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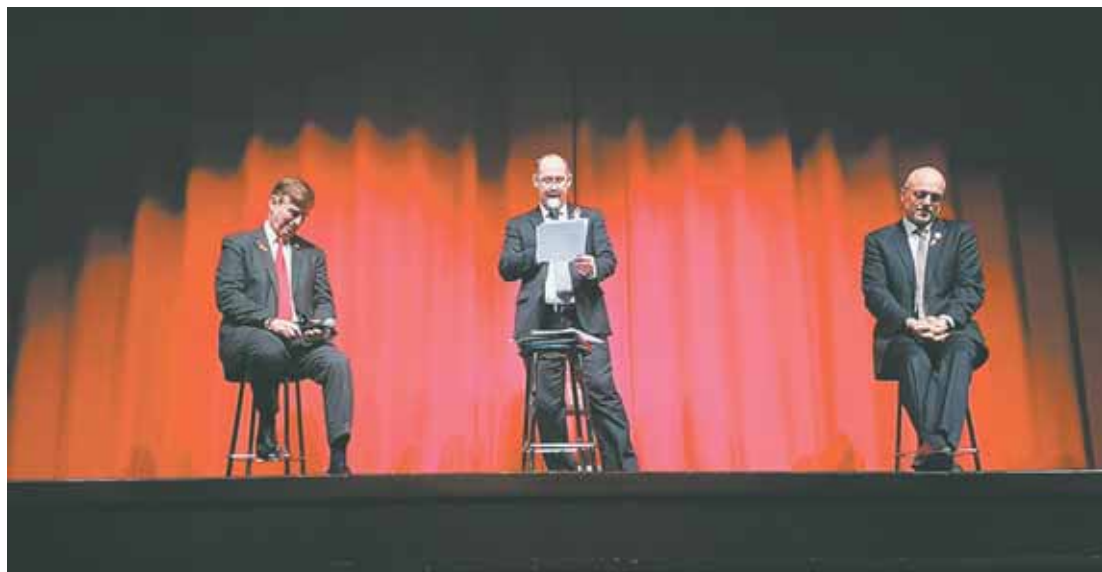
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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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MARCH 15, 2018



U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (left) with Fred Guttenberg (center) and U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch from Florida.

Parkland, Alexandria

Parkland parent and U.S. representatives organize town hall on gun violence.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

When Fred Guttenberg thinks back to this past Valentine's Day, he says he remembered the frantic rush to try and get everyone out the door.

Guttenberg said he remembered trying to tend to the dog and get everyone's lunches packed. What he can't remember is, in all the rush, whether he told his 14-year-old daughter Jamie he loved her before she left. Later that day, she would be one of 17 students murdered in a mass shooting at

SEE AT TC, PARKLAND, PAGE 27

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Students, Commuters, And Sewage, Oh My

Council discusses investing in city's infrastructure.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

City Council waded into the FY19-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at a March 7 work session, though certain key components may yet be impacted by unfolding state budget decisions.

City Manager Mark Jinks' 10-year proposal weighs in at \$2.1 billion, a one percent increase over last year's approved CIP. Primary drivers include public schools and city facilities (27 percent); sewers (22 percent); transportation, less WMATA contributions (17 percent); and WMATA (12 percent). Together, these four areas account for three-quarters of the next decade's capital investment.

SCHOOLS AND CITY FACILITIES

Jinks funded 100 percent of the schools' capital request — \$68 million in FY19, \$475 million to-

tal. After years of contention, the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force recommended a budget compromise to both bodies in December, mediating this year's ceasefire, which has held so far.

The task force recommended spreading project funds over many years, especially design and planning "seed money" in the earliest stages. This year's proposal includes \$5 million for planning a new high school capacity project, which, in total, will ultimately cost an estimated \$118 million.

Regarding the conditions on which the city release these planning funds to the School Board, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said: "This is kind of the first good test of our 'jointness.' This is a big project, it's huge. And it has a lot of implications. ... I'd be looking at that process as a model for what we do in the future."

Similarly, Wilson pressed for a

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 27

School Resource Officer Fires Gun in GW Middle School

No one injured and officer has been put on administrative leave.

BY JAMES CULLUM
GAZETTE PACKET

An Alexandria City Police Department school resource officer at George Washington Middle School discharged a firearm inside his first floor office at the school on Tuesday morning, March 13. No one was injured, no alarms went off and classes resumed after all students were found safe. The bullet found its way into a seventh grade history classroom and struck a re-

frigerator, which "exploded," according to multiple sources.

Alexandria Police Chief Mike Brown deemed the incident an accident and said that the officer was embarrassed. He did not elaborate on the standard operating procedure for school resource officers, such as if a bullet should be in the chamber of their service firearm and the safety turned off during school hours.

"We will be releasing the results of the investigation once they've been reviewed by the Common-

wealth Attorney. We will be totally transparent, and on behalf of the APD we apologize for any inconvenience," Brown said at a community meeting at the T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard campus on Tuesday night. "As I understand it, this officer loves what he does and cares deeply about the kids ... I can only imagine how embarrassed he might be and some of the ribbing he might be getting from his colleagues."

The officer, a five-year police veteran, was in his office when the

shot was fired at approximately 9:10 a.m. The officer was put on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation.

ACPS interim superintendent Dr.

Lois Berlin said that the school day continued as planned and that it was a "good thing" that the entire school was not aware that the dis-

SEE ACCIDENTAL, PAGE 30

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Housing Authority Resources: Growing and Shrinking

Trends indicated in financial and other records.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

These graphs illustrate certain trends relating to the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA). The data were gathered over several months, especially through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for numerous documents. This is the first in a series about information gleaned from these records.

ARHA administers federal low-income housing programs — namely, public housing and “Section 8” vouchers — locally. City Council appoints ARHA’s commissioners, who serve 4-year terms and together comprise ARHA’s governing board.

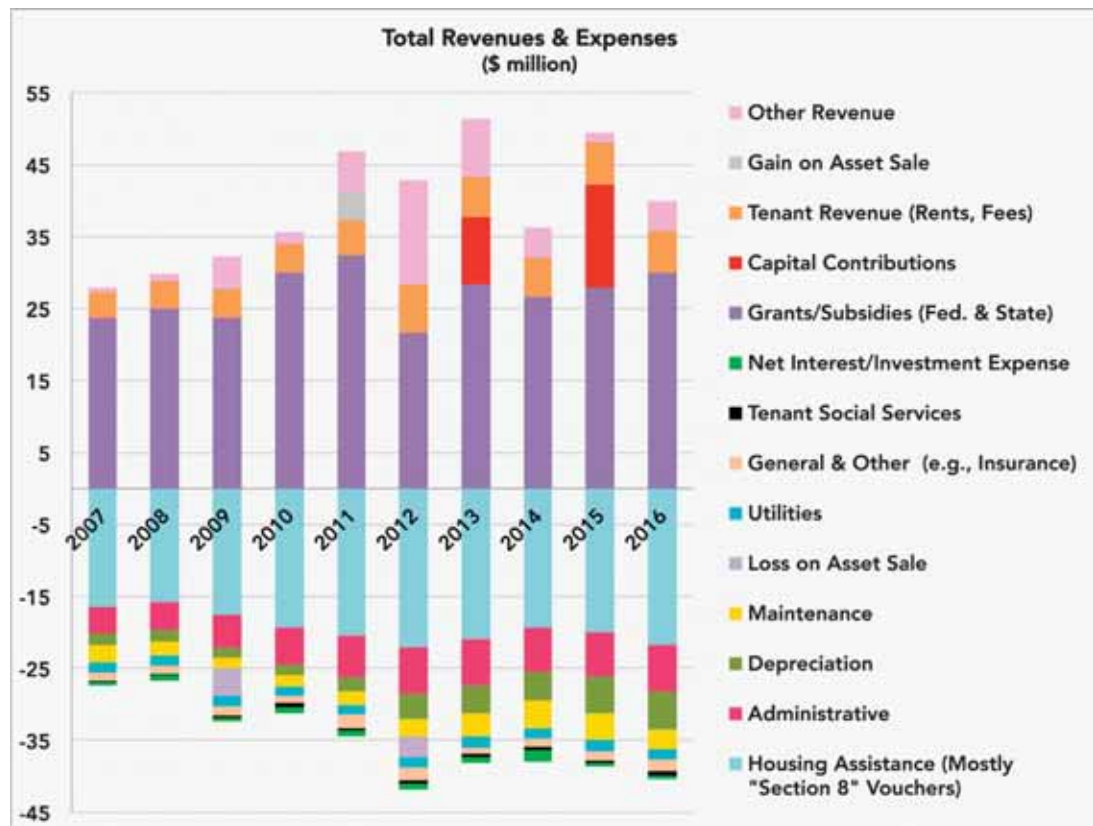
But otherwise, ARHA is independently governed.

Records obtained include 10 years of audited financial statements and monthly board reports; “completed contracts and transactions” related to the redevelopments of Chatham Square and Old Town Commons, two of ARHA’s recently redeveloped Old Town properties, as required by the Code of Virginia; and certain annual reports filed with HUD. The Gazette Packet converted these documents into text-searchable electronic for-

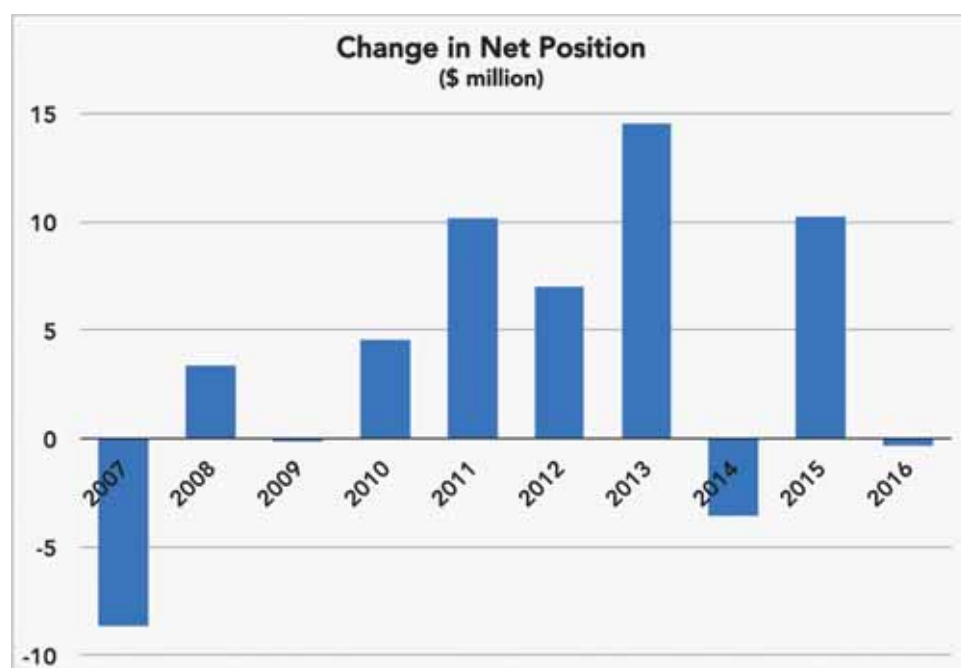
mats and furnished them back to ARHA, with the expressed hope that ARHA would post them, and continue to post such documents, publicly on its web site.

Requested records also included an annual report of activities to the city clerk, required by the Code of Virginia; annual operating and capital budget documents; and any “performance audit” and/or “review of ARHA operations, which would include findings and recommendations,” which, if performed, must be forwarded to the city, according to a 2008 memorandum of understanding (MOU). The ARHA administration says it hasn’t filed reports with the city clerk, but will do so going forward. It says operating and capital budget documents are not prepared separately, but are included in the monthly board reports. And it says that any performance audit that would pertain to its MOU with the city was “never performed.”

Answering a subsequent request, ARHA has also agreed to provide its employee pay scales, those these documents haven’t yet been received.

