



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

**Sheriff Deputy Joseph Runquist maintains a perimeter around the murder scene on King Street.**

## ‘A Caring, Loving Guy’

**Friends remember local man murdered in King Street business.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

If Bradford Jackson was sure of anything, it was that Keith Moon was the greatest rock drummer of all time. Charles Bennett Moore, who runs Big Wheel Bikes in Old Town and was friends with Jackson for years, said this was the easiest way to get a rise out of Jackson. When Jackson would be walking in, Moore would mention how he thought Neil Peart from Rush was the greatest drummer ever and every single time Jackson would fall for the bait and launch into a passionate argument.

As soon as the police cars swarmed over King Street on Friday, July 13 and word began to filter out that someone had been murdered, Moore said he had an immediate sinking feeling it was Jackson. He called Jackson’s cell phone and



**Bradford Jackson**

there was no answer. Moore rushed over to Window Universe, where Jackson worked, and police had closed off the street. Seeing his bike, a beautiful old beach cruiser, set up in the window only confirmed these suspicions. At 11:49, police were dispatched to a call about a suspicious death. Jackson had been murdered inside Window Universe. A suspect, Pankaj Bhasin, was arrested at the scene and charged with the murder. A connection between Bhasin and Jackson has not been officially announced. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact Detective Loren King with the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6689.

Jackson’s friends in the bike stores around town remembered his humility and generosity.

“[Jackson] was a caring, loving guy,” said Christian Myers, co-founder of VeloCity Bicycle Cooperative and a friend of Jackson’s who had been room

SEE FRIENDS REMEMBER.  
PAGE 3

## ‘Getting a Job Is Not Enough’

**Local faith-and-community partnership urges higher wages from Alexandria businesses.**

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

On Monday, July 16, a coalition launched the Alexandria Living Wage Certification Program, hoping to incentivize boosting employees’ ability to meet basic needs.

The program, spearheaded by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), a Richmond-based advocacy group, and Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), asserts three goals: “Recognize employers who pay their workers a living wage and embrace ethical business practices;” “urge consumers to patronize those businesses;” and “encourage employers who don’t qualify to

raise their employees’ pay.”

“Getting a job is not enough to get someone out of poverty. Workers need living wages if they’re to get out of poverty,” said VICPP’s Kim Bobo.

The program defines a living wage as “the minimum wage a full-time worker must earn to pay for basic necessities, including food and housing, without assistance from others.” Its certification levels include Gold, Silver and Aspirational, representing hourly wages of \$15.70, \$14.13 and \$11.23 for a business’ lowest earning employee. The certification also considers benefits like health care, housing or a housing stipend, child care assistance, meals or

SEE ‘NOT ENOUGH,’ PAGE 3



**Inaugural certificate recipients of the Alexandria Living Wage Certification Program are (from left) LaJuanna Russell (Business Management Associates, Inc.); Danielle Romanetti (Fibre Space); the Rev. David Gortner (Virginia Theological Seminary); and Kim Bobo (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, program convener).**

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# ‘Getting a Job Is Not Enough’

FROM PAGE 1

food assistance, tuition assistance.

“This [program] is the only way this is going to get any leverage,” said the Rev. David Gortner of VTS. “I don’t think there’s going to be the will in the legislature to move the dial on the minimum wage” — \$7.25 per hour in Virginia. “Where are some other pressure points and invitation points that we can offer in the community? This is by good will and example that we can lead.”

“We [small businesses] are the glue that holds and knits the United States together,” said LaJuanna Russell, a native Alexandrian, now president and CEO of Business Management Associates, Inc., an Alexandria-based firm. “Why is [the living wage] important to [me]? It’s just the right thing. ... For me to grow up and have that dream of starting a small business, and then employing others, and then being able to provide some level of a living wage ... is an amazing feeling. ... Someone comes along, you give them the wage, you give them the training, you encourage them, you promote them, you support them, they move up in the organization. ... And what happens to those individuals? They give back to their community.”

Russell’s company, which she started alone at her kitchen table with \$500 in 2005, has grown to include 100 employees and \$10 million in annual revenue. She participated in the certification program’s development. At Monday’s event, she received one of the program’s inaugural certifications, along with Danielle Romanetti of Fibre Space, a local knitting yarn shop, and Gortner on behalf of VTS.

Yet the program’s certification levels don’t represent wages that would truly enable someone to live in Alexandria. Take housing, which, alongside healthcare, is one of the “biggest drains on our income,” according to Gortner. The program’s lowest certification level, \$11.23 per hour, works out to just over \$23,400 per year, assuming year-round 40-hour workweeks. That’s below 30 percent of the area median income

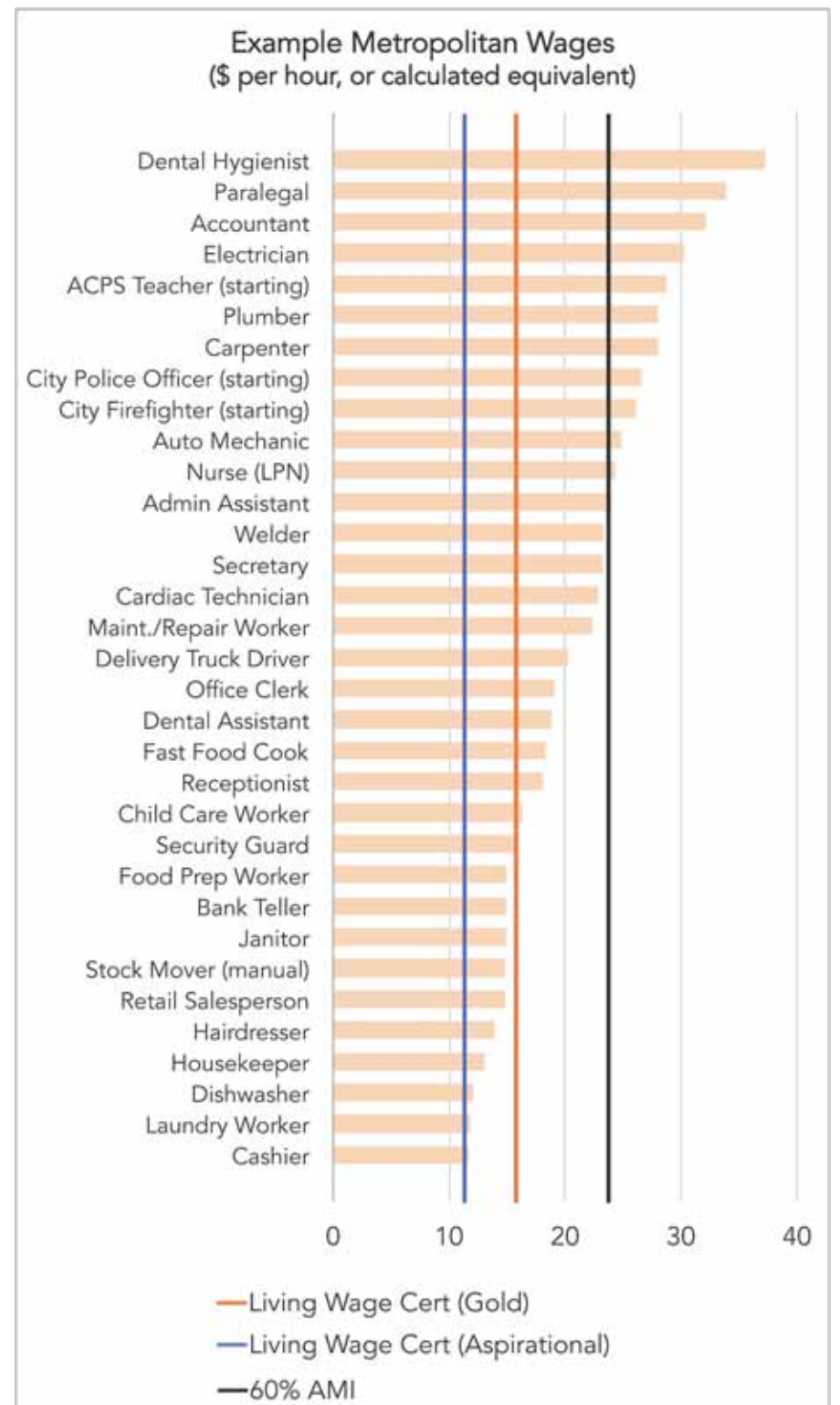
(AMI) for a single person — an economic stratum served almost exclusively by Alexandria’s public housing authority, for which demand already well exceeds capacity. The highest certification level, \$15.70 per hour, falls short of 40 percent of AMI, which works out to \$15.79 per hour. None of Alexandria’s apartments are affordable at that income, according to limited data from the city’s housing office. Only about 2,200 (7 percent) of 34,000 apartments in Alexandria are affordable up to 60 percent of AMI, which works out to \$23.68 per hour. It would take a wage of \$32.85 per hour to afford the average rent of a one-bedroom apartment.

Other methods of calculating a living wage indicated higher thresholds, said Bobo. But, at least to initiate the program, the coalition had to perform some “political calculus” in selecting realistic thresholds. The current levels may already prove “a stretch for a lot of businesses,” especially restaurants and retail, she said.

Gortner hopes the current thresholds will enable the program to gain footing, but will increase as the program gathers steam. Businesses would have to continue to meet rising wage standards in order to renew their certifications every 2-3 years, he said.

The business community hasn’t resisted, since the program is voluntary, although “a lot of questions” remain, said Joe Haggerty, president and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. He says the program’s viability will depend on types of business and their margins.

