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March 29, 2018

Silent No More Students from Northern Virginia come out in force against gun violence.

By James Cullum Gazette Packet

Wadler touched the hearts of the world. On Saturday, the 11year -old student at George Mason Elementary School in Alexandria. spoke in front of an estimated 200,000 people at the March For Our Lives demonstration in Washington, D.C. She recently helped organize her school walkout on March 14 in the aftermath of the Feb. 14 shooting that left 17 teachers and students dead at Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

"I am here today to acknowledge and represent the African American girls whose stories don't make the front page of every national newspaper, whose stories don't lead on the evening news," she said.

The March For Our Lives event on March 24 was led by students from across the country, and 800



At King Street Metro, state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) addresses participants in the March For Our Lives.

events were held around the globe. Chants of "Vote them out!" rang out as Parkland survivors rallied their generation to take their message to the polls.

"This is a movement," Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School senior Delaney Tarr told the audience. "We can not move on. If we move on, the NRA [National Rifle Association] and those against us will win."

T.C. Williams High School student leader Jay Falk, 18, who organized a day against gun violence at her school on Feb. 27, marched with hundreds of her classmates. "Gun violence hits high schools

with a very personalized terror," Falk said. "We see the victims in Parkland and they look very much like us. This Saturday we stood up for the very first time as a generation and proclaimed, 'Not one

more!' This is only the beginning of a groundswell for young people in America. We are 30 percent of the electorate, and politicians with an A from the NRA are going to start feeling it at the polls in November."

Maya Nir, 18, a senior at H.B. Woodlawn marched with 12 of her

"We watch people our age and younger innocently lose their lives, like time and time again, their whole childhood and we think it's time for a change," she said. "We think there needs to be common sense gun control in America. We want to see a ban on assault rifles, we want to see universal background checks, mental sanity checks and we want to set limits on the kind of ammo people can load in small periods of time. We don't think assault rifles belong in our schools in the hands of people our age.

Kai Davis, 18, left Great Mills High School, Md., two months ago See Joining, Page 4

Farewell to Founder of City's St. Patrick's Day Parade



Pat and Bernadette Troy were granted an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on Sept. 11, 2013.

Friends and family recall life of Pat Troy.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

at Troy was larger than life. An Irish immigrant who never went to high school, he became one of Alexandria's most colorful and beloved citizens as owner of Ireland's Own Irish Pub and Restaurant. On March 22, just days after serving as Grand Marshal for the St. Patrick's Day parade he founded 37 years ago, Troy died following a brief battle with cancer. He was 76.

"Pat Troy truly was an Alexandria Living Legend," said Mayor Allison Silberberg of the honor that was bestowed on Troy in 2010. "He was a prominent business leader, the founder of the parade and a dear friend. It really is incredible the impact he had on this city and the story of his life mirrors the American Dream."

Patrick Ronald Troy was born July 12, 1941, in Oxford, England, to Michael and Kathleen Troy. The

eldest of three sons, his parents moved to England from Kilcormac, in County Offaly, Ireland, soon after their marriage and returned to Kilcormac a few months after Troy was born.

"My parents always wanted us to know where we came from and See Friends, Page 6

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there when it counts

Sheriff on ICE

Lawhorne addresses criticisms for cooperating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

By Vernon Miles Gazette Packet

here had been rumblings in the community for a while. At the International Women's Day event, feminist activists said the city needed to stand up for immigrant rights and reject its relationship with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. At a City Council meeting on March 17, community members repeated requests for the Alexandria's Sheriff's Office to end its relationship with ICE.

"These families are really feeling attacked," said Maya Taylor, a community organizer with Tenants and Workers United. "This feeling of oppression is at all levels of government, including Alexandria. Leaders have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect all its citizens."

Taylor said there were serious concerns about the protocol for the Sheriff's Of-

"These families

— Maya Taylor

fice in dealing with ICE.

"[Alexandria] is detaining indi- are really feeling viduals 48 hours past local release attacked. date when ICE sends an administrative warrant,"

said Taylor. "It's not a judicial warrant, not signed by a judge. From 2016 to 2017, number of individuals transferred from Alexandria to ICE almost doubled. [This is] 109 families impacted under voluntary policies. Encourage Lawhorne to require ICE to present judicial warrant. No federal law that requires local jails to honor administrative warrants.

"Fairfax and Arlington have said if ICE wants to prolong detainment of individual, ICE needs to bring judicial warrant

Taylor also said there were concerns that Alexandria was offering additional bed space to ICE detainees, promising them ney General, you're upholding access to jail for overflow space.

Finally, in the March 20 City Council meeting, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne came before the City Council to address the criti-

cisms. Lawhorne agreed that he'd seen fear in the community as a result of rhetoric under the new administration. Lawhorne said he asked his deputies to keep an eye on immigration policies and to work closely with local immigrant community groups.

"Our policies and practices have not changed since 2008," said Lawhorne. "Unfortunately what's happened recently is things have been misinterpreted and gotten off track. By law we are required to do certain things when it comes to ICE. We follow that law.

Lawhorne said when someone is brought in as an inmate, their fingerprints go into the state database, which is then sent to the FBI and then to ICE.

"We've told ICE if you want us to hold someone, you have to send us form 200, an arrest warrant," said Lawhorne. "Fairfax and Arlington can say they don't honor judicial war-

> rants, but they still turn people over to ICE.

Lawhorne noted that while Fairfax is preparing to terminate its contract with

ICE to provide bed space, Alexandria's situation isn't as simple.

When the jail was built in 1987, the city entered into an agreement with the federal government to provide extra floor space to provide room for federal inmates when they receive a request," said Lawhorne.

Lawhorne said that the Sheriff Office's cooperation with ICE is limited to what is required by

"You have an obligation to uphold the law," said Mayor Allison Silberberg. "Barring an opinion that might or might not be forthcoming from the Attorthe law as such."

"If the Attorney General says tonight not to uphold that law," said Lawhorne, "then we won't."

A Penny Borrowed

City to expand borrowing for capital needs, but mindful of credit rating, other impacts.

By Dan Brendel Gazette Packet

o finance capital projects, the city plans to increase borrowing, growing its outstanding debt by 55 percent between FY19 and FY28, while still retaining favorable bond ratings.

The city faces major capital needs, especially with respect to aging sewers, schools, city facilities and transit. This year, the city plans to finance about half of its 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) through general obligation debt, backed by the "full faith and credit" of the city, and half through cash. This "greatly exceeds the very healthy level of 25 [percent]" cash funding, reflecting "the City's commitment to ... keep its debt at reasonable AAA/Aaa [credit rating] levels," according the the city manager's CIP proposal.

"The City has historically issued all debt as general obligation debt, regardless of the source of payment," according to a March 14 budget memo. "The City has the option to secure revenue-backed bonds for Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Management projects, but opts

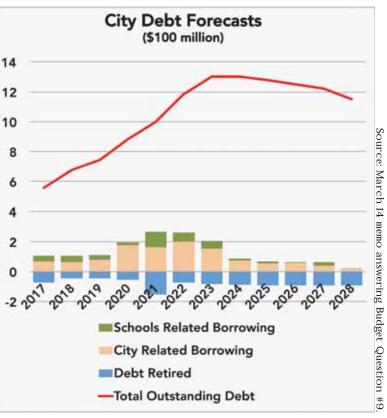
against this as the revenue-backed bonds would not a percentage of the tax base low has meant leaving have as advantageous a bond rating By issuing Sanitary and Storm Sewer bonds with a general obligation (GO) pledge even though there is a user-fee generated revenue stream, the City achieves the lowest interest rates possible.'

On the one hand, the city could issue much more debt than it plans to. The only restriction the Commonwealth places on the city is that its outstanding debt must not exceed 10 percent of its total assessed real property value. Yet, including all outstanding debt forecasted over the next decade, that ratio for the city rises no higher than about 3 percent. In its calculation the city excludes sewer and stormwater debt — which it plans to pay with fees rather than taxes — such that the ratio never exceeds the selfimposed limit of 2.5 percent.

"It is an important indicator of the City's ability to repay debt because real property taxes are the primary source of the City's revenues used to repay debt. A small ratio is an indication that the City will be better able to withstand possible future economic downturns and continue to meet its debt obligations," according to the budget memo.

By 2028, the city forecasts the total value of taxable real property to increase by about a third to nearly \$53 billion. Taxes from certain utilities and railroads, which aren't assessed locally, would boost that figure a little higher.

