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Alexandria

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JUNE 27, 2019



City Council members and other officials stand with the honorees at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception held June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club. Shown are (from left): DPC president Merrick Malone; Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority CEO and honoree Keith Pettigrew; Councilman Canek Aguirre; School board member Jacinta Greene; Acting Fire Chief and honoree Corey Smedley; Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter; Council member Amy Jackson; Assistant Police Chief and honoree Don Hayes; Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker; Councilman John Taylor Chapman; and Police Chief Michael Brown.

‘Celebrating Community Leaders’

DPC welcomes African American leaders.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Departmental Progressive Club honored several individuals for their contributions to the city at a Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the DPC headquarters in Old Town.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley, center, with his son Cemille and wife Yolanda at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club.

The reception, attended by members of City Council, School Board and law enforcement agencies, recognized the significant accomplishments of African Americans in leadership positions in the city.

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 8



DPC members Charles Allen, Jim Henson and Charles Nelson at the Departmental Progressive Club’s Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception.

City’s Investment

In Full Bloom

Shoreline and Windmill Park areas enter first growing season.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

Although the ribbon was cut for the completion of the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Project last November, it took a rainy spring and hot days in June for the “living shoreline” along South Union Street to come alive. On Sunday, June 23, the temperatures were in the 80s, the sun was out and the new garden was awash in yellow flowers that are favorites

of butterflies and bees. “We do have pollinator flowers,” said Jack Browand, division chief at the City of Alexandria’s Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. The new plantings on the shoreline and surrounding parks are 75 percent grasses and 25 percent flowering plants, he said. “It’s natural vegetation, it’s turning out great,” he said. But this area of the shoreline a few blocks south of King Street

SEE CITY, PAGE 8

‘Just Call Me Mike’

Chief Brown awarded PhD from GMU.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Chief of Police Michael L. Brown can add the title of “Doctor” to his resume after receiving a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law and Society from George Mason University at the university’s 2019 spring commencement. His areas

of interest were leadership and administration of policing as well as crime policy. “I made a promise to my mother back in the ‘70s that I would one day get this degree,” Brown said. “It took me seven years but I was finally able to make it happen even though I think she had really hoped for me to become a medical doctor.” Brown’s efforts in this program reflect his longstanding interest in evidence-based policing and led to his appointment as a member of the board of directors of the Na

SEE CHIEF, PAGE 8

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Know Your City: Civic Engagement

A look about patterns of civic participation and non-participation across the city.

BY DAN BRENDEN AND
BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

This is the fifth and last in an intermittent series to help citizens visualize relevant data, relationships, and trends in the city's geographic context.

Alexandrians don't participate at equal rates in local civic affairs. That's true of local voting, contributing to local campaigns, testifying in local government public hearings, serving on local government advisory boards and commissions, and participating in local membership associations. While acknowledging other possible measures — voter registration, electronic communications with local government, PTA membership, civic and homeowners' association memberships, etc. — limitations in data availability/quality and time have narrowed this investigation to these five.

These measures intend to capture a broad range of what "civic participation" might mean. Except for voting, few objective barriers prevent engaging via many other conduits. Anyone, including non-residents and non-citizens, may contribute to campaigns or speak in political forums. While local policy establishes different requirements for different local government advisory bodies, citizenship and non-felon status aren't blanket prerequisites. Campaign donors and business association members participate from all over the metropolitan region, and in some cases from all over the Commonwealth and even the country.

PATTERNS IN THE DATA

Geographic imbalances in civic participation might serve as a rough — perhaps the only — proxy for demographic and socio-economic imbalances. The publicly available data compiled here don't otherwise record demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

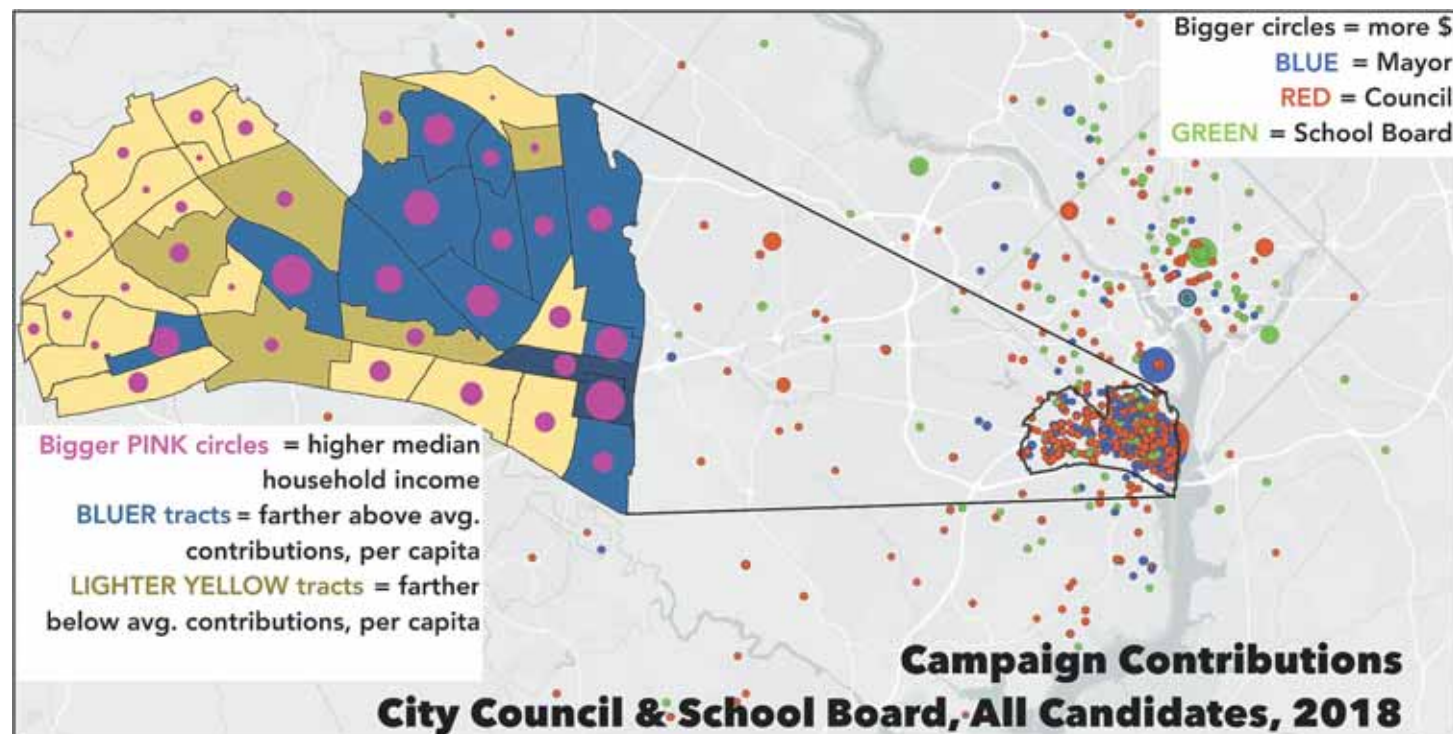
Patterns vary by measure and applied parameters. But, in general, areas of higher participation tend to correspond roughly with whiter, wealthier and more native-born residents. In the city's eastern half, Arlandria and East Braddock in some cases stand out as islands of relatively low participation. Arlandria comprises predominantly Hispanics; East Braddock has a relative concentration of public housing occupied overwhelmingly by African Americans. Conversely, in the city's western half, Cameron Station in some cases stands out as an island of relatively high participation, and comprises whiter and higher-income residents than the West End as a whole.

Cameron Station is "not integrated with us [the West End] at all," said Dianara Saget, a Latina single mother who lost a bid last year for School Board District C (West End).

Local leaders know, at least in general, that these imbalances exist.

SEE KNOW YOUR CITY, PAGE 4

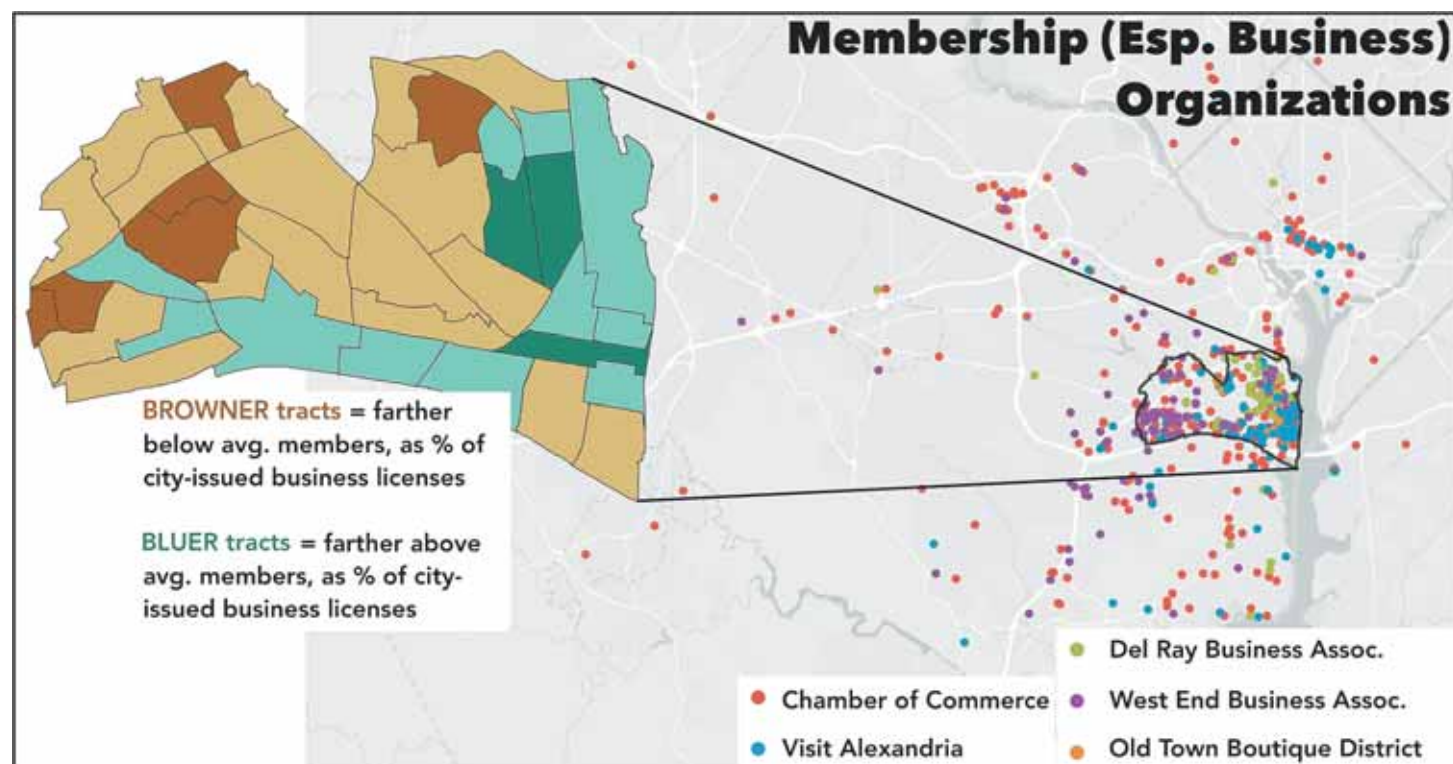
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SOURCES: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS, ESRI, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, FILE FORMAT CONVERSIONS VIA CONVERSIONTOOLS.IO IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF USE.

Campaign Finance

Between 2017 and 2018, individuals and organizations outside of Alexandria supplied 41 percent of campaign contributions to City Council and School Board candidates. That's including "direct" monetary contributions and "in kind" contributions of products or services (e.g., a restaurant donates food to a campaign event), but excluding candidate self-financing and loans. Of 19 single contributions to any Council or School Board candidate of \$5,000 or more, only eight came from within Alexandria. Though not pictured here, state politics showcases the influence of outside money even more. The five sitting state delegates and senators whose districts overlap Alexandria received anywhere between 54-98 percent of campaign contributions from outside their districts, and 13-22 percent from outside Virginia. That's in aggregate since 2012 (or since the first year the candidate ran, if after 2012), excluding small cash contributions, for which campaign finance reports don't record addresses. For 2018 local races, higher giving corresponded somewhat with higher income and homeownership, though not without exception.

