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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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APRIL 4, 2019



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Fefe and Jennifer Holtzman check out the Mirror Mirror exhibit in Waterfront Park.

‘Mirror Mirror’

Inaugural waterfront art exhibit opens to the public.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Mirror Mirror, an 8-foot-tall interactive art installation, formally opened March 30 at Waterfront Park as the inaugural project in the city’s “Site See: New Views in Old Town” planned series of temporary public art.

Commissioned by the Office of the Arts, “Mirror Mirror” is part of the city’s efforts to enrich the experience of the waterfront along the Potomac River.

“It’s an honor to be the inaugural piece of public art,” said artist Michael Szivos of New York-based SOFTlab, the firm that created the project. “We were inspired by the architecture of the [Jones Point] lighthouse and how it uses a lenticular lens

to cast light, panoramically connecting land and sea.”

The installation is set up as a 25-foot-long open circle. The exterior features monochromatic mirrors to reflect the urban environment while the interior surfaces are tinted with a full color spectrum. Both sides are clad with one-way mirrored film.

Linear LED fixtures are located inside each of the vertical components and four microphones are evenly spaced at the top of the piece to pick up ambient sound. When triggered by sound, the columns light up as visitors interact with the piece.

“Sometimes you just get lucky,” said Szivos when asked how he was selected as the featured artist. “It’s great to know this is just the beginning in a larger series to showcase other art.”

**Jenny Becherer and
Brooke Sydnor Curran
visit Mirror Mirror in
Waterfront Park on
March 29.**



Gas Lines Targeted For Replacement

Washington Gas schedules work
under VA SAVE program.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Washington Gas sent a notice to the Clover College Park Civic Association (CCPCA) on March 8 indicating that during a recent evaluation of the neighborhood it determined that several gas lines will be replaced under Virginia’s SAVE Act. The notice was accompanied with a list of the 105 services that will be affected with most located on Bryan Street, Cambridge Road, Crown View Drive, Dartmouth Road, Skyhill Road, Vassar Place and W. Taylor Run Parkway.

Work is scheduled to begin on

or about April 8 and to be completed within 12 weeks, weather permitting. Washington Gas requested a meeting with the CCPCA on March 27 to share additional information about the SAVE Act passed in 2009-2010 to accelerate replacement of gas facilities such as those to be replaced in Clover College Park.

A fact sheet accompanying the Washington Gas notification outlined the steps in a typical natural gas replacement beginning with contact with the customer to schedule the date of their service replacement.

Gas will be turned off at the residence for no longer than one day

SEE GAS LINES, PAGE 7

Women Confront Civic Challenges

Panel discusses systemic barriers
women face in politics.

BY DAN BRENDL AND
BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

a panel last week on civic activism highlighted systemic barriers that women still face.

The panel, hosted on Monday, March 25 by the Alexandria Commission for Women, included fe

SEE CONFRONTING, PAGE 20

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The King of Karaoke

Rock It Grill celebrates 30 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Thirty years ago, many stretches of King Street could be described as “sketchy” at best. But that didn’t stop Gary Wayne Miller, a local musician and entrepreneur, from opening a restaurant where music and friendships thrived. Still going strong today, the karaoke favorite Rock It Grill celebrated its 30th anniversary March 31 with a fundraiser for the nonprofit Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

“We are excited to be hosting this event, not only to celebrate 30 years as an Old Town staple, but also to give back to the community,” said owner Laura Seiss, who took over operations of the restaurant following Miller’s death in 2013. “Additionally, we wouldn’t be here without the tremendous support from our patrons. We’re thrilled to celebrate them the way they have celebrated us for the last 30 years.”

The day-long festivities included an afternoon of Karaoke for Kids, gift basket and 50/50 raffles and a puppy kissing booth with pups-in-training from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing guide dogs to the blind and visually impaired.

“Seeing the little ones of couples who met at Rock It singing karaoke, visiting with the regulars from our earlier days, and raising our glasses in honor of the countless memories created within our four walls could not have been more amazing,” Seiss posted on



Rock It Grill owner Laura Seiss, center, Hannah Harris and event coordinator Joanna Bellerdine stand in front of the raffle items display at the 30th anniversary celebration of the Old Town karaoke bar and restaurant. The March 31 event served as a fundraiser for the nonprofit Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

social media. “You are the foundation of our success and unparalleled in generosity, which will benefit Guiding Eyes for the Blind and their amazing work.”

Seiss also gave a shout out to Fred Parker and Hard Times Café for their recognition of the milestone with a special food dona-

tion. “We are proud to share King Street with you!”

Located at 1319 King St., the restaurant was originally opened as GW’s and became the Rock It Grill in 1997. It is known throughout the region as a destination for karaoke singing and supports the local com-



Young Hudson Gann sings karaoke with his mother Amy Moskovitz at the March 31 Rock It Grill 30th anniversary celebration.

munity through events such as Karaoke with Cops to benefit the Alexandria Police Foundation and the city’s K9 units.

“Thank you again to everyone who spent their Sunday celebrating with us,” Seiss added. “It was an incredible day and we are forever grateful for you.”

Transgender Bathrooms: A Local Matter?

Alexandria’s School Board weighs in on high-profile lawsuit against another jurisdiction.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

The School Board voted unanimously to weigh in on behalf of a transgender former high school student who’s suing a different Virginia municipality’s School Board for discrimination.

The case is Gavin Grimm (“G. G.”) v. Gloucester County School Board, currently making its way through the federal courts. Gloucester County sits on Virginia’s western Chesapeake shore, about 100 miles south of Alexandria. The U.S. Supreme Court nearly took the case in 2017, but remanded it to a lower court.

Gloucester’s School Board contends its policy of “separating restrooms by anatomical and physiological sex” is nondiscriminatory and falls duly under local legislative purview. Grimm, who publicly transitioned from a female to a male gender identity upon entering his sophomore year in 2014, disagrees. The policy compelled him to use separate single-stall bathrooms, according to court filings available via the American Civil Liberties Union, Grimm’s legal coun-

sel provider. Using separate bathrooms was “stigmatizing” and caused Grimm to miss class time for their “very inconvenient” location. Grimm, now age 19 and graduated, wants the court to rule that his former school system violated his federal equal-protection and -participation rights, among other things. Gloucester’s School Board wants the case dismissed.

Alexandria’s School Board voted on Thursday, March 21 to join Fairfax, Arlington and Falls Church in an amicus brief supporting Grimm. The board reviewed a draft in closed (nonpublic) session. The brief did not become publicly available until its filing on Tuesday, March 26.

An amicus brief is a petition “a person or group who is not a party to an action, but has a strong interest in the matter, ... with the intent of influencing the court’s decision.” That’s according to the Legal Information Institute at Cornell Law School.

Grimm was identified by hospital staff as a female at birth and enrolled as a girl in previous school grades. But “I have always known that I am a boy,” he said in court filings. Around age 13, “I first learned about the term ‘transgender’ from the internet,

and realized that there was a word for the feelings I had felt all my life.”

Grimm’s mother furnished the high school a “treatment documentation letter,” from his psychologist. The letter asserted “that [Grimm] was receiving treatment for gender dysphoria and stated that he should be treated as a boy in all respects, including when using the restroom.”

The filing defines gender dysphoria as “persistent and clinically significant distress caused by the incongruence between [a ‘deeply felt, inherent sense of’] gender identity and the sex assigned to them at birth.”

The school administration at first let Grimm use the boys’ restrooms on campus. But after hearing concerns from constituents, including other students’ parents, Gloucester’s School Board voted 6-1 to approve a new policy: “the use of [male and



GLoucester County Online Video Archive, Nov. 11, 2014.

Gavin Grimm, a transgender male, giving public testimony as a high school student at a School Board meeting in 2014. Grimm is plaintiff in an ongoing lawsuit against Virginia’s Gloucester County School Board concerning the schools’ bathroom policy.

female restroom and locker room] shall be limited to the corresponding biological genders, and students with gender identity issues shall be provided an alternative appropriate private facility.”

According to the Gloucester School Board’s court filings: “All students may use either the restroom and locker room facilities that correspond with their anatomy and physiology or one of three [subsequently

SEE BOARD SUPPORTS, PAGE 5

News

Special Tour

The Friendship Firehouse Museum will be kick off its Spring2Action campaign with a special tour focusing on Alexandria's fire



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

and water history. The family-friendly event will have hands-on activities and tours of historic and modern fire vehicles, as well as a behind-the-scenes view of the ship timbers found on the Waterfront in Robinson Terminal South. The tour will take place at the old DASH facility at 116 S. Quaker Lane. Reservations can be made online at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/SelectEvent.aspx?eventid=6000416> After reserving a tour time, consider a minimum donation of \$10 per person/\$25 per family to the Historic Alexandria - Friendship Firehouse Hose Carriage Restoration Effort at Spring2Action.org.

Underscoring 'Accountable'

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

City Council and staff have met several times in past weeks to discuss government spending initiatives, many of which pertain to local government's accountability and effectiveness.

City staff have categorized several explicitly under "accountable, effective and well-managed government," one of four "focus areas" according to which City Manager Mark Jinks organized his FY 2020 budget proposal. Other initiatives fall under different focus areas, but directly relate.

Little time remains for citizens to weigh in on the city's \$761 million general fund operating budget and \$1.6 billion 10-year capi-

tal improvement budget. Council members must submit additions and deletions to Jinks' proposal on Thursday, April 11. A second and final budget public hearing will follow on Saturday, April 13. Council will adopt its final budget on Wednesday, May 1, ahead of the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

An exchange between Council member Mohamed "Mo" Seifeldein and City Manager Mark Jinks raised the question, which crops up periodically, about how the roles of elected officials and professional staff relate.

The budget envisions purchasing "only electric or hybrid gas/electric general purpose sedans" for the city's fleet, which totals 458 vehicles. Staff plans to work out

SEE ACCOUNTABLE, PAGE 22

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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

ACT for Alexandria CEO Heather Peeler, second from right, joins Jen Walker at Stomping Ground Restaurant in Del Ray at the 2018 Spring2Action community giving day. This year's event is set for April 10.

Ready. Set. Click.

**Spring2Action
online giving day set
for April 10.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Spring2Action, Alexandria's citywide day of giving, will kick off at the stroke of midnight April 10 as hundreds of donors begin opening their laptops and wallets for the 24-hour online giving campaign to benefit local nonprofit organizations.

Started in 2011 by ACT for Alexandria, last year's event raised more than \$1.8 million in support of 156 local nonprofits.

Early giving began March 27 and continues until the official opening of Spring2Action on April 10. ACT has set this year's community goal at \$2 million.

"Alexandria has an amazing, committed and generous donor base along with outstanding nonprofit organizations," said ACT president and CEO Heather Peeler following her first Spring2Action event last year. "If you really want to solve issues in a community those are all the ingredients you need to have in place."

