



Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

A group of four people, three adults and one child, are posing for a photo in front of a display board. The board features a sign that reads "United Nations Programme" and "Agreement". There are American flags in the background. The group consists of a woman on the left, a child in the center, a man with a beard, and a woman on the right. The child is pointing towards the display board.

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‘Affordability’ vs. ‘Sustainability’

Advisory group considers challenges to preserving public housing stock.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Resolution 830 Working Group, an advisory body representing 27 local organizations, began considering Jan. 10 how best to maintain the city’s stock of public housing in light of dwindling federal resources.

In 1981, the city government and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), which administers federal housing programs locally, agreed not to diminish the stock of 1,150 public housing units existing at that time. The joint agreement, established in Resolution 830, requires, among things, that any demolished or redeveloped public housing must be “replaced by an equal number of either conventional public housing units, or any equal number of publicly assisted housing units.” The latter must be “substantially equivalent to the units be replaced for a period of 20 or more years.”

Part of the working group’s task will be to recommend to City Council and ARHA’s Board of Commissioners what exactly “substantial equivalence” should mean going



HUD’s household income cutoff for public housing eligibility is 80 percent of the area median income (AMI). In 2017, that was about \$75,000 for a family of four, compared to an AMI of about \$110,000. The chart, briefed to the Resolution 830 Working group at its first meeting Jan. 10, indicates that the vast majority of Alexandria families in public housing earn less than HUD’s upper limit, with 94 percent making no more than \$50,000 and about two-thirds no more than \$25,000.

into the future, and what roles ARHA, the city and others might fulfill toward achieving it. In particular, this will entail weighing the desire for continued accessibility to the city’s lowest-income households against ARHA’s need to balance the books, in part

through higher rents, to offset ever-shrinking federal dollars.

“Affordability is great, but you also have to have [financial] sustainability,” ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew told the working group in his opening remarks.

“It’s not a pretty picture; the need here is great,” said Rhae Parkes of EJP Consulting Group, hired to facilitate the working group. To qualify for public housing, a household must earn no more than 80 percent of the area median income (AMI). While about 22,000 Alexandria families met that threshold in 2017, only about 3,600 received federal assistance. ARHA’s total waitlist — applicants in excess of inventory for all the programs ARHA administers — currently comprises some 9,100 families (though including duplicates who’ve applied to more than one program).

Nor is federal funding to meet the need a pretty picture. HUD “has been pursuing ‘demolition,’ ‘disposition’ and ‘repositioning’ of ... public housing assets as a strategy, because they understand that the funding from Congress is not sufficient to maintain the current stock,” said EJP’s Naomi Byrnes.

Nationwide 10,000-12,000 units of public housing disappear annually. Between 2000 and 2016, HUD’s capital funding declined 53 percent. A 2010 HUD study revealed a \$26 billion backlog of capital repairs. Likewise, operating subsidies for public housing — for which HUD’s formulaic

SEE FOCUS ON, PAGE 7

‘The Budget Tells a Story’ School Board delays CIP vote to hone language, tell a more accurate story.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

The School Board postponed adopting its FY19-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), pending further discussion about how to articulate its total capacity needs while simultaneously acknowledging budgetary constraints.

“The budget tells a story,” said School Board chair Ramee Gentry. However, that the School Board depends on City Council for revenue poses something of a conundrum about how to tell that story: “Do we want this budget to articulate a need, or a reality of what we can do about that need?” asked School Board member

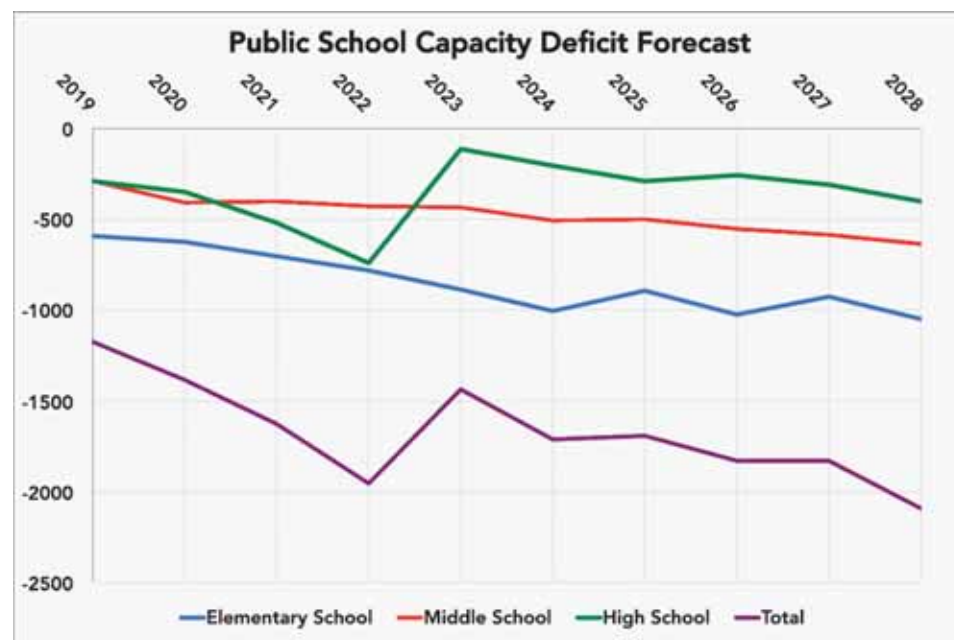
“Certainly this is a huge year for our community. There is nearly a half a billion dollars being distributed across a 10-year period to pay for builds and improvements around the city — not only for schools but for city properties as well.”

— Karen Graf, School Board member

To clarify their story, the School Board voted Jan. 11 to delay CIP adoption until Jan. 25. They’ll discuss at an additional work session Jan. 18, not further adjustments to dollar figures, but how to hone qualifying language in their CIP document and adoption resolution. School Board member Karen Graf said: “Certainly this is a huge year for our community. There is nearly a half a billion dollars being distributed across a 10-year period to pay for builds and improvements around the city — not only for schools but for city properties as well.” She supported the delay in order “to really get the language around how we want to communicate to city council ... what our philosophy is around this particular CIP”

Over time, School Boards have not consistently weighed the tension between needs and constraints. In the past two years, their CIP requests have varied dramatically.

Describing the FY18 budget context, School Board member Christopher Lewis said last March that City Council had asked



In its draft FY19-28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the School Board has pared back its 10-year funding request to City Council from last year by nearly a quarter — from \$611 million to \$475 million. This results from the School Board’s incorporating an advisory task force’s recommendations to delay and remove certain projects in order to align with identified available funding from the city coffers. However, despite the task force’s streamlining, the school system still faces a growing deficit of seats in light of increasing student enrollment.

the School Board “to come forward with, what would it take to close the seating gap?” The seating gap — student enrollment growing faster than the addition of space — is the schools’ most pressing budgetary challenge. Answering council’s request, the

School Board’s CIP request more than doubled, from \$291 million in FY17 to \$611 million in FY18. In his budget proposal Feb. 21, City Manager Mark Jinks said: “We can’t

SEE ACPS, PAGE 5

Alexandria to Launch Airbnb Registry

FROM PAGE 1

ing with Airbnb and third party data analytic companies to help identify for us who's actually in the city doing home sharing."

In the past few years, home sharing has become a hot new industry — a sort of startup rival for the traditional hotel industry. Airbnb has the lion's share of the market, but it has competitors. They include Expedia, FlipKey, HomeAway, TripAdvisor and craigslist. The list of available homes in Alexandria includes George Washington's Townhouse on Cameron Street, which can be rented for \$180 a night. So far, Alexandria hotels haven't seen much of a cut into their bottom line yet, although the industry is already adapting in anticipation of potential changes.

"The emergence of homestays will likely impact the share of overnight business occurring at hotels," said Tom Kaiden, chief operating officer of Visit Alexandria, in an email response to questions. "The general trend is that our hotel supply is moving away from extended stay and budget and moving towards boutique and upper midscale."

THE EMERGENCE of the home-sharing industry has seen a rising interest among neighborhood associations and city governments in Virginia. Homeowners have expressed concerns about strangers showing up and setting up camp unexpectedly. And local government leaders have expressed an interest in getting some of the money generated by the emerging industry, one that operates largely in the shadows. That led members of the General Assembly to pass a new law last year that allows local governments to create registration systems to force home-sharing businesses to share the wealth.

"Who's getting money from the hotel in-

Agenda Alexandria Panel on the Disruptive Economy

A new generation of entrepreneurs is transforming Alexandria's economy. From food trucks to Airbnb, is Alexandria prepared for the gig economy? Join Agenda Alexandria for a panel discussion on Jan. 22 at 6:30 pm at the Alexandria Renew building, 1800 Limerick St., 6th Floor, Alexandria. Panelists include:

❖ **Chris Dattaro** is mid-Atlantic operations manager for Lyft. A native of Silver Spring, he has a bachelor of science in economics from the U.S. Naval Academy. He served in the Navy from 2009 to 2014, then became an associate in institutional equity sales FBR in Arlington before joining Lyft.

❖ **Che Ruddell-Tabisola** is political director of the National Food Truck Association and co-owner BBQ Bus Smokehouse. A native of Los Angeles, he has bachelor's degree in English from Mount St. Mary's College and a master of international conflict analysis from the



Ruddell-Tabisola



Dattaro



Shafroth



Washington

University of Kent in Brussels. He is former executive director of the DMV Food Truck Association.

❖ **Frank Shafroth** is director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. A native of Littleton, Colo., he has a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University and a juris doctorate from Georgetown University. Before joining the faculty at George Mason, he was chief of staff for former Congressman Jim Moran. He has also worked for Arlington County and the

Senate Banking Committee.

❖ **Patricia Washington** is president and CEO of the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, also known as Visit Alexandria.

A native of Philadelphia, she has a bachelor of performing arts from Howard University and a juris doctorate from Howard University. Before joining the ACVA in 2012, she was vice president of cultural tourism for Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, now known as Visit Philly.

dustry can probably tell you who is doing the most on behalf of the hotel industry to make it more cumbersome for Airbnb to operate," said Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "For example, (Senate Majority Leader) Tommy Norment has gotten a lot of money from the hotel industry."

