



T.C., Maury Schools Renamed

ACPS opens student contest to design new Titan logo.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria City Public School board voted unanimously April 8 to change the name of T.C. Williams High School to Alexandria City High School. The board also voted unanimously to change the name of Matthew Maury Elementary School to Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School, with both changes taking effect July 1, 2021.

On April 13, T.C. Williams principal Peter Balas announced a contest for students to submit ideas for a new logo for the school.

"ACPS is looking for a new logo that will support the new name for T.C. Williams High School which will be known as Alexandria City High School as of July 1, 2021," Balas said on the T.C. Titan news site. "In order to engage our students in this process, ACPS has announced a competition to design a new logo. The new logo may be used on ACPS websites, social media sites, business cards, letterhead, banners, souvenir trinkets and gifts, school apparel or uniforms, facility signage, or anywhere else ACPS chooses."

The contest is open only to currently enrolled ACPS students. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. April 30 and a Superintendent's



The Alexandria City Public School board voted April 8 to rename T.C. Williams High School as Alexandria City High School. The change will take effect July 1, 2021.

"ACPS is looking for a new logo that will support the new name for T.C. Williams High School."

—T.C. Principal Peter Balas

School Logo Design Review Committee will select the finalists on May 7. Contest rules and an entry form are available at [https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/sh34qou-](https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/sh34qou-1t8666o/)

1t8666o/

Petitions began circulating in earnest in early 2020 calling on ACPS to rename T.C. Williams High School. The School Board voted to

make the change in November of 2020 along with Matthew Maury Elementary School. Community input was solicited for possible names for both schools with the final decision being made by ACPS on April 8.

T.C. Williams was named after Thomas Chambliss Williams, ACPS superintendent from the mid-1930s until 1963. Williams was known for his segregationist view that Black and white students

learned differently and should be educated in separate schools.

Maury, considered the founder of modern oceanography, served in the Confederacy during the Civil War. At the war's end he went to Mexico, where he worked to establish a Confederate colony.

The new Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School is in honor of Brooks, an Alexandria resident, educator and mother who died in May of 2020.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Matthew Maury Elementary School has been renamed to Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School in honor of the Alexandria teacher who died in 2020.

A Lasting Legacy

Former Fort Ward Museum director Wanda Dowell dies at 91.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was in 1965 that Wanda Dowell filled out an application to work for the City of Alexandria. That led to a nearly four-decade career at Fort Ward Museum, retiring in 2002 after transforming the former Union Army installation in the West End of the city.

"I wrote on the application that I was interested in Civil War history," Dowell recalled when selected as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2016. "That got the attention of Col. Joseph Mitchell, who was director of the newly formed Fort Ward Museum. Not only did Col. Mitchell hire me, he encouraged me to succeed in a field that at the time was dominated by men."



PHOTO BY TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Wanda Dowell, longtime director of the Fort Ward Museum, died April 9 at the age of 91.

The trailblazing Dowell, who was recognized nationally for her decades of preservation efforts, died April 9 from heart failure. She was 91.

Born Wanda Sue Thorpe on April 2, 1930, in Harlan County, Ky., Dowell was the daughter of Clyde and Marie Thorpe. She was raised in a small coal mining

town, graduating as valedictorian from Wallins Creek High School in 1948.

After the war, she married James Walker Dowell following his service in the Pacific with the Army Air Corps. Together they moved to Alexandria in 1951 with their one-year-old son, James Donn Dowell.

SEE A LASTING, ON PAGE 4

13 Running for Lieutenant Governor

Seven Democrats and six Republicans are trying to secure their parties' nomination to be the candidate for lieutenant governor on the November ballot. Republicans will choose their candidate in a May 8 unassembled caucus, which will take place at 37 locations across Virginia. Democrats will choose their candidate in a June 8 statewide primary. Who are the candidates and why are they running? See page 8.

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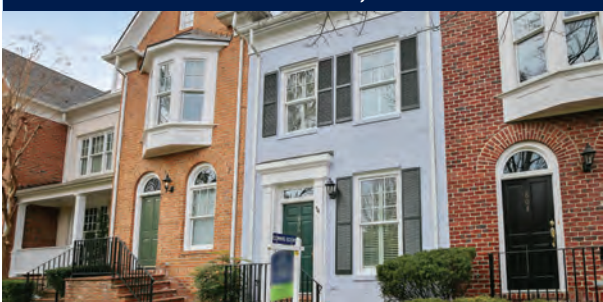
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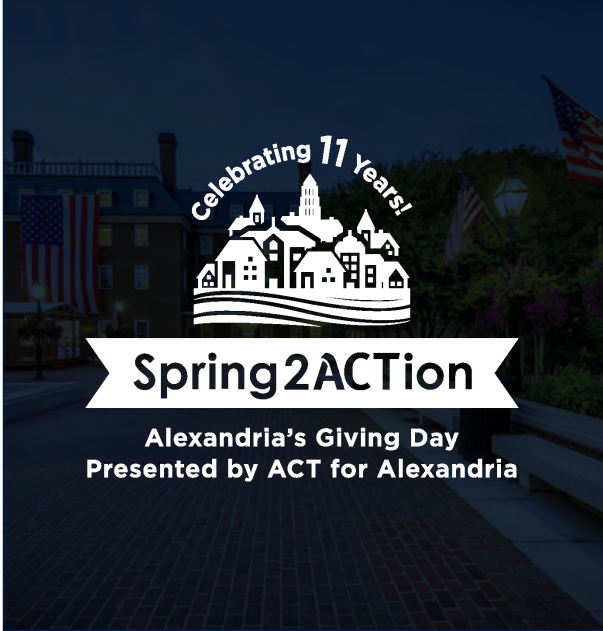
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Journey to Freedom

Holocaust survivor recalls flight from “Warsaw Ghetto” and occupied Poland; Holocaust Remembrance Day was April 7.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sam Ponczak was just shy of two years old when Nazi Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. At the time, Ponczak was living with his parents in Warsaw in an area that would become known as the Warsaw Ghetto, a section of the city walled off by Germans in 1940 for the forced placement of Jews.

Four years later, on April 19, 1943, it was the site of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II. By then, Ponczak's father Jacob had fled to Soviet-occupied Poland in search of safety for his family, leaving his wife and son behind.

“I had no idea what was going on at the time,” Ponczak recalled from his home in Arlington. “We lived with my mother's brother and his family - eight people in a small place - in the Jewish ghetto. When the war broke out my father wisely expected that when the Germans arrived, it would not be fun.”

Ponczak's mother, Sara, was reluctant to leave her own parents and siblings. But in November of 1940, she and Ponczak fled the Ghetto with the aid of a priest, who saw the two at the train station and shielded them from authorities.

“My mother was carrying me and wearing the Star of David on her armband,” Ponczak said. “The priest told her to take the band off and get behind him. When asked, the priest said that we were from his parish. Did we know him? No. Did we pay him? No. But this is the man that saved my life.”

Part of the escape necessitated walking across the frozen Bug River alone at night. Ponczak's mother kept falling on the ice while holding him in her arms, which Ponczak found amusing. Fearing that his laughter would get them caught, she gave him family photographs to play with.

“Sadly, I do not have any photos of my family from before the war,” Ponczak said with regret. “Mother gave them to me to keep me from laughing. I was a kid and thought it was a game and tore them up.”

Once inside Soviet-occupied territory, Soviet border guards arrested Ponczak and his mother. They were reunited with Ponczak's father and deported to Kotlas, a labor camp in Siberia.

“Kotlas was not like the German labor camps, but you could not escape from there,” Ponczak recalled. “My father worked as a lumberjack and we lived in a Mongolian yurt - my family and a native woman who was assigned to stay with us. My father got



Holocaust survivor Sam Ponczak, with daughter Raquel Hecker, talks about his family history at his home in Arlington on April 2.



Sam Ponczak points to a mezuzah that survived the Holocaust amid his family's flight from occupied Poland.

rations so we could eat and my mother and I could walk around the camp. But the labor was hard and it was a grim existence.”

