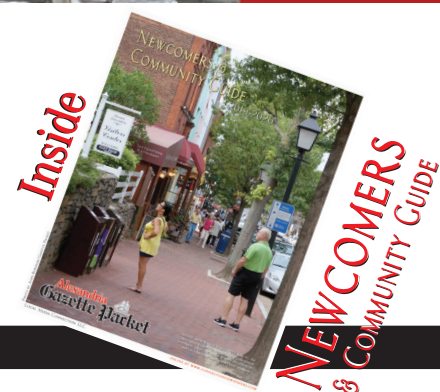
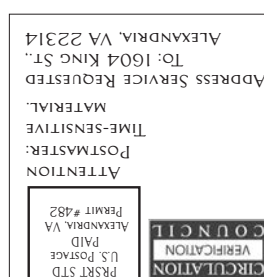


AUGUST 29, 2019



about to change. "Through the efforts of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association and the Alexandria Fire Department, we have procured a headstone for his grave and will dedicate and unveil it at a ceremony on Friday, Aug. 30, beginning at 10 a.m.," said Friendship Firehouse trustee Bill Kehoe. Bethel Cemetery is located at the end of Wilkes Street off Route 1/South Henry Street. The dedication is open to the public.



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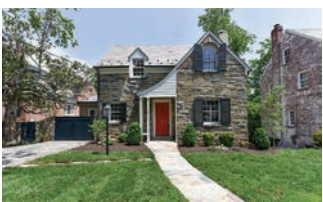
9350 Mount Vernon Circle



6035 Woodmont Road



1812 Duffield Lane



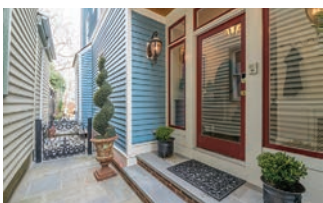
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What Have Been the Effects of Metro Shutdown?

Commuters, business owners respond.

Metro is slated to reopen six of its Blue and Yellow line stations Sept. 9 after closing all stations south of Washington Reagan National Airport since May 25. The 15-week shutdown, which shuttered all Alexandria stations, allowed platform reconstruction and repair work to be completed at Braddock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue, Huntington, Van Dorn and Franconia-Springfield. Commuters and business owners weigh in on how they were affected by the shutdown.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

“My commute has increased from 20 minutes to over an hour and a half. But what choice do we have?”

— Sonya Grant



“My commute now is over one and a half hours because I have to change a couple of times. The connections are something that needs to change. Before the shutdown it would take 25 minutes.”

— Mosaczal Hossain



“My daily commute increased from 45 to 70 minutes. Overall it hasn’t been too bad. At rush hour the shuttles can take quite a bit longer so sometimes I just bike all the way in either direction. It’s the wait at the connection that makes it harder.”

— Nathaniel Cartagna



“I hope Metro opens back up on time. It is taking me 2 hours and 15 minutes to get to work. My regular commute is usually 45 minutes less.”

— Stephen Maurer



“The Metro people have been incredibly courteous and friendly under hot and difficult conditions. The shutdown has added about 10-15 minutes extra for me so it’s not too bad.”

— Jo Ann Moore



“We anticipated having lower sales and less traffic from the tourist trade. I think that’s what happened. You just have to tighten your belt and wait for it to come back.”

— Carol Supplee, owner, Imagine Artwear



“Our store has lost more than many stores than down by the river since we are closer to Metro. On weekends we are getting hotel guests, not anyone who would be coming by Metro. It’s hard to say for sure but our business is down by 20-30 percent.”

— David Martin, owner, Goldworks



“It’s definitely affected a lot of businesses in town. Everyone around us lost a considerable amount, especially on weekends. On Saturdays we were down about 30 percent. We’re doing our best but no one ever wants a decline in business.”

— Adnan Hamidi, owner, Alexandria Cupcake



“Yes, the Metro shutdown has affected business. Many people didn’t come here because we are near Metro.”

— Du Choe, Uptowner Café



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



on weekends.”

— Deborah Dunbar and Lorna King, Hard Times Cafe

“At first I didn’t think we were affected but now that I am seeing the numbers, I think it was quite a bit. Weekday lunches are still primarily local business but otherwise business has been down, especially

Porter: New Diversion Program

For misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Bryan Porter, Commonwealth’s Attorney for the City of Alexandria, has initiated a new diversion program for misdemeanor possession of marijuana offenses. Effective Sept. 3, citizens charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana who successfully complete the diversion program will have their charges dismissed.

“The Virginia Code contains a first-offender statute that allows people with no prior drug convictions a chance to avoid a criminal conviction,” Porter said. “Our new program goes further than the

state code in several important ways. First, generally speaking, anyone charged with a small amount of marijuana for personal use is eligible to participate, even if they have a prior criminal record. Second, participants in our diversion program are not required to pay any court costs or fines. Third, because our

program does not require the court to enter a finding of guilt, a person who successfully completes our program may petition to have the charge expunged from his record. My office will liberally agree to such requests if the legal requirements for expungement are satisfied.”

The Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Marijuana Diversion Program requires participants to undergo a drug screening, to comply with pretrial supervision and to complete a small amount of community service. Cases will generally be

continued 6 to 9 months and then reviewed for compliance. Successful completion of the program will result in the case being dismissed.

“My duty is to seek justice for the entire community — including persons charged with offenses — and that duty requires me to implement thoughtful policies with regard to low-level and non-violent crimes,” Porter said.

“My hope is that the majority of marijuana possession offenses will be diverted from the adjudication process, allowing my staff to focus on more serious crimes.

I am particularly pleased that offending citizens who complete our program will be eligible for expungement and may therefore avoid the negative consequences a criminal record causes in employment, education and housing.”

Celebrate Citizenship Day

The City of Alexandria will hold its annual Citizenship Day celebration on Sept. 10, at 5 p.m., in Market Square, 301 King St. In a ceremony administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, approximately 45 candidates for citizenship will take the Oath of Allegiance to become U.S. citizens.

To become a naturalized citizen an individual must meet federal requirements, including a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States; ability to read, write and speak English; knowledge and understanding of United States history and government; good moral character; and attachment to constitutional principles.

The city event also recognizes “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day,” which commemorates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

Old Town Boutique Gets New Owners

Two local retail sisters to own Mint Condition.

Designer and luxury consignment boutique Mint Condition has new owners. Toni Henderson, who was the founder and opened the boutique 10 years ago in Old Town, sold the business to two sisters who have experience in the City. Megan Podolsky, owner of children's consignment store 529 Kids Consign and the president of the Old Town Boutique District, and Katie Coslov, director of operations at The Shoe Hive, purchased the store recently from Henderson. Henderson will be leaving the area and is relocating to be closer to loved ones.

When Henderson decided to relocate, she was looking for individuals who might be interested in purchasing the business, but most importantly, individuals who would understand Mint Condition, Old Town and have a successful background in the retail arena.

Henderson had been thinking of Podolsky with her consignment experience and ties to the Old Town community. The two have



Katie Coslov, Toni Henderson and Megan Podolsky.

known each other since 2010, and Podolsky and Coslov are also long-time consignors at Mint Condition. Henderson had her broker reach out to Podolsky directly in early July. The three women scheduled a dinner the following week and "It couldn't have been a better fit," said Henderson.

Podolsky's career in retail/merchandising

began in the mid-'90s standing in front of a woodsy Abercrombie and Fitch (A&F). After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, she managed multiple A&F stores before she moved on to an assistant buyer position in contemporary dresses at the local Arlington based retailer Hecht's (now Macy's). She moved onto different facets

of the business at Calvin Klein Jeans (CKJ). Podolsky worked her way from retail coordinator to East-Coast regional manager helping to create the Calvin Klein aesthetic in department stores from Boston to Miami. After her first son Ethan was born, her position at CKJ was eliminated, due to the harsh economic conditions at the time and this is when she came up with the idea to launch a kids consignment business. 529 became a popular "pop-up" shop in the Alexandria area and once the following was big enough, a brick and mortar store in historic Old Town followed and has been a destination for kids clothing for 10 years.

Coslov has been the director of operations at The Shoe Hive for the past three years. Born and raised in Texas, she graduated from The University of Arizona with a major in Retail & Consumer sciences and has worked for numerous other retail brands, such as Banana Republic and Louis Vuitton. Wanting something family-oriented, with a close tie to its community and its customers brought her looking for work in Old Town. Prior to getting back into the retail world, Coslov was the vice president of sales for her family's company in the scrap metal recycling industry. Trading her hardhat and boots for boutique threads, she found a fit

SEE NEW OWNERS, PAGE 5

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NEWS

ASO Expands Sympatico

Program extends its reach to Patrick Henry K-8.

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will expand its ASO Sympatico program to Patrick Henry K-8 School beginning in September.

The music education program will offer two ASO Sympatico ensembles daily, Monday through Thursday for students after school. This will include a choral ensemble with Orff instruments for grades 3 through 8 and a mixed strings, winds and percussion ensemble for students in grades 4 through 8.

"We are very excited about bringing this experience to Patrick Henry. As a school that values education through arts and music programming, this is the perfect fit for our community. We are looking forward to seeing our students flourish even more this school year through access to this opportunity," said Patrick Henry Principal Ingrid Bynum.

The program is offered at no charge to participating students or families and has no prerequisite for enrolling. Afternoon bus transportation will be provided for Sympatico participants. All costs associated with the program are underwritten by the nonprofit Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

"Sympatico is the beating heart of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's commitment to change lives in our community through

music. It is more than an educational initiative; it is a way of life for our organization ... one that is as vital to our existence as it is to the young lives of those who participate," said ASO Music Director Jim Ross.

ASO first introduced ASO Sympatico at John Adams Elementary School five years ago. Approximately 130 students now participate there in six different ensembles before and after school.

ASO Sympatico is modeled after El Sistema, a global movement of social change through music for children with the fewest resources and the greatest need, which began in Venezuela more than 30 years ago.

Sympatico uses intensive music instruction and frequent performance opportunities as a vehicle for increasing academic performance, improving school attendance, and fostering important life skills. ASO Sympatico is a member of El Sistema USA, a national alliance of El Sistema-inspired programs.

ASO Sympatico's expansion to Patrick Henry K-8 School was made possible by the financial support of Classical Movements, Paul M. Angell Foundation, D'Addario Foundation, and numerous individuals. Programs at the school will be led by David Evans and Fred Montgomery.

New Owners at Mint Condition

FROM PAGE 4

at The Shoe Hive & The Hive. Coslov and her husband Ryan moved to the Alexandria area in 2016 and have a nine-month-old baby girl.

"I am proud and grateful to have owned and operated Mint Condition for the last ten years," said Henderson.

"I've learned invaluable lessons about business, community, friendship and beyond. I love the store and am thrilled and humbled to reflect back on how it has grown, it has been a wonderful experience, but it was time for my next chapter. Mint Condition has become an Old Town staple and the consignors, customers, and staff make up a unique family. Megan and Katie were already part of that family. I couldn't be happier to pass the torch to this fantastic team and am confident they will only continue to do great

things for this special business in this special community."