Alexandria is one of the first local governments to create a registration system under the newly created authority, although leaders in neighboring Arlington took action before the bill was signed into law. Faced with a rapidly growing home sharing in Rosslyn and Crystal City, the Arlington

County Board members created a permitting system in December 2016 for what they called "accessory short term homestay use" under its zoning ordinance.

"Our goal is to balance neighborhood interest and also making sure that people can use their homes and their properties in this way," said Arlington County Board member Katie Crystal. "And then we had to amend our zoning ordinance amendments to participate and do short term sublets."

ALEXANDRIA'S REGISTRY is technically online now, although city officials have not yet rolled out a public relations campaign

letting home share businesses know it's there.

That's expected in the coming weeks. And fortunately for property owners who rent out their homes, they won't have to deal with the headache of calculating the transient lodging tax of 8.5 percent plus \$1 per room per night. All of that will be done by Airbnb for them.

"The law only pertains to the registry. It doesn't pertain to the collection of the tax," said Greenleaf. "So we're working with Airbnb to come up with a facilitated process where they actually help collect the tax and forward it to the city."

St. Mary Catholic Church Honored

FROM PAGE 1

Mary Catholic Church.

"Recognition is good for the local community," said Hathaway. "It's a way for non-Catholics to be aware of the history of St. Mary's. Receiving that honor highlights the parish, and maybe non-local residents might come and learn about our story."

The original St. Mary Catholic Church was moved to its current location on S. Royal Street in 1810. However, Hathaway said the designation focuses on the people of St. Mary.

"This designation highlights the parish, it's not about the building," said Hathaway. "It's about the story and the role the church has played here for over 223 years."

"It's a real honor to have St. Mary's go from a regular parish to a minor basilica," said Kenneth Wolfe, a parishioner at St. Mary Catholic Church. "It's

not something that is a common occurrence." Wolfe said what makes St. Mary Catholic Church special to him was its accessibility.

"People may not know about its accessibility," said Wolfe. "It stays open, sometimes as late as 9 p.m. Anyone can come in and pray, and I think that's remarkable in 2018. Chances are the average church in a city is locked by 3 p.m."

Wolfe said discussions about trying to get the church's historic role recognized have been ongoing for the last year, but it was a parishioner named Mary Petrino and Hathaway that really worked for years to take the case to the bishop, and then up to the Vatican.

"I heard about it from the people working on it about a year and a half ago and was very supportive of it," said Wolfe. "I'm glad they persevered."



St. Mary Catholic Church

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Water Main Break Affects Duke Street

A water main burst on Duke Street Monday morning, Jan. 15, causing a closure of the westbound lanes. Alison Bibb-Carson, external affairs manager at Virginia American Water, said that the break was due to "a number of factors, not necessarily due to the cold," although the cold can be a factor. Bibb-Carson added in an email that the water main took "about 10 hours to repair."

The westbound lane of the road was closed completely for less than three hours, according to Craig Fifer, the director of communications and public information for the City of Alexandria.

Fifer also said that the weather and changes in temperature was a risk to the pipes: "Extreme temperature fluctuations where the temperature would get lower than usual and then rebound dozens of degrees... that is the biggest risk to metal pipes, they expand and contract due to extreme temperature fluctuations."

The Beatley Central Library was able to open on time this week despite sending out an alert that they would have a delayed opening on Jan. 16 due to a broken water pipe.

— LAURA WAGNER

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News

ACPS Building Needs

FROM PAGE 3

afford the whole thing — \$611 million is simply too big a number.” In a March 9 letter to the editors of local newspapers, he said: “While these are important projects, it would be unprecedented for the city to suddenly provide such a large increase in funding to take on such an ambitious capital effort,” especially “within just 10 years.”

Now going into the FY19 budget season, the School Board has pared back its request by nearly a quarter compared to last year, to \$475 million. This results primarily from their incorporating recent advice from the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force. The task force recommended how best to prioritize 28 city and schools facility projects over the next 9 years. In order to fit everything into identified available funding streams, they delayed or removed several slated projects from that timeframe — including, for example, an expressly designated new middle school and a new pre-K center. This helped close an initial funding gap of \$46 million to \$4 million. The School Board has mostly adhered to the task force’s recommendations, “with only slight adjustments for cost estimates and for non-capacity items,” said Helen Lloyd, a schools spokesperson, in a Dec. 5 statement. And in their subsequent add/delete process, they ultimately included only \$16 million of a net \$222 million in proposed project additions and accelerations. Of that, \$9 million for designing a new elementary school after FY28 comprises the only new project beyond what the task force recommended.

But a consequence of this paring back to align with funding availability, which the task force acknowledged, is that certain recognized needs remain unmet. In its draft CIP, the school system estimates that its seating deficit will still increase from about 1,200 in 2019 to about 2,100 in 2028.

“I think there are going to be some folks in the community that think that because the task force came in and we’re all ‘Kumbaya’ now with city council that this 10-year plan here is, if it’s not fixed all of the problems, it’s fixed most or a lot of the problems,” said Campbell on Dec. 19.

He thinks the task force’s recommendations are insufficient. During the add/delete process, his proposed project additions and accelerations comprised over half the School Board’s total. “Maybe

we need to show another five years [of capacity projects beyond FY28.] ... I just want to make sure we’re giving the entire picture.”

“The students don’t go away just because our budget documents don’t show an ability to accommodate!” he added in a later email. “We need to show how we plan to address the seats issue, even if we can’t get to the ideal scenario (3 additional schools [one each of elementary, middle and high]). So I’m not saying that the school board should demand all of the money that we ‘need’ but rather we all need to collectively agree as to the total need, and then agree that as we move forward, both [council and the School Board] have plans to ‘make due.’ Right now, we are not showing how we will make due.”

Lewis expressed discomfiture with what he called vagueness in the draft CIP, particularly with regard to a needed new middle school. Following the task force’s advice, the School Board allocates funds to build a new campus, first to accommodate students during construction and upgrades. After the completion of all new construction, sometime beyond the present FY19-28 timeframe, this so-called “swing space” would convert to a permanent use — potentially a new middle school, though that’s not yet specified. The draft CIP also includes funds for land acquisition toward building a new school, though what kind is also currently undecided.

“It gets to, really, the philosophy of the board on if we want to show all the need in the 10 years so that it’s all on the table for a [future joint facilities] master plan. It would be good to specify” intended uses,” said Lewis on Dec. 19.

What others dubbed vagueness, Gentry says she would prefer to call flexibility. “There’s going to be some parts of this [e.g., land acquisition funds] that, no matter what we do in this process, we will not be able to put a definitive year or a definitive name on the item at the time that we pass this CIP.” There are still too many unknowns, such as the size of land acquired and potential grade reconfigurations (K-5 vs. K-6 elementary schools). “But I think by this time next year we’ll be much farther along,” she said.

Still, the draft adoption memo says that, in this CIP request, “a significant capacity and building condition need will remain unaddressed” and that “interim measures to meet the growing enrollment” will remain necessary.

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Helping Get Animals Adopted

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Lynnwood Campbell opens the door and walks into the compartment housing a large black cat and coaxes Max out of the corner where he is hiding. “Every time I come here I go talk to the cats. They are so nice that I go home and tell my cat, still wild at 13, that I’ll trade him in.”

Campbell has recently retired as treasurer of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria board of directors. He took a long route to get to where he is but most of it started with Volia Lawson.

PEOPLE AT WORK “She was city manager in Alexandria, and I worked with her for many years when I was on the School Board. Campbell says when he got off the board she called him because United Way had a huge scandal. “She wanted me to go up and see and help straighten it out. I said, ‘oh, no, I’ll ruin my reputation.’ She told me I was going.”

Then Volia came back again and asked him for a small favor. “She asked me to be on the board of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. I told her [I would] after I retired. The minute I retired she knocked on my door and brought me an application for the shelter. I said I’ll fill it out and turn it in and she said, ‘no, I’ll wait for it.’”

He had been at the Treasury Department for 32 years, as director of Accounting and then director of Internal Review. “I used to say it would be nice if Volia would lose my phone number because every time she calls for a small favor, it becomes big. She was a great lady.”

Campbell says his concept of a shelter before he came here was that they went out and picked up stray dogs. “But there are good, healthy animals here.” He says people surrender their pets for a number of reasons including some can’t afford them any longer, some military people are moving or some can’t handle their pets. “My concept now is that they pick up strays that are unhealthy and make them healthy, change their behavior problems. It is clean and modern, and the staff is dedicated.” He adds, “they are so concerned about the animals here and everything goes quick.” He says that the director, Megan Webb, knows the latest techniques of animal care plus management techniques which she teaches to other organizations.

Webb points out the length of stay for animals has gone down since she came almost five years ago, and now averages 16 days. “But,” Webb says as she walks down the aisle of cat cages, “I can show you our longest visitors here, 10-year-old Tofu and Tempheh. They must be hiding.” A new sign displayed on the door announces “Adopted.”

“Adopted! I can’t believe it. It must have just happened.” She repeats, “Adopted!” The cats had been at the shelter for nearly a



Lynnwood Campbell coaxes Max out of his corner at the Alexandria Animal Shelter.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET



Megan Webb

year. Webb says when she first came, there weren’t as many animals available for adoption. There is space for about 25 cats in this room. “But we divided the cats up into two rooms because research shows when there are too many animals in the same space, people can’t decide.” Webb says it worked because the number of adoptions increased.

Campbell says the Alexandria facility accepts a number of animals from other shelters who can’t care for them and would have to euthanize them. That is a last resort at the shelter. Webb adds, “we even recently took dogs from South Korea and saved them from being eaten.” She said there is an effort to shut down the meat farms there and to convert them to blueberry farms or another profitable business.

Besides his duties as treasurer — supervising the comprehensive budget to be presented to the board — Campbell participates in the strategic planning for the future and the Combined Federal Campaign fundraising efforts. “I take a volunteer and a dog and go to a government agency to help raise funds.”

Also he says, “have you heard of Animeals? Volunteers take excess food from the shelter to seniors who can’t afford to feed their pets. It’s like a Meals on Wheels for pets.”

