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Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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NOVEMBER 1, 2018



DC resident Jeffrey Stein, 32, celebrates after winning the 2018 Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28 in Arlington. Stein finished the 26.2-mile course in 2:22:49.



Alexandria's Mandi Maier is congratulated by Miles the Marine Corps Marathon mascot after completing the 2018 MCM 10K in 1:39:33 Oct. 28 in Arlington.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LANE

Eminent Domain For New Station?

Government may take private HOA land for Potomac Yard station construction.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

Metro ceased negotiations last week to obtain certain private properties during construction of the Potomac Yard Metrorail station, referring the issue to the Jus-

tice Department for eminent domain proceedings.

The properties in question are adjacent to the tracks to the east, just south of where the new station will sprout up. They include a traffic circle owned by Potomac Greens HOA, a townhouse development; and a tennis court and "tot lot" playground area owned by Old Town Greens HOA, a townhouse and condo development.

These properties are "required for contractor access to the project site during construction," said City Manager Mark Jinks in an Oct. 23 email to City Council. "The prop-

SEE EMINENT, PAGE 30

'A Brotherhood Of Survivors'

WWII veteran recalls rescue at sea.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Shivering in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic, Philip Lundeberg struggled for hours amid the ocean swells as the U.S.S. Frederick C. Davis slipped quickly into the murky waters below. It was April 24, 1945, and the Davis had just been torpedoed by a German U-boat, becoming the last warship sunk in the Battle of the Atlantic.

"The torpedo's sudden impact

was quite a shock," Lundeberg said from his home in Alexandria. "There were desperate efforts to find some direction in a darkened ship and then the surreal experience of simply walking into the water from a deck already submerged."

Lundeberg was just 22 years old at the time, a Navy Ensign and the youngest of only three surviving officers aboard the Davis when it was hit less than a week before the end of fighting in Europe during

SEE RESCUE AT SEA, PAGE 31

The Few. The Proud.

The 2018 Marine Corps Marathon.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

With ages spanning from 11 to 77, more than 900 Alexandria runners joined tens of thousands from around the world to participate in

the 43rd Marine Corps Marathon and 10K race Oct. 28 in Arlington.

"It was a good day for runners," said Brooke Sydnor Curran, running in her fourth Marine Corps Marathon and first since suffering a brain aneurysm six months ago. "It may have been a bit cool for spectators but it was a great day out on the course."

Curran said her time of 4 hours, 24 minutes and 59 seconds was her slowest over the 26.2-mile

SEE THE 2018 MARINE CORPS, PAGE 32



Brooke Sydnor Curran, right, with Dr. Nilesh Vyas, the neurosurgeon who removed Curran's brain aneurysm six months ago. Vyas came out to watch Curran run in the Oct. 28 Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington.

PHOTO BY CONTRIBUTED



Hope Nelson of Alexandria completed the 2018 Marine Corps Marathon in 5:40:57.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

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CIRCULATION
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Jan Maas and Lissa Soergel, members of Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill on the corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane, man the table on Thursday, Oct. 25 at the 25th annual Pumpkin Patch sale.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/
GAZETTE PACKET

Pumpkins for a Good Cause

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

he pumpkins are everywhere — gigantic and perfect, tiny and a little unusual and shaped like swans. It's the week before Halloween and the Pumpkin Patch sponsored by Emmanuel Church-on-the-Hill is bustling with customers.

Jan Maas and Lissa Soergel, both church members, are manning the table.

"We opened 25 years ago and are celebrating our 25th anniversary. The mayor came the first day this year to give us a certificate," Maas said.

Because of this year's calendar, the season has been longer than usual. "We always open the last Sunday in September. We call it pumpkin Sunday; it's like a liturgical part of the calendar for us," Maas said. Their table offers stuffed fabric pumpkins, orange knitted hats, pumpkin earrings at \$5, baked cranberry-nut bread and ghost lollipops at 50 cents each.

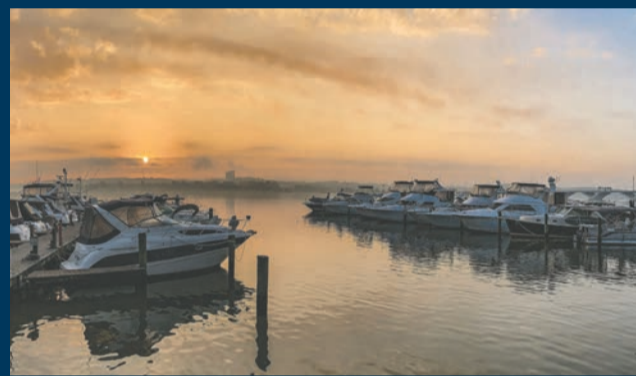
A table nearby has a sign "pricing your pumpkin" with 13 size samples ranging from \$2-40. Buyers match their pumpkin to the nearest size of the sample. "Of course," Maas said, "they' never exactly match."

Lucy Tran and her 4-year-old sister, Nora, are searching for the perfect pumpkin with their father, Maiky, and their grandfather who is taking pictures. Maiky said, "They get to choose two each. We'll try to carve them but we've never done this before." The girls wander through the pumpkins until something just strikes them and that's the one.

Lucy and Nora Tran take a break with their father at the Pumpkin Patch at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill before loading a wagon with two pumpkins each.

The pumpkins come from Navajos who grow them in New Mexico and drive them here and unload them from big trucks. Maas says they normally make about \$100,000 and 60 percent of the proceeds go to the Navajos and 40 percent to local, state and national charities including ALIVE!, OAR, Oral Rehydration Project and Carpenter's Shelter.

Lucy Tran loads up her wagon and hauls her two pumpkins to the car.



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Offering a Hand Up, Not a Handout

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Katie Leonard walks around the nearly renovated space at ZEROMODEL:NoVA, a new business promoting second chances for formerly incarcerated. “It will be finished, hopefully this week. This is super exciting.” Leonard is the director of the Alexandria branch of the company located on N. Alfred Street with two other branches located in Pittsburgh and Atlanta.

**PEOPLE
AT WORK**

“I was working on this idea 2 and a half years ago, and we got the keys to this space in June.” It was fun designing until it wasn’t — what kind of black paint, which door-



Annette Amato, “rock star construction worker.”

knob? I got overwhelmed.” The idea got started when Leonard was working as a volunteer in the Fairfax Detention Center.

Leonard said her intent is to give the Old Town building space a different vibe just like their business is to provide formerly incarcerated men and women a new face. “Our overall goal is to have them walk down the street and have people see the talent and not the criminal history.”

ZEROMODEL strategies are to incubate, employ and advertise. Incubate by identifying, supporting and partnering with entrepreneurs who are formerly incarcerated or who want to employ others with criminal histories. She walks to the front of the office. “This is our collaboration/conference room where we help launch businesses.”

The second strategic goal to employ is



Josh Mathers, supervisor of construction

accomplished by recruiting and hiring highly qualified candidates. She says she already is working on launching three businesses: a painting company, auto transportation and landscaping. “We plan and nurture and protect them to be successful. It’s about economic opportunity and jobs.”

Lisa D’Alonzo, director of talent, sits at the uniquely designed table that was built by Josh Mathers, their supervisor of construction. D’Alonzo’s job is to recruit talent, interview job applicants, do background checks and serve as case manager for the staff. She explained the case manager function is important because formerly incarcerated people have needs that are unique. “One of the biggest problems is drivers’ licenses. They are expected to work but can’t drive.” D’Alonzo seeks to hire the best person for the job despite their history.

ZEROMODEL advocates by working to build relationships with non-profits who are like minded such as OAR and Guest House. “But,” Leonard said, “We are a for-profit organization.” Part of the model is construction companies. “We have a class A contractor license, and we bid on projects that Josh’s team will do. The proceeds go back into the incubator to fund new business.”



Lisa D’Alonzo, director of talent

Mathers walks into the hallway. Leonard said, “I was told about this guy who re-did floors for the sheriff when he was incarcerated. We were very selective to find the perfect person.”

Mathers said, “I do a lot more than floors. I’ve been doing carpentry all my life.” He says when he was incarcerated for 15 months on a drug charge the worst thing for him was sitting still. He got hired by the Community Labor Force and, “I spent 12 months doing a renovation for the Sheriff’s Office — two new kitchens, flooring, replacing the ceiling. The windows were old. I knew a lot about windows.”

He says all changed for him when he did that work for the Sheriff’s Office. “I didn’t expect anything. They brought me chicken dinners a couple of times a week. I never expected it to turn into something like this.”

Mathers says now he expects the best performance from the other formerly incarcerated men and women who are working for him. “You have to build people up. We work as a team here, but it takes a while to build up trust. You have to learn a whole new pattern of living. Formerly incarcerated have low self confidence and are reluctant



Katie Leonard, director, ZEROMODEL:NoVA

to ask for help.” He said, “I tried for years to get out of the pattern but I was treading water in the same spot. I could never land a job. I am really, really happy here.”

Annette Amato has come down from upstairs to ask Mathers for some direction on painting the windows. Leonard said, “She is our rock star construction worker.” Mathers added, “She runs circles around my guys.” Amato is currently a resident of Guest House in Alexandria. Guest House, located in Del Ray, is the only residential house of its kind serving recently incarcerated women in Northern Virginia.

Leonard moves on to show the remodeled bathroom that they customized to showcase the space. She said all of the work in their new office was cosmetic stuff, renovation. “Over here is the main reception area. Steve Kowatch is a carpenter who does a little bit of everything. Through hard work and determination he scraped off all the carpet and [by] hand took all the glue off to create the vibe. Leonard said, “We want this office to be the demo site for what we can do.”

