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Alexandria Gazette Packet

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 18

25 CENTS

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APRIL 12, 2018



PHOTO BY JAMES CULLUM/GAZETTE PACKET

The funeral of Pat Troy at the Basilica of St. Mary, Alexandria, April 7.

Pat Troy Laid to Rest

Friends recall his impact.

BY JAMES CULLUM
GAZETTE PACKET

Pat Troy, founder of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade, was laid to rest on Saturday, April 9, at the Basilica of St. Mary. Hundreds attended the funeral, including city leaders, friends and family — a fitting tribute to the man who famously said, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

Mayor Allison Silberberg said that Troy's death on March 22 was a loss for the city, especially so soon after serving as this year's grand marshal of the city's St. Patrick's Day parade. He was 76 years old. "We were very close," she said. "What a loss. We will never see his like again."

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson attended Troy's wake the previous day. "Pat was an amazing ambassador for our city," he said. "He was a character who helped open the doors of our city to so many visitors for decades."

Former U.S. Rep Jim Moran (D-8) recalled a personal story about Troy, whom he called an iconic figure. "Pat was loved by so many who ap-

preciated his charismatic, singular personality," he said. "Back in 1982, my dad came down from Massachusetts to help me hold the lead banner in the first St. Patrick's Day parade. Afterwards, [my dad] sang and danced all day and night at Ireland's Own. Unfortunately, he never recovered from that day since he had cancer at the time, but it was his happiest memory of Alexandria and his son's new political career."

Former Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille said that he enjoyed his time with Troy, despite their political differences. "He was successful, demanding and passionate in what he believed, but also a caring and giving individual in helping to make a difference in others lives," he said.

Former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland also attended the funeral. "Pat was a very great friend who introduced me to the Ambassador of Ireland when I was vice mayor," he said. "His friendship and loving kindness I will never forget."

Joseph Troy traveled from Ireland to attend his cousin's funeral. "He was awesome. I loved him. We all loved him. He was the king of the family," Troy said. "He was our king. He just completely devoted himself to other people."

Christine Burke of Arlington knew Troy and fre-

SEE PAT TROY, PAGE 26

Metro Delays

North Potomac Yard goes over budget.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Much like the Metro that will run through the new station, the Potomac Yard project is more expensive than initially suspected and is now running behind schedule. At a City Council meeting on April 10, the council approved a project cost of \$290 million for construction, an increase from the \$268 million approved by the council three years ago. The total budget is now \$320 million, with \$30 million in additional costs for the city including National Park

Service mitigation, staff and consultants. Additionally, the opening of the project is pushed from mid-2020 to late 2021 or early 2022.

Deputy City Manager Emily Baker said that increased project costs were driven by rising construction costs, from costs of materials like concrete and steel to more expensive labor. Competing with other transportation projects in the region, like I-66 improvements and the Purple Line in Maryland, has created a bidder's market. Moving forward, Baker said the "Build American" clause in the contract requiring the use of American steel is the only major concern in terms of potential price increases.

"If the price does increase more significantly, it will have [to be brought] back before the council," said Baker.

SEE METRO, PAGE 26

'Safe, Secure, Just'

Council tackles public safety issues related to FY 2019 budget.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

At an April 4 work session focused on "Safe, Secure, & Just Community," City Council discussed public safety personnel compensation and a federal contract to detain unaccompanied alien children locally.

According to City Manager Mark Jinks' budget proposal: "Attracting and keeping sworn police, fire, and sheriff's positions continues to be particularly difficult, since increased competition from neighboring jurisdictions and agencies

SEE 'SAFE, SECURE, JUST,'
PAGE 8

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Connecting Jobs and Housing

Major transit decisions likely to have long-term, regional ripple effect.

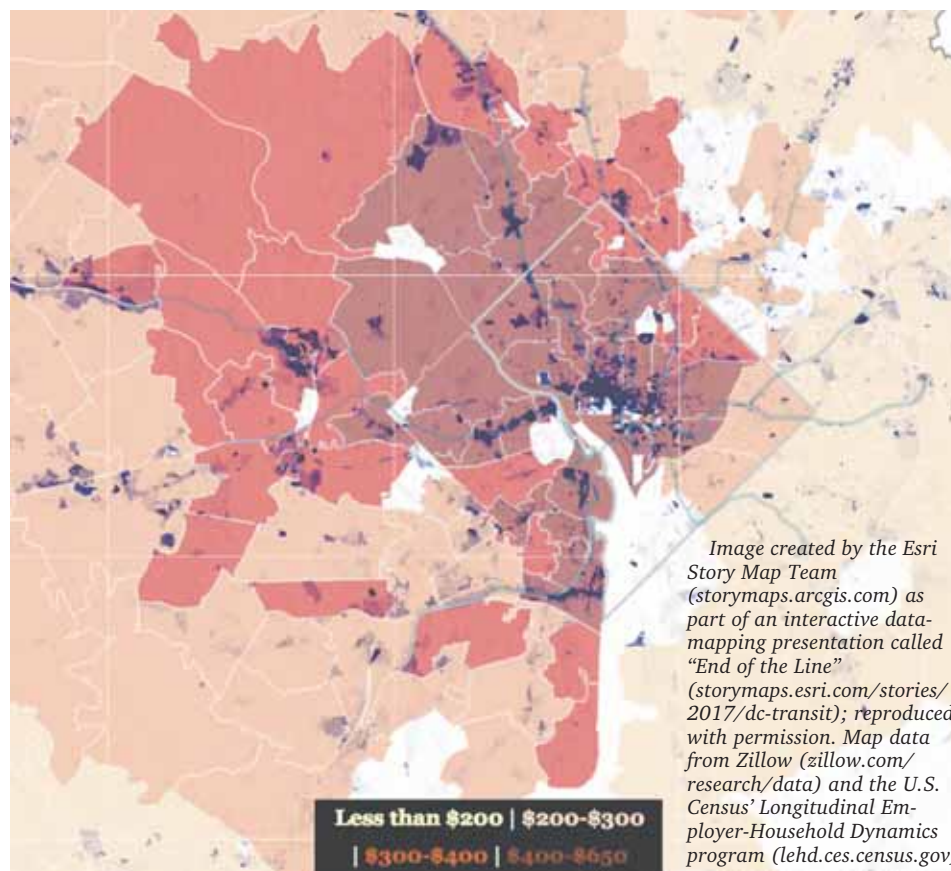
BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

Kee an eye on major investment decisions in the coming weeks and months regarding the city's and region's complex transit ecosystem.

"Multimodal" transit comprises a major component of the city's long-term vision. That is, multiple modes of transportation — including bus, rail, pedestrian, bicycle — combined into "a seamless, comprehensive and coordinated transportation system," according to the city's Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

For new city facilities, Alexandria's proposed FY19-28 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) includes nearly a quarter-billion dollars for "expanded transportation and transit infrastructure projects," comprising fully half the total in that category. City Council will begin its add/delete process April 24 and adopt the budget on May 3.

Alexandria's transit concept "integrates key elements with transit plans in surrounding jurisdictions," according to the TMP. The city's investments consider TransAction, a long-range regional plan managed by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). NVTA, comprising elected officials, "works toward regional consensus" on doling out funds to multimodal transportation infrastructure projects. NVTA's revenues come from portions of certain regional taxes; the agency can also issue bonds. On April 13, NVTA will release for public comment its list of 62 candidate projects through FY23. Six of those, totaling \$88 million in requested funds, come from Alexandria, the largest being West End bus rapid transit (BRT). The projects, requesting a total of \$2.6 billion, will compete for



Whereas jobs are concentrated in the metropolitan core, more affordable housing is spread to the metropolitan periphery. Regional transit helps bridge the gap. The color shading represents home values (\$ thousands). Blue dots represent job densities.

limited funds, with a final decision anticipated June 14. The public comment period will continue through May, including a public hearing on May 10.

NVTA estimates \$1.5 billion in revenues through FY23. But the total amount at its disposal is still up in the air, pending state-level action next Wednesday, April 18, regarding funding for the Washington Met-

ropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). WMATA operates regional Metrorail and Metrobus lines, which move hundreds of thousands of riders each day.

Last month, in historic legislation, the General Assembly dedicated a \$154 million revenue stream to WMATA, mirroring similar commitments from Maryland and Washington, D.C. Next Wednesday, if the Gen-

eral Assembly rejects Gov. Ralph Northam's amendments to the bill, existing NVTA dollars would be diverted to meet the \$154 million threshold, according to state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). The General Assembly's accepting the amendments, which would bring new state money to bear, would leave more NVTA funds for other regional projects.

In any case, the legislation would amend the Code of Virginia, making funding guaranteed, unless repealed, rather than a budget-by-budget decision.

Getting dedicated funding has been a "main focus" for NVTA, according to Mayor Allison Silberberg, Alexandria's NVTA member. It's a long-awaited "miracle," she said.

Councilman Paul Smedberg, chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and an alternate on the WMATA board, also supports the move. NVTC holds in trust and manages various monies that go to support WMATA, and also appoints Virginia's share of WMATA board members. Its discretionary capacity will increase in the next couple years, as it begins distributing \$15 million per year in competitive funds garnered from I-395 tolls. Though elsewhere Smedberg has opposed dedicated funding in principle, he says he supports it here because of Metro's large scope and the potential to alleviate the jurisdictions' funding burden.

Alexandria's proposed CIP assumes \$10 million per year in dedicated funding, starting in FY20, "to offset part of the city's capital subsidy to WMATA." Staff will present to council next week an analysis of the new dedicated funding's effect on the city's budget, according to city spokesman Craig Fifer.

All of this is part and parcel of the complexity of regional transit.

SEE CONNECTING JOBS, PAGE 19

Chief Discusses Data Transparency

Cost delays progress on body cameras.

BY JAMES CULLUM
GAZETTE PACKET

Want to know what the Alexandria police are up to? The Alexandria Police Department's 21st Century Plan, which is in the process of being implemented, includes a section on data transparency, meaning that all data on police traffic stops, use of force, crime data collection and community engagement will be open to the public. The only recommendation that isn't being addressed at the moment is police body cameras.

Chief Michael Brown, who spoke at a community forum April 6 hosted by the Alexandria NAACP, Grassroots Alexandria and Tenants and Workers United in Del Ray, says he is open to the idea of body cameras for his officers, but at the moment it is a staffing and budget issue.

"In order to get the actual video someone has to sit there, surf through 11-and-a-half hours of footage, find the footage, redact it to the extent that the personal identities of private citizens are protected and that takes staffing. Right now, the city couldn't

afford the amount of staffing that would be required to do it," Brown said. "At some point I do believe that the costs are going to go down. Up until last year, there was only one provider of body cameras We may eliminate some of the staffing piece because technology is starting to catch up. But we have left that as an open issue and we're willing to revisit it."

Ingris Moran, the lead organizer with Tenants and Workers United, has been working on police data transparency for the last three years.

"We know data transparency is something can be improved," Moran said. "We don't know what's happening in our community, the breakdown of officer activity. We feel that having more data transparency lets us know."

According to the 21st Century Policing report, APD introduced its new records management system technology last year, allowing for a quicker turnaround on paperwork for officers. Their only self-realized hiccup is the issue of no body cameras.

"This progress has enabled APD to identify opportunities to improve its data collection efforts to as-

SEE POLICE CHIEF, PAGE 17

Goodbye, Mr. Porter

Council honors retiring Living Legend John Porter.

For many in Alexandria, including at least two members of the City Council, John Porter is still Mr. Porter. Porter, an Alexandria Living Legend renowned for his tenure as principal of T.C. Williams High School then as head of ACT for Alexandria, announced in late 2017 that he would be stepping down as president and CEO of ACT for Alexandria. On April 11, the council celebrated Porter's retirement with a proclamation.

"This is a small token of all that you've done," said Councilman Willie Bailey, who attended T.C. Williams where Porter was his principal. "Thank

SEE PORTER, PAGE 17



John Porter

PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET



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<https://www.spring2action.org/organizations/inova-alexandria-hospital>




NEWS

Permission Granted

Police and Fire Departments pursue grants to fill city needs.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

While Alexandria's emergency services press for higher pay comparable to surrounding jurisdictions, the leadership in Alexandria's Fire and Police Departments are looking to grants to address understaffing issues.

At a budget work session on April 4, city leadership met with the heads of several emergency services to discuss efforts to meet safety goals. One of the recurring trends in the discussion between the different departments was the need to fill critical positions.