It is almost noon when visiting hours begin for prospective adoptions. On a weekday they might expect 3-4 adoptions but on the weekends there could be over 20 a day. And in Webb’s view, an empty cage means one less animal could be helped.

People at Work is a weekly column featuring people in the community doing their jobs. Suggestions can be sent to slrbc@aol.com.

What does Martin Luther King Jr. Day mean to you?

— COMPILED BY SAGNIK GAYEN AND LAURA WAGNER

Dorie Mishaal

“Coming together and supporting your community, trying to make the world a better place.”



Mark Funn

“Continuing my father’s legacy of being able to educate future generations about Martin Luther King Jr.”



Carlos Buster and Tyerra Buster

“Liberty, freedom, strength, recognition, flight. I want to make sure she [his daughter] gets both sides of the blackness. Martin Luther King Jr. got a whole day after him, but Malcolm X got nothing.”

Celebrating King

FROM PAGE 1

struggles first hand. MacArthur Meyers was 16 when Martin Luther King Jr. was killed.

“Alexandria was the place where poor people campaigned on their way to Washington,” said Meyers. “They came to Alexandria at the corner of Henry and Duke, and they had to stay there for two weeks. Alexandria fed, nourished, and watched over them.”

When he thinks about those days, Meyers says he thinks of the trains coming into the city, fully loaded with eager civil rights protestors. Meyers retrieved a harmonica from his coat and played some of the songs spread across the country in the backs of train cars.

Randy Stevens said he remembered having to order his food on the King Street side of a local restaurant, then move around to the Washington Street side to pick it up because black residents weren’t allowed inside. It’s the kind of separation and humiliation Stevens said younger generations don’t understand, which is why it’s important to continue teaching about the civil rights era and pass those memories along to generations at a young age.

“Martin Luther King Jr. showed the world that this wasn’t just a social issue, it was

a human issue,” said Stevens. “This wasn’t about civil law, it was about human law. He helped make that change.”

Stevens said that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is as important now as it’s ever been, and says he sees the government’s treatment of Latino families as the new placement of a minority group at the bottom of the power structure.

Mayor Allison Silberberg told students in the lobby about the history of Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a witness to it. Silberberg said she worked as an intern for the late U.S. Sen. Edward “Ted” Kennedy, and recalled the struggle to win enough votes to make it a federal holiday.

As it looked like the vote wasn’t going to succeed, Silberberg said she remembered Kennedy preparing to call Coretta Scott King to apologize for letting her down.

When it passed, Silberberg said she was jubilant. She ran down the hall into the reception room and was the first one there, turning to see Kennedy walking arm in arm with several Civil Rights leaders down the hall. Away from the cameras and the press, Silberberg said they sang “We Shall Overcome.”

“We’ve come a long way,” said Silberberg, “and we still have a ways to go.”

Focus on Public Housing

FROM PAGE 3

calculation is in the first place “never enough to support [housing authorities’] needs” — are being further “pro-rated,” said Byrnes. Of its calculated need in FY16, ARHA received only \$3 million (82 percent), the lowest amount in the past decade.

In keeping with the national shift away from government-owned and -operated housing toward a voucher system, ARHA’s funding from the feds has increased only for its Housing Choice Voucher program (“Section 8”). Vouchers help tenants access the private rental stock by topping up market rents — if the landlord is amenable and up to a cap — and follow the tenant anywhere in the country. ARHA’s Connie Staudinger said vouchers provide “our families housing choices to do what they want to do.” At the same time, there may be “parts of Alexandria, because the rents are much higher than the caps in Section 8, that families are not able to lease in. ... Those rent caps typically lag behind the market anywhere from 1-2 years,” said Byrnes.

Resolution 830 is unique in that it’s a strictly local commitment; Pettigrew says he’s never seen anything like it in his nearly three-decade career.

It’s been “a mainstay of city and ARHA housing policy,” said Helen McIlvaine, the city’s housing director. But “over time we all have come to believe it means something that it may or may not actually include in its text. ... There are many things that would be very helpful to our staff if we kind of clarified our understanding so that we’re all on the same page. We’re at a pretty important time as ARHA looks down the road and undertakes its redevelopment of several properties.”

Potential clarifications discussed to date include whether units should be replaced with comparably affordable rents, at the same geographical location and/or with the

same number of bedrooms. The working group floated various other potential stipulations, including proximity to social services and transportation; alternative minimum affordability periods; and whether the 1,150 target should continue to count only units developed by ARHA, or units developed by other entities too.

Any of these possibilities has consequences and trade-offs.

For example, replacing Old Town public housing elsewhere in the city might remove tenants from communities where they’re invested, and also reduce Old Town’s demographic diversity. But doing so also allows ARHA to seize upon other property acquisition opportunities, such as in the West End. Currently, more than social ramifications, “opportunity” and “market-rate forces” drive decision-making, said McIlvaine. Similarly, Resolution 830’s 1,150 units, including 67 with 4-5 bedrooms each, originally comprised nearly 2,400 bedrooms. Kevin Harris, a working group member representing the ARHA Resident Association, said: “There’s people that go in units. It reduces the number of people who are served” if ARHA redevelops the same number of units but with fewer bedrooms. At the same time, most families on ARHA’s waitlist want 2-3 bedrooms. Redeveloping larger units for which there is little market demand could hurt a project’s economic viability, said Parkes.

The working group will meet again Jan. 31, Feb. 21 and Mar. 14. Meetings are open to the public. All meeting materials, including video recordings, are available on the city’s website. Submit questions and comments to Brandi Collins of the city’s housing office: 703-746-4990 or brandi.collins@alexandriava.gov.

The writer sits on the working group as a representative of the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC).



Day of Service

As part of its concern for stormwater running from its campuses, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School has adopted three urban streams and will be their caretakers. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 31 members of the St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School community collected 60 pounds of waste from a one-half mile of Timber Branch, which is the Lower School’s watershed. In addition to the Lower School effort, SSSAS Middle School has adopted Lucky Run, and Upper School adopted Strawberry Run and will hold their own clean-up days this winter.

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Homeless Dogs and Cats Find Open Hearts

AWLA gives rural shelter “space to breathe.”

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

Alexandrian Raza Alam and his family had been searching for a year and a half for the perfect dog — one that was small and calm and an energetic puppy. The search ended at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) when they met Muppie, a dark-chocolate-colored Shih Tzu who had been transferred in from southern Virginia. The Alams weren’t concerned that Muppie was 13 years old and nearly blind. “Muppie was the dog we had always wanted,” Alam said. “We went to the shelter, and there he was.” Muppie’s journey to Alexandria resulted from a relationship AWLA has forged with a government-funded shelter in Galax, Va., and a newly developed animal rescue group called Fur-Get-Me-Not. In the city of Galax and the surrounding Grayson and Carroll counties, the shelters often overflow with homeless pets.

Published statistics had reported a 90 percent euthanasia rate for cats at the Galax shelter and 60 percent for dogs. The shelter has just 36 kennels, including two used for cats and two for quarantined animals, as well as a small room for cat cages. However, in a recent month the facility took in 74 dogs and 162 cats.

The shelter’s new director, Jessica Vass, who is one of only two employees, is committed to lowering the euthanasia rates and welcomes help from outside, which is not the policy of all shelters. “Alexandria has been really, really helpful in reducing our shelter population,” Vass said. “We recently sent a bonded pair of collies called Sugar and Mini Me up to Alexandria, and they were quickly adopted. I have very few people down here interested in tak-



Fur-Get-Me-Not president Jen Roberts cuddles Tykie in southwestern Virginia, where the group works.

ing two dogs.” Fur-Get-Me-Not rescue is helping the Galax shelter overcome its challenges. The group makes nearly daily trips to the shelter, seeking out animals whose chances for adoption are slim. Jen Roberts, the group’s president, says, “They get lots of hounds, beagles, pit bulls, old dogs, old cats ... Some of the animals considered unadoptable here do just fine in Alexandria.” Each time the AWLA meets Fur-Get-Me-Not to pick up animals, they also bring donated goods from the Alexandria community that cannot be used by the AWLA but are in great need in Galax.

“People in our area tend to think of shelter pets as ‘bad seeds’ or having behavioral issues, so many of those that are sent up to the AWLA have been in the shelter situation for quite some time,” Roberts said. “Others become ‘repeat offenders,’ when people expect a perfect pet who will automatically fit right into their



Dogs from the Galax, Va., area on their way to a new future in Alexandria.



Muppie, who was rescued and adopted by an Alexandria family, cleaned up well for a photography session.

schedules, and do not give the animal time to adjust to a new environment.”

Roberts says the AWLA’s willingness to help with these animals has “made it easier to breathe.” The hope is that the relationship will not only save animals’ lives but also give the Galax shelter the time and energy to raise funds to build a new shelter, and to focus on spay/neuter efforts to address pet overpopulation in the region.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better time for [the AWLA] to walk into our rescue path,” Roberts said.

(The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, which operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter for the City of Alexandria, is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the City of Alexandria community. More information is at AlexandriaAnimals.org.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Approve Karig Development Now

To the Editor:

When the argument of the neighbors fighting the Karig development boils down to an objection to building on marine clay, can’t we all admit that they have lost the argument, and that it is time to move on? Practically the entire City of Alexandria is built on marine clay. Should we just quit building altogether?

Why do the neighbors have the right to tell a lot owner what he can or should do with a property that is rightfully his, and which the neighbors have been reaping an aesthetic benefit from for decades, without compensation to the owner? Their complaints about nebulous issues like water runoff and marine clay are only a desperate last attempt to try to stop something that they don’t have the right to stop. City guidelines regarding control and containment of water runoff for new construction are so

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



Snapshot

Photo of Potomac ice — which broke up, melted and re-froze — near the Wilson Bridge taken at noon, Jan. 16.

PHOTO BY C.J. HEATLEY III

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New Building, New Governor, New Day

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



The start of a General Assembly Session always feels like the first day back to school, with the same faces in a familiar setting. But this year it feels like I've transferred to a whole new school with a new principal and lots of new classmates. We've moved into our temporary home for the next three years, the Pocahontas Building, on the southside of Capitol Square, while the former General Assembly Building on the northside is torn down and replaced.