In practice over the past 10 years, keeping debt as www.alexandriava.gov/budget.



The heaviest spending to overhaul the city's four Combined Sewer Outfalls (CSOs) is slated to occur FY22-23, with expenditures in each year exceeding \$100 million. Similarly, \$259 million (over half) of the school system's CIP spending will occur FY21-23. Among other capital expenses, those years contain three major construction projects: additional high school capacity, swing capacity/ new future school, rebuilding Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

as much as \$3.3 billion in untapped legal debt ca-

On the other hand, increasing debt would mean increasing debt service, further cramping the operating budget.

"The only way to pay for [more debt service] is to increase taxes/fees or reduce something else," said Kendel Taylor, the city's finance director, in an email.

As it is, total debt service will double, from \$72 million in FY19 to \$144 million in FY28. Most of this will come from the city's General Fund. Additionally, once projects are built, it costs money for maintenance, staff, utilities, etc. to keep them up and

The city's capital projects will have an estimated \$2 million operating impact in FY19, rising to \$11 million in FY28, according to the CIP proposal. That doesn't including the operating impact of the schools'

Overall, according the CIP proposal, the city's more stringent self-imposed debt limits: "(1) accommodate the City's current capital needs, (2) give the City the flexibility to meet future/unanticipated capital needs, and (3) maintain a fiscally moderate position for the City that is in line with regional comparators and what bond rating agencies would view as acceptable."

Find all budget materials

Joining in The March For Our Lives

From Page 1

because he felt "unsafe." One 16-year-old student was killed and another injured when a 17-year-old opened fire outside the school at 7:57 a.m. on March 20.

"I didn't feel welcome or safe there," Davis said. "I'm transgender and it wasn't really, like, healthy for me to stay there. I thought my friends were killed in the last school shooting and it affected me personally."

Julia O'Brien, 13, drove nine hours to D.C. with her family and friends from Savannah, Ga.

"We see this in the news and we just think how we don't want it to ever happen again," O'Brien said. "I think that we should get rid of semi-automatic weapons and bump stocks and silencers."

Imani Scott-Blackwell, 22, is a student at the University of Georgia. She's running for the school board in Clarke County, wore a Black Lives Matter T-shirt and marched with 20 others belonging to the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement.

"We don't want teachers armed," Scott-Blackwell said. "We don't want more officers, we don't want occupation in the schools. We want policy changes to make children the priority."

The NRA did not release a statement regarding the march.



Alexandrian Megan Challender, a domestic violence attorney, marched across the Memorial Bridge with her teacher husband, Daniel Baldwin, and her two-year-old son Eli.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), a former Democratic vice presidential candidate, governor and mayor marched in his hometown of Richmond.

"To all who participated in #MarchForOurLives yesterday — your ac-

tivism is changing the equation and putting the right pressure on Congress to finally pass reforms that will make our communities safer," Kaine wrote on Facebook the following day. "We couldn't have passed the changes on background record checks and gun violence research that we did this week without you, and we're going to need your continued active engagement in order to go further. Next step: universal background checks and an assault weapons ban."

Kaine's counterpart, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D) did not march, but his office noted a recent interview on CBS' Face The Nation, where Warner discussed the rallies and need for Congress to act on gun legislation.

"I think it's time to change our positions and re-examine them," Warner said. "I think this time it's going to be different ... I think we can actually get it done."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) was unable to march since he was on a fact finding mission at Yellowstone National Park.

"After years of inaction, students and young people across the country have inspired millions to demand real gun reform," Beyer said in a statement. "Their sustained pressure over the past month is why this time feels different. I applaud their grassroots organizing, commitment and dedication to ensure this remains a movement, not just a moment. Because of them, I am more optimistic than ever that we can actually get something done to reduce gun violence in this country."

See Joining, Page 20





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Pat Troy, seated, is shown in the last photograph taken with his family. Pictured are Dow Troy (daughter-in-law), Reyha Troy (granddaughter), Patrick Troy, Pat Troy, Bernadette Troy, Kathleen Molloy, Mairead Molloy (granddaughter), Alan Molloy (son-in-law).



On May 2, 2017, Pat Troy received the Irish Spirit Award at the firstever Irish Heritage Night at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. He is shown here on the stadium's video monitor with his wife Bernadette and son Patrick

Friends, Family Recall Life of Pat Troy

From Page 1

how important it was for us to be Irish," said Troy's daughter Kathleen Molloy. "Every summer Dad would take us back to Ireland. He never forgot his family or his heritage."

As a teen, Troy worked as a butler at Birr Castle for five years, where he met an American tourist who offered to sponsor him for his move to America. In 1961, he immigrated to Washington, D.C., where he met his future wife Bernadette the following year.

"My parents met at a dance," Molloy said.
"Mom was the first woman he laid eyes on and for them, it was love at first sight."

The couple married in 1966 and together purchased the Irish Walk Import Store in Old Town in 1974. In 1980, Troy opened Ireland's Own Bar and Restaurant, where for many years he hosted the diocesan Theology on Tap series for young adults.

"Any Catholic in their 20s-40s knows Pat through Theology on Tap," said Ken Wolfe, who met his wife Amy at one of the Monday night events. "Pat went out of his way to be a proprietor, not just a restaurant



Pat Troy

owner. He had a gift for getting people to meet their neighbor. He leaves Old Town with so many wonderful memories."

Upon first arriving in America, Troy worked as a butler serving the elite including the

Kennedy family. He went on to sell insurance before beginning his business ventures in Old Town. He appeared on "What's My Line?" in 1963 and was the host of The Irish Radio Show for 45 years. For 35 years, he was the proprietor of Ireland's Own Restaurant & Pub and was famous for his rendition of "The Unicorn."

Troy founded two divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and was a member of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and of the Knights of Columbus Fitzgerald Council 459. He was involved with the Rose of Tralee for 20 years.

Through his involvement with Project

Children, he helped bring Catholic and Protestant children to the U.S. during the summer to escape the conflicts in Northern Ireland. He was active in both the local and Irish communities and was a longtime parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary in Old Town.

According to Molloy, the highlight of Troy's life was entertaining President Ronald Reagan at his pub in 1988 and meeting Pope Benedict and Pope Francis. In 2017, Troy was the first recipient of the Irish Spirit award given by the Washington Nationals baseball team.

In 2011, Troy published his autobiography, "I Have a Story to Tell," describing his life as a butler, businessman, Irish-American and Catholic. He was involved in the Old Town Civic Association and served on the board of governors with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Alexandria Visitor Center.

"Dad was equally as proud of being American as he was being Irish," Molloy said. "You wouldn't believe the number of American shirt and ties we are finding in

See Farewell, Page 7



Pat Troy sits in front of Birr Castle, County Offaly, Ireland, where he worked as a butler before immigrating to America in 1961.



Pat and Bernadette Troy were married Sept. 1, 1966 at St Mary's Church in Lanesborough, County Longford, Ireland.



Pat Troy lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on March 26, 2011.



In 2012, Pat Troy turned over the ownership of Ireland's Own to longtime employee Scott Holdt.

Obituary

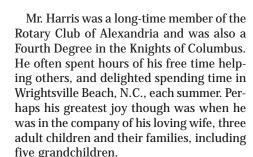
James Rodgers Harris

ames R. Harris, of Alexandria, died peacefully on March 4, 2018, surrounded by family. He was 84 years old.

Born in Aurora, N.C. on Jan. 26, 1934, he moved to Del Ray in Al-

exandria, with his family when he was 6 years old. He was a 1952 graduate of George Washington High School in Alexandria. In 1952 he enlisted in the USCG, where he served for 4 years. During this time he met the love of his life, Mary (Patsy) Ignacio. They were married for 56 years, until her death in 2013.

After his discharge from the USCG, Mr. Harris trained to become an electrician, working in the Alexandria area. In 1969, he opened his own firm, James R. Harris, Inc., a mechanical and electrical contractor, on Duke Street in Alexandria. For the next 30 years, he remained at the helm of his company working primarily in the Old Town Alexandria area.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ignacio Harris. He is survived by his children James R. Harris, Jr. (wife Nina) of Madison Heights, Va., Gina Harris Sikora (husband Dan) of Boulder, Colo., and Christina Harris Gerke (husband Bill) of Alexandria, and five grandchildren (Ben Gerke, Stephen Gerke, Caroline Gerke, Joe Sikora and Aly Sikora).

