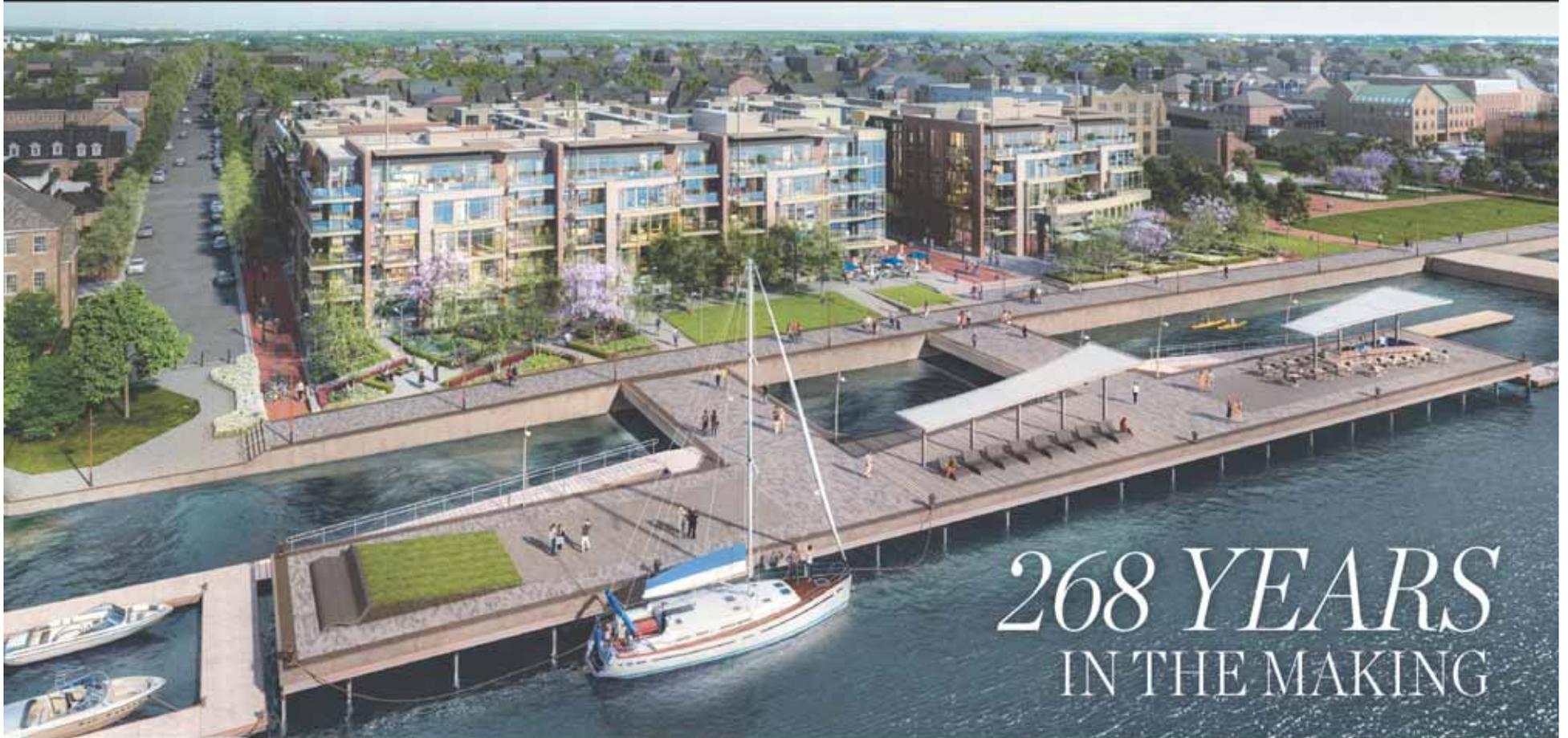
United Bank was honored as the 2017 Large Business of the Year.



Bill Blackburn, left, is congratulated by Vice Mayor Justin Wilson on being named Business Leader of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce 2017 Best in Business Awards Oct. 18 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

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NEWS

New High School?

Discussion of overcrowding leads to talk of new high school.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

different schools based on their capacities.

For better or worse, the most iconic story from T.C. Williams High School is the story of the 1971 consolidation and integration of Alexandria's high schools memorialized in the movie "Remember the Titans." Now, 46 years later, the School Board is beginning to look at the prospect of another new high school.

One of the schools being examined is Minnie Howard. The FY 2017 budget included \$4.8 million for design and project management work to renovate the school and add 10 new classrooms. Minnie Howard is a campus of T.C. Williams High School a mile away designated exclusively for the ninth grade. Currently the study's findings on ninth grade academies are limited, noting that the situation is relatively uncommon. In the fall, HRG will focus on a study of Minnie Howard to review the impacts of changing the site away from a ninth grade only facility.

One of the key discussions at the Oct. 12 School Board meeting was an update on an ongoing Grade Level Configuration Study by the Hanover Research Group (HRG), which started in Fall 2016. The study reexamines the traditional notions of which grade levels comprise different school types. With the schools becoming increasingly crowded, the School Board has started looking at options to combine or separate grade levels in

But for the School Board, whether it's at Minnie Howard or another location, it's becoming clear that Alexandria's student population boom means that TC will not be able to sustain the ever-

SEE NEW HIGH, PAGE 17

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PEOPLE



Phyllis L. Johnson, head of the volunteers at the West End Pantry, says, "We have about 30 enthusiastic volunteers. They even work on holidays."



Louise Bennett, head of the West End Pantry volunteers, checks the supply of greens received from the Del Ray Farmer's Market.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteers Nourish West End Pantry

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It is Monday afternoon, Oct. 23 at the West End Pantry located in Church of the Resurrection on Beauregard Street. Volunteers have been busy preparing for their food bank guests since 5:30 a.m. when they picked up leftover pastries and bread from the Panera Bakery at Fairfax Hospital. "See here is sliced bread, and the cranberry bread that they like so much." Louise Bennett, head of the food efforts says, "We have a lot of baguettes today. We call them baseball bats."

PEOPLE AT WORK

Bennett says volunteers go to the ALIVE! warehouse at 9 a.m. and pick up produce from the Del Ray Farmer's Market. Bennett walks to the end of the shelves where she points to Swiss chard and, "they love collard greens." Boxes on the top are filled with pears and apples. Bennett says sometimes she gets some recipes from their guests. "I pick up some greens and ask 'what do you do with these — cut off the leaves?'"

"No, no, no' they say." Phyllis L. Johnson, head of the volunteers, says that if they have something unusual in the pantry sometimes they will provide a recipe to give the guests ideas. One volunteer goes out each week and buys eggs wherever they are on sale. "Then," Bennett adds, "we cut them in half and give out half a carton." Bennett goes around the corner to the freezer where she reviews the meat. "I wish we had more fish; they really like fish." The volunteer hosts will arrive at about 4 p.m. to prepare for the opening of the pantry.

Shelves are lined with neatly stacked cans of corn and beans, with shelves below filled with peanut butter on the left and grape jelly on the right. The signs are made for a family of four — 1 pasta, 2 vegetables, 1 beans. But Johnson says, "if we have more people in the family, we adjust. We have one family of nine. And, Arabic families don't eat canned meat because of custom so we adjust by giving them more of something else." Each guest is accompanied by a volunteer called a host.

Johnson says her volunteers are dedicated. "We are open every holiday. They voted to do it. They come enthusiastic. One lady who has MS and lives close to Annapolis volunteers regularly and arrives early. Here she comes now." The volunteer comments that it feels like she sees 100 families when she comes. "But it's probably more like 30 or so."

The volunteers come from a number of churches that are responsible for one week a month except Resurrection that handles the first, fourth and fifth weeks if one occurs. Johnson says, "My church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, has the third Monday."

Johnson estimates there are about 30 volunteers and each Monday requires seven to do the shopping plus 10 hosts. The guests line up on chairs outside the pantry waiting their turn to shop. Johnson says sometimes when people bring their children her husband babysits for them in the hall. Johnson says this pantry was targeted at people who work and need to shop. The guests can shop between 5-6:30 p.m. "and we have a nurse who always comes at the end so I wait for her." It is available to residents of Alexandria and they require an ID. Johnson says, "We have a good mix of guests. I've noticed more Muslims in the last few months."

Sometimes she says she has to exercise "tough love." She had just informed an insistent couple who had come for food that they couldn't pick it up at this location today. They were two hours early and had no ID. She gave them other options but they were disappointed and angry. "If I deviate from the rules for one family, word gets around and pretty soon everyone expects it."

This Monday is special since the shelter is celebrating a one-year anniversary complete with a marble cake, punch and a bouquet of flowers picked from the garden outside and planted by Senior Girl Scout troop 4737. Rev. Jo J. Belser says, "When this idea was suggested I said there was no way we could do it." There was so much organization and "we couldn't afford it. But look around this room. We did it together."



Coral Childs and Carleigh Rockett stand ready to sample birthday cake at West End Pantry on Monday, Oct. 23. Carleigh decorated with flowers she had planted on the side of the church as a Senior Girl Scout project.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

T.C. Williams High School student Ana Humphrey, 16, has been named a national winner of the 2017 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes.

TC Teen Wins Heroic Service Activity Award

Ana Humphrey, a 16-year-old student at T.C. Williams High School, has been named a national winner of the 2017 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes.

Each year, the Barron Prize recognizes 25 young people from across North America who have made a significant positive difference to people and the environment. Up to 20 top winners each receive a \$5,000 cash award to support their service work or higher education.

Ana created Watershed Warriors, a nonprofit that pairs high school students with local fifth graders to promote environmental awareness through hands-on STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

In the past three years, her group has worked with four elementary schools and engaged nearly 300 children, most of whom are low-income and minority students.

The Watershed Warriors visit each elementary school several times during the school year to deliver state standards-based science lessons and to guide students in planting a wetland garden that they care for during the spring months. In June, the final lesson takes students on a field trip to a local wetland where they transplant

their gardens, assess water quality and pick-up trash.

Inspiration for Ana's program grew from a hands-on seventh grade life science class that culminated in the restoration of a local wetland. In an effort to provide the same opportunity for more students, she formed the Watershed Warriors Club.

Ana and club members reached out to local elementary schools, wrote lesson plans and formed partnerships with the National Park Service and the local Four Mile Run Conservatory. The club is currently working to expand their program to other high schools.

"I now know, given the tools and experience, that students of all ages can become drivers of change in their community," Ana said in receiving the award.

The Barron Prize was founded in 2001 by author T.A. Barron and named for his mother, Gloria Barron.

"Nothing is more inspiring than stories about heroic people who have truly made a difference to the world," said Barron. "That is the purpose of the Gloria Barron Prize: to shine the spotlight on these amazing young people so that their stories will inspire others."

For more information, visit www.barronprize.org.