Eventually the family was moved to Syktyvkar, the capital of the Komi Autonomous Republic in northern Russia. While there, Ponczak's father and mother, an expert tailor and seamstress, were assigned to make military clothing. In 1944, they were sent to the town of Kherson in Ukraine, where Ponczak's sister Gisele was born in 1945 and where the family remained until the end of the war.

Ponczak and his family returned to Poland in 1946. With Warsaw destroyed, they settled first in Reichenbach (now Dzierżoniów)



Holocaust survivor Sam Ponczak, left, with father Jacob, mother Sara and sister Giselle circa 1946 in Poland.



Sam Ponczak in his 1955 high school graduation photo in Wroclaw, Poland.



Sam Ponczak and his sister Giselle circa 1946.

then Wroclaw, where Ponczak finished high school. But antisemitism persisted so the family left Poland for France in 1957.

In 1959, they immigrated to Argentina and in 1964 to the United States. They settled in Baltimore, where the owners of Ham-burger's Department Store offered Ponczak's father work tailoring clothing.

“In Argentina I realized that my best opportunities would be in the United States,” Ponczak said. “My father had employment and I came on a student visa.”

Ponczak, who obtained an engineering degree from the University of Maryland, met Frieda Greenblatt during his freshman year. The two married in 1965 and together raised three children.

“Dad didn't talk much about the Holocaust when we were younger,” said Pon-

czak's daughter Raquel Hecker. “We learned more after he retired and began volunteering at the Holocaust Museum about 13 years ago. That's when he started opening up.”

Now 83 years old, Ponczak, is still sometimes reluctant to share his experiences, which included the loss of his uncle and family left behind in Poland.

“I believe survivors haven't talked about the Holocaust because they suffered so much,” Ponczak said. “I was accused that I was not a Holocaust survivor by another survivor because he survived a concentration camp and I did not. And I understand that. I was in occupied Warsaw but I feel that the real Holocaust survivors were my parents, who did not have a lot of choices but still did everything they could to survive. They are my heroes.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 15

The Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Armistead L. Boothe Park Field Conversion Environmental Ex-

ception at the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021.

The community is encouraged to review the proposed field conversion plan and provide input via

email until Wednesday, April 14, 2021 or at the public hearing. For more information, visit the Park & Recreation Commission website to view the March 18, 2021 video presentation.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Tour (In Person). 10 a.m. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century.

Join a tour of Alexandria and explore looking at the various Architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

Giving Alexandria's Wildlife a Second Chance

This is National Animal Care & Control Appreciation Week.



An injured crow, rescued by the AWLA



A baby squirrel, whose nest was destroyed on a construction site. The squirrel was transferred to a rehabilitator.

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

It's the time of year when Alexandria's wildlife comes to life — foraging, making nests and raising their young. That translates into action-packed days for Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's (AWLA) Animal Services Officer and wildlife specialist Megan Lawrence. A recent call concerned a common wildlife issue: squirrels.

"A tree had been cut down in Del Ray, and in the trunk was a squirrel nest containing three babies," Lawrence recalled. First, Lawrence and colleague Sgt. Megan Boyd removed the week-and-a-half-old babies from the log, which was now on the ground. The babies had not yet opened their eyes or developed their fluffy tails, Lawrence recalls. "They just had a thin layer of gray fur — and lots of fleas. We picked them off one by one," she said.

Lawrence and Boyd placed the babies in a modified shoe box cushioned with a synthetic squirrel nest — hand-knit by AWLA volunteers — and nailed the box as high as they could on another tree. "But the babies started screaming, mom came running and then she looked at us." She had already made a new plan: She took the babies out of the nest and transported them to a new one in another tree.

Wildlife, says Lawrence, is very resourceful and adaptable. "We screen them carefully before removing even injured animals to go to rehabilitation because it's best

Help With Wildlife

Wildlife are resilient and generally thrive without assistance from people, but if you see an animal who appears to be sick, injured or in danger, don't hesitate to contact the AWLA's Animal Services team using the Police Non-Emergency line at 703.746.4444.

not to handle an animal that has a chance in the wild," she said. Since the officers were able to reconnect the baby squirrels with their mother in this case, the optimal outcome was reached.

Along with squirrels, Alexandria has rich populations of wildlife of many kinds: birds, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, groundhogs, foxes, deer and more. Lawrence has seen them all, starting with 12 years as a wildlife rehabilitator in Maryland, two of them as a licensed master rehabilitator. Lawrence grew up with wildlife, among a family who routinely rehabilitated injured and sick wildlife on their bucolic property in St. Mary's County, Md.

Lawrence, who spent time in nursing school and also has a degree in criminal justice, decided the job as an AWLA Animal Services Officer was a blend of everything she was looking for in an environment that emphasized compassion towards both animals

and people. Working with AWLA staff, she learned how to handle domestic animals such as dogs, a pivot from skills honed with raccoons and skunks.

Lawrence said that sick and injured animals initially are evaluated, including consultation with veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators, to determine what is best for the animals. If appropriate, the animals are then transported to anyone in a network of rehabbers who specialize in various wild species. A recent success story involved baby opossums discovered in the pouch of their deceased mother in a local backyard. Taken to a rehabilitator by the AWLA, they eventually were released back to the wild. "We give it everything we can," she said. "We'll even transfer animals to rehabbers who are hours away if it means they might have a better chance at success."

Lawrence says she works daily to topple people's misconceptions about wildlife. A common one is that raccoons seen wandering during the day must be sick. In reality, she said, raccoons are very opportunistic and sometimes will forage during daytime hours, especially in urban environments when they are more likely to find food during the day. Opossums will do the same.

Some people also get alarmed when they see a baby deer standing alone, believing the animal has been abandoned. More likely, Lawrence says, the mother has hid-



PHOTOS COURTESY, ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Animal Services Officer Megan Lawrence with a baby raccoon, one of five rescued by the AWLA after the animals' mother was hit by a car.

den the fawn while searching for food. Mother deer also keep some distance from their young so they don't pass their scent to them because that scent can attract predators.

"However, if a baby deer is standing in a yard and crying loudly, that is a big red flag," Lawrence said. "That probably means mom hasn't been around for quite a while and the fawn needs help." Lawrence advises calling the AWLA in that situation, as they are specially trained to observe and determine when assistance is needed.

Some people also think that wildlife aren't so great at parenting, Lawrence said, but in reality, most wildlife excel at it. Baby raccoons remain with their mother until they are quite large, she says, and generally receive excellent care. Foxes are very devoted parents, who co-parent their kits.

Spending time rehabbing both a gray fox and a red fox inspired Lawrence's appreciation for the species — and even a tattoo. "Foxes are so smart and playful," Lawrence said. "They are my favorite animal."

More Information

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global pandemic, the AWLA has established a virtual adoption process and is operating a Pet Pantry that provides pet food and supplies to community members in need. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

A Lasting Legacy

FROM PAGE 1

A tireless worker throughout her life, Dowell found her calling at Fort Ward, the fifth largest fort built to defend Washington, D.C. during the Civil War. It is now called the Flagship of the Defenses of Wash-

ington and largely due to Dowell's efforts is one of the best preserved and interpreted.

"When I first started, nothing was catalogued," Dowell recalled in 2016. "I began doing an inventory and through classes at the Smithsonian, I learned all I could

about how to do exhibits and manage collections for small museums."

Dowell's efforts were rewarded in 1981 with her appointment as Director of Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. It was under Dowell's tutelage that the museum received

accreditation from the American Association of Museums. In the 1990s, Dowell was a founding member of the Virginia Civil War Trails historical association, which today guides visitors to more than 1,200 civil war sites.

Dowell was instrumental in

obtaining signage identifying Civil War fort sites that once surrounded Alexandria. Later she collaborated with other city sites in creating an Emergency Disaster Plan for Historic Properties. On 9/11, Dowell kept the

SEE A LASTING, PAGE 11

DPC to Host Candidate Forum April 20

The Departmental Progressive Club will host a mayoral and city council candidates' forum April 20th at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Topics for the candidates will include racial equity, affordable housing, education and infrastructure. "We will focus on the most critical issues facing our city right now," said past DPC president

Merrick Malone, who will be moderating the forum. "Candidates will also be asked to identify their priorities for spending funds received from President Biden's administration." To view the forum, use Zoom Access ID: 84604107651 Passcode: 565006.