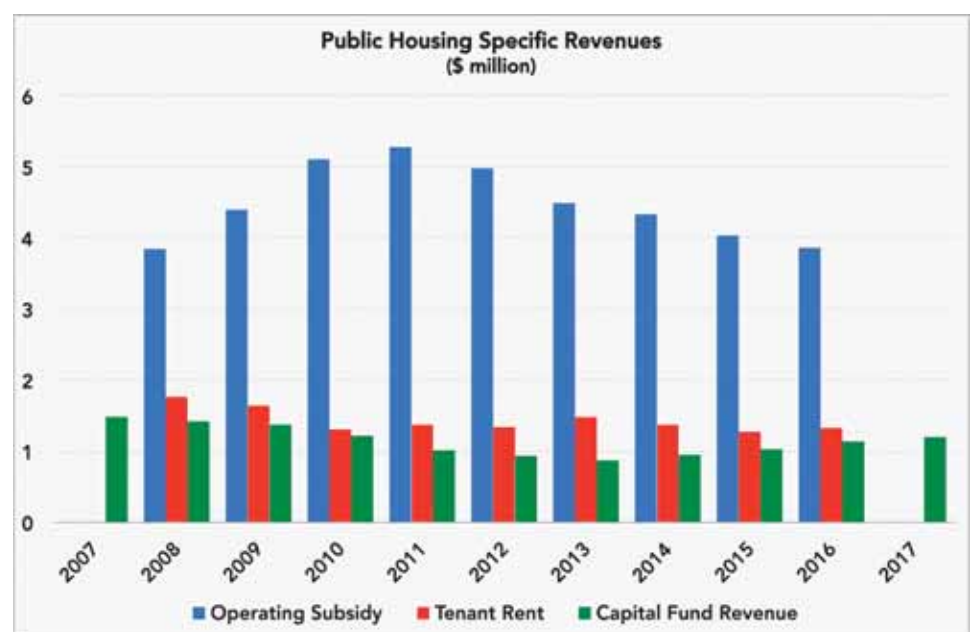


Total Revenues and Expenses: These data derive from the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position in each of the annual audited financial statements. For comparison, inflation was 19 percent over the same time period. Asked why tenant revenues have increased 61 percent over 10 years, the administration said: “Tenant revenues are increasing because the percentage of occupied units has increased, and HUD issues an FMR [fair market rent] schedule on an annual basis. There have also been increases in the level of resident income during this period that can account for an increase in resident payments.” Asked why administrative costs have increased 71 percent over 10 years, the administration said: “ARHA operates within the funding provided by HUD and other sources within the annual budget as approved by the ARHA Board. ... We cannot comment on other Housing Authority operating funding or expenses. ARHA’s overall budget is based on the available funding. Income/expense may increase or decrease annually based on the level of grant funding and tenant income being received. During the 10-year period ARHA demolished, rebuilt and acquired various properties which would have an impact on all aspects of the budget.”



Change in Net Position: “Net position” is the reporting entity’s bottom line — the difference between all assets and deferred outflows and all liabilities and deferred inflows, including long-term debt and non-monetary capital assets (land, buildings, etc.). “Over time, increases and decreases in Net Position serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Authority is improving or deteriorating,” according to ARHA’s financial statements.

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Public Housing Specific Revenues: Asked to reconcile its public narrative about declining subsidies with a 26 percent increase in total grants/subsidies over 10 years, ARHA’s administration said: “ARHA’s narrative of declining subsidies is related to the Public Housing Operating Subsidy only. ... Other subsidy received is restricted to each HUD Program and cannot be commingled. For example, Public Housing operating subsidy is restricted to only the Public Housing Program and Housing Choice [“Section 8”] Voucher subsidy is restricted to only the HCV Program.”

OBITUARY

Alice Slavin Krafft

Alice Slavin Krafft died Feb. 23, 2018, at her home in Alexandria, three days shy of her 94th birthday. Alice was a native of Hyannis, Mass., on Cape Cod. She came from a long line of Cape Codders, the first child of Richard Franklin Slavin of Chatham and Amy Childs Slavin of Centerville. Alice married Joseph M. Krafft of Alexandria in 1948 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Hyannis, and they were married for 69 years, up until his death in April 2017. Alice was preceded in death by brothers Daniel, Richard, Gerald and Paul Slavin and sister Claire Suddy Gagnon, and she is survived by sister Anne Kelly of Pembroke, Mass., and sister-in-law Margy Slavin of Glendale, Calif. Also surviving are her eight children, Kathy K. (John) Long of Houston; Fred (Martha); Louise and Amy Krafft of Alexandria; Henry of Sterling, Va.; Matthew (Jean) of Bethesda, Md.; Charles (Cairn) of Owings, Md.; and Rebecca (Jamie Bartalon) Krafft of Arlington, Va.; and 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

As a girl, Alice played field hockey, basketball, golf and tennis, and she attended USO dances in Hyannis with her sister Claire. Her competitive spirit lasted her whole life long, and was seen most recently at a closely contested croquet match at a family Thanksgiving. She graduated first in the Barnstable High School class of 1941 and was a member of the Massachusetts State Champion debating team. She was awarded scholarships by the Cape Cod Association and the Diocese of Fall River, Mass. She graduated from Seton Hill College in Greensburg, Pa., did research at the famed Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and received a master of science in bacteriol-

ogy from Brown University.

Alice's paternal grandparents came to the United States during Ireland's Great Potato Famine, but on her mother's side she was a direct descendant of Thomas and Joseph Rogers, who sailed on the Mayflower and signed the Mayflower Compact. After completing her education she moved to Washington, D.C., to work for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. After leaving the FDA and getting her eight children started in school, Alice re-entered the workforce as a middle school science teacher. She taught for over 25 years, first at Blessed Sacrament and St. Rita's schools in Alexandria, and later at Williamsburg, Swanson and Thomas Jefferson middle schools in Arlington. She was a leader in Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and girls' basketball. She raced sailboats with her husband and accompanied him in their Model A Fords to antique car events around the country.

Alice and Joe were founding members of Alexandria's Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) and she was their Saturday furniture donation coordinator for more than 30 years. Alice was the first to know when the economy was failing because the requests for food from needy families would increase.

A viewing was held on Friday, March 9 at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road in Alexandria. A funeral mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church on Saturday, March 10. Donations in Alice's memory may be made to ALIVE, 2723 King Street, Alexandria VA 22302, www.alive-inc.org/donations.htm, or to Capital Caring, 2900 Telear Court, Falls Church VA 22042, www.capitalcaring.org/join-us/donate/.



SPRING 2018

- DAILY** Water Taxi to The Wharf in D.C.: Cherry Blossom Festival Service
10 min. walk from Wharf to Tidal Basin
- MAR 18** St. Patrick's Day Parade
- MAR 30 - APR 1** 19th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Lee-Fendall House
- APR 7-8** Concerts with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
- APR 21** 85th Annual Alexandria Historic Homes & Garden Tour
- APR 22** 34th Annual George Washington Parkway Classic 10 Mile, 5K & Kids Dash
- MAY** Historic Alexandria Attics and Alleys Tours Saturdays
- MAY 4** Art on the Rocks at the Torpedo Factory
- MAY 13** Mother's Day Tea at Carlyle House

For more spring events and activities, check out:
VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Spring

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ashes to Go

About 200 people received Ashes to Go from Santiago Rodriguez, Youth Minister at Historic Christ Church, and the Christ Church team at the King Street Metro on Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. This was part of a national effort begun several years ago in St. Louis to offer ashes on the streets on the first day of Lent.

— SHIRLEY RUHE



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PEOPLE

Connecting Language Needs with Interpreters

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Victor Espinosa opens up the 35 e-mails that he averages every day requesting translators. They have arrived from the Alexandria Public School System (ACPS) overnight. Espinosa is the language access coordinator for ACPS. He says he tries to empty his in-box every day.

Today there is a request for three interpreters at a community meeting providing an update on school construction. "It is a diverse population so they have requested interpreters in Spanish, Amharic and Arabic." Each person who needs translation will

PEOPLE AT WORK

receive earphones and can, for instance, dial Channel 1 for Spanish or Channel 3 for Arabic to receive simultaneous translation.

"It really increases participation in the meeting."

Espinosa gets many different requests from families who may need an interpreter for an IEP meeting for their child, or a parent-teacher conference. Sometimes there is a challenge such as a part of Ethiopia with a different dialect. He knows what is on the school calendar and upcoming events, "but there is always that surprise."

Espinosa remembers when he started three years ago that a lot of the requests were for Spanish. Then one day he got a request for a Creole interpreter. "Oh, no, that's tough." He had to check different vendors and finally found someone. So the next year he made sure they had a creole interpreter available. "Now we have five."



Victor Espinosa, language access coordinator for ACPS

He says he has to be flexible. Sometimes there is a last minute request and the family can only be available on Tuesday at 10 a.m. "Situations arise and we have to be able to find an interpreter." And, he continues, the way an individual takes in information is different. Sometimes the family has no computer and only uses the phone. Other times a video is more effective, or they can gravitate toward social media. In addition, some people relate better to an interpreter who is more comfortable for them. It's whatever works best to facilitate communication. In addition, Espinosa coordinates written translation which he now has performed in-house rather than using outside vendors. "They are inside the sys-



Victor Espinosa shows the 20 languages to be accessed by the Alexandria Public School System Language Line.

tem and understand the school divisions. It is working really well because it's not abstract. They understand how the school system works." The informational packets sent home at the beginning of the school year are printed in English, Spanish, Amharic and Arabic. Espinosa came from Spain where he had worked in a small company on 16th century Spanish philosophy and literature books. Then he practiced with Americans who wanted to learn Spanish. One American he started dating "and now she is my wife." She went back to America and they dated long distance "but then I decided to leave my comfort zone and go to America for one year."

He remembers it was tough living in this

country. "I would go to the grocery store and ask for something. They didn't understand because of my accent, but I thought I was being perfectly plain." Then there was the driving.

He had never driven before because they have better options for public transit in Spain. "Also the way of living in Europe is different, more spontaneous."

"I came here on a Friday and on Monday I was teaching Spanish, then assistant editor in the Hispanic Division at the Library of Congress." Finally one day he phoned "for this job and it is interesting to me because I can do something that counts for others. I feel close to them, and I'm doing something good for someone."

Post 609 Honors Voice of Democracy Contest Winners

What does it mean to be patriotic?

Alexandria's veterans and school children sat together for a barbecue lunch to discuss life, school, and the nature of patriotic service.

At a special ceremony in the Veterans of Foreign War Post 609's outpost on March 10, local veterans honored children from across the region who wrote into the 2017 Voice of Democracy contest. The Post 609 chose winners from among the local submissions, awarding \$200 to the first place winners, \$150 to the second place winners, and \$100 to third place winners. With all of the winners, their families, and veterans into a room at the caretaker home in Alexandria's National Cemetery, the first place winners read their entries.

Grace Salmon, an 11th



Alexia De Costa



Grace Salmon with Post Commander William Jones

grader at T.C. Williams High School, read an essay about the value of the flag, referencing a time when her classmates stayed seated during the pledge of allegiance in protest to the death of Freddie Gray, killed by Baltimore police officers who were found not guilty in 2016. Salmon said she respected her peers and their right to protest, but that despite admonitions she stood for the pledge of allegiance anyway.

Alexia De Costa, a student from Queen of Apostles, won first place for the younger grade level group. De Costa's essay centered on how anyone in the United States can aspire to any goal and have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

— VERNON MILES



From left: Victoria Cseke, Alexia De Costa, Lauren Smits, Joy Chung, Grace Salmon, and Mackenzie Davis.

Enough's Enough

Alexandria first responders fed up with pay.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

At the beginning of the special City Council meeting, Mayor Allison Silberberg said when she looked out into the crowd she'd never felt more safe. Nearly every row in the March 12 meeting was packed with first responders, including firefighters and police officers. But for many in attendance, it was another empty platitude of appreciation from a council they say has neglected the city's emergency personnel.

Several first responders said for years that they've heard the same thing from the city; that it's a tough budget year. It's a frustrating response, but one that's still true in 2018. After raising property taxes in 2016 and 2017, the City Manager Mark Jinks put forward a budget without a tax rate increase but still fully funded the School Board's budget request for the first time in recent city history. It was a more modest budget request than in years past, the result of a new joint working group, and one that School Board members had expressed reservations about for not being ambitious enough. Still, aside from first responders,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Officer William Taylor argues for higher emergency services pay before City Council.

the most common comment made at the public hearing was support from parents and community members for the budget's funding of the School Board's budget request.

SEE ALEXANDRIA FIRST, PAGE 28



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OPINION

The Life of Rosa Harris-Jackson Armistead

Ebenezer Baptist Church's first female preacher and deaconess.

CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Rosa Harris-Jackson Armistead became the first African American woman preacher and deaconess of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Alexandria. She was first a member of Third Baptist Church under its founder, Reverend George Washington Parker. After the tenure of Reverend Parker, Fields Cook became the pastor of Third Baptist Church in 1870. Reverend Fields Cook was previously preaching at First African Baptist Church in Richmond.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

Unlike Reverend Parker, Reverend Cook believed that women could become a deacon and possibly a preacher. By Reverend Cook encouraging women to be deaconess and preachers, this inspired Rosa to pursue her religious aspiration; but, the members of Third Baptist was not on board with women being elevated as deaconess nor being a preacher in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In 1881 a group of members from Third Baptist left the church, which included Rosa and her family, to start a new church. They had services in the Odd Fellows building at 411 South Columbus St. for a few years. Prior to pur-

chasing their own building, Reverend Fields Cook left Third Baptist Church to become their minister. The new church at first was called, "Little Red Church" then later the name changed to Ebenezer Baptist Church. After the death of Reverend Cook in 1897, Rosa flourished as a deaconess at Ebenezer. Her responsibility as deaconess was to assist the Reverend in his ministry, to visit the sick and shut-in, to prepare female candidates for baptism, to study God's word and to prepare communion. Ebenezer Church's records showed that Rosa exceeded her role as a deaconess and became a preacher in the church. By 1930, she appeared in the Federal records as a Preacher of the Gospel, living in her own home at 1004 Oronoco St. She was the first female preacher and deaconess at Ebenezer Baptist Church at a time when women were not in leadership roles.