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Who Will Help Dreamers and Refugees?

Individuals, religious groups and other organizations share same goal.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

The supporters all agree on one thing. As Imam Ali Siddiqui said, “Nobody asked these kids whether they wanted to come to America. They go to school, they work hard, build a career. It will be a loss to send them back.” Figures distributed by The Commonwealth Institute in October 2017 show that if all Virginians who are eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) became citizens, state and local tax contributions by young Virginians would rise from the current \$35 million to \$52.9 million a year.

As President Trump’s executive order released Sept. 5 threatens 800,000 DACA recipients with deportation, communities of supporters rally to their defense.

Individuals and groups converge from all directions to provide sanctuary, educational assistance, moral support, employment counseling and sometimes “in your face” advocacy for immigrant assistance. Each group has a plan and a niche but they are all working for the same goal — passage of the Dream Act, which will offer the opportunity for a long, but legal, path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Norma Kacen is part of the Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees, an Arlington-based group, which she co-founded with Wendy Chan in the fall of 2016. “I grew up on Federal Hill in Providence, Rhode Island, an ethnic ghetto. It was a closed world with circles of ghettos — Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish,” she said, drawing circles with her finger on the table.

Kacen has recently been up on Capitol Hill as a volunteer lobbyist with the American Association of University Women visiting key senators to urge passage of the Dream Act. “All of the comments were ‘we couldn’t afford it,’ but,” she says, pulling out a talking sheet, “ending DACA and kicking recipients out of the labor force would cost the United States \$433.4 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$24.6 billion over the next decade.” This is according to the Center for American Progress, a self-described progressive independent nonpartisan policy institute.

As of November 2016, 645,000 DACA recipients nationwide are employed, and they pay taxes. Kacen said, “My challenge to the senators was yes, we pay for their education like anyone else who pays taxes.” But most of the senators were unmoved by the arguments. Kacen says it is

also important to acknowledge a breakdown of DACA by Congressional districts because “some our representatives only listen to their own constituents.”

Northern Virginia Friends of Refugees was established to combat the anti-Muslim rhetoric and to be a welcoming friend to all refugees. “We didn’t want to duplicate the efforts of others so we partner with other organizations,” she said.

RECENTLY THE GROUP held three advocacy workshops for people supportive of refugees. About 50 people attended one of the workshops at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Arlington and a Muslim site in Fairfax. These workshops are non-partisan with the purpose to teach the skills necessary for effective advocacy.

“I was really delighted and it was extremely heartening that millennials attended. Every organization is trying to figure out what they can do to attract the disengaged millennials,” Kacen said.

The second event, which was held in the spring, brought American professionals together with the often highly skilled immigrants to help the immigrants navigate the workplace. “So we connect the immigrants together with American professionals in their own field to allow the professionals to talk.” Many of the refugees were doctors, architects, engineers and entrepreneurs in their countries and now have low-level jobs in America. The purpose of these life skills programs is to increase connections to help the immigrants reach their potential.

The third focus for this year is a large community event planned for the spring. It would be intended to show the resilience of the immigrants by “focusing on the incredible skills in the cultural arts such as music, arts and fashion. It is to show the capacity to overcome, the triumph of the human spirit,” she said.

Are they making progress? Kacen paused, “It’s hard to say. But ... there are so many people engaged.”

Monica Sarmiento is executive director of Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Right (VACIR), a coalition that began in 2013 with eight organizations, now grown to 16. She says their organization is focused on how to have more comprehensive immigrant reform in Virginia. “Many organizations have their niches demographically or ethnically but we tend to be looking at what we’re doing statewide and collaboratively. The most important empha-



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Remembering her youth in Rhode Island, Norma Kacen of Arlington traces circles on the table as she describes neighborhood ghettos of people segregated by ethnicity.



Sumi Yi



Monica Sarmiento



The Rev. Laura Martin

sis is to push different community representatives at the table — African, Korean, Muslim.”

Sarmiento says since VACIR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization they don’t directly lobby but have encouraged people to call their members of Congress, and the 16 organizations who are part of the coalition often engage in advocacy. For instance the Commonwealth Institute has prepared a fact sheet outlining how DREAMers grow our economy with 61 percent opening a bank account, 64.5 percent buying their first car, 97 percent becoming employed or enrolled in school. It adds that young people with DACA status contribute nearly \$711 million to Virginia’s economy annually including nearly \$35 million in state and local taxes. The conclusion is that ending DACA could reduce Virginia state and local tax revenue by almost \$13 million a year.

Members of VACIR include such groups as Legal Aid Justice Center, SEEC, VOCOLAO, NAKASEC, The Commonwealth Institute and Virginia New Majority. These groups have focused on the constituents of two U.S. representatives in Virginia, Scott Taylor (R-2) and Barbara Comstock (R-10), who they are trying to convince “to do the right thing and support a clean Dream Act.”

Sarmiento says the VACIR board had decided for the first time to endorse a clean Dream Act, the first time they had endorsed

any legislation. “A clean Dream Act would not have such provisions as mandatory verification (death by 1,000 papers), an increase in ICE agents, increased money for deportation, funding for the border wall, inability to sponsor family members, no pathway to citizenship.”

She says there needs to be a much larger conversation to spotlight the injustices happening now with undocumented immigrants who have already lost their DACA status due to President Trump’s executive order or who will lose their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) if it is not renewed. These people could be deported any day. She says 300,000 of these are from Latin America; 200,000 of these are Salvadoran. Sarmiento was raised in Northern Virginia but her parents emigrated from El Salvador fleeing war. “They were fortunate my grandmother lived here and got her legal status through the Reagan amnesty act so my father got legal status.”

Sumi Yi, Virginia community organizer for National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), a community-based progressive Asian American and Pacific Islander organization, says their mission is to organize Korean and Asian Americans to achieve social, racial, and economic justice. She points out that out of the cur-

SEE DREAMERS, PAGE 16

Trouble Down the Tracks

A proposed solution to Amtrak's Northern Virginia woes could cause a major headache for Alexandria. Northern Virginia is the most congested piece of the route between Washington D.C. and Richmond. Sections of the track have a third rail, but as part of the "Atlantic Gateway" improvements, all along the route third rail lines are being installed to fill in the gaps and provide more consistent services. One of those gaps is Northern Virginia's, between Alexandria and Crystal City. Adding a third rail line will involve a slight realignment of existing tracks, but most of the improvements are generally

within the existing right of way. However, for a section of the rail line near the Washington Masonic Memorial, the tracks intersect with King Street and run over the street. During the discussions, Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper expressed concerns that the rail improvements could mean shutting down traffic at that busy stretch of King Street. Yon Lambert, director of Transportation and Environmental Services, said the city was aware of the issue but that it was too early to say for sure how King Street would be impacted.

— VERNON MILES

Guilty Plea in Gang Murder

Three years after Eduardo Chandias Almendarez was stabbed to death and dumped into a drainage pipe behind the Cora Kelly School, the last of his killers has pled guilty and will face sentencing early next year. On Oct. 23, over a year after Boris Rosa Castro was convicted of first-degree murder and Edwin Guerrero Umana pled guilty to the same crime, Johnathan Gomez Sorto

pled guilty to murder. Almendarez had been a witness to an MS-13 related non-fatal shooting and was murdered by members of the gang to prevent his testimony. Castro, Umana and Sorto approached Almendarez at the nearby McDonalds under the auspices of buying marijuana to lure him to the nearby park where he was stabbed 96 times.

— VERNON MILES

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN
Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 28,

10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code DCHALLOWEEN in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. Visit soberride.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Two Chambers Meet. 6-7:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. The Alexandria Chamber and the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber hold networking event. Visit mountvernon.org.

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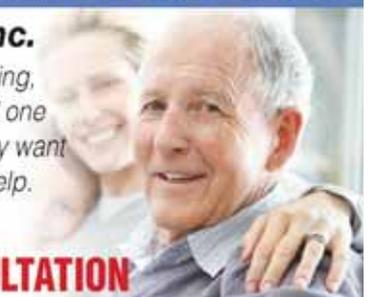


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OPINION

Don't Stay Home

Your vote counts this round; nation is watching.

Every year is election year in Virginia. Virginia offers multiple examples that prove every vote counts.

This year, each Virginia voter will vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and their member of the House of Delegates. Virginia is one of two Governor's races, and many are watching the Virginia race to as a harbinger of what to expect in 2018.

No matter how you vote, polling shows that the Governor's race could be very close.

EDITORIAL While there are quite a few uncontested races for members of the House of Delegates, several races could also be close, with the outcome likely to depend on turnout.

There is every reason to get out and vote.

Absentee Voting in Person

Voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including the possibility that you will be working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible: elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

There are two ways to vote absentee: in-person and by mail. To vote by mail, you will need to apply for an absentee ballot; if you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

See your locality's elections website for more.

Bring Photo ID, There Are Alternatives

Virginia has voter identification requirements; plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether absentee or on Election Day.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identifica-

General Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

tion from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

On the Ballot

Governor

Ralph S. Northam (D)
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R)
Clifford D. Hyra (L)

Lieutenant Governor

Justin E. Fairfax (D)
Jill H. Vogel (R)

Attorney General

Mark R. Herring (D)*
John D. Adams (R)

House of Delegates 45th District

Mark Levine (D) incumbent, unopposed

46th District

Charniele Herring (D) incumbent, unopposed

CONTACT Alexandria Elections office

Call 703-746-4050, TTY 703-838-5056.
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re-claim Poorly Maintained Park

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed to Mayor Allison Silberberg and Alexandria City Council.

Chinquapin Park is approaching death as a meaningful civic asset. Nine dead or dying trees in the center on the park, plus several more on the ring road, are marked for destruction or have been recently removed leaving almost no shade in the center of the park. The grass in the center of the park is cut so rarely and so long that use of most of the park for sports activity is impossible. When the city repaved the ring road in the park several years ago it removed

the speed bumps so that the road is now a teenage auto racetrack. The children's playground is minimally fenced and now dangerous because it immediately adjoins the racetrack. What had been a youth soccer field is now a "nature area" for "small animals and insects." (Has the city not heard of the rat problem in our area or that a neighborhood dog died last year of lyme disease?)

Thirty years ago there were five sets of soccer/football goal posts in the park. Now there is one set but the goals are set at a 45-degree angle to each other making them useless for a pickup soccer game — something that was routine last year. Yet the Parks and Recreation Commission is apparently recommending demolition of

the water park in order to create space to build new, and undoubtedly expensive, fields.

The beginnings of a fix are neither hard nor expensive. Plant a couple of groves of trees in the center of the park using the two remaining large trees as a starting point. Move the old picnic tables to one of those areas so there is a second picnic area. Reinstall the speed bumps so that the 15 mile per hour speed limit has some meaning. Fix the existing goal posts and install an additional set or other equipment which would encourage park usage. And regularly cut the grass. This would involve minimal cost and labor time for the city but we would have a usable park back.