"When Toni reached out to me about this opportunity, I was not only honored but extremely excited," said Podolsky. "I called Katie immediately, as I knew this was our chance to put our love of fashion and passion for our community together in one special place. Katie and I are thrilled to take over the reins at Mint Condition and honor Toni's legacy while continuing to grow a successful and flourishing business."

Podolsky and Coslov — who are sister-in-laws — plan to shadow Henderson over the next month during the transition period and will keep things business as usual. They also plan to create additional store events and partner with other area small businesses on community collaborations.

Mint Condition is located at 103 S. Saint Asaph St.



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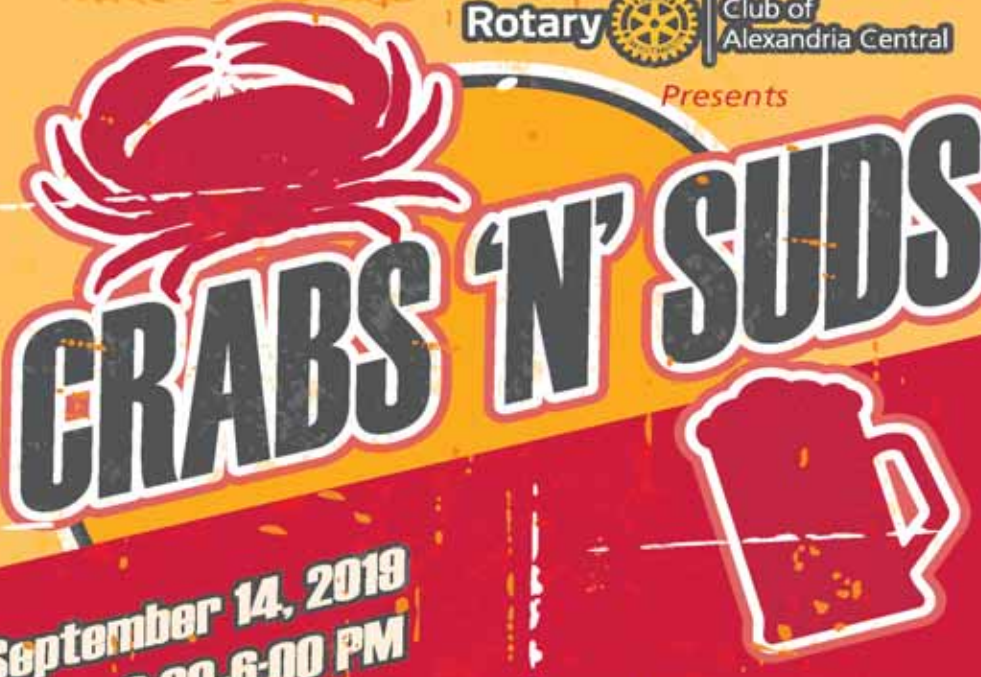
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LIVING LEGENDS

‘Scars and Stripes’

Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel,
Living Legend of Alexandria

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The word “hero” is used far too often. So is the word “courage.” In the case of Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel, neither word accurately describes the horrors he endured as one of the most brutalized prisoners of war in Vietnam.

When his A-6 Intruder aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam on May 19, 1967, McDaniel was captured and spent six agonizing years as a POW in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison. In the face of unrelenting barbaric and sadistic torture, McDaniel remained a source of hope and strength for his fellow POWs by clinging to his faith in even the darkest of hours.

“There is no feeling quite like knowing you are in a strange country, surrounded by a people who know no rule but death to the enemy,” said McDaniel of his time in captivity. “Still, the one thing they could not take from me was my faith. There were many times in my lonely cell when my victories were known only by me and God.”

It was McDaniel’s 81st combat mission over North Vietnam. McDaniel was a Top Gun pilot who was also a member of the “White Knuckle Club,” a group of pilots whose daily work routines consisted of dodging enemy fire from Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs) and Russian MIGs.

For three years, McDaniel was listed as Missing in Action while his wife, Dorothy, and three children, Michael, David and Leslie, did not know if he was dead or alive. In 1970, the Hanoi government finally acknowledged that McDaniel was being held prisoner. After six years in captivity as a POW, he was released on March 4, 1973.

When McDaniel returned home to Virginia from Vietnam, he was awarded the Navy’s highest award for bravery, the Navy Cross. Among his other military decorations are two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat “V,” the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Bronze Stars with Combat “V” and two Purple Hearts.

After his release, McDaniel resumed ac-

tive duty and served as Commanding Officer of the USS Niagara Falls and as the Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. He also served as the Director of Navy/Marine Corps Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives before retiring from the Navy in 1982.

Following his military retirement, McDaniel and his wife settled in the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria. He authored a book, “Scars and Stripes,” recounting his time in captivity and how his faith kept him grounded. Dorothy McDaniel published her own book, “After the Hero’s Welcome,” detailing her experience as the wife of a POW and advocate for nearly 20 years following her husband’s return. It was during this time that McDaniel founded the Alexandria-based American De-

fense Institute, a nonprofit organization to increase public awareness among young adults for the need for a strong national defense. Still active today, ADI provides citizen education and leadership training for young Americans. Its POW Awareness Program focuses public attention on American servicemen who are still missing in Southeast Asia.

In 1994, McDaniel helped found Adult Companion Care, (now known as ACCfamily, Inc.) after his own struggles to find quality home care for a family member. Headquartered on North Fairfax Street in Old Town, ACCfamily is a senior home care agency whose vision is to allow people to stay in their home for as long as they desire. ACCfamily still operates in Alexandria but has grown to serve seniors in southern Maryland and throughout Northern Virginia.

Long before the “aging in place” movement became popular, McDaniel saw the need to change the face of aging and help



Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel.

people stay independent for as long as possible. To him, the first step to extending independence was being able to live at home.

McDaniel was the eldest of eight children born to poor tobacco sharecroppers in North Carolina. He attended what was then Campbell Junior College then completed his education at Elon College on athletic scholarships. On his first night at Campbell, in September of 1950, he met Dorothy Howard, the daughter of a pastor and professor, who would later become his wife.

“Dorothy had a grace and poise about her that made me want to be around her,” McDaniel recalled. “It wasn’t only her beauty, charm and poise but her character and sense of values, which were deeply rooted in her belief in God.”

Following his graduation, McDaniel joined the Navy rather than pursue professional sports and chose flight school because of the elite challenges it presented. He was deployed to Vietnam in October of 1966.

McDaniel lost his father while he was still

in college. In addition to raising his own family, he helped support his mother and siblings while pursuing his military career. He saved what he could and in retirement used his resources to found a company to provide what he saw as a desperately needed option for seniors. That concept – aging in place – continues to explode as an industry around the nation but prior to the founding of Adult Companion Care, home care options for Alexandria seniors were virtually non-existent.

Through the founding of Adult Companion Care and its growth into ACCfamily, McDaniel’s vision for seniors in Alexandria provides an option that many had thought was lost to them — the ability to age in place with independence and most importantly with dignity.

For more than 37 years, McDaniel has been a respected and productive member of the Alexandria business community through the two companies he founded — ADI and ACCfamily. He was able to triumph over unimaginable circumstances and return from serving his country to honorably serving his community.

“People think courage is the absence of fear,” McDaniel said. “But courage is the presence of faith.” At 87 years old, McDaniel is still active and in demand as a speaker. He and Dorothy raised three children and have nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. “I saw a need and an opportunity to serve people,” McDaniel said. “I don’t consider what we do a business. I consider it a ministry.”

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Alexandria. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org.

PHOTO BY TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Suehr Named City’s Director of Project Implementation

Terry A. Suehr is the new director of the city’s Department of Project Implementation; it was effective Aug. 12.

“Terry’s long tenure of accomplishments in the design, leadership and implementation of capital projects will be an asset to the city,” said City Manager Mark B. Jinks. “Her experience and expertise will help continue Alexandria’s strong infrastructure improvement program.”

Suehr’s two decades of engineering experience includes hundreds of public and



private facility projects, including field investigations, studies, design, and construction administration. She has particular expertise in site design and land development, stormwater design and erosion control, and environmental protection.

A veteran of the United States Coast Guard with a final rank of lieutenant, Suehr began her career in the private sector as a civil engineer. Since 2005, she has served in a variety of capacities for SNC-Lavalin (formerly PBSJ Corporation and Atkins), most recently as a vice president responsible for federal projects and project management. Suehr earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the United States Coast Guard Academy. She is a licensed profes-

sional engineer in Virginia, Maryland, New York and the District of Columbia; credentialed as a Project Management Professional by the Project Management Institute; and designated a Master Stormwater Practitioner by the Chesapeake Stormwater Network and the Center for Watershed Protection. Suehr serves on the George Mason University Civil Engineering Institute board of directors; is a member of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Project Management Institute and the Northern Virginia Post of the Society of American Military Engineers; and has mentored students through the Virginia Tech Land Development Design Initiative and the Chantilly Academy Girls Exploring Engineering program. Suehr is an

adjunct professor of civil and environmental engineering at George Mason University.

Suehr succeeds Anthony E. Gammon, who has served as acting director since the retirement of Mitchell C. Bernstein on Feb. 28. “I thank Tony for his leadership during this interim period and look forward to his continued contributions on a variety of major capital projects as deputy director,” said Jinks.

The Department of Project Implementation was created in 2013, to accelerate the implementation of city infrastructure projects. These projects include roads, stormwater and sanitary sewers, as well as major parks and public areas such as the city’s waterfront.

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

OPINION

Preventing Suicide Being there to take the call.

BY WENDY GRADISON
CEO, PRS



Gradison

More people are calling, texting and chatting and that's good news. With greater emphasis on mental health, we are seeing an increase in the number of people reaching out for help to our local suicide prevention hotline. This is a trend that's also occurring nationwide.

While it's great that more people are seeking help, the issue is that the infrastructure and funding to support it are having a hard time keeping up with the growing demand. In fact, PRS recently

received grants to serve as a national back-up center and core chat center to expand services in support of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network (Lifeline) to help address longer wait times nationwide as queues pile up for the hotline and chatline. Some of these calls and chats now get rerouted to PRS.

Prior to the recent expansion, PRS received a monthly average of 4,500 crisis calls through the Lifeline and local crisis number primarily from Northern Virginia. With the addition of the national hotline back-up center and chatline services, our call volume has more than doubled, and we expect the chatline to generate over 20,000 chats this year.

This is the reality as we approach September's Suicide Prevention Month. For the 5th year, we are hosting the #CallTextLive Campaign, <https://prsinc.org/calltextlive/>, in partnership with Connection Newspapers. The campaign engages the community by providing activities to create awareness about preventing suicide and calling the PRS CrisisLink Hotline at (800) 273-TALK [8255] and the textline by texting "CONNECT" to 85511 to



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers answering hotline calls.

receive support.

#CallTextLive uses social media, activities and events to drive conversation and reduce stigma. By visiting PRS' website at www.prsinc.org/calltextlive, people can discover how to participate in the #CallTextLive Campaign, which includes Resource Mondays, a Facebook Live educational session, Selfie Day, and Fact Fridays.

Social media is used to engage people in sharing stories and photos on PRS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using the #CallTextLive hashtag in hopes of making it easier for people to talk about suicide.

