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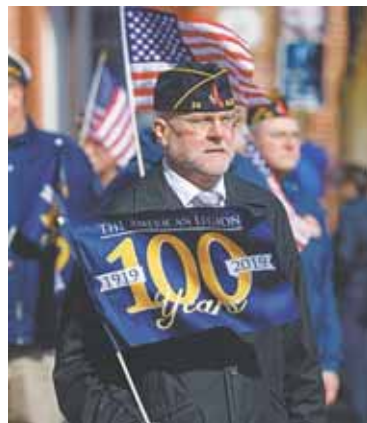
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Drum Major Konstantin Gojnycz leads the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums.



Air Force Maj. John Bordner (ret.) holds a flag commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Legion.



PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Mangus Temple 3 Marching Club participate in the 287<sup>th</sup> George Washington Birthday parade.

## By George! City celebrates Washington's 287th birthday.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he forecasted dreary skies never materialized as thousands of attendees turned out Feb. 18 to celebrate the 287th birthday of Alexandria's hometown hero and Founding Father George Washington.

"It was a great day today," said Joe Shumard, the organizer and driving force behind the parade. "We are proud to be the nation's oldest and largest parade celebrating Washington's birth and this year to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the American Legion." Participants marched a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town that ended at a reviewing stand in Market Square. Former ACT for Alexandria CEO John Porter and Janet Barnett served as co-emcees and Dan Dellinger, past national president of the American Legion, served as the parade's Grand Marshal.



Alexandria Scouts participate in the parade.



Members of the Departmental Progressive Club walk along the parade route.

## Building West End 'Identity' City closing in on Landmark Mall redevelopment plans, seeks community input.

BY DAN BRENDL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**C**itizens have one more opportunity to weigh in on Landmark Mall redevelopment plans, before the plans are finalized and go to public hearings this spring.

City staff will host a fourth and final workshop next Wednesday, Feb. 27, for the community and Eisenhower West-Landmark Van Dorn Advisory Group to give input. Staff will finalize project plans through March and send them to Planning Commission and City Council public hearings on April 2 and April 13. Construction would take place over the next 5-20 years.

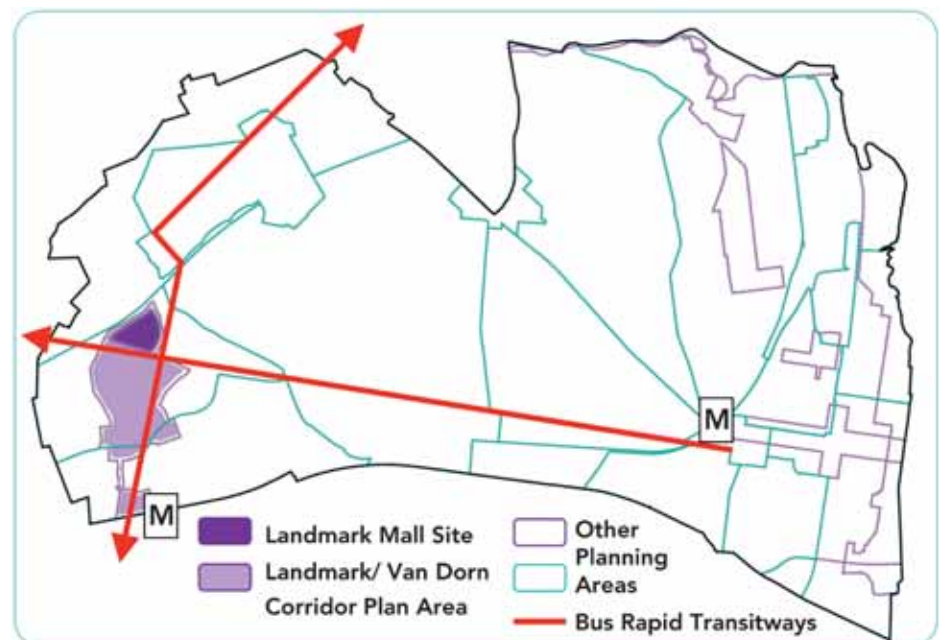
The Landmark Mall, comprising 51 acres in the city's West End, represents one of the largest and potentially most impactful redevelopments on the city's radar. It's a key element of the city's Landmark/Van Dorn Corridor Plan, which aims "to transform the present suburban development pattern into a quality

mixed-use urban community." Current suburban characteristics include "automobile-dominated corridors" and "disconnected commercial, multi-family, and industrial uses."

"This is a real opportunity for us to stitch this [mall site] back into the fabric of the neighborhoods that surround it," said planning and zoning's Jeff Farnar. "How do we transition this site from car-oriented and surface parking lots to retail, walkable streets, and accessibility? ... That means accessibility by cars, but also ... by transit, pedestrian, bikes, and being able to cross the street ... in a way that is safe and convenient."

The evolving plan includes up to 5.6 million square feet of new use development, including buildings up to 25 stories, mixing residential over and amongst commercial uses. A minimum 20 percent of new development would go toward commercial uses, such as office, hotel, retail, entertainment. The plan would add several new streets, dividing the mall site into smaller,

SEE CITY CLOSING, PAGE 6



SOURCE: MAP ADAPTED FROM NOV. 14 CITY STAFF PRESENTATION

**The Landmark Mall redevelopment site, slated for public hearings in April, sits at a strategic crossroads in the city's plans for transit-oriented development.**



# ACDS Partners with City to Improve Monticello Park

School uses park as outdoor lab to study birds and plants.

By Shirley Ruhe  
Gazette Packet

**T**iny fingers point to a red spot in the trees. “I think it’s a cardinal.” The second and third grade classes at Alexandria Country Day School (ACDS) were walking through Monticello Park in October 2018 with local birder Bill Young as part of their school curriculum. “It was windy that day and we didn’t see many birds.”

Young said he introduced himself and asked each student to identify themselves and tell him their favorite bird. “There were a lot of cardinals and blue jays but I remember one said ‘a Mississippi kite.’” Young said he is hoping to invite the students back on the spur of the moment in May when the warblers generally migrate through the park in large numbers. “But you can’t set a date because it might be raining or the winds could be off. So I’m hoping to be able to call at the last minute and have the students show up.” Second grade teacher Sarah Shannon says, “We’ll be ready to pack and go.”

This is part of a one-year partnership grant from the City of Alexandria Community Matching Fund. Elizabeth Lockwood, ACDS library media specialist and service learning coordinator in charge of managing the activities associated with the grant said, “What we wanted to do is to have students who study nature and related topics to use the park as part of the curriculum.”

ACDS applied for the partnership grant at the end of last year and received the \$10,000 matching grant at the end of the summer. The city is providing \$5,000 and ACDS \$4,000 and 40 volunteer hours. Lockwood says the grant was for community organizations that want to make improvements in city parks. In this case Monticello Park is on Beverly Street in ACDS’s own neighborhood. Second grader Payton Rizzieri says she lives in the neighborhood and “sometimes me and mom take pictures but I only got one good one of a warbler.”

Lockwood explains, “Part of the grant will be used to replace the “dilapidated picnic table and bench currently in the park.” The grant will also be used to create a new interpretative sign to be placed close to the bridge in the park. She said the students have done research, with the second and third grades focusing on birds and the seventh and eighth focusing on plants. The bird research will focus on bird migration in general, why Monticello Park is an oasis, and on warblers specifically.

Lockwood says, “We have met with a nature artist so we will have some original student art.”

SEE ACDS, PAGE 8



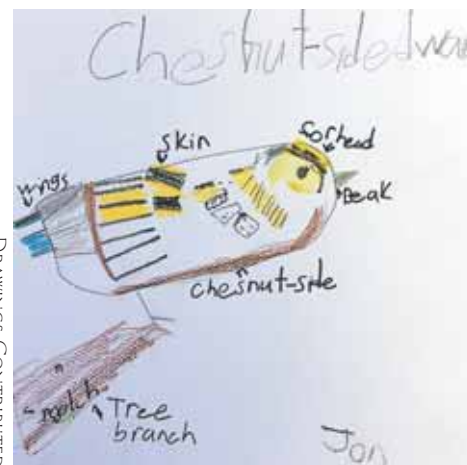
Second and third grade classes and teachers at Monticello Park in October 2018.



Drawings of Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Sarah Danshaw, 2nd grade.



Drawing of Bay-breasted Warbler by Emily Trader, 2nd grade.



Drawing of Chestnut-sided Warbler by Jon Brockington, 2nd grade.

DRAWINGS CONTRIBUTED

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Elizabeth Lockwood,**  
ACDS library media  
specialist and service  
learning coordinator.



Rylie Reid, Evelyn Tucker and science teacher Chris Ros.



Second graders (from left) Caleb Banks, Payton Rizzieri and Elijah Schneider with teacher Sarah Shannon.



# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## WINTER SHELTERS

**Find homeless and cold weather** drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at [www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists](http://www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists).

## CAMPS

**Spring Break Camp.** Monday-Friday, April 15-19, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center is offering its Annual Spring Break Camp for children 6-10 years old, camp includes adventures including woodland hikes, live animal interactions, fishing, field trips, and more. Registration is open and space is limited. The fee is \$355 and includes all snacks, materials, and field trips. To register, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac) and use Activity #379800-01.

**Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp.** Monday-Friday, July 15-19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Help City archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site and preserve Alexandria's historic resources. Campers will learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact

processing methods at the Shuter's Hill archaeology site. Applications must be submitted through [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org). Registration is limited, and all applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. The week-long camp is \$400 with available scholarships.

## VOLUNTEER MEMBERS NEEDED

**Join Friends' Board.** Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email [FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

## CRIME REPORT

### TUESDAY, FEB. 19

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a recovered stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of Cameron Street. Two suspects ran from the vehicle, and the Fairfax County Police Department helicopter assisted in finding them.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 16

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 400 block of Cook Street. Two suspects stole items from a person selling items through an online application. There were no injuries.

## WHOLE HOUSE REMODELED HOME TOUR SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2019

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1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 12/10/2018, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 to \$99,999.99 is 0.03% (0.03% APY) and with an account balance of \$100,000 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking, Wealth, Business Banking or Wholesale customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. The Portfolio by Wells Fargo program has a \$30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: \$25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRA) or \$50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

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## PEOPLE

# Fun, Friendship and Futsal

School resource officers connect with students through soccer.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**wo squad cars pull into the parking lot of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on King Street. High school boys pile out and head for their futsal (indoor soccer) practice inside the church.

Gary Argueta and Johnny Larios, T.C. Williams school resource officers (SROs) with the Alexandria Police Department, have started soccer teams at T.C. Williams International Academy as a way to relate to the youths at the high school.



**Student Resource Officer Gary Argueta**

Larios says, "When we started as SROs at TC we noticed there was a large Latino population but there was a big disconnect between the police officer and the student. They weren't coming to me and talking to me.

### PEOPLE AT WORK

"We looked for a way to bridge the gap and get them to trust us. We're there to protect the school and provide security but we also want to become friendly partners. We're not just there to enforce crimes."

Larios says a lot of the youths don't have people to help out. They are new in the country and living with aunts and uncles. They are working after school. He says, "I didn't have to struggle with working after school and they're not even dealing with going to college. I guess I want to give them something back."



**Student Resource Officer Johnny Larios.**

Larios explains the high school has a gang issue. "M-13 is known to be in the school." He explains that one day there was an incident outside the school where a student was beaten. "They introduced him to me. After that Gary and I talked about a way we could get them to talk to us before something happened. We thought most Latin Americans like to play soccer so we asked if they wanted to sign up and it blew away." Now he and Argueta hold a practice for boys on Fridays and for girls on Tuesdays. They couldn't practice at all last year between games because it was so difficult to find a space. "It's been hard for us with no place to practice."