A funeral service and celebration of his life will be held on Friday, April 6, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his name to the Rotary Club of Alexandria.



Pat Troy, center, welcomes the crowd to the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18. Troy and his wife Bernadette, right, served as Grand Marshals of the parade he founded 37 years ago. With them is Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Farewell to Pat Troy

From Page 6

his closet."

Troy is survived by his wife of 52 years, Bernadette, his children, Kathleen and Patrick, son-in-law, Alan Molloy, daughterin-law, Dow, and granddaughters, Mairead and Reyha.

He is also survived by his brothers, Michael and Desmond of Kilcormac, County Offaly, Ireland.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, April 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place Saturday, April 7 at 11 a.m. at The Basilica of St. Mary, 310 S. Royal St. Interment immediately following at St. Mary's Cemetery, 1001 S. Royal St. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families, 4901 Eastern Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20782 and Christ House 131 S. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

"Dad always wanted to go out in a blaze of glory and by God he did," said Molloy of losing her father just days after the St. Patrick's Day Parade. "But hard as it has been, to see the love between he and my mother his last few days with us was just beautiful and something we'll hang onto forever."



Pat Troy celebrates his 70th birthday at Ireland's Own in 2011.



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News



Mayor Allison Silberberg, third from left, poses for a photo with honorees at the Rotary Club of Alexandria's Charter Night March 24 at Belle Haven Country Club. Pictured are: Paul Anderson, incoming Rotary president; Peter Knetemann, recipient of the Distinguished Rotarian Award; Silberberg; Lynnwood Campbell, recipient of the Gordon Peyton, Jr. Community Caring Award; Sharon Meisel, Rotary presidentelect; and Mike Wicks, Rotary president.

'Service Above Self'

Rotary Club of Alexandria turns 90.

he Rotary Club of Alexandria celebrated its 90th anniversary March 24 at Charter Night, the annual recognition of the signing of the organization's chartering by Rotary International on March 14, 1928. Held at Belle Haven Country Club, several members and community leaders were recognized for their service. Peter Knetemann, a past Rotary Club

president, was the recipient of the Distinguished Rotarian award. Lynnwood Campbell was presented with the Gordon Peyton, Jr. Community Caring Award, while Nancy Van Gulick was recognized as Rotarian of the year. Donald Simpson, Sr., who was not able to attend, was honored for his decades of service to the organization. rotaryclubofalexandria.net

— Jeanne Theismann



Janet Barnett and Mitch Opalski of Synergy HomeCare at the Rotary Club of Alexandria Charter Night March 24 at Belle **Haven Country Club.**







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All Alexandria Reads Returns

The Alexandria Library has launched its annual one book program All Alexandria Reads, an initiative designed to create shared experiences through reading.

This year, Alexandria is reading an all-American story about a dog: "Sergeant Stubby: How a Stray Dog and His Best Friend Helped Win World War I and Stole the Heart of a Nation" by award-winning author Ann Bausum.

Similar themed books for a knit-a-thon, a pop-up pup party, younger readers will be featured too.

The All Alexandria Reads program began March 27. A feature event is planned for April 5 with author Ann Bausum and the program concludes with an introduction to dog training on May 21.

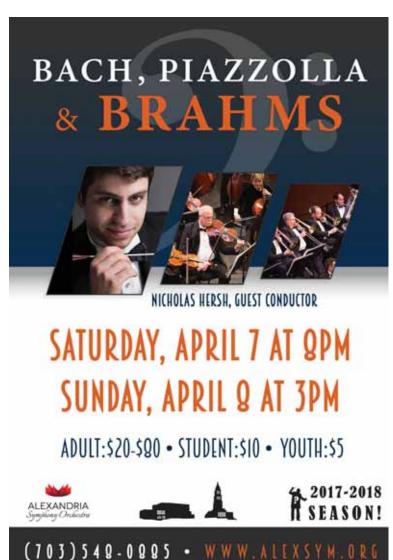
The series of events also includes book discussions, story times, craft and music programs,

a yappy hour and a range of lectures on both canines and local military history.

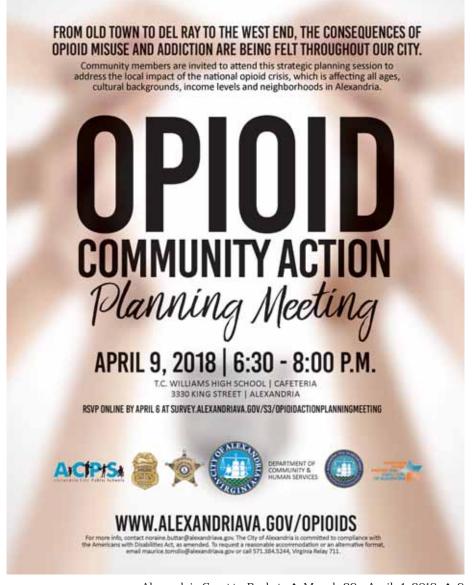
With the exception of the April 5 author talk, events will take place at various library locations throughout Alexandria.

For program details, visit https:/ /bit.ly/AAR2018.

— Rikki George







Opinion 'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin State Senator (D-30)

Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV



following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.

'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

Letters to the Editor

Housing: Talk Or Action?

To the Editor:

Alexandria has lost over 17,000 market-affordable rental homes since 2000 - a shocking 90 percent loss of the city's moderately priced housing stock. These apartment buildings were the victims of sweeping market forces that have demolished older housing stock in desirable close-in locations throughout the region. In their place, we've seen an explosion of high cost rental housing that is threatening to change the very character of our city, enabling only the wealthiest of households to live here.

As the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment approaches \$1,700 a month, working residents with modest incomes, new families with young children, and seniors on fixed incomes are being priced out of the city's housing market. Our workforce in the restaurant and hospitality industry, healthcare workers, small business employees, and may others struggle to find housing that they can afford. As affordable housing opportunities diminish, their choices are bleak: pay more for rent, or move farther away (from your community, job, church, school, services).

We know that many families are paying more than 50 percent of their income for rent, with little remaining for food, transportation, medi-10 Alexandria Gazette Packet March 29 -

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated.

Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours.

I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate.

Speak up by calling your elected officials. Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.

Get involved at election time.

Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay

active. Vote.

Commentary

Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an

end to gun violence. The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target.

When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes

cal expenses or childcare. Just ask the exten-

sive network of nonprofit organizations and

faith communities in Alexandria who form the

safety-net of services for these residents. Col-

lectively, they provide almost \$1 million an-

nually for emergency assistance to households

in need, with rental assistance being the num-

Our city's economic well-being, resiliency,

and valued diversity is being tested by this is-

sue. The mayor and members of City Council

have spoken frequently over the past few years

about the importance of affordable housing,

but there is reason to question their commit-

ment. While broad market forces have elimi-

nated the vast majority of our affordable stock,

it is the mission of a small, experienced group

of developers to build new affordable hous-

ing. However, this cannot happen without pub-

lic sector investment in these projects. Multiple

funding sources are needed for financing these

developments, and local government dollars

are a critical component in producing housing

Recently the Office of Housing made a pre-

sentation to Council, warning that the city's

investment fund for known projects in the de-

velopment pipeline over the next 3-5 years was

an estimated \$66 million short. Councilman

Will Bailey introduced a proposal to increase

the meals tax by 1 percent, creating a \$4.75

million annual stream of funding for afford-

able housing production. Additional strategies

that is affordable to lower income residents.

ber one request.

April 4, 2018

to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as caveation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange.

A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute. Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds. Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned. Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls an concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough.

We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline.

We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back.

We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

were presented, ranging from an increase in the property tax to a voluntary program that asked restaurant patrons to contribute to a housing fund. The conversation from the Council dais was inconclusive with no clear followup plan for further discussion or action, even as members spoke about the importance and priority of this issue.

In addition to the zoning and land use tools that the city utilizes to promote affordable housing, a source of funding to support this development is essential. Potential sources include a meals tax increase, which would be broadly shared and have a negligible impact on the customer; or a line item in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that allocates an established amount of funding to housing production over a ten-year period. Additionally, Council could make a commitment of an annual allocation of general tax revenue to the Housing Fund. What is important is that the source be reliable, substantial enough to address housing needs, and provided annually. It is time to call the question. Supportive words are nice, but insufficient. Council must act now and find a way to address this important and growing need for our city.