Police Chief Mike Brown noted that the Alexandria Police Department needed six new full time employees for traffic safety enforcement. Brown said during the review of the city's Vision Zero Plans, police and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services reviewed traffic data to try and locate areas with high rates of traffic incidents. Brown said the team discovered that the troublesome locations migrate depending on the time of day and the day of the week. Brown, whose background before joining the Alexandria Police Department in 2017 was in California Highway Patrol, said the best solution for this kind of shifting crash hotspot was regularly moving auto units.

"We're looking at working with the Highway Safety Office for grant opportunities," said Brown. "Six new traffic enforcement officers will help us a great deal with our Vision Zero commitment."



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES /GAZETTE PACKET

Fire Chief Robert Dubé petitions the City Council to allow the Alexandria Fire Department to pursue grant funding.

For the Alexandria Fire Department, Fire Chief Robert Dubé said the fire department needs to fill its positions on the ladder trucks. At the City Council meeting on April 10, Dubé asked the City Council for permission to pursue grants for nine new Alexandria firefighter positions to fully staff the city's ladder trucks, while city funding could bring the other two Fire Department trucks up to full staffing.

The first two years of the grant would cover 75 percent of the salary for the new staff with city matching for the remaining 25 percent. That coverage decreases in the third year, and by the fourth year the city would be required to pay 100 percent of the new firefighter salary.

City Councillor Willie Bailey, an active firefighter of 26 years and a Battalion Chief for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, said in the long run proper staffing is more economically feasible than running with an understaffed crew. "It's cheaper [in the long term]," said Bailey.

The City Council unanimously voted for Dubé to pursue the grant.

OBITUARY

Tim Geary

Tim Geary, a longtime Alexandria resident and prominent businessman, died March 31 after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 70 years old.

Geary was president of the Old Town-based independent insurance firm Clarke and Sampson. He joined the company in 1976 and specialized in commercial real estate.

Born July 12, 1947, Timothy Richard Geary was affectionately known as "Woody" and "Buddha." He served on the board of directors for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Alexandria's board and the Arbitration Oversight Committee of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, among others. Additionally, Geary raised thousands of dollars in support of the Santa Claus Yacht Club, a local charity that supplies food to needy families in the area.

A member of the Old Dominion Boat Club, the former golf caddy enjoyed spending his free time on the links or at the beach with his family and friends.

Geary is survived by his three daughters:



Tim Geary, shown with his long-time companion Amanda Chandler at a 2015 Rebuilding Together Alexandria fundraiser.

Jennifer Hamilton Geary Mills, Erin Clarke Geary Lepore, and Corinne Elizabeth Geary Allen and their husbands, Keith, Tony and Geoff; his five grandchildren, Alexander "Mac" Mills, Finn Mills, Elizabeth Somee Lepore, Kai Lepore and Burch Allen; his sisters and brothers, Candice, Cynthia Carrigan, Marcia Oliviero, Patrice Eastlake, Daniel and Matthew; his significant other, Amanda Chandler and her daughter, Claire; the team at Clarke and Sampson; and an extended family of friends in Alexandria and Rehoboth Beach.

Geary was predeceased by sisters Regina

SEE GEARY, PAGE 17

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BAR Fight

Parker-Gray and Old Town BAR merger discussion sparks latest Silberberg-Wilson quarrel.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Things were almost cordial. It was the end of the April 10 City Council meeting and, quip or two aside, there had been almost no fight between Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. The two had been at each other's throats since Silberberg's election as mayor and Wilson had recently launched a campaign against Silberberg for the position. For most of the meeting it seemed this tension might stay outside the council chambers for the duration of the campaign season, but it couldn't last.

Trouble began at the end of the docket when Wilson put forward a memorandum written by himself and Councilman Paul Smedberg asking staff to begin looking into whether it would be feasible to merge the Parker-Gray Historic District Board of Architectural Review (BAR) and the Old

Town BAR.

The memorandum states that the Parker-Gray Historic District was created in 1984 after an effort to expand the current Old Town Historic District was rejected. However, reforms in 2013 shifted many of the Parker-Gray requests to administrative approval rather than requiring BAR review. Since then, the Parker-Gray Historic District meeting times have dropped to a 45-minute average. While the last meeting ran over an hour, the previous two meetings were roughly 30 minutes each. The memo states that twice meetings had been cancelled for a lack of agenda items. Wilson and Smedberg's proposal was to consolidate the Board of Architectural Reviews to one committee, while each district would maintain their distinct guidelines.

The proposal was to table the issue for discussion at the next council meeting, where it would be voted whether or not the council would be interested in having staff

review the issue. If approved, staff would study the effects of merging BARs. After forming a recommendation, the item would go to the Planning Commission for a vote then return to City Council. But the proposal faced criticism from Silberberg, who said the memorandum had been sent out the day of the council meeting and hadn't had time to properly be reviewed. After Silberberg said including the average meeting times was misleading, Wilson responded he was just including the facts. The two bickered back and forth until other members of council intervened.

"Let's step back," said Smedberg. "It is a process. This could be brought forward sometime in the fall, it just starts a more formal conversation."

But Silberberg's comments did touch on an issue that has been a sore point in previous council discussions; how soon before City Council meetings should council members be expected to share their proposals

with their colleagues? Silberberg noted that she works to try to submit ideas roughly a week before each meeting, while other council members have been known to submit proposals more last minute.

"We need to figure out what our expectations are for putting things out there," said Councilman John Chapman.

He suggested that might be something that might need to be put in writing. "That's something we need to crystallize for everyone because they hear it from us up here [as part of these arguments]."

While other members of the council moved to docket the item for discussion, Silberberg protested that it approving it here implied support for the idea.

"If we take that approach we will never have any new ideas," Wilson and Smedberg answered in unison.

The memorandum was approved by council for discussion at the next meeting in a 5-1 vote, with Silberberg voting against.

Wilson Defeats Silberberg in ADC Straw Poll

... And city's Democrats also pick their favorites for council.

BY JAMES CULLUM
GAZETTE PACKET

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson soundly defeated Mayor Allison Silberberg in the fifth annual Alexandria Democratic Committee Straw Poll on Sunday night, April 8. The unofficial poll, held at the Port City Brewing Company, was a little different this year – last year included the Democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, but this year was full of local candidates running for mayor and City Council.

Wilson won the straw poll with 143 votes to Silberberg's 77 votes, but don't let the results fool you. Silberberg placed dead last three years ago in the same poll before beating former mayors Bill Euille and Kerry Donley in the June primary.

Wilson, who bounded onto the stage and shouted to the audience, said that his team's weekend goal of knocking on 1,000 doors was exceeded. He also said that he builds coalitions to solve problems, from road improvements to funding schools, and that it is unacceptable that 20 percent of city students do not have access to early public education.

"We should not only talk about our progressive future for Alexandria, we should see it through to reality," he said. "But ultimately, the job of mayor is not simply to show up, the job of mayor is to build coalitions to move good public policy forward and that is why I am running for mayor."

Silberberg, who also defended her record funding schools, said that she was proud of



PHOTOS BY JAMES CULLUM/GAZETTE PACKET

the work the city has made on remediating its deteriorated sewer outfalls and called herself a champion of ethics reform and affordable housing. She also said that Alexandria police, fire and safety personnel should be paid a livable wage — a sentiment that was echoed by a number of council candidates Sunday night.

"I'm fighting for a livable Alexandria, and that means that we need to ensure that those who are putting their lives on the line every day are getting a fair pay, our firefighters, our police, our sheriff's department — they absolutely should be paid appropriately," Silberberg said. "I have requested that the city manager from now on include the public safety teams in the budget guidance so that they are included in the budget cycle and we are never in this situation again, because this has been a perennial issue."

Clarence Tong, chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, said, "I think this is already the second highest straw poll of any we've had — aside from the first one in 2014."

Challenging each other for the Democratic mayoral nomination: Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. Wilson outpolled Silberberg 143-77 on Sunday.



Willie Bailey received the most votes — 132 — of the council candidates.

City Councilor Willie Bailey led the pack of a dozen council candidates with 132 votes, followed by Councilor John Chapman with 131 votes, Elizabeth Bennet-Parker with 107 votes, Dak Hardwick with 105 votes, Canek Aguirre with 101 votes and Councilor Paul Smedberg with 100 votes. There are only six available seats on the council, and the other candidates that did not make the unofficial cut were longtime City Councilor Del Pepper with 74 votes, Amy Jackson with 64 votes, Mo Seifeldin with 52 votes, Robert Ray with 40 votes, Matt Feely with 36 votes and five votes for Chris Hubbard, who did not attend the event.

Retiring City Councilor Tim Lovain, who served nine years on the council, said he might make an endorsement for mayor soon, but that it depends on when the candidate wants to make the announcement.

"This job really takes a toll on your health," he said at the event. "It's time to let somebody else to take this on. I've felt like I've accomplished a lot in nine years. I really enjoyed being part of a lot of the posi-

tive things here, like Potomac Yard Metro, the waterfront and I've tried to be a powerful advocate for smart growth."

Rod Kuckro, the president of the Del Ray Citizens Association, is supporting Silberberg.

"She doesn't have a mean bone in her body. She's as honest as the day is long," Kuckro said. "I've never heard her say anything bad about anybody, but from my perspective in Del Ray, she's about preserving neighborhoods. She gets it, she supports community involvement and she backs up my neighbors. I like a slow, steady well-measured way of looking at the future."

Alexandrian Gail Gordon Donegan is the founder of the Alexandria chapter of Moms For Action and supports Wilson.

"I'm delighted by this result. I think Justin knows the budget better than anyone. He really knows the ins and outs of the money and how it has to be spent and where it comes from, and Allison has had some lofty ideas and some bad ideas and she's just not paying attention to the nitty-gritty."

The Democratic primary is on June 12.

NEWS

Porter

FROM PAGE 3

you for everything.”

“It is amazing to see someone give back continuously, not just in one position,” said Councilman John Chapman, who also attended T.C. Williams under Porter. “You epitomize servant leadership.”

Councilwoman Redella “Del” Pepper reflected on the day Porter announced that he would be stepping down as principal of T.C. Williams.

“That he even could leave was extraordinary,” said Pepper. “He had a secret for handling children in this age group; he got to know their feelings. He would greet each of the students as they were coming in, and if a student had a sourpuss look, he would call them into his office during the day and talk to them... [The secret is] you don’t just sit in the principal room and wait, you have to go out and reach these children.”

For his part, Porter thanked the council and said that having the opportunity to serve in Alexandria for so many years was his honor.

— VERNON MILES

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NEWS

‘Safe, Secure, Just’

FROM PAGE 1

has overcome the city’s compensation improvements over the last three years. I am proposing \$1.5 million to be set aside to address additional improvements in public safety recruitment and retention capabilities for uniformed police, fire and sheriff’s personnel following comprehensive studies. My goal is to implement tactical solutions in compensation and other aspects of employment, in order to keep pace with the rising offers being made by our regional competitors.”

“We’ve hired 96 firefighter/EMTs since October 2014; 28 of those have left for other places. So it’s pretty clear we’ve got to work on that,” said Fire Chief Robert Dubé.

“One of the [police officers] we just lost ... went to the U.S. Park Police [under the U.S. National Park Service], and he did it specifically for the benefit package,” said Police Chief Mike Brown.

Especially around budget season, jurisdictional “cards get played close to the chest,” lest one tip off others to increase their compensation packages in order to stay competitive, said Jinks.

He expressed little enthusiasm for recent talk of a uniform pay bump, saying: “There are more nuances than just plain across-the-board.”

The uniformity and severity of the problem is contested. On the one hand, as of February, 13 Alexandria firefighters had resigned during FY 2018. That’s a rate of 5.5 percent year-to-date, up from 3 percent per year on average over the prior three fiscal years. That’s “marked” but not “extraordinary,” said Jinks in a March 14 memo. On the other hand, 13 police officers had resigned. That’s a rate of 4.2 percent per year, down from 6.8 percent on average.

A uniform pay bump wouldn’t come cheap. A one percent increase would cost about \$900,000; a 5 percent increase, \$4.3 million; a 10 percent increase, \$8.7 million.

Council members reacted variously, though generally circumspectly.

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said that council probably shouldn’t try in the short term to “figure out an exact menu of how we solve, on the dais, pay issues. But I think it is probably going to behoove us to recognize whether we think the \$1.5 [million] contingency is sufficient, or not. If it’s not — which is, I think, a prevailing thought — then identify resources to add to that pot.”

Councilman John Chapman said: “We’re going to need to know more, and how the different services are changing, what the opportunities are, what the pros and cons of each of those opportunities are. It’s a little bit more than just looking at a pot of money.”

Staff will present more detailed information and council will consider the issue further at a work session on Wednesday, April 18. That session will focus on employee compensation and the Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC).

Additionally, council expressed shock and concern that the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center (NVJDC) renewed a fed-

eral contract to hold unaccompanied alien children.