But this year they were lucky that the church donated their space. Elizabeth Anderson, a church volunteer who comes to open the door for the team and stays for practice, says, "We don't usually rent out the space but this was a good cause, and it's fun." Argueta says their two teams last year were very successful because even without practice they both took first place in their divisions.

A group sigh of exasperation explodes as the ball goes right through the legs of the goalie. "No-



**T.C. Williams high school students practice futsal at The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on King Street on Feb. 15.**

body wants to be goalie, eh?"

Argueta says his motivation for putting in the extracurricular time with these teams after work is to help out the youths who don't have that much opportunity to play at the high school level. He said, "I could be at the gym or doing things I have to do," but he believes in his mission.

Many of the students in T.C. International Academy have only been in this country for a year or two. He looks around the gym and sees Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala. "And I think he's from Morocco." There are about 20 players today but Larios says sometimes there are triple that number.

He says these youths get overlooked. "They may be too shy to try out for the high school team or don't know the language as well. But they are good enough."

Argueta has been playing soccer since he was 5 years old. Although he was born in this country his relatives came from Guatemala. "My goal is for this program to develop really good players that will be scouted by colleges or can become mentors to others. They are really good players. They have what it takes."

After two goals, the players rotate out and are replaced by another group of players. Larios steps in as a goalie, which has always been his regular position. Argueta says they have three teams of boys now who all practice together on Fridays as well as one team of girls who practice on Tuesdays. He says this program could be much bigger if they had transportation for the teams. "It's killing us right now. We had to bring them here in the squad cars." And he points out the

team costs money. "We have to pay to be in the league."

"Ohhhhhh." A player has barely missed a goal. Argueta comments, "too much dribbling, he was right there; he should have just tapped it in." The Optimist Club of Alexandria recently honored the officers in a luncheon at the Belle Haven Country Club for their work mentoring TC students and collaborating with city agencies and groups who support their work.

Argueta says even though he and Larios were born here they know what it's like to come from another country. "We have common cultural understanding. The kids talk to us about problems with girls or maybe about their studies. They look up to us as an older brother or mentor. I'm the person I needed to have to talk to when I was in high school."



**Officer Johnny Larios waits along with the futsal team relievers for his rotation back into the game as goalie.**

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

## City Closing in on Landmark Mall Redevelopment Plans

FROM PAGE 3

more pedestrian-friendly blocks.

From the city government's perspective, the new development would "pay for itself," said Farner. For every dollar the city spends on associated services (including schools), new multi-family buildings add \$1.50 and offices add \$7.33 to the city's General Fund coffers, according to a city staff presentation.

The redeveloped mall site would also serve as a strategic transit hub, sitting at the crossroads of the city's envisioned Duke Street and West End Transitways. These transitways — dedicated "bus rapid transit" lanes between the Van Dorn and King

Street Metro stations and the Pentagon — are important to the city's long-term planning efforts.

In community workshops to date, residents have expressed concerns typical of any proposed redevelopment, including potential impacts of increased population density on traffic and school enrollment.

The proposed redevelopment would add 85-105 students to James Polk Elementary and Francis Hammond Middle School, according to city staff's forecasts. The city, school system and developer are in the process of determining whether the site might include a new school.

There's also hope that, in a town fre-

quently describing itself as "a city of neighborhoods," the redeveloped site could give the West End something unique to call its own.

"The challenge we have in the West End is the lack of identity. Old Town is Old Town. ... Del Ray is Del Ray. ... If you live in the West End, what is our identity?" said one workshop participant. A new site with "signature buildings" could help establish that identity.

Producing a range of housing affordability is also a concern, though more of the city government than of residents who've participated in the workshops so far. Participating residents didn't push back against

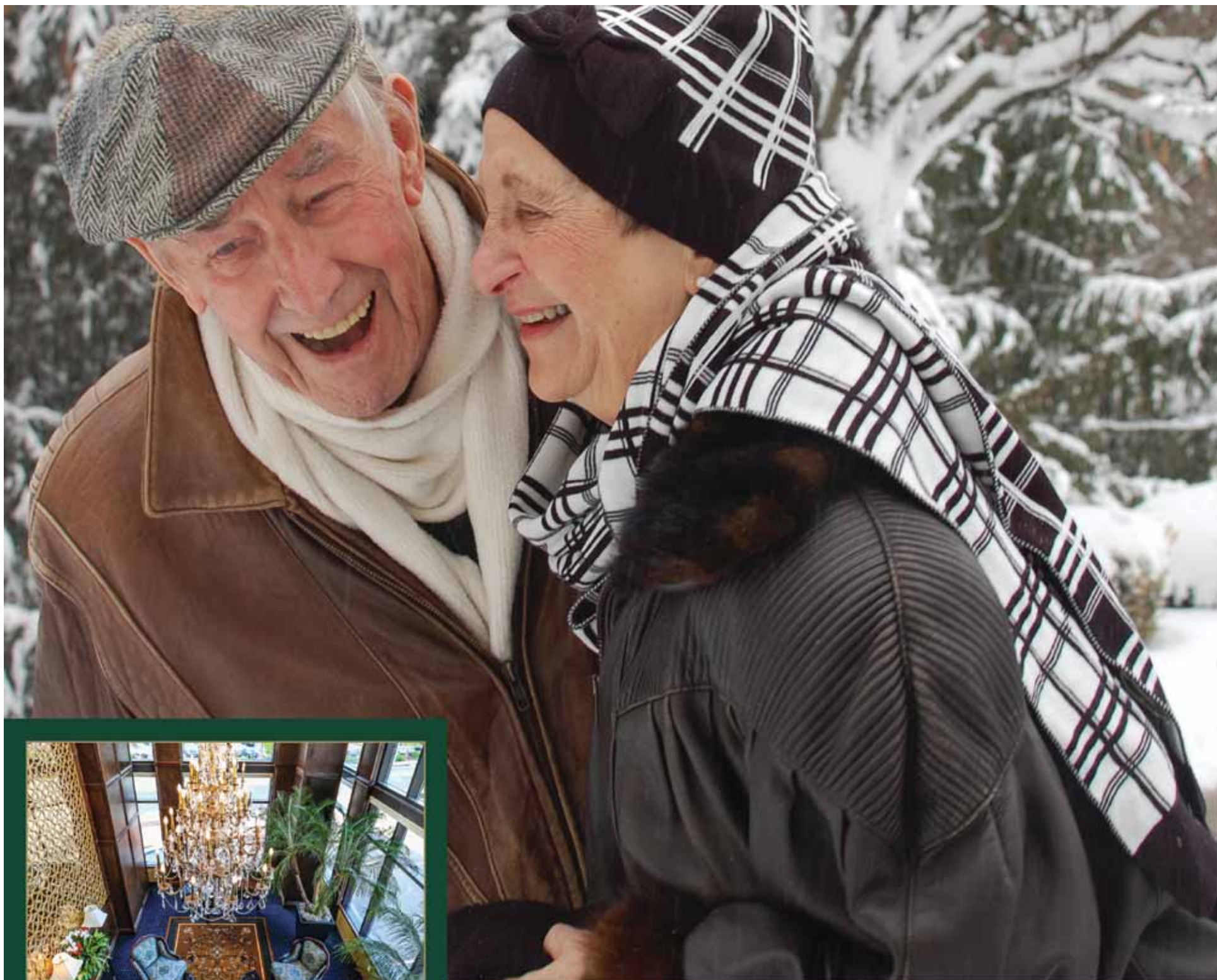
requiring certain percentages of affordable housing units. But, at the first meeting on Nov. 14, they ranked it last out of six priority topics.

The city's adopted housing strategy envisions including affordable housing "in transit-rich and amenity-rich areas," said city staffer Brandi Collins. She says studies show households in car-dependent areas spend 25 percent of take-home income on transportation, compared to 9 percent in "transit-rich and walkable" areas. The latter "frees up money for ... low- or moderate-income [households] to spend on more important things than traveling to work" —

SEE CITY CLOSING, PAGE 6

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# ACDS Partners with City to Improve Monticello Park

FROM PAGE 4

Seventh grade Rylie Reid's illustration of a Mountain Laurel Tree with different types of birds inhabiting the three layers of the tree canopy will be used as part of the interpretative signage. Reid says moving forward they will analyze more of the features and see how the slight subtleties all work together in the park.

Lockwood said, "We have provided the research and content and now it is in the hands of the city." The plan is to install the sign in the spring, "and we hope it is in place before the warblers are back."

Shannon says, "It has been very powerful for the second graders to see something take place that they have created. They were proud because they had all of these ideas they could tell people and the people listened to them."

The plan for the seventh grade project on vegetation will include a 20x20 meter research plot near the front of the park to keep track of changes in vegetation over time. According to Rod Simmons, Natural resource manager/plant ecologist for the City of Alexandria,



**Drawing of Hooded Warbler by Caroline Lehman, 3rd grade.**

there will be no damage to the park but the students will record what plants wax and wane and observe over time. "Now that the Swedish Ivy has been removed after decades of growth we have the opportunity to actually see what is coming back."

Simmons and 7th-8th grade science teacher Chris Ros walked through the park with the 7th-8th students on Oct. 18, 2018 at the beginning of the project to have a session on the geology, topography and characteristic species of vegetation. Simmons says the park is naturally divided into two halves with the NW side of the stream

old-age Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest and the E-SE side steep slope old-age Oak-Heath and Oak-Witch Hazel Forest. Ros says there is a tree at Monticello, the Mountain Laurel, that is hundreds of years old.

Simmons says, "Chris took one side of the park and I took the other. The kids were really engaged and got it down. I could tell because when I saw the interpretative sign, they got it pat. You know when it's a nice day and you're out. Well, it can be kind of dry for a kid." And Ros adds, "7th-8th graders aren't exactly quiet." Simmons remembers taking the

geology question of one student back to the Cretaceous Period, back to dinosaurs.

Ros says, "For me the park is a learning environment." He says they have spent a lot of time at Monticello with different learning experiences like the 8th grade topography project looking at erosion and weathering. He thinks of it as an outdoor classroom. "The reason I love the plot so much is you can look at the changes that can take place over time, what happens when the tree canopy opens up." He envisions having an alumni event down the road where students can come back and see the changes that have taken place in the plot.

Young commented that it is good to have young people interested in birds because if you look around at the birding population today, it is mostly older people. Simmons says, "If you don't get them by 5th grade, they aren't going to appreciate it."

Second grader Elijah Schneider says, "Looking at birds is sort of fun, but I wouldn't want to stand out there all day." But he did like listening to the birdcalls and he

noticed a lot of them made high-pitched sounds and seemed to be communicating with each other.

Second grader Caleb Banks says, "We want to make the park a better place for people who take road trips and stop at the park, with signs so people can learn." He adds the signs are in English and Spanish "because we wanted it to be diverse." E

ighth grader Evelyn Tucker, who was part of the grant writing team for the park proposal last year, says, "It's a community-centered park. That's why what we are doing is so important."

For more information on Monticello Park check MPNature.com which was created by Bill Young and Ashley Bradford as a citizen scientist project to help people learn about the nature at Monticello Park. Young says among the features it includes are photos, daily bird checklists, natural history essays and a virtual tour of the park. Young says, "We believe that people are not likely to want to save the environment unless they love it and they are not likely to love it unless they understand it."

**MIRROR MIRROR**  
March – November 2019  
Waterfront Park  
Old Town Alexandria  
Temporary public art bringing light and color to the Potomac Waterfront

Inspired by the historic Fresnel lens at Jones Point Lighthouse, *Mirror Mirror* responds to sound with illuminated color. Find it on the waterfront and play in a forest of light. This summer, enjoy music and movement performances inspired by the installation.