For example, businesses widely opposed a recent one-percent increase on the restaurant meals tax to subsidize affordable housing. The Del Ray Business Association voiced opposition from “both restaurant and retail” members, saying in an April letter: “in an industry with very thin margins, it’s the pennies that add up to keep the doors open.” In a March letter from the Chamber including a survey of its members, one respondent said: “Putting this on the backs of restaurant owners in the city who are already struggling and on restaurant work-



**Assumes 52 weeks at 40 hours per week, 2,080 hours per year. Underlying data sources: National Housing Conference’s Paycheck-to-Paycheck Database, Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area ([www.nhc.org/paycheck-to-paycheck](http://www.nhc.org/paycheck-to-paycheck)); City of Alexandria and Alexandria City Public Schools FY 2019 pay scales (as published on respective websites); 2018 AMI figures from Virginia Housing Development Authority ([www.vhda.com](http://www.vhda.com)).**

ers who are least able to afford reductions in pay/tips is just wrong.”

For more information about the Alexan-

dria Living Wage Certification Program, or to request an application, email [alexandrialivingwage@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrialivingwage@gmail.com).

## Friends Remember Local Man Murdered in King Street Business

FROM PAGE 1

mates with him on and off for years. “He had a heart of gold. He would do anything for you.”

Myers said Jackson loved the cool 1960’s aesthetic, with an extensive knowledge of vintage race cars and love of the TV show “The Avengers.” Jackson once took Moore’s son out to a Formula One race. Part of that love carried over

into his choice of bicycle, a distinctive cruiser for which Jackson was known around town. Jackson biked to work every day, and Myers said he loved to visit all of the hottest spots around town: getting coffee at St. Elmo’s or Misha’s and then going to O’Shaughnessy’s on King Street for a drink in the evenings. Moore rarely drinks, but he says one of his best memories with Jackson was sharing a beer after the shop had closed for the day and listening to ob-

scure ‘60’s and ‘70’s rock bands. Jackson knew every one of them.

“[Jackson] wasn’t into spending a lot of money if he was going out,” said Myers, “So some nights he would just hang out at home with a glass of wine.”

Walking into Big Wheel Bikes, there’s a large pig originally from the restaurant King Street Blues. Moore remembered getting a phone call from Jackson one day who was distraught to see the sign being haphazardly

thrown away. He asked Moore if he wanted the sign, and the two of them travelled to the restaurant to wrest it away from the kitchen workers who were intent on destroying it.

“He was a happy, good dude who lived a simple life,” said Moore. “He rode his bike to work every single day and used to ride through Old Town. He was like a second dad to my son. He was a brother to me.”



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## NEWS

# Flexibility vs. Funding

City, ARHA continue grappling with cost constraints of preserving low-income housing.

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Last week's initial hearing of an advisory group's recommendations by public officials indicated little progress on determining how to revamp local policy to conserve public housing.

Resolution 830, a 1981 agreement between the city and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), requires the "substantially equivalent" one-for-one replacement of demolished public housing units. The parties have diverged in their understandings of what specifically that means, or should mean. The city has expressed a preference for replacing units at comparable rents, serving the city's lowest-income residents. Without vouchers or other rental assistance, these residents have no options in the private rental market. ARHA wants to keep Resolution 830's language vague, allowing maximum flexibility to offset ever-shrinking federal subsidies. Without alternative funding, ARHA has to continue finding ways to self-subsidize — namely, by tap-

ping into land value for capital, and redeveloping higher rent units for sufficient operating revenue.

City Council established a group of 27 stakeholders to advise regarding the resolution's "modernization and potential expansion." At last Thursday's meeting of the ARHA Redevelopment Work Group, public officials formally heard those stakeholders' feedback for the first time. The ARHA Redevelopment Work Group comprises policymakers from both bodies. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman John Chapman represent the city, while Chairman Daniel Bauman and Vice-Chair Salena Zellers represent ARHA's Board of Commissioners.

But the haziness coming out of the working group was little changed from the haziness going into it, in terms of how to deal the underlying problem of cost.

At a joint council-ARHA work session a year ago, Wilson said: "The amount of affordability is depleting. ... There's either a subsidy that's kicked in to make that not happen, or these projects don't happen to begin with. ... Someone — us [or another party] — needs to show

up with a lot of money ... or another way of doing this. So I think that's the fundamental question."

At Thursday's briefing, Rhae Parkes, a consultant hired to assist the advisory working group, echoed that the decisive underlying issue remains "money, money, money."

"It's not just a housing authority question. How can you [the city] grow the pie of funding to support affordable housing? ... It boils down to this question about resources. ... This is a different conversation if you have dedicated resources for affordable housing," she said.

In the recent budget cycle, city councilors debated a one-percent increase in the restaurant meals tax to generate an additional \$4.75 million dedicated for affordable housing. That's about half the shortfall to meet the city's strategic housing goals by 2025. The measure passed by a 4-3 margin. Wilson, the only official who voted in opposition remaining after the June primary, alternatively proposed to fund housing in the city's 10-year capital improvement program (CIP). His proposal included \$2.35 million in FY 2019 and "TBD [to be determined]" amounts thereafter.

ARHA hasn't wavered in its desire to main

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 21

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# Humanitas Project Replaces Hate with Peace

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**C**hristopher Dwyer has sent someone out to buy a cooler to fill with cold bottled water for the 14 Palestinian youth musicians in the rented bus. He will head to Dulles Airport at 10 p.m. to pick up the students for their week in the Washington area where they will present five concerts. This is part of an effort to bring Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli students to the U.S. to show that “while they may have been taught to hate, they can learn peace.”

Alexandria-resident Dwyer is executive director of Humanitas International, Inc., a non-profit organization created in August 2017 to address refugee problems. He says, “We go in and identify specific problems or people bring them to us.” This project to bring students from the Magnificat Institute in Old Jerusalem to the U.S. is one of the organization’s current projects.

“My primary responsibilities are problem-solving and relationship building.” He works to identify funding from individuals, corporations and government for the organization’s projects.

Another of the three current major projects being undertaken by Humanitas International is a boys’ home in Bethlehem. This live-in school takes boys up to about age 20 and provides elementary, high school and vocational training. The school has a



**Christopher Dwyer points to location of two Humanitas International projects, a boys’ home in Bethlehem and Magnificat Institute in old city Jerusalem.**

capacity of 18 but is packed with 22 boys and needs even more capacity in a land torn by conflict. He says, “We are working with one of the big local organizations, Custody of the Holy Land, a Franciscan order in Jerusalem. They came to us and said they needed some additional funding.

“A lot of organizations out there won’t fund religious-based projects but we are lucky to be in transition.” Dwyer explains that the Trump Administration has made a policy decision that they aren’t satisfied with projects going through the U.N. and have changed the guidelines to allow Federal funds for international projects.” He said the Administration wanted more local control. Now Dwyer is seeking \$150,000 to help make enough room in the boy’s home for additional individuals.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY GREG FRIEDMAN

**Little girl playing with a kite on a dirt road at perimeter of Za’Atari refugee camp.**

Another project focuses on identification of the primary issues with the overtaxed refugee system in Jordan. Two individuals just recently returned from Jordan where they visited a couple of camps just an hour over the border and met with leadership and refugees who had fled Syrian oppression. “They are putting together a report which will give me solid information to seek

funds.” He says, “Right now there is overcrowding with a need for relocation and education of the young folks so they can be independent. We are extremely lucky to have a relationship with the friars there because they already have a structure in place.”

Even so, he says, if they could find land to buy right now, it would probably take until 2023 for completion of housing units. “We could purchase the land pretty quickly, and they have the skills and the building materials in the country. The problem is a government issue. There are so many documents to be reviewed and approvals to sign.”

Dwyer came to Humanitas when it started in 2017 and “we hit the ground running.” He was ready to retire from a life of non-profit management including most recently two decades as executive director of a music school in Pennsylvania. “I thought I would move to Florida and enjoy the rest of my life there. But,” he says, “I couldn’t picture myself sitting around a beach.

“I wanted to continue to help the community and now I see the world is a community.”

## McAfee Advances At Wesley Housing

Kamilah McAfee has been named vice president for Real Estate Development at Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia. McAfee is responsible for all of the company’s development activities, from project conception to construction and lease-up.

Having joined Wesley Housing in 2008, McAfee most recently served the company’s director of Real Estate Development. During her decade-long tenure, she has been instrumental in driving a variety of construction and renovation projects to completion as well as managing property acquisitions, including Wesley’s first deal in the District of Columbia, Brookland Place Apartments. Previous to joining Wesley Housing, McAfee served as a development associate for Forest City Washington, the director of Public Finance for the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency, and a consultant with BearingPoint (then known as KPMG Consulting).

McAfee holds a Master of Business Administration from the Kogod School of Business at American University and a B.S. in Finance and New and Small Business Management from Georgetown University.

Wesley Housing Development Corporation has been working to provide affordable rental housing for families for more than 44 years. Wesley Housing supplements housing with supportive services for residents, including low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and the disabled. For more information, visit [www.wesleyhousing.org](http://www.wesleyhousing.org).



**McAfee**



PHOTO BY ACTIVIST GERI BALDWIN

## Father and Son Moment

**Alexandria’s Shawn Overby with son Taylon learning about various characteristics of rocks and stones. Taylon was interested in how to identify each stone.**



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# Senior Services Highlights New Programs

## Fannon named new board chair.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Services of Alexandria held its annual meeting June 27 to honor retiring board members and welcome Jack Fannon as the new board chair. The occasion also highlighted the organization's growing programs for seniors in the community.

During a luncheon at Brandywine Living at Alexandria, outgoing SSA board chair Gerry Cooper talked about the growth of existing SSA programs and the creation of the new Caring Connection program.

"We accomplished some major milestones and have plans to move forward with more support to seniors in Alexandria," Cooper said. "Caring Connection is a new program that goes beyond our Meals on Wheels program to provide short-term personalized health and safety monitoring of medically vulnerable seniors."

Cooper, along with former mayor Kerry Donley, chaired a major gifts campaign to fund the new program, which will provide a link between seniors and their healthcare



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Senior Services board member Gregg Murphy, left, with SSA transportation supervisor Anderson Corbin and Meals On Wheels coordinator Nathan Toews at the annual SSA meeting June 27.**

entities. Jay Hoffman was recognized for providing the initial funds to purchase the software and tools necessary to launch the Caring Connection program.