Alexandria has limited parkland.

Certainly we can do much better than affirmatively discouraging use of what had been one of our best parks.

Allan R. Winn
Alexandria

Note: This is an abbreviated version of a longer letter sent to the mayor and City Council.

Passion for Beautification

To the Editor:

Old Town Alexandria occupies an important place in the history of this nation. Those of us who are privileged to live here experience this historical connection on a

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OPINION

Lights On Afterschool

Keeping children safe and engaged afterschool.

By DR. TAMMY MANN
CEO, THE CAMPAGNA CENTER

Afterschool programs are making an important difference for Alexandria's children and their parents. They keep our kids safe in the critical afternoon hours when they are most likely to be the victims or perpetrators of crime. They help kids achieve academically by providing homework support and tutoring, and offering mentorship and college prep support for older students. They provide healthy snacks to help promote the right eating habits. And, these programs give working parents a peace of mind that their children are safe and engaged in enriching activities as they work to provide for the materials needs of their family.

CAMPAGNA CENTER

The most recent data available on the value of afterschool programs in Virginia was captured by a report released by the Afterschool Alliance where 15 percent of children participate in an afterschool program, but 35 percent would if a program were available to them. Parents across Virginia rank the following reasons as their top picks for getting their children engaged in these vital programs: safety (90 percent), quality of care (87 percent) con-

venient location, usually collocated in a school (85 percent), hours match needs (83 percent), and child's enjoyment of the program (81 percent). Afterschool programs are also vital to our state's economic health with 77 percent of Virginia's parents agreeing that afterschool programs help them remain employed.

In Alexandria, The Campagna Center is one of several organizations participating in the city's Out-of-School Time Work Group, where data has been gathered to understand the profile of programs in our community and where gaps might exist. This Work Group was established following the City Council and the Alexandria School Board's adoption of the Children and Youth Master Plan. Their final report on the city's afterschool programs' needs and best practices will be released later this year.

The Campagna Center has experienced strong support for afterschool programs here in Alexandria, where parents, business leaders, religious groups and others have been long-time supporters of our afterschool programs. Through the partnership between The Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria — with afterschool programs like Campagna Kids for elementary school students and Building Better Futures for middle and high School students — Alexandria is reducing the likelihood its children fall into at-risk behaviors while increasing academic achievement and opportunity.

The Campagna Center programs serve as safe

SEE LIGHTS ON, PAGE 26

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OPINION

Preparing for Colder Months

BY BREANNE DRISCOLL
OUTREACH MANAGER

As the days get shorter, the nights will soon become cooler and you might turn on your heating system or add an extra blanket to your bed to stay warm. But many neighbors, especially low-income homeowners, struggle to pay high heating and energy bills during the colder months, as they need to use their limited income to pay for other necessities, such as food and medicine. Where do they turn when their heating system does not work or they are unable to keep the cold drafts

REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

at bay? Here at Rebuilding Together Alexandria, we are working hard to help your vulnerable neighbors prepare their homes for the winter.

The last Saturday of every October, the Rebuilding Together Alexandria staff plan Energize Alexandria, our annual event assisting low-income homeowners with weatherization and energy efficient improvements. Volunteers will be armed with weather-stripping, window plastic, compact fluorescent light bulbs, caulk, outlet insulators, foam tube insulation for hot water pipes, and tools to carry

out these modifications. These upgrades will help homeowners save on energy costs in the coming months, keeping the cold air out and the warm air in. Neighbors helping neighbors is what this was all about.

This year, Rebuilding Together Alexandria has partnered with Dominion Energy to further provide tools and information for low-income homeowners to further understand and reap the benefits of an energy efficient household. Dominion Energy has provided us with 100-plus energy efficient kits to distribute to the low-income homeowners we serve throughout the year. Each kit is stocked with an LED light bulb that lasts 15x longer and uses 80 percent less energy than a regular incandescent light bulb, weather-stripping to create tighter seals around windows and doors, hot water and refrigerator temperature gauges, along with a do-it-yourself and resource guide. Remember: simple tips like setting your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer or washing clothes in cold water, can help any resident save on energy costs.

So, if you have a neighbor who could ben-



Director of Programs Haig Paul and Outreach Manager Breanne Driscoll of Rebuilding Together Alexandria, in partnership with Dominion Energy, will deliver 100-plus energy efficient kits to city residents this year.

efit from our free home repair services, we encourage you to introduce them to us. For more information, call 703-836-1021 or visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org.

LETTERS

daily basis through the ambiance of this charming village. Over time, however, a closer look reveals a certain fatigue, an accumulation of litter, a neglect to detail and the loss of a crisp, well groomed appearance.

Our "Passion for Beautification" is calling on you to join us in an effort to reverse the damage of neglect and make this village a shining star again.

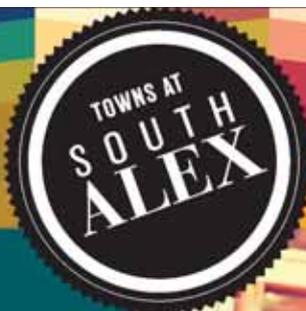
Christa Annett
(christaannett209@gmail.com)
Margorie Scott
(scott114prince@rcn.com)
Alexandria

Appreciating 'Pet Friendly'

To the Editor:

As a dog owner living in Old Town Alexandria since 1992 I can understand the letter writer's concern ["Why Allow Dogs in Stores," Oct. 19], if they are shopping and there are unruly pets in our local stores disrupting shoppers. However, the writer makes no mention of any issue with the dogs in the store other than the fact dogs were inside the store that she apparently found that offensive.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

A large part of the fabric of Alexandria is that it's pet friendly with plenty of identified dog parks, outdoor restaurants, shops that allow dogs and other venues. As a former retail owner on King Street I allowed customers to bring their animals into my store provided they were not misbehaving.

In the 10 years I had my retail location I never once had an issue with any pet owners and their dogs in my store. I did have bigger issues with double-wide strollers trying to fit through my front door, but that's another story. Every retail establishment can set their own policy regarding allowing pets into their stores, perhaps the writer should take up her issue directly with the store, or as the writer suggested pet owners do, she can stay home and shop online. I would suggest the writer had or has a negative view of all dogs and dog owners

and would be well served to perhaps stop by one of the many dog parks and get to know some of the dog owners there and realize we are her neighbors and friends. Just then perhaps the "madness" she alluded to will just maybe become a little less maddening for her the

next time she ventures out to shop. P.S.: Support your local retailers; they are big part of our community and I am sure most will allow your well-behaved dogs.

Geoff Stone
Alexandria

Disappointing 'Back 2 Blue'

To the Editor:

For a number of reasons I am a big supporter of Metro and other modes of public transportation. Yet I am a bigger supporter of open and honest government, which is being compromised by the city's misleading "Back 2 Blue" campaign, announced in its Oct. 17 press release. Essentially the city, due to its inability to control Metro's notorious and persistently poor quality of service, is promoting the proverbial shiny object in one hand (unexceptional blue line improvements made this summer), while counting on the gullibility of the riding public to look away from the drastic cuts also made this summer to the yellow line service.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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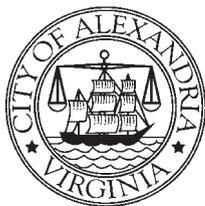
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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2017 REAL ESTATE TAX AND REFUSE FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2017

The second half 2017 real estate tax and refuse fee must be paid by November 15, 2017, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City, or by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750. Payments can also be made with **cash only** at Global Express Cash Payment Centers located throughout Northern Virginia. For a complete list of the available cash payment centers, please visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments.

Real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments. For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, Option 8, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410.

The Finance Department is open, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2017 to be considered on time.)

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Free Event Helps Residents with Their Pets

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
OF ALEXANDRIA

Alexandrian Stacy Palmer had three separate cat carriers slung over her shoulders when she arrived at the courtyard in front of the Ruby Tucker Family Center in Old Town on a recent Saturday morning. The carriers held cats of different stripes, named Molly, Ollie and Bella. It was clear that Palmer adored her pets, but she had not been able to provide them with an important health requirement: vaccinations for rabies.

Palmer had come to the right place. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), in collaboration with the the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Virginia Department of Health, was holding a free pet care event. AWLA had identified the neighborhood surrounding the Ruby Tucker Family Center as a location with a need for help with pets, based on calls for assistance and records of animals surrendered to the shelter. Rather than holding a free rabies vaccine clinic at the animal shelter on Eisenhower Avenue, as had been done previously, the AWLA brought the event into the community, setting up a series of colorful tents in front of the Family Center to provide free rabies vaccines, access to veterinary staff, free supplies and behavioral advice. This way, pet owners did not need to go far to obtain these services for their beloved companion animals.

The AWLA believes that animals enrich the lives of Alexandria's citizens in so many ways, and their unconditional love can help during challenges like health crises or financial struggles. Sadly, these crises can often cause people to

surrender their pets, unable to find any other solution. With this pet care clinic, the AWLA aimed to help these owners keep their pets during these tough times rather than surrendering them to the shelter.

"We wanted to locate the event in a place to make it as easy to access as possible. We had residents who literally walked outside their door into the courtyard and found help with their pets," said Stella Hanly, AWLA director of Community Programs.

The AWLA mobilized help from throughout the community, including veterinary staff from VCA Old Town Animal Hospital who generously donated two veterinarians and vet techs to make the event possible. Dr. Laura MacLean and Dr. Natalie Henigan worked alongside the VCA technicians to give free rabies vaccines, trim nails and smooth matted fur. AWLA volunteers manned tables loaded with nutritious pet food, toys, collars, leashes and other pet supplies, all free to attendees, who left with bags of goodies for their furry pals.

AWLA behavior and training coordinator Danielle Grand advised citizens on behavioral problems and concerns about their pets. Many asked about house training their dogs, which can be especially challenging with male dogs who have not been neutered, Grand said. She also provided guidance about canines who don't seem to like other dogs and talked to one resident who was concerned her young cat was going "crazy" and had become uncontrollable. Grand quickly identified that the cat had become sexually mature and had gone into heat. She explained the benefits of spaying cats and signed the owner up for an appointment for her cat.

SEE HELPING PETS. PAGE 14



Check-in desk for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's free pet-care clinic.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA



Puma the cat puts in an appearance at the pet-care clinic, offered by AWLA.



VCA Old Town Animal Hospital veterinarian and technician give a free rabies vaccine to a dog at the pet care clinic.



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NEWS

Dreamers

FROM PAGE 8

rent 800,000 DACA 135,000 are Asian-Americans. The current efforts focus on DACA with phone banks, vigils and visits to Virginia legislators urging them to support of the Dream Act. “Representatives Barbara Comstock and Scott Taylor are on the fence about whether to co-sponsor the legislation,” said Yi. NAKASEC is planning a day soon when they will join with other organizations and knock on every door they can find. “Come on; we can do this,” she said.