Details at [alexandriava.gov/publicart](http://alexandriava.gov/publicart).

Created by artist and architect Michael Sivos and SOFTlab studio. Inaugural work for *Site/See: New Views in Old Town* temporary public art annual series.

Special thanks to: **Alexandria Gazette Packet**

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Renderings courtesy of SOFTlab.

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# OPINION

## Be Part of the Pet Gazette

**T**he Pet Gazette, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 22.

**EDITORIAL** We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

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## State Tax Plan Could Do More

BY CHARNIELE HERRING  
DELEGATE (D-46)

**A**midst continuing revelations in the lives of the top three elected officials in Virginia's state government, the legislature continues to work toward a final budget and tax conformity policy. Normally, tax conformity is handled early

**COMMENTARY** in session and is not a controversial subject. This year however, in the wake of the Trump Tax Plan, it has become a highly politicized issue as members of the Republican Caucus have used it as a chance to change tax policy.



Now that we have the Governor's proposal and the House and Senate versions in conference committee, it is time to look at the tax plan that is the focus of our budget.

SB 1372 is the legislation carrying the conformity plan with additional changes in the wake of new federal tax policy. It has a needed increase to the standard deduction, moving it up to \$4,500 for individuals and \$9,000 for married couples. It also offers a nonrefundable credit of \$110 or \$220 this fall for most tax filers. But, these two provisions aren't enough to boost all of Virginia's working families and provide nothing for Virginia's lowest-income working families, many of whom are families

of color.

This legislation leaves out policies that provide a targeted boost to low-income working families, like improving the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). If an increased standard deduction is not paired with a refundable EITC, the plan will not provide much relief to a large segment of taxpayers. According to the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, taxpayers with incomes below \$20,000 would receive less than the maximum benefit from the increased standard deduction and in many cases no benefit at all. African American households represent about 31 percent of Virginia's households with income be-

SEE STATE TAX PLAN, PAGE 12

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Plague of Potholes

To the Editor:

As I drive around Old Town, I continually come upon numerous pot holes that have obviously developed over the winter. Luckily, to date, I have not been the victim of a blown tire or worse.

I fully realize that the city does have a pot hole repair number and that they are generally attentive in responding to the citizens cry for help. The city's normal repaving plan for its 550 miles of roads is to pave 50 miles each year. This is probably insufficient for this year's crop of potholes. (Hopefully the roads closest to your home are not scheduled for year 11).

It is evident that the city is totally overburdened this year, therefore they need to step up their game, and need to dedicate more resources to the problem. This is indeed a safety issue that needs the city's immediate attention.

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

#### Hero and Dancer

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the members of the John Alexander Chapter of the DAR (National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution) for participating in the George Washington Day's Parade. By marching, they and other patriotic organizations recognize America's heroes such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln as well as so many unknown American men and women. George Washington, however, was exceptional. He was the first to stand out for his leadership, first as a Virginian, then as a general during the American Revolution, and then as a statesman during the writing of the U. S. Constitution in 1787 and throughout America's early history. He was the steward of this nation. As a man, he strove to be considered an exemplary leader by winning the respect of those he cared for. His achievement was to establish a strong and viable nation.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY DIANA BANAT

**Valentine's Day 2019** At the waterfront.

### Alexandria Gazette Packet

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

George Washington was a man of determination and fortitude. He was exacting of himself and those who worked with and for him.

He was also a pleasant person who sought to make life enjoyable. One example, which shows his appreciation of graciousness and of politics, was his interest in dance. He realized that if he became an excellent dancer he would be asked to attend important social gatherings in Philadelphia. This would allow him to meet persons of consequence and explain his political projects and concerns. With determination, he set upon his task and became a very able dancer who was invited to social events on a regular basis. This access was important. Besides enjoying political conversation on these occasions, Washington also enjoyed the smiles and conversations of those he danced with.

**Linda Greenberg**  
Alexandria

## Supporting Vision Zero

To the Editor:

I've read with interest the arguments made for and against Alexandria city's Vision Zero policy. I would like to offer my own thoughts on the matter from the perspective of a pedestrian and bicycle rider.

Living near the Masonic Memorial, I usually walk or ride my bike to get to the waterfront, King Street Metro and North Old Town. When there's gridlock in Old Town I've found a bicycle is the quickest way to get around. But our streets are not safe enough; we still have people being

seriously injured or killed on our city streets each year. Even if you never walk or ride a bike yourself, every neighbor who does is one less person contributing to the worsening gridlock.

Like myself, many of our millennial residents eschew cars and would rather choose mass transit, bicycles, walking or use scooters to get around our city. This is good news, because if we want less gridlock — which is what several of those against the Vision Zero stated is a problem — we need more residents to be like the millennials. But we need streets to be safer throughout the entire city — from the West End to Old Town, from Arlington's borders to Hunting Creek.

Should we deny citizens and millennials the safest possible streets? Discourage their quest to reduce congestion, noise and pollution? Keep streets dangerous to discourage them from having a healthy lifestyle?

The thoughtfully re-designed King Street reflects a holistic approach to accommodate all modes of transportation safely while moving traffic at a reasonable pace — precisely what Vision Zero espouses. I thank the city for implementing it.

I believe that Vision Zero increases the livability and safety for citizens and visitors.



## Snapshot

February swim at Waterfront Park.

PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

This is why I am an advocate for Vision Zero, it is the right policy to make our streets safer, because everyone benefits from safer streets, regardless of their age and travel choice.

**Rudolf Rojas**  
Alexandria

## Washington And Slavery

To the Editor:

Some have severely criticized George Washington for owning slaves and not freeing them until his death. Easy to say from

the perspective of a 21st century American, but the matter was complicated in our 18th century.

Slavery had existed on every inhabited continent from the earliest times. Slavery or death was the accepted fate of those defeated in battle. There were no serious scruples against it until the 18th century Enlightenment. The idea that rulers had absolute power was challenged by the English barons in 1215, and the 1688 Glorious Revolution reinforced the idea that the people held important power, but slavery continued in the British Empire until the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, and its ending was gradual.

Washington was born Feb. 22, 1732 into a society that accepted slavery as natural. He became a planter who depended on slave labor. He did recognize and reward ability: four of his five overseers were slaves. Trained male slaves became expert craftsmen and artisans. However, Washington's account books revealed that his costs for the slaves' food, clothing and shelter exceeded his income from farming. About the same time ideas of freedom circulated in Virginia as English rule became more burdensome. His close friend George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights which was adopted on June 12, 1776, the same day Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution for independence in Philadelphia, and Jefferson, using Mason's drafts, wrote our Declaration of Independence. If "... all men are born equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty ...", then slavery was morally wrong.

Washington wanted to end slavery for moral and practical reasons but doing so posed insolvable problems. His slaves had intermarried with the Custis dower slaves

he could not free, and he refused to split families. He needed workers for his various other businesses, including fishing and running his gristmill and distillery, which were lucrative, and his household. He doubted freed slaves would find employment because other planters feared they would give their slaves "bad ideas." Later, he feared his example of manumission would put so much pressure on other slaveholders to do so that the union would dissolve.

He chose not to sell or buy slaves and prepared his for eventual freedom. He bought the honey he enjoyed with his breakfast hoecakes so his slaves would experience earning, spending and saving money. He provided them with guns, fishing gear and time off so they would perfect skills to feed their families. They had plots for growing vegetables and herbs. They were taught to read so they could read the Bible and given time off on Sundays to attend church and enjoy chosen pursuits, including making salable items.

Washington recognized the services of slaves like James Armistead, a spy who supplied him and Lafayette with crucial information that helped them win the Battle of Yorktown.

Washington's will freed his slaves and provided money for the

education of the young and support for the elderly.

This Alexandrian led us to independence and the laying of a sound foundation for our national government; the solution to the slavery problem eluded the best minds of his day and afterward. Let's focus on our common heritage of freedom rather than refusing to honor the Father of our Country for failing to solve this problem.

I hope the city libraries will restore the custom of displaying the Washington Birthday Proclamation, having special events for children and featuring attractive exhibits. I would like the schools also to have special programs. There is no reason why only black history should be honored in February in Alexandria's libraries and schools.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
Alexandria

## History's Judgment?

To The Editor:

Last week I was pleased to read the letter written by Frank Fannon regarding the hysteria expressed over removing the recognition of a former Mayor Col. John

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

**Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette**

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## State Tax Plan Could Do More

FROM PAGE 10

low \$20,000 (compared to 19 percent of the state's population).

This plan largely restores the state and local tax deduction for homeowners with high property taxes, but it did not include an important provision to rein in tax avoidance by profitable multinational corporations with overseas profits.

At a time when it has become painfully crystallized the many ways in which racism affects our state, we must demonstrate a commitment to address the harms of past and present-day remainders of structural racism found in our system of government.

SB 1372 did pass the House of Delegates, but only after a number of Virginia Legislative Black Caucus members, including myself, would not support it the first time through on the House Floor. We were able to negotiate additional funding back into the budget for some important programs and institutions including diversion program funding to address the increasing conviction crisis, additional funding for two of our Virginia colleges, and additional funding to help some of the state's K-12 schools in the most need.

Even with the important items that were negotiated, the budgets passed in the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia come with serious problems for our community. The Governor's Budget included additional funding for education, healthcare, and housing programs. These programs were either slashed or severely reduced in the House and Senate versions of the budget. While some of this may change as negotiations continue and the conference

committees does its work, the overall picture in Virginia is worth consideration.

Direct aid to public schools is slated to be cut by \$143 million in the House budget (\$87 million in the Senate budget). That means that Alexandria City Public Schools will lose out on up to \$383,600 in direct aid to public education that was on the table this year. While some of this is in negotiation, it is interesting to note that the 18 school divisions with the most students of color, of which Alexandria is one, are impacted much more harshly than the 70 school divisions with the most white students. This is in addition to cutting \$15 million in need-based financial aid, at a time of growing college costs and student debt. These budgets also include stripping money from mental health programs for incarcerated individuals and vaccine programs for children. One of the most worrisome aspects is the massive difference in the Governor's proposal for the Housing Trust Fund, where the House reduced the amount included by \$19 million. This is especially worrisome for our region with ever increasing issues of affordability.

I voted for the House budget in order to move it into conference, where I hope that through negotiation we are able to restore some of these priority agenda items. Otherwise, I may not be able to support the final version of the budget when it comes back to the House Floor for a vote.

*Charniele Herring represents Alexandria City's 46th District in the Virginia General Assembly where she serves as House Minority Caucus Chair and on the Courts of Justice, Counties, Cities & Towns, and Agriculture, Chesapeake & Natural Resources Committees. Follow Herring online at [www.charnieleherring.com](http://www.charnieleherring.com).*



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Fitzgerald because he was a slave owner. Then later in the week the alleged black face minstrel incident many years ago by the Virginia governor which also the attorney general was later identified as a participant in bringing such outrage and condemnation by the current community.

I, like Frank Fannon, do not condone such incidents but where is the outrage from the legislative proposal by Kathy Tran, a Democratic delegate in nearby Springfield, who introduced a bill to legalize late term abortion?

Then our esteemed governor went on television and as a pediatric physician explained how such action would work. He explained how the baby could even be born and carefully wrapped in a warm blanket while the doctor and the mother decide whether and how, if desired, to end the life of the baby.

Evidently "Thou shalt not kill" doesn't apply to unwanted born or unborn babies.

Thank you Frank Fannon for bringing up this issue. Sure wish we could hear a voice from politicians, religious leaders, family members, and friends that wanted to raise the subject of protecting the unborn, who have no voice in our society.

God forgive us and have mercy on us for our complacency that has led us to acceptance.