RICHMOND REPORT

Last Wednesday marked Gov. Terry McAuliffe's final State of the Commonwealth, and Monday was Gov. Ralph Northam's first. Those addresses bookended the Inauguration of Dr. Northam as our 73rd Governor. I've been fortunate to attend the ceremonies of all five of the governors I've served with, and participating in this process, fundamental to democracy, inspires a deepened appreciation of our Commonwealth's history and the great honor to be a part of it. Despite the cold and even a few snowflakes, I greatly enjoyed witnessing, once again, the peaceful transfer of power. Reflecting on the outgoing and incoming remarks from Governors McAuliffe and Northam, I was moved by two optimistic visions for the future: the belief in second chances and a call for hope.

In his Inaugural Address, Governor Northam acknowledged our Commonwealth's complicated heritage: Virginia helped set the stage for the American Revolution when Patrick Henry, our first elected Governor, cried "Give me liberty or give me death" — while only half a mile away one of the largest slave markets in America was growing. Governor Northam said that as Virginians we have a "responsibility to shape the future — to leave this place better than we found it." He called

on us all to rise above the shouting and the shallow tweets from Washington and once again lead the way. With the party breakdown in both chambers nearly tied, Dr. Northam's Inaugural message must be realized: "If we work together today, tomorrow will be better for all of the Virginians who have placed their trust in us."

We welcomed 19 new members to the House of Delegates — 15 Democrats and four Republicans. The freshman Democratic class is as diverse as the Commonwealth itself.

These talented and promising new delegates are majority female and include Millennials, a VMI alumna, two Latinas, the first Asian-American woman, a former news anchor, the first out lesbian, and the first openly transgender legislator in the United States. Our LGBT caucus now proudly includes five members. Other signs of progress include Governor Northam's majority-female Cabinet, and our new Lt. Governor, Justin Fairfax, who became only the second African-American elected to statewide office in our 400 year history. His first day presiding over the Senate was on Martin Luther King Day.

I've introduced 23 bills so far and intend to file up to seven more. Eight are on the topic of election reform, including no-excuse absentee voting (SB 602), which will be heard by the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee where I serve as a member. On the subject of gun violence prevention, I've introduced a bill to prohibit carrying loaded firearms while intoxicated (SB 2), universal background checks (SB 5), and a ban on bump stocks (SB 1). The urgency of banning bump stocks was further underscored by the brave testimony of Courtney Carroll, a survivor of the Las Vegas tragedy who lives in Richmond. I'm continuing my fight to decriminalize marijuana, this year with bipartisan support. Other topics I'm also pursuing include preventing sexual abuse of public and private school students; allowing a governor to serve two consecutive terms; and establishing an office to assist immigrant service organizations. I in-

tend to co-patron a range of legislation including funding for Metro, redistricting reform, and a repeal of the misguided rate freeze that has provided millions in over-earnings for Dominion Power. I also look forward to assisting our new Governor's efforts to expand and strengthen the New Virginia Economy as we develop our new two-year budget.

While I will be working out of Richmond through mid-March, I will be home to attend Town Hall Meetings and build a community dialogue on the state issues you care about most. A number of my colleagues will be joining me.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Mount Vernon

Saturday, Jan. 20, 9:30-11 a.m., Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, with state Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek.

Lee District – Mount Eagle

Saturday, Jan. 20 12-1:30 p.m., Mount Eagle Elementary School, 6116 N. Kings Highway, with Del. Mark Sickles.

Lee District – Hayfield

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2-3:30 p.m., Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road, with state Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Mark Sickles.

Alexandria

Saturday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Mount Vernon Community School, 2601 Commonwealth Ave., with Del. Mark Levine.

Arlington

Saturday, Jan. 27, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S, with Del. Alfonso Lopez.

Please consider following me on Twitter @AdamEbbin, liking my facebook page at facebook.com/ebbincampaign, emailing me at district30@senate.virginia.gov, and taking my survey at AdamEbbin.com/Survey.

Working Together For Alexandria

BY VIRGINIA KINNEMAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The 2017 Chairman of the Board rolled out a year-long plan of action, Tomorrow's Alexandria — an initiative to engage business owners, professionals, and citizens in a conversation about our city of tomorrow. We continue our focus on Tomorrow's Alexandria in 2018 and move the conversations forward by Working Together for the future of our great city.

Working Together will engage and celebrate the diversity of our city — its geography, leadership, and business community. All areas of our city will come together to Celebrate Alex-

andria at the Jan. 18 Chairman's Reception at Alexandria Renew Enterprises.

Together we will celebrate the people, places, and things that make Alexandria such a wonderful place to do business.

The initiative continues in 2018 by showcasing our vibrant and emerging leaders in a Young Professionals Network. The Chamber will create a path to success for our future city leaders to work together and drive forward a profitable and growing business community.

The Chamber will also focus on Building Bridges among our business community that makes our city so robust and lively. Working Together with the City Government, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Small Business Development Center, and the Neighborhood Business Associations, we will create a vibrant business hub as the future of our city.

It is my pleasure to lead this initiative, and I hope you will join me in working together in 2018!

Virginia Kinneman is agency owner of Kinneman Insurance.

A Year for Progress — And Medicaid Expansion?

BY CHARNIELE HERRING
STATE DELEGATE (D-46)

With the opening of another legislative session in Richmond, we have seen some of the changes brought about by the sweeping electoral change from November. In the House of Delegates there is more diversity — a chamber that is starting to more closely represent the people who live in our Commonwealth. With the makeup of the chamber shifting significantly to

151 Republicans to 49 Democrats (from 66-34), the verdict is out on what effect the shift in numbers will have on the kinds of legislation that can pass. We have seen progress in some areas already — better committee representation and more trans-

COMMENTARY

parency in committee votes. You can even watch committee meetings on the General Assembly website, if you want to be involved in the process from Alexandria.

There will be a number of high profile issues that come to the forefront this session like Medicaid expansion, voting rights, criminal justice reform, and education access.

Of all of these issues, Medicaid expansion has the ability to have the quickest and most far-reaching effect. This issue has incredibly strong bipartisan support, as a recent Public Opinion Strategies survey showed that 83 percent of Virginia voters support Medicaid expansion. That is why last week the House and Senate Democrats stood together at a press conference to express the importance of this issue and our desire to work with our colleagues across the aisle

so that we can stop turning away \$6.6 million a day in federal dollars that would help nearly 400,000 Virginians gain access to real healthcare.

Federal failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act, further entrenches that it is the law of the land. We can drive economic growth, create jobs, and stabilize healthcare access in many rural areas — all by accepting our money back from the Federal Government and expanding Medicaid to include people that make \$16,643 or less a year (or \$22,411 for a family of two). This issue has economic and moral imperatives which is exactly why I am optimistic that we can come together and make Medicaid expansion a reality this year.

I am also hopeful that we will see Virginia's voting laws move into the 21st century. That is why I have submitted HB57

which will bring no-excuse absentee voting to the Commonwealth. Voting is the fundamental building block of democracy, and ensuring every eligible voter can cast their ballot and have their voice heard is an obligation I take very seriously as a legislator. Every year long lines dissuade voters and those that can vote absentee under our current system have trepidation about the validity of their excuses. I am confident that we can join 27 other states that allow people to vote in person or by mail early with no excuse, whether it be this year or the near future.

Charniele Herring represents Alexandria City's 46th District in the Virginia General Assembly where she serves as House Minority Caucus Chair and on the Courts of Justice and Counties, Cities, and Towns Committees. You can follow Delegate Herring online at www.charnieleherring.com.

New Year, New Order

Local organizers teach methods for streamlining a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With the holidays now a memory, local organizers are getting requests from those with overflowing buckets of ambition to create and maintain a clutter-free space.

"One of the first things to learn is that a few minutes spent on a few tasks each day can go a long way in maintaining order," said Jodie Jacobs of SOUPerior Organizing. "Decide how important a clean, clutter-free space is to you and follow through on keeping it that way. Prioritize it like other important things in your life."

One habit that Susan Unger of ClutterSOS teachers her clients to focus on simple things that can be done easily and frequently. "In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project," said Unger. "For example, don't leave dishes in the sink. Load the dishwasher after every meal and put all cooking and food prep items away so the counters are clear."

Establishing a daily routine so that tidying becomes second nature is a technique that Unger uses in her own life and teaches to her clients. "I always make my bed first thing in the morning," she said. "Having a neat bedroom is a great way to start the



Teaching children to put away toys at the end of the day can create a peaceful environment.

day."

Also on her recommended list of daily tasks: apparel. "Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving them on a chair or the floor," said Unger. "Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket."

In fact, Unger tells clients to gather the entire family at the end of each day and spend 10 minutes tidying as a group. "Make a sweep of your house and determine which items need to be put in their proper place," she said. "It makes for a less stressful and



Small tasks such as putting away clothes each day can lead to an organized space.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODIE JACOBS

more pleasant morning when you're not waking up to clutter sitting around," said Unger.

Deal with mail on a daily basis so it doesn't pile up, advises Unger. "Immediately recycle or shred the junk mail and put bills, items to file and reading in an appropriate place."

Whether it's a small basket by the front door or storage boxes placed under a bed, one technique for tidiness is having a designated space for items. "Kids' homework should have a landing place like a backpack," said Jacobs. "The backpack should

go in a particular place, like on a hook. You have to figure out what works for your family."

Keep bathrooms in order by adding over-the-door hooks to hold towels, suggested Todd Martz, Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "This might make the room appear smaller, but it [offers] a place to put towels," he said. "Include a decorative bag on the door hook for toiletries so they're out of the way."

"Add an ottoman or coffee table with storage," continued Martz. "Maximize the space next to a utility or laundry room by adding a ... shelf to hold blankets."

Whether it's once a week or once a month, schedule time to spend on organization projects and record it on a calendar, advises Jacobs. "Tie it to something that you already do and select a time that won't be overrun by other events, she said. "If you know that every Sunday at nine o'clock, you always watch a television show, set aside that time to go through mail, pay bills and respond to invitations while you're watching. That way, your time won't get bumped for a soccer game or business meeting."