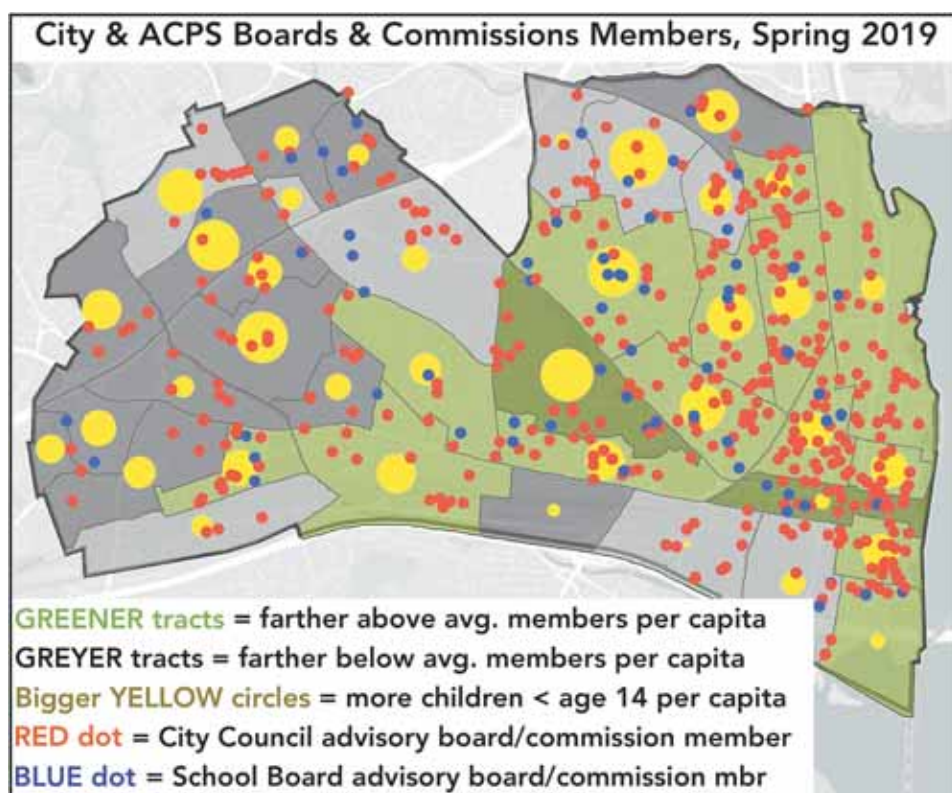


SOURCES: BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS' MANAGEMENT AND/OR WEB SITES, GOOGLE SEARCHES, ESRI, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

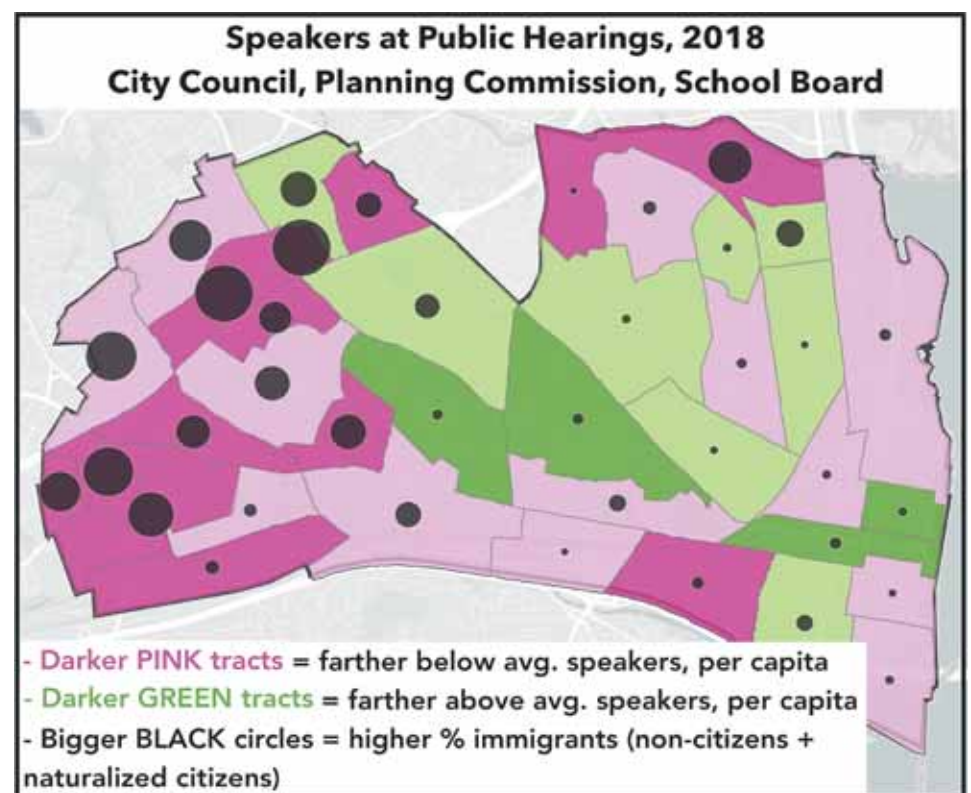
Membership Organizations

This map stitches together certain associations' members, totaling some 1,500. Members include mostly private sector businesses, but also some public sector officials and agencies, nonprofits, religious institutions, education institutions, etc. Such membership organizations might exert political influence directly (e.g., legislative agendas, candidate forums, etc.) and/or indirectly (e.g., in several cases City Council members and government agencies are formal members). All business associations listed on the Chamber of Commerce and Alexandria Economic Development Partnership web sites were contacted or attempted. As of spring 2019, 24 percent of members resided outside Alexandria. Not included are the Eisenhower Partnership and Carlyle Council, which declined to furnish directories; the Old Town Business and Professional Association, which said it lacks an up-to-date directory; and the Queen Street Area and Arlandria-Chirilagua Business Associations, both defunct, according to several sources. (Note: While normalizing the data is necessary, doing so as a percent of city-issued business licenses isn't perfect, since not all members are businesses. The same member is shown multiple times if belong to multiple associations. But where multiple individuals from the same organization belong to the same association, that organization's membership is shown only once.)

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2019 ♦ 3



SOURCES: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ESRI



SOURCES: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (B05001, 2013-2017), ESRI

Boards and Commissions

The City Council and School Board maintain over 70 boards/commissions/committees, comprising some 700 appointed citizens. Mostly these groups advise departmental staff and elected bodies on an array of budget and policy subject areas (e.g., environment, urban design, housing, special education, etc.). Some exercise limited delegated authority (e.g., Planning Commission, Board of Architectural Review). A few exercise their own authority, including over tens of millions of dollars of public assets, with only sporadic or far removed elected oversight (e.g., Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Alexandria Transit Company (DASH), etc.). Seats are often reserved for persons with relevant professional expertise, and/or those “representing” (at least ostensibly) particular institutions, business sectors or demographic or interest groups. Appointees normally must be city residents, but that requirement can be waived (e.g., the schools’ Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee might include industry leaders from outside the city). As of spring 2019, about nine percent of members resided outside Alexandria.

Public Speakers

This map shows instances of public testimony in key local political forums (including multiple instances of the same person speaking in different forums and/or on different occasions). The city government and public schools administrations furnished lists, totaling 379 instances over CY 2018. Anecdotally, compare the April 23 public hearing on the modernization and replacement of Resolution 830 and the May 14 public hearing on remodeling the historic, multi-million-dollar Hugo Black home in Old Town. No one spoke at the former, though it will likely influence the redevelopment of public housing for hundreds or thousands of Alexandria’s lowest-income households (the majority black) over the next several decades. By contrast, over 30 people (none black) spoke at the latter, pushing the hearing past midnight.

Know Your City: Civic Engagement

FROM PAGE 3

The city’s planning processes in the past have mainly attracted “regulars” — “people who are familiar, people who have been involved before” — said City Manager Jinks this spring.

“[O]ur under-served and our under-represented families ... feel that they do not have open access,” said Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Gregory Hutchings earlier this year. “We’ve had a practice where we have listened a lot to the loudest voice. ... But there are also some voices that are a medium voice, and a small voice, and no voice.”

But what these measured imbalances “mean” — reasons, ramifications, how to mitigate — are a matter of interpretation.

EXCLUSIONARY FORCES?

Some interviewed say many lower-income residents, minorities and immigrants face external barriers to civic engagement,

especially in terms of money and social connections.

Though higher campaign fundraising doesn’t automatically buy an electoral win, running for local office increasingly costs a lot, according to data from the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonprofit. Mayoral and City Council winners in 2018 spent, respectively, 96 percent and 43 percent more than winners in 2009 (three election cycles earlier). Mayor Justin Wilson, the highest-spending winner in 2018, spent nearly \$202,000.

Moreover, all 33 of last year’s City Council and School Board candidates, taken together, self-financed about a quarter of their campaigns. That’s according to data compiled from their state-mandated campaign finance reports filed during 2017-2018.

“Campaign finance usually starts with the low-hanging fruit — your circle of friends, your family,” said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46). “If those people are people with means, they’re going to be able to give more

“Individuals don’t want to be the face of anything. They don’t want to be ... seen as someone that possibly is causing issues, or going against the powers that be.”

— Chris Harris, President, Alexandria NAACP

That gives somebody a competitive advantage, if they have that circle of wealth around them” Herring, an African-American woman who’s now an attorney, was homeless as a teen after her mother’s job loss. Not knowing a higher-giving donor base presented a challenge during her debut in state politics, she said at a panel discussion on civic activism in March.

She thinks Virginia needs some kind of campaign finance reform, such as state legislation to limit contributions or to provide public campaign financing. But bills on the subject to come forward in the General Assembly have died in committee, she said.

“Alexandria is really about whom you know. ... If you’re not in that [PTA] circle, you won’t get funding, you won’t get the support,” said Saget. She says she learned “how the city works, ... how to be a voice in your community” from the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria, a nonprofit.

In addition to high campaign costs, low public office salaries may discourage lower-income candidates from running. Alexandria’s local offices pay part-time salaries, ranging from \$15,000 (School Board members) to \$42,000 (Mayor). For comparison, Alexandria’s median annual household income was over \$93,000 over the period 2013-2017, according to the American Community Survey. The median cost of

housing alone — excluding healthcare, childcare, transportation, etc. — was nearly \$22,000. Of nine regional jurisdictions, only Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties paid municipal elected officials six-figure full-time salaries, according to a city government report last year.

A given council has the authority to set whatever pay it deems appropriate for the subsequently elected council, though Wilson thinks the General Assembly, which grants city/county/town charters, should adjudicate the question of part-time versus full-time city councilors in Alexandria.

Busyness plays a role. Low-income families may “have more important things to deal with” than voting, said former School Board member Bill Campbell. “They are more focused on, ‘am I able to get job, can I feed my kids,’” he said. “They are not the people who sit in coffee shops and talk about politics.” They may lack the “luxury” of a spouse who’s high-earning job enables deeper engagement in time-consuming local affairs. He recalls that his own mother, who, busy raising six children, never voted until in her 40s.

Chris Harris, president of the Alexandria NAACP, thinks the disaggregation of communities takes a toll.

“We don’t have a ‘black community’ in this city, unless it’s low-income public housing,”

SEE KNOW YOUR CITY, PAGE 5

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Know Your City

FROM PAGE 4
he said. "Now we have these satellites ... where you have 4-5 units here, 10 units there, spread throughout the city. ... Take those communities away, there is no community of predominantly African-Americans anywhere ... in the city. That's a problem."

This disaggregation follows from the housing authority and city's decades-long policy of site "scattering" and poverty "de-concentration" through redevelopment.