Mr. Fannon is correct. A few generations from now, Americans will look back on this dark period in American history that killed so many babies in the womb since 1973 with deep concern and profound regret.

**Scott C. Humphrey**  
Alexandria

## Make Green New Deal Happen

To the Editor:

I support designing and implementing the Green New Deal, and I think all public servants, including Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, should do the same.

In the U.S, every citizen has either seen or experienced firsthand the danger and uncertainty brought on by the effects of climate change. We all have to grapple with the fear of living in a country in which the severity of hurricanes, droughts and wildfires continues to get worse for decades into the future. We hear talk of increased likelihood of epidemics and crop failures, and maybe are unable to guess what that might do to our society.

The only way we can make this situation meaningfully better for everyone is by adapting as a na-

tion. The Green New Deal represents the rallying cry of millions of people across this country who want to work together on that adaptation, and want to live in healthier, happier, more sustainable communities.

Adaptation means investing in a wide range of economic activities. Some examples are building storm walls in coastal areas, replacing paved areas with permeable surfaces to allow for cleaner groundwater, building water storage systems, and monitoring forest size and composition in wildfire-prone areas. Additionally, the capacity for power generation by sources like solar and wind needs to be scaled up, and the existing energy grid for houses and other buildings needs to be updated to rely on low-emission sources. These efforts represent a burst of economic activity that will create millions of high paying jobs, provide resources for people whose lives or jobs are disrupted by climate change, and make the climate safer for all Americans.

It is time we come together as a country to make the Green New Deal happen.

**Aidan Fielding**  
Alexandria

## Raising the Bar

To the Editor:

Kudos to the new Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools, Dr. Gregory Hutchings. Finally the system has a leader willing to challenge the conventional thinking that some students, because of a myriad of socioeconomic disadvantages, are forever relegated to mediocrity and, worse, failure. "Raise the bar for all kids, give them the necessary supports, and we will see them achieve." Wow!

Recent research validates Dr. Hutchings's approach. Prompted by the dismal state of public education in the United States, researchers have begun to study the reasons why other countries have become education powerhouses — e.g., Finland, Poland, South Korea. Their findings show that, while culturally such countries are widely diverse, their public schools share commonalities that any system could adopt, chiefly: (1) clarity of purpose, in all cases a focus on academic rigor; (2) high expectations of all students that they will not only reach but vault the bar of academic success; (3) prioritization of equity, channeling resources to the neediest students so that they can learn at the level of their peers; (4) principals who insist on academic rigor in every classroom; (5) teachers who themselves are highly educated, usually in the top-third of their graduating classes, and correspondingly well paid; (6) parents who recog-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

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# Identifying Descendants of Civil War-era Freed Slaves

Newly published book offers voices of slaves.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

These days, it can be simple to discover more information about distant relatives. With Internet access, a computer, and a few keystrokes, you can accurately add a branch to your family tree.

However, it's not easy when any of your family tree's branches are made up of relatives who had been American slaves. When websites don't get the job done, you turn to a professional genealogist like Char McCargo-Bah, the Alexandria native who identified the descendants of 171 of the Civil War-era freed slaves who had been buried in Alexandria's Freedmen Cemetery during the 1860s.

"Today people think that if evidence or any piece of information is not in a database, then it doesn't exist," said McCargo-Bah, who spent from 2008 to 2014 searching for Freedmen family members. "But, that's not true. Knowing how and where to look for data, I was able to find the descendants of 171 freedman and contrabands that the city of Alexandria had lost track. Some things I did: I went to the National Archives and the State of Virginia Archives where I was able to identify a lot of the southern slave owner names that appeared among former slaves in Alexandria. I researched the school board, the city directory, and consulted with people who my family knew in Alexandria. Then once I talked to a few family members of the former slaves buried in Freedmen Cemetery, it went viral and most everyone who thought their family was involved in the cemetery wanted to get in touch with me."

Don't let the "free" in Freedmen cemetery confuse you, either. Distinct from the rest of Virginia, Alexandria was Union territory during the Civil War. During this time, thousands of former slaves fled to Alexandria to seek both freedom and employment opportunities. And with the rampant disease that inevitably comes with a swelling population in a war torn region, Alexandria established Freedmen Cemetery for the specific purpose of laying to rest roughly 1,800 former slaves, many of whom known as contrabands.

The term "contraband," McCargo-Bah explained, was often applied to former slaves once they officially made it to places like Alexandria. It was a status that prevented them from being returned to their former masters.

"I had been a member of The Friends of Freedmen Cemetery when the City of Alexandria retained my services to finish iden-

tifying the descendants of the cemetery," McCargo-Bah said. "Alexandria needed me to find all the families in order to complete what now stands as the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial."

According to its official website, the Friends of Freedmen Cemetery was established in 1997 to promote the preservation and commemoration of the Freedmen Cemetery.

After tracing the living descendants of 171 of the buried contrabands and freedmen, McCargo-Bah chronicled the process in her first solo book, "Alexandria's Freedmen Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom." The book was published on Jan. 21.

"In doing genealogical research, you obtain as many records as you can in the research process, and by the time you complete the research, you end up having more information than you need," she said. "I still had it all after the dedication ceremony, so in 2015 I thought, 'I'm going to write a book.' It's about the contrabands whose families I found. For each family I found, I did a narrative about their person ... how they got to Alexandria. For each

chapter in the book, I introduced the Spoken Word in the voice of a slave. I wanted every family and every reader to feel the magnitude of what was going on with that period of time."

When McCargo-Bah first became a Friend of Freedmen Cemetery in 1997, she could in no way have imagined the significance – and complexities – that would come with the journey.

"Finding the descendants for the memorial was not as simple as I thought it would be," said McCargo-Bah, a genealogist of 38 years. "Even though I am African American and I was born and raised in Alexandria, it wasn't easy. With older African American, you must win their trust. You must understand the taboos in their culture. African Americans wouldn't talk to me until they could really confirm I was a 'home girl' – that, I was born there. And it made sense. It's genealogy, so it's personal."

"This part of history has always been difficult to talk about," McCargo-Bah said. "Slavery is not something easily discussed without provoking a lot of emotions ... instead of researching and discussing the issues that surround this period of time, it is easy for some people to overlook that part of history. The reality is that many freed former slaves were buried in places designated for African American people. After the Civil War, many former slaves were still associated with their former owners, they were buried on their owner's property. Some were buried at their master's church cemetery, if they still attended that church after the war."

"One of the biggest surprises, I encountered through this whole process was that only two out of 171 families knew their ancestors were buried at the Freedmen Cemetery, or that the cemetery even was



there," she said. "While this cemetery has no headstones, we have the burial ledger book that gave us the names of the deceased people. The burial records have survived and are at the Virginia State Archives, in the Library of Virginia in Richmond. I know of no other African American Civil War cemetery that has a list of names of people buried there. With the absence of headstones in this cemetery, we are fortunate that we have the burial ledger. The ledger reveals information that would have never been on the headstones."

Some of the unknowns surrounding Freedmen Cemetery exist because the gravesite itself was buried – hidden beneath a busy gas station – for so long.

According to the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial's official website, it was in 1864 that Union General John P. Slough designated a parcel of land at the corner South Washington and Church expressly for the burial of African Americans.

By 1870, the United States government had returned the land its original owners, though. It wouldn't be long before the 1,800 former slaves buried on the property were all but forgotten.

"The Catholic Church got it next," McCargo-Bah said. "Then they sold it to a person, who sold it to another person who put a gas station on it. That gas station was there for more than 50 years before the city bought the land. When they started digging for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction and renovations began in 2006, they started seeing the remains. The Freedmen Cemetery wasn't on the current map, so they had to go back and look at the Civil War map. That's when they realized what they were digging into. Archaeology came in, and they decided not to disturb any of the remains. I saw all of this playing out in the newspaper. I knew I had to get involved."

Finally, in 2008, the Friends of Freedmen Cemetery saw their work paid off when the city of Alexandria put the official memorial into their plans and enlisted the specific help

of McCargo-Bah.

"The journey to getting the cemetery registered as a historic place took a lot of hard work from many people," McCargo-Bah said. "The Friends of Freedmen Cemetery, the Office of Historic Alexandria, mayor and City Council members, Congressman Jim Moran and the developers of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge all played a part with the 2000 establishment of the historic sign and the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial was established in 2014."

"Knowing the names of these individuals opened a better interpretation of their lives prior and during the Civil War," McCargo-Bah said. "It's because of the Gladwin Ledger of Burials that their lives can be documented and connected to living descendants. Bringing light to these lives is important because their migration to Alexandria during the Civil War proved that freedom – both for themselves and for their children – was so extremely important to them that they were willing to die for it."

"Alexandria's Freedmen Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom" is filled with information and biographical information, but it is also so much more than a compilation of names, facts, and timelines.

"It was really interesting because a lot of the families connect to each other in multiple ways, so the book is made up of narratives about the families and how they all connect," McCargo-Bah said. "It actually took me several months to come up with the hook. It's structured where each person's story – each chapter – opens up with a first-hand narrative, an account in their own 'voice.'"

This structure resonates with the families, and with readers in general.

"I'm really enjoying the book," said Michelle Todd, McCargo-Bah's close friend and genealogy mentee. "She has a special section before each chapter called 'Spoken Word.' She groups families together who she found out were related. It's amazing what she can find. I'm always in awe of her. The way she wrote this book, you can feel these people's pain. You can envision them. You can feel everything. It's truly amazing."

As a genealogist, McCargo-Bah has a keen perspective as a storyteller in these cases.

"There was a banquet for the memorial when it was finished and ready for the public," McCargo-Bah said. "When I got up to speak, I was able to talk about each one of the families. I could give them something that others couldn't, because of the level of research that I'd done. I had very specific information."

With "Alexandria's Freedmen Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom," McCargo-Bah's quest with Freedmen Cemetery may officially be in her rearview mirror. However, only time will tell how many future genealogists she will inspire.

"I retired in 2014 from my full time job with the government, and now I'm devoting my time doing what I love to do: genealogy and writing," she said. "When Alex Haley released his book ['Roots: The Saga

SEE IDENTIFYING, PAGE 21

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# Black History Month: A Look at African American Art

Promoting and preserving a part of history.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Despite his predilection for visual arts, Allen Carter, an African American boy growing up in pre-civil rights era Arlington, might not have been granted entrance into some the nation's museums due to segregation. Still, he persisted, and years later he became a lauded artist, distinguished teacher and mentor to underprivileged children. And in February — African American History Month — his work is being shown in an exhibit, "Big Al Carter: A Retrospective," at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art. While his work is part of the permanent collections of both the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, this is the first exhibit of Carter's work in the Washington, D.C area since his death in 2008.

"Big Al's family has given us an incredible gift by sharing his art, allowing us to continue to reflect on his life, his art and his message for future generations," said Marty Schnider, president of Fred Schnider Investment Group and founder of Fred Schnider Gallery of Art.

As a painter, printmaker, sculptor and muralist, Carter, also known as "Big Al" drew inspiration from his life experiences,

art history and everyday life. He believed that his life's purpose was to use art to heal. "Art is my emotion. Art is my memories. Art is my life. I create the essence," he once said.

"He paints poor people, he paints people who are fishing or people who are having dinner at the table ... his work is very vast," said Carter's daughter, Cecilia Carter.

Carter's exhibit is particularly noteworthy to some African-American art historians who point to a recent study showing that just 2.4 percent of all acquisitions and gifts and 7.6 percent of all exhibitions at 30 prominent American museums have been of work by African American artists. The recent Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey of 181 art museums in North America found that African Americans are greatly under-represented in mainstream art museums as directors, curators, conservators and educators. Those who study African American art say that solving this dilemma requires a year-round approach.

