



NBC4 news anchor Aaron Gilchrist, left, details the heroics of police officers Osama Sharif, David Daniels, Asad Nawaz and Wesley Vitale following the presentation of Bronze Medals at the Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards May 7 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town.



Public Safety Communications Officer Leslie Lewis, left, with her Life Saving Award with Renee Gordon, director of Emergency Communications.

In Praise of Valor

Chamber of Commerce honors first responders.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce honored 21 of the city's first responders at its annual Public Safety and Valor Awards May 7 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town.

Sponsored by INOVA Alexandria Hospital, the sold-out awards ceremony recognized the bravery and heroism of members of the Alexandria Police and Fire Departments, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and the Department of Emergency Communications.

Four members of the Alexandria Police Department — Officers Osama Sharif, David Daniels, Asad Nawaz and Wesley Vitale — were presented with Bronze Medals for their courageous actions during a multiple stabbing situation in the early morning hours of Sept. 14, 2018. The remaining 17 recipients each received Life Saving Awards in recognition of acts taken in a life-threatening situation.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Capt. Robyn Nicolas, retired APD officer Peter Laboy and former police chief David Baker.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Alexandria Fire Chief Robert Dube, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and Police Chief Michael Brown.



Alexandria Police Foundation executive director Ginny Obranovich, center, with Frank Sarley and Scott Sanderford of Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. Everly-Wheatley provides urns for deceased APD service dogs.

Schools Budget: Final Stretch

School division weighs custodian retention and other adjustments ahead of June adoption.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
AND DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

The School Board began considering final adjustments to its annual budget last week, including adding funding to retain custodians and shifting textbooks to the capital budget, among other things.

With a final allocation from City Council and updated state funding figures from the General As-

sembly, the School Board must now finalize its budget, including closing an \$808,000 gap.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings proposed adding \$1.8 million to retain 20 full-time custodial positions, while outsourcing 10 others. Hutchings would offset the remaining gap by reducing the substitute teacher budget. He suggested that he and other central office staff with teaching licenses could augment the substitute pool.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 18

Delay TC Lights Or Risk Costs?

Plaintiffs say schools' installation schedule may risk spending money twice; schools disagree.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

Residents, who recently sued the School Board, asked a judge to block the installation of stadium lights at T.C. Williams High School until a jury decides the case, citing risk to taxpayers.

"The public interest is protected

by the issuance of a preliminary injunction," said Lars Liebler, the residents' lawyer, in a motion for a preliminary injunction filed on Monday, May 6 with the Alexandria Circuit Court. "In the absence of an injunction, substantial public monies will be expended for the installation of the wiring, conduit,

SEE DELAY, PAGE 18

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Averie Earle cuts the ribbon to start the 14th annual VisionWalk May 5 at Cameron Run Regional Park. Averie, now 12 years old, has had optic nerve atrophy since the age of 4.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Walkers display their ribbons as the top fundraisers in the May 5 VisionWalk at Cameron Run Park.



Michelle Duquette, left, with mother Bobbe, father Bill and brother Billy at the VisionWalk.



Dr. Faheem Ahmed speaks about the advances in restoring vision at the May 5 VisionWalk.



Sporting “all eyes on Aves” t-shirts, Hallis Morris and Leah Taylor surround Averie Earle, who lives with optic nerve atrophy. The trio of friends participated in the 14th annual VisionWalk May 5 at Cameron Run Park.

Looking Ahead Walk raises funds for research into restoring vision.

Despite the rainy skies, families, friends and supporters united to participate in the 14th annual VisionWalk May 5 at Cameron Run Regional Park.

Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chap-

ter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the 5K VisionWalk serves to raise awareness and funds for vision restoring research.

The event featured opening remarks by Dr. Faheem Ahmed, who discussed advances being made in restoring vision. A lively

competition among walk participants determined the best t-shirt design, largest team and team with the most money raised.

Since 2006, VisionWalk has raised over \$51 million to fund sight saving research nationally. This year’s Northern Virginia

walk approached nearly \$2 million in funds that have been raised.

See www.fightblindness.org/NorthernVirginiaVisionWalk.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Council Approves ‘Hugo Black House’ Alterations

Rejects opponents’ view that state-held preservation easement should apply.

BY DAN BRENDDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

City Council unanimously upheld on Tuesday, May 14, the Board of Architectural Review’s approval of designs to modify the Vowell-Snowden-Black House at 619 S. Lee Street in Old Town.

The plans, which the Board of Architectural Review approved in a 4-2 vote on Feb. 6, generated pushback. The His-

toric Alexandria Foundation appealed the decision, sending it to council, out of concern that the proposal threatens the neighborhood’s “the historic character” and “dwindling amount of open space.” Several other organizations, city residents and other interested parties expressed similar opposition, with public speakers pushing council’s recent deliberations past one o’clock in the morning.

In addition to concerns about the size of proposed building additions and particular

architectural features, opponents pointed to a 1969 easement on the property under Virginia’s Open Space Land Act. Former owner Hugo Black, a Supreme Court Justice, and his wife Elizabeth Black granted the easement to the state in 1969. The easement — a contract between the Blacks and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission — intended “to preserve permanent open-space lands,” including in this case the property’s garden. Opponents asserted that the current owner’s plans, which would re-

duce the property’s open space by six percent and violate the easement’s intent.

Parties wrangled Tuesday about what role, if any, council has in considering or enforcing the easement.

The prevailing view held that, because the state’s Board of Historic Resources, and not council, holds the easement, the easement shouldn’t play into the city government’s decision. Council can only

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 16

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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Bridget Williams
TC Williams

ASC to Honor Student Athletes

15 to receive nearly \$40,000 in scholarships.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The best of Alexandria's high school athletes will be honored May 28 at the 64th annual Alexandria Sportsman's Club's awards banquet, where nearly \$40,000 in college scholarships will be presented to outstanding student-athletes from the city's four high schools.

More than 30 high school athletes will be recognized at the event, with 15 seniors each receiving a \$2,500 scholarship to use at the college of their choice.

"We are providing more scholarships to more students than ever before," said ASC president Jim Gibson. "These students represent the best of our city and the Sportsman's Club is proud to honor them for their accomplishments both athletically and academically."

This year's scholarship winners represent each of the city's four high schools: Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes and T.C. Williams. Scholarship funds are raised each year

through a fundraising drive, with local resident Marion Moon providing matching funds in memory of her son, Rick Moon, who was a long-time supporter of youth athletics.

"The youth of our city were important to Rick," said Moon, who provided matching funds for the fourth consecutive year. "These young people are the ones we need to invest in. They're the ones taking care of our world when we are gone."

"These students represent the best of our city."

— ASC president Jim Gibson

The ASC Awards Banquet will be held May 28 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. A cash bar and registration will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and awards beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$75 and all proceeds support the ASC college scholarship fund.

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club, founded in 1947, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of local high school athletics and to recognizing the achievements of the city's young athletes on the field and in the classroom.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

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PEOPLE

Shaman: Working with the Energy of the Body

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The door opens in the upstairs room at Sacred Circle on King Street and the sounds of relaxing Native American flute music float through the room. The shaman can feel her guardian angels, animal guides and star systems in the room. “I feel them; their presence is here.” She says, “I have a number of clients who can feel them as if they are tuned in.”

Deb Heisel has been a practicing shaman and energy healer for almost 15 years. “I needed to heal from suffering depression that was a lifetime task to cure. I had no intention of being a healer. I am my own walking testimony.”

Heisel explains to her client she will use a rattle, a drum and stones to open up all of the chakras, lift up the luminous bubble. “This is not a religion; it works with the energy of the body and dates back 50,000 years; it’s in every culture.” She continues, “A lot of people associate it with Reiki, but I feel it goes deeper.” Heisel works with past lives, where parts of the soul have gone into hiding, and seeks to free the person to be what they were intended to be.

She explains the person may feel tingling sensations to almost convulsions to a film-strip as past lives march by. Floating, nothing, sinking into the table. It doesn’t matter. The person may feel nothing on the table but be emotional days later.

The client takes off her earrings, shoes and lies on the table covered with a soft lavender sheet. A bandana is placed over the eyes to block out the light. Heisel sprays a mist of sage back and forth over the table to clear the space so she can begin. The rattle shakes in her hand. “See you at on the other side.”

Heisel carefully places rocks of different sizes and shapes in a line up the person’s body. In a moment Heisel waves a large feather through the air to open up all of



Shaman Deb Heisel begins the ceremony by placing multi-sized and colored stones down the body of her client.

the person’s chakra points to clear out the body first before moving into past lives. It takes just a few moments to pull it out. Then Heisel connects with the ankles to show what is going on with the aura. She explains, “There is heavy energy in the feet.”

Heisel shuts her eyes and stands still in the room. Back to the rattle. “It is still clearing. I like to do a deep clean and pull healing energy to the chakra points.”

The large drum begins slowly ... boom boom BOOM “to shake a lot of stuff free that doesn’t respond.” Heisel’s left hand is raised in the air to bring in the good energy. “You don’t want to leave the chakras empty. This takes out the bad and replaces it with a beautiful light.” If the body is balanced the energy will come through.

The second part of the ceremony is the trauma timeline ceremony “with all of these old souls to help move through the timeline as quickly as possible so you can get as many swaths as possible.”

Heisel waves a smoky quartz over the client’s body and places large deer antlers tightly wrapped with copper over the abdomen. “Copper is a good conductor. I just



Shaman Deb Heisel shakes the rattle.

learned about this part of the ceremony several years ago. Guides come in to teach me something for a year and then move on. A lot of people are working right now. Breathe out.”