The campaign is critically important since suicide claims the lives of more than 47,000 people annually and is the 10th leading cause of death nationwide and second leading cause for people aged 10-34. In fact, more than twice as many people die by suicide than homicide.

As we work to increase the number of indi-

viduals seeking help, we recognize that increasing our capacity to take these calls, texts and chats is essential.

We handle the national calls through federal grants, but the work we do to serve our Northern Virginia community is supported through local funding sources and the generosity of individuals like you. That's why the campaign encourages people to crowdsource to support the PRS CrisisLink center.

Volunteering to cover a weekly shift on the hotline or chatline, donating to support the overall operating expenses of this life-saving work or sharing our information across social media saves lives in our communities.

Crisis intervention and suicide prevention services work. For every death, 278 people manage to move past thoughts of suicide and survive. Join PRS this September as we encourage our community to make the call, send the text and live through their thoughts of suicide.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents Well-Served

To the Editor:

There was a sad incident this week on our block. An elderly resident, who had been released from Alexandria Hospital two days before, called for an ambulance again. Her husband, whom the neighbors on the block had been caring for, would have been left alone. He is in poor health

as well. In addition, there were two animals in the house who needed to be fed and walked.

A call was made to Adult Protective Services describing their plight.

An ambulance arrived and the medics went into the house to assess the situation and they agreed that the wife should be transported to the hospital and that the husband could not be left alone. The medic made a call to Community and Human Services and a fire captain working for the agency that day came to take command and make decisions. She was efficient, decisive and caring. She called the ani-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

After the Rain

To the Editor:

Throughout the rain on Aug. 15, the most beautiful moment I have ever seen was this beautiful, awesome and amazing rainbow [at left] across from the intersection of South Washington and Wilkes Street. At 5:40 p.m., I, for once out without camera, just stood and watched it for a bit and smiled as I pointed the rainbow out to my neighbor and he stopped to watch. At 5:57 p.m., the beauty of the rainbow still hadn't faded and my neighbor let me use his camera to take the photo; thanks Norman Trotter.

For a moment in time, I was able to capture the beauty of art by the greatest artist there is.

Activist Geri Baldwin
Alexandria



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

Beauty follows the rain.

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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A Connection Newspaper

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

mal shelter which quickly sent an employee carrying two animal carriers to round up the dog and the cat. They will be boarded at the shelter until a later time. Three Alexandria police officers were also present in case needed.

A second ambulance arrived to take the husband to the hospital and the fire captain went on ahead to make sure that the couple did not get separated at the hospital. As of this writing, husband and wife are in the same room.

Many of the neighbors witnessed the goings-on and I as one, was really impressed and gratified to see how well the city can respond to this kind of emergency. I know that the city receives much grumbling and many complaints. I just want to be sure that city workers receive praise for the work they do.

Miriam Olinger
Alexandria

Safety and Scooter Parking

To the Editor:

I find the many scooters all over to be a visual and physical affront to my sensibilities. They lie on the street and sidewalks, on the grassy areas and in front of residences and businesses. They obstruct walkers and I think they should not be allowed in Alexandria.

Someone will trip and be hurt. They are hard to avoid. If the government sees fit to approve them permanently they should only be allowed to be left in bike-type racks. Electric motors are still motors and if they power a vehicle they should be subject to the legal, safety and parking laws that apply to other types of motor vehicles.

Parking laws and trash in the street type laws must and should be enforced. Why are the laws not passed, implemented and enforced? Nuisances detract from our lifestyles and our enjoyment of Alexandria's many pleasures.

Lawrence Cholden
Alexandria

Try Traffic Oversight Cadre

To the Editor:

I have come to the realization that the Alexandria is not going to perform oversight of traffic at the very busy King and Union Street intersection. The Police Department maintains that anything they could do will not stop the phalanx of pedestrians, automobiles, mo-

torcycles, bicyclists, skate boarders and scooters trying to cross that intersection in an orderly manner.

Since Alexandria is one of America's finest historical cities, one would expect that the City Council would want to accommodate the thousands of tourists who patronize our businesses annually. The eventual consequence of not doing so is that visitors will have less incentive to return, once they experience the traffic situation.

Now is the time for the Old Town residents to provide citizen traffic expeditors at that intersection, since the city government chooses to ignore any oversight of the King and Union intersection. The participation of citizens should be a welcome addition to doing nothing about the problem. How about it Alexandria? Let's put together a traffic oversight cadre that can handle this task. This would be a step to solving the problem, and it might perhaps shame the city into doing its job, which is long overdue in this case.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Preserve Columbus Day

To the Editor:

I hope the City Council will not rename Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day to "provide an opportunity to acknowledge the overlooked history of oppression and the decimation of Native Americans." Establishing a "sister" relationship with a Virginia tribe with mutual exchanges might be a more useful measure. We could learn more about our local indigenous population and perhaps offer some needed assistance.

It is unjust to hold Columbus as the symbol of oppression against Native Americans in our country whose shores he never touched. Later explorers and colonizers, including those who settled Virginia and the rest of our country, participated in mistreatment. The natives did resist European colonization violently so settlers found they needed to kill or be killed. President Jackson initiated the "Trail of Tears." Especially after the Civil War, following orders, the U.S. Army focused its power against Indians.

Changing the name of the holiday focuses on only problematic aspects of Columbus' voyages rather than acknowledging their momentous and productive results, including the continued association of the New and Old

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

New Movement & Acting Classes!

Ages 4 - 12
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JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer's — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer's first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

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Find one near you at alz.org/walk
or call **703.359.4440**.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTINA LAMBERT USCG AUXILIARY

Auxiliarist Jack Crawford teaches a Boating Safety class offered by Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon) in Alexandria.

Importance of Boating Safety

The U.S. Coast Guard's volunteer Auxiliary helps boaters avoid becoming grim statistics:

A 2017 compilation of recreational boating casualty data counted 4,291 incidents that resulted in 658 deaths, 2,629 injuries, and approximately \$46 million of property damage due to boating accidents

Every year, the Auxiliary offers Boating Safety classes that teach boat handling and regulations, nautical "rules of the road" and other information that can prevent mishaps on the water.

Auxiliarists from Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon) in Alexandria helped teach a total of 123 students this year from February through the Flotilla's final 2019 class in July.

This training is required for operators of recre-

ational boats in Virginia, DC and Maryland, as well as most other states.

Virginians can still take the Virginia Boating Safety Course Online, Marylanders can take BoatUS Foundation's Online Course, and DC residents and non-residents can take the District of Columbia Boating Safety Course online.

For a comprehensive list of training options visit <https://www.uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/boating-safety-courses.php> and explore the Coast Guard Auxiliary's "Welcome to the Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Website" to obtain free boating safety tools and materials. Flotilla 25-08 and other Flotillas will again offer in-person classes starting in early 2020.

New Children's Theatre Arising

The curtain is rising on a new children's program in the area: Alexandria Children's Theatre. Located in the new fine arts center at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, ACT is offering weekend acting/creative movement classes for ages 4 through 12 this fall.

Longtime Little Theatre of Alexandria drama teacher and ACT founder Roberta Cullen has taught drama and work on middle school productions at Burgundy for the past 10 years: "It's a unique opportunity; these classes at Burgundy give area children a chance to learn about theatre indoors and outside in the same location, sometimes with the sound of live barnyard animals in the background. Burgundy offers opportunities for children to explore their creativity and self-expression on the new stage, outside in an amphitheatre, and even around the campus depending on the weather.

Teaching drama in a location where children are celebrated is



Burgundy Farm Country Day School is the home of a new children's movement and acting program: Alexandria Children's Theatre.

fantastic."

In September Alexandria Children's Theatre will begin offering weekend creative movement and acting classes at Burgundy. ACT classes include time

on stage, and families are welcome to the final class for a presentation each season. Partial scholarships are available.

For more information about ACT, visit www.actheatre.com.



Razaan Yousif has asked Diretta Dunston for braids before she starts school.



Gary Bailey gives Nehemiah Makins a free haircut at the backpack event at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Volunteers move down an assembly line with open backpacks to receive pencils, crayons, notebooks and paper at the backpack event on Aug. 25.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Volunteers Help Children Get Ready for School

FROM PAGE 1
Erica Jones and Jen Kenely, co-directors of Insp!relit, arrange “Stuart Little,” “Charlotte’s Web,” “Harry Potter” and “Just Grace” and other free books in neat rows for children’s selection later in the morn-

ing. Jones said this Alexandria- based organization wants to be sure that all children are surrounded by good books. Jones says most of the books are donated by people who don’t need them anymore, “and we want to find homes for them.”

Bailey likes to have the community see another side of the fire and rescue department and to get to know them as they give service to others beyond their regular work. And he says, “I live in Del Ray today but I grew up there when it was a different place.

Before that I lived in a farmhouse with an outhouse and no running water. My parents didn’t have much.” So Bailey views his community efforts as giving back. “You know, to whom much is given, much is asked.”

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 ♦ 11

COMMUNITY



Ellie Wagoner (left) and Tom Irvin are long-time Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visitor volunteers who recently retired.



Senior Services Board of Directors with family members take time out of their Saturday to deliver Meals on Wheels.



Christine Friedberg (left), owner of Griswold Home Care of Northern Virginia, and a caregiver take time to give back by delivering Meals on Wheels.

Saluting SSA's Summer Volunteers

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) would like to thank its volunteers, especially those who were able to volunteer during these hot summer months, for their dedication to Alexandria's older adults. Volunteers delivered Meals on Wheels and Groceries to Go, made Friendly Visits to isolated seniors, stocked Senior Information Corners around town with up-to-date information for older adults, and its Senior Ambassadors continue to get out the word about important programs to their communities.



Employees of United Healthcare deliver Meals on Wheels.



Longtime Groceries to Go Volunteer Laura Rodin (left) with Giant Food employees and Medea Ranck, Groceries to Go coordinator.



Groceries to Go volunteer Robert Coontz and Safeway cashier Morocco Assou.



Friendly Visitor Pairs who are also friends include Jeanette and Haywood ...



... and Ms. S with Dina Osman ...



... and Senior Information Corner Stocker Gary Hacker with Mary Giordano.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Registration Open: NVSO. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The games run Sept. 14-28. There will be no on-site registration. Online registrations must be completed by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us.

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/.

Art Exhibit: Fresh Meat. Through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Fresh Meat" features artwork by Del Ray Artisans' newest members from 2018-2019. "Fresh Meat" highlights new faces and new techniques. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/fresh-meat for more.

Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving. Through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Art Exhibitions. Through Sept. 15, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. For the first time, the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association is sharing its gallery space with a group of student artists. The Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is a satellite gallery sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com/mosaic/ for more.

❖ "Make Your Mark" is part of the Torpedo Factory Artists' Associations' effort to provide exhibit opportunities for gifted artists in the community. In this show, each of the 13 students taking classes from TFAA artist and arts educator Marsha Staiger present one painting that represents their body of work.

❖ "Animal Kingdom" is the theme of the Torpedo Factory artists' exhibit and will showcase the best of what nature has to offer, including the wild and the tame.