"We can't just focus on it during Black History Month," said African American art historian Crystal Johnson, Ph.D. "These two statistics go to hand-in-hand and prove what we already know. We need more African American students to explore their ar-



**President of Fred Schnider Investment Group, LLC and Founder of the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, Marty Schnider with Allen "Big Al" Carter's daughters, Cecilia Carter (left) and Flora O. Stone (right)**

tistic talents and we need more students to take chance on a non-mainstream career and pursue jobs in museum administration. In order to make any changes, we need to have a seat at the table."

One such aspiring decision maker is recent a George Mason University graduate who landed a position as the co-curator of an exhibit at Howard University. "I'd worked with an exhibition, but I've never had the chance to curate before. I was excited and

nervous," said Kourtney Riles of the exhibit called, "An Examination of Feminist(s) Subjectivity in Modern and Contemporary African American Art."

Art plays a vital, but often overlooked role in African American history, not just during Black History Month, but all year long, advises Angela Black, who has taught art history. "Art is a way of preserving our history," she said. "It tells our story and we need more professionally trained artists who can do that."

Carter's exhibit, which features rarely seen artwork from his daughters' private collection, runs through March 3 at the Fred Schnider Gallery of Art, 888 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. Several pieces will be available for sale.

"The exhibit and his work reflect everything that he's been through, what he's seen, and what other people have been through and seen," said Big Al's daughter Flora O. Stone, Carter's daughter.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Pipeline Playwrights Presents 'The Wish'

Play reading to be held at MetroStage Feb. 25.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Pipeline Playwrights is kicking off its Winter/Spring 2019 Reading Series with a play by its newest member, Crystal Adaway of Mount Vernon, and her dark and twisty comedy, "The Wish." The staged reading will be held Monday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria.

The play follows Barbara who has been wishing for the same impossible thing for 12 long, bitter years. For her 50th birthday, Barbara's daughter, Bonnie, concocts an elaborate scheme to make that wish finally come true. Will her combative sister, Lyla, bring it all crashing down? This dark comedy explores the twists and turns of family dynamics, choices, and accountability, says Adaway, a visual arts teacher and screenwriter.

"I wrote the first draft of 'The Wish' more than seven years ago. It was about half the length and explored a much darker subject matter. It was decent, but the characters needed greater depth and I wasn't happy with the ending, which felt like a runaway truck barreling into brick wall. No cushy gravel pit on that ramp. I set it aside for a

few years and worked on a screenplay and some other stage plays," she said.

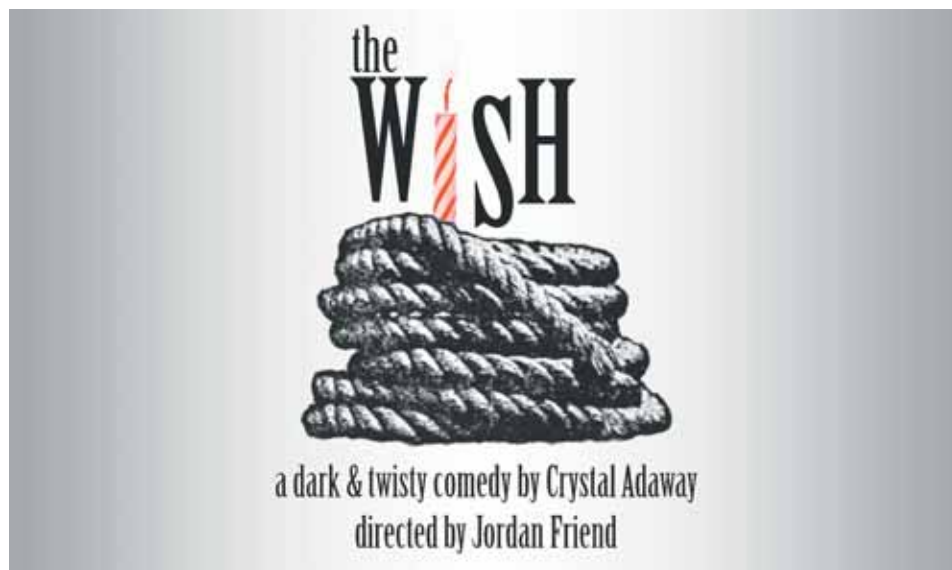
Last spring, she was invited to become a member of Pipeline Playwrights and presented with the opportunity to have a reading at The Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage New Play Festival. "I knew immediately that I wanted to dust off 'The Wish' and give it new life," she said. "Over the summer, and since, I worked to give my characters greater depth and humanity, as well as create a new ending that satisfies. It was quite well received at Page-to-Stage in September, and I've done some tweaking based on the helpful and insightful feedback I received from that audience."

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia who have decided to work together to support each other's work and get women's voices into theatre. The group's other members are Jean Koppen, Ann Timmons, Patricia Connelly, and Nicole Burton.

Adaway said her main intent in writing the play was to create compelling characters and a story that sucks in the audience from the first moment, holds them tight, and throws them for a twist at the end. "I wanted to explore the complexities of family relationships — sisters, mother, father, daughters, husband, and wife — and how our words and behaviors have long-lasting effects on the people we are supposed to love the most," she said.



Crystal Adaway of Mount Vernon wrote "The Wish."



A reading of "The Wish" will be presented on Monday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria.

As far as audience takeaways, she hopes they will enjoy the ride. "On top of that, I want what every playwright wants: I'd love for them to want to think about and talk about the characters and the plot and the questions the play raises — not only when they're leaving the theater, but weeks later when they're alone in their cars in traffic, or sitting down for drinks with a friend who loves a good story," she said.

"The Wish" is directed by Jordan Friend and features the talents of Annette Mooney Wasno, Ned Read, Angela Kay Pirko, Kira Burri, and Shaquille Stewart.

In her other works, Adaway's screenplay, "Bangers & Mash," was a finalist in the Virginia Screenwriting Competition. Her other plays include: "The Splintered Tale" (co-written with Jake Baskin); "Give & Take;" "Hoot-Nanny;" and "The Christmas Card;" which will be featured along with four other

short plays in Pipeline Playwrights' 2019 Capital Fringe production to be held in July. Adaway is a recent alumnus of The Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive, and she is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Next up in the Pipeline Playwrights' Reading Series will be "Rebellion in the Heartland," by Patricia Connelly — March 18; "The Best Worst that Can Happen," by Jean Koppen — April 8; and "The Whole is Greater," by Ann Timmons — April 29.

Pipeline Playwrights will present a reading of "The Wish" on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. The show is free, with a suggested \$10 donation. Stay for the post-performance discussion and reception with the cast, Crystal Adaway, and all the Pipeline Playwrights. Visit them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/](http://www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/)

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Photography Exhibit: Fax Ayres.** Through Feb. 24, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**"Three Sistahs."** Through Feb. 24, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. "Three Sistahs" is an intimate musical which exposes the souls of three strong independent women as they gather together in the family home one last time. Tickets are \$55 with student and active military and group discounts available. Four or more tickets are \$50 each. Call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

**Winter Golf.** Through Feb. 28, try the

indoor studio at Pinecrest Golf Course's Valis Family Golf Learning Center, featuring three indoor hitting bays or a private session with the TrackMan Golf Simulator Suite (five person max.), both reserved by the hour. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf).

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 21

**African-American Experience During the Civil War.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, Audrey Davis, the Executive Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, will lead a conversation on the African-American experience during the Civil War. The lives of Contrabands in occupied Alexandria, how they worked, survived and succeeded in moving towards freedom will be discovered. Furthermore, as the only Alexandrian that consulted in the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," she will lend insight into the making of the show. \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Lecture: Did You Know?** 7 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Presenting

interesting and little known facts about George Washington. Rather than focusing on one aspect of George Washington's remarkable life in some detail, Professor Henriques will touch on a variety of interesting and relatively little-known facts about Washington, including some that are not very complimentary. \$12 per person, \$10 for members of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby's Tavern Museum volunteers. Tickets available online at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 22

**George Washington's Birthday Celebration.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington's birthday by visiting his home and burial site free of charge. The traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's Tomb takes place at 10 a.m. followed by Mount Vernon's official celebration on the bowling green including a keynote speaker and 21-gun salute to the first president. Special military demonstrations and patriotic music

will follow at 11:15 a.m. Mount Vernon celebrates Washington's 287th birthday with a naturalization ceremony. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

**Mount Vernon in AR.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate Washington's love of emerging technologies with the estate's formal debut of "Mount Vernon in AR" tour with immersive 3D imagery layered over a view of the real landscape. Holograms of George and Martha Washington, 360-degree recreations of former buildings and gardens, and images of artifacts placed in their original context, are among the many tools used in the one-of-a-kind storytelling. This tour is \$12.50 in addition to general admission. "Mount Vernon in AR" availability is weather dependent. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

**Movie Matinee - "The Hate U Give."** 3:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Artist Reception.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The

Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative features more than 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent. Returning for 2019's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit [ourconvergence.org](http://ourconvergence.org).

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 22-23

**Tales from the Nest.** 7:30 p.m. at Evolution Home, 6239 Shields Ave., Alexandria. Featuring an evening of comedic short plays, written by local playwright, Veronique Autphenne. These tales offer a snapshot of family life and relationships in the beautiful, flawed, absurdly competitive, and often hilarious suburbs we call home. \$15. Tickets available at [eventbrite.com/e/tales-from-the-nest-tickets-55087694778](http://eventbrite.com/e/tales-from-the-nest-tickets-55087694778).

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 23

**Screen-Printing Activity for Families.** At Alexandria Black

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# ENTERTAINMENT

History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Materials are limited, so reservations are encouraged via Office of Historic Alexandria website. This event is co-sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the City of Alexandria Office on the Arts. Free. Reservations strongly suggested. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Madeira Tasting.** at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Learn about early seaports in America through the lens of Alexandria's recent archaeological excavations and sample the Rare Wine Company's "Historic Madeira Series." Taste a variety of madeira wines from Rare Wine, Inc. that were created specifically to showcase regional preferences along the nation's coastline - from Boston to Savannah. \$50; all proceeds benefit Alexandria Archaeology's #SaveOurShip preservation campaign. Tickets available at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Opening Expo for New Patrick Henry Recreation Center.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave. The Opening Expo will feature free activities for all ages, including class demonstrations, fitness room and functional fitness demos, soft play room use, exhibitors, summer camp information, facility tours, face painting, DJ music, and a "meet and greet" with center staff. On-going class demonstrations will include yoga, boxing, creative arts, tumbling, martial arts, tai chi, basketball, performing arts and more. For more information, visit the event page on the City Calendar. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation) or contact the Patrick Henry Recreation Center at 703-746-5557.

**Specialty Tour: A Complicated**

**Hospitality.** 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Through the stories, experiences, and archival traces of those enslaved by John Gadsby, consider how the nuances of urban slavery expand the understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available. \$15 per person, \$12 for Gadsby Tavern Museum members. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**Talk on Urban Agriculture.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Discussion on Urban Agriculture - "Grow What You Eat: Starting Your Own Vegetable Garden." Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting a site, and evaluating and improving soil. Find out which plants grow best locally, which are best planted directly via seeds and which are typically transplanted as seedlings. Discover how to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. Learn to identify and manage pests, weeds and diseases. Get free seeds and a vegetable garden calendar customized for the region. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Sweet Sophia local honey product tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**A Breath of Floral Sunshine.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Create a lush compote arrangement that holds the promise of spring. Join Certified Floral Designer Betty Ann Galway for the



## Fun Dog Show & St. Patrick's Day Parade

More than 2,000 participants will march in the parade, including dog rescue groups, pipe and drum bands, the Notre Dame Alumni Band, historical re-enactors, Shriners and Kena cars, and Irish dancers. Parade-goers come early for the Fun Dog Show on Market Square, which benefits the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. More than 30 costumed dogs will compete in a range of categories, including Best Human/Canine Look-Alike, Most Talented and Most St. Paddy's Spirit. The dogs will then kick off the parade. The parade starts at King and Alfred streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshaners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Saturday, March 2, Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Visit [www.ballyshaners.org](http://www.ballyshaners.org) for more.