“We want people who are willing to work hard on a second chance. I like to say we offer a hand up, not a hand out.”

Gadson to Keynote Salute to Veterans

WWII veteran, business owners to be honored Nov. 8.

Col. Gregory D. Gadson (ret), former Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir, will be the keynote speaker at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Awards Nov. 8 at the Carlyle Club.

A resident of Alexandria, Gadson is a 1989 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has served in every major conflict of the past two decades, including Operations Desert Shield/Storm in Kuwait; Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In May of 2007, while returning from

a memorial service for two soldiers from his brigade, he lost both his legs and severely injured his right arm to a roadside bomb in Baghdad. Gadson continues to serve as an advocate for wounded warriors, veterans and those with disabilities.

Gadson retired from active duty in 2014 with more than 25 years of service. He is currently an entrepreneur and managing partner of Patriot Strategies, LLC, an Alexandria-based government services company. He is also an accomplished photographer and artist and remains active in cycling, skiing and scuba.

World War II veteran Philip K. Lundeborg, one of only 27 survivors of the sinking of

the USS Frederick C. Davis warship in the Battle of the Atlantic, will be presented with the 2018 Distinguished Patriot Award.

Other awards being presented include: Small Veteran Owned Business of the Year — Gold Works by David Martin; Large Veteran Owned Business of the Year — Jack Taylor’s Alexandria Toyota; Business Empowering & Hiring Veterans — Capitol Post; and Veterans Outreach — Alexandria Police Officer Bennie Evans.

The event will be held at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave., beginning at 8 a.m. For tickets or more information, visit www.alexchamber.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Col. Gregory D. Gadson (ret), a 1989 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and former Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir, will be the keynote speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Awards Nov. 8 at the Carlyle Club.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

‘Somebody Else’s Money’

Chamber panel encourages public-private partnerships, particularly for schools.

BY DAN BRENDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

Public and business leaders lauded the potential for public-private partnerships in Alexandria’s capital portfolio, with public schools being especially likely candidates, at an Oct. 30 panel hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

In general, “a P3 typically involves a private entity financing, constructing or managing a project in return for a promised stream of payments from the government or users over the projected life of the project.” That’s according to the chamber’s Dave Millard, who moderated the panel, quoting university professors David Weimer and Aidan Vining.

Alexandria needs to employ P3s because, increasingly, localities must “do a lot more with a lot less,” said Millard. “Resources at the national level and the local level are being strained beyond capacity in many circumstances. There are limits to how much [local] taxes can be raised, and additional services that are being asked of our political jurisdictions to provide.”

Alexandria’s public school division “probably has one of the most aspirational requirements for the

potential of public-private partnerships,” said panelist Mignon Anthony, the division’s chief operating officer. The reason is that the schools’ half-billion dollar Capital Improvement Program includes major renovations or new construction for several campuses over the next 10 years.

In particular, expanding high school capacity could present P3 opportunities.

“Having a footprint in the schools for private sector partners or for work partners is going to be beneficial for all sectors,” said Anthony. “These kids want to have hands-on opportunities and businesses want to start preparing the students that graduate to enter the workforce in a way that’s different from what we’ve traditionally done before. So one of the elements we’re looking at is how ... the business community is partnered with us in space-sharing, as it relates to educating high school graduates.”

“School enrollment runs in cycles. ... The private sector I think has an opportunity for the schools to lease for X period of time, and when we get to the downside of the enrollment cycle and the schools need to constrict, then the building can go back to the private sector,” said panelist Mark Jinks, Alexandria’s city manager. “In Great Britain, they have P3s ... where the private sector builds a combo office building [and] school. ... Every five or seven years, [the schools] can decide how much space they need for the next five or seven years. ... The building is designed such that it can be either used as a classroom or can be used as an office — ceiling

SEE CHAMBER PANEL, PAGE 31



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Gearing Up for Richmond

City, schools delineate lobbying priorities for upcoming state legislative session.

BY DAN BRENDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

The city and school system put forward lobbying agendas for the state General Assembly's 2019 session, focusing especially on procuring more state funding for sewers and school construction and renovation.

The city and schools have separate but overlapping agendas, the former's comprising 47 items and the latter's 13. Each employs a lobbyist — the city's fulltime, the schools' contracted — to advance its agenda with state legislators, aides and staffers.

Sarah Taylor, the city's lobbyist, describes her job as "nurturing" relationships and getting "whatever face time I can get" with legislators, especially during the annual January-February legislative session in Richmond.

The city's "top priority ... is securing state funding for Alexandria's legislatively mandated combined sewer overflow (CSO) project," according to Taylor's proposed agenda, which City Council received for initial consideration on Tuesday, Oct. 23. "To date, the state has provided no financial assistance to the city accompanying its mandate, despite making significant investments in similarly mandated CSO remediation projects in Richmond (\$68 million) and

Lynchburg (\$51 million)." Alexandria wants comparable help.

Alexandria asked Gov. Ralph Northam to include \$25 million for sewers in his FY 2019 budget amendments, which Northam will announce on Dec. 18. If that proposal comes to pass, Taylor says she would then work with relevant house and senate committees to ensure it doesn't get axed in subsequent negotiations.

She's optimistic so far, saying, "[I] have only gotten positive feedback from folks who are involved in this. They want to help us with this."

Ultimately the city wants the state to chip in for 20 percent of the total project cost. Based on a current estimated total cost of \$400 million, that would make the state's share \$80 million. The city will continue to pursue money it doesn't get this year in subsequent legislative cycles.

Another of the city's main priorities, paralleling the school system's, is to support "innovative funding and/or financing opportunities for new school construction and renovation of older school facilities."

"School construction and schools buildings ... [are] going to be a big issue this year in [the] General Assembly," said Lilla Wise, the schools' contract lobby

SEE LOBBYING PRIORITIES, PAGE 23



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On Money and Students

School Board candidates discuss spending and student disparities at forums.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

School Board candidates addressed the concerns of Alexandria's parent-teacher associations and public housing tenants at two forums in the last weeks leading up to the Nov. 6 elections.

The PTA Council hosted its forum on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at T.C. Williams' Minnie Howard campus.

Asked what they'd fund first on the school system's "wish list" if they won the \$1.6 billion lottery, most said something about facility maintenance or capacity. Several said they'd boost teacher pay or supports.

Marc Solomon (District A) said: "\$1.6 billion might sound like a lot of money, but our current 10-year [Capital Improvement Program] is about \$500 million, and that only gets us to 2,000 seats short in 10 years." He'd fund capacity needs beyond the 10-year horizon so that "we finally have zero [student seat deficit]."

Heather Thornton (District C) said: "After we fix our buildings and after we pay our teachers what they should be getting

paid, I'd like to get all of our kids some unique opportunities to study abroad."

Incumbent Bill Campbell (District A) said: "I'd find out what's the maximum amount I could give to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. ... I'd try to set up something for everyone that comes out of T.C. Williams."

Incumbent Margaret Lorber (District B) said: "Since my colleagues have taken care of construction and facilities, I want to have a massive training ... [for] everyone in the school system to understand the impact they have on others."

The public housing resident association hosted its forum on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Asked if they'd make "any changes to [the elementary grading system] that would reduce how subjective it is and make it easier for parents to know their child's progress," all candidates said yes.

Asked if they're "in favor of the use of 'restorative practices' in our schools' disciplinary system," only Abigail Wacek (District B) said no. She thinks restorative practices "sound quite interesting" wants to see

SEE DISCUSSING, PAGE 23



NO Potomac Yards Metro Station

The proposed public works project continues to advance, while every piece of evidence shows it needs to be put on HOLD immediately! Here is the evidence:

- \$320 million price tag and station size cut in half. Total cost over Half a Billion dollars.
- Budget incomplete and potential for new taxes to pay for station increasing
- No new Environmental Impact Study (EIS) as required by federal law.
- Wetlands will be decimated, PCBs and fly-ash will be disturbed, Potomac River will receive runoff from the site endangering fishing and the river's health
- Storm water runoff will flow through Potomac Greens endangering the health of residents
- Demolition of Potomac Yards shopping center will cost Alexandria at least \$34 million a year in tax revenue. The Target will be gone as will other stores.
- Traffic Circle, which just won an award, will be taken by the Feds with no payment
- Washington Area Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) will run the station with an annual cost of \$4 million. A cash strapped agency that has over an \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog, an average of 100 escalators out of service each day, will close at least 20 platforms for immediate repairs in the summer of 2019; has promised \$82 million in raises that it does not have; and needs to rewire all of the brand new 7000 trains.

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District B

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*Lisa Jacobs, Program Director, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**

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- Worked to reduce suspensions and expulsions
- Championed parent involvement and outreach

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*Janet Slaughter Eissenstat, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee, ACPS**

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OPINION

Dioceses Cooperating with Investigation

The following is a joint statement from Bishop Michael F. Burbidge (Diocese of Arlington) and Bishop Barry C. Knestout (Diocese of Richmond) in response to the Attorney General's investigation.

Today [Oct. 24], Attorney General Mark Herring publicly announced his office's investigation into allegations of child sexual abuse by clergy in Virginia. The Diocese of Arlington and the Diocese of Richmond assure the faithful and the public that we are cooperating with the Attorney General's office. Any instance of child sexual abuse is intolerable and gravely immoral. We hope that this process will bring healing for all victims and confirm our commitment to accountability and justice.

Having met with victims, we know that such abuse is unforgettable, and many carry that burden with them throughout their lives. We continue to welcome the opportunity to meet personally with victims, to hear their stories,

and to support them in their journey toward healing.