Heisel waves the crystal in circles above the antlers. Fffft. The wind blows through the room, which helps move the trauma up and out. Heisel strikes a tuning fork and holds the reverberating sound near the person’s head to help balance the brain. Finally she shakes the rattle up from the stomach with a final burst. An essential spray ends the ceremony to leave a nice smell at the end.

The person’s toes wiggle under the sheet. Heisel brings her back into the room and asks what she has experienced.

“My arms and fingers were so heavy.” Heisel says, “You are going deep.”

“When you placed your fingers on my body, they were hot like fire. I could feel the energy moving down through my body.”

The person stares at the deer antlers. “I couldn’t imagine what was on my body.”

“I felt oooooooh I was going up in the air. I had two bodies, one was above me. I



Shaman Deb Heisel begins the second phase of the ceremony by placing deer antlers wrapped with copper on the client’s body to help conduct energy to the chakra points.



The ceremony concludes with the reverberation of tuning forks.

fought it because I wanted to keep control.” Heisel says, “Your body is floating.”

The client added the boom boom BOOM wasn’t very pleasant. Heisel says, “It was shaking things loose.” Heisel advises the drum takes a lot of stuff out so drink a lot of water. She adds, “Your guardians go out with you and continue to work on you the next few days. Heisel says, “The goal is to give them the healing they are meant to get. I’m just the conduit.”

Invasion of the Scooters Micromobility and the future of Alexandria’s streets.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
AGENDA ALEXANDRIA

You’ve seen these things all over Alexandria. In the past few weeks, it seems like scooters are everywhere. City Council approved a nine-month pilot program late last year, but the spring weather is now creating the opportunity for a massive new influx of scooters all over the city. The pilot program approved by council members suggested users will leave devices at appropriate locations. Is that a broken promise? How is the pilot program going? Will dockless mopeds be next? Agenda Alexandria will be hosting a May 20 panel discussion

on scooters and the future of micromobility in Alexandria. Panelists include:

❖ Jennifer Huddleston is a research fellow at George Mason University’s Mercatus Center who has written extensively about micromobility. A native of Florence, Ala., Huddleston lives in Fairfax City. She has a bachelor of arts in political science from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and juris doctorate from the University of Alabama. A former corps



Hardaway

member at Teach for America, she taught elementary school art in the Mississippi Delta before working for a higher-education nonprofit and ultimately joining the Mercatus Center.

❖ Will Nicholas is vice president of operations at Bolt Mobility,



Huddleston



Nicholas

bachelor of arts in sociology from Northwestern University. Before working at Bolt, he worked in sales and communications for Tesla.

❖ Hal Hardaway is a member of the Old Town Civic Association and a critic of scooters who is perhaps best known as hosting tour-

which is one of the seven companies approved to have scooters in Alexandria during a nine-month pilot program. A native of Birmingham, Ala., Nicholas lives in Brooklyn. He has a

Details

What: Agenda Alexandria: Invasion of the Scooters

Where: Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria

When: Monday, May 20

Time: Reception starts at 6:30 pm, program starts at 7:15 pm

Cost: \$5 at the door, optional dinner for \$32

Details: agendaalexandria.org

ists and pedestrians in his garage on South Union Street. A native of Crewe, Va., Hardaway has lived in Old Town for 20 years. He has a bachelor of science in physics from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. A Navy veteran, he specialized in cryptology before retiring as a captain in 2002.

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Shaping the City: How Planning Commission Voted

Here's what the Planning Commission decided at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 7. The commission comprises seven city council-appointed members, who influence development and land use decisions and policies; make recommendations to council; and exercise approval authority over property subdivisions and "by right" development site plans. Commissioners serve staggered four-years terms.

COMPILED BY DAN BRENDL/GAZETTE PACKET

Item	Applicant	Address	Request / Purpose	Outcome	Votes	Notes
Special Use Permit #2019-0013	Get Air Alexandria, LLC	340 S Pickett St (Get Air Alexandria)	Operate an amusement enterprise	Approved	6 to 0	Brown absent
Special Use Permit #2019-0014	Sunoco, LLC	190 S Whiting St (Sunoco)	Expand auto service station, setback modification, add convenience store, off-premises alcohol sales	Approved	6 to 0	Brown absent
Special Use Permit #2019-0022	City gov't RPCA Dept.	3703, 4127, 4129, & 4131 Mount Vernon Ave; 3909 Bruce St; 3700 Commonwealth Ave; 3900 Richmond Hw; 101 Dale St (Four Mile Run Park)	Congregate recreational facilities including new children's play apparatus area	Approved	6 to 0	Brown absent
Public hearing and consideration of 2020 Interdepartmental Long Range Planning Work Program	City gov't P&Z Dept.	City gov't land use planning prioritization through 2021. About 70 projects, plan, studies, policy initiatives, including, e.g.: Eisenhower East, Mount Vernon Avenue, Duke St Area Plan updates; Joint City Schools Facilities Master Plan; Census 2020 Complete Count; Public Open Space Policy Plan; Oakville Triangle Plan (VA Tech); Transit Vision Study (DASH); Inclusionary Zoning Policy Analysis; Accessory Dwelling Unit Study; Environmental Action Plan update Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy; Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE); Landmark Mall Rezoning		Approved	7 to 0	Find ILRPWP at www.alexandriava.gov/Planning
Green Building Policy Update	City gov't P&Z Dept.	Increase certification standards for energy & water use efficiency, as well as indoor environmental quality, for buildings, including city and ACPS public development and building improvements. Exceptions on case-by-case basis. Planning to include consideration of "net-zero energy" (NZE) development. Koenig urged more aggressive commitments to NZE for new public development, such as TCW HS expansion. Lyle urged more study, worrying that too-aggressive NZE commitment might generate "pie in the sky ideas" about what to require of applicants.		N/A	Macek recused from discussion. For more, visit www.alexandriava.gov/GreenBuilding .	
Special Use Permit #2019-0016	Silver Diner Alexandria, LLC	4610 King St, Unit A3 (Silver Diner)	Operate a restaurant with outdoor dining	Approved	7 to 0	
Subdivision #2019-0002; Rezoning #2019-0001	Stonebridge Acquisitions	5001 Eisenhower Ave (Victory Center)	Subdivide into two lots; change zone from OCM(100) (Office Commercial Medium) to CRMU-H (Commercial Residential Mixed Use High), a less restrictive zone allowing mixed uses & greater densities, with proffers	Approved	6 to 0	McMahon absent
DSUP #2019-0003; TMP SUP #2019-0025; SUP #2019-0026	2000 Beauregard, LLC	2000 N Beauregard St	Construct multi-family residential building	Approved	7 to 0	
Development Special Use Permit #2018-0019	The Protestant Episcopal High School in Virginia	1200 N Quaker Ln (Episcopal High School Hoxton Field)	Expansion of a private school for the construction of a new track and field and related athletic facilities	Approved, as amended	7 to 0	
DSUP #2019-0002; SUP #2019-0009; TMP SUP #2019-0008	Shakti, LLC	802 & 808 N Washington St (Towne Motel Extension)	Construct hotel with an increase in floor area ratio; loading reduction; valet parking; extension in the period in which construction must be commenced	Approved	7 to 0	
Special Use Permit #2019-0015	Yates Old Town Service, LLC	510 N Fayette St	Change of ownership for a light auto repair shop	Approved	Administrative	
Special Use Permit #2019-0017	Ashford TRS Alexandria, LLC	1767 King St	Change of ownership for a restaurant	Approved	Administrative	
Special Use Permit #2019-0028	Jose E. Carranza Gochez	127 South Peyton St # 101	Change of ownership for a restaurant	Approved	Administrative	
Special Use Permit #2019-0003	Dutpiz Inc	1504-B Mount Vernon Ave	Change of ownership; additional seating and on-premises alcohol sales	Approved	Administrative	
Special Use Permit #2019-0027	Nga Ho	205 South Whiting St, Suite 100	New use for a restaurant	Approved	Administrative	



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Michael Manuel 703.615.6317 & Anna Greves 703.346.5727
VIRGINIA / Gloucester \$ 1,145,000

Newly custom built waterfront 3BR/2.5BA "Lighthouse" on 6.28 private waterfront acres with sandy beach, dock and 60' pier. Superior craftsmanship, custom mill work, main level antique heart of pine floors, elevator, 3rd floor lookout, and kitchen with white cabinets and granite. Cool water activities out your front door!



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

Georgian home - 5BR / 6.5BA / 6,540 sf on .46 acre wooded lot. Chef's kitchen; butler's pantry, living/dining rooms; library; family room; sunroom; luxurious master suite with large his/her closets; w/out basement. Hardwoods/built-ins. Screen porch, terraces, pergola, pond with waterfall!



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875
ALEXANDRIA / Stratford on the Potomac \$ 610,000

This lovely home with 3BR/3FBA and an office has been renovated, opened up and lightened up and is on a great street in Stratford on the Potomac. It is less than .5 mile to popular Stratford Landing ES and is also close to Carl Sandburg MS. With a deck and built-in hot tub it's ready for some terrific outdoor parties.



Janice Allen 703.509.0906
SPRINGFIELD / Daventry Park \$ 520,000

Delightful and wonderful is what you will feel when you enter this sunlit 3-level townhome. Enhanced with bay window seat, lovely main floor hardwoods, and mounted TV. Kitchen has beautiful granite counters, SS appliances and leads to deck and so much more. But wait... 3BR/2.55BA, patio, garage and more.