NVJDC is located in Alexandria and is shared with Arlington and Falls Church. While it operates under an independent board, it receives funding and youth offenders from all three jurisdictions. But the center’s bed space is underutilized. Part of the excess capacity has gone to housing youths held under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). These are non-citizen youths, largely teenagers, with no legal standing or guardian in the U.S., but who’ve nevertheless ended up here — for example, by getting caught crossing the border.

After its long-term federal contract expired in 2017, NVJDC decided to renew it for another year, through fall of 2018.

“When the ORR contract expired, I kind of thought that was going to stay expired,” said Wilson. “I was a little surprised, to be honest with you, that that came back. For a variety of reasons, I don’t particularly love that use. ... Let’s be clear: we’re essentially running a youth immigration detention center here? I mean, we’re taking kids from the border and bringing them into Alexandria and detaining them?”

“In part, there is a portion of the detention center that does that, yes,” replied Mike Mackey, the state-appointed director of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit. “They may stay in a program for weeks or even months ... Some of them [ultimately] go to a relative in South Carolina or California or Iowa, and they get a sponsor or a shelter or something like that; some of them go back to their country of origin.”

“Are they doing it for financial reasons? ... It would seem so,” asked Councilman Paul Smedberg. Mackey said he’s unable to comment on NVJDC’s rationale in renewing the contract.

Johnitha McNair, NVJDC’s executive director, declined to comment.

Wilson said that NVJDC has dodged a larger conversation about repurposing or doing away with the center entirely: “We have in the past been, candidly, blown off in our efforts to have conversations with them.”

With greater joint interest from Arlington, “maybe we can make more progress in getting the [NVJDC] board to be more collaborative in trying to figure out what the long-term future is,” said Jinks. “In my mind, serving kids who are from another part of the country, who come here and go, does nothing for the local good over the long term.”

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THROUGH APRIL 14

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OPINION

Expansion of Health Care in Virginia?

After years of hoping, it's possible Medicaid expansion will come on April 11; say a prayer.

The most important, impactful accomplishment of the Virginia General Assembly session for 2018 is set for Wednesday, April 11, after our newspapers' presstime. In agreeing on a budget, assembly members are expected to approve expanding Medicaid which would provide health insurance some 200,000 to 400,000 Virginians who have been living without coverage, and consequently mostly without health care.

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County do not have health insurance.

The benefits are huge. A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that finally accepting the available federal money

to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act would generate about 30,000 jobs.

It will make all of us who live and work in Virginia healthier by ensuring that our fellow residents have access to healthcare, to medications to treat contagious illnesses, to vaccinations, to preventive and acute care.

EDITORIAL

We don't want the people who ride with us on the Metro or wait in line at motor vehicles to be sick without a reasonable way to be treated. We want the people around us to be healthy. It makes everyone healthier.

Virginia has bypassed about \$10 billion by not having expanded Medicaid since it was possible.

Now is the time.

So many advocates have pressed for this for

so long, that it seems almost surreal as the possibility approaches. While I don't often pray for particular outcomes, I think a prayer for hundreds of thousands of people to receive life-affirming health care is in order.

Del. Ken Plum of Reston wrote in his weekly column: "By the time you are reading this column I will be back in Richmond for the serious work of the legislature of passing a budget for the next biennium. The outstanding issue to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Virginia to pay for the program. I support the Governor in his insistence that we approve the expansion. Thanks to all the citizens who have been calling and writing supporting the program. I will be back with details on the budget issue as soon as it is resolved."

Fingers crossed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pay Police More

To the Editor:

Recently there have been several articles written about the salaries being paid to our Alexandria Police Department (APD) officers that I have found very disturbing. The starting salary for an APD officer is approximately \$47,862. The APD has the lowest starting salary among nine neighboring police jurisdictions, with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority paying the highest starting salary at \$54,555.

In addition, the APD officers receive one of the lowest shift differentials, zero extra pay for higher education (associate, bachelor and master degrees), zero extra pay for being proficient in another language and one of the lowest clothing allowances compared to the same nine neighboring police departments. It should be noted that today most police officers have a bachelors and some even a master's degree. Our current police chief is working on his Ph.D.

Police work is a demanding, dangerous and difficult job 24 hours per day. Every single day they literally put their life on the line and their families have to worry if they will come home after their shift. APD officers are on the streets and away from their family during all hours of the day to include weekends and holidays. Per APD policy, they are required to work 11.5 hour shifts. Holiday pay is only for 8 hours. They work an additional 3.5 hours on a holiday, away from their family, for straight pay. Additionally, when a holiday falls on a weekend, it is regularly observed by the city on a weekday. Police officers still work that holiday and are away from their families.

Due to the low salaries being paid to our police officers we are losing our officers to neighboring police jurisdictions on a regular basis and some when they just graduate from the police academy. In Fiscal Year 2016, 28 officers left; FY 17, 30 left and so far in FY 18, 10 have left.

Currently, 46 percent of the APD officers have less than five years on the job.

The residents of Alexandria have to understand that we don't live in Mayberry anymore. Violent gangs such as MS-13 have taken up residence in our city. Certain categories of crimes have shockingly escalated in Alexandria and neighboring cities. The opioid crisis is also here in our city. Our police officers have to be well trained and equipped to handle all these critical problems.

Due to our proximity to Washington, D.C., what police jurisdictions will be called on to handle another 9/11 type crisis? It will be Arlington and Alexandria police departments, as can be seen on 9/11 and our recent shooting at Simpson Field in Del Ray. While working their shifts, our officers are asked to make a split second decision to use lethal force. Don't you want the best trained and best qualified officer making those decisions? Will we really get the best talent for our police department if we pay the lowest salary?

Our city has approximately 154,000 residents and covers about 15.9 square miles: Nowhere near the size and population of New York City or Los Angeles. Yet, we pay our city manager over \$263,000 per year (more than the vice president of the U.S and U.S. Cabinet Secretaries) and also provide him with three highly paid deputy city managers. Our city hall is also full of highly paid employees making much more than our city police officers who put their life on the line daily and maybe called upon to use deadly force. So, we are either paying our city employees too much or we are not paying our police officers enough. The question one has to ask is: Is this fair and ethical?

The other issue here is that our current City Council members rarely, if ever, talk about the low salaries being paid to our police officers or fight to raise their salaries. If they did, why is the APD the lowest paid in the region? Why is that? I would strongly urge all voters to think about how they feel about their own safety when they vote on June 12. Do you want the status quo or do you want council members that will adequately pay our police officers to

protect you and your family members?

I strongly urge all residents to call or email our city council members and call City Manager Mark Jenks at 703-746-4300 and tell them you do not want our police officers to receive the lowest pay in the area and start paying them fairly.

Bryan Kirkes
Alexandria

Dedicate Funds for Affordable Housing

To the Editor:

This year's Democratic primary race between current Mayor Allison Silberberg and current Vice-Mayor Justin Wilson will decide who will be our next mayor. That, it appears, is a sad choice when it comes to affordable housing. Both have served on City Council as 12,000 units of affordable housing have been lost over the last decade, despite affordable housing being a "top strategic initiative" for the council.

There is no shortcut — affordable housing costs money.

Now before the council is a plan to raise \$4.75 million for affordable housing. A 1 percent increase in the meals tax would bring 70 percent of its money from non-residents. It adds 30 cents to a \$30 meal. Alexandria's meals tax is below meals tax rates in 40 other Virginia jurisdictions. Despite all this, both candidates for mayor are coming up with transparently bad reasons not to increase the meals tax.

Mayor Silberberg has suggested a "voluntary" contribution for housing at restaurants instead of a tax. What's next? Voluntary property taxes? Voluntary parking meters? A budget reflects the council's values and priorities. It's what left after all the rhetoric is boiled away. When it comes to affordable housing Mayor Silberberg suggests the equivalent of a basket and a bell ringer at each restaurant.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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Public Safety Employees Deserve Fair Compensation

My name is Diana Barrett, president of the Alexandria Chapter of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association. I am writing not only as one of your police officers but on behalf of the approximately 170 members of my organization.

If anything I include in this letter sounds familiar, it is because I have unfortunately had to give similar statements to City Council in the four years that I have been president of our SSPBA Chapter. The unfortunate part is that each time I have given these speeches, it is for the same reason: poor pay. And poor pay leads to poor recruitment, which leads to poor retention.

Between the Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Fire Department, my family has devoted almost 120 years of service to this city. Therefore, the only place I applied to and wanted to work was the Alexandria Police Department. One would think that because of the dedication and attachment I have to this city, I would be singing its praises and telling anyone I know that has a public service calling to apply to the City of Alexandria.

But I cannot.

Between consistently being at the bottom of the barrel for starting salaries, the constant rising of our healthcare costs, and the overall feeling that the public servants are the least of this City Council's concern — I literally have no positive reason to give to anyone that may want to start a career with the City of Alexandria.

Alexandria City Council has historically failed to follow its own pay philosophy: to be competitive with comparable surrounding jurisdictions. They have continued to accept that every year we fall even further behind our neighboring police departments. And these are the same jurisdictions that we continually lose officers to. I could go on, but I think you get the point. None of these things should be acceptable.

Years ago, City Council created the Public Safety Work Group [PSWG]. Alexandria City has spent thousands of dollars on various consulting groups to tell them the same thing the PSWG has been saying for years: our pay is continually the lowest when compared to all other jurisdictions. There is nothing new about any of this information. This has been an ongoing issue for more than 30 years. Your police officers have continually found ways to do more with less. With the continued residential and business growth in our community along with in-

creased tourism, we wonder how City Council expects us to carry on with the same level of service. Your police officers cannot understand why these compensation issues continue to go uncorrected, and we find it simply outrageous that we must confront City Council and fight this fight every budget cycle.

I am sure City Council is just as tired of hearing its police officers beat this same drum as we are of beating it.

Yes, we are public servants. No, we did not expect to become wealthy doing this job. Police, Fire/EMS and Sheriff's Deputies come to work every day knowing that we may not get to go home at the end of our shift. We knew this the day we took an oath to protect this city, to put others lives before our own. But to continue paying us at such a rate that we hemorrhage employees does no one any good, especially the citizens of this city. The current approach of allowing over-hires does not resolve the issue when we cannot hire people because there is nothing attractive about our pay and benefits. Nor can we keep brand new officers because they receive an offer from another jurisdiction that doesn't have to put someone through the academy.

Three years ago, when our compensation package was drastically lower than our

neighboring jurisdictions, your police officers went to City Council and told them that we needed least an across the board 9 percent increase just to be in the middle. City Council responded with 4.5 percent. The Band-Aid helped but it was just that: a temporary attempt at helping a long lasting problem. It is time that a permanent solution is made.

Alexandria's pay philosophy states the following: employee compensation "will be competitive at 100 percent of the average pay levels for the relevant labor market, and will be adjusted whenever necessary to maintain market competitiveness." The only way to make this happen is to provide an across-the-board pay increase to Alexandria police officers.

City Council is scheduled to approve its 2019 budget on May 3. We are asking residents to contact City Council and tell them to abide by their very own compensation philosophy. I work with the very best public safety employees in the region and I want it to remain that way — providing a fair and competitive compensation package is the way to make that happen.

Diana Barrett

President, Southern States Police Benevolent Association

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria's Hometown Heroes

Valor Awards to honor first responders.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The call came in at 7:09 a.m. Within minutes, officers from the Alexandria Police Department were on the scene where a gunman had opened fire at Eugene Simpson Field as congressional Republicans were wrapping up their final practice for a charity baseball game. By the end of the day – June 14, 2017 – the eyes of the world would be on Alexandria and its first responders.

“Under the worst of circumstances, we saw the best of our community,” said Joe Haggerty, CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. “While this tragic event brought national attention, it is the collaborative effort of our public safety personnel that truly shines through that tragic day.”

Led by Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen and Kevin Jobe, 20 first responders will be honored for their heroics that day as the Chamber of Commerce presents the annual 2018 Public Safety and Valor Awards April 19 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town. In total, the chamber will

be presenting 63 awards, the largest number in the history of the program.

“We had a large number of nominations this year,” Haggerty said. “In reviewing the incident reports, we felt these first responders were deserving of the awards.” Presented by Inova Alexandria Hospital, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards is now in its 32nd year.

Those being honored have been nominated by their peers within the Alexandria Police and Fire Departments and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.

“The honorees showed exceptional poise and courage in extraordinary circumstances,” Haggerty said. “We look forward to applauding the selfless acts of these in-

dividuals.”

This year's event is sold out but a waiting list has been created. Contact Lovie Patish at LPatish@alexchamber.com.