"Floral Design Workshop: Dutch Design." Designed for participants age 16 to adult. \$39 per person, plus a \$30 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**George Washington Symposium.** 1-4 p.m. At George Washington

Masonic National Memorial. Free. The theme is "George Washington: Symbol of an Age." The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Mark Tabbert,

the Memorial's director of collections, serves as the symposium's master of ceremonies. Attendees are asked to pre-register at [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org).

**Civil War Winter Drill Day.** 1-4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Members of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will interpret the life of the Union soldier. The program features drills, discussion of equipment, uniforms, weaponry and army life, and information on the popular field of Civil War reenacting for military and civilian interpreters. The public will be invited to "fall in" with the troops and learn some basic drill maneuvers. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Alexandria Big Band Winter Bash.** 4-5 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. Hear some of the biggest #1 hits in Alexandria's fun-filled Big Band Winter Bash featuring the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band. Free. Call 703-920-8675 or visit [bigbandwinterbash.eventbrite.com](http://bigbandwinterbash.eventbrite.com).

**Birds' Courtship Rituals.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. In springtime, a young bird's fancy turns to thoughts of love. Sign up for the "Evening Woodcock Walk" and journey through the park with a guide to one of Huntley's largest meadows. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his elaborate courtship dance and flight. This program for adults involves a walk of approximately 1.5 miles on uneven terrain. Cost is \$9. Bring a flashlight and meet at the South Kings Highway entrance to the park. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/)

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# Urbano 116 Brings Fresh Fare to Lower King

BY HOPE NELSON

**F**ans of Mexican food, rejoice: The fresh, festive fare has carved out a new location on lower King Street. Urbano 116, the latest concept from Common Plate Hospitality, opened its doors Dec. 21 and has begun to settle in some seven weeks on.

“I’d always wanted to do a Mexican restaurant; that’s always been my dream growing up,” said Common Plate co-founder Chad Sparrow. “... I couldn’t ask for a better location because there’s no other Mexican down there really on the lower part of King.”

The tacos, the enchiladas, the tostadas – it’s all there. As well as a passel of surprises that may delight – or, sometimes, challenge – new customers. All of this is the grand plan of Chef Alam Mendez, a Mexico native who moved to the United States specifically to take the helm at Urbano 116.

When touring Mexico to firm up ideas for Urbano 116, Sparrow said, the team met Mendez. The rest fell into place over the course of the following weeks and months.

“The best food I had (in Mexico) was at his restaurant there, so I asked him would

he consider coming over to train me and the staff in traditional cooking methods of moles and tortillas,” Sparrow said.

Mendez agreed and came to visit the States, trained the culinary team and “we really kind of hit it off and we had very similar visions,” Sparrow said.

After a series of back-and-forth discussions, Mendez decided to pick up stakes and make the move to Alexandria, where he’s settled in as the restaurant’s top chef, whipping up the likes of carnitas tacos and mushroom soup on a daily basis. Some dishes customers will find inherently familiar; some dishes, perhaps not.

Either way, Sparrow warns, don’t come in expecting a typical Tex-Mex style experience.

The portions, he says, aren’t as gargantuan as many of the region’s Mexican restaurants have set as precedent. And the menu items? Alongside the familiar, one will also find chapulines – heirloom, farm-raised grasshoppers that “taste almost like a sunflower seed a little bit,” Sparrow said – as well as the likes of cactus, which is “also a unique thing to try as well.”

But don’t let the food get in the way of a good cocktail. Urbano 116 prides itself on its mezcal program. The bar currently boasts 16 varieties of the smoky-tasting li-

## If You Go

**Urbano 116, 116 King St.**

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday.

**Try this:** The corn tortillas. “A lot of people have a thing in America against corn tortillas, which I understand because they’re made with masa flour,” Common Plate Hospitality co-founder Chad Sparrow says. Urbano 116 grinds the corn, imported Oaxaca, in-house for a fresh final product. “The only ingredients are corn and water.”

quor and has its sights set on more as time goes by.

“A huge thing that they do in Mexico when you sit at the table is instead of a glass of wine, you get a mezcal,” Sparrow said. At Urbano 116, patrons can drink the liquor like a shot or try it mixed into a cocktail – of which the bar has several.

The Old Oaxacan, for instance, is a Mexican take on an old-fashioned, mixing mezcal with agave syrup and bitters, allowing the savory undertones of the star ingredient to shine.

As spring finally dawns, keep an eye out for a churro window to open up, serving the sweet pastry treat to King Street pedestrians as they saunter by. Sparrow hinted at the possibility for street tacos, as well – to be ordered right there on King Street.



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON

## Urbano 116 at 116 King St.

A new restaurant, new cuisine, new chef, new customers – it’s been a busy winter for Common Plate Hospitality and Urbano 116. But Sparrow is taking it in stride.

“We’re really thrilled about it,” he said.

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

## CALENDAR

huntley-meadows.  
**Annual Washington’s Birthday Gala.** 5:30-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:45 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial’s Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$150. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit [www.GWMemorial.org](http://www.GWMemorial.org) or call 703-683-2007.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 24

**Mikah Meyer Discussion.** 9:30 and 11 a.m. At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Meyer, a national parks adventurer and National Cathedral countertenor singer, will share music and a message inspired by his nonstop, three-year road trip to all 418 National Park Service sites. Come hear how the church has played an inspiring role in this project. Following services at 12:15 p.m., there will be a light lunch and Q&A session with Meyer in the church fellowship hall; the lunch event is free and no RSVP is required. Visit [fairlingtonumc.org](http://fairlingtonumc.org).

**Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Get tips from horticulturalist Karen Rexrode as she leads a lecture on the “Uncommon Cut Flower.” She will share some of her favorite plants that are both beautiful ornamentals in the garden and unusual cut flowers. Adults. \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring) or call 703-642-5173.

**Walking With Washington Tour.** 2-4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor’s Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. 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, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, Wise’s Tavern, Duvall Tavern/Charles Lee House, Gadsby’s Tavern, Washington’s townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, the “Light-Horse” Harry Lee house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria’s George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Free. Visit [washingtonbirthday.com](http://washingtonbirthday.com).

**Artist Talk: Fax Ayres, Photography.** 2:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Fax Ayres’ photography employs a ‘lightpainting’ technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Fax Ayres lives and works in Charlottesville. The exhibition runs Jan. 10-Feb. 24, 2019. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser.** 5-7 p.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Come for an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. All are welcome. The event is free, but donations are encouraged: all proceeds go toward the summer Sr. High Mission Trip. Contact Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or [rusty@pohick.org](mailto:rusty@pohick.org), or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

### MONDAY/FEB. 25

**Whither Landmark: What Happens After Wonder Woman?** 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Find out

about the Howard Hughes Corporation’s big plans for a redeveloped Landmark Mall, which will be an open-air mixed-use community with retail, residential and entertainment. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with \$35 membership, payable on-line at [www.AgendaAlexandria.org/sign-up](http://www.AgendaAlexandria.org/sign-up) page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner, if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit [www.Agenda:Alexandria.com](http://www.Agenda:Alexandria.com).

**Manumission Tour Company.** 7:15-8:30 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. The Manumission Tour Company brings the knowledge from their manumission walking tour to the Barrett Branch Library for an evening immersed in the history of African-American Alexandrians. Free. Visit [alexlibraryva.org/event/1557299](http://alexlibraryva.org/event/1557299).

**Liberated Muse Arts Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Liberated Muse Arts Group Presents: “Zora Past the Sun” a musical and poetic tribute to Zora Neale Hurston. Call 703-746-1702 or visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

**Reading “Sapphira and the Slave Girl.”** 7-8:30 p.m. at Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Dr. Janie Mitchell returns to Duncan to lead a discussion of Willa Cather’s “Sapphira and the Slave Girl.” Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

**Journalist Jim McElhatton.** 7-9 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Talk with journalist Jim McElhatton as he highlights 60 Years of Integration of Alexandria Schools and the stories of ordinary people

who helped change civil rights in Alexandria Schools. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 26

**Preschool Storytime Class: Black History Month.** 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join in a storytime featuring picture books based on real people and events in African American history. Ages 3-5 with adult. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1702.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

**Amazing African American STEAM.** 4-4:45 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library - First Floor, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Hands-on art and science projects for ages 5+. No registration required. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1703.

**African-American: Keeping Heritage Alive.** 7-8 p.m. At Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Join in a special presentation of African-American: Keeping Heritage Alive by Sheila Arnold Jones in honor of Black History Month. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1705.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 28

**Ties that Bind Two Historic Homes.** 10 a.m. At Huntley Meadows, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Discover the connections between two of Northern Virginia’s historic properties. See the letter from Historic Huntley that’s on exhibit at Mount Vernon, and discover how slavery links the two homes. The program includes tours of the slave quarters at Mount Vernon and Huntley, as well as the mansion houses.

This tour for adults begins at 10 a.m. at Historic Huntley and departs for Mount Vernon at 11 a.m. The van returns to Historic Huntley at 3 p.m. The cost is \$64 per person, which includes van transportation and admission. The trip cancellation deadline is Feb. 13. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Preschool Storytime Class: Black History Month.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. At the Story Room at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join in a storytime featuring picture books based on real people and events in African American history. Ages 3-5 with adult. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1702.

**STEM Extravaganza.** 6-8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal School, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Scientists, young and old, are invited to create, learn and innovate with Grace Episcopal at their first ever STEM Extravaganza designed for children ages 3-13. This family-friendly evening will feature hands-on activities selected by Grace Episcopal School’s fourth and fifth graders. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit [graceschoolalex.org](http://graceschoolalex.org) for more information and to RSVP, or email [admissions@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:admissions@graceschoolalex.org) with questions.

**Film Screening: “Thicker Than Blood.”** 6 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. In recognition of Black History Month and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and to increase awareness about the “Getting to Zero Alexandria” campaign, the City of Alexandria will host a free screening of “Thicker Than Blood.” Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the 80-minute film will start promptly at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to register online. To register for the film screening or to learn more about Getting to Zero Alexandria or free HIV/STI testing services, visit [alexandriava.gov/](http://alexandriava.gov/)



# ENTERTAINMENT



## Handel's 'Messiah'

The Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir is rehearsing the "Messiah" oratorio which it will perform in its entirety with a professional orchestra at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 1 at the church, 1427 W. Braddock Road in Alexandria. Soloists are Michelle Kunz and Joshua Hong, Washington National Opera, and Sally Mouzon and Philip Pickens, San Francisco Opera. Free-will offering at the door. Champagne at intermission and reception following the performance. For more information, contact John McCrary, 703-998-6100 ext. 103.

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## CALENDAR

Health.

**"Soil Tilled by Free Men."** 7-9 p.m. At Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents "Soil Tilled by Free Men: The Formation of a Free Black Community in Fairfax County." Historians Susan Hellman and Maddy McCoy will discuss their study published by the Virginia Historical Society about the free black community on lands close to the Mount Estate, prior, during and after the Civil War. Visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/soil-tilled-free-men-formation-free-black-community-fairfax-county](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/soil-tilled-free-men-formation-free-black-community-fairfax-county).

**Tom Teasley and Chao Tian Performance.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two local music icons, world percussionist Tom Teasley and Chinese dulcimer specialist Chao Tian join forces to showcase tunes from their recent collaboration, Dong Xi. Cost is \$15/person. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**Opening Reception: For The Artist.** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. The diversity of expression and creativity in this exhibit is inspiring to artists and art appreciators alike. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/events](http://DelRayArtisans.org/events).

