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MARCH 28, 2019



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Charlie and Robert Hill, sons of slain APD officer Charles Hill, stand with Charlie's wife Michelle and their daughters Eleanor, Laila and Audrey at the entrance to Charles W. Hill Park in Del Ray on March 22, the 30th anniversary of the death of their father.

Remembering Charles Hill

Community honors service of slain APD officer.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Employees, family members and friends of the Alexandria Police Department gathered March 22 at Charles W. Hill Park in Del Ray for a community park

clean up and to honor the memory of Corporal Charles Hill, the last APD officer to be killed in the line of duty on that date 30 years ago.

"When one makes the eternal sacrifice for the protection of Alexandria citizens, that sacrifice is never forgotten, even 30 years later," said APD

SEE COMMUNITY GATHERS, PAGE 9

Zoning, Pets and Religion, Oh My

In split vote, council approves poultry slaughterhouse.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

In a 5-2 vote, City Council approved on Tuesday, March 26, a controversial halal butchery that would house and slaughter live poultry on site.

Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Councilwoman Amy Jackson voted against. Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper voted in favor, but reluctantly, saying: "It wasn't the land use I had hoped for," but "it appears that there is not a legal leg to stand on" to deny it.

DC Poultry Market Corporation applied for a Special Use Permit to use the industrial building at 3225 Colvin St., in south central Alexandria near Duke Street, as a halal poultry slaughterhouse. Halal, an Arabic word from the Quran, means lawful or permissible. Customers would select live chickens for a butcher to slaughter on the spot and in keeping with Islamic law.

"Ritual slaughter ... [is] required for domestic cattle, sheep, goats, and fowl, which must be killed in God's name by making a fatal incision across the throat," according to the Oxford Dictionary of Islam.

With its throat slit, a chicken would bleed to death after about a minute, according to Abdulsalem Mused, DC Poultry's owner.

In addition to parking and traffic concerns common to many development decisions, a number of residents objected on grounds of animal welfare.

Some attending Tuesday's legislative meeting carried signs quoting the City Charter, which empowers council "to prevent cruelty to and abuse of animals," among other things.

At the March 16 council public hearing, Ellen Epstein, who runs a dog-walking business, said, "We really have a reputation and a community built around our dogs." She cited Visit Alexandria's

SEE POULTRY, PAGE 21

Families of the Fallen

Local veteran honored as TAPS marks 25 years of support for survivors.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Every Wednesday night, Kevin Penn gets behind the bar at The Light Horse Restaurant in Old Town. Penn recently became a co-owner, investing in the restaurant that was opened in 2008 by his friend John Jarecki. His weekly tips are his only income from the restaurant as he gets acclimated to the food service industry following a 20-year career in the Marine Corps.

As exhausting as his bar shifts

can be, Penn says it is worth every minute since those tips have a higher purpose: every dollar he makes goes to supporting the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS.

"I don't even count what I make at the end of the night," Penn said. "I just put it away and have this wacky idea that by the time I decide to count it, someone will step forward to match what I have saved in order to help TAPS families in some way."

TAPS is the leading national organization providing survivor sup-

port services for the families of America's fallen military heroes. Since 2010, Penn has volunteered with the organization as a mentor to surviving military children and, on March 6, he was honored as the 2019 Military Mentor of the Year at the TAPS 25th anniversary Honor Guard Gala at the National Building Museum.

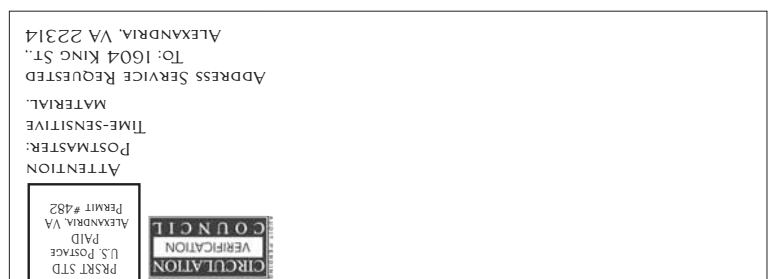
"As a TAPS military mentor and volunteer, Kevin has given selflessly to honor our nation's fallen heroes by bringing comfort and support to their surviving families," said Bonnie Carroll, TAPS

president and founder and 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient. "For so many TAPS children, Kevin has been a role model who keeps them connected to the military community and reminds

them that they are never alone."

More than 800 surviving military family members, supporters, congressional representatives and Pentagon officials attended the

SEE LOCAL VETERAN, PAGE 8





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Additionally, McEneaney Associates will MATCH all donations made to SCAN of Northern Virginia.

Learn more: spring2action.org

APRIL
27

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Gala

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center
 5000 Seminary Road
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Proceeds from this 33rd Annual Gala benefit SFA and help make college dreams come true for Alexandria's neediest and most deserving students to attend college. Have a great time for an amazing cause! Tickets:

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City's Health Department Celebrates 100 Years

The community is invited to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alexandria Health Department at an open house on Thursday, April 4, from 3 to 6 p.m., at the Health Department's main location at 4480 King St. This free public event will feature kiosks spotlighting each division, fire trucks, free giveaways and light refreshments. The community is invited to take a tour of the Health Department's facilities, learn about the services provided and meet the employees who make these services possible. The Medical Reserve Corps is also offering a Psychological First Aid Training, which teaches participants how to cope with emergencies and learn how to prepare, respond to, and recover from trauma. To register for this training, email ionela.lutai@vdh.virginia.gov or call 703-746-4978. For more information, including a schedule of events, visit alexandriava.gov/Health.



PHOTO BY DAN BRENDDEL/GAZETTE PACKET

City Council honored the Alexandria Health Department for "100 years of service, dedication, and exemplary commitment to the health and wellness of all Alexandrians" on Tuesday, March 26.

How To Define — and Provide — Affordable Housing?

Revised Resolution 830 won't require maintaining affordability levels for public housing redevelopments.

BY DAN BRENDDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

The City Council and the public housing authority will soon consider a revised agreement to replace demolished public housing with "substantially equivalent" units, but without prescribing maintaining rents affordable at the lowest incomes.

In 1981, the city government and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) agreed not to diminish the city's stock of 1,150 public housing units. ARHA administers federal housing programs in Alexandria, but is governed locally by a council-appointed board. The joint agreement, established in Resolution 830, requires, among things, that any demolished public housing must be "replaced by an equal number of either conventional public housing units, or ... [other] publicly assisted housing units." The latter must be "substantially equivalent to the units being replaced."

But the two entities' interpretations of what substantial equivalence means have

diverged over the years.

The city has tended to think of substantially equivalent replacement in terms of affordability at given income levels. The replacement for a unit currently serving a household making 30 percent or less of the area median income (AMI) — about \$35,000 for a family of four — would remain affordable to that (or a similar) family. Last year ARHA provided the vast majority of the city's housing options available to that lowest income stratum, while the private housing market provided none, according to city government data.

ARHA has tended to think of substantially equivalent replacement more in terms of the number of units than of hard-and-fast lev-

els of affordability. This view allows new units to target higher income households than the old units being replaced. ARHA leaders have long said they need this flexibility to ensure sustainable operations in a world of political and market uncertainties. They can't commit today to replace units tomorrow at the same low rents, since low rents might not cover debt service in tomorrow's environment of shrinking HUD subsidies and fluctuating financing conditions.

After months of negotiating new language, the two staffs' proposed revision would "reaffirm" their shared voluntary commitment to preserve the originally agreed upon stock of 1,150 units. The revision would also enshrine ARHA's preference for undefined affordability parameters: "The income level distributions ... will be in a manner that allows ARHA ... to secure

SEE AFFORDABLE HOUSING. PAGE 15

If ARHA is less and less able to fill that gap, "How do we as a city deal with that?"

— Councilman John Chapman

Fundraising Breakfast To Benefit OAR **Strengthening community through second chances.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Offender Aid Restoration (OAR) of Arlington, Falls Church and Alexandria is holding its 11th annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast on Tuesday, April 9 from 7:45-9 a.m. The event will feature the journeys of reentry into the community by several formerly incarcerated clients. Local and state officials will join community, business and faith-based supporters to highlight these efforts.

OAR assisted 2,014 participants in their program in 2018 including 635 men and women who received reentry assistance, both pre-and post-release and 1,432 men, women, boys and girls who were enrolled in the

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Community Service program which is an alternative form of sentencing.

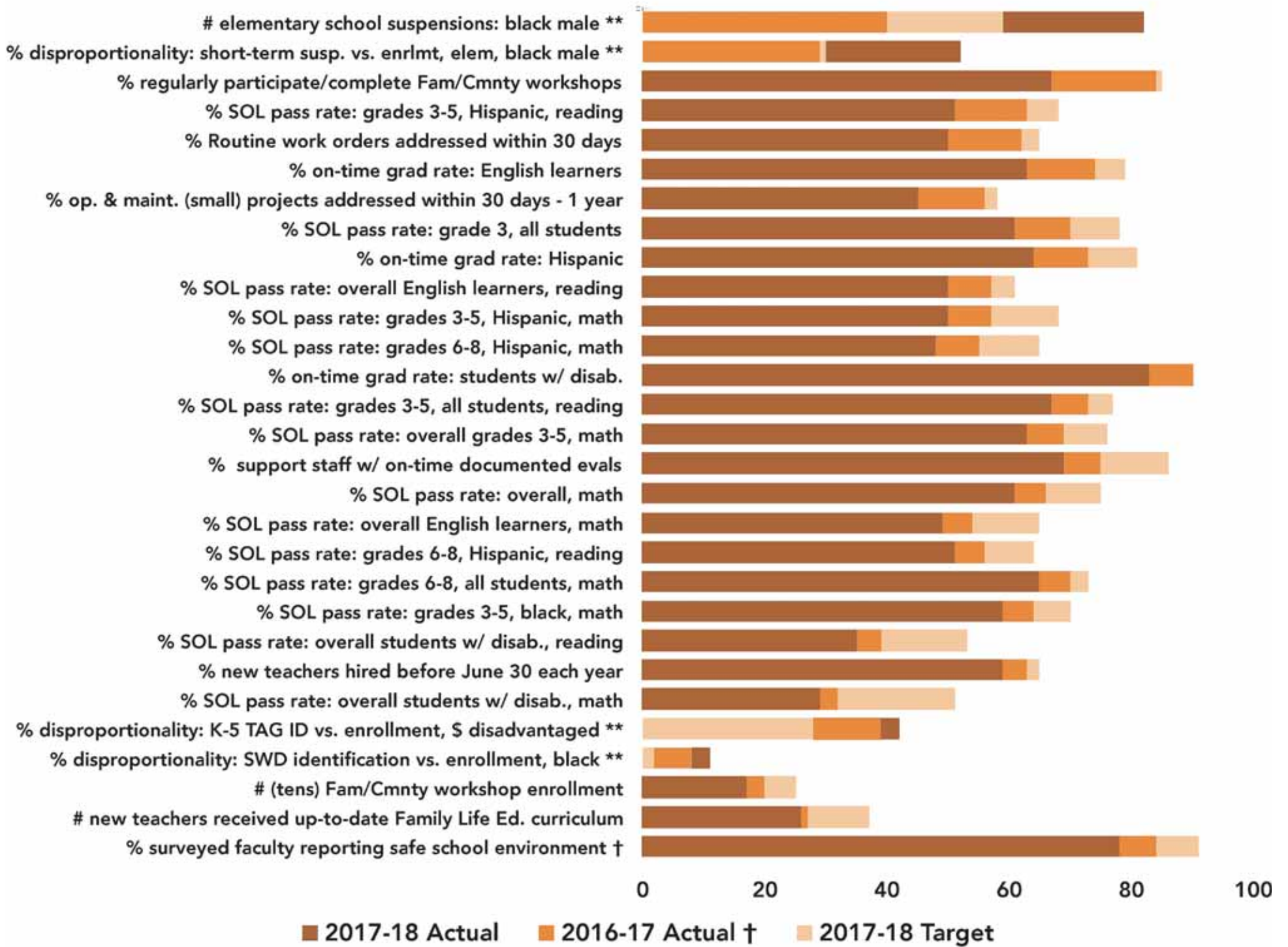
In addition, this was the third year of a new Intensive Reentry Program, which focuses on individuals still in incarceration to provide classes in essential life skills as well as case management and employment coaching. It targets individuals inside local detention facilities and the closest prison who are releasing individuals to Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church and who are at medium to high risk of incarceration based on a national assessment tool. Individuals in this program have a recidivism rate of 14 percent compared to 54 percent for a comparable population nationally. This free breakfast will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott at 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Offender Aid Restoration will host its 11th annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast on Tuesday, April 9.