-JEANNE THEISMANN

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Tickets: https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/4679

SUNDAY/APRIL 18

Legacy of the Green Cabinet Walking Tour (In Person). 3:30 p.m. In the early 19th Century, William Green started the Green Furniture factory in Alexandria and by 1823 his son, James, would take over. James expanded his father's factory and established himself as a prominent Alexandrian through building and operating Green's Mansion House Hotel. Join us on a tour to learn about James Green and his family's life here in Alexandria. Tickets https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/4685

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 21

Stories of Triumph & Loss: Carlyle House in the Civil War (Virtual). 12 p.m. Through images, letters, and diaries, the Site Manager of Carlyle, House Andrea Cochrane Tracey, explores the stories of the nurses, doctors, stewards, soldiers and Alexandria residents who found themselves at the Carlyle

House property and the Mansion House Hotel in what was known as the Mansion House Hospital during the Civil War. Discover how both the Carlyle House and the Hotel buildings were utilized during this tumultuous time in Alexandria and the nation's history. Registration required. Register: <https://alexlibraryva.org/event/4909981>

ALEXANDRIA PREPARES FOR SPRING

The City of Alexandria is preparing for warmer weather with its annual spring beautification efforts, including gateway cleaning, mulch delivery, pothole repair, and street sweeping. Gateway Cleaning: The spring gateway cleaning is scheduled to begin Saturday, April 10 and continue each Saturday, until all gateway areas are complete. The primary focus of the clean-up is to "spruce up" the entry points to the city. The gateways included in the spring cleaning program are Telegraph Road, Duke Street/I-395, Van Dorn Street/Eisenhower Avenue, and Seminary Road/I-395. Several areas throughout Alexandria will receive enhanced litter collection as part of the beautification effort.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The City of Alexandria continues to remind the public that everyone is safest at home. Individuals on essential errands can drop off medication at these designated locations on April 24 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Face coverings must be worn in indoor public settings and outdoor public locations where physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained. Please maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.

To learn about ways to dispose of medications safely at home, visit alexandriava.gov/opioids.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
First Baptist Church
2932 King St.

Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.
The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

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Road Diet, Mumble Strips, Speed Enforcement

Proposed safety fixes for GW Parkway, which can be incredibly dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN (D-30)

The George Washington Parkway is a scenic and vital thoroughfare running through the 30th District. The parkway holds a special place in history, specifically on the National Register of Historic Places, and was the first parkway built by the United States government. Today it serves as an access point to parks, neighborhoods, and heavily used routes by commuters and tourists. Unfortunately, due to increased usage rates and design flaws the GW Parkway can be incredibly dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike. High speed, severe outcome crashes, especially at intersections below Alexandria occur at unacceptable and all too regular rates.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va) was successful in securing necessary funding for the National Park Service (NPS), which maintains and oversees the parkway, to undertake a traffic and safety assessment. Engineers evaluated crash data, conducted fieldwork, considered

potential engineering and traffic safety alterations, and took hours of public input during the process. The study was released April 5.

The assessment focused on nine intersections in the southernmost 6.3 miles of the roadway (From Belle Haven to Mount Vernon) and conducted analysis of crashes, speed, and traffic markings which informed the need for solutions that enhance the safety of drivers, bikers, and pedestrians.

https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/gw_parkway_traffic_and_safety_context_sensitive_solution_assessment_final.pdf

Narrowed down from 89 proposals, which were evaluated on criteria that included traffic safety benefit, implementation timeline, construction cost, and community support, the study presents both general and concrete suggestions. The resulting 26 proposed improvements range from engineering fixes to driver education and



Ebbin

enforcement solutions.

Though a range of alternatives are provided in the study, the authors acknowledge that each intersection will likely require its own custom solution to correctly address the traffic and capacity issues. Some

of the specific suggestions include reapplying pavement markings, installing “mumble strips” to keep vehicles on the roadway (mumble strips are a quieter version of rumble strips which alert drivers when they begin to veer out of their lane), developing a tree trimming program, and starting an excessive speed education and enforcement program. Educational campaigns to inform motorists about seasonal increases in pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as wildlife signage were also suggested.

Based on the study, The National Park Service (NPS) is planning to implement a “road diet” to reduce the number of lanes in areas most likely to see dangerous speeds between four intersections

(Morningside Lane, Wellington Road, Waynewood Boulevard, and Vernon View Drive) in 2021. The NPS plan provides for signs and striping to keep drivers oriented and create a center turn lane. NPS also plans to improve signs and striping to five intersections (Belle Haven Marina, Wellington Road, Collingwood Road, Waynewood Boulevard, and Fort Hunt Road).

The report provides evidence-based suggestions to the National Park Service as they make decisions and plans for the future of the parkway. I requested another opportunity for community input, details of which will emerge in the coming months. Should you have any questions or concerns about the implications of the report, which you can read here, I hope you will consider attending the event. I’m encouraged by the suggestions for safe alternatives and pleased that NPS is already carefully considering implementation and the potential impacts of the solutions presented.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mayor Wilson Doesn’t Deserve Attacks

To the Editor:

We served on City Council with both Mayor Justin Wilson and former Mayor Allison Silberberg, who issued a statement on March 25, announcing her candidacy for Mayor.

We want to share our deep dis-

appointment with her statement’s attacks on Mayor Wilson’s “integrity” and “ethics”. We know and have worked with Mayor Wilson on an array of issues and consider him a proven leader, man of high-moral character, and someone who is well-versed on issues

so Alexandria will have a bright future. He does not deserve Ms. Silberberg’s personal attacks which have no place in our civic debate.

We know Justin has done a great job as Mayor during these challenging times and deserves re-election. We urge all Alexandria Dem-

ocrats to vote for Justin Wilson in the June 8th Democratic Primary.

Bill Euille, former Mayor
Del Pepper, Councilwoman

Paul Smedberg,
former Councilmember
Tim Lovain,
former Councilmember

Supporting Allison Silberberg

To the editor:

Allison Silberberg is our City’s best choice for mayor.

Many of Alexandria’s problems involve the City’s infrastructure — rainwater and sewage flooding, dangerously outdated gas and water lines, too little affordable housing, deteriorating public facilities, including schools, overcrowded schools, delayed telecommunication upgrades.

Fixing these problems is not just about fixing them, but also about how and when they get fixed. We need a dynamic economy, partly to grow the tax base to finance the investments to fix these problems. However, growth does not have to involve environmental insult or

out-of-scale overbuilding. Resolving the City’s problems also must be transparent.

As our mayor from 2016-2018, Allison Silberberg demonstrated a remarkable ability to support growth and solve the City’s problems transparently and inclusively. She tripled the dedicated funding for the Affordable Housing Fund. She led approval of the long-delayed plan to resolve sewage issues for all four outfalls into the Potomac River, and renovated eight city parks, such as Taney Avenue Park, Windmill Hill Park, Beverly Park (The Pit), and Powhatan Park. She secured the \$1 billion Virginia Tech Innovation Campus for Alexandria, and approved and

built two new public schools (Patrick Henry, Ferdinand T. Day) and a new wing at John Adams — all on the West End. She initiated and

drafted our city’s Statement on Inclusiveness, which got national attention. She fought against the BID

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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Running for Second in Command

Thirteen candidates are running for lieutenant governor in Virginia.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The job of lieutenant governor is often overlooked, but it plays an important role in Virginia politics. Although many people view it as a stepping stone to running for governor, the lieutenant governor has a critical role in the day-to-day proceedings of the General Assembly.

He or she presides over the Senate, which often means making procedural rulings about whether motions can proceed or not. Perhaps more importantly, though, the lieutenant governor gets to break tie votes in a chamber where Democrats hold a two-vote majority. Because the chamber is home to some conservative-leaning Democrats, the lieutenant governor has many opportunities to step in and break a tie vote.