Since its inception, more than \$8 million has been raised through Spring2Action, making it one of the most successful city-wide giving days in the country.

See www.Spring2Action.org.

Board Supports Lawsuit

FROM PAGE 3

installed] single-stall restrooms available for any student. ... Simply put, the ... policy does not discriminate."

"Although any student was allowed to use the single-user restrooms, no one else did so. Everyone knew they were created for [Grimm]," say Grimm's attorneys.

Gloucester School Board further asserts: "Questions of policy ... are the province of legislative bodies, not the judiciary. Grimm's reliance on assertions that other school districts have successfully adopted policies consistent with those that he advocates is not material to the claims at issue here. Instead, the question is whether the School Board's policy violates federal law, not whether it is the best or even a desirable policy in the judgment of a federal court."

Alexandria and the other signatories submitted their amicus brief "to share their perspective as school boards that have successfully prohibited gender-identity discrimination ..."

Alexandria's School Board amended its nondiscrimination policy (Policy AC) in 2015 to include "gender identity" and "gen-

der expression" as enumerated protected categories. Its other related policies include Policies JB and GBA/JFHA.

According to the brief: "Our school administrators carry out this general non-discrimination policy on a case-by-case basis, exploring with individual students the use of pronouns and names, providing support to families, and ensuring appropriate access to school facilities, including permitting students to use the restrooms corresponding to their gender identity when requested. [This has] led to uniformly positive results in our schools. Transgender students report greater feelings of acceptance, safety, and connection to other students. ... Conversely, [we] have seen none of the negative consequences predicted by opponents of such policies. Male students, teachers, and parents have not used the policy as a ruse to improperly access female restrooms. Sex offenders have not exploited the policy to prey on children. Transgender students have not suffered greater stigma or trauma. And cisgender [felt identity corresponds with birth gender] students have not suffered academic decline."



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It's Simple: Just Follow Your Passion

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

“Ah ah ah ah” in ascending notes as Mia Hall stands by the piano in the music room breathing from the diaphragm and practicing her scales. She moved to Alexandria from Maryland at the beginning of her junior year. “I heard TC had a great choir and I did research on the website. They had an amazing bio, all of the things they had done.”

So Hall decided to try out for the choir. She walked into Room C120

PEOPLE AT WORK

where she had to perform an audition. “Mr. Thorpe was sitting at the piano when I walked into the room. He was very intimidating. He had me do scales and then asked me my background and then said ‘I’m going to put you in advanced choir.’” Hall was surprised and excited at the same time. From there Hall went from a terrified new choral student to a leader of the elite T.C. Williams advanced choir in two years.

Theodore Thorpe, TC choir director, says that all of the school counselors refer students to him who say they can sing. “I take it with a grain of salt.” But Hall came with “very raw skills. Some students have natural vocal ability but no discipline while others are hard workers but don’t have the talent. Every once in a while you find an extremely talented student who is an overachiever. That’s her.

She is a gem.”

Hall remembers walking into the room the first day of class. She says Thorpe can be intimidating until you know him. “Everyone said in unison, ‘Good morning Mr. Thorpe.’ I gulped and said ‘Good Morning Mr. Thorpe.’ I was so confused I sat in the wrong section. I sat with the sopranos.” Thorpe says that Hall sings contralto in the choir but her voice ranges to mezzo-soprano. Hall says it took a lot of getting acclimated to a new school where the students already had their own friends and their cliques. “The first 3-4 months were pretty rough. I didn’t fit in and I struggled with sight-reading.” She thought about moving back to Maryland but now she is glad she didn’t. “People here helped me so much. My section leader helped me with reading music. I knew I was in a safe place.”

Hall says in the high school in Maryland she was the only one in her music class of 10 students who took music seriously. “It’s different here where discipline and hard work are important. At my previous school people talked over the teacher and didn’t care. Here everyone respects Mr. Thorpe.”

Thorpe says he came from a musical family. “My mother sang at Carnegie Hall and my father was a choral and orchestra conductor in New York. “My journey was a little unorthodox. I studied biology and I planned to go to dental school. “You know you were supposed to be a doctor or lawyer so you could pay your bills.” But



Mia Hall practicing scales with T.C. Williams High School Choir Director Theodore Thorpe.

luckily a relative dissuaded him in time and now he says, “There’s nothing like pursuing your passion. I’m one of the lucky ones.”

Thorpe says when he applied for the position as choral director at TC he told them, “If you let me do things my way, I’ll make this the best program in the state.” Now the choral program has grown from a handful of students with a piano tucked off on the side to a thriving program of 120 students who comprise one of 10 high school choirs recently selected by blind audition for the national “Music for All” in Indianapolis. “We’re setting up for the World Choir Games in Brussels in 2020 where we plan to compete in several categories.” Hall says they are still selecting the participants for

that choir including some alums.

Thorpe said choir teaches you life skills, how to manage a group and get along together. Hall, as vice president of the choir, says she uses these skills to lead warm ups or start the class doing scales before Thorpe arrives. “It’s pretty cool.”

Hall says she has been singing since she was in kindergarten and remembers being in her first play in 8th grade. “It was ‘Hair Spray.’” Now she is practicing for her role as LeFou in “Beauty and the Beast” being performed at TC on April 26-27. She has just applied to VCU Arts for their undergrad program in musical arts. Her goal is to be a Broadway performer “and I know I can do it. I’m following my passion.”

Resolving Noise Vs Singing

The City of Alexandria and Krista McClellan Clouse, a professional opera singer, have amicably resolved a lawsuit brought by Clouse stemming from her September 2016 arrest under the city’s Noise Control Code while performing in Old Town’s Central Business District, according to a city news release. Clouse was represented by the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

Clouse is an award-winning international opera singer who has performed professionally all over the world. A native of Alexandria, she has been performing publicly in Old Town for many years and is a member of Alexandria’s public arts community.

“I am proud to call Alexandria home,” said Clouse. “I appreciate all that the City of Alexandria and its law enforcement do to promote a safe environment in Old Town where the public arts can thrive. I hope that my experience can help promote the constitutional rights of street performers and inspire others to participate in Alexandria’s historic arts community.”

City staff is undertaking a comprehensive review of the city’s noise ordinance and will recommend any necessary changes to the City Council.

Jakarta Named Poet Laureate

The Office of the Arts has appointed KaNikki Jakarta as the new poet laureate for a three-year term. The Alexandria Poet Laureate program was re-established by the city in 2007 to promote appreciation of poetry as an art form, to encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature, and to promote literacy through poetry. The Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Library will celebrate Jakarta’s appointment on Saturday, April 6, 3-4:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library 5005 Duke St. in the Large Conference Room. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, email Poet@Alexandria.gov.



Jakarta

Join Jakarta in celebration of poetry month: April 12, 7 p.m. Poem In Your Pocket Day at The Athenaeum for a free reception and April 26, 7 p.m. for A Friendly Game of Slam at The Durant Arts Center Competitive Poetry.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Quality of Life. 8 a.m. City Hall, Council Work Room, 301 King St. Contact Kilo Grayson, 703-746-3722.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Caregiver Bootcamp. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. Join IMCC for a day-long training event covering many essential caregiving topics. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided free of charge. Sessions include: Dementia 101 & Clinical Trials; Understanding Veterans Benefits; Practical Tools for Caregivers; and A Person-Centered Approach. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

“Understanding Fair Housing Compliance for Condominium and Community Associations.” 10 a.m.-noon at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Room 160, 4653

Taney Ave. This event is part of a series of workshops related to condominium and community associations. Registration is required; call the Office of Housing at 703-746-4990 or visit alexandriava.gov/Housing.

Warrior Woman Workshop. 1:30 p.m. at Curves of Alexandria, 7918 Fort Hunt Road. A hands-on self-defense workshop in which women practice on Bad Guy BOB, a life-like mannequin used in self-defense training. Free with advance registration at eventbrite.com (search Warrior Woman Workshop). Email shellygood@hotmail.com or call 703-201-1976 for more.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Presentation: New to Medicare. 6-8 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Participants new to Medicare or a caregiver for a Medicare beneficiary can learn the basics of Medicare coverage and choices. This presentation is given by Medicare counselors from the Division of Aging and Adult Services. There is no cost for attendance. Registration is required. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 703-746-5999 or email VICAP@alexandriava.gov.

Budget Work Session #8. 7 p.m. City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St.

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY/APRIL 9 & 11

Adult Mental Health First Aid Training. 1-5 p.m. at 4480 King St., Rm. 514. Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an eight-hour training and certification on skills to help persons who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Limit 20 participants per class. Register at survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/MHFARegistration. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Nomination Deadline. The Alexandria Commission on Aging (COA) is seeking nominations for its annual Excellence in Aging Awards Reception on Tuesday, May 14 at

5:30 p.m. in the Vola Lawson Lobby in City Hall, 301 King St. The COA, which advocates for the needs of Alexandria seniors, uses the awards to honor individuals — regardless of age — as well as an organization, that have provided service to older Alexandrians or demonstrated superior contributions in advancing issues and projects that favorably affect older Alexandrians. Visit alexandriava.gov/aging for nomination information or call Debbie Ludington at 703-746-5694.

Submission Deadline: Fair Housing Month Poster.

5 p.m. The City is hosting the fourth annual Fair Housing Poster Contest to educate young people about how fair housing laws protect everyone against illegal housing discrimination. All Alexandria students in grades K-5 are eligible to enter the contest. Entries must be original artwork and represent this year’s theme, “Fair Housing Lives in Alexandria.” The top three winners of the poster contest will be chosen by a panel of Office of Housing staff on April 25. To submit entries for the poster contest, call the Office of Housing at 703-746-4990 or visit alexandriava.gov/Housing.

Gas Lines

FROM PAGE 1

with relighting of gas appliances after the service replacement is completed. Efforts will be made to minimize disruption to the homeowners' properties during installation, and property restoration will restore the area to as close to as found condition as possible.

Notice of upcoming extensive replacement came after several months of neighborhood concern beginning in October 2018 about continuing odors of gas around the area. A number of repairs were performed during November and December. On Jan. 10 Washington Gas attended a meeting of the CCPCA to explain how they respond to leaks and to outline the safety procedures utilized to assess and maintain the system.