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ALEXANDRIA / Porto Vecchio

#320 \$389,000 - Fabulous Price! Spacious 1BR/1BA with morning sunrises and river view. Eat-in kitchen, formal living/dining rooms, balcony, one garage.
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OPINION

Celebrating Mother's Day



From Geri Baldwin: "The photo reminds me of the cool breeze throughout the sky and how I would fan my mother during days of hot weather and she would smile. In some sense it's like the photo of clouds are like angel wings in the far upper right."

A Mother's Day Poem

Wind throughout the sky ...
Clouds of beauty ...
Like an angel afar ...
Of a smile of love ...
Through the breeze of coolness ...
I think of my mother ...
Through Thy heavenly skies ...
A smile watching over me ...
As I believe for sure ...
Like all the rainbows of beauty ...
And the sunshine of brightness ...
There's a smile ...
Far across and throughout the sky ...
Wings of an angel ...
And the beauty of brightness like the stars afar ...
Of a smile of bright ...
Through the breeze of coolness and the moonlight of beauty ...
That shine throughout the night ...
'Til it's day of morning light ...
Of a new day of beauty ...
I smile for I think of my mother ...
An angel of Thy heavenly skies of light.

— GERI BALDWIN

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Better Alternatives

To the Editor:

Alexandria's Potomac Yard Metro Station Alternative B is yet another example of the widespread gentrification and tax-base aggrandizement that is erasing existing communities and the natural environment throughout Alexandria and the D.C. region. Moreover, Alexandria's Alternative B is the worst choice of Practicable Alternatives for the proposed Metro station, easily shown to be the most environmentally damaging of any to be considered.

Many letters were recently sent to federal and state regulatory agencies providing ample reasons to deny on sound legal standing Alexandria's 404 permit application for Alternative B. Not to worry, though, there are several quality, viable alternatives that do not destroy irreplaceable wetlands, thriving wildlife, estab-

lished communities, and scenic landscape — yet allow for the construction of a Metro station at Potomac Yard.

Alternative B, however, is absolutely not an acceptable option because the environmental costs are far too high and the legal risks to regulatory agencies too great. For example, approving Alternative B would run afoul of NEPA and other regulations and safeguards, exposing federal and state regulatory agencies to a rash of lawsuits they would easily lose, i.e., recent federal court victories involving the very similar Virginia Pipeline impacts to the Blue Ridge Parkway, water resources, and endangered wildlife.

The challenge here, it seems, is not convincing regulators and the public of the folly of Alternative B (they know), but convincing the quixotic City of Alexandria and WMATA to abandon Alternative B, choose one of the two legally compliant alternatives, and get to building a new Metro station that

is free of controversy.

C. Dara
Alexandria

Rethink DASH Plan

To the Editor:

A 5-mile DASH route with just one stop while WMATA will be closing all Metro rail stations south of National Airport for three and a half months starting May 25.

The good news: DASH will be providing bus shuttles every five minutes during the morning and evening rush hours to carry passengers to and from the airport.

The bad news: There will be just one bus stop (King and Washington streets) along the 5.5-mile Blue Line Shuttle route between the airport and the (closed) King Street Metro Station.

There are plenty of DASH bus stops for its other bus routes along Washington Street and the GW

Parkway, but under DASH's current plans the Blue Line Shuttle will blow right past them.

DASH passengers will become painfully aware of this lack of "service" later this month unless DASH rethinks its plans.

Peter Ognibene
Alexandria

In Search of A Problem?

To the Editor:

One of the major issues currently being discussed is the remake of Seminary Road. Unfortunately, this issue affects not only the citizens residing on Seminary Road, but it is a life and death issue that affects all of us in the area.

The reduction of Seminary Road vehicle lanes in order for bikes to have dedicated bike lanes is foolhardy, regardless of whether it is for the entire stretch of this road,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



Sophie Hattery with her mom, Maude Lee, on Oahu in October 2018.



March 21,
2019:
While my
son is on
home
leave, we
visit my
mom
(son's
grand-
mother) in
Vandenberg
Village,
Calif.

— DIANA
TIMMONS

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

or only portions thereof. The life or death rationale is that there is a major hospital located on Seminary Road, and there should be a clear unimpeded access from all of this road, not just portions of it. Moreover, this looks to be a bike lane solution in search of a problem, similar to that found on upper King Street. (I seldom see a bicycle there.)

For years, I have endeavored to stay focused on how the City Council conducts itself especially regarding their process in adjudicating issues within the city. I have been a staunch critic of some of their decisions. However in this case, I would hope that the council would do the right thing, and disapprove any major changes to Seminary Road.

Townsend A.
“Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAYS THROUGH MAY 18

Spring Clean-Up Schedule.

Residents who receive City refuse collection services are eligible to receive Spring Clean-Up on a Saturday in April or May. Residents are encouraged to clear out household clutter and place unwanted bulky trash and metal items at the curb on their neighborhood collection date. The City is divided into four collection areas and each area is assigned a specific Saturday. Metals and electronics should be separated from other collection items, as they will be picked up during a separate collection. Do not set out yard waste. Visit alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection

❖ **Area 4** – Saturday, May 18

The Alexandria City Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposes replacing the April/May weekend Spring Cleanup with ongoing bulk trash pickup throughout the year. Share thoughts about this and other items in the 2020 proposed budget at alexandriava.gov/Budget.

TUESDAYSTHROUGH MAY 28

Medicare In Depth. 10 a.m. at 4401 Ford Avenue, Suite 103. Learn about the multiple parts of Medicare, enrollment dates, and how to get the most out of Medicare insurance coverage. This presentation is given by Medicare counselors from the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Free. Registration is required; space is limited. Call 703-746-5999 or email VICAP@alexandriava.gov.

❖ Tuesday, May 21 - Medicare Part C
(Medicare Advantage Plans)

- ❖ Tuesday, May 28 - Medicare Part D (Medicare Prescription Drug Plans)

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Community Service Day. 12:30-4:30 p.m. across the City of Alexandria. The Community Service Day, hosted by Volunteer Alexandria in partnership with the City of Alexandria, is a service event where hundreds of volunteers come together as individuals and as teams

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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OPINION

Putting Shelter Animals in Best Light

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
OF ALEXANDRIA

The challenge: Capture the stories of each dog, cat, rabbit and any other animal at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA).

The solution: A corps of professionally trained photographers volunteering their time to take individualized portraits of each animal in need.

Suggested strategy: Bring treats, props ... and lots of patience.

Luckily for the AWLA, several professional photographers have answered the call, stopping by weekly with gear in tow to capture photographs of the shelter's latest residents. Each has her own style and approach, but all share a goal: to provide a positive experience for each animal and create photographs that put them in their best light as they prepare for adoption. Along with their work in the shelter, the volunteer photographers also capture memorable moments at AWLA-related events, such as the Fun Dog Show, held around St. Patrick's Day, and the annual Howl-O-Ween costume competition.

Photographer Alison Satinoff occasionally spices up her photo portrait sessions with props — flowers, bowties for the animals to wear and beads and ornaments to strew around kittens and rabbits. But it's a session with a group of eight pet rats she recalls most vividly. "We placed them in a Barbie doll bathtub, about three at a time," she said. "Fortunately, the rats' foster caregiver was there to

help, and the rats cooperated well. It actually looked super cute." These portraits, which are featured on the shelter website and on social media as well as in other shelter materials, require the assistance of specially trained shelter volunteers, who bring animals one by one into the shelter's community room, where the photographers have set up professional lighting equipment. Each animal is posed in front of a 12-foot-tall white board, which can be intimidating until the photographer starts her song and dance. "I'll make weird noises or hold a hot dog over the camera to get their attention," says photographer Sabrina Moore, owner of Dirty Paw Photography, who has offered her services to the shelter for the past four years.

Photographer Alison DeSilva, owner of DeSilva Studios, also uses treats to ignite action shots, sometimes throwing a hot dog into the air to get a dog to jump up and grab it. But the cats, she said, can be a bit more challenging to coax, and sometimes the biggest challenge is getting them to stay on the backdrop long enough to get



Butterfly basks in the camera's light.

PHOTO BY DIRTY PAW PHOTOGRAPHY



Sean shows off his personality for the camera.

PHOTO BY ALISON LANE PHOTOGRAPHY

help, and the rats cooperated well. It actually looked super cute."

These portraits, which are featured on the shelter website and on social media as well as in other shelter materials, require the assistance of specially trained shelter volunteers, who bring animals one by one into the shelter's community room, where the photographers have set up professional lighting equipment. Each animal is posed in front of a 12-foot-tall white board, which can be intimidating until the photographer starts her song and dance. "I'll make weird noises or hold a hot dog over the camera to get their attention," says photographer Sabrina Moore, owner of Dirty Paw Photography, who has offered her services to the shelter for the past four years.

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Olaf captured in action.

PHOTO BY DESILVA STUDIOS LLC

a photo.

Each photographer brings her own individual style as well as expertise to her sessions. Moore will shoot animals in front of colored and patterned backdrops to help the shelter denote animals who have met certain milestones. Photographer Shelley Castle and DeSilva excel at photo sessions outdoors as well as inside, when

SEE PUTTING, PAGE 14

Say 'Cheese' (or 'Hot Dog')

You don't have to be a professional photographer for your pet to be famous. Enter the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's 2020 photo calendar contest in June to make your pet a star and win fun prizes, including a photo session with an AWLA pet photographer. Learn more at AlexandriaAnimals.org/Calendar. The AWLA's skilled



Meelo flaunts his best angles.

group of volunteer photographers offers these tips for capturing the best photographs of your pet:

- ❖ Exercise your pet before the session to eliminate counterproductive energy.
- ❖ Get down on the floor or on your pet's eye level to view life from their perspective.
- ❖ For outdoor photographs, early morning and dusk provide the best lighting.
- ❖ Keep an eye out for objects in the background such as cars, road signs and trash on the ground that might detract from the photo's center of attention — your pet.
- ❖ Avoid using flash — it turns pets' eyes red or green.
- ❖ Dangle a toy from a stick above the camera so that the pet will look at the camera. Making noises, like barking or whistling, also captures pets' attention.
- ❖ Patience is key — you may not get a great photograph the first time. Keep the photo session a short and positive experience, and your pet will eventually come around.
- ❖ Treats, treats and more treats!