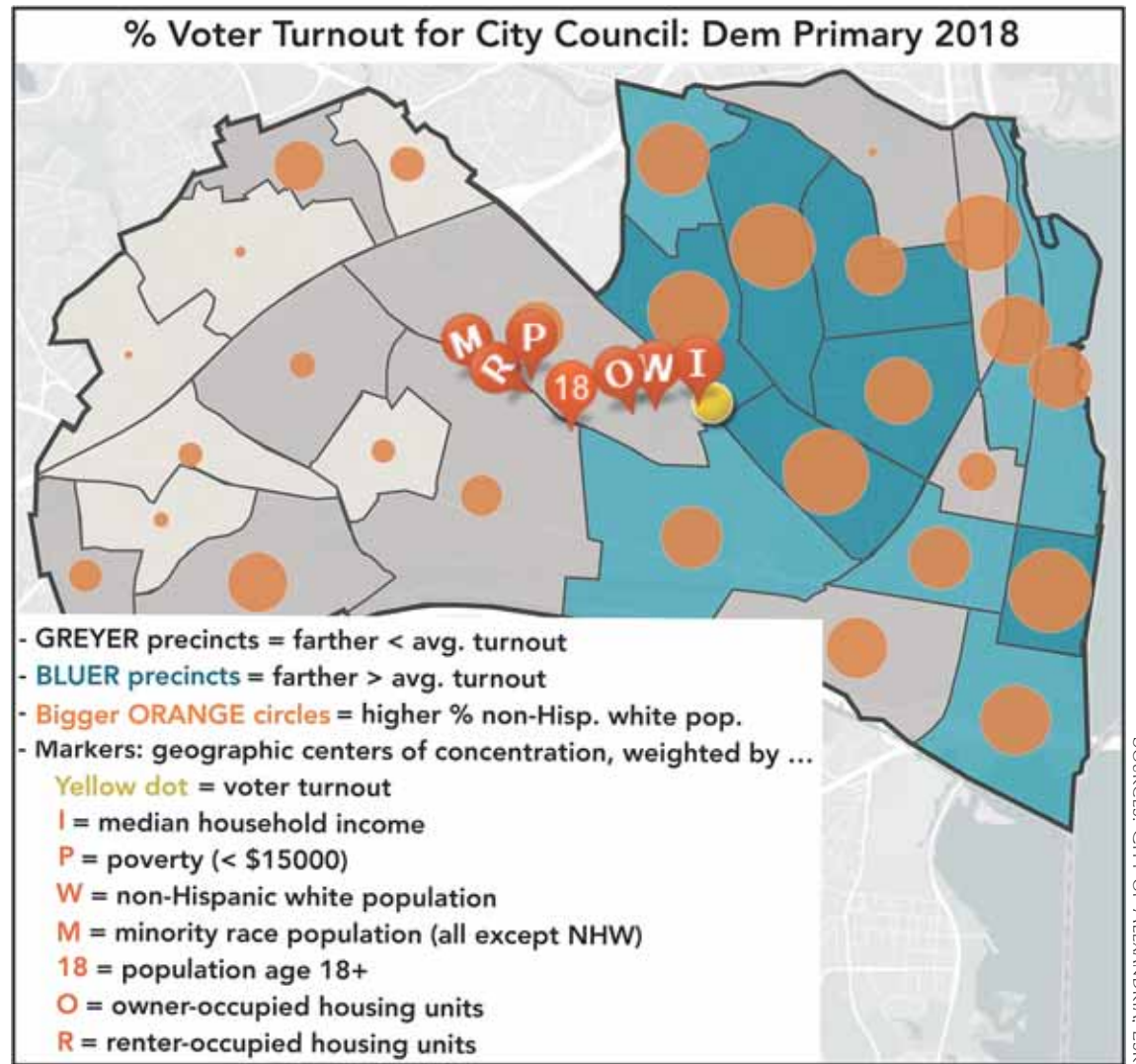
"It's a lack of organization, a lack of knowledge," said Harris. Whereas black churches used to be hubs of political organization, he

thinks many congregants in black churches today commute from elsewhere and so aren't as locally invested.

Fear also plays a role. "Individuals don't want to be the face of anything," said Harris. "They don't want to be ... seen as someone that possibly is causing issues, or going against the powers that be. ... Let's say for low-income [public] housing: If ... you have multiple people living in your house, and you shouldn't have multiple people living in your house, you don't want to be the one standing on the courthouse steps or in the city council chamber." SEE BEING INVOLVED, PAGE 22

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the Democratic primary on June 12, 2018 serves to approximate strictly local electoral participation, since only the mayor and council appeared on the ballot. By contrast, voters during general elections may turn out mainly for state and federal races, voting only incidentally in local races. And because of Alexandria's overwhelmingly blue partisan majority, the Democratic primary effectively chose the current mayor and city council, ahead of the November general election. The map shows calculated geographic centers of concentration, weighted by voter turnout and select demographic characteristics of the voting precincts then in effect. These centers are analogous to where a waiter would have to place her hand in order to balance a tray, depending on the evenness (or unevenness) of the weight distribution of items set on the tray. The city's political "center of gravity" coincides most with its centers of income, non-Hispanic white resident population and homeownership. Centers of renters, poverty and racial/ethnic minorities skew farther west.



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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left: Deputy Thomas Li, Deputy Omar Herring, Deputy Joseph Walker, Deputy Bryce Gentry, Deputy Nicole Ruggiero, Deputy Steven Hand, Deputy James Biddy, Deputy Jamie Victor, and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne after the academy graduation ceremony.

Eight Deputies Graduate from Academy

Eight Alexandria deputy sheriffs graduated from Session 140 of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on Wednesday, June 19. The new deputies completed nearly six months of training including emergency vehicle operations, firearms training, defensive and control tactics, crash investigation, basic legal training, jail and courthouse procedures, and other areas.

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne joined his command and training staff at the graduation ceremony which was held at George Mason University. Sheriff Lawhorne congratulated Deputy James Biddy, Deputy Bryce Gentry, Deputy Steven Hand, Deputy Omar Herring, Deputy Thomas Li, Deputy Nicole Ruggiero, Deputy Jamie Victor, and Deputy Joseph Walker on their graduation.

The program included the keynote address from G. Zachary Terwilliger, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, remarks from the class president, Loudoun Deputy John Paul Griffin, and the presentation of achievement awards. Walker received the top award in emergency vehicle operations, an honor he shared with a Leesburg police officer, for having the highest score. Victor also distinguished himself in emergency vehicle operations and was recognized for finishing third.

The academy serves 17 participating law enforcement agencies: the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office, Arlington County Police



U.S. Attorney G. Zachary Terwilliger delivered the keynote address at the academy graduation.

Department, Arlington County Sheriff's Office, City of Fairfax Police Department, City of Falls Church Police Department, City of Falls Church Sheriff's Office, George Mason University Police Department, Leesburg Police Department, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Manassas City Police Department, Manassas Park City Police Department, Middleburg Police Department, Northern Virginia Community College Police, Purcellville Police Department, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Police and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Those interested in joining the Alexandria Sheriff's Office may take the examination for Deputy Sheriff applicants on July 18. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff for additional details.

Yeung Completes Basic Training

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

The airman completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Yeung is the son of Edward Yeung of Alexandria, Va., and nephew of John Yeung of River Edge, N.J.

He is a 2016 graduate of River Dell High School, River Edge, N.J.



Yeung



Retiring Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé and Acting Fire Chief Corey A. Smedley

Dubé to Retire; Smedley Appointed

With the retirement of Alexandria Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé effective July 3, City Manager Mark B. Jinks has appointed Assistant Fire Chief of Administration Corey A. Smedley as acting fire chief.

"I thank Chief Dubé for his many contributions at the helm of the Alexandria Fire Department," said Jinks. "His accomplishments have provided critical support for Alexandria's firefighters and EMS providers, helping them protect our community and its excellent quality of life. We wish him all the best for a well-earned retirement."

"It has been one of the honors of my professional career to lead this great department and its dedicated members," said Dubé. "I thank them for the amazing work they do every day to help keep our community safe, and I am confident that our current leadership and passionate team of firefighters and EMS providers will continue this department's proud 153-year tradition of service."

Dubé, a 40-year veteran of the fire service, joined the city in 2014. During his tenure, the Fire Department established a comprehensive Health, Safety & Risk Management unit; obtained more than \$5 million in grant funding to help provide paramedic and special operations training, and four-person staffing; implemented the fire/medic program and developed paramedic engine companies; placed a dedicated heavy rescue service company in service for the first time; and designed and purchased custom ladder trucks, engines, and heavy rescue and hazardous materials response units designed for operations in an urban environment.

ban environment.

Smedley, who joined the city in 2015, previously served as deputy fire chief of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. As deputy chief, he worked with local and regional partners to develop the city's Emergency Operations Plan and Threats and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan. He was responsible for initiating the city's new Emergency Operations Center, which was activated for the first time in May 2019. He has worked with various state, regional and local agencies to provide training for the city's public safety personnel and staff in other departments. He was promoted to assistant fire chief of Administration in January 2019.

Prior to Alexandria, Smedley served as the deputy chief of the Prince George's County (Md.) Fire/EMS Department responsible for administrative services and budget. He began his career with the department in 1995 as a firefighter.

"Chief Smedley's extensive experience and dedication to the fire service, emergency management, and working with our regional partners has been an asset to the City," said Jinks. "His expertise makes him well suited to lead the Fire Department as acting chief during this interim period."

Smedley holds a bachelor's degree in mass media from the University of the District of Columbia and a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University. He is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a fire inspector, instructor and investigator. He has also earned the Certified Public Manager credential from The George Washington University.

News

Councilwoman Amy Jackson and Mayor Justin Wilson are assisted by James Fitzgerald, son of a North Ridge Citizens' Association board member.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fire House Project Underway

Leaders from the fire department, city government and the North Ridge Citizens' Association broke ground on Saturday, June 22 on a project to expand and renovate Fire House 203 on Cameron Mills Road. The \$12 million initiative will replace the old station, built in 1948, with a state-of-the-art facility to serve residents in nearby Beverley Hills,

Del Ray and Rosemont neighborhoods.

The expansion will increase the square footage of Fire Station 203 to more than twice the size of its current footprint. The renovated facility will have additional bays for equipment, modern bunk rooms and updated fire and EMS technologies. The new station is slated for completion in summer 2020.

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PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

Assistant Police Chief Don Hayes, ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew and acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley pose for a photo after being honored at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club.



DPC Ladies Auxiliary members pose for a photo at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club. Shown clockwise from top left: Barbara Wilkes, Ann Allen, Rosa Byrd and Evangeline Robinson.

‘Celebrating Community Leaders’

FROM PAGE 1

Honored at the event were: ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings; Keith Pettigrew, CEO of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Assistant Police Chief Don Hayes; and Acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley.

Due to a family emergency, Hutchings was unable to attend the event but Pettigrew, Hayes and Smedley each addressed the crowd and spoke of their own personal and professional journeys to their current positions.

DPC Sergeant-at-Arms Tavares Floyd served as master of ceremonies and welcomed attendees to the historic club, which was founded in 1927 and serves as the city’s oldest social club.

See www.dpc1927.org.



DPC members Jack Byrd, Traverse Gray, Daniel Selby, George Wilkes and Charles Allen join club president Merrick Malone, seated, at the June 24 Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception.

City’s Investment in Full Bloom

FROM PAGE 1

was in bad shape at one time, and the city stepped up to address it, and came up with a plan in 2003. At that time, the wooden pier work in the water that supported the retaining walls was rotting away and the concrete bulkheads were cracked. It was clear something had to be done, so the city looked at options that included rebuilt bulkheads, rip rap stone supports or the living shoreline, which turned out to be everyone’s preferred choice. In June 2015, the City Council approved the living shoreline plan, and construction began in September 2016.

To the naked eye, it’s all city parkland, and the vegetation is rooted in the soil to keep it from washing away into the river. Upon further examination though, the parks are spliced up, and the city project includes the bulkhead of a former shipping area where there is now a rainwater drainage creek.

Old Town resident George F. Jewsbury takes daily walks through this area off



On the waterfront, the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Project flowers are in full bloom.

Union Street and thinks the project was “very well done.”

Sophia Farino comes in from her home in the Fairfax County portion of Alexandria, and likes the river views from South Union Street. “It gives a really nice view of the water and the bridge,” she said.

The northern part of the shoreline is Shipyard Park, and maintained by the Harborside Condominium Homeowners Association with permanent public access

to the riverside park and public wharf, according to city information. Then there’s Windmill Park on the east and west side of Union Street, and a new dog park just south of that, and then Ford’s Landing City Park. It all seems like one continuous piece of land. “This area’s very complicated,” said Browand.

The city planted aquatic plants close to the water and along the shore, and pollinator flowers on the dryer parts of the parcels. Currently there are strings and stakes “to keep the geese out” who eat the new plants before they have a chance to root. “Projects within this scope can take a couple of growing seasons,” Browand added.

Like everything else in Old Town, this area has a history too. Beginning in 1851, the Orange & Alexandria Railroad used the Wilkes Tunnel to get to the bulkhead at the Potomac River. The trains stopped rolling through the tunnel in 1975, but Browand did say they found rails and materials under the dirt while clearing the land for this project. “That whole area was industrial,” he said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Chief of Police Michael Brown, right, is awarded a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law and Society at the George Mason University 2019 spring commencement ceremony at Eagle Bank Arena.

Chief Brown

FROM PAGE 1

tional Police Foundation. He also serves as a co-chair of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Research Advisory Committee.

Brown, 63, began his career in the California Highway Patrol as a police officer in Los Angeles in 1977 culminating with his appointment as state commissioner from 2004 to 2008. In that capacity he oversaw nearly 8,000 personnel in more than 100 field offices and managed a budget of \$1.8 billion. He later served as California’s deputy secretary for public safety and then as the director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Brown holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration from California State University, Sacramento, a master’s degree in criminal justice administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a master’s degree in management from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Brown is also a graduate of the California Peace Officers Standards and Training Command College and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Academy and National Executive Institute.