Rosa Harris was born in Prince William County in 1858. During the Civil War, Rosa, sister, Emma and their mother, Mary Harris migrated to Alexandria. Rosa and her first husband, William B. Jackson were married on Nov. 18, 1880 by Reverend Fields Cook at Third Baptist Church. Her second marriage was to William F. Armistead on Nov. 8, 1893 at the home of



Rosa Harris-Jackson Armistead

Reverend Fields Cook. Between these two marriages, Rosa had several children: Richard Jackson, Mamie Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Julia Jackson, Rosa L. Armistead, Annie Armistead and Bertha Armistead. Rosa's daughter, Rosa L. Armistead migrated to New Jersey where she met Jacob Lawrence Sr., and married him. Later, Rosa L. Armistead-Lawrence and her children settled first in Philadelphia and then in New York, where she divorce her husband.

While living in New York, Rosa Lawrence's son, Jacob Jr., excelled in the arts. Jacob was com-

ing to maturity during the late part of the Harlem Renaissance's era. His paintings are well-known throughout the world. His grandmother, Rosa died in Alexandria on Sept. 14, 1951 at her home on Oronoco Street. Her body laid at her residence prior to her funeral at Ebenezer Baptist Church. All of her children and grandchildren, including Jacob were in attendance at her funeral. Jacob died in 2000 in Seattle, Wash. at the age of 82.

Rosa Harris-Jackson Armistead made an impact on Alexandria by being the first African American preacher and deaconess at a Baptist Church; and, her grandson, Jacob Lawrence made his impact worldwide as a painter. Rosa has many great-grandchildren and great-greats living throughout the United States. Her great-granddaughter, Dr. Judy Coles-Bailey, splits her residence between Virginia and New York.

For Rosa Harris-Jackson Armistead and her grandson, Jacob Lawrence, Alexandria's African American community is proud to claim both of them as trailblazers.

Char McCargo Bah is a freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. Visit her blog at <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> for more about "The Other Alexandria."

State Committee To Study School Safety

BY CHARNIELE HERRING
STATE DELEGATE (D-46)

Virginia's even-year 60-day legislative session has adjourned. In April we will reconvene to deal with the Governor's amendments and vetoes of legislation that was passed during the regular legislative session. This is popularly referred to as "veto session." Much less common in Virginia is a special session, called by a two-thirds majority of the

COMMENTARY

General Assembly or by the Governor. This year the House of Delegates and Virginia Senate failed to come to an agreement on the budget. The House of Delegates version includes Medicaid Expansion, which allows for additional investments in education and targeted raises for high-turnover state employees like our state police. We will return to Richmond for a special session to consider the budget. Between now and then, the budget conferees are expected to address the Senate's resistance against Medicaid expansion.

While we await the compromise budget from

the conference committee, I am hearted to share the news about a historic action the House of Delegates has taken. The Speaker of the House has appointed a House Select Committee on School Safety, which is the first time in 155 years a select committee has been appointed in the Virginia House of Delegates. The Speaker has directed the scope of work to focus on our K-12 schools: strengthening emergency preparedness, hardening school security infrastructure, implementing security best practices, deploying additional security personnel, providing additional behavioral health resources for students, and developing prevention protocols at primary and secondary institutions across the Commonwealth. I am honored to have been appointed to serve on this historic bipartisan committee.

This select committee is a result of the continuing public pressure on the issues of gun violence, mental health, and public safety in the United States and here the Commonwealth of Virginia. I am always happy to jump on board with any bipartisan action we can take to make a step forward in public policy. Finding any room in the middle ground to move us

in the right direction is something that I value as a legislator. While I will eagerly participate in the select committee and applaud the actions of the other side of the aisle in creating this committee, I do want to be clear that it is not enough. We need a broader discussion on mental health, gun violence, and public safety in Virginia.

While we also need a broader, scientifically driven response by the federal government we can do more here in Virginia to stem the tide of gun violence. My approach as an elected official to listen to my constituents and to work for results over empty promises and hyperbole. With that in mind, I am happy to announce that the Minority Leader and I will appoint members of the Virginia House Democratic Caucus to a Committee on Gun Violence which will travel to communities across the Commonwealth to make sure people are being heard on this issue that seems to be an ever increasing blight on our country. I want to be clear, we want to hear from everyone, and we have invited our colleagues across the aisle to join

SEE SCHOOL SAFETY, PAGE 29

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Vernon Miles
Reporter, 757-472-3435
vmiles@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

John Bordner, Mark Mogle
Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Shirley Ruhe, Dan Brendel
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Julie Ferrill
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jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd
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David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Art/Design:
Laurence Poong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:
Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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



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What Are Our Priorities?

BY DAN BRENDL

I'm exasperated of this city kneeling before the idol of its historic self-importance, even in the face of baldly more critical human needs.

Last week, in connection with the FY19 budget, a city council member said of keeping city hall intact: "Unless we all prefer just to be an ordinary city ... this is the cornerstone, this is the symbol." No. It. Is. Not. No matter how it's couched, that's a malignant narrative, which needs to wither under the x-rays of justice-oriented leadership.

Families are the cornerstone. Council is considering investing \$41 million in city hall and Market Square over 10 years — though, concurrently, we

COMMENTARY

face human-centered crises. Not itches, but crises. If anything, city hall epitomizes our blindness to the human costs of our almost pathological special interests. If it's such an iconic magnet, sell it outright to become some tourist trap. Why deprive the city of the site's commercial and taxable potential? Laser focus public resources on pre-K and primary education; housing for struggling young people, families, seniors; middle class wages for cops, teachers, firefighters, etc.; expanding low-fare bus service; addressing the de facto racial segregation that still exists to a shocking degree in this charming, progressive little town; not to mention the eyeball-popping costs we face with sewers and Metro. That would convey extraordinariness.

Local esprit is fine. But put it in perspective. Another council member calls Alexandria a "national

treasure." C'mon. Before moving here, I'd probably last heard of it, fleetingly, in a high school history class. This isn't Alexandria, Egypt. Many cities have history, old buildings, "old towns." That's pretty "ordinary."

I'm reminded of a conversation with an employee at a local store. She and her spouse bought a home, unknowingly, in some historic district. She said they were subsequently instructed to replace their front door to the tune of 5-figures, a hardship for them, in order to meet that area's special aesthetical requirements. Phew! Quaintness catastrophe averted. No doubt tourists, after gaping at city hall's majesty, indeed dash breathlessly to their next bucket list item: Alexandria's nationally treasured front doors. Well worth the cost to that household.

Moreover, might the history we're so concerned about celebrating — at a cost of millions of public dollars — be a wee bit filtered through rose-colored glasses? I've heard much about tearing down Confederate statues, renaming Jefferson Davis Highway, etc. Well and good. What makes city hall categorically different? This is a southern city; what kind of unabashedly nasty policy decisions have likely flowed through that building, not even all that long ago?

In this regard, Alexandria seems not wholly unlike other southern cities, which are obsessed with their Robert E. Lee statues. Differently flavored, but similarly baffling to me, convictions of the universal and eternal value of their hyper-local, not-altogether-noble legacies. It'd be funny if it didn't come at the cost of people and families who haven't yet passed into history.

The writer, a city resident, reports on a variety of housing, budget and faith-based issues for the Gazette Packet.

No Stopping This Parade

To the Editor:

I want to pay tribute to the extraordinary effort by the Ballyshanners to stage the St. Patrick's Day Parade this Sunday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. (postponed from a few weeks ago). As the parade director of the George Washington Birthday Parade, I know a lot about how much effort it takes to put on a parade and how difficult it is to cancel one. I have done both a number of times.

To pick up after a cancellation and re-organize a parade is the extraordinary part of this story. It means that parade organizers, volunteers, city support personnel (public safety, traffic, recreation, and many others), parade participants and sponsors have to regroup and basically put together a whole new event, almost from scratch, in a very short period of time. Questions about who is still available to participate, what support is available, what the parade route can be and many other practical elements have to be considered. This weekend all these people are going to put it together and make it happen.

Everyone in Alexandria should come out to see this amazing parade and show their support for this Herculean effort. It is not often that we can witness a public display of superior organization, teamwork, and perseverance but these qualities will certainly be on view on Sunday. It is particularly fitting that Bernadette and Pat Troy will be Grand Marshals for this parade because they epitomize the "can do" attitude all of us admire so much.

Kudos to everyone involved because I know how much planning and effort has gone into this event ... twice! All of us should be proud of these folks — especially this year — and proud to be (at least a little) Irish on this very special day.

Joseph S. Shumard
Alexandria

Write The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Gazette Packet
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) Board Vacancy Announcement

The Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) is seeking applicants to fill one vacancy on Alexandria Transit Company Board of Directors. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record Form and return it to the Board Secretary at Alexandria Transit Company Administration by Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 5 p.m. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted.

The Board will take into consideration the applicant's work background, years of residency in the City of Alexandria, past and present involvement in community service, civic groups, and other boards and commissions, the extent to which they use or have used transit services, their interest in transit and transportation issues, related skills that they may bring to the Board, and the area of the City that they reside with respect to the present Board members.

The ATC Board of Directors consists of nine members; elected annually by the Stockholders. Your appointment is for a period of one year. There are currently no term limits. Members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for any meetings attended outside of the City of Alexandria. Members are entitled to an annual DASH Pass.

The Board of Directors meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Hall. Meeting duration is usually one to two hours, with evening meetings, such as a budget work session; a work session with City Council; or a public hearing on routes, schedules, or fares, approximately three to four times a year.

Persons interested in serving on the Board can obtain a Personal Data Record Form online at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Boards>

Applications may be submitted in person or by email to the ATC Board Secretary, Fatima Ahmed:

Email: fatima.ahmed@alexandriava.gov

Office: 703.746.5637 | Fax: 703.746.5641

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OPINION

Apply for Senior Academy

By MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

It is almost Springtime and is a great time to get involved. The Senior Academy is a good way to do just that. Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is offering a spring session of the Senior Academy starting on Wednesday, April 11. This four-week course is offered to city residents 60 and over who want to learn more about how the city operates, services available to seniors and how to become engaged in the community. SSA partners with the City of Alexandria's Office of Public Information that oversees the Citizen Academy, which is 10-week course for those new to city. The spring session runs each Wednesday beginning April 11 – May 2 from 10 a.m. – noon with a graduation and reception on May 8 during the City Council monthly meeting.

SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Over the course of the program, participants will visit a new venue every week including City Hall, the Police Headquarters, Charles Houston Recreation Center and Beatley Central Library. Each session includes a different focus with speakers from the various city departments and local nonprofits. Attendees are welcomed by the mayor and city manager at City Hall during the first session. Each session is very interactive and participants can ask questions and get a real sense of how the city's government operates.

The Senior Academy is a great program for residents who are recently retired or just want to get involved with local government to make a difference.

The Senior Academy is free with light refreshments. Enrollment is limited to 25 city residents ages 60 and older. Applications will be accepted through March 23. Applications can be downloaded from SSA's website at seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA's office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

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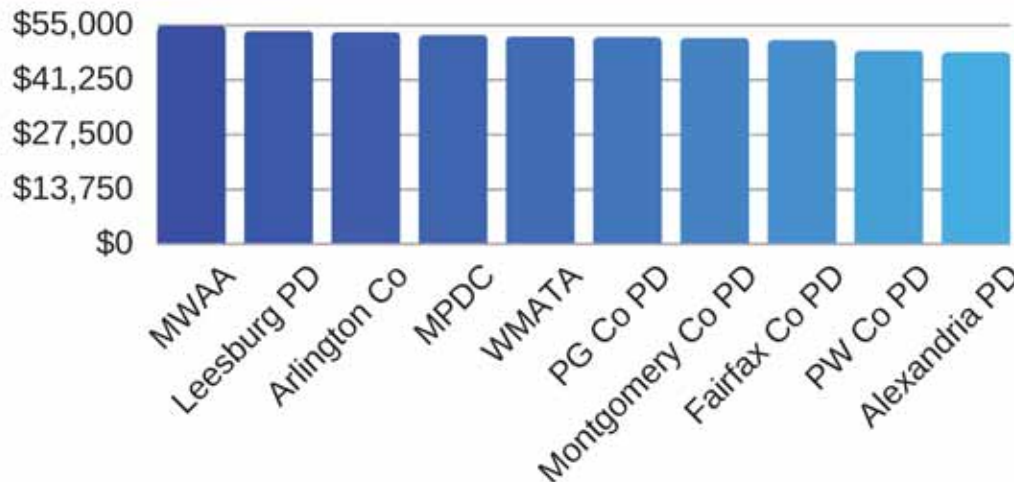
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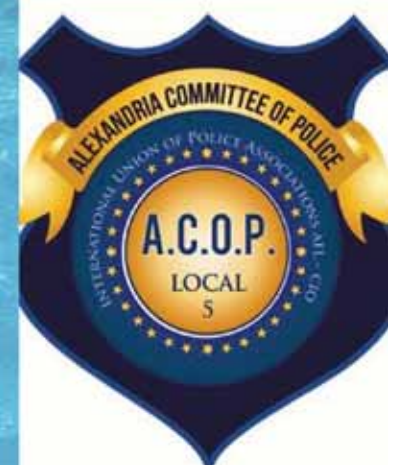
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- Alexandria City Council

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Spring 2018 HomeLifeStyle

Presented by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria, this home at 209 South Saint Asaph St. is on the annual historic homes and garden tour this year.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet



Joan SHANNON

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PHOTOS COURTESY LOUISE KRAFT

An Old Town garden from previous tours.