Earlier this month, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax broke a tie vote on legalizing marijuana after two Senate Democrats voted with Republicans. The next election for senators isn't until 2023, so the next lieutenant governor will walk into a Senate chamber where he or she could end up being a tie-breaking vote on almost any issue.

Democratic Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Democrats will choose their nominee for lieutenant governor in a June 8 statewide primary. (Absentee voting begins April 23.) Seven candidates will be on the ballot. The seat will be open because incumbent Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax is running for governor.

Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013 to fill the seat vacated by On-zlee Ware. He's raised more money than any of the other Democrats in the race, and his campaign contributors include donations from the health-care sector, physicians, pharmacists and dentists. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as a Muslim has informed his view of politics.

"Look, we've all had some vulnerable moments over the past several years," said Rasoul in a candidate forum. "And a big vulnerable moment for me was in December of 2015 when a then-candidate for president said people who worship like me are not wel-

come in this country."

Del. Hala Ayala (D-51) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2017, defeating incumbent Republican Rich Anderson. Campaign-finance records show she's received \$25,000 from the environmental group Clean Virginia, and she also was able to transfer \$60,000 from her House campaign. On the campaign trail, she talks about how being an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish has informed her view of politics.

"For a long time, I did not feel like politicians looked like me or had a lived experience like mine," said Ayala in a candidate forum. "My family struggled growing up, and I lost my father to gun violence.

Norfolk City Councilwoman Andria McClellan was first elected in 2016, and as an at-large member of the council represents more people than anybody else in the race. Her biggest contributor is the Norfolk-based PAC Access for Virginia. On the campaign trail, she talks about how her experience in local government would inform her performance as lieutenant governor.

"We need a statewide database of affordable housing, where people can search and find opportunities," said McClellan in a candidate forum. "It needs to be searchable and available for all throughout the commonwealth."

Sean Perryman is the former president of the Fairfax NAACP, a role that's put him at the center of the debate on ending qualified immunity and defelonizing drugs. A significant portion of his campaign contributions come from lawyers and lobbyists, and he's taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he's called for allowing incarcerated people to vote, abolishing qualified immunity for police and limiting campaign contributions.

"I don't think corporate donations are a problem. I think the problem is contribution limits," said Perryman in a candidate forum. "Whether you're getting \$100,000 from an LLC or from Joe Smith down the block, they are still having influence over you. And so we absolutely need to have limits on our contributions."

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) was first elected in 2015, filling a seat vacated by Democrat Rob Krupicka. Campaign-finance records show his largest donation is \$40,000 from

his House of Delegates campaign, and he also received \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he advocates for banning assault weapons, joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes.

"I support no prison sentences for people who are addicted to drugs, period," said Levine in a candidate forum. "Because if you're an addict, you need help. You need health care. You don't need to go to prison."

Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) was first elected in 2017, defeating Republican incumbent Scott Lingamfelter. Campaign-finance records show she's taken large campaign contributions from several unions, and she's also taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, she's styled herself as the Bernie Sanders candidate in the race who will abolish Virginia's so-called right-to-work law.

"I'm ready to go to the Senate and to be the voice to educate the senators on how it's important to repeal the right to work," said Guzman in a candidate forum. "Repealing the right to work is providing workers a voice at the table, to fight for better equipment, to better their salary and for training purposes as well."

Xavier Warren is an NFL player agent and lobbyist for nonprofits. Campaign-finance records show he's taken money from people who work in sports management, and he received a \$10,000 in-kind contribution from communications firm Capture Create Media. On the campaign trail, he advocates for ending the cash-bail system and investing in solar farms.

"Virginia is in a covid crisis, a climate crisis and an economic crisis," said Warren in a candidate forum.

"I want to be the leader in technology, healthcare innovation and also clean energy and helping families to build generational wealth."

Republican Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Republicans will choose their nominee in an unassembled convention on May 8, which will be at 37 locations throughout Virginia. To vote

in the convention, voters must register as delegates to the convention. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates from first to sixth, and if no one wins a majority on the first round the last-place candidate will be dropped.

Former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) was first elected in a 2002 special election to fill the seat vacated by Jay O'Brien when he was elected to the state Senate. As a longtime member of the House, he served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus and was able to raise large amounts of money to help candidates across Virginia. On the campaign trail, his pitch to Republican delegates is that he's a Republican who has a history of winning in Northern Virginia, where he was re-elected eight times before being unseated by Dan Helmer in 2019.

"You never thought a decade ago or 15 years ago that you would have Democrats talking casually about infanticide," said Hugo in a candidate forum. "You never thought you'd have Beto O'Rourke going door to door against us to talk about taking our guns, and you never thought you'd be talking about defunding the police. But that's what Democrats are doing now."

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) is a former member of the Virginia Beach City Council who was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013. Campaign-finance records show he was able to transfer about \$350,000 from his House campaign account, giving him an early edge over other candidates. As a member of the House, he has a voting record that's a bit more moderate on issues involving gay rights and labor issues. On the campaign trail, he's positioning himself as a moderate alternative to the other candidates who are more closely aligned with former President Donald Trump.

"I want to go to the middle because the middle is where you win elections," said Davis in a candidate forum. "The middle is where a lot of Republicans have gotten way too uncomfortable being, and what's why we lose."

Former Del. Winsome Sears (R-90) served one term in the House of Delegates 20 years ago. Since that time, she waged an unsuccessful campaign in 2004 against Congressman Bobby Scott and an unsuccessful write-in candidacy in 2018 as an alternative to Corey Stewart, whom she called a "charlatan." Sears has the endorsement of state Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11), and on the campaign

trail she accuses Democrats of race baiting.

"They're pitting the races against each other," said Sears in a candidate forum. "You're heard the constant Black, white, now it's Asian. They're speaking against Thomas Jefferson kids and their successes, and they want quotas."

Lance Allen is a first-time candidate who is trying to use his lack of political experience as an asset, framing his campaign as an attempt to do something about his frustration with politics. He doesn't have any big name endorsements, and he hasn't raised much money. But on the campaign trail, he's trying to connect with voters by tapping into their frustration with Republican leadership in the General Assembly.

"We caved on issue after issue, and I'm tired of compromising my values just so we can have a little bit of power," said Allen in a candidate forum. "It's time to stand up and say the things we know as Republicans that we need to say."

Puneet Ahluwalia is an activist who has been involved in Northern Virginia politics for years trying to build an immigrant base for the Republican Party. As a first-generation immigrant, he's hoping his personal story might resonate with voters who want to expand the range of the party. On the campaign trail, he talks about how critical race theory is a threat to Virginia schools.

"All it does is teach children to divide, to hate, to see themselves as victims of oppressors," said Ahluwalia in a video posted to YouTube. "It leads to lower achievement and more quotas. America can't lead when we don't even believe in our own values."

Maeve Rigler is a lawyer who wanted to run as a Republican candidate against U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) but she was unsuccessful in securing the nomination in the convention. She's now positioning herself as the candidate who will fight for election security, arguing that she'll fight against voter fraud.

"We need a candidate who will stand up against voter fraud," said Rigler in a YouTube video.

"The Democrats stole the election from the Republicans. I've been expecting Virginia Republicans to stand up and speak out while the Democrats keep spewing their socialist agenda, I've heard nothing but silence from Republicans."

CALENDAR

NOW THRU MAY 1

The "Unfinished/Finished." At Del Ray Artisans explores when and how art is "finished." Every artwork in this exhibit has a "starting" artist and "finishing" artist. The exhibit features the work of local artists and high school students, plus offered an avenue for collaboration to combat the isolation we have all experienced during the pandemic. View at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOW THRU MAY 2

Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

NOW THRU MAY 15

"MEG Spring Show 2021." at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. An exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. The spring exhibition features two signature pieces by each MEG member artist.