Brown admitted it was a long journey to get the degree and credited his accomplishment to the help and encouragement of his wife Kirsten, who is a deputy sheriff with the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, and the faculty members at GMU.

“I was blessed with all the support I got as I worked my way through the degree program,” Brown added.

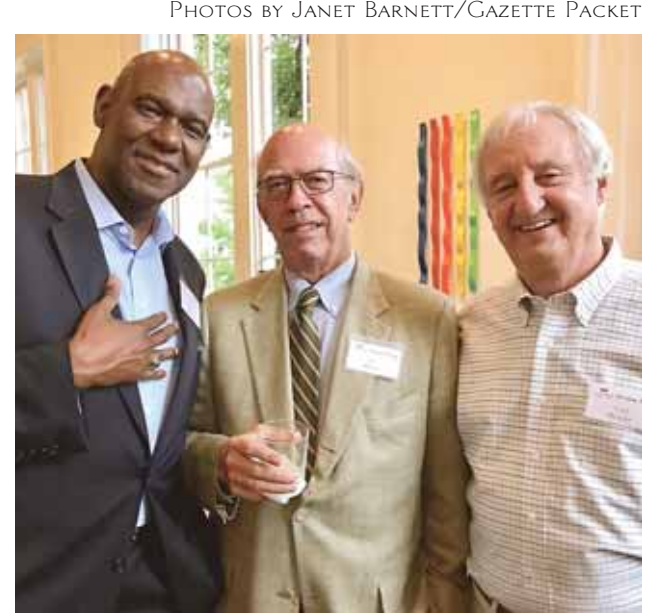
When asked by several attendees at a recent community event how he prefers to be addressed in light of his recent accomplishment – “Doctor” or “Chief,” Brown replied: “Just call me Mike.”



Alexandria Symphony Orchestra board chair Anne Rector, right, is joined by Candy Fazakerley and Val Hawkins at the ASO Garden Party fundraiser held June 18 at the Athenaeum.



Stuart Wineland, Caroline Fuller and Elizabeth Gamble enjoy the ASO Garden Party reception June 18 at the Athenaeum.



Ronal Butler, Cas Hobbs and Carl Behnke at the ASO Garden Party reception June 18 at the Athenaeum.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

ASO Garden Party New executive director joins in fundraiser.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Rainy skies couldn't dampen the spirits of attendees as the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra held its annual Garden Party fundraiser June 18 at the Athenaeum.

Originally slated to be held at the Old Town home and gardens of Major Jonathan Wilbor, severe weather conditions forced the ASO to move the event indoors to the Athenaeum.

The event also served as an opportunity for the community to meet George Hanson, the new executive director of the ASO.

Hanson, an experienced musician and manager, formally joined the organization in April. He has directed the Tucson Desert Song Festival since 2015 and was also the Director of the Sunriver Music Festival in Bend, Oregon.

Hanson's career includes 20 years with the Tucson Symphony; work with such U.S. orchestras as Atlanta, Charlotte, Indianapolis and Phoenix; and six seasons at the Wuppertal Opera and Orchestra in Ger-



Fran and Gant Redmon with Taylor Kiland at the ASO Garden Party June 18 at the Athenaeum.

many. An attendee of the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona Graduate School, he received his Master of



Garden Party co-chair Claire Schwab with ASO board chair Anne Rector at the June 18 fundraiser at the Athenaeum.

Music from Indiana University.

Now in its 76th season, the ASO will perform a patriotic pops concert at the upcoming



Donnie Wintermute, co-chair of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Garden Party, with ASO Executive Director George Hanson, at the June 18 fundraiser.

City of Alexandria 270th Birthday Celebration July 13 at Oronoco Bay Park.

See www.alexsym.org.



Allison Priebe and Ken Tyler at the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Garden Party June 18 at the Athenaeum.



Clare Bisceglia and Melynda Wilcox at the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Garden Party June 18 at the Athenaeum.



Kendra Carey and White House florist Kelly Green at the ASO Garden Party June 18 at the Athenaeum.

A Ladder of Citizen Participation

A “provocative” model worth revisiting?

SHERRY R. ARNSTEIN

This article originally published in 1969 in the Journal of the American Institute of Planners. It's redacted and reprinted here for the purpose of spurring critical public dialogue. Letters to the editor encouraged.

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The idea of citizen participation is a little like eating spinach: no one is against it in principle because it is good for you. Participation of the governed in their government is, in theory, the cornerstone of democracy — a revered idea that is vigorously applauded by virtually everyone. The applause is reduced to polite handclaps, however, when this principle is advocated by the have-not blacks, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Indians, Eskimos, and whites. And when the have-nots define participation as redistribution of power, the American consensus on the fundamental principle explodes into many shades of outright racial, ethnic, ideological, and political opposition. ...

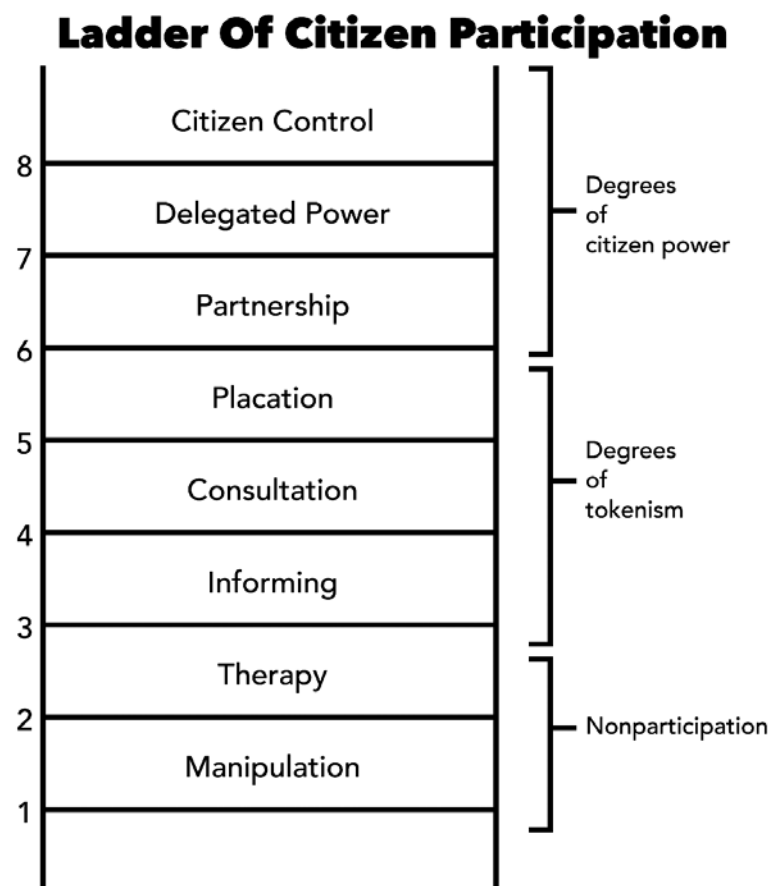
It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future. It is the strategy by which the

have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, and benefits like contracts and patronage are parceled out. ...

There is a critical difference between going through the empty ritual of participation and having the real power needed to affect the outcome of the process. ... Participation without redistribution of power is an empty and frustrating process for the powerless. It allows the powerholders to claim that all sides were considered but makes it possible for only some of those sides to benefit. ...

A typology of eight levels of participation may help in analysis of this confused issue. For illustrative purposes the eight types are arranged in a ladder pattern with each rung corresponding to the extent of citizens' power in determining the end product. ... Obviously, the eight-rung ladder is a simplification, but it helps to illustrate the point that so many have missed — that there are significant gradations of citizen participation. Knowing these gradations makes it possible to cut through the hyperbole to understand the increasingly strident demands for participation from the have-nots as well as the gamut of confusing responses from the powerholders. ...

[R]oadblocks lie on both sides of the simplistic fence. On the powerholders' side, they include racism, paternalism, and resistance to power redistribution. On the have-nots' side, they include inadequacies of the poor community's political socioeconomic infrastructure and knowl-



SOURCE: EXTRACTED FROM SHERRY R. ARNSTEIN (2019) A LADDER OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, 85:1, 24-34. **“To encourage a more enlightened dialogue, a typology of citizen participation is offered The typology, which is designed to be provocative, is arranged in a ladder pattern with each rung corresponding to the extent of citizens' power in determining the plan and/or program” (original article abstract).**

edge-base, plus difficulties of organizing a representative and accountable citizens' group in the face of futility, alienation, and distrust. ...

1. Manipulation: ... [P]eople are placed on rubberstamp advisory committees or advisory boards for

the express purpose of “educating” them or engineering their support. Instead of genuine citizen participation, the bottom rung of the ladder signifies the distortion of participation into a public relations vehicle by powerholders. ...

SEE A LADDER, PAGE 14

noted that an estimated 2.5% of Alexandria's population of 160,000 people ride a bike to work. But there are no statistics stating that their “work” is only in Old Town Alexandria, and not in other parts of the city or in neighboring jurisdictions.

The main factor in riding a bike to work is not the street you take, but whether there is a shower available once you reach work. No one wants to sit at their desk all day long, next to a sweaty cyclist. By its configuration and traffic flow, Seminary is not a good choice. We don't need to revamp the street; we need to change the route. Cyclists could safely opt to use Holmes Run Parkway, where they are not competing with cars as they head to work.

Seminary Road is a West End issue, but, geographically, five of the seven members of the Parking Board live in Old Town and one lives in Arlandria, all in the East End. The one West End Board member could not attend this meeting and thus did not vote.

Why was such a crucial decision for the city's overall traffic management plan submitted to this small board instead of going directly to the City Council? I am a former member of the Traffic Board and usually the docket includes more mundane things like driveways, curb cuts, installation of parking machines and creating parking districts.

Another aspect made public at

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Paving To Bike Lane?

To the Editor:

How did a simple, routine maintenance project of paving a few blocks of one Alexandria's busiest streets suddenly morph into such a controversy? And how did it veer from its original purposes?

The street in question is Seminary Road, from Howard Street to Quaker Lane. City Hall was the venue on June 24 for more than five hours of spirited debate, with 68 speakers. It was under the auspices of the city's Parking and Traffic Board, under the direction of the Transportation and Environmental Services Division (TES).

From the beginning of the TES

focus on Seminary Road in the fall of 2018, there had never been any dispute among the public about the immediate need to pave this street, where 20,000 cars travel through on a daily basis. Similarly, there was wide citizen consensus that some pedestrian safety improvements would be welcome along Seminary with striped crosswalks, especially near schools, churches/temples and the hospital, along with improved signage.

But somehow the topic of paving the street was overshadowed by demands for a bike lane. Where did this come from? Enthusiastic members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC is an independent, non-city sanctioned entity) spearheaded the charge. TES Director Yon Lambert

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

the hearing was that three of the seven Parking Board members are all actively involved in BPAC. Local resident Frank Putzu noted that the City Attorney's office had been questioned about potential "conflicts of interest" for those affiliated with the city's boards and commissions who are publicly affiliated with a group involved on an issue on which they may have to vote. Should they be required to recuse themselves from such votes?

Putzu said the City Attorney's office said its interpretation of the guidelines were that they only applied to financial conflicts, not ethical ones. Putzu disputed that. He cited Alexandria's 2016 Ethical Guidelines for Council, staff and board and commission appointees.

Another disclosure was that the city's deputy fire chief on June 3 had voiced serious reservations on the proposed elimination by TES of the four lanes. He questioned the department's ability to handle emergencies in a timely fashion. But an email made public for the first time at the hearing, dated June 24, from the fire chief, offered a conflicting viewpoint.

Board members asked that this correspondence be made available to the board and to the public. It also requested relevant discussions with Alexandria INOVA Hospital officials and the police department about future configurations on Seminary Road.

Similarly, some of the speakers at the June 24 hearing said that cutting down the lanes

would reduce speed. Owen Curtis, an expert in transportation, said the opposite was true. Several speakers noted that better police enforcement was the way to deal with speeding, not cutting lanes, especially in the wake of increased density coming from proposed Trans Urban exits off I-395 to Seminary Road as well as an increased density from residential and commercial future projects. Attached to the Docket Item # 9 was the TES Report on Seminary Road, and it offered a selective inclusion on limited outreach efforts to residents on Seminary Road's future. No mention is made in this report of the standing-room-only meeting on May 30 at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. There was overwhelming opposition to the TES Plan in this two-hour session.

Nor did the report include the overwhelming support from more than 1,200 signatories to an online petition for retention of four lanes on Seminary Road. Meeting participants criticized the city for not requiring signatories to list a local address. Thus, some non-Alexandria residents signed the petition.