Michelle Krocker

Executive Director, Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance, Coordinator for Housing Alexandria See Letters, Page 11

Alexandria Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Letters

From Page 10

Drivers That Injure or Kill

To the Editor:

Alexandria Families For Safe Street (AFSS) would like to express our appreciation to state Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Mark Levine and Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter for their efforts to amend traffic laws in Virginia. Both Sen. Ebbin and Del. Levine submitted bills that would have raised the level of penalties on drivers who violate the traffic laws and crash into a pedestrian causing serious injury or death. The current law states that unless a driver is deemed "reckless," the penalty for that driver crashing into and seriously injuring or killing a pedestrian is a Class 4 Misdemeanor which carries a \$50 to \$250 fine and nothing more. If a driver is deemed to have been reckless (which is a very difficult standard to prove in court), then the driver would be charged with a felony and subject to much higher fines and/or loss of his/her driver license (and possibly jail).

Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter spent time with AFSS members in helping us understand the

nuances of Virginia's traffic laws. AFSS crash survivors as well as family members of a man killed in a recent crash went to Richmond in January to try to convey to several state senators and delegates the impact on victims and their family caused by drivers who break the law and crash into pedestrians. Sen. Ebbin and Del. Levine submitted separate bills that would have elevated the "non-reckless" driver with penalties to a Class 2 misdemeanor category. Whereupon, a judge could fine a driver up to a \$1,000 fine and suspend the driver's license for up to six months in a situation of killing a pedestrian. Unfortunately, the efforts of both of our local state representatives failed in this past legislative session.

Nevertheless, AFSS is committed to encouraging our state legislators to bring better balance to traffic penalties when a serious injury or killing results from a driver breaking the law. Right now, Virginia law also carries a Class 4 Misdemeanor for someone who uses "profane swearing or cursing in public." While I don't condone public profanity, the equivalent fine of public profanity being equal to crashing into a pedestrian and

See Letters, Page 12

2 REMODELED HOME TOURS, 1 DAY

Saturday, April 7, 12-4pm in Arlington

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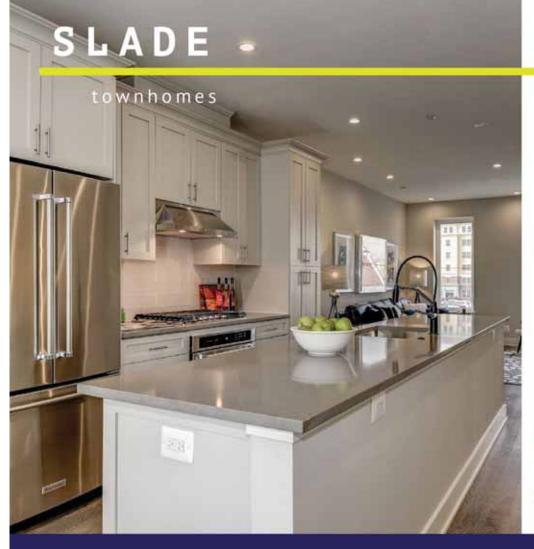


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NORTHFIELD

McWi Ba





Letters

From Page 11

seriously injuring or killing that person seems egregiously out of balance. Higher penalties for traffic violence may deter drivers from negligent driving. We thank our state representatives for responding to AFSS' concerns. Next year we hope penalties will be higher to help deter traffic violence on our citizens.

Mike Doyle Alexandria The writer is a founding member of Alexandria Families for Safe Streets, a grassroots coalition of traffic crash victims, family members and concerned citizens for street safety in Alexandria.

Fiscal Finagling

To the Editor:

So, City Council has set a zero property tax rate increase in this hotly contested election year, following last year's gargantuan 5.7 cent increase.

Kindly, someone, please explain why, by some magical coincidence, those pressing needs which drive huge tax increases suddenly evaporate every election year? Why, this year, are there no pressing needs warranting a tax hike when at the hearing a full house of our emergency personnel pointed out their pay lags behind the rest of the metropolitan area's and we're losing personnel to other municipalities? And our

profligate school board, crying a river of critical unmet needs totalling hundreds of millions, has suddenly decided they can wait?

Or are they just saving up their wish list of alleged "needs" for next year when they won't have to face the voters in a pending election?

Such sleight-of-hand fiscal finagling results in lavish wishlists being passed off as "needs," while real needs, such as paying our emergency personnel properly, are passed over. Is timing more politically pressing than any actual substance of any potential expenditure?

Dino Drudi Alexandria



The Naval Reserve Association building.

Losing City's Charm

To the Editor:

How depressing is it to see the beauty and charm of a grand old building (see accompanying photo) destroyed so quickly and conclusively. That is what I am experiencing now after the almost overnight removal of the Naval Reserve Association building in the 1600 block of King Street. Beautiful architecture turned into a pile of broken bricks, ripped up drywall, twisted metal studs, and broken glass ... then hauled off to some unknown and unmarked graveyard, never to be seen again.

Now I am supposed to be enthused by the prospect of seeing a modern, grotesque hotel arising from that barren ground and reaching over 50 feet into the air, blocking much of the scenic skies viewable from my front porch. Why should I be enthused? What is this all for? Money? Jobs?

All I see is the decline of the historic charm of the city with this latest change, which is what attracted me to come and live in Alexandria 40 years ago. In a few more years, I will no longer see any of that charm any longer. How did we get to this point? Did we not elect officials who wanted to preserve our charm and historic nature? Maybe not.

My view is that this hotel was not necessary. Nor should it have been approved. Besides obscuring my view of the sky, the development will remove some grand old trees along Harvard Street, change the nature of the traffic flow and greatly increase the frequency of vehicle travel on the street, and increase the noise level in the evening and early morning as revelers make their way home after an evening of partying. Furthermore, we already have five hotels and a timeshare within three blocks of the site already.

If this type of development continues, the city's charm will even

See Letters, Page 15 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Opinion

Books, Barks and Bowling

From Student, Elmin

have been with my tutor/mentor for one year. I enjoy spending time with Ms. Carol. We read challenging books and books I like. We also buy books at the library book sales. I like comic books, chapter books, fairy tales, animal books, and books with information. I have learned that I can read and improve my fluency.

I have done a lot of first things with Ms. Carol. We just went bowling. It was fun and I got 2 strikes. We went to D.C. and took the Metro. I went to the movies for the first

Mentor of The Month

time with Ms. Carol. We watched "Captain Underpants." It was a good and funny movie. Ms. Carol also took me to my first bookstore.

Ms. Carol is amazing, because we do fun activities together. I enjoyed watching a video of "The Sneetches," a Dr. Seuss book that we read on Ms. Carol's iPad. Another special thing we have done is read to dogs in the Paws to Read program. I have done it three times. I enjoy going to do the Wright to Read events such as Readers take the Stage and the picnic. I also enjoyed when we painted a snowman. I painted a Snowman Joker. I enjoy talking to Ms. Carol. We talk about hair styles and dogs.

All the time we talk about books.

Wright to Read (WTR). I met a WTR volunteer in the Alexandria library one day and as we were chatting, waiting for the band to start (that's not a misprint) she told me about the program. I'd been looking for a

From Tutor/Mentor, Ms. Carol

A chance encounter connected me with

volunteer opportunity that focused on reading and literacy and Wright to Read sounded like a perfect fit — matching volunteers oneon-one with kids who needed to improve their reading. Even better, the program served the community. The next day I contacted WTR, went through orientation and training and a few months later I was paired

Elmin was eight years old when we met (he's almost 10 now) and we've been together a little over a year. What impressed me most at our introductory meeting was Elmin's enthusiasm for reading. The look of delight on his face when he received his first set of books from Wright to Read is one I won't soon forget — I felt like I had a big head start already.

with Elmin.

Because Elmin had never been to a public library, the first thing we did was take a tour of the largest one, Beatley Central. I explained how to find books, how to check them out, how long you could keep the books you borrowed and what happened if you didn't return them on time (he saw me pay a couple of late fees and caught on quickly). Over the next few months, we visited every library in Alexandria so he could see the different branches. I allowed him to use my library card and in no time at all he was identifying books he wanted to read and became a master of self-checkout. "Big Nate" is a particular favorite. He has full responsibility for books in his care and has never failed to return them on time, always in good shape. Borrowing books from the library gives him lots of options for independent reading and we read his "main" book at our weekly meeting. He's expressed interest in getting his own library card and I'm hopeful that can happen soon. We've also attended library book sales — Elmin loves shopping for bargains — and it's been great seeing him choose books for his personal collection.