Prior to being contacted by the Attorney General, both dioceses began internal investigative processes using independent investigators tasked with reviewing all diocesan clergy files. We promised to publish a list of all priests and deacons against whom credible and substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of a minor have been made, and we renew that promise. We will continue these efforts and ensure it does not impede the Attorney General's investigation.

In keeping with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," established in 2002, we report every allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to legal authorities. Each accusation is also brought before a Diocesan Review Board, composed mostly of lay people. We thoroughly vet clergy and staff and train

them to identify suspicious behavior and report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor. Volunteers who interact with children also go through this process.

We encourage anyone aware of misconduct or abuse on the part of clergy or staff of either diocese to notify legal authorities and utilize the hotline established by the Attorney General: <http://www.virginiaclergyhotline.com/> In addition, victims of sexual abuse in the Diocese of Arlington or the Diocese of Richmond are invited to contact the respective diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator who is available to help victims/survivors make a formal complaint of abuse to the diocese, arrange a personal meeting with the bishop or his representative, and to obtain support for the needs of the individual and families.

The diocesan child protection policies are online at: arlingtondiocese.org/childprotection https://richmonddiocese.org/child_protection_virtus/

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Council Must Work for Public

To the Editor:

On Nov. 6, we will elect a new mayor, council, and school board. If past behavior is a predictor of the future, we will have one party rule with little or no accountability. At least the school board eliminated political affiliations and abolished at large voting in favor of district representation; a system acknowledging differences between east, central, and west Alexandria. Perhaps the new mayor and council will take up similar restructuring to enhance representation and small "d" democratization of Virginia's seventh largest city. On this and many issues affecting the residents of our city, outcomes from elected officials can be framed by their internal response to the question; who does city council work for: a) the mayor, b) the public, c) both?

Given, that once elected, citizens have no checks on councilmembers, the question goes to the candidates for self-reflection. Answer-

ing (a) or (c) assumes the mayor is imbued with general powers and duties of a chief executive. However, the city charter codifying the powers and duties of Alexandria's mayor according to Virginia law states:

"The mayor shall preside over the meetings of the city council and shall have the same right to vote and speak therein as other members. The mayor shall not have the power of veto. He shall be recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes, the purposes of military law and the service of civil process."

On the other hand, when it comes to power; all powers of the city as granted in the charter and the determination of all matters of policy are vested in the council. Therefore, any member of council who simply defers to the mayor on these matters, abdicates his or her responsibility and thus breaks the trust granted to them by the public. However, a council member might also believe allegiance to a political party eclipses loyalty to the public at large. If they view the mayor as head of the party in office, they might reconcile to follow rather

than govern as an equal; this too is a breach of public trust.

For voters the question is which six candidates are most likely to champion the people's agenda, challenge the ascendant authority of the mayor, stand up to partisan decisions over governance or growth and development that previous councils have allowed to descend into a zero-sum game of absolute winners and losers. Whereas, there are some new and energetic entries on the Democratic slate, the question remains, can any of them stand up to the mayor or his perceived council allies.

Voting for the Democratic slate is a vote for the status quo; where the voice of the people, is effectively silenced after the election. The Republican candidates offer diverging choices. Mark Shiffer, the independent candidate, stands out as the best choice for the people and will garner my vote. That leaves five other candidates, it's a tough decision, one I will likely struggle with up to election day. However, one thing is clear, the status quo cannot continue — the next council must work for us.

Roy R. Byrd
Alexandria

Blue Threads Run Through the Issues

To the Editor:

I write to pick-up salient threads from articles and letters in the Oct. 18-24 edition, beginning by welcoming Ricky Dobb who states in "Local Elections Matter:" "By stacking City Council or the School Board with Democrats, we're agreeing in advance on a ton of assumptions ... like climate change and women's [citizen/human] rights ... [that] leaves time and energy for progress for our community."

Oh dear, a liberal Democrat myself, and native Alexandrian, I have witnessed too much in-fighting, climate passivity, and neglect of key citizens' rights/views to agree. See

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY HAL HARDAWAY

Just Ducky

Founders Park on Friday morning, Oct 19.

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Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Cavanaugh's "Re-establish Trust." Even Independents/Republicans have at times better advocated citizen-determination, historic preservation, environmentalism than Democrats, some better termed "Development-crats."

First, citizen rights. Brendel's "Illuminating Case?" describes council's 6-1 vote implementing the Planning Commission's revised plan for T.C. Williams High School's (TCWHS) stadium lights. As explained by Republican Van Fleet's "Deplorable Attitudes" that vote broke a long-standing trust with African-American opponents that pours salt into wounded history where the very building of TCWHS displaced fellow residents. Up-hill, Fort Ward Park signage describes displacement of African-Americans, remembered by descendants and graveyards. After a divisive Council/AHDA process, razing the Ramsey homes discounted the unanimous decision of Parker-Gray BAR and wishes of those Ramsey residents who wanted both livable conditions and to salvage a piece of post-WWII black history, even just one mustard-yellow unit or section thereof. Instead, more historical signage for the new, livable standard-issue-2018-blocky-brown-toned flat-roofed units for mixed-incomes.

Regarding Historic Old Town, mention of failed opposition to the city's waterfront projects elicits groans that still reverberate among preservation-minded neighbors, civic and historic society members, arguably the better arbiters of historic "compatibility." These now focus on forestalling historic attrition, house-by-house, by opposing ungainly additions and infills approved by an architect-clubby BAR and Council-on-Appeal who often cite "millennial tastes" to justify approvals in processes riddled with conflicts-of-interest, inconsistent precedents, rubber-stamping staff recommendations. (In App's words: "City Council members ultimately abdicate[d] their authority to unelected staff."). Guess what? Research indicates that millennials value what all generations deserve: historic authenticity (not theme parks).

Next, climate change. As the UN Commission report warns, we have only two years to control carbon before irreversibility. Alexandria has made progress: recycling, composting, the greening of TCWHS. But look around: where are solar panels, geothermal units and wind turbines? None obvious since Earth Day, 1972. Do Ramsey, any city-funded facilities integrate

renewable energy options for long-term cost and carbon savings? Will the massively expensive Combined Sewage System (CSS — also long-overdue) add energy/water conservation value to the new pipes and lowered bacterial counts? Perhaps the new Environmental Action Plan?

Despite deep mistrust, I want to be constructive, and offer concrete suggestions for our civic agenda:

- ❖ If 80-foot lights at TCWHS are inevitable, put wind turbines on each tower to power lights and supply free energy to aggrieved opponents.

- ❖ Answer C. Dara's "Ignoring Wetlands?" question by doing the right thing: Comply with the highest regulatory standards based on environmental science, not pressure from developers.

- ❖ Prioritize City-wide carbon reduction. Facilitate installation of renewable energy options for public, private and business structures. Offer tax incentives.

- ❖ Build value-added options into CSS:

- Capture rainwater, separate greywater for heat recapture, irrigation, groundwater re-supply. TCWHS alone saves six-plus million gallons/year

- Hydroelectric Energy. Follow Portland Oregon's Lead: install turbines in water mains (CSS pipes as well?). Portland's pilot expects power for 150 homes, saving \$2,000,000 over 20 years.

- ❖ Devise/employ cost-projection models for affordable housing initiatives under Resolution 830. Clearly-state assumptions, account for key contingencies (e.g. HUD funding), test/validate using prior costs/savings. With transparent methodologies, council won't need to "rehash that conversation every time."

- ❖ "Re-establish trust." Fix public-hearing processes. Practice active listening with open-minds to actions based on input from citizens most impacted. Independently know ordinances; resist rubber-stamping staff. Eliminate systemic conflicts-of-interest. Get external ethics reviews. Preservation matters: err on the side of history.

So, Ricky Dobbs, may you be spared disillusioning frustrations experienced by many Alexandrians despite blue threads that should bind us. I'll confess to harboring visions of Alexandria as her better self, a Model City based on "tons of assumptions."

Mary E Palmer MD
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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CINDY

ANDERSON
Alexandria School Board

My entire family has benefited from our Alexandria City Public School education. I want to continue to work with board members, teachers, administrators, parents, students, and other community members to make sure current and future students receive an education that prepares them for success.

- Cindy Anderson

I would appreciate your vote on November 6th.

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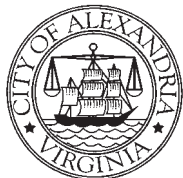
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Legals

Legals



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STORMWATER UTILITY FEE
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Real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments.

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The Finance Department is open, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2018 to be considered on time.)

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Preventing Gun Violence in Schools

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to Alexandria City Public School Board candidates:

We are a group of parents concerned about the way Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has (or has not) addressed gun violence. We direct this letter to you in hopes that you will speak to these matters as you campaign. More importantly, if you are elected, we ask that you proactively pursue and clearly communicate a comprehensive Gun Violence Prevention Program for all of ACPS.

First, let us acknowledge some sobering facts in the U.S., corresponding to data averaged between 2003-2013:

- ❖ 314 people are shot every day; 41 of these are children 18 and under.

- ❖ 114,644 people are shot each year; 14,783 are 18 or younger.

- ❖ Six people aged 18 or younger die every day from gun violence.

Many parents are concerned that ACPS's main engagement on the topic of gun violence prevention in our community has been to focus on the possibility of an active shooter on an ACPS campus. After the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the school board updated emergency response procedures based on guidance from the ALICE Training Institute. ACPS has provided some helpful information on ALICE and drills in the ACPS Express; however, more is needed.