At the end of the lengthy session, Parking Board members William Schuyler, Ann Tucker and James Lewis voted to recommend to the City Council for its consideration the retention of four lanes on Seminary Road. They also supported additional improved safety features to pedestrian crosswalks and the retention of the current "No Right Turn on Red When Pedestrians are Present" regulation for cars going east

on Seminary and turning right at Quaker Lane. Those opposing the motion were Kevin Beekman and Casey Kane.

The City Council will consider the recommendations when it resumes its sessions in September.

Prior to that, TES should revise its public and website report on Seminary Road, and include data from the citizen input at the May 30 session, along with the petition signatures.

The report needs to correct any false assumptions that Seminary Road is "a very dangerous part of the city," which is not supported by the documented facts. In the TES five-year survey from 2013 to 2018, there were 31 car accidents, and one of those accidents was caused by a deer, according to the report. That would be an average of six accidents a year, versus its high volume of cars on Seminary Road during that period.

TES needs to realize that one size does not fit all when it comes to the "Complete Street" dictum.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

Arrogant Artists?

To the Editor:

My compliments on the excellent article on the status of the Torpedo Factory by



Correction

The wrong student was identified in a photo at T.C. Williams' graduation ceremony [Gazette Packet, June 20]. Above is graduate Ariana Frazier.

Gerald Fill. After reading it I was outraged at the arrogance of the artists who appear to think that they are the owners of the Torpedo Factory. They need to recognize that they are tenants in a building which is owned by the city. The fact of the matter is that as tenants they have absolutely no right to provide input on management issues.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

Their responsibility is to pay the rent and actually use the spaces during the day.

It is about time that the building is being managed by the actual owners. For too long it has been neglected by city leadership who actually cared more for the tenants (many of whom were not even residents of the city) than they did for the taxpayers who subsidize the below market rental rates that they pay. I once brought visitors to the Torpedo Factory at 10 in the morning and there were only 2 or 3 studios that were open so I support the management position of requiring them to be present during a specific time period during the day. The practice of specifying a schedule when all the studios is common in similar settings (such as a mall).

One additional change I would suggest to the director is that they need to increase the rent on these spaces. They could consider have a tiered rate structure where Alexandria resident artists have a preferred rental rate (lower) while all of non residents artists would pay a higher rate. That would ensure that Alexandria taxpayers are not subsidizing nonresidents.

There are bound to be people who are upset with the thought of having adult supervision — I am sure that it is a rude awakening for the artists that the Torpedo Factory is no longer their personal playground but a commercial concern operated by competent management. Those tenants who object need to remember that this is America. Nobody is forcing them to be there and if they are unhappy with their situation they need to remember that they are free to look elsewhere.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

Displacing Sense of Place

To the Editor:

Few things in Alexandria come across with such clarity as the unfortunate demise of the Old and Historic District last Wednesday (June 19) at the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Public Hearing. In one final swoop, the BAR jettisoned the entire concept of the Historic District by approving a structure that ran as fast as it could from the historic precepts that have guided the district since its inception. As Mr. Ed Braswell warned the City Council many years ago, instead of a Preservation Board, the city has ended up with an arts commission.

Unfortunately, the BAR and staff

adored the building for its many deliberate incongruences, using the numerous previously approved design variances to justify a de facto complete repudiation of the Historic District ordinance. This is a very sad moment indeed, but it has occurred because the city and some residents desire this, or at least allowed it to happen by their silence. However, It is important to understand exactly what was lost.

While most residents can be forgiven for thinking that Old Town has always been so iconic, it wasn't always the case. The Old Town area had fallen into such disrepair that in 1960, the city came up with a proposal to raze nearly 100 percent of Old Town via urban renewal; to be precise, 24 city blocks.

This proposal was fought vociferously, but it took over 10 years and a lawsuit to limit the damage to six city blocks.

During all this, the Conference of Mayors had sponsored a report on Historic Preservation that indicated that a feeling of restlessness experienced by the country was associated with the postwar building boom and a high mobility rate. The report indicated that the Preservation Movement could assuage that restless feeling and could provide American society with "a sense of orientation" by using structures and objects of the past to establish values of time and place. This report proved to be influential, since the National Historic Act of 1966 incorporated many of its ideas, including the specific charge to create a sense of orientation for Americans through the Preservation Movement, into Federal law. In essence, placing the emphasis of Historic Preservation in the Federal law rested in the importance of creating a sense of place.

In a groundbreaking article on preservation and a sense of orientation for American cities, Robin Elisabeth Dattel points out the following: "The sense of orientation inspiring present-day efforts at historic preservation differs from the motivations of earlier preservationists, whose main lessons were patriotism and a respect for the accomplishments of their forebears. In pursuit of goals of stability, identity, and environmental control, current preservationists follow four imperatives: to retain diverse elements of the past, to perpetuate the distinctive identities of places, to involve amateurs in landscape care, and to practice a conservative approach to environmental change."

Rather than creating a historic Building Code, the establishment of an Old Town Historic District

not only created a strong sense of place, but it did so by conforming the entire district to certain standards, as opposed to just one building at a time. What is needed in this situation is architectural design that relates to its context and region.

Nine years ago, I warned that this policy was very much up in the air because of a significant push to create a far greater distinction between historic buildings and those that are deemed not historic. This begs several questions; first, what is historic? second, why did we create districts in the first place; and third, what will happen to the sense of place?

The answer to these questions is related to a larger question of what constitutes an evolutionary road map that successful cities ought to follow. Here, there is general consensus as to the answer, which is this: If you can feel where in the world you are by the architecture, it works.

However, what is historic is at the discretion of the interpretive authorities, which ultimately means the City Council. If you recall, in the urban renewal push where the city wanted to destroy 24 city blocks, apparently no buildings were "historic enough" to be saved in the face of short-term "opportunities." Although that particular tear-down time is viewed today as a major mistake by the city, it is too late.

Why did Old Town want to protect the district instead of individual "historic houses"? First, the report from the conference of Mayors and the Federal law itself, both strongly urged the creation of a sense of place, and they recommended the formation of districts to accomplish that. The other reason is that it is a lot easier to maintain a historic district. Historic preservation and the creation of sense of place worked extremely well in Old Town, but it is only as viable as the willingness of everyone to partake in preservation, and there have been powerful forces working very hard to undermine that effort.

Ultimately, it is up to the residents, who will decide by the actions they take. The structure in question is by the waterfront, which (aside from the Carr Hotel) has been approved by the city for ubiquitous structures that evoke a connection to anywhere (and consequently nowhere). Through these decisions, the BAR and the city staff is well on its way to eliminating the Old Town Alexandria sense of place and Historic connection.

Poul Hertel
Alexandria



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET

'Art on Tap'

"Art on Tap" held June 7 at the Torpedo Factory, featured beer, food, and art "matches." Attendees voted with coins to indicate which combination of a work of art matched the best with which food and beer.



Marketing Gloss?

To the Editor:

Our Declaration of Independence started out as a pragmatic alliance to facilitate the Colonies' break from distant Great Britain. Its high-minded platitudes, though, were but marketing gloss directed at other countries' governments whose support might prove helpful, e.g., France, or neutrality would keep them from being British force-multipliers.

Really, though, our Declaration of Independence was a fundamentally racist document designed to (1) erase King George III's Royal Proclamation line which prohibited white settlement west of the Appalachians to protect the Amerindians so they would continue to have safe, ample habitations and resources such as furs to trade with Great Britain www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/1763-proclamation-of www.ushistory.org/us/9a.asp and (2) preserve the Colonists' "property rights" in slaves (even Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey had slavery in

1776) from Lord Chief Justice Mansfield's judicial activist declaration in *Somerset v. Stewart* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somerset_v_Stewart that slavery is so "odious that nothing can be suffered to support it but positive law". The June 13 letter [Gazette Packet, "Celebrate Army and Flag"] points to our Pledge of Allegiance's characterization of our country as a republic, which she attributes to our Constitution. Our Constitution, while it requires states to have governments which are "republican in form" (which is why our state governments usually work so much better than our federal government), nowhere explicitly states that the United States is a republic. Never does it use any cognizable term to specify what kind of governing system we are to have. More egregious, it never even defines the term "People" from which it derives its authority, which is why even today we are debating who has a right to be here. If, arguably, it began as a republic (or mimicking one), like the Roman Empire much of whose symbolism it appropriated, the United States soon be

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LETTERS

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came, if it was not always, an empire, characterized by expansionist conquest of land and peoples, a multicultural society, reliance on foreign trade and resources, lack of internal coherence resulting in a civil war to attempt imposition of a common regime, military and economic intervention abroad, etc.

Whatever protections were afforded for individuals or minorities functioned, from the outset, as primarily protecting wealthy special interests under the guise of rule of law (written by and for the primary benefit of wealthy special interests) which a true democracy, where the people have real power, might imperil.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Congress Must Act

To the Editor:

As a voter in Virginia I urge U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to introduce or support legislation to close down the terrible facilities on the border where kids are being kept in cages. What we are doing is criminal and a gross violation of basic human rights.

Conditions are deplorable and it sickens me that this has been going on for more than a year now. We must stop separating children from parents seeking asylum and close these facilities now! Instead, we should be caring for these families who are fleeing unsafe conditions.

Kathleen A. Doxsee
Alexandria

For Health And Prosperity

To the Editor:

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

SUMMER 2019

Free Meals Available for All

Children. Free breakfast, lunch and snacks are available to all Alexandria City residents 18 years old and younger at multiple ACPS sites, City recreation centers/programs and

The Green New Deal is an investment in the health and prosperity of all Americans, and it is an answer to an urgent challenge that threatens the very foundation of our society. A national dialogue about modern climate policy is long overdue.

Any serious Green New Deal legislation will involve doing the following jobs at a national scale over the next twenty years: installing new heating/AC systems that use electric pumps in large buildings; installing electric furnaces in factories; repurposing old heat systems; massively expanding capacity for renewable energy, installing solar grids, wind turbines (etc.) and constructing a renewable energy infrastructure; expanding water transportation capacity; installing new permeable pavement on large roads near rivers and bays; building new drainage systems in areas with high flood risk; detoxifying polluted water sources; and technical training programs for workers on all these projects.

Some of these jobs are not high paying in today's economy, but surely we all agree that they are extremely valuable to society at large. That's why Green New Deal legislation will provide sufficient funding to ensure that everyone who works on it is paid more than a living wage.

How would all this be paid for? To start, tax experts concluded that a 1% wealth tax above \$10 million on the wealthiest 1% of Americans would generate \$2 trillion over 10 years. Also, preventing corporations from storing their money in tax havens would raise about \$900 billion over 10 years. These funds would be more than enough for a green infrastructure program.

The Green New Deal will allow millions to live healthy lives, and it is affordable. Without respon-

sible climate policy, all Americans will be hurt by climate change.

All Americans should support the Deal.

Aidan Fielding
Alexandria

A Different Independence

To the Editor:

What ever happened to the good old days when the worst things we had to fear on the 4th of July were traffic jams and wayward fireworks?

According to USDA's Meat & Poultry Hotline, this year's top threat is food poisoning by nasty E. coli and Salmonella bugs lurking in hamburgers and hot dogs at backyard barbecues. The Hotline's advice is to grill them longer and hotter. They don't bother to mention that high-temperature grilling of meat products also forms lots of cancer-causing compounds.

Luckily, a bunch of enterprising U.S. food manufacturers and processors have met this challenge head-on by developing a great variety of healthful, delicious, and convenient, veggie burgers and soy dogs.

These plant-based foods don't harbor nasty pathogens or cancer-causing compounds.

They don't even carry cholesterol, saturated fats, drugs, or pesticides. And, they are waiting for us in the frozen food section of our supermarket.

This 4th of July offers a great opportunity to declare our independence from the meat industry and to share wholesome veggie burgers and soy dogs with our family and friends.

Ashton Gunter
Alexandria

the Division of Aging and Adult Services to find out if you are eligible. For more information, call 703.746.5999 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

CAMPS

Alexandria Archaeology Summer Camp. Monday-Friday, July 15-19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Help City archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site and preserve Alexandria's historic resources. Campers will learn professional excavating, recording, and artifact processing methods at the Shuter's Hill archaeology site. Applications must be submitted through www.alexandriaarchaeology.org. Registration is limited, and all applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. The week-long camp is \$400 with available scholarships.

Del Ray Artisans 2019 Art Camp.

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A Ladder of Citizen Participation

FROM PAGE 10

2. Therapy: ... What makes this form of “participation” so invidious is that citizens are engaged in extensive activity, but the focus of it is on curing them of their “pathology” rather than changing the racism and victimization that create their “pathologies.” ...