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OPINION

A Day To Celebrate Seniors

Register for annual Senior Health Fair.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

National Senior Health & Fitness Day is celebrated on the last Wednesday in May during Older Americans Month. 2019 marks the 26th anniversary of the program and more than 120,000 older adults will participate at local events at more than 1,200 locations across the country. The goal is to promote the importance of regular physical activity and to showcase what local organizations are doing to improve the health and fitness of older adults in their communities.

One way you can help celebrate is at Alexandria's Annual Senior Health & Fitness Fair. It will be a fun-filled morning starting at 9:30 a.m. – noon at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in South Old Town Alexandria. Inova Alexandria Hospital will kick off the morning talking about recommended eating habits and why it is so important to maintain a healthy weight as we age. Nutritionists will be on hand to answer any questions and provide tips on how you can vary your diet to stay healthy and enjoy the foods you love.

The morning will continue with breakout sessions that will have a little something for

everyone. The chef from Brandywine Assisted Living Community in Alexandria's West End will conduct a cooking demonstration with delicious samples for tasting. Other sessions include glaucoma and blood pressure health screenings, Tai-Chi — a great exercise form to improve balance, and other fun activities. This day of fitness ties into the theme of this year's Older Americans Month: Connect, Create and Contribute which encourages older adults to engage in activities that promote learning, health and personal enrichment. Communities that support the contributions of older adults are stronger. By engaging and supporting all community members, we recognize that older adults play a key role in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives.

This annual event is sponsored by the city's Successful Aging Committee, which includes representatives from Senior Services of Alexandria, the City's Division of Aging and Adult Services, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

There will be light refreshments and all are welcome. Please register for this free event either online at seniorservicesalex.org or by calling 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

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Putting Shelter Animals in Best Light

FROM PAGE 12

the shelter is telling a specific story or trying to capture a special moment. And with her use of creative props, Satinoff has captured some of the shelter's most unique shots, used not only to highlight an adoptable animal but in other materials and media to show how fun and engaging the shelter can be.

Shooting with shelter animals is much harder than photographing people's pets, says Castle, who helped develop the AWLA's photography program and has captured hundreds of the shelter's animals with her camera over the years. Castle, who grew up on a Virginia horse farm and now runs Shelley Castle Photography, which specializes in outdoor pet photography, says understanding animal behavior is critical to making them feel secure in a photo shoot. "The most important thing about photography is patience. I have to wait for animals who are scared to regain their composure and get comfortable ... And then I might bark or whistle to get them to stop and look at me." But the photographers also understand that posed photos are not ideal for all animals and have captured turtles, shy cats and even fish in their own enclosures and tanks as well.

The photography team says the rewards outweigh the struggle of capturing the

sometimes-fidgety animals in action. Satinoff recalls a day when she stopped by the shelter and was asked by a member of the public if she was one of the shelter's photographers. The woman then proceeded to show her a picture of the dog she had adopted on seeing his photograph — and it was one that Satinoff had shot. "It makes it all worthwhile because that's why I'm there," she said.

"Some of the animals you fall in love with so much," Castle said. "I feel the most rewarded when I can help a cat or dog who's completely scared by being part of their learning experience for adoption. If I can stay calm and teach them that we're here to help, it can prepare them for the kindness of a future family."

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization. Operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter, the AWLA touches the lives of more than 6,000 animals every year, including strays, lost pets, local wildlife, rescued animals and animals surrendered by their owners.

The AWLA is committed to addressing animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare and serving as an educational resource for the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Make A Plan Now!

MAKE A PLAN FOR METORAIL STATION CLOSURES!

This summer, Metrorail will suspend service to all Alexandria stations for platform repairs. Plan for an additional 30 minutes of travel time, find alternative options, get trip planning assistance and make a plan now to prepare for this closure.

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alexandriava.gov/GOAlex



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OBITUARY



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT

Adeline "Vicki" Vitolo Santoro with her children Vince, Patty and Jackie at her 90th birthday party.

Adeline 'Vicki' Vitolo Santoro

Adeline Vitolo Santoro ("Vicki"), just shy of her 100th birthday, died on Sept. 17, 2018, after a short incapacitation.

Vicki was a graduate of Jeannette High School in 1936 and earned her RN certification from St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh Pa. in 1939. She joined the Army Nurse Corps as a Second Lieutenant, stationed at Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco, and Quarry Heights in the Panama Canal Zone where she met and married her husband Vincent.

After raising her four children, she practiced nursing in Alexandria until her retirement at the age of 70. Always active and interested in helping the less fortunate, Vicki engaged in many charitable endeavors, including volunteering her nursing skills at the 1968 Resurrection City in Washington D.C., and in the Emergency Room of Inova Alexandria Hospital, also working at the Carpenter's Shelter for the Homeless and as an active volunteer for ALIVE (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) for many years.

She was always involved with her children's activities as a den mother and Girl Scout leader, even taking all four children to summer camp while her husband studied for the Bar exam. Never having a driver's license, Vicki walked everywhere, including to and from Mass and work daily.

Vicki loved to dance and so she organized and taught a line-dancing class through Blessed Sacrament Church, which she continued to teach through the age of 94. Vicki's story is highlighted in the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Vicki was preceded in death by her husband, Vincent H. Santoro, and is survived by: her four chil-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Adeline "Vicki" Vitolo Santoro in uniform

dren Alfred P. Santoro of Redmond, Oregon; Patricia Diulus-Myers of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Jacqueline R. Santoro of San Luis Obispo, Calif.; and Vincent H. Santoro, Jr. of Nashville, Tenn.; five adoring grandchildren, 12 loving great-grandchildren (Gina Santoro McKenna, Kristen Diulus Campbell, Vincent Santoro, Lauren Diulus Scheuring, Joseph Santoro) and one great-great-grandchild.

She also is survived by her brother Paul Vitolo of Jeannette, Pa., and also was predeceased by her sisters Louise Petrini and Annie Vitolo and brother Lazarus Vitolo, all of Jeannette, Pa.

A funeral mass will be held on June 25, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church in Alexandria followed by a reception in the church hall.

The burial with military honors will be at 1 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery. Donations may be made in Vicki's memory to the Alzheimer's Association at support.brightfocus.org/alzheimers/donate.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11
to complete more than 20 service projects for nonprofits across the City. For individuals and groups 21 and older. Call 703-836-2176 or visit www.givegab.com/campaigns/VolAlex2019CSD.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

Boating Safety Classes. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Prepare for boating season by taking one of the Boating Safety classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08. Virginia,

Maryland, and the District of Columbia have varying requirements for boaters before they may legally operate certain motorized vessels on their respective waterways. Register with Jeff Burt at jdburt@verizon.net or 703-307-6482.

Lake Cook Ribbon Cutting. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Lake Cook, 3911 Eisenhower Ave. The Alexandria City Council invites the public to a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the renovation of Lake Cook. Visitors will also be able to learn more about the animals living in and around Lake Cook and get an up-close look at live animals from the Nature Center. Rain

or shine. Visit alexandriava.gov/Stormwater.

MONDAY/MAY 20

Agenda Alexandria: Invasion of the Scooters. 6:30 p.m. (reception); 7:15 p.m. (program) at the Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Learn about micro-mobility and the future of Alexandria's streets. \$5 at the door (free for members); optional dinner starting at \$32. Visit AgendaAlexandria.com details and program/dinner purchases: AgendaAlexandria.com.

Opening Night On The Waterfront

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Icons for accessibility: a house icon and a wheelchair icon.

Council Approves 'Hugo Black House' Alterations

FROM PAGE 3

decide on the basis of its local Zoning Ordinance.

For its part, the state can, and did, according to the easement, approve modifications to the property that it deems "in keeping with the historic character of the house." The state approved the property owner's proposed changes in a Feb. 4 letter, according to Duncan Blair, the owner's land use attorney. City planning and zoning staff received a courtesy copy of the letter, according to their report to council.

"[The easement constitutes] a contract between the [state Board of Historic Resources] and the property owner and are separate and distinct from the ordinances and restrictions imposed by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review (BAR)," said Julie Langan of the state's Department of Historic Resources, which administers the easement on behalf of the board, in an April 30 letter to City Manager Mark Jinks. "Any approvals or disapprovals made by [the Department of Historic Resources] with respect to the easement ... should have no determinative bearing on decisions made by the BAR, and any decision made by the BAR will have no determinative bearing on [the department's] administration of the easement."

Opponents expressed a different view,



SOURCE: EXTRACTED FROM MAY 14 STAFF PRESENTATION

Proposed demolition and construction at the historic Vowell-Snowden-Black House at 619 S. Lee St. in Old Town. Alterations include removing the existing swimming pool, tennis court and a curved part of the house's brick wall called a "hyphen." The owners would also build a kitchen addition and "bike workshop garage," among other things.

asserting that, even though it's not party to the easement, council has a right and obligation to consider it. John Richards, speak-

ing on behalf of the appellant Historic Alexandria Foundation, pointed to a section of Virginia law pertaining to historic land-

marks: Though not ultimately binding upon them, the conferral of landmark status intends "to encourage local governments and property owners to take the designated property's historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural significance into account in their planning."