Local Home and Garden Tour

Old Town Alexandria will kick off the Garden Club of Virginia's (GCV) 85th Historic Garden Week public tour of historic homes and gardens on April 21 which is expected to draw an estimated 1,500 garden enthusiasts and tourists.

The tour is part of the GCV's statewide tour of Virginia's finest historic homes and gardens during the height of the spring blooming season.

Presented by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria, the local Old Town tour encompasses five private homes and gardens with floral arrangements designed by club members showcased in each home.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 the day of the tour and are available for purchase at www.vagardenweek.org. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.; St. Paul's Church, 228 S. Pitt St.; and the Alexandria Visitors Bureau at 115 King St.

Tickets include admission to five Old Town Alexandria's homes and gardens, refreshments at 228 South Pitt St., and admittance to five nearby historic public prop-



A floral arrangement created by garden club members for a tour home.

erties, including Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, River Farm, Gunston Hall, and Mount Vernon. There is also a Marketplace at the Athenaeum at 201 Prince St. with specialty boutiques and purveyors of fine goods.



Tulips from an Old Town garden from previous tours.

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HomeLifeStyle

Improving Functionality

Designer must-haves for building a dream kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 GAZETTE PACKET

From a Sub Zero refrigerator and Bosch dishwasher hidden behind an oak cabinet front to a backsplash and center island covered with slabs of marble, the options for creating a dream kitchen can seem endless, say local designers, but they are also very personal.

"A seldom used \$15,000 La Cornue stove which might impress friends may define one person's idea of a dream kitchen, while the definition of a dream kitchen for another person might include a more practical approach to form and function," said interior designer

Joseph Van Goethem. "For example, my wife is an excellent cook, so her dream kitchen is all about spices, dishes and cookbooks."

Hand-painted Italian tile used for the backsplash was one of the luxuries that Van Goethem incorporated into the design of his own kitchen in McLean. "It infuses the kitchen with color and visual interest beneath the cabinetry. We chose a Silestone countertop over neutral stone for its durability, stain resistance and ease of maintenance."

For counters toppings, quartz and butcher block are two materials that interior designer Carolyn Elleman says are at

"The dream kitchen of one person is never equally defined as the dream kitchen of another."

— **Joseph Van Goethem,**
interior designer

SEE HIGHLIGHTING, PAGE 18

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Highlighting Features that Improve Functionality

FROM PAGE 16

the top of her list. Strong and durable, butcher block is made by connecting long wooden boards. Maple and cherry wood are two of the most popular materials for such countertops.

“As natural stone or granite seems to be not used as much, we have seen a spike in the use of quartz and butcher block,” said Elleman, who is an interiors specialist at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

A versatile island is a kitchen must-have for Jean P. Freeman, professor of interior design at Marymount University.

“The real rave right now in kitchens is something that I introduced to the Pedini [kitchen design firm] eight years ago while designing my own sustainable house in McLean, Va.,” she said “It was to have an island with most of the essentials located on it.

The idea of having an island with a sink, dishwasher, cook-top and plenty of storage below has been taken by storm.”

Such a design technique reduces the need for overhead cabinetry, advises Freeman.



A counter and island tops made from butcher block, like the one in this Alexandria kitchen by Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., is a dream kitchen must-have, says designer Carolyn Elleman.

“The island idea uses cabinets with only pull-out drawers for dishes, glasses, pots

and pans. The drawers are so convenient and easy to organize. There are also draw-

ers within drawers for flatware and other utensils; and with all the counter space, there is room for eating and having extra helpers when preparing meals,” she said.

Drawers can be made to accommodate refrigeration units and microwaves, advises Freeman. “Even warming ovens are available in drawers,” she said. “There are many new and dynamic, convenient and much more interesting options on the market than most people are aware of.”

Features that improve functionality top the must-haves list of designer Melissa Fielding of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.

“I love tray dividers. They can really revolutionize the kitchen because you can maximize the space for your cook and serve ware,” she said.

“Another one of my highly recommended items are kitchen drawers because things like that favorite mixing bowl or large pan, come towards you instead of having to reach up to get them.”

Keeping trash out of sight is a top priority for Fielding.

SEE MUST-HAVES, PAGE 20



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Mid-Century Modern Mecca on Tour April 28

Mid-century modern fans don't have to head to Palm Springs to appreciate stunning examples of mid-century modern architecture and landscape. Visitors are invited to tour the largest enclave of mid-century modern homes in the Washington, D.C. region during the 2018 Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour in Alexandria on Saturday, April 28. The neighborhood even has a connection to AMC's "Mad Men," as the show's production designer, Dan Bishop, grew up in Hollin Hills and says the neighborhood inspired his design sensibilities.

Visitors coming for the home tour can make a weekend of it by staying in Old Town Alexandria and also visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, a "usonian" style home in Alexandria that represents Wright's dream of creating affordable housing for the middle class. End the weekend by shopping in Old Town Alexandria at one-of-a-kind mid-century modern boutiques. Find exquisite vintage cocktail ware and bar ware by designers like Dorothy Thorpe at The Hour then head to Acme Mid-Century + Modern for vintage and modern furniture, sculptures and art.

Located minutes from Washington, D.C. and tucked away in a quiet neighborhood just south of Old Town Alexandria is the largest enclave of mid-century modern homes in the region — the Hollin Hills neighborhood. Hollin Hills is a modernist enclave comprised of more than 450 glass-enclosed minor masterpieces built from the late 1940s to the early 1970s by developer Robert Davenport and architect Charles Goodman.

It was the first community in the Washington, D.C. metro area to be made up entirely of contemporary homes. Every other year visitors are invited inside the homes for an up close look during the Hollin Hills House and Garden Tour. This year's self-guided tour showcases 10 examples of mid-century modern architecture and landscape Saturday, April 28 from noon until 6 p.m. Recognized many times in the past for its architectural and design vision, Hollin Hills was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013, and is a Virginia Landmark Historic District.

Visitors can also tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, minutes from Alexandria's Hollin Hills neighborhood. This

"usonian" style house was designed by Wright in the 1940s and was one of the first types of affordable housing for the middle class. Tours are available beginning in April Friday through Monday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour begins at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$7.50 for students; \$12 for seniors and active military with ID; and are free for children 5 and under. At 1,200 square feet, visitors will see how Wright's combination of high ceilings, large expanses of glass, and an open floor plan creates the illusion of a much larger home.

While visiting, check out Alexandria's mid-century offerings at one-of-a-kind boutiques located on King Street in Old Town Alexandria, the city's nationally designated historic district.

Step into The Hour and head back to the Mad Men era with a vintage cocktail ware and bar ware-filled boutique on historic King Street. Victoria Vergason took

her passions for entertaining at home and collecting designer vintage glassware and barware and created The Hour in 2009. With two glittering floors "dedicated to all things cocktail," The Hour seeks to reinvent today's cocktail hour

by bringing back mid-century style for home entertaining but with a decidedly modern-day twist.

Acme Mid-Century + Modern owned by Pierre Paret is a purveyor of vintage and modern furniture, artifacts, accessories, sculp-

ture, and art. Acme provides a broad selection of periods and styles, though its specialties include Danish and Scandinavian Modern, designs by Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, and pieces in Brazilian rosewood.

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Must-Haves for Dream Kitchen

FROM PAGE 17

“One item that I really feel is a must-have is a waste bin drawer,” she said. “Otherwise you have this beautiful kitchen and then you have a wastebasket as an eyesore. With a waste bin drawer near your prep area, you can put in items like onion skin as you’re cooking rather than having to walk across the kitchen.

They allow a kitchen to be beautiful and functional.”

Steam-convection ovens and showpiece ranges that are ornate enough to become the focal point of the kitchen are two desirable kitchen features, suggests Michael Winn of Winn Design + Build. “Steam-convection ovens are a great way to cook,” he said. “These are functioning as a second, or even primary, ovens and even replacing microwaves.”

Winn also believes in relocating electrical outlets from a kitchen’s backsplash to an area under the cabinetry to create a seamless and clean appearance.

“This is especially the case with the popularity of slab backsplashes [where the counter continues] up the backsplash,” he said.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH VAN GOETHEM

When building his own dream kitchen, interior designer Joseph Van Goethem of McLean, included cabinets for porcelain dinnerware, silver flatware and cookbooks. He also added a backsplash made of hand-painted tile.

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The Alexandria Fire Department is losing 7 to 10 fire fighters and paramedics every year to neighboring jurisdictions for better work hours and/or compensation. This is creating an environment that doesn't leave Alexandria with enough fire fighters and paramedics to properly protect it.

- Alexandria fire fighters and paramedics make up to 17% less than fire fighters in neighboring communities while working upwards of 20% more hours per week.
- West side Alexandria's two busiest fire companies are operating without enough firefighters. Station 208 on N. Paxton has 3 fire fighters for 2 trucks. Station 206 on Seminary Rd. doesn't have full time fire fighters on the rescue unit.
- Firehouses on Alexandria's east side in Potomac Yards and on Cameron Street are also operating without enough fire fighters to keep those communities safe.

DO YOUR PART TODAY TO KEEP ALEXANDRIA SAFE.

Contact the Mayor and City Council and urge them to work with the fire fighters and paramedics to keep our community safe.



Megan Ellzy
President
Alexandria Fire Fighters
Local 2141
M.ellzy@afdlocal2141.org
www.afdlocal2141.org

Alison Silberberg
Mayor
Alison.Silberberg@alexandriava.gov
Justin Wilson
Vice Mayor
Justin.Wilson@alexandriava.gov

Paul Smedberg
Councilman
Paul.Smedberg@alexandriava.gov
Del Pepper
Councilwoman
Del.Pepper@alexandriava.gov

Willie Bailey
Councilman
Willie.Bailey@alexandriava.gov
John Chapman
Councilman
John.Chapman@alexandriava.gov

Tim Lovain
Councilman
Timothy.Lovain@alexandriava.gov
Mark Jinks
City Manager
Mark.Jinks@alexandriava.gov

www.alexandriava.gov/Council

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International Women's Day in Alexandria

City's women look back on a year of triumph and setbacks.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria has a tradition of women in leadership roles, both in city politics, social life, and advocacy. In March 8, a rally outside in Market Square gathered many of them together to celebrate the progress made over the last century and look ahead to the work yet to come.

Mayor Allison Silberberg, the second female Mayor of Alexandria, paid homage to the women in the city leadership that came before her — particularly Mayor Patsy Ticer and City Manager Vola Lawson. Silberberg said their influence in the city helped shape it into what it is today and inspired herself and many others to run for office.

Ticer and Lawson were also honored by Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper. Pepper said she was inspired by recent struggles for women's equality, like the Women's March and the Me Too movement.

Katie Cristol, chair of the Arlington County Board, attended and said while there's still a lot of distance to cover towards equality, she's been inspired by a lifetime of seeing women taking an active role in politics and society.

"I think about the Me Too movement, and the Women's March," said Cristol. "I think about Anita Hill bearing witness. I think of women candidates that followed her and overcame inappropriate questions about their fitness for office. We've made real progress towards having a generation of women free from fear, who never learn to keep their voices down. I think of Emma Gonzalez, fierce and proud. I am so hopeful, even with [obstacles]."

One of the most talked about issues at the ceremony was the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), a movement to support an amendment to ban discrimination based on sex.

The ERA was introduced 95 years ago by suffragist Alice Paul and was passed by Congress in 1972, but is one state shy of being ratified. This year, efforts to force the legislation to approve the ERA failed, with the Senate voting it down and the House refusing to take up the matter.

"It's important, because the only rights we have in the constitution is the right to vote," said Diana Egozcue, president of Virginia NOW, who went around the crowd gathering signatures to start again for the next year. "The 14th Amendment doesn't cover it. The ERA would give us strict con-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Elsa Riveros performing at Alexandria's International Women's Day rally.

struction support. If we sue an employer for discrimination, they have to prove they didn't discriminate."

Another recurring theme at the gathering was the ties between feminism and other social equality movements. Ingrid

Moran, lead organizer for Tenants and Workers United, said the struggles continue to improve the lives of working women.

Moran was born and raised in Alexandria, and said she grew up in a neighborhood in constant fear of immigration police and suffering under Alexandria's perpetual lack of affordable housing. Moran called on Alexandria's Sheriff's Office to stop coordinating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Eileen Lynch, from NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, also emphasized that feminism must coincide with immigrant rights and reproductive rights.

"We need to push for the progress of all women," said Lynch. "We have a lot of work to do."

Elsa Riveros started the event with music celebrating women, and pointed out U.S. Rep. Don Beyer in the crowd, praising his work on gun control and the town hall he'd held the night before. Riveros was wearing a shirt covered with the names of women killed in mass shootings, and said the fight for equality is tied in with the fight for gun control.

"This has to stop," said Riveros. "I shouldn't be worried when my son goes to school."

Businesses Support 'Make March Matter' Campaign

Effort benefits Children's National Medical Center.

By ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Every year, hundreds of thousands of children in the DC-metropolitan area confront terrifying, body-ravaging, and even life-threatening illnesses. Along with their families, they must put their young lives on hold to fight off bodily threat.

Last year, 230,000 of these children turned to Children's National Medical Cen-

ter (CNMC). In honor of past patients like these, and for those in 2018 and beyond, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals partnered with local businesses to launch the Make March Matter campaign to raise \$1 million for CNMC.

"The campaign started out in Los Angeles, to benefit the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA)," said Tracy Jones, director of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, which is a nonprofit organization that raises funding and awareness for a group of children's hospitals, including CNMC. "The team out there wanted to pick a month to rally around pediatric health. They launched the campaign in 2016 and after they had two successful years out there, we

started having conversations about bringing this campaign to Washington D.C. We started planning back in June, and the campaign quickly gained momentum."

This month, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is partnering with 150 businesses to fundraise for CNMC's Fund for Every Child, which was established to help guarantee quality care for every child regardless of background, insurance status or financial position. Throughout the month, these businesses — from restaurants to retail establishments to spa service providers — will hold their own promotions and other special events to contribute to the campaign's collective goal of raising \$1 million for the cause.

"Independent of how CHLA first set their \$1 million goal, we thought it was the perfect amount for a first goal to rally the community," Jones said. "It's a large amount that would make a big impact on the hospital. It's an ambitious goal, but we've already surpassed our own expectations. We wanted to have 55 partners like CHLA did their first year, but we have 150 partners participating. It's a big ask, but these local businesses know the impact that Children's National has on their communities, customers. When we said we wanted to make March matter, the community stood up and said, 'We do too. We want to make March matter.'"

Old Town Dolci Gelati, a sweet shop that

SEE MAKING MARCH, PAGE 28




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4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
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28	29	30	31		

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Photo-documentary Study. Through March 25, arious times at Theatre Two, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Select photos from artist/photographer Nina Tisara's photo-documentary study of worship in Alexandria's predominantly African American churches for Avant Bard's production of the "*Gospel at Colonus*." An afterchat is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 3 p.m.

March 150. Through March 25, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery's popular annual exhibition and art sale, March 150, returns to the Torpedo Factory Art Center for the 8th year. This yearly all-media exhibition features nearly 200 works created by artists local to Alexandria and the greater D.C. region. The only requirement to be on view in the exhibition is that artists needed to use the gallery-supplied 10" x 10" panel. All work in the show is priced at \$150. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/.

Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale. Through March 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Tuesdays) at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The 55th annual Needlework show and sale at Woodlawn Estate, the historic home of Nelly Custis, America's foremost needleworker. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, house tours, and more for the whole family. Adults \$15, k-12 \$6, 5 and under free. Call 703-570-6903 or visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/.

"Finishing Flourishes." Through March 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19. Artists have a ball with "Finishing Flourishes," as they put forth their finest, and elevating detailing as the high-point in design. Perfect punctuation on a pot makes tops twerk or handles twirl with grace. Edges flute and ruffle and feature lacy, racy cut outs. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

"Drone Zone." Through March 31, gallery hours in the Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Drones appeared in Beverly Ryan's artwork in 2015, inspired by questions about their use in warfare. Ryan explores questions related to this topic in her multi-media exhibit, "Drone Zone." Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Meet the Legends Reception. 6 p.m. at Center for Design, Media and the Arts, 3301 Netherton Drive in Alexandria, on the NOVA Community College Alexandria Campus. Sponsored by Living Legends of Alexandria, the event introduces the 2018 Living Legend honorees. Visit alexandrialegends.org/.

World War I Lecture Series. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "Doing Our Bit" (While Having a Bit of Fun): American Nurses in World War I," by Marian Moser Jones, a social historian and ethicist of public health who explores the institutionalization



Photos (left to right): Sakura Cashmere Cardigan by Tamara Embrey; Enamel Pendant by Nan Lopata; Cherry Blossoms by Jamaliah Morais



Cherry Blossom Week

The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) is honoring the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival with their own Cherry Blossom Week. With a schedule of events that includes artist demonstrations, private tours, and in-studio specials, cherry blossom fun blooms at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. More than 50 of the 82 working artist studios at the Torpedo Factory Art Center will have cherry blossom-inspired art on display or for sale, and interactive events will occur all week. The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Complete details of the TFAA's Cherry Blossom Week (March 23-31), including studio maps, can be found at torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry.

Free artist studio tours will begin at 1 p.m. on March 24, 25, 26, and 31. Interested visitors should meet on the first floor of the Torpedo Factory at the Information Desk. Artist demonstrations will begin at 2 p.m. on the following dates: Saturday, March 24 - Jennifer Brewer Stone, Resin & Painting, Studio 227 ♦ Sunday, March 25 - Tracie Griffith Tso, Ceramics & Chinese Brush, Studio 22 ♦ Monday, March 26 - Jamaliah Morais, Asian Brush Painting, Studio 25 ♦ Saturday, March 31 - Alison Sigethy, Glass, Studio 307

of benevolence in the United States. She will share experiences of specific nurses in World War I gleaned from journals and diaries, including two from Virginia. \$10 per person. Reservations recommended. Tickets at shop.alexandria.gov.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 15-17

"Must Love Music" and "WXYZ."

Thursday-Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Richard Kauffman Auditorium, The Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Original musicals starring actors with Down syndrome and autism. In "Must Love Music" Love and music are the only way to escape the spirits on a mysterious island. Then, the big city newsroom at "WXYZ" may be too much for rookie reporter from the country. Visit www.art-stream.org/see-a-show.

FRIDAY/MARCH 16

Opening Reception: Kevin Fitzgerald.

6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Principle Gallery will feature landscape painter Kevin Fitzgerald in his Annual Solo Exhibition. This year, the exhibition has been paired down to 20 works, allowing each of the paintings space to breathe, increasing the impact of the work. Free and open to the public. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 16-17

"The Addams Family."

Friday-Saturday, 7:30-10 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. The Bishop Ireton Drama Department presents "The Addams Family." From costuming to choreography, more than 60 Ireton students have contributed to this production. Visit www.bishopireton.org or call 703-751-7606.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Art of the Book - Calligraphy. 10-11 a.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.

Friendship Firehouse Museum

Tour. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S. Alfred St. The Friendship Fire Company, established in 1774, was the first fire company in Alexandria. Join an in-depth guided tour and learn about the Friendship Fire Company's firefighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. The docent-led tour is for ages 10 and older. \$5 for adults; \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, space is limited. Purchase tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3891.

Family Fun: St. Paddy's Peas and Potatoes.

1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. St. Patrick's Day is the traditional day to plant potatoes. Learn the origins of this staple and its importance to Ireland. Listen to tales of leprechauns, sample spuds, and plant peas and potatoes in our garden. Ages 5-adult, \$7 per person. Register parent and child online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 101 3001 or call 703-642-5173.

Downton Fashion. 1-3:30 p.m. at at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Caroline Hottenstein showcases two custom-made dresses that span the brief time period – 1912 to 1925 – portrayed in the TV show Downton Abbey. One is Titanic-era, one a 1920s Flapper design. For adults. Reservations required, \$42/person (program + tea); \$18 (program only). Programs are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Author Talk: Kimberly McLemore.

3 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Kimberly McLemore's newest book is a memoir sharing her experience as a survivor of domestic abuse. Kimberly McLemore is a podcast host and founder and CEO of the Women's Small Business Initiative. Books will be available for sale and signing after the talk. Free. Contact mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org or visit alexlibraryva.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m.

at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

SSA 2018 Golden Anniversary

Gala. 6-10 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Join in what promises to be a memorable evening honoring the legacy of those who have helped build Senior Services of Alexandria, including founders, former honorees and former Board members. Visit seniorservicesalex.org for raffle prize information. Tickets are still available at gala or call the office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Ides of Bark. 1-4 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. Supervisor Dan Storck invites all dogs and their companions to join him for an afternoon of play and learning at the 3rd Ides of Bark Dog Festival. The event is free and open to the public, with games, gift baskets, prizes, food trucks and fun for the whole family. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ides-bark.

Amazing Plants for Shade. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about shade and about the incredible, diverse selection of plants that have adapted to the limitations, as well as advantages, of lower light conditions. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 185 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

Virginia Bronze March Handbell

Concert. 4:5-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Celebrate the glories of springtime and throwback to an era of sock hops and poodle skirts with a potpourri of tunes including Song of the Flowers, What a Wonderful World, Crocodile Rock and Fly Me to the Moon. \$10.

Call 888-824-2541 or visit vabronze.org/.

SUNDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

On Sunday, March 18 – At **Hidden Pond Nature Center**, children age 3 to 12 can create a spring mobile of favorite pond animals from plastic eggs. All materials will be provided. \$6 per child. **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is hosting a Woodland Wildlife Egg Hunt for children age 3-8. Meet costumed woodland characters along a trail, collect eggs with non-candy treats and discover how different animals raise their young. \$8 per child.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 25, 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age one to nine. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child – cash only at registration.

MONDAY/MARCH 19

Garden Buds. 10 a.m.-11 a.m at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Meet in the Children's Discovery Garden. Children will enjoy different sensory materials N. the garden, rain or shine. Dress for the weather and explore. 2-3 years, \$5 per child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 102 8621 or call 703-642-5173.

Locals' Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Van Napier Farms Jams & Jelly tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 20

Creating Family History. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Board-certified genealogist Tom Jones will provide insights into creating a family history that future generations will cherish. His talk is called "Creating a Family History of Lasting Value." Free. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

Mount Vernon Pyramid Choral Concert. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School will host the Mount Vernon Pyramid choral concert for the 15th year. Choristers from Fort Belvoir, Riverside, Washington Mill, Woodlawn, and Woodley Hills elementary schools will join with the Whitman Wild Cat singers and the Mount Vernon Melodious Majors to perform songs celebrating peace. Admission is free. Visit mountvernonhs.fcps.edu.

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ENTERTAINMENT



2018 Arlandria Eggstravaganza set for Saturday, March 24.

Eggstravaganza

This annual family-friendly event is one of the most EGGciting spring events in the Alexandria/Arlington area. This year's event features entertainment by the Rainbow Rock Band, Groovy Nate, and Uncle Devin. The day also features plenty of food, activities, and games for the whole family. Multiple egg hunts for children under 11 with a special area for those 3 and under. Free. Saturday, March 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. For more, visit www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 20-25

Spring Book Sale. At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will kick off their Spring Book Sale with a Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 20, 4-8:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door). The sale continues Wednesday, March 21, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 22, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Friday, March 23, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 25, 1-4:30 p.m. \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books and media items. All genres. \$1 Day on Sunday. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.beatleyfriends.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

"Livable Communities for all Ages." 9:30 a.m.-noon at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. SSA is sponsoring a listening session for Alexandria's seniors. Representatives of Alexandria's Commission on Aging will talk about the latest progress for making Alexandria a livable community for all ages. They want to hear from seniors about what is most important to remain active and independent. Visit seniorservicesalex.org.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 21-24

Used Book and Art Sale. Thursday, 1-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Used book and art sale fills two buildings at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Gently used art, children's books, rare/old books and individually priced books will be in the church building. Saturday is half price in the church and \$5 a bag in the mansion. Visit mvuc.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 22

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by John Adam Wasowicz, "Daingerfield Island." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

World War I Lecture Series. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "Sowing the Seeds of Victory: The Women's Land Army of America in Virginia and

Washington DC, 1917-1920," by Anna Kiefer. In 1917, the Women's Land Army of America began recruiting women who would work the land while America's farmers served in the Great War. \$10 per person. Reservations recommended. Tickets at shop.alexandria.gov.

Vegetable Gardening Part 3. 7-8:30 pm, Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Manage and Maintain Your Vegetable Garden. Discover simple, earth-friendly and smart gardening practices, like crop rotation and intercropping, to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects and to control common garden pests. Learn to identify diseases and how to manage them. Also pick up tips on space-saving techniques for small gardens. Free. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

Lost Towns of Fairfax County - Mount Vernon Region. 7:30-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents Fairfax County historians Heather Bollinger and Jeff Clark speaking about some of Fairfax County's lost towns and communities — vibrant areas which featured schools, churches, shops, and civic centers. This talk will focus on communities in the Mount Vernon area, such as Colchester, Accotink, and both the white and African-American communities of Woodlawn. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/lost-towns-fairfax-county-mount-vernon-region.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 22-24

"Must Love Music" and "WXYZ." Thursday-Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Richard Kauffman Auditorium, The Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Original musicals starring actors with Down syndrome and autism. In "Must Love Music" Love and music are the only way to escape the spirits on a mysterious island. Then, the big city newsroom at "WXYZ" may be too much for rookie reporter from the country. Visit www.art-stream.org/see-a-show.

FRIDAY/MARCH 23

Garden Talk: Vegetable & Herb Gardens. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. There is nothing more delectable than a homegrown tomato or fresh herbs and now is the best time. Master Gardeners demonstrate how to plan, plant and harvest a fabulous vegetable and herb garden. Adults. \$10/person. Register online at

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 182 2701 or call 703-642-5173.