ACPS 2017-18 "Key Performance Indicators" Showing Year-on-Year Decline
(Ordered by highest to lowest year-on-year decline)



** = lower score is better, † = decline from 2015-16 where 2016-17 data unavailable

CHART DATA SOURCE: ACPS 2020 SCORECARD FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Growing Achievement Gaps

Declining 2017-18 performance measures express “a clear message ... of needing a sustained focus on eliminating achievement gaps,” Clinton Page, the schools’ accountability officer, told the School Board last Thursday, March 21. The school division’s strategic plan, adopted in 2015, outlines numerous objectives for 2020, as well as myriad performance measures to track progress. Page likened these metrics to a car’s “check engine light” — “it’s not going to tell you why that light came on, but it will certainly illuminate potential areas for additional focus,” he said. Of 143 measures from the 2017-18 academic year, a little over half showed improvement compared to the year before. About a quarter each showed consistency or decline. Of those showing decline, half pertain to “achievement gaps” between demographic subgroups of students. Regarding pass rates on PALS, a literacy readiness test, School Board member Veronica Nolan expressed concern that some children are “not leaving kindergarten prepared.” For more, visit www.acps.k12.va.us/acps2020 and www.acps.k12.va.us/idashboard.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DONATIONS WANTED

Umbrella Drive. For those struggling to pay for rent or food, an umbrella can be a luxury. The Church of St.

Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, is collecting umbrellas during the month of April for neighbors in need. The umbrellas will be given to local nonprofits for distribution. Email office@saintclement.org or call 703-998-6166 for more.

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 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. Registration is limited, and all applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. The week-long camp is \$400 with available scholarships.



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Diane Field 703.915.4236
ALEXANDRIA / North Ridge-Rosemont \$ 2,700,000

Custom Georgian home - 5BR / 6 5BA / 5,000+ sf on private .5 acre wooded lot. Chef's kitchen; butler's pantry; living/dining rooms; library; family room; sunroom; luxurious master suite with large his/her closets; walkout basement. Hardwoods/ built-ins thru-out. Screen porch, terraces, pergola, pond with waterfall + more!



Mark Goedde 703.850.8129
ALEXANDRIA / King James \$ 1,348,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 3

1600 KING JAMES PL. Amazing upgrades throughout this elegant Colonial. Gourmet kitchen, unbelievable master suite has sumptuous bath, grand entry foyer with bent staircase, three fireplaces, awesome media room and an extended rear patio overlooking trees.



Brian Hong | Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
ALEXANDRIA / Alexandria City \$ 1,275,000

Over 3,000 square feet on 4 levels with NO HOA! This beautiful 4BR / 2.55BA townhome was completely gutted in 2000 and updated each year since. Viking appliances, Marvin Windows and more updates too numerous to mention. Great outdoor space. Must be seen!
Agents are Owners.



Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485
ALEXANDRIA / Clover \$ 885,000

This beautiful one level 3BR/2BA gem is turn-key ready for the next owner to enjoy. Wonderful light throughout, many updates, and excellent location. Huge attic can be finished for additional living space. Great closets and storage. Attached garage. Minutes to Old Town Alexandria, I-95 and I-395. Agent Owner.



Meg Tracy 703.864.3978
SPRINGFIELD / New Charleston \$ 749,000

Center hall Colonial with 5BR / 3.5BA, delightful front porch and fully finished walk-out basement. Renovated gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite, GE Profile SS, subway tile. Separate dining/living rooms + family room with gas fireplace leads to Trex Deck overlooking yard. Huge Master retreat + more. LOCATION!



Annelise Smith 703.505.2533
ALEXANDRIA / The Prescott \$ 625,000

UNDER CONTRACT IN LESS THAN 1 WEEK! Lovely 2BR / 2BA condo with 2 garage spaces. Open floor plan, freshly painted, generous room sizes, roof top patio with grills, lounge chairs and tables. Live in the heart of Old Town just 1 block to King Street and take advantage of Metro, shops and restaurants.



Mike Lekas 703.927.9895
ALEXANDRIA / Fairland Towns \$ 559,900

Completely updated from top - bottom, this all-brick townhome is the one you've been waiting for! Beautiful wood floors thru-out, 2 fireplaces, 2 spacious en-suite bedrooms, family/media room with full bath, custom landscaped back yard, and large deck. Convenient location near I-395, Mark Center, restaurants and bus.



McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885
ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Hall Village \$ 525,000

COMING SOON! 2BR / 3BA Beauty! Hardwood floors, spacious updated kitchen, large screened porch, fully finished lower level with family room and den/office area. Great Location!



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
FALLS CHURCH
Pinewood Greens \$ 500,000
OPEN SUN 2 - 4

2780 SIKES CT Golf course view with townhouse attached! Brand new kitchen, updated baths, freshly painted, new carpet, and deck. LL finished with full bath and bonus room, 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 1 half bath. Very near Mosaic, Dunn Loring Metro and Tyson's Corner. This sparkling and spotless home is move-in ready!



Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$ 270,000

Bright 3BR/1BA, unit freshly painted; hardwoods; crown molding; chair rail; wainscoting; updated bath; replacement windows. Extra storage, laundry room in basement thru adjoining entrances. Commuters dream with access to I-495, GW Parkway, Mt Vernon Bike/Hike Trail, Rte 1 plus Metro and bus.



Ellen Young 703.930.7617
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$ 230,000

COMING SOON! First level unit with laundry in building. Wood parquet floors throughout, with newer carpeting in the bedrooms. Replacement windows. Great community with many amenities, Belle View Shopping Center shops and restaurants, GW Pkwy, Beltway and Old Town. Near Metro and bus.



Jim Crowe 703.856.8244
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$ 220,000

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE zoned commercial on 2nd level with calm neutral colors offers front waiting room, 3 good sized offices, closets and full bath. Porch overlooking the grounds. Large LL storage unit and laundry in building. Parking. Belle View shops/eateries, GW Pkwy + more. \$31K annual income.



Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office
400 King Street | Alexandria, Virginia 22314 | 703.683.0400



PEOPLE

Chesley Retires from Parks and Rec

Family, friends celebrate 38 years of service.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Friends, family members and colleagues gathered March 22 at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center to celebrate the retirement of William Chesley, deputy director of Recreation Services, following a 38-year career with the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities.

Deputy City Manager Debra Collins presented Chesley with a proclamation celebrating his nearly four decades of service to the city. His positions over the years included center director at Mount Vernon Recreation Center; youth sports director; Chinquapin Park Recreation Center; division chief of the Sports, Pools and Physical Fitness Division; division chief, Centers, Playgrounds and Youth Sports Division; and, deputy director of the Recreation Services Division.

"I enjoyed my work and experience in all of these positions," said Chesley, who first joined DPRCA in 1980. "I have also had the privilege and honor to work and collaborate with so many of our city government partners and community affiliates and have learned and appreciated so much what our partners do to improve the lives of people from every walk of life."



Deputy City Manager Debra Collins presents a proclamation to William Chesley, deputy director of Recreation Services, on the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of public service at a reception March 22 at the Nannie J. Lee Center.

Mac Slover retired last June after 30 years with the Recreation Department and worked closely with Chesley for much of that time.

"I was fortunate to have worked under William Chesley many of those years and saw firsthand his commitment to excellence in the workplace, a love for providing quality programs to the citizens of Alexandria and positive opportunities for children to succeed," Slover said. "William's leadership and dedication will be sorely missed. He provided my former co-workers and me the platforms to be successful and was an influence on me."



William Chesley, left, is joined by his brothers John and Al Chesley at William Chesley's retirement celebration March 22 at the Nannie J. Lee Center.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Retired recreation department employees Lucky Elliott, left, and Mac Slover, right, join William Chesley and recreation staff employee Margaret Orlando at the March 22 retirement party for William Chesley.

Margaret Orlando, DRPCA Division Chief of Recreation Services, echoed Slover's comments.

"William Chesley was a role model and mentor to me throughout my career," Orlando said. "In addition to all the hours spent on the job, William was active in the community outside of work with several community service organizations. His commitment and dedication to his work and the city will be remembered and hopefully copied by those coming behind him."

Chesley, whose official retirement date is

April 1, was joined at the reception by his wife Sharon and brothers John and Al Chesley.

"I leave with one request," Chesley said. "Continue to strive to model and live these values in your work and related endeavors. I will do likewise as I truly believe that we can make a far greater impact on ourselves and others if we operate from a system of values that we all believe in."



William Chesley and his wife Sharon at Chesley's retirement reception.



Retiree William Chesley and Jim Spengler, director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Amy Biter and John Glennon Engaged

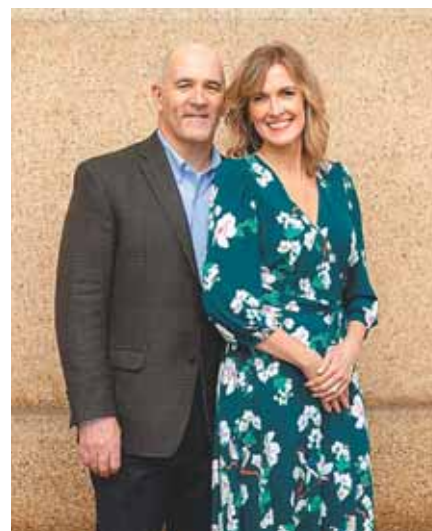
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Alvin Biter of Dickson, Tenn. are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy Elizabeth Biter, to John Daniel Glennon, son of Dr. John Patrick Glennon and the late Ann Sullivan Glennon of Alexandria, Va.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Alvin Biter of Cunningham, Tenn. and the late Mr. and Mrs. James Collier Lewis of Charlotte, Tenn. A graduate of Dickson County High School, and The University of Tennessee in Knoxville, she is employed by Hachette Book Group in Franklin, Tenn., in marketing.

The bridegroom is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. William F. Glennon of Boston, Mass. and the late Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Sullivan of Boston, Mass. A graduate of Bishop Ireton High School and The University of Virginia, he is employed by TheAthletic.com as a sportswriter covering the Tennessee Titans and the Nashville Predators.

A May wedding is planned at Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

John Glennon and Amy Biter



MATT ANDREWS PHOTOGRAPHY

Basic Training

U.S. Air Force Airman Millenium Iyob graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



The airman completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Iyob is the son of Askalu Mebrhatu and Lenwood Roberts of Alexandria. He is a 2018 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria.

PEOPLE

'Portraits of Progress'

Principle Gallery presents a journey of healing for Friends of Guest House clients.

BY RIKKI GEORGE
GAZETTE PACKET

When art reveals hard and hidden truths, it comes with great pain and bravery to explore and explain one's life.

That might be one sentiment felt at the upcoming exhibit "Portraits of Progress" organized by Friends of Guest House in cooperation with Old Town's Principle Gallery on April 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. But it's not the entire story.

"Portraits of Progress" is about personal, real-world experiences of formerly incarcerated women who are rebuilding their lives at Friends of Guest House.

As a residential reentry program located in Del Ray Alexandria, the only one of its kind in Northern Virginia and the largest in the state, Guest House offers resources and support, through business and non-profit partnerships, for women overcoming drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, employment and legal problems.

The art show is an outgrowth of Friends of Guest House's partnership with George Washington University's art therapy graduate program.

"A major life event can render a person speechless," said Aubrey A. Rainbow, a Master's student at GWU's art therapy program, who has been working as an intern at Guest House since the fall of 2018.

Living with trauma, people often don't have the words to express themselves. An art therapist helps as a skilled clinician and uses art as the medium to work things out.

"I wasn't looking forward to it [art therapy]. I am no artist," Kim said (her last name omitted for privacy reasons). But after a session, Kim, like others, see there is no judgement. It is a safe place to process stressors and soon their investment rises, Rainbow says.

Typically, art sessions with Rainbow begin small with a warm-up exercise, such as working with a mandala. Then clients are presented a directive and after that each is given time to process what transpired and share if they so choose.

Through exercises with Rainbow, like recalling happy memories and sad ones, Kim sees she's always struggled with abuse and has allowed herself to repeat that cycle. Her series of four masks document her journey from a troubled child of 13 to a smiling 50-year-old.

"The exhibit is my first step. It is a testimony," she said. "It helps me face and heal secrets. [Seeing my work] I hope someone



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBREY A. RAINBOW

Guest House client Kim creating her mask series. Art therapy programs help to meet the needs of women who have been chronically under-resourced all of their lives.

else opens their eyes to what is going on in their life."

At Alexandria's Friends of Guest House, 26 women go through the Residential Program every six months, and more — 400 — apply each year. Founded in 1974, Guest House just had its 45th anniversary serving demographically diverse, non-violent female offenders.

According to Marisa Tordella, director of marketing and development, fewer than 10 percent of Friends of Guest House graduates reoffend which is far below the national average of 70 percent.

This means graduates have completed both the Friends of Guest House's Residential Program and the Aftercare Program.