Katie Harkless, director, Below Ground Field Operations, indicated at the meeting that on Jan. 2-3 Washington Gas had done a special assessment of the area and they found 11 leaks, eight hazardous which were repaired within a day and a half, and three non-hazardous that will be rechecked in six months. Washington Gas indicated that they conduct a proactive gas leak survey every three years to ensure safety, reliability and protection and, while they were performing repairs as needed, that they did not see

Clover College Park			
	TOTAL	ON MAIN	ON SERVICE
TOTAL LEAKS 2016	8		
REPAIRED		2	6
	TOTAL	ON MAIN	ON SERVICE
TOTAL LEAKS 2017	14		
REPAIRED		2	12
	TOTAL	ON MAIN	ON SERVICE
TOTAL LEAKS 2018	16		
REPAIRED		2	9
PENDING	5		
	TOTAL	ON MAIN	ON SERVICE
TOTAL LEAKS 2019	14		
REPAIRED		1	13
PENDING	0		

Updated comparison of gas leaks in Alexandria 2016-2019.

a pattern.

Reports of gas leaks continued into January with Washington Gas trucks a familiar sight around the neighborhood. Washington Gas sent in crews to perform additional repairs. On March 8 residents received a notice about the planned replacement of 105 services in the area.

The SAVE Act allows natural gas utilities to implement a SAVE plan for eligible infrastructure replacement projects which meet certain requirements for safety and greenhouse emissions. In the Alexandria area there are 33 active or soon-to-be active VA SAVE related projects, which will replace just under 400 feet of main and approximately 700 service lines. Projects are selected based on risk-based modeling for mains and service projects as well as leak rates by area for service-only projects.



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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




Acknowledge The Sacrifice

To the Editor:

This is in response to the letter written by William C. Pfister, Jr., president of the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School PTA in the March 28 Gazette Packet. His letter expresses support for the use of the old Patrick Henry school as swing space as the Douglas MacArthur school undergoes reconstruction. This is also in response to communications I have received from ACPS regarding the proposed swing space. Even though I live in the Patrick Henry neighborhood, as a retiree without children I really don't have a major stake in this. But I'd like to recommend a slight change of perspective that might promote community rather than divide community as unfortunately I see happening all too frequently in Alexandria.

First, in his initial letter to the Patrick Henry community, Superintendent Hutchings emphasized that compromises are necessary. Compromise is the process of give and take. I have not heard of one thing that Patrick Henry "takes" for what it is expected to "give." Among those "gifts" is the loss of access to playing fields for several more years beyond what it has already lost for construction. Similarly, the neighborhood is expected to "give" more years of disruption and congestion but "takes" nothing. I'm not seeing where there is "compromise" in this. (The cost savings are not a take away for Patrick Henry; all of Alexandria will "take" those savings but only the Patrick Henry community will "give" to gain them.)

Then, in his letter to the Gazette Packet, Mr. Pfister recounts the reasonable arguments in support of the swing space proposal. But he writes off the concerns of its opponents as only short-term impacts and calls all to serve the greater good. Sounds noble, doesn't it? This sounds so similar to the treatment of the Woods neighborhood impacted by the decision to install permanent lighting at T.C. Williams' stadium; they too were told they must "give" for the greater good.

I don't think these approaches are helpful when we are asking a community to make a "sacrifice" in service to the greater good. Rather than couch it as "compromise" or discounting its "impact," call what you want to impose upon Patrick Henry what it is: a "sacrifice." Why not acknowledge it? Why not show appreciation for it? What about a tangible show of appreciation? Mr. Pfister says the entire MacArthur PTA stands behind this solution; what then are they willing to do for the Patrick Henry school community in appreciation for the sacrifice they will be making? What does ACPS intend to do to show appreciation for the sacrifice they want Patrick Henry to make? I don't know what form that might take but I suggest that become part of the discussion.

Doesn't the "greater good" also entail teaching our children through our own words and actions to be good citizens and good neighbors? That's not where I currently see this going. The "greater good" is being used once again to discount the legitimate interests of a part of Alexandria and to justify imposing a sacrifice upon it. Acknowledgement and appreciation of that sacrifice can help build ties within our city not create divisions.



Walter's Post

From a window in the 100 block of Wolfe Street.

PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

I hope there is willingness to reconsider how we will proceed through this transition and to show greater respect and appreciation for the Patrick Henry school community and neighborhood. Maybe this can be a model for future ACPS and city initiatives.

Tom Suydam
Alexandria

Greatly Missed, Long Remembered

To the Editor:

When I was growing up there was a feature in each issue of the Reader's Digest entitled "The Most Unforgettable Person I've Ever Known."

Willie Bernice Randolph, or as I referred to her as Mrs. Randolph, while others of all ages referred to her either as "Willie" or Ms. Willie, would have been included in my very short list to profile in that feature.

Mrs. Randolph passed away March 15 after a long bout with cancer. She was born in Gladys Virginia and was one of nine siblings. The Randolphs were financially poor but lived a full and rich life of love and friendship.

Mrs. Randolph worked for me as a housekeeper for many years. We became very close friends. She was as bright a person that I have ever met. I think of how far she would have gone in a career had she been afforded a good education and equal opportunity. She had the best judgment of most people I have known. She was a principled person with the greatest work ethic and exceptional values. Political correctness was not part of her lexicon. More often than not she took opposing, frequently unpopular positions, of many of her friends and gave well thought out persuasive reasons why she was known as a contrarian.

Whatever task she undertook Mrs. Randolph did so with enthusiasm and thoroughness.

Mrs. Randolph was so loved by me and my wife, Sharon, that she and the woman who

introduced us and her husband were the only non-family members who were invited to and attended our wedding.

Willie Bernice Randolph is survived by her two sons, George Randolph III, Gregory Payne and a granddaughter, Ayana Payne.

Always with a smile, and a wonderful sense of humor, no one will ever forget her selling her breads each Saturday at the Alexandria Farmer's Market. But she was particularly proud of and well-known for her homemade biscuits served either with bacon or sausage. She was a fixture

on the Alexandria scene who was loved by all who knew her. Willie Bernice Randolph will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Rest in peace.

H. Alan Young
Alexandria

Imperiled Quality of Life

To the Editor:

As a resident of Old Town since the early '80s, it's not surprising that I can say, without hesitation, I have seen many changes (good and not so good) in Old Town ... but recent decisions by the planning commission and other city initiatives remind me about a recent trip to San Francisco.

You may be wondering about the connection.

In preparation for my trip to San Francisco I looked up my favorite fabric shop only to find a series of articles about the city's concern about the loss of its "cultural heritage assets." The shop I was searching was Britex Fabrics, and its recent move off Union Square represented the last locally owned store to be on San Francisco's Union Square. City preservationists spoke of preserving retail in the heart of the city versus being a flagship location for national retailers. It struck a chord to me about

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

the changes and proposal for changes on King Street.

The San Francisco Heritage Society published a report in September of 2014 that details the vast cultural assets of the city and the threats: "Amid unprecedented economic pressures, mainstays of San Francisco's cultural landscape – our cultural heritage assets – are increasingly imperiled by skyrocketing rents and encroaching new development."

I do not mean to compare Alexandria to San Francisco, but I do mean to directly compare what I feel as a long time Old Town resident, the increasingly imperiled quality of life, loss of local businesses and services, and a growing concern among neighbors who value not only preservation of the buildings but preservation of a community that started in the 18th century.

On another recent trip I picked up a magazine about Charleston, S.C. One of the city council members was profiled and he eloquently spoke of the pleasure of having visitors to Charleston but requested respect and protection of the residents from visitors, just as you would if you came into their home. He has a mantra I think is worth passing along to our city officials: the 72-72 balance.

At its core, the idea is to make decisions with this "balance" in mind.

To continually improve Charleston as the best place for people who come for 72 hours (or spend \$72 for dinner) and those who

want to live there for 72 years. I would suggest we as residents are losing this balance.

Among those of us who have lived here, maybe not 72 years, but shaped and invested in Old Town over decades, we need to continue to aggressively reach out to city officials that preserving Old Town as a community is as important as preserving any single building or adding new ones.

Ivy Whitlatch
Alexandria

Traffic Realities Ignored

To the Editor:

On a chilly Monday night, March 25, a truly extraordinary crowd of more than 200 people packed the cafeteria at the St. Stephens/St. Agnes for discussion of what, if any, changes should be made in Seminary Road east of I-395 when it is repaved in September. Their presence represented a true citizen "pushback" against city transportation plans that seem guided more by ideology than by facts.

Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) officials have offered up three alternatives for Seminary Road, all of them narrowing the current four-lane roadway and two shrinking the lanes to three or two. Of the 24 speakers from the public that night, 20 spoke against reducing the number of lanes. Audience reaction indicated

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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

Braddock Rd
King Street-Old Town
Van Dorn St
Eisenhower Ave

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.

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FNA Presents ACPS Middle and High School Choral, Band and Orchestras each a check for \$1,100 for a combined donation of \$3,300 during the Spring Pyramid Concerts.



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First Night Alexandria relies on the generosity of the City of Alexandria, area businesses, associations and YOU to present this annual signature event. By patronizing our sponsors, we keep this family-friendly event affordable and donate financially to our ACPS Middle & High School music programs. **THANK YOU!!**

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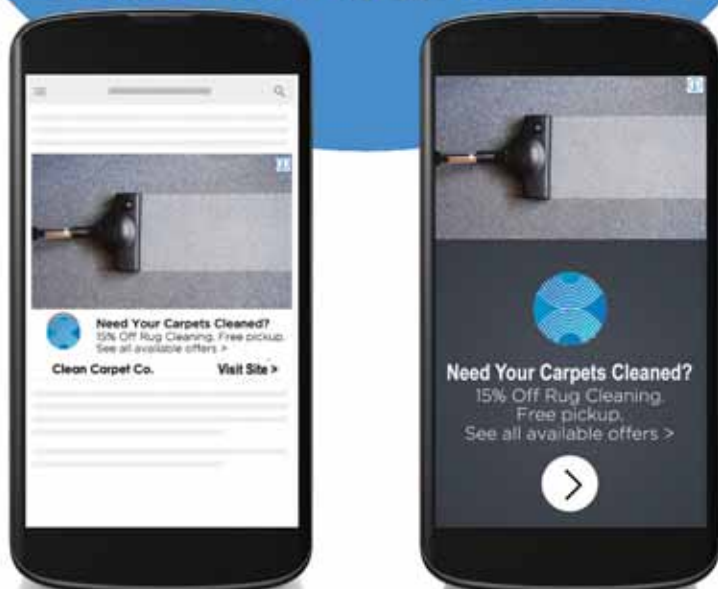
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NEWS

Three Generations of Shoemakers

The Martin family.

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

George Washington Martin was a free person who came to Alexandria, Va. from Rockville, Montgomery County, Md. during the Civil War. George was a skilled shoemaker. He not only made shoes for people but he also made shoes for horses.

Shortly after the Civil War, George met Eliza Lomax in Alexandria. They were married by Pastor George Washington Parker at his home on 67 St. Asaph Street on Dec. 20, 1866. Pastor Parker was the minister at Third Baptist Church. It still exists, with a dedicated congregation. Eliza Lomax Martin's third great-grand nephews — Donald, John and Alvin Taylor — attend Third Baptist Church.