Sgt. Daniel Gordon
Bronze Medal



Sgt. Greg Holden
Bronze Medal



Officer Reid Hudson
Bronze Medal



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Officer Doug Serven
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Officer Anthony LaRusso
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Valor Awards To Honor First Responders



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**Medic Remi
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Kappelman
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Award**



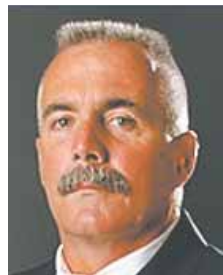
**Capt. Chad
Lallier
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Kristina Holt
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Matthew Quante
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Kenny Safelder
Lifesaving
Award**



**Lt. Donald Scott
Lifesaving
Award**



**Sgt. Jeff Stovall
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Award**



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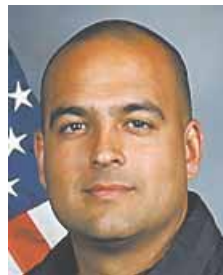
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Award**



**Firefighter
Arash Hematti
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Daryoush
Hematti
Lifesaving
Award**



**Fighter Travis
Daniels
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Joseph Pocelli
Lifesaving
Award**



**Capt. Joseph
Beavan
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter
Ashley
Whisonant
Lifesaving
Award**



**Firefighter Eric
Vafier
Lifesaving
Award**



**Deputy Myrna
Juarez
Lifesaving
Award**



**Deputy Brian
Wade
Lifesaving
Award**



**Deputy Gerald
Wooden
Lifesaving
Award**



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Promoting Safe Routes to School for Student Health

BY BROOKE SYDNOR
CURRAN

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



bear out, kids today have become less active, less independent, and less healthy. In 1969, nearly 50 percent of all children in the United States (and nearly 90 percent of those within a mile of school) walked or bicycled to school. Today, that number has plummeted to fewer than 15 percent."

When students actively commute to and

stay on-task, reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom. In short, walking or biking to and from school can make our students happier, healthier, and smarter.

Because walking or biking to school happens out in the community rather than inside a more controlled environment of a school or playground, specific standards must be considered to keep students safe.

According to the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, infrastructure improvements, student traffic education, and driver enforcement that improve safety for children are essential. In Alexandria, efforts are underway to get our students actively commuting to school and make our community more active-transportation-friendly.

Mike Humphreys, an NBCT instructional specialist for Health, Physical Education and Family Life Education in the ACPS Office of

Curriculum Design and Instructional Services, says, "The division is committed to improving both the safety and walkability/bike-ability of its schools. Thanks to a recent grant award from the Virginia Department of Education, we now have a part-time Safe Routes to School Division Coordinator in addition to more resources with which to promote active commuting and other related initiatives. Walking or biking to and from school is a great way for students to get their 60 minutes of movement each day."

To learn more about safe routes to school in your neighborhood, contact Tracy Lupient, Safe Routes to School Division Coordinator, at teresa.lupient@acps.k12.va.us.

Thank you for joining us for this 5-part series to discuss the best practices for getting our students moving more each day. To learn more and see past articles, please visit runningbrooke.org/move2learn.

GET MOVING

Best Practice #5: City-wide Promotion of Safe Routes to School

As we strive to help students find pockets of time to squeeze in the CDC-recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day, considering how they get to and from school is a natural place to look. Previous generations walked and biked to and from school a lot more than we do today. The Safe Routes to School National Partnership says: "As the stats

from school, not only are they getting more exercise, it increases their overall level of activity throughout the day, improves their overall fitness, and primes their brains to better absorb academic material. Studies demonstrate that active students outperform their less active peers academically. In addition, regular exercise has the benefits of helping students improve their memory and attention and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

Vice Mayor Wilson's suggestion is much more subtle. He argues against any set asides, proposing that each year the council should debate anew — without its hands tied — where to spend our money. Meanwhile, affordable housing has all but disappeared in the City of Alexandria. While the city falls far behind its own affordable housing goals, the vice mayor is using a technocratic excuse against set asides. He needs to get off the fence. Will he support the \$4.75 million or more annually needed for affordable housing? Will he support increasing the meals tax to pay for it?

Failing to make tough choices is failing the range of people who are being priced out of Alexandria each year. Let's hope one or both candidates for mayor step up to the plate and support the meals tax increase.

Jon Liss

Board Member, Tenants and Workers United, Alexandria

Alexandria's art installations project, "Old Town, New Art: Commission approves developer contributions for Arts District." As much as I am pleased to see that the arts continue to play an important role in the city's culture, the author of this article perpetuated a false view of artists' educational experiences and their post-academic careers.

In the lead paragraph, the writer appears to belittle an arts education by restating the misconception that students must major in a "practical degree" to be a success in their careers. With some due diligence, he would learn that those with strong academic background in the arts, do have stimulating and fulfilling careers that meet their needs and goals.

The Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (SNAAP) studies artistic careers and how young artists advance in rapidly changing arts fields. As a retired associate dean and current adjunct faculty member of George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, I can confirm that artists from that college, and others, do engage in a wide array of stimulating, arts-centered careers. Labor Department statistics, arts organizations, even the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, study careers in the arts; these opportunities are

diverse and rich in creativity.

I compliment this initiative's recognition of the significance of how the arts build community. Many cities and towns across the nation rely on the arts to develop communities, neighborhoods. Sometimes the projects are financed by federal, local governments; sometimes the projects are funded by developers, churches, patrons — much noted historical significance. The City of Alexandria's Old Town grew tremendously after the Torpedo Factory became a center for artistic development.

Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. have respected research on the arts, many diverse careers in the arts and arts management, and vibrant arts/community relationships. The step that Alexandria is taking is a welcome addition to this vibrancy.

Dr. Victoria N. Salmon

Associate Dean Emerita
College of Visual and Performing Arts
George Mason University

Traffic Bottlenecks

To the Editor:

On Easter Sunday, I encountered a massive traffic jam as I was driving north on Union Street towards King Street. Due to

the heavy pedestrian traffic at the King-Union intersection, there was a one block backup of cars in both directions. Since no vehicles moved for an extended period of time, a relative zoo was created. This intersection continues to be a major problem for pedestrians and vehicles, especially on the weekends. Unfortunately, there is scant police presence at this intersection, and if by chance they are there, they do nothing to alleviate the dilemma of cars versus pedestrians.

Many citizens have appealed to have police officers direct traffic at this intersection, and at others that are similarly congested. However, it is evident that a conscious decision has been made not to use the police in this capacity. If this is the case, then why not use the personnel from the Sheriff's Office, a traffic enforcement officer, or even one of the school crossing guards?

Since Alexandria is a nexus for important events as well as pass-through traffic, we need to alleviate these problems with a little application of common sense. The city needs to pay attention to these well-known traffic bottlenecks, since their aggressive plans for more density will only serve to further aggravate this problem.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Don't Belittle Arts Degrees

To the Editor:

The Alexandria Gazette Packet, April 5, 2018 edition, featured an article on



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News

Police Chief

FROM PAGE 3

sist in improving its understanding of officer activities and the nature of crime within the city," according to the report. "There was only one 21st Century Policing recommendation which is not being addressed by APD at this time. It involves APD officers wearing body worn cameras. APD is not opposed to the use of such cameras. However, a costing analysis has indicated it would cost the department in excess of \$1 million a year to operate a body worn camera program."

Geary

FROM PAGE 4

Merry, Andrea Gleave and brother Christopher. A celebration of life will be held April 20 at 5 p.m. at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand St. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Johns Hopkins Sol Goldman Pancreatic Cancer Research Center. Checks made payable to Johns Hopkins University can be mailed to Ralph H. Hruban, M.D., Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 N. Wolfe St., Carnegie 417, Baltimore, MD 21287.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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HomeLifeStyle



PHOTO MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

The colors of Camellia blooms can be enjoyed now, says David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center.



PHOTO AMERICAN PLANT

Preparing a spring garden includes pruning, mulching and fertilizing, says Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda.

Spring in Bloom

Preparing and planning a colorful warm-weather garden.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the most anticipated rites of spring is the vibrancy of the first blooms on flowers and trees. However, this beauty can only be savored after the weeding, pruning and planting are finished. While preparing and planning a spring garden is not an effortless endeavor, local landscaping gurus say that an organized plan can make it more manageable.

"The first thing you need to do is cut back any ornamental grasses like Liriope two to four inches off the ground so the brown, tired-looking leaves are gone before the new leaves start to grow," said David Watkins, general manager of Merrifield Garden Center. "If you wait too long it's tough to separate old from new and you end up getting brown on the new leaves."

Removing all of the leaves and other debris from the flowerbed is the next step, advises Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda. "Cut back any perennials or ornamental grasses that have not already been cut back and prune out any dead branches from existing shrubs," he said. "I fertilize at this point with ... a slow-release, organic fertilizer that works for blooming and evergreen plants. Lastly I put down a fresh layer of mulch and then the beds are ready for spring."

Preparing to have a perfectly manicured lawn for spring begins by raking removing all of the fallen leaves, adds Davis. "Having your PH tested would be a good idea because now would be the time to put down lime to get your soil to the correct acidity level which is 5.8 to 6.5," he said. "This is also the time to put down pre-emergent [herbicides] to keep the weeds from coming up, but you have to remember, if you put down a pre-emergent you cannot over seed for six to 12 weeks, depending on the product you are using."

Cutting away dead or overgrown branches to stimulate new growth comes next, says Watkins. "I would prune any branches on

shrubs and trees that are crisscrossing and rubbing against each other," he said. "Then edge, mulch and fertilize your plants. Remove old mulch first and put down two to three inches of new mulch, but make sure you don't put it too close to the trunk of the plant."

When whipping a garden into shape for spring, Alexandria-based landscape designer Ruth Tinsley believes in engaging the senses. "If you plant fragrant spring flowers like Honeysuckle, Phlox, Butterfly Bush and roses, they will give you a pleasant aroma when you are walking through your yard or garden," she said. "Plant them in large swaths to get the biggest impact."

Butterfly Bush and Stock are two flowering plants that do double-duty, advises Tinsley. "They not only have a nice fragrance, but they will add beautiful color to your yard or garden. Butterfly bush is relatively hearty and has vibrant pink and purple blooms, and Stock comes in a vivid, dark-red color."

Until temperatures are warm on a consistent basis, Davis offers a caveat about planting flowers. "I would only plant Pansies and Violas for flowers outside," he said. "They will give you good color all the way up to the time to plant summer annuals, which is when we have sustained night time temps around 55 degrees, usually around mid-April. For perennials about the only thing you can plant now would be hellebores."

"Forsythia bushes are blooming now. They're one of the first to bloom," added Watkins. "Shortly Camellias and Azaleas will start to bloom."

Options for plants that can tolerate cooler temperatures are plentiful, advises Watkins. "All of your trees and shrubs can be planted now and it's great to get your garden started early so there's less maintenance in the summer," he said. "All of our ornamental trees like Cherry, Red-bud, Crabapple and Dogwood can be planted now."

"As for shrubs, you can plant anything right now as long as it has been acclimated and does not have new tender growth," added Davis. "We have all of our plants that are tender either in our greenhouses or covered with frost blankets until the temperatures warm up."



PHOTO AMERICAN PLANT

Pansies and Violas can be planted now to offer bright colors to a spring garden, says Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda.

Connecting Jobs and Housing

FROM PAGE 3

NVTA's TransAction plan measures its success using 15 variables. Many of these serve NVTA's primary objectives to "reduce congestion and move the greatest number of people in the most cost-effective manner." Others serve, for example, to "increase access to jobs, employees, markets, and destinations" and "reduce transportation related emissions."

"High home values in the urban core push many residents to seek cheaper housing in the periphery. ... Meanwhile, work and opportunity do not follow affordable homes," according to a data-mapping presentation called "End of the Line," created by the Story Maps team at Esri, a mapping software company. "300,000 jobs are concentrated into downtown D.C. alone. With the exception of main thoroughfares and a few pockets of new development, job counts drop off exponentially at increasing distances from the urban core. Public transit is essential to bridge the divide between these jobs and affordable housing."

These challenges are chronic. The population in Northern Virginia is expected to grow by 24 percent by 2040.

"Outer suburban jurisdictions are expected to see the highest rates of growth, while the inner suburban jurisdictions and regional core will continue to be home to

the greater number of jobs and the most population," according to a 2016 report from the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), another regional entity. "Most places that currently have access to transit will experience increases in the number of jobs that are accessible within a 45-minute commute. However, in 2040 transit may still not be a viable commute option for many people in the region due to lack of access to transit facilities and potentially long travel times. ... The increased congestion on roadways and location of jobs and housing throughout the region would lead to a decrease in how many jobs on average can be reached within a 45-minute automobile commute."