Richards also pointed to a provision in the city's Zoning Ordinance, which says: "Whenever any provision of this ordinance imposes a greater requirement or a higher standard than is required in any state or federal statute or other city ordinance or regulation, the provision of this ordinance shall govern."

"We don't own our property, we are the stewards of the property. I would hope that anybody in Old Town would subscribe to that," the Old Town Civic Association's Yvonne Callahan told the Board of Architectural Review in February. She added, citing a 2012 legal opinion: "conservation easements are held and administered by the easement holders, not for themselves, but on behalf of the public."

"We know there's a lot of history and stuff, but this is going to be a living, working house," Lee Quill said in February. "It's not just a museum to somebody. It's meant to restore it back so people can enjoy it for centuries to come, which [the owners have] been doing. But they also want to live here."

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NEWS



Suzanne Kratzok, former coordinator of Community Services for the Department of Community and Human Services, in front, with Maryanne Beatty, Beth Hamid and Daniella Spighai at the Fostering the Future Gala May 3 at Hummingbird Bar and Kitchen at the Hotel Indigo. The event raised more than \$64,000 to aid children in foster care and at risk of abuse and neglect.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET
Rosemary Gallagher, Susan Bray and Carlos and Pam Cornelio enjoy the May 3 Fostering the Future gala.

Fostering the Future “Captain’s Night” raises \$64,000 for foster care youth.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than \$64,000 was raised at the annual Fostering the Future gala to benefit children in foster care or at risk of abuse or neglect.

Held May 3 at the Hummingbird Bar and

Kitchen located at the Hotel Indigo, the evening’s theme of “Captain’s Night” highlighted how the community has served as an anchor for some of the city’s most vulnerable youth.

The event featured live music by the Kate Moran Band and auction items that included a weekend at The Inn at Perry Cabin resort in St. Michaels, Md., an oyster and

wine tasting, Washington Nationals tickets, and a four-person getaway to a luxury resort in Mexico.

Major sponsors included: The Goodhart Group; Hudson Studio; Catherine Joyce of Morgan Stanley; R & B Heating and Air Conditioning; Barbara Sherlock; Amy and Blaine Jackson; Stone Aesthetic Dentistry; The Alexandria Euchre Club;

AlphaGraphics; Pam & Frida Team at Sotheby’s International Realty; Suzanne Kratzok and Rick Howard; Lindsay and Kyle Houff; Nancy and Gerry Cooper; Monument Title Company; and Jack Taylor’s Alexandria Toyota. Lindsay Houff and Court Squires served as co-chairs of the event.

See www.thefundforalexchild@alexandriava.gov.

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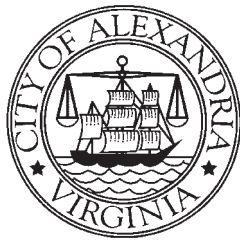
*Cremation includes basic services of the funeral director and staff, transfer of remains to the funeral establishment and crematory fees. Crematory fee is included. Excludes all merchandise and additional services. Charges may vary depending on selections.
**Burial includes basic services of the funeral director and staff, transfer of remains to funeral establishment, and transportation of remains to cemetery. Price quoted does not include any merchandise, such as casket, or cemetery property or services. Prices may vary based on selections.

ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES (AlexRenew) INVITATION TO BID NO 19-072

AlexRenew is seeking competitive sealed bids for 108 to 116 MGD Expansion project, Contract No. 19-072.

The project includes upgrades to the Primary Effluent Pump Station (PEPS), improvements to the cooling of Building L Electrical Room 3, and a filter backwash return bypass in an existing pipe gallery.

Sealed bids with the notation "108 to 116 MGD Expansion - Contract No. 19-072", will be received at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Attn: Maryam N. Zahory, Purchasing Agent, on or before 2:00 p.m. local time on June 25, 2019. Solicitation documents may be obtained from the AlexRenew website <https://alexrenew.com/business-opportunities> and the Commonwealth of Virginia website <http://www.eva.virginia.gov/pages/eva-i-buy-for-virginia.html>. A mandatory pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 1 p.m. local time at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section No. 2-181.1 (OUTDOOR DINING ENCLOSURE), Section No. 2-181.2 (OUTDOOR DINING FURNITURE), Section No. 2-181.3 (OUTLOT), Section No. 2-181.4 (PARCEL), and Section No. 2-181.5 (PARK) of Article No. II (DEFINITIONS) and Section No. 6-801 (PURPOSE), Section No. 6-805 (STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR DINING), Section No. 6-806 (ADDITIONAL ENCROACHMENT REQUIREMENTS), and Section No. 6-807 (SECTION CONTROLLING) of Article No. VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2019-0002.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2019-0002 to adopt updates to the King Street outdoor dining overlay zone, including to allow the securing of outdoor dining enclosures.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Landmark/Van Dorn chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2019-0001 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2019-0001 to update the Landmark/Van Dorn Master Plan for the Landmark Neighborhood approved by the City Council on April 13, 2019.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-192 (Eisenhower West Victory Center 9 Redevelopment District) of Article M (Levy and Collection of Property Taxes) of Chapter 2 10 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (Finance, Taxation and Procurement) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, 11 Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance removes the Eisenhower West Victory Center Redevelopment 16 District that was never made effective with an updated tax exemption district called 5001 17 Eisenhower Avenue Redevelopment District.

Public hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to the official zoning map to change the zone of the eastern portion of the property at 5001 Eisenhower Avenue from OCM(100) to CRMU-H with proffers; zoned: OCM(100)/ Office commercial medium (100).

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday May 25, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

News

Adjusting Schools Budget

FROM PAGE 1

by teaching a few times per year.

In his initial budget proposal, which the School Board adopted, Hutchings recommended terminating 30 custodians. The move would cut short a 2007 School Board decision to privatize custodial services division-wide through attrition (voluntary job changes and retirement). But custodians, organized under the Education Association of Alexandria (EAA), have been pushing back.

Dawn Lucas, EAA president and a special education teacher, said at a May 9 public hearing: "Our custodians ... are part of the ACPS family. Family should not be treated like they have been treated, or like they don't matter.... Our custodians deserve their jobs with ACPS. They deserve a true attrition plan."

Jamar Hines, a 13-year custodian with two asthmatic sons, lamented "constantly thinking about what's next." He added: "My son came to me: 'Dad, can we go on a summer trip? I know that you might not have a job, but I'm OK, we don't have to do it.' That's unhealthy for a sixth grader to have to talk to his dad like that, and I have to sit there and explain it, when I was promised I could stay."

Sharena Hollins, a 17-year employee, said her health insurance covers her sick daughter.

Shaliyah, Sharena's 24-year old daughter, said: "Without my mother's insurance, I don't know what kind of shape I would be in. ... It scares me to think that I could lose it in the blink of an eye. I'm so thankful for my mom. She's my motivation to keep fighting and never give up, no matter what. ... So I ask that you don't privatize my mom's job and keep your promise. ... A broken promise implies that you



John Adams Elementary School custodian Jackie Howell testified at the May 9 School Board public hearing on the adjusted FY2020 budget.

didn't think before making it, or you just don't care."

Jackie Howell, a John Adams Elementary School custodian, recounted calling 911 and staying with an ill teacher until paramedics arrived. She recounted another occasion when she sat with a crying student while he waited for his parents to pick him up after school.

"Custodians do more than just keep buildings clean," she said. "We help both staff and students in many valuable ways. The staff, students and parents trust us. We want to keep our jobs and our benefits. Some of us are one paycheck away from being homeless, so we need our jobs."

Mirroring a city budget change, the Hutchings would also shift \$708,000 from the one-year oper-

ating budget to the 10-year Capital Improvement Program. The move, cost-neutral this year, would reflect thinking of textbooks long-term as "educational infrastructure," said Mayor Justin Wilson.

While the schools have added textbook funding for all 10 years, the city hasn't. Council would have to identify funding in future budget cycles, according to city spokesperson Craig Fifer.

Other proposed expenditure reductions include reducing funding to digitize personnel files (\$23,000); for "staff hardware" (\$10,000); and for athletic coaches (\$10,000).

The schools continue to balance their budgets each year by drawing down on fund balance. The draw-down this year weighs in at \$5.7 million.

The schools' next budget-related meeting will take place on May 23. The School Board will adopt its final budget June 6. For more, visit www.acps.k12.va.us/budget.

Delay TC Lights Or Risk Costs

FROM PAGE 1

foundations and support pillars, light towers, and light fixtures during the period June, July and August 2019. In the likely event that the Residents prevail at trial in this matter later in 2019 or in 2020, the light towers will be removed at substantial additional public cost. The public school budget funds expended to install the lights, and subsequently remove them, will be entirely lost."

Asked to detail the the cost of whatever specifically the schools would install this summer, the administration didn't respond.

Liebler believes his clients will prevail because a judge recently denied the School Board's request that the court dismiss the lawsuit.

The residents, who live adjacent to the high school, believe an alleged agreement made with the original homeowners in the 1960s never to install stadium lights remains contractually binding today. They say this "no-lights promise" was reaffirmed in a 2003 Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for the construction of the current high school facility, which says: "The schools have agreed that there will be no permanent lighting installed at the stadium behind the schools, or on any of the athletic fields on the site."

The School Board and City Council disagree, saying that any such agreement constitutes not a contract by a legislative decision, subject to change by a future government.