"So far we have raised \$250,000 for Caring Connection," Cooper noted.

Other SSA programs were celebrated, including Meals on Wheels, which currently serves 100 seniors, and Groceries to Go, with 57 volunteers shopping for and delivering groceries to 68 seniors.

SSA's newest program, Senior Ambassadors, began last fall and has 36 volunteers



**Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson, right, poses with retiring SSA board members Gerry Cooper, Lynnwood Campbell, Warner Moore, Alice Rogalski and Donna Shaw at the organization's annual meeting June 27 at Brandywine Living at Alexandria.**

providing information about programs and services available to seniors. A Silver Service card has expanded to partner with more than 40 local businesses providing discounts to Alexandria seniors over the age of 60.

"It is exciting to see how SSA continues to develop new programs to serve seniors

in the City of Alexandria," Cooper said. "We especially thank our supporters because we could not do it without their generosity."

Now in its 51st year, SSA's mission is to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the city of Alexandria to age with dignity.

See [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

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- First Baptist Church**  
2923 King St
- Alexandria Fire Station 210**  
5255 Eisenhower Ave
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray**  
2204 Mt. Vernon Avenue

**CAN'T MAKE IT TO DRUG TAKE BACK DAY?**  
The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray recently launched the first-ever permanent prescription drug drop-off box in the City of Alexandria.  
The drug drop-off box provides year-round access to safe drug disposal for all Alexandria residents and is located inside the pharmacy at 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.

**SYMPTOMS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE**

- Abnormal pupil size
- Agitation
- Convulsions
- Paranoid behavior
- Difficulty breathing
- Drowsiness
- Hallucinations
- Nausea and vomiting
- Non-reactive pupils
- Staggering or unsteady gait
- Sweating or extremely dry, hot skin
- Tremors
- Unconsciousness
- Violent or aggressive behavior

**SUSPECT AN OVERDOSE? CALL 911**

Visit [www.PreventItAlexandria.org](http://www.PreventItAlexandria.org) to learn more.  
Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Opioids](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Opioids) for information and help with opioids.

Another Community Partner



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# OPINION

## Sharing Cuddles and a Common Condition

### Living with FIV.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

**S**weetie is a 2-year-old, long-haired brown tabby cat with extra-soft fur who found his way to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) shelter in March as a stray. Friendly is a 3-year old black cat who was surrendered to the shelter last November because his owner's other pets did not appreciate him. Sweetie and Friendly have something significant in common: They both are FIV positive.

FIV is an immune deficiency condition that is contagious to other cats, but not other animals or humans. Most common among cats who have lived outdoors, the infection is detected in about 20 cats taken in by the AWLA each year. Every cat who comes to the shelter is tested for the disease. While FIV can affect the health of some cats after the initial infection, many go on to lead long lives, only periodically experiencing illness such as respiratory infections and dental disease because of their immune-suppressed state.

FIV is not as frightening as it sounds, says Jessica Almond, the AWLA's director of operations. "FIV cats can live a healthy and happy life and can safely live in homes with FIV negative cats," she said. "FIV can only be transmitted to another cat through a deep bite or from an FIV positive mother to her kittens. We house FIV positive cats separately at the shelter only because we don't have the capacity to slowly introduce cats to each other to see if they can live together without fighting." As with all new additions to a household, the AWLA recommends that FIV cats be slowly introduced to



PHOTO BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Sweetie, a 2-year-old tabby available for adoption at the AWLA shelter, is positive for FIV, an immune deficiency condition. Many cats with FIV lead normal lives.**

any existing pets to set everyone up for success as happy companions.

Almond says that all cats with FIV available for adoption at the shelter are designated as such, and adopters are provided with detailed information about taking care of a cat with FIV. The AWLA recommends that these cats remain indoor-only pets, which is their recommendation for all pets for health and safety reasons. It is advised that FIV positive cats be examined by a veterinarian twice a year. Otherwise, cats with FIV simply require the same care as other feline companions.

Sweetie and Friendly are the perfect example of how FIV cats can make wonderful playmates for others: they are now best friends. When Friendly first arrived he was anything but; the name chosen for him was more a wish than an accurate description of his personality. "But a lot of time with AWLA staff and volunteers, plus Sweetie's positive influence, have transformed Friendly into the truly amiable cat that



PHOTO BY DIRTY PAW PHOTOGRAPHY

**Friendly, a 3-year-old black cat who also has FIV, has befriended Sweetie. FIV is detected in about 20 cats who come to the AWLA shelter each year. Friendly's prognosis is good.**

he is now," said Laurette Crum, who has devoted several volunteer shifts to petting and playing with the two. "Friendly grooms Sweetie, and Sweetie cuddles Friendly. They have grown a lot together, and we can't wait to hear their stories once they find their new homes, whether individually or together."

The two cats are available for adoption, either separately or as a pair, and their fees have already been paid through the AWLA's Adopt It Forward program. They can be found in the cat adoptions area, likely napping together in a cozy bed. More information about them is available by calling 703-746-4774 or at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Facts Should Matter

To the Editor:

The City of Alexandria hosted a May community meeting on safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles during next year's repaving of Seminary Road. The city's representatives cited Seminary as "a corridor with a high number of KSI (killed or seriously injured) crashes." All but one of the city's multiple options that were presented proposed reducing Seminary from two to one lane each way, while adding two bicycle corridors as replacements. The city's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan has included a form of this proposal since 2008, although a representative said a study was needed to assess the actual impact on traffic delays from a 50 percent road reduction, while another said, "there is no reason it could not be done" like it had been for King Street.

Whatever the city decides, it would be best to base its decision on available facts rather than opinion. According to Virginia's TREDs database to which police report all traffic incidents, Seminary Road was actually one of the top three safest "corridors" in Alexandria the two years even before its speed limit was reduced to 25 mph in early 2016; since the 25 mph speed restriction, it has been one of the top two safest roadways of the city — with only one traffic incident so far this year.

Seminary Road has had no bicycle accidents in the two and a half years since the speed was reduced to 25 mph, and only one the two years previous to the speed reduction. And there has been a single pedestrian incident since the speed limit was lowered. That one, as well as the five over the previous three years, were at two locations: three at the Inova Hospital intersection between 7-8 a.m., and three at Library Lane between 6-8 p.m.

As one of the safest Alexandria streets — even more so after its speed was lowered to 25 mph — does the city need to make Seminary Road "more safe" by replacing two of its vehicular lanes with bicycle lane corridors? It is a heavily trafficked vehicle corridor now, particularly during rush hour as a connector between Quaker Lane/Duke Street and I-395; 1,750 more parking spaces are to be opened at the Mark Center BRAC building after the Defense Department demonstrates "congestion hasn't [yet] reached failing levels of service;" and it is where the emergency response vehicles egress to and from Inova Hospital and Fire Station 206 — unlike King Street.

In view of its excellent safety record relative to all other Alexandria streets — particularly with the lack of bicycle accidents — it seems maintaining all four of Seminary Road's lanes for vehicle use at 25 mph makes factual sense, while also preventing any increase

in traffic delay. If desired, it would seem reasonable to mark the curb lanes as co-lanes for both bicycles and vehicles in order to serve as a reminder of the occasional bicyclist's equal right of way.

To address the relatively small number of pedestrian incidents, city funds could be spent wisely at two intersections. At Inova Hospital, a railing that prevents bus passengers from crossing Seminary other than

at the light and crosswalk is one option. At Library Lane, putting back the fence that prevented crossings other than at the nearby light and crosswalk is another.

An objective review of Alexandria's last four and a half years' traffic incidents in the maps below show that a 25 mph Seminary Road has made it one of the safest city streets, and not "a corridor with a high number of KSI (killed or seriously injured) crashes." But a comprehensive review also shows that there are sig

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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**Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 or Pat Tierney 703.850.5630**  
**ALEX. / Porto Vecchio \$ 840,000 OPEN SUN. 2 - 4**

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**Dianna Campagna 703.447.0849**  
**ALEX. / Westgrove \$ 775,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 3**

6916 BAYLOR DR Fabulous opportunity to own an awesome home in this lovely neighborhood. New kitchen with quartz, island, eat-in area; hardwoods; and generous sized bedrooms. Come and see! You will be rewarded with a 4/5BR, 3.5BA house of 4,000+ sf at a tad under \$200 per sf. Can't be beat!



**Pia Taylor 301.661.9974**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Wessynton \$ 670,000**

This home just blends into its surroundings. Enjoy the large level yard from the decks or the floor-to-ceiling windows. Open plan has gourmet kitchen with stone backsplash, granite; hardwoods on ML. Renovated MBR suite + bath. LL family room and 3BR, great for au pair. Community pool and boat ramp. 5BR / 4BA



**Leah Chapla 703.929.4875**  
**ALEX. / Stratford Landing \$ 635,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4**

8902 CAMDEN ST So Much Room! 3BR up and 3BR down plus 3FBA. Huge family room with wood-burning fireplace. Kitchen with eat-in space and separate dining room. Gas fireplace in living room. Hardwoods. Large 2-tiered deck overlooking lovely yard. Great for entertaining. Close to ES, GW Pkwy and Ft Belvoir



**Georgia McLaughlin 703.628.4663**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Landmark Mews \$ 621,000**

Stunning 4-level garage townhome with marble foyer, wood floors, 2 fireplaces. Large kitchen with stainless and granite that opens to dining room. Spacious living room leads to deck overlooking trees. Expansive 4th level loft + fully finished basement with walk-out to fenced yard. Be in DC in just 15 minutes!