Art Exhibit: Habitats. Through Sept. 22, gallery hours at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory,



High-fire mug with hand-decoration of urban landscape by Linda Bernard of Laurel, Md.; blue and gold contrast crystalline-glazed porcelain vase by Lorraine Colson of Alexandria; stoneware spotted woodfired cups by Roni Polisar of Burtonsville, Md.; High-fire tan and sapphire stoneware plate by Chris Coyle of Glenn Dale, Md. The "Patterns & Prints" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery runs Sept. 2-27.

"Patterns & Prints"

Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot togs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the hemline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Sept. 2-27, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

105 North Union St., Studio 2. The newest group exhibition Habitats in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibitions space of Torpedo Factory Art Center, poses the question, "What makes a habitat a home?" The selected artists address these questions and raise new ones. Work is presented in a diversity of media, from sculpture and photography to video and virtual reality. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

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.

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/.

AUG. 27-SEPT. 29

Art Exhibit: "It's a Jungle Out There."

Through Sept. 29 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 29, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, "It's a Jungle Out

There." Cheetahs, lions, rhinos, monkeys, hippos, and the lands that they inhabit serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

THURSDAY/AUG. 29

Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger.

10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 30

Mount Vernon Nights: Mars Rodeo (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/AUG. 31

Youth Bike Classes. 10 a.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. The City of Alexandria is sponsoring a Youth Learn to Ride bike class, led by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, for children 6-12. Youth Learn to Ride classes are intended for children who have either never tried to ride a bike or have tried but have not been successful. Each student must bring their own bike and helmet. Students will

ride for approximately three hours, with breaks every hour. \$10. Register at waba.org/blog/2019/07/youth-learn-to-ride/.

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.

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.

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 Sasha Beresovsky, piano. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

Mount Vernon Nights: The Slocan Ramblers (bluegrass). 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.

4 Dates to Circle in September

BY HOPE NELSON

From Ethiopian cuisine to Virginia spirits, from crab fests to Oktoberfest, there's a lot for a foodie to do around the city in September. Here are some of our top picks.

APPETITE

Second Annual Taste of Ethiopia, Sept. 14

Immerse yourself in the culture and cuisine of Ethiopia with a waterfront festival showing off all the country has to offer. While taking in dance demonstrations, listening to live music and cheering on models during a fashion show, inhale the aroma of spicy Ethiopian food — and then settle in for a serving or two. Food, beer and wine as

well as dry goods will be available for purchase, so bring an appetite and prepare for a trip across the world without leaving Alexandria. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Place. 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Free.

Port City Brewing Crab Fest, Sept. 14

Think you'll only get beer at Port City Brewing? Think again. Along with Quarterdeck, the brewery is co-hosting a crab fest with all the fixings. Festival-goers have four options from which to choose, ranging from an all-you-can-eat crabs-only selection to all-you-can-eat crabs with shrimp, clams, mussels, cole slaw, hush puppies, potatoes and corn. Bring an appetite — and wet your whistle with \$5 pints or \$15 pitchers of several of Port City's flagship beers. 3950

Wheeler Ave. 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. seatings. Tickets range from \$65-\$95.

Oktoberfest Kickoff Party and Hops N Shine, Sept. 21

Those familiar with the German holiday season of Oktoberfest will know that contrary to the celebration's name, the feast begins in September each year, not October. Hops N Shine is following suit with the schedule and launching a kickoff party on the first day of Oktoberfest, Sept. 21, at their Del Ray pub. Along with food and drink specials, Hops N Shine will play host to eating and stein-hoisting competitions and more. 3410 Mount Vernon Ave. 2-5 p.m.

Virginia Craft Spirits Roadshow, Sept. 21

The Commonwealth's distillers take center stage at the Virginia Craft Spirits Roadshow, hosted by the Building Momentum co-op space on Eisenhower Avenue. Take a taste of spirits from ten distillers, hailing from the likes of Charlottesville and Richmond, Newport News and Purcellville, and numerous towns in between. Prefer a little more mixer with your spirits? Craft cocktails will also be on offer. 5380 Eisenhower Ave. 3-8 p.m. Tickets ranging from \$20-\$35.

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

ENTERTAINMENT



High-fire contrast stoneware jewelry holder with earring hanger and ring basin by Chris Coyle of Glenn Dale, Md.; High-fire stoneware bowl glazed ocean blue with spiraled peek-a-boo detailing by Klaudia Levin of Silver Spring, Md.; Impressed porcelain ceramic collander for berries, cherries and more by Ana Cavalcanti of Bethesda, Md.; High-fire sgraffito contrast platter with etched turtle by Shirley Gromen of Arlington, Va.; Petite woodfired geometric vase with pricked detailing by Roni Polisar of Burtonsville, Md.

Art Exhibit: Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving

The season is shaping up to be steamy as designs are working out, clay bodies are shaping up, donning some fierce detailing in "Piercings, Clay Body Art and Carving." Ceramic Guild art becomes less hippie and more hipster as artists go epic with an aggressive take on decoration outside the bowl. The exhibit runs through Sept. 1, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 1

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

www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm for more.

Ethiopia: Sights, Culture. 7-8 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. In anticipation of Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, Dr. Chernet Weldeab and author Esubalew Meaza, associates of Skyline Travel and Tour, will take us on a remote tour of Ethiopia. Free. Registration preferred. Call 703-746-1714 or visit alexlibraryva.org/event/3052418.

required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Visit www.encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Community is sponsoring a four-part series of talks about racism: Meaningful Conversation about Racism and What To Do About It. The first discussion is titled: What did we learn from El Paso? Email alexandriavabahais@gmail.com for more.

Visit www.encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

SEPT. 2-27

Art Exhibit: "Patterns & Prints." Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot tugs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the hemline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

SEPT. 3-30

Art Exhibit: Revival. Sept. 3-30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. A reception is planned for Thursday, Sept. 12, 5-8 p.m. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 3

Back to School. Alexandria City Public Schools first day of the 2019-2020 traditional calendar school year. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us and click Calendar.

Jones Point Meetup. 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 4

Encore Rocks Alexandria. Weekly rehearsals, Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are

THURSDAY/SEPT. 5

Yacht Haven Garden Club Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane. Join the Yacht Haven Garden Club. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month (except January, June-August). Annual dues are \$25 (first year is \$35). Contact Patsie at pmuchello@aol.com for more.

Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger. 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

BBQ and BINGO. 6 p.m. at Friends of Guest House - Old Town Location, 120 South Payne St. Celebrate 45 years of helping thousands of women successfully reenter the community from incarceration and the opening of a new location. \$45. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-guest-house-45th-anniversary-bbq-bingo-tickets-62864199513 for tickets. Email marisa@friendsofguesthouse.org or call 703-549-8072 for more.

Discussion Series. 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum in the Watson Reading Room, 902 Wythe St. The Alexandria Baha'i

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Patriot Day Golf Classic. Registration and lunch, 11:30 a.m.; shotgun start, 1 p.m.; reception and awards; 5-7:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. This year the Patriot Day Golf Classic will benefit the Yellow Ribbon Fund Foundation. The Yellow Ribbon Fund provides support to wounded military men and women and their caregivers. Guest speaker will be 1st Sgt. Matt Eversmann (retired) whose story of survival was immortalized in the book and epic film, Black Hawk Down. Visit www.bellehavencc.com/golf/patriot for more.

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads Encore Chorale. Weekly rehearsals, Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson St., Falls Church. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Open to residents and non-residents.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 6-7

Mirror Mirror: Orange Grove Dance. Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 6 and 8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit alexandriava.gov/publicart for details.

SEPT. 6-29

Art Exhibit: High Note. Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Experience "High Note," exploring the connection between music and the mind. Music can unleash powerful memories, transporting listeners in space and time. Meet the artists, juror Britt Conley, and enjoy live music at the opening reception: Friday, Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m. Also enjoy for a musical performance benefiting the nonprofit Friends of ROAM Friday, Sept. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/high-note for more.

SEPT. 6-30

Solo Painting Exhibition: Draftsman 2019. Gallery hours at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. Draftsman 2019 is the solo painting exhibition for the

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ENTERTAINMENT



Revival by Marian Van Landingham.

Art Exhibit: Revival

While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. Read more about Marian Van Landingham in Living Legends of Alexandria at alexandrialegends.org/marian-van-landingham/. The exhibit runs Sept. 3-30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. A reception is planned for Thursday, Sept. 12, 5-8 p.m. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/revival-by-marian-van-landingham-tickets-69925869157. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m. Free. Visit galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

The Buzz about Bees. 10 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. "Celebrate Honey Bee Day." Meet a beekeeper, look inside a beehive, learn a bee dance, go on a bee scavenger hunt and discover how important bees are to the food supply. Members of the Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association will be on hand to offer tips on how you can help these important pollinators. Free. All ages. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring for more.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 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. Featuring "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be

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

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.

Annual Crab Feast Dinner. 3:30-6 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Pohick Church Annual Crab Feast Fundraiser, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St Andrew, will be held in the Parish Hall. The menu will include crabs, fried fish, steamed shrimp, potato salad, cole slaw, pork and chicken barbecue sandwiches, and hot dogs for the kids. All are welcome. \$30 per adult (ages 18 and older), \$15 for children ages 12-17, and children under 12 are free. Call 703-339-6572 for tickets.

Essay and Poetry Contest Deadline. 5 p.m. Alexandria Library and the For Love of Country Foundation present the Annual Essay and Poetry contest, "Who has influenced your life, and why?" Rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders – enter and win up to \$100. Visit alexlibraryva.org/floc for details.

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

adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

Gallery Tour and Talk: Memory. 2 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. With Catherine Day, Amelia Hankin, and Zofie King. Join the artists as they walk around this thought-provoking show on its last day and discuss some of the elements that are alluded to – as well as their development and creative processes. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

MONDAY/SEPT. 9

Alexandria Encore Chorale. Weekly rehearsals, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Encore's mission is to provide an excellent and accessible artistic environment for older adults, 55 and over, regardless of experience or

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ENTERTAINMENT



The First Morning of Winter Vacation, acrylic, 2019, by Barry Keith.

Solo Painting Exhibition

Draftsman 2019 is the solo painting exhibition for the month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. The exhibit runs Sept. 6-30, gallery hours at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Sept. 6, 5-8 p.m. Free. Visit galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

ability, who seek arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. No auditions are required to sing. Singers learn vocal technique, proper breathing and posture, and music literacy. All concerts are free and open to the public. Fee is \$175 for weekly rehearsals, sheet music, practice CD, and performances. The Encore Chorale repertoire includes traditional and secular holiday music. Visit www.encorecreativity.org or call

301-261-5747.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 10

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. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. To reserve a spot, visit mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/.

Jones Point Meetup. 11 a.m.-noon at Jones Point Park, Jones Point Drive. Join a national park ranger to explore the long history of this little

piece of land and see the last remaining inland lighthouse on the Potomac River, once a beacon to boat captains and commerce on the river. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/jonespoint.htm for more.

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

Garden Club Welcome Coffee. 9:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon House and Garden Club will have a Welcome Membership Coffee. Join to learn about the variety of programs. Annual dues are \$20. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org for more.