ACPS schools have not uniformly provided information to parents about the ALICE program and what it entails. It appears that ACPS has left it to the principals at the individual schools to advise parents about the ALICE program.

The result has been patchwork; parents at some schools have received information about school emergency procedures in the event of an active shooter, while parents at other schools have been provided with no information whatsoever. Rumors about the nature of ALICE training and what, exactly, it means for our children have spread throughout the city. Some recent communication with the current school board has merely resulted in referrals to the New Emergency Procedures FAQs posted on the ACPS website. These limited FAQs lack specificity about training and drills for our children or the teachers and other professionals who work in their schools. We expect more information about the procedures being implemented in our children's schools, in advance of their implementation.

Many ACPS schools also have a school resource officer (SRO), but their role is unclear. We have questions about SROs that we would like the school board to address. Why do some schools have an SRO, while others do not? What special training do they receive? What is their role in the event of an active shooter situation? And how will ACPS ensure that another SRO does not inadvertently discharge his or her firearm in a school, as happened in March 2018 at George Washington Middle School?

ALICE is a reaction-based program to gun violence. We urge the ACPS school board to provide a more thoughtful, explicit, and well-communicated Gun Violence Prevention Program so there is no feeling of resignation to or acceptance of gun violence.

Components of a successful program may include:

- ❖ Implementing Sandy Hook Promise's Know the Signs programs: (1) Say Something Anonymous reporting system (currently being rolled out statewide in Pennsylvania via Safe2Say Something Anony-

mous); (2) Safety Assessment and Intervention; (3) Start with Hello; and (4) SOS Signs of Suicide.

- ❖ Holding School Safety Forums similar to that hosted by Arlington County Council of PTAs and Arlington Public Schools on Oct. 10, 2018 at Yorktown High School. The "Gun Violence Prevention at Home, School, and in the Community" forum components included a Be SMART training (gun safety education program for adults); a presentation by the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families; a presentation by Arlington Public Schools Emergency Management; and a presentation from Until Help Arrives.

- ❖ Providing safety education programming for students at all levels on guns, fire, and other safety concerns. Partner with local law enforcement, medical professionals, NASP, and others on this.

- ❖ Emphasizing and clearly communicating existing violence prevention programs currently used within ACPS (e.g., Threat Assessment, etc.).

We hope that in the coming months the school board will take active steps to deal with our concerns, and clearly communicate those steps to ACPS parents in a thorough, uniform matter. We expect that such communications would include, at a minimum, details about what our children can expect from school safety drills and other violence prevention programs, so that we can have informed conversations with our children before and after they encounter these programs at school (this would be an expansion of what was provided in the ACPS Express in September, which was appreciated).

We insist that school board candidates explain what they propose for a comprehensive gun violence prevention program for all of ACPS and the community in which those schools are embedded.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this critically important matter before and after the election on Nov. 6.

Kristy Phillips,

member, Parents for Safe Alexandria schools

And Parents for Safe Alexandria schools

(PSAs — includes parents from Charles Barrett ES;

Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, & Technology;

George Mason ES; George Washington MS; Jefferson-

Houston; John Adams ES; MacArthur ES; Maury ES;

Minnie Howard campus of TC; Mount Vernon CS;

Patrick Henry ES; Polk ES; and

TC Williams HS)

Need To Put Patients First

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to "Opportunities and Challenges - Implementing Obamacare in Alexandria" (Alexandria Gazette Packet, Oct. 25-31 2018). While the authors applauded Virginia's Medicaid Expansion and advocated "to bring health and hope" to Alexandria's low-income uninsured, they failed to use their bullhorn to message Virginia's Medicaid Expansion planners. I'm as frustrated as many of Alexandria's taxpayers are by the lack of transparency by our elected officials at the local, state and national level. I'm particularly frustrated with our state-level leaders by their radio-silence on their plans for this costly Expansion, despite repeated requests for information.

My frustration extends to the authors for not articulating what should be the primary goal of the Expansion — putting Patients First. What does that mean? In the article they accepted the low 40 percent increase in patients filling their diabetes prescrip-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

tions. That is totally unacceptable when we are talking about this multi-million dollar Expansion — it does not put Patients First! The use of affordable salaried coaches has demonstrated a 90 percent compliance in filling prescriptions, a huge savings in avoiding more costly treatments, long term care, etc.. This is something the authors need to advocate for — and demand!

A few months back I wrote our state delegate who was participating in the design of the Expansion, and challenged him to review the State of Mississippi's Medicaid Program that provides over 35 specialty services at more than 200 hospitals. Their patient approval rate is 93.4 percent while their hospital administration approval rate is 87.5 percent. Mississippi capitalizes on information technology. I never heard anything back. The Gazette Packet article made no reference to the advocating for increased access to specialty care or expanded use of technology to better serve patients.

Absent also was their advocacy for lower drug prices. The FDA has aggressively approved 781 generic drugs so far in 2018. Huge cost-savings! Coupling the wider access to generics with the administration's recent initiative to lower Medicare drug prices to match overseas prices and, as importantly, efforts in the House and Senate to reform the out-of-control Federal 340B Drug Program, will significantly lower drug prices — for all. The authors need to not

only advocate for Virginia's support of these ongoing improvements and initiatives, but demand it.

The access to healthcare professionals and their reimbursement rates is key to putting Patients First. Obamacare purposely did not expand the infrastructure to train an increased number of doctors to meet the growing number of patients. We are extremely lucky in the Alexandria area that our growing needs are being largely met through the immigration of foreign trained doctors. We recently went to India and saw first hand the exponential growth in income and opportunity there. It warned us that our window for the overseas supply of doctors is closing. As a result, the authors need to advocate for the State of Virginia to review their laws and regulations regarding Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. Expanding Medicaid without ensuring access and the concomitant adequacy of reimbursement for services is not putting Patients First.

I'm hoping the authors and the taxpayers of Alexandria and those throughout the State of Virginia will view this letter constructively. There is a healthcare need, but currently, as demonstrated by the lack of specifics in the article, Virginia's plans for Medicaid Expansion lacks transparency. Does it put Patients First? Your guess?

Ken Wilkinson
Alexandria

A Mother's Advice

To the Editor:

My name is Cynthia Harris and I am the mother of Christopher Harris, candidate for school board, District A. I have voted in the City of Alexandria since 1980, but this year is special as I have the opportunity to see my son's name on the ballot.

As a mother, it is something special to watch your child grow into a leader, advocate, and public servant. Chris has dedicated his life to giving a voice to the voiceless emphasizing teamwork, mentoring, and coaching students across our city. He has worked diligently as an executive board member of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission and has led the Alexandria Branch of the NAACP in the fight to address discriminatory discipline practices within ACPS.

It is imperative that you know as a school board member Chris will champion policy that addresses safety and infrastructure within our school, he will work to ensure our teachers have the resources and support needed to provide our children a world-class education, ensure equitable practices across the school system, and make fiscally responsible decisions. His skills in engaging families, ability to build coalitions, and desire for transparency in information reporting will be an immediate asset to the board.

Chris' foundation as a student in ACPS provided him with the foundation he

needed, to support his three children as they matriculated through ACPS, to become a small business owner, and to thrive in his career as an engineer specializing in construction and project management.

As you head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 6, please vote for my son, Christopher Harris.

Cynthia Harris
Alexandria

Improve City's Schools

To the Editor:

On Nov. 6, our city will decide what our future will look like. As a 2018 T.C. Williams graduate and District A voter, I am here to tell you that the school board race may not be the most exciting race, or the most publicized, but it is important. Whether or not you have children in ACPS, the leaders we are putting into office at the school board level will be determining the quality of education for students like me for years to come. In the last seven years, I have sat on a student advisory board with two ACPS superintendents, seen three GW principals come and go, and watched GW go from two schools to one. I have been governed by three different T.C. Williams principals and administrations (not counting Minnie Howard), and had two T.C. Williams coun

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 14

selors. ACPS made me who I am, and I know that we need school leaders who will put students' needs first.

As a former School Board Student Representative, I have also had the unique position of serving as a direct link between ACPS students and the elected body that governs them. Not only did I have the opportunity to shape school board policy, but I also felt the impact of those decisions, for better or worse. I have had coffee with almost every single candidate running in District A. I know what makes a good school board member, and I think one of your votes should go to Chris Suarez in District A.

Why? Because he has experience in the classroom. Because teachers are the only people who really know what it is like to teach a classroom of special education students or English language learners without enough

funding. Teachers walk in overcrowded halls. Teachers have to grade the homework of gigantic classes. As an education policy wonk and former teacher, Chris has read research on the achievement gap and knows what

the literature says on data-driven solutions. He understands that implementation is everything with restorative justice. He is not naive about T.C. Williams' struggles with lack of diversity in AP classes. He understands that recruiting and retaining great teachers is critical to education.

I love Alexandria, ACPS, and T.C. Williams, but we have work to do. Overcrowding, aging school buildings, poor teaching, and inequitable funding are real challenges. Chris is the best person to sincerely acknowledge our struggles, equip our students and teachers with adequate resources that will allow students to thrive, and make tough calls on how to improve education in Alexandria. Education is the cornerstone of our democracy, and it is the key to the future of our city. Every tax dollar the school board spends is critical to improving the lives of

Alexandria's kids. Whether or not you have ACPS students, vote for the future of Alexandria on Nov. 6. Vote Chris Suarez in District A.

Jay Falk
Alexandria

for candidates that are qualified to hold a certain seat. The same is true in local politics. It is extremely important that we, as a local community, must not vote blindly along party lines but, instead, re-program ourselves and vote for candidates that we feel are qualified and will be assets to our city.