Over the past year we've participated in library programs such as Paws to Read, and attended many Wright to Read events, including a visit to the T.C. Williams Planetarium, a yoga class, scavenger hunt in Old Town, the WTR picnic and my favorite, the Kids Cook event where the students made their own grilled cheese sandwiches. We've also been to the movies, visited a bookstore and recently, took the Metro downtown to



Mentor Carol Plemons with her student, Elmin.

go bowling (he was very proud of beating me). All these activities were new experi-

Since we've been together, I've seen Elmin become a more confident reader, increase his vocabulary and improve his ability to recall content from week to week. Because we read books that are geared to his interests, he's even finished a couple of chapter books, which is a real milestone. I have challenged him to read more chapter books and as he completes them, we'll celebrate with a field trip or other special activity. He also enjoyed reading aloud to other students at a recent WTR event and we hope to do more of that in the future too. When we're not reading, he tells me silly jokes and has a knack for making me laugh — even when he isn't trying — making each session with him special and fun.

I'm lucky to have Elmin as my mentee and look forward to continuing to share my love of books and reading with him, support him as he builds his skills, and encourage his curiosity to explore and try new things.

Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring.

Drop-off your unwanted medications

SATURDAY **APRIL 28, 2018** 10:00AM-2:00PM

PRESCRIPTION FOR **DANGER**

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF **UNWANTED MEDICATIONS AT** THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

> Alexandria Police Headquarters

First Baptist Church

Alexandria Fire Station 210

The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray

CAN'T MAKE IT TO DRUG TAKE BACK DAY?

Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray recently launched the firstever permanent prescription drug drop-off box in the City of Alexandria.

The drug drop-off box provides year-round access to safe drug disposal for all Alexandria residents and is located inside the pharmacy at 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many people believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because a doctor prescribed them-they're
- More people die accidentally from prescription drugs each year than all types of illegal drugs combined.
- Combining pain killers or anti-anxiety drugs with alcohol multiplies the effect-your heart or your breathing can
- Drug-induced deaths now exceed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in more than 17 states
- Most kids who abuse prescription drugs report they get them from their home medicine cabinets or from friends.
- Proper disposal of unwanted medication prevents environmental contamination of our waterways and soils.

SYMPTOMS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

- Abnormal pupil size . Nausea and vomiting
- Agitation
- Convulsions
- Paranoid behavior .
- Difficulty breathing Drowsiness Hallucinations
- Staggering or unsteady gait Sweating or extremely dry, hot
 - Tremors
 - Unconsciousness

Non-reactive pupils

- · Violent or aggressive behavior

Suspect an Overdose? Call 911

skin











Go to www.PreventItAlexandria.org to learn more

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Living Stations of the Cross

On Friday, March 30, Saint Rita Catholic Church, 3815 Russell Road, and Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, will offer Living Stations of the Cross (or Via Crucis en Vivo) at 6 p.m. The living stations consist of a visual portrayal of Jesus on the way to his crucifixion.



DASH is seeking feedback on the proposed fare & service changes:

Increase one-way bus fare from \$1.60 to \$1.75

Introduce new \$1.00 Senior Smartrip fare for off-peak travel Increase monthly **DASH Pass from** \$40 to \$45

Reduce free DASH-to-DASH transfer window from 4 hours to 2 hours

Reduce weekday morning service on King Street Trolley

No changes to regular DASH service levels

Community Meeting Thursday, April 5 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Take the DASH AT10 to the meeting!!

Mt. Vernon Recreation Center (Del Ray) 2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305

Special thanks to Gazette Jacket

The Community Meeting will stream LIVE on DASH's Facebook!

You can provide additional feedback by visiting dashbus.com, Facebook, Twitter, or e-mail us at dashbus@alexandriava.gov



703.746.DASH (3274) dashbus.com

Opinion



Cupcakes And Cookie Dough

Alexandria Cupcake owner Adnan Hamidi, left, serves some edible cookie dough to recently retired ACT for Alexandria president John Porter and his successor **Heather Peeler during a visit to the Old Town shop** March 22. "It's hard to pick a favorite," said Peeler, who sampled the Chocolate Chip, Cookies and Cream and Peanut Butter flavors. "They are all wonderful." Edible cookie dough, a popular treat, is now available at the King Street location.

Letters to the Editor

From Page 12

tually be destroyed and it will be time for me and others of a like mind to move elsewhere. Is there anyway for us to stop it? Yes, there is. We can vote against those who voted for this development and others of a similar nature. In this case, the vote was 7-0 so we do not need to look very hard to determine which ones need to go. We just need to be sure that those run-

ning against the incumbents stand for what we want ... a city that is committed to conserving our architecture, history, and culture and are opposed to the destructive development that seems to be continuously ongoing under the current leadership.

What is being done to the city is shameful.

James Melton Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

> Letters to the Editor • The Gazette 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



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Public Hearings

Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below: A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402	Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director. Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Spring Fun



High-fire stoneware hand painted woodpecker ware by Laura Nichols of Great Falls, Va.

Cal endar

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

ONGOING

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/.

"Cherry Blossom Week." Through March 31, 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 instudio 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. "Finishing Flourishes." Through

March 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., 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,



Raku-fired sculpted crackle-glazed polar bears by Heidi Schramm of Arlington, Va.

High-fire sea otter and raccoon mugs by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.

www.theartleague.org or call 703-

various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

artists see nature and depict it in

media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew

'Outdoors In" showcases the ways

paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed

about nature came from artists and

others who drew and painted what

they saw and experienced. Artists

include local students, visit

'Outdoors In." Through April 1,

Beasts Beyond Boundaries'
Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Hang with hip hippos and party with polar bears as artists express imagination in original sculpture. Looking for a little fleeting fun, artistry attracts insects like sweet bees, lovely ladybugs or an utterly beautiful butterfly. Go fishing for good fortune and catch a school of smelt, a plate of salmon or Maryland crabs. Plan to playfully eat kung pao from a kitty bowl and mu shu from a platter of mutt. April 2-29, daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff

Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions

embrace and explore their place in

the world. visit www.nvfaa.org or

Art Exhibit: Renewal. Through April

www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits. 15, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber "Parallel Lives." Various times, Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art through April 15, at the Athenaeum, Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union 201 Prince St. In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. St. Gallery artists producing themed work may draw on any aspect of "renewal" for inspiration. This show Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha will highlight the work of gallery

> call 703-548-0935. "Before the Spirits are Swept Away." Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum,

Julia Stephens. visit

artists Debra Lee, Cheryl Roesel, and

www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or

Stoneware high-fire crackle contrast penguins by Klaudia Levin of Silver Spring, Md.

Rus Uz to Bring Taste of Russia, Uzbekistan to Carlyle

call 703-548-0035.

By Hope Nelson

ungry cinema-goers in Alexandria's Carlyle district will soon have a new option to try. Rus Uz, a fusion of Russian and Uzbekistan cuisine, is opening its doors over the summertime directly adjacent to the AMC Hoffman Theater at 210 Swamp Fox Road, taking the place of the departed Ruby Tuesday.

A spinoff of an Arlington restaurant with the same name, Alexandria's Rus Uz will take the majority of the original eatery's menu and styling but add some twists, says general manager Ibrokhim Rakhmatullaev.

Appetite

"It's going to be the exact same (as the Arlington location)," he said. "The only difference over here is we're trying a new concept: We're

going to have a tea room. ... We're going to have a small, special tea room full of desserts — we have a pastry chef from the region that's going to be working with us, so it's going to be an upscale

And the new location for Rus Uz isn't the company's first foray into Alexandria. Indeed, the business began in town, but on a smaller scale, Rakhmatullaev said.

"When we first started off, we were a catering company. ... We were in Alexandria, but it was a very small (place)," he said.

Now, though, the restaurant is returning to Al-

exandria after a years-long respite, hardier and more robust. And Rakhmatullaev is pleased with the spot they've chosen.

"The Hoffman is a great area, and I think there is a lot of improvements going on and will be coming soon for the Hoffman Town Center," he said.

In another twist of coincidence, Rus Uz's longtime Arlington neighbors have also moved to the Carlyle area in the last little while.