The Songs of Insects—a Talk and a Walk. 7 p.m. (talk), 8 p.m. (walk) at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh to hear Wil Hershberger, naturalist, award-winning nature photographer and nature sound recordist, who will explore the world of singing insects with images and sound recordings. Free, open to all. The walk is limited to 20 people, register in advance by emailing info@fodm.org. 8 p.m. walk, please register in advance by emailing info@fodm.org. FODM will host an informal social gathering at 6:30

p.m. Visit www.fodm.org for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger. 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

Fall Lawn Care and Turf Alternatives. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Fall is the ideal time to restore cool-season grass, the most common turf grass grown on lawns in our area. This program describes how to improve a lawn and the underlying soil, and outlines steps for preventing and controlling weeds to ensure a beautiful lawn, with an emphasis on sustainable practices that minimize the impact on native pollinators and wildlife. Free. Questions? Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. To reserve a spot, visit mgmv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/.

SEPT. 12-NOV. 10

“Board | out of our minds!” Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. “Board | out of our minds!” relates to the games we play. The included works exhibit the creative means in which people developed board games to reflect their thoughts and reflections on the role of chance in life. While some are actual games, some refer to the role of games in life. \$2,500 in prizes awarded during opening reception on Sunday, Sept. 15, 4-6 p.m. (free). Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.



The Harmonizers perform at the annual Barbershop Harmony Society convention in Orlando, Florida in July 2018.

Circle of Life

The award winning 80-man Alexandria Harmonizers present “The Circle of Life” with Broadway hits from “The Lion King” and others. The award-winning Sweet Adelines quartet “GQ” and 2015 Barbershop Harmony Society International Champions “Instant Classic” will also perform. Saturday, Sept. 14, 4-6:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 Campus Drive. \$35. Tickets available at www.eventbrite.com/e/circle-of-life-tickets-606671219. Visit www.harmonizers.org for more.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Even on a cloudy day, swimming is popular at the wave pool.

Skating at Great Waves Park

FROM PAGE 1

through Jan. 6, a portable ice rink will be open, with a snack bar and gift shop. After Jan. 6, there will only be weekend ice skating until it closes on Feb. 28. Ice skate rental will be available too.

Where the wave pool is now will be cordoned off and “all sorts of photo ops,” will be the center of attraction with an accompanying light show, said Park Manager Reid Nebergall. “It will bring a year-round draw into the park hopefully,” he said.

The rink is a portable type from “Precision Ice,” that will hold up to 150 skaters. It is scheduled to show up at Cameron Run in late October. “No actual construction,” Nebergall said. There will be light displays and fake igloos for people to sit in, and the “photo ops,” which are decorated wooden cutouts with a hole to stick the face in, like a pie-throwing contest.

“I will be back,” said Tiffany Bartley, who was in from Maryland with her children during the last week in August. Since her children went to Maryland schools, they didn’t have to be in class until after Labor Day, so the wave pool was a good option.

Jonelle Wallmeyer was watching her children in the wave pool too, and liked the idea of the skating rink and lights. “It’s a good use of space, it will keep people here,” she said, thinking of all the times in



It won’t be long before reindeer photo ops will be the center of attraction at Cameron Run.

the past when she drove out to Bull Run for the holiday light show. This year, they’ll stick around Alexandria instead.

Other elements of “Ice and Lights” will be fire pits, pizza, heated tents and a gift shop.

NOVA Parks is behind this operation, and they have a website up already to spread the word. “The waterpark will be transformed mid-November through February into a winter wonderland with an ice rink, beautifully lit photo ops, music and more! Grab a slice of pizza, roast a marshmallow over the fire pits, and enjoy the winter village,” it states.



There is one skating “photo op,” though most people at the park in August were thinking about swimming or mini golf.



Signs are out at the park.

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Side-Splitting But Not Very Funny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The most recent near-having-to-think-about-death experience I wrote about last week ("Barbosoul") was quite a shock to my system.

In spite of all the ups and downs and all-arounds I've experienced over the past 10 and a half not-fun-filled cancer years, I had never gone emotionally to the place I went to last week. Certainly I've thought about death and dying before: heck, I'm a cancer patient having been given a "terminal" diagnosis.

Nevertheless, I had never really put two and two together to equal four. It had always equaled three and a half, if you know what I mean? (Maybe you don't. Sometimes I'm not sure what I mean.) But last week's column was different. I went there.

It's not as if I haven't experienced pain before. I have. Most notably in the area of my lungs (the mediastinum) where my non-small-cell-lung-cancer-stage-IV tumors take up primary residence. Sometimes, the pain I felt was that of the tumors growing. Other times, the pain was that of scar tissue which had grown over tumors.

Any of which I would never know until my oncologist discussed with Team Lourie the radiologist's report from the preceding CT scan. Moreover, these assessments were never given with any kind of arithmetical-type certainty. Still, if it could have been worse, I was happy and if it could have been better, I was hopeful. Never too high and never too low.

As you regular readers know, I roll with the punches, wherever they land.

For the past week, those punches (pain) were in the identical (so far as I knew) place where my non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV symptoms first manifested in late December 2008. As such, I was rolling like I had never rolled before – and without any kind of mat to soften the fall.

Aside from experiencing headaches/pain in my head (which I haven't), which might indicate progression (in 30 percent of lung cancer patients the cancer moves to the brain), a recurrence in the same area as 10 and a half years ago likewise scares out the daylight living inside of me.

And, just like when a little knowledge in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing, so too does zero knowledge in the right hands (mine) become a dangerous thing. Why else would I be experiencing pain in my left side by my rib cage if it wasn't the cancer, only worse? But that wasn't the case.

As those of you who read to the end of last week's column know, I have survived to fight another day, or I should say, fight another two months because that's when my next CT scan is scheduled. At present, that's my cycle: bi-weekly immunotherapy followed by bi-monthly scans of my neck down to my lower abdomen, followed by an office visit with my oncologist to discuss the findings and plan for the immediate future.

Might that be palliative care? Apparently, if the inference/suggestion made by my oncologist in our last face-to-face meeting had any basis in fact? I suppose that's the problem with inferences/suggestions made in the medical "whirlwind."

I'm sure there are facts and figures and years of research supporting recommendations upon which one's treatments/protocols are based. Moreover, they're unlikely "made up of whole cloth," to quote the late Washington Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke commenting on some football rumor I can't remember.

Nevertheless, it's not exactly a straight line from the oncologist's mouth to the patient's estate planner. It's more like a roller coaster – without the safety bar (I wish it were more like the merry-go round, but it's not.). Often times, it's more like whack-a-mole.

Now that the pain and discomfort has subsided, I feel like I've dodged a bullet. It reminds me of my elementary school gym classes when we played a game called "Bombardment" where dodge balls were thrown across the gym from one half of the class at the other. As random as it was, it was only a matter of time until you couldn't dodge any more, and then you were out.

I realize that was only a game and this is life, but cancer has a way of intertwining fact and fiction with the past, present and future whether you like it or not.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

Worlds and opening our Age of Exploration and Discovery, now extending to outer space. His voyages brought numerous exchanges of mineral wealth, plants, animals, technologies, and ideas. Emphasis on those contributions, worth our respectful attention, will be diminished or lost by a name change. Note what happened to George Washington when his birthday celebration was moved from Feb. 22 to a Monday holiday. Calendars use the incorrect term "Presidents Day," and many, even in Alexandria, mistakenly think the day honors all Presidents.

Columbus, like Washington, was a bold visionary, ambitious, self-educated, very intelligent, persistent in pursuing his goals despite great obstacles, an inventive problem-solver and charismatic leader. Both defeated rebellions with firmness and survived death threats from immediate associates. When Columbus' entire crew mutinied and demanded an immediate return to Spain, his advance plan — to ensure they did not kill him and the voyage would continue — worked. At the end of the three days he had bargained, signs of land nearby were spotted at dawn. That occasion was as significant as the arrival of our Apollo 11 to the moon; men set foot where no one else from their culture had ever been.

Accounts of the natives' genocide may be exaggerated. Noble David Cook claimed: "There were too few Spaniards to have killed the millions who were reported to have died in the first century after Old and New World contact." He estimated the toll was caused by diseases; smallpox was estimated to have had an 80-90% fatality rate among Native Americans. By 1494 disease and famine had also claimed two-thirds of the Spanish settlers. A 1519 pandemic killed much of the remaining native population.

Columbus has been deservedly honored for many years. The use of "Columbia" or "Columbus" spread rapidly after the American Revolution. Those names were given to our federal capital, the capitals of Ohio and South Carolina, and the Columbia River. Let's continue to honor him in Alexandria on Columbus Day.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DONATIONS

School Supplies Needed. Through Sept. 1, join Democracy Federal Credit Union to collect back-to-school supply donations for the local community. All are welcome to drop by a Democracy FCU branch to donate school supply items and/or monetary donations that will benefit students at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School. Patrons are asked to donate new, unopened school supplies in to the school bus bin; monetary donations may be made at any branch teller window. Students' and teachers' wish list items include basic school supplies, such as, wide or college ruled notebooks, #2 pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, markers, pocket folders, erasers, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, rulers, etc. Visit www.DemocracyFCU.org.

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#WeAreAlexandria



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www.FineLivingRE.com



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www.KatePattersonHomes.com



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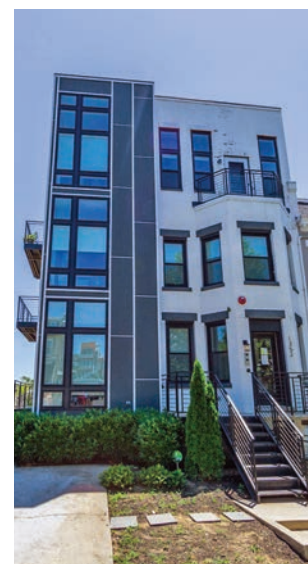
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2019-2020

Historic
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Center*
WELCOME
GIFT SHOP
- INSIDE -

TWO NINETEEN
RESTAURANT

PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Located in the Ramsey House at 221 King St., the Alexandria Visitors Center features a selection of brochures, maps and tickets to area attractions as well as a gift shop highlighting local products.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome Home!

BY JUSTIN WILSON
MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA

Welcome to Alexandria! On behalf of my colleagues on City Council, I'd like to extend a warm welcome and thank you for choosing this historic community as your new home.

During our 270-year history, Alexandria has been a tobacco trading post; one of the 10 busiest ports in America; a part of the District of Columbia; home to both the nation's largest slave trading firm and a large community of freed blacks; a Civil War supply center for Union troops; and a street-car suburb for federal workers. Today, Alexandria is a growing, urban community with an unparalleled quality of life. We're a vibrant, diverse city of more than 150,000 people with a small-town feel, but just minutes from the bustle of our nation's capital.

There is so much to see and do. Our parks and green spaces are a haven for nature lovers, walkers and bicyclists, and we're a

transit-oriented community, offering many options for getting around town and beyond. We're a destination for foodies, a haven for shoppers, and a place where the arts thrive. Alexandria is an Eco-City, committed to protecting and sustaining our natural resources. We're a great place for young people and a caring community.

Alexandria is also a hub of innovation, home to national, regional, and local businesses, tech startups, creative firms, trade associations and nonprofits. We host the headquarters of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the National Science Foundation, and we will soon welcome Virginia Tech's cutting-edge Innovation Campus. It is truly an exciting time to be here!