3. Informing: ... [T]oo frequently the emphasis is placed on a one-way flow of information — from officials to citizens — with no channel provided for feedback and no power for negotiation. Under these conditions, particularly when information is provided at a late stage in planning, people have little opportunity to influence the program designed “for their benefit.” ...

4. Consultation: Inviting citizens’ opinions, like informing them, can be a legitimate step toward their full participation. But if consulting them is not combined with other modes of participation, this rung of the ladder is still a sham since it offers no assurance that citizen concerns and ideas will be taken into account. The most frequent methods used for consulting people are attitude surveys,

neighborhood meetings, and public hearings. ...

5. Placation: It is at this level that citizens begin to have some degree of influence though tokenism is still apparent. An example of placation strategy is to place a few handpicked “worthy” poor on boards of Community Action Agencies or on public bodies like the board of education, police commission, or housing authority. If they are not accountable to a constituency in the community and if the traditional power elite hold the majority of seats, the have-nots can be easily outvoted and outfoxed. ...

6. Partnership: At this rung of the ladder, power is in fact redistributed through negotiation between citizens and powerholders. They agree to share planning and decision-making responsibilities through such structures as joint policy boards, planning committees, and mechanisms for resolving impasses. After the groundrules have been established through some form of give-and-take, they are not subject to unilateral change. Partnership can work most effectively when there

is an organized power-base in the community to which the citizen leaders are accountable; when the citizens group has the financial resources to pay its leaders reasonable honoraria for their time-consuming efforts; and when the group has the resources to hire (and fire) its own technicians, lawyers, and community organizers. ...

7. Delegated Power: Negotia-

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Youth ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week (July 15-19 or July 22-26) learning and creating through a variety of art skills and methodologies, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. \$325 (\$300 before June 1) per child. Scholarships may be available upon request. Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/art-camp-2019 for more.

Fort Ward’s Civil War Kids Camp.

Registration is now open. Children ages 8-12 will learn about life during the Civil War at this fun and educational history camp sponsored by Fort Ward Museum. The Camp will run June 24-28, 2019, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$250 per child; advance registration is required as space is limited. Visit www.fortward.org for a

registration form, or call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

Clio’s Kids: A History Mini-Camp. Registration is now open. Clio’s Kids introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing and crafts, “old-fashioned” games, and visits to nearby historic places. The theme for 2019 is “To and Fro and Away We Go!” Participants will learn about transportation in and around Alexandria in the past and today, focusing on different aspects of transportation and travel each day of camp. Campers should come prepared for outside activities each day, including sturdy walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Ages 5-7. At the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Tuesday-Thursday, July 16-18, 9 a.m.-noon. \$115 and includes snacks and souvenirs.

sure from the other end. ...

8. Citizen Control: ... [R]esidents can govern a program or an institution, be in full charge of policy and managerial aspects, and be able to negotiate the conditions under which “outsiders” may change them. A neighborhood corporation with no intermediaries between it and the source of funds is the model most frequently advocated. ...

Advance registration is required. Visit www.fortward.org for a registration form, or call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Nomination Deadline. The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) is now accepting nominations for the Bernard “Ben” Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The AAC established this award to celebrate the contributions of the late Ben Brenman, who devoted himself to finding, preserving and sharing Alexandria’s rich and diverse heritage. Nomination forms are available at alexandriava.gov/historic/archaeology/default.aspx?id=28180 or by calling the Alexandria Archaeology Museum at 703-746-4399.

MONDAY/JULY 1

Alexandria Library Mobile App Discontinuing. Effective July 1, 2019, the Alexandria Library Mobile App is being discontinued by the vendor. Login to sync or move saved lists. If assistance is required with reviewing existing lists, contact Technical Services at dabsupport@alexlibraryva.org. Continue to view library accounts by using the Log In feature on the banner of the Library’s website: alexlibraryva.org, and then selecting My Account at the top of the page.

Application Deadline. Each year, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia provides a grant opportunity to help public schools encourage healthy lifestyles through increased exercise and better nutrition. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded in a competitive grant process. Public elementary, middle and high schools located in Northern Virginia are all eligible to apply. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants for more.

Application Deadline. This summer, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP)’s Pop-up ALX program is partnering with The Seedling Collective to host three pop-up shops in The Seedling Collective’s newly-opened showroom. The Seedling Collective is a new creative working space that launched in May 2019 and is located at 121 South Royal in Old Town Alexandria. Visit www.growalx.com.

MONDAY/JULY 8

Homicide Support Group. 6:30-8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Monthly support group for Alexandria or Arlington residents who have lost a loved one through homicide. Offered by the Alexandria Victim/Witness Program, and Virginia Victim Assistance Network. Registration is required. Free. Call 703-314-5762.

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A Difficult Conversation

Talking to loved ones about Alzheimer's Disease

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

After witnessing the slow decline of family members with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, Ana Nelson knows the importance of early recognition of signs of the disease and enacting a plan as early as possible. During the month of June, Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, Nelson who is vice president of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, is working to encourage family members who notice signs of cognitive decline in a loved one, to have an open dialogue, no matter how difficult.

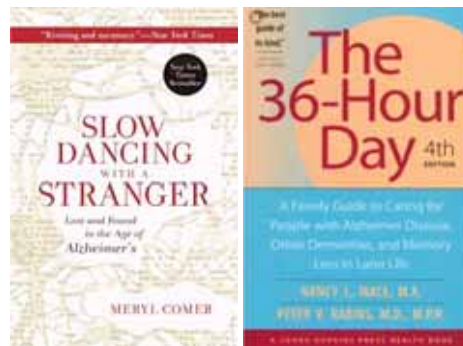
"You're always thinking that your parents or loved ones are going to be around for a long time, but we're talking about a disease where there's no way to stop it or cure it," said Nelson. "Alzheimer's is a progressive and incurable disease. You need to have the conversation as soon as you notice symp-

toms so that you can plan for it. Families sometimes wait too."

A new survey released by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that nearly 9 in 10 Americans say that if there were experiencing signs of cognitive decline they would want their loved ones to share their concerns. However, nearly three out of four Americans say talking to a close family member about such a decline would be challenging for them.

To offer ideas for closing that communication gap, Nelson points to a recently launched national campaign and partnership between the Alzheimer's Association and the Ad Council. The project, called "Our Stories" uses stories from people who've noticed cognitive changes in a family member and initiated a conversation.

An early diagnosis allows families to plan both financially and legally for the future. Recognizing the signs of mental decline allows for a timely diagnosis. "The most common early symptom of Alzheimer's is difficulty in remembering recent events," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., licensed clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Later symptoms are getting lost, problems with language, mood swings, lack of self-care, impulsivity, or lack of motivation."



Among the resources recommended for those dealing with Alzheimer's are books entitled, "The 36 Hour Day" and "Slow Dancing with a Stranger."

Before initiating a conversation, plan the way in which it might begin. "You can share what you have observed," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C "For example, 'It seems you are having trouble with remembering some things' and give examples. You can ask, 'Is this frustrating for you? Have you noticed or spoken to your doctor?'"

"I recommend being direct, yet warm and caring," added Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

Offering comfort and support can make the conversation less daunting, "You might say, 'I'm beginning to feel concerned about your health because I've noticed that you are having some trouble with your memory lately'" said Bagshaw. "Have you noticed that as well? How can I support you?"

Even with advanced preparation the conversation might not go as planned, says Nelson. "This is a delicate issue that might require multiple conversations," she said.

Encourage the family member to seek medical advice for an accurate diagnosis, suggests Barnaby. "Some mental confusion can be caused by certain medications, so it isn't always dementia," she said.

Be flexible realizing the conversation might not go as planned and raise concerns subtly. "Ask them if they have any concerns," said Barnaby. "You might say, 'I have been wondering how you are doing. You haven't seemed your usual self. I am wondering if you have noticed anything.'"

The Alzheimer's Association offers resources and assistance to those living with Alzheimer's and their families, says Nelson. "We are just a phone call away," said Nelson. "We offer help 24 hours a day, seven days in week and in more than 200 languages. It doesn't have to be a crisis situation. You can call even if you just need help."

For Assistance

The Alzheimer's Association offers help to families as they navigate the challenges of the disease. It offers face-to-face conversations with local experts and a free 24/7 Helpline 800-272-3900. Additional resources can be found at alz.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT



FILE PHOTO BY TOM ROTH

As a tradition that spans over 50 years, the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), organized an Independence Day Commemoration at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, with over 40 members of the SAR participating. The 2018 parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion was led by the Frederick Town Fife and Drum Corps 1745-1817 and the VASSAR Color Guard. Independence Day will be celebrated at Mount Vernon Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30 and Thursday, July 4 with festivities including daytime and evening fireworks. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

Riding the Rainbow. Through June 30, gallery hours at Scope Gallery at 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Blinding color and vivid mixes are in the glaring spotlight for the "Taste the Rainbow" tribute to LGBTQ Pride Month at the Torpedo Art Center's Scope Gallery. Hues are huge as Ceramic Guild artists play with clay with an eye for celebratory color. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Art Exhibit: Landscape X3. Through June 30, gallery hours at Gallery 311 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Studio 311. In a new exhibit at the Torpedo Factory, painters Ellen Delaney and Gale Wallar and

photographer Jo Ann Tooley take on the traditional subject of landscapes. Delaney's paintings consist of larger-than-life abstracts while Wallar's work emphasizes a majestic topography with defined shapes and edges. Tooley's black & white photographs strip nature of its color. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/gallery-311/.

Art Exhibit: "Art in Meditation – the Chakras." Through June 30, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Art in Meditation – the Chakras" features area artists interpreting the chakra energies. The exhibit, juried by contemporary artist Jeff Erickson, will have an associated Art-To-Go marketplace and Well Ray June 22. Summer solstice reception Friday, June 21, 7-9 pm. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

4Living 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.

Art Exhibit: More Than A Body. Through Aug. 4, gallery hours, at Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents their competitive annual solo exhibition featuring Northern Virginia-based artist Julia Kwon. Kwon uses traditional Korean inspired textiles to create a dialogue on othering and objectification she

experiences as a Korean-American woman. Julia Kwon: More Than A Body will be on view June 14-Aug. 4. Visit torpedofactory.org/target.

Creative Summer Programs.

Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone), painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry-making, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/.

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.

THROUGH JULY 28

Art Exhibit: Labyrinths and/or Mazes. Gallery hours, 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, Labyrinths and/or Mazes. Sometimes one is led to success and sometimes one hits a dead end.

Gallery embers have pushed their paths and have come up with wonderful results. 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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Sunset Movie Night: Captain

Marvel. 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Summer Sunset Movie Nights at Mt. Vernon RECenter are back every Friday in June. Free. Visit ZelsmanPowersGroup.com for details.

Mount Vernon Nights: Empty Bottle String Band (Old-time, String Band). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 28-29

Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Start the celebration early with a patriotic evening filled with fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington's Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this



Sheila Moses

Young Writer's Workshop

Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young writers (grades 8-12). Parents are welcome to stay. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. Moses was raised in Rich Square, North Carolina. She is the award-winning author of several books for teens and young readers: The Legend of Buddy Bush; The Return of Buddy Bush; I, Dred Scott: A Fictional Slave Narrative Based on the Life and Legal Precedent of Dred Scott; and The Baptism. Moses is also the co-author of Dick Gregory's memoir, Callus on My Soul. Shelia Moses currently lives in Alexandria. Saturday, June 29, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Free. This workshop is limited to 15 people. Snacks will be provided. Bring a lunch. Call 703-746-4356.

ENTERTAINMENT

area is open in the evening—and learn how 18th-century ice cream was made in the days before freezers. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required. \$20-\$36. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-30

Waterfront Beer Garden. Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit PortsideInOldTown.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Workshop-Terra Cotta Succulent Container. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Pot up a tabletop terracotta container with eye-catching succulents. A Green Spring horticulturalist demonstrates how to mix balance, scale, proportion, contrast and rhythm to make dynamic container designs for these fascinating plants. \$39/person for the program and \$25/person for the supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code D46.BA22 or call 703-642-5173.

Young Writer's Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young writers (grades 8-12). Parents are welcome to stay. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. Free. This workshop is limited to 15 people. Snacks will be provided. Bring a lunch. Call 703-746-4356.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join



High-fire sea otter and raccoon mugs by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.; high-fire sculptural wavy reed vase by Marsha Lederman of Arlington, Va.; crystalline-glazed soft Summertime blue and green bowl by Bikki Stricker of Falls Church, Va.; and Woodfired tea set in seafoam by Stephen Lally of Alexandria.

Ceramics Go Casual

The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists.