"I'm a great believer in looking at 'housing plus transportation' costs," said Councilman Tim Lovain in an email. Lovain sits on NVTC and used to chair TPB. "The benefit of moving towards the periphery to get cheaper housing is greatly reduced by the cost and time spent with transportation. I strongly favor focusing development around our Metro stations and always including affordable housing in that development."

Smedberg hopes that citizens recognize "how interconnected we are as a region, particularly when it comes to transit, and how much coordination really goes on."

Lovain says it's important to "think like a region."



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**Dominion Energy Virginia Proposes
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In our continued commitment to provide safe and reliable power to area neighbors, Dominion Energy is proposing a new 230 kilovolt (kV) underground transmission line between Arlington County and the City of Alexandria to support identified energy needs for local residents and businesses.

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We invite you to attend one of our two open houses to view detailed maps on our preferred underground route along Potomac Avenue as well as other alternative solutions to be filed in an application to the Virginia State Corporation Commission later this year. Subject matter experts will be available to answer specific project questions.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
George Washington Middle School
1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301

Thursday, April 19, 2018
Hayfield Secondary School
7630 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 23860

Drop by anytime between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
There will be no formal presentation.

For more project details, visit us online at DominionEnergy.com/Glebe.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Historic Garden Week Celebrates 85th Year

Five Alexandria homes on tour.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Take a walk through history with the Old Town Historic Garden Week tour featuring gardens and courtyards blooming with Carolina Jasmine, roses, peonies and perennials. This tour includes five Alexandria homes including homes predating the Civil War. The Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria are joining the Garden Club of Virginia's (GCV) 85th Historic Garden Week in a week-long event that includes 25 statewide tours. This event is expected to attract 1,500 visitors to Alexandria and 25,000 statewide.

The Alexandria tour is scheduled on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It includes five historic homes and gardens including 201 South Lee St., 415 Prince St., 412 Prince St., 213 South Fairfax St. and 209 South Saint Asaph St. with refreshments served at St. Paul's Church at 228 South Pitt St.

Tickets also include admission to five nearby historic public properties including Gunston Hall, Mt. Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House.

Diane Hynes, co-chair of this year's Historic Garden Week with Ann McMurray, says they started over a year ago with the first step to get the houses. The chairs have already been chosen for 2019. "It is a really big job that starts with a boot camp in Richmond for new chairs. "Since this is a statewide event, they want to be sure everyone is on the same page.

This is a walking tour, so once they have the first house, they try to get houses that are nearby. Hynes says it is getting harder to get people to allow their houses to be part of the home tour. The garden tour can't feature the same house in a 10-year period.



This garden at 209 South Saint Asaph St. was professionally redesigned in 2016 and includes gardenias, roses and climbing perennials.

"There are a lot of lovely houses in Alexandria and people are proud of their homes but very protective. A lot of people come through. It's a big deal, and we're very appreciative."

Hynes says there are hundreds of details involved to make this a successful event. "Getting hostesses is one of the biggest deals. We have one in every room for the safety of the those touring as well as the rooms."

She adds that this takes a huge number of volunteers so members have to recruit their friends.

In addition, there are fresh flower arrangements created by the Garden Club members, mostly from their own gardens. Hynes says they try not to spend money on



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT

Boxwood edging and a limestone fountain outline the garden in this outdoor room at this 1852 home located at 412 Prince St.

flowers so they can send as much of the Garden Week proceeds as possible to Richmond for the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes.

"We have some incredibly talented arrangers. Coming to see the arrangements is worth it." Hynes says they do a walk through of each home. Do they need runners? What is the best traffic flow to get the crowds through in the easiest way? "Where do we want to place the arrangements? And we look at the art and the colors in the home so the arrangements compliment the atmosphere." The arrangers pour through books looking for something different.

Another detail is getting the history of the

homes and the ads for publishing in the guidebooks. This takes place way back in the summer. For example, this year's tour includes a property at 213 South Fairfax St. dating to 1781 with a flounder wing, flat on one side, and the front portion of this Federal home constructed in 1812. It has been updated and expanded but kept its 19th century charm.

Another at 201 South Lee St. dates to 1749 when Augustine Washington (George's half brother) purchased two lots at auction. In 1780 when a home was built by the first mayor of Alexandria, it was the largest structure in the city. It later became a large Georgian home, a bank, rental apartments and finally an updated 21st century residence.

The home at 415 Prince St. was originally constructed in 1807 to house a bank. Architecturally it is an early American "skyscraper," about as high as you could build without reinforced masonry. In 2010 it was purchased and extensively redesigned to convert it to a family residence.

Hynes says all kinds of things can happen during Garden Week. "The last two years we have had torrential downpours, but people still came." She says they go through seasonal cycles and some years the tulips may be gone but there is something else blooming. These gardens all have a variety of different plants in their gardens. "It's like the cherry blossoms; you never know."

The history of this event extends back to 1929 when the Garden Club of Virginia began its preservation efforts of the state's historic public gardens. Proceeds from the tours continue to fund the restoration and preservation of 40 historic public parks and gardens, a research fellowship and an initiative with Virginia State Parks.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 the day of the tour. The may be purchased at www.vagardenweek.org.

CALENDAR

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

APRIL 12-28

"Outside the Lines." Play performances at 10, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Tickets are \$9. The story is about two pen pals, Bud and Vi, who brighten each other's lives from afar. Bud lives in a straight-line world of tall, tall buildings. Vi lives in a curvy-line world of roly, roly hills. Bud and Vi have never met, but they create a world together by exchanging lines...through the mail. Tickets at www.artsonthehorizon.org/outside-the-lines.html.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6-9 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Sip on period cocktails and learn to make 18th century mixed drinks and snacks; enjoy a candlelight tour of George Mason's historic home. Tickets are \$35/\$25; sold online at

bit.ly/2Bd5iYl. Contact Mary Kristen Craver at 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or mkravcr@gunstonhall.org.

The Georgetown Saxatones. 6:30 p.m. wine and cheese reception; 7 p.m. program at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Tickets \$15. The Georgetown University Saxatones' repertoire includes everything from alternative to pop to soul. Proceeds to benefit the Saxatones' charity, The John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Buy tickets at www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Opening Reception: 2018

Emerging Artists. 7-9 p.m.; artist talk at 7:30 p.m. at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

Scrap City - Family Activities. 7-9:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. This event is offered in celebration of Virginia Architecture Week.

Architects from AIA Northern Virginia will be on hand to help participants design and build a "Scrap City." Families are encouraged to stop and participate. Reservations are not required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

APRIL 13-14

Spring Garden Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. More than 40 vendors will offer plants, vegetable seedlings, natives and pollinator favorites. Parking is \$10 (cash only) per car; waived for AHS members showing a current membership card or other proof of membership such as an online receipt. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahsgardening.org/gardenmarket.

APRIL 13-15

"Charlotte's Web." At Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Join MVCCT for a musical portrayal of the beloved classic, "Charlotte's Web." Tickets are \$14. Show times are April

13 at 7 p.m. and April 14, 15 at 3 p.m. Sensory kits available. Sign language interpretation on April 14. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MVCCT.org.

APRIL 13-29

"High School Musical." At George Washington Middle School auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by the George Washington Middle School Theater Department. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/Domain/10.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

The Old Dominion Boat Club Tour. 9-10 a.m. at 200 Strand St. This tour, led by Michael Winstanley, AIA, with Michael Winstanley Architects & Planners, the architects for the project, will explore the new three-story Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) completed in late 2017. This event is offered in celebration of Virginia Architecture Week. \$10. Attendance is limited and advance

reservations are required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

"We Love Old Town" Clean-Up

Day. 9-11 a.m. at Oronco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. The group was formed to partner with local business owners and City Hall staff to help keep Old Town clean, attractive, and well maintained. Activities will focus on identifying crumbling, loose or missing bricks, identifying tree wells in need of mulch or sprucing up, picking up trash, and other identified clean-up tasks. The rain date is Sunday, April 15, at the same time and location. Visit www.weloveoldtown.com or call Marjorie Scott at 703-625-2428.

Sympatico Concert. 10-11 a.m. at the Farmers Market at Market Square, 301 King St., Old Town Alexandria. Sympatico, a musical program through the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Coldwell Banker, is presented by children in grades K-5 at John Adams Elementary School. Greenstreet gift cards will be sold as a fundraiser for this program, benefiting the musical and life skills of participating children. Visit the

ENTERTAINMENT

'Swimming Up the Sun'

A Pipeline Playwrights' stage reading on April 16 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Playwright Nicole Burton will be presenting a reading of her play, "Swimming Up the Sun," as part of Pipeline Playwrights' second-annual play reading series on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.

"Swimming Up the Sun," directed by Carol Cadby, explores playwright Burton's journey at age 25 to find her English natural parents, a Jewish father and a mother believed to be an artist. The adventure leads to a kaleidoscope of relationships with one dark secret at its center. The play is adapted for the stage from Burton's 2008 book, "Swimming Up the Sun – A Memoir of Adoption."

"The play focuses on adoption and reunion from the adoptee's perspective," said Burton. "So often, we think of adoptees as 'children' but adoption affects adoptees their whole lives. Finding and reuniting with biological kin is a huge factor in becoming a whole person for many adoptees but it's a complicated affair, a dance of family blending with much emotional challenge and nuance."

She continued: "As an adoption reform activist, I spent several years touring and speaking about the book and reunion, but I'm really a playwright so I adapted the story for the stage to bring it to new audiences in an even deeper way."

As far as challenges, she said she had no idea how difficult adapting the book would be. "First, it's autobiographical and personal, and second, after the main character meets her natural parents, their relationships develop over a long period of time and at geographical distance. I've had to craft the essence of the main character's relationships with her mothers, fathers, and siblings, and that's taught me a lot about playwriting craft. Luckily, I've had the opportunity to work with wonderful directors, playwrights, and actors in the process," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said: "I'd like



Nicole Burton

the audience to see that separating people from their biological kin is really harmful, even traumatic, and that we should focus on preserving families and helping those who have been separated to reunite and rekindle their bonds. In a just world, a world in which mothers are truly respected, adoption should be almost un-

necessary."

The play features actors Dina Soltan, Emily Marsh, Lisa Hodsoll, Elliott Bailes, Claire Schoonover, Mark Lee Adams, and Clayton Pelham.

Burton's other plays include "Fred & Frieda," "Dirty Questions," and "Starman, Wish Me Luck." They've been produced at Source Theater, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Metro Stage, the Greenbelt Arts Center, the University of the District of Columbia, House of Ruth Homeless Shelter, and the U.S. Capitol. As resident playwright of Everyday Theater, she co-authored six plays about gentrification and crime in Washington, D.C. A member of the Dramatists Guild and Pipeline Playwrights, Burton lives in Riverdale, Md.

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia, working together to support, present, and promote each other's work with the goal of moving their plays into the local and national theater pipeline. Each of the current Pipeline Playwrights — Jean Koppen, Ann Timmons, Nicole Burton, and Patricia Connelly — is presenting a reading of a new full-length play in the 2018 spring reading series at MetroStage.

The play will be presented on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St. in Alexandria. Suggested donation is \$10. After the reading, enjoy refreshments and informal conversation with the playwright and actors. For more information, visit www.nicolejburton.com.

CALENDAR

event page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/205782539782227/.

Skyline Yoga. 10-11 a.m. at 2311 Wilson Blvd., Rooftop Terrace. Enjoy a free yoga class with local architects in an architecturally inspiring place with sweeping views of the metro area. Organized by the AIA Northern Virginia Young Architects Forum, this event is free and open to the public. Please bring a yoga mat. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

"Riding with George" Java Jolt Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327, Alexandria. Free. Philip Smucker will discuss his new book, "Riding with George: Sportsmanship & Chivalry in the Making of America's First President." Reservations required. Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399.

Puppet Shows. 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Featuring Sandy Feulner's Puppets and More. Reservations per show are \$5 for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To purchase tickets online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/

webtrac and select the activity number.

Architecture Scavenger Hunt for Children. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., begins at the AIA Northern Virginia Chapter House, 1101 Duke St. A fun self-guided activity for children and their families, organized by our Architecture Lab Committee. Start by checking in at the Chapter House. There participants will receive a map identifying 12 places that are synonymous with Old Town Alexandria. After completion of the activity, bring the map to the Torpedo Factory to receive a small prize. Children must be accompanied by an adult to participate. Free event, but pre-registration is required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

Huntley's Discovery Day. 1-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Free. Sleuth through documents, maps, artifacts, and architecture to discover which Founding Father once owned Huntley Meadows Park. Discover the hidden history of Historic Huntley by making (and tasting) homemade butter or cranking fresh ice cream. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

huntley-meadows-park/.