Wilson

We are a diverse city of kindness and compassion — a thriving community of engaged residents with a strong commitment to community service and charity. We are an accepting and embracing community where we treat each other with human dignity and respect. People of diverse race, color, culture, nationality, gender, age, physical ability, sexual orientation and gender identity live and work together in Alexan-

dria and bring pride and prosperity to our community.

In Alexandria, we have a strong tradition of community, government, and organizations working together to help shape our future and support our most vulnerable residents.

We hope you will consider the many op-

tions available, including serving on a board or commission, attending City Council meetings, mentoring children, or taking advantage of other volunteer opportunities through the City or through its many non-profit and charitable organizations. Please visit alexandriava.gov/Boards or alexandriava.gov/Volunteer for more information.

Finally, as you settle into your new home, there are bound to be questions. If you need any information about Alexandria's government or services, please contact our customer information service, Call.Click.Connect., at 703-746-HELP (4357) during normal business hours. Call.Click.Connect. may also be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the City's website at alexandriava.gov. Please follow the City of Alexandria on social media and subscribe for our free Alexandria eNews service to receive email, text and voice notifications on the subjects that interest you, as well as important emergency alerts.

School Successes and What Still Needs to be Done

BY DR. GREGORY C.
HUTCHINGS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

It's hard to believe that 12 months have gone by since I last wrote for the Alexandria Gazette Packet's Newcomers issue, at a time when I was just embarking on my journey as the Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools. This has been an exciting year and we have certainly made some progress; however, there is still much work to do.

As most of us countdown to the first day of school on Sept. 3, with students at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School having already returned, I want to welcome all our new families and also reflect a little on what we stand for in ACPS. A new school year is a time to reflect on both our achievements and the work that still needs to be done in the coming academic year.

There is nowhere quite like Alexandria. We are fortunate to have students from 114 countries who speak 119 different languages and bring so much to our community and help to create a vibrant and fascinating culture. We also have broad socioeconomic diversity. This also brings its own unique set of obstacles that set us apart from neighboring school divisions.

Our incredible diversity is a life-learning tool in itself — one that fosters empathy and a sophisticated understanding of the 21st century world. It is an aspect of our school division we continue to take full advantage of. Whether a student arrives in our classrooms from Afghanistan unable to speak English, or born and raised in our great city, our hopes for that child are the very same: that they will leave our school division the best they can be, ready to take any path they chose in life.



Hutchings

We pride ourselves on teaching the individual child. At T.C. Williams High School we offer more than 400 courses — from the most challenging academic rigors to career and technical studies. There are few other high school facilities in the U.S. that provide such diverse opportunities as T.C. Williams.

However, equity and inclusion are sizeable ambitions and are not easy to achieve. We are not there yet but I am confident we are heading in the right direction.

This month the Virginia Department of Education released our Standards of Learning (SOL) results which showed ACPS now has a higher percentage of students testing proficient in Math than in previous years. Math has been an area of intense academic focus for the school division over the past school year, and the SOL results show 70% of all students testing proficient. These results — which show the percentage of students testing proficient in math increased by nine percentage points — demonstrate the improved delivery of math instruction



ACPS PHOTO

Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. comforts a student experiencing a little separation anxiety at the Early Childhood Center at John Adams Elementary School.

due to increased professional learning and enhanced curriculum resources over the past two years.

The percentage of Black, Hispanic, English Learner and Economically Disadvantaged students proficient in math all increased by nine percentage points or more. Our rate of growth in math for all students was four percentage points higher than growth seen at the state level, and five percentage points higher for Economically Disadvantaged students also at the state level. We are anticipating similar progress in the coming school year across all subject areas that are now being addressed.

But our results also highlighted an achievement gap that we must do everything in our power to bridge.

This coming school year, ACPS will have an intentional focus on improving reading skills. Our instructional leaders have been analyzing the data over the past year and have already outlined areas for improvement.

This kind of success doesn't happen by chance, nor does it happen overnight. It happens through hard work, planning, preparation and dedication for all students to experience success regardless of their life circumstances. It is our responsibility as educators to relentlessly advocate and remove educational barriers that prevent any child from reaching their highest level desired.

SEE HEADING, PAGE 11

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Gazette Packet

A Connection newspaper.

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Gazette Packet's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we include details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local and regional fairs and festivals, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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McLean Connection: [@McLeanConnect](http://www.twitter.com/McLeanConnect)

Oak Hill/Herndon: [@HerndonConnect](http://www.twitter.com/HerndonConnect)

Reston Connection: [@RestonConnect](http://www.twitter.com/RestonConnect)

Springfield Connection: [@SprConnect](http://www.twitter.com/SprConnect)

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— MARY KIMM

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Alexandria Gazette Packet


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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

There's No Place Like Home

Alexandria: From the waterfront to the West End.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been nearly 10 years since moviegoers everywhere were introduced to the city of Alexandria, portrayed as a sleepy Southern town in the Disney film "Remember the Titans." But times have changed and today the cobblestone streets and lively waterfront attracts more than three million visitors every year.

Once known primarily as the hometown of George Washington and Robert E. Lee, the city also claims Jim Morrison, Mama Cass Elliot, Willard Scott, Chip Esten and House of Cards creator Beau Willimon as hometown notables.

History buffs will know that U.S. President Gerald Ford was a long-time resident and that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived here after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962. And Earl Lloyd, who grew up in a segregated Alexandria, was the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA in 1950.

At 15.4 square miles and with a population of just over 150,000, Alexandria hosts nationally recog-



The Alexandria Singers, a pops chorus, will hold open auditions for new members on Sept. 10 and 17.

PHOTO BY TOOL JAMPATHOM

nized events such as the Scottish Walk Weekend and Del Ray's Art on the Avenue. But off the beaten paths of King Street and Mount

Vernon Avenue are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Another Alexandria landmark is the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the plaza honors the 68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

In the West End are the Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site and the Winkler Botanic Reserve, a tranquil nature sanctuary tucked in the shadows of the BRAC center and Interstate 395.

One of the city's most obvious landmarks is also one of its best kept secrets. Located on 36 acres overlooking Old Town, the George Washington National Masonic Memorial was built in the 1920s as a memorial and museum high-

lighting the contributions of Freemasons to the United States. The structure also serves as a research center, library, community center and performing arts center and offers one of the best panoramic views of the city.

Tucked away on a side street in Old Town is the less obvious "Spite House." At just 7-feet wide, it is one of the tiniest historic homes in the nation. Built in 1830, the private residence was constructed by John Hollensbury using the existing brick walls of the adjacent homes to prevent horse-drawn wagon traffic from using the alleyway.

King Street in Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray serve as the shopping and dining hubs of the city. Both are lined with locally owned boutiques and restaurants. The free King Street Trolley runs from the "river to the



JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the service and sacrifice of the 68 men from Alexandria who either died in Vietnam and the surrounding area or remain missing in action. The plaza is located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray.

rails," bringing riders from the waterfront to the King Street Metro station seven days a week.

The many arts and entertainment offerings in town include the Birchmere, MetroStage and The Little Theatre of Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, which performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the campus of Northern Virginia Community College, is considered one of the finest in the nation.

If you're looking to perform yourself, a wide variety of classes are available for children and adults at LTA's home on Wolfe Street, where Dermot Mulroney and Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden honed their craft. The Alexandria Singers, a pops chorus, also holds open auditions for new members.

It doesn't take long for even a newcomer to realize that Alexandria is a city that loves its festivals and parades, starting with the largest George Washington birthday celebration in the country and ending the year with First Night Alexandria, a day-long celebration that culminates with a fireworks finale over the Potomac River.

There are no shortage of accolades for Alexandria, from being named a Top Holiday Town by USA Today to being recognized as having the best downtown of any small to mid-size city in the nation by Livability.com. So spend a few years or stay for a lifetime — there really is no place like Alexandria to call home.



PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Holiday Boat Parade is part of the Scottish Walk Weekend of events and features decorated boats from throughout the region.

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NEWCOMERS GUIDE



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

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Butterfly at entrance to Oronoco Park.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Departmental Progressive Club was founded in 1927 and continues today as a social and service organization.



PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Kiwanis Club of Alexandria is one of many service organizations that serve the community.

Getting Out, Giving Back

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandrians are known for their spirit of giving, whether it be in time, talents or resources, and there is no shortage of opportunities to get involved. But for those new to the city, a good place to start is with Volunteer Alexandria.

"Volunteer Alexandria is a connector of people and groups interested in getting involved in our community and organizations who are in need of volunteers to help them fulfill their mission," said Marion Brunken, executive director of Volunteer Alexandria. "Often, people don't know where to start so we will help anyone who wants to volunteer."

Volunteer Alexandria will help connect individuals six years or older with a non-profit organization or city agency that needs assistance and suits their interests.

"It's really easy to be matched," Brunken said. "Just visit VolunteerAlexandria.org, enter a keyword, zip code, or age, and the system populates a list of current opportunities. Or just call us 703-836-2176. We also help businesses find ways to make a difference in the community."

Other volunteer opportunities include Senior Services of Alexandria, which uses volunteers for Meals on Wheels deliveries as well as the Friendly Visitor Program and Groceries to Go service. Carpenter's Shelter, the city's homeless shelter, uses volunteers for administrative tasks and meal services.

The American Legion provides support and services for veterans from World War II through the War on Terror. Members also volunteer in numerous community activities, including Rebuilding Together Alexandria, which works year-round to repair and rehabilitate homes free of cost for those in need, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, military veterans and families with children.

Since 1948, the Alexandria Sportsman's Club has been providing scholarships to high school athletes through fundraising events and monthly meetings that feature speakers such as NFL Hall of Famer Darrell Green.

One of the oldest organizations in the city is the Departmental Progressive Club. Originally founded in 1927 when recreational facilities were segregated, the DPC's mission is "the creation of wholesome recreation, the encouragement of good character and the fostering of fellowship among its members."

If you think you have no time to make a difference, think again. Head to Holy Cow, Del Ray's Gourmet Burger Joint, where \$.25 for each burger sold will be donated to one of more than 250 local charities as selected

by the patron. Since the restaurant opened in 2012, more than 400,000 quarters, or \$100,000, has been donated to local charities.

Dining out at Holy Cow is one small way to give back to the community. From national organizations like Rotary, Lions Club and Fraternal Order of the Eagles to local nonprofits like Senior Services of Alexandria, there are seemingly endless opportunities to volunteer your time and talents.

"Any level of volunteering will make a difference," Brunken added.

Get Involved

Alexandria Rotary Club
www.alexandriarotary.org
Alexandria West Rotary Club
www.awrotary.org

Alexandria Central Rotary Club
www.alexcentralrotary.org
Alexandria Sportsman's Club
www.alexandriavasports.org
American Legion Post 24
www.valegionpost24.org
Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
www.alexandriaanimals.org
Carpenter's Shelter
www.carpentersshelter.org
Departmental Progressive Club
www.DPC1927.org
Fraternal Order of the Eagles
www.foe871.com
Kiwanis, Kiwanis of Del Ray
www.alexandriakiwanis.org
Lions Club of Alexandria
www.lionsclub.org
Rebuilding Together Alexandria
www.rebuildingtogetheralex.org
Senior Services of Alexandria
www.seniorservicesalex.org
Volunteer Alexandria
www.volunteeralexandria.org



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Holy Cow, Del Ray's Gourmet Burger Joint, has donated more than 400,000 quarters — or \$100,000 — to local charities since its opening in 2012. The restaurant donates \$.25 for each burger sold to one of more than 250 charities as selected by the patron.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The American Legion provides support and services to veterans from World War II, like Phil Lundeburg, through the War on Terror.