One caveat that Jacobs offers her clients is, "Maintaining a routine doesn't mean that you won't slip up at times," she said. "You have to hold yourself to realistic standards or you'll get discouraged."

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			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'Anne of Green Gables'

Turn-of-the-century musical of family who adopts a "boy" who is really a girl.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting the musical, "Anne of Green Gables," through Feb. 3. Based on the classic novel by L.M. Montgomery, this musical takes place at the turn of the century, when a family decides to adopt an orphan boy for help on their farm, Green Gables. The "boy" turns out to be Anne Shirley, who quickly charms her new home and community with her fun spirit and comical adventures.

Director Mike Baker Jr. said the LTA Board was looking for a family show so he suggested the original Broadway version of this musical. "In addition to one of the most popular mini-series on PBS, Lucy Maud Montgomery's story was enjoying a popular rebirth through the Netflix series, 'Anne with an e,'" he said. "I knew it would be a natural for LTA audiences young and old. Plus, the original 1965 version had not been done in the D.C. area for a very long time, if at all."

He decided to direct the show because it spoke to him on many levels. "Contemporary themes like child neglect, adoption, romance, friendship, and life in a small town, were all rolled into this wholesome, imaginative, breezy tale of a young orphan girl who rose from destitution to happiness in the farm country entirely by virtue of her pluck and personality. I felt it could not miss," he said. The show is essentially a 423-page novel in a little over two hours, he added.

He said some of the challenges were a horse, carriage, and endless theatrical drops. "But with a little imagination and mixed-media, this musically lush and youthfully energetic musical has reached fruition at LTA," he said. "It also features dance within dance, mixed vocal and dialogue sections, 10 different settings, a dozen legit voice parts, and a half-century of musical traditions. It was quite an undertaking."

In his first show with LTA, Aaron Eckloff



PHOTOS BY MATT LIPTAK

Miss Stacey (Elizabeth Colandene; front center) takes her students on a field trip in LTA's production of "Anne of Green Gables."

is playing the role of Tommy Sloane, the brother of Charlie. "He is somewhat of a trouble-maker, who likes to occasionally torment his classmates and even his teacher," he said. "He gets to do some mischievous things, one of which involves a slingshot *wink wink*, which is very fun to do."

He said one of the challenges is the physical element of the show. "Our choreographer, Ms. Cristina, does not cut corners when it comes to dancing, and she prefers a more traditional and intensive style of dance, which looks spectacular, but has taken some getting used to and was a significant hurdle for me to get over," he said.

He added: "I hope that audiences will be impressed by the dance numbers, the singing, the humor, and overall just enjoy a story about a girl who is just a little different than everyone else."

Michelle Ballard is playing the role of Marilla, who shares her family's farm Green Gables with her brother Matthew. "Marilla, a stubborn woman with a strong moral compass, suffers no fools and sees no reason for frivolity in life. In her late 50s, she missed an early chance at romance and now 'dedicates' herself to the welfare of her brother and their beloved farm," said Ballard, who has been acting since high

school.

She says: "Marilla faces the task of motherhood late in her life, when habits are set and rules are hard to change. She's plunged into her new role with little experience and must open her mind to the daunting task of guiding Anne, her equally-stubborn and precocious new charge. Exploring her emotional upheaval has been fascinating."

Tony Gilbert plays the role of Matthew Cuthbert, a farmer who lives with his sister on their farm, Green Gables. "He is in his 60s and is slowly losing his ability to work the farm due to his age and a heart condition. A gentle man, he is very shy around women he is not well acquainted with. When he meets Anne he is taken by her from the moment they meet. When I started studying him, I liked him more each time I met him," he said.

He added: "Well, like Matthew, I am also in my 60s and not being a dancer, I find it more difficult to hop around than 20 years ago. This is also a much different role than I have been blessed with in my past, a lovable (I hope) old boy with a huge heart of gold and a sense of humor," he said. "One of the easiest parts of this role has been that Cassie Cope has made my job of adoring 'my little girl, Anne' effortless." Gilbert formerly played Judge Wilson in LTA's produc-

tion of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Janet Cooper is playing a few different roles but the biggest one is a Blewett child. "The Blewett children live with their seven other siblings, and their mother who doesn't feed them a lot, and acts very poorly and cruel towards them. The poor Blewett children are quite frightened of their mother; they do what she tells them to, because they know if they don't, they'll suffer the consequences," she said.

This being her first show, she said some of my challenges were learning what scene she was in at what time, knowing who exactly she was playing, and learning all the songs and dances.

As far as audience takeaways, she said: "I hope they'll take away knowing the fact that sometimes in life you have to take risks, and sometimes even when something seems like it's really bad, it could turn out to be really good."

❖ ❖ ❖

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting the musical, "Anne of Green Gables," through Feb. 3. Show times are Wednesday through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$27 to \$32. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-683-0496. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Interlude: Unfinished Works."

Various times, through Jan. 21, at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory, spotlights the artistic process in Interlude: Unfinished Works. Art

has been left unfinished, both intentionally and unintentionally, and creates a dialogue on what it means for art to be "finished." The exhibition features 21 artists from across the globe, including nine artists from the region. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

2018 Chairman's Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick St. The



Author Visit

Visitors should dress in their fanciest ensemble (that's fancy for "outfit") as Hooray for Books! welcomes back Jane O'Connor. She will present and sign her final Fancy Nancy picture book, Oodles of Kittens. To secure a spot in the signing line, stop in, call 703-548-4092, or email order@hooray4books.com to purchase a copy of Oodles of Kittens. Recommended for children ages 3 and up. Saturday, Feb. 10 at 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Free admission. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce officially welcomes its 2018 Chairman of the Board, Gin Kinneman, at an evening reception at Alexandria Renew Enterprises. \$120 for members, \$140 for non-members. Visit www.alexchamber.com/.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dwight S. Hughes discusses "A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah." \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall,

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ENTERTAINMENT

3 Tables to Reserve for Alexandria Restaurant Week

BY HOPE NELSON

With the holidays in the rearview, it's easy to feel like all the celebrating and festivity is over for a while. But take heart. Alexandria's Winter Restaurant Week returns for another go-round the week of Jan. 26-Feb. 4, and with it come deals from eateries across the city. Here are few to make plans for.

Del Ray Café, 205 E. Howell Ave.

The cute little eatery, not half a block from Mount Vernon Avenue, sports a hefty, hearty Restaurant Week menu this winter. Take advantage of the café's \$35 three-course prix fixe menu and feast your eyes on a plethora of options. Whereas so many restaurants pare down their offerings for the

APPETITE

week, Del Ray Café uses the time to show off many of its jewels, starting with the DRC salad, a wintry mix of mesclun lettuce with apple, caramelized walnuts, and a raspberry vinaigrette, among other first-course favorites.

Move on to the entrée and choose from the likes of jumbo lump crab cake, perched atop a bed of saffron polenta, or chip in a little extra cash and order the lobster risotto with lemongrass sauce. Vegetarians won't be left out in the cold; the organic pea and heirloom carrot risotto with mascarpone cheese is a feast for the senses.

For dessert, choose from profiteroles, chocolate mousse, or crème brulee. Or — better yet — go with a group and try all three.

Hank's Pasta Bar, 600 Montgomery St.

Up for some Italian food? Hank's Pasta Bar has your number. The north Old Town restaurant is taking advantage of the \$35-per-person tasting menu to

offer a three-course showing of some of Hank's best. The popular spot tends to run on the pricier side, so the tasting menu offers quite the bang for one's buck.

For the first course, choose between the likes of lentil and sausage soup, meatballs with basil pesto, or a trio of crostini. Then select an entrée: with choices like fettuccine with clams in a white-wine sauce, bucatini carbonara and spaghetti squash marinara, there's something for nearly every palate. Finally, finish things up with a hearty winter panna cotta, tiramisu, or — for a taste of the tropics in the dead of the season — a slice of key lime pie.

Live Oak Restaurant, 1603 Commonwealth Ave.

Get in touch with your Southern side at Live Oak, situated smack-dab between Rosemont and Del Ray. The restaurant is making good use of its tasting menu for Restaurant Week, featuring a smattering of good eats that will certainly leave you fat and happy — and looking forward to your next visit.

Start off your culinary journey with the likes of fried green tomatoes — a classic — or deviate a bit in homage to the season with some butternut squash soup. (Coming with a gaggle of friends? Make someone order the deviled eggs — you won't be sorry.) Then move on to the main event, with a selection ranging from shrimp and grits to a cast-iron pork chop. Going meat-free? Good news: The vegetarian gumbo is chock full of okra and its allies, and includes some vegan sausage for heft.

You'd be remiss not to order the buttermilk chess pie for dessert — but don't give short shrift to the strawberry shortcake, either.

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

CALENDAR

4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by tubist Patrick Sheridan. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

Winter Recital. 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S Pitt St. Join three Alexandria Symphony Orchestra musicians who are sponsored by the ASO's Adopt a Chair program for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of solos from the classical tradition by Amy Horn (horn), Barbara Brown (cello) and Sara Stern (flute), and stay to mingle with the musicians. A reception with California wines and refreshments will be held in Norton Hall (adjacent to the sanctuary) following the concert. Adults, \$35; student, 10; youth \$5. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

History by the Glass. 7-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy drinks at the tavern, which historically served a wide variety of beverages, and learn about the history behind them. This series continues Jan. 19 with the Hot Toddy, where this popular historic drink along with other hot beverages will be served. Cost is \$50 per person. Price includes two drink tickets and light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased through alexandriava.gov/shop or by calling the Museum at 703-746-4242.

The Late Shift: Brand New Day. 7-

Pinewood Derby Workshops

Old Town Ace Hardware is hosting the last in its January series of pinewood derby workshops for local Cub Scouts. On Jan. 21, the store will provide wood cuts, sandpaper, and work stations for Scouts to prep their derby cars. The store asks that participating Scouts trace their car designs on their woodblocks prior to arriving at the workshops. The store requests a \$1 donation per woodcut to benefit Boy Scouts of America and Children's National, the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Complimentary popcorn will be served during the event. 3-6 p.m. at Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Email amiller@acehardwaredc.com or call the store (Monday-Saturday, 8-8; Sunday, 10-6) at 703-566-7040.