March 150 Art Party. 7-10 p.m. at at Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery is partnering with the Factory Society, an independent young-patrons group that supports the Torpedo Factory, for the March 150 Art Party. Guests have an opportunity to mingle with other art enthusiasts and meet many of the artists who have artwork on view in the show. All art is priced at \$100 exclusively during the Party. Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/.

Musical Offering: Via Crucis (The Way of the Cross). 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be played in a musical setting for choir and organ by Franz Liszt. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir will sing with organist Quinn Moss. Email jmccrory@blessedsacramentcc.org or call 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 23-31

"Cherry Blossom Week." Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) is honoring the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival with their own Cherry Blossom Week. With a schedule of events that includes artist demonstrations, private tours, and in-studio specials, cherry blossom fun blooms at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. More than 50 of the 82 working artist studios at the Torpedo Factory Art Center will have cherry blossom-inspired art on display or for sale, and interactive events will occur all week. Complete details of the TFAA's Cherry Blossom Week, including studio maps, can be found at torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

World Day of Puppetry. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The National Capital Puppetry Guild and the Office of the Arts will present the 2nd Annual "Celebrate the World Day of Puppetry" with family-oriented puppet performances, hands-on workshops, exhibits and sales tables. Nine puppetry performances will feature Bob Brown Puppets, Dinorock, Silly Goose and Val, Goodlife Theater, and more. \$5. Visit bit.ly/2FKcqph.

Japanese Garden Design. 9:30-11

ENTERTAINMENT

a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Japanese garden design is an art form thousands of years in the making. Stone, gravel, water, bridges, paths and plants all hold significance. Horticulturalist Bevan Shimizu will teach you the essentials in creating a Japanese style garden. Adults. \$22/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 285 7201 or call 703-642-5173.

“Beyond the Battlefield.” 10 a.m. outside the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The Lee-Fendall House will offer “Beyond the Battlefield,” a guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. The tour will last approximately two hours and cover a route of 1.75 miles. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. Advance tickets are \$15 through the museum’s website, or \$20 the day. Space is limited. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org, or call 703-548-1789.

Arlandria Eggstravaganza. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. This annual family-friendly event is one of the most EGGciting spring events in the Alexandria/Arlington area. This year’s event features entertainment by the Rainbow Rock Band, Groovy Nate, and Uncle Devin. The day also features plenty of food, activities, and games for the whole family. Multiple egg hunts for children under 11 with a special area for those 3 and under. Free. Visit www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com.

Women’s Civil War Day. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Civil War reenactors will interpret the dress, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War period with on-going

displays and activities. The program features a quilting demonstration, interpreters portraying the role of women in camp, on the battlefield and engaged in soldier relief efforts, and displays of period clothing and accessories. Free. Call 703-746-4848 or visit alexandriahistorical.org.

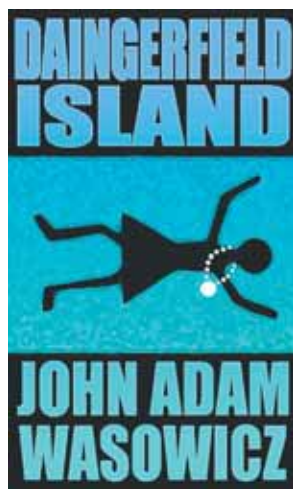
SUNDAY/MARCH 25

Women’s History Month at Ivy Hill Cemetery. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Authors H.L. Brooks, and Dea Schofield conduct readings and a book signing. They will read from their new books, amid a haunting atmosphere in the vault. This reading event is not recommended for children under 15. Space is limited, R.S.V.P. at 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413 ext.1112 or email info@ihchps.org.

Live Music: Magpie. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Since 1973, Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner have brought their unique sound and remarkable versatility to audiences everywhere, featuring traditional and vintage Americana to contemporary and stirring original compositions. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

MONDAY/MARCH 26

Common Sailors and the Braddock Expedition. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 121 N. Fairfax St. In this lecture, Kyle Dalton will explore the lives and experiences of common sailors in the eighteenth century through the lens of the Braddock Expedition. A little known detachment of 33 Royal Navy sailors



Author Event: John Wasowicz

Introducing Elmo Katz, Esq., an attorney who is to Alexandria what Sherlock Holmes is to London: a sharp-witted problem solver engrossed in solving a complicated criminal case. Meet Mo Katz in his law office at fictitious 771A Duchess Street in Old Town as he solves a mysterious murder that occurs on Daingerfield Island, below Reagan National Airport. Author John Wasowicz will be signing copies Thursday, March 22, 4-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St.

trudged through the wilderness and fought at the disastrous battle on the Monogahela. Admission is free, donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-2997.

residents and \$210 for out-of-county campers. Registration is at go.usa.gov/xneTw.

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 26-31

Spring Break Camps at Huntley Meadows Park. Elementary school age children can discover what life was like for the first people to use what is now Huntley Meadows Park. Program attendees will need to bring a snack, lunch and drink.

❖ **The Pioneer Survival Camp** is for 6-12-year-olds. Camp hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$295 per child for county residents and \$310 for out-of-county campers. Register online at go.usa.gov/xneTd.

❖ **Animal Babies in Spring** is for 4-6-year-olds. Camp hours are 9 a.m.-noon. \$195 per child for county

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

William Ramsay and Business in 18-Century Alexandria. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Alexandria Historical Society and the Office of Historic Alexandria present Dr. Nancy Davis, curator emeritus at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, discussing Alexandria merchant William Ramsay and his 1753-1756 ledger books. \$5 for non-members, and free to members of the Alexandria Historical Society. Memberships can be purchased at the

door (open at 7 p.m.). Visit www.alexandriahistorical.org/.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Egg Hunt. Friday, 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter egg. \$12 children, \$5 adults. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Locals’ Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Dimitri Olive Oil & Vinegar tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

A Treasury of Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Discover myths and facts behind the history of tea and the many tea types. Hear about social impacts of tea, changing fashions of the tea table, and teatime traditions and etiquette, and learn how to brew teas to perfection. Adults. Reservations required: \$32/person (program + tea), \$12 (program only). Call (703) 941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Live Music: Cleve Francis. 7:30-10 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. An evening of eclectic music with Cleve Francis and his large band performing their own brand of country, folk, blues, light rock and jazz. \$35 plus fees. Email muzicdoc@gmail.com or visit www.clevefrancis.com.

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Proceeds support future exhibitions and programs in Target Gallery and at the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Special thanks to:

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Target Gallery is the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center is managed by the Alexandria Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

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OPINION

Adjourning without a State Budget

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

The 2018 legislative session adjourned “sine die” on March 10, and as dozens of cars with multi-colored bumper stickers and House and Senate license plates departed to different corners of the Commonwealth my staff worked through the weekend, helping me send out responses to 906 informative emails on 107 different topics that I’ve received from constituents. As I reflect on the session, it is impossible to ignore that we adjourned without adopting a biennial budget.

Crafting a budget is one of our primary constitutional duties as state legislators and leaving Richmond without one means that localities, school divisions, and state agencies cannot finalize their own budgets. Governor Northam, the House of Delegates, and Senate Democrats all agree on the merits of Medicaid expansion, with

COMMENTARY

only Senate Republicans standing in the way — insisting on a version of the budget that excludes health coverage for 400,000 Virginians, strikes teacher pay raises, has fewer investments in renewable energy, and omits funding for background checks on firearm sales. I anticipate the governor will call us into a special session to adopt a budget within the next month.

After touch-and-go negotiations between House and Senate Conferees, the General Assembly has approved \$154 million in funding for Metro (SB856) — Virginia’s portion of \$500 million called for by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) General Manager Paul Wiedefeld to address essential capital funding needs. We were able

to arrive at a sustainable solution for our vital transit infrastructure needs, but two proposed tax increases in Northern Virginia (on real estate transactions and hotel stays) that had been included in the original Senate version, were eliminated from the final bill. This change requires existing regional transportation funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) to be redirected to WMATA. I expect Governor Northam will amend the bill to preserve the \$154 million while using less funding directly from NVTA. This would free up money for additional transportation projects.

Seven of my bills passed the General Assembly and await Governor Northam’s consideration. SB920 addressed the struggle experienced by the Tarantino family of Alexandria and will reduce the onerous 10-year waiting period for them to adopt a child due to an eight-year-old drug possession conviction — regardless of Mr. Tarantino’s record of honorable service in the military and his wife’s years of service with local nonprofits. Congressman Donald Beyer brought to my attention that predatory teachers who sexually abuse students have been recommended away to another school district by fellow employees to avoid scandal and lawsuits. SB605 will prohibit public school employees from “passing the trash.” SB918 will repeal a provision of the Code of Virginia authorizing the revocation of professional licenses from people who fall behind on their student loans. Student loan debt affects 44 million people in the United States, and I am thankful that Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) and Schuyler VanValkenburg (D-Henrico) led the House effort to address this issue.

An interim committee will be established to consider a large volume of legislation regarding election

SEE NO BUDGET, PAGE 29

Making the Most out of Recess

BY BROOKE SYDNOR CURRAN

RunningBrooke offers 5 Best Practices for how to implement effective physical activity into the school day and week. This is the fourth in a five-part series to explain these practices and show how to find small pockets of time to get Alexandria’s youth moving to meet the CDC-recommended 60 minutes of daily activity.

Best Practice #4: An inclusive and active recess with a variety of activities and an encouragement of free play.

According to the CDC’s Strategies for Recess in Schools, “students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, classroom behaviors, and cognitive performance. Recess in schools benefits students by:

- GET MOVING**
- ❖ Increasing their level of physical activity;
 - ❖ Improving their memory, attention, and concentration;
 - ❖ Helping them stay on-task in the classroom;
 - ❖ Reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom;
 - ❖ Improving their social and emotional development (e.g., learning how to share and negotiate).”

In 2013, the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Council on School Health said that “recess is a crucial and necessary component of a child’s development.”

The benefits of recess are partly because exercise affects us on a cellular level. It cues the building blocks of learning in the brain and increases alertness, attention, and motivation to learn. Studies

show that students who get regular physical activity perform better in school. When we compare brain scans of students, we can see that the brain scan of the physically active student has practically all synapses sparking, while the brain scan of the physically inactive student has substantially less activity. Being active makes our brains work better and prepares students to learn at their best.

Adequate recess during the school day is a simple way to help kids reach the CDC-recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day. For some students, recess may be one of the only times they get active during the school day. Research has shown that children can accumulate up to 40 percent of their total daily physical activity during recess.

There are some recommended key elements that should be in place to make recess an effective time and space for students to experience its benefits. Some of these elements include the following: appropriate equipment and low-cost supplies like hula hoops, jump ropes, and balls, which enable children to move and be active; an adult supervisor or supervisors trained in playground management and student inclusivity; and a variety of activities and emphasis on and encouragement of free play. This is a time for kids to get creative and work together. Recess can also be a great opportunity for older school children to oversee the activities of younger children and gain civic and leadership experience.

Please look for next week’s piece about Best Practice #5: City-wide promotion of safe routes to school. See www.runningbrooke.org.

Council Discusses Investing in City's Infrastructure

FROM PAGE 1

more detailed plan for the renovation of city hall. This project will cost \$500,000 in FY19 for planning and \$41 million overall, including repairs to Market Square and the parking garage underneath it.

"[If] the School Board came to us and said, 'We want \$41 million to build a building,' we're going to send them through the paces on what they're doing, and what alternatives they're considering, and all of that," said Wilson. "We should have a reasonable conversation about the best way to use [city hall]."

"We have departments in here, [for which] the space just does not function," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "They should be in a governmental center somewhere off-site that's accessible, where a majority of our residents live and we can have modern facilities. ... Somewhere in the West End that's near transit and one of the new [transit] corridors and a Metro station." Several council members, except Mayor Allison Silberberg, expressed varying degrees of agreement.

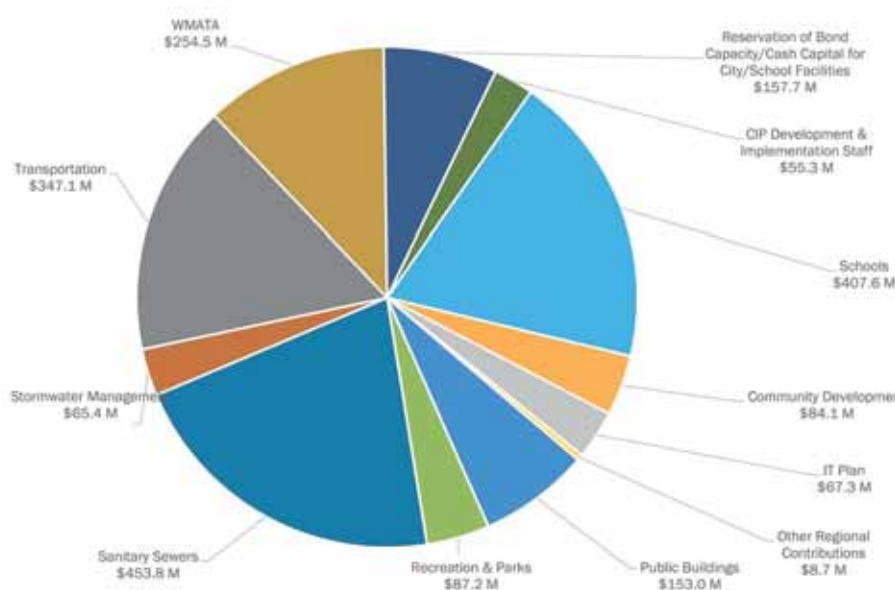
SEWERS

Last year, the state mandated an accelerated overhaul of Old Town's sewer system, which shunts raw sewage into the Potomac when it rains. Jinks proposes \$30 million for the project in FY19, ramping up every year to over \$100 million in FY22 and FY23, and then tapering off. The total over 10 years comes to nearly half-a-billion dollars.