Yi says that Korea is a land of opportunity with a great educational system. “I can go there now and make a lot of money but what keeps us rooted here is liberty and freedom. In Korea,” she said, “You have to think a certain way. Culturally and value-wise, I’m American.”

Yi takes a moment to reflect on their recent 30-day vigil in front of the White House. She said they slept on benches, talked to people, got signatures and even did the “DACA dance.”

“The Secret Service told us we were the weirdest demonstrators they had ever seen at the White House; we even had a karaoke night. But we raised a lot of money,” Yi said. “Some people were supportive but others were being really mean. We had kids with us and I could see they were so hurt. I don’t know what’s going to happen but we’re stronger together. We have to do something.”

She declares they’re going to get education and driver’s licenses for everyone in Virginia. “This moment is bigger than all of us.”



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUBE

Imam Ali Saddiqui, transitional leader for Sanctuary DMV, demonstrates outside of ICE office in D.C.

small apartment with 13 people. We were there to support her for her deportation hearing. The woman had fled El Salvador, which is the murder capital of the world. We took her to Rosslyn to immigration court. All of us had to go through a metal detector including the children, and they took away the food in her purse.”

Martin says 80 different cases were all given the same 11 a.m. time for consideration. “It wasn’t a grand court — it was an institutional setting with low ceilings, bright light and so crowded that people, even with babies, couldn’t sit down. It was very procedural and you heard the same thing dozens of times. They took cases with attorneys first so we had to wait for a long time.”

Martin says somewhere along the way the woman’s heavy ankle bracelet started beeping because the battery was low. “There was nowhere to recharge it so it just kept beeping until we got to Subway for lunch in the late afternoon and she could plug it in.” When it came her turn the bilingual judge asked if the immigrant needed time to get an attorney and postponed her case until August.

Then they had to go to Vienna for a regular ankle bracelet check-in. “They could track where she was.” Martin said the Sanctuary DMV group is not involved in case management so she doesn’t know what happened at the August court date. “The courts can’t keep up. They are rescheduling out to the end of 2018.”

An excerpt from a poem sent by Martin to the congregation concludes:

“I have known the grandmothers who Smile even though they have left Their country of spices and markets, Have left their open windows with blue curtains Have left the tramping of war, Have left their songs and language, And believed America when we said, ‘This is the land of the free.’”

This is the third article in a series focusing on DACA.

SIXTY FOUR PLACES of worship joined together after the election with the announcement of upcoming anti-immigration legislation. Imam Ali Saddiqui, who is part of a transitional leadership team for the group, says Sanctuary DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia) includes a number of Protestant churches as well as several synagogues, Catholic churches and his Muslim Institute. One of their actions has been organizing rallies in support of DACA and immigrant rights. “I was just there last week at the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in D.C. and at the mayor’s office.” Since there was just a raid where ICE went after 500 undocumented immigrants and 14 were arrested, the group was asking for their release and for the mayor not to cooperate with ICE officials.

In addition, they have been visiting congressional offices in support of the Dream Act and phoning members of Congress. “Actually this is on a party line. Democrats are very supportive and Republicans not.”

He says you hear the argument that immigrants cost the government money and don’t pay taxes. “Let me tell you my own story. I came here from Pakistan on March 23, 1969 originally as an asylee. I looked for a job and started working and paying taxes March 24 and have paid ever since.”

The Rev. Laura Martin, associate pastor for at Rock Spring UCC in Arlington and also a member of DMV Sanctuary, says there are a number of unresolved issues about the concept of offering sanctuary to an immigrant in a church building. “We are trying to come up with a wider definition of sanctuary such as offering solidarity or support for immigrants when they have an order for deportation. So in the spring another member of the congregation and I picked up a woman living in D.C. with her two children in a

DACA by Congressional District

U.S. Rep.	DACA Recipients	DACA Eligible
Beyer (D-8)	2,000	5,400
Comstock (R-10)	1,600	3,700
Connelly (D-11)	2,400	5,300

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New High School?

FROM PAGE 5

increasing number of students. By 2023, projected high school enrollment for ACPS is 4,924. The current capacity, between both the main TC campus and Minnie Howard, is 3,787, putting the high schools in a 1,137 seat deficit.

According to Interim Superintendent Lois Berlin, the squeeze of that overcapacity can already be felt at TC. Berlin described her experience trying to push through the hallways on the upper floors of TC as feeling like a salmon working its way upstream.

"It's quite an adventure," said Berlin. "We do need to have that conversation sooner rather than later."

"There are some that think putting a larger building at the Minnie Howard campus can provide us the option we need, but this number shows: we have to do something other than [Minnie Howard] just being a ninth grade campus," said School Board member William "Bill" Campbell. "If we just made the assumption that in 2023 that the 9th grade is 1,000 or 1,300 students, that leaves 3,600 to 3,700 in 10th through 12th grade. We will be exceeding the capacity if all we have at the new Minnie Howard is ninth grade. We have to do some-

thing different."

The discussion already started moving into what shape the new high school would take. Several School Board members expressed a need to make sure that the divisions of the new high schools don't fall along the same lines of the old pre-integration ones.

"As we do the work in the fall, on our high schools especially, I would ask that we really set a premium on evaluating the equity for all students if we reconfigure," said School Board member Chris Lewis. "I always say we can take a lesson from having two middle schools serve two halves of the city.

The challenges we've had at providing equity to those schools and the perceptions that students have of themselves and that the community has of those two schools, which the former superintendent asked me not to say at the dais, but that we hear from students about themselves and about their school.

I would ask that we set a premium on evaluating that in addition to the other factors.

If we can't have equity at a middle school, how do we think we can have that in the divisions at high school?"

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PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

Snapshot

While out walking, “Tina Edwards” discovers decorating ideas for Halloween.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

Prior to these cuts, the yellow line and its now defunct “Rush-Plus” supplement ran every 3 to 5 minutes during rush-hour, directly into the heart of the District. Now yellow line riders face longer waits (8 minutes) and fewer seats on each commute. What is most infuriating is that for this reduced service Metro had the audacity to concurrently raise its fares.

The blue line’s new eight minute intervals is nothing to celebrate. Just a few years back, such service times would have been subject to scorn, not celebration. If the city wants to celebrate Metro’s “Back 2 Good,” perhaps it should use Metro’s old standards as the starting point.

Matt Harris, Esq.
Alexandria

Not Intimidated

To the Editor:

If you haven’t heard by now, we live and work near Richard Spencer and his National Policy Institute (NPI), an organization that has been around a while but only recently moved to Alexandria. He espouses white supremacy, and ethnic cleansing. His group is supposedly a think tank, and puts out papers like the “The State of White

America” released in 2007. In the report it says that Brown vs. the Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act and busing were some of the worst decisions ever.

You cannot claim to be something else and march with Nazi and Confederate flags reminiscent of Nazi propagandists, who used torchlit parades and rallies to attract Germans, especially youth, to the Nazi movement,” according to the United States Holocaust Museum.

Torches were also used for intimidation by the Klu Klux Klan. “Torches became a consistently described part of the Klan’s early parades and use of visual intimidation. They would continue to be a terrifying feature of the organization when it reemerged in the early 20th century,” according to Forbes magazine.

NPI has lost their tax exempt status. That is good, because the NPI has been classified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a white supremacist organization.

I cannot tell you how strongly I disagree with this group’s purpose and goals.

They remind me of playground bullies I encountered when I was young. Their only strength is in numbers. If they want to attempt to intimidate me or anyone else, they have approached the wrong neighbor. I am not intimidated. When they told me that they

Housing as Infrastructure

BY ALEXANDRIA HOUSING AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On Monday, Oct. 16, the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) submitted a statement (edited below) to the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force. The latter will shortly deliver recommendations to City Council about how to streamline specific capital projects, as well as the city’s capital planning process generally.

... We believe you have been granted wide latitude to ‘push the envelope’ on this critical subject [affordable housing]. We encourage you to use it

COMMENTARY

to consider our recommendation that affordable housing be included as infrastructure in the CIP, and that a formal process for feasibility of co-location with new public facilities be included in the planning process.

(1) Housing as Infrastructure in the CIP

We wish to call to your attention the need, both outstanding and looming, for affordable housing subsidy for known projects over the next few years. At City Council’s FY 2018 budget retreat last November, staff estimated the five-year shortfall for affordable housing projects in the pipeline at \$12 million. The anticipated FY 2018 deficit of \$4.3 million ended up being funded in an ad hoc way during the budget process so that the Church of the Resurrection project might go forward, but the year-to-year funding uncertainty can potentially be a deterrent to both landowners and developers interested in exploring affordable projects. In addition to these specific project needs, other especially acute general housing needs include stock for “very low income” households (30-50 percent of the area media income) and elderly assisted living. As you discuss project alternatives that could free up tens of millions of dollars, we ask that you press Council to consider a broader project “portfolio” and to shunt additional funds to these yet-to-be-seized housing opportunities.

Moreover, as you develop recommendations to improve the overall budget process, structure and policies, we encourage you to consider how to incorporate a surer and more robust funding mechanism for housing. The city’s Housing Master Plan says the “best” tool to achieve its goals would be “a consistent, reliable source of annual funding.” But currently the only “dedicated” source of hous-

ing funding is 0.6 cents on the real estate tax rate — down from one cent previously. Since interest on past debt issuance consumes the majority, this stream is not sufficient to enable the city to assume an opportunistic, future-oriented posture toward affordable housing. Moreover, the bulk of affordable housing funding comes from voluntary developer contributions and federal tax credits, subject to the vagaries of the market and of national politics.

To improve upon this state of affairs, one possibility that you may consider recommending is to include affordable housing subsidy as a standing CIP line item. While housing may not fit the traditional definition of public facilities, we believe it nevertheless comprises the city’s social, economic and moral infrastructure; we should plan for and fund it as such. Including housing in the CIP would ensure that funds are earmarked well in advance, ensuring that they are in place when the projects that need them take form. This would serve the intended function of “consistent” and “reliable” annual funding.

All in all, we think housing-as-infrastructure should feature prominently in the city’s ‘big’ conversations about ‘big’ money. Please do all that you can to ensure that any revamped planning and budget structure issuing from your task force includes affordable housing, explicitly and decisively.

(2) Co-locating Housing with Public Facilities

There are many examples across Northern Virginia where housing is co-located with public facilities such as community centers, libraries, fire stations, and schools. The first example developed in the region is the Station at Potomac Yard — 64 units of affordable housing located above a fire station. This kind of use of public land can lower development costs considerably, allowing more of the development budget to go toward actual housing units.