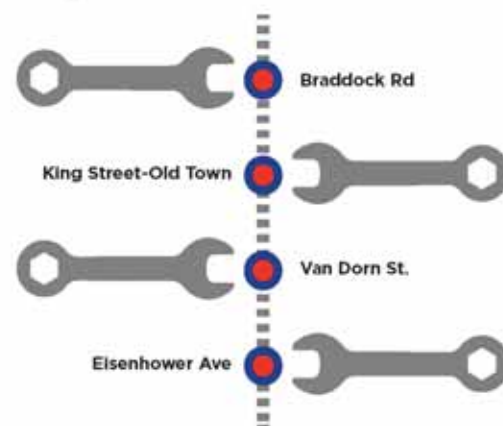
And it means, in Tordella's words: "Graduates of our program are able to achieve and maintain stability in their lives. Whether that is personally, connections with their family or a community they've created for themselves.

Reuniting with their children, grandchildren. Stability related to their health — both mental and physical.

Maintaining sobriety. Housing stability — whether they move from an affordable housing unit to a market rental, or even go on to their own home. Employment stability and growth."

In other words, Friends of Guest House is an anchor for many. It's seen through their programs, their longevity, their clients' success and now, on April 2, at "Portraits of Progress."

Even when trains aren't running, we'll keep you on track.



This summer, Metro is suspending train service at the Braddock Rd, King St-Old Town, Van Dorn St and Eisenhower Ave Metrorail stations for platform repairs. But we're putting plans in place to help you still get around.

Sign up for alerts and get the latest info:
alexandriava.gov/GOAlex




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Local Veteran Honored as TAPS Marks 25 Years

FROM PAGE 1

gala honoring the nation's fallen military heroes and recognizing Penn's work with survivors.

"As a military mentor at TAPS, we receive far more from our service than we can ever give," Penn said upon receiving his award. "To the TAPS families here and across the globe, thank you for letting us celebrate the lives of your loved ones and share in your journeys."

Penn enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1996. His 20 years of service included several deployments, including a stint in Alexandria from 2009-2012 and again following his retirement three years ago.

"John and I met through TAPS back in 2011," said Penn of Jarecki. "He is a survivor. He lost his father, who was an Air Force pilot, when he was just a kid. Through my Tips for TAPS behind the bar, I am able to support John and the TAPS families through The Light Horse."

The Light Horse recently held a TAPS fundraiser with \$1 of every Port City Brewing beer sold going to the organization. Penn and Jarecki are planning other ways to raise money for TAPS families.

"John is already working on a second TAPS Takeover since the first one was such a success," Penn said. "And I have crafted five specialty cocktails for each branch of service known as the Joint Chiefs that will be available to preview on Wednesday nights along with a new Challenge Coin and punch card. We want the community to know of our commitment to the military, to local customers and to TAPS."

Funds raised from Jarecki and Penn's efforts will be used to support TAPS programs, which includes grief counseling, access to community-based care, casework assistance, a 24/7 helpline and special programming for suicide loss survivors. All services are provided at no cost to families.

"My TAPS families mean the absolute world to me," said Penn. "Doing everything I can to support these families in their hope and healing is the purest, most rewarding thing I do with my life. I will do this until I can't do it anymore."

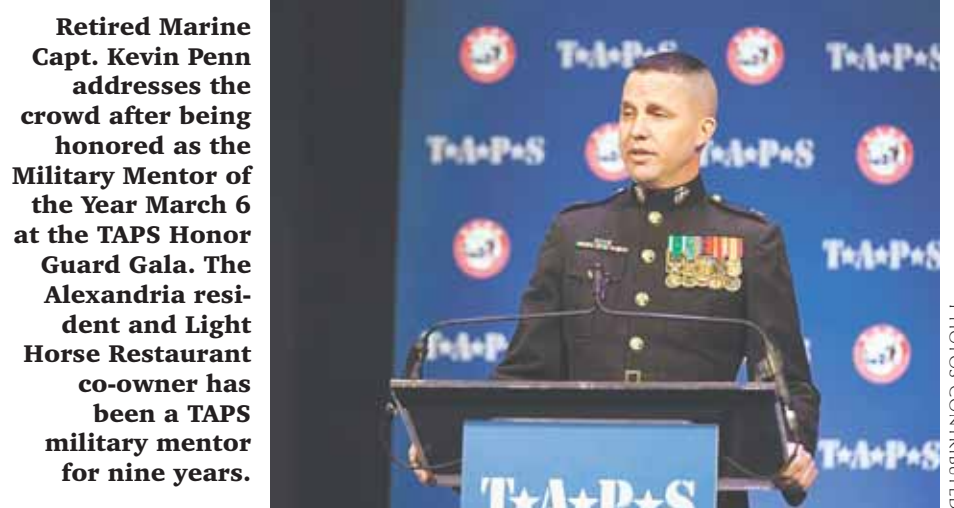
For more information visit www.taps.org or call the TAPS helpline at 1-800-959-TAPS (8277).



Retired Marine Capt. Kevin Penn is congratulated on receiving the Military Mentor of the Year award by children of fallen veterans at the TAPS Honor Guard Gala March 6 at the National Building Museum. The Alexandria resident and co-owner of The Light Horse Restaurant in Old Town was celebrated at the event marking 25 years of TAPS service to the families of America's fallen military.



TAPS president and founder Bonnie Carroll, recipient of the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom and surviving spouse of Brigadier Gen. Tom Carroll, speaks at the TAPS Honor Guard Gala March 6 marking the organization's 25 years of service to the families of fallen veterans.



Retired Marine Capt. Kevin Penn addresses the crowd after being honored as the Military Mentor of the Year March 6 at the TAPS Honor Guard Gala. The Alexandria resident and Light Horse Restaurant co-owner has been a TAPS military mentor for nine years.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Janice Marie Chance holds a photo of her son, Marine Capt. Jesse Melton III, a Maryland resident who was killed in the line of duty Sept. 9, 2008, in Afghanistan.



Angel Pansini accepts the 2019 Senator Ted Stevens Leadership Award in recognition of her leadership on behalf of other military survivors. Pansini is the surviving sister of Marine Corps Sgt. Nicholas A. Pansini, who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and committed suicide on July 22, 2010 at the age of 23.



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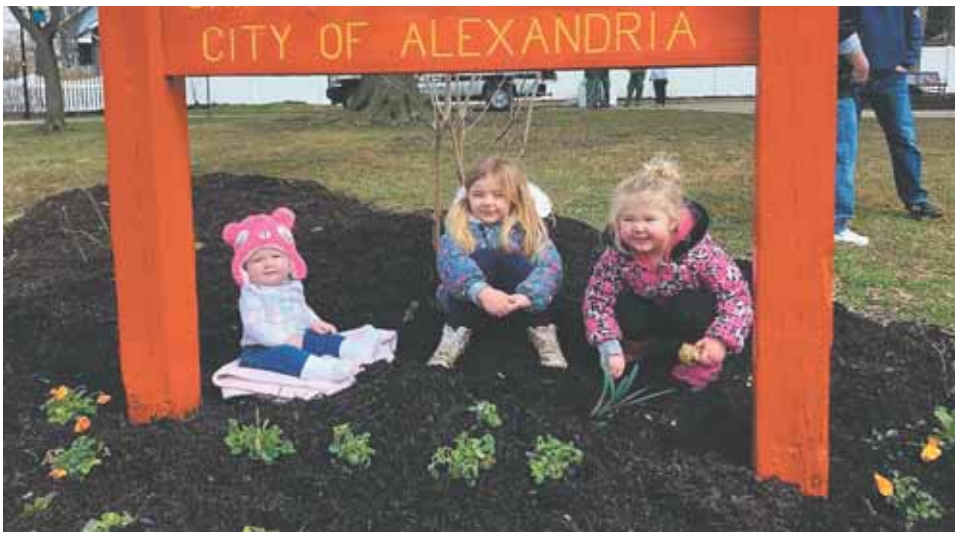
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PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Eleanor, Laila and Audrey Hill sit among the newly planted flowers at the Charles W. Hill Park in Del Ray. The park is named for their late grandfather, Corporal Charles Hill, the last police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

APD retirees Pete Crawford, Joe Morrash, Roman Kaluta, John Crawford and Doug Powell join Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Capt. Don Hayes at the March 22 Charles W. Hill Park clean up.

Community Gathers To Honor Service of Slain APD Officer

FROM PAGE 1

retiree John Crawford.

In the late afternoon of March 22, 1989, Hill was partnered with Officer Andrew Chelchowski when the Special Operations Team was called to the 300 block of Hopkins Court. An escapee from a Washington, D.C., halfway house had taken hostages inside a home to collect a drug debt.

While on the scene, the suspect exited the house with a shotgun pointed at the

hostage's head. A police sniper fired at the suspect and hit him in the heart. Before he died, the suspect was able to open fire, killing Hill and wounding Chelchowski. Chelchowski committed suicide in 1993 after battling the stress from the incident four years earlier. "As we came together to commemorate the 30th year of the Hopkins/Tancil Court shooting, it was good to see so many who were there on the day of such a horrific event to pay tribute to

Charlie and Andy," said APD Capt. Don Hayes. "It was special to see them working with those who now stand where they once stood and willing to give the ultimate sacrifice as they take their place on the SOT team." Hill's two sons, Charles Jr. and Robert, now an APD officer, participated in the community day along with Hill's granddaughters Eleanor, Laila and Audrey.

"Thirty years? I can't believe it," wrote retired officer William Bunney on the Of-

ficer Down Memorial Page. "Seems like yesterday when I saw you at HQ on your way out to that hostage scene. That horrible day, and the day that Andy was taken from us, really changed me forever. Your kindness and professionalism shaped me as a police officer and I am forever grateful. Rest in Peace my friend."

Hill had served with the Alexandria Police Department for 13 years and the park in Del Ray was later named in his memory.

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Supporting School Swing Space

To the Editor:

We have a crisis with several of our school facilities in Alexandria City.

I say this not just as a dad of three kids in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). I am an active volunteer and I serve as the president of the Douglas MacArthur Parent Teacher Association. Additionally, I have spent many years studying ACPS's facilities plans, beginning with my time as a John Adams Elementary representative on the recent Redistricting Review Committee.

Along with other Redistricting Review Committee members and other dedicated neighbors across the city, we regularly advocate for ACPS and the city to find solutions to overcrowding and failing structures at several of our schools.

We've been fortunate to gain two new buildings recently with Ferdinand T. Day and Patrick Henry, although the latter has not been without extreme difficulties and imposition to the Patrick Henry school and the immediate surrounding community.

Unfortunately, we still have at least three schools that need to be replaced. Douglas MacArthur, George Mason, and Cora Kelly have been slated for complete rebuilds for many years. Additionally, Mount Vernon is plagued with issues and partially flooded again this week.

The current MacArthur building is 77 years old. The age would not be an issue if the building was properly maintained. Sadly, the lack of adequate maintenance over decades has resulted in a building that must be demolished and rebuilt. A rebuilt MacArthur would provide a learning space that meets the educational specifications of this century and is properly sized for its current enrollment capacity of over 700 students.

Ideally, ACPS would build a new school on another portion of the old school's property while the students stay in their existing building, move to the new space once it is complete, and then demolish the old building. Due to land conditions and constraints, building a new school on another portion of MacArthur's property would increase costs by roughly 50 percent, or \$25 million. This is not feasible for the city.

An alternative would be to move all the current faculty and students, as a group, to a temporary offsite facility (a.k.a., "swing space") while the old school is demolished and rebuilt, a process that should take from two to three years.

There were shockingly few available properties in Alexandria when ACPS recently went through a review during the development of the new Ferdinand T. Day school. Four properties were identified although ultimately only one was deemed suitable. There is virtually no appropriate available real estate in Alexandria to build or retrofit a facility for swing space.

While not ideal, the prudent solution is to utilize the newly available space at Patrick Henry Elementary School as a swing space. I know the process that brought the Patrick Henry community to this point has been very difficult. They've had an almost constant construction zone for several years and the school's families and surrounding neighborhood have



PHOTO BY ROBERT PRINCIPLE

Our Beautiful Waterfront

The river brought this mess. Surely the river will take it way? Photo taken on March 19.

dealt with very painful traffic. But there are simply no other good options.

Importantly, the old Patrick Henry building had students using the entire building up until this January when they moved into the new school. That isn't to say that the old building is in ideal shape. However even in its current state, it is still much better than MacArthur. Additionally, ACPS has indicated it would spend on the order of \$5 million to allow the building to be utilized for swing space during the construction of the new MacArthur building.

Utilizing the old Patrick Henry as swing space for MacArthur is the best option we have in the foreseeable future. My years of experience with this situation leads me to believe that if we don't move forward with this option, MacArthur won't see a new building for easily 10 years and it may be even longer before we see relief for George Mason, Cora Kelly, and any other schools that may eventually need to be rebuilt.

Many who oppose this proposal are focused on the relatively short-term impacts to themselves, but we must consider the greater good of the entire community. I, along with the other Douglas MacArthur PTA board members, support the ACPS proposal to consider use of the old Patrick Henry building for swing space during the construction of a new Douglas MacArthur school.