George W. Martin and his wife, Eliza had three boys — Samuel, John (Johnny) and Solomon — prior to 1900 when the family was living on St. Asaph Street.

George's son, John Washington Martin joined him in the shoemaking business.

John Washington Martin married Fannie Kyer on Jan. 3, 1899. They had three children and one died when he was an infant. Their other children were John Theophilus Martin and Nellie Martin.

Nellie was born in 1908; she spent her early education at Hallowell School for Girls and she attended Parker-Gray School. She became a teacher in the Alexandria School system. She married Joe Greene. Nellie died at the age of 70 in Alexandria on April 27, 1978. Her brother, John T., went into the family shoemaking business which made him the third generation of shoemakers. The Martin's Shoe Shop was the place to go when you needed shoes and shoe repairs.

John T. Martin was born in 1904 in Alexandria to John W. Martin and his wife, Fannie M. Kyer. The family lived at 626 South St. Asaph Street. John T's early education was at Snowden School for Boys. He worked side by side with his father, first at their home at 626 South St. Asaph Street, and then at the eight-room house his father built at 521 Gibbon St. His father, John W. moved his business next door to 523 Gibbon St. at his new home. Father and son worked together at the shop until John W., died on Nov. 27, 1943. John W.'s wife, Fannie, had died two years earlier.

John T. Martin was married to Margaret. They had two children, Theola and Norman Martin. John con-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIE E. CASTILLO

The Martin Brothers (from left): Solomon Martin, John Washington Martin and Samuel Martin.

tinued to run the family business until a few years prior to his death. John was a shoemaker and shoe repairer. He died on March 22, 1967 when he was living with his sister, Nellie at 305 Laverne Ave. He was buried near his parents at Bethel Cemetery in Alexandria. Some older Alexandrians still remember him as the "shoe and repair man." His daughter, Theola Martin Chambers, lived in Alexandria until her death in 2012. His son, Norman Martin, died in 2011 at the age of 85.

Since the Civil War until the death of John T., the Martins had served their community for over 100 years. Their customers were businessmen, teachers, students, government workers, city employees and shopkeepers. The Martins went beyond people's expectations of a shoemaker. They were dedicated to their business and their customers.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

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SPRING 2019

Old Town Homes, Gardens Open for Historic Garden Week

Five of Old Town Alexandria's finest private homes and gardens will open to the public on Saturday, April 27, as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia.

The homes will feature floral arrangements created by the members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club, which are sponsoring the tour, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See inside. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.vagardenweek.org

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

Kaiser Opens New Medical Center in Alexandria

Kaizer Permanente, the nation's largest not-for-profit, integrated health care system, opened a new 40,000-square-foot medical center on Monday, April 1 at The Exchange in the Potomac Yard area of Alexandria.

The newly-constructed Alexandria Medical Center offers a range of primary care and specialty care services, including adult and pediatric care, women's health, optometry and physical therapy. Additionally, the one-stop medical center also offers pharmacy, radiology and laboratory services.

"Kaiser Permanente will open three new medical centers in Virginia this year to pro-

vide nationally-recognized care to our members and jobs to our communities," said Kim Horn, regional president of Kaiser Permanente. "Through these facilities and our advanced telehealth capabilities, Kaiser Permanente delivers high quality care where, how and when our members want it. We are proud to provide our growing membership with local access to excellent care right here in Alexandria."

The Alexandria Medical Center accommodates Kaiser Permanente's growth and the continuing demand for its integrated approach to care delivery, which combines health care and health coverage in one

package. Kaiser Permanente provides its members with care by physicians ranked among the area's "Top Docs," online access to appointments and care, and medical centers designed with their needs in mind.

"Our patients expect the best of the best, and that's what our more than 1,500 Permanente physicians provide," said Richard McCarthy, MD, associate executive director of the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, which provides care for Kaiser Permanente members in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. "Thanks to the exceptional training, experience and collaboration of our physicians, we earn the

highest clinical quality ratings year after year. We are thrilled to bring our award-winning Permanente medicine to Alexandria."

Located at 3000 Potomac Avenue, the Alexandria Medical Center is Kaiser Permanente's first medical center in Alexandria. The medical center is located in a 100,000-square-foot building that also serves as the National Industries for the Blind's new headquarters.

For more information, visit kp.org or follow us on Twitter, twitter.com/KPMidAtlantic or Facebook, www.facebook.com/kpthrive.

Virginia Commission Plans Listening Sessions

The Virginia Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission plans listening sessions this spring to hear from the public, particularly individuals with dementia and family care partners, about the draft of its Dementia State Plan for 2020-2024.

The commission develops and oversees the implementation of the Commonwealth's four-year plan for meeting the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and re-

lated disorders and their care partners. The listening sessions allow people living with dementia, family care partners and others to share their input with commission members.

The public may review the draft at <http://bit.ly/alzdraft> or Alzpossible.org.

A scheduled listening session is planned in Northern Virginia: April 11, 7-9 p.m., the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Dr., Suite

400, McLean. For more information, call Ana Nelson, (703) 766- 9006.

The next closest session is June 11, 1-3 p.m., the Alzheimer's Association Greater Richmond Chapter, 4600 Cox Rd., Glen Allen. For more information, call (804) 967-2580.

Direct comments on the draft by mail, email or phone to: Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services Attention: George Worthington 1610 Forest Ave., Suite

100 Henrico, VA 23229 (804) 662-9154 dementia@dars.virginia.gov

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services seeks to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at [@vadars](https://twitter.com/vadars).



CAREGIVER CONNECT

A Monthly Gathering for Caregivers at The Kensington

At The Kensington, we understand that caregiving for someone with dementia is a demanding responsibility. We also believe it is one you should not undertake alone. That's why we strive to preserve your well-being by helping you stay positive, manage fatigue and make the most of moments as your loved one's memory changes.

Join us each month to share time connecting with other caregivers and discussing common challenges. Guest facilitators offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting. Dr. Aleksandra (Anyia) Parpura, an expert in aging and dementia, leads our Caregiver Connect program and brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

The first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm
April 3, May 1 & June 5
Light refreshments • RSVP to 703-992-9868



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Kensington Park, another Kensington community located nearby in Kensington, MD



Spring Cleanups

The City of Alexandria is preparing for warmer weather with its annual spring beautification efforts, including pothole repair, bulk trash collection, and mulch delivery.

Order Mulch Online

The fall leaves and Christmas trees collected by the city over the last few months have been ground into mulch, and residents can now place orders online for mulch deliveries. There is a \$65 delivery charge.

Mulch is also available for free pickup at 4215 Eisenhower Ave. Residents who wish to pick up mulch should note that mulch bins are only refilled from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste for more information.

Spring Cleanup Is Coming

The Spring Cleanup is Alexandria's annual special collection for bulk trash and metal items. City trash and recycling customers can set out a variety of unusable oversized items for curbside pickup on select dates in April and May. Visit the Spring Cleanup page at alexandriava.gov/TES to find specific Spring Cleanup collection date, a list of eligible materials, and information on preparing items for collection.

Spring Pothole Patrol

The official spring pothole blitz began March 25. Potholes form when water seeps into tiny cracks in pavement and expands during freezing temperatures. Crews will work to repair streets damaged during the winter months. After the spring pothole blitz, the city will begin completion of the Fiscal Year 2019 paving schedule. Potholes can be reported via Call.Click.Connect., either online or by calling 703-746-HELP (4357).



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Opening Soon...

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Old Town Homes, Gardens Open for Historic Garden Week

Five of Old Town Alexandria's finest private homes and gardens will open to the public on Saturday, April 27, as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the oldest and largest house and garden tour in the nation.

The homes will feature floral arrangements created by the members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club, which are sponsoring the tour, open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This walking tour features private townhomes and secluded gardens located along the tree lined streets of Alexandria's historic district, refreshments and a marketplace at the Athenaeum, and is just steps away from Old Town's fine dining and boutique shopping.

Tour tickets also provide access to two Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Green Spring Gardens. Tour attendees also are encouraged to stop by the historic Ramsay House at the Alexandria Visitor Center, where the garden is undergoing a major renovation to create a more accessible and sustainable design to welcome visitors to Old Town Alexandria.

HOMES WITH HISTORY

❖ All five of the tour homes were built more than 200 years ago, and two homes predate the Revolutionary War.

❖ George Washington figures in the history of four of the tour homes. He witnessed the deed of sale for one of the properties and surveyed the land for another of the homes.

❖ One of the homes was rented to Dr. James Craik, who was George Washington's physician.

DISTINCTIVE GARDEN AND FLORAL DESIGN

❖ Beautiful floral arrangements by the garden clubs' finest designers decorate the tour homes.

❖ A courtyard garden where a statue of Thomas Jefferson, by Colorado artist George Lundeen, takes center stage.

❖ The garden at the historic Ramsay House Visitor Center in Old Town Alexandria will be nearing completion of a restoration project that features accessible and sustainable designs.

❖ The gardens of Mt. Vernon, the American Horticultural Society, Green Spring Gardens, Gunston Hall, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House are all included with the tour ticket.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL STYLES MAGAZINE-WORTHY INTERIORS

❖ The first home restored in Old Town, whose owners (Gay Montague Moore and Charles Beatty Moore) helped pioneer the preservation movement in America and are widely credited with starting the movement in Old Town.

❖ A notable example of 18th century brick row houses, known as flounder houses, turned at a 90-degree angle to the usual street orientation of flounder buildings.



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The gardens at the Carlyle House, designed in the 18th-century style.

❖ A home with exterior finishes including carved stone jack arches above the front windows and a modillion cornice (a cornice supporting elaborate dentils), and interior finishes including late-Georgian woodwork and a fully paneled fireplace wall and buffets.

❖ A home with original double parlors, a new spacious kitchen, and a sitting room which opens onto a patio. This home also features an extensive collection of British paintings, watercolors, and drawings as well as Chinese porcelain from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

ALEXANDRIA TOUR DETAILS

The Alexandria Tour Ticket includes entrance to:

❖ Five private townhomes and gardens in Old Town

❖ Ramsay House Visitor Center garden, which is undergoing a restoration project initiated and planned by the Garden Club of Alexandria in cooperation with the city

❖ Tea and light refreshments from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House

❖ Carlyle House, where visitors can enjoy the 18th century mansion house and stroll through its gardens

❖ The Marketplace at the Athenaeum, where high-end, distinctive vendors will sell clothing and accessories from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

❖ Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, which was built in 1785 and is listed

on the National Register of Historic Places. Lee-Fendall House was home to several generations of the Virginia Lee family, as well as labor leader John Lewis

❖ The American Horticultural Society, headquartered at River Farm, which overlooks the Potomac River with 25 acres of gardens

❖ George Washington's Mt. Vernon, where the Garden Club of Virginia has helped restore the bowling green, one of Mt. Vernon's major landscape features

❖ Green Spring Gardens, which includes a garden designed by renowned landscape designer, Beatrix Farrand

❖ Gunston Hall, the 550-acre National Historic Landmark 18th century home of George Mason, author of The Virginia Declaration of Rights

TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$45 at www.vagardenweek.org or at the Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House (221 King Street).