We know that you have already been charged to consider co-location options for your assigned list of facilities. We encourage you in this endeavor. But we ask you to go further by recommending that Council structure such consideration into the planning process for all future projects as well.

planned to be here for a long time and recruit more people like them that only fuels my determination to act until they are gone and discredited.

Boyd Walker
Alexandria

Glorifying Death

To the Editor:

This year we have seen so much death and killing, some by natural disasters but not all. This very month began with a senseless gunning down of innocent music fans in Las Vegas. Of course we won-

der and debate how it can be stopped.

Is it the weapons or the people on which we should concentrate? This discussion has been going on ever since the problem began and most likely will continue. However this is one thing which we could all do and at very minimal cost which is to stop glorifying death. The most obvious example comes at the end of this month.

Last week I was at the VAMC and expressed to a patient advocate there, that for a medical facility to have decorations such as skeletons and graves, or maybe something showing blood, is really inappropriate. After all, hospitals are supposed to preserve life or at least

improve it instead of promoting death.

In past years I have seen a particular funeral director here in Alexandria which on the lawn had huge comical hearses and some other decorations that were sort of mocking death and funerals. Again this did not seem to be very appropriate or a respectful way to treat such matters.

Now parties and sweets are enjoyable, but do we have to be reminded of tragedy and death so much as we enjoy them? Will it cost us anything to just not have such representations?

Jerry Foley
Old Town Alexandria

ENTERTAINMENT

'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike'

LTA presents comedy about a clan from Bucks County, Pa.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" now through Nov. 11. The winner of the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play, the story follows middle-aged siblings, Vanya and Sonia, who live together in present-day Bucks County, Pa., in the only home they've ever known. Without warning, their sister, Masha, who happens to be a movie star, stops in for a visit with her much younger boyfriend, Spike. The clan works out their differences about potentially selling the family home.

Mario D. Font is playing the role of Vanya, the oldest brother. With his adopted sister Sonia, they have lived in the family home in Bucks County their whole lives and spent the last years caring for their elderly parents who had Alzheimer's Disease.

"The parents have died by the time the play starts, but both Vanya and Sonia realize over the course of the play that they've had no life other than caretaking," said Font. "Vanya is gay, and is intrigued by Masha's [the middle sister] boy-toy whom she brings with her to the family home for a weekend visit. The siblings revert to their established patterns in their relationship over the course of the play [the weekend] and that creates both comedic and poignant moments."

The four-page monologue in the 66-page play was his biggest challenge, he said. "It's a rant, but impossible to rant for four pages, so I struggled finding the right rhythm and moments where it was appropriate to rant. Howard (our director) was a Godsend help-



PHOTO BY KEITH WATERS

Lorraine Bouchard stars as Sonia, Mario Font stars as Vanya, and Carol Preston stars as Masha in LTA's production of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike."

ing me navigate through this challenge."

He added, "In comedy there is drama, and in drama, there is also usually comedy. For those audience 'of a certain age,' I hope they recognize some of Vanya's frustration with modern technology and today's lack of shared experiences. For the other part of the audience, I hope they can gain a better understanding of what life was like before cell phones, texting, tweeting and emailing."

Hannah Lee Grothaus is playing the role of Nina, an enthusiastic, hopeful, and artistic young woman. "Her hopeful and optimistic nature helps a few of the characters in this show see the brighter possibilities for their lives ahead," she said.

The show is full of zany, comical Christopher Durang charm, she said. "And while

it's wonderful to get to play with such a script, it can be a challenge to find the reality in it," she said. "To dig in to the core of the characters and scenes, and despite the outlandish circumstances they may find themselves in or things they may say, find a way to play it as real life."

She wants the audience to take away a sense of hope for the future, she said. "This play is so relatable — from the scary changes happening in the world right now to the drama that pops up in any family. If the audience leaves feeling a bit more warm and hopeful inside (along with some sore ab muscles from a good laugh or two) I think we'll have done our jobs," she said.

Marilyn Pifer is playing the role of Cassandra, who allows her to be wacky. "Cassandra is good-hearted (if a bit of a

nut), and that's a very nice change," she said, because the characters she's played in her last three shows have been somewhat evil.

With this role, she's had to stretch farther than usual to develop her character and her back-story. "I've never known anyone quite like Cassandra. Fortunately, the playwright gave me a lot to work with," she said. "I also needed help on her gentle Pennsylvania Dutch accent, which Howard, our director, was happy to give."

She hopes that the audience finds a situation or character in the show that they can relate to. "This very funny show has many tender moments and serious themes. If we as a cast treat those moments with both humor and respect, we'll connect with our audiences and make them all feel happy they spent a couple of hours with us," she said.

Lorraine Bouchard is playing the role of Sonia, a smart woman who is lusting for life. "But she became numb from years of caring for her adopted parents who had Alzheimer's. She is sad about her dull life, but her frustration and jealousy finally light a spark in her and give her the energy to burst out and take a risk," she said. "I love that she is both vulnerable and snarky. I want audiences to feel her frustration and cheer for the happy, hopeful ending."



The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" now through Nov. 11. The show is written by Christopher Durang, produced by Genie Baskir and Elissa Hudson, and directed by Howard Vincent Kurtz. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call the Box Office at 703-683-0496 or visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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.

OCT. 25-DEC. 8

Holiday Toy Drive. Various times at Quander Road School, 6400 Quander Road. Donate new/slightly used unwrapped toys for toddlers to 12 years old (puzzles, dolls, board games, action figures and more). Call 703-718-2400, Ext. 2431.

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.

Yappy Hour. 5-7:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Alexandria Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. To benefit the Dog and Cat Foundation part of Dogtoberfest. Friendly dogs welcome on the patio. Visit www.visitalexandriava.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.

Spooktacular Sounds in the

Haunted Hall. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Along with the Wakefield High School Bands, the NOVA Alexandria Band will perform music by J.S. Bach, Mark Camphouse, Danny Elfman, Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, Andrew Lloyd Weber and others. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Bark or Treat Canine Cruise. 6 and 7:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. Come out with your

costumed canine and cruise to some Halloween tunes along the Potomac. \$18 adults; \$12 ages 2-11; dogs free. Call 703-684-0580 or visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Ghosts and Grief Halloween Tours

at Lee-Fendall House. starting at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern-day funeral practices. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door; free to members. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

The Gadsby's Tavern Ghost Tour.

7-9 p.m. tours every 30 minutes at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Follow a colonial-costumed guide through the Alexandria streets, visit a cemetery and enter one of the most haunted buildings in Old Town. Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

OCT. 27-28

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Wagon rides, chocolate making, costume parade. \$12 adults; \$6 ages 11 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

OCT. 27-29

Worship Ceremonial Workshops. Various times at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Author John Philip Newell leads discussions and workshops from his book "Rebirthing of God." Visit www.centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Fundraising Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 8412 Richmond Ave. Benefit for Rising Hope Mission Church which feeds, clothes, and shelters those most in need. Visit www.risinghopeumc.org/special-events.

Le Tour d'Alexandria. 10 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The bike tour will highlight many of the library's programs and

HALLOWEEN FUN

OCTOBER

Ghost and Graveyard Tour.

Throughout October, nightly at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday second tour at 9 p.m. \$13 adults; \$7 ages 7-17. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. Hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Spooktacular Sounds in the

Haunted Hall. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Along with the Wakefield High School Bands, the NOVA Alexandria Band will perform music by J.S. Bach, Mark Camphouse, Danny Elfman, Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, Andrew Lloyd Weber and others. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

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OCT. 27-28

Trick-or-Treating at Mount

Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Wagon rides, chocolate making, costume parade. \$12 adults; \$6 ages 11 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

Le Tour d'Alexandria. 10 a.m. at Beatey Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The bike tour will highlight many of the library's programs and resources, and offer participants the opportunity to socialize with other library and bicycling enthusiasts. This year's tour will highlight some of Alexandria's haunted locations. Visit www.bit.ly/alexlibrarybiketour.

4th Annual Halloween Pumpkin

Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the garden with hundreds of colorful toy-filled pumpkins for local children to discover. Other activities include crafts to take home, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, spooky stories, a costume parade with prizes as well as drinks and refreshments. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Canine Costume Contest.

2-5 p.m. at the Old Town Alexandria Waterfront, 5 Cameron St. Gather four friends and solve all the clues in DMV Bar Trivia's 1st Old Town Alexandria scavenger hunt. Benefits King Street Cats. \$5. Email traderkirk1@yahoo.com.

Scavenger Hunt Alexandria. 2-5 p.m. at the Old Town Alexandria Waterfront, 5 Cameron St. Gather four friends and solve all the clues in DMV Bar Trivia's 1st Old Town Alexandria scavenger hunt. Benefits King Street Cats. \$5. Email traderkirk1@yahoo.com.

Zombie Escape. 6:30-10 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. \$30 ages 13 and up. The group will have 20 minutes to crack a series of puzzles and physical feats to obtain all the supplies needed for your survival group back at the hotel. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.CarlyleHouse.org.

Ghostly Tales. 6:30-10 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join storytellers from Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past on the front lawn of Carlyle House for ghostly tales of Alexandria's past. \$5. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Edgar Allan Poe Readings in the Vault. 7-8 p.m. in Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Presented in Ivy Hill Cemetery's receiving vault, the closest thing Alexandria has to catacombs, the Guillotine Theater Company will perform some of Edgar Allan Poe's readings. \$10. Call 703-549-7413 x112 or visit ivyhillcemetery.net

Nightmare on King Street.

Judging at 11 p.m. at Daniel O'Connell's, 112 King St. Free. Halloween Party. Live music by Driven to Clarity. Prizes for Best Female Costume, Best Male Costume, and Best Group Costume. Call 703-739-1124 or visit www.danieloconnells.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Doggie Trick-or-Treat. 1-3 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. Call 703-888-2818 or visit thedogparkva.biz

Del Ray Halloween Parade.

2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues through Del Ray. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb with prizes in different categories. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

OCT. 30-31

Haunted House at Captain's

Cove. 4:30-7 p.m. at Hotel Indigo, 220 South Union St. A pirate-themed haunted experience, playing on the hotel's nautical theme and the area's maritime history. All are welcome and there is no admission fee, but patrons are encouraged to donate to Act for Alexandria, which distributes grants for revitalization of the Alexandria area and community. hotelandigoooldtownalexandria.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 31

Trick or Treat. 5-7 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. All Hallow's Eve for good old fashioned 18th century trickery and treats. Visit www.novaparks.com.

CALENDAR

resources, and offer participants the opportunity to socialize with other library and bicycling enthusiasts. This year's tour will highlight some of Alexandria's haunted locations. Visit www.bit.ly/alexlibrarybiketour.