### MARCH 1-31

**Art Exhibit: For The Artist.** At Del  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**Spring Tasks for a Great Garden.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol shows participants how to prepare a garden for a beautiful spring. Learn what plants can and should be divided now, the most effective pruning techniques and more to set a garden up for fresh spring growth. \$18/person. Adults. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 656.6BC1 or call 703-642-5173.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade.** The Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Parade starts at King and Alfred Streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshaners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit [www.ballyshaners.org](http://www.ballyshaners.org).

**Home with the Herberts.** Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. John Carlyle's son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He

became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit [www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park) or call 703-549-2997.

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Crum's Hot Sauce tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Winter Lecture-Rose Care 101.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the fundamentals for selecting and growing fabulous roses. Lewis Ginter Botanic Garden horticulturalist Laurie McMinn will introduce participants to old family heirloom roses as well as many new roses that may become favorites. Adults. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 402.44A7 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Concert at St. Luke's.** 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire, spanning a variety of musical genres. Including recent film composer, Don Davis's works to Celtic to J.S. Bach and Debussy. Followed by a reception to meet the performers. Cost: \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit [saintlukeschurch.net](http://saintlukeschurch.net) for more.

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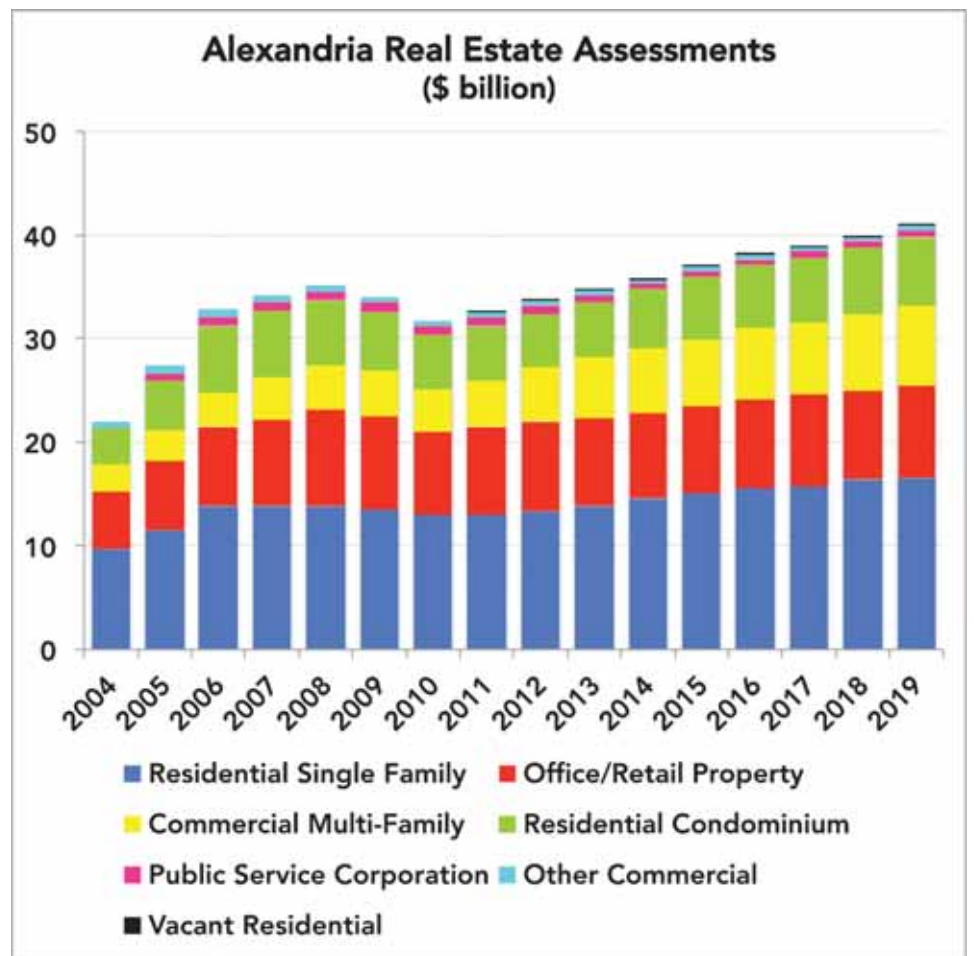
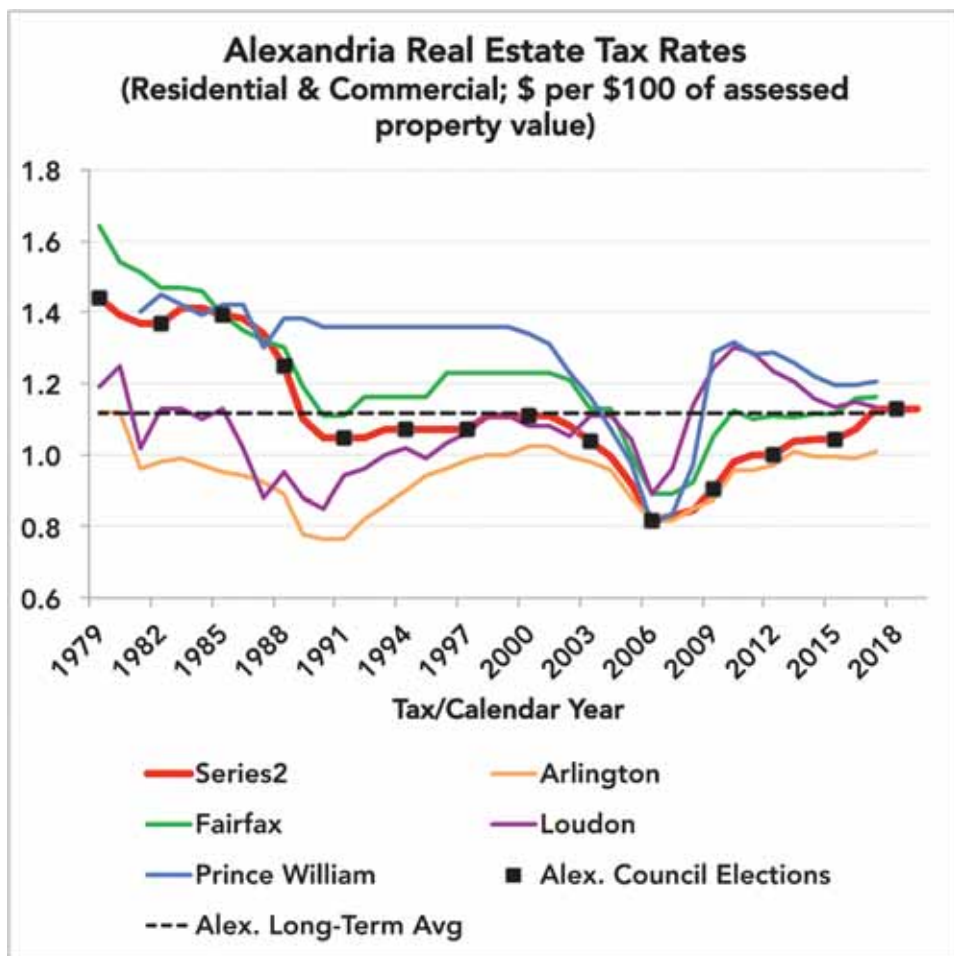
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# ‘Difficult Choices, Limited Resources’

FROM PAGE 1

due to an rise in 2019 property assessments. Overall, the tax base increased by about \$1.3 billion this year, reflecting a 2-percent increase in residential assessments and nearly a 4-percent increase in commercial assessments.

According to a city press release last week: “The average assessment for all residential property types, including single family homes, townhomes, and condominiums, increased 1.91 percent, to \$555,002. The average single-family home value increased 1.36 percent, to \$764,596. The average condominium value increased by 3.3 percent, to \$329,216.”

That translates to an annual tax bill increase of about \$118 for the average homeowner, said Jinks. He proposed maintaining stormwater and sewer fees at current levels, but would raise the trash/recycling fee and DASH bus fares.

Using a new method of reviewing city services — called “priority based budgeting” — city departments identified \$6 million in operating savings and streamlining of certain existing revenue streams.

“Of all net new revenue growth, two-thirds is devoted to the [public school system] and one-third to Metro,” said Jinks.

He highlighted his budget’s pursuit of certain “progressive goals,” under the headings of making the city more equitable, smarter and greener.

Equitable investments include adding a new “racial and social equity officer” position to the city manager’s staff. This person would help “develop departmental equity plans, review city recruitment and hiring practices, expand outreach to

underrepresented groups, implement nationally-recognized best practices, and build bridges to those in our community whose interaction with government is limited,” said Jinks.

The new racial and social equity officer represents one of a net 26.5 new full-time equivalent positions to the city’s workforce this year, bringing the total to 2,621. Though that still represents a net reduction of 29 full-time equivalent city positions since FY 2009. Jinks would also add funding for three new staff positions at the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, a separate by publicly funded group. These positions would help “increase proactive business recruitment” to the city, especially “to build on the success of the Amazon/Virginia Tech announcement,” he said.

On average, city employee pay will go up about 3 percent. Health insurance premiums will not go up for employees partici-

pating in UnitedHealthcare plans. Premiums will go up 11 percent on average for employees participating in Kaiser Permanente plans. Pending a pay competitiveness study, currently underway, certain positions may get a heftier pay bump. But on the whole, “it appears an overall pay scale adjustment will not be needed,” said Jinks.

Smart city investments would include transitioning the city’s Call.Click.Connect customer service system to a telephone-based 3-1-1 system; implementing a new system for electronic code permit applications and plan submissions; and constructing in FY 2020 a city-owned fiber optic broadband network, interconnecting municipal facilities. Among other things, the network would support new, adaptive traffic sensors and signals aimed at streamlining car traffic.

Green investments would include

transitioning the city’s vehicle fleet, including DASH buses, to electric and hybrid models; adding “energy audits” to municipal facility assessments; increasing the city’s goal for green building standards in municipal facilities; and keeping plans on track for the new Potomac Yard Metro station, which will remove an estimated 5,000 cars per day from Alexandria roadways.

Jinks would also increase the city’s operating contribution to Metro by over a quarter, to \$4 million.

The budget public hearing will take place on Monday, March 11. A second public hearing, following council-proposed adjustments, and including setting the maximum tax rate, will take place on Saturday, April 13.

For more, including the schedule for council budget work sessions, which are open to the public, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Budget](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget).

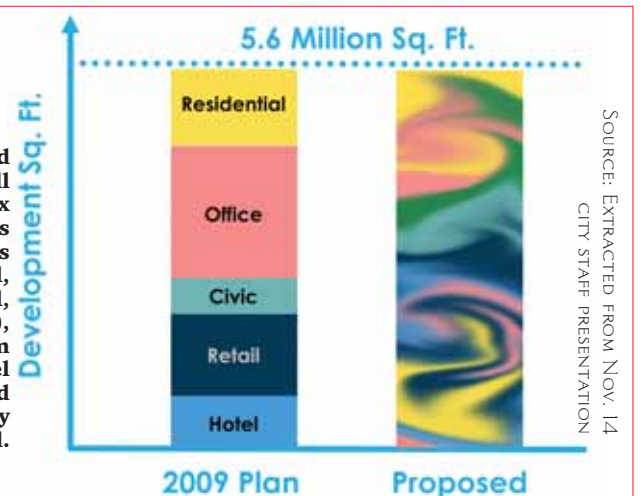
## City Closing in Mall Plans

FROM PAGE 1

for example, “saving up for college for their children, ... paying for daycare, ... bills, ... unexpected expenses.”