William C. Pfister Jr.
President, Douglas MacArthur
Parent Teacher Association

Curtail Train Horns

To the Editor:

The neighborhoods near the Alexandria Union Station suffer severe noise pollution from train horns. Although there are no stud-

ies, research, or data to support its claim, CSX insists that sounding horns promotes the safety of passengers waiting for trains to arrive.

However, horns are not used at stations in other countries such as France and Germany, and the safety of waiting passengers is not at risk.

This is adequate evidence that train horns do not improve passenger safety.

What is known from hundreds of studies is that noise causes various diseases. Among these are ischemia, stroke, angina, heart attack, chronic stress, hearing loss, myocardial infarction, diabetes, tinnitus, etc. These afflictions not only deteriorate health but may result in death.

For example, in 2011, the World Health Organization conducted noise research in the European Union countries. It is conservatively estimated that no less than 3,000 deaths occur each year from the effects of noise in those countries.

Extrapolating these data indicate that 40 deaths from noise likely occur in Virginia each year. Given the dense population around the Alexandria Union station, it is possible that two or three deaths from noise happen every year in our city.

Contrary to common belief, it appears there are no federal laws preventing Alexandria from restricting train horns at Union Station. Currently, there is an effort to determine if any state legislation exists that prevents local governments from restricting train horns. If not, then Alexandria should be able to curtail train horns.

Those interested in restricting train horns may contact banhorns@gmail.com for information about current activities.

Thomas Evans
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Budget Priority: Public Safety

To the Editor:

Our City Council is right now engaged in what I believe is their most challenging annual task, finalizing the city's budget. Because budget dollars are a finite resource, they must prioritize between competing requirements that are all important, and are all valued by citizens.

That said, it is my opinion that public safety must always be the highest priority. Without it as a foundation for life in the city, all else that might be provided in any budget is rendered moot.

With that as perspective, I am writing to bring visibility to two critical public safety issues, both within the Alexandria Fire Department (AFD). They are compensation, and finally meeting the Federal standard of manning on all AFD Engines with four personnel rather than three. It would by no means "break the budget" to correct them both, and I believe strongly that we should.

To compare compensation, for the last three years the city has used the "NOVA Region," which is comprised of the following localities: Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Using "normalized" FY19 data (i.e., standardized to a 56-hour shift), the compensation of all

classification titles (e.g., Medic I-IV, Fire Fighter I-IV, etc.) within AFD is behind all

those in the NOVA Region.

Further, the critically important starting salary (which is crucial for recruitment) in AFD significantly lags the NOVA Region. AFD has the lowest starting salary of all five localities, the next lowest (Arlington) is more than \$6,500 higher than Alexandria. When looking at the average starting salary across all the localities, Alexandria is more than 14 percent lower than that average.

AFD's poor recruitment and retention reflect these realities. At the completion of recruit training, AFD loses a significant portion of its candidates in each class because they opt to hire on with other, better paying departments in either the NOVA Region or DC. In terms of retention of trained personnel, in the last three years, AFD has averaged 6.5 resignations per year by those who left AFD specifically to hire on in those other, better paying departments. A further reflection of the dire retention situation is that currently, more than half of AFD has less than 10 years of service/experience; one-third has less than five years.

It costs over \$100,000 in training and individual equipment for one firefighter; over \$8,000 for one paramedic certification. By lagging behind in both starting and career compensation in the AFD, the city is truly being "pennywise and pound foolish." We simply cannot afford the loss of personnel and the investment we've made in their training. We must stem the bleeding in both recruitment and retention.

In doing so, and in recognition of so many competing needs within the budget, we do not need to make our AFD professionals the highest paid in the region. What is necessary, is to raise their compensation to at least provide "100 percent of the average" level in the region. I urge the City Council to do exactly that.

With respect to Engine manning, Federal research and field experiments established the 4-person Engine crew as the best staffing model (including one Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider on the Engine). In trials, all tasks were completed more efficiently; less time was spent on scene; and injury potential to FD personnel was reduced.

Specifically, as compared to 3-person crews, 4-person crews completed trauma tasks over two minutes faster; fire suppression tasks over five minutes faster (25 percent); and high-rise fire suppression tasks 12 minutes faster.

AFD does not currently have 4-person crew manning across all of its Engines. There is no excuse for Alexandria not meeting the Federal standard for optimum ALS and Fire Suppression staffing — it can be a matter of life and death.

We can achieve the 4-person standard across all AFD Engines with a combination of funding SAFER grants, and with overall department manning authorizations. Again, I urge the City Council to do exactly that.

If you agree that fixing these critical public safety issues in the budget is a priority, I

urge you to please consider reaching out to all members of the council through "Call.Click.Connect" and request that they do so. Time is of the essence, lives are potentially at stake.

Dan Koslov
Alexandria

Questionable Economics

To the Editor:

I greatly enjoyed the March 7, 2019 lead story "Fiscal Slam Dunk for City?" Until now I thought this was the People's Democratic Republic of Alexandria. But after reading the March 14 article "City Inches Up Max Tax Rates" I now realize the city is led by secret closet Republicans led by our new mayor Justin "Tax Increase" Wilson. They must have kidnapped and interrogated the same folks who created the same type questionable logic behind the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act. The Act is supposed to pay for itself by increasing economic activity.

The slam dunk article notes the city will lose about \$1 million in tax revenue per year. This is an upfront loss that must be offset by roughly \$90 million in new, excess development, above and beyond what is currently planned. Hopefully that growth will occur over time. However, the tax loss occurs in current time. The city will prob-

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

ably incur other “growth” related costs before seeing any new real revenue. Also the article incorrectly implies there is no direct cost incentive. What is the \$1 million tax loss? How dumb does city leadership think we are? It is money the city does not have. This is the kind of faulty creative reasoning was used to justify the 2017 tax bill. That is why they are closet Republicans.

Our city leadership is also very active in the “Secret Disciplines of William McKinley.” He created the first excise tax to pay for the 1898 Spanish American War. This creativity is apparent in the upcoming tax increase by splitting the school system costs into a separate tax. There will be a tax increase and it puts Alexandria in the lead on new ways to rape, pillage and plunder the taxpayer. I hallucinate that the same creativity will be applied to controlling expenses, such as stadium lights.

The bottom line is where is the benefit of Amazon HQ2? I do not see any. Plus many Alexandrians are negatively impacted by the new limits on state and local taxes deductions. Maybe those protesters in New York City had it right. The slam dunk is an economic pipe dream and marijuana is not even legal.

William L. Blumberg MBA
Alexandria

Impact of Special Interest

To the Editor:

To win the debate on a controversial issue, irrespective of the facts, just say “Lives will be saved under our proposal; people will die under yours.” No organization has done it any better than the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, aka BPAC.

Despite the fact that Alexandria’s 2017 traffic death rate was 80 percent lower than the statewide rate, they claim that we have a significant traffic safety problem. Using this faux crisis as predicate, they continue to advocate for (1) narrowing the major roads we all depend on, and (2) installing lightly-used bike lanes.

You would not know it by its name, but BPAC is not an advisory committee to City Council. It is a small private membership organization, essentially operating as a special interest group. Yet, it’s had disproportionate influence on city policy over the past 10 years or so. While positioning themselves as the leading voice for traffic safety in the city, they’ve driven Complete Streets and VisionZero – trendy and controversial movements – to become official city policy, embedded in the city’s Transportation Master Plan.

They seem to have achieved this through cozy relationships with the city government and city board representation that is grossly disproportionate to the size of their constituency.

For example, two of BPAC’s most active members serve on the seven-member Traffic and Parking Board, which entertains recommendations from BPAC on everything from Complete Streets projects to the num-

ber of parking spaces in Old Town to making Complete Streets a permanent component of the City Code. And one of them also serves on the city’s Transportation Commission.

BPAC successfully pushed for unpopular speed limit reductions on major roads. At a meeting last year, the Traffic and Parking Board approved a BPAC-supported proposal to reduce the speed limit on Route 1. The decision affected tens of thousands of commuters, but only two citizens attended this consequential mid-summer board meeting, both speaking in opposition. Yet, with three members absent, the board approved the proposal 3-1 anyway. Shortly thereafter, the city manager announced the speed limit reduction in a press release.

The city’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) sometimes behaves like as an extension of BPAC, particularly as it relates to Complete Streets and VisionZero. T&ES’s director is himself an ardent supporter of these programs and bicycle interests, and T&ES subordinates attend virtually every BPAC meeting. In the name of increasing safety on already safe thoroughfares, T&ES proposes BPAC-supported Complete Streets projects, always with new bike lanes or a shared road component. Their formal recommendations to the Traffic and Parking Board are often accompanied by a few letters of support, including one from BPAC.

T&ES analyses of Complete Streets projects can seem inordinately weighted toward road narrowing and new bike lanes. Take the proposed Seminary Road project. T&ES developed three alternatives and rated them against their own criteria, which are biased toward additional “safety” measures. Some important quality of life considerations like congestion, efficient traffic flow, and unsafe neighborhood cut-through traffic receive little or no weight in the ratings.

To justify their positions, BPAC and T&ES use a metric called “killed or seriously injured.”

One does not equal the other, but BPAC and T&ES lump them together to prove that a dire traffic safety issue exists. Take last year’s killed/seriously injured statistic: five people were killed in tragic Alexandria crashes, but the reported killed/seriously injured number of 37 sounds just as serious as 37 deaths, and much worse than five. What they don’t report is that the overwhelming majority of traffic deaths and serious injury victims are drivers, their passengers, and motorcyclists, not pedestrians or bicyclists.

In a recent letter to the editor, BPAC’s chairman employed their favorite scare tactic, claiming that those five lives could have been saved “by simply improving the poor design of Alexandria’s streets,” and that “traffic violence claimed more lives than gun violence in 2018.” But reckless driving and excessive speed caused all five tragedies, not poor road design. Three occurred in late night crashes on the beltway or a beltway exit ramp.

The other two were motorcycle riders who lost control. Not a single one was walking or bicycling on a city street.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers for Rebuilding Together renovate a kitchen.

Caring for the Caretaker

BY RILEY CONRAD
AMERICORPS OUTREACH COORDINATOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER DC • ALEXANDRIA

Laura left her job of 18 years to be a full-time caretaker for her chronically ill husband. The expenses piled on as she did everything she could to keep him healthy and comfortable. When her husband eventually passed away, Laura had little time to grieve before she was overwhelmed with things in her home in need of repair. Her income as a widow was even more limited than before. When she turned to us for help, her air-conditioning unit and refrigerator were not working, and she was struggling to get in and out of her shower.

We sent a skilled member of our Mod Squad team to make the repairs in Laura’s home that took a back seat to her husband’s needs for many years. The Mod Squad member installed two grab bars in her bathroom, replaced her shower head, and weather stripped the front door. We then replaced her refrigerator and sent an HVAC professional to fix a complicated leak in her air-conditioning unit. All of this at no cost to her. Laura wrote us multiple notes of thanks not long after the repairs were completed saying, “We hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give ... After

my husband passed, it became very difficult to make it on one income ... Thank you for all you have done for me.” We were thrilled to be able to take care of this caretaker’s safe and healthy housing needs.

Laura’s story is more common than we realize. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, one in five Americans will leave the workforce early to care for an ill spouse or other family member. Women especially can end up as primary caretakers at three different stages of life — caring for children, elderly parents, and their spouse, because women live longer on average. If you are interested in giving back to people like Laura, get involved and join our skilled Mod Squad repair team or our Development Committee. Please contact us at 703-836-1021.

Rebuilding Together DC • Alexandria is an award-winning, mission-driven organization that creates healthy neighborhoods for residents by maintaining housing for low-income homeowners, revitalizing community spaces, and creating homeownership opportunities. Since 1986, more than 29,000 volunteers have worked on 2,200 projects, leveraging \$8.8 million worth of in-kind value to the area.

We are now accepting applications from homeowners for free home repairs. Visit www.RebuildingTogetherDCA.org or call 703-836-1021.

Where to Report Potholes

By adding additional staff overtime, the City of Alexandria aims to repair each pothole within 72 hours of receiving a report. With the city’s spring pothole blitz beginning this week, most potholes will be repaired within 48 hours of the report, according to a city press release.

Potholes form when water seeps into tiny cracks in pavement and expands during freezing temperatures. The city has received 619 reports of potholes in the last 10 weeks, compared to 774 for all of Fiscal Year 2018.

After the pothole repair program ends for the season, the city will resume its annual

street repaving program, which involves curb-to-curb resurfacing. The city will also begin a Pavement Condition Index inspection, conducted every three years, to analyze the condition of every public street. The information from this inspection will be used to update the city’s paving schedule and measure the success of pothole and repaving efforts. To report a pothole, use Call.Click.Connect. 24 hours a day or call 703-746-HELP (4357) during normal business hours. For more information about the city’s pothole repair efforts or paving program, visit alexandriava.gov/Potholes.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Perhaps it's time for residents of Central Alexandria and the West End to wake up to the game that's being played. It's in full view again with the BPAC and T&ES-supported proposal to narrow Seminary Road and add bike lanes, which is not likely to improve safety much, if at all, on an

already safe stretch of road. But it does promise to negatively affect the quality of life of Central Alexandria and West End residents, further exacerbating congestion, increasing unsafe neighborhood cut-through traffic, and driving more frustration for busy commuters and parents at peak travel times.