**Leah Chapla 703.929.4875**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Stratford on the Potomac \$585,000**

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**Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433**  
**Emily Capelli 703.472.1282**  
**ALEXANDRIA**  
**Condos at Cameron Station \$ 479,000**  
**OPEN SUN. 1 - 4**

315 CAMERON STATION BLVD Charming 3BR / 2.5BA / 2 level condo townhouse boasts fresh paint, hardwoods, classy kitchen, and Master BR with full bath and walk-in closet. Patio, balcony and garage complete the picture. Enjoy all the amenities that Cameron Station has to offer.



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**ALEXANDRIA / Canal Place \$ 412,000**

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**Betsy & Bette Gorman 703.861.4825**  
**ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$399,900 OPEN SUN 1 - 3**

801 S. PITT ST. #328 Light and bright rare corner unit in SE Quadrant with lovely sunset views from balcony. Open kitchen with upgraded cabinetry, appliances and granite. Renovated bath, hardwoods, wood-burning fireplace and full-sized laundry. Assigned parking in secure garage. Community pool.



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# HISTORY

## CW Gray: Alexandria's Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Funeral Director

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

**C**harles William (CW) Gray was a well-known mortician in the Alexandria African American community. He was listed as an undertaker and sometimes as a mortician in the Alexandria City Directories as well as on the United States Censuses in the early 1900s. He began his undertaker business around 1909. In 1910, he was listed in the City Directory as a funeral director, his house address was at 1321 Cameron St. and his funeral business was 205 North West St. A year later, Mr. Gray's business moved to 412 North Patrick St. As his business grew rapidly, CW Gray moved to 1019 Oronoco St. There were two other African American's

### THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

funeral directors and embalmers listed in the City Directory with Mr. Gray in 1912. Mr. Thomas H. Brown lived at 200 North Payne St. and Mr. Richard Gray lived at 412 North Patrick St., both of them were in the funeral and embalmer business.

From 1913 to 1927 CW Gray's funeral business relocated to 1019 Oronoco St. In 1928, the Gray family purchased a home and converted part of it into a funeral business and the other part into a private home. That building had three entrances with two different addresses, its business address was 1021 Oronoco St. and the home address was 501 North Henry St. Some of Mr. Gray's earlier clients were a 10-year-old, William Henry McKinley Carter of 425 Oronoco St., who died on Dec. 27, 1912; a 65-year-old, John C. Fox of 213 South Peyton St., who died on Aug. 5, 1914; and a 44-year-old,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLES WILLIAM (CW) GRAY'S GRANDDAUGHTER, LILLIAN STANTON-PATTERSON.

### 1927 picture of Charles William (CW) Gray in his car in front of his funeral business at 1021 Oronoco Street

Daniel Corbin of 524 North Alfred St., who died on Feb. 26, 1914. Daniel was a barber in Alexandria; he was the great-uncle of the famous Alexandria Lawyer, Samuel W. Tucker, who worked on Civil Rights cases in the State of Virginia.

In 1930, CW Gray, his wife, Lillian Curry-Gray, his daughter, Esther Gray-Stanton and her husband and their children still lived at 1021 Oronoco St. CW Gray's house/business was valued at \$2,000 and his occupation was listed as undertaker. Mr. Gray's business survived during most of the Great Depression until the late 1930s, when his funeral business took a severe financial hit. After 1938, Mr. Gray lost his business and his home. On the 1940 census, CW Gray and his family rented their home and his

occupation was listed as a mortician.

Mr. Charles William Gray was born in Leesburg, Va. in 1875. On Sept. 22, 1898, Charles married Lillian M.S. Curay (Curry) in Alexandria, Va. Prior to Gray's mortuary business, he was a porter on the railroad. CW was a trustee and a member of Shiloh Baptist Church; he was an Elks and Mason member. On Oct. 13, 1942, CW Gray died. His wife, Lillian, joined him five years later. Their survivors were their only child, Esther Gray-Stanton, her husband, Reverend N. Howard Stanton, Sr., and their children. Today, the surviving children of Esther Gray-Stanton are Lillian Stanton-Patterson, LeEtta Stanton-Nowlin, Milton Stanton and James W. Stanton. Mrs. Patterson is a retired curator of the Alexandria Black His-



Charles William (CW) Gray

tory Museum. She has fond memories of her grandfather, Charles W. Gray. Lillian and her siblings grew up in their grandparents' home. Mrs. Patterson and her siblings have deep roots in Alexandria, going back to the Civil War on their grandmother, Lillian Curry's side.

Charles W. Gray provided the African Americans in Alexandria a service that they needed, and he passed strong work ethics to his grandchildren. He left a great legacy that will follow his descendants for many generations to come.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

nificant traffic safety problems elsewhere that should be addressed with greater urgency. Regrettably, a number are in less fortunate neighborhoods that might not get as much of "a voice" in how limited resources are spent, nor be provided a series of public meetings that elicit their safety concerns. However, in government policy, facts should matter, as should equal accountability to all citizens.

Joe Sestak/Alexandria

## Environmental Irony?

To the Editor:

How ironic that it is Congressman Don Beyer who wrote the commentary on the departure of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Beyer berates Pruitt for "... his antipathy to environmental protection" while at the same time Beyer himself has refused to stop the destruction of valuable Federal wetlands, wildlife and many mature trees along the George Washington Parkway since his hometown demands to place the Potomac Yard Metro station there when in fact there is another location that would cause mini-

mal harm.

In addition, it is Beyer who refused to help protect vulnerable elderly and low-income Old Town residents in the neighborhood bordering the Robinson Terminal North. A developer planned to haul toxic waste by truck from this site through this neighborhood rather than safely barge it away because that would cost more. Therefore, civic activists met with the congressman to ask him to intercede. He refused to do anything. Well, well, well.

Linda Couture  
Andrea Stowers  
Alexandria

## Pruitt as Hero

To the Editor:

Secretary Pruitt was a hero to me because he dispelled the unfounded basis for many of the last president's environmental policies. He cleaned the swamp. He instituted new, environmental-friendly and realistic initiatives and asked his staff to follow EPA's mandate, not their personal political preferences. He was a courageous man doing battle with an entrenched bureaucracy, for which I give him high praise.

I was saddened to read that Representative Beyer, my representative in Congress,

is so misinformed about Secretary Pruitt.

Linda Greenberg/Alexandria

## Heartfelt or Heartless?

To the Editor:

It would appear that the good folks of Del Ray have "No Room for Hate nor The Homeless." The comments ["Mother of Light," Gazette Packet, June 28] that were made by citizens of Del Ray, I am sure, are ones of valid concern. Except the various self-congratulating signs in yards and businesses that scream "Look at me, aren't I a good person" presents the irony of the two. "As long as it isn't in my backyard I can ride the high road" is what comes across.

As one person said ... we don't have a homeless problem. The same people are upset with U.S. border controls and the like but when it comes to the homeless there is a bias that homeless people equate to criminals and drug addiction. I am sure the good folks of Munich, Germany in the 1930s and '40s said the same of the gypsies, tramps and thieves the good folks wanted relocated elsewhere ....

Sandy Sanor/Alexandria



## Tourists

PHOTO BY DIANA BANAT

Visiting ducks on the waterfront last month.



# BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/JULY 19

**Community Living and the Transformation of Healthcare.** Noon-2 p.m. at the Sheraton, 801 N. Saint Asaph St. Lance Robertson was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging and ACL's Administrator on Aug. 11, 2017. His vision for ACL focuses on five pillars: supporting families and caregivers, protecting rights and preventing abuse, connecting people to resources, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening the aging and disability networks. Lunch will be served and there is no cost to attend, but RSVPs are required. Visit [www.novahealthpolicy.org/](http://www.novahealthpolicy.org/).

MONDAY/JULY 23

**Ad Hoc Waterfront Construction Monitoring Group.** 5 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Jack Browand at [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-5504.

**ARHA Board of Commissioners Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Alexandria

Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 401 Wythe St. Contact Cynthia Dickerson at [cdickerson@ARHA.US](mailto:cdickerson@ARHA.US) or 703-549-7115.

**Volunteer Info Session.** 8-9 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. OneVirginia2021's Alexandria Local Action Group is hosting information sessions for anyone interested in volunteering in the fight against gerrymandering in Virginia. No commitment required. Free. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/july-23-2018-info-session-onevirginia2021-alexandria-local-action-group-tickets-46949537330](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/july-23-2018-info-session-onevirginia2021-alexandria-local-action-group-tickets-46949537330).

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# Best for Family Road Trips

Top audiobook picks for long drives with children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**ith summer comes roadtrips. In fact, a study by New York University's School of Professional studies showed that 63 percent of American families will take a vacation by car this summer. Long stretches of interstate and backseat time call for loading up on audio books before hitting the road.

"Audio books are great for long car rides and they're much better than video games," said Barbara Marshall, department chair for Education and Social Sciences at Montgomery College. "They don't take the place of actually reading a book, but there is a time and place for them.

One of those times, says Marshall, is long drives without scenic views. She and others who are familiar with children's literature suggest some of the best books for family vacations by car.

"Ghost" by Jason Reynolds and narrated by Guy Lockard is a recommendation by Jennifer Rothschild, Youth Services Collection Development Librarian for Arlington Public Libraries. This 3.5 hour audio books is about a gifted runner named Ghost who has a chance to run for a prestigious middle school track team, but is challenged to stay on track both literally and figuratively in order to reach his full potential.

Fantasy buffs might appreciate "Dealing with Dragons" by Patricia C. Wrede, while fans of dystopian novels might enjoy "Leviathan," written by Scott Westerfeld and narrated by Alan Cumming, suggests Rothschild.

Set in an alternate version of WWI, Leviathan is the first in a trilogy. Primary characters include Prince Aleksander, the would-be heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and Deryn, a girl who disguises herself as a boy to serve in the British Air Service. The story takes off when the two cross paths.

History lovers might appreciate another Rothschild pick: "Notorious Benedict Arnold" which was written by Steve Sheinkin and narrated by Mark Bramhall. Running at 6.5 hours, this is a true story about an American war hero who loses his career and freedom for greater recognition.