4th Annual Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the garden with hundreds of colorful toy-filled pumpkins for local children to discover. Other



"Wings Set Me Free" by Nina Tisara Meet the Artist

Meet Nina Tisara, the Artist on Friday, Nov. 3 from 7-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. talks about her mosaic art "Spirituality and Nature." Email ninat@ninatisara.com.

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

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

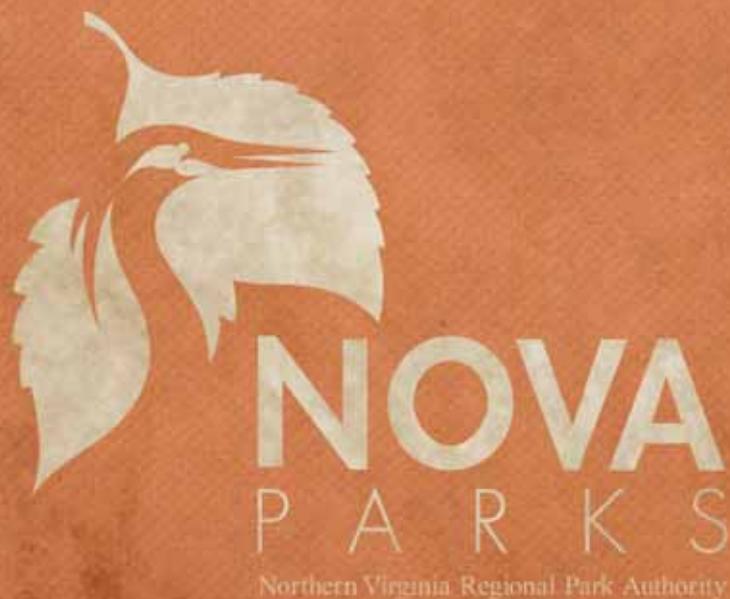
Alexandria Gazette Packet



YOU ARE ONE WITH NOVA PARKS

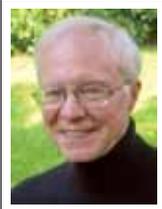
When centuries melt away, and you can see the excitement in someone's eyes, that is when you are one with NOVA Parks. Telling the story of America through historic places is a big part of what makes Northern Virginia special, and a big part of the mission of NOVA Parks. From the Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria with both its Colonial and Civil War stories, to Ball's Bluff Battlefield, Aldie Mill, Tinner Hill Civil Rights Historic Park and countless other historic treasures, NOVA Parks is a leading force in preserving and restoring the important sites that tell our story.

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International speaker, John Tyler, is a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

Saturday, November 4, at 2:00 pm
Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street, Alexandria VA

ENTERTAINMENT

Small Plates Reign at DRP Reserve

BY HOPE NELSON

If You Go

When Mount Vernon Avenue gets hopping in the evenings, it really fills up. No matter the time of year, families stroll the avenue, stopping for custard or window-shopping. Or pizza.

Nearly any night finds Del Ray Pizza jam-packed with people, ranging from couples out to share a pie to larger parties ordering several pizzas to plow through. But upstairs, above the din of the busy dining room, a calmer, more refined experience awaits. Each weekend, DRP Reserve opens its doors to guests looking for something a bit different than the scene at the pizzeria downstairs — and customers are responding.

This is the Reserve's second go-round — after a stint in 2015, the project took a long layover before reopening in early September. And though there's been no ad campaign, no media blitz, barely even a presence on social media, diners are finding their way back to the Reserve, passing tips on to their friends by word of mouth (and Facebook photos).

But expect the menu to be a bit different from the Reserve's first iteration. Whereas the 2015 version sported an array of Southern favorites, Chef Eric Reid is looking to broaden the scope here in 2017.

"Since we closed [in 2015], shrimp and grits started popping up all over the place. It was like, 'What can we do to still be relevant; what can we do to not really leave our comfort zone, but switch it up?'" Reid said. The answer: "Let's just do smaller plates where people can come in and share their plates, get to try everything on the menu."

Some customer favorites? The Pad Kee Mao, for one.

"My wife and I were going out to a bunch of restaurants, just trying new things, and we have this

DRP Reserve, 2216 Mount Vernon Ave.
Hours: 5-10 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Pro tip: Coming in with a group? "We would highly recommend ordering the entire menu," says Chef Eric Reid. Small plates at reasonable prices allow for a taste of everything.

Thai restaurant right around the corner and we were always getting the drunken noodles," Reid said. "And I said, 'I'm going to do this. I want to try it; switch it up.' So we make it with crispy duck — everything's made in house. It's a lot of fun."

To round out the meal, Reid has been known to dash out to international-foods groceries around the region to procure the proper peppers and Thai basil.

Some of the other hits of the menu: A tomato-bacon pie and a starter of boiled peanuts that fill in for the usual bread service.

And what would a good speakeasy-like environment be without a decent cocktail or two? Cocktail aficionado Nolan Grace has you covered. Grace ensures that a half-dozen different cocktails are on the menu each day, with every ingredient made in-house.

"I usually try and do maybe one or two 'cocktails of the night' on any given night," Grace said. "Basically I come up here and play around — if it tastes good, I throw it out there and run it as a special that evening."

As summer turns to fall, expect the cocktail menu to skew more cold-weather-friendly. One of Grace's new favorites: The Winter Sage. Made with tequila, grapefruit sage, simple syrup, lime juice, grapefruit bitters, and a touch of soda water, it toasts the season with style.

"I love it — it's kind of like a margarita for the wintertime, and I think it tastes delicious," he said.

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

APPETITE

CALENDAR

activities include crafts to take home, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, spooky stories, a costume parade with prizes as well as drinks and refreshments. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Canine Costume Contest. 2-4 p.m. on the patio at Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap at 401 E. Braddock Road. Benefit for Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's and to launch the AWLA's 2018 photo calendar commemorating Alexandria's 2018 Animal of the Year, Zoey, who passed earlier this year. \$25 for one costume entry (individual or group) and \$10 to attend. Visit alexandriaanimals.org/HowlOWeen2017.

Scavenger Hunt Alexandria. 2-5 p.m. at the Old Town Alexandria Waterfront, 5 Cameron St. Gather four friends and solve all the clues in DMV Bar Trivia's 1st Old Town Alexandria scavenger hunt. Benefits King Street Cats. \$5. Email traderkirk1@yahoo.com.

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SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Artists Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, Horticultural Center, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artists, Jan Burns, Madeleine Chen, and Shari MacFarlane will talk about their exhibit, "Nature from Three Points of View," which will be on exhibit through Dec. 17. Call 703-642-5173.

Doggie Trick-or-Treat. 1-3 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. Call 703-888-2818 or visit www.thedogparkva.biz

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues through Del Ray. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb with prizes in different categories. Free. Visit

www.visitdelray.com.

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

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Concert. 3 p.m. at GW Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic kicks off its 47th season with local Virginia composer Ben Roundtree's five movement Symphony No. 1, followed by rising local star violinist Leonid Sushansky performing Tchaikovsky's beloved virtuoso Violin Concerto. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 30

Community Job Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Presented by the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-5571.

New Salon Grand Opening. 6-8 p.m. at Salon Meraki, 1101 N. Queen St. Alexandria's new boutique location for skin, nail and hair care. Visit www.merakioldtown.com.

OCT. 30-31

Haunted House at Captain's Cove. 4:30-7 p.m. at Hotel Indigo, 220 South Union St. A pirate-themed haunted experience, playing on the hotel's nautical theme and the area's maritime history. All are welcome and there is no admission fee, but patrons are encouraged to donate to

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pros Prepare Local Dancers

Performances at West Potomac High School.

BY SUSAN FLEISCHMAN
ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER

Now in its ninth year, the Alexandria Community Nutcracker company is hard at work, ready to hop, skip and leap across the stage in festive, funky and fabulous holiday glory. Professional choreographers give the show a big kick this year.

Unique in its approach to the Christmas classic, the performance showcases several genres of dance, including hip hop, ballet, tap, Irish, jazz, pointe and gymnastics. Putting the “community” into practice, the dancers range in age from 3 to adult, and hail from several local studios as well as most of the area schools: West Potomac, Hayfield Secondary, Carl Sandburg, Waynewood, Fort Hunt, Belle View, Hollin Meadows, Stratford Landing, St. Luke’s Day School, St. Louis, Hybla Valley, St. Mary’s, and Bucknell.

Leading the troupe are directors Courtney Betzel, Gennifer Difilippo and Adrienne Magnuson, who have again assembled a talented lineup of licorice, mice, and sweet tarts surrounding Clara and Fritz, bringing the famous story to life through dance.

Guest choreographers were eager to lend their professional creativity and vision by leading the dancers through select numbers. Brittany Hall, a graduate of the West Potomac Academy program, now works in Los Angeles as a professional dancer, and she jumped at the chance to work with the company. “It has been seven years since being back at WP and I was flooded with great memories. Our rehearsal was long and tiring, but the girls pushed hard and never gave up during the process.”

Paul McGill, a professional dancer from New York City, agreed the girls worked their tails off this year.

Where & When

Alexandria Community Nutcracker at West Potomac High School Auditorium

❖ Wednesday, Nov. 29, 5:30 – Special Scout Show: Discounted tickets are available for all Scout troops. Email alexandriadance2@gmail.com.

❖ Thursday, Nov. 30, 5:30

❖ Friday, Dec. 1, 6:30

❖ Saturday, Dec. 2, 2:30

❖ Saturday, Dec. 2, 6:30 – Military Appreciation Night: Discounted tickets are available for all military families, retired and active duty.

“For the Russian number, they were flexible and made it their own. The hard work and improvement in just one day was astounding.”

Washington Wizards dancer Christie Elise is a fixture with the troupe, joining again this year. “I loved working with the middle schoolers. They were eager to learn and so excited about dancing a hip hop piece. They worked hard and we finished learning the dance in one practice.”

It’s clear that the students are not the only ones benefiting from the partnership with the choreographers.

“Working with the students of the Nutcracker recharged me for the year. They inspired me just as much as I inspired them – it was a fair exchange of love and passion for dance,” said Ebone Simone Johnson, a professional dancer from New York City. “I truly believe that the children are our future. After a certain amount of years, teachers and professionals forget why we do what we do, and it takes a group of young people like the students of the Alexandria Community Nutcracker to remind you why you started in the first place. My heart will forever be with these kids. Every time I work with them it’s nothing but love.”

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.alexandrianutcracker.com.

CALENDAR

Act for Alexandria, a local organization which distributes grants for revitalization of the Alexandria area and community. Visit hotelindigooldtownalexandria.com/.

TUESDAY/OCT. 31

Trick or Treat. 5-7 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. All Hallow’s Eve for good old fashioned 18th century trickery and treats. Visit www.novaparks.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 2

Yappy Hour. 5-7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn Alexandria Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. To benefit the Dog and Cat Foundation, silent auction and raffle. Call 703-960-2000.