It seems like the mayor and City Council are listening less to the majority of us than to a small special interest bicycling group that has coopted city traffic policy, related boards, the city code, and even the T&ES department.

No wonder confidence in Alexandria government officials seems to be at an all-time low.

Bill Rossello
Alexandria

Residential Nightmare

To the Editor:

The construction of the BRACC and the technology of Google have combined to place the city of Alexandria at the mercy of

automobile congestion and cut-through traffic.

The basis for this traffic congestion is the building of the BRACC, housing some 6,000 vehicles in the worst possible location, on a major highway with no Metro presence. It is hard to understand how Mayor Wilson — a “transportation expert” and others (Donnelly, Moran and Euille) could have embraced such a structure.

The technology of Google has given drivers an option when roads are congested. The technology was good — however now this great technology is now being abused — resulting in cut-through traffic through neighborhoods.

A recent survey illustrates that more than 44 percent of the traffic in our neighborhoods is cut-through traffic. Maryland cars and others heading for the BRACC or 395 — bypass the 495 route by exiting onto Telegraph Road — to Duke Street west-making right turns on various streets to cut-through neighborhoods in order to reach their destination of the BRACC or 395 in less time — but at the expense of our neighborhoods.

There is a solution to this cut-through issue, make all cut-through streets inaccessible to outside traffic — “no right turn going west (to Landmark) on Duke Street in the morning or east on Seminary (to King Street) in the afternoon.

There are eight major streets that are in play with cut-through traffic: East Taylor Run, West Taylor Run, Cambridge, Yale

Drive, Quaker Lane, Ft Williams, Jordan St and N. Howard Street. These streets occupy the greatest amount of cut-through traffic. You cannot fix the problem with just an East Taylor Run street closure — all streets must be treated. Signs need to be posted on Duke Street and on Seminary Road and on all the aforementioned streets to prevent right hand turns from Duke Street west and Seminary Road east between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The neighbors in the affected area should receive a yellow bumper sticker for their cars (at no charge) — fully visible — allowing them to make the turns regardless of the time of day. Failure of the non-residents to abide by this posting would result in a \$250 fine as the routes would be monitored meticulously by Alexandria Police as has Quaker Lane.

This plan would force the former cut-through traffic to continue traveling on the 495 beltway where they belong — merging onto the 395 north entrance at the “Mixing Bowl” — in route to the BRACC or D.C. but not through the neighborhoods. There are many roads in Alexandria that are already marked “no right turns, no left turns” at certain hours in order to reroute traffic away from neighborhoods during high traffic periods.

Why can't the affected neighborhoods of Seminary Hill, Clover and other areas have the same treatment?

The city has turned its back on the neigh-

borhoods which are affected. Crosswalks are a temporary fix — calming traffic (speed bumps) slows the cars but does not solve the issue of congested traffic. Citizens forget the idea “it is not in my backyard,” it is an issue for everyone because the cut-through traffic affects the entire city with grid lock.

The plan is minimal in cost — we need to take back our streets. Now!

Bill Goff
Alexandria

Generational Divide?

To the Editor:

It is unusual for three letters, likelier than most to have long-term significance because they summarize what is so very wrong with city hall's modus operandi in recent years, to appear in the same issue: Bill Goff's enumerates the city's insouciance about construction cost overruns; Jimm Roberts' frames how the city's unsustainable practice of pursuing more development causes the problems city hall is trying to fix; and Poul Hertel and Connie Graham's contextualize a half-century history of Old Town's preservation as a self-sustaining economic model which City Council's recent tampering could completely make go awry. If indeed their analyses are accurate, the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

SPRING AUTO LOAN PROMOTION

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27 @ SILVER HILL BRANCH

CARS & COFFEE

5720 SILVER HILL ROAD
DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD 20747
8:00AM - 12:00PM

FEATURING

- Exotic Cars
- Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats will be on site with **FREE** coffee and donuts
- Live Music - DJ Wah-heed of WPFW 83.9 FM
- Tech Tips for routine car maintenance
- Sidewerks Detailing and Vehicle-Related Vendors
- **AMAZING** Raffle Prizes
- Special guest appearances by local street racers



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

March 22 Gazette Packet may well become the place to which historians turn for a précis of what went wrong.

But the condition these letters describe didn't develop overnight. As Poul Hertel and Connie Graham's letter hints, somehow it crept up on us. Two decades ago, citizens from all over town packed City Council meetings months on end concerning developments that could alter Old Town's historic character, but today hardly any do. What happened in those two decades?

The 1992 Old Town small area plan set forth a vision which an ancien regime of city leaders embraced at that time, but very quietly, so the rest of us didn't notice, elements within the polity, powerful ones likely, came to favor a very different vision, and actuated a nouvelle regime to carry it forth. The late Patsy Ticer best embodies that ancien regime's attitude. Was easing her over into the state senate the beginning of its denouement? Was the Patent and Trademark Office development, a seemingly sensible idea on its own merits, really also the nouvelle regime's entr'acte, blazing the trail for further, less justifiable development? Was the Waterfront Plan the nouvelle regime's Rubicon of no-return where finally it abandoned quiet caution for full-throttle over-development?

The past dozen years have seen a see-saw battle between the two regimes, but the clearest evidence the nouvelle regime is a well resourced, philosophically coherent

ideology is in its refusal to respond to setbacks in a politically normal way by altering course because the course had long before been fixed. The election defeats of Tim Lovain and then-freshman councilmember Justin Wilson in the 2009 election would normally have signaled a course change, as defeat of a Columbia Pike streetcar advocate led to the Arlington County Council quickly killing it. Instead, the City Council majority doubled down and rammed the Waterfront Plan through despite lacking the requisite super-majority!

Because the nouvelle regime had previously moved so stealthily, the ancien regime still controlled key positions, which explains why the Board of Zoning Appeals insubordinated city council and overturned the Waterfront Plan and why the Waterfront Plan had to be voted on three times to clear its legal hurdles. After winning the 2012 city election, the nouvelle regime, no longer needing resort to stealth, purged the ancien regime's key functionaries from their positions. The ancien regime responded by appropriating into its bloc the city's Republicans, whose crossover votes, along with Patsy Ticer's support, enabled Allison Silberberg to upset the nouvelle regime's titular head, Mayor Bill Euille, in the 2015 primary. But again, this setback did not alter the nouvelle regime's course, as instead it marginalized Mayor Silberberg and sought to remove the last obstacles to its absolute rule whose nucleus in Old Town's waterfront neighborhoods was most im-

acted by the nouvelle philosophie.

How many of the citizens who packed City Council meetings concerned about altering Old Town's historic character two decades ago have since crossed the Styx? Does a new zeitgeist prevail among the generations replacing them about the future of today's Old Town littered with E-scooters? One city hall functionary noted that, while Waterfront Plan supporters and opponents were almost equally numerous, supporters tended to be younger and opponents older. Your newspaper is filled with letters and articles critical of city hall's new direction, yet the nouvelle regime's acolytes rarely bother to answer these criticisms as if they do not merit acknowledgement, as if like Ozymandias they will be covered by the sands of time.

I have heard more than a few Gen X'ers ridicule historic district rules; do they favor converting parts of Old Town to large office buildings which would generate more tax revenue than tourism does? Do today's Millennials see historic preservation in the same metaphor as Confederate statues and look at historic houses wondering where were the slave quarters or whether slaves were exploited to build them? Can how these generations seem to be voting in city elections be interpreted as "no confidence" in Old Town as what we who have known and loved it?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria


Progress on Cleaner Energy

To the Editor:

Recently, students across the country protested the progress being made on implementing cleaner energy sources and technologies. Missing were discussions on the lessons-learned from the huge dollar investments in solar and wind made during the past two administrations and their limited growth versus the significant social, economic and environmental benefits received from the natural gas shale revolution. Absent also were discussions of other cleaner energy sources such as hydrogen fuel cell technologies, etc. that are being developed to deliver cleaner, dependable, safe, renewable, and affordable energy. I suggest readers spend a few minutes watching, Stanford University's Natural Gas Initiative video (ngi.stanford.edu) to gain a better perspective on our country's progress, and, as importantly, an understanding that natural gas is yet another transitional fuel source as more viable cleaner sources are developed and deployed.

More importantly, missing was discussion of the readiness of renewable energy sources and their enabling technologies to allow for a large scale transition. This past fall, we were in China, and energy and pollution were discussed continually. As part of their efforts to combat high pollution lev-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22



2019 4TH ANNUAL FAIR HOUSING POSTER CONTEST


"Fair Housing lives in Alexandria"

2019 theme


To enter the Poster Contest: Draw an original poster illustrating the theme. Send in your entry and maybe you will be the lucky person whose poster wins a prize.

Open to all kids in grades K-5

Entry deadline is 5 pm on Friday April 12, 2019.
Mail entries to:
Office of Housing,
Landlord/Tenant Division,
421 King St., Suite 215
Alexandria, VA 22314



Sarah Molina - Winner 2018



Katherine Bianca - Winner 2018

Theme: Fair Housing lives in Alexandria

Purpose:
In celebration of April as Fair Housing month and the 50th anniversary since the passage of the Fair Housing Act, the Office of Housing will host the Third Annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. The 2019 theme is:
"Fair Housing Lives in Alexandria".

Submissions of posters will be accepted from all students in grades K through 5. Posters should be original artwork and represent the theme. The poster contest is intended to educate youth on how fair housing laws protect all Alexandrians against housing discrimination.

According to federal, state and local regulations, all residents must have equal access to housing regardless of sex, race, color, religion, age, familial status, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or national origin. Since we all fall into at least some of these categories, fair housing laws protect all of us from illegal housing discrimination.

Grand Prizes: \$100 Target gift card.

Additional Prizes for each category below:

K-1 grade: 2-3 grade: 4-5 grade

Rules and guidelines:

- ☐ Only one entry per student. All artwork must be original.
- ☐ The art must demonstrate and include the words: "Fair Housing Lives in Alexandria"
- ☐ All original art mediums accepted (No computer generated artwork). Bold colors and a variety of artistic media (crayons, markers, acrylic, water paint, colored pencils, collage, fabric, etc.) are encouraged.
- ☐ Artwork will be judged on originality, visual impact, artistic merit and overall adherence to the contest theme.
- ☐ All artwork will become property of the City of Alexandria and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to publish and/or display all work.
- ☐ All submissions must contain name, school or program, grade, phone number, email and address. Please provide name of teacher or program coordinator. Also, please provide name, mailing address and telephone number of parent or guardian.

The top three winners will be chosen by a panel of City of Alexandria Office of Housing employees.

The Office of Housing staff is available to talk with teachers or program directors and their classes about the Fair Housing Act and housing discrimination. Please contact Dr. Goodman Okpara at 703-746-3080 to coordinate a presentation.

Affordable Housing Dilemma

FROM PAGE 3

financing and ensure the long-term sustainability of each project, by using income from workforce level units (greater than 60 percent AMI [about \$70,000 for a family of four]) and/or market-rate units to cross-subsidize operating deficits resulting from lower income level units (less than 30 percent AMI), which is necessary to achieve a balanced income statement for each project. ARHA will ensure that the income levels proposed are the most appropriate mix and will provide the city with documentation to support its determination. The specific percentage of units in each income level will vary from project to project based on financial sustainability and the funding sources involved. ... The city may provide long-term financial incentives or resources to help ARHA achieve deeper levels of affordability than proposed”

A council-chartered ad hoc advisory group contemplated several characteristics that might specify the meaning of substantial equivalence, none of which the proposed revision includes. In a survey last year, 81 percent of advisory group respondents said the definition of substantial equivalence should include “comparable location and/or access to transit, services, schools, jobs, amenities, etc.”; 76 percent wanted a “minimum standard of affordability,” meaning replacement units to serve the same profile of families (essentially ensuring right to return for original families who want to return); 67 percent wanted “replacement of similar bedroom mix ... unless there is justification for a de-

parture.”

“It’s going to be a subjective call, there’s no objective criteria” for substantial equivalence, said ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew.

“We’re trying to get to a place where we build flexibility into the resolution, but also state the direction that we intend to go,” said Mayor Justin Wilson. “What this [revision] is saying is that, basically, we are going to use higher [percent of] AMI units, as well as market [rate] units, to subsidize ... the 30 [percent of AMI] and below units, and that we’ll have a balanced portfolio across the redevelopment cycle. That’s the assumption.”

A bigger step would entail crafting a new, separate but supplementary resolution with non-ARHA housing providers to preserve low-income housing options in the city, he said.