NEWCOMERS



Del Ray's Art on the Avenue, sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association, is just one of many citywide events sponsored by Alexandria's local businesses.

PHOTO BY
JOHN BORDNER/
GAZETTE PACKET

Getting Down to Business

Navigating the ABCs of Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Living in the shadow of the nation's capital, acronyms such as DoD, NSA and DHS are a part of the daily vernacular. Alexandria has its own set of acronyms, from AEDP to WEBA, which represents organizations and various business associations that span every corner of the city.

Some, like the Chamber of Commerce, have been around for over a century, while others, like the West End Business Association, represent the needs of the city's shifting economic demographic.

Visit Alexandria

Visit Alexandria is the city's tourism marketing agency and attracts visitors to the city through sales and marketing programs. The Visitor's Center is located at 221 King St. with administrative offices at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Alexandria Economic Development Partnership - AEDP

Founded in 1992, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership actively positions and promotes commercial spaces and economic opportunities in the City of Alexandria as the city's primary engine for economic development. AEDP serves as the leading resource for economic data, customized reports, development maps, real estate insights and information on tax and financial incentives for businesses and commercial real estate professionals. 625 N. Washington St., suite 400. 703-739-3820 or www.AlexEcon.org

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Alexandria is home to one of the largest chambers in the Greater Washington region, with 850 professional business members and partners employing more than 49,000 people region-wide. Founded in 1906, it serves as the voice of the business community in the City of Alexandria through aggressive lobbying efforts at the local, state and federal levels. 801 N. Fairfax St. 703-549-1000 or www.alexchamber.com

The Del Ray Business Association - DRBA

The Del Ray Business Association is run by volunteers who are themselves business owners. Started almost 45 years ago, DRBA now has over 200 members and sponsors several events in the Del Ray community each year. www.visitdelray.com.

Old Town Business and Professional Association - OTBPA

Open to businesses of any type, OTBPA is the result of a merger of two organizations – Old Town Business (OTB) and King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMET). OTBPA's most visible project is the annual Alexandria Retail Coupon Book. www.otbpa.com

Alexandria Small Business Development Center - SBDC

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center is Alexandria's economic development program that focuses on small businesses, which comprise the largest segment of Alexandria's economy. SBDC offers individual and confidential assistance without cost to the City of Alexandria businesses and Alexandria residents with businesses elsewhere. 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. 703-778-1291 or www.alexandriasbdc.org

West End Business Association - WEBA

The West End Business Association is comprised of West End Businesses and those that do business on the West End of Alexandria. WEBA provides members with networking opportunities, education and growth opportunities and representation before the city and economic development officials on matters important to the West End of Alexandria. www.alexandriaweba.com

Eisenhower Partnership

The Eisenhower Partnership is a group of commercial and residential property owners and occupiers along the Eisenhower Avenue Valley corridor. The Valley is anchored in the East by the Patent and Trademark Campus and in the West by the Victory Center development/Van Dorn Metro Station. www.eisenhowerpartnership.org

Carlyle Council - CCC

The Carlyle Council oversees the open spaces, parks and community amenities in Carlyle. CCC serves as the business and community development organization for Carlyle and advocates on behalf of Carlyle stakeholders on matters impacting the community. www.thecarlylecommunity.com

Old Town North Community Partnership - OTNCP

The Old Town North Community Partnership seeks to encourage the blend of residential and businesses uses in Old Town North, and make improvements in the area's quality of life through a partnership of residents and businesses working together on common goals. The community includes North of Oronoco Street to Alexandria's northern boundary. www.oldtownnorth.org

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

September 2019

FRIDAY/SEPT. 6

Patriot Day Golf Classic. 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. 5th Annual Patriot Day Golf Classic to benefit two veteran and wounded warrior organizations. Visit www.bellehavencc.com/golf/patriot for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 21-22

King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at 220 King St. Featuring live music, and interactive art activities. Visit www.artfestival.com/festivals/alexandria-king-street-art-festival for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Jane Austen Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The evening will feature a variety of English country dances in the historic ballroom, live music, and "iced refreshments." Period costume optional; "after-five" attire encouraged. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/jane-austen-ball/15320/ for more.



FILE PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Thousands turned out to celebrate at the 2018 Alexandria Irish Festival at Waterfront Park.

October 2019

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mount Vernon Ave. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival in the Del Ray neighborhood in Alexandria. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/event/art-on-the-avenue-2019/ for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Portside in Old Town Fall Festival. At Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Enjoy a day of live music, maritime history, nautical demonstrations and children's activities on the Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Savor local food, beer and wine while experiencing boat building demonstrations from Alexandria Seaport Foundation Apprentices and knot tying from tall ship Providence. Select activities benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's mission to improve the lives of young people through adult mentoring, project-based learning and the craft

of wooden boat building. Free admission; food and drink for purchase; fees for some activities. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/portside-in-old-town-fall-festival/15351/ for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

VolunteerFest. A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php for more.

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 10:30 a.m.; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$15 for children participating in the hunt.

Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave. All are welcome to march in the parade. Parade ends in a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, games, best costume awards, and more. Free. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/23rd-annual-del-ray-halloween-parade/11136/ for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY /OCT. 19-20

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides, apple-roasting and a straw bale

maze. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/fall-harvest-family-days/ for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Trick-Or-Treating. 5-7 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events/trick-or-treat for more.

November 2019

FRIDAY/NOV. 1

Art on Tap 2019. 7-10 p.m. at the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Craft beers from local breweries have been artfully paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create the perfect complimentary appetizer. Enjoy the brew, bite, and artwork trifectas, then vote for a winner. \$35-45. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/art-on-tap-2019-fall-tickets-52553820893 for more.

TUESDAY/ NOV. 5

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Mount Vernon Salutes Veterans. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Free for veterans and active duty military members, \$9-17 for everyone else. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/mount-vernon-salutes-veterans/ for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Alexandria Cider Festival. 1-5 p.m. on the grounds of historic Lloyd House in Old Town Alexandria. Ticket includes tastings, a souvenir glass, live music, and activities. Food trucks available. \$45 per person and will be available online shop.alexandriava.gov. \$55 at the door. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/

alexandria-cider-festival/15421/ for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. A Thanksgiving morning tradition, this fast, flat, USATF-certified 5-mile course through the heart of Del Ray. Registration fees vary. Visit www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com for more.

NOV. 29-DEC. 31

Christmas in Mount Vernon. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/tours-activities/christmas-at-mount-vernon for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-8,

DEC. 13-15, DEC. 20-22

Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The market offers handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019/ for more.

December 2019

Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Attend the ceremony in which the City Tree is lit and visited by Santa, the Town Crier, and other city officials. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. More than two dozen restaurants are also offering lunch deals at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Visit www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com for more.

Candlelight Tour. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

49th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, the parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria, with family-friendly music, entertainment and activities. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org for more.

February 2020

MONDAY/FEB. 17

Celebrate Washington's Birthday. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's



FILE PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

Happy New Year

The 2018 First Night Alexandria fireworks turned the low cloud cover above the waterfront a rainbow of colors as revelers ring in the New Year at the foot of King Street.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

FROM PAGE 18

Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Witness a presidential tribute and a wreathlaying at the Washington's Tomb. Watch Continental soldiers of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard conduct a marching drill, fire their guns, and charge at their enemy in an exciting military demonstration on the bowling green. After the smoke clears, listen to the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps play patriotic music. All day long, pose like George Washington in front of our life-sized version of Gilbert Stuart's Lansdowne painting in the Education Center Lobby. Visit mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

April 2020

Relay for Life. April-June. Fundraisers participate in all-night-long events to help those affected by cancer through the American Cancer Society. Visit www.relayforlife.org for specific events and details.

Mount Vernon Flea Market. Third Saturdays, April-October, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Features furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, etc. Refreshments will also be on sale. Admission is free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

APRIL 18-25

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors with a unique opportunity to see elaborate gardens with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by the Garden Club of Virginia Members. Visit www.va.gardenweek.org for more.

May 2020

Memorial Day Jazz Concert. At Waterfront Park, Alexandria. A variety of jazz performances take place throughout the concert. Waterfront Park features lawn seating and the attendees may bring lawn chairs and blankets. Food, such as barbecue, fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones and funnel cakes are available for purchase, but everyone is welcome to pack a picnic lunch. Pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

June 2020

Youth Arts Festival. Early June, at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. This festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. Free. Visit www.arha.us/ or call 703-549-7115 ext. 370.

Taste of Del Ray. 1-3 p.m. at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford avenues. Top neighborhood restaurants participate in this competition. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Wine on the Waterfront Festival. At Oronoco Park, 100 Madison St. Formerly known as the Alexandria Food & Wine Festival, the festival expands to include restaurants within Alexandria and other eateries throughout the region. Visit www.vineonthewaterfront.com.

Ice Cream Making. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 3200 Mt. Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Cool down with 18th century ice cream making demonstrations. Visit www.mountvernon.org/ for more.



GAZETTE PACKET FILE PHOTO

Fireworks light up the sky over the Potomac River in the finale of the City of Alexandria's 270th birthday celebration July 13, 2019, at Oronoco Bay Park.

fireworks, cake and live music. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

July 2020

Independence Fireworks. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet "General and Mrs. Washington" in the historic area before trying a turn at bocce ball and 18th-century dancing demonstrations. Mount Vernon's colonial artisans will reveal how 18th-century ice cream was made in the days before freezers. Enjoy a performance by Yorktown Fife & Drum and the National Concert Band. Also enjoy a fireworks show. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Grown Up Art Camp. Various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans is offering more than 30 workshops and sessions to choose from. Prices vary. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Watch made-for-daytime fireworks shoot off over the Potomac River. Admission is \$9-20, free for children 0-5. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SECOND SATURDAY IN JULY

USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Alexandria's birthday along the Potomac waterfront with

August 2020

Summer Restaurant Week. August in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and West End. Menu options vary by location. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or call 703-746-3301 for more.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. At Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the special role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Free. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Ballyshaners Irish Festival. At the Alexandria Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. A celebration of Irish history and culture in Alexandria. Visit www.ballyshaners.org/2019-irish-festival/ for more.

Begonia Show and Sale. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Show sponsored by the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society. Free. Visit www.fxva.com/event/33rd-annual-begonia-show/27370/ for more.

Voting

On the ballot in the City of Alexandria, Nov. 5, 2019.

Find out exactly what will be on your ballot by checking www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/view-your-info and have a look at your sample ballot at www.alexandriava.gov/Elections

Clerk of the Court

J. Greg Parks (D) unopposed

Virginia Senate District 30

Adam P. Ebbin (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 35

Richard L. "Dick" Saslaw (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 39

George L. Barker (D), incumbent

S. W. "Dutch" Hillenburg (R)

House of Delegates District 45

Mark H. Levine (D), incumbent, unopposed

District 46

Charniele L. Herring (D), incumbent, unopposed

Sample Ballots, and more information, available at

www.alexandriava.gov/Elections

Voter Registration

The Voter Registration deadline to participate in the Nov. 5 General Election is Tuesday, Oct. 15. Registration applications received after this deadline will be processed after the election.