The National Science Foundation "used to be right next to our restaurant in Arlington," Rakhmatullaev said. "We used to have a lot of their corporate private events in our restaurant."

In terms of the food, expect a hearty blend of both Russian and Uzbek dishes, says Rakhmatullaev. On the Russian side of things, "expect a lot of caviar ... stroganoff, borscht, a lot of vodka obviously," he laughed.

Representing Uzbekistan, leading the way is the plov. "It's the national Uzbek dish," says Rakhmatullaev. "Rice, raisins, carrots, chickpeas ... lamb, everything in cooked in one pot with turmeric. It's one of my favorite dishes on the menu right now."

The Rus Uz team has begun renovations and expects to have the restaurant in good order soon. Barring struggles with permitting, Rakhmatullaev aims to have the restaurant open by July.

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

902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria's African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria's "Sites of Conscience" series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free but donations are appreciated. Call

703-746-4356. **Pick-Up Hockey**. Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/ or call 703-768-3224.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks

Spring Fun

Hersh Conducts ASO Season Finale

By Melinda Kernc Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

uring the 74th season, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has been featuring its four candidates for music director. The finalists have conducted symphonies from Xalapa, Mexico to Lucena, Spain — from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Washington National Opera. One candidate will be chosen later this spring as the ASO's next music director, and special events and appearances are planned to in-

events and appearances are planned to introduce him to Alexandria and the surrounding community during the ASO's 75th Anniversary Season in 2018-2019.

The fourth and final candidate, Nicholas Hersh, will conduct Saturday, April 7, 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, and Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The program features Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E. Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and Astor Piazzolla's "Tangazo: Variations on Buenos Aires."

"The connective thread for this program is three composers from three different eras pushing the limits of musical form," said Hersh. Bach's Symphony bridges the Baroque and Classical styles by using classical form with innovative harmonies and unexpected timbres. "Piazzolla composed 'Tangazo' in classical form as well, but he also summons the fiery tangos of his homeland within Bach's structure — including a fugue," comments Hersh.

"Brahms' Second is often described as the sunniest of his symphonies, yet the composer called it so melancholy it should be printed on black-bordered paper," observes Hersh. "For this reason — and its timeless melodies — it remains utterly fascinating



Nicholas Hersh

after its premiere. Nicholas Hersh serves as associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras. As guest conductor, he has appeared with the New World Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, National Reper-

nearly 150 years

tory Orchestra and Southern Great Lakes Symphony.
Concert attendees, musicians and community members are invited to provide feedback after the performance. The ASO will announce the new music director later this spring.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. ASO musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturdays at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Adult tickets are \$20-\$80, with \$5 youth, \$10 student and military, senior and group discounts available. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

Calendar

throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ park-news/2018/psa055.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

Easter Egg Hunt. At Cameron Run Park, Alexandria. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3

online service fee. visit apm.activecommunities.com/ novaparks for details and to register.

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

Hike Thru Wildflowers. 10 a.m.noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701
Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Huntley
Meadows naturalist and artist
Margaret Wohler leads a spring hike
focusing on spring wildflowers. Learn
techniques to sketch these flowers
and how to enhance your observation
skills. Cost is \$9/person. Call 703768-2525 or visit
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

huntley-meadows.

Women's History Month

Luncheon. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Presented by Old Dominion Chapter, The Links Inc. in partnership with the Old Dominion Foundation Inc. Luncheon to benefit the foundation's scholarship program. Keynote speaker is Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole. Register at odcodfnow.eventbrite.com or visit www.ODCLINKS.org.com.

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.

MARCH 31-MAY 20

Art Exhibit: 2018 Emerging

Artists. Daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday until 9 p.m. at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, introduces a new annual exhibition series featuring the work of emerging artists of the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald

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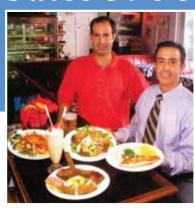
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Easter Sunday

10:45 a.m.

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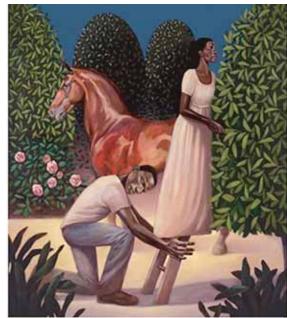
Find your new church home at Trinity United Methodist Church this Easter.

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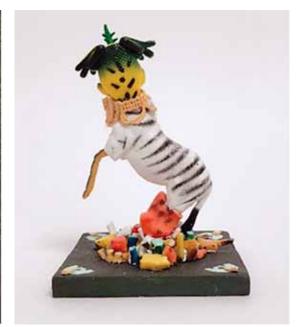
www.trinityalexandria.org

A Reconciling Congregation

Spring Fun



Ronald Jackson, "Couple in the Garden with a Horse," 2016, oil on canvas.



Holly Trout, "Trophy," 2017 - plastic animal legs mounted on wood.

2018 Emerging Artists

Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, introduces a new annual exhibition series featuring the work of emerging artists of the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. They were selected by a jury panel consisting of Ksenia Grishkova, director of Touchstone Gallery; Blair Murphy, independent curator; and Jack Rasmussen, director and curator at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The exhibit runs March 31-May 20 at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Opening Reception: Friday, April 13, 7-9 p.m. and Jury Panel Talk: Thursday, May 10, 8 p.m. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

Calendar

Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

APRIL 2-29

Art Exhibit: Beasts Beyond

Boundaries. Daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 3

Yoga in the Park. 8-8:55 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Eightweek Hatha yoga class on Tuesdays. Cost is \$93 for series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/huntley-meadows.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

Discussion with Brian Stolarz. 6:30

p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Featuring criminal defense attorney Brian Stolarz on the exoneration of Alfred Dewayne Brown who spent 10 years on death row in Texas for a crime he did not commit. Sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum, the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage Inc., and the Queen Street All American Bible Study Ministry. For reservations, call 703-746-4356.

Plant Selection, DIY Sustainable Yard Series, Part 4. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. There's a perfect selection of plants that will thrive best in the conditions of any site. Learn how to select appropriate plants, what is meant by a native plant versus a cultivar, and some best practices for planting and maintenance. Free. Advance

registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

APRIL 4-MAY 6

Art Exhibit A Study of Manhattan.Gallery hours at the Art League
Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory. Paintings by Robert Gilbert: A Study of Manhattan: Power, Dominance, and Excitement. Opening Reception takes place Thursday, April 12, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Craig Roach, "Simply Electrifying: The Technology that Transformed the World, from Benjamin Franklin to Elon Musk." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Author Talk with Ann Bausum. 7 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Free The author of Sergeant Stubby will read from her books as part of All Alexandria Reads, facilitated by the Alexandria Library. Call 703-746-5405.

APRIL 6-29

Art Exhibit: A Touch of Magic.Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans "A Touch of Magic exhibit is inspired by the subtle, simple, complex, or bold magic that creates life's special moments, fulfilled dreams, rare experiences, and fosters the recognition of beauty Opening Reception is Friday, April 6, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Garden Gate Plant Shop Reopens. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. You will find shrubs, native plants, wildflowers, ornamental grasses and unusual perennials and annuals. All proceeds from the shop benefit the gardens at Green Spring. Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) receive a 10 percent discount. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-

spring/shops. **Playwriting for Young Audiences Workshop**. 9 a.m.-noon at National Art Education Association, 901 Prince St., Alexandria. Guest playwright Martha King DeSilva will discuss writing and developing new plays for younger audiences. Registration fee: \$45; early bird fee \$35 (before March 30). Email

PipelinePlaywrights@gmail.com for registration information.

The "Grandest Congress" - The French and Indian War in **Alexandria.** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Free. Visitors to the Carlyle House will experience Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock's visit there and the French and Indian War firsthand through costumed interpreters. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-

50-Year Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. To remember the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's death on April 4, 1968, a local coalition of faith communities and nonprofits, Ventures in Community (VIC), will sponsor a tribute to him. An informal cookie-and-punch reception will follow. The event is free and open to all. Visit www.bethlehemofalexandria.org.

ountry-Western Dance Lessons 6-7 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center. 4710 North Chambliss St. Alexandria. Open dancing 7-9:30 p.m. with a DJ who provides music. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free.

Spring Fun

Pub Crawl To Benefit Foundation

Nonprofit provides scholarships.