FRIDAY/NOV. 3

Art on Tap. 7-10 p.m. at the Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Enjoy local craft beers, original artwork, and food. \$35. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Meet the Artist. 7-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Nina Tisara talks about her mosaic art “Spirituality and Nature.” Email ninat@ninatistisara.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Ventures in Community Walk. 8-10

a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Fund raising for Good Shepherd Housing, ICNA Relief Food Pantry, New Hope Housing, Rising Hope and United Community Ministries. Email kaddavey@gmail.com.

Pancake Fundraiser. 8-11 a.m. at PEMA’s Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway. \$10, \$3 children 12 and under. Funds support the Mount Vernon Evening Lions Club. Call 703-339-7099.

Tour De Mount Vernon. 8:30 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Ride on bikes with the Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and tour the Mount Vernon District. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Join Martha Washington for tea as she shares memories of her and the General’s life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at their home in Mount Vernon. \$35. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6-7 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association sponsoring for couples, singles of all ages. \$10 members, \$12. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

Meet the Artist. 4-6 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 325. Meet Kristina

Hagman and there will be an artist talk on Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Her exhibit will be on display from Nov. 1-21. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Prowl for Owls at Huntley Meadows Park. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Adults are invited to go on a search for owls as these nocturnal raptors are pair-bonding and looking for nesting sites. Listen for and learn about our local owls. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

Swedish Jazz Concert. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

SUNDAY/NOV. 5

A Taste of History: Thanksgiving Tea. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Food historian Joyce White explores the changing traditions of Thanksgiving, from the settlers’ “Harvest Home” of 1621 to the present day celebration. \$42/person (program + tea); \$18 (program only). Call 703-941-7987.

Capitol Steps Benefit Performance. 5 p.m. at US Patent & Trademark Office, Madison Auditorium, 600 Dulany St. Proceeds go to the United Christian Ministries. \$80 includes food and drink, sponsorships available. Visit www.ucmagency.org or email info@ucmagency.org.

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In 42nd Marine Corps Marathon

FROM PAGE 1

RunningBrook team, founded by Brooke Curran to raise money for children's services.

"This was marathon number 111 for me," said Curran, who has run a marathon in every state and on every continent since founding the nonprofit. "We had several first time marathoners on the team this year and everyone finished so I am super excited."

Among Alexandria runners was 25-year-old Bethany Sachtelban, who shattered the MCM 10K course record for women with a time of 34 minutes and 6 seconds. The previous record was 34:43 set in 2010. She was followed by Julie Tarallo, 28, of Washington (38:00), and Amy Smith, 29, of Seattle (38:54).

Arlington runners led the way in both the men's marathon and 10K race: 32-year-old Desta Beriso Morkoma of overtook Kieran O'Connor in the last mile to win the men's title with a time of 2:25:13. O'Connor, who finished in 2:28:06, had led for 24 of the 26.2-mile course but fell to third place behind Morkoma and Wesley Turner of Danville, Va. (2:27:34).

In the MCM 10K race, Denzel Ramirez, 34, finished in 34 minutes and 16 seconds, followed by Craig Morgan, 26, (32:21) and Erik McMillan, 20 of the US Air Force Academy in 32:49.

Sarah Bishop, a 35-year-old mother of four from Fairfax, was a last minute entrant into the women's division of the marathon. With just three days to go before the race, she had yet to find a babysitter.

"I had been training and knew I was in shape to do well," said Bishop, who finished fourth in last year's race through the streets of Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. "This race is my home turf and I really wanted to run."



Lans Fofana, 39, of Alexandria, gets congratulated after completing the Marine Corps Marathon in 4:19:39.



Alexandria's Matthew Cothron, 31, works his way through the finish line chute after completing the Marine Corps Marathon with a time of 3:50:56.

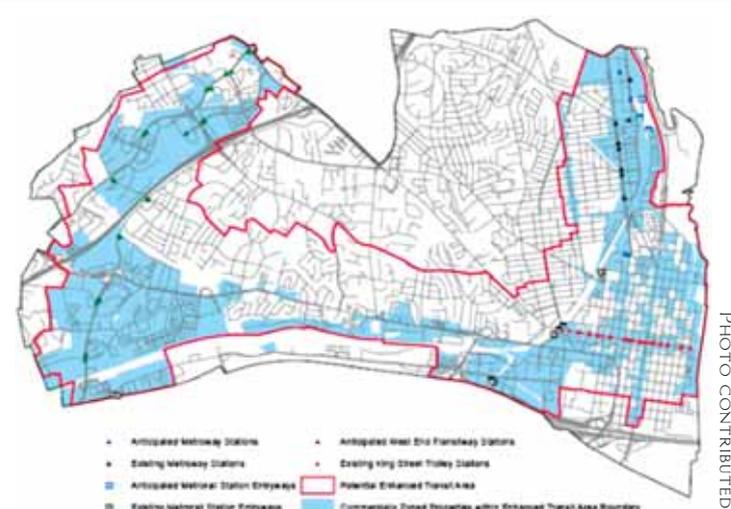
Bishop did find a babysitter for her 7-, 5-, and twin 4-year-olds. She crossed the finish line in 2 hours, 45 minutes and 6 seconds to claim the women's championship trophy.

"By mile 13, I felt strong and knew I could do well at the finish," said Bishop, who missed qualifying for the Olympic trials by 6 seconds. "Sometimes you have the opportunity to do something and you just need to seize the day so that's what I did."

Bishop was followed by Meghan Curran of Fort Carson, Colorado (2:50:23) and Suzanne Hutchins of Gastonia, N.C., who finished third with a time of 2:53:35.

"Groundpounder" Al Richmond, 79, of Arlington, completed the marathon in 6:48:35. Richmond is the last remaining runner to have completed every Marine Corps Marathon since its inception in 1976. Wilson, who typically trains in the early morning, is slowly recovering from Sunday's race.

"I'm almost back to walking normally," he joked. "It was certainly warm this year but I was glad to run as part of Brooke Curran's RunningBrooke team. She does great work for the kids in our city and I'm always happy to help her out." Complete race results can be found at www.marinemarathon.com.



Map of Enhanced Transit Areas where commercial properties would have a parking reduction.

Too Much Parking?

FROM PAGE 1

erties outside this area.

The recommendations simplify parts of the parking standards, like collapsing the eight different commercial parking categories into one. The new standards would also include new minimum and, for the first time, maximum ratios for parking at each site.

"We should have maximums," said Councilman Timothy Lovain. "Overparking is a quality of life issue. Parking garages and surface areas as asphalt sit unused when they could be used for green space or schools."

One of the other concerns prompting the review of Alexandria's commercial parking standards was the impact on small businesses that can't afford to build parking decks or underground parking garages. As a result, businesses under a certain size would not have a requirement to provide parking, similar to exceptions currently in place along King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue. The last recommendation is to allow shared parking, which would create an approval process to allow businesses to designate parking spaces shared between multiple commercial properties.

The new commercial standards were mostly met with support from the City Council, but Mayor Allison Silberberg expressed concerns that the standards could exacerbate existing parking woes and questioned whether some of the numbers provided as part of the study are truly reflective of the parking situation in Alexandria. In particular, Silberberg noted that the 10 percent total surface area covered by parking lots

included the large swaths of empty parking outside of unused facilities like the Victory Center and Landmark Mall.

"In my observation, in many parts of the city, there is a dearth of parking," said Silberberg. "It is a struggle."

Silberberg said she understood why businesses would be pushing for a change in the parking standards, but said the council had to ensure that adequate parking was still being provided.

Councilman John Chapman noted that many of the city's parking problems are not problems of supply, but ease of accessibility. Chapman referred to studies in recent years presented to the City Council showing that on-street parking along King Street was overcrowded while parking garages less than a block away sat empty.

"The scarcity people are referring to is on-street scarcity," Vice Mayor Justin Wilson agreed. "There's plenty of garage parking people don't use. The other question is who we saddle with the responsibility of creating on-street spaces. Small businesses simply cannot do that. Either we are condemning certain business spaces not to be utilized, or we want to create a scenario where we have real shared parking."

A meeting will be held on Nov. 1 to allow the public to review the data collected and provide feedback on the recommendations. The task force working on developing the new commercial parking standards will finalize the recommendations in November for presentation to the Planning Commission and City Council in December.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MUMFORD/GAZETTE PACKET

Correction

Due to a production error, the names of some of the Provázek Quartet were missing in the Oct. 12 Gazette Packet. Members are all students at T. C. Williams High School, from left, Mia Lunati (violin), Leah Nickelsburg (violin), Eliza Medearis (viola), and Kristian Dillon (cello).

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Legals

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Qualification No. 00000714, Old Cameron Run Shared Use Trail Design

There will not be a pre-proposal meeting for this solicitation. VDOT requirements are a part of the solicitation and contract with a DBE goal of 15%.

Closing Date and Time: November 22, 2017, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

Legals

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Qualification No. 00000716, Alexandria Transit Vision Study There will not be a pre-proposal meeting for this solicitation.

Closing Date and Time: November 30, 2017, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@alexandriava.gov.

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Obituary

Roger Lee Perdue son of Charles and Cora Perdue passed away peacefully October 19th 2017. Roger is survived by his loving wife Betty Perdue; sons, Richard Lee Carlson Sr. and Ronald Ervin; and Misty Roger's beloved dog. Roger was a loving grandfather to four grandchildren Nikki Jessup, Richard Lee Carlson Jr, David Paul Carlson and Nathan John Carlson and great-grandfather of seven great-grandchildren. Roger was a U.S Army veteran, letter carrier for The United States Postal Service, and a member of The American Legion

Legals

ABC LICENSE

6027 Richmond INC trading as Taj of India, 6027 Richmond Highway Alexandria VA 22303-2101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On & Off Premises, Mixed Beverage on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mia Shahjahan as President. 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.

Legals

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PTO Seafood, llc trading as Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 . The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage, Beer and Wine On and Off license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael G. Anderson, Manager Partner authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW) FL-110

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): DANIEL S. MARENOS

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N-17: MOK, KELLY

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If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.

For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/self-help), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org), or by contacting your local county bar association.

NOTICE-RESTRaining ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2:

These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

NEWS

Metamorphosing

FROM PAGE 3

satisfying conditions in sequential phases of planning, in some cases requiring earlier oversight by elected bodies. More sequential planning would "give leadership the opportunity to kill things," said Branch.

❖ **Nimbleness and Flexibility:** Dunton believes the city's capital investment suffers from "self-imposed," onerous restrictions — for example, those preventing the school system from building new schools on public open space. "At the stroke of a pen to change zoning restrictions, we could save tens of millions of dollars, possibly," he said. Too narrow requirements also cause projects to languish. While "you have to give to get ... we haven't been willing to give on anything ... to move these projects forward," he said. For example, the city could unload the Torpedo Factory — its "single most valuable piece of property" and an "opportunity cost," said Task Force member Dave Millard. But potential offers have fizzled because the city will not entertain any use other than as an arts center. Dunton warns further that

Alexandria's difficult development practices repulse private capital. His development company owns half a billion dollars of property elsewhere in Virginia, but only one property in Alexandria, "because time and attention get much higher return in other places."