Jinks' proposal assumes the state would kick in for 20 percent (\$77 million), including \$20 million that former Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed for FY19-20.

On Monday, neither state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) nor Del. Mark Levine (D-45) expressed confidence that the state's budget, when finalized, will include the proposed FY19-20 funds. Both said they'll continue to press for funding in subsequent

FY 2019 - FY 2028 USES \$2.1 BILLION



City Manager Mark Jink's proposed FY19-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), by expenditure category.

budgets.

Craig Fifer, a city spokesman, said in an email: "We are hopeful that the state will contribute to our CSO remediation as they have in Richmond and Lynchburg, but we know this may take several legislative cycles to work out. ... State funding will still be important and useful next year if it doesn't come through this year. There's nothing to figure out about how to replace any state funding that doesn't come through, since local sewer fees can pay for the entire project eventually. We just don't believe that's fair to our community ..."

Alexandria's sanitary sewer fee is scheduled to climb nearly every year, increasing 399 percent over FY18 by FY28.

TRANSPORTATION

Council also discussed expanding bus rapid transit (BRT) in the West End, as part of a plan that intends eventually to connect Landmark and the Pentagon.

"Because they basically don't have good transit connections," West End office buildings are "empty," said Jinks. "If we want Landmark to succeed, and we want the commercial parts of the West End to do better, our future is really based on BRT being successful."

The necessary \$133 million would come largely from federal and state sources, including state monies distributed through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). Competitive NVTA funds,

banked on but not yet won, would finance nearly half the project.

Alexandria's "projects have scored very well, and are definitely, I think, on the list that's going to make the cut," said Smedberg. "We would probably lose that money if we chose to pull this. ... Believe me, there's \$4-5 billion worth of projects that NVTA can fund in a nanosecond." Some West End residents have expressed concern about removing certain trees to make room for BRT.

WMATA

Jinks' CIP assumes no extra funds for WMATA's proposed \$500 million in additional capital investment. He recommends that Alexandria contribute \$30 million in FY19 as "our base level." But "we could not afford an additional \$25 million," which would be Alexandria's share to achieve the additional capital infusion, without help from state coffers.

Though on Saturday, the state General Assembly voted for \$154 million in dedicated WMATA funding — what WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld called "historic legislation."

"We are still evaluating the impact of the state WMATA contribution on our budget plans," said Fifer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jinks' CIP would utilize cash and bonds, split 50/50 on average. Debt ratios are projected to remain within council-set limits. In fact, one staffer told council, "We're retiring debt faster than we're taking it on."

"Why do we not put the affordable housing development monies in the CIP?" asked Wilson.

He requested a memo on the subject, "particularly as it relates to the conversation around dedicated funding. I think it potentially provides a path to weave our way through some thorny issues."

At TC, Parkland Parent Addresses Gun Violence

FROM PAGE 1

Stoneman Douglas High School.

On March 7, Guttenberg joined U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch of Florida for a discussion at T.C. Williams High School in a town hall about gun reform.

"I don't sit when I discuss this," said Guttenberg. "Every time one of these incidents happens, conversation afterwards always way to polite, way too comfortable, way too temporary. I will always be respectful, I have no need to be polite. I have no need to make people comfortable when I talk about this."

The auditorium was packed, but the room was silent as Guttenberg described his daughter.

"My daughter Jamie was murdered, or as some in the pro-gun community like to say ... my daughter was hunted," said Guttenberg. "My daughter was the tough-

est person I know. She fought for her life until the very last second; running down the hall from an active shooter until a single shot to her back severed her spinal cord."

Guttenberg, along with both members of Congress, said he believes in the second amendment, but argued that it shouldn't be used to curtail all gun reform.

"I believe in second amendment, just not bastardized version expressed by gun lobby and those who follow them," said Guttenberg. "This version has led to these weapons of war being widely available. As a result, my daughter has been murdered We cannot allow a gun lobby that believes in no limits."

Guttenberg said the next step is to pierce the aura of strength and take away the funding from the gun lobbies. It was noted on stage that Florida passed some small gun control measures after the shooting. Guttenberg said it was a good first step.

"Every gun owner should have to register, license, and insure every gun that they buy," said Guttenberg. "We should make sure process of gun takes on same responsibility as everything we do, [like] driving a car or picking up a prescription."

The second half of the evening included questions and testimonials, all of whom expressed favor for gun control measures. Several students in attendance had either carried out or were in the middle of planning walkouts in solidarity with the students in Parkland. Naomi Wadler, a student at George Mason Elementary, helped organize her classmates' walkout for school on March 14.

"I hope that when I'm older, in middle school and high school, I won't have to worry about going to school and getting shot in my classroom," said Wadler.

Henry Gibbs, also from George Mason Elementary, said that the day after shoot-

ing he was watching the news about it on TV.

"When I heard about the shooting, what was going on in my mind was 'Again?' This has been going on all across the country. It's the magazines and bump stocks that allow him to fire off so many rounds. I think it's crazy that you can go into a store and buy things that can kill many people. I think it's wrong."

Several of the students noted that the school administrations had taken significant steps towards trying to prevent schools from organizing walkouts.

Beyer pointed out into the crowd to school board members and said they were here now, listening.

"One of the things I'll tell you as an older person," said Beyer, "when you get to be our age, you won't remember an hour of instructional thing you missed, but you'll always remember walking out."

Alexandria First Responders Fed Up with Pay

FROM PAGE 7

The tension among the city’s emergency personnel has been building for years, with a few appearing over the years to plead the case for higher pay, but the March 12 was an unusually strong show of force and unity across the city’s emergency response departments. The 2018 budget’s

largest new investment is in a recruitment and retention item for emergency personnel, \$1.5 million spread across Alexandria’s fire department, police department, and sheriff’s office. But with Fairfax and Arlington continuing to increase emergency services pay, those in the affected departments say the increase isn’t nearly enough.

Megan Ellzy, a firefighter in the Alexandria Fire Department, said the city lost someone to D.C. just this week.

“They’re deciding they’re better off going to D.C. and getting the same amount to work less,” said Ellzy. “What we’re doing isn’t working. This year we need \$2 million; \$1.5 isn’t enough for any of us. We need a five percent pay increase across the board and we need to address the fire and medic pay scales.”

Those in the police and fire departments both said the city has a frustrating pay scale system where new recruits’ and veterans’ pay routinely leapfrog over the others’ in uneven cycles.

“I have no positive reason to give to anyone to start a career here,” said Investigator Diana Barrett from the Southern States Benevolent Police Association. “The city has continued to accept pay leapfrogging between vet officers and junior officers. It has fallen further and further behind other jurisdictions.

None of this should be acceptable.”

For Detective William Oakley, the meeting was his announcement that it would be his last year with the Alexandria Police. Oakley said the city’s compensation policy states that it will maintain market competitiveness, but for years the city has remained roughly 6.22 percent behind its regional competitors. Oakley said the city has been losing approximately 2.4 officers per month, and is struggling to find the recruits to replace them.

“After the budget was announced, many put in applications to other jurisdictions,” said Oakley. “If compensation is not brought into compliance, many will leave. They will get ten percent more pay for the same work. It takes 1.5 years to train a new officer ... don’t let that investment walk out the door.”

Benny Evans has experience working in the Alexandria Police Department and Sheriff’s Office,

and for years has been one of the city’s public faces of its acclaimed community policing program.

“Sometimes the young, new officers, they’re really exhausted trying to work regular shift and coming in the next day to make ends meet,” said Evans. “I find it difficult as a 24-year officer living within city limits, I can only imagine what they’re living through. My son is in the police academy for sheriff’s office. He comes home, says he’s in the academy and other departments are already offering raises and a take-home car.” Evans says when his son tells him about that, he has a hard time finding a reason to tell his son to stay with Alexandria.

“This city has a great service,” said Evans, “we’re just asking to give us a fair shake.”

The city’s budget process will continue until adoption on May 3. The maximum property tax rate will be set at a March 14 meeting, with work sessions continuing on the budget throughout March and April.

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, March 17, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

Public Hearing for the License Agreement Between the City of Alexandria and Spirit Cruises, LLC. for Use of the City’s Marina.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way on North Frazier Street, adjacent to the property at 1600 North Frazier Street (VAC No. 2017-0009). The proposed ordinance vacates a 7,993-square foot portion of a public right of way along North Frazier Street and adjacent to 1600 North Frazier Street.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way on North Frazier Street, adjacent to the property at 1615 North Frost Street (VAC No. 2017-0011). The proposed ordinance vacates a 10,601-square foot portion of a public right-of-way along North Frazier Street and adjacent to 1615 North Frost Street.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way on North Frazier Street, adjacent to the property at 4001 Lawrence Avenue (VAC No. 2017-0012). The proposed ordinance vacates a 4,388-square foot portion of a public right-of-way along North Frazier Street and adjacent to 4001 Lawrence Avenue.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way on Maury Lane, adjacent to the property at 4905 Maury Lane (VAC No. 2017-0010). The proposed ordinance vacates a 3,209 square foot portion of public right-of-way along Maury Lane and adjacent to 4905 Maury Lane.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way along the south side of Mill Road near the intersection of the east side of Stovall Street, at 2460 Mill Road (VAC No. 2017-0008). The proposed ordinance vacates a 2,731 square foot portion of public right-of-way along Mill Road and adjacent to 2460 Mill Road.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 4-1403 (PERMITTED USES), 4-1403.1 (ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIAL USES), and 4-1404 (SPECIAL USES) of Article IV (COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0001. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0001 to add permitted uses, administrative uses, and special uses to the NR/Neighborhood Retail zone (Arlandria).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 2-145 (FLOOR AREA RATIO) and 2-195 (STORY) of Article II (DEFINITIONS), amend and reordain 7-202 (PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS), and add new Sections 2-113.1 (ARCHITECTURAL FEATURE) and 2-194.1 (STAIRS) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2017-0001. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2017-0001 to amend Sections 2-145, 2-195, and 7-202 and to add new sections 2-113.1 and 2-194.1 regarding floor area ratio.

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, March 24, 2018. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Making March Matter

FROM PAGE 22

has taken up residence at 107 N Fairfax St in Alexandria for the last two and a half years, jumped at the opportunity to make this month matter for current and future patients of CNMC.

“As a gathering point for the community, we feel that we are uniquely positioned to not only make and serve the best gelato and coffee in town, but also rally the community for great causes like Make March Matter,” said Eric Roper, the owner and general manager of Old Town Dolci Gelati. “As an ice cream shop, we see a lot of kids and families come through the shop each spring and summer and we really try to focus on causes to support children. Knowing that Children’s National helps 230,000 kids every year, being able to assist with their fundraising really aligns with our mission and beliefs.”

While most of D.C.’s Make March Matters participants are new to fundraising for Children’s National Medical Center, others are veterans to contributing to the D.C. children’s health giant. The team at Alexandria’s Sara Campbell, a women’s clothing boutique at 320 Prince St.

in Alexandria, routinely participates in CNMC fundraisers, and Make March Matter is no exception.

“Children’s National is a very special organization to our community,” said Alanna Swisher, Sara Campbell assistant manager. “We all know some family who has been touched by their services, whether it be nutritional counseling or something far more serious, that we all pray will never affect us. It is our pleasure to support such a well-respected medi-

cal institution making a difference every day in so many children’s lives.”

Swisher added that the goal is for Sara Campbell to raise at least \$1,000.

Although new to the Alexandria scene, Twist Boutique at 109 N Fairfax St. has also pledged to make March matter.

“While I have had a personal experience with Children’s National, as my son was referred there for occupational therapy, even before this I was aware of them and the great work they do for children,” said Twist Boutique owner Kristen Moore. “Not only did I know I wanted to be a part of helping them raise funds, I knew that there would be strength in numbers and that other businesses would be participating to help ensure their fundraising success.

Whether local businesses hold a one-day event, a month-long promotion, or anything in between, Jones said she has been impressed with the ideas that have surfaced from local businesses.

“Everyone is activating in a way that works for them,” Jones said. “Some are holding promotions that last the entire month, some one day, some two days, some one week, and so on.”

CNMC is the second hospital to launch its own Make March Matter, and Jones already anticipates that it will be an overwhelming hit in this region.