On the date of the tour, tickets may be purchased for \$55 at the Athenaeum (201 Prince Street) and at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (323 South Fairfax Street). Tickets will not be sold at individual tour homes. Group tours of 20 people or more can purchase tickets for \$40 per person by contacting Hartley Wensing at ahobson21@comcast.net. The Alexandria tour will be held on its scheduled day, rain or shine.

PARKING

Information on parking in Old Town Alexandria can be accessed via the Alexandria Visitor Center website: <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/plan/parking/>

About Historic Garden Week

Virginia's Historic Garden Week is presented by the Garden Club of Virginia and is the only statewide house and garden tour in the country. Now in its 86th year, Historic Garden Week encompasses 31 tours organized and hosted by member clubs. Visitors will be welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House." This 8-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,300 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a Garden Club of Virginia Centennial project with Virginia State Parks. Historic Garden Week has raised millions of dollars to fund projects across Virginia, including conservation and restoration efforts at treasured landmarks like Mount Vernon and Stratford Hall. To learn, go to www.gcvirginia.org and look under "Our Work."

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

that position was supported by at least 80 percent of those attending.

That strong majority sent a message that all city officials should hear loud and clear: The public is tired of having highly dubious traffic plans made in the name of “complete streets” or some other ideology that ignores reality. In fact, the city’s official guidelines for complete street planning call for “tailoring designs to meet the needs relevant to each neighborhood context. These guidelines are therefore intended to be flexible and responsive to unique site circumstances.” So far this guideline seemingly has been ignored.

The “unique site circumstances” on Seminary Road are the exponential increases in traffic that have resulted from the huge BRAC complex. Moreover, the Seminary interchange will provide entry and egress for the new I-395 HOT lanes, bringing considerable additional traffic. So far those realities have been ignored in the fervor to put Seminary Road, as it is termed, on a “diet.”

The Seminary Hill Association (SHA), whose boundary encompasses the entire roadway to be repaved, has asked T&ES officials to join in coming to an agreement on an acceptable plan that emphasizes clearly needed safety improvements along the roadway. Enhanced safety in the corridor, especially for pedestrians, is a primary SHA goal. So far T&ES officials have not responded. In the light of the public outcry

a change of approach by city officials is needed and a way forward made possible.

Jack Sullivan
Alexandria

It Matters Where You Live

To the Editor:

Calling Seminary Road “a corridor with a high number of KSI (killed or seriously injured) crashes,” last year the city proposed replacing two vehicle lanes with two bicycle corridors on the 25 mph eastern section of Seminary between N. Howard and Quaker to “improve safety.” However, Virginia’s TREDIS database of police traffic reports show this section of Seminary in the top two safest city roadways.

Questions arose why Seminary needed “more safety” by having two bicycle lanes replace two vehicular lanes since it’s heavily trafficked, particularly during rush hour; 1,750 parking spaces are opening at Mark Center’s BRAC building; Amazon’s bringing 25,000 employees; and for emergencies, Inova Hospital and Fire Station 206 are on East Seminary.

The city recently confirmed its intention to use funds to make this safe street section, “safer.” However, real safety concerns are elsewhere — in low income neighborhoods that lack a “voice” in safety spending.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

Raise the bar for what makes a vacation *Extraordinary.*

GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT
NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

Spring Getaway Rates Starting at \$189 (with code ADP)

GaylordNational.com

Your Investment in Healthier Waterways for Alexandria

Proposed AlexRenew Rate Increases

In April 2017, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law that requires Alexandria to remediate all four of its combined sewer outfalls by July 1, 2025. In response, Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) is implementing the RiverRenew program, a deep underground tunnel system to prevent sewage mixed with rainwater from entering our waterways in Alexandria.

To pay for this significant investment in the health of our community’s waterways and ongoing wastewater operations and maintenance, AlexRenew has proposed rate increases starting on July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020, respectively. Our residential customers will see an increase of approximately \$55 each year in their bills, or about \$5 per month.

INCREASES WILL PAY FOR:

- A cleaner community for future generations
- A safer environment for wildlife
- Updated and new infrastructure to create and continue healthier waterways for our community

ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES

LEARN MORE
about this rate increase at alexrenew.com/know-your-rates.

QUESTIONS?
askriverrenew@alexrenew.com
703-518-6030

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 3 - 5 P.M.
AlexRenew Environmental Center | 1800 Limerick Street

Learn about the need for more investment in the health of our waterways through increased rates.

Spring2ACtion.org

Give on **APRIL 10**
to 150+ Alexandria Nonprofit Organizations

Spring2ACtion
Alexandria's Giving Day
Presented by ACT for Alexandria

Giving Day Sponsors

For a list of organizations, giving day events and to give, visit www.Spring2ACtion.org.

Another **Alexandria Gazette Packet** Community Partnership

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

If the city looked west on Seminary from I-395 instead of east, since 2015 the first 1/10 of a mile on West Seminary has had five times the annual accidents than for the entire one mile on East Seminary where “safety” bicycle lanes are to be installed. In the first 1/2 mile going west on Seminary, there’s a shocking 11 times more annual accidents than for East Seminary. Including 3/10’s of a mile each way on Beauregard Street — which intersects West Seminary just beyond I-395 — the total of 347 accidents over this entire one mile of roads is 17 times more than the one mile of East Seminary Road where the city plans bicycle lanes to “improve safety.”

While West Seminary has a 17-fold higher accident rate than East Seminary, East has something West doesn’t: a \$200,000 median level of household income; West’s is \$44,000.

Neglect of safety for lower income residents is evident in the city citing “traffic safety” this past decade to replace road lanes with bicycle corridors along Janney’s Lane and King Street — where the median level of income is \$200,000 — despite envious safety records as compared to West Seminary.

TREDS’ database facts cry out for traffic safety spending for the poorer sections of our city, not the very fortunate. Two studies (Virginia Commonwealth University’s and Northern Virginia Health Foundation’s) show the life expectancy of West Seminary’s children is five years less than the East’s, partly due to unsafe areas to walk or play outdoors.

To underscore the city’s safety discrimination: it no longer plans “safety” bicycle lanes for the lower income section of East Seminary (between I-395 and N. Howard Street) as originally proposed, despite it being the only section where pedestrian accidents occurred the past four years (there were also six pedestrian and bicycle accidents alone last year on West Seminary — including a fatality.)

The city is right – Seminary Road is “a corridor with a high number of KSI (killed or seriously injured) crashes” — but is wrong to use what is actually the high accident rate of low income West Seminary to justify safety measures not for it, but for safe, high income East Seminary.

Facts and equal accountability for all citizens should matter in city planning, not median income levels. Otherwise, those in a position of influence and power get treated one way, while others are ignored.

Joe Sestak
Alexandria

Dangerous Precedent?

To the Editor:

The future of the Vowell-Snowden-Black House at 619 South Lee St. is in jeopardy. Not only will proposed plans for additions and modifications nearly double the building footprint and dramatically change the historic character of the property, the preservation and protective easement efforts of Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, a prior

owner of the property, would be dramatically undercut. Both threats set dangerous precedent for other properties in Alexandria, many of which have easements based on what Justice Black drew up.

The house was built in 1800 by Thomas Vowell and remains one of the largest single family residential properties in the Old and Historic Alexandria District. The National Park Service’s Historic American Buildings Survey celebrates the house and its protected open space, stating “The Vowell-Snowden-Black House, certainly one of the outstanding examples of the Federal ‘row’ type buildings in Alexandria, has fortunately been spared the fate of suffocation. By precept and example it stands flush with the street, but with its extensive grounds and breathing space preserved to this day.” In addition, the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission certified the Hugo Black House and Gardens as a “principal historical site ... of State-wide and national significance” in large part because it was for decades the home of one of the most renowned justices of all time.

Justice Black specifically sought to protect the house and the open space around it as a whole. In fact, he executed an easement on the property to preserve in perpetuity the open space (including both house and grounds) as provided under the Virginia Open Space Land Act of 1966. His easement was among the first written specifically under that statute, and provided the foundation for many subsequent easements in the city. The act prohibits the diversion of open space acquired for that purpose unless five specific conditions are met. None of those conditions have been satisfied, and there is apparently no intention to do so.

The existing easement provides that no outbuilding may be constructed unless it is in keeping with the historic character of the house. The Alexandria historic preservation community has scrutinized the proposed buildings and asserts that they are not in keeping with the historic character of the house. The holder of the easement, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, has indicated its preliminary approval of the changes. However, the VDHR has been asked to reconsider that preliminary decision based on new information that has been brought to its attention.

The property also is subject to the Alexandria Historic Preservation Ordinance. At two hearings (Dec. 19, 2018 and Feb. 6, 2019), the historic preservation community provided to the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review compelling testimony opposing the proposed changes based on the provisions of our city ordinance. Also presented to the BAR were substantive arguments regarding the prior misguided decision of the VDHR. A graduated suite of options was presented to offer the BAR and the applicant a range of compromise positions in the event that the BAR did not fully agree with the arguments of the preservation community.

On Feb. 6, 2019, the BAR by a narrow 4 to 2 margin rejected all of the suggestions offered by the historic preservation community and approved all of the modifications proposed by the applicant. Although the City of Alexandria is not charged with the

enforcement of the easement on the Justice Black House, the city definitely is obliged by ordinance (as well as common sense) to consider it as another important factor. Nonetheless, the BAR chair explicitly stated that the BAR would not consider the easement and furthermore insisted that historic preservation community speakers refrain even from mentioning the easement. (The BAR was subsequently reconstituted, and four of the seven prior members are no longer on the BAR.)

The historic preservation community is now appealing the decision of the BAR to the City Council. The Historic Alexandria Resources Commission is appointed by the City Council to advise and support them, the city manager, and staff regarding responsible stewardship of our historic city from loss or deterioration of its remaining historic fabric. HARC is asking the City Council to reject the proposed modifications to this historic property so it will not become another victim of the “death by a thousand cuts” deterioration of the historic fabric of our storied city.

The City of Alexandria, events that occurred here, and its citizens have played a pivotal role in the history of our nation. Too much of the historic fabric of our town has been lost. We must, as a community, resist the omnipresent temptation to allow ill-advised modifications and additions that would further erode the historic character of the city and also enforce our critical preservation easements.