Drift dreamlike into endless combinations of color as lazy glazing encour-

ages hues in dreamy greens and soothing blues on vases, bowls and plates. The show runs July 1-Aug. 4, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Workhouse Fireworks. 5-10 p.m. at Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year, the US Navy Band Sea Chanters – the United States Navy's official chorus – will treat guests to a performance that ranges from traditional choral music to opera, Broadway, and contemporary music. Guests at Workhouse Fireworks will also be able to enjoy local food trucks and craft beer and fine wine, as well as soft drinks. Free admission; \$25 per vehicle parking (purchase in advance online). Visit workhousearts.org/fireworks.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh

Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

In Transition Class. Noon-3 p.m. at Salon deZEN, 118 North Fayette St. At deZEN people in transition can find a safe and sacred space where they are encouraged to explore how to visually represent themselves in the most authentic way. Meet others in the Trans community in a safe and supportive environment. Visit www.salondezen.com for more.

Chamber Concert Series. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features the US Army Band Chamber Players and String Quartet. Free. Donations are

appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

Fort Hunt Park Concerts. Through Aug. 25, Sundays, 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. All are welcome for free community concerts held at Fort Hunt Park every Sunday. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm for performer.

JULY 1-AUG. 4

Ceramics Go Casual. Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Salute the first commander in chief during Mount Vernon's annual Independence Day event. Celebrate Independence Day with daytime fireworks, military reenactments, and a wreath-laying ceremony. Enjoy birthday cake (while supplies last) and visit with General and Mrs. Washington. Listen to a performance by the National Concert Band during its "Red, White and Blue" concert and observe a ceremony to honor new citizens. Rain or shine. Included with general admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/an-american-celebration or call 703-780-2000.

July 4th Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Waynewood Recreation Park, 1027 Dalebrook Drive. Plants known to thrive in this area will be sold by the Garden Club of Waynewood, whose members will be available to answer questions. Email bjbulleit@gmail.com or pattimorrison1613@yahoo.com.

Declaration of Independence Reading. Noon-1:30 p.m. in Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a reading of the Declaration of Independence in Historic Pohick Church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at noon, with free docent tours of the colonial church of George Washington and George Mason following the reading. Free. Call 703-339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy a patriotic evening filled with

fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington's Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this area is open in the evening—and watch sparks fly at blacksmith shop. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required for this special evening. \$20-\$36. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/independence-fireworks or call 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/JULY 5

Mount Vernon Nights: Ellis Dyson & The Shambles (Gypsy Swing). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights for more.

Serenade! The Human Journey. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S Pitt St. Classical Movements and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts co-present the 9th annual Serenade! Choral Festival, welcoming vocal ensembles from all over the world over for a meaningful exploration of "The Human Journey: Music, Migration & Identity," part of the Kennedy Center's year-long series of programs, The Human Journey. Free with registration at www.eventbrite.com/e/serenade-the-human-journey-st-pauls-episcopal-in

alexandria-va-tickets-59775560310.

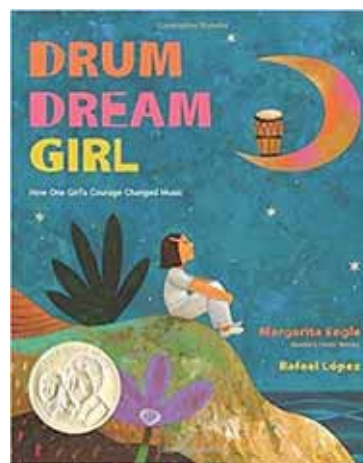
FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 5-7

Waterfront Beer Garden. Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit PortsideInOldTown.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All



Story Time for Little Historians

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. Saturday, July 6, 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a

summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Mount Vernon Nights: The Tom Cunningham Orchestra (Big Band). 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 7

Chamber Concert Series. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features composer and pianist Haskell Small.

Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

MONDAY/JULY 8

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary

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Tell us what you think

submit your Letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

MOUNT VERNON ATHLETIC CLUB

KIDS' ART CONTEST

Summer is the perfect time to celebrate kids and their creativity!

Kids in the community who want to be part of the art contest should draw a picture (on 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper) of mommy and / or daddy exercising!

We'll have 3 age categories:

- 1-4 years old
- 5-9 years old
- 10-12 years old

A fun PRIZE basket will be given to each age group winner and a 30 minute massage for one parent of each winner (see image to right)!

ENTER TODAY!

THE DETAILS:

- Open to children in Alexandria
- Must submit artwork to the front desk at MTVAC by 6/30
- Full name of Parent & Child legibly printed (no cursive) on back of art
- Phone number, an email address & birthdate of child must also be included
- One entry per child
- 6/30 is the last day to submit!

All artwork submitted will be displayed for 2 weeks while votes are collected and then winners will be contacted!

The members and the community will vote and then we'll publish the results in the local Mount Vernon Gazette, at the club and on our social media pages. Good Luck & Have Fun!

Questions? Email: lwant2bfe@mtvac.net
7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22306

Another Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership

ENTERTAINMENT

4 Dates to Circle in July

BY HOPE NELSON

With summer's official dawn comes a treasure trove of activities to surprise and delight a multitude of diverse palates. From ice cream to watermelon, tequila to tea, Alexandrians can taste a wide array of experiences throughout July. Here are some of the most interesting bets.

Ice Cream Hands-On History Day at Lee-Fendall House, July 13

Tis the season for ice cream, and the Lee-Fendall House is scooping it up with a side of history. Kids and adults of all ages can learn the backstory of how ice cream came into being, as well as get a hands-on lesson in making it the old-fashioned way from scratch. And what good would all this learning be without a taste test at the end? Take a tour of the house to finish out the proceedings (and maybe burn a couple of those calories back off). 614 Oronoco St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 2-12, free for infants under 2.

Watermelon Day at Nalls Produce, July 20

What good is summertime without a hearty watermelon or two? Nalls Produce has you covered. Sample a slice of watermelon, and if you like what

you taste, purchase a chilled whole fruit to take home. Nalls has activities for the whole family — and a plethora of plants and produce to pick up, too. 7310 Beulah St. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Taste of Tequila at Trademark, July 24

Summer's not complete without a tequila or two to wash things down. The Trademark is hosting a "Taste of Tequila Reception" to celebrate the drink. The restaurant will sport four stations set up with different tequila cocktails, each paired with one of the Trademark's food items to go alongside. Lift a glass and toast to the warm weather. 2080 Jamieson Ave. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$48.

The Bougie Girlfriend Tea at the Lorien, July 27

Looking for an opportunity to bust out your favorite fascinator? The Bougie Gals are hosting a posh tea at the Kimpton Lorien Hotel and Spa that will give you the chance to dress up, meet new people and nibble on an assortment of tea-party goodies. Dress in your garden-party finest to enjoy scones, smoked salmon and dill cream on pumpernickel, ham and Brie sandwiches, mimosas and more. 1600 King St. Noon-3 p.m. \$85 early-bird; \$100 general admission.

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

CALENDAR

for gardening. Class held indoors. \$91/person for eight hour-long classes. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 6E6.C2FC or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts Summer- Nature Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. (3-5 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature-themed toys and puzzles while you meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. Through games, songs, activities and a garden walk we explore July's topic: Camping. \$8/child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code F8D.F5EB or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Simpson Gardens Stroll. 10-11 a.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens' variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics: waterwise gardening, scented plants, plants that attract pollinators, plants that prefer shade, and plants that have appealing structure and texture. Free. To reserve a spot, register online at mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

JULY 11-29

Musical: "Be More Chill." at the Ainslie Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School, 3900 West Braddock Road. Be More Chill follows nerdy loner Jeremy, who ingests a supercomputer called a "SQUIP" in order to become cool and popular. Be More Chill is directed by Izzy Smelkinson with music direction by Marika Countouris. In addition to

mounting the first professional production of the show in the D.C. metro area, Monumental Theatre Company will also be employing an all-female design team. Visit www.monumentaltheatre.org/be-more-chill.html for tickets.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

Mount Vernon Nights: The 19th Street Band (country rock). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Workshop: Casting Concrete Leaves. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Capture the beauty of ornamental leaves by casting them in concrete to decorate home or garden. Green Spring staff demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in making a treasure to take home. The cost is \$43/person for the program and \$25/person for the supply fee. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 95A.5596 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Watercolor Workshop: Monet & Water Lillies. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Monet contributed to the art world with his monumental water lily paintings. Be inspired by Monet's style and create water lily paintings using techniques like glazing, dry-brush, wet on wet, washes and more with the help of instructor Dawn Flores. Supply list e-mailed before class. The cost is \$93/

person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 7A1.D2F2 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Beyond the Battlefield. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. A guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town featuring locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. \$15 in advance, \$20 gate. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Here is to a Healthier You. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church (Education Building), 301 N. Patrick St. Min Kirshnamurthy, in-store nutritionist at Giant in Fairfax, VA, will present "Eight Steps to a Wealth of Health." Free. RSVP required at 703-683-1473 or www.eventbrite.com/e/here-is-to-a-healthier-you-tickets-62311502381.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Old Town Pub Crawl. 1:30-6 p.m. Port City Brewing Company will host its sixth annual Old Town Pub Crawl in Alexandria. Over the course of the afternoon, more than 1,000 participants will visit eight bars and restaurants in Alexandria's Old Town. Port City team members will be handing out pub crawl passes at all eight pub crawl stops from 1:30-2:30. Participants who have their passes stamped at all participating venues can pick up their commemorative pint glass from 5-6 p.m., while supplies last; no purchase required. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/events/6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl for more.



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Coast Guard Auxiliarists Clean Up Litter at Park Shoreline

Besides assisting the U.S. Coast Guard in encouraging Recreational Boating Safety, volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliarists support many other Coast Guard functions including environmental protection. On June 1, Auxiliarists from Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon), in cooperation with the non-profit

Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, cleared litter from Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria. They removed nearly 75 pounds of trash, much of it plastic, from the park's shore lines, natural areas and playing fields, preventing it from polluting Four Mile Run stream and eventually harming the Potomac River.

Coast Guard activities in support of maritime safety include protecting the marine environment and economic waterways. Learn more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary at <http://join.cgaux.org/>. Contact Flotilla 25-08's Vice Flotilla Commander Tudorel "Ted" Caliga at johnbielli@gmail.com to discuss joining the Auxiliary.



Flotilla 25 08 Marine Safety staff officer John Milkiewicz cleans stream bank at Four Mile Run Park.

PHOTO BY
USCG AUXILIARY
JOHN STEVENS

Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of 901 and 901A North Fairfax Street to establish and maintain an encroachment for a garage vent along Montgomery Street, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

The proposed ordinance permits a garage vent to be installed and maintained on public right-of-way on Montgomery Street as part of the development of the project at 901 and 901A North Fairfax Street.

Public Hearing of a One (1) Year Lease Agreement Renewal with Child and Family Network Centers at Leonard Chick Armstrong Recreation Center Located At 25 West Reed Avenue.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 034.04 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 101 East Windsor Avenue, from RB/Residential Townhouse to R-2-5/Residential Single and Two-Family in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2019-0004. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2019-0004, to rezone the property at 101 East Windsor Avenue from, RB/Residential Townhouse to R-2-5/Residential Single and Two-Family.

AN ORDINANCE to delete Section 2-103 (ACCESSORY BUILDING) of Article II (DEFINITIONS) and Section 7-2505; to add Section 2-125.1 (BUILDING WALL, FRONT), Section 2-197.4 (SUBDIVISION), Section 2-197.5 (TITLE LOAN BUSINESS) of Article II (DEFINITIONS), Section 7-2505 (FREE STANDING GARAGES TO THE REAR OF THE MAIN BUILDING), Section 7-2506 (ATTACHED GARAGES), Section 7-2507 (TREE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS); to amend and reordain Section 2-145 (FLOOR AREA), Section 2-149 (GARAGE, PRIVATE), Section 2-197.1 (STRUCTURE, ACCESSORY), Section 2-197.2 (STRUCTURE, ORNAMENTAL), Section 2-197.3 (STRUCTURE, SUBORDINATE) of Article II (DEFINITIONS), Section 7-103 (USE LIMITATIONS), 7-2200 (TREE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS), 7-2501 (FREESTANDING PRIVATE GARAGES TO THE REAR OF THE MAIN BUILDING) and 7-2502 (ATTACHED PRIVATE GARAGES) of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS), and Section 11-1302 (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS ESTABLISHED) of Division C (BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS) of Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES); of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2019-0003.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2019-0003 to revise the infill regulations for and create a new special exception for residential garages.

Public Hearing and Passage on First Reading of an Ordinance Soliciting Franchise Proposals to Use the Alexandria City Marina Area to Dock an Historic or a Replica Historic Tall Ship Consistent with the Waterfront Small Area Plan. The proposed ordinance provides for the granting of a franchise for the docking and mooring of an historic or a replica historic tall ship for sightseeing tours, private charters, private events, and educational programming and to allow, if necessary the design, construction, upgrade of City infrastructure in the City Marina.