The business community is quite influential when it comes to electing leaders in our local elections. Entrepreneurs carefully evaluate candidates to determine their abilities to be pro-business and overall, a best fit for our city. Unfortunately, party-line politics still plays a role within the business community.

As an entrepreneur, I urge my fellow colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to erase the line that separates the red and the blue and vote for what our businesses and residents need and an overall good fit for city. As the founder of Alexandria Cupcake, along with my colleague Fernando Torrez (founder of NanoTech Computers), I am publicly endorsing Elizabeth Bennett-Parker for City Council and Christopher Harris for School Board.

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker has the ideal mindset for streamlining the processes that businesses face within our city. She is a small business creator who understands the needs of business owners. Having a pro-business mindset, Elizabeth supports streamlining zoning and licensing procedures; bringing high-speed broadband; A-frame signs and the value they bring to businesses; and attracting more visitors to our city. She is an ideal candidate to promote the growth of business in our community.

Christopher Harris, being an entrepreneur himself, understands the strong nexus between education and the business leaders it creates. A product of our local school system, Chris is well aware of the needs of specialized programs within our school system that will groom and raise the future business leaders of Alexandria.

I hope you will join me on Nov. 6 in supporting Elizabeth Bennett-Parker for City Council and Christopher Harris for School Board. Remember, vote local.

Adnan M. Hamidi

Founder of Alexandria Cupcake

A Day for Independents

To the Editor:

I fully support Independent candidate, Mark Shiffer, for City Council.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

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Vote Local, Not Party Line

To the Editor:

In today's political arena, we have a tendency to cast votes along party lines instead of voting

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OPINION

Rebuilding Together Kicks Off Fall Volunteer Season

BY MICHAEL SPAETH
COMMUNICATIONS AND
DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
REBUILDING TOGETHER DC
ALEXANDRIA

Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria has hit the ground running this fall with new projects rebuilding community spaces here in Alexandria. The organization kicked off its fall volunteer season with two repair projects in the Lynhaven neighborhood.

In September, volunteers, in partnership with Project Reinvest, made repairs to the Commonwealth Avenue Park, located at the intersection of Commonwealth and Reed Avenue. They installed a long curved bench, a grill, and thousands of new shrubs, grasses, and perennials.

The park is meant to serve as an “outdoor living room” for the community, according to Judy Lo, a project manager at the City of Alexandria’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

“We envision this park to be a gathering space for all ages,” said Lo. “The path can be used for small kids on bikes or tricycles, the tables can be used for games such as dominos, and the grill and picnic area can be used by the whole family. We also hope that it will serve as an extension of the Leonard ‘Chick’ Armstrong Recreation Center. Programs from the center can come out to the park, and families can meet at the park after kids are picked up from the center in the evenings.”

The repairs to the Commonwealth Avenue Park have been in the planning stages for more than a year.

“It’s been exciting to see the park transform,” said Lo. “People said

they didn’t even know there was a park on the corner. There was tall, heavy vegetation, so you couldn’t see in. The new plantings frame and soften the park and make it a welcoming place. The volunteers did the work that had the most impact, because the neighborhood really started to notice. It’s been great to see community resources come together for the park.”

Volunteers from EY also recently repaired the outdoor learning space at the Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology. The volunteers added soil to garden beds, laid mulch, pruned trees and shrubs, and made other repairs.

“It’s amazing what this outdoor learning space looked like before and what it looked like afterward,” said Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria Board of Directors member and EY volunteer Mark Mahar. “And you could see the pride the volunteers have in their work and contributing to the education of the children in the community.”

This was EY’s third volunteer project with Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria. Each of the projects has been successful and a valuable experience for the community and EY employees, according to Mahar.

Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria provides opportunities throughout the year for employees of companies to make repairs to low-income homes and community spaces in Alexandria and help ensure that those spaces are safe and healthy. These volunteer projects provide an opportunity for employees to participate in team-building and give back to the community. Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria also hosts other volunteer events throughout the year for community members in Alexandria to make these repairs.

“Over the years, Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria has developed relationships with folks while



Volunteers made repairs to the Commonwealth Avenue Park, located at the intersection of Commonwealth and Reed Avenue.

working on their houses,” said Lo. “It’s only natural that they also help build public spaces to supplement their core objective. It’s a holistic approach to investing in communities.”

Rebuilding Together Alexandria, now Rebuilding Together DC • Alexandria, is an award-winning, mission-driven organization that creates healthy neighborhoods for residents by maintaining housing for low-income homeowners, revitalizing community spaces, and creating homeownership opportunities. Since 1986, more than 28,000 volunteers have worked on 2,200 projects, leveraging \$8.8 million worth of in-kind value to Alexandria, and in 2019, we’ll bring our services to DC. Applications are now being accepted from Alexandria homeowners for free home repairs. Visit www.RebuildingTogetherDCA.org or call 703-836-1021.



Volunteers recently repaired the outdoor learning space at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

Mark deserves your vote. Take an extra two seconds to scan to the end of the City Council list of candidates on your ballot when you vote. Mark will be the final printed name. Check that box first before voting for anyone else.

Three years ago I ran as an Independent candidate for City Council, and I came in last place. Many Republicans were displeased I didn’t run with them. Many Democrats told me I would have been elected if I had run with

them. Party politics defy logic and lead to a government lacking in adequate discourse and ideas.

The past three years have made it clear that both the Democratic and Republican parties exist to serve themselves, and not we the people. I hope I was simply ahead of my time in the abandonment of party ideology.

I hope Alexandria just wasn’t ready for a non-party candidate in 2015.

Alexandria needs to be ready now ... in 2018. Mark is a left-

leaning moderate, who has the strong character Alexandrians need and deserve on City Council right now. Mark and I agree on how to address virtually all of the issues facing our city even though I’m a right-leaning moderate.

Democrats started voting for change in their June primary. Their slate of candidates is far from perfect. The time has come for change. The time has come for Tuesday Nov. 6, to be known as Independents Day. The time has come for Mark Shiffer to be elected

to Alexandria City Council as a true Independent, serving all of us.

Phil Cefaratti

Two-time City Council Candidate 2009 and 2015, Seminary Ridge resident, and president and principal broker of Potomac River, Realtors

A Fresh Voice

To the Editor:

I am a proud Alexandrian who lives on the West End, but I work three jobs to afford to live here — and I am not alone.

There are individuals and families struggling to make it in Alexandria. For those of us who live on the West End, City Hall often seems too far away to help solve our problems.

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, an Alexandria City Council candidate, makes City Hall seem closer to Alexandrians who are looking for solutions. She helps lead Together We Bake, a job-training program for women in need. Like so many others in Alexandria, the women

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21



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PHOTOS BY MELLENIE RUINION

From left: Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, Councilwoman Del Pepper, Beth Tuttle, Erich Veitenheimer, III, Denise Tennant, and Dana Holmstrand.

Chief Michael Brown and Captain Monica Lisle of the Alexandria Police Department (Winner in Sustainable Design), along with Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, and Councilwoman Del Pepper.

Beautification Commission Names Award Winners

The Alexandria Beautification Commission held its annual Beautification Awards ceremony on Oct. 16 at the Lyceum in Old Town, Alexandria. The theme of this year's event was "How Green Spaces Improve the Quality of Life."

Mayor Allison Silberberg and members of City Council — Del Pepper and Paul Smedberg — presented the winners with their award certificates. Silberberg said, "This is one of my favorite events of the year. Beautification is crucial. We are all temporary stewards of this national treasure called Alexandria. It takes a team effort, and the Alexandria Beautification Commission is a big part of that." Silberberg thanked the honorees and the commission for their hard work, "We are the winners here in Alexandria. We are beneficiaries of your devotion to beautification."

Commission member Anna Smith Lacey announced this year's winners who were awarded for their exceptional efforts in contributing to the beautification of Alexandria through architecture, landscaping and sustainable practices.

Awards were presented in six categories: Excellence in Architecture, Excellence in Sustainable Design, Green Practices

in Beautification, Community Beautification, Residential Beautification, and Commercial Beautification. Lacey said, "This year, we are seeing a new and encouraging trend. We are seeing the city, local businesses, residents and communities coming together to create sustainable landscapes that not only create beauty, but also improve quality of life."

Beth Tuttle, president of the

American Horticultural Society, was the keynote speaker: "Beautification is full of power and potential. The process of beautifying our cities builds communities that are more resilient, more connected, healthier and more equitable."

Tuttle spoke about the notion of cultivating resilience, which is the capacity to persist and solve problems and to adapt in the face of the challenging circumstances: "When we employ sustainable design, as many of tonight's honorees are doing, and as we continue to work on the City of Alexandria's initiative, science tells us that we are creating good conditions for both environmental and social psychological resilience."

Tuttle explained that through urban green spaces, such as gardens and parks, a sense of community is built. She said that by creating these neutral spaces for people to come together, "a sense of connectedness and ownership emerges as a result. It begins to foster greater trust, cooperation and sense of reciprocity among individuals. All of these are absolutely critical components of any well-functioning society."

"The evening was a wonderful celebration of excellence in beautification," said Christina Mazurkevich, commission member and real estate agent. "It was about gratitude and recognizing those who do greater good to benefit all of us — our environment, our well-being, and thereby making Alexandria a more beautiful place."

A full list of the 2018 Alexandria Beautification Award winners can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/Beautification.



Members of The Old Dominion Boat Club (Winner of Excellence in Architecture), and architect Michael Winstanley, with Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, and Councilwoman Del Pepper.