The state of affairs is “worrisome,” said Councilman John Chapman. He says the city government has always looked to ARHA, because of the federal money it receives, to provide the city’s lowest-income housing options. If ARHA is less and less able to fill that gap, “How do we as a city deal with that?” he said.

The advisory group will consider the proposed revision on or about April 11. Council will hold a public hearing on April 13 and take final action with ARHA’s board on April 23.

For more information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Housing.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Carlyle Design Review Board Meeting. 7 p.m. at City Hall, Chet and Sabra Avery Conference Room 2000, 301 King St. Contact Nathan Imm, nathan.imm@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-3845.

Park and Recreation Commission. 7 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave. Contact Jack Browand, jack.browand@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-5504.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

Sharpen Networking and Interview Skills. 1:30-3 p.m. at City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center, 1800 N. Beauregard St., Lower Level Conference Room. AARP Virginia is teaming up with the City of Alexandria’s Workforce Development Office to teach participants to learn how to effectively network, create a winning “elevator pitch,” and learn tips to ace an interview. Free. Visit local.aarp.org/washington-dc/aarp-events/ for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Ribbon Cutting Celebration. 9 a.m. at the Simpson Park Playground, 426 E. Monroe Ave. The Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities worked with Alexandria-based landscape architecture firm Lardner/Klein to lead the design process and May + Watkins to incorporate public art within the site. The team designed the playground to reflect community input and recommendations from the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan. The playground includes improved open space to accommodate multiple passive uses and


SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 21



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Evolving Threats

Retired USAF Major General Marty Whelan, senior vice president of The Aerospace Group, speaks to the Rotary Club of Alexandria March 19 at Belle Haven Country Club. The Alexandria resident and former director of Space Operations for the Air Force discussed the expanding and evolving threats to U.S. security and updates to the Missile Defense Review in light of North Korea’s ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs.



Save the Date!

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

It's Time to **Spring2ACTION** to Support Inova Alexandria Hospital's Smallest Patients!


What is Spring2ACTION?

Spring2ACTION is a 24-hour online event that provides a simple way to connect donors to the local charitable causes they care about.

How will my support help?

Inova Alexandria Hospital is supporting our smallest patients in our Charlotte and Walter Jones Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Your support will go towards new equipment such as:

- Turtle Tubs and mamaRoo Swings
- New Rocking Chairs and Footrests
- New Giraffe Beds



What can I do?


I'm ready to **Spring2ACTION!**


Donate on April 10 to support Inova Alexandria Hospital's NICU!

Dine on April 10 at Holy Cow in Del Ray and tell them you support Inova Alexandria Hospital. A percentage of your bill will be donated to support our NICU.

Spread the Word! Follow us on Twitter @InovaHealth and on the Inova Alexandria Hospital Facebook Page and retweet and share our message.

www.inova.org/spring2action





ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Vaso Volioti: Chef and Owner of Vaso's Kitchen

BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Vaso Volioti's shrimp sautéed with garlic.



Brandy flames shoot up in the skillet with Vaso Volioti's shrimp.

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Spaghetti cooked al denté to accompany shrimp.

Vaso Volioti pours a scoop of liquid margarine into a sizzling hot skillet. "It has to be on high." While Volioti waits for the oil to heat to the proper temperature, she shakes two thin veal scallops into a container of unseasoned flour and then immerses each in a container of beaten eggs.

"Hear the oil crackle?" Volioti places each piece of veal into the skillet side by side. "We don't leave it long, about three minutes total. It's veal." She turns each piece over in the skillet. "See, we wait for it to look like this. OK, I'm going to dump the oil out."

She places the skillet on the counter and takes the next step. "I place a thin slice of picnic ham on top of each piece of veal." Then she places four pieces of asparagus parallel on top of the ham and tops it with a round slice of provolone folded in half "so it doesn't melt and fall out in the pan." Finally she tops off the layers with a whole slice of provolone.

After a sprinkle of salt and pepper she adds two 2-ounce plastic cups of Fairbanks California sherry, 1/2 cup of heavy cream and two one-inch cubes of butter. Back on the heat while the sauce cooks down. "What I will do now is put the skillet in a 550 degree oven for about 3 minutes while I turn to Vaso's Shrimp, my original recipe." When ready to serve, she plates the veal on a large oblong white dish with a puddle of sauce dripping over the edge.

Volioti again waits for the oil to heat up, this time Greek olive oil, "so that it cooks the shrimp right." She has cleaned (deveined) and cut five large shrimp. "I put in two handfuls of chopped garlic and wait for it to get full color." In a couple of minutes Volioti adds the shrimp and swirls them around in the olive oil before adding diced tomatoes and a large mixing spoon size of whole artichoke hearts.

While the mixture is cooking, she adds a large accent of oregano and a sprinkle of mixed salt and pepper. "Now I'm using a pinch of red chili peppers. And now I'm going to use brandy for the flavor is really good." She inches back as flames skyrocket from the stove while she tosses the shrimp. Volioti finishes the dish off with 1/4-cup heavy cream and a ladle of her homemade



Vaso's Shrimp.



Vaso Volioti stirs homemade tomato sauce, which is added to shrimp.

tomato sauce. "Now see. I'm sprinkling on finely crumbled feta. Let's cook it a little bit, still on high."

Volioti has started a large pot of boiling water for the pasta. She puts in two full handfuls of salt.

"We'll cook the spaghetti three minutes until it's al denté. It depends on what kind of pasta you are making." Volioti drains the spaghetti. "We don't want any water," and tosses it with the shrimp and sauce in the skillet, then carefully places the pasta in a large white bowl and arranges each shrimp and artichoke on top.

Volioti says the favorite customer dish at her restaurant, Vaso's Kitchen, on Powhatan Street is the seafood marinara with shrimps, scallops, clams, calamari, mussels, herbs and white wine. Also the fresh branzino. Her daughter Lia Volioti, who has worked in the restaurant with Vaso for 13 years this Saturday, says that customers these days try to eat healthy and some will order the fish and substitute rice or the vegetable of the day for the pasta. Vaso says, "Me it's hard to decide. I love everything I cook. Really. Or I wouldn't cook it."

Vaso said she worked for 35 years as a waitress at an Italian restaurant on Richmond Highway but when her son wanted to go to New York to become ... "an actor," her daughter supplied the word, Vaso decided to quit and start her own restaurant. Lia who had worked at Delta came to help because "a restaurant is very busy." Vaso came to America from Cyprus when she was 10 years old, and the whole family in America was in the restaurant business.

Vaso has just returned from a trip to Australia where she went to meet the family of a man who had rediscovered her on Facebook from their childhood. "And look what I came back with," she said, sporting a heavy left hand with a large sparkling diamond.



Vaso Volioti sautés floured veal on high heat.



Veal is layered with picnic ham, asparagus and provolone.



Veal primavera topped with cream-sherry sauce.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dates to Circle in April

BY HOPE NELSON

Oysters, beer, happy hours and giving back to the community — April is full of food-and-drink events for every palate and persuasion. Here are some of the month's best picks.

Barks, Brews and Bites at the Alexandrian, April 4

The Alexandrian hotel is kicking off a happy hour in support of the Alexandria Police Foundation. With an aim to help the organization support its active and retired police dogs, Barks, Brews and Bites is itself a dog-friendly event where visitors can meet some of the police department's active-duty K9 officers as well as play games and win prizes. Each ticket earns guests a beer from Port City Brewing. 480 King St. 5:30-8 p.m. \$10.

Ideaal Tripel Release Party at Port City Brewing, April 5

Out with the heavy, spiced winter beers; in with the honey-gold brews of spring. Port City Brewing is tapping its Ideaal Tripel, a Belgian-style tripel that's at once light and complex, and is taking advantage of the warmer weather to celebrate. Plunk down on the patio or take a seat inside (for March Madness viewing, of course) and get a taste of spring. Staff will host a brewery tour at 6:30, and the Borinquen Lunch Box food truck will be parked outside the brewery for a taste of Puerto Rican fare. 3950 Wheeler Ave. 3-10 p.m.

Vola's Spring Oysterfest, April 6

As the weather warms up, what better time to take advantage of Vola's Docksider Grill's new patio space

and mow down some oysters? Vola's has you covered with all things mollusk. Your entry ticket gets you a feast of fresh-shucked oysters, oyster stew, fried oysters, broiled oysters, beer and wine. The fare is unlimited, so bring an appetite. 101 N. Union St. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$80.

Volunteer Alexandria Sandwich-Making at Great Harvest Bread Company, April 6

Move over, parents — this volunteer event is for children only. Volunteer Alexandria is hosting a peanut butter and jelly sandwich-making event for children ages 6 to 12 with the aim of putting together 75 sandwiches for a local school. Citing a report that nearly 29,000 Alexandrians live at or below the poverty threshold, Volunteer Alexandria aims to help feed local students in need by encouraging young volunteers to help their peers. Great Harvest Bread Company is donating the space for the event. 1711 Centre Plaza. 10 a.m.-noon. Register at www.volunteeralexandria.org.

Blackboard at Pizzeria Paradiso, April 14

Join owner and Chef Ruth Gresser and executive beer director Drew McCormick for the second of Pizzeria Paradiso's spring "Blackboard" classes, "All About Pizza Dough." The class will lead off with a pizza dough-making and stretching demonstration and will encourage students to try their own hand at the process. In case all that pizza-making induces some hunger, Paradiso's New York-style pizza will be available for snacking. Wash it all down with some beers selected by McCormick. 124 King St. Noon-1:30 p.m. \$40.

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

APPETITE

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Daddy Long Legs." Through March 30, at the Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. The play tells the story of Jerusha Abbott, her mysterious young benefactor and the affection that grows between them by way of handwritten letters. Monumental Theatre Company will be partnering with the English Department at Episcopal High School in Alexandria to give students a "behind-the-scenes" look at "Daddy Long Legs." Visit monumentaltheatre.org/daddy-long-legs.html.

Art Exhibition: High School Students. Through March 30, at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fourth year. This year's experience features more than 90 Alexandria high school students. Visit ourconvergence.org.

Art Exhibit: For The Artist. Through March 31, 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/exhibits for more.

Still Life Alive. Through April 2, 9-5 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Patricia Uchello One Woman Art Show, featuring 100 original oil paintings of flowers, fruit, landscapes and seascapes. Uchello's work has been collected by IBM, the International Monetary Fund and more. Email pmuchello@aol.com or visit www.patriciauchello.com for more.

Good Luck Charms. Through April 14, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, Studio 29, Alexandria. A very special found object, a four leaf clover, a rainbow, a wishbone, a charm on a bracelet - these objects all serve as inspiration to gallery members when creating pieces for this show. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Art Exhibit: Waterworks. Through April 14, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. in the Athenaeum main gallery, 201 Prince St. Water Works features paintings by Lisa Tubach and Suzanne Yurdin, and prints by Rhonda Smith. Each artist explores varied interpretations of water and aquatic environments. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit: Checks & Balances. Through April 14, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. in the Athenaeum rear gallery, 201 Prince St. Alexandra N. Sherman stumbled onto a cache of 1930's checks in an antique writing box and was inspired to make use of the printed engraving, beautiful handwriting from a bygone era, and stamps that marked their passage

through the banking system in a series of collages. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Film Screening: "Backs Against the Wall." 7-9 p.m. at Christ Church Alexandria, 118 N. Washington St. A screening of Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story, is followed by a conversation with director and producer Martin Doblmeier. The grandson of slaves, Thurman became a "spiritual foundation" for the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring many of its leaders including Martin Luther King, Jr, Jesse Jackson, and U.S. Rep. John Lewis. \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.historicchristchurch.org or call 703-549-1450.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 28-30

Used Book & Art Sale. Thursday, 1-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Gently used art, children's books, record albums, rare/old books and individually priced books in the church building. Books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs in the Old Mansion. Priced at \$2 for hard backs, \$1 for large paperbacks, and 50 cents for small paperbacks. Puzzles, CDs, and DVDs are \$1 each. Saturday is half price in the Church and \$5 a bag in the Mansion. Visit www.mvuc.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

The March150 Art Party. 7-10 p.m.

Le Refuge

Restaurant

Winter Specials

Fresh Shad Roe season has begun!

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

Find us on Facebook

127 N. Washington St., Alexandria • 703-548-4661

Smoke-Free Restaurant

www.lerefugealexandria.com



ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S PUBLIC SAFETY VALOR AWARDS

PRESENTED BY INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



May 7 | 8AM
Holiday Inn - First Street
Tickets Available
www.alexchamber.com

ENTERTAINMENT

at The Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory. The March150 Art Party, presented by the Factory Society, is the closing reception for Target Gallery's March150 Special Exhibition and Art Sale. All remaining artwork is priced at \$100. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-march150-art-party-tickets-56460314320 for tickets.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 29-30

"Curtains." Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. in Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton. Bishop Ireton Theater Arts presents the musical comedy whodunit "Curtains." \$10 adults, \$8 students, \$8 seniors. Visit www.bishopireton.org/tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Multiply Your Plants. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Multiply plants through the simple, money-saving techniques of stem cuttings and plant division. Horticulturalist Peggy Riccio will walk participants through this hands-on workshop where they will learn to propagate house and garden plants. Take the starter plants home to grow or share with a friend. \$22/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 586.37E6 or call 703-642-5173.