To check your registration status and find your polling place, visit vote.elections.virginia.gov, or call the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at 703-746-4050.

Virginia residents who are U.S. citizens and will be 18 years old by Nov. 5, 2019 may submit a registration application for the 2019 election. The fastest way to register to vote is to apply online through the Virginia Department of Elections vote.elections.virginia.gov. See also Alexandria's Voter Registration Information and Application page at www.alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=8222

How to Vote Absentee

❖ In-Person Absentee. In-person absentee voting for the Nov. 5 General Election begins on Friday, Sept. 20. The deadline to vote in-person absentee will be 5 p.m. on

Contact

City of Alexandria Office of Voter Registrations and Elections
132 North Royal Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-746-4050

Saturday, Nov. 2 .

❖ By-Mail Absentee. If you would like to receive an absentee ballot by mail, apply online, vote.elections.virginia.gov The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail will be 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

Photo ID Requirements

Virginia voters must show photo identification prior to voting. For more information, including a list of acceptable IDs, please see Virginia's Department of Elections website at www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/photo-ids-required-to-vote/index.html

If you don't have photo ID, you can apply for a free photo ID at Alexandria's Elections office any time they are open, including Election Day. 132 North Royal Street, Suite 100. Our hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This ID is valid for voting purposes only. On Election Day we are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

When you get to our office (1) you will fill out a short application, (2) we will take your picture and get your signature, and (3) you will receive your permanent voter photo identification card in the mail within two weeks. If you need to update your name or address, you may do that at the same time you come in for your ID.

If you come to our office within 30 days of an election, we will give you a temporary photo ID which you may use for the current election.

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

When you register to vote in Virginia, you do not register to vote by party. Virginia is an Open Primary state which means that any registered voter in Virginia can vote in either a Democratic or Republican primary. When both parties are holding a primary election, you will be asked which primary you want to vote in when you check in to vote with your photo ID. Note, you may only vote in one primary.

Learn about the City

The City of Alexandria invites the community to learn more about city government by participating in one of its six Academy programs: City, Commonwealth Attorney, Fire, Police Senior and Sheriff. These Academies are held twice a year and are designed to inform, educate, and engage the participants in local government operations, programs, and services available to the community. All programs are open to those who live or work in the City of Alexandria; some have age restrictions. A graduation ceremony will be held at the end of each course.

These programs are offered free of charge. More information is available at alexandriava.gov/academies or by contacting Elaine Scott on 703-746-4317 or elaine.scott@alexandriava.gov.

NEWCOMERS

Alexandria Community Rowing at 30

Adult rowing options for all ages and abilities.

BY CAROLYN SEMEDO
GAZETTE PACKET

Long before the sun has crested over the Potomac on any given August morning, a cohort of unlikely rowers converges on the Dee Campbell Rowing Center at the river's edge in Old Town. Among them a massage therapist, a lawyer, a local business owner, a military reservist and a retired kindergarten teacher. All are members of Alexandria Community Rowing, which marks its 30-year anniversary this season.

Each lineup of rowers readies their oars on the dock, then pulls their boat from the racks and emerges from the boathouse dock side. By 5:15 a.m., the national competitive team is in the water heading north as are two sculling doubles — boats of two where each person rows with two smaller oars versus a single larger oar or sweep. The local competitive team follows, just shy of two full boats of eight by one rower. A coxswain is nestled knees-up at the rear of each long shell, steering and echoing calls from the coach to the rowers. The coaches motor along nearby in pontoon boats, reading and responding to the wind and water and running drills when able.

"Alright, rowers. Grab some water. Long pieces. We're getting ready for racing," shouts Coach Jake Kennington, a graduate student at the George Washington University. "Some mornings, the water is like a sheet of glass — with the occasional rolling waves left in the wake of large boats. On a morning like this, where the water is choppy, it's harder to run drills and teach refinement."

Kennington came to rowing during his undergraduate years at High Point University in North Carolina. With the lengthy limbs on his 6' 3" frame, he was told he had the build of a rower and was urged to join the school's crew team. He did. Five years later, he's coaching rowers of all ages and abilities through Alexandria Community Rowing (ACR). "It's the best part-time



Post-sunrise row.



Eleanor Richards and Coach Alan Weatherley

job because I'm done by 7 a.m.," he says.

ARC was born out of the curiosity of parents of T.C. Williams High School rowers, who peppered coaches with questions about why their kids loved to row so much. A coach challenged the parents to show up at 6:30 a.m. everyday that summer to find out why. They did — and, they finally understood. That was more than 30 years ago.

From there grew a relationship between the high school rowing program, with its new boathouse built in the late-'80s, and the adult rowing program, which used the

boathouse and supported the high school program through Alexandria Crew Boosters. Initially ACR directed rental fees for single sculls to the boosters club. Over time, it evolved to contribute a portion of each ACR member's dues to the boosters club.

TODAY ACR has 350 members and offers year-round programming to Alexandria rowers and those from neighboring communities. Rowers include students who rowed back in high school, college students who want to row over

summer break, consultants and business owners who go from boats to business suits and retirees who want to be on the water. They range in age from their 20s to their 70s.

Social Chairperson Elenor Richards says, "There's a place for everyone." She aims to help dispel the idea that rowing is an elite sport for young people.

A novice rower when she joined ACR eight years ago, Richards has served as the social chairperson for the past four. She's worked her way up into a local competitive

boat that races against other local clubs including the Capitol Rowing Club, Rock Creek Rowing and the Prince William Rowing Club. While all competitive teams race in regattas in places like Occoquan, Philadelphia and Boston, the national team competes throughout the country. Last weekend, the national team brought home two gold medals from the Masters National Championship in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

But, not every rower has to compete. In addition to the local and national competitive teams, which compete eight and 14 times a season respectively, ACR runs recreational novice programs in the spring and summer for those new to the sport and offers options for sculling as well. In all, ACR offers 10 programs and hosts a "learn-to-row day" each spring. It runs year round with co-ed boats on the water from April to November. Over the winter, rowers work on conditioning in the upper decks of the boathouse.

Membership dues vary based on the program selected and scholarships are available. The dues cover coach salaries, facilities usage fees and contributions to the boosters club.

Joanne Goodwin was also new to rowing when she joined ACR. She remembers watching the boat races on the Charles River in Boston for 20 years and finally decided to give it a go here with ACR. Today, Goodwin says she doesn't know what she would do if she didn't row four or five days a week. "I get such a sense of accomplishment and learning," said Goodwin, "and I've met so many people with interesting backgrounds."

Retired kindergarten teacher turned coach Alan Weatherley also learned to row with ACR. Over the last dozen years, he's coached both students at West Potomac High School and adults in ACR.

"With a group of adults who vary so widely in fitness, ability and age, one challenge is putting together a team that works. But when it works, things tend to gel," he says.

On the boats, rowers face the backs of their fellow rowers. Much of the connec-

SEE ROWING, PAGE 12

High Holiday Services

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NEWCOMERS GUIDE

Heading in Right Direction

FROM PAGE 2

It is also important to remember that standardized testing is just one measure of success. I hope you have all had a chance to read a copy of our recently published Measuring What Matters. You can pick up a free copy in any library or from City Hall.

In Measuring What Matters, I write that if we are to see success for all our students, equity simply has to be at the core of everything we do. The work of equity needs to permeate every aspect of our work, starting from the ground up, by assessing the learning environments at our schools and providing all students with the social and emotional support they need. We need to take a look at how our specialized programs and learning pathways are implemented so that we eliminate all vestiges of modern-day segregation.

All of our students need to be engaged in a rigorous and challenging curriculum if they are to leave us fulfilled and ready for the challenges of life.

This fall, ACPS will make a decision on a model to deliver 21st century learning to the next generation of high school students. Alexandria is growing and our public schools will soon face the exciting challenge of educating up to 5,000 high school students. Since the summer of 2018, The High

School Project has been exploring ways to both redefine the high school experience both in terms of programming and capacity needed to best fit future learning needs.

The School Board is being asked to consider two options: A two-high-school model that would mean building a second high school; or a Connected High School Network based on a campus model that would see all students continue to graduate from T.C. Williams High School. In either option, 9-12 grade students will learn together, eliminating the need for a ninth-grade campus.

If we do this successfully, we will be not only be redefining the high school experience for ACPS, but also delivering a direction for Alexandria. Our students are the future; their experiences and skills will ultimately define our city. It will take a community to make ACPS the best place to learn. But once we get there, the entire community will reap the rewards and the City of Alexandria will be a beacon in which to live, work, learn and play.

Don't forget to take the time to encourage, support and listen to your child as they learn and grow. You will be amazed at what they can achieve. We know this is going to be another awesome school year.

Alexandria's children deserve the best. We will not let them down.

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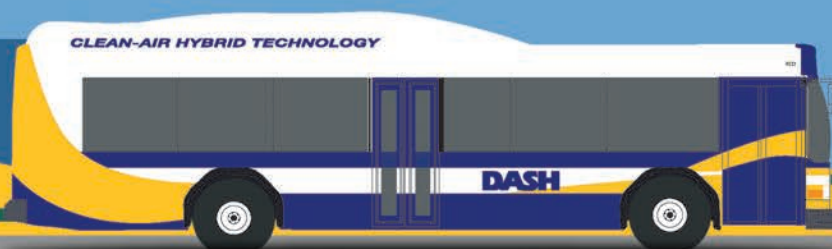


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NEWCOMERS



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Rowing for All Ages and Abilities

FROM PAGE 10

tion between these rowers happens as they learn to synchronize their strokes and rhythmically plow through the water at an even pace. The rest happens at happy

hours, celebrations and while cleaning up the boathouse at the end of the season.

Alice Reid has been with ACR from the start — her sons rowed at T.C. Williams. She's developed some close friendships with her

fellow rowers over the past three decades and has also seen a lot of change. "The club is much bigger, of course. And, it's become much more competitive over the years. Fortunately, it's attracted more young people who have a fierce drive to win. Yet some of us who started the club as middle-aged T.C. parents have still managed to keep our oars in as we've aged. That's been interesting and fun," she says.

By 6:30 a.m., the boats are heading back to the boathouse. The pink and violet hues melt away as the sun continues its ascent. A family of geese makes its way across the river while an osprey balances atop a piling at the dock clenching in its talons the breakfast it just plucked from the river.

The rowers ease their boats dockside. Puddles form around their feet on the dock as they disembark. In lockstep, they hoist their boats atop their shoulders, then high above their heads to drain the water before heading in. In the boathouse, they slide the boats back onto the racks and collect the oars from the puddles on the dock.

By 6:45 a.m., once boats and oars are stowed, the rowers have scattered. A coach races off to get ready for a second job downtown. A DC. government worker squeezes in a round of weights before getting ready to head to the office. And, a nurse heads off to get ready for her day at a free clinic in Arlington just as Old Town comes to life.

Learn more about Alexandria Community Rowing and the history of the program at: www.rowalexandria.com.

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