The U.S. Air Force Strings. 1:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Sixteen pieces will join in an afternoon for a traditional orchestra and strolling segment. To RSVP, email admin@nvfaa.org.

Discovery Day. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. \$5 donation. Enjoy activities for the whole family while discovering how this 19th century villa changed over time: sleuth through Huntley photos, maps and artifacts; tour the federal-style house; participate in old-time Huntley activities such as ice cream- and butter-making. Call 703 768-2525.

"Chocolate Through Time." 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. An interactive presentation led by food historian Joyce White will focus on how chocolate has changed through time. The presentation will be followed by a chance to taste an assortment of chocolate recipes. Tickets are \$15 through museum's website; \$20 day of program. visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

The American Horticultural Society's

SPRING GARDEN MARKET

Plant sale & garden product marketplace

APRIL 13 & 14 at RIVER FARM
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, Virginia
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Parking \$10 per car;
free for AHS members

For more information, visit:
www.ahsgardening.org/GardenMarket

The American Horticultural Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Proceeds from this community event help support the AHS's educational programs and the stewardship of River Farm.

Thanks to media sponsor
Mount Vernon Gazette

OPEN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Make reservations early

Le Refuge Restaurant

Spring Specials

Shad Roe season has begun!

- Split Pea Soup with Smoked Sausage
- Asparagus with Fresh Smoked Trout
- Venison Medallions
- Beef Wellington
- Rack of Lamb
- Dover Sole
- Cassoulet
- Frog Legs



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Patio seating available

127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661
Smoke-Free Restaurant
www.lerefugealexandria.com

WeLive Crystal City. 2-3 p.m. at 2221 South Clark St., #413, Arlington. Perkins Eastman, the project Architect of Record, transformed a 1960s Crystal City office building into a co-living, micro-unit residential building, part of the shared workspace provider WeWork. Tenant amenities include media lounges, a library, professional kitchens, co-working space, a laundry-arcade, yoga studio and a courtyard with tables and grills. Free. Register to ensure space. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

Writing Training. 2:15-4:15 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn how to write a letter to the editor. Bring an article about an issue that's important to you. Contact Stephanie Burns at sdburns13@gmail.com.

Firm Tour – Winstanley Architects & Planners. 3-4 p.m. at Winstanley Architects & Planners, 107 North West St. Tour an architecture firm located in a renovated warehouse, see impressive architectural models for projects worldwide and learn about the firm's award winning Potomac Transportation Framework Plan. The tour is free and reservations are not necessary. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

UCM Spring Gala. 6 p.m. at U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Madison Building Atrium, 600 Dulany St., Old Town Alexandria. Join United Community Ministries for a special event of celebration, benefiting local families in need. Event emcee is NBC4 News 4 Anchor, Adam Tuss. Bruce and Joanne Malkin will be honored with the Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Tickets \$200 per person; \$140 under age 40. Sponsorships starting at \$500 still available, including seats and publicity. Details at www.ucmagency.org or email info@ucmagency.org.

Springtime in Paris Ball. 7-10:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Cost is \$150. Enjoy a "joie de vivre" atmosphere with music by Doc Scantlin and Chou Chou. French cuisine, libations and silent auction. visit www.gadsbytaavernmuseum.us. Contact Kay Zerwick, Ball Co-Chair at kay.zerwick@gmail.com.

Gatsby's Speakeasy. 8:30 p.m. at Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) to benefit the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Ticket prices range from \$50 for the 8:30 p.m. opening (includes casino, bourbon tasting, signature cocktail (2), dancing, live music.) to full access from \$200 per person to \$5,000 for a table for 10, which begins with the Patron's Reception. visit www.501auctions.com/sola.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 14-15

Annual Daffodil Show. Saturday, 2-7 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple, 1430 West Braddock Road, Show features different daffodil forms and colors including trumpet, large-cup, small-cup, double, split-cup, and miniature. Show also includes a design category and a multi-category photography contest, with photographs to feature daffodils. Free. visit www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Parallel Lives Gallery Talk. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Join a Gallery Talk with the artists in Parallel Lives and exhibition curator Brigitte Reyes. The talk will be moderated by Laura Roulet, independent curator. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Jazz at Meade Concert. 4-6 p.m. at

'I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)'

MetroStage presents Jewish comic, musician and writer Deb Filler.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

As part of MetroStage's Spring Solo Series, Deb Filler, a Jewish comic performer, musician and writer from Canada by way of New Zealand, will be performing "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)," which she also wrote, from April 13-29.

With a guitar and a raft of lovable characters, she has charmed audiences in Toronto, London, Sydney, Jerusalem, NYC and Los Angeles with stories of her encounters with the three Lennys: Leonard Bernstein, Leonard Cohen and Lenny Kravitz.

"I tell some of my most treasured stories and some classic dirty Jewish jokes," said Filler. "Like the ones I told Leonard Cohen when I drove him in a car service to LaGuardia Airport in 1984. Something hilarious, uproarious and incredible happened on that drive. And later we became buddies. He was so uncynical and he helped me, a young musician, beyond words. A model of generosity and kindness in his performance and in his soul."

"I play a whole whack of characters including Mick Jagger singing in Yiddish — I think you get bang for ya buck! And because music can touch us so deeply, I'm psyched to be bringing some great music to the terrific audiences in Alexandria and D.C.," she said.

Filler added: "This show is about connections between all types of people, young and old, rich, poor, whatever. Nostalgia is a powerful thing. And so is storytelling. I have a rich life's tapestry to draw from, so now I am passing it on. Bring the kids? Sure! We all love a great story"

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director at MetroStage, "More than a decade ago (Filler) graced our stage with her remarkable 'Filler Up!' where she literally baked a loaf of challah and received a Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress. I have been interested in her return ever since."

She continued: "A natural born storyteller, a musician, a comic, who can play and literally become multiple characters in all of her solo shows, she is a treasure who we are delighted to showcase on our stage. Because that is what MetroStage does — we showcase remarkable talent who tell memo-



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Deb Filler will be performing her show April 13-29 at MetroStage in Alexandria.

orable stories."

Included in the production is the short film entitled "Mr. Bernstein" by director Francine Zuckerman, and written by Filler and Guy Hamling, which has been screened in film festivals around the world. It won the Best Drama at the Toronto International Short Film Festival, The Best Short Film, Screen Guild in New Zealand, and the Film Movement Short Film Award, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

Although home is Toronto, Filler is considered New Zealand's only Jewish comic (a Ki-brew-a Kiwi Hebrew). She has performed in television series and on stages worldwide, with productions of "Filler Up!," "Punch Me in the Stomach," and now, "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)."

Griffin said Filler has a fascinating history as a musician, almost becoming a folk singer, has studied acting with the best in New York, performed in political theatre groups, and ultimately became a solo performer with her stories, personality and talent.

She said: "Always with humor but as a daughter of a Holocaust survivor there is always a poignant underpinning to her stories. This is what I love about Deb — her talent as an entertainer but also the heart and soul supporting all of her work. She is unforgettable, and she will be at MetroStage for three weeks in April."

Performances for "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)" are April 13-29. Show times are as follows: Thursdays, Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45. The venue is MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Featuring jazz saxophonist Marshall Keys at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. Suggested \$20 donation for jazz and buffet. Visit www.meadechurch.org or email jazzatmeade@meadechurch.org.

Metropolitan School of Arts'

Annual Showcase. 5 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Alexandria's Metropolitan School of the Arts Performing Arts Academy is hosting its Anniversary Annual Showcase, 10Plus 1, an innovative choreography of MSA students in tap,

jazz, contemporary and hip-hop. \$20 per person. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

FamilySearch.org Changes. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Free. Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's Carol Kostakos Petranek will discuss the recent changes to FamilySearch.org, the world's largest free family history website. For more information, visit www.genealogy.org or www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-

768-4101.

APRIL 17-MAY 20

Mathematics Show. at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Featuring the work of Mary Ann Robinson and Sylvia Saborio. The beauty of mathematics will be on display: hyperbolic geometry, fractal art, the golden ratio, the Fibonacci series — all serve as rich sources of inspiration for this theme. Call 703-548-0935 or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

"Sunflowers" Exhibit Reception.

5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce office, 6821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. An exhibition of Nina Tisara's mosaic art, "Here, Now," will be exhibited from April 18-June 15. For reservations by April 11, email ninat@ninatisara.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Mary Jane O'Laughlin, "Ruby and Baby... and unlikely Friendship." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Spring2Action Fundraiser.

5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Light Horse, 715 King St., Alexandria. Presented by ACT for Alexandria. A fundraiser for the Lee-Fendall House Museum to continue repairs to its foundations. The goal is to raise \$3,000 to complete another section of foundation work. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Vegetable Gardening Series, Part 5: Square Foot Gardening.

7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Using this system, originated by Mel Bartholomew, grow more fresh produce in a small space, and save time with less watering, weeding, and tilling. Learn the simple principles of square foot gardening that give a high yield, easily maintained intensive garden. Free. Advance registration requested at mgvnv.org. Questions, call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

APRIL 19-JUNE 3

Art Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams' paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau's canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Poetry Month Reading. 6:30-8 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Wendi R. Kaplan, Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria invites you to read poetry. "DASHing Words in Motion" Poets will also read their winning poetry that will be on the DASH buses and Trolleys in April and May. Visit the Office of the Arts' website at www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, email the Poet Laureate at poet@alexandriava.gov, or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Rocket Run for Autism. 9 a.m. at Rose Hill Elementary School, 6301 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Includes a 5K Run-Walk and a Fun Run for Kids. All proceeds go to the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, which builds community for over 5,000 individuals and families affected by autism through education, advocacy, and support. Online registration is available. Contact Laura Osborne at lc Osborne@fcps.edu.

Marketplace at The Athenaeum.

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Stop by the Athenaeum as part of a great day touring gardens and homes in Alexandria. The Hunting Creek Garden Club has curated a selection of vendors who will display their wares among the art in the gallery. NVFAA Members Pre-sale 8:45- 9:30 a.m. Visit nvfaa.org.

Learn About Native Plants. 10 a.m.-noon. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$8/person. Native plants are critical to the survival of Virginia's

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

A Sense of Déjà Vu

BY HOPE NELSON

Step into the new champagne and wine bar along the first block of South Royal Street and you're liable to feel a sense of déjà vu. The location feels so familiar, but the name – BRUT – is new and ambiance has changed.

It's a common occurrence, says owner Dustin Lara. After becoming a partner with Grape and Bean owners David Gwathmey and Sheera Rosenfeld, Lara changed the focus and vibe of the erstwhile Grape and Bean outpost, pivoting to a champagne bar with wine and small plates. In a move that is close enough to the original concept while striking out in a different direction, Lara says visitors often come in, look about, and feel they've been here before. That's because they have, albeit under a different name and a different menu.

After working with Gwathmey and Rosenfeld for a decade – “since Day One,” Lara says – the team decided to make a move.

“We thought 10 years was a good time to talk about partnership,” he said. “I was really grateful, and David and Sheera have just been fantastic.”

BRUT has continued its predecessor's tradition of being a neighborhood hangout; the vast majority of the bar's customer base is local. Lara prides himself on continuing to be a go-to spot for food, drink and conversation — even when snow closes the government.

“We're in a federal city ... I have OPM (alerts) on my phone. When the fed's closed, I know we're going to be open,” he said.

Longtime Grape and Bean customers will notice a change, but nothing earth-shattering.

Details

BRUT, 118 S. Royal St.

Hours: 5-10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 5-11 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m.-midnight Saturday; 1-6 p.m. Sunday.

Website: www.brutwinebarva.com

“They will experience a shift in our wine into champagne,” Lara said. “I wasn't hesitant at all to think that it would go really well — it's going very well, actually.”

Gone is the coffee bar; in its place, dozens of sparkling wine and champagne bottles have entered the scene (Lara aims to reach 100 different sparkling and champagne bottles in short order). And a renewed food menu rounds out the offerings.

One of the stars of the show: Raclette. Lara was introduced to the grilled-cheese delicacy while touring London and has brought the dish home to BRUT. He's sourced his cheese from Spring Brook Farm in Reading, Pa., and is more than satisfied with the result.

“It just melts perfectly, it cuts perfectly, it scrapes perfectly,” he said.

Choose a meatless version with roasted potatoes, arugula and

cornichons, or go all-in with salame, cappicollo and more.

And vegans won't be left out, either: Cheesy raclette isn't the only game in town. Lara aims to keep several menu items dairy-free at all times, including all of the soups. From butternut squash over the cooler months to white gazpacho for summertime, vegans will certainly have more than a head of lettuce to keep them occupied.