Danny Smith and Elizabeth McCall

Co-Chairs
Historic Alexandria Resources
Commission

Some Failure Of Due Diligence

To the Editor:

Alexandria is a caring and compassionate city, where citizens and businesses proudly and publicly proclaim the sentiment of “Spread Kindness, Build Community.” We have a myriad of small businesses — business which, through our patronage and support, not only survive, but thrive. However, as a city and as a community we fell short with respect to the slaughterhouse SUP. The proposal drew opposition from many nearby businesses, residents, and the West End Business Association (WEBA). Health concerns were cited. It is a fact that chickens carry Salmonella from birth to our kitchens. Ethical concerns were expressed. Surrounding businesses stated their concerns about the impact the operation of a 7-day a week slaughterhouse — holding and slaughtering between 100-500 live poultry daily — would have on their survival, much less their growth. Due to the foreseen impacts of smell and noise emanating from this old warehouse that is neither sound-proof nor air tight, their current patrons may well decide to go elsewhere for services. These are small mom and pop commercial establishments, some opening in only the past two to five years, and have brought much welcomed and needed change to this area and are now part of the

fabric of that neighborhood.

Sadly, those who expressed concerns were called anti-Muslim, Islamophobes, NIMBY’s, and worse. In reality, we just felt abandoned by our city government, chamber of commerce, and those doing the name calling. The lack of compassion for these businesses that currently service our community was frankly astounding.

Subjective reasons are not enough to deny an application for a SUP. That’s where land use and zoning laws come into play. City Council is required to use these laws in their deliberations and actions. The city must ensure that the applicant has measures in place to mitigate impacts and should ensure that the use comports with the existing surrounding businesses. Zoning Code, “Section 11-504,” is very clear that Council take into consideration, “(10) Whether the use will have any substantial or undue adverse effect upon, or will lack amenity or will be incompatible with the use or enjoyment of adjacent and surrounding property, the character of the neighborhood, traffic conditions, parking, utility facilities, and other matters affecting the public health, safety and general welfare.” These categories are broad, not to keep out businesses based on their religious practices, but on how surrounding businesses may be impacted.

Vice-Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker found this to be the case when she visited a slaughterhouse owned by the same applicant in Philadelphia. She advised her Council colleagues during Tuesday’s meeting that she spoke with nearby businesses and residents, and nearly all of them told her that, “it doesn’t smell every day, but when it does, the smell, it’s unbearable, horrible, enough to make you gag.” She said they used words such as “stink” and “stench” and “attracts rats.” Based on the evidence she collected during this fact-finding trip and from other information she gathered, and citing Section 11-504, she voted to deny the SUP. These findings are exactly what many of the local businesses and residents are concerned about. It appears from her findings that mitigation measures may not be enough, no matter how diligent the owner is in trying to keep it clean.

These concerns and those raised by Councilwoman Jackson should have focused Council’s attention on matters of land use, the changing landscape of the corridor, and the project’s compatibility with the existing small businesses in the area. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Perhaps City Council should have followed the vice-mayor’s lead and taken a road trip to a Saba’s slaughterhouse before they voted to approve this precedent-setting use here in our amazing city.

Sandy Modell
Alexandria

CRIME REPORT

The following was reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

APRIL 2

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a shots fired call in the 1500 block of Cameron Street. Multiple suspects were involved in this incident and one subject is in police custody. There are no reported injuries.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pipeline Playwrights To Present New Reading

"The Best Worst That Can Happen" play reading on Monday, April 8 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The next play reading of Pipeline Playwrights' Winter/Spring 2019 Reading Series will be "The Best Worst That Can Happen" by Jean Koppen. The staged reading will be held on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.



Jean Koppen



Brad Sperber



Faith Potts



Kevin Dykstra



Toni Salmi

According to Koppen: "The Best Worst That Can Happen" is a comedy/drama about a mother, Margie, and her daughter, Joanna, dealing with what they consider the worst that could happen — Margie getting Alzheimer's. It's also about Margie meddling in Joanna's career and love life, which results in Margie taking in a younger male roommate and contacting an old school chum of Joanna's. There's humor, romance, music and make believe."

As far as challenges, she said she wanted

to make sure to portray Alzheimer's disease appropriately and find a way to balance the serious nature of the condition within a comedic storyline without trivializing the situation. "Presenting this play and getting audience reactions and feedback will let me know whether I've accomplished this and if there are moments that miss the mark. And humor is always a challenge. Hearing the play read in front of a live audience will help me know where the humor lands and where it doesn't," she said.

She added: "I want audiences to identify with the characters. I want audiences to feel hope, to feel there can be beauty in difficult times. I like plays that make me think, but I love plays that make me feel — and that's the experience I want to create for others."

Directed by Joanna Henry, the play stars Toni Rae Salmi, Faith Potts, Brad Sperber, Kevin Dykstra, and Madeline Muravchik. Next up in the Pipeline Playwrights' Read-

ing Series will be "The Whole is Greater," by Ann Timmons on April 29.

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

Nicole Burton.

Pipeline Playwrights will present a reading of "The Best Worst That Can Happen" on Monday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. The show is free, with a suggested \$10 donation. Stay for the post-performance discussion and reception with the cast, Jean Koppen, and all the Pipeline Playwrights. Visit them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/>

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. 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.

Photography Exhibit: "Ranch Life." Through May 5, daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 2-8 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 www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

Kathryn Coneway Exhibit. Through May 31, at Huntley Meadows

Visitor's Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Coneway's mixed-media art combines collage and photographic transfers, and it expresses her observations of nature. She uses mulberry paper to create a

ground of color and texture. A reception will be held Sunday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m. Students from Kathryn Coneway's winter class at Huntley Meadows will also display work. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

parks/huntley-meadows.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

First Thursday. 6-9 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Wear a

favorite hat and join this free, outdoor street festival in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria featuring live music, themed activities, and more. Participants are encouraged to bring twin bedding sets or women's underwear for Friends of Guest House; donations will be collected at the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, located at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford avenues. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

THURSDAY-MONDAY/APRIL 4-8

Yoga/Meditation Retreat. Various times at Yoga in Daily Life, 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave. Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda, founder of the Yoga in Daily Life system taught in Del Ray, returns for a weekend retreat, including lectures on chakras and wellness, and yoga and meditation instruction. \$25-\$275. Visit www.yogaindailylifeus.org/alexandria or call 703-299-8946.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Family Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. A "meet and greet" begins at 6 p.m. with pizza, soda and water complements of the Office of the Arts. Art activities begin at 6:30 p.m. No experience necessary. Reservation includes one art experience, art supplies, pizza and soda. Reservations are \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Children must be accompanied by one adult. Register online by visiting www.alexandriava.gov/Webtrac (search Family Art Night).

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 at www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-



(No) Comfort Zone image, Scribble Scrabble by Kelli Sinco

Art Exhibit: '(No) Comfort Zone'

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



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

scottish-whisky-tasting-wine-tickets-
57858095120. Email
Alexsistercities@gmail.com with
questions.

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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/)
parktakes/ using code 3FB.OBF3 or
call 703-642-5173.

Tomato Love. 10:30 a.m.-noon at
Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road.
Learn about growing tomatoes:
understand the many varieties; select
those that suit your needs; prepare a
garden; plant and nurture the plants;
and harvest tasty tomatoes. This class
is offered by Extension Master
Gardeners. Free. Advance registration
requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-
6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com
with questions.

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



Wood print

Tree Printing Workshop

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. Saturday, April 6, 1:30-3 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. \$65 AHS members; \$75 non-members. Space limited to 20 participants. Email ksonerville@ahsgardening.org or visit www.ahsgardening.org.

a.m. at the Alexandria Black History
Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria.
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 26 to assume
command of all North American
military forces. He lodged at the
grandest dwelling in town, Carlyle
House. Visitors to the Carlyle House
will experience Braddock's visit and
the French and Indian War firsthand
through costumed interpreters.
Admission is free, but donations are
welcome. Free admission. Visit
[www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park)
house-historic-park or call 703-549-
2997.

"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. Tiptoe
near the spring beauty on a walk at
the park, and create flower-inspired
art to take home. Designed for ages
4-12. \$12 per child. Call 703-768-
2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows)
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
ksonerville@ahsgardening.org or
visit www.ahsgardening.org.

Del Ray Spring Bar Crawl. 2-6 p.m.
along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del
Ray. Join 13 neighborhood
restaurants for a '70s themed
community bar crawl. Tickets are
\$15 in advance or \$20 at the door,
and include trolley transportation,
food and drink specials, raffles, and
more. Proceeds benefit Rebuilding
Together Alexandria. Visit
www.visitdelray.com.

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
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SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Spring Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Presenting 75th Anniversary Finale

BY MELINDA KERN
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra concludes its 75th anniversary season on Saturday, April 6, 8 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and on Sunday, April 7, 3 p.m., at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The ASO celebrated its milestone birthday throughout the year along with the introduction of Music Director James Ross to the community and other special events.

Made popular as the theme to Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, the program opens with Emil von Reznicek's Overture to Donna Diana. The ASO and Maestro Ross will capture Robert Schumann's youthful enthusiasm in Symphony No. 1, commonly known as his Spring Symphony. Schumann borrowed from earlier works in his composition, and his symphony foreshadows themes for future works. "Schumann took his inspiration for his symphony in the incredible outburst of songs from the previous year, which included his wedding to pianist and super-musician Clara Wieck," says Maestro Ross. "This musical relationship will provide an unexpected surprise for the audience at the concerts this week."

As a dramatic finale to the concert and this celebratory year, the ASO will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 with soloist

Marianna Prjevalskaya. First premiered by the composer himself as soloist, the piece is deemed among the most technically difficult in the piano repertoire. It reached pop-culture fame when featured in the 1996 film, "Shine," loosely based on the life of pianist David Helfgott. The concerto will indeed shine under the fingers of Ms. Prjevalskaya, hailed for her "impeccable precision, clarity, virtuosity and beauty of sound."

Preceding Saturday's performance at 7 p.m., concert-goers are invited to a special pre-concert talk with Rachmaninoff's great-granddaughter Natalie Wanamaker Javier, Rachmaninoff scholar Francis Crociata, and Library of Congress music specialist Dr. Kate Rivers. On Sunday, Maestro Ross will present "As the Baton Swings" at 2:15 p.m., which is geared toward younger attendees and novice symphony-goers. Both talks are open to all concert attendees.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturday evenings at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Single tickets are \$20-\$80 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$10 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior, military, and group discounts. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

CALENDAR

Northern Virginia Chapter, along with Hayfield Black Student Union and AVID will host the inaugural Youth Cultural Book & Arts Festival. Free admission; registration required at jjbookfestival2019.eventbrite.com/.