From left: Councilman Paul C. Smedberg, Beth Tuttle, Mayor Allison Silberberg, and Councilwoman Del Pepper.



Beth Tuttle, president of the American Horticultural Society.

PEOPLE

Young At Art

Juried show celebrates 32 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Young At Art, a juried art exhibit featuring the works of artists 55 years and older, celebrated its 32nd anniversary with a reception and awards ceremony Oct. 25 at the Durant Arts Center in Old Town.

Co-sponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and the Goodwin House Foundation, Young At Art showcases works of art created by older adults to make them available to the greater Washington Metropolitan area community.

Multi-media artist Rula Jones Brock, a recent artist in residence at the Centre Pompadour in Northern France, served as juror for the show, which attracted artists in all mediums.

"Senior Services of Alexandria is proud to cosponsor this annual

event with the Goodwin House Foundation that highlights the many talented senior artists in our area," said Mary Lee Anderson, executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria.

Works for the show were submitted by teachers, professionals and amateurs. Mediums represented include: oil, acrylic, watercolor, digital composition, photo print, silver gelatin print, enamel on steel, fiber, clay and wood sculpture, paint on silk, pastels, color pencil and mix media.

"The experience of working with Senior Services is very fulfilling," said SSA board chair Jack Fannon. "Like Young At Art, SSA programs really make a difference in people's lives."

Winners of the 2018 Young At Art show include: First Place - Nilo Santiago; Second Place - Julie Halperson; and Third Place - Candy Perque Herlihy.



Winning artists pose with Mayor Allison Silberberg and staff and board members of the Goodwin House Foundation and Senior Services of Alexandria at the 32nd annual Young At Arts show Oct. 25 at the Durant Arts Center.



Senior Services of Alexandria board chair Jack Fannon welcomes attendees to the Young At Art exhibit Oct. 25 at the Durant Arts Center.



In her first-ever entry, Julie Halperson took home Second Place for her "Reflection Selfie" photograph on Metro.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON
TISARA PHOTO



Nilo Santiago won First Place for his acrylic on paper painting "Trycycles on Paranaque."

Best known for his photography, artist Steven Halperson has been etching copper for many years.

Here he is with his mother, photographer Nina Tisara, in front of his entry "Tree of Life," framed in an old chair back.



Restoration Scripture Reference: Psalm 51:12

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HALLOWEEN IN ALEXANDRIA



PHOTOS BY LAURA MAE SUDDER



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

Together We Bake serves need affordable housing, stable employment and a high-quality education for their children.

Elizabeth is running for City Council to build on her work creating opportunities for women in need to create opportunities for Alexandrians like me.

Elizabeth wants to allow more citizens to be heard, with City Council field hearings throughout Alexandria and child care services during Council meetings. She believes City Council should do more to provide affordable housing for first responders, teachers, and low-income families.

Elizabeth also wants to spark small business growth and attract new businesses to areas like the West End, which will ensure more revenues for Alexandria's biggest needs — from schools to transportation.

Elizabeth will be a fresh, innovative voice on Alexandria City Council who will work to find solutions and improve lives.

Meg Czaikoski
Alexandria

Money Shouldn't Rule Politics

To the Editor:

This year's midterm election cycle is slated by the Center for Responsive Politics to become the first and only member of the \$5-billion club, the costliest congressional election cycle in U.S. history. The group ranks Virginia the 6th-largest state recipient of total itemized contributions at more than \$141 million, and Virginia's 2018 receipts of over \$60 million in PAC contributions rank the state No. 1.

Despite the Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission Supreme Court ruling (2010) which deemed "money as speech," a majority of Americans, more than 80 percent of Democrats, Republicans and independents, support initiatives to limit corporate campaign contributions, thus bringing back power to the people.

In Alexandria, there is a movement of concerned citizens running for public office, such as Justin Wilson (mayoral candidate), Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Mo Seifeldin, (city council), who are advocating for a constitutional amendment to ensure people — not money, not corporations or others — govern.

Several national efforts are also underway to further a constitutional amendment and enable us all to limit big money's influence

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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Inspiring an Interest in Animals for Alexandrians of All Ages

BY AUDREY ALESSI
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Bella enters the cat adoption room with books in hand, stopping by each enclosure to take a peek at its resident. Fifth-grader Bella decides on Blue, a senior Russian Blue who is watching patiently from his bed. She settles down on the floor next to him, and he rubs his cheeks against the book “Too Many Carrots.” As she begins to read, he settles back into his bed and watches her closely as she flips through each page.

“We are not ready to get another pet right now,” says Lorena, mother of Bella and her sister, Mackenzie, “but this is another way for them to spend time with animals. In the past the girls have collected towels and blankets that they brought to the shelter to donate, and they were really excited when they heard about this program.” Mackenzie, a seventh-grader, also enjoys visiting the cats to read and enjoy the feline company.

Both girls are volunteers with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria’s (AWLA) Book Buddies program, one of the organization’s many offerings to introduce young people to animal sheltering and responsible pet ownership. Book Buddies provides students in grades 3 through 12 with the chance to practice their reading skills while offering enrichment and socialization to cats at the shelter. Some felines unwind to the sound of someone reading to them and may even take a quick catnap by their volunteer’s side, while other cats prefer to interact with their Book Buddy.

Lana Larson, the AWLA’s youth programs educator, has been supporting the expansion of these youth volunteer programs. Since redesigning the AWLA’s popular summer camp program in 2017, Larson has helped redevelop shelter youth offerings like birthday parties, Scout programs and even at-home projects, all promoting animal welfare and supporting shelter animals. Larson incorporates her training as a fourth-grade teacher into planning lessons and activities for the different age groups who take part in these programs. Her unique perspective as an educator and experience in the animal sheltering environment allows her to reach an audience of volunteers eager to learn more about helping animals in need.

“These types of programs plant the seeds in young adults that will ultimately grow into a love and respect for all types of animals,” Larson says. “These children will grow into teens and adults who continue to



Bella reads to Blue while he shows his appreciation for her book selection.



A Columbus Day student volunteer takes a break to play with kittens.



Mackenzie reads to Spunky who listens attentively.

foster this respect and share it with others.”

This past summer, Larson oversaw the shelter’s summer camps, with lessons oriented to children with ages ranging from 6 through 13. During the week campers learned about animal care at the shelter, met staff members who shared their experiences working with animals and heard from special guests who expanded their knowledge of animal welfare in the community. “It’s never too early to teach a child about animal interaction,” Larson explains.

The AWLA’s youth volunteer programs provide opportunities throughout the year, some of which allow them to help shelter animals without ever leaving their home. These at-home projects include creating animal enrichment items such as cardboard

instructions on the AWLA’s website and can even earn school service hours for their efforts.

Throughout the year, Larson leads workshops for Scout groups and helps with birthday parties for animal lovers ages eight and older. On Columbus Day, Larson and AWLA Director of Operations Jessica Almond organized a Teen Volunteer Event, where students ages 13 through 17 could assist with animal care, working alongside staff and adult volunteers to get the shelter animals prepped for visiting hours.

Almond, who has been working with AWLA volunteers since 2017, sees these service day events as the organization’s next big step for getting youth volunteers involved with helping animals. “I’m excited

scratchers and ribbon wand toys for cats and no-sew fleece blankets for animals of all sizes. Volunteers can find a list of projects and

about the launch of our service day programs and hope more students can become involved,” she says. “I would love to see the program continue to develop to provide more ways for students to learn about the shelter and animal welfare.”

As the AWLA prepares for the next Kongs-giving, a family-friendly holiday event where volunteers of all ages prepare treats and toys for shelter animals, Larson is also looking for new, meaningful ways for young people to connect with the shelter and its residents. If your young learner is looking for more ways to get involved and help Alexandria’s Animals, visit our website at AlexandriaAnimals.org/YouthPrograms or contact us at Volunteer@AlexandriaAnimals.org.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, which operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on contract with the City of Alexandria, is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the City of Alexandria community. More information is at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 21

over our political system. One such group, American Promise, of which I’m a member, has recently established a Virginia chapter.

These candidates and groups join the majority of Americans in agreeing that it is time to support a U.S. amendment that secures fair, free elections by limiting the undue influence of money in politics.

Let’s vote for candidates who want to get money out of politics and bring back trust

between average citizens and elected officials. We, the citizens of Virginia, should pledge to elect candidates in 2018 and 2019 who don’t take corporate PAC money. To-date, 19 states have ratified legislation supporting getting “money out of politics.” Let’s make Virginia the 20th to pass legislation to reverse Citizens United.

Nancy R Morgan
Alexandria

Consider Protest Vote

To the Editor:

According to a recently released report city hall commissioned on immigrants’ economic contributions, with nil attention to any associated costs, immigration accounts for more than half of Alexandria’s recent population growth.

Since immigrants are more likely to be of child-bearing age, they likely contribute an even higher share of the city’s public school student growth and the associated capacity needs which the school board is struggling to accommodate at enormous operating expense (more teachers, especially for “English language learners”) and capital cost (new schools and trailers at existing schools).

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 33

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City, Schools Delineate State Lobbying Priorities

FROM PAGE 8

ist. She says state Sen. Bill Stanley (R-20) currently leads an effort to use new Internet sales tax revenue “to bond ... something like \$3 billion” for Virginia’s school divisions. However, discussion so far “has

been very focused on renovation of schools in older, rural communities,” said Taylor. She wants to ensure “that the conversation is not just about older facilities in rural communities, [but] also about growing communities” like Alexandria. Moreover, she wants to en-

sure “that any solutions ... are truly new money, and that we’re not taking funding away from other areas that are vital to localities, including transportation.”