Up next: Some champagne and wine tastings as well as some wine classes, Lara says. And don't expect much pretense with any of it.

“We love wine and we love champagne, and we don't like the attitude that some people have with it. We enjoy it. And we don't use that skill to make ourselves better than anyone else,” he said.

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

CALENDAR

animals. Learn what makes a plant invasive and why it should be removed. Wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Kite Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. With children's activities, crafts, historical characters, and guided tours. Visitors can also speak with a kite maker, specializing in 18th-century kite construction. Cost is \$10/adults; \$8/children (ages 6-18). Contact Mary Kristen Craver at 703-550-9220, ext. 240 or mkraver@gunstonhall.org.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Free. Tour Carlyle House and purchase herbs, plants, and flowers raised in Mount Vernon's greenhouses. Enjoy live musical entertainment throughout the day, a bake sale, book sale, white elephant table, and more. Admission to Carlyle House Museum is \$5/adults; \$3/children. Visit www.novaparks.com.

Raptor Rapture. 10 a.m.-noon at Belle Haven Park, South of Old Town. You can see and photograph live raptors like barn and barred owls, hawks and more up close. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia and the National Park Service. Visit www.fodm.org.

Poetry in the Garden. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Celebrate National Poetry Month by walking

the gardens with a naturalist to find plants that have inspired poets of the past. For ages 5-adult. Cost is \$6/person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Meet the Speaker. 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington. Encore Learning Lecture presents Mary Beth Sheridan, a correspondent on “Life at the Washington Post from Foreign Correspondent to the Foreign Editor's Desk.” Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

Acoustic Eidolon Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Featuring Rob Gould; sponsored by FocusMusic. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20/door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

George Washington Parkway

Classic. 8 a.m. start time. 10 Miler or 5K Race. The 34th annual race starts at Mount Vernon Estate and ends in Old Town Alexandria. For registration information, race route details and event day activities, visit www.runpacers.com/race/parkway-classic/. Race starts at 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Cost is \$78-10 Miler, \$48-5K, \$10-Sugar Shack Kids Dash.


Brunch Pop-Up. 8-11 a.m. at Hotel Indigo Old Town, 220 S. Union St., Alexandria. Hosting a brunch pop-up and poster making station for the GW Parkway Classic race, on Sunday April 22. They've partnered with Café 44 to offer \$5 rose and prosecco

Chambongs, mini “Sunrise on the go” biscuit sandwiches with bacon egg and cheddar, as well as some other light brunch bites. Visit hotelindigooldtownalexandria.com.


Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. at GW Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents an afternoon of music. Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich was written in rebellion of the Russian government. The concert also features local composer Anthony Iannaccone's theme on Boccherini's famous Menuet, Divertimento for Orchestra. \$20, adults; children 18 and under, free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

Artist Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. For Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams' paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau's canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Mozart Sacred Works. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by New Dominion Chorale. Thomas Beveridge, Artistic Director, will conduct the 175-voice chorus, soloists and orchestra in a selection of Mozart's works. Tickets at www.newdominion.org or at the door. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$15 for students and children. Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. Call 202-244-7191.



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce



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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

Public Hearing for the Draft City Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development.

Public Hearing for the Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan Update.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2018. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2018.

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia authorizing the Issuance of short term General Obligation Notes in the estimated maximum amount of \$250,000,000. The proposed ordinance authorizes the issuance of short term general obligation notes for city and schools capital projects in the estimated maximum amount of \$250,000,000.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-6-26 (SEWER LINE MAINTENANCE CHARGE IMPOSED; PROVISIONS FOR COLLECTION; LIENS AND CESSATION OF WATER SERVICE FOR DELINQUENT CHARGES) of Division 1 (GENERAL PROVISION) of Article B (SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAIN), Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance increases the sewer line maintenance charge from \$1.82 to \$2.28 for every 1,000 gallons of water supplied per month or quarter.

AN ORDINANCE to set the hourly wage rate that contractors are required to pay their employees under public contracts for the provision of services to \$15.00 per hour beginning in FY 2019, pursuant to Code Section 3-3-31.1 (SERVICE CONTRACT WAGES) of Division 1 (Competitive Sealed Bidding) of Article D (Contract Formation and Source Selection) of Chapter 3 (Purchases and Contractual Services) of Title 3 (Finance, Taxation and Procurement) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance would set the hourly wage rate contractors are required to pay their employees under public contracts for the provision of services to \$15.00 per hour beginning in FY 2019.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-3-4 (VARIANCE OR WAIVER OF PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE) of Chapter 3 (UNDERGROUND UTILITIES) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. Section 5-3-4 provides that the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services may waive requirements pertaining to new or expanded overhead customer utility services and to new or relocated overhead transmission and distribution facilities, provided that the Director finds that the new, extended or relocated service or facility is required to provide additional street lighting to suppress criminal activity and that the waiver is requested or supported by the director of the

office of citizens' assistance or the chief of police. This technical amendment removes reference to approval from the Office of Citizens' Assistance, which is a defunct department. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 4 (HUMAN RIGHTS) and Chapter 11 (ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON DISABLED PERSONS) of Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The Human Rights Code is being updated to: i) Remove the requirement that all mailings be accomplished by certified mail; ii) Update the names of departments that have changed and reallocate responsibilities to reflect how the responsibilities are being performed by City departments; iii) Update terminology for references to the Affirmative Action plan to a diversity and inclusion plan. This change was made in consultation with Human Resources Department and Office of Human Rights; and iv) Remove reference to voluntary fair housing affirmative action agreement, which are no longer applicable. This change was made in consultation with the Office of Housing. The Chapter on the Alexandria Commission on Disabled Persons is similarly amended to update department names, remove reference to repealed Virginia Code provisions, and update terminology. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code. This amendment to the Human Rights Code and Chapter on the Alexandria Commission on Disabled Persons is precipitated by changes in state law, changes in City departments and programs, and the need to reduce the significant burden of certified mailings.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-145 (FLOOR AREA) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) and Section 7-202 (PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0003.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0003 to amend the provision for small accessory buildings permitted in required yards in order to better align with functional sizes and heights for these types of structures on residentially zoned properties and to align the method of measurement for the height of accessory buildings to match the measurement for height of buildings.

AN ORDINANCE to Make a Supplemental Appropriation for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Project to the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2018. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2018.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday, April 21, 2018. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

SPORTS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Springtime Fun

The Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center partnered with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Psi Nu Chapter on March 31 for an afternoon of springtime fun and festivities. More than 200 guests were present and more than 2,500 eggs were donated for this event. Youth ages 1-12 years old hopped into the center to engage in group games, moon bounce fun, face painting, silly slime workshops and edible art. As an added treat Peter Rabbit and Mickey and Minnie Mouse stopped by the center to spread a little springtime cheer. To register for summer camp, stop by the center located at 1108 Jefferson St. or visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

TC Crew Rows to Victory

Women's Light 8 and Frosh 8 are 2-0

For the second year in a row, inclement weather shortened the schedule of races at the Walter Mess Regatta at the Occoquan Reservoir on April 7, with rowers challenged throughout the day on the 1500-meter course by snow, a brisk headwind, and wind chills hovering just above freezing.

While finals in some race categories were cancelled as weather conditions further deteriorated late in the afternoon, the T.C. Williams Crew Team still came away with victories in this early season outing.

The 2018 Walter Mess included almost 1,600 athletes from 30 Virginia, D.C., and Pennsylvania schools who raced in 227 boats, 12 of which came from T.C. Williams.

In their debut race of the season, the Titan Women's Novice 8 boat placed second in their heat with a time of 7:17.3. Also in their first race were TC's two Men's Novice 8 boats, one of which won its heat with a time of 5:57.3. Unlike other schools, whose novice boats usually include freshmen and older rowers, TC Novice boats typically are composed entirely of eighth graders.

Following a strong showing at the Noxontown Regatta on March 31, the TC Men's Frosh 8 won their flight with a time 5:42.5, placing them second behind perennial powerhouse St. Albans among the 9 Men's Frosh 8 boats at the Walter Mess. Fresh off their Noxontown win, the TC Women's Frosh 8B boat "raced up" in the Women's Third 8 category against upperclass rowers, notching a third place finish in 6:40.6.

The Titan Women's Light 8 squad scored another victory in their second race of the season with a time of 6:13.0, besting W.T. Woodson (6:23.8), Lake Braddock (6:53.7), and Yorktown (6:56.5). The TC Women's Light 8 boat on Saturday included rowers Ava Elkins, Chloe Marsh, Anna Jane Guynn, Felicity Brock, Alaina Browand, Lila Arnold, Anna Hill, and Caroline Surratt, and coxswain Paula Filios.

Also scoring their second, assertive win in as many races, the Titan Women's Frosh 8A boat raced up a couple notches in the Women's Junior 8 category, meaning their opponent boats could be composed of any upper class rowers other than seniors. The spirited TC Frosh Women dominated the six-boat field with a winning time of 6:12.1, over 31 seconds ahead of second-place Oakton and 47 seconds ahead of third-place South County. The Titan Women's Frosh 8A includes rowers Riley Bucholz, Libby Padilla, Mackenzie Allen, Kaitie Dennis, Wellesley Snyder, Grace Yokitis, Adrienne Carter, and Halle Reinholtz, and coxswain Caroline Miles.

Although their final was cancelled, the TC Women's Second 8 placed second in their heat with a time of 6:19.0, the third fastest time among the 10 boats in the Women's Second 8 category. The TC Men's Second 8 finished third in their heat with a time of 5:28.8 in a 13-boat field.

The Titan Women's First 8 also qualified for finals that were canceled with a 6:03.4 second-place finish in their heat, which also was the second fastest time for the 11-boat Women's 1V8 field at the Walter Mess. The TC Men's First 8 finished third in their heat with a time of 5:32.8 in a 15-boat field.

TC travels back to the Occoquan Reservoir on April 14 for the Darrell Winslow Regatta.

Obituary



Obituary of Joan C. Wood

Joan Wood, ninety three years of age, passed away on March 20, 2018 at Regent Court Memory Center, Corvallis, Oregon. She was the daughter of Peter J. Mack and Louisa Wilson Mack. She was born October 1, 1924 at Tidworth Hants in South East Wiltshire, England. A child of an army officer, she received her early schooling in England, Ireland, India, Burma and China. She married Darrell G. Wood in England in 1944 while he was serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

From 1941 to 1943 she worked as a telephone operator, volunteer with the Red Cross, and at the Post Office in Devizes, England. In the nineteen-sixties she also was a dental assistant for four years. She traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, Canada, the Middle East, and the United States. She was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis and was active in the Republican Party.

She is survived by her daughter Anne W. Poland (William H. Poland, husband) of Clarksville, Tennessee; a son Michael J. Wood (Rose K. Wood, wife) of San Francisco, California; a son Keith R. Wood of Lorimer, Iowa; a daughter Patricia M. Wood of Portland, Oregon; and sons David P. Wood and Brian R. Wood of Corvallis, Oregon. Also surviving is her brother Peter Mack of Devizes, England, nine grand children, eight great grand children, and two nieces.

She is preceded in death by her parents, by her husbands Darrell G. Wood and John Baumgartner, and a son Darrell G. Wood, Jr.

A Mass will be offered on Saturday April 14 at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis. Mrs. Wood's remains will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia at a later date.

The family asks that any remembrances be sent to the Oregon Alzheimer's Association in care of McHenry Funeral Home in Corvallis who are handling final arrangements.

Obituary



Kenneth W. Shute, retired GS-15 Cryptologist with the National Security Agency (NSA) died April 6, 2018, from pneumonia.

Born in South Bend, IN, in 1925, he moved with his family in 1939 to Alexandria, VA, where he attended George Washington High School. Upon graduation in 1943, he was accepted into the V-5 Naval Aviation Cadet training program. Later, when this program was curtailed, he served as an aviation radioman/gunner with the Naval Air Patrol Bombing Squadron VPB-119, based at Clark Air Force Base, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Among other medals awarded for his service were the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two stars.

After his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, he attended George Washington University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Psychology in 1948. It was there that he met his wife-to-be Beverly Berry, who also majored in Psychology. They were married in August 1948. In 1949, he joined a predecessor organization of NSA, continued to work for NSA after it was organized in 1952, and retired from the agency in 1980 after 35 years of credited federal service, 32 of which were with NSA. During his employment with NSA, he worked in the offices of Advanced Analysis (ADVA) and A group. He participated, in a supervisory role and at various times, in the cryptanalytic attacks on systems, and in the collection, analysis and reporting of new and unidentified signals. He served as a tutor for new interns, and in 1975 was named team leader for a special task-analysis study on cryptanalysis. He was board-certified as a Cryptanalyst, a Signals Analyst, and a Collections Officer, and received NSA's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in May 1980. His last assignment with NSA was as a GS-15 Division Chief in A Group, with a work force of 125 civilian and military personnel, in a round-the-clock machine-processing operation using computer-based, electronic equipment.