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 www.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.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair.

8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. In collaboration with Fairfax County and community partners, the Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair will offer tools, workshops, exhibits and information to educate and inspire adults to achieve a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle as they age. Pat Collins, an award-winning NBC News4 reporter, will be the keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. To register and for more information, visit positiveagingfair.com. For county services for older adults and caregivers, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults.

Alexandria Library Collections.

7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Public Library's reference librarian Leslie Anderson will speak about the library's genealogical resources, especially those related to Virginia and the South. Jointly sponsored by the Alexandria Public Library and Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Free, open to the public. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org for more.

"Archaeological Activities at Mount Vernon."

7-9 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Room (main room, first floor), 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society will present "Archaeological Activities at Mount Vernon" with Joe Downer, the archaeological field research manager at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Downer will provide a presentation that will discuss current methods and discoveries taking place on the estate, including ways volunteers can participate.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

Enslaved People of George Washington's Mount Vernon.

2 p.m. at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. Author talk with Carla Killough McClafferty. This talk will discuss the long reaching effects of the inheritance laws and how those laws affected every enslaved person who lived at Mount Vernon. The Custis children would have known very well the enslaved people at Mount Vernon, including William Lee, George Washington's valet; Oney Judge, Martha and Nelly's lady's maid, and Hercules, the chief cook of the President's House in Philadelphia. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org for more.

Entry Deadline. 5 p.m. The United States Golf Association (USGA) today announced sectional qualifying sites

for the 2nd U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship, which will be contested May 16-19, 2019, at Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C. Sectional qualifying, conducted over 18 holes, will take place at 17, including Belle Haven Country Club, courses between April 17-30. The Championship is open to any female competitor who is at least 50 years of age as of May 16 and whose Handicap Index does not exceed 7.4. Register at usga.org/applytoapply.

All Alexandria Reads: Meet A.J. Jacobs.

7 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, located at 5005 Duke St. The library will host It's All Relative author, A.J. Jacobs, for a virtual book discussion. During the author talk, Jacobs will join the community via Zoom Video Conferencing to talk about his book and answer questions. Visit alexlibraryva.org/aar for more.

Spring2ACTION, Alexandria's

Giving Day. Since 2011, 55,000 donors have given more than \$8 million dollars to 160 nonprofits through Spring2ACTION, making it one of the most successful city-wide giving days in the country. Give online at www.Spring2ACTION.org - through a computer or phone. Early Giving begins March 27. If you have a DAF at ACT, we can help you make matching grants or day-of gifts from your Fund. Spring2ACTION events include:

❖ Stop by one of the McEneaney Associates' Donor Lounges at Stomping Ground in Del Ray or in front of the Courthouse near 510 King St. Donate and enjoy a free cup of coffee.

❖ Dine at any of the Alexandria Restaurant Partners: Lena's, Vola's, Majestic, Theismann's, or Palate 22. Five percent of sales will be donated to Spring2ACTION.

Visit www.spring2action.org/info/events for more.

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Confronting Challenges to Women's Civic Participation

FROM PAGE 1

male politicians and businesswomen who shared their leadership experiences and perspectives. The City Council-appointed commission advises city government on how public decisions uniquely affect women.

"More women than ever were elected to the Virginia General Assembly" in 2017, according to the commission's 2018 Status of Women Report, from which Monday's panel stemmed.

"Women marched, women ran, women won, and women are governing," said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Monday's keynote speaker and the first woman to head a Virginia house caucus.

"[Newly elected women] ... include six mothers of young children, which is groundbreaking," said Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

Yet panelists articulated many obstacles they believe women continue to face, including childcare inaccessibility; budgeting that doesn't balance gender interests; inequitable access to campaign funding and other resources; and the unratified federal Equal Rights Amendment.

"Access to reliable, quality childcare" enables women to "serve on a board or commission, ... run for office, ... engage," said panelist Eleanor LeCain, a consultant, author and radio personality.

LeCain also recommended "gender budgeting," an approach used by Iceland and European countries to create budgets and policies with



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE ABU-WADIER

From left: Eleanor LeCain, Stephanie Landrum, Michelle Millben, Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) and Eleanor Smeal speak about their civic activism experiences.

women's experiences in mind. She's unaware of any U.S. municipality employing such an approach "systemwide."

"Policies that don't distinguish between women and men are usually not neutral, and can perpetuate inequalities," she said. She thinks gender budgeting wouldn't necessarily recommend increased expenditure, but rather analysis and restructuring of a city's current budget.

The commission asked City Manager Mark Jinks in October, among other things, to "apply a gender lens to all city decision-making;" make "no further cuts to city programs and services significantly impacting women;" "designate one staff member dedicated to women's issues."

"I would submit that the gender lens you are requesting is inherent in the senior leadership of the city," said Jinks in a March response. "Our [three] deputy city managers are all women and al-

most the totality of the government is under their purview."

Kendra Martello, the commission's chair, approves of certain current budget initiatives, but would go farther. For example, she'd "formally include women" in the potential new racial and social equity officer's charge.

Income disparities between genders — and thus perhaps also their potential-donor social circles — "may limit women's campaign fundraising capacity. Alexandria women, on average, earn 85 cents on the dollar compared to men, according to the commission's report.

Campaign finance reform could help ameliorate low-income women's struggles, toward a "more diverse set of candidates entering the field," said panelist Del. Charniele Herring (D-46).

"Virginia has not passed a public financing law, so there is not much we can do [legislatively] at the local level to change the pro-

cess of running for office," said Bennett-Parker. She looks to organizations "that help recruit, train and fund diverse female candidates."

The commission's Liz Johnson thinks the commission could host or otherwise facilitate more "networking opportunities."

The Equal Right Amendment (ERA) would elevate gender as

a constitutional category against which discrimination is prohibited. Many Virginia Democrats hope Virginia could become the 38th and final state necessary for ratification. But the issue is partisan-charged, and Republicans control both statehouse chambers by bare majorities. In the recent 2019 General Assembly, the senate (including a few Republicans) approved ratification, but a house committee killed it along party lines.

Martello says the commission is nonpartisan — though panelist Eleanor Smeal, who leads the Feminist Majority Foundation, expressed a desire that Democrats "flip the house and the senate" in this year's upcoming election. Filler-Corn also alluded to the election, toward ERA approval.

However, the ERA illustrates that all women aren't of the same political mind.

The Alexandria Republican Women's Club is "very concerned about unintended consequences of



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT

Patty North, Allison Silberberg and Eleanor Smeal discuss the program on civic activism March 25 at the Lyceum.

the ERA," said club vice president Linda App. "I get the impression that all of the speakers at the event were Democrats and lean liberal. ... We would have enjoyed participating and providing a conservative point of view. ... Young people, in particular, need to hear both sides of the issues as they form their political opinions and affiliations." App declined to detail the ERA's potential unintended consequences.

Some opponents worry the ERA could loosen restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions. For example, in 1998 the New Mexico Supreme Court, based on the state's ERA, expanded the definition of "medically necessary" abortions eligible for state funds. In addition to those threatening the mother's life or arising from rape or incest, pregnancies exacerbating preexisting conditions, having "a profound negative impact" on mental health, and others became qualified.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gold Medal

The Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club's Titan 13s girls travel team won a Gold Medal in Regional Championship play sponsored by the Chesapeake Region of USA Volleyball. The daylong competition was held on Saturday, March 30, at the Discovery Sports Center in Boyds, Md. and involved teams from Virginia and Maryland. The competition was the first tournament of the year that the Titans 13 squad went undefeated. Above, front row, from left, are Olivia McCarthy, Charlotte Nichols, Mason Mantey, Rania Shuster, Evelyn Sirois, Victoria Zambrano, and Amanda Smith. Back row, from left, are Stephanie Murphy and Annie Tucker (assistant coaches), Bridie Wendling, Harper Travis, Corinne Solsby, Mason Mantey, Charlotte Lewis, and Ripley Forbes (head coach).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

TC Crew Alums Compete in College

A March 16 scrimmage on the Rivanna River in Charlottesville featured (from left) the U.S. Naval Academy's John Elkins (TC '17) and Ben Blakeslee (TC '14), the University of Virginia's Connor McGivern (TC '18), and the University of North Carolina's Tyler Souza (TC '15). Other TC Crew alumni rowing this spring are 2016 grads Maria Justiniano at George Mason and Carter Weitekamp at Hobart; 2017's Ella Benbow at William & Mary, Cecelia Fernandez at Stetson, and Reed Kenny at Duke; and 2018's Grace Asch at Syracuse, Camila Cardwell (as coxswain) at University College London, Rachel Knapp and Jacob Souza at Clemson, and Grace Vannatta at Ohio State.

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Obituary

Barbara Lenell Carter, Former Employee of the City of Alexandria



Barbara Lenell Carter was the first child born to the late Gladys and Percy L. Carter on March 25, 1950 in Bastrop, LA. She departed this life on March 24, 2019 in Alexandria, VA.

Barbara was a 1968 graduate of Morehouse High School in Bastrop, LA. Upon graduating from high school, she moved to Washington, DC where she attended Howard University and worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1969, she married Allen L. Bowers and moved to Alexandria, VA (Barbara and Allen would later divorce). To this union, one child, Michael L. Bowers was born.

Barbara worked for the City of Alexandria government for more than 30 years and retired in 2003. She was a dedicated employee and friend to many of the staff members who adored her kind personality.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents - Gladys L. Carter and Percy L. Carter, Sr., brothers Gavin L. Carter and Michael D. Carter. She is survived by her son, Michael L. Bowers and grandson Kai Bowers; sisters Shirley S. Carter, Debra Giles, Doris Carter, Judy Wright (Gilbert), Vickie Carter, Jacqueline Morgan (Roy), Michelle Brandon (Jerry), one brother Percy L. Carter, Jr., and several nieces and nephews, cousins, and a host of relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held in Louisiana at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making contributions to the Alexandria Fire Department. Please view and sign the family guest-book at www.everlywheatley.com

Obituary

Legals

Virginia Waste Management Board Public Notice

An enforcement action has been proposed for Goodwin House Incorporated for violations located at the Goodwin House Alexandria facility at 4800 Fillmore Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia. The Consent Order describes a settlement to resolve hazardous waste violations. A description of the proposed action is available at the DEQ office named below or on-line at www.deq.virginia.gov. Stephanie Bellotti will accept comments by e-mail, Stephanie.Bellotti@deq.virginia.gov, or postal mail, Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193, from April 5, 2019 through May 5, 2019.

Obituary

Obituary

Legals



Ann Marie Gallagher, an intelligence operative during World War II who went on to a 30-year postwar career as a civilian intelligence official in the Department of Defense, died at her home in Alexandria on March 25 after a long illness. She was 96.