In an April 17 ruling, Judge Thomas Horne overruled the governments' arguments. While not ruling definitively in the resident plaintiffs' favor, he thought their contractual claims warranted a trial.

Nevertheless, according to last week's motion: "Legal counsel for the Alexandria City School Board has represented to Residents' legal counsel that construction activities directly related to the installation of the 87-foot permanent light towers will commence on or around June 15, 2019."

Asked to comment, the schools administration indicated a less aggressive installation timeline: "While many other aspects of the project will be in a position to go forward in late summer or fall, the current schedule would not result in the installation of field lights until approximately spring of 2020. In the meantime, there are other components of the project that can be implemented, including replacement of the field and track, and the press box, construction of restrooms, concessions, a ticket booth and concessions, relocation of the scoreboard, replacement of the sound system, and improvement and lighting of the walkway to the visitors' stands."

Choosing Swimming Lessons

What can parents do if child is afraid of the water.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The start of summer just around the corner and for some, warm weather is synonymous with trips to a pool or beach. swimming lessons are one the minds of many parents. May is National Water Safety Month, an effort designed to prevent illness, injury and death as a result of contact with the water. Part of a parent's role in ensuring safety for their children is knowing the factors to consider when looking for swimming lessons.

"People are starting get out and enjoy the water," said Aleatha Ezra, of The World's Largest Swimming Lesson, an event on June 20 designed to raise awareness of the importance of knowing how to swim. "We want to emphasis the importance to learning to swim, finding lessons and taking them seriously."

When looking for lessons, parents should inquire about the training of those who will be in charge of teaching their children. "We require all of our swim instructors to pass a certified lifeguard course," said Tommy Hamilton, Regional Manager at Goldfish Swim School of Reston, Falls Church and Alexandria. "In addition to this course all of our instructors also go through at least 40 hours of hands on training on our proprietary curriculum."

In order for lessons to be effective, the student teacher ratio should be as low as possible, advises Hamilton. "We believe that this gives them suitable time in the water practicing their skills as well as enough rest in between each skill," he said. "The small class sizes also allow us to maintain a high standard for safety."

The swim school should assess a child's ability and have a curriculum with a clearly defined plan that allows a child to advance as they gain skills.

"For example, we have a progressive curriculum. Our beginner swim classes start with basics like teaching kids to put their face in the water," said Jamel Wright, a swimming instructor for SafeSplash Swim School in Bethesda. "It moves through [phases] like stroke development and advances through competition level as the children are assessed and their swimming skills improve."

Parents should be allowed to observe their child's lessons, said Hamilton. "We love when parents get involved in the progress of their children," he said. "We believe this to be crucial to their growth. We keep our pool deck at a warm 90 degrees so we have large glass windows in our lobby so parents can be comfortable and watch the entire lesson."

Another factor to consider is whether or not there is a lifeguard on duty who can watch those in the water at all times. Water quality should be another concern. "Smell to make sure there are no strong



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL

An instructor at Goldfish Swim School teaches young children how to swim. Lessons can help ensure water safety.

chemical smells, which is not a sign of proper chlorination but rather contamination," said Shannon McKeon, Environmental Health Specialist. "Ask to see water quality reports that should be posted at every public pool."

There are times when a child has an extreme fear of water, but safety experts advise continuing the lessons with an instructor who is able to assist parents in helping a child overcome that fear.

"To cope with swimming fears, we should first relax with slow, deep, nose breathing," said Jerome Short, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "We can close our eyes briefly and go to a quiet, comfortable place. After we are relaxed, we should watch others who enjoy swimming and imagine doing it ourselves successfully. Then move forward in small steps to shallow water, slowly submerge the body, and practice float-

ing with someone close by to support you. Take a break if there is discomfort but try again soon to make more progress." Read story books on children who were afraid to swim but were successful, advises Carol Barnaby, LCSW I. "Scared children are already tackling emotional burdens and don't need to see, hear, or feel their parents frustration, she said. "Take your child's fear seriously and acknowledge it. Let them know that you understand that they are scared. Start swim lessons out of the water so that there can be trust established this will make them feel safe and ready to learn." Barnaby continued, "Let your child know that you believe in them and that you have confidence they will succeed at their goal. Praise all efforts and offer physical reassurance when they leave the water. Children who receive positive reinforcement will try harder even when they are scared. Give your child frequent reassurance that they are safe and help is there."

"We want to emphasis the importance to learning to swim, finding lessons and taking them seriously."

— Aleatha Ezra, of The World's Largest Swimming Lesson

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ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Chef Alam Méndez Florián at Urbano 116

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Chef Alam Méndez Florián carries a 40-kilo whole lamb in from the refrigeration room. He takes a hefty, carefully placed whack with his cleaver at the hind leg joint. In 20 minutes he finishes with the ribs and has butchered the entire lamb. Méndez will cook the pieces of lamb in its own juices for 12 hours at 120 degrees Celsius with a marinade.

“We prefer to cook it with the bones because it tastes better.” Méndez remembers when he was growing up in Mexico that lamb was special for weekends when they would go have a “strong breakfast” and the lamb broth was good for hangovers “or so they told me.” Méndez buys his lambs from Maryland, at least two a week.

Méndez has boiled (blue) cónico corn and then cooked it for 25 minutes at 92 degrees before letting it soak overnight in limestone water. He brings this corn from Oaxaca in Mexico as well as the bolita and the belatove. He says other kinds of corn are different than cónico and some soak less and take less limestone water.

This corn will translate into masa for tortillas. The corn he uses is 100 percent GMO free but he says in Mexico few pay for the certificate that states it is organic. “We

try to keep seeds and not lose them. GMO is less productive and more expensive so farmers don’t like to grow that way.”

Méndez pushes the corn down a funnel into a large grinder, pouring from a pitcher of water to keep the mixture moving. A steady stream of cónico falls into the container below. “You have to watch your fingers or they will grind up with the corn.” He says, “We don’t add salt; we just pat this into tortillas. The 8 kilos of corn will make about 600 tortillas. We go through more than that in a day.”

The tortillas are stacked high and, just before serving, the tortilla will be cooked on a hot grill for 45 seconds. “The tortilla has a thin side and a thicker side, and we put the filling on the thin side.”

The kitchen is bustling as 11 workers rub shoulders passing through the maze between work areas and stovetop. One pours custard into small glass bowls; another marinates pork and another chops cucumbers and tomatoes. Méndez says the prep time early in the morning is the busiest as

they ready everything for the day. “We make everything fresh here ourselves.”

Méndez has prepared a marinade of red chilies, onion, garlic, cumin, oregano, cloves, salt and pepper. “Just to show you.” He rubs nearly a quart of the marinade into several pieces of lamb and adds a little bit of water to steam it in the oven.

Urbano 116 has been open on King Street only a few months. Méndez says, “This isn’t the same as what Americans call Tex-Mex but most of them like it.” He says it is very different in Alexandria and Mexico, which is the food capital of the world and people come from all over to eat there. “They know the flavors of the different corn in their tortillas.” But he does find in Alexandria that people who have been in Mexico want to experience that food again and others are willing to give it a try. Customers’ favorites are the varieties of tacos and ceviches on the dinner menu.

He likes to combine local Oaxacan ingredients with what he can find here, and he creates daily or weekly specials. “I learned to cook from my mom. Her almond mole, her black and yellow mole — half of the menu items are my mom’s recipes.”

For the final touch Mendez arranges a purple and a white taco with edges wedged up against



Cónico corn has been soaked and is ground to make masa for tortillas.



Four steps to cónico tortillas.

each other on the plate. Each is filled with a generous portion of shredded lamb and topped with shredded cabbage. A drizzle of avocado sauce, a drizzle of morita sauce (a little hot) and a bit of parsley for garnish.

Méndez received his culinary degree in 2012 and since then his culinary adventures have taken

him to Spain, Guatemala, Denmark, Chile and back and forth to Mexico City. His restaurant in Mexico City received the award for the best restaurant in Mexico. “My idea with my culinary knowledge is to bring the Mexican flavors and the culture here.”



Lamb tacos with drizzle of morita and avocado sauce.



Tacos stacked high ready for filling.



Chef Alam Méndez Florián butchers a whole lamb for the lamb tacos, a customer favorite.



Rubbing the lamb with marinade to cook overnight.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

Juried Show: “East Meets West.”

Through May 19, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Ikat weaving, Batik, Sashiko embroidery, Shibori dyeing, hand stamping, and other Eastern techniques and clothing styles are integrated with Western designs and techniques. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Free admission. Call 703-548-0935 or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

The “Weekends” Kiln Club Show.

Through May 26, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Artisan creations are as unique as that match

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

made in heaven, ideal as an anniversary gift, engagement congratulations or to commemorate the hoopla of getting hitched. Capture a moment in clay, recall a scene with ceramics and upgrade important goings-on with Scope Gallery. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

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.

Creative Aging Festival. Through May 31, in locations around Fairfax County. The Creative Aging Festival supports Fairfax County’s 50+ Community Action Plan’s Arts Initiative to promote arts programming for and by older adults. Core objectives include encouraging older adult participation in the community’s many public and private arts program; promoting public understanding of the benefits of older adult participation in the arts; and providing awareness to the broader community about the existing arts services for older adults in Fairfax County. This year’s Creative Aging Festival is presented by Fairfax county Neighborhood and Community Services in collaboration with ARTSFAIRFAX. Visit the Creative Aging Festival site at bit.ly/FairfaxCreativeAgingFestival.

Art Exhibit: “Transcend.” Through

June 2, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery, 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Featured work by juried artists from the Torpedo Factory Art Center represent a variety of media including painting, printmaking, photography and 3-D mediums explore the theme of transcendence. A reception is planned for Thursday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

Art Exhibit: “Sacred Feminine.”