NOW THRU MAY 23

Those Spaces Between Us. At Target Gallery, Studio 2 of the Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, in Alexandria. The show is a hybrid digital and in-person exhibition that explores transition, ambiguity, and being on the threshold of change. Those Spaces Between Us considers the distances between people and their surroundings and how that divide becomes its own character in art, history, memories, and the stories people tell about themselves. Virtual Reception: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 7 p.m. Visit facebook.com/torpedofactory

NOW THRU APRIL 26

Recyclable Design Competition. Using recyclable materials make fantastic creations and submit them for real architects and artists to review and to win prizes. Grades K-12. Sponsored by Alexandria Library, AIA NOVA Chapter, and the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Visit the website: <http://alexlibraryva.org/build-it>

NOW THRU MAY 16

Trees/Humans: Life in the Balance. By Patricia Underwood. At the Athenaeum. In this exhibition Patricia Underwood employs photo images of ancient trees taken on her travels. Stop in the gallery for socially-distanced 'meet and greets' with Patricia Underwood on Saturday, April 10th, 2 — 4 p.m. Visit www.nvaa.org.

APRIL 15-27

Outdoor Science Lab. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Explore the exciting world of science with fun, hands-on experiments, activities and challenges. Enrich your understanding of various science and engineering topics using scientific investigations, observations and lab skills with the guidance of a park naturalist. Each outdoor class will focus on a different science theme, and all supplies are included. These outdoor labs are designed for participants age 6 to adult. The program times and topics are: April 15 -- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Chemistry-Slime Science



Miss Fluffy Souffle will perform Virtual '80s Music Drag Bingo on Thursday, April 15 at the Alden.

April 16 -- noon to 1:30 p.m., Engineering-Shelter Building
April 27 -- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Meteorology-Extreme Weather
The cost is \$10 per person for each session. No indoor restrooms will be available, but there are portable restrooms. Call 703-768-2525; or visit Huntley Meadows Park.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Savory Soiree: "The Food of Love" -- An Earth Day Celebration of Shakespeare. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A musical birthday feast for William Shakespeare, featuring musical works by John Dowland and anonymous popular tunes from the Elizabethan era, performed by Grammy-nominated lutenist Ronn McFarlane -- and accompanied by an Earth Day-inspired farm-to-table dinner and wine pairings. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Virtual Ball. Sponsored by Gadsby's Tavern Museum. 7 p.m. Building on the success of the virtual Birthnighat Ball, Gadsby's Tavern Museum will host a virtual Ball. It is April of 1775 and in solidarity with our brethren in the Boston who have been under great distress at the hands of the British, we hold a ball in their honor. Dance from home to 10 English Country Dances selected for this occasion. Throughout the evening, also enjoy timely trivia on the 1770s period and pop-culture it has inspired. Price is \$15 per person. Visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Sketchy Workshop. 10 a.m. to noon. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Instructor Margaret Wohler will lead participants through a series of short, fast, drawing techniques that will enhance observational skills and focus on natural subjects. In conjunction with the Unfinished/Finished exhibit. Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/event/unfinished-finished/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Mastering Weeds in Your Garden. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adults) Learn how to identify common weeds and invasive plants in your garden and natural areas on this walk with horticulturist Brenda Skarphol. Learn about weed life cycles and how weeds end up in your yard. Come away with some weed management techniques with a special emphasis on organic strategies. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (008. NTYA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Springtime Stroll In Old Town Alexandria. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This delightful walking tour offers exterior views of more than a dozen homes with notable history and is anchored by four historical properties: the Lee-Fendall House garden, the Ramsay House garden, the Athenaeum, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Along the route, homes will be adorned with blue-ribbon worthy wreaths, planters and window boxes created by members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and the Hunting Creek Garden Club. Ticket holders will have exclusive access to the Lee-Fendall House garden, where experts will be on hand to discuss native and medicinal plants and will also have access to the garden at the Athenaeum, which will be decorated for an afternoon luncheon. Visit <https://www.vagardenweek.org/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 17

Savory Soiree: "The Food of Love" -- An Earth Day Celebration of Shakespeare. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A musical birthday feast for William Shakespeare, featuring musical works by John Dowland and anonymous popular tunes from the Elizabethan era, performed by Grammy-nominated lutenist Ronn McFarlane -- and accompanied by an Earth Day-inspired farm-to-table dinner and wine pairings. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

APRIL 17-25

Alexandria Wedding Showcase. At multiple venues across Alexandria and online. Couples will be able to access a fun Alexandria Wedding Showcase mobile-friendly website that will include a directory of businesses, venues and services, guiding them from place to place. For those who want to stay virtual, each participating company will have an option for a virtual tour, video or scheduled appointment. As they visit (in person or online) each venue or set appointments to talk to wedding professionals, they will "check in" through the Alexandria Wedding Showcase website. Visit AlexandriaWeddingShowcase.com.

APRIL 21 TO JUNE 21

Taste of Old Town North. At various locations throughout Old Town North, Alexandria. Enjoy a two-month stroll through the neighborhood with this year's reimagined Taste of Old Town North. Passport holders will be able to use their Passport to receive discounts at small businesses throughout Old Town North: The Arts and Cultural District, Parker-Gray and Braddock Road West. Passports may only be used once at each participating business; if 75% of a Passport has been used by June 21, the Passport holder will be entered into a drawing to receive prizes. Passports may be purchased online at oldtownnorth.org or at the Community Table at the Old Town North Thursday Farmer's Market. Proceeds will support the work of the Old Town North Community Partnership and ALIVE-inc.org. Visit www.oldtownnorth.org.

THE BIRCHMERE

Fri. Apr. 16: The Seldom Scene. Tickets \$35. Shannon Bielski & Moonlight Drive to open.
Sat./Sun. Apr. 17-18: Samantha Fish. Tickets \$35.
Wed. Apr. 21: Wynonna Judd \$79.50 (Resched from 12/13/20. All 12/13/20 tickets honored.)

Board Approves Historic Zoning for River Farm

Annenberg Foundation reasserts intent on restrictions, requirements of grant.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Signs have been posted in front of American Horticultural Society headquarters that say the property is closed to the public, said Katherine Ward, of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association.

"We find that unacceptable," she told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday, April 13.

Former AHS Executive Director Keister Evans, now a member of the Save the River Farms Committee, reiterated the history of River Farm, including negotiations that gave AHS ownership of the land "once we made it clear we would ... keep the property open to the public."

He called AHS plans to sell River Farm "a violation of the trust."

In fact, The Annenberg Foundation's letter to Terry Hayes, chairwoman of the American Horticultural Society dated April 7, surfaced before the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, April 13.

The letter explains the agreement of the Annenberg Foundation to offer \$1 million for the AHS to purchase the land in 1972 for its "national headquarters and horticultural center for exhibits, meetings and related activities."

"The Grant Agreement and the Sales Contract do not provide for any alternate use of the Property, nor the right of the Society to sell the Property. The Grant Agreement further provides that, 'The Trustee and the Society hereby agree that if title to the Property shall not pass to the Society, [the Grant Agreement] shall be null and void,'" according to Cynthia Kennard, executive director of The Annenberg Foundation.

Kennard said Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg would never have made the grant to the American Horticultural Society if it knew AHS would later sell the property.

"The Foundation urges the Society to adhere to the representations and directives in both the Grant Agreement and the Sales Contract, which contain express limitations on the Society's ability to use the Property - specifically for its national headquarters and as a horticultural center - and the Society cannot use the Property for any other purpose," according to Kennard.

Both Keister Evans and Kennard discussed Enid Annenberg Haupt's passion for horticulture and her devotion to River Farm, which she



River Farm.

said "belongs to the American people." Haupt died in 2005.

"The Foundation appreciates the Society's commitment to the conditions of the Grant and Ms. Haupt's philanthropic legacy."

THE BOARD APPROVED a motion Tuesday, April 13, 2021, to rezone River Farm as a historic overlay district, adding a layer of protection for the property, as AHS continues to try to sell the property.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and the Board of Supervisors had asked Planning Staff in November to determine the feasibility of creating the historic overlay district.

"A massive undertaking," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay said Tuesday.