11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Welcome 2018 with the first Late Shift of the year. Warm up with an indoor art market, live performances, and pop-up activities throughout the building. Dance into the night with a free silent disco, in collaboration with the City of Alexandria's Mobile Art Lab. The evening will also feature pop-up demonstrations in the Grand Hall, DIY art making, a welcome reception for Winter 2018 Post-Graduate Resident, Lyric Prince, and a selfie station. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Third-Friday Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Live music

conducted by Owen Hammett. Open to the community. \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

'80s All Night. 8 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Come ready to dance for an "All '80s, All Night" flashback dance party. Before the dance party kicks off, there will be '80s classic videos being played during dinner and prizes will be given out for best dressed and "Name that Tune" winners. Call 703-548-8899 or visit thecarlyleclub.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

Winter Tree Day. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a walk in the woods to examine trees in their wintry state.



ENTERTAINMENT

Get to know some evergreens and learn how critters use trees as their homes during our coldest months. \$6. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Tea Tasting: A Tea for Each Continent. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Sample teas from each of the seven continents of the world. \$25. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Family Owl Outing. 4:30-6 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Who's Lurking in the Woods? Discover the secret world of owls in a weekend program this winter at Huntley Meadows Park. Presentation on owls, followed by a trail hike to hear or spot one of Huntley's resident owls. Age six to adult. \$7 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/JAN. 21

NOVA Community Chorus

Auditions. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Contact Herb Levy at Herb@FocusMusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Celtic Duo, House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at George Washington's Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive. Featuring Rose Baldino, fiddler, vocalist, and bandleader of Burning Bridget Cleary. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

On Kee. 8 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. On Kee has been providing smooth and jazzy live entertainment since 1993. \$25. Call 703-548-8899 or visit thecarlyleclub.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 22

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7-9 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans, class focuses on the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

Keck Collection Auction. 10 a.m. at The Potomack Company, 1120 North Fairfax St. More than 150 lots from the Keck collection and other special pieces will be offered, including an 18th century Italian painting, a pair of 19th century paintings after Jean-Honoré Fragonard and an important painting by Montague Dawson. Online auction follows on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Visit potomackcompany.com or call 703-684-4550.

U.S. Navy Band Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. Concert will feature a wide variety of wind ensemble pieces including Short Ride in a Fast Machine, Symphonic Metamorphosis, and Stubborn Fantasy where 3 percussionists maneuver around a marimba. Free, no tickets required. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ or www.navyband.navy.mil.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

Scottish Celebration Burns

Dinner. 6-9 p.m. at Sheraton Suites Old Town, 801 N. St. Asaph St. Join in a celebration of Scottish culture and support the film, "Why They Left: A Scottish Migration." Buffet dinner including chicken and haggis. Cash bar, professional portraits,

video of the film project, short talk on the story told in the film, t-shirts, Scottish magazines. Visit scottishmigration-film.com.

The James Brown Experience. 8 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Led by former James Brown drummer Robert "Mousey" Thompson, The James Brown Experience is all-star ensemble that faithfully performs the most popular songs by one of the greatest music legends of our time. \$30-\$35. Visit thecarlyleclub.com.

Earth Day Artwork Student Competition Deadline. The theme of Earth Day 2018 is Local Action, Global Impact. Students are encouraged to create an artistic design of the role they play in protecting the Earth. The selected artwork will be printed on Earth Day t-shirts, reusable shopping bags, posters, fliers, and advertising to donors, as well as posted on the Alexandria Earth Day website. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/earthday or call 703-861-8705.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26-SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Alexandria Winter Restaurant

Week. In neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, Virginia, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End, participating restaurants will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20 per person. Call 703-838-5005 or visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

JANUARY 27-MARCH 4

"Passages." Various times at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery's next exhibition, Passages,



Celtic Music

On Sunday, Jan. 21, listen to Celtic duo, House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at George Washington's Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Dr. Featuring Rose Baldino, fiddler, vocalist, and bandleader of Burning Bridget Cleary. Visit www.focusmusic.org for more.

explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity from the perspective of immigrants and immigrant families from across the global diaspora. The juror for this exhibition was Adriana Ospina, curator of the Permanent Collection and Education at the Art Museum of Americas. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

SUNDAY/JAN. 28

Winter Wedding Showcase.

11 a.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Experience live music, talk with award winning professionals in the areas of floral design, cake design travel, event planning, and more. Gather ideas, taste free samples, fill gift bags and enter to win many exciting prizes. \$10. Visit thecarlyleclub.com/weddings.html.

Art of the Book - Calligraphy. 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley is

offering three classes this winter that delve into different aspects of book making. Register for any of the series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Pinewood Derby Workshop.

3-6 p.m. at Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Old Town Ace Hardware is hosting a series of pinewood derby workshops for local Cub Scouts. During select Sundays in January, the store will provide wood cuts, sandpaper, and work stations for scouts to prep their derby cars. The store asks that participating Scouts trace their car designs on their woodblocks prior to arriving at the workshops. The store requests a \$1 donation per woodcut. Complimentary popcorn will be served during the event. Email amiller@acehardwaredc.com or call the store (Monday-Saturday, 8-8; Sunday, 10-6) at 703-566-7040.

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

strict, that the water issues the neighbors are currently experiencing will likely improve once these homes are built.

The opposition from the Beth El congregation is also disingenuous. Their massive non-porous asphalt parking lot is undoubtedly the largest culprit of any of the neighbors' water runoff problems. And the neighbors also forget that this project was initially approved for five homes several years ago. They are fortunate that the owner is now only requesting four. Four houses on three acres is hardly out of character, nor a burden for that neighborhood.

The fight to stop this by-right development is a waste of taxpayer money, which has funded a staff report that is now several hundred pages longer than it needed to be. And to what end? Isn't private property ownership a foundational principle of the Virginia Constitution? City Council must take a stand and allow the Karig development to move forward without further delay. It is not right that these projects take not months, but years to get through the city processes. Simple development projects should be left in the hands of the experts —

city staff and the planning commission, not become a political football at the council level. That is completely unfair to the taxpaying property owner, who incurs tens of thousands of dollars in carrying costs and legal fees defending his basic American right.

Stephen Hales
Alexandria

Unresponsive City Staff?

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to the mayor and City Council.

As a corollary to the "Out With the Old, In With the New ..." and "Council Vote Will Reveal Priorities" letters a good number of concerned citizens recently sent to you, we ask for a quality answer to inquiries of over a month ago: When exactly did Planning and Zoning and City staff first learn of the plan for Mark Center tree cutting?

Planning and Zoning Department in its reply, as well as those from some on council, in early December 2017 dodged this question, or never answered it fully. It is important because it has been reported that residents, Morgan

Properties, and perhaps others alerted city staff to the planned clearcutting at Mark Center in early November 2017, well before over 500 native mature canopy oaks and other trees were unnecessarily lost.

Reportedly, the mayor called Morgan properties as soon as she heard about it. She was told that Morgan properties left two messages with city staff but never heard back from anyone.

Staff said that even if staff had heard about it there was nothing they could do because it was on private property and the city has no power over what landowners do. Did they ever hear of education, persuasion, or incentives?

The mayor then had a long conversation with their president who said every tree removed was dead, sick, or too close to the buildings and damaging the foundations. If this was true, then we have an even greater crisis in Alexandria. What is sickening and killing all our mature trees? It is hard to believe every single one of 500 mature trees needed to be destroyed.

He said they would be happy to coordinate their replanting plan with the city's guidance. We should have some mature trees back in about 50 years. Perhaps the city could have offered guidance and expertise before all the trees were destroyed?

The smoking gun is who knew about this before the slaughter and felt these trees were not worth even a conversation to see if some judgement might not save many of the trees.

It all gets back to attitude and goals.

If it turns out that the city knew about the Mark Center tree massacre a month before it happened but did nothing until citizens cried out in disbelief, then it underscores exactly what proponents of improving the plan for Karig Estates and others in Alexandria have been saying all along — that environmental protection, safeguards, and policies get short shrift in the city from a complacent P&Z and city staff. If true, how else could one honestly interpret the situation?

On its own, the Karig Estates debacle demonstrates an overwhelming body of technical information disregarded, manipulated, and suppressed by P&Z and the city, resulting in the city's sticking to bad land use planning and giving flimsy explanations to the public for doing so. (Some of Council have also expressed that the overall review and public hearing process was botched.) This Information would have been helpful in providing a good outcome to the project for all — if utilized in a

timely, transparent fashion, which unfortunately it wasn't.

It all gets back to attitude and goals.

The Mark Center tree massacre which happened at roughly the same time as the unfairly city-controlled Planning Commission hearing of Nov. 9, 2017 should be instructive to Council in showing that P&Z's motives, land use supervision, and subsequent decisions are greatly subpar when we are trying to qualify as an Eco-city and that the Karig Estates now-approved proposal should be remanded back to P&Z with instructions for substantive revisions.

Either way, we would please like to have a timely, straight answer to the question above — without the burden of having to generate yet another FOIA.

Robert and Suzanne McLaughlin
Cynthia Evans
Bonnie Petry

Redefining 'Temporary'

To the Editor:

The Gazette Packet's editorial, "Pulling Legal Status" [Jan. 11], insists there is "no upside" to terminating "Temporary Protected Status" for immigrants, but even the editorial hints at upsides:

❖ Salvadorans send \$3.6 billion in remittances to their home country. In national accounting, these remittances are treated like imports — money leaves the U.S., exacerbating our trade, or what economists term "balance of payments" deficit.

❖ Your editorial counts the losses to GDP of ending TPS, but many of those jobs will go to Americans, perhaps at a higher wage due to a tightened job market.

❖ Returning TPS recipients to their homelands before they become eligible to receive Social Security benefits increases the Social Security trust fund's solvency.

❖ Much of affordable housing's disappearance is driven by demand. Repatriating people will suddenly create lots of vacant housing units, and thereby drive down rents — no government subsidies or zoning density bonuses for affordable housing needed.