Music lovers might enjoy "Solo" by Kwame Alexander, says Yunna Iqbal of Scrawl Books in Reston. The audio version of the New York Times best selling book by the same name, tells the tale of Blade, the son of a former rock star with a drug addiction. Intertwined with songs, the story follows Blade as he tries to escape his family's fame and fortune.

"Each chapter has a specific song and story follows and that makes it good for both young kids and older kids," said Iqbal.

"Artemis Fowl" by Eoin Colfer, narrated by



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Audiobooks are helpful in passing time during a family vacation by car.**

**"Audiobooks are great for long car rides and much better than video games."**

— **Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College**

Nathaniel Parker could appeal to thrill-seekers. The main character, a 12-year-old named Artemis Fowl is the heir to a crime family who appears to be unusually skilled at masterminding crimes until greed threatens to ruin his most brilliant plan. This Rothschild suggestion runs 6.5 hours.

Timeless classics like "Charles and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach," both by Roald Dahl, are also fail-safe choices for family road trips, says Iqbal.

"Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes is a recommendation from Lelia Nebeker, Book Buyer at One More Page Books in Arlington. "It's a very short book, so if you're only driving for three hours, you can probably finish it," she said. "It's from the per-

spective of a seventh-grade black boy who is shot and killed by the police, and his ghost is telling the story of seeing the world after his death, where he meets the ghost of Emmett Till. It's a heartbreaking book, but beautifully written, well performed on the audiobook."

Despite the mature sounding premise, Nebeker says that it's intended for readers ages 9 and up.

"Avalon High by Meg Cabot' is a fun contemporary take on the King Arthur myth by the prolific Meg Cabot," advised Nebeker. "This one does take place in a high school setting, but it's appropriate for ages 10 and up for sure. So cute and funny."

"Two of my coworkers read 'Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble' by Anna Meriano ... and raved about it," said Nebeker.

"Amal Unbound' by Aisha Saeed is about a 14-year-old girl in Pakistan who becomes a servant to pay off her family's debts," said Nebeker. "[This is] another book for young readers that has some mature content, but is good for ages 10 and up and will start good discussion between parents and young readers."

"Howl's Moving Castle" by Diana Wynne Jones and "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle are two additional suggestions from Nebeker.

For a wider selection of choices, Marshall suggests the American Library Association's website which offers reviews of audio books: [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr).

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Summer Theatre To Perform Disney's 'Newsies'

**Musical to be staged at Bishop Ireton High School.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD

**S**t. Bernadette's Summer Theatre Program is staging the musical, Disney's "Newsies," for one week-end, July 26-28, at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria.

"It is a musical and it has a heavy dance component with lots of music and dance," said Director Andrew Curtin of Annandale. "It tells the story of the newsboys' strike of the 1890s in New York City. It's based on historical events but it's not a re-creation of them. Most closely there was a movie (in 1992) by Disney with the same title. In 2012, they rewrote it and turned it into a musical on Broadway. It is the Disney script and all of the original stuff from their production."

With a cast of 54 in rehearsals since May, Curtin said the biggest challenge was the enormity of the show. "It has a large set and intense dances. The vocals are very challenging. It's a very high-level show and we have expected a lot for our actors and musicians — and they have delivered," he said. "It is a big production with lots of moving parts. We're building three tower-scaffolding units. So, making sure they would do everything and are safe for the students. Nothing our crew can't handle but definitely a big project."

The Summer Theatre Program is a minis-



**The cast of Disney's "Newsies" in rehearsal. The show will be performed one week-end, July 26-28, at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

try of St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Springfield that was founded in 1997. Since then, they've done 22 productions — roughly one musical per year — and pull from students of different faith communities all over Northern Virginia.

"It is envisioned as a ministry as a chance for students from all over the area to form a community to make new friends. Most of the students in the program make friends that they will have for many years. It brings students from all over the area together. Some of the staff members on the program I've been friends with for decades now," said Curtin.

Khyrin DeBose, 17, of Burke, plays the lead role of Jack Kelly. "Jack Kelly is the leader of the Manhattan Newsies. The newsies are the kids on the street who sell out the newspapers around New York City.

Jack Kelly is the older brother/dad figure to the group of newsboys. He usually gives them advice on the best places to sell newspapers and he looks after them like his own family," he said.

He said the antagonist in the show is Pulitzer, the owner of the World Newspaper who has decided to raise the price from 50 to 60 cents per paper. "Jack decides that this isn't best for anybody and leads his newsboys on strike to lower the price of the newspapers. While he spearheads the strike, he learns what it takes to be a leader, what it takes to fight for what you believe in, and what it takes to look out for more than just yourself in this world."

Eila Nash, 18, of Springfield is playing the role of Katherine Plummer. "Katherine is a very progressive character. She really wants women to have as much rights as men and

that was very unique for the time the show was set in. She's seen as sassy but I consider her to be witty and she has a lot of intelligence. The key fact about her is she wants to be a reporter and it's important for her to be a famous female reporter but as the show goes on, she wants to just make a difference in the world."

Emily Graham, 18, of Falls Church is playing the male role of Elmer. "Elmer is a rough-and-tumble kid but he's sweet at heart. He has a history of going to church but when he gets on the street and loses his family, he stops going to church and everything in life starts to become a joke to him. But he finds a niche with the Manhattan Newsies and starts to feel like he has a family again," she said.

Christian Parrotte, 16, of Burke is playing the role of the Racetrack, who he describes as outgoing, bold, and outrageous. "He's confident and he's got a strong personality that really shines through in a lot of the scenes and he's also pretty stubborn. He's a sort of comic relief, a bit of helping the audience understand what's going on the story. He's also important in furthering the strike; he's very influential with some of the other newsies."

♦ ♦ ♦

St. Bernadette's Summer Theatre Program is staging Disney's "Newsies" from July 26-28, at Bishop Ireton High School. Show times are July 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m.; and July 28 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students/seniors. Visit [www.summertheatreprogram.org](http://www.summertheatreprogram.org).

## CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Graffiti.** Through July 29, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, Graffiti. Graffiti's unique form of artistic expression inspires this show's theme: big and bold graphics, hip hop culture, and social commentary. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**"Pippin."** Through July 30, at Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Directed by Rebecca Wahls, the Schwartz/Hirson musical is retold through the millennial lens. Using the 2013 revival script, Monumental Theatre Company shares its version of Pippin's journey of self discovery. Visit [www.monumentaltheatre.org](http://www.monumentaltheatre.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Drawing Energy: The Logic of Madness."** Through Aug. 5, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory, Studio 21, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Guy Jones uses his

Cherokee teachings to evoke the energy and spirit of living things in his pen and ink drawings. Using micron pen and scratchboard techniques, Jones creates artworks that are mischievous, whimsical, and a bit eerie. Opening Reception and Meet the Artist: Thursday, July 12, 6:30-8 p.m. Special Program — Drawn in: Taking a Closer Look at the Solo Exhibit, Thursday, July 26. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**New Works by Ken Strong.** Through Aug. 9, gallery hours at Broadwayway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong's new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Call 703-354-2905 or visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Off the Grid."** Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Off the Grid" is an exhibit of artwork by Fairfax County and City of Alexandria inmates. The inmates vary in age, background and artistic experience, with most having never drawn before their lessons with volunteer art instructor Kelli Schollard-Sincock. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org) for more.

**"Dredging The Lethe."** On view through Sept. 14 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more. Wrapped around the interior wall of a smokestack of the former munitions factory, Kara Hammond's mural, "Dredging the Lethe," uses recycled book-pages, collage, charcoal, gesso and ink to create large-scale drawings of Greek goddesses amid contemporary human events. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: Makers in the Mansion.** Through Oct. 22 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House Historic Site, 9000 Richmond Highway. Six installations of work by local African American makers hosted in an 1805 mansion owned by Nelly Parke Custis and Lawrence Lewis, once a prominent plantation home. Stories of a transformed African American community through the artisan eye. RSVP to [Woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org](mailto:Woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org).

**WFUMC Farmers Market.** Tuesdays through Oct. 23, 4-7 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Orchard Country Produce, from Gardners, Pa., will operate a Farmer's Market from

the west parking lot of WFUMC. They also operate from the St. Luke's parking lot on Fort Hunt Road on Saturday mornings. They have a very wide offering ranging from fresh vegetables to meat and desserts. Admission is free. Visit [www.washingtonfarmumc.org](http://www.washingtonfarmumc.org) or call 703-780-4696.

**Row by Row Junior.** Through Oct. 31, local quilt shops like Artistic Artifacts (4750 Eisenhower Ave.) are welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial support and activities online by visiting [www.rowbyrowexperience.com](http://www.rowbyrowexperience.com) or [www.artisticartifacts.com](http://www.artisticartifacts.com) for local quilting.

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and

pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Open for Tours.** Through December. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit [savingplaces.org/historic-sites](http://savingplaces.org/historic-sites).

**Tours of the Freedom House Museum.** Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Visit [www.alexandriavagov/Museums](http://www.alexandriavagov/Museums) for more.

**"Alexandrians Fight the Great War."** Various times at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201



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## ENTERTAINMENT



**Wrestle to the Ground, Katie Pumphrey, acrylic on canvas, 84"x 72", 2018, \$17,500**



**Humdrum, Katie Pumphrey, acrylic on canvas, 66" x 72", 2018, \$14,000**

### Artist Talk: Katie Pumphrey

"Five More Minutes, Part II" is a two-part exhibition that features work by Baltimore artist, Katie Pumphrey. Through large-scale paintings and installation, her work explores the tension between movement and stillness. The show runs through July 22 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Closing reception July 22, 2-4 p.m. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org for more.

### CALENDAR

**South Washington St.** This new exhibition traces the experiences of local people during the first World War. The homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria come back to life through the use of rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants, original objects including weapons, period music, and scale models. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

**"Before the Spirits are Swept Away."** Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria's African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria's "Sites of Conscience" series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free, but donations are appreciated. Call 703-746-4356.