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 TUESDAY JULY 16, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Front Row: Kate Casper, Lexie Larsen, Lauren Larsen, Bridgette Adu-Wadier, Regina Allen; Back Row: Abigail St. Jean, Celeste Amron, Hunter Langley, Reagan Feld, and Sadie Finn.

New Theogony Editors Named

The editors for Theogony, the T.C. Williams High School student-managed media organization, have been named for the 2019-2020 school year.

There will be 10 editors: six juniors and four returning seniors. Collectively, they will lead publishing in various platforms including print, online, video, and social media. The online edition is viewable at tctheogony.com, the Twitter feed is accessible @TCTheogony, and the Instagram handle is @tctheogony.

Seniors Celeste Amron and Sadie Finn will continue their focus on the online edition. Finn said, "The online edition is essential reading for the T.C. community. Next year we plan to make it more compelling, and more interactive."

Seniors Reagan Feld and Lexie Larsen will be largely responsible for laying out the print edition of Theogony. They intend to apply a new layout to attract a wider readership. They will also oversee the news and features portions of the paper.

Juniors Bridgette Adu-Wadier, Regina Allen, Kate Casper, Hunter Langley, Lauren Larsen, and Abigail St. Jean will join the editing staff and bring energy and experience.

Adu-Wadier and Lauren Larsen will lead opinion and editorial writing. Additionally, Adu-Wadier plans to continue to produce and moderate episodes of Behind the Headlines, a panel discussion television show with Alexandria journalists. To watch episodes of the show, go to <https://bit.ly/2WbIHNT>.

Allen and the existing online editors will lead the online edition. Casper will manage the style section of the print edition and Langley will continue to take photos and record videos of T.C. events. "I am very excited to expand the style section and introduce new innovative stories to spark student interest," said Casper.

St. Jean will cover sports, "I am looking forward to further incorporating T.C. athletics into the school paper by attending sports events and interviewing athletes and coaches."

SPORTS



Jack McLaury



Tyler Turner

PHOTOS BY MARISSA SOULS

Wahoos Shock Stingrays

The Chinquapin Wahoos were victorious against the South Riding Stingrays to open up the season in the Colonial Swim League (CSL). The final score was 263-188 (girls 153-69, boys 103-119).

This season started with a new event, the 5-18 200 yard medley relay, and Jack McLaury, Ronan Lauinger, Eve McLaury, and Madison Schang blasted out of the gates with a winning time of 2:08.53.

8 & Under Age Group

In a very close race in the 25 free, Tyler Turner was 2nd (18.08). Sebastian Gamel, Dominic Grajkowski, and Logan Phillips were less than .2 seconds apart so the race is on in this age group! Luca Lorenzen-Schmidt (22.46), Gamel (23.64) and Turner (24.07) took 2nd and 3rd swept the backstroke. Luca (26.88) was 3rd in the breaststroke while Turner (26.08) and Phillips (27.96) took 2-3 in the butterfly. The boys team of Luca, Albert McCommons, Sebastian, and Tyler captured 1st (1:37.32) in the 100 Medley Relay.

Chloe Fox (17.15) and Grace Wittmer (20.26) took 1st and 3rd in the free and 1st (22.20) and 3rd (24.62) again the back. Chloe had her 3rd winning event in the breast (24.35) with Lindy Evans (26.04) taking 2nd. The girls relay team of Wittmer, Fox, Evans, and Micaela Zuniga won in a time of 1:40.90.

9-10 Age Group

The boys started out strong with Dylan Lim (32.33) and Alex Guevara (35.62) taking 1-3 in the free. Dylan (39.84) and Alex Wittmer (46.09) took 1-3 in the back. Amir Smith (48.60), Alex Guevara (49.25) and Eammon Greiner (55.25) swept the breast and Dylan (17.64) and Alex G (18.81) took 1-2 in the fly. The team of Dylan, Amir, Alex G, and Eamonn took 1st in the 100 medley relay took 1st with a time of 1:18.48.

The girls were quickly out of the gates with Camila Zuniga (34.00) and Madison Schang (35.46) taking 1-2 in the freestyle. Camila (41.71) and Laila Gaines (43.43) took 1-3 in the back while Halle Thomas (45.06) and Madison (45.96) took 1-3 in the breaststroke. Camila (17.32) and Madison (18.38) took 1-2 in the fly. The 100 MR team of Eleanor Robb, Tho-

mas, Zuniga, and Schang won with a time of 1:14.39.

11-12 Age Group

Jack Scheifele (31.28) was 2nd in the 50 free and 1st (35.46) in the 50 back. Henry Mead (45.07) took 2nd in the breast while Jack (36.40) and Paris Johnson (41.45) took 2-3 in the 50 fly. The team of Scheifele, Mead, Johnson and Eddy Paz (2:32.58) narrowly missed in the 200 MR.

Eve McLaury (29.21) and Cate Cox (31.26) took 1-3 in the free. McLaury (34.13), Elisabeth Carroll (35.96) and Cox (36.03) swept the backstroke and Lucy Thomas (43.06) took 3rd in the breaststroke. Eve (32.13) and Cate (35.13) were 1-2 in the fly. The team of Eva Billups, Carroll, McLaury, and Cox (2:21.04) captured 1st in the 200 MR.

13-14 Age Group

Bodie Lauinger (26.40) and Jack McLaury (28.24) were 1-2 in the free and Jan Foronda (30.59) and McLaury (31.89) were 2-3 in the backstroke. Jan (31.80) and Bodie (36.38) were 1-3 in the breast and Jan (28.76) and Jack (29.88) were 2-3 in the butterfly. Bodie, Jan, Jack, and Mikal Helms showed some depth by capturing the 200 MR with a time of 1:59.90.

Maya Solis (28.47) and Abby Altenburg (29.88) were 1-3 in the free and also 1st (31.94) and 3rd (35.32) in the backstroke. Catherine Salomons (39.31) and Stephanie Rosario (39.66) took 1-2 in the breaststroke while Maya (32.82) and Catherine (33.18) were 1-2 in the butterfly. The team of Abby, Catherine, Maya and Haley Haukedahl took 1st in the 200 MR with a time of 2:14.49.

15-18 Age Group

Ronan Lauinger (30.69) took 3rd place in the breaststroke against a strong contingent from South Riding. For the girls, Lydia Greenwood (26.88) took 2nd in the free; Emily Andrews (31.06) took 2nd in the back; and Emily (28.95) and Lydia (29.12) teamed up for 2-3 in the 50 fly.

The last race of the meet came down to the wire with the Wahoos team of Laila Gaines, Eve McLaury, Maya Solis, and Lydia Greenwood (200.75) edging out the Stingrays to win by .24 seconds.

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Legals

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Obituary

Obituary

Anne B. Landry, 92



Anne Billie Landry, painter, photographer and beloved aunt, died June 17 at Goodwin House Baileys Crossroads of complications after a fall. The longtime Alexandria resident was 92. Anne was born in New Orleans March 4, 1927, the fourth and youngest child of a book publisher and a book reviewer. She attended Country Day school and earned a B.F.A. at Sophie Newcomb Memorial College in 1948. She moved to New York City to be a dancer and worked for Life Magazine. After years in the art department at Time-Life Books, she moved with the company to Alexandria in 1976. She became active at Christ Church. She launched a photographic portrait business and painted religious and animal-themed paintings at the Torpedo Factory. She is survived by four nephews, two nieces, three grand-nephews, five grand-nieces, one great-grand nephew and one great-grand niece. A service is being planned at Christ Church.

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That of Which I'm Most Proud



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not ending the title of this column with a preposition?

Not starting either of these sentences with a "so?"

Not beginning any of the first three sentences with an "especially" or an "and" (although I do begin many sentences with "And," just neither of these so far)?

No, of what I'm most proud, at least in the context of the nonsense I've presented so far, is my ability, going on a few months now, to ignore the illuminated warning lights on the dashboards of both of our cars: "Maint Req'd" on one and the low tire pressure icon on the other.

Typically, these kinds of non-stop reminders would have bothered me — like having an itch you can't scratch or a stone in your shoe.

Not anymore. These dashboard reminders barely register a blip on Kenny's radar.

I place the key in the ignition. I turn on the car. I see the various dashboard lights illuminate. And after the engine has begun idling, I see the remaining lights.

No problem. I just place my foot on the accelerator and go.

Though I might give these "idiot" lights a first thought and a second look, I will not be giving them too many more thoughts or looks as I drive around. Nor will they bother me in arrears when I arrive at my destination. Out of sight and out of mind, "totally," to quote my late mother.

As you may have discerned from reading the two preceding paragraphs, as it involves cars, I'm not exactly a hands-on person. More like, hands off.

Granted, this lack of interest and, dare I say, manliness, has no doubt cost me thousands of labor-rate dollars at the dealership/mechanic.

But it's just not me. It's never been me. I'm a sports and chocolate person. The only thing I want my hands on is the television remote or something sweet.

And tools? To quote your favorite Italian mobster: "Forget about it."

Definitely hands off, literally, especially if there's a car in the driveway. As far as I'm concerned, that's the danger zone. Nothing good will ever come from your truly entering it.

In fact, I'm almost positive the repair will end up costing me more if I do it myself (which I couldn't do anyway). Throw in the frustration and perspiration involved and you have a match made nowhere near heaven.

Heaven will have to wait, I suppose.

Spending the repair dollars I have over the years doesn't thrill me either. But I have no choice. I can't do anything about my lack of abilities.

To quote the great philosopher, Popeye the Sailor Man: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And I have to pay what I have to pay. I remember always dreading the repair cost when a dashboard warning light would appear.

I knew that light (like the wedding invitation George received in a long-ago Seinfeld episode) was going to cost me hundreds of dollars. Hundreds of dollars which I did not have. That warning light, to invoke George from the same episode was "a bill." But as I've proved recently, that's a "bill" I've been able to ignore.

I know, ignoring a warning light seems stupid. Where's the future in that?

The repair is unlikely to fix itself and unless the bulb illuminating the warning light burns out, my negligence/ability to ignore it, is likely making a bad situation worse. Unfortunately — or not — however, I don't have a Pavlovian response to seeing that light. Seeing it doesn't make me instinctively react anymore.

It's not like banging one's knee with a "doctor's hammer." My wallet doesn't just open when the dashboard warns me. I just drive on.

Now if the light starts flashing, that's a different story, and one I haven't written yet, and I hope I never do. Because if that light does start flashing, I won't be able to ignore it, and likely, not be able to afford it, either.

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

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News

Being Involved

FROM PAGE 5

bers making a fuss. Because they believe that maybe those things would be exposed, and then you're looking for someplace else to live.

They don't want to be on the front. And that's a legitimate concern."

Cultural and language barriers also may inhibit civic participation. The city government and public schools provide limited translation services (Spanish, Amharic, Arabic), and the city is hiring new "equity" and "civic engagement" staff. But they don't translate all of the many documents involved in the day-to-day sausage-making of local politics.

Because some immigrants come from places without similar political traditions, they're unfamiliar with the opportunities for parent engagement, according to incoming PTA Council President Katy Mathews.

These patterns, or their effects, may trickle down to youth.

Non-participation may be "ingrained" for some adults, said RaAlim Shabazz, a T.C. Williams High School government teacher and former teacher at Howard University, a historically African-American college in Washington, D.C. So "our best chance at increasing civic engagement across east-and-west lines ... in the city is to really focus on building a strong civics program," beginning as early as elementary school. "We don't actually teach government until senior year [of high school]," he said.

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On the other hand, lower civic participation may result from subjective reasons, in addition to or in lieu of objective barriers.

Describing a kind of habituated, inherited political cynicism, Shabazz said: Some people "don't feel like they have a stake in the government ... Some have expressed: 'Well, things really don't change for me, no matter who wins.' That's kind of the message coming from some of the parents" to children.

Campbell thinks the historical inertia of racial segregation continues to take a toll. He says there's "no doubt" that some ethnic groups in Alexandria are more reticent about engaging in PTAs, which help foster connections and pave the way for local office campaigns.

The continued dominance of white moms even after integration "was not super inviting for low-income parents or families of color."

"I don't want to speak as if those being affected are victims, because ... they may play their role in being left out and behind shut out," said Harris.

According to William Ramsay PTA President Justin Rosario: "The Latino parents say language is a problem but a lot of them speak more than enough English to take over the PTA and considering half of the school population is Latino, I would very much like for them to be the PTA. The Muslim parents tend not to interact with anyone but other Muslim parents. The same goes for our West African parents. Our cohorts don't mingle."

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