Your editorial is essentially a non-sequitor, demanding permanent "Temporary Protected Status." Something permanent per se cannot be temporary or vice versa. The average person sees a sort of corruption in our government abusing language and legal concepts in this fashion and would foreseeably oppose granting temporary protected status to others

beset by future disasters if this one ended up being a sleight-of-hand. The fact that TPS recipients have mortgages, U.S.-born children, etc. is irrelevant to their reason for being here under temporary protected status. And if "temporary" really means permanent, our government is perpetrating a fraud on its citizens, much like developers calling a proposed new building's rooftop "open space."

Your editorial is a lot like some of the development deals City Council goes for where advocates carefully enumerate all the alleged benefits and pretend away all the very real costs by insisting, ipse dixit, there is "no downside" when, in fact, there very much is one.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Alexandria Heroes

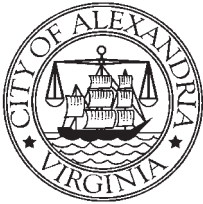
To the Editor:

Two Alexandria heroes were born in January: "Light-Horse" Harry Lee and his son, Robert E. Lee. The elder was a Revolutionary War hero, a delegate to the Confederation Congress, a member of the Virginia Convention that adopted the Constitution, governor of Virginia three times, a representative to Congress, author of an outstanding history of the American Revolution in the Southern department where he served and whose victories eventually led to Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, a superb orator and speech writer who penned and delivered Congress' farewell to Washington after his death, coining the immortal phrase "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".

The father became one of George Washington's few intimate friends. At age 19 he announced to the General he intended to raise a cavalry company funded out of his own pocket to support the Revolution. In one of his first victories, he delivered a British wagon train of supplies to the starving patriot army. Those who denigrate him for losing a fortune should be mindful that the expenses he incurred fighting for our freedom were not reimbursed by Congress. Lee and a number of others, including Washington's brother-in-law Fielding Lewis and Carter Braxton, were financially ruined as a result of their patriotism.

Robert E. Lee has also been unjustly criticized as a traitor and slaveholder who fought to preserve slavery and overthrow the union. A traitor is one who betrays his country, working to overthrow

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

Legals	Legals
	
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA FINANCE DEPARTMENT/PURCHASING DIVISION SUITE 301 - BANKER'S SQUARE 100 NORTH PITT STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314	
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:	
RFQU No. 00000689, Professional Engineering Services for the Design of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Integration - Phase III Non-mandatory Pre-proposal Conference: January 25, 2018; 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time, 100 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Suite 301 Closing Date and Time: February 15, 2018, 4 p.m., prevailing local time	
For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4298.	
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.	
Randy Burns, CPPB Purchasing Agent	

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

SANDRA PATRICIA BELTRAN MARIN

Plaintiff,

v.

DAVID EZEQUIEL RODRIGUEZ BARRERA

Defendant.

Case No.: 03-C-16-010819

NOTICE - ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The above plaintiff has filed a complaint entitled: **Complaint for Custody and Request for Findings of Fact to Permit Minor's Application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**, in which she is seeking custody of Keiry Gabriela Rodriguez Beltran and findings of fact to permit application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit for Baltimore County, that the relief sought in the aforementioned Complaint may be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary. Defendant is to file a response to the Complaint on or before **2/8/2018**. Failure to file the response within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought, provided a copy of this Notice be:

Published in some newspaper published in this county/city, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before **1/24/2018**.

Julie L. Ensor

CLERK

Legals

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Mobilite proposes the construction of a utility style telecommunications pole within existing road right-of-way at S Lee St & Swift Alley, Alexandria, Alexandria City, VA 22314. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

Legals

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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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 Proposal No. 00000719, Multi-Space Parking Meters and Associated Services.

There will be a pre-Proposal conference for this solicitation on January 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in the Purchasing Conference Room located at 100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. Closing Date and Time: February 15, 2018, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Peter Tomaselli at peter.tomaselli@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

LEGAL NOTICE:

PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD AT BELTWAY MOVERS ASSOCIATES, INC. 6308 Gravel Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22310 on February 2, 2018 at 10:30 AM. Lots are being sold at auction to satisfy the storage fees, sale and other expenses as necessary and incurred in the preservation and handling of such goods pursuant to law. Terms of Sale CASH ONLY. Persons listed below have been duly notified of this auction: Debra Arrington Lots 864, 1143, 1353, 1499, 1626, 1631, 1677, 1903, 1904, 73 (sofa) Household goods, furniture, boxes, and misc.; Faven Michael Lot 1157 Household goods, furniture, boxes, and misc.; National PAC/Warren O'Hearn Lots 1386 & 1527 Boxes and folding table; Sarita Daniels Lots 1841 Household goods, furniture, boxes, and misc.; Tom Barthelmy lot 2112, 65 (sofa) Household goods, furniture, boxes, and misc.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Obituary

Joyce Folts Smith (Age 91)

Joyce Smith of Alexandria, VA passed away peacefully at Aarondale Assisted Living on January 13, 2018. Joyce was born and raised in Springfield, NY where she attended St. Aloysius and Griffith Institute. She came to Washington D.C. in 1945, during World War II, to work for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) as one of the "Government Girls." The government provided housing at Arlington Hall where many of her lifelong friendships were made. It was through friends that she met J.C. Smith of Alexandria, VA and they were married on June 3, 1950. Joyce worked for DIA and the Veterans Administration until 1967 when she began a career with Alexandria City Public Schools as an Administrative Secretary until her retirement.

Joyce is survived by her daughter Cindy Smith-Page (Mac) of Alexandria and her



grandson, Clinton Page (Kathryn) of Alexandria, granddaughters Allison Lowry (Michael) of Springfield and Ashley Rath (Tom) of Arlington, two great grandchildren Harper and Everett Rath, her brother Roger Folts, and two sisters, Barbara Ferraro and Judy Kittle. Joyce is predeceased by her husband J.C. Smith (d.2013), sister Janice Woodruff, and brother Charles Folts.

Visitation will be held at Every Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road Alexandria, VA on Friday, January 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Old Town Alexandria. A private interment will be held on Tuesday, January 23 at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Front Royal, VA.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Capital Caring Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Obituary

James Stuart Stancil, 83, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, peacefully passed away on Monday, January 8, 2018 at the Envoy in Alexandria, under the care of Capital Caring.

"Jimmy" to many of his friends and "Stuart" to his many loyal clients. Mr. Stancil was born on October 20, 1934 to Florence and James Stancil. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Peggy Ann Stancil Kennedy, and grandson, Sean Stuart Durkin. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joyce Ellen (nee, Taylor) Stancil, his son Michael (wife Joanie) Stancil, daughter Kathy (husband Tommy) Stancil Durkin; grandchildren, Mathew Stancil, Ryan (wife Eileen) Durkin, Sarah (wife Veronica Taubman) Stancil, and Collin Stancil; sister - in - law Carol Lee Taylor Every and brother - in - law Edward Allen Taylor; and many nieces and nephews.



"Stuart" Stancil was a long-term hairdresser in Alexandria at Mr. Robert's and Bazaak. He served in the armed forces and was a board member for NOVAM (the Northern Virginia Aids Ministry). He was very involved at Grace Episcopal Church in Alexandria, where he was a member for more than 60 years. He served on the vestry and as a chair of Shrine Mont Week-

ends and on the Search Committee for the current rector, the Rev. Robert Malm. His requiem was held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305. A committal followed at the Grace Church Columbarium. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in his name to Grace Episcopal Church. Additional information may be found at www.demaine-funerals.com.

Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-3-5 (PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS), of Article A (GENERAL PROVISIONS); to amend and reordain Section 3-3-39 (BID BONDS ON CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS), Section 3-3-40 (BONDS FOR OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS), and Section 3-3-52 (PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS), of Division 1 (COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDDING), of Article D (CONTRACT FORMATION AND METHODS OF SOURCE SELECTION); and to amend and reordain Section 3-3-62 (CONDITIONS FOR USE) and Section 3-3-70 (DESIGN-BUILD AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS), of Division 2 (COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION), of Article D (CONTRACT FORMATION AND METHODS OF SOURCE SELECTION), all of Chapter 3 (PURCHASES AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION, AND PROCUREMENT), of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance amends the Code of Virginia of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended, in order to make the procurement provisions comply with the Code of Virginia to the extent required under the law; to extend the deadline for contractors to execute a non-construction contracts; and to clarify the role of the City Council and Purchasing Agent in procurement transactions by deleting Section 3-3-5.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 5-6-233 (STORMWATER UTILITY FEE) of Article C (STORMWATER UTILITY) of Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance amendment for the previously-adopted framework of the stormwater utility fee amends Sec. 5-6-233 (f) (3) to clarify that full waivers are provided to property owned or operated by the City, and to add a new subsection (4) to provide a full waiver to private cemetery properties consistent with VA Code 15.2-2114 (E), which expressly authorizes localities to provide such a waiver.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday January 20, 2018. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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Obituary

Obituary



Suzanne Fedder, 90, died on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at Goodwin House in Alexandria, Virginia. A resident of Alexandria for 64 years, she was born in Washington D.C. on April 5, 1927, to Gerald and Ada Grosner, and grew up on Newark Street in Cleveland Park. She was preceded in death by her sister Geraldine Grosner David, and her husband, Stanley Sol Fedder, who was born and raised in Alexandria, and who was the City's first, and for some time, only podiatrist. She is survived by her sons, Kirk also of Alexandria, and Scott of Falls Church, Daughter-in-Law, Carol Brown Fedder of Falls Church, as well as grandchildren Kyle and Lindsay Fedder of Falls Church, nieces Joanne Herrera of Berryville Virginia, Donna David of Austin Texas, and Sue Maddison of Little Rock Arkansas.

With a giving spirit and energetic attitude Suzanne made friends easily, most of whom would inevitably comment on her outgoing nature and great sense of humor. Well known for her spunk, and colorful language, she was uninhibited, and never "minced words". Like a broken record she made it very clear as she got older that "getting old ain't for sissies"! Staying active was extremely important to her, and until spinal stenosis became an impediment later in life, she stayed physically fit by playing tennis, walking, and even disco dancing in the 1970's. She was a patron of the Alexandria Symphony and Little Theater of Alexandria, but what she enjoyed most was going out to dinner with her family, especially when going to Tempo or Ramparts restaurants.