Diverting funds from transportation to education “could be very, very harmful for us as a city,” said

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. “Yes, we clearly want additional investment. This would be the first time the state has really made a significant investment in school facilities at the local level in 20 years. But we want them to do it the right way, and not in a way that harms us in other policy areas.”

The city and schools’ agendas include a broad array of other items, as well. Other things the city would support, which Taylor highlighted in her presentation to council, include the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission to prevent gerrymandering; state Sen. Adam Ebbin’s (D-30) proposed legislation to make simple possession of marijuana a civil rather than a criminal offense; “common sense gun regulations,” including, for example, stricter background checks for gun buyers and prohibition of certain kinds of weapons, accessories and ammunition; not cutting funding for local community service boards, which, under state law, can receive state dollars to assist in delivering “mental health, developmental, and substance abuse services;” and

restoring funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, some of whose monies the state diverted to Metro earlier this year.

Other things the school system would support, which Wise highlighted in her presentation to the School Board, include increasing state funding for “at-risk” students, such as those who are economically disadvantaged or learning English as a second language; and legislation making community college courses more accessible to high school students.

However, it may be difficult to pursue controversial items, since 2019 is another election year, said Taylor.

Find the city’s agenda online on council’s Oct. 23 docket (item #11), and the school system’s on the School Board’s Oct. 25 docket (item #13). The School Board adopted its agenda. For the city’s, a public hearing will take place on Saturday, Nov. 17 and final adoption on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Contact Sarah Taylor, the city’s legislative director, at 703-746-3963 or sarah.taylor@alexandriava.gov.

Discussing Student Disparities

FROM PAGE 9

more evidence of their efficacy before committing greater resources to expand the program.

Asked if they support the provision in public schools of trade certification programs, all said yes. Several said they want to return certifications that have been cut, or otherwise expand the program.

Michelle Rief (District A) said she wants to include “the building trades, like plumbers, construction workers, sheet metal workers, ... electricians — those are great paying jobs.”

Incumbent Cindy Anderson (District B) agreed, saying: “The building trades is one [program] I didn’t like seeing go away.”

Thornton said: “I want us to be creative and think about jobs that don’t even exist yet.”

Asked if they see it as an issue that “it seems that [public housing] children get [districted] to certain schools, regardless of how close they might live to another school,” most said yes, although several incumbents equivocated, suggesting the issue might be more nuanced.

For example, supporting the current districting, incumbent Veronica Nolan (District B) said: “If one school is in a higher concentration of poverty and another school is [in] a high-resourced area, you have a complete imbalance. I actually think the purpose is for balance.”

Answering a question from the audience about why the candidates think black and Hispanic students are suspended at higher rates than white students, Campbell said: “Disproportionality is a function of not having the same expectations for all children. That ends up being the bottom line.”

Solomon said: “I think it’s bias, both conscious and unconscious.”

Meagan Alderton (District C) said: “Our best tool for managing student behavior is high-quality instruction. ... [Most] of our kids are misbehaving because they’re not engaged. ... Most kids want to learn.”

Another audience member asked why the candidates think minority and low-income children aren’t placed more frequently in talented and gifted (TAG), honors, and advanced placement (AP) courses.

Several candidates suggested that parents may not know about these opportunities, or are otherwise unable equitably to advocate for their children.

Alderton said: “The reason isn’t very pretty. ... The loudest voices get what they want, period. And those are usually ... white, affluent families. ... There are a ton of white kids in TAG and honors who don’t belong, because they’re not really TAG and honors quality students. Their parents have asked for something and they’ve gotten it.”

W. Christopher Harris (District A) said that having to work multiple jobs prevents some parents from being able to engage more on their children’s behalf through PTAs and parent-teacher conferences.

Jacinta Greene (District A) said: “We have parents out here that don’t feel comfortable coming into our schools” — for example because “they don’t speak the language.”

Jewelyn Cosgrove (District B) and Christopher Suarez (District A) both suggested a need to help teachers better identify exceptional students. Likewise, incumbent Ramee Gentry wants to develop teachers to be better “talent scouts.”

Dianara Saget (District C) said: “Some children are not really good at testing. ... Who’s recommending our children to these talented and gifted programs? We have to also look at that.”

John Lennon (District C) indicated that the disparity starts early. He wants to beef up counseling, especially between pre-k and third grade, in order to ensure student “literacy and numeracy at grade level all along the way.”

Echoing this, Wacek said: “Maybe [students in advanced courses are] just had a leg up from the get-go. So I think we need to level that playing field ... through pre-k programs that are accessible to all.”

CRIME REPORT

MONDAY, OCT. 29

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a bank robbery in the 200 block of S. Washington Street. A man implied a weapon and stole cash. There were no injuries.

MONDAY, OCT. 22

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 5300

block of Holmes Run Parkway. A suspect grabbed items from the victim and fled. There were no injuries.

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 400 block of S. Pickett Street. A man implied he had a firearm when he was confronted stealing. He then fled.



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Old Meets New at Alexandria Visitor Center Garden

A groundbreaking on Oct. 24 kicked off the renovation of Alexandria's "front door" to the city at the historic Ramsay House garden, Alexandria Visitor Center on King Street in Old Town.

The renovation features a new garden design by Joan Honeyman of Jordan Honeyman Landscape Architecture and includes an accessible garden entry and terrace, native and sustainable plantings as well as seating to welcome the thousands of residents and tourists who visit the Ramsay House garden each year. The sustainable design includes a new water fountain and the only cell phone charging station in Alexandria's city parks, according to the Garden Club of Alexandria.

With an ongoing fund-raising program, the club has engaged J and J Landscaping for the garden installation. Donnie Simpson of Simpson Development is continuing the family's history of civic commitment by donating project management for the garden renovation. Both his father and grandfather were thanked at the house for their work on original Ramsay House projects.

A grand opening is planned for Spring 2019 in order to greet residents and tourists to Historic Garden Week's house and garden tour.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT

Members of the Garden Club of Alexandria gathered funding to renovate the Ramsey House garden.

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.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Children's Holiday Party. The Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (DVP) organizes a Holiday Party for children and mothers who have been recently served by the program on Dec. 13. At the party, the families reunite with past shelter friends and staff, eat and take pictures with Santa Claus, among other activities. Each mother and child receives a bag of gifts to wrap and place under their own tree on Christmas Day. If you wish to donate children's toys or other gifts, provide newly purchased, unwrapped items. DVP will provide each mother with wrapping paper to personalize each child's gift. DVP is requesting gift certificates to local stores in denominations of \$25. For help deciding what to purchase, or questions about donating, call Magdalia or Hewan at 703-746-4911 for assistance. For more information about Domestic Violence visit alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence.

THROUGH DEC. 31

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance

Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The City Manager approved the additional backflow preventer effort in the wake of torrential rainfall July 17-22. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is from July 1-Dec. 31. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

NAME THE NEW PARK

The City of Alexandria is soliciting suggestions for the name of the new park at the foot of King Street. The public is invited to participate in an online survey now through Nov. 16, and a public

hearing on Nov. 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.). Visit alexandriava.gov/Waterfront.

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6 Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, will be held on the first Friday of every month. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve a spot, which are open on a first come first served basis. To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacareconnections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlinton-alexandria-va for more.

Vacancies on Boards Deadline. 5 p.m. The City Council is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on boards, commissions and committees. All applicants must complete a Personal Data Record no later 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2. For a complete list of vacancies, go to the following link: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/boards/info/default.aspx?id=2202>

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Mayor on Your Corner. 10-11:30 a.m. At Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke Street, Alexandria. Join Mayor Allison Silberberg for her next monthly coffee, "Mayor on Your Corner." No need to RSVP. No charge to attend. There is a \$5 flat fee for pastries and coffee. Visit www.allisonsilberberg.com.

Ewald Park Parkour Proposal Open House. 10 a.m.-noon. At Ewald Park, 4452 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities will hold an open house to seek feedback on Ewald Park and future park projects, including the addition of Parkour equipment. Per the 2016 Neighborhood Park Plan, the playground will be moved to the former tennis court area. RPCA is proposing to amend the park plan to also include a parkour area adjacent to the future playground. The parkour area would have elements for all age groups to practice balance, exercise, and agility. The area would be designed in partnership with parkour athletes from T.C. Williams High School and PKMove. Feedback on the concept can also be sent to dana.wedeles@alexandriava.gov or

703-746-5491.

MONDAY/NOV. 5

Leaf Collection Begins. City of Alexandria will begin its annual leaf vacuuming and leaf bag collection program on Monday, Nov. 5. Leaf collection is expected to continue into January. Alexandria is divided into five collection zones, each with a specific start date. To determine specific collection zones and dates, and to find locations where complimentary leaf bags may be picked up, visit alexandriava.gov/LeafCollection or call 703-746-5323 (LEAF).

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

FAFSA Completion Workshop. 4-7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, Room C-206, 3330 King St. All T.C. Williams High School seniors and their families are invited to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's FAFSA Completion Workshop. Every senior should fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to qualify for money for college from the federal government, the state of Virginia, and colleges. Drop by anytime between 4 and 7:30 p.m. for a free McDonald's chicken sandwich and to complete the FAFSA in about 45 minutes. Contact the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Director of College Advising, Margaret Feldman, at margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us or 703-824-6730. Additionally, if you have any questions about how citizenship status may impact FAFSA eligibility, please contact Ms. Feldman for a confidential conversation. Interpretation services will be provided with online registration: bit.ly/Oct3FACE.