Planning staff recommended approval of the Historic Overlay District on Tuesday, April 13, and the Board approved the measure. Nine Supervisors approved the action Tuesday; Pat Herry abstained.

"This is a historic treasure, an environmental treasure, it is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said McKay. "It would be foolish of us not to take this opportunity."

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) introduced legislation in the General Assembly to give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors additional authority to protect River Farm under its historic zoning authority. Gov. Ralph Northam offered an

amendment adding an emergency clause, so that it goes into effect immediately.

The overlay zoning at the county level, approved Tuesday 9-0-1, also goes into effect immediately.

"IT IS INSPIRING for so many to be advocating for preserving and protecting our history," said Storck.

Katherine Tobin first explored River Farm after seeing signs on the Parkway for AHS years ago.

"I visited and fell in love with the land, the gardens and the wildlife," she testified virtually at the Board of Supervisors public hearing on Tuesday, April 13. She said the history of the property doesn't just begin with George Washington, but with indigenous people who were the first caretakers and treated it as sacred, as did the founding father.

"River Farm is in serious risk for being lost forever unless we save it," said Tobin, one of the several speakers who testified before the Board on Tuesday.

"Never did we dream AHS would jeopardize... this landscape," said Laura Francis, of the Hunting Creek Garden Club.

"They should support this historic overlay district if they want to maintain the 100-year-legacy," said Katherine Ward, of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association.

"A one time chance to save a

special place," said Anne Wilson Fafara.

Fafara was one of dozens of AHS volunteers who donated more than 5,000 hours a year of their time because "we loved AHS and we love River Farm and believed in both, the organization and the property."

She and the volunteers asked the AHS Board of Directors a number of questions when they learned of the Board's plan to sell the property, questions which were never answered. Nor did the Board of Directors meet with its volunteers, she said. <http://www.connection-newspapers.com/news/2020/sep/26/opinion-commentary-few-questions-about-sale-river/>

"Their promise has fallen by the wayside," said Fafara. AHS wants "to extract \$32 million that they were handed on a silver platter for free."

"AHS has lost the trust of its volunteers and the local community," she said.

THE ATTORNEY FOR AHS, John C. McGranahan, called the Society, "a wonderful steward of the property and a great neighbor."

He pledged that AHS does not intend to sell to a developer for a subdivision, and objected to the historic overlay district classification, saying that the Board of Supervisors has not worked nor included AHS in the process.

"Alarming and unnecessary," Mc-

Granahan called the rezoning classification.

"I reiterate my request for you to take a little more time. A historic overlay district should not be necessary," he said. "Work with AHS for 60-90 days. If successful, it certainly will be worth the time."

Jay Spiegel was the lone voice from the public that objected to the historic overlay district. He said AHS has been the steward of the land for the last 50 years and called the Board of Supervisors' action, "a strange way to show appreciation."

BUT NOVA PARKS, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm earlier this year, but the AHS Board rejected the offer, looking for their original asking price of \$32.9 million.

"We deeply appreciate the interest of NOVA Parks in River Farm and their proposal to purchase an option on the property, which if exercised, would involve payments to AHS over several years. We deliberated carefully over the proposal and its terms and concluded that their offer as currently written simply does not meet AHS's needs," according to AHS Board Chair Terry Hayes, at the time.

No counter offer was made nor discussion how to keep the property open to the public.

Local agent Sue Goodhart of Compass Real Estate Group in Alexandria listed the farm for sale, calling it a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own 27 plus acres of riverfront property."

Bob Brackman, Interim Executive Director of River Farm said, "Once River Farm is sold, AHS will determine the best location for the headquarters to serve and build our national audience."

McGranahan appeared to convince Pat Herry to abstain from voting yesterday.

"To move this forward without AHS input today is a mistake and sets a dangerous precedent," said Herry. "I can't vote against this because I support the goals, but I can't vote for it because I can't support the process."

Storck said he had five meetings and phone calls with the AHS Board, members, the attorney and others.

"Many of them support our process," said Storck.

AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY went public on Sept. 4, 2020 with its plans to sell the

A Lasting Legacy

FROM PAGE 4

museum open to aid anyone in need of help.

Dowell developed a conservation plan for the earthwork fort, one of the first such initiatives developed for earthwork fortifications and was invited to lecture on the topic at an American Association of Museums national conference. She lectured on small museum management topics for the Virginia Association of Museums and The Smithsonian.

Dowell went on to be recognized nationally for her preservation and restoration efforts, and her numerous awards include the prestigious James R. Short Award from the Southeastern Museums Conference for “distinguished lifetime service to the museum profession.” She used her expertise in education and fundraising to develop symposia, historical camp events, programs for children, educational programs and special events.

Following her retirement, Dowell remained a member of the Friends of Fort Ward and served as an officer for the Civil War Roundtable of Alexandria. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, delivered Meals On Wheels, volunteered at The Clothing Closet for those in need, sang with the Jubilee Singers, participated in mission trips to Cayman Brac and was a volunteer exercise instructor for seniors.

In 2017, Dowell moved to Williamsburg

to live with her son and his wife in an active living community. She became a maker of fleece blankets for charity and a seamstress of hundreds of cloth face masks for numerous nonprofit organizations.

Dowell was an active member in James River Baptist Church in Williamsburg, and she continued to be a member of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria.

A memorial service was held April 14 at National Memorial Park Cemetery in Falls Church. A memorial service at James River Baptist in Williamsburg will be held at a later date.

Dowell is survived by her son James and his wife Terry. She is predeceased by her husband James W. Dowell, brother James Thorpe, and parents Clyde and Marie Thorpe. Remembrances in her name can be made to Alice Lloyd College, 100 Purpose Road, Pippa Passes, KY 41844, under the Wanda S. Dowell Endowment Fund.

But it is through Fort Ward where Dowell will be remembered in Alexandria.

“Fort Ward is a unique museum,” Dowell said when honored as a Living Legend. “It is one of the best teaching tools that we have and gives the public a whole new perspective on what happened here. We have a responsibility to see that it is preserved and I am proud that Alexandria interprets our history – the good, the bad and the ugly – with integrity.”



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He Had Their Backs: Harold Bell 'Inside Sports'

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

Harold Bell was the first African American to host and produce his own Sports Talk Radio show, "Inside Sports," in Washington, DC from 1972 through the 1990s. On his "Inside Sports" radio show he interviewed some of the most famous athletes in pro sports.

In 1975, Bell interviewed Muhammad Ali after he knocked out George Foreman in Zaire, Africa, on NBC affiliate WRC-TV 4, in Washington, DC. This made him the first African American to host and produce his own television sports special in prime time.

His interviews and friendship with Ali and Red Auerbach put his "Inside Sports" talk show on the map. Bell also interviewed national sports figures like Jim Brown, Spencer Haywood, Harry Edwards, Sonny Hill, Don King, Bighouse Gaines and John Chaney, just to name a few. These relationships became valuable when Bell was

advocating for NFL All-Pro Willie Wood and NBA pioneer Earl Lloyd to be inducted into their respective Halls of Fame after they were "Blackballed" by their leagues.

When Lloyd called Bell asking him to campaign for his induction into the NBA Hall of Fame, he in turn called Auerbach and then-Washington Times sports columnist Dick Heller for support. His next call was to an old friend, civil rights icon Congressman John Lewis, to be on the campaign team for Lloyd.

During the NBA All-Star weekend in Washington, DC in 2001, Bell's nonprofit organization "Kids In Trouble" organized an Earl Lloyd Day in Alexandria. The Saturday festival included a basketball clinic at Charles Houston Recreation Center. NBA stars Bob Lanier, Al Attles, KC Jones, Sam Jones, Earl Monroe and others attended.

Then-Governor James Gilmore declared it "Earl Lloyd Day" in the state of Virginia. The historic jazz and blues club, "The Bohemian Caverns" in Washington, DC, was the site that closed out the Earl Lloyd festival with Auerbach as host and basketball legend Sonny



From left, Earl, his wife and Harold.