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more

**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap

shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224 for more.

**Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. visit [www.alexandriava.gov/fortward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward) for more

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum) for more.

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.** Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.** Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines

and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffé and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

**Alexandria Cars and Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 11 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$7 in addition to estate admission. visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Evenings at the Athenaeum.** 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Take Time to Refresh at Abyssinia Market and Coffee House

BY HOPE NELSON

**W**ashington Street, the north-south thruway cutting through the heart of Old Town Alexandria, is a bustling place. Shops, doctor's offices, banks, restaurants, watering holes — it's got it all. But tucked around the corner, nestled half a block off of the main drag, sits one of the neighborhood's hidden gems: Abyssinia Market and Coffee House.

### APPETITE

Located on Jefferson Street, around the corner from the likes of Ace Hardware and Southside 815, Abyssinia Market opens its doors first thing each morning to dole out coffee to sleepy neighbors on the way to work — and stays open all day long to offer those same neighbors groceries, pastries

and craft beer and wine on their way home.

"People describe us at the best coffee shop in Old Town," said owner Lily Damtew. "We want everyone to feel like not a stranger when they walk in, but a friend. It's a very intimate kind of shop."

Indeed a cozy — but not cramped — space, Abyssinia Market packs a wealth of amenities into the café and market. From fresh pastries to coffee to beer and wine, the shop certainly offers more than meets the eye.

One of the market's crown jewels is its Ethiopian coffee selection. While Abyssinia Market has sold coffee from the start, it now roasts its own brand as well, which Damtew says is one of the store's gems.

"We recently started roasting our own coffee and packaging it. It's called Queen of Sheba coffee," she said. "... The roasting

is perfectly done so they don't have that soury aftertaste that you get from other coffee."

Roasted fresh every Monday, the Queen of Sheba coffee sells both in the store and at local farmer's markets.

And the Queen of Sheba is far from the only coffee variety on deck. Along with other roasts, Abyssinia Market offers a wide array of espresso drinks for a little extra get-up-and-go.

"We sell a lot of espresso drinks, like cappuccino, café latte; we do a lot of mocha," Damtew said. "People love those espresso drinks."

The food, too, is plentiful — and perfectly suited to complement a cup of joe. A variety of croissants, scones, bagels and muffins await, all ready to eat. Fresh Baguette and Metropolitan Bakery provide the ma-

### If You Go

**Abyssinia Market and Coffee House**, 720 Jefferson St.

**Hours:** 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

**Try this:** "Our beer and wine is very selective," says owner Lily Damtew. "We have mostly Italian wine, South African wine. We have a few French wines and roses."

majority of the shop's baked goods, ensuring fresh items without a lot of time in transit.

"We've come so far from the beginning to now. We only advertised once — everything else is word of mouth," Damtew said. "We're really grateful to be in this neighborhood and have the customers that we have."

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

### CALENDAR

concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke St. near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. Email [maurisapotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurisapotts@gmail.com).

### CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions

for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

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

### THURSDAY/JULY 19

**40 Under 40 Awards.** 6-8 p.m. at United Way Worldwide, 701 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Celebrate the power of Alexandria's emerging business leaders. Join the Chamber's 40 Under 40 Awards Celebration, for a reception honoring individuals for their achievements within the community and professionally. \$89 for individuals, \$405 for five tickets. Register at [alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com/events/40-Under-40-Awards-Celebration-presented-by-Beyer-Subaru-2374/details](http://alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com/events/40-Under-40-Awards-Celebration-presented-by-Beyer-Subaru-2374/details)

### NOW THRU LABOR DAY

**Honoring Our Veterans Exhibit.** At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Included in museum admission - Adults: \$5, Children (ages 5 -12): \$3. After his service in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton went home to contribute to his community and nation. As part of the World War I 100th Commemoration, learn how returning veterans served Alexandria, including American Legion Post #24, which restored Gadsby's Tavern in honor of WWI veterans. See how the museum looked under their care and hear about the contributions veterans still make to the City of Alexandria today. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

### JULY 20-SEPT. 2

**Art Exhibit: Art, Light, and Metaphor.** At Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New exhibition explores the connections between art, light, and metaphor. The opening reception will be the cornerstone of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Late Shift: Bright Lights on Friday, July 20, 7-9 pm. A Gallery Talk with select artist comments will take place at 8 p.m. There will also be a special Illuminate pop-up exhibition in the Grand Hall. Learn more at [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target).

### FRIDAY/JULY 20

**Reception: "Off the Grid."** 7-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Off the Grid" is an exhibit of artwork by Fairfax County and City of Alexandria inmates. The inmates vary in age, background and artistic experience, with most having never drawn before their lessons with volunteer art instructor Kelli Schollard-Sincock. Opening remarks by Schollard-Sincock at 7:30 p.m. For more information about the art classes, email [sheriff@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sheriff@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Reception: Art, Light, and Metaphor.** 7-9 p.m. at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New exhibition explores the connections between art, light, and metaphor. Gallery Talk at 8 p.m. Learn more at [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target).

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

### SATURDAY/JULY 21

**Flower Arranging.** 9:30-11 a.m. at

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Expand flower arranging skills by attending a workshop on Ikebana — the ancient Japanese art of flower arrangement. In this workshop, participants will learn about the rich symbolism and fundamentals of Ikebana and leave with an arrangement. \$38 for program plus \$25 for supplies. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) to register.

**Telling their Story: Museum Specialty Tours.** 10 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$12/person. Tour the halls where Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison and Burr partied and made history. Consider the ideas debated in the rooms where it happened ... for some, but not for all. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Walking with Washington Tour.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in George Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall House/Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee's house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Free. Call

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**with Pianist Allyn Johnson & Drummer Carroll V. Dashiell**

**Saturday, July 28, 2018 – 3:00 PM**

Tickets Online at [GraceNoteProductions.org](http://GraceNoteProductions.org) Adults \$25; 14 & Under \$12

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**Northern VA Community College - Alexandria Campus**

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Call Tim Cotton for More Information (202) 277-7171

**[GraceNoteProductions.org](http://GraceNoteProductions.org)**

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on lot on campus across from concert hall



*Northern Virginia Community College does not sponsor or endorse this event. If you need accommodations for disability, please call 703-323-3805.*



# ENTERTAINMENT

703-379-7460 or visit  
www.washingtonbirthday.com.

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

**Marine Chamber Orchestra.** 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

**Cinema Del Ray Outdoor Movies.** 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Free. Bring family, friends, neighbors and a blanket to watch these open-air movies including The Lion King, The Lego Batman Movie, Toy Story 3, Cars 3 and Coco at Cinema Del Ray, sponsored by The Jen Walker Team. Visit www.facebook.com/cinemadelray.

## SUNDAY/JULY 22

**Meet the Junior Docents.** 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults (\$4 with AAA), \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

## MONDAY/JULY 23

**Read, See, Do.** 2-3 p.m. at Carlyle House Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Every Monday in July, Carlyle House and Alexandria Library are teaming up to have a reading program paired with an activity. The books chosen have a historic theme and can be tied in with Carlyle House. The program will take place on the Magnolia Terrace behind the house, which will be tented. Visit www.novaparks.com.

## TUESDAY/JULY 24

**Twilight & Tipple Tuesday Tours.** 6-9 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A rare opportunity to experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour is a chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky, bring a new dimension and radiance to the typical tour experience. Grab a drink, included in the price of the ticket, and take an



Seaside, painting

## Solo Show: Peregrination

Arlington-based fine artist Bryan Jernigan's solo show – "Peregrination" – will run through July 28. Peregrination, also known as a long, meandering journey, encapsulates the artist's abstract take on real and envisioned landscapes. Gallery hours at The Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Gallery on the second floor of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive (off Beauregard Street), Alexandria. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

informative and fun guided tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org for more.

**Trivia Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Staff members at Carlyle House Historic Park and Lee-Fendall House Museum have combined their random nerd knowledge to create bi-weekly trivia nights. Test knowledge on all things from pop culture to history. \$5 a person; includes one drink ticket. Additional drinks can be bought at the cash bar. Teams may have up to six members. Registration slots are first come, first served; pay ahead to save a spot. Every other Friday June-August. Purchase tickets through eventbrite.com.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

**Cool Yoga 2018.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Del Ray Psych & Wellness Lot, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Maureen Clyne teaches Cool Yoga – Del Ray's free summer outdoor yoga, Wednesdays through Aug. 29. Chill out after class with the Cool Yoga After-Party featuring refreshments courtesy of Bon Vivant Cafe + Farm Market. Email yoga@prasadayoga.com for more.

**Alexandria Pitch Celebration.** 6:30 p.m. at the WeWork in Crystal City, 2221 South Clark St., 12th Floor, Arlington. Don't miss the final pitch of the season, when students from the Alexandria Grow My Business

program will present their business pitches in a formal setting and receive feedback from a panel of expert judges. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com, search "Empowered Women."

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 26-28

**Disney's "Newsies."** At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Presented as part of the Summer Theatre Program co-sponsored by Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Springfield. Visit www.summertheatreprogram.org for more.

## FRIDAY/JULY 27

**Four Mile Movies: Wonder.** 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Arlandria returns with a host of new and old favorites on the last Friday of the month this summer. Fun with friends and family, a picnic dinner, and a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.fourmilemovieseries.com for more.

**18th Century Gaming Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Cost is \$10 cover. Play games 18th century style: Shut the Box, Fox + Geese, Dice, and a special Cards against Humanity: Tavern Edition. Also hear stories of this young nation and see the room(s) where it happened. Cash bar with wine, beer, and specialty

cocktail will be available. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

**Trivia Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Staff members at Carlyle House Historic Park and Lee-Fendall House Museum have combined their random nerd knowledge to create bi-weekly trivia nights. Test knowledge on all things from pop culture to history. \$5 a person; includes one drink ticket. Additional drinks can be bought at the cash bar. Teams may have up to six members. Registration slots are first come, first served; pay ahead to save a spot. Every other Friday June-August. Purchase tickets through eventbrite.com.