Through June 2, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This show explores female energy, the power of life and birth; it connects that energy to ideas, expressions, dreams, life and all of existence. Tap in to your Sacred Feminine and channel the goddess. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Art Exhibit: “Re-Connecting Threads.” Through June 2, at VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke St. Gallery Without Walls celebrates fiber in a re-visit to last November’s “Connecting Threads” gallery exhibit. “Re-Connecting Threads” features traditional and non-traditional fiber-related art by Del Ray Artisans members while highlighting narratives that trigger nostalgia or comfort, and in doing so communicate meaning that goes beyond the literal definition of the materials. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww/.

Art Exhibit: Lyrical Flight. Through June 2, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Barbara Januszkiewicz’s luminous and elegant paintings evolved out of her early work in watercolor, a progression evident in the almost liquid flow of colors across her large compositions. On June 2, Small

ENTERTAINMENT

Glass Harp Concert Arriving on DVD

By Gerald A. Fill

This year, veteran Glass Harp Musician Jamey Turner is completing 35 years performing classical music — including Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart — using glassware and water to create a unique musical sound.

This summer he will be making available to the public a DVD of a concert he performed at the Washington National Cathedral.

When Turner is not performing a concert he is frequently found performing his classical musical compositions at the front entrance to Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center. When asked why he does this, rather than, for example, playing his favored woodwind musical instrument, the clarinet, he responded by saying that the glass harp sound is the most "beautiful, unique, and elegant sound," and he enjoys the response he receives from his audiences.

According to Turner, this includes a prison where the inmates spontaneously stood and applauded after his performance of playing Mozart. In the past he has performed on national television programs, and at the Smithsonian institution, among other venues, large and small.



Jamey Turner and his wife Mary in front of the Torpedo Factory.

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/GAZETTE PACKET



Jamey Turner performs in front of visitors in front of the Torpedo Factory.

CALENDAR

Creatures Dance Project will perform *Light Exists*, a piece choreographed in response to Januszkiwicz's *Lyrical Flight* exhibit. The performance is free and will occur at 1 p.m., prior to the gallery talk at 2 p.m. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Photography Exhibit: "Tonal

Visions." Through June 15, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St. Featuring work by Alan Sislen. The highly graphic, black and white architectural images in this exhibit explore the range and beauty of tones that might or might not have existed, but were visible in the mind

of the photographer. Whether it's the darkest tones that convey a sense of mystery, the brightest tones that attract attention, or the mid-tones that provide the connecting tissue, it is this range of tonalities that shapes the lines, curves, volumes and objects to give the structures life, beauty and meaning. This exhibit is an exploration of tonalities. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists. Through July, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. *Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists* highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.



1959 Mercedes

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

The single-day free event will be span across three blocks on lower King Street and will feature approximately 60 rare and unusual supercars from around the world such as Ferrari, Jaguar, Porsche, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin and Cobra for up close viewing enjoyment. A fashion exhibition (noon-1 p.m.) will feature spring looks from Old Town Boutique District stores that pair with the themed cars on display. The event will also feature live music, street vendors, and provide festival goers an opportunity to explore Old Town shops and restaurants. Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on King Street near Old Town Waterfront. Free admission. Visit www.festivalspeedstylealex.com for more.

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Jeyifous Named as 2020 Artist in Waterfront Public Art Series

Olalekan Jeyifous will be the next artist to create a public art installation in Waterfront Park in Spring 2020.

Waterfront Park currently host the interactive installation Mirror Mirror, created by SOFTlab, a design studio led by Michael Szivos. Jeyifous will create the second work for the park as part of “Site See: New Views in Old Town.” Selected by a task force and approved by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, he’s been commissioned to create a new and original site-specific work inspired by Alexandria.

“Through the Site See series, we’re bringing engaging contemporary art to Alexandria’s burgeoning waterfront,” said



Olalekan Jeyifous

Diane Ruggiero, director of the Alexandria Office of the Arts and deputy director for the Department of Recreation, Parks and

Cultural Activities. “The public reception to Mirror Mirror has been so positive and we’re thankful to Michael and SOFTlab for helping build a strong foundation. We can’t wait to bring Olalekan to Alexandria for this next chapter.”

Based in Brooklyn, Jeyifous has spent more than a decade creating large-scale artwork for public spaces. He was recently commissioned, along with Amanda Williams, to create the forthcoming monument for Shirley Chisholm in Brooklyn. He previously created public art at the 2017 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California, Cleveland’s Public Square, and Starbucks’ flagship store in Chicago.

As the first part of the process, Jeyifous

Meet the Artist

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 7 P.M.

Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St., Alexandria

will visit Alexandria and meet residents, gathering inspiration for a design to come in Fall 2019. The public is invited to meet the artist and learn about his creative process on Wednesday, May 22, 7-9 p.m. at the Crow’s Nest at Blackwall Hitch on 5 Cameron St. in Alexandria. The event is free, but RSVPs are requested.

More information is available at alexandriava.gov/publicart and siteseealx.com.

CALENDAR

MONDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 13-19

National Public Gardens Week.

Come by Green Spring Gardens and celebrate National Public Gardens Week with tours, displays, programs and annual Spring Garden Day plant sale highlighting some of the interesting and exciting plant and history projects that Green Spring has to enjoy. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 14-18

Sailing on String. Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families. Follow two curious explorers on a voyage into a world made of string. This gentle, engaging performance features object transformation, movement, live string music, and captivating design. Best for children ages 0-2 and their families. \$7. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 571-549-1270.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Bike to Work Day 2019. Pit stop times vary, all over the region. Join more than 20,000 area commuters for a free celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. There are 115 Bike to Work Day pit stops to choose from. The first 20,000 to register and attend will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-shirt, enjoy refreshments and chances to win prizes. Visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

History by the Glass. 7-9 p.m. at Historic Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E St., SE, Washington, D.C. Enjoy an evening of history and cocktails on the 175th anniversary of John Gadsby’s interment at his final resting place, tour the newly restored Gadsby vault, learn more about this historic cemetery, and sip inspired cocktails. \$25 per person, includes one drink ticket and light hors d’oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased through alexandriava.gov/Shop or by calling the Museum at 703-746-4242.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 17-19

Spring Wine Festival & Sunset

Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon

for its most popular event of the year. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the mansion and cellar and appearances by George and Martha Washington. Bring a blanket, relax on the east lawn overlooking the scenic Potomac River and sample wines made in Virginia. The event takes place rain or shine and all sales are final. Admission: Friday, \$48; Saturday, \$52; and Sunday, \$42. Visit www.mountvernon.org/springwine or call 703-780-2000.

THROUGH MAY 18

“The Savannah Disputation.”

Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The subject is damnation, but “The Savannah Disputation” is as light and sweet as the iced tea served by the odd-couple sisters in their proper southern home. But the sisters quickly lose their southern charm when a young door-to-door evangelist comes knocking to save their souls. Tickets from \$21. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

Green Spring Garden Day and Big Plant Sale.

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV) and the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will be joining over 40 vendors selling plants at Green Spring Gardens. There will be a bake sale and food trucks. This event is hosted by Friends of Greens Spring Gardens (FROGS) and proceeds help purchase plants for the gardens and support educational efforts at Green Spring. Free. Visit www.friendsofgreenspring.org/programs-a-events/spring-garden-day-2019 or call FROGS at 703-642-5173.

Becoming American. 10 a.m.-noon Alexandria’s History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Carefully curated, Becoming American is a selection of documentaries representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the sessions is moderated followed by discussion after the viewing. Light refreshments will be available. This program is designed for adults, high school students may attend with an adult. Free, pre-registration is required at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Silly Goose and Val. 10 and 11:15

a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Award winning artist, Valerie Leonhart Smalkin, ventriloquist, musician, composer, and performer. Her Parents’ Choice award-winning songs and her Maryland State Arts Council award-winning solo performance are guaranteed to delight tots, tweens, and teens...and the timeworn, as well. \$6 per person. To buy online, visit alexandriava.gov/Arts click on Durant Arts Center.

Pillars to Pavers.

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. \$35. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Fort Tours in Honor of Armed Forces Day.

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 301 West Braddock Road. Dressed in Union uniform, Museum curator Brian Briones will present an orientation to the Defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. The tours are free, and begin in the Museum. No reservations are

required. Tours are weather dependent. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Calling all dog owners or dog lovers, with or without a four-legged friend, join this 45-minute cruise of Alexandria’s seaport — a favorite spring activity for locals. Dogs are free, but must be on a six-foot non-retractable leash. Admission: \$24.99 adults (ages 12+); \$15.75 children ages 2-11; free for children under 2 and dogs. Call 703-684-0580 or visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

If Trouble Don’t Kill Me. 2 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Virginia author Ralph Berrier will present on his book, If Trouble Don’t Kill Me, which follows the lives on Berrier’s family from the mountains of Virginia to the Grand Ole Opry. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

The Alexandria Kinderchoir

Spring Concert. 3:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Alexandria Kinderchoir, founded in 2015 as The Del Ray Kinderchoir, is Alexandria’s only children’s community choir, with choristers now heralding from across the city. The non-profit is celebrating its

growth with a name change, coinciding with a move to Convergence for its larger rehearsal and performance space. Visit www.alexandriakinderchoir.org for more.

Hope UCC Luau.

4-9 p.m. at Hope UCC Luau, 6130 Old Telegraph Road. Hawaiian dancing, authentic Polynesian food and crafts for sale, bar and kid’s activities: lawn games, face painting and a bounce house. \$15-\$30 (under 2, free). Tickets at hopeucc.org/store.