❖ **Consolidated Planning and Operation:** City-schools interaction has lacked sufficient "structure ... for a CIP of this scope and complexity," said Branch. "But it's one pot of money," said Wagner.

The city and schools need some kind of "formalized ... joint capital planning implementation work group." Task Force member Lynn Hampton suggested that "consolidating into one [maintenance] agency" might also improve efficiency. For comparison, Prince William County has a Joint County/School Capital Process Team. Charlottesville's Facilities Maintenance division oversees maintenance, repairs and operations for both city and school buildings. Hampton's Procurement Office handles bids and goods and service contracts for both the city and schools.

Legals

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the Clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

1. The name and address of the court are: Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 325 S. Melrose Drive, Vista, California 92081

2. The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney are: Nicole M. Nore, Esq. 1015 Chestnut Avenue, Suite C-2 Carlsbad, CA 92008 (760) 720-9890

Date: JUL 31 2017 Clerk, by /s/ By: L. Fita Slaloi, Deputy

Page 1 of 2

STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS

Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from: removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court; cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children; transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and creating a nonprobate transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject

to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court. Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.

You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

NOTICE-ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE: Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay towards high quality affordable health care. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com. Or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506.

WARNING- IMPORTANT INFORMATION California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint form is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action should die before the jointly held community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.

Page 2 of 2

Weakened Wherewithal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Say that three times quickly. Heck, say it one-time slowly. And then welcome to my whirled: the world of cancer treatment and survival. A 'whirled' in which, eight years and nearly eight months post diagnosis, I continue to live, breathe and write.

Occasionally it happens, as it is happening now, that some of the most excruciating demands of being a cancer patient, occur simultaneously – or a reasonable facsimile there of. For me that means 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, chemotherapy infusion, CT Scan and then the appointment with my oncologist to discuss all the results; occurring over 13 days – with intermittent days off for good behavior.

Typically; meaning every minute, every hour, every day, every week, etc., maybe not every second, I am thinking about cancer; though I wouldn't say I'm preoccupied (others might). And of course, it's certainly understandable and reasonable to do so when every day over a fortnight, you are waiting – as we say in the sales world – "for the other shoe to drop."

Having endured this cycle over the last eight and a half years with varying regularity, I can honestly say that whatever symptoms have manifested themselves – or not – have never provided any consistent assurance that my life/life expectancy had not changed for the worse. It's not until the appointment with my oncologist occurs – or sooner if he emails me the scan results, that I learn the facts of my case.

All of that being said, as my friend Frank has often said to me: "You're in pretty good shape for the shape you're in." Don't I know it.

However, yes there's always a 'however' in the cancer-patient-surviving-against-all-odds 'whirled,' there are no guarantees. In fact, there are only two guarantees: death and taxes. The former is way too close for comfort and the latter, I'm already taxed to the hilt, emotionally. Somehow, I have to get through because "the alternative is gloomy" to quote Dr. Mobley, the doctor in Miles City who treated Augustus McCray in the epic miniseries, "Lonesome Dove." And so I try not to be gloomy.

However, there's that word again, circumstances/schedules randomly bring down the weight – and wait of my 'whirled.' These 13 days can never pass quickly enough. But that presumes a good result, which one would want to know as soon as possible. But what of a bad result, leading to an exponential increase in anxiety – and fear, ultimately leading to a treatment unknown. That I might not want to know so soon. Not that not knowing serves any point or helps coordinate the next treatment plan, I'm more afraid of hearing something I haven't heard much of since February 2009. To quote my late mother quoting somebody: "No one gets out of this life alive."

That of course is the point of this column, and the effect of having all this cancer stuff happen at the same time. I can take it, generally; as my late father used to say: "KB, I have confidence in you. You have broad shoulders." Nevertheless, I worry about the figurative straw breaking my emotional back. Cancer can do that. It did it to my mother-in-law, Peggy, where over a few days the situation went from bad to worse to finally, the worst.

Somehow, I have to compartmentalize all this negative energy and focus on the positive. And that positive turns out to be an early email from my oncologist basically saying that my lung cancer remains stable. Now we can go to my appointment on Monday "unencumbered," to once gain quote my late father. The pressure is semi off. Talk about relief.

Now maybe I can relax and try not to think about my next infusion, my next scan and my next appointment with the oncologist. There's no harm in trying, right?

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

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OPINION

Lights On Afterschool

FROM PAGE 11

places during the school year and offer activities during spring and winter breaks and summer recess. And the outcomes speak for themselves:

- ❖ 87 percent of parents feel the program helps their child learn and develop new skills

- ❖ 88 percent of parents with children participating in homework assistance feel their child has improved academically

- ❖ 86 percent of parents feel their child has improved how frequently they complete their homework

- ❖ 96 percent of regularly participating high school students were promoted to the next grade

- ❖ 93 percent of seniors applied to college and 89 percent were accepted

On Oct. 26, The Campagna Center will join with numerous other afterschool programs in our community and around the country to celebrate Lights on Afterschool, a national campaign focused on showcasing the power of these important programs. Campagna Kids operates out of 11 elementary schools in Alexandria. To learn more about The Campagna Center and our many enrichment opportunities that help Alexandria children, youth, and families thrive, visit www.campagnacenter.org.

Helping Pets

FROM PAGE 14

In all, 32 pets received vaccines, and 40 went home with newly clipped nails and supplies. Nearly all of the pet owners expressed interest in having their pets spayed or neutered, the best way to prevent litters of puppies and kittens with no one to care for them. The AWLA will follow up with those pet owners with financial and logistical help.

Old Town resident Charles Gibson brought along his buddy Charlie — a light brown, 9-year-old terrier mix named for his human companion. "My sister had come earlier and called me right away and told me to get Charlie over here," Gibson said as he waited in line to introduce his dog to the veterinarian. "I'm really glad she did — he needs that shot. This is great."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Survey Deadline. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) is seeking public input in preparation for the FY 2019 operating budget. An essential step in the process is to receive input from the community. Complete the 2017 RPCA Priority Based Budget Survey at survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/Priority-Based-Budget-2017. For additional information visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation or contact Oscar Mendoza at oscar.mendoza@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4667 or Laura Durham at laura.durham@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5450.

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Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!

ToyotaCare Customers
Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000 Mile Services
Call your ASM for details
ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

BASIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER CHANGE SERVICE

\$29⁹⁵ NON-SYNTHETIC
\$44⁹⁵ SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/17

BRAKE SPECIAL \$79⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.
MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES \$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

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FREE BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$64⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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15% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR

Maximum Discount \$200.

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SPECIAL OFFER TRUESTART BATTERY \$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement, 24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/17

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **10/17, 11/17, or 12/17?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due
VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION FREE

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/17

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**

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McEneaney.com



there when it counts



OPEN SAT 10/28, 2-4

Del Ray \$564,900

All-brick 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse. Gorgeous open floor plan with updated kitchen and dining area. The finished lower level includes a family room and a full bath. Back deck with serene park views. Walk to "The Avenue" & Metro. 525 E Bellefonte Ave
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 10/29, 2-4

Old Town Commons \$369,900

Open floor plan with modern-day appointments! 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen with granite center island and stainless steel appliances. Hardwoods throughout, soothing color palette, garage parking, and secure storage. 815 N Patrick Street #305
Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403
www.CindyClemmer.com



OPEN SUN 10/29, 2-4

Alexandria \$699,900

Unprecedented value. Cul-de-sac setting. Over 3,000 finished square feet on 3 levels. Updated kitchen. 4 bedrooms. 2-car garage. Extensive updates. Newer roof, HVAC. MLS# AX10027429. 2004 Braddock Court
Chris Fischer 703.930.6349
www.FischerRealEstate.com



OPEN SUN 10/29, 2-4

Alexandria/Riverside Gardens \$704,900

Sparkling 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath Sweetbriar model awaits your personal touches. Freshly painted from top to bottom, sparkling hardwood floors on the main & upper levels and new carpet in the family room. Great back yard with a large deck. 8422 Stable Drive
Pat Day 703.850.7934
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007



Stonegate \$715,000

Stunning, bright, spacious, brick townhouse in sought-after Stonegate. Upgraded gourmet kitchen opens to back deck and family room with cozy fireplace. New hardwood floors. Rec room walks out to private yard. Minutes to DC & Old Town.
Paul Pavot 703.623.8050
www.myagentpaul.com



Southwood \$649,900

Located at the end of a cul-de-sac on over 1/2 acre, this lovely home must be seen to be believed! Fantastic landscaping. Totally updated inside, chef's kitchen, open floor plan, huge 3-season room. Private drive with rear load over-sized garage.
Vicki Binkley 703.994.0778
www.VickiBinkley.com



OPEN SUN 10/29, 2-4

Springfield \$564,900

Beautiful light-filled townhouse backing to woods. This 3,000-SF home features an updated kitchen with center island. Luxurious master suite with vaulted ceiling & spa bath. Lower level family room. 3 miles to Springfield Metro. 7328 Hampton Manor Place
Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779
www.BBZgroup.com



Alexandria \$359,900

This extra large top-floor corner residence with balcony overlooking the handsome courtyard is flush with light, new wood floors, fresh paint, stainless appliances & a garage parking space, plus in-building gym. The King Street Metro is steps away.
Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com



OPEN SUN 10/29, 2-4

Old Town \$799,000

Rarely available distinctive townhome in Lee Mews within walking distance of Old Town's magic. All brick, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, off-street parking – custom woodworking beyond compare! Loft ready to be finished! Low condo fee; sweet patio! Elegant! Close to 2 Metros! 418 N St Asaph Street

Janet Caterson Price 703.960.5858
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SAT 2-4 & SUN 1-4

Del Ray \$649,900

Whole house architect-inspired, contemporary renovation with energy efficient systems. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths on 3 levels with designer deck and lower level walk out to landscaped yard. Granite kitchen with buffet. Trendy ceramic baths & floors. Tasteful selection of fixtures and fittings. End unit on quiet Del Ray street with driveway parking for two. 1732 Price St.

Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180
www.BarbaraCousens.com



Del Ray \$540,500

All-brick townhome with 3 bedrooms and 4.5 baths on 4 levels all above ground. 2 fireplaces and wood floors in living/dining room. Large patio with sliding glass door into den. New HVAC. Garage plus guest parking in back. Close to Mount Vernon Ave cafés and minutes to the Pentagon and Shirlington. Bus stop in front.

Shahzad Miller 703.593.8277
www.McEneaney.com



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