“Our signature in the West End is our diversity in our community,” said then Councilman-elect Mohamed “Mo” Seifeldin at the kickoff community meeting in November. “I would hate for us to lose what makes us rich as a city and a progressive city by having development that overlooks those people. ... I’d like to see more community support for affordable housing.” For more, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/LandmarkVanDorn](http://www.alexandriava.gov/LandmarkVanDorn).

**A redeveloped Landmark Mall site would mix building types and land uses (residential, commercial, public/civic), departing from an older model that would cluster them by kind.**





# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

nize that a rigorous education is critical to their kids' life choices.

What, according to these studies, are not conditions for success in education? To begin with, too many of the policies of failed systems are based on good intentions rather than evidence. And, contrary to conceived wisdom, success is not a function of culture, wealth, or privilege. In fact, the evidence indicates that money does not translate into quality education anywhere; for instance in Norway, where the per-capita income is the highest in the world, public-school student performance is mediocre, while in Finland, its much less-wealthy Scandinavian sister, students top the international academic charts. Nor are average class size, state-of-the-art facilities, and access to the latest technology critical to student achievement: one of Finland's best public schools is in a multiethnic immigrant neighborhood housed in an old building fenced by chain link; Poland's best has no cafeteria, no sports-playing field, and no high-tech toys for its students; South Korea's teaches hundreds of students in each of its austere classrooms.

Encouragingly, these success stories show that improvements don't take generations or even decades to achieve, but — with an unrelenting focus on rigor and high expectations for all students — can happen in the short term. A society does not have to wait until it fixes poverty or assimilates immigrants or resolves whatever erstwhile socioeconomic excuse has been given to explain educational disparities and to perpetuate discriminatory standards.

Dr. Hutchings's focus on the primacy of academic rigor and on applying the equity principle to achieve

it for all students is new to the public-school debate in Alexandria, even revolutionary. Heretofore, the perennial prevailing premise of well-meaning (and much-misnamed) "progressives" — heedless of the consistently regressive results of their education policies — has been that students who fail do so because they come from disadvantaged circumstances; consequently, high expectations for such students are futile, even prejudicial (!).

In your efforts to reverse this social injustice, Dr. Hutchings, know that you have many like-minded supporters throughout the city.

Judy Navarro  
Alexandria

## Identifying Descendants

FROM PAGE 14

of an American Family'] in the 1970s, it made us all realize it was possible to trace African history. My passion for it has only grown since then. For a lot of people, it was about 'getting back to Africa.' But, it was never like that for me. It has always been about uncovering truths and determining how people and families get where they are, and how they've found their place."

To learn more, visit Char McCargo Bah's blog at [www.findingthingsfor.com](http://www.findingthingsfor.com).

Also, join McCargo-Bah for her book signing at the Alexandria Black History Museum at 902 Wythe S., on March 9, at noon.

### Legals

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### Obituary



#### LAWRENCE HEMPHILL WATSON, JR. (AGE 88) "LARRY"

Larry Watson passed away on February 13, 2019, at his home in Alexandria, VA. Octa Raby Watson, his wife of more than 57 years, was at his side. He is survived by his wife, Octa, his children, Shannon Lynne Watson and Lawrence H. Watson, III (Valarie Evans), and grandchildren, Nathaniel Guthrie and Eliza Ashby Watson, to whom he was 'Padre'. Born in Cambridge, MD, on January 4, 1931, Larry was the son of the late Ruth Guthrie and Lawrence Hemphill Watson, Sr., of Appomattox, VA. A longtime resident of Alexandria, Larry was a leader in the Alexandria Kiwanis Club and First Baptist Church, Alexandria. He graduated from Appomattox High School, Appomattox, VA, in 1947, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, in 1953, and earned his M.B.A. from the University of Richmond in Richmond, VA. Commissioned in the U.S. Navy in June 1953, he is a veteran of the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a Lieutenant in 1978. He was a friend to all who knew him.

An inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place on a date/time to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Larry's memory to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, 3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 ([alexscholarshipfund.org/donate](http://alexscholarshipfund.org/donate)).

### Obituary

### Announcements

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### Legals

### Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, February 23, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 12-1-5 (TERM OF OFFICE) of Chapter 1 (SCHOOL DISTRICT AND SCHOOL BOARD) of Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND WELFARE) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

This ordinance updates the City Code to be consistent with Alexandria City Charter § 15.10, which provides that the terms of office of school board members shall commence on the January 1 following the members' elections.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 4-303 (SPECIAL USES) of Article IV (COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES), Section 7-103 (USE LIMITATIONS), Section 7-202 (PERMITTED OBRSTUCTIONS), Section 7-301 (PERMITTED OCCUPATIONS), and Section 7-2506 (ATTACHED GARAGES) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS); and add new Section 2-113.2 (ATTIC), Section 2-120.1 (BAY WINDOW), and Section 2-200.1 (TRELLIS) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2018-0015.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2018-0015 that makes practical updates to the Zoning Ordinance.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 045.03 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the properties at 1201 North Royal Street from, CD-X/Commercial downtown zone (Old Town North) to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, and the adjacent outparcel from, UT/Utilities and transportation to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2018-0006.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2018-0006, to rezone the properties at 1201 North Royal Street from, CD-X/Commercial downtown zone (Old Town North) to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, and the adjacent outparcel from, UT/Utilities and transportation to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article F (PERMIT PARKING DISTRICTS) of Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, by amending Section 5-8-84 (PAY BY PHONE PARKING FEE WITHIN A RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING DISTRICT). The proposed ordinance updates the City Code to continue the Pay by Phone parking fee son certain residential blocks, with modifications to expand the areas that can be eligible for the fee, to allow the Traffic and Parking Board to consider fee proposals for areas consisting of multiple adjacent eligible blocks, and to provide a procedure for removal of restrictions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Public Hearing and Consideration of a renewed Five Year License Agreement with Summit IG to permit Summit IG's existing conduits to remain in the City of Alexandria's rights-of-ways and to permit Summit IG to install fiber optic cable in existing conduits for telecommunication services, not cable television services in the City of Alexandria.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday MARCH 2, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK



## Enough About Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

At least that was my intention when I sat down to write this column. I was planning on highlighting a couple of my pet peeves: One was about people who back into parking spaces, an all-too common practice (which does not make perfect) that irks me no end and often inconveniences me while idling in my car waiting for the driver to crane his neck and coordinate his mirrors while backing into a head-first space, all while blocking my passage.

The second peeve also involves cars, but this action has potentially far more dangerous consequences: Drivers who, while motoring along, completely ignore my car's blinkers/indicator lights – WHEN THEY'RE FLASHING.

I was taught that when driving a vehicle and needing to turn/switch lanes, I was to indicate that to other drivers by using my blinkers, look into my mirrors and then move right or left accordingly. Moreover, when I observed those same lights flashing in other vehicles, I was to respect their intentions and give them a wide berth. I was not to speed up and interfere with their indications. Unfortunately, the exact opposite often happens.

Though I am still respectful when drivers flash their blinkers, it often happens that when many of my driving brethren see those lights, they react much the same way as a bull does when he sees red: they SPEED UP, and in their vehicle's acceleration, they put me and my passengers at risk. If it has happened once – which it has – it has happened a thousand times.

Unfortunately, neither of these car-related "misbehaviors" has been able to block out one of my key cancer anniversaries: Feb. 20, 2009, and as such, I will now be returning to the scene of the semi crime. And though I am not Billy Shears 20 years after the band taught me how to play, I am a lung cancer survivor who 10 years ago on Feb. 20 learned that I had cancer. That was the day when my primary care physician called me at work, about noon-ish on a Thursday to discuss the results of my previous week's surgical biopsy.

After declining the offer to come to his office, I encouraged him to just tell me – which he did: the growth was malignant. Dumbfounded, I asked for further details, which he politely deferred to an oncologist (a specialty with which I was totally unfamiliar), with whom, while we spoke on the phone, my primary care physician scheduled a Team Lourie appointment for the following Thursday.

This officially ended the diagnostic process which had been going on since I showed up at the Emergency Room on Jan. 1, 2009 complaining of pain in my right side, an inability to take a deep breath and difficulty bending over.

With an inconclusive X-Ray to not corroborate, an otherwise healthy patient with no family history of anything relevant – especially cancer, the doctor was perplexed. Fifty days later I learned I had cancer. And so I remember that day/date, a day which will go down in infamy, so to speak – in my family anyway.

The intervening days, as I have written about recently, were spent investigating the cause of my original symptoms. Eventually all test results led to one conclusion: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

Meaning metastatic and inoperable, meaning "terminal." It was Feb. 20 when I learned my fate. (The following Thursday, Feb. 27, is another anniversary; that's when we met my oncologist for the first time and learned that my life would never be the same, or last nearly as long.)

But yet here I am, alive and reasonably well, writing about nonsense, mostly, instead of cancer, for this week, anyway. Good therapy for sure, and a nice change of pace.

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

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## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

### THURSDAY/FEB. 21

**Virtual Information Session.** 7-8 p.m. The City of Alexandria will hold a virtual information session to outline plans for the university's Innovation Campus in Alexandria, and to answer related questions from the public. The interactive session will be accessible on the City's website and via cablecast on AlexTV (Comcast channels 70 & 1084). Panelists will give brief introductions, host a roundtable discussion, and answer questions from the public. Questions may be submitted in advance, or asked live during the online session, via text at 703-405-8902, or by phone at 703-746-3300. A recording of the session will be available online after the session ends. For details about the virtual information session and more information about National Landing, visit/alexandriava.gov/NationalLanding.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 22

**Job Search in the Digital Age.** 1:30-3 p.m. at City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center, 1800 N. Beauregard St., Lower Level Conference Room. Whether you're making a career change by choice or necessity, this workshop is designed to help those facing a career change make a smooth transition. Learn about job search engines; resume tips and how to age-proof a resume; keywords to get a resume noticed and tips for networking through LinkedIn. Free. RSVP at 877-926-8300.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 23

**City Council Public Hearing.** 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber (2nd floor), 301 King St. City of Alexandria staff have completed an evaluation of the Residential Pay by Phone Pilot Program using feedback from the community, parking occupancy surveys, and parking enforcement data and feedback. Staff will recommend making the program permanent and expanding the program area so that residents on blocks throughout the city near metered areas are eligible to petition for Residential Pay by Phone parking. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/ParkingStudies](http://www.alexandriava.gov/ParkingStudies) for more.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 24

**Food Justice.** 2:30-4 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 6362 Lincoln Road. Join FACS and Food for Others for a discussion on food justice in Fairfax County and how congregations can build community gardens at their place of worship. Free. Email [jackie@faithforclimate.org](mailto:jackie@faithforclimate.org) or visit [faithforclimate.org](http://faithforclimate.org) for more.

### MONDAY/FEB. 25

**Eisenhower East Small Area Plan 2019 Update.** 7-9 p.m. in the lobby of the Parc Meridian, 750 Port St. The City of Alexandria is launching the community process to update the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan with a Community Open House. The open house will provide members of the public with an opportunity to learn about the planning process and topics that will be considered. Visit [alexandriava.gov/92700](http://alexandriava.gov/92700) for background information, meeting materials and updates throughout this planning process. Questions? Contact Jose C. Ayala at [jose.ayala@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jose.ayala@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-3820.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

**Public Information Meeting.** 7-8 p.m. at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, 435 Ferdinand Day Drive. The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services Stormwater Management Division and the Department of Project Implementation will host a public information meeting to provide an update on construction and anticipated impacts related to the Ben Brenman Pond Stormwater Retrofit Project. Visit [alexandriava.gov/94755](http://alexandriava.gov/94755) for more.

### MONDAY/MARCH 4

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 6-7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no-obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email [Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov).



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