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

## SATURDAY/JULY 28

**Mount Vernon Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every fourth Saturday of the month through September. Vendors will sell items such as: homemade goods, lavender sachets, jewelry, soap, antique and vintage items; books, CD's and DVDs, comic books and more. Refreshments will also be on sale. Hosted by the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219. Rain or shine. Visit www.facebook.com/mountvernonfleamarket/ for more.

**"Beyond The Battlefield" – A Civil War Walking Tour.** 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Participants will see locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. The tour will last approximately two hours and the tour route is approximately 1.75 miles. Tickets are \$15 in advance through eventbrite.com, or \$20 the day of the program. Tour space is limited, so the purchase of tickets in advance is recommended. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and bring water. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

**Archaeology Workshop: Understanding the Landscape.** At the grounds of George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Archaeology Workshops take a deeper look at the archaeology process and the Shuter's Hill site, before sifting through excavated soil for artifacts. Reservations are \$10 per person and may be made online. If a session is filled, contact the museum at 703-746-4399 or archaeology@alexandriava.gov to be added to a waitlist. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

**Short African American Films.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. \$10 admission. The Alexandria Black History Museum will host a short film festival featuring the works of two award-winning studios in Washington, D.C. and Richmond. These directors highlight the stories of notable African American figures, demonstrating that African American history is America's history. Make a reservation at alexandriava.gov/EventPurchase.aspx.

**Archaeology Workshop.** 1:30-3 p.m. at Shuter's Hill at the George Washington Masonic Memorial,

Alexandria. Part of the Alexandria Archaeology Program. What did Shuter's Hill used to look like? Each day of excavation uncovers more information. Take a tour of the site to learn how archaeologists can understand the original landscape, view archaeology in action, and get the chance to sift through excavated soil. \$10 donation and pre-registration is required at alexandriava.gov/Shop.

**Visual Arts Workshop: Seeing Beauty.** 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Adults. Photography instructor Tuan Pham helps participants seek artistic beauty, sharpen perception of the natural world and learn how to capture that new vision for photography or other visual arts. \$34/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 331 3701 or call 703-642-5173.

**Home Makeover 1850s.** 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore the extensive renovations that the Cazenove family made to the Lee-Fendall house and garden in the early 1850s. Learn about the fashionable trends that shaped their decorative decisions and discover the modern conveniences they added to make the home more comfortable. Cost is \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

**Harry Potter Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Adults only tours. In honor of Harry's birthday, the Apothecary is offering tours exploring the historic muggle science and medicine that's found in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. Call 703-746-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

## SUNDAY/JULY 29

**Harry Potter Tour.** 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Family-friendly tours. In honor of Harry's birthday, the Apothecary is offering tours exploring the historic muggle science and medicine that's found in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. Call 703-746-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org.

**Meet the Junior Docents.** 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families as children connect with the building through their peer tour guides as well as for adults looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: \$5 adults (\$4 with AAA), \$3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

**Free Music Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Free. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association presents its weekly free summer chamber concert series. This week's concert features violinist Lisa Park and pianist Dan Campolietta playing music by Kreisler, Elgar, and Brahms. Email: wmpa.exec@gmail.com. Visit www.wmpamusic.org

**Band Concert.** 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt National Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Kings Park Concert Band; program of marches, band classics, Broadway and movie show tunes. There are picnic tables in the pavilion, or bring a lawn chair. Free. Call 703-569-3090 or visit kingsparkband.org for more.

## Get Ready for Summer Restaurant Week

For 10 days and two weekends, more than 50 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two during Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week, Aug. 17-26.

More than 25 restaurants will also offer lunch deals at \$15 or \$22 per person in addition to the dinner specials. New this year are \$15 or \$22 per person brunch specials at 15 restaurants.

New to Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week are Mia's Italian Kitchen and Café 44. Returning

participants include Hank's Pasta Bar, Evening Star Café, BRABO, Vermilion, Hummingbird, Del Ray Café and Virtue Feed & Grain.

Restaurants with lunch offerings include The Majestic, Vola's Dockside Grill, Bastille Brasserie & Bar, Blackwall Hitch and Society Fair. Restaurants with brunch specials include Chadwicks, Cheesetique, Cedar Knoll, The Wharf and Vermilion.

See www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.



## SPORTS

# Wahoos Finish Undefeated

Emil LaSida sets Colonial Swim League record in the 50-m backstroke.

**T**he Chinquapin Wahoos defeated the Hayden Village Villages – Boys 175-40; Girls 130-92 – for a combined score of 305-132-to go 5-0 for the season. Next week is the Divisional Championships and the presentation of trophies at Chantilly Highlands. Swimmers throughout all divisions in the Colonial Swim League have a chance to qualify for All-Stars through the competition at Divisionals.

**6&Unders:** Logan Phillips (23.79) and Micaela Zuniga (30.81) won the freestyle and the backstroke (Logan 29.63; Micaela 36.45).

**8&Unders:** Amir Smith (23.36) and Eamonn Greiner (23.68) were 2-3 in the free; Alex Guevara (24.03) and Eamonn (31.06) were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in back with Dominic Grajkowski just missing 3rd; Eamonn (28.70) and Amir Smith (28.95) were 1-2 and dominated the breaststroke; and Alex (23.65) and Logan Phillips (31.82) were 1-2 in the fly. The girls were dominant as Linda Jimenez (20.51) took 1<sup>st</sup>, Chloe Fox (21.34) 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Julia Davis (22.13) 3<sup>rd</sup> in the free; Chloe Fox (26.38) 1<sup>st</sup> and Madison Schang (26.51) 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back; Linda Jimenez (26.17), Madison (27.15), and Chance Maxwell (31.35) swept the breast; and in the butterfly, Linda (26.21), Chloe (28.99), and Julia (29.94) swept the event. Both groups won the 100 Medley Relay event with Eamonn, Amir Smith, Alex, and Logan going 1:42.05; and Chance, Chloe, Linda, and Julia going 1:46.81.

**9-10 Age Group:** Yahia Omar (38.42), Chris Greene (40.43), and Eddy Paz (43.81) swept the free; Jack Scheifele (43.90) took 1<sup>st</sup>, Chris (54.13) 3<sup>rd</sup> in the back; Jack (51.48) 2<sup>nd</sup> with Yahia taking 3<sup>rd</sup> with a time of 53.33; and Jack (18.18) and Chris (22.39) 3<sup>rd</sup> in the butterfly.

Camila Zuniga took 1<sup>st</sup> (40.95) and Maggie McCommons (46.27) 3<sup>rd</sup> in the free; Tennyson Fitzgerald (48.52) 1<sup>st</sup> and Camila (51.39) 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back; Halle Thomas (54.93) 1<sup>st</sup> and Tennyson (58.88) 2<sup>nd</sup> in the breast, and Camila (21.01) 1<sup>st</sup> and Tennyson (24.53) 3<sup>rd</sup> in the butterfly. Tennyson, Halle, Camila, and Maggie combined to take 1<sup>st</sup> in the medley relay with a time of 132:83.

**11-12 Age Group:** Bodie Lauinger



PHOTO BY JUDY DAVIS

**The Chinquapin Wahoos finished their dual meet season in the Colonial Swim League with an undefeated record. They finished 5-0 and also won their 1st Division Championship at the All-Star Relay Carnival on Sunday at Countryside.**

(31.50) swam his best time for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the free; Jolan Foronda (36.95) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back; Jolan (36.15) was 2<sup>nd</sup> the breaststroke; and in the butterfly, Jolan was 2<sup>nd</sup> again with a time of 34.97.

For the girls, Eve McLaury (32.79) and Cate Cox (35.18) started the 11-12 girls out with a 1-3 finish in the free; Catherine Salomons (38.68), and Abby (41.12) were 1-2 the backstroke; Catherine (43.98) Sally Cox (45.35) were 1-3 in the breast; and Eve (35.65) and Catherine (37.04) were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the butterfly event.

**13-14 Age Group:** Emil LaSida (26.60) took 1<sup>st</sup> and Ronan Lauinger (27.69) 2<sup>nd</sup> in the free; In the backstroke Emil (28.95) took 1<sup>st</sup> place setting the CSL record in the 50-meter backstroke, Jack McLaury (36.44) took 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the breast, Ronan took 1<sup>st</sup> (34.77) was 1<sup>st</sup> and in the butterfly, the boys showed some depth by sweeping the but-

terfly event with Emil (28.83), Jack (34.93) and Diego Flores-Acosta (36.41) leading the field. The team of Emil, Ronan, Jack and Diego Flores-Acosta took 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200 MR with a time of 2:12.83.

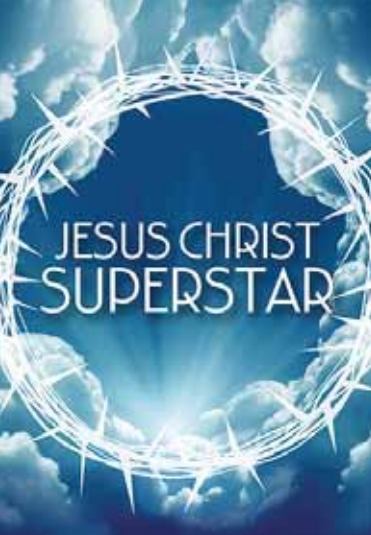
For the girls, Maya Solis (31.14) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the free and 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 back with a time of 34.89 with Haley Haukedahl (39.57) taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the back; Stephanie Rosario (43.15) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the breast; and Maya (35.73) was 1<sup>st</sup> in the fly. Haley Haukedahl, Stephanie, Maya, and Jocelyn Teran teamed up for 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200 medley relay with a time of 2:33.88.