Ms. Gallagher was born in 1923 in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, one of five daughters of Mary (McGarvey) and Edward Boyle, a coal miner. She grew up in Audenried, a small mining town in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, and graduated from high school in Hazleton, the nearest city, in 1940.

In 1941, she took a job in Philadelphia as a clerk-typist for the Army Signal Corps. In 1942, she moved to a similar job in the War Department in Washington, D.C. In 1943, she joined the Office of Strategic Services ("OSS"), the predecessor of the CIA, and served in its Washington and London offices. While at the OSS, she volunteered for an operation in the Mediterranean. She parachuted at night into a small German-held island, crawled through a tunnel leading under a German military command post, planted a listening device, and retraced her path through the storm sewer to the shore. A waiting boat ferried her back to Allied lines.

After the war, Ms. Boyle became a civilian intelligence official with the military. Her postings included the counterintelligence corps of the U.S. military government in Berlin (1946-47), the U.S. Air Force attaché in New Delhi (1951-53), and several stints at the Pentagon, including 14 years with the Defense Intelligence Agency (1962-76). She retired in 1976. Admiral Bobby Inman, then a vice director of the agency, wrote that her "extraordinary devotion to duty," "initiative" and "imagination" had enabled the Department of Defense to "accomplish essential missions in an austere budget and manpower climate" in an "extremely high pressure environment, under constant strain."

In 1966, Ms. Boyle married Dennis Gallagher, a reporter and political press spokesman. She did not cook. The couple went out nearly every night to Pat Troy's Ireland's Own Restaurant and other pubs in Alexandria. In addition to Irish music, they enjoyed traveling, Democratic politics, OSS alumni meetings, and family. She served as the primary caregiver for her husband and one of her sisters during their final illnesses.

Mr. Gallagher died in 2000. Ms. Gallagher resumed parachute jumping the next year. She was dissatisfied with her performance during the war, she explained: the flight crew had needed to push her out of the airplane. She found a skydiving service in Orange, Virginia, and began doing tandem parachute jumps every few months. It was "so beautiful, so peaceful," she told an interviewer in 2005. She continued jumping until she was nearly 90, when the liability insurer for the skydiving company ruled that she was too old.

She took her last trip abroad, to Ireland, when she was 85. Despite failing health in recent years, she continued to eat out at restaurants near her home in Alexandria (Pizza Box, Alley Cat, and Shooter McGee's) until shortly before her death.

Ms. Gallagher was predeceased by her husband and her sisters, Mary Saunders, Stella ("Teddy") Boyle, Helen Boyle, and Theresa Downey. She is survived by nine nieces and nephews, 11 grandnieces and nephews, and 10 great-grandnieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria. Burial will be at Quantico National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites donations to The OSS Society, 7700 Leesburg Pike, Suite 324, Falls Church VA 22043 (www.ossociety.org).

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.

CALENDAR

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It's Not As If My Life Depends On It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being totally honest with my oncologist, that is. I mean, it's not as if being diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV isn't a "terminal" disease.

Oh wait, it is.

As my oncologist said to me at the initial Team Lourie meeting: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you."

Huh? Followed fairly soon after by the equally distressing prognosis: "13 months to two years." Wait. WHAT!? (As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said years ago while looking into a mirror: "I'm too young to die, too handsome, well, too young anyway.")

That prognosis – as you regular readers know – is old news, as I recently passed my 10-year anniversary; my oncologist's "third miracle," as he characterizes me. And as life goes on, so too do the studies and research and clinical trials.

As much progress as has been realized, still there are few guarantees for lung cancer patients. Although there are many more of us living beyond the years our respective oncologists initially gave us (our wildest dreams, I often say).

Living as a cancer patient/survivor, especially one still undergoing treatment, requires regular sit-downs with one's oncologist to discuss and/or assess lab work, results from diagnostic scans and side effects – or as I refer to them: "straight-on effects." At these sit-downs, the oncologist will sit down behind his computer and review my past and inquire about the present, typing away as I respond.

The questions are all too familiar.

My answers, maybe familiar as well. Because if they're not, they may catch the attention of the doctor. And if they do catch his attention, he likely will probe further into their occurrence; their frequency, their location, their pain, their intensity, etc. And in so doing, he may learn things that could possibly alter/maybe even stop your treatment.

The doctor may become so worried about the symptoms you're describing, he may focus on the symptom, not the cause. And that's my fear in being honest: he may stop the treatment. I realize it might be counter-intuitive, but cancer scares the hell out of me. As a direct consequence, dishonesty sometimes becomes one's best policy.

Granted, being dishonest, or rather not totally forthcoming, with the person entrusted in extending your life, doesn't exactly win one the patient-of-the-year award. But when that same one is diagnosed with a "terminal" disease at age 54 and a half, there's a certain amount of clear thinking that quickly dissipates.

And if that same one is "ambulanced" to the hospital (in August 2013) for a week long stay in SICU (surgical intensive care), the fear of God is officially invoked which further clouds your judgment.

If you live long enough, your judgment improves but so too does your chance of dying. As I find myself saying: "I just can't keep on living with this thing, can I? I mean, I was diagnosed with a 'terminal' disease. They don't call it 'terminal' for nothing." But here I am, 10 years, post diagnosis, and living the dream, so to speak.

So how do I answer the doctor's questions when doing so honestly might lead to a gruesome outcome: hospitalization, and then, well, you know.

Let me be clear then about my answers. Maybe I'm not so certain about the "straight-on" effects? Maybe, they're not that bad and continuing the treatment will moderate the effects somehow while continuing to keep the cancer in its current place – without growing or moving?

I don't mean to understate my condition, but neither do I want to overrate it. Perhaps this mental anguish I'm describing makes no sense. But that's what cancer seems to do.

Nevertheless, I realize being honest with one's doctors is kind of important. Still, I may be too afraid of the consequences to be so inclined.

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

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News

'Accountable'

FROM PAGE 1

details and have a draft policy recommendation to Jinks this summer.

"Should we really be looking at hybrids at this point at all, as a policy?" asked Seifeldein, who believes fully electric vehicles are the future. Can council members "jump in before [the draft policy] gets to the manager ...? Sometimes a lot of [staff] work has already been done ... and then it comes before council for a year or nay."

"Traditionally, a decision like this doesn't come to council. We decide, as staff, using professional expertise, what kind of vehicles to buy and how to buy them," said Jinks. "We will [have a broader discussion] when we bring a policy to you. We've [first] got to draft it, we've got to kick it around."

"Clearly, council can exert whatever authority we want," said Mayor Justin Wilson. He thinks council should articulate a "high level" goal — in this case, to attain "the greenest possible fleet" — and instruct staff to "bring us back a series of options."

The exchange echoes a high-profile 2017 budget advisory task force, which lamented that top-dollar capital projects often come to council with subjective but undocumented staff decisions baked in.

Staff next year will implement "a new project justification and development process," said Morgan Routt, the city's budget director. The process "will require all projects to meet specific criteria, including alternatives analysis and civic engagement, before advancing from concept to funding, design and construction."

The planning and zoning department wants to add a new \$103,000 "civic engagement outreach coordinator" to "to ensure that plans, policy changes, and development applications are meaningfully shaped by the communities they impact."

Karl Moritz, the city's planning director, envisions the process behind last year's South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy as "the new standard for how we do [community] outreach." That approach involved "everything from going door-to-door to talk to people and handing out flyers to live-streaming the [community engagement] workshop." But "all of that ... is a work-intensive thing to do" requiring more dedicated manpower, he said.

In the past, the city's planning processes have mainly attracted "regulars," "people who are familiar, people who have been involved before," said Jinks. Whereas "in South Patrick Street, we got the largest participation by renters in that plan than we've really had in a planning [outreach initiative]."

City staff are working on making the city website more user-friendly and better searchable, according to Craig Fifer, the city's communications and public information director. Jinks proposes creating a new \$98,000 "web editor" position toward that end.

For more, including budget materials and video recordings of public budget events, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Budget.

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Old Town | \$1,779,000

This circa 1877 all-brick Victorian gem is fully detached on a double lot with 2 off-street parking spaces. Formal entertaining spaces perfect for small or larger gatherings. Serene walled garden. Please call today for a private showing! **Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930** www.ColleenCoopersmith.com



Rosemont | \$1,160,000

Renovated 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath Cape. Generous living room with wood-burning fireplace leads to sunroom. Gourmet kitchen opens to large family room. 3 bedrooms upstairs. Finished basement. Private deck and serene backyard. **Jen Walker 703.675.1566** www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SAT & SUN, 1-4

Fords Landing | \$1,025,000

Three-bedroom, three-and-one-half-bath plus den colonial nestled on the grassy courtyard in the waterfront community of Ford's Landing. One-car attached garage with carport. Updated master bathroom. 711 Fords Landing Way **Kristen Jones 703.851.2556** www.alexandriabykj.com



OPEN SUN 4/7, 2-4

Alexandria | \$955,000

Great 3-level colonial in Varsity Park with 4 spacious bedrooms up, renovated kitchen with breakfast bar and beautiful master bath, finished walk-out lower level, 2-car garage, and circular driveway on a half acre lot. 1312 Knox Place **AJ Heidmann 703.474.1260** www.ajheidmann.com



OPEN SUN 4/7, 1-4

Bucknell Manor | \$585,000

Fantastic expanded Cape Cod. Welcoming front porch with large living room bay window. Kitchen with granite, ceramic tile, & stainless appliances walks out to back yard patio with fireplace. Huge master suite. 6402 Cavalier Dr. **Kim Peele 703.244.5852** www.ThePeeleGroup.biz



OPEN SUN 4/7, 2-4

Alexandria | \$374,900

Bright and updated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse on a cul-de-sac that backs to woods. Updated kitchen, hardwood floors, new carpeting & paint. Finished lower level with French doors leading to large, fenced garden. 8214 McClelland Pl. **Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802** www.WendySantantonio.com



Porto Vecchio | \$359,000

Old Town Alexandria condo with Potomac River views from living, dining, bedroom and large balcony! Not ground level. Spacious 1,068-SF with refinished floors. Secure garage parking, storage, pool, tennis, gym, and limo service to Metro. **Susan Craft 703.216.4501** www.SusanCraft.com



Fairlington | \$485,000

Fabulous Fairlington Commons! Spacious Clarendon model. 1,500-SF, 2-bedroom, 2-bath, open layout. Renovated basement with den and stunning full bath. Large deck. Plentiful cul-de-sac parking. Utah Park at your doorstep, 1-stoplight to DC. **Karisue Wyson 703.615.0876** www.KarisueWyson.com



Old Town \$1,195,000

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ceilings, deep moldings, plantation shutters, 2 fireplaces, and new spa-like master bath. Open chef's kitchen with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Garage parking for 2 cars.

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