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the

public; tickets and a full schedule are available at novateenbookfestival.com.

Documentary Film and Discussion Series. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Office of Historic Alexandria will host a six-week program series called "Becoming American: A Documentary Film and Discussion Series on Our Immigration Experience." This series is a six-week public program featuring documentary film screenings and scholar-led discussions designed to encourage an informed discussion of immigration issues against the backdrop of our immigration history. The series is open and free to all members of the community, but pre-registration is requested through Alexandriava.gov/Shop.

Guided Tour of Friendship Firehouse Museum. 11 a.m.-noon at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred St. Learn about the Friendship Fire Company's Prettyman hose carriage, one of Virginia's Top Endangered Artifacts. The ornate 1858 hose-reel carriage that was made in Alexandria in the North Pitt Street shop of coachmaker and Friendship member Robert F. Prettyman. The docent-led tour is for ages 10 and older. \$5 for adults and \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, space is limited. Purchase tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov or by calling 703-746-4994.

Made in Virginia Goodies. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Sampling of made in Virginia products, featuring: Byrd Mill Baking Mix tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

The Marital Misadventures of



Henry VIII. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Divorced, beheaded, died, beheaded, divorced, survived. Smithsonian scholar and popular speaker Carol Ann Lloyd Stanger traces Henry VIII's wild matrimonial journey to secure the succession. Afterwards, solve riddles of the king's many queens at a mystery afternoon tea, where clues are hidden in plain sight! \$45 (program + tea); \$22 (program only). Programs are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Chili Cookoff. 1 p.m. at Hopsfrog Grille, 6030 Burke Commons Road, Burke. Hopsfrog Grille's annual Chili Cookoff benefiting the Fort Belvoir Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org) features chili tasting and raffle. Contestant pre-registration by March 17; \$10 per chili entry. Chili tasters: \$10 and a vote for best chili. Call 703-239-9324 for more.

Book Signing: Char McCargo Bah. 1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 8117 Sudley Road, Manassas. Author Char

An Afternoon with Groovy Nate

Groovy Nate is a children's entertainer and Wolf Trap Teaching Artist who creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments and ventriloquism. Saturday, April 6, noon at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. All ages are welcome, but most suitable for children 3-8 years old. Cost \$5; \$3 for those who attend Story Time for Little Historians at 11 a.m. Seats are limited, reserve tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

McCargo Bah, of Alexandria, will be available to sign copies of her book, "Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery: A Legacy of Freedom." For nearly 80 years, the cemetery lay undisturbed and was eventually forgotten. Rediscovered in 1996, it has now been preserved as a monument to the courage and sacrifice of those buried within.

Introduction to Punch Needle Embroidery Workshop. 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Join "The Comptoir" herself for this super fun punch needle embroidery workshop. Learn the basics of the tool and technique as well as the ins and outs of selecting the best fabric and yarns for a beautiful piece every time. Create a design with guidance, and gain the skills to make beautiful pieces again and again. All supplies included. Ticket required, includes show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

GenOUT Ensemble. 5 p.m. at St.

Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. GenOUT is a youth ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. It operates under the two-fold mission to give LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice, and to connect that voice to the community. Featuring music from their Spring Tour to Nashville. Free-will offering collected. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events or call 703-765-4342.

Concert: Anders Lundegård. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Conversation Piece concert featuring Swedish Saxophonist Anders Lundegård. Visit classicalsaxophonist.com/concert.

Love Avian-Style. 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring a flashlight and come for an evening walk through the woods to one of the park's large meadows. This family program is designed for participants age 6-adult. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The program includes an approximately 1.5 mile-walk on uneven terrain. Meet at the South Kings Highway entrance to the park. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Artist Reception: "On the Edge." Noon-4 p.m. at Fiberworks (Studio 14) at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The March exhibit, "On the Edge," at Fiberworks Studio 14 features the work of Cindy Grisdela, an award-winning fiber artist, through April 1. Visit cindygrisdela.com for more.

Walking with Washington. 2-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St.

*Savings based on comparable pricing. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Financing available. See store for details.

ENTERTAINMENT

Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This two-hour guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history. No reservations required. Free. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

The Awesome Women of

Alexandria. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Join Ivy Hill's historian for a walking cemetery tour of the famous Women of Alexandria that are buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Learn about the saving of Mount Vernon; the maker of a battle flag; the local librarian; and more. Wear comfortable shoes, and dress in layers, as some areas of the cemetery are shaded. Admission is \$10. Reserve and pay in advance online at PayPal.me/IHCHPS, or cash is accepted at the event or RSVP to info@ihchps.org.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3-5 p.m. at Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Cecilia Cho, piano; Paul Cigan, clarinet; and Eric deWaardt, viola; will perform Schumann: Fairy Tales; Bruch: Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano; and Mozart: "Kegelstatt" Trio. \$25 suggested donation, students and children free. Email contact@eclipseco.org or visit www.eclipseco.org.

Embroidering with Buttercream: Mexican Motif Cake

Decorating. 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Learn how to "embroider" a small cake. In this class Mayra Garcia from CelebrateMe! will teach participants how pipe beautiful Mexican embroidery designs, with

buttercream icing. The workshop will begin with a demo on how to build, fill and ice a cake properly, then move on to teaching participants how to create beautiful embroidery-inspired traditional Mexican patterns. All supplies included. Ticket required, includes show admission. Visit woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Durham County Poets plus Emi

DeLia. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Durham County Poets are a lively and soulful group, who write and perform an eclectic blend of blues, folk and rock, with tinges of country, gospel and swing tossed in for good measure. With an almost 4 octave vocal range and electronic pedals on her harp, Emi DeLia creates a unique sound that blends pop, soul, R&B, jazz, blues, and world music. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for FocusMusic members; \$20 at the door.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Author Event: Randon Billings

Noble and Xu Xi. 6:30 p.m. at Old Town Books, 104 South Union St. Join authors Randon Billings Noble and Xu Xi for an evening devoted to the essay at Old Town Books, Alexandria's newest independent bookstore. Both authors will be reading from their essay collections, out this month from the University of Nebraska Press. They will discuss the challenges and opportunities of the essay form and will open the discussion for audience participation. The event is free and open to the public. Both books will be available for purchase and signing. Visit oldtownbooks.com.

Small Space Gardening for

Pollinators. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Research has shown the importance residential gardens play in providing environmental support for wildlife. Learn which plants will attract and fill the needs of native pollinators even if garden space is limited to a small yard, a patio, or a balcony. Best gardening practices for pollinators. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m. at Mount Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane. Yacht Haven Garden Club will meet. The program will be "Design on a Grand Scale" by Anne Boucher, florist and Master Flower Show Judge. New members are welcome. Email pmuchello@aol.com.

Anniversary Open House. 3-6 p.m. at the Alexandria Health Department's main location, 4480 King St. The City of Alexandria invites the community to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alexandria Health Department. The open house will feature kiosks spotlighting each division, fire trucks, free giveaways and light refreshments. The community is invited to take a tour of the facilities, learn about services provided and meet employees who make these services possible. This event is free and open to the public. Visit alexandriava.gov/Health.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Annual Dundee Sister Cities Whisky Tasting. 7-10 p.m. at the historic Gadsby's, 134 N. Royal St. This annual fundraiser supports

cultural and educational activities with Dundee, Scotland and Helsingborg, Sweden. \$50-\$75. Get tickets at tickets.com or www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-scottish-whisky-tasting-wine-tickets-57858095120. Email Alexsistercities@gmail.com for more.

Fundraiser: Annual Dinner. Lindsay Cadillac, 1525 Kenwood Ave. Support Dunbar-Alexandria Olympic Boys & Girls Club at their annual dinner event. Help build the future for youth in the Alexandria community while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, dinner and dancing. \$125-\$225. Visit one.bidpal.net/starsofbgc/welcome for tickets.

APRIL 5-28

Art Exhibit: "(No) Comfort Zone." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "(No) Comfort Zone" exhibit reflects people, places and things that are in and/or out of their comfort zone. An opening reception takes place April 5, 7-9 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Writer's Workshop for Adults. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Popular Simon and Schuster author Sheila P. Moses will conduct a workshop for those interested in writing for the young adult market. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make your story ideas a reality. This workshop is limited to 20 people. A light breakfast and snacks will be provided. Bring lunch. Reservations are required, and the \$75 registration

fee must be paid online by April 1 at www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac and select the activity number 455201.01.

Hamilton's BFF & Frenemies Specialty Tour. 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Inspired by the musical Hamilton, hear about Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison, and Burr, who all came to the tavern, and delve into the issues they faced and how their choices impacted local citizens. This specialty tour is offered every Saturday in April. \$15 per person, \$12 for museum members. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/shop for tickets.

Floral Design Workshop-Ikebana.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Ikebana is a Japanese art of flower arrangement. Learn its rich symbolism and fundamentals, and take home an arrangement. Materials provided with \$25 supply fee. Program fee is \$39/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 3FB.OBF3 or call 703-642-5173.

Avenue Poems Walk. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Renée Adams of Del Ray's poetry fence will lead a walk of some of 65 poems placed outside businesses and other locations in Del Ray for April, poetry month. Get a list of the businesses and poems from the Duncan Library and lead your own poetry walk any time in April while the poems are up. Free. Call 703-746-1705.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Return to 1955 at ACCT's 'Bus Stop'

Comic exploration about four types of love.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) will present "Bus Stop" from March 29 to April 14. The play is set in a roadside diner near Kansas City in 1955. A freak snowstorm has halted the progress of the bus, and the characters have a layover in the diner in the middle of the night when romantic relationships ensue. The play was made into the 1956 film starring Marilyn Monroe.

According to Director Eleanore Tapscott: "Bus Stop" is a thoughtful and comic exploration about four types of love: young romantic love, loyal friendship, emotionless physical love, and deviant infatuation. In this play, we examine how people find and fail in love. A cross-section of people (town locals and visitors are trapped in a tiny rural diner during a raging snowstorm) are searching for meaning, searching for substance, searching for love sometimes in some of the wrong places."

Added Producer Charles Dragonette: "Having pushed to have ACCT take on 'Bus Stop' and then having heard Eleanore Tapscott's vision for the play, I could not turn down the chance to be more fully involved in bringing this mid-century American story to life. As a producer (and stage manager) I have had the continuing excitement of watching this show develop and to see how each of its interwoven stories resolve with warmth and heart."

Drew Cannady is playing the role of Will Masters, the local sheriff. "He is a devout Christian but isn't judgmental, as shown by his gentle ribbing of Carl and Elma for their, um, dalliance. He takes his job seriously and stands up for those who need help, but he also strongly believes in fairness and forgiveness," he said. "Will is a pillar of his

community, and I think he is the most settled (and perhaps happiest) of all the characters in Bus Stop," he said.

Elizabeth Replogle plays the role of Grace who owns the diner where the travelers are stranded. "She is technically still married, but her husband has been out of the picture for quite a while, and she's okay with that," she said.

She added: "Grace is really a character ahead of her time. Today, we don't think twice (at least I hope we don't) about an independent woman running her own business, and being unapologetic about the way she lives her life. But it would have been a huge struggle for a woman to assert herself that way 50 years ago without being portrayed as an object of pity or sympathy, which Grace definitely does not want. I try to keep her backstory in mind when I am playing her."

Emily Golden plays the role of Cherie, a nightclub singer in Kansas City. "Bo has forcefully put her on the bus with the intention of taking her to Montana and marrying her. Although she is attracted to Bo, she feels conflicted because of his rough approach. During the course of the show, we learn more about Cherie's past, as well as her hopes for the future," she said.

Joel Durgavich is playing the role of Virgil Blessing, a father figure for Bo. "Bo's parents died when he was 10 and Virgil has been raising him since then. Virgil himself is unmarried and does his best to keep Bo on the straight and narrow," he said.

He added: "I was initially playing the character of Virgil Blessing as too passive. I had to balance being stern with Bo when he is being unruly and being more compassionate to him when I am trying to teach him how to respect authority and Cherie."

John Paul Odle is playing the role of Bo



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

From left: Drew Cannady (Will, the Sheriff), Emily Golden (Cherie), John Paul Odle (Bo), Joel Durgavich (Virgil), and Madeline Byrd (Elma) star in ACCT's production of "Bus Stop."