Bharatanatyam: Classical Indian Dance Program.

7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join Sangeetha Agarwal, director of HastaSwara Performing Arts, and learn about Bharatanatyam. Bharatanatyam is a form of Indian classical dance originating in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

An Infinite Universe.

7:30-9:30 p.m. at Convergence Arts Initiative, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Alexandria Choral Society presents An Infinite Universe, a concert celebrating space and exploration. Featuring new commissioned works “That’s one small step” by Tawnie Olson and “Partial Lunar Eclipse” by Lori Laitman. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/



Alexandria Choral Society Performs New Commissions

Alexandria Choral Society (ACS), led by artistic director Brian J. Isaac, will present its final concert of its 2018-19 season, An Infinite Universe, at Convergence Arts Initiative. The concert will also feature a performance from a student group selected as the recipient of ACS’s Sing-Off Grant Program. The selected group will also perform with ACS for two works at the conclusion of the concert. Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at Convergence Arts Initiative. Tickets are available online at www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/boxoffice and are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, members of the military, and students. Children 13 and under are admitted free. (Tickets are also available at the door for an additional \$5 from the online price.)

ENTERTAINMENT

military/student, 13 and under free. Tickets \$5 more at the door. Call 703-951-7849 or visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

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

SUNDAY/MAY 19

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on King Street near Old Town Waterfront. The single-day free event will be span across three blocks on lower King Street and will feature approximately 60 rare and unusual supercars from around the world such as Ferrari, Jaguar, Porsche, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin and Cobra for up close viewing enjoyment. A fashion exhibition (noon-1 p.m.) will feature spring looks from Old Town Boutique District stores that pair with the themed cars on display. The event will also feature live music, street vendors, and provide festival goers an opportunity to explore Old Town shops and restaurants. Free admission. Visit www.festivalspeedstylealex.com for more.

Women Authors Bookreading. 2-3:30 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Authors H.L. Brooks, and Dea Schofield, will conduct readings and a book signing: The Red August Series, and The Vitaortus Series, in the cemetery vault. Not recommended for children. Free. Call 703-549-7413, ext. 1112, or visit www.ivyhillcemetery.net.

MONDAY/MAY 20

Intro to the Bonsai Tree. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The president of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society will share an overview of the ancient art of bonsai,

Campagna To Host Annual Bright Futures Benefit

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Feel the breezes of the Potomac outside on the patio at United Way Worldwide for the Campagna Center Bright Futures Benefit on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The auction includes something for everyone including a private charter plane ride, a pair of diamond stud earrings, a round of golf at the Kinloch Golf Club and a week in New Orleans. The \$20 raffle tickets can win you a three-day trip to Atlantis

introduce some basic bonsai techniques, and dispel some common myths. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

TUESDAY/MAY 21

Researching German Ancestors. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. "Finding a German Heimat (Hometown or Village)." Genealogist James M. Beidler will speak about researching German ancestors online. Free, open to the public.

Twilight & Tiptoe Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/ for more.

Bahamas.

Catering by Seasons will provide the food with wine from VA imports. You won't be able to take your ears off the Campagna Kids who will perform a selection of songs from their spring musical, "Disney's Aladdin Jr."

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MAY 21-JUNE 23

Juried Show: "Environmental Elements."

Gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Environmental Elements." Our artists and their creations are influenced by environmental elements such as air quality, noise, climate, fish and wildlife migration routes, and unique animal species – the list goes on and on. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

THURSDAY/MAY 23

Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adult) Tour the demonstration gardens with master



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katelin Moomau, Brittany Patterson-Hill, and Suzanne Carlough at Bright Futures Benefit 2018.

gardener docents. \$32. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Simpson Garden Family Night. 6-8 p.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Enjoy a bee- and butterfly-friendly seed planting for kids. Take home a kit to create a Butterfly Puddler in the yard, and plenty of plant ideas for pollinator gardens, herb gardens, and container gardening. Come learn why planting native plants are the best choices for the home garden. Extension Master Gardeners will be there to answer your questions. A fun evening for all ages! Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

Why Old Places Matter. 7 p.m. at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Tom Mayes, Vice President and Senior Counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, discusses his new book Why Old Places Matter. Although people often feel very

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 25

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. For a limited time, the program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2019-2020 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

or contact Lily Jones, Division of
Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1850.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Stomping Ground, LLC trading as Stomping Ground, 2309 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301 is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nicole Jones, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 23

deeply about the old places of their lives, they often don't have the words to express why. \$10. Register at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Ten Ways to Research Your House. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The Local History/Special Collections Branch has a wide range of resources to help investigate the history of a home. Find information about past owners, property values, alterations and improvements, and, sometimes a photograph. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1704.

Concerts at St. Luke's. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. The Marywood Univ. Chamber Singers, a 24-voice ensemble based in Scranton, PA, is featured on an annual PBS broadcast and is presently on tour throughout the mid-Atlantic States. Offering a free concert. A reception will follow. Free. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events

FRIDAY/MAY 24

Symphony of Frogs. 7:45-9:15 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join a naturalist for an indoor discussion and a guided walk to listen for serenading frogs and toads. Learn the calls of a bullfrog, southern leopard frog, green frog, tree frog, American toad and more. The weather and time of season will affect what frogs will be calling. Ages 6-adult. \$8. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SATURDAY/MAY 25

Pillars to Pavers. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. \$35. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

Scotch Irish and German Westward Migration Through Virginia. 3 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Virginian author, and Virginia Tech professor, Dan Thorp discusses his research into the Scotch-Irish and German family migration through Virginia during the 19th century. Learn more about the broader Virginian family during this year's All Alexandria Reads. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

Tips for Selecting Native Plants. 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Beatley Library Reading Garden, 5005 Duke St. Find out which plants are easiest to grow, because they already call this area home. Learn how to select appropriate plants that will thrive best in the conditions. Discuss some best practices for planting and maintenance and some tips and techniques to help attract birds, butterflies and pollinators to a garden. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. Reserve a spot at mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/.

SUNDAY/MAY 26

The Crown-Fact or Fiction? 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) The lavish British monarchy series, The Crown, portrays the public and private life of Queen Elizabeth II and her family in astonishingly intimate detail, but how much is fact and how much is dramatic license? Programs are by reservation only. \$32 (program + tea); \$12 (program only). Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Take a Step Back 400 Years. 2-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. How did the Powhatan Native Americans use the plants and animals you see every day for their medicine, groceries, clothing and fun? Grind corn, make a clay pot, master corn darts and go on a guided tour to see the park from the perspective of a Virginia Indian. For participants age 4-adult. \$12 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

TUESDAY/MAY 28

Halving the Bones - Diverse Documentaries. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Author Ruth Ozeki (A Tale for the Time Being) directs this autobiographical documentary about her family and growing up half Japanese and half American. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.

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The Weak Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Concerning the three 'weak's' during which this arc will publish: last week's "The Weak Before," this week's "The Weak Of" and next week's "The Weak After," this week's "The Weak Of" when I actually lie down for my bi-monthly CT scan (and as it coincides occasionally, my semiannual brain MRI), is the easiest.

The worry of its occurrence is over, since I'm on site and "gowned up" waiting to hear my name called. And the worry of the results has not yet seeped in because the scanning process has barely begun and nothing will happen and/or be expected to be communicated in the next few days anyway.

Next week - when I know the results are somewhere and I've not received any feedback from my oncologist, within five days or so - is when I'll begin to stress for all the reasons with which you regular readers are familiar.

What this "The Weak Of" means to me is progress. And even though that 'progress' could mean disappointing news, it could also mean that my status is quo.

And as difficult as hearing that the CT scan showed growth and/or the brain MRI showed something more, at least we'd gain some knowledge that we didn't have previously, and that new knowledge will be crucial as new treatment options are considered.

However, it's not as if I feel I'm in the dark during the intervals between scans. Hardly. It's more that I'm in a situation where knowledge is a powerful tool and the more of it my doctors, particularly my oncologist, have about me, the better.

The only problem? The frequency of these recurring diagnostic scans means nearly every week, bi-weekly immunotherapy infusions notwithstanding, I'm in some kind of 'weak.'

As you all know, I can compartmentalize but, I'm afraid the compartments are starting to fill up. Ten-plus years of surviving cancer will do that.

The CT scan and MRI appointments, in and of themselves are not compartment-filling though. Having had over 50 of them by now, I'm unaffected. Moreover I drive the same route to the same facility and are tended to by the same technicians; my good luck charms, as I tell them.

They always greet me by name, smile and ask how I'm doing. I likewise reply in a positive way and thank them for the many good results I've had and encourage them to keep up the good work (I realize they have nothing to do with the actual results, good or bad, but I still like to prime the pump, so to speak).

And when the process is complete, I'll leave feeling more upbeat than when I arrived. A feeling which continues until the next week, 'the weak after.' That's when I'll feel the same kind of emotional jitters I experienced during 'the weak before.'

So, as I begin 'the weak of,' I begin it with hope and humor, my stock-in-trade. Hope for all the obvious reasons and humor because whatever happens, I'll likely make some joke about it and try to lighten the weight of it all with as light a touch as I can muster.

But for the time/'weak' being, I will enjoy the not-knowing the results and bask in the presumptive naivete. Because, if and when there is confirmation that my ship has sailed or that it's beginning to take on water, there might not be too much funny that I can say or do at that point to turn the tide.

Nevertheless, I'd like to think I'll be up to the challenge. One never knows. These three 'weak's' I can manage. We'll see about the next one.

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

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