“The campaign itself ends March 31, but a number of the businesses will continue to fundraise throughout the year,” she said. “And, right after this March 31, we will start planning for Make March Matter 2019. We’re hoping to make this a national movement.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK’S DAY

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app’s “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to

\$15) safe ride home. WRAP’s St. Patrick’s Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 2 p.m. on March 17 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

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OPINION

No Budget

FROM PAGE 26

reform in the wake of several incidents arising in the 2017 election and to consider the implementation of no-excuse absentee voting. Five of my bills were referred to this interim committee including SB602, which would provide for "no-excuse absentee voting."

Outright hostility from Republicans toward all gun violence prevention efforts resulted in a disappointing year. Over 60 gun violence prevention measures were put forward and defeated, including my bills to ban bump stocks (SB1), institute universal background checks (SB5), and prohibit carrying firearms while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (SB2). Despite the current legislative stalemate, I am inspired by the movement taking shape in the wake of the terrible tragedy in Parkland, Florida. Young people across the country are taking action to demand gun sense reforms, and I urge like-minded supporters to join me in standing with them.

On Wednesday, April 18 we will reconvene for our one day "veto" session, when the General Assembly is to consider Governor Northam's amendments and vetoes.

Now that session is over, I'm reporting to constituent groups and doing my homework for 2019. If your group wishes to request a legislative update, email my office at district30@senate.virginia.gov. Also, please consider following me on Twitter (@AdamEbbin) and Facebook.

It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 30th District.

School Safety

FROM PAGE 8

us in this venture. This is not about partisan rhetoric or taking people's guns away. It is about hearing from the people we represent to ensure we are taking the best actions possible to curb gun violence.

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, Counties, Cities, & Towns, and Agriculture, Chesapeake & Natural Resources Committees. Visit www.chnieleherring.com.

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Obituary

George A. Weisiger, 74, of Jacksonville, FL, died January 25, 2018. Born October 6, 1943 in Alexandria, Va., George was the son of Jesse and Sarah Weisiger and resided in both Alexandria then in Fairfax County and graduated from Groveton High School in 1965. Upon graduation from R.P.I., present-day Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond Va. he served in the U.S. Army then employed by the Civil Service in Ft. Knox, Ky. He is survived by his sister Jessie Dyess and a nephew Tom Dyess and his family in Jacksonville FL. George cherished his home places in Alexandria and Fairfax County. Go Groveton Tigers!

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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Obituary

Obituary



Emma Gean (Richburg) Knotts, known as "Gean" or "Dorie" to friends and family, age 81, of Opp, Alabama died Thursday, February 8, 2018 in the local hospital surrounded by family. She was born in Laurel Hill, FL to her late parents, Emma (Mikel) and William Chester (Brewer) Richburg, and later grew up in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. It was there she met and married on June 9, 1952 Sergeant/Airman First Class William H. Knotts. As an Air Force family, they lived nationally/internationally - spending significant time in Smithsburg, MD (23 yrs.), and Alexandria, VA (22 yrs.) before returning to her southern home in Opp, AL (14 yrs.). Mrs. Knotts was a floral designer/manager for over 25 years (e.g., Rosehill Florist) and a lifetime member of the Air Force Sergeants Association. She was devoted to her family, a competitive bowler, enjoyed dancing, playing cards, working for hours on jigsaw puzzles, gardening, and quietly watching butterflies and birds. Mrs. Knotts is survived by her husband, retired MSGT, William "Bill" H. Knotts of Opp, AL; children: Carol A. Ambrose & husband Herbert Ambrose of Saint Cloud, MN; William "Billy" L. Knotts of Opp, AL; Debra J. Chassey & husband Phillip Chassey, III of East Bridgewater, MA; and Rebecca L. Knotts of Coxs Creek, KY; 5 grandchildren & 14 great-grandchildren; and 30 nieces & nephews. Visitation services were held on February 14, 2018 at Wyatt Funeral Home, Opp, AL. Mrs. Knotts' graveside services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Obituary

Obituary



Mary Frances "Polly" Theban, a longtime resident of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on February 16, 2018 after a brief illness. Polly was born in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio on September 17, 1939. She was an only child born to her mother, Mary Frances "Molly" Sanborn Theban, and to her father, John G. Theban. She was raised as a small child in Remsenburg, New York and moved to Alexandria, Virginia when she was 12 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Theban purchased their initial home in Old Town Alexandria on Wolfe Street and within a few years, relocated to their beloved home on S. Fairfax Street which remained in the family until April 2016. At that time, Polly retired to Remsenburg, New York to enjoy the beautiful and rural countryside where nature brought her great happiness. Polly graduated

Smith College with a major in History and a minor in English. She then attended graduate school at Columbia University's School of Social Work. She had a dedicated professional life in teaching—initially for 12 years in Istanbul, Turkey, and then returning to Fairfax County Public Schools where she demonstrated her proficiency in the "English as a Second Language Program" (ESL). Polly was deeply inspired by her father's dedication and leadership of the Family and Child Services of Washington, DC, a private organization serving low-income families, and she continued to serve on the organization's board after Mr. Theban's death. She will be most remembered for her extraordinary generous spirit and love of literature. With open arms and an infectious smile, she was an unwavering source of support to all. This compassion extended to all animals as she was a fierce protector of wildlife and supporter of numerous animal rescue efforts over the years. Polly was a passionate sailor and enthusiast of the SS Class—the classic wooden boats native to the South Shore of Long Island. She was the proud skipper of her SS named "Loon," which she sailed in the Quantuck and Moriches Bays. With a keen intellect, open mind, and wonderful wit, Polly charmed all who met her. She will be forever missed and loved by those whose lives were blessed by her warmth and affection.

Memorial donations can be made to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria, Virginia. Attention: Megan Webb, AWLA's International Care Fund.

"Introspections"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

According to my oncologist, it's time, way past time in fact (not so much 'fact,' more like his experiences with other cancer patients) that I make more significant changes in my cancer treatment than I have diagnosis to date. What he means, specifically – and what we regularly discuss – is extending the interval of my CT Scan, which currently occurs every three months.

Not so much to minimize the radiation exposure, more so due to my continuing survival. No one's ready to characterize me as "N.E.D.," (no evidence of disease), but neither does it appear, based on the last five years – since I was hospitalized and began my alimta infusions, that my tumors are growing and/or moving; at least not as indicated with any clinical significance.

Nevertheless, the prospect of waiting longer to find out if any tumor action has occurred is unsettling. Currently, given that I am generally asymptomatic, the primary way that I learn if there's been "progression," is by the computerized tomography of my lungs/upper torso. Rarely have symptoms manifested themselves otherwise. And when they have, they've as often indicated nothing as something – and vice versa; meaning, sometimes no symptoms still showed growth. So it's confusing, counter intuitive and contra-indicated, and I'm stuck in the middle.

While maintaining this quarterly scan schedule, I have extended the interval between infusions however: from every three weeks originally to every six weeks now. Which means I've reduced the amount of chemotherapy I receive by 50 percent per quarter. Still the scans have showed "stable." Given that I'm starting my 10th year post diagnosis, perhaps it's time to scan less and live more?

Our concern has been that if the CT Scan continues to be the first real indicator/confirmation that tumor growth has occurred – and if so, presumably different/more aggressive/life-sustaining tactics would need to be employed (immunotherapy comes to print, which I have not yet utilized), why wait through the fourth month to find out? Maybe that month's-long delay in scanning would matter in possibly nipping my tumor growth in the bud?

My oncologist's thinking is that so little change has occurred during the past five years that perhaps it's reasonable to take advantage of my amazing good fortune and extend the interval?

Moreover, with respect to my quality of life, reducing the weeks of stress we experience leading up to the scan, and of course the stress the week after, waiting for results, would enhance our lives; and eliminating that stress and improving the quality of our lives has always been an interest/concern of my oncologist.

And I appreciate his concern for our overall well being; and I would like to have less cancer-related impact on my life but, yes, there's always a 'but.' If I extend the scan interval, I might worry about what's happening in my lungs during the month after I would have already been scanned? What if? I mean, it's not as if we can't go back in time, sort of. We can always restart, re-interval, re-scan, re-everything; so I've been reassured. Why not re-engage more with life and rearrange less because of cancer?

Maybe I've survived nine-plus years with a terminal form of cancer because I'm meant to? Why not leverage my many good results and better manage my cancer commitments? Perhaps it's time to take control of my life and live like I'm not dying? Heck, I've done alright so far. Who's to say I can't do better?

If my oncologist characterizes me as his third miracle, then maybe I should start living more miraculously?

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

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News

Accidental

FROM PAGE 1

charge occurred.

"We don't ever want this to happen again," Berlin said. "There has never been an incident like this."

ACPS would not comment on the incident and directed questions to the police department. Brown confirmed at the community meeting that the bullet went through the wall of a classroom, and according to a police department news release, the officer "immediately checked for potential injuries in the area," and then alerted his supervisor and school staff.

"We had crime scene investigators in there to find out specifically where the round went," said Alexandria Police spokeswoman Crystal Nosal.

Parents were notified of the incident by email at 10:30 a.m. — an hour and 20 minutes after the shot was fired.

Mayor Allison Silberberg expressed concern and said that the safety of Alexandria students is paramount.

"I have great confidence in Police Chief Mike Brown in determining what happened," she said. "The officer is on administrative leave, pending investigation, which is standard. I have spoken at length with Chief Brown as well as School Superintendent Dr. Lois Berlin and City Manager Mark Jinks, and I will be talking with the School Board and the Council as we examine options for protecting our children."

Alexandria City Public Schools have had armed school resource officers for over 25 years, and a replacement officer has already been brought into GW.

"This is a frightening incident for the students and families of George Washington Middle," Alexandria Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said. "I look forward to the results of the APD investigation to determine what occurred and how it can be prevented in the future."

GW Principal Jesse Mazur sent students home with a letter explaining what happened and asking parents that they talk to their children about the incident.

"Children react differently to these kinds of situations," Mazur wrote. "We will be checking in on students throughout this week and next to ensure they are supported. The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority."

City Councilor John Chapman said that the school resource officer program should be eliminated.

"I think today's incident is a close-to-home example of why expanding the SRO program to have them stationed at elementary schools is an idea that needs to be immediately thrown out as we look for security enhancements at our schools," he said.

Dak Hardwick, who is running for the Democratic nomination to the City Council, said that the incident will help the city determine choices about access to firearms in Alexandria schools.

"While this appears to be an isolated incident, it further illustrates the need for our community to come together and decide the best way forward for our city," he said.

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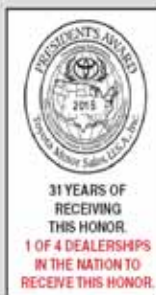
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A team built on reputation.

When John McEneaney opened for business, he had one simple goal in mind...attract the best real estate agents in the business to his firm so that McEneaney Associates could provide the highest level of service to our clients. For the past 37 years we have had the good fortune to see that wish come true. They are the reason so many clients trust McEneaney Associates. They are responsible for our enviable reputation. To put it simply...they are McEneaney Associates.



OPEN SUN 3/18, 2-4



Braddock Heights | \$939,900

Charming farmhouse style residence with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Lovely front porch, large family room, open concept main level, master with en-suite bath and two walk-in closets, updated kitchen and off-street parking. thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/2403-davis/
Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

OPEN SUN 3/18, 2-4



Hollindale | \$850,000

This spectacular contemporary has been beautifully expanded and renovated to include inviting custom built-in features, unique architectural finishes and beautiful spaces both in-doors and out for living and entertaining. 1605 Hollindale Drive
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com

OPEN SUN 3/18, 2-4



Westgrove | \$775,000

Fabulous open floor plan. Large living room and dining room with wood-burning fireplace. Renovated kitchen, granite counters, ample cabinet storage and lovely sunroom leads to a lushly landscaped back yard with patio. Minutes to Old Town. 1300 Westgrove Blvd
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Alexandria City | \$269,000

Top floor unit with nice views off the private balcony. Updated open kitchen, fireplace in living room, master bedroom with large walk-in closet, large bath has shower with separate jetted tub and second shower. Well maintained community with pool.
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
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www.seniorservicesalex.org

OPEN SUN 3/18, 2-4



Old Town | \$939,900

Fantastic 4-level townhome in Chatham Square. Still shines like new build, this 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath residence offers an open concept, bright rooms, finished basement and an unbeatable location close to the waterfront. thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/413-oronoco/
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Old Town

\$929,000

Stunning end unit in the sought-after SE quadrant! This lovely 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath house gleams with natural sunlight and has winter water views from 2 floors. Renovated kitchen and baths, fenced yard, deck and 2-car driveway. No HOA. 932 S Fairfax St.

Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
www.tracybdunn.com

OPEN SUN 3/18, 1-4



Old Town Gateway

\$769,000

Light & bright 3-level, end unit brick townhouse only one stop light to DC. 2 bedrooms + den, 2.5 bathrooms. Gas fireplace. Fully upgraded master bath and kitchen with desk space. Walk out private patio. 2 assigned parking spaces. Low HOA fee. 952 N Washington St.

Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180
www.BarbaraCousens.com



South Kings

Station

\$375,000

Beautifully maintained 3-level end townhome near Metro! Walk-out lower level with full bath could be 3rd bedroom. Fenced backyard backs to wooded area. Wood-burning fireplace 2 master suites! 2 assigned spaces. Near shopping & Express bus.

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