From 1981 to 1987, following his retirement from NSA in September 1980, he worked as a program analyst for the University of Maryland, Department of Physical Plant. From 1988 to 1991, satisfying his life-long interest in books, he worked as a Library Associate for the Prince Georges County, MD Library System, primarily at the Beltsville, MD branch. He continued to work at the Beltsville Branch Library as a volunteer for several more years.

He was active in various civic groups during his residency in Maryland from 1955 on. He worked as a volunteer, with his wife Beverly Shute, for the Colesville, MD Meals-on-Wheels program; served as the President of the Board of Directors for the New Carrollton Swim Club during the construction phase of the pool in 1958; served as President of the Beltsville Junior High School PTA; and in 1986 he served as a volunteer with the Montgomery County, MD Office of Consumer Affairs.

His hobbies included family research, writing articles on genealogy and other subjects, providing help to others in their family research, solving puzzles of different kinds, and playing in a senior softball league sponsored by the Montgomery County, MD Recreation Department. He was a member of the Society of Genealogists, London, England; The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society, Taunton, England; and the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History, Salt Lake City, UT. He and his wife were members of the University United Methodist Church, College Park, MD.

In 2005 he and Bev moved to Homewood at Plum Creek in Hanover, PA. They were involved in many activities including Wii Bowling, Dart Baseball and Bunco games. They attended the chapel at Homewood. He was active in the Men's group and he wrote original limericks and puzzles for the monthly newsletter. He is tremendously loved and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Beverly Berry Shute, of Hanover, PA; a son Douglas Shute of Front Royal, VA; a daughter Dr. Valerie Shute of Tallahassee, FL; a daughter Dr. Barbara Shute of Hanover, PA; eleven grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

A private service is planned.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, 2595 Interstate Drive - Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or the Homewood at Plum Creek Memory Unit, 425 Westminster Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331 or a charity of your choice.

Expressions of sympathy may be shared at PanabakerFuneralHome.com

Legals

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM

Property Name: Former Del Ray Cleaners (Walgreens Store #12359)
1509-1517 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301 Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) No: 00520
VRP Participant: Mt. Vernon & Monroe, LLC
c/o PECO Real Estate Partners
1790 Bonanza Dr. #201
Park City, Utah 84060

In accordance with the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) public participation requirements of 9 VAC 20-160-120, the general public is hereby notified that Mt. Vernon & Monroe, LLC has enrolled the property located at 1509-1517 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA (Former Del Ray Cleaners) in the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) and is requesting a Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). Certain volatile organic compounds (VOC) were identified in soil and groundwater at the site as a result of past dry cleaning operations. In accordance with the VRP requirements, site characterization and human health risk assessments were performed, and a remedial action plan (RAP) was prepared and, after some revision, approved by VDEQ. In accordance with the revised RAP, a series of voluntary remedial activities have been completed at the site, including the removal of contaminated soil, in-situ chemical remediation (ISCR), and the implementation of engineering controls for the building in the form of soil capping and the installation of a vapor barrier and sub-slab venting system. The sub-slab venting system will be operated and maintained in perpetuity regardless of VOC levels. Institutional control in the form of a groundwater use restriction will be placed on the property to ensure long term protectiveness to occupants of the subject property and to protect the public. For more information on this matter, you may contact the person listed below by telephone, email or FAX. Any comments can be submitted in writing to Apex by mail, email or fax. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following the publication date of this notice.

Mr. Prem Neupane Program Manager Apex Companies, LLC
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Rockville, MD 20855
Telephone: (301) 417-0200
Fax No: (301) 975-0169
Email: pneupane@apexcos.com

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Storage Line of Virginia, LLC (t/a APT Storage), Box 767, Haymarket VA 20168, pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rental of a storage unit, will hold a public auction for the sale of all goods in a storage unit to take place at 2:00 pm on Tuesday, April 17 at storage unit 301A, located at Strand of Alexandria, 240 Yoakum Pky, Alexandria VA 22304 to satisfy the lien. All terms of the sale are cash. Call 800-217-4280 for questions.

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Some Restrictions Apply

It's A Miracle (Not a Cancer Column) ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



... that the green, cotton, chino-type casual-Friday pants I often wear on -in-the-office-Thursdays, lasted as long as they did. Given the number of years I've been stuffing myself into them (not every Thursday mind you, but very regularly), and the weight I've gained, especially since the ultra low point during heavy duty chemotherapy nine years ago, the miracle is that these pants hadn't split wide open on any number of previous occasions.

As it actually happened yesterday, the split was gradual, not along a seam and not offensive to anybody, least of all, me.

And though the tear was understandable, given the psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure they were under, the loss however expected was sad nonetheless. For someone who exults in a limited wardrobe as much as I do, the reduction in available garments I choose to wear – repeatedly, is impactful.

Hardly do I have too many other go-to-pants in the closet. Considering my lack of interest, lack of need and lack of properly fitting alternatives hanging in the balance, when a split occurs, such as the one I've described "heretofore," (Ben Affleck in "Good Will Hunting"), not only is the loss palpable, it is downright inconvenient. Now what? Not that my appearance is ever a priority, but I'd rather not dress for failure.

The problem is, when your clothing options can be characterized as "either or," you're in a bind which, given the pounds that have been added over the winter (let's be honest; more like the preceding fall, summer, spring, winter and fall), you're constantly challenged, especially when attempting to zip up your fly and/or button your pants. Talk about a pointless effort.

If there was a cash reward for such failure, I'd be basking somewhere warm, in semi retirement – with an elastic waistband to do my bidding.

"But alas, poor Yurick." No such reward exists, but thankfully, elastic waistbands do, and not just on underwear, bathing suits, shorts and sweatpants. The question becomes then: How committed do I want to become to such elasticity? Isn't it kind of a slippery slope to rubberize my waistline? My fear is, once I go elastic, I may never go back, and in never going back, I'm also afraid there may be no stopping me, if you know what I mean? And if I'm not to be stopped then am I prepared to live with myself, my ever-expanding self, that is?

I imagine my oncologist wouldn't approve. And I know my internal medicine doctor wouldn't approve (I've already received some electronic advisories to that effect); and I know with 100 percent certainty that my wife, Dina wouldn't approve. She might have married me "in sickness and health, and thick and thin," but she'd much rather I be thin than thick.

Granted, I may be mixing metaphors here, but I trust you get my point. She liked me the way I was, and sort of likes me the way I am, but I'm doubtful she would like me nearly as much if I were to morph into another being.

Ergo, the future is now. Do I continue to pack on the pounds and have less and less clothing that fits – and fewer and fewer excuses as to why that old thing seems to be that same old thing, again; buy new clothes that reflect and lock in my girth, or bite the bullet – not the Entenmann's Pop'ems, Hostess CupCakes, Oreo Mega Stuf cookies or M&M's plain/peanut butter candy and try to lose weight and save some face, literally?

I believe I know the answer. I'm just not sure of the start date. It better be soon because the underwear I bought myself for Christmas is beginning to lose its shape and I'm pretty sure I know the reason; and it's not a manufacturer's defect.

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

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NEWS

Metro

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Allison Silberberg noted that while the council was approving a total budget of \$320 million, she reaffirmed that the goal is still for the project to come in under budget.

"We're not the Federal Reserve making money here," said Silberberg, "We have to work hard to keep it under budget."

Silberberg asked if the project incentivized coming in under budget, and while Director of Project Implementation Mitch Bernstein said there's no contractual incentive for early completion, it is in their best interest to build the project as swiftly as possible and move on to other projects.

The refined design of the station are planned to undergo review by the Planning Commission and City Council in Fall 2018. If approved, early construction could begin by the end of the year.

"Up next," said City Manager Mark Jinks, "We have a station to build."

Pat Troy

FROM PAGE 1

mented his pub, Pat Troy's Ireland's Own, for 20 years, and got lost on the way to the funeral. While she drove and smoked a cigarette through a cracked driver's side window, she was drawn to the faint sound of the Alexandria Pipes and Drums playing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

"His pub saved me, in a way," Burke said. "I became part of the group whenever there was a parade, and then you'd go over to the pub afterwards, and then you just felt like one of the family. You know, when you're going through tough times in your life, you need that."

Martin White, CEO and founder of Fiona's Irish Restaurant & Pub in Arlington, met Troy in 1986.

"Pat was a mentor to so many of us who emigrated to Alexandria from Ireland in the mid-80s," White said. "I will miss his sage advice as well as his friendship."

Kim Moore is the chair of the Ballyshaners, a nonprofit that runs the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and other Irish-related events in the city. The word translates to "Old towners" in Gaelic.

"I don't know what we're going to do without him," Moore said of Troy. "He taught me so much about the importance of being active in our community and I hope that the Ballyshaners will continue to live up to his legacy."

Pat Troy is survived by his wife, Bernadette, children Kathleen and Patrick and a large extended family.

Troy's son Patrick spoke about his father at the reception at the Basilica of St. Mary School gymnasium, which included pints of Guinness Irish Stout, Irish coffees and plenty of Irish fare.

"My dad doesn't want to see us sad and upset," Troy said. "Today's a celebration, it's a party and he wants us to have a good time."

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PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/18.

\$44⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

COMPLIMENTARY
15 MINUTE
ALIGNMENT
CHECK

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

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

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$99⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect
front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all
hardware. TCMC pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES

\$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

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SPRING VENTILATION SPECIAL

\$129⁹⁵

Includes: Replace cabin air filter, and Toyota
Evaporator Service using anti-bacterial foam cleanser
and odor eliminator. Bring back that new car smell!

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VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF when you spend \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF when you spend \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$500.00 or more

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Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

TRUESTART™ BATTERY SPECIAL

\$99⁹⁵



INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

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

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

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



OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Old Town | \$750,000

Sparkles & shines with a full interior renovation completed in March 2018. Fantastic 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with gleaming wood floors, modern white kitchen, great fenced backyard & 3 blocks from King St Metro. thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/317-n-fayette/
Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Waynewood | \$649,900

New appliances, fresh paint, vaulted ceiling, gas fireplace, wood floors, French doors, oversized garage, driveway for boat/RV, utility room addition. Fenced yard, shed, patio, 2 attics, updated kitchen, baths, Waynewood school, near GW bike trail! 922 Croton Dr.
Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153
www.SueDickersonRealtor.com

OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Alexandria | \$539,000

Dreams of space for everyone and everything become reality in this spacious 4-bedroom, 3-bath home. Eat-in kitchen. Family room with fireplace & teak floors. Updated baths. Superb laundry. Fabulous \$45K swim spa for resistance exercise. 6836 Stoneybrooke Lane
Sue Feintheil 703.819.1964
www.sue4homes.com

OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Old Town | \$694,000

Wonderful garage townhome in commuter's dream location. Recent updates including renovated baths, roof, deck, washer/dryer, stainless appliances, windows, garage door, A/C, hot water heater, freshly painted. Walk to Metro or Express bus to DC. 1405 Argall Pl.
Pat Crusenberry 703.980.8274
www.PatCrusenberry.com



Marina Towers | \$575,000

Enjoy your beverages on the 14-ft river-front balcony with views of the Capitol. Spacious 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo. Fabulous lock & go lifestyle in upscale building with gym, 24/7 front deck, and many more amenities. All utilities and services included in the HOA fee.
Delaine Campbell 703.299.0030
www.DelaineSells.com



GEORGE WASHINGTON
PARKWAY CLASSIC
10M X 5K X KIDS DASH



OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Old Town Village \$1,079,900

Gorgeous courtyard location in award-winning community. Chef's kitchen, granite, stainless appliances, 3 master suites, huge rec room with gas fireplace, hardwood floors & stairs, 2-car garage and more. Pool/gym, community center; walk to Metro & waterfront. 1223 Roundhouse Lane

Mary Farrell 703.969.5522
www.ChooseMaryFarrell.com

OPEN SUN 4/15, 2-4



Skyline Village \$510,000

All brick garage townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, spacious layout, 2 fireplaces, fresh paint, new carpet, hardwood floors, huge kitchen with separate dining room & family room opening to rear patio. Master bedroom en suite with loft plus walk-in attic! 5115 Skyline Village Ct.

Kay Blemker 703.623.8563
www.KayBlemker.com

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Come Join the Fun
Sunday, April 22nd | 8:00 AM

10 miler starts at Mount Vernon
& finishes in Old Town

Details & registration online at:
www.runpacers.com/race/parkway-classic/

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