In 1945 Suzanne graduated from National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. and went on to study art at Richmond Professional Institute (RPI), which is now Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She graduated with a degree in Sociology with majors in commercial art and fashion illustration. After marriage she painted primarily for pleasure, and her preferred modalities were charcoal, oil and watercolor.

After college Suzanne worked briefly at a local Washington D.C. newspaper before being hired by S. Kann, Sons, (Washington's second largest department store) where she wrote ad copy and sketched fashion illustrations for store print advertising. After her marriage in 1953, and until the birth of her first son, Kirk, Suzanne secured "top secret" clearance, and was hired by a private contractor to provide administration support for the Pentagon. When her sons were older she worked at Northern Virginia Community College with the Extended Learning Center. Later she became the hostess at George Washington's Old Club Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria.

Suzanne loved her hometown and was active in the community. As a member of The Seminary Hills Association she was politically active and often appeared in front of the Planning Commission and City Council regarding zoning and land use issues. She volunteered with the League of Women Voters and edited the monthly newsletter, and she was a regular fixture at the polls as an election officer for the city's office of Voter Registration & Elections. Suzanne was a member of Beth El Hebrew Congregation, and the National Council of Jewish Women. She was a dedicated volunteer with the Alexandria Symphony, the Lyceum, the Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee, Lee-Fendall House, and the Hospice of Northern Virginia. She was also a major financial supporter of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

A memorial service was held at Beth El Hebrew Congregation on Thursday, September 14, followed by interment at Home of Peace Cemetery, 701 S. Payne Street, Alexandria.

Memorial contributions may be made to one of the following charities, or the charity of your choice.

Beth El Hebrew Congregation
3830 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Va. 22304

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
4101 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, Va. 22304
(For online donations please go to: www.AlexandriaAnimals.org)

Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities
"Living Landscape Fund"
City of Alexandria
1108 Jefferson St.
Alexandria, Va. 22314
(For online donations please go to: https://secure.alexandriava.gov/echecks/echecks_IL.php)

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

its government. Lee's country was Virginia, not the United States. The Constitution was a compact between the states; it had limited and carefully enumerated powers. States adopted the Constitution with the provisos that a Bill of Rights be added (thanks to Alexandrian George Mason) and a state could secede if it wished (that information seems not to be in most history books). "State" and "country" were synonyms. Talk of secession began as early as 1803 by Northern representatives, again in 1814 at the Hartford (Conn.) Convention and even former President John Quincy Adams, while serving in Congress, urged secession and the formation of a Northern Confederacy.

Lee did not own slaves. His father died when he was 11. His mother could not afford to send him to college, so he applied for a free education at West Point. He married a Custis heiress. When her father died in 1857, he left all his property to her, and at her death, the property was assigned to her children. Robert was the executor, not a beneficiary. The will provided that the slaves be freed in lots for the next five years. Because the estate was indebted, no slaves could be freed until the debts were paid. Taking leave from his military career, Lee managed the estate so the slaves could be freed as intended. Even during the war, he ensured the slaves were freed on schedule. Lee opposed slavery, as did the Custises and Washingtons. Ironically, he also opposed secession but when his country seceded, he followed it.

Lee fought a defensive war. His excursion north was to relieve Virginians worn out by battle on their lands and supply his army from the breadbaskets of Maryland and Pennsylvania. He wanted an end to the invasion of the CSA by the Union armies; he did not fight to overthrow the Union. After the war, he was the most esteemed Southerner to promote reconciliation. Congress recognized his contribution by establishing Arlington as a national historic site.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH JAN. 31

Housing Affordability Strategy Meetings.

The Route 1 South Housing Affordability Strategy planning process launches with a series of neighborhood "pop-ups" for residents to ask questions and give their insights on the community. Each "pop-up" will be a drop-in type of event, and neighbors are invited to attend the one that best suits their schedule. Childcare and translation services will be provided upon request. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Planning.

- Thursday, Jan. 18, 5-8 p.m.: The Roundhouse at Old Town Village, 343 S Fayette St.
- Tuesday, Jan. 23, 4-7 p.m.: The Heritage Apartments Lobby, 431 S. Columbus St.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

Recreation Center Dedication. 7 p.m. at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Ave. The public is invited to join members of City Council in the dedication of the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. Mr. Armstrong was more than a coach, he spent countless hours mentoring and counseling youth. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/RecreationCenters.

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Seasons Gratings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a baby-boomer, I've transitioned from black and white television to color to "H.D." - and of course now to "Smart Television;" and within that evolution, so too has the variety, content and number of channels- and the "demand" that we consumers can make - from home, transitioned as well. And I don't suppose much of it could have happened without advertising and the revenue it has generated. Promoted by people, places and things. From sports heroes to celebrities to news makers to cartoon characters to puppets and on to anthropomorphic agents/avatars and other creative mouthpieces.

I grew up watching television - without a remote, not listening to the radio. I remember seeing "Mr. Clean," "The Jolly Green Giant," "Mr. Magoo," "Speedy" - from Alka Seltzer - among other iconic creatures of the creative, all of whom sent so many messages to so many consumers, ripe for the plucking. A brand new medium had arrived: television, and its audience was extra large and extra eager.

And even though these spokes-things were not exactly speaking from the heart (what heart?), they were speaking/symbolizing with conviction - and repetition. The impressions made on impressionable future consumers were incalculable. It launched a generation. Not the "Greatest Generation," mind you, but a generation nonetheless, prepped and ready to make its mark: in the drug store, the convenience store, the supermarket, the box store and now the on-line store. We are not merely what we buy, we are what and how we are advertised to.

Previously I had written a column about how I loathe the computer-generated characters which have been utilized on television in an attempt to capture consumers' interest. As soon as they appear on television, I switch rather than fight. For me, it's an immediate turn off, literally and figuratively. I am not listening to inanimate objects/creations tell an "animate" (yours truly) object what to do. And though I understand the humanity behind the message, as far as I'm concerned, the delivery system does not compute (an old-fashioned usage). Artificial spokes-things are not worth the computer screens they're drawn on.

What has brought this rant on is a new element in the artificially-intelligent world in which many of us are subjected: holiday greetings from a computer. Mass emails sent by manufacturers from whom as a consumer we've emailed, inquired, bought, sold, etc., wishing me a "happy, healthy, prosperous holiday/New Year," yada, yada, yada; click/delete. As fast as I can. Are you kidding me? It's not bad enough that as consumers we are regularly watching/listening to fake spokes-things on television, I am now being directly interacted with through my personal emails too. No. That's where I draw the line/terminate my attention span.

However well-conceived, I am not getting involved with what is in effect, a thing. Pre-programmed messages of this kind are the unkindest cut of all; "Et tu, Brute?" If you/your company can only treat me like a number - and not as a person, don't treat me at all. Don't think for a nanosecond that a holiday missive to a massive holiday audience carries any substantial weight. It doesn't. It provides the exact opposite: a greater wait until I respond. It's akin to be weightless in outer space. It's for bemusement. It serves no functional purpose. And though I can certainly appreciate how getting into thousands/millions of personal email accounts with one keystroke has an appeal, you risk squandering a previously hard-earned resource: goodwill.

You want me as a customer? Don't email me feelings. Email me facts and figures. You really want me as a customer? Then speak to me, really. Save your greetings; and not for next year either.

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

12

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Mark McFadden 703-216-1333
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Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598
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Alyssa Crilley 301-325-0079



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Meg Percesepe 301-765-8304



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Marsha Schuman 301-299-9598
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Alyssa Crilley 301-325-0079



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www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

OPEN SUN 1/21, 2-4



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Old Town \$899,000

Yates Gardens At Its Best! Sunny and bright 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse with fabulous gourmet kitchen, glam baths, lower level family, guest bedroom with en suite bath and walk out stairs to garden! Deep walled garden with brick patio & easy street parking. 820 S Royal St.
Kate Patterson 703.627.2166
www.KatePattersonHomes.com

OPEN SUN 1/21, 2-4



Fort Belvoir/Inlet Cove \$634,900

Gorgeous home! Custom upgrades including chef's kitchen, granite counters, custom molding and more. Enjoy over 4,300 finished SF on 3 levels. Luxurious owner's suite, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Minutes to Fort Belvoir, VRE, and commuter routes. 9162 Prices Cove Lane
David Rainey 703.286.1333
www.YourAtHomeTeam.com



Skyline House \$237,500

15 minutes to DC & 1 block from the Alexandria City line! 1,017-SF renovated condo. 1 bedroom; 1 bath; all new stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer. Granite; new wood floors, large balcony; garage space and storage included. 3709 George Mason Drive #1301E, 22041
Cherie Wilderotter 703.371.3345
www.CherieWilderotter.com

OPEN SUN 1/21, 2-4



Potowmack Crossing \$215,000

Sparkling top floor unit! Freshly painted from top to bottom, new carpet, new appliances & granite counters! Community tennis courts, outdoor pool, grills & picnic tables. Close to the bike path, shops and restaurants. Easy access to Metro. 1632 W Abingdon Drive #302
Pat Day & Mason Bavin 703.338.6007
www.housesbydaybavin.com

OPEN SUN 1/21, 2-4



Alexandria \$915,000

Del Ray character and convenience surround this 3 year old Pulte end unit townhouse that still shines like a new build! Features 4 finished levels, 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, numerous upgrades, a roof top terrace with city views and enviable location near shops, dining and more.
thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/601-e-alexandria/

Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Old Town \$749,000

Stunning sun-filled 2-bedroom, 2.5-bath row home with den/office. 2-car garage. Beautiful millwork, French doors & deep crown molding. Sub-Zero refrigerator & stainless steel appliances. Master bath with marble subway tile, deep soaking tub & separate glass shower. Private fully-fenced patio. Walk to Metro, King St & more!

Jennifer Halm 703.851.2255
Holly Beville 703.622.8840

OPEN SUN 1/21, 2-4



Alexandria \$599,000

All updated this 3-bedroom garage townhome sparkles with great proximity & upgrades! 2 red lights to Old Town; 12 minutes to Fort Belvoir back gate! Zip to 495! Walk to the Metro! 3 finished levels of lovely in this elegant townhome development. 1906 Duffield Lane

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanetPriceHomes.com

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