Hill.

Lloyd was inducted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 2003 thanks to the efforts of Lewis, Auerbach and Bell who carried the torch for the NBA pioneer.

Bell was no stranger to the City of Alexandria; he worked closely with "The Untouchable" founders, George Logan-El, Lawrence Brown and Michael Johnson. They helped him coordinate his annual toy party for needy children leading into the Christmas holidays.

Another passion of Bell is helping at-risk inner city children.

Bell and his wife Hattie founded Kids In Trouble, Inc., and the Hillcrest Saturday Program in 1968 shortly after the Washington, DC riots. The program served neighborhood kids and their families. Their work with at-risk children did not go unnoticed; President Richard M. Nixon invited them to the White House.

Harold Bell was born on May 21, 1938; he is a fourth generation



Harold Bell.

Washingtonian. Bell attended high school at Spingarn where he was an all-around athlete playing three sports. After high school, Bell attended college and played football and basketball. He met his wife in 1967 and they married after the DC riots in 1968.

Today, Bell has his own weekly program, "Speak the Truth" Zoom Show every Sunday and Inside Sports Detoxx video show on YouTube. In addition, he is a popular blogger for Black Men in America.com.

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

Board Approves Historic Zoning for River Farm

FROM PAGE 10

property, and continues to defend its decision. The majority of its Board, they said, called the sale, "the most viable option to allow for the continuation of our national nonprofit during very difficult financial times," said Terry Hayes, AHS Board Chair.

"Like many national, member-based nonprofits, our revenue streams are being reduced by the on-line habits of a population outside our traditional community. ... With the added financial strain caused by COVID-19, we have re-evaluated our priorities."

"The proceeds from the sale of River Farm will be used to create a significant endowment which has been the missing link in our financial viability. And so, the time has come," said Hayes. "As we prepare

to pass on the stewardship of River Farm, we share the community's hope of finding a new owner who will work to preserve and protect this beautiful and historic property."

GEORGE WASHINGTON ACQUIRED the 27.57-acre property at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in 1760, when it was called Clifton's Neck.

After a series of different owners and different names, the Soviet Embassy offered to buy the property in 1971 for use as a retreat for its staff. But during the Cold War, "many across the world objected to the thought of George Washington's farm becoming the possession of the Soviet Union," according to Board of Supervisors documents.

Philanthropist Enid Annenberg Haupt, a member of the American

Horticulturalist Society, helped the organization purchase the property and make it the headquarters of the society under the condition that the property remain open to the public and in honor of former president George Washington, of the nation's first great gardeners and horticulturalists.

The property was named River Farm.

"AHS has long sought to make River Farm a living representation of its principles and organizational vision of raising awareness about and fostering sustainable, earth-friendly gardening and horticultural practices. Thus, we were greatly shocked and saddened by the news on September 4, 2020 that the AHS Board of Directors intended to sell the River Farm property," Storck said.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

tax to protect our small businesses in Old Town and established the Senior Advocacy Roundtable.

As our next mayor, Allison Silberberg will build upon these accomplishments and tackle new problems, including a firm commitment to stop our serious sewage and storm water flooding. She will rebuild the public trust that has frayed under the current mayor.

Allison Silberberg is the best mayoral candidate to mobilize our energies and talents in the City's interests. We want a mayor who solves problems and listens to the City's residents and its citizens' associations. Allison is the candidate who will get things done and will do so with transparency, truth, and ethics. She has a demonstrated track record on the City's issues. Allison is the Mayor you can trust.

Sue Berryman, Alexandria
Linda Bogaczyk, Alexandria

Who Should Pay Reparations?

In attempting to advance a case for reparations, Elisabeth Vodola blurs what should be a bright line between the U.S. and Britain. Her examples of New England slaveholding primarily predate American independence, so are properly a British liability.

Among the reasons Americans objected to British rule was King George III's repeatedly blocking, directly by dissolving colonial legislatures or indirectly through his appointed colonial governors' vetoes, efforts to curtail the slave trade. Massachusetts' legislature voted in 1767 to abolish the slave trade, but the King's appointee, Colonial Governor Bernard, vetoed it; the legislature repeated in 1768, but the colonial governor instead dissolved the legislature; again in 1771 the legislature voted to abolish the slave trade, but Colonial Governor Hutchinson vetoed it; and again in 1773 the legislature passed a resolution against the slave trade, only to find it nixed. Then in 1774, the Massachusetts legislature escalated, passing a bill calling for total abolition; Colonial Governor Hutchinson had had enough and simply shut down the elected government, which soon was replaced by British Army occupation. <https://american-systemnow.com/guess-who-insisted-on-slavery-in-colonial-america/?print=print>. Surely, just like nowadays, the folks with means, which in those days having "lifetime servants" would suggest, impressed upon the King and Governor what a burden such legislation

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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

-Werner Heisenberg

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-Werner Heisenberg

Hitting The Nail On the Head

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



What are all these "Toe Nail Clipper" emails I receive nearly every day? And how do these senders know that I'm actually the perfect recipient. Toe nail clippers and cuticle trimmers have been the bane of my existence going back as far as I can remember. And as recently as I care to mention, these two accessories have been front and center on my bedside table, in a drawer in my living room coffee table, in my car's console/glove box and in any suitcase/overnight bag I take with me out of town. The fact of what has been the matter with me is that I bit my nails and trimmed my cuticles constantly, not out of appearance but due apparently, to some undiagnosed mental condition, according to family and friends who were subjected to my relentless pursuit of whatever ailed me.

The constant gnawing and "cuticizing" of my nails drove my parents nearly around the bend. Whatever they tried, which was not professional help, couldn't stop the train, so to speak. Unfortunately, they weren't alive to see me stop. What joy they would have felt for this change. Exultation. Unfortunately, the change occurred quite by accident and with no intent of mine. What happened was that I was diagnosed with cancer, rather than make me a nervous wreck about my original "terminal" diagnosis, and bite my nails for a good reason, I still stopped, and it's been over twelve years now. I still haven't been to a manicurist, but I no longer scoff at the suggestion. And though neither of my parents lived to see me stop biting my nails, they also both died before learning about my lung cancer diagnosis, for which I was extremely grateful.

Aside from the obvious reason why my mother would have been upset about her "baby" being diagnosed with lung cancer was the fact that throughout my childhood, my mother smoked four packs of Chesterfield Kings every day. Then suddenly, she stopped, cold turkey, the coldest you can imagine. It happened in the early 60s when the anti-smoking campaign about the association between smoking cigarettes and lung cancer began in earnest in this country. From that point forward, my mother never wavered in her commitment. There were no more cigarettes and she lived to age 87, almost, when she died from natural causes, not cancer.

Oddly enough, it was her non-smoking son, yours truly, who was diagnosed with lung cancer, part of an ever increasing percentage (upwards of 25% most recently) of non-smokers so diagnosed. Whether second hand smoke or environmental exposure to certain chemicals, the numbers of lung cancer patients who were non-smokers has been steadily increasing. And in a fortuitous twist of fate, it was this increase specifically in the number of non-smokers being diagnosed with cancer which led to a huge increase in research funding. Funding which has spawned an increase in the numbers of drugs approved by the FDA which have directly affected my treatment and subsequent survival. Now what percentage of nail-biters are diagnosed with cancer, I can't say.

But this hyper-targeted email campaign - which features almost daily emails from people who are on a first-name basis with me and I them, according to their sender's name, is remarkable in its having reached a prime candidate, and one with a history of having used imperfect and/or failed implements for this very purpose. If anybody would appreciate the possibilities of this product, the relief it might provide, it would be me. If my mother were alive today, I'm sure she'd agree, nobody ever bit their nails more than I did. That's how I learned the meaning of the word "quick": "the soft-tender flesh below the growing part of a fingernail or toenail."

With all the self-consciousness I endured while nail-biting (and the visual condition of my fingers as a result), I wish I could take credit for having figured out the underlying cause, or had found a topical solution and/or a hypnotic suggestion that would help me stop. But I didn't. Apparently, the cancer made me stop, and not even consciously. To quote the late B.B.King: "The thrill is gone."