**15-18 Year Olds:** Ian Do got the boys on the board with a 2nd place finish in the 50 back with a time of 29.16 with Dylan Garcia (29.38) taking 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ian (32.84) was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the backstroke. Jacob Rosario (39.67) touched out a Hayden Village swimmer to take 3<sup>rd</sup> in the breaststroke. In the butterfly,

Ian (30.27) and Dylan (32.15) took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The relay team of Ian, Jacob, Dylan and Angel Callisaya (2:13.88) were just beat out by a strong boys team in an exciting relay race.

For the girls, Lydia Greenwood (30.63) took 1<sup>st</sup> and Nicole Rosario (32.83) 3<sup>rd</sup> by .02 seconds in the free; Lydia (37.04) and Athena Salomons (38.81) took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the back; Athena (42.93) and Bella Obioha (43.31) took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the breast; and Lydia (32.02) and Nicole were 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the butterfly. Athena, Bella, Lydia, and Nicole teamed up for 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200-m MR with a time of 2:24.77.


In the 200-yard free relays, the boys' team of Jack Schiefele, Jolan Foronda, Emil LaSida, and Ian Do (2:04.87) and the girls' team of Camila Zuniga, Eve McLaury, Maya Solis, and Lydia Greenwood (2:18.09) both took 1<sup>st</sup> place.



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## Legals

### LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene on the days hereafter listed for hearing complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of uniformity in assessment, or errors in acreage in such real estate assessment. Upon hearing such complaints, the Board will give consideration AND INCREASE, DECREASE, OR AFFIRM such Real Estate Assessments.

All meetings will be held at 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 3008, Alexandria, VA 22314. The tentative dates and times are:

August 06, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 07, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 August 08, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 13, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 14, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 August 15, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 20, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 21, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 August 22, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 27, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 August 28, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 August 29, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 04, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 September 05, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 10, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 11, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 September 12, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 17, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 18, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 September 19, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 24, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 September 25, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 September 26, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 01, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 02, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 October 03, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 09, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 October 10, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 15, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 16, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 October 17, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 22, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 23, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 October 24, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 29, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 October 30, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 October 31, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 November 05, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 November 06, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 November 07, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 November 12, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 November 13, 2018 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
 November 14, 2018 - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Dockets for each hearing may be obtained by contacting the Office of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall, Room 2600, Alexandria, VA 22314 between 8:00am and 5:00pm. Monday through Friday in person or by calling 703-746-4180.

The deadline for filing an appeal was June 1, 2018, however, this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments for real estate that was newly constructed pursuant to Virginia Code g58.1-3292.

## Legals

## Employment

## Employment

## Announcements

### VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY NOW HIRING

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## Legals

## Legals

### Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the release of combined sewer system overflows during wet weather events into three water bodies in Alexandria, Virginia.

Public comment period: July 20, 2018 to August 20, 2018

Permit name: Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit – Wastewater/Stormwater issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

APPLICANT Name, address and permit number: City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
 VA0087068

Name and address of facility: Alexandria Combined Sewer System  
 Alexandria (Old Town), VA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Alexandria Renew Enterprises has applied for a reissuance of a permit for the public Alexandria Combined Sewer System. The applicant proposes to release combined sewer system overflows during wet weather events at an estimated, system wide annual average volume of 127 million gallons into three water bodies. There is no sludge generated by this system. The facility proposes to release combined sewer system overflows during wet weather events into Hooff Run, Hunting Creek and the Potomac River (Oronoco Bay) in Alexandria in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. The permit requires monitoring for the following pollutants: flow, pH, carbonaceous-biochemical oxygen demand 5-day, dissolved oxygen, total suspended solids, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, E. coli, ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, chlorides, total recoverable zinc and total recoverable copper. In addition, the permit requires continuation of the nine minimum controls and commencing implementation of the approved long term control plan update.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by hand-delivery, email or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ-Northern Regional Office by appointment, or may request electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet.

Name: Douglas Frasier  
 Address: DEQ-Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193  
 Phone: (703) 583-3873 Email: [Douglas.Frasier@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Douglas.Frasier@deq.virginia.gov)

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## Obituary

Little River, SC

Mildred Louise Quayle, 91, died July 14, 2018 at her home with her daughter by her side.

Born on March 1, 1927 in Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late Ralph and Lula Miller Preston.

Mrs. Quayle is survived by her daughter, Ria L. Funkhouser; niece, Theresa Greene and nephew, Thomas Green. She is predeceased by her husband, Roderick A. Quayle and son, Ralph Hall.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 pm on Wednesday, July 25 in Lee Funeral Home Chapel. Mrs. Quayle will be laid to rest next to her husband at Quantico National Cemetery at 11 am on Friday, July 27, 2018.

In lieu of flowers, memorials, in memory of Louise Quayle, may be made to Kind Keeper Animal Rescue, 1500 LD Drive, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

A guestbook is available at [www.leeffhand-crematory.com](http://www.leeffhand-crematory.com).

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# Housing

FROM PAGE 4

tain flexibility in light of fluid market and federal spending conditions.

"The more constraining Resolution 830 is for ARHA, the more difficult that process [of making redevelopment deals economically viable under dynamic constraints] becomes. ... That's my fear," said Zellers.

"Our board is open to dialogue around reasonable specificity," said Bauman. But "reasonable" has limits. Responding to a suggestion that one-for-one replacement might refer to the total number of bedrooms instead of units, such that five one-bedroom units might replace a five-bedroom unit, he said: "That's four more kitchens, probably eight more bathrooms. That makes it unaffordable, we are not longer able to provide affordable housing. ... HUD rules are changing and funding is changing, literally quarter by quarter. Without flexibility, we run the risk of not being able to provide housing, period. And that's what we are keenly aware of."

In an interview Tuesday, ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew reiterated his opposition to adding too much specificity to Resolution 830's language.

"I need that flexibility. ... I'm all for building as much affordability in this city as I can possibly build. I really am. But the question is, how do I get it done with limited resources?" he said. Even if the city committed additional funding, "I'd still want to maintain my flexibility, because you can't control conditions. Nobody could see Donald Trump coming. Nobody could see the tariff talk raising steel prices a year or so ago. Nobody could see those hurricanes that came through last year, now lumber's up 35 percent. So again, while [Resolution 830 is] a noble idea, and I get what they're trying to do, it would be hard for me to sit back and say: 'OK, I agree to this language that's going to lock me into a box for the next several years, not knowing that something's coming down the pipeline three years from now that might change the whole dynamic, and it may not work.' That's what I'm afraid of."

Staffs plan to have a draft revision of Resolution 830, with language tweaked around certain areas of agreement, ready in September for the governing bodies' initial consideration.

Neither Chapman nor the city administration responded to requests for comment.

*The author represented the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee (AHAAC) on the working group.*

## Correction

In the article "Carlyle Kids" [Gazette Packet, July 12], Diana Price from the Alexandria Public Libraries was incorrectly identified as Diana Prince.

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## Comparatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After writing such an emotional column last week ("A Relative Unknown"), I'm having a little trouble finding footing for my pen for this week's column.

It reminds me of thoughts I had about continuing to write my "Everything in general about nothing in particular"-themed columns – which I had published in The Connection from December 1997 through May 2009, after I received my terminal cancer diagnosis in late February, 2009. How could I continue to write such lightweight nonsense after being given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis?

Not that my intention writing forward was ever to immerse you regular readers in self-indulgent Kenny at his self-important worst. Hardly. It was more that I had a need and apparently, an ability, to write about my cancer experiences with a similarly light touch as I had previously done so discussing everyday topics dating back 12 years or so.

Those columns, as you incredibly regular readers may recall, ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, including everything in between. However, they never mentioned politics, current events, personalities in the news or anything of substance, quite frankly.

To give you a few examples: "Armed and Dangerous," a column about drivers who drive with their left arms hanging out the driver's side window (one of my mother's favorites); "Sole Man," a column about seeing so many single shoes lying by the side of the road; "Registering a Complaint," a column about the new (at the time) self-checkout registers at supermarkets; and "Victim of 'Soycumbstance,'" a column about why there are always so many packets of soy sauce in Chinese carry-out, and so many more, hundreds in fact, about "everything in general ..."

For me, they were – and continue to be, an amusing diversion/avocation which enabled me to pursue my passion and dream about writing a syndicated climate from a warm climate, preferably one with an ocean view, while maintaining my day job. A day job which I still maintain. And though the challenge for maintaining both may be greater now than ever, us true believers in the newspaper business will continue to read and write as best we can, in print and online.

Now, throw in a cancer diagnosis, which at the outset was extremely discouraging, and you might wonder how any of this makes sense. Well, perhaps it didn't. But perhaps having tasks and responsibilities was exactly the kind of regularity that a cancer patient given a rather grim prognosis needed, consciously, and maybe more importantly, subconsciously.

Somewhere in my head (or wherever one's subconscious exists) going on about life as if nothing was particularly life threatening (heck, more like life ending, at age 54 and a half, no less) perhaps was the kind of antidote my body needed. Though told then – and now, that there's no cure for what ails me: non-small lung cancer, stage IV, nevertheless, I am still alive nine-plus years later, "advocating" and "vocating."

However, maintaining my status quo; reading, writing and "rithmeticking" doesn't generally make me cry as writing last week's column did. And in living long enough to experience what I wrote about last week, I am always grateful to whomever/whatever power is responsible for yours truly being here, there and everywhere (also a reference to the name of the first song, by The Beatles, that Dina and I danced to as husband and wife).

Amazingly, life goes on, as does this column. But fortunately, for you irregular readers, not for much longer.

Have written this far, I think I've transitioned now from an extremely emotional experience: meeting my cousin from Argentina to an un-emotional/normal one: life in the mundane and boring Kenny lane. A lane I hope to continue to travel. At least I hope so, anyway.

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



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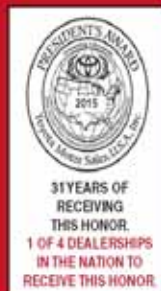
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