Decker, a young buck untested outside of his Montana ranch. "His sheltered life is informed by what he reads, and what he watches on his 24-inch color television. Having inherited his parents' ranch at 21, the power has gone slightly to his head. On his first rodeo tour outside of Montana, Bo feels the urgent need to find himself a wife, and is enraptured by Cherie, a singer at a nightclub he frequented every night after the rodeo. With little experience towards women, he acts outwardly in a brash, abusive way, although his inward reasoning is much more authentic and genuine. Bo is head over heels in love with Cherie, and will stop at nothing to marry her," he said.

Madeline Byrd is playing the role of Elma Duckworth, the young and innocent waitress who works at Grace's Diner. "She is very intellectual, but a bit naive in the ways of love. She eagerly creates connections with strangers without any judgement or preconceived notions. She has an idealistic worldview that expands beyond the confines of Grace's Diner in rural Kansas," she said.

Richard Isaacs is playing the role of Carl, the bus driver, who he describes as "a good old boy who goes through the motions ...

he was, is, and always will be a bus driver. And he's happy with that."

He added: "It was a different world in 1955 when the play came out, but I believe that the 50-plus-years-old humor in this show stands the test of time, so I'm hoping that the audience leaves with a smile on their face."

Tom Solman is playing the role of Dr. Gerald Lyman, a candid, highly educated yet dysfunctional character. "Married and divorced three times, he could never trust himself or others around him to find lasting love and true meaning. He will not be controlled by anyone or anything. He is on a mission to be 'free' by traveling the country on a bus, both running away from pain and through pain via alcohol, young women, humor and intellect. He never escapes," he said.

Aldersgate Church Community Theater will present "Bus Stop" from March 29 to April 14. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$12 for students and seniors; and \$10 for groups. The venue is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit actonline.org.

CALENDAR

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

An Afternoon with Groovy Nate. Noon at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Groovy Nate is a children's entertainer and Wolf Trap Teaching Artist who creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments and ventriloquism. All ages are welcome, but most suitable for children 3-8 years old. Cost \$5; \$3 for those who attend Story Time for Little Historians at 11 a.m. Seats are limited, reserve tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

The "Grandest Congress." Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Spring, 1755:

Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, landed in Alexandria on March 26th to assume command of all North American military forces. He lodged at the grandest dwelling in town, Carlyle House. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Free admission. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park or call 703-549-2997.

Ikebana Floral Design Workshop for Kids. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (9-12 yrs.) Kids can try their hand at creating a Japanese-style floral design influenced by the flowering cherry trees. \$15/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code E7B.F075 or call 703-642-5173.

"Spring Beauty on Duty." 1-2:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. What are those colorful flowers that carpet the forest floor at Huntley Meadows Park each

spring? Hear the Indian lore associated with the flowers and learn about their important place in animal life. View the flower's fascinating parts under a microscope. Designed for ages 4-12. \$12 per child. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Tree Printing Workshop. 1:30-3 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Join Dan Scott, Associate Director of Horticulture and River Farm, in an educational hands-on workshop about tree rings. Attendees will learn the art of wood printing. \$65 AHS members; \$75 non-members. Space limited to 20 participants. Email ksoverville@ahsgardening.org or visit www.ahsgardening.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a Fisher House Benefit dance. There will be a potluck dinner (please bring a dish to

share) and no lessons. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission \$20 per person. No free passes. Net proceeds from the dance go to Fisher House Foundation. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. Fundraiser raffles including chance for ballet tickets. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

ASO Presents: Rachmaninoff. 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro James Ross for the 2018-2019 season finale, featuring Rachmaninoff's famed Piano Concerto No. 3 and Robert Schumann's poetic Symphony No. 1 "Spring." Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7
Spring Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at CARE Actor Arts Space, 129 South Royal St., Suite 5. CARE Actor is hosting a spring open house with activities for all ages. (2 and older),

including storytime, face painting, arts & crafts, an improv workshop and more. Free; get tickets at www.careactorkids.com/special-events.html.

Opening Reception: "Ranch Life." 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Sandy LeBrun-Evans visited Eaton's Ranch in Wyoming last year and was enamored with the lifestyle and how easy it was to forget the troubles of the world and to get lost in the past. Visit multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

ASO Presents: Rachmaninoff. 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro James Ross for the 2018-2019 season finale, featuring Rachmaninoff's famed Piano Concerto No. 3 and Robert Schumann's poetic Symphony No. 1 "Spring." Pre-concert talk at 2:15 p.m. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

Poultry Slaughterhouse Approved

FROM PAGE 1
marketing web site, which says: "It's no secret that Alexandrians love their pets. In fact, one out of every four Alexandria residents is a dog!" Epstein estimates that means Alexandria is home to nearly 40,000 dogs — "a huge amount of business going to the [pet-related establishments] that are already in the area."

Kevin Gilliam, who owns Frolick Dogs, a "canine sports club," listed five pet-related businesses, including his own, within two blocks of the butchery location.

"Opposition is not about religion, anti-Muslim or Islamophobic [sentiments]. It's about land use and ... protecting Alexandria's existing small businesses," said Sandy Modell, who owns Wholistic Hound Academy. "This may be an industrial zone, but permitted uses have brought a number of family- and dog-friendly establishments that have changed the nature and character of this area in the last 2-5 years. ... I may be phobic, but it's I-can't-afford-to-lose-business-phobic. ... Our businesses will close. We cannot operate in the shadow of a slaughterhouse."

Residents in opposition also expressed concerns about the congruity of a slaughterhouse in an urban area, odors, trash removal and disease risk.

City staff and some council members concluded the butchery's plan meets or exceeds the industrial zone's legal requirements, and that certain concerns and risks are sufficiently mitigated or overstated.

While current zoning requires the site in question to maintain two parking spaces, DC Poultry Market would provide four.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will conduct bi-monthly inspections, according to planning and zoning's Chrishaun Smith. The USDA will also conduct inspections every three months.

The health department "found no evidence that live or dead chickens would adversely affect the health of animals or persons in the surrounding area," said Councilman Mohamed "Mo" Seifeldein.

Bennett-Parker thought otherwise. She said she spoke to neighbors of DC Poultry sister establishments in seven other locations nationwide. She personally visited an eighth in Philadelphia over the

weekend.

"Only one person I spoke to did not cite any impacts, and his business is located ... more than a block away," she said. Among other things, neighboring businesses told her that "animals have escaped, it is smelly and it attracts rodents."

"I also went to two halal markets [Afghan Market and Fair Price International Supermarket] within the City of Alexandria, where I observed chickens for sale with prices starting at \$1.99 per pound," she added.

Councilwoman Amy Jackson also dissented, saying that parking and traffic impacts, including from non-Alexandrians traveling to the new business, haven't been sufficiently studied.

While council didn't stray far from technical considerations, the case also skirted religious territory.

"I'm tired of going to Warrenton or Haymarket to purchase halal meat," said Ali Abjabyali, an Alexandria resident. Those locations are about a two-hour round trip from Alexandria, without traffic.

"We have been forced to do our own slaughter at our own homes simply because no services like this has been available in our communities," said Tahzib Bacchus at the public hearing, though he lives in Falls Church. Some opponents thought council's consideration should pertain only to land use and not to religion. But Seifeldein expressed concern that disapproving the halal business might violate the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000. This federal law prohibits any "land use regulation ... that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution."

Jeff Reid, who spoke in favor of the halal butchery, speculated that the Supreme Court's 2014 decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* might apply. Among other things, the Court's decision upheld for-profit corporations' legal personhood, including to the free religious exercise.

Councilman Canek Aguirre said he received an email calling the manner of slaughter an "antiquated practice."

Pepper instructed staff to "share with our Muslim friends and neighbors that we welcome them in this community."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 15

activities, an obstacle course, balance logs, play equipment for ages 2-12, and a climbable public art piece. The new design aims to promote social connection and play for Alexandria families. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

JGSGW Monthly Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will present Evaluating Conflicting Evidence to Find "the Truth" and Beginner & Intermediate Jewish Genealogy Workshops. The Society is open to all those interested in Jewish genealogy. Prior to the presentation, JGSGW members may register for one of two members only workshops to be held from 10 a.m.-noon. Advance registration required. Visit www.jgsgw.org/membership to join.

MONDAY/MARCH 25

City Council - School Board Subcommittee. 5 p.m. at City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact Kilo Grayson, 703-746-3722.

Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board. 6 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact Robert Garbacz, 703-746-4101.

Civic Activism: Women Leading the Way. 6:30 p.m., reception; 7:30 p.m. program at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Hosted by the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Friends of the Commission for Women, this event will highlight a key section of a report recently released by Alexandria Commission for Women, focused on women and leadership in Alexandria. Followed by a panel discussion with women leaders. \$45 in advance; \$50 at the door. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com/e/civic-activism-women-leading-the-way-tickets-56753991717. To get involved, email alexandriawomen@gmail.com.

Alexandria Citizen Corps Council. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 204, 900 Second St. Contact Patrick Moran, patrick@moranstrategy.com.

ARHA Board of Commissioners Meeting. 7 p.m. at Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Contact Cynthia Dickerson, 703-549-7115.

Public Meeting on Seminary Road Complete Streets Project. 7-9

p.m. at St. Stephens & St. Agnes Upper School, Dining Hall, 1000 St. Stephens Road. Public Meeting on Seminary Road Complete Streets Project. Seminary Road is scheduled to be repaved in September 2019. While significant traffic impacts are not expected from operational changes to the exit ramp, staff will move forward with the primary goal of making improvements to Seminary Road between N. Quaker Lane and N. Howard Street. Staff will discuss the reduced study area, share the three design concepts, and ask for input on potential improvements to Seminary Road. All meeting materials will be posted on the website after the meeting. An online feedback form will also be available through April 10 to collect additional community input for those who are not able to attend the meeting in person. Contact Christine Mayeur, Complete Streets Program Manager, at christine.mayeur@alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MARCH 26

City Council Legislative Meeting. 6 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact City Clerk's Office, gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4550.

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Legals

On March 8, 2019 Capital Healthcare PC, operating as AllCare, acquired MedGen Urgent Care Virginia via an asset sale.

Your medical records are confidential, and with your permission a copy can be transferred to another physician or released to you or your personal representative. If you continue using the MedGen Urgent Care location at 3117 Duke Street, now operating as MedGen AllCare, you can sign, at your next visit, an authorization form releasing your records to AllCare. AllCare will be retaining patient records from MedGen Urgent Care but will only access them with your written consent.

Please call the clinic at 703-751-8800 with any questions.

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

Legals

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 820, Joint City/ACPS Facilities Master Plan.

Closing Date and Time: May 1, 2019, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on April 9, 2019 at 10:00 am EST in the purchasing conference room located at 100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301 Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

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Weight For It ... Wait ...



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive course of action – or inaction on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I've recently been added to – without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasingly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight – which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn't eating. Eventually, that lost weight – and more – was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider; not my doctor, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location – in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" nearly became in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncertified non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

els they have spent a lot of resources on energy storage technology, especially battery technology. The U.S. is heavily researching and developing storage technologies as well. The critical importance of energy storage technology and its effect on the grid is seemingly not well appreciated to ensure dependable and reliable electricity from renewable sources, especially in this digital age.

The students and their protests can, however, play an immediate part in our community, and also provide long-term benefits for energy users. In the short-term, we can demand: 1) the city mandate that new purchases of heavy-duty trucks be equipped with near-zero emissions natural gas engines; and 2) a percent of contracted heavy-duty trucks working on city projects to include the new Metro station be equipped with these engines. Sadly, the dysfunction of our U.S. Senate and House of Representatives removed any immediate impact and leverage in putting new near-zero emissions natural gas powered vehicle keys in the hands of operators to replace the old smog generating heavy-duty trucks and construction equipment as the result of the absence of a large-scale Federal infrastructure program. Provisions in legislation would hopefully have required a percent of construction vehicles be equipped with these new natural gas engines. We are then left with only state and local mandates — if we demand these provisions.

In the longer-term, we can demand our governor and state representatives leverage our connections with power companies within the state; e.g., Dominion Energy, Washington Gas, etc. to negotiate agreements to establish technology innovation laboratories to promote new and improved technologies and, especially, for start-ups in the field of clean energy production and sustainability.

These laboratories would, most importantly, make available test and evaluation facilities equipped with required test equipment. If one reads the provisions of the Federal Enabling Energy Saving Innovation Act, you'll immediately understand how difficult and expensive it is for small start-ups and large corporations to field new and innovative technologies. Are there local inventors around? Any one watch Steve Case (Rise of the Rest) on 60 Minutes? They are everywhere. I visited a start-up on Pendleton Street last week, and saw a 37 pound generator that was crying for the military / FEMA to test it along with another invention fueled by natural gas and hydrogen. Can the students imagine the opportunities and benefits from internships at these labs?

We are lucky in Alexandria to have the social, economic and environmental benefits of natural gas — as we wait for the arrival of additional cleaner, affordable, safe, dependable and reliable energy sources. And for the students, continue to study energy sources and sustainability, be an independent thinker, be an inventor, and keep pushing forward.

Ken Wilkinson
Alexandria

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