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

would bring, especially to Massachusetts' leading export manufacture and shipping industries.

John Adams was so impressed with Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence that he paraphrased some of its concepts in the Massachusetts constitution drawn up after independence, including, "All men are born free and equal, and have certain natural, essential, and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties," which enabled black slave Elizabeth Freeman (aka Mum Bett) to sue for her freedom in 1781. Relying on this phrasing, her case prevailed before Massachusetts' highest court in 1783 and served as legal precedent. By 1790, the U.S. census recorded no slaves in Massachusetts. Another lawsuit in 1781 enabled blacks to obtain the right to vote in Massachusetts by relying on "no taxation without representation." www.bay-statebanner.com/2018/08/08/massachu

setts-a-leader-in-the-abolition-of-slavery/

In 1769 Richard Henry Lee, who would, at the Second Continental Congress, make the motion to declare our independence from Britain https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Resolution, persuaded the Virginia legislature to place a heavy tariff on the importation of slaves, but the British Crown suspended the action as harming a major source of British revenue. The Virginia legislature did the same in 1774, after a debate in which George Mason argued that not only should the colony not have the slave trade, but that Virginians should not profit from slavery, but the King blocked it. In 1787 the U.S. Constitution abolished the slave trade effective in 1808, a quarter century before Britain ended its own slave trade.

If reparations for northern slavery are due, Britain -- not the U.S. -- would be responsible for paying them.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Wrong Solution on Parkway

U.S. Park Service proposal to improve safety along the southern stretch of George Washington Parkway as described in April 8 Gazette is the wrong solution and will make the Parkway less safe. The problem that causes accidents, besides speeding, is getting onto the Parkway with left hand turns. The "diet" solution creates a left turn lane to help get cars off the Parkway. When the problem is getting on the Parkway safely the Park Service proposes a solution to get off the Parkway. With only a single lane heading south during business times there could be a steady stream of cars making the left hand

turn lane almost useless. It would be easier to turn left off the Parkway if there were two south bound lanes even without a left turn lane. Further I have been to the U.S. Park Service listening sessions and while they proposed many solutions to improve safety, this was never one publicly suggested. Therefore I ask all our neighbors to complain to the U.S. Park Service to relook this unsafe proposal and have another listening session to discuss better ways to improve safety.

Thomas Gerard
Mount Vernon

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Mulch Delivery or Pickup: The City is currently accepting orders for a limited supply of wood mulch made from previously collected Christmas trees. Once the supply of wood mulch is exhausted, leaf mulch will be available. Deliveries begin Monday, April 5, and run through June. Delivery dates and times are limited, and appointments are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a \$65 delivery charge. Free mulch is also available for residents to pick up at 4215 Eisenhower Ave., Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No commercial vehicles and machinery are permitted at the mulch site; the area is under surveillance. Call Alex311 to report a violation and call 911 for an immediate emergency. Visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste for more information.

Spring Pothole Patrol: The City began repairing potholes early this year, but the official spring pothole patrol begins Monday, April 5. Alexandria is divided into 11 zones and crews will work diligently on multiple zones at a time to ensure each zone gets one pass. This is a moving operation and residents should expect periodic lane closures throughout the city. The spring pothole patrol only covers major street networks and does not include public alleys and parking spaces.

After the spring pothole patrol, which is estimated to be completed by Friday, April 30, residents should report potholes using Alex311 or by calling 703.746.4311. Visit alexandriava.gov/Potholes for more information.

Street Sweeping: Citywide street sweeping began March 1, and will take approximately 12 weeks to complete one pass of cleaning. Crews keep neighborhoods and commercial corridors clean and protect waterways from debris runoff by regularly sweeping 560 lane miles. The street sweeping program includes three major groups: commercial sweeping, no parking sweeping, and residential sweeping.

Please observe posted "No Parking" restrictions on street sweeping blocks, as well as any temporary "No Parking" signs that may be posted in some neighborhoods to help facilitate debris removal. In the event of inclement weather, street sweeping will not occur; however, parking restrictions still apply, as Parking Enforcement follows the ordinance, not the weather. To request additional street sweeping, use Alex311 or call 703-746-4311.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Throughout April, the City of Alexandria will recognize National Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a series of events and activities to support survivors and engage the community in prevention efforts.

The City's Sexual Assault Center (SAC) is sponsoring displays, exhibits, workshops and events to raise awareness of sexual assault and support survivors around this year's theme, "Together We Can Build Safe Communities."

Highlights include:

Embrace Your Voice: Annual Poetry Share, in partnership with Doorways for Women and Families and Friends of Guest House, April 20, 6 p.m. (hosted online this year)

Virtual Dating App Safety and Education Presentation, debuts April 14 at alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence

Virtual Run/Walk, in partnership with the U.S. Navy, during the last week of April

The SAC also invites the community to support survivors of sexual assault by wearing teal on the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action on Wednesday, April 7, and by wearing jeans on Denim Day, Wednesday, April 28. Residents can also pick up coffee sleeves printed with this year's slogan at local participating coffee shops. For more information and a full list of events and activities, visit alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence.

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Belle Haven | \$3,750,000,

No detail was missed during the renovation of this timeless residence. Masterfully designed, natural light from the upper-floors spills down the two-story spiraling staircase and invites you to explore the home's more than 6,000 SF of open and bright living space. The formal living and dining rooms are connected by a charming double-sided wood-burning fireplace. The chef's kitchen boasts Bosch, Viking and Sub-Zero appliances. The owner's suite of rooms features an entry foyer, sleeping quarters with gas fireplace, separate dressing room, spa-like bath, and sitting room or office with access to a beautiful outdoor covered porch. Situated on a meticulously landscaped double lot with fully automatic irrigation, this home's idyllic exterior and commanding curbside appeal is only matched by the abundance of sophisticated details found within.

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079

www.LaurenBishopHomes.com

OPEN SAT 4/17 & SUN 4/18, 2-4PM



Waynewood | \$974,500

Berkeley model with architectural expansion to 3,200 SF on 4 levels. 4 bedrooms (2 master suites), 4 baths. Wrap around deck. Gourmet kitchen. Fully finished lower level with walk out. WRA membership transferable. 824 Waynewood Boulevard

Barbara Cousens & Jud Burke 703.966.4180

www.BarbaraCousens.com



Rosemont Park | \$849,900

2-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome with welcoming front porch. This open, bright home features high ceilings & custom built-ins. Kitchen boasts granite countertops and stainless appliances. Lower level rec room and full bath. Walk to King St Metro. 8 E Chapman Street

Jen Walker 703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Wellington Estates | \$705,000

Welcome to 7954 Bolling Drive, the ideal investment property for a buyer to truly make it their own home. Opportunity to work with the current builder or bring in your own. List price includes plans & permits ready to be issued. Have a brand new home in Wellington Estates!

Jillian Keck Hogan 703.951.7655

www.JillianKeckHogan.com

OPEN SAT 4/17 & SUN 4/18, 2-4PM



Governors Grove | \$719,000

Exceptionally well-maintained 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, 3-story, brick façade townhome with 2-car garage. Large windows, sliding glass doors, high ceilings, and an open-concept floor plan allow the natural light to flood each level. 5663 Governors Pond Circle

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

www.RealtorHeidiB.com

OPEN SAT 4/17 & SUN 4/18, 2-4PM



Governors Grove | \$699,000

Beautiful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2-car garage townhome with 2,500+ SF of living space. Bright & airy open concept main-level with beautifully refinished hardwoods. Massive owner's suite. Relaxing back deck overlooking woods. Cozy gas fireplace. 5664 Governors Pond Cir.

Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009

www.RealtorHeidiB.com



Springfield | \$789,000

Beautifully renovated mid-century modern deck house on a wooded half acre lot with cedar planked ceilings, oak flooring & mahogany windows galore! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, rec room and office. Owner's suite on the main level. Private landscaped setting.

Donna Cramer 703.627.9578

www.DonnaCramer.com

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