Census Counts Deadline. 5 p.m. As part of the City of Alexandria's planning to promote an accurate count of the city's population in the 2020 U.S. Census, residents are encouraged to apply to join the Alexandria Complete Count Committee. The City is seeking committee members who have experience working with historically undercounted communities, have knowledge of how these communities perceive government entities, work directly with or are trusted messengers in these communities, and/or can speak Amharic, Spanish or Arabic in addition to English. The deadline to submit an application to join the Complete Count Committee is 5 p.m. on Nov. 7. To submit an application, or for more information, visit

alexandriava.gov/Census2020.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Conservation Landscaping Workshop. 9-11 a.m. at Arlington Mill Community and Senior Center, 909 South Dinwiddie St., Arlington. Join the City of Alexandria's Stormwater Management Division, NOVA Soil and Water Conservation District, and Arlington County for "Beautiful Solutions for Stormwater Pollution," a free workshop on conservation landscaping. Space is limited, and the class is expected to fill up fast. RSVP to cmiles@novaregion.org to attend.

MONDAY/NOV. 12

32nd Annual Caregivers Conference. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. 32nd Annual Caregivers Conference: Finding Hope & Harmony in Caregiving is presented by the Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium. \$35. Register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/32nd-annual-caregivers-conference-finding-hope-harmony-in-caregiving-registration-48699561700. View or download the conference brochure at alz.org/media/nca/documents/NoVA_Dementia_Care_Consortium_Conference_2018.pdf.

Community Open House. 6-8 p.m. in the Lee Center Exhibit Hall (basement), 1108 Jefferson St. The community is invited to an informal open house to learn about implementation activities related to the South Patrick Street Housing Affordability Strategy, including implementation of recommended zoning and transportation projects. Community members are encouraged to stop by anytime to comment or ask questions. Questions may be directed to Radhika Mohan at 703-476-3850.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Community Meeting. 7-9 p.m. in the Cameron Station Great Room, 200 Cameron Station Blvd. The Landmark Mall Re-Planning Process, identified as a priority of Alexandria City Council's approved Fiscal Year 2019 Long-Range Planning Work Plan, will officially launch with this community meeting. Visit alexandriava.gov/Landmark.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Pink Hat Protest Paintings.

Through Nov. 4 at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Through encaustic wax paintings, Julia Dzikiewicz expresses her perception of rising racism, misogyny, and violence in the United States. Dzikiewicz creates her immense, evocative paintings with encaustic wax, an ancient and archival medium, by fusing layers of beeswax, pigment, gesso, and resin. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: Seeing the Light.

Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. "Seeing the Light: Virginia Landscapes and Beyond," is a solo exhibition by Bradley Stevens. His style is contemporary realism—rooted in classical training, yet boldly depicting the modern world with his penetrating eye.

Young at Art Exhibition.

Through Nov. 8, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-746-5560 or email durantcenter@alexandriava.gov.

Rooms: a Rock Romance.

Through Nov. 11, Thursdays and Fridays at 8, Saturdays at 3 and 8, Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria. The play is set in Glasgow in the 1970s. Monica, an ambitious singer-songwriter meets Ian, a reclusive rocker. They quickly become entangled creatively and romantically with their music and their quest for stardom taking them from Glasgow to London and ultimately New York City. A gritty rock musical exploring the universal desire to escape and create, to love and explore. Tickets are \$55. Call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

Yacht Haven Garden Club. 10 a.m. at Mount Vernon Yacht Club, Tarpon Lane, Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club will host a meeting with a program by Mary Van Dyke, Master Gardener, on "Selecting Ground Covers." New members are welcome. Visit www.facebook.com/yachthavengardenclub.

Music Makers. 4 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Free class goes from Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29. Practice your rhythm by making music as a group with percussion instruments. Ages 6-8. Visit www.alexlibraryva.org.

Art of Dancing With Fire. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. An artist talk with fire performance professional Kyle Rasmussen and her colleagues from Incandescent Entertainment and Peculiarity Productions. Learn about what motivates fire performers from how they practice to how they express themselves through this dynamic medium. They will also discuss their equipment and how they stay safe. Discussion will be followed by a demo performance and The Art of Dancing with Fire exhibit and reception in the lower gallery of the Athenaeum. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

All Saints' Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria. Free. All are welcome to honor All Saints' Day with Evensong at St. Paul's. Enjoy transcendent choral music, light candles in memory of loved ones, donate to Alexandrians in need, and



PHOTO BY TONY HITCHCOCK

The Art of Dancing with Fire

An artist talk with fire performance professional Kyle Rasmussen and her colleagues from Incandescent Entertainment and Peculiarity Productions. Learn about what motivates fire performers from how they practice to how they express themselves through this dynamic medium. They will also discuss their equipment, safety practices, and how they stay safe. Discussion will be followed by a demo performance and The Art of Dancing with Fire exhibit and reception in the lower gallery of the Athenaeum. Thursday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

stay for a casual reception. Contact Grant Hellmers at grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

Dungeons and Dragons world in attempts to reconnect with her sister Tilly. In the aftermath of Tilly's death in a car accident Agnes feels obligated to learn about her sister through the Dungeons and Dragons notebook that Tilly left behind. Written by Qui Nguyen, *She Kills Monsters* tells the touching story of an unlikely commonality bringing

two sisters together. \$10. Visit westpotomactheatre.org or call 703-718-2500.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 1-3

She Kills Monsters. 7-9:30 p.m. at Kogelman Theatre, 6500 Quander Road. The play focuses on Agnes Evans as she journeys through the

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

How to Stay Fit and Safe at Home. 10 a.m.-noon at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria. SSA is teaming up with

Alexandria Symphony Presents World Premiere

BY MELINDA KERN
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra continues its 75th anniversary season on Saturday, Nov. 3, 8 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and on Sunday, Nov. 4, 3 p.m., at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The ASO is celebrating its milestone birthday throughout the year along with the introduction of Music Director James Ross to the community.

The November program opens with two selections by Leonard Bernstein, the Overture to "West Side Story" and "Three Dance Episodes" from "On the Town." The performance comes on the heels of the 100th birthday of this legendary maestro, who was one of James Ross' most significant influences as a teacher and mentor. The ASO also presents Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 (commonly known as the Scottish Symphony) as a fitting prelude to Alexandria's annual Scottish Christmas Walk. "This music is episodic, craggy, scenic, lonely, and full of melodies that sound like folk songs," observes Maestro Ross.

Highlighting the concert is a world premiere cello concerto by Jessica Krash. Krash is a cutting-edge composer, resident of Bethesda, and long-time friend of Maestro Ross. "Jim and I have been friends since we were undergraduates at Harvard,

playing horn and piano recitals together," says Krash. "I am so thrilled and honored that he is interpreting and performing my piece." Krash collaborated throughout the project with Tanya Anisimova, who will perform as the cello soloist. The composition was supported in part by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Maryland.

Prior to each performance there will be a pre-concert chat, offering insights into the music. On Saturday the talk will be held at 7 p.m. with Jessica Krash and James Ross, exploring the collaborative composition process. On Sunday Maestro Ross will present "As the Baton Swings" at 2:15 p.m., which is geared toward younger attendees and novice symphony-goers with Jessica Krash as a featured guest. Both talks are open to all concert attendees.

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

the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, Goodwin at Home and Fairfax County to educate us what we need to know as we age in order to live independently in our own homes. Topics include learning about how physical changes occur as we age and the increasing importance of exercise; fall prevention; proper use of medications; how to modify your home and tips on avoiding scams. RSPV online at seniorservicesalex.org/november-speaker-series-home-safety/ or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Computer Basics Class. 10:15 a.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Learn the basics of using a computer with an overview of Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 applications. Also find out the best strategies for locating information on the Internet. Visit www.alexlibraryva.org.

"Dances Around the World." 6-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. During the evening, you will take a spin around the world through dance and music. Featured Heritage Dance Groups include Boyle School of Irish Dance; Ethio-American Eskista Dance Group; Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe; and the Royal Scottish Country Dancers. A "meet and greet" begins at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be on hand, complements of the Office of the Arts. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. No experience is necessary. Children under 5 years old are free. Children must be accompanied by one adult. Reservations are \$9 per person. To purchase tickets, visit www.alexandriava.gov website, scroll to Durant Arts Center, click on First Friday: "Dances Around the World."

Art on Tap. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Admission: \$45. Enjoy local craft beers, original artwork and food at The Art League's annual Art on Tap. Craft beers from local breweries have been 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. Visit www.TheArtLeague.org.

Opening Reception: "Connecting Threads." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and non-traditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter's Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/connecting-threads

NOV. 2-25

Art Exhibit: "Connecting Threads." At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and non-traditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter's Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/connecting-threads

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Horses & Hounds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Watch a simulated fox hunt demonstration on the estate of the Father of the American foxhound. Unlike in Washington's time, no foxes will be hurt during this

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ENTERTAINMENT

5 Foodie Dates to Circle in November

BY HOPE NELSON

From artwork-and-beer pairings to a history of Thanksgiving throughout the annals of time, the food and drink docket stays incredibly busy during November. Here are a few of our top picks.

Art on Tap at The Art League, Nov. 2

Now this is a pairing you don't see every day: Craft beers intentionally paired with original pieces of artwork. Take in an array of both at the Art League's annual Art on Tap, which takes place Friday. To add a little more spice, participating local restaurants have each chosen a beer-and-art pairing to serve as inspiration for a special appetizer, so you won't come away hungry. 105 N. Union St. 7-10 p.m. \$45.

Tidings Ale Release