By Ashley Claire Simpson Gazette Packet

hile not everyone can serve in the Armed Forces or combat domestic danger as a first responder, it is possible for civilians to be heroes in their own right. Beer Army Foundation — a non-profit organization that fuels acts of heroism in local communities — holds events all year that both honor local heroes and turn its participants into such local heroes.

This Saturday, March 31, the inaugural Heroes Charity Pub Crawl in Old Town, Alexandria, will benefit Beer Army Foundation, which every year awards 10 scholarships to degree-seeking students in the Unite States.

"We're a 501(c)3 non-profit community outreach organization that proneducation, volunteerism and economic im-

pact," said Matt Smith, deputy director of Beer Army Foundation, said. "Every year, we give out 10 scholarships to degree-seeking students of every kind in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Oregon; anywhere we have a fundraising event, we give back to that community and offer scholarships for people in the area. We are probably the most liberal scholarship program out there. We don't care how old you are, your background, or what kind of academic program you're pursuing. We just want to help people get where they want to go."

Founder Dustin Canestorp, a retired United States Marine, established Beer Army Foundation to unite fellow beer enthusiasts with a passion for giving back.

"My tagline for this organization is, 'We drink beer for a purpose,'" Smith said. "Our founder, Dustin, is a retired Marine and tries to create things that benefit the community. We do a lot of things to honor everyday heroes who don't necessarily enjoy the limelight of being called a hero. We hold a lot of events to toast anyone who makes a positive impact in someone's life or their community."

Canestorp launched the organization in 2007, after his close friend and fellow Marine was killed in action in Iraq

"I still had very mixed emotions with processing and compartmentalizing the loss of Todd ... His loss was the key reason for me to begin Beer Army," Canestorp wrote on the Beer Army Foundation website. "I just knew that I was ready to move on from the Marine Corps and do something in the beer industry ... it was time for me to pursue my American Dream which encompassed the lovely liquid that we call beer."

Canestorp took the energy from fellowship forged

with his friends during beer and poker nights in Jacksonville, North Carolina — the home of the Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune — and turned it into a charitable army of community heroes.

Beer Army Foundation, now in its 10th year, contributes to community charities and continues to grow its scholarship program through its own restaurant, Beer Army Burger Company, and a host of beer and brewing related events. These include festivals and pub crawls like the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl in Alexandria this weekend.

"It's our way to reach the community," Smith said. "Last year, we gave out \$13,000 in scholarships. All applicants have to do is write an essay, and an independent panel stacks and ranks all the essays we receive. We don't care if you're going to culinary school,

'lege, a four-year university, or business school. You just have to write a 'thank you' letter if you win."

The community giveback doesn't stop with these scholarships either.

"Every dollar we earn goes right back into charity," Smith said. "The more money we have, the more money we raise and the more scholarship dollars we can give out.

Our impact has grown every year, too. In total, we've had \$3.9 million of economic impact between the scholarships, events and donating to charities."

This Saturday, the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl will begin at Murphy's Alexandria Grand Irish Pub, and will end at Chadwicks. Each bar will host its own happy hour special, and all ticket proceeds will go to Beer Army Foundation.

Mike Wimer, Alexandria resident and organizer of the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl, said he couldn't turn down the opportunity to help out the organization, many of its volunteers being his own friends.

"I have some friends retired from Alexandria fire department who work and volunteer for Beer Army Foundation," Wimer said. "I'm a retired Alexandria firefighter of 11.5 years and before that, I was in the Army for eight and a half years. That's how I got involved. I took one look at their website and thought, 'If they're helping all these people, I can at least help the cause this year by setting up this event in Alexandria."

Wimer began organizing this event six months ago, and has planned for some of his favorite Alexandria haunts to be a part of it.

"I asked 20 to 30 restaurants knowing that you need six to eight restaurants in the same general vicinity. Otherwise, it's too spread out. Each of the participating are each running specials, most of them their happy hour specials, which is really special for a Saturday. These are all top end restaurants in Old Town and the event will go from noon to 5pm. It's all about raising a pint for heroes."

To purchase tickets in advance for \$15, visit www.beerarmy.org/herohunt. Tickets on site at Murphy's the day of the event for \$20.

MONDAY/APRIL 9

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Led by Gary Stephans, ballroom dance instructor. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. No partner needed. Cost is \$30/person; \$55/couple. Email garystephans@me.com or 703-505-5998.

April 4-May 6, 2018. Visit



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The Rev. Oran E. Warder, Rector

703.549.3312

www.stpaulsalexandria.com

MAUNDY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir and the stripping of the altar

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

7:30 a.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday **12:00-1:00 p.m.** Holy Eucharist, joint service with

Christ Church at St. Paul's

5:30 p.m. Family Service **7:30 p.m.** Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

12:00 p.m. Holy Saturday Service in the Chapel **7:30 p.m.** The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at St. Paul's Cemetery

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music

9:00 a.m. Family Service with Holy Eucharist, Children's Choir, and Brass

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass

Cal endar

BYO refreshments. Visit

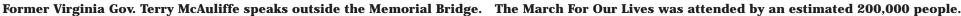
www.nvcwda.org.

Alexandria Symphony. 8 p.m. at
Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts
Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive,
Alexandria. Nicholas Hersh's program
focuses on contrasting styles,
featuring Johannes Brahms'
Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E.
Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and
Astor Piazzolla's Tangazo: Variations
on Buenos Aires. Tickets are \$20\$80/adults. visit www.alexsym.org or
call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Alexandria Symphony. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Nicholas Hersh's program focuses on contrasting styles, featuring Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E. Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and Astor Piazzolla's Tangazo: Variations on Buenos Aires. Tickets are \$20-\$80/adults. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.







Joining in The March For Our Lives

From Page 4

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who met with Parkland students in his office prior to the event, marched with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

"Inspiring day down on the National Mall for the March For Our Lives!" Connolly wrote on Facebook. "Our young people are leading the way and Congress must honor their activism with action. The times we live in demand no less."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) did not march, "and was in the District for a job fair, a school event and a number of other community events she was already committed to," according to Jeff Marschner, her deputy chief of staff. "Coming from a family of educators, the congresswoman is committed to finding common sense solutions for school safety and preventing gun violence."

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam marched with Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring in Washing-

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), co-chair of the General Assembly's Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, met with over 70 Alexandria Democrats at the King Street Metro station and took the train into D.C.

"I attended this march to both show solidarity with the student organizers and to recommit my efforts to prevent gun violence legislatively and in every way that I can," Ebbin said. "For too many years, the corporate gun lobby - the NRA - has dictated the terms of any public conversation at all. They have rolled over gun safety advocates and now they can get out of the way or be rolled over themselves.'

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) is a victim of gun violence, when his sister, Janet Levine March, was murdered by her husband, Perry March. Levine led the effort to track down March and put him in jail and marched across the Memorial Bridge with Arlington Democrats.

"I'm marching today because we need a movement to stop gun violence," Levine



Del. Mark Levine (D-45) at the **March For Our Lives.**

said. "We need legislation in Virginia and in the nation and our politicians are not doing enough, and we need help.'

Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) also marched across the Memorial Bridge, and said that the march was just the beginning.

"I don't care whether you're a Democrat, an Independent or Republican," Hope said. "We can't support people who don't support common sense gun regulations. That's common sense. Universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons, not letting kids get their hands on assault weapons ... close the gun show loophole. I could talk to you for hours about that."

Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49), who marched with his son across the Memorial Bridge, spoke before the appearance of former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"It's scary when I have to listen to constituents who are scared about their kids going to school and what might happen, who say every day, 'God, please let my baby get home safe tonight," Lopez said. "I thought Terry McAuliffe was an amazing governor and I think he's an amazing leader and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do today and it's going to be amazing to have everyone together fighting for the same cause.

McAuliffe, who walked to the Memorial Bridge meeting point with Arlington Democrats, said he was only a former governor and took the microphone.

"It's the students who are going to lead this revolt, and it is not only the march today but we've got to make sure we're marching in '18 in the elections," McAuliffe said. "We've got to make sure we pick up four Democratic members of Congress, we've got to take control of the Democratic Congress. The first thing out of the box will be background checks for all Americans. And then we're going to come back in '19 and we're going to pick up those two seats in the House of Delegates and we're going to pick up the State Senate, because folks, for four straight years as governor I proposed gun restrictions — common sense, background checks, getting rid of assault weapons, putting back one gun a month — every single year they defeated us. They did it in committee, they did it without recording votes and this year before I left office I put a whole slew of them up again. Every single one of those gun laws were defeated. It's time we defeat them."

Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg also traveled with Alexandria Democrats at the King Street Metro.

"What a memorable, meaningful and important day at the March For Our Lives," Silberberg said. "I was glad to see so many Alexandria residents. We must continue to stand up and speak out for common sense gun reform laws now. So proud of all the young people who spoke, including our own fifth grade student from George Mason Elementary School, Naomi Wadler. The youth of today inspire us all as we fight for the causes we all hold dear.'

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova did not march, but said she was "incredibly moved and impressed with the students and young people who organized in D.C. and all over the world around a very important issue. They are offering ideas to solve a serious problem and are engaged in making our communities and schools safer."

Alexandria Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, who

is running against Silberberg in the upcoming Democratic primary for mayor was unable to attend the march, but spent the morning packing donuts for marchers at Sugar Shack Donuts in Arlington, Sugar Shack Donuts in Alexandria with Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and delivering Meals on Wheels for Senior Services of Alexandria.

"I cannot tell you how exciting it is to see youth leaders using their voices to make change in their communities," Wilson said. "I was excited to be able to support those efforts and look forward to working side by side for change."

Alexandria City Councilor John Chapman marched in D.C. and said that it was an energizing experience.

"It was so inspiring to see so many young people from across the country coming together, supported by so many older people. It gives me real hope for the future of our country — that together we can make meaningful change," Chapman said.

Jill Caiazzo, chair of the Arlington Democratic Committee, said that her mission is to put the lives of children first before guns.

"We're not anti-gun. We're simply procommon sense gun safety measures," Caiazzo said.

Clarence Tong, chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, was also at the King Street Metro station.

"Our group was led by T.C. Williams High School moms, who had their sons and daughters participate, so our objective was to support the efforts of the students to raise awareness of gun violence," Tong said.

Alexandrian Gail Gordon Donegan founded the Alexandria chapter of Moms For Action and marched across the Memorial Bridge with her husband and several Democratic friends. She said that when Donald Trump began openly disparaging certain groups and promoting violence at his rallies, the mood of the country soured and pockets of hate emerged around the country by people who are frustrated and felt left behind and were looking for some

See March, Page 22 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

20 Alexandria Gazette Packet March 29 - April 4, 2018

Bulletin Board

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

THROUGH APRIL 14

Tax Assistance. Saturdays, 9 a.m.noon; Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. at Department of Community & Human Services, 2525 Mt. Vernon Ave., (Mt. Ida side door). Eligible: individuals with income up to \$35,000 and families with income up to \$54,000. Free financial counseling and accessing credit reports may be available to interested persons from the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS for eligibility and required documents.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

Recalling the Last Supper. 6:30-8 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Free. Come to an inter-generational meal, and remember what happened the night before Jesus' death. Menu: Pita Bread and Hummus, Greek Salad, Rotisserie Chicken, Jeweled Rice, and Dessert. visit www.fairlingtonumc.org or email office@fairlingtonumc.org.

Nomination Deadline. The

Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission and Alexandria Renew Enterprises are seeking nominees for the 10th Annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, which recognizes members of the Alexandria community who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the environment and work to sustain local natural resources. Visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

Grant Application Deadline. 5 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church seeks to award \$25,000 to local nonprofits in 2018 who aid children. hunger, education, shelter or selfsufficiency for Northern Virginia residents. Multiple grants, up to \$5,000, will be awarded. Visit www.wpc-alex.org or email communitygrant@wpc-alex.org

Application Deadline. 5 p.m. The Alexandria City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018. For a complete list of vacancies, go to: www.alexandriava.gov/Boards.

Application Deadline. For Sister Cities Alexandria and Caen exchange student interns in Caen, France, who work at each of the respective City Halls this summer. Applications and a current resume should be submitted online. The Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee is also looking for a host family for the student intern from Caen this July for four weeks. Email questions to the general Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee at

alexandriacaensistercities@gmail.com. For more information about Caen, visit www.tourisme.caen.fr.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Women's Empowerment Financial Tools Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m (registration, 9:15 a.m.) at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority invites residents to the "Women's Empowerment Financial Tools Workshop." Free and open to the public. Visit www.dstnovac.org.



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Obituary

Obituary



Carol M. Cutchall, 82, of Lancaster, Virginia passed away peacefully at home on March 20, 2018. He is survived by his wife of almost 62 years, Leila H. Cutchall; children Carlee S. Wrenn (Jim), Carol (Chip) M. Cutchall, Jr (Chris), Cindy L Gardner (Rich), Amy J. Cutchall, and Catherine L. Root (Jeff); 11 grandchildren, Christy, Beth, David, Katie, Rick, Pam, Matthew, Nicholas, Kari, Jeffrey, and Samantha; and 19 great grandchildren.

Mr. Cutchall was a Navy veteran having served as Radarman on two battleships. He spent most of his professional career as a Physical Science Technician for Night Vision Laboratories Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After retirement he opened and ran CMAXC company. For several years Carol served as the President of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC), is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA), and also the Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association (RARA). Carol was well known for his extensive knowledge, energy and drive, for always working on projects, his passion for history and science, and love of his dogs and birds. A memorial service was held on March 29th at Currie Funeral Home in Kilmarnock.

Employment

Employment

Executive Director

Mount Vernon At Home is a successful grassroots volunteer driven nonprofit organization established in 2007, seeking an experienced, innovated and goal oriented Executive Director to lead our organization through an upcoming period of growth. The ideal candidate will provide strategic direction to support and develop membership, volunteer recruitment, programs and services for the organization The Executive Director would work closely with the Board of Directors, staff and members of the organization. Our organization operates in a close-knit community and we place a high priority on communication, recognition and collaboration with strategic partners. We are in search of an Executive Director who is aligned with our village culture and will continue to enhance it through positive leadership. Knowledge and involvement of the Mount Vernon community.

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The Daze **Continue To** Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure: made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in.

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available.

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

Get busy living or get bust dying. Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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



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News

March

From Page 20

one to blame for their troubles. Violence has begun to seem normal.

"Groups like Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety and Gabby Giffords' Americans for Responsible Solutions responded to that hate with a strong movement for rational gun legislation, and for years it felt like they were pushing a boulder up a mountain. I think Parkland was the tipping point, and I'm really, really proud of these kids that have taken over and are pushing this movement forward," she said. "These kids are fast and furious and they're pushing that boulder down the other side of the mountain now and they're going to mow the NRA right over with it and I'm so proud of them."

Alexandrian Boyd Walker marched and said that such an event should be unnecessary and that students should not have to take such drastic steps.

"Looking around today, it is easy to see that these young people will be or are voters, passionate activists and that they won't stop until we change the laws and the politicians who prevent gun safety laws from happening," Walker said.

Marcher Alexandrian Tom Gibson, a former captain in the U.S. Marines, said that many people do not understand the power that comes with knowing how to treat a weapon

"We were trained in a classroom for two weeks before we were allowed to touch a weapon," he said. "I feel like our legislators have failed us and we need to stand up for better gun control laws and just show how much support there is for change."

Alexandrian Megan Challender, a domestic violence attorney, marched across the Memorial Bridge with her teacher husband, Daniel Baldwin, and her two-year-old son

"My clients, who are often domestic violence victims, are at great risk of getting killed by guns and we need greater protections for them. For my husband, we need protections in our schools, and for my son we need protections in our schools and for the country to make sure that our children are safe," she said.

Darryl Green, of Baltimore, marched down Pennsylvania Avenue promoting his website, www.deepforgiveness.com. His younger brother was killed in 1988, just six days after turning 17 - stabbed in a bowling alley when an altercation broke out over a pair of shoes. The murderer, 14-year-old Kimyon Marshall, spent 25 years in prison, and Green and his family later testified for his release.

"There were 343 murders in Baltimore last year." Green said. "So, now Kimyon and I work together saving lives all across the country and internationally. Therein lies deep forgiveness. Hurt people hurt people, and as a result of that, if I can forgive the man who took my brother's life, surely we can forgive our neighbors, or brothers and sisters. He has taken my brother's place. He's like my younger brother now. He's an outstanding young man. We're changing

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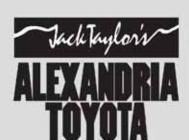
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