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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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October 25, 2018

Photo contributed

Haunted Graveyard Maze

Spooky Bean Halloween returns Oct. 28 from 5-8 p.m. following the Del Ray Halloween Parade. The brainchild of Bean Creative's Layla Masri, the theme for this year's haunted graveyard maze is "It Came From the Mist." The event is free and open to the public and is suitable for all ages. Sponsored by Del Ray Realtor Jen Walker, this year's event also features the Gruesome Garage tailored to older children and adults. 2213 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information visit www.facebook.com/pg/spookybeanhalloween.

In the Race For School Board

16 candidates vie for 9 seats, 4 incumbents not running.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

Public education comprises a significant proportion of the city's total budget. For example, of the city's $748 million FY 2019 general fund budget, the schools got $224 million — nearly a third. Of the city's $2.2 billion 10-year Capital Improvement Program, the schools got $475 million — over a fifth.

For this reason, the School Board election on Nov. 6 is important for all residents and taxpayers, regardless of whether they have children in the public school system.

The School Board, consisting of nine members, is essentially a second local legislature, governing everything having to do with public education in the city. Except, unlike City Council, it doesn't exercise its own power of the purse. Rather, it receives an annual funding allocation from council, which is the only body between the two with taxing and bonding authority.

Whether or not School Board candidates have clear partisan preferences, state law requires that they run as independents.

Unlike City Council members, whom voters elect at large, School Board members are elected from three separate districts. District A

See 16 Candidates, Page 20

'One Step at a Time'

Curran laces up for Marine Corps Marathon.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Brooke Sydnor Curran has run hundreds of marathons. It's how the founder of the nonprofit RunningBrooke has raised more than a million dollars for numerous Alexandria children's charities. But Sunday's Marine Corps Marathon will be different. When Curran lines up with 30,000 other runners Oct. 28, it will be her first competitive race since suffering a brain aneurysm that nearly ended her life earlier this year.

"I honestly don't remember a lot," said Curran, who was out on a normal run when she experienced an excruciating headache and profuse vomiting the morning of March 17. "It was the worst pain of my life and in hindsight I did everything wrong after I collapsed."

Between bouts of nausea, Curran convinced her husband Chris that she just needed to sleep for a few hours.

"That is the last thing someone experiencing those symptoms should do," Curran said.

When the pain and vomiting continued into the evening, Curran's husband took her to Inova Alexandria Hospital, where an aneurysm was diagnosed via CT scan. She was immediately rushed to Inova Fairfax Hospital in a high-urgency ambulance.

Due to heavy bleeding on her brain, it took doc

See Curran Laces, Page 6

Historical Perspective

Former City Council members reflect on local politics.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

Six former city council members offered a critical appraisal of Alexandria's political climate and processes at a panel discussion on Monday, Oct. 22.

The panel, hosted by Agenda:Alexandria, a nonprofit, comprised a bipartisan mix. Panelists included Wiley Mitchell (Republican), Jim Moran (Democrat), Carlyle "Connie" Ring (Republican), David Speck (Republican-turned-Democrat), Lonnie Rich (Democrat) and Frank Fannon (Republican). They served a combined half-century, with terms going back to the 1960s.

See Reflecting, Page 29

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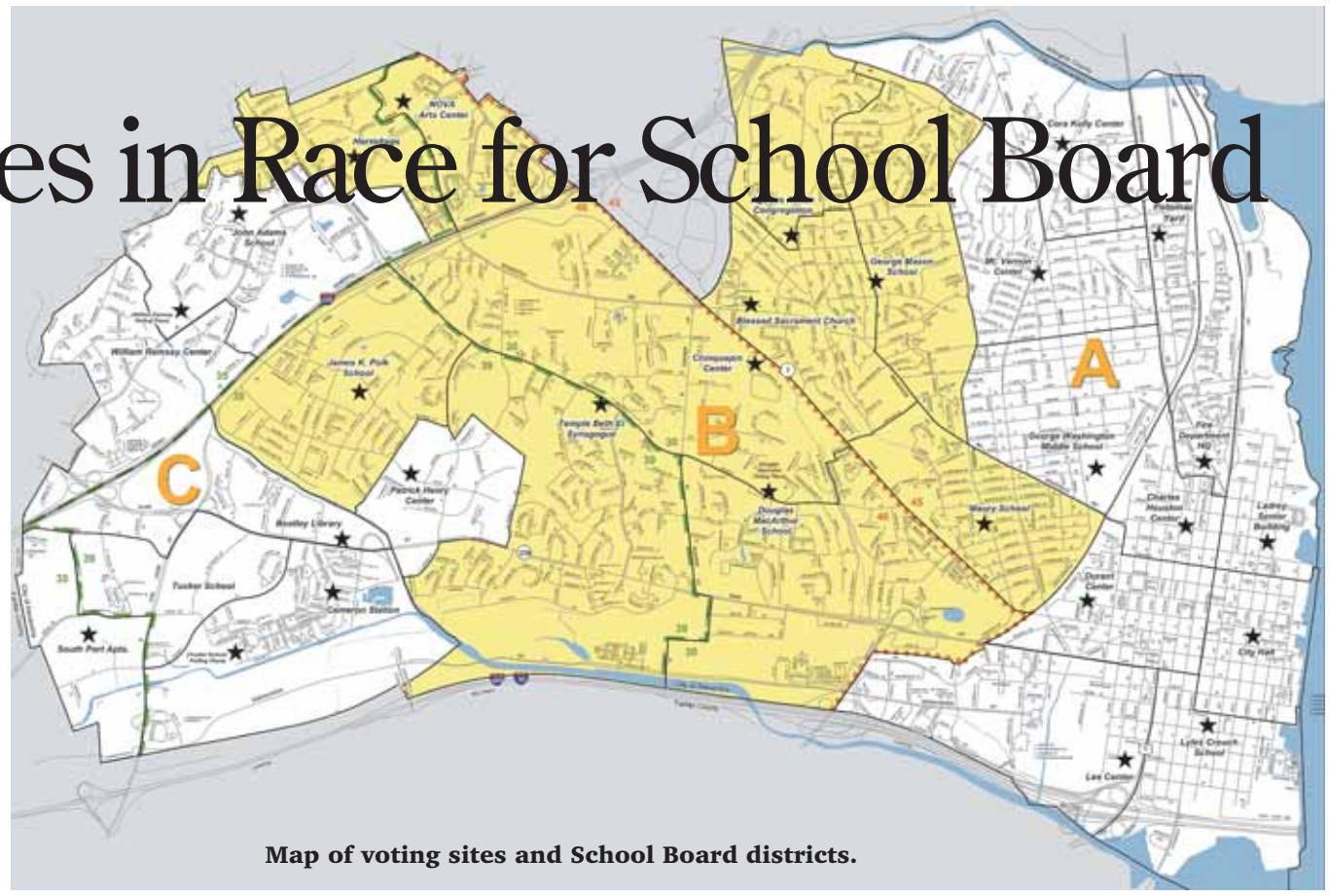
16 Candidates in Race for School Board



Map of voting sites and School Board districts.

District A

Bill Campbell

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

Twice-elected seeking a third term to keep ACPS moving toward becoming a high-achieving district. I've negotiated Superintendent contracts, approved five operating/capital budgets, opened new schools, redistricted and collaborated with Council.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Implement audit recommendations. Cultural competency training. More targeted interventions. Improve learning spaces. Reduce class size. Improve communications to families. Additional restorative practices and community circles. Add Pre-K slots.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Athletics and extracurriculars are lower relative priority but still vital for high achieving districts. A culture of high achievement should extend to every facet of effort to include academics, operations, facilities and extracurriculars.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

Public-private partnerships should be maximized. We hired a Director of Grants and Partnerships to explore all opportunities. Successes include DASH Bus, grants for in-class breakfasts and wonderful partnerships with NOVA and GW University.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

We need to listen to stakeholders/experts and make a wise, cost-effective decision. If we can provide diverse, 21st Century learning opportunities and minimize the size of brick and mortar structures, this would seem ideal. One TC, multiple spaces.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

This is a false choice. No school district will ever get "the full amount it thinks it needs"! Board members must be cognizant of citywide needs and respect our taxpayers. We must prioritize and try to creatively partner and maximize all investments.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

We missed opportunities with redistricting especially in the east. Potomac Yard should be Cora Kelly and Mt. Vernon. Some JH areas should be Maury and some areas in the JH neighborhood, with new $1M+ houses could walk to JH but are bused elsewhere.

Jacinta Greene

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I was born into a family of educators and my passion revolves around literacy, advocacy for disadvantaged women and children. I served as Volunteer Chair for the Alexandria Democratic Committee and serve on the Alexandria Commission for Women.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Capacity in our schools and a 21st century learning environment for all children is my top priority. I will look closely at the data released by the High School project task force and make the best decision on the number of additional schools needed.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

My lowest priority is "Athletics & Extracurriculars." While I do think after-school programs are vital to children's development, when faced with other more pressing problems such as drastic overcrowding in T.C. Williams, they must take priority.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

I believe that education is a shared responsibility between the schools, community, and families. I will work to increase our partnerships with nonprofits and businesses but will oppose measures such as vouchers and charter school efforts.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

As I mentioned above, I want to look closely at the data being released by the High School project task force in determining the best solution for our high school students.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The School Board's responsibility is to advocate on behalf of the needs of the school system. Alexandria's local government is intimately connected and we should be aware of when something could be detrimental to the students, teachers, and parents.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

I have concerns with the implementation of the restorative justice program and how the lack of adequate coordinators is impacting the full roll-out of the program. Additional resources are needed to ensure this program is correctly implemented.

W. Christopher Harris

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

As a lifelong Alexandrian, product of ACPS, coach, and father of three ACPS graduates I am running because I care about the school system that nurtured me. My history of service to the city and my engineering background would be an asset to ACPS.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Upgrading facilities is of the utmost importance. I propose that we address all critical issues that pose safety and health risks to our children. While keeping the community informed, we will act in a timely and transparent manner.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

As a former coach I am aware of the supplemental resources that come from parents, boosters, and community partnerships. These additional contributions historically fill in the gaps of program shortfalls. Thus reducing the need of priority funding.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

I agree with the notion of exploring various funding options. As a product of the ACPS School system, I believe the extent of our public-private partnerships should not compromise our current ACPS structure.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

As equity remains a concern, I believe our efforts are better spent making TC Williams more reflective of our accomplished city of Alexandria. Building schools by districts constrains the advances in a more equitable school system.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The school board should ask for the full amount as it is a direct correlation between a stronger school system and a more stable economic base. It proves to be a worthwhile direct investment that deserves the city's financial attention.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

Deferring maintenance has impacted facilities all across the school division. I would have worked collectively with other school board members and facilities to ensure benchmarks were set and upheld.

Michelle Rief

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I'm a professional educator and my three children attend Alexandria public schools. I'm running for School Board to fix our aging schools and end overcrowding, to desegregate our academic programs, and to re-prioritize learning over testing.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

To improve facilities and overcrowding I will work with City Council to immediately implement the recommendations of the Joint City-Schools Facility Invest

See School Board Race, Page 16

RE-ELECT
MARGARET
LORBER
FOR SCHOOL BOARD
District B

"Margaret has served as the conscience of ACPS. Her hard work and her compassion for Alexandria's students and their families is unsurpassed".

Lisa Jacobs, Program Director, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium*

Margaret Lorber is a passionate and effective advocate for children. In her first term on the board she has:

- **Spearheaded an evaluation of Special Education**
- **Addressed critical capacity and funding needs**
- **Increased salaries and benefits for teachers and all staff**
- **Worked to reduce suspensions and expulsions**
- **Championed parent involvement and outreach**

"Margaret has been a valuable partner to children with special needs. She does her homework and asks the right questions. We need her on the board".

Janet Slaughter Eissenstat, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee, ACPS*

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News

Campaign Finance Confusion?

A large School Board campaign contribution disclosed three years late.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

A major contribution to a School Board candidate's campaign became known to the public three years late.

On Sept. 17 of this year, Veronica Nolan, a School Board incumbent who's seeking reelection, filed an amendment to her campaign finance report covering Oct. 1-22, 2015. The amendment added a $27,000 contribution from Leadership for Educational Equity, a nonprofit, on Oct. 22, 2015.

This contribution carried forward to the present, accounting for half of Nolan's most recently reported campaign fund balance of just over $54,000.

Nolan made an electronic entry in the state's online reporting program on Nov. 22, 2015 for the full amount. She thought this sufficed for public disclosure.

The entry showed "as publicly available on my individual portal for COMET, the Virginia finance reporting system. … Once I began fundraising in earnest again for reelection, I became aware that my complete list of contributions were not showing up externally (even though they were internally)," she said.

There's also some discrepancy between certain Department of Elections' informational resources from 2015 about the applicable reporting deadline for the contribution in question. Certain resources, in agreement with the relevant state statute, say that the regular reporting period ended Oct. 22. In that case, Nolan should've disclosed the contribution by the Oct. 26 deadline for that period.

Other documents indicate that the regular reporting period ended Oct. 21, the day before Nolan received the contribution. Citing these, Nolan says she thought the donation in question fell in a one-day gap before the reporting period for "large pre-election contributions" began on Oct. 23. In close proximity to an election, candidates must report donations of $500 or more no later than the day after receiving them, and under no circumstance later than the day before election day. Discerning that the contribution in question fell in neither the regular nor large pre-election reporting periods,

See Finance Disclosure, Page 17

CINDY
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Alexandria School Board

My entire family has benefited from our Alexandria City Public School education. I want to continue to work with board members, teachers, administrators, parents, students, and other community members to make sure current and future students receive an education that prepares them for success.

- Cindy Anderson

I would appreciate your vote on **November 6th**.

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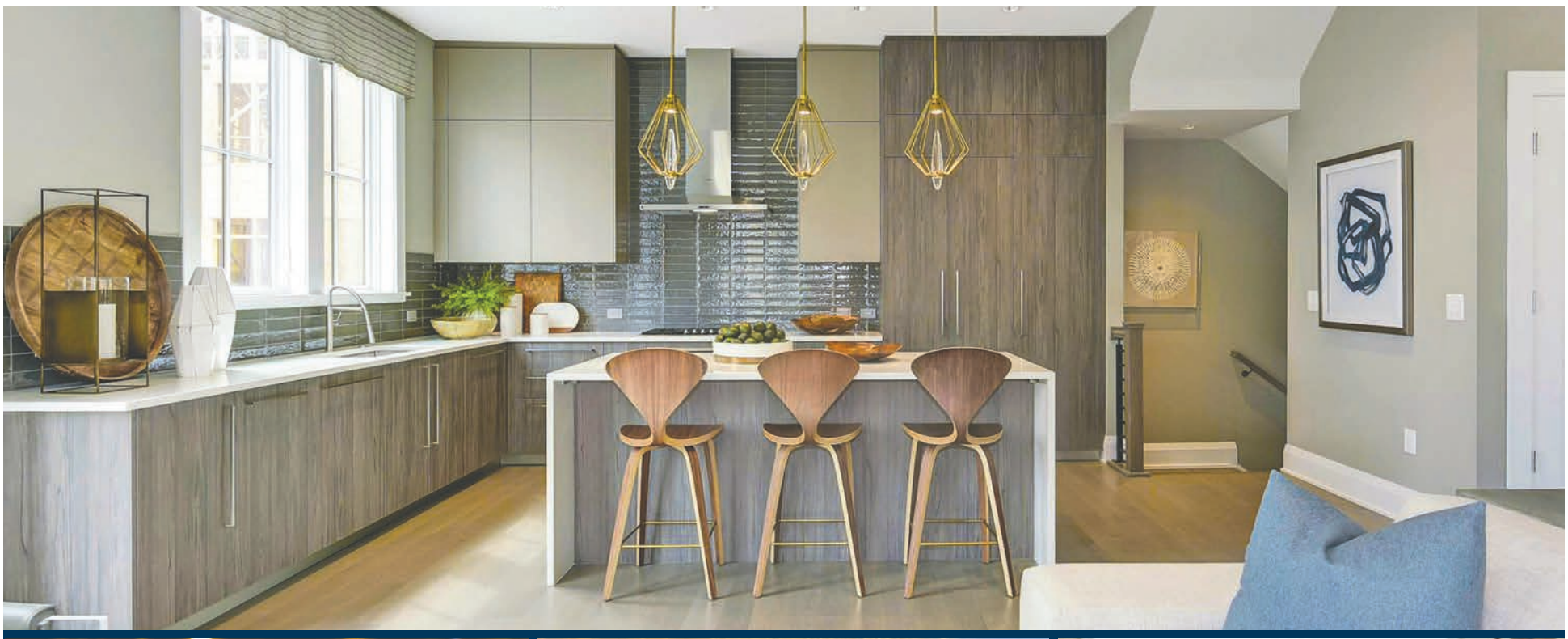

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Federal Perspective

Alexandria native oversees Eastern District of Virginia.

By Shirley Ruhe
Gazette Packet

The Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA) is a large geographical area extending from Northern Virginia to Richmond over to the Tidewater area. G. Zachary Terwilliger, an Alexandria native, was appointed United States Attorney for EDVA in May 2018. He has spent the last four months immersing himself in traveling to the field offices and repairing, making and building personal connections with law enforcement officials and his staff of 300. This includes 120 criminal attorneys and 30 civil attorneys as well as 150 support staff. Seventy-five staff are located in Alexandria as well as 25 in Richmond. The criminal division is divided into national security, white collar, drugs, cyber and violent crime.

The criminal cases can range from complex and lengthy cases such as the recent charge against a Russian national for her alleged role in a Russian conspiracy to simpler "lying and buying" firearms cases which can be more straightforward. While he is not free to discuss the ongoing Russian case, Terwilliger does volunteer he is passionate about firearms cases where individuals lie on Federal forms and then sell to prohibited people. "We can do a lot. This is important for community safety and for officer safety." He says prosecuting these cases has led to deterrence. "We are hearing 'you are too hard on firearms. We wouldn't come to Virginia to buy a gun.'"

How do you manage such a large staff?

Terwilliger: I manage a large bureaucracy by surrounding myself with competent people I trust. You can't try to do it all yourself. I tell them BLUF (bottom line up front). Lay out the main points and the recommendation first. I work long days trying to manage the shop during the day but turning to the "atta boy" personal touch after hours. "Great job, condolence on a death in the family." It is critical to morale. I try to be transparent with my staff. Regular memos on "what I'm up to. Here is how bonuses will work. Here's why we put up flags in front of the building."

Also after 18 months previously at DOJ I knew this office inside and out. I got to travel to 25 other offices. I learned just by being there.

How do you prioritize resources, cases?

Terwilliger: Opiates, national security and violent crime are all important priorities. There are multiple levels of discretion on making these decisions on what to prioritize. We prosecute but many other agencies

Photo by Shirley Ruhe/The Gazette

United States Attorney G. Zachary Terwilliger.

such as the FBI investigate. We ask what are the local counterparts investigating. I have met with 175 Federal, state and local law enforcement officials.

We ask what types of cases are we willing to take. We make an individual assessment on what is creating a massive problem in a community. For instance, it might be middle school recruitment into gangs by sex traffickers. There is no intake threshold on fentanyl, for instance, where there might be a threshold on marijuana. In law enforcement a low number of people commit an excessive amount of crime.

The EDVA has been called a rocket docket. Can you explain what that means?

Terwilliger: it predates me. You had a judge who said we are going to respect the Speedy Trial Act, which requires a case to be brought to trial in 70 days. Many Districts don't do this. We may be the fastest. There can be ways around it like if you have an overseas witness, the case is particularly complex or there is a lot of translation involved but in general the rule is followed.

Can you compare your experience as counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley from September 2015-September 2016, 2015 with your current position as U.S. Attorney?

Terwilliger. Sure. I was surprised by the level of skills and competence of lawyers on that committee. It was eye opening to me. But I was disappointed in how little we could accomplish on a bipartisan basis. There were so many more things I wish we

See Terwilliger, Page 30

Brooke Sydnor Curran celebrates after winning the women's title in the 2012 Antarctica Marathon. Curran will compete in the Oct. 28 Marine Corps Marathon just six months after suffering a brain aneurysm.

Brooke Sydnor Curran recovers from brain surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital in March of 2018.

Brooke Sydnor Curran on her first outside excursion (for a mani-pedi) after suffering a brain aneurysm in March of 2018.

Curran Laces Up for Marine Corps Marathon

From Page 1

tors nearly a week to locate the aneurysm. Unable to close the aneurysm with the less invasive angiogram procedure, doctors scheduled a craniotomy, which was successfully performed on March 26.

"I don't remember any of this," Curran said. "Chris is the one who has to fill me in on the details of what happened in the hospital."

Curran was moved out of the Intensive Care Unit on March 31 and was able to return home in early April.

"Three months of my life were just erased," said Curran, who still has memory gaps from about a month before the incident through her time in the hospital. "My memory got zapped from before the aneurysm but I am slowly coming out of the fog and rebuilding those memories."

Curran began physical therapy in April and slowly returned to running in May. With the blessing of her neurosurgeon, she will line up for her third Marine Corps Marathon.

"I'm excited and nervous at the same time," Curran said. "I don't know how it will feel to cross the finish line. It's something I used to take for granted but life is fragile and I am incredibly appreciative now to be able to do something like that."

Curran, whose best marathon time is 3 hours and nine minutes, would normally hope to finish the race in under four hours. But this year her attitude is different.

"I'm not sure I care about my time as much," she said. "I want to feel good and run a smart race. I was dealt a blow and plan to take it one step at a time."

Curran, who turned 50 in April, was quick to point out that the aneurysm was not a result of her running.

"This could happen to anybody," Curran said. "It wasn't caused because I was running – that's important for people to know. Doctors told me one of the reasons I am able to run this weekend and survived in the first place is because I had my physical health in order. The fact I'm even alive is because going in I was in top health. Otherwise I would have been a goner."

Curran credits running for making her happier, healthier and a better mother.

"Running is often not about the legs," she said. "It gives you mental clarity, strength and a 'can do' attitude."

Curran founded the nonprofit RunningBrooke in 2009 to help get children to participate in outdoor activities.

"It's all about getting kids physically active," Curran said. "Kids who are more active are far more successful in school and in life."

Since founding RunningBrooke, Curran has raised more than $1.5 million. Funds have been used to build community playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods and for grants to nonprofit organizations that serve children both in the classroom and in extracurricular programs.

"I want to be sure kids can afford to par

See Curran, Page 29

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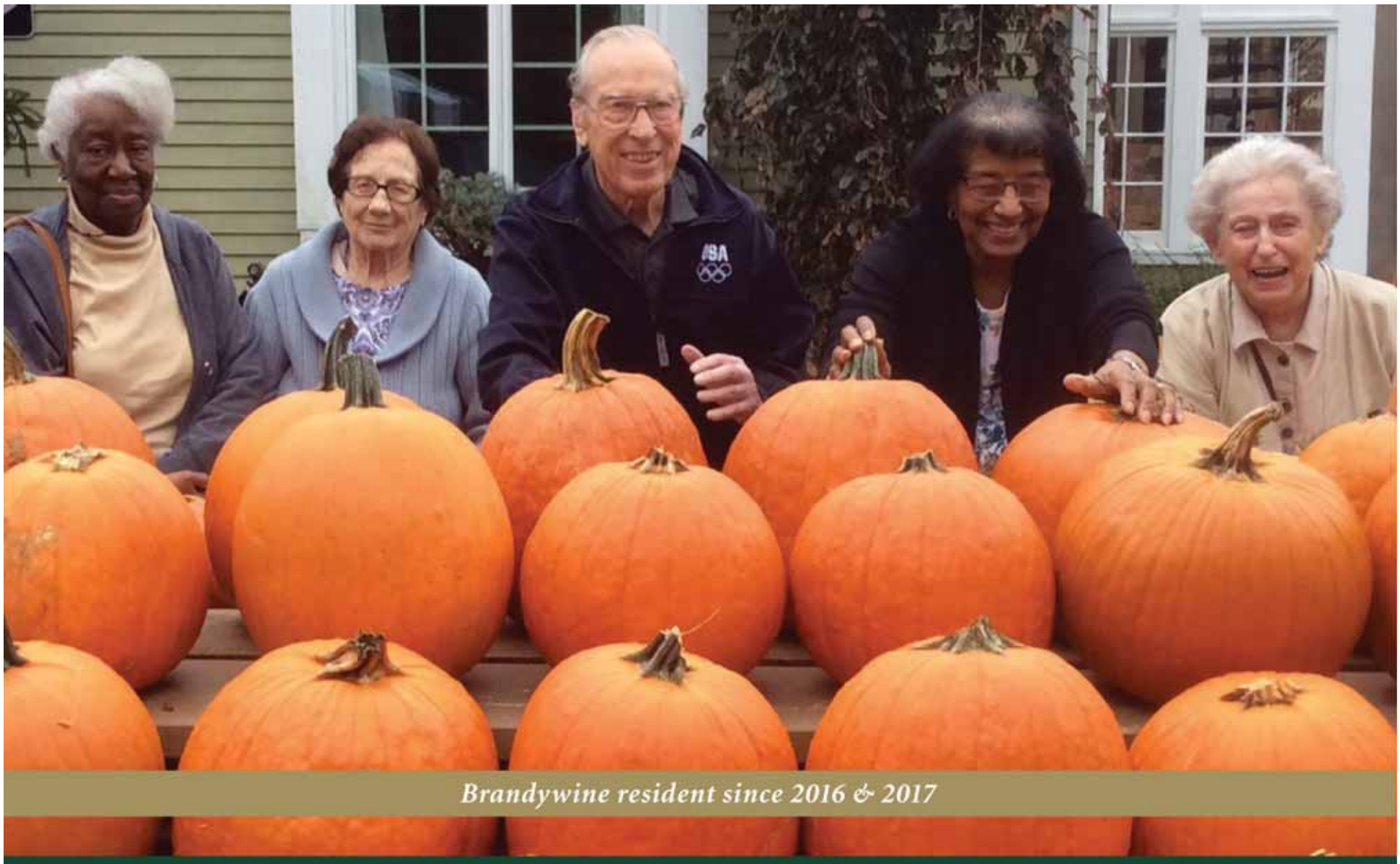

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Photos by Tom Roberts

Mayor Allison Silberberg, right, congratulates Rotary Club President Paul Anderson on the success of Taste For Giving. The event raised $70,000 for local charities.

Gant Redmon and Casey Lindsay act as auctioneers during the live auction Oct. 19 at the Taste For Giving fundraiser.

Taste For Giving

Rotary Club raises $70k for local charities.

The Rotary Club of Alexandria held its 11th annual Taste For Giving gala Oct. 19 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. More than 300 attendees sampled food and wine from 17 area restaurants, raising over $70,000 for local charities and nonprofits. Diamond sponsors of the event included Everly-Wheatley Funerals and Cremation, Anderson Orthopedic Clinic and Cassaday and Company Wealth Management.

"It was a fun and exciting night for everyone who attended," said Rotarian event chair John Moorman. "We owe a huge thank you to all our sponsors and restaurant donors. It is because of them and all those who came out to support us that our Rotary grants will be able to help so many local organizations in the community."

— Jeanne Theismann

Ferrel Egge and Anh Nguyen volunteer at the Bingo Wine table Oct. 19 at Taste For Giving.

Tempo Restaurant owner Wendy Albert, second from left, serves up butternut squash lasagna at the Rotary Club of Alexandria's annual Taste For Giving fundraiser Oct. 19 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The event raised more than $70,000 for local charities.

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Opinion

Opportunities and Challenges

Implementing Obamacare in Alexandria.

By Dan Hawkins
And Richard Merritt
Co-directors, Alexandria Cares for the Uninsured

Commentary

With the adoption of Medicaid Expansion by the General Assembly earlier this year (following four years of denials), Virginia joins 33 other states in fully implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), otherwise known as Obamacare. It has never been widely understood that the ACA is composed of two separate but related provisions: (1) providing low-to-middle income uninsured greater access to subsidized coverage in the individual insurance marketplace; and, (2) at each state's option, expanding the Medicaid program to include all adults – even the "working poor" – with incomes at or below 138 percent of poverty — about $16,700 for an individual.

Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services estimates that between 4,700 and 6,000 uninsured adults (about 300,00 to 400,000 in the Commonwealth) are expected to qualify and enroll in the expanded Medicaid program following implementation beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

Studies have shown that in states with more than two or three years experience with Medicaid expansion, eligibility has improved access to care for most and has generally improved overall quality of care. A Health Affairs study found that in states that expanded Medicaid, there was a 40 percent increase in patients filling their diabetes prescriptions – which is highly significant as untreated diabetes can lead to more severe complications such as heart disease and kidney damage.

That's the good news; the "not-so-great" news is that there are formidable challenges ahead to a smooth implementation of the expanded Medicaid program and to maintaining or even expanding insurance coverage for low-to-lower middle income through the Individual insurance market. Immediately following its failure to "repeal and replace" Obamacare late last year, the Trump Administration launched a number of administrative, regulatory and judicial strategies to undermine the law's implementation – "death by a thousand cuts" as it has been described. Among those initiatives are:

- ❖ Repealing the individual mandate as part of last year's tax cut ;
- ❖ Refusing to protect the ACA against legal challenges to its legitimacy by several Republican state attorneys general;
- ❖ Slashing budgets for Navigator programs established to help individuals enroll in the ACA;
- ❖ Encouraging the sale of "short-term, limited duration" (sometimes referred to as "bare bones") insurance plans that provide limited coverage and fewer consumer protections,
- ❖ Supporting tightening of Homeland Security regulations that could deny immigrants who legally use such public benefits as food stamps and housing vouchers from obtaining green cards or permanent legal status. Finally, it must not be forgotten that while Medicaid expansion offers the hope of improved health and well-being for thousands in the city who have long been denied such hope, there will still be a significant number of low-to-lower middle income individuals in the community who will not qualify and will therefore continue to face daunting financial and other barriers to accessing the city's health safety net. (The Commonwealth Institute estimates slightly more than 12,000 adults in Alexandria with incomes below three times the poverty rate – about $48,000 for an individual – will not likely qualify for Medicaid. Approximately 25 percent of the total or around 3,000 adults have annual incomes of less than $17,000.)

Significantly, the large majority of this "uninsured but not likely to qualify for Medicaid" population are Hispanic or Latino (48 percent) or Black or African American (30 percent). Non-Hispanic Whites constitute only about 12 percent of the group. Because of their uninsured status research informs us that they are all at increased risk of premature death. However, Blacks or African Americans within the city face a "double jeopardy" of increased risk for premature mortality – as data from annual County Health Rankings surveys indicate a significant disparity in the number of premature deaths among African Americans compared to Whites in the City of Alexandria between 2000 to 2015.

Happily, the decision by the Governor and General Assembly to finally expand the Medicaid program moves the principal of health care as a right, not just a privilege, much closer to reality in the Commonwealth. The City of Alexandria can be proud of its long-standing support for a strong and connected safety net. That commitment was well manifested just three years ago, as the mayor and City Council, by a unanimous vote, agreed to raise the cigarette tax by 11 cents a pack and devote all the new revenues toward increasing the capacity of Neighborhood Health — the nationally recognized, federally qualified community health center in Alexandria — to serve the primary care needs of more than 800 very low-income uninsured — many the collateral damage of the General Assembly's refusal to expand the Medicaid program.

Our foundation's mission has been "to bring health and hope" to Alexandria's low-income uninsured, and that mission will continue so long as residents (including undocumented immigrants) face financial or other barriers to obtaining timely and affordable health care.

Dan Hawkins and Richard Merritt are co-founders and co-directors of Alexandria Cares for the Uninsured, a non-profit with ACT for Alexandria.

Letters to the Editor

Reneging on Agreements

To the Editor:

During the Alexandria Democratic primary, I discouraged voting for the City Council's incumbents for a variety of reasons, and only two of them managed to survive the primary. However, all four are still on this Council through the General Election on Nov. 6, and will continue to serve through the "lame duck" session to the first of the new year. In that intervening time span, all four incumbents will continue to affect our daily lives.

Just this past week, all four voted to install lights for the T.C. Williams High School stadium, and to permit residents of Chatham Square to pursue on-street parking stickers. Both of these issues were previously adjudicated by the City Council through Development Special Use Permits (DSUPs) wherein it was promised that (a) no lights would be allowed in the stadium, and (b) no parking stickers would be issued to the residents of Chatham Square.

The T.C. Williams "no lights" promise was made in the 1960s to African-American citizens whose homes were seized through the eminent domain that was created in order to build TC. The Chatham Square "no street parking" promise was made before the development was built, since its residents were to have two-car garages. The approval of the parking sticker initiative will allow Chatham Square residents to occupy parking spaces that are needed by nearby residents who do not have parking garages. The abrogation of inherent promises made in the DSUP is very disturbing, and portends a much larger issue – why even have a DSUP process if the city is not going to honor it? Why waste everyone's time if the City Council is going to renege on its agreements? Voters need to ensure a clean sweep of this less-than honorable bunch. Our founding fathers must be spinning in their graves at this lack of integrity.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Deserves Support

To the Editor:

I write in support of Veronica Nolan's candidacy for re-election to a seat on the Alexandria City School Board as a representative from District B.

Veronica is a long-time resident of Alexandria. She lives here with her husband and two sons, one who attends an Alexandria public elementary school and the other who attends T.C. Williams High School. She has already served one term on the School Board with distinction and will, upon her re-election, become a senior member of the Board, bringing valuable experience to the table.

Veronica continually demonstrates integrity and honesty, wisdom and forthrightness. She believes in our community and in her ability to help us make it better. She is passionate about all kids and about making their world a better place in which to learn and grow. She understands that in order to improve schools for students, we must support their teachers and school staff members. She believes that the School Board needs to work together with City Council and community lead

See Letters, Page 12

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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2016 Virginia Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

Stay Safe, Stay Independent

By MaryAnne Beatty
Director, Community Outreach
Senior Services of Alexandria

Seniors are involved in more than 2.3 million accidents in their homes each year. While many seniors prefer to live independently, most homes are poorly designed to meet their needs. Older adults need to take extra safety precautions due to physical changes that occur during the aging process, such as declining vision, hearing, sense of touch and smell, and bone density loss. These factors increase the risk of injury inside the home.

Senior Services of Alexandria

Falls are the number one safety risk for older adults — nearly one third of the senior population falls each year with 70 percent of falls occurring at home. Every 11 seconds, an older adult is treated in the emergency room for a fall-related injury, and each year, falls result in over 850,000 hospitalizations, 29,000 deaths and more than $50 billion in annual health-care costs. Falls can threaten seniors' safety and independence and generate enormous economic and personal costs.

Falling is not an inevitable result of aging. Through practical lifestyle adjustments including evidence-based falls prevention programs and home modifications, seniors can continue to live independent lives including daily activities and social engagements which help with combating further physical decline, depression, social isolation and feeling of helplessness.

It is also very important to know how to protect yourself from phone and internet scams and unscrupulous door-to-door sales schemes. As the holiday season approaches, it is important to know about the new scams out there targeting seniors. Fairfax County's Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign helps older adults avoid being scammed by sharing critical information about current scams.

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA), along with the Northern Virginia Fall Prevention Alliance, Goodwin House at Home, and Fairfax County Financial Exploitation Task Force, will talk about many of the conditions mentioned above that can occur during the normal process of aging. They will talk about ways that seniors can take the necessary precautions to remain safe at home while they continue to age.

SSA's Nov. 2 Speaker Series, "Seniors and Caregivers: How to Stay Safe at Home," will cover several topics including the normal course of aging, proper dispensing of medications, fall-prevention strategies, home modifications and how to recognize and avoid scams.

The event takes place at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road at 10 a.m. (registration at 9:30). The event is free, open to the public with light refreshments and plenty of parking. Participants will have a chance to ask questions and talk to presenters. To register go online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Letters

From Page 10

ers to build a multitude of safety nets for our youngest citizens.

In her last term on the Board she has demonstrated that she has the skills and the experience to get the job done well. She is bright, creative and collegial. She brings to the job a rich background in K-12 education, including teaching at Eastern High School in the District of Columbia for five years. She also nurtured Urban Alliance, an intensive job internship program for high school students, from a tiny, local program that served 42 students in its first year to one that, by the time she left, placed over 3,000 students a year nationally in internships in business, industry and the nonprofit world, including 150 students in Alexandria. She not only engaged educators in this effort, but also a huge community of business leaders. Veronica remains a teacher, now on the faculty of Trinity University in Washington, D.C.

Through all these experiences, Veronica has learned how educational systems work. She knows how to shore up the weak points, as well as how to capitalize on the great strengths. She understands the pivotal role that parents play in their children's education and how important community support is in making it all work. eronica has the right stuff. Finally, I believe that voters in District B should get out and vote for Veronica because this election matters. All of us — no matter what our political persuasion — have seen very clearly in the last three years that elections have consequences. Even school board elections — or maybe especially school board elections. These are our kids and our grandkids. This is our community.

We begin teaching values to our kids at home, but if we want our kids to grow up respecting each other, to welcome new ideas, to be curious about the world around them, and at the same time to treasure the values our society is built on, then we have to depend on our schools and teachers to help. And that means that school leadership matters a lot. Who sits at the Board table matters a lot.

I believe that Veronica Nolan can help Alexandria and our schools move in the right direction. She deserves our support.

Kitty Porterfield
Alexandria

Correction

In "How Healthy Is Alexandria?" (Gazette Packet, Oct. 18) the date of the discussion of the Alexandria Health Department survey results was missing. The meeting, with free breakfast, will be held at George Washington Middle School at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 3.

Would Serve The Electorate

To the Editor:

Voters in the 8th Congressional District can send a new, moderate voice to Congress if they elect Thomas Oh. The son of Korean immigrants, Thomas served in the U.S. Army as an airborne ranger. He is fully committed to protecting the freedoms and opportunities that our nation has valued since its founding. He understands and lives the challenges being presented to young people who have to establish their careers and finances without the benefit of family money and connections, unlike his opponent. He has been endorsed by BlakPAC (the Black, Latin, Asian Knowledge Political Action Committee) for his platform and understanding of complex cultural issues.

I support his platform to: strengthen the military, reduce then eliminate the deficit, support the Second Amendment, eliminate employment discrimination, protect the environment, reduce the tax burden, modernize education, and increase school choice. In his campaign appearances it is easy to see his passion for providing appropriate and adequate health care for our veterans and his genuine concern for constituent services.

Thomas believes that election to Congress is not a promotion above the electorate, but a commitment to serve them. He stands for the principles of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the presumption of innocence. Those principles seem to hang in the balance now, and Alexandria voters can tip the scales. Thomas Oh's values would serve us all well if he is elected to represent us in Congress.

Linda App
Alexandria

Bulletin Board

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, Oct. 27, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 28, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to $15) safe ride home. WRAP's Halloween SoberRide promo code will be posted at 5 p.m. on Oct. 27 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The City Manager approved the additional backflow preventer effort in the wake of torrential rainfall July 17-22. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of $2,000. The current program period is from July 1-Dec. 31. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Nora Partlow for winning the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Hero Award. Her dedication to Neighborhood Health is admirable and meaningful. Join us in congratulating Nora for this outstanding achievement and her commitment to the community.

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COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Charlene Taylor-Napper: 'A Mother Salutes Her Veteran Sons'

By Char McCargo Bah

The Vietnam War started in 1955 when Mrs. Charlene Taylor-Napper's two boys were six and seven years old. At that time, the United States had an active military draft policy in place. No one at that time knew the Vietnam War will be one of the longest wars that the United States was involved in, especially the mothers whose sons were in the war.

By the time Charles (Buddie) R. Napper and his brother, Leonard (Lenny) Lee Napper graduated from George Washington High School in 1967 and 1968 in Alexandria, the Vietnam War was 13 years old. Buddie and his brother Lenny voluntarily enlisted in the Air Force. As Mrs. Napper's sons left to serve their country, she felt some void in her life, but she received comfort from her third son, Erich Dwayne Napper, who was several years younger than his brothers. As the war raged on, her worries increased. She worried a lot about her oldest son, Buddie, who was stationed in Thailand and was in combat. Her son, Lenny was stationed in the United States.

The Other Alexandria

Buddie's entire military career was overseas. He never shared war stories with his mother, but he told some of his stories to his youngest brother, Erich. Erich remembers the stories that Buddie told him about the horrors of the bombs and chemical warfare that Buddie experienced in Vietnam. Those active military engagements left permanent scars on Buddie. Erich said when his brother returned from active duty, he was not the same person who had left home. Buddie spent 20 years in the United States Air Force with the Strategic Air Command as a Master Sergeant. After military service, he obtained a job at the Pentagon working for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He received an award for his excellent work in 1978. Buddie's exposure to the chemicals in Vietnam affected him, and he was diagnosed with cancer. For 12 years, he suffered from cancer before he died on Dec. 23, 2006. Buddie had a military funeral. At his funeral for the first time, his family heard about the many medals and awards he received. His awards included the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Service Stars, as well as several other distinguished service awards. Buddie is buried at the Arlington Cemetery. His only child, Quinnette, survived him.

Lennie, Mrs. Charlene's second son was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. He served for five years in the United States Air Force as a Sergeant, leaving the service with an honorable discharge around 1973. In civilian life, he worked for the Federal government until his health declined. Lenny suffered from cancer for several years. He died two months after his oldest brother on Feb. 27, 2007. He was cremated and his ashes were divided amongst his mother, brother and his two sons. Once a year, Erich takes Lennie's ashes and go to Arlington Cemetery to visit Buddie. For that moment, they are all together just as they were years ago.

Master Sergeant Charles "Buddie" R. Napper receiving an award from the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1978.

Throughout their illness, Buddie and Lenny received help from their youngest brother and their uncles. Their mother witnessed the pain her sons endured.

During Veterans Day, Mrs. Charlene Taylor Napper will be surrounded by pictures of her sons' children and the memories of her boys when they were children and young men. Though she misses Buddie and Lenny deeply, she will always salute them for serving their country well.

Mrs. Charlene Taylor-Napper and her son, Erich Dwayne Napper.

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."

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Bill Butcher, founder and president of Port City Brewing Company, was honored as the 2018 Business Leader of the Year at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Best In Business Awards Oct. 17 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

Overall Business of the Year: American Physical Therapy Association — Mandy Frohlich, Carmen Elliott and Robert Batarla.

Photos contributed

Large Business of the Year: B3 Solutions — Butch Jordan, Mark Schuler and Bud Almas.

Nonprofit/Association of the Year (tie): RunningBrooke and Together We Bake — Together We Bake's Tricia Sabatini and Elizabeth Bennett-Parker with RunningBrooke founder Brooke Sydnor Curran.

Best in Business Awards

Port City Brewery's Butcher is Business Leader of the Year.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The stars of local businesses were shining Oct. 17 as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce held its annual 2018 Best in Business awards. Presented by Burke and Herbert Bank, more than 240 people gathered at the George Washington Masonic Memorial to honor leaders in the business and nonprofit communities.

"Starting a business is such a leap of faith," said LaJuanna Russell, founder and CEO of Medium Business of the Year winner Business Management Associates. "It's an honor to receive this award and I am thankful for the support the Alexandria community has given me."

Bill Butcher, founder and president of Port City Brewing Company, was honored as the 2018 Business Leader of the Year.

"I grew up here," said Butcher, a fourth generation Alexandrian and graduate of T.C. Williams High School. "It's a dream come true having a business here in Alexandria."

Butcher, known as much for his philanthropic endeavors as for his beer, credited his mother for an early lesson on customer service.

"I inherited a paper route delivering the Alexandria Gazette from Dana Lawhorne," Butcher said. "One Christmas Eve my mother suggested I tie red ribbons around the papers before making my deliveries. People really appreciated that and it showed me that just a little extra effort can make a big impact."

Butcher added with a laugh: "I also got some nice tips that year."

Butcher and his wife Karen founded Port City Brewing in 2011 with a focus on "a great product, great customer service and great community engagement."

"Karen said early on that if we don't have a little left over for us to give back then we're doing something wrong," Butcher said. "Alexandria is an important part of our brand identity and we thank the business community for its ongoing support of your local brewery."

Other 2018 business awards included: Small Business – AR Workshop; Medium Business – Business Management Associates; Large Business – B3 Solutions; Overall Business – American Physical Therapy Association; Nonprofit/Association (tie) – RunningBrooke and Together We Bake; Rising Star – Alexandria Living Magazine.

Small Business of the Year: AR Workshop Alexandria — Katie Nguyen Wells.

Medium Business of the Year: Business Management Associates — LaJuanna Russell.

Rising Star of the Year: Alexandria Living Magazine — Beth Lawton and Mary Ann Barton.

One week away:
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School Board Race 2018

District A

Rief

From Page 16

ment Task Force. I will also aggressively advocate for efficiencies in maintenance delivery.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

The other issues listed represent more pressing and urgent needs for our students.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

I strongly oppose charter schools and vouchers because they divert public money to private, unaccountable entities. We should be cautious of the strings attached to private funding and ensure partnerships further our mission of educating children.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

Research shows that smaller high schools produce better outcomes for students, which is why I favor a second high school. If we pursue this option, my highest priority will be ensuring an equitable educational experience for all students.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The School Board must be fiscally responsible and inform City Council of the budget needed to effectively operate our public schools. City Council and School Board members should partner together to determine how best to meet these needs.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

I opposed the rushed decision to eliminate the modified (year-round) calendar at Mount Vernon Community School, which ignored the input of hundreds of parents. I would have spent more time engaging the community on this issue.

Marc Solomon

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

My wife, son, and I live near Jefferson-Houston. We love this city and with one more kid on the way, we will have kids in ACPS for the next 19 years. I'm running for School Board because I want every child to have a secure, world-class education.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Every issue we have is exacerbated by poor capacity and infrastructure. I released a comprehensive strategy to fix our capacity and infrastructure problems through smart, honest, and transparent planning. Check it out at www.votesolomon.org.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Hiring more experienced teachers is important, but not as important as hiring and retaining great teachers. A young, innovative teacher may offer new perspectives and ideas to improve our system.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

Public-private partnerships fill vital roles in our education system already. They can be used to expand our Career and Technical Education programs and help achieve universal pre-K. However, I do not support charter schools.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I lean towards more campuses. Cramming 5000 kids into space meant for 2500 will reduce overall resources for all, making it less equitable. If we do build more schools, I will insist they offer the same great experience, and same diversity, of TC.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

We absolutely need to request the full amount needed initially. School Board needs to come to the table with a plan to make our schools great every year. If we need to negotiate, we will, but our starting point needs to be the resources we need.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

Cora Kelly was to be rebuilt between 2015-2018, and thus no major scheduled maintenance was performed. That plan inexplicably changed in 2015, resulting in more expensive maintenance issues and less capacity. We need to set plans and stick to them.

Christopher Suarez

District A

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I grew up in a single-parent household and education transformed my life. As a young father, former sixth grade teacher, education non-profit co-founder, and special education lawyer, I want to ensure all kids receive a top-notch education in ACPS.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

To reach underperforming subgroups, we should (1) hire and retain culturally responsive teachers; (2) provide teachers with training in differentiated instruction; (3) strengthen after-school programs; and (4) use data to refine our interventions.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

While important, our students have several extracurriculars and athletics at their disposal. Our most urgent needs are to improve educational opportunity for all, foster inclusive school communities, and address our capacity and infrastructure woes.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

Private philanthropy and corporate partnerships can provide resources to our students and I support them. However, I am against vouchers, tax credits, and charter schools because we must focus our resources on improving ACPS's existing schools.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I would favor expanding T.C. Williams so that we can keep our diverse community together and ensure resource equity for our high school students. I am open to multi-school solutions, but any solution must be guided through a lens of equity.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The school board should request the full amount it needs to effectively serve our kids. That said, we must be fiscally responsible, minimize unnecessary expenses, and think creatively with council around how we can fully fund our schools.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

When we rebuilt Jefferson-Houston, we missed an opportunity to create a mixed use space that could have generated business tax revenue and facilitated partnerships between the school and the business community.

District B

Cindy Anderson

District B

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I am running in order to give back to the community that has given me so much. My qualifications include over 20 years of experience in the ACPS community as a student, parent, volunteer, and non-profit board member.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Our work requires moving forward on multiple fronts simultaneously. My overarching goal is to address capacity and infrastructure issues while continuing to improve academic achievement and providing each student with an opportunity for success.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

While I support athletics and extracurricular activities, this issue didn't rise to the level of the others. The stadium renovation would be included in "Upgrading Existing School Facilities".

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

We already have public-private partnerships, community partners, private philanthropy and certain types of service contracts. I do not think vouchers, tax credits or charter schools would provide any benefit to our students.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

We are in the middle of a public engagement process to determine the best solution for our students. I look forward to open, honest discussions.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

School Board members do not have the level of detail available to City Council regarding budget tradeoffs, therefore it's not appropriate for us to try to weigh the City's needs against those of ACPS. It is our role to communicate ACPS budgetary needs.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

Not renovating the GW cafeteria in 2015 as proposed by the staff. Funds restricted for use in cafeteria projects were available for this purpose. The delay caused increased costs and left staff to struggle with antiquated equipment.

Jewelyn Cosgrove

District B

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

As an Alexandrian with a growing family, I have twenty years ahead of me in Alexandria City Public Schools. With my extensive knowledge of advocacy and policy-making, I can find common ground, identify solutions, and achieve results.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Many of our schools are aging buildings with years of backlogged maintenance projects. These need to be addressed without sacrificing addressing long-term capacity. I propose pushing City Council to pursue municipal bonds to pay for immediate fixes.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Our density issues are closely tied with the challenges in our infrastructure and capacity. If we address facility maintenance and capacity, we'll be able to have manageable class sizes and configurations to maximize learning experiences.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

I am supportive of public-private partnerships, particularly in support of after-school and before-school programs that enrich the student experience. Where we can, we also need to leverage partnerships creatively to address budget constraints.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

With the timeline we have ahead of us and the history behind us, I believe enlarging the Minnie Howard campus is our most prudent option. That said, we have time before the projected 5,300 student population to consider additional campuses.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

We need to be explicit about the needs of our school system with Council. Recognizing the balance they'll need to strike, we should communicate critical asks, trade-offs, and more if full funding is not offered, but we need to fully fund our schools.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

I am a process person. Problems can be avoided with good processes — checking city code requirements on projects, checking for title-following liabilities on the purchase of new buildings, etc. These are process mistakes we can fix.

Margaret Lorber

District B

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

My children attended ACPS and I worked for our school system for 9 years as Bilingual Parent Liaison. I seek re-election to follow through on my commitment to promote equity, expand capacity, and increase supports

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Finance Disclosure

From Page 4

she thought to include it in her next regular filing, due Dec. 3. She says she confirmed this later deadline with Department of Elections staff on three occasions.

"So the irony is — when I reported it in [November] — I thought I was reporting it early," she said. "I was very mindful of this donation back in 2015 and take all of this extremely seriously."

"It's definitely common for people to do updates and revisions to initially submitted reports," said Anna Leider, Alexandria's general registrar. "Usually it's to reflect math errors, or sometimes there's a contribution that they missed. Quite often they find those errors when they're getting ready to prepare their next report. So sometimes they are later to appear — like when you think you've submitted on time and everything's fine, then you get ready to do your next one and you find something. But usually the errors are smaller."

What's atypical about Nolan's case isn't the amendment itself, but the size of the contribution and the delay in its becoming publicly viewable. Certain other School Board members also amended their 2015 reports, but usually on the order of a few hundred dollars and not more than a month or so after the fact.

Nolan won't be fined, since the law allows fines only for late campaign finance report filings, but not for long-after-the-fact amendments, said Leider.

Bulletin Board

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. The City of Alexandria encourages residents to dispose of prescription medicines safely during National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day where Alexandria will have multiple drop-off sites: First Baptist Church (2932 King St.), Alexandria Police Department (3200 Wheeler Ave.), Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave.) and the Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.).

MONDAY/OCT. 29

Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group Meeting. 7-9 p.m. At Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe St. Visit alexandriava.gov/PotomacYard.

The Night before Halloween at Ivy Hill Cemetery hosted by Volunteer Alexandria & the Ivy Hill Cemetery Society

Aren't you dying to try out your costume? This is the opportunity. No speeches or program JUST FUN! Join us for some cool air at the cemetery's vault, best costume award, a tour, live music from Heather Spencer, readings from Maribeth Decker, Sacred Grove, food, beer & wine, and networking opportunity.

While we prefer that everyone comes in a costume and we will vote on the best ones, you don't have to dress up.

This event is for adults 21 and older.

Purchase your tickets at http://bit.ly/vaultfun

When

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

Where

Ivy Hill Cemetery - Vault area
2823 King Street,
Alexandria, VA 22302

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School Board Race 2018

District B

Lorber

From Page 16

needed for academic achievement.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

We must reverse the low expectations for our minority students and those with disabilities through a system-wide culture shift with serious equity training. We also need intensive support for teachers and students and stronger accountability.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

ACPS has excellent programs in music, art, and athletics, and they deserve continued support. New resources, however, must be focused on closing the achievement gap, repairing and expanding school facilities, and addressing overcrowded classrooms.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

The Health Sciences Academy at TC with GW University and free DASH passes for students show the potential for these partnerships. Our board created a position to leverage private resources as well as grants from public sources for the school system.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

There is an opportunity to rebuild Minnie Howard into a full secondary school. We need to consider whether the individual needs of 5,000+ students might best be served by 2 separate high schools with extensive pooled resources and programs.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The Board's responsibility both under law and morally is to seek the resources to provide a quality education to all of our students. We should continue a positive relationship with Council but not shrink from articulating our needs.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

In 2014-15 the then School Board embarked on a redistricting program that was premature, given that we didn't know where new capacity would be. That decision led to needless stress on the community. It should have awaited capacity decisions.

Veronica Nolan

District B

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I've spent 20 years working hard for students to receive a quality education. As a member who understands the landscape, builds relationships, and operates efficiently, our community will receive a return on investment if I'm re-elected.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Regarding facilities we need to work with a sense of urgency and hold the current work accountable. In the long-term we need to have a viable maintenance plan and work with council to ensure there's funding to address our current priorities.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Early learning is critical to a child's success. Thankfully this is an area Alexandria does well thanks to the Education and Early Care work group comprised of city, school and nonprofit leaders. It's a true example of successful collective impact.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

I have 15 years experience of public-private partnerships and if done properly it can have impact. I think we could utilize more local experts to enhance our students' education through volunteers, philanthropy and joint city facility services.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

Alexandria should be innovative in solving the capacity crisis and be driven through an equity lens. I think creating distinct niches that allows students' unique needs to be met under the umbrella of one city school could be a viable solution.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

I think it's both because the schools' needs are significant while there is a limited pool of funds. It's important to show the full amount needed while being realistic when making the budget ask that there are competing demands for the city.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

I was the lone vote of dissent for a policy that allowed registered nurses to provide minimal medicinal care. I trust our nurses given their level of education and our significant low income population who don't typically receive medical care.

Abigail Wacek

District B

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I went to grade school in Alexandria, graduated from T.C. Williams, and have lived here since 2010. I am running for school board because I think that our schools should be better than they are. We need to do more for our students and our city.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

We must work with and listen to our teachers to ensure that we understand what works and what doesn't in the classroom from the people who would know best. We need to value experienced, effective teachers and we need to retain our newer teachers.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

The City of Alexandria currently provides access to mental health resources through the Department of Community and Human Services. Our students already have access to mental health resources through these existing city services.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

ACPS should keep an open mind for any opportunity that would better the lives and performance of our students. With each opportunity, however, ACPS should conduct a thorough evaluation of the partnership to understand fully all obligations.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I would favor expanding the existing TC. This will allow the city to pool resources so we do not need to pay to build two tracks or two sports stadiums. Instead, we can spend more money reducing class size and hiring and retaining good teachers.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The School Board must weigh the schools' needs against other city costs. The School Board must work with the City Council to coordinate budgets to avoid redundancy and waste. The schools' financial health cannot be separated from that of the City.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

The stadium lights at TCW. This issue is emblematic of ACPS's backwards fiscal priorities, placing sport over educa

See School Board Race, Page 19

School Board Race 2018

District B

Wacek

From Page 18

tion, and was a betrayal to the community. I would address this issue by keeping the promises the city made to those neighbors.

District C

Meagan Alderton

District C

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I've been in education for 15 years as a special education teacher, district level leader, and now consultant. I am running because we need knowledgeable educators on the board if we plan to change the trajectory for student outcomes in this city.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

We must require universal screening practices, and the subsequent implementation of evidence-based intervention programs at every single school. This should no longer be optional if we are serious about closing the achievement gap.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I am a big supporter of school athletics, but I am more concerned about producing academically successful student-athletes. We want athletes who are thriving at full academic potential. So the most intense focus must be on academic outcomes.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

Though I don't find anything wrong with private philanthropy or partnerships, extreme caution should always be taken regarding the intentions and requirements of funders. Public money needs to stay in public education. No charters in Alexandria.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I would favor building one or more campuses. When looking at the long range facilities plan, which includes capacity projections, its difficult to imagine one campus being sufficient over time. With that said, I am open to any all possibilities.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

Ask for the full amount you need. Thoroughly educate city council on why you need what you need. Work together as a team (council and school board) to get as close to 100 percent funding as possible, with 100 percent always being the ultimate goal.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

New textbooks were purchased for schools this past year. However, the mechanisms for teacher input were not very effective. I think it's essential that teachers have more direct access and communication with the board, to avoid a loss in translation.

Ramee Gentry

District C

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

In the past three years on the school board, we have accomplished a number of important efforts, including redistricting, a new elementary school, a new superintendent, and increase of accredited schools. I hope to build on this momentum.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

The years of deferred maintenance coupled with increased enrollment makes facilities a priority. Targeting underperforming subgroups will help us reduce the achievement gap, which is vital to the success of individual students and our division.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I find the lack of an "average" option frustrating. I only rank the social/emotional and family resources lower because we have demonstrated a strong commitment to funding these areas in recent years, and can focus on maintaining and enhancing these.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

Public-private partnerships are actively pursued. Health Science Academy partnership with the George Washington University is one example, and we will continue to seek P3s, in-kind donations, etc. I oppose vouchers or charter schools for Alexandria.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

Whichever option will ensure that every high school student is afforded the same opportunities for courses and extracurricular activities. I look forward to hearing the recommendations from the visioning process that is still ongoing at this time.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

If the City Council, School Board, City staff, and ACPS staff are engaging in a truly collaborative manner throughout the year, there will be a shared vision and understanding, which will allow us to secure the funding we need for our schools.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

Budgets/policies have many different elements. I haven't always had every add or delete I wanted, but responsible governance means striving for consensus and compromise, which I have done throughout my term, and why I am comfortable with every vote.

John Lennon

District C

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I'm an ELL teacher with service on PTAs, advisory committees, and as a classroom tutor. I co-chaired ACPS 2020, am endorsed by Alexandria teachers, and am focused on achievement gaps, special needs students, school safety, and strategic planning.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Initiatives must increase emphasis on early childhood education (K-5), closing achievement gaps in middle and secondary grades (6-12), and adjusting curricula and counseling for special needs students to ensure maximum inclusion at all grade levels.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Sports and extracurricular activities offer essential skill-development opportunities, and currently meet expectations at an acceptable level. Academic excellence and equity are ACPS' top priorities for all students in all grades, and must improve.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

ACPS should limit outside funding to mission-driven partnerships like the Health Sciences Academy. Alexandria

See School Board Race, Page 21

School Board Race 2018

	District A						District B					District C				
	Campbell	Greene	Harris	Rief	Solomon	Suarez	Anderson	Cosgrove	Lorber	Nolan	Wacek	Alderton	Gentry	Lennon	Saget	Thornton
Athletics & Extracurriculars	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	2	3	4	2	4	3	3
Building New School Capacity	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	1
Class Size	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	2	3	2	2
Discipline & School Climate	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	2	2	2	1	1
Early Care & Learning	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	4	1
Hiring More Experienced Teachers	2	1	2	2	4	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Mental Health / "Social-Emotional" Resources for Students	2	2	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	4	3	3	1	1	1
Resources for Parents / Families	1	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	2
Targeted Interventions for Underperforming Subgroups	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Upgrading Existing School Facilities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1

Candidates' Priorities

Relative issue priorities: Green #1 = high relative priority; Blue #2 = above average; Yellow #3 = below average; Red #4 = low relative priority. For ease of comparison, this chart compiles candidate responses to the following question: "Assign relative priorities to the following issue areas, in terms of where you intend to budget finite dollars, political capital, personal time, staff time, etc. (Try to disperse rankings evenly — i.e., don't rank everything highly. The scale is relative not absolute. Granting that these issues all have merit and aren't always mutually exclusive, in a world of constraints, every issue can't have an above average or high priority relative to the rest.)"

16 Candidates in Race

From Page 1

covers roughly the city's eastern third, District B the middle third, and District C the western third. A voter can choose up to three School Board candidates, but only among those running in the district where the voter resides.

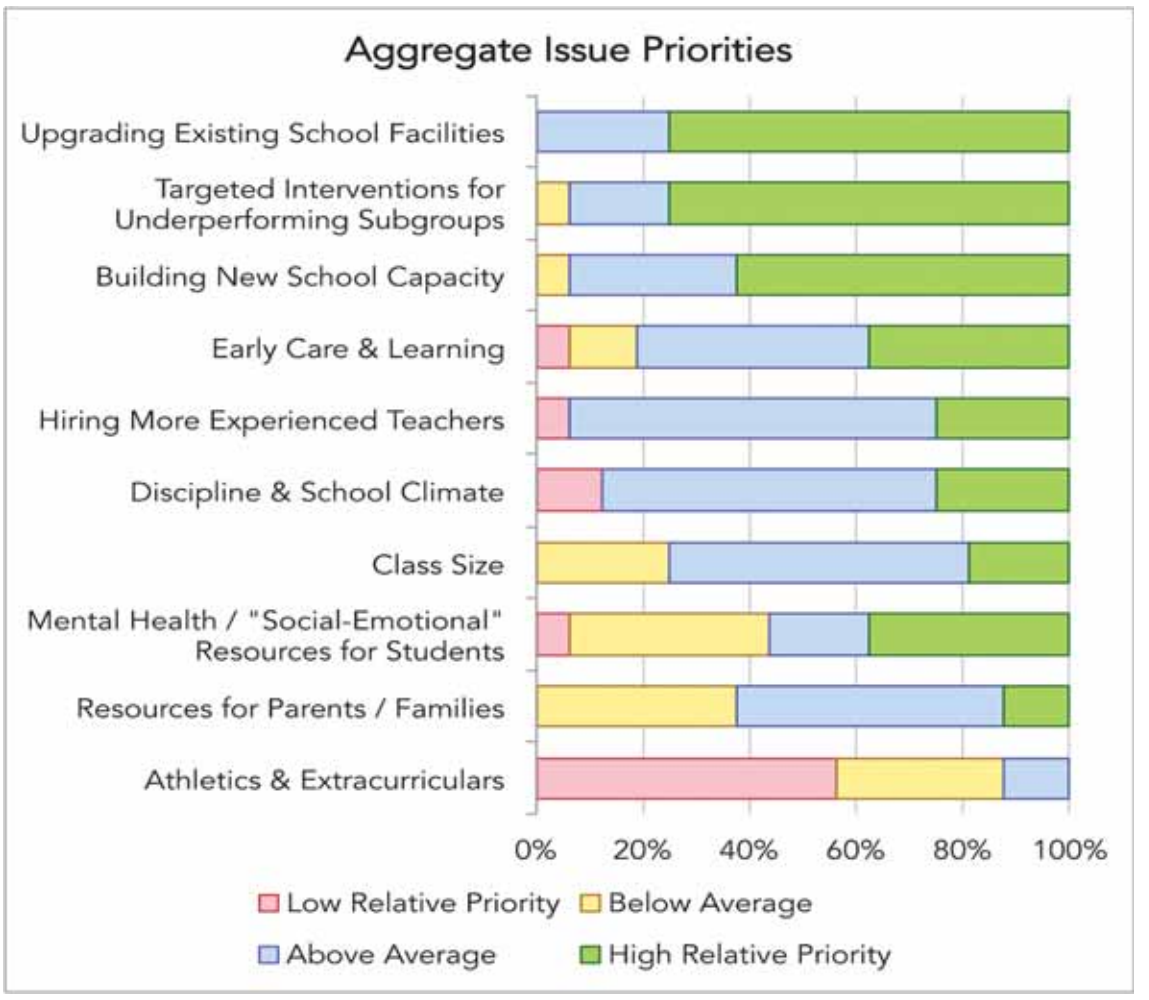
For those who qualify, early absentee voting has already begun. Vote in-person absentee at the Voter Registration Office (132 North Royal St.) or Beatley Library (5005 Duke St.). The deadline for in-person absentee voting is 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3. Apply for an absentee ballot by mail by visiting vote.elections.virginia.gov, entering your identification information and following the subsequent prompts. The deadline for applying for an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

Vote in person at your appointed polling place between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. However, to avoid potential parking challenges and long waits, the registrar recommends voting between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. if possible.

For more information, including a map of polling places, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Elections or call Alexandria's Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 703-746-4050.

Overall Perspective

For ease of differentiation, this chart shows where candidates agreed and disagreed most about relative issue priorities. The issues in the middle of the chart yield a broader spectrum of views, whereas the issues toward the top and bottom yield more agreement.



School Board Race 2018

District C

Lennon

From Page 19

taxpayers should provide primary funding for ACPS without reliance on non-focused gifts. No vouchers, tax credits, or charter schools.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

There should be one high school — TC Williams — with any new or renovated facilities designed to accommodate 21st century curricula. No decision on buildings should be made until those curricula are defined in a secondary education strategic plan.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

ACPS and City Council must agree on long-range, community-driven, publicly-vetted strategic goals that incorporate population growth, economic and business development, fiscal forecasting, and periodic adaptation to avoid unexpected funding requests.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

I did not like the decision to cut funding for social studies books; it struck me as a small-dollar cut with disproportionately large consequences. I would have found the money somewhere else.

Dianara Saget

District C

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I am the daughter to Dominican immigrants, an ACPS alum, a dedicated mother, a successful licensed insurance agent, and a parent advocate. I've had some experiences with ACPS that have inspired me to run for school board and curate change.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Minority suspensions are high on the elementary level. I would like to have ACPS's restorative practices and processes reviewed. I would also propose an annual school-wide staff and administrative training to ensure and uphold the practices.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Early care and learning is a low priority for me. ACPS opened the Early Childhood Center (ECC) this year and it is proving to be a staple hallmark for early care, learning, and intervention in Alexandria.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

ACPS should consider public-private partnerships as these type of partnerships could help with the capacity issue.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I would prefer separately districted campuses because T.C. Williams is at its max, and I don't see how or where another building could be added.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

I would propose that the school board ask for the full amount; however, when asking, the budget needs to be realistic and should include a surplus for exceeded expenditure.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

The Parker Gray stadium lights are not a priority. We should shed light and focus on lessening the achievement gap, as ACPS is currently ranked among the lowest in the state.

Heather Thornton

District C

Briefly tell us about yourself and why you're running.

I represent the roughly 85 percent of Alexandrians who do not have school-aged children, but who still take pride in our community's schools and are passionate about making sure our students have the necessary resources to support their success.

For your highest priority issue area above, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I am focused on boosting student success in the classroom, especially for underperforming subgroups. For any school that does not receive full accreditation, ACPS must analyze deficiencies and use that analysis to develop a corrective action plan.

For your lowest priority issue area above, sum up why you think it's lowest.

With the hire of the new Director of Athletics and Student Activities, we are on a steady path to recruiting renowned coaches and producing top-tier athletes. This firmly rooted foundation gives us space to focus on other urgent priorities.

To what extent, if any, should ACPS seek to employ or authorize public-private partnerships (e.g., private philanthropy or partnerships; service or management contracts; vouchers or tax credits; charter schools)?

ACPS already has strong partnerships with private and local organizations.

Thornton

Supporting the Office of School, Business & Community Partnerships to enhance these relationships is a top priority for me.

If expanding high school capacity comes down to (1) making T.C. Williams bigger or (2) building one or more additional, separately districted campuses, which would you favor?

I advocate thinking beyond catch-all solutions. A second school, satellite campuses, increased partnerships with local colleges/universities, experiential learning, and retrofitting existing buildings should all bear serious consideration.

When requesting funding from City Council, should the School Board lean more toward (1) asking for the full amount it thinks it needs; or (2) weighing the schools' needs against citywide cost ramifications (tax rate, debt, budget tradeoffs)?

The Board's responsibility is to ensure that all students succeed. It therefore has no choice but to objectively evaluate the needs of our schools, and to request that City Council fully fund the requisite budget that will meet those needs.

What School Board decision in the last few years did you disagree with most, and how would you have addressed the issue differently?

It's clear there's a dwindling trust between local government and the community, as shown by the drama surrounding the T.C. Williams stadium renovation. The Board must rebuild trust through enhanced transparency and community outreach.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation | DRPT Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Public Meetings

Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.CTB.Virginia.gov.

Public Meetings* to be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

Monday, October 15, 2018 at 4 p.m. Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	**Wednesday, October 17, 2018* at 4 p.m.** Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	**Monday, October 22, 2018* at 4 p.m.** Southwest Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210
Thursday, October 25, 2018* at 2 p.m. (Note: Start time has changed) Holiday Inn - Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	**Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 4 p.m.** Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	**Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 4 p.m.** Homewood Suites–Chester 12810 Old Stage Road Chester, VA 23836
Monday, November 19, 2018 at 4 p.m. Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	**Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 4 p.m.** Fredericksburg District Office Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405	**Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.** NOVA District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

*These meetings will be held in conjunction with planned I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan meetings. Fall meeting materials will be available at http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/ beginning October 15, 2018.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov.	You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov.

Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

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

Entertainment

Mosaics: Mastering an ancient medium.

By Trudi Van Dyke

Mosaic artist Nina Tisara makes her home in Alexandria nestled in a scenic landscape and surrounded by an array of artwork. The personality of her living spaces invites introspection and appreciation of her work as well as other pieces she has collected.

"Stay close to nature, it will never fail you" (Albert Einstein) may be the unspoken bond that Nina expresses in the intimate and emotionally charged mosaics she designs. By Immersing herself in her environment and using intricately cut shards of tile to create an atmosphere Nina leads her viewers to share her creative passion by her mastery of a seemingly unlikely ancient medium.

Mosaics are a form of decorative art in which small slices or fragments of pottery are used to create a pattern or a picture. The ancient history of using tiles as floor decoration stretches back to 2000 BC. Nina's individualistic painterly style is founded in the incredibly tiny chips she meticulously crafts. Each small tile is cut numerous times by hand to just the perfect shape. Equally important is the way the colors of her palette flow from tile to tile capturing the tiniest nuances of shade and hue. After the composition is completed the tiles are then grouted into place allow the spacing to become an integral part of each original design. "Like sculpting in clay the process allows the image the freedom to evolve," explains the artist.

I was afforded the privilege to peak over her shoulder as she explained the many step processes involved in fashioning original mosaics. Nina starts with a design, often an inspiration in nature or contemplative pastoral images as jumping off points. The avid and accomplished photographer will sometimes start with one of her own photos establishing a foundation to launch a composition. Then the painstaking process gets underway with cutting, arranging, gluing, grouting and cleaning and more of each of the steps before she declares it done. Nina's work can be identified by a tiny iconic Gecko discreetly hidden among the tiles at the end of the process. In fact, you have to search for it. It implies a satisfaction for the artist and the viewers sense there is something special about how the artist mastery of her creative compositions leads her to "sign" her work with a tiny charm.

She began an art career as a photographer growing from freelance to incorporating her own studio in 1985. Tisara Photography is now owned by her son, an acclaimed photographer, Steven Halperson, leaving Nina to pursue her mosaics as well as a myriad of other activities that contribute to the philanthropic fiber of her community.

Nina credits her first mosaic teacher in an adult education class, Gene Sterud, as mentor and friend with encouraging her to tackle the intricacies of the

See Mastering, Page 27

Photo by Steven Halperson/Tisara Photo

"Serenity" by Nina Tisara, 11x14 porcelain tile mosaic. 2018.

Calendar

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

ONGOING

Beginnings & Endings. Through Oct. 28, at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. A Ceramic Guild Show offering a timeless tale of clay art focused on starters and sweets. Enter a fairyland of treasures as frosted cupcakes transform into shaker and creamer sugar sets and tapas trays bring hand painted dragons and fantastic flora and fauna to life. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org, www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope.

Exhibit: 'Autumn Gold.' Through Oct. 29, featuring Nina Tisara's intricate mosaic art at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 310 King St., Alexandria. RSVP to ninat@ninatisara.com.

Art Exhibit: "Symmetry – Balance in an Asymmetrical World." Through Oct. 28 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases the artists' visions of symmetry. The camera, used as a tool, reveals the artist's vision and produces a personal – typically evocative or atmospheric, yet balanced – statement. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/symmetry.

Pumpkin Patch. Through Oct. 31, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. All net profits support the church's outreach activities at the community, regional and international levels. The pumpkins are grown on the Navajo Indian Reservation near Farmington, New Mexico. Visit www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org for more.

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 or www.artisticartifacts.com for local quilting.

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. Through Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. You'll follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the streets of Alexandria's historic district. You'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Admission: $15 adults; $10 ages 7-17. Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

Pink Hat Protest Paintings. Through Nov. 4 at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Through encaustic wax paintings, Julia Dzikiewicz expresses her perception of rising racism, misogyny, and violence in the United States. Dzikiewicz creates her immense, evocative paintings with encaustic wax, an ancient and archival medium, by fusing layers of beeswax, pigment, gesso, and resin. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: Seeing the Light. Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. "Seeing the Light: Virginia Landscapes and Beyond," is a solo exhibition by Bradley Stevens. His style is contemporary realism—rooted in classical training, yet boldly depicting the modern world with his penetrating eye.

Young at Art Exhibition. Through Nov. 8, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-5560 or email durantcenter@alexandriava.gov.

Rooms: a Rock Romance. Through Nov. 11, Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 3 and 8, Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria. The play is set in Glasgow in the1970s. Monica, an ambitious singer-songwriter meets Ian, a reclusive rocker. They quickly become entangled creatively and romantically with their music and their quest for stardom taking them from Glasgow to London and ultimately New York City. A gritty rock musical exploring the universal desire to escape and create, to love and explore. Tickets are $55. Call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Dollhouse Exhibit. Through December, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Alexandria. Exhibit "Our Alexandria" Dollhouse Collection. The exhibit captures some of the forgotten businesses, people, and institutions that made African American families strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits are also on site. Suggested admission $3 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/museums or call 703-746-4356.

Photo by Michelle Bendersky

Tanya Anisimova, cellist

'Scottish'

ASO presents Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 "Scottish" 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria and Sunday, Nov. 4., 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, celebrates the past and present of American music. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, cellist. Tickets: $20-$80 adult, $5 youth, $10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

Open Doors Breakfast. 8-9 a.m. At Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. The event offers a complimentary breakfast and the opportunity to hear from former and current Community Lodgings clients in the transitional and affordable housing, and youth education programs. Donations are encouraged to assist the organization in its continuous efforts to provide a safe and supportive environment for families facing homelessness. Register at Eventbrite via the following link https://bit.ly/2QOS843.

Spitfire Book Club. 3:30 p.m. at James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. A book club for school aged girls. Visit alexlibraryva.org for more.

Halloween Spooktacular Concert. 5:30-8 p.m. At West Potomac High School, Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Join the West Potomac Orchestra for the 3rd Annual Halloween Spooktacular Carnival and Concert. Carnival begins at 5:30 p.m. Food trucks, face painting, cake walk, costume contest (no masks), and games. Concert

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7 Places to Eat, Drink Your Way Through Halloween

By Hope Nelson

It doesn't take much time in Alexandria to realize that this city does Halloween right. And the festivities aren't limited to Oct. 31; rather, they stretch out over weeks, with decorations popping up citywide as soon as October begins and events lingering all month long. Here are a few must-visit restaurants, cafes and bars to visit to get into the spirit. Costumes optional, but always encouraged.

Appetite

Halloween Dogfish Head Tap Takeover at Sweet Fire Donna's, Oct. 27

Carlyle's popular barbecue joint becomes home to the neighborhood's spiciest Halloween party, complete with costume contest and food specials. Taste an array of Dogfish Head favorites to wet your whistle and aim to get a prize for your top-tier disguise. 510 John Carlyle St. 6 p.m.-1 a.m.

Monster's Ball at Chadwicks, Oct. 27

Cocktails, costumes, ghoulish eats and a photo booth are the name of the game at Chadwicks' celebration of the season. A DJ will be spinning tunes, so get ready to dance and kick off Halloween week. 203 The Strand, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

West End Farmer's Market Halloween Parade, Oct. 28

Bring your kids and dogs out to the farmer's market – in disguises, naturally – for a Sunday parade at the farmer's market. And bring your family's A-game: The best costumes, for humans and animals, will win a prize. Then stick around to trick-or-treat at the vendors' tents for the rest of the day. 4800 Brenman Park Drive. 10 a.m.

Post-Parade Patio Party at Stomping Ground, Oct. 28

In Del Ray for the Halloween parade? Stick around the neighborhood's favorite Southern-fried brunch-and-lunch spot to chow down on a special limited menu's worth of fare. Word on the street is, the kitchen will be doling out some sausage balls for the occasion. 2309 Mount Vernon Ave. 3-6 p.m.

"Hallo-WINE" Big Red Night at Sonoma Cellar, Oct. 30

Take a spin through six red wines at an autumn-themed tasting at Sonoma Cellar. These robust reds come from the likes of Cass Winery, Etude Winery, Stags Leap and more. "Trick or treat like a grownup," the café urges, and with this lineup you'll certainly be well on your way. 207 King St. 6:30 p.m. $25.

Halloween at Brabo, Oct. 31

Brabo's Chef Sebastien Rondier is on tap to debut his "Roasted Pumpkin Moules Frites," mussels paired with roasted pumpkin and cream sauce, to kick All Hallow's Eve off in style. At the bar, get into the Halloween spirit in more ways than one with the La Sorciere, featuring chile liqueur, ginger beer, agave and lime juice. 1600 King St.

Hole in the Wall Halloween at Captain Gregory's, Oct. 31

Join the other guests at Captain Gregory's for a spooky evening filled with themed cocktails and festive eats. The intimate speakeasy will be transformed into Halloween Headquarters, so don't forget to wear your best costume in order to raise your chances of winning a prize. 804 N. Henry St. 7-10 p.m. $75.

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

Calendar

begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, donations are welcome. Visit: www.westpotomacorchestra.org

Historian Peter Stark. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria, in the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Auditorium. Free. Peter Stark presents "Young Washington: How Wilderness and War Forged America's Founding Father." Visit www.mountvernon.org.

NOW THRU DECEMBER.

Dollhouse Exhibit. At Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Exhibit "Our Alexandria" Dollhouse Collection captures some of the businesses, people and institutions that made African American families strong-church, school and family. Other exhibits are also on site. Suggested admission $3 per person. Hours are Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/museum or call 703-746-4356.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 25-28

Book Sale. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Come support the library and pick up books, CDs, and DVDs at discounted prices. Free. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

Artist Reception & Halloween Party. 6-9 p.m. Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. Artists display their interpretation of 'animal, vegetable, mineral' through a variety of mediums in a new show at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. The exhibition will be on display through Nov. 18 and the gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m

Zombie Escape. 6:30-10 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Cost is $30/online; $40/door. D.C. was one of the first cities to fall when the apocalypse began. As such, Alexandria was a close second due to proximity. Now, you must navigate your way through zombie infested territory to claim what supplies are on your list and make it back to your base safely. Call 703-549-2997.

Bark or Treat Canine Cruise. 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Come out with your costumed canine and cruise to some Halloween tunes along the Potomac. Halloween treats will be on board. Be sure to have your four-legged friend in their best costume. Admission: $20 adults; $15 ages 2-11; dogs free. Visit the website www.potomacriverboatco.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 26-27

Ghostly Tales. 7-10 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Tickets: $5. Join storytellers from Alexandria's Footsteps to the Past and on Saturday join storytellers from Carlyle House on the front lawn for ghostly tales of Alexandria's past. $5 per person. No registration required. Call 703-549-2997.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 26-28

Grief & Ghost Tours. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Cost $10. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of deaths and mysterious encounters at the Lee-Fendall House. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern day funeral practices. Tours will be offered starting at 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. Visit the website www.leefendallhouse.org

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Waterfront Beer Garden. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Sponsored by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus entertainment. Enjoy Port City's Porter, Optimal Wit, Colossal 7 and the newest beer in their Lager Series, Baltic Porter. The beer garden also features DJ G from 2 to 4 p.m., American Beer History Trivia from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and bites from Mia's Italian Kitchen from 2 to 7 p.m.

3rd Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. 8:30 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park in Mount Vernon. Join Supervisor Dan Storck for a community bike ride in the Mount Vernon District. Riders will have the option of riding a 32-mile route, or just joining in for the first 17 miles for a shorter route.This ride will showcase the many hidden treasures, cultural and environmental resources The Mount Vernon District has to offer.

Coastal Cleanup. 9-11 a.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. This cleanup has been coordinated by Clean Virginia Waterways for the last 23 years, and is also sponsored by the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) Stormwater Management Division and Public Works Services Division, and the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA). Volunteers will meet at the end of Madison Street near the Rowing Clubhouse. RSVP to Wisdom Gbediame at wisdom.gbediame@alexandriava.gov by Oct. 25. Registration will occur at the end of Madison Street on Saturday morning.

Kayak Cleanups at Four Mile Run. 9 a.m.-noon at The Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Parking details will be provided to those who RSVP. The Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation will continue to deploy its fleet of kayaks to collect litter along the streambank of Four Mile Run this fall. Visit www.fourmilerun.org for more.

Trick-or-Treat with the Boo-tiques. Starts at 10 a.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Free. Start trick-or-treating early and stop by the dozens of shops of the Old Town Boutique District dishing out treats to goblins and ghouls of all ages beginning at open of business. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com

Walking with Washington. 10 a.m.-12 noon. At Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King Street, Alexandria. Free. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history. No reservations required. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.com

Opening Day of Library Festivities. 10 a.m. starts. At John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join library staff and the community for Opening Day festivities, including ribbon cutting ceremony with VIPs at 10 a.m., 123 Andrés at 11 a.m. There will be monsters, storytime, music by Ritorno a Musica, teen gaming, technology open house, face painting and glitter tattoos.

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Cost $5/adults; $15/children. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the garden with hundreds of colorful toy-filled pumpkins for children to discover. Other activities include crafts to take home, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, spooky stories, a costume parade with prizes as well as drinks and refreshments. Every participating child receives a pumpkin — ne pumpkin in each of the pumpkin hunt sessions will have a certificate for a special prize hidden inside. Costumes encouraged. Email contact@leefendallhouse.org. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Archaeology Waterfront Walking Tours. 11 a.m.-noon and 1-2 p.m. at

Del Ray Halloween Parade

The 22nd Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade takes place on Sunday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. All are welcome to march in the parade along Mount Vernon Avenue, which begins at E. Bellefonte Ave. and ends with a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, children's games, awards for Best Decorated Stroller, House, Business & Best Pet Costume, and more. The event is free and open to all. For more information, visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween. Free costume distribution for children in need will take place on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center.

the foot of King Street at the site of Interim King Street Park, and end at Hotel Indigo. As part of the Portside History series of activities at the Old Town waterfront, join an expert-led tour to learn more about new discoveries, significant finds, and the hidden history that has been revealed through historical documentary data and excavation. Tickets are $20 per person with proceeds from the tour going to the Save our Ship fund. Advance registration required. Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399.

Howl-O-Ween. 2-4 p.m. At Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road, Alexandria. "Howl-O-Ween" is the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's (AWLA) annual canine costume contest. Costumed canine contestants can enter as a solo act or a themed group of up to three dogs with one handler. Advance registration is $25 for one costumed entry (individual or group, including one person) and $10 to attend. Children under the age of 12 can attend for free. All registrations include 10 free tickets with which attendees can vote for their favorite costumed canines, and the top three costumed entries will receive prizes provided by Alexandria Restaurant Partners. Visit www.Alexandria Animals.org/Howl-O-Ween2018.

Copyright Issues. 2 p.m. At Local History/Special Collections Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Free. Come learn about copyright and how you can and cannot use materials for display or online and traditional publication. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon. Join the costumed interpreters for a special opportunity to trick-or-treat in the historic area, and a special scavenger hunt is available for our more adventurous guests. All trick-or-treaters are invited to join in the children's costume parade around the Mansion at 5 p.m. Special trade demonstrations, like wool carding, spinning, and fish net making, will take place in the historic area. Tickets: $14/adult (12 and up); $8/youth (11 and under). General admission tickets are sold out, but additional tickets are available for Mount Vernon members. Call 703-780-2000 to reserve your tickets. Visit www.mountvernon.org/halloween

Escape the Sanderson Witches. 6:30-10 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. The Sanderson Sisters from Hocus Pocus have returned; this time to a new city with new hopes of having clueless children at their beck and call. While they hunt for a new lease on life, your group must pass several obstacles to ensure the children in the city are safe. Only a spell from the very book that brought them back can send them back from where they came. Work together, solve the puzzles quickly, and banish the witches using a spell of your own. Admission: $30 online; $40 at the door. For tickets, visit www.novaparks.com.

Masquerade Ball. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Cost $45. Inspired by the season, disguise yourself and dance the night away at the Masquerade Ball at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Come dressed in your favorite pre-19th century costume and don't forget your mask. Enjoy live music, English country dancing, cash bar and dessert collation. Pre-19th century period attire or cocktail attire welcome. Reservations required. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/OCT. 28

Doggie Trick-or-Treat. 1-3 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King St., Alexandria. It's that time of year again. You and your family — especially your doggies — are invited to come to Old Town and trick-or-treat together. They will have treats, sales and a costume contest. Come to The Dog Park in Old Town Alexandria to get your map and have pictures taken, then tour the rest of the participating stores to get more treats and find a sale or two in town. Visit www.thedogparkva.biz

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. The parade, which begins at E. Bellefonte Avenue, ends with a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, goodie bags for children, free refreshments, children's games, awards for Best Decorated Stroller, House, Business and Best Pet Costume. The event is free and open to all. Among the events: Pet Costume Contest and Stroller Decorating Contest. For details and categories, visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween. Spooky Bean Halloween: After the parade from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., families can enjoy the Spooky Bean Halloween Maze, constructed by Bean Creative. This free event is appropriate for all ages, and located on the 2200 block of Mount Vernon Avenue. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween.

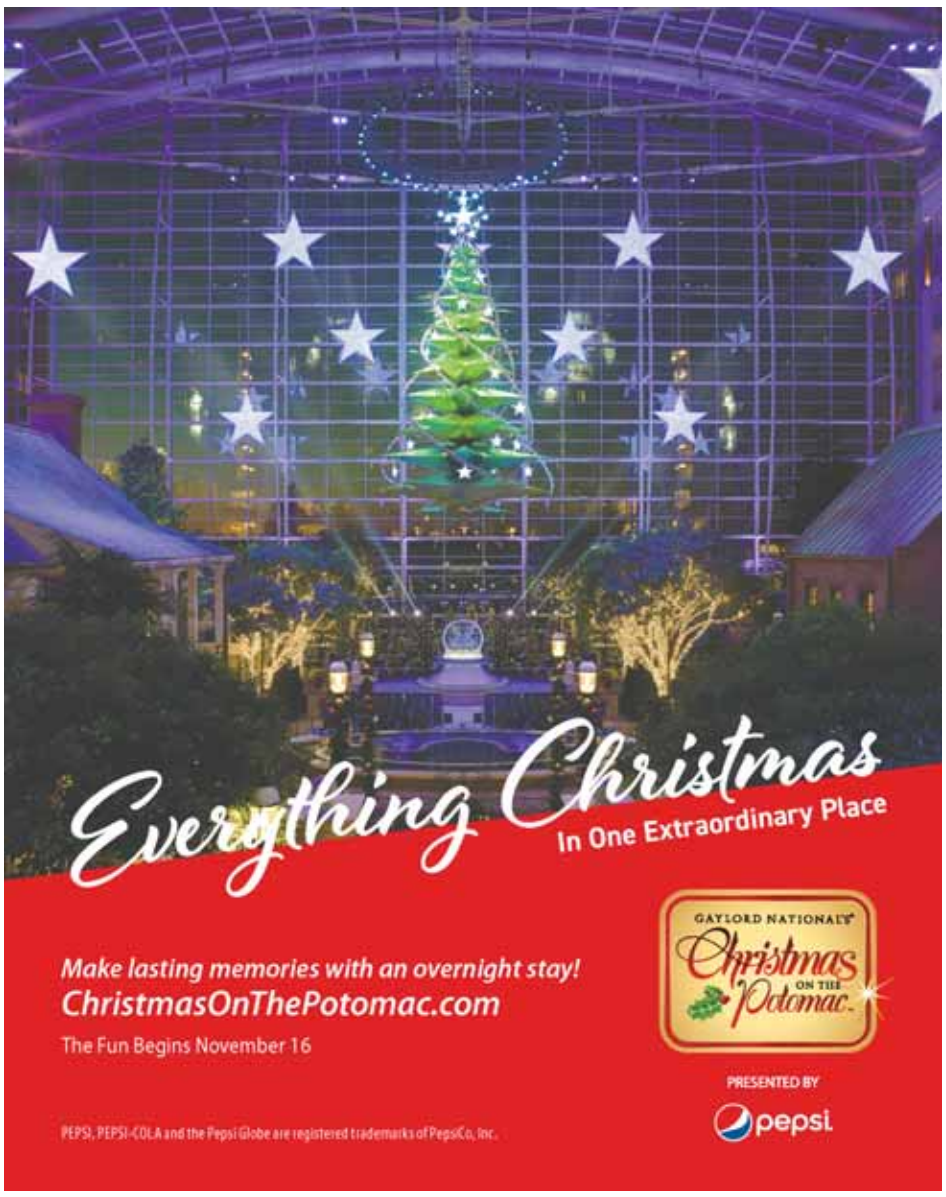
OCT. 29-31

Special Halloween Ghost Tour. 7

Symmetry – Balance in an Asymmetrical World postcard, photograph by David Heckman.

Art Exhibit: 'Symmetry – Balance in an Asymmetrical World.'

Exhibit showcases the artists' visions of symmetry. The camera, used as a tool, reveals the artist's vision and produces a personal – typically evocative or atmospheric, yet balanced – statement. Through Oct. 28 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/symmetry.



Entertainment

In 'Billy Elliot the Musical'

Photo courtesy of Metro School of the Arts

Metro School of the Arts students rehearse for "Billy Elliot the Musical." The six MSA students were selected to join the 10-time Tony Award winning musical cast, that will be performed at Signature Theatre from Oct. 30 – Jan. 6, 2019. Back row (from left): Sofia Cruz, Simone Straub-Clark, Anya Jones, and Jacob Anderson. Front row (from left): Annie Dodson and Maya Stumpf. Tickets can be purchased at www.sigtheatre.org. The Academy at Metropolitan School of the Arts is a college preparatory performing arts program for emerging young artists, grades 7-12; see www.metropolitanarts.org.

Calendar

p.m. Tours starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. It wraps through the back roads of Old Town stopping at places like The Christmas Attic, John Douglas Brown House, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and many more. Tour takes visitors past Christ Church to other less-visited stops like the Freedom House. At each stop guides cover a brief background of the location, what horrible event occurred there, and what modern day paranormal phenomenon was detected. Admission: $12 adults; $10 senior citizens and students, active duty military and veterans; $5 children; free for ages 5 and under. Visit https://discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Halloween Party. 6-8:30 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King Street, Alexandria. Volunteer Alexandria's Halloween Party in partnership with Ivy. No speeches or program — just fun. Join them for some cool air at the cemetery's vault, best costume award, a tour, live music, readings, food, beer and wine, and networking opportunity. Email mail@volunteeralexandria.org or 703-836-2176. Visit www.ivyhillcemetery.net.

Getting to Know Ghana. 7 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Jesus Kotei will share an insider's account of the historically rich country of Ghana. Free. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org. Visit the website at www.alexlibraryva.org.

OCT. 30 AND 31

Poe in Alexandria. 7:30-9:15 p.m. at The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Actor David Keltz recreates one of Edgar Allen Poe's 19th-century speaking engagements. This year's program will include Critical Reviews, Hymn, The Cask of Amontillado, The Pit & the Pendulum, The Raven, and Eldorado. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the performance runs 8–9:15 p.m., each night. Cost $15. Call 703-746-4994. Reserve online at shop.alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Trick-or-Treat. 5-7 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Free. Join them for a good old fashioned trickery and treats. Bring your little ghosts, goblins, princesses and action heroes to one of Alexandria's most haunted dwellings for a fun evening of free trick-or-treating, games, and crafts.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

Music Makers. 4 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Free class goes from Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29. Practice your rhythm by making music as a group with percussion instruments. Ages 6-8. Visit www.alexlibraryva.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

Computer Basics Class. 10:15 a.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Learn the basics of using a computer with an overview of Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 applications. Also find out the best strategies for locating information on the Internet. Visit www.alexlibraryva.org

Opening Reception: "Connecting Threads." 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and non-traditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter's Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/connecting-threads

NOV. 2-25

Art Exhibit: "Connecting

Mastering an Ancient Medium

From Page 22

medium. She did her first mosaic in 2004 and immediately became hooked on the quality of its meditative process to find just the right pieces of unglazed porcelain to interpret the composition.

At her most mesmerizing and inspiring her work tackles and interprets nature by indulging many layers of respect for the beauty of creation. The small work "Ode to Spring" demonstrates how the artist can see through the iconic cherry blossom depictions and transform them in a more meaningful and perhaps even spiritual experience. The 24" square "Autumn Symphony" uses both horizontal and vertical interpretations to provide immersion into the full spectrum of fall. It is almost as if the season is being captured by the spirit of the trees as they prepare for the coming winter. The linear effect of the leaves captures the slow process so often taken for granted with changing seasons.

Equally powerful and understated mosaics present with a three dimensional effect by harnessing the patterns of shape and color in the landscape. Nina captures each season in individual works and ponders and interprets the forest with thoughtful care and planning. It is easy to imagine the artist in peaceful indulgences, much as a poet, translating her thoughts into tiny chips to achieve work sought after by her collectors.

"Serenity" tackles a different challenge. One of several works with an ethnic inspiration she transforms a figurative study into a mosaic portrait. Her interpretation of the personality of the woman is captured with nuances of her facial features as well as the drapes and folds of the fabric enhancing her pose. As in all her work the background successfully plays the difficult role of receding and yet enhancing the subject.

This widely collected artist has been included in numerous group exhibitions but her work can be most appreciated when given the opportunity to view it in a serene setting. The artist will present her work at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Nov. 2 - Dec. 28. She can be reached for more information about "adopting" or commissioning her work by email atNinat@ninatisara.com.

Trudi Van Dyke is an independent fine art curator, specializing in fine craft, and formerly director of the Torpedo Factory.

Calendar

Threads." At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and non-traditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter's Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/connecting-threads

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Classic Car Show. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Meet at River Farm for cars, food, and fun. Registration: $20 per show car. Spectators: $5 (walk-in or bicycles, kids under 12 free); $10 (per car). For more information, email development@ahsgardening.org. Proceeds benefit the American Horticultural Society and its headquarters, River Farm. Email development@ahsgardening.org. Visit the website www.ahsgardening.org.

First Tour. 11 a.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Free. Come learn about the unique treasures held at the Local History / Special Collections the first Saturday of every month. Visit the website: www.alexlibraryva.org

"**Bound to the Fire."** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Historical archaeologist and historian, Kelley Deetz, will discuss her new book, Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine. Cost is $12 per person and $10 for FOAA/ASPBH members. Tickets may be purchased online at www.Alexandriava.gov/Shop.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Every first Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. the Alexandria Black History Museum will host a children's story time in the Alexandria Black History Museum. This week: Baby Rattlesnake bold by Te Ata. Join us for cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Explore the museum exhibits afterwards to learn about local Black History. For a limited time, complete the scavenger hunt for our special dollhouse exhibition and take home a prize. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 – 7 years old. Admission is $3 per person. Call 703-746-4356.

Betsey Mason's Letter. 2 p.m. At Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Associate Curator Jessie MacLeod, from George Washington's Mount Vernon, will provide a presentation: "Thank God it is now in your hands": Unpacking Betsey C. Mason's Letter to John Augustine Washington III. MacLeod will connect Mason's letter with a key journal entry by Magistrate John Augustine Washington III on the 1845 trial of five enslaved men from Huntley for trespassing. Call 703-768-2525.

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

ASO Presents: Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 "Scottish." 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, celebrates the past and present of American music. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, cellist. Tickets: $20-$80 adult, $5 youth, $10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Fall Festival FUNdraiser. 2-5 p.m. At Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Fall Festival Fundraiser benefitting Agudas Achim Preschool. There will be games, prizes, crafts, bounce house, face painting, a petting zoo (from 2-3:30 p.m.) and music by Alexandria's Rainbow Rock Band (starting at 3:30 p.m.). Email: preschool@agudasachim-va.org. Visit the website: https://www.facebook.com/events/470913836727081/

ASO Presents: Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 "Scottish." 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. With pre-concert talk at 2:15 p.m. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, celebrates the past and present of American music. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, cellist. Tickets: $20-$80 adult, $5 youth, $10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. 7 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc is a fiddle trio from Norway, Sweden and the Shetland Islands°whose use of harmony, rhythm, riffs and bass lines creates a sound that leaves the listener enthralled but at the same time°dumbfounded that the sound only comes from three fiddles. Tickets $18/advance; $20/door. For tickets, visit http://www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets. Contact Herb Levy at Herb@FocusMusic.org or 703-380-3151.

MONDAY/NOV. 5

Poetry Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. "Building Cultural Bridges" with Wendi R Kaplan, Poet Laureate. At these workshops, poetry can be read and written. The Poet Laureate and literary programs are part of the Office of the Arts, a division of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The workshops are free; to register, RSVP at poet@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Dino-vember. 4 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Free. Simple STEAM activities with a dinosaur theme. All materials supplied, no registration required. For children ages 5 and up. Visit the website: www.alexlibraryva.org.

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State Champions

The Bishop Ireton Girls Varsity Cross Country Team won their first State Championship in 19 years on Wednesday, Oct. 23. "Wednesday's race was the culmination of many weeks of hard work and preparation," said Head Coach Brad Byrnes. "As their coach, I'm so happy for them to win as they've come so close over the past few years. This victory was well earned and our ladies deserve it."

The Old Dominion Boat Club competed last weekend in the 54th annual Head of the Charles.

ODBC Women Qualify for Elite Regatta

The women of Old Dominion Boat Club competed last weekend in one of the world's largest regattas, placing 27th in a field of 85 boats at the 54th annual Head of the Charles.

More than 11,000 athletes from 23 countries converged on Boston for the regatta on the weekend of Oct. 20-21. The two-day event is held on a three-mile long course, with seven bridges lined with crowds of cheering spectators.

The ODBC women's first eight had a time of 19.21.922. Saugatuck won with a time of 17:34.69. ODBC's high school women were competing against college teams and other elite athletes from around the country. "The sheer number of boats that come to the Charles, and seeing them all along the shore and out on the river is kind of mind-blowing," said rower Grace Fluharty.º

The women's performance assured them an automatic spot in next year's Head of the Charles. The regatta, which draws top rowers from around the world, typically turns away boats.

"We were fortunate enough to be starting high enough in the procession, 21/85, that we could avoid the chaos of the significantly slower crews. Once the race got started the stress almost melted away," said coxswain Paula Filios.

The men's first eight from ODBC also competed, placing 77th after a crash that slowed them down and cost them a second's deduction.

This season, ODBC has drawn rowers from TC Williams, Bishop Ireton, Washington & Lee, Wakefield, James Madison, McLean and Maret.

Head of the Charles followed last week's Occoquan Chase, when ODBC fielded more than a dozen boats, many of them competing against adult teams.

At the Chase, the women's second eight was 2 out of 13 in its category. the women's first eight was 7th out of 24 and men's first eight was 8th out of 27. "We started really rowing together and pushing and gliding on the water, and then we continued passing boats," said second eight women's rower Mackenzie Allen.

The fall rowing season is in full swing, as ODBC travels next to Philadelphia for Head of the Schuylkill on Oct. 28.

Bishop Ireton Varsity Cheerleaders assist at the annual Buddy Walk for the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia.

Photo Courtesy of Bishop Ireton High School

Cheerleaders Help at Buddy Walk

The Bishop Ireton Varsity Cheerleaders spent Sunday, Oct. 14, giving back to the local community by working the Buddy Walk for the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia.

The cheerleaders assisted with the setup and breakdown of the event, including chalking the walk, working games for the children, taking photos, and cheering on the walkers.

"I am so extremely proud of how hard the team works at this event, and the sense of pride they take in participating in this walk," said Head Coach Angela Hope. "It is truly inspiring on so many levels."

"I've attended the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia's Buddy Walk for four years now and it's such a great experience," said Yannet Ephrem '19. "We start the walk and get to interact with such amazing kids. I'm really going to miss being able to go to this event with the team every year, it's such an incredible day that I won't ever forget."

The Buddy Walk is the biggest fundraiser for the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia and enables them to ensure that all individuals with Down syndrome and their families receive the support necessary to participate in, contribute to and achieve fulfillment of life in their community.

From right: Wiley Mitchell, Jim Moran, Connie Ring, David Speck, Lonnie Rich, Frank Fannon, moderator Michael Lee Pope.

Reflecting on Local Politics

From Page 1

The group generally agreed that Alexandria politics used to be better off for being more bipartisan.

"Alexandria is a stronger community, politically, if there are competitive parties," said Speck. "It's unfortunate that we don't have a competitive environment now."

"Even though I am … a very partisan Democrat, I agree … about the need for balance in our community," said Rich. "One of the worst decisions we've made, a few years ago, was to go to November elections. I wish that we would [go back to local elections in May, the last of which occurred in 2009]. The current council could do that, and I think they should. It would give more attention to the City Council races and not have it mixed up in either statewide races or federal races."

Mitchell concurred, saying that, in a November election, people vote mainly for federal and state offices, but don't know enough about local candidates.

"It is wrong to come into a state election or a local election knowing only the candidates who are running for federal [office]. You do great damage to the stability of government in that way," he said.

Speck suggested that staggering terms might improve the city's political culture.

"We're the only city in Virginia that elects everyone at large," he said. "If you had staggered terms, you would have fewer people running, more timely focus on issues, more focused debate. … I'm unhappy that we've never really had [a] full-throated discussion in this community about making that change."

Panelists were also generally critical of council's decision in the 1990s that the School Board be elected rather than appointed.

"That was one of the worst mistakes that we could ever do," said Speck. "As much as City Council got caught up in in school issues, because we appointed the School Board, at least we had taxing authority, so that we could look at the decisions we made and make a judgment about how much money was needed and how to raise it."

Ring, who supported the shift, said: "There was a need to get better qualified people to run for those positions and be … more representative of the whole community. … Now I have some reservations about whether we cured the problem."

Panelists offered more mixed views about development in the city and about the balance between private and public interests.

Asked about the development on the waterfront, Fannon said: "My big thing was putting too much density down on the waterfront. And also I'm big into property rights, and part of this whole plan was the threat of eminent domain to take private property from a property owner in the Boat Club. … People are still feeling rubbed the wrong way [about that]. A lot of people that live on the east side of town still think there's too much commercial development, where you're mixing it in with residential housing."

On the other hand, Speck said: "What really has to be considered is what's at stake in not having the waterfront be developed and attractive. Alexandria faces some very serious revenue issues because of the limitations on how it can grow and where it can get revenue from."

Moran said he regrets that the city didn't increase density around its Metro stations when the stations were built.

"We listened to people who had their own agenda, which did not fit into a larger vision of what this city could become," he said. He thinks Arlington did a better job balancing the preservation of neighborhoods against development around Metro, and that their tax base and economy are now better off as a result.

Most panelists disagreed with council's recent approval of stadium lights at T.C. Williams High School.

"Any development that's put together now with a DSUP, it really doesn't mean a thing if four City Council members eventually decide that they don't like it. So that's basically what this whole T.C. lights [issue] has ended up proving," said Fannon. He thinks it would've been better to put the lights at the George Washington Middle School field instead.

On the other hand, Mitchell noted that no council can bind a future council with a legislative decision.

Curran Laces Up for Marathon

From Page 6

ticipate in programs that keep them active," Curran said. "I want RunningBrooke to continue to grow and make more of a difference in the community."

Curran said her husband and three daughters are supportive of her decision to run competitively so soon after her life nearly ended in March.

"My family is not surprised that I would go right back at it," Curran said. "They are proud and supportive and though it sounds trite, I truly have a new appreciation for life. The bonds with people and organizations that I have formed are so much more precious to me. I don't take a single breath for granted."

See www.Runningbrooke.org.

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PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD AT BELTWAY MOVERS ASSOCIATES, INC. 6308 Gravel Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22310 on NOVEMBER 8, 2018 at 11:00 AM. Lots are being sold at auction to satisfy the storage fees, sale and other expenses as necessary and incurred in the preservation and handling of such goods pursuant to law. Terms of Sale CASH ONLY. Persons listed below have been duly notified of this auction: Boris Blatnik Pallet 2065, 106 (sofa) and 238 (sofa) Miscellaneous Items, Herve Razafimbahiny Pallet1149 and 1676 Boxes

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

Obituary

Marlyn Evander Aycock
December 9, 1929 – October 11, 2018

With heavy hearts, we share that Marlyn Aycock of Alexandria, VA passed away suddenly at home on October 11, 2018. Predeceased by his son Timothy Aycock. Survived by his wife, Midge, his son (and spouse) Jonathan Aycock (Corinne). He was very proud of his three grandchildren and reveled in their lives: Olivia, Hannah, and Zachary. Marlyn's sharp wit, intellect, love of history, and outspoken nature always made for fun and lively conversations. His kindheartedness for others, especially those in need was noticed, as was his intensity to fight injustice. He will be dearly missed.

Marlyn was born in Warrenton, NC to Thomas Haywood Aycock and Mable Strickland Aycock. He served in the Army Air Corps from 1946-1949, and then served in the Army in Japan during the Korean War. He graduated from Texas Christian University majoring in Journalism in 1955 and earned his Master's Degree from University of Minnesota in 1956. After graduation, he worked as a Reporter for the Richmond Times Dispatch, married Midge Bloom in 1957, and lived in Richmond until 1960. They traveled to Europe where he worked for United Press International (UPI) in London and Frankfurt, Germany. Marlyn experienced the Berlin wall while being a News Editor in Germany. He joined the staff of the Louisville Courier Journal in 1962 and covered the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. He rejoined UPI in Washington, DC in 1964 and moved to Alexandria. Marlyn worked for members of the House and Senate as a press officer and for the Congressional Quarterly before joining the Farmers Home Administration at the USDA. Marlyn retired from the Federal Government in 1997. He was soon hired as a historic interpreter at the Mount Vernon Estate and really enjoyed his time as a miller at George Washington's Gristmill.

Wake to be held on Friday, October 26, from 1-3 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. Funeral services and a celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, October 27, at 1:00 p.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22301. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Timothy Aycock Melanoma Research Foundation (TAMRF), P.O. Box 1741, Leesburg, VA 20177. Please view and sign on-line guest book at https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Marlyn-Aycock.

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Resorting to Radio

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There I was, Wednesday evening, Oct. 17, around 6:30, sitting on my living room couch, club sandwich in hand, preparing for the League Championship Series game 5 between my Boston Red Sox and the Houston Astros when as I've done a thousand times before, grabbed the remote to turn on the television. Pressing the usual button, I was distressed to see no picture and hear no sound. Having experienced this kind of disappointment numerous times before, I didn't panic yet. I went about the diagnostic process first.

I checked my remote to see if the batteries were firmly connected, which they were. I then pointed the remote back at the television, but still no response.. Next, as I have been prompted previously under similar circumstances ("Your X-1 platform ... ."), I pulled the plug and waited 30-plus seconds before reconnecting. Thirty seconds later, I re-plugged and still my television sat idle. Next I went into my home office to check the status of my computer since they're "cableized" together. The lights on my modem were flashing (a hopeful sign) so I clicked on one of my desk top icons and was met with the dreaded "No internet connection," confirming my worst suspicion. For the moment, 90 minutes before game time, I was out of service (heck, I was out of luck). Finally, I called my cable provider for clarification/further confirmation when I was met with the equally dreaded pre-recorded message: "There has been a service interruption in your area. Service is expected to be restored tomorrow afternoon." "TOMORROW AFTERNOON? THE GAME IS TONIGHT!" That was the exclamation I can print. What came next was not particularly complimentary.

For the next hour or so I puttered and muttered and did nothing to improve my circumstances. At 9:30 pm I called my brother to get a score. (He lives in Washington, DC and has a smart phone. I live in Maryland and have a flip phone, a k a "stupid phone"). Unfortunately, he had left his cell phone in another room and didn't hear my call. Frustrated, I swore yet again and trudged upstairs to go to bed. After getting into my "jammies," I laid down in bed and rolled onto my left side to set the alarm on my clock radio when it hit me (not the clock radio); the baseball game is being broadcast on the radio! And so I scrolled the dial on the clock radio until I heard ESPN radio broadcasters John Shambee and Jessica Mendoza calling the game. If I can't watch the game, I can certainly listen to it. And so I did, just like I did as a "little-leaguer" all those many years ago listening to Ken Coleman and Ned Martin of the "Boston Red Sox radio network" while living on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma. Except this time, I wasn't clutching a transistor radio. I was hands free, listening.

For the next nearly three hours, I laid in bed and listened. Most of the broadcast I heard and some of it I missed as occasionally I fell asleep. But for a time I was transported back in time sort of, before cable television proliferated when the games were broadcast almost exclusively on radio and baseball was seen through the eyes of those sitting in the "Catbird seat," to quote the legendary Red Barber. Listening to how they described what they saw during the game was how many of my generation - and the preceding generation, fell in love with baseball: "How about that!" to quote the late, great, Mel Allen.

It was a late night, but happily, for me and Red Sox Nation, the Sox won and will now be returning to the World Series for the first time since 2013. Game one will be Tuesday night, Oct. 23. I can't imagine that there will be a repeat non-performance from my cable provider, but if there is, and I am forced to go to plan "B", radio, I will do so. The circumstances got us a win in game five, so there's no reason to think it wouldn't get us a win in game one, too. After all, it's not only the ballplayers that are superstitious.

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

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Terwilliger

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were able to do. I was naive. Remember this was the run up to the 2016 election.

There were some similarities between the jobs. I prided myself when I was on the Hill that you could call me at any time and get an answer. If you had a mark-up of legislation scheduled at midnight for the next day, you had to be ready. It is similar to working here. You never know what is around the next corner, what the supervisor will assign you, the twists and turns of the job. You need to understand justice but you need to understand the Hill as well. I couldn't have done it without being up there. Of course the U.S. Attorney's office is an apolitical office.

You did a lot of work on sex trafficking when you were an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 2010 assigned to the Major Crimes Unit. What is the status of these efforts today?

Terwilliger: I always feel raising awareness is the first step. Elizabeth Payne has done an outstanding job of this that we didn't have in the past in the Fairfax County Public Schools. In 2013-15 when I was with the Major Crime unit I was seeing human trafficking in Annandale, along Route 1 and in Alexandria. We went into places and raised awareness, talking to parents who knew something was wrong. We knew gangs were sex trafficking, going into middle school dances to recruit.

There is a Federal multi-jurisdictional task force that looks at prevention. We now have a point person here on human trafficking, which is very rare to hire someone to do a specific violation. What I can say is that Congress got it right with the Child Abuse and Treatment Prevention Act. It is very simple, user friendly with harsh penalties.

One of the things that is important to me being Federal law enforcement is it's the whole of government at Federal, state, and local working together. We're not just colleagues; we're friends and having that kind of relationship can get things done. The other thing for me is what makes this impactful, which is the mission. This is my community, my home. I live in Del Ray. I lead the strategic vision that can make a difference right here in Alexandria, like getting rid of people who intimidate through gang activity.

I get to put forth a program on drugs to approach the three-headed monster. First going after the pills being divested. Second working with the postal service and customs and border patrol. The Chinese are mailing fentanyl directly to the U.S. Third is the personnel division. I have hired two new staff, formerly from DEA, who know opiate work inside out. But we can't prosecute ourselves out of this. We offer our drug prosecutors to educate parents, children.

My wife is a school counselor in the Arlington schools. She helps me understand why it is so difficult for people to get out of the returning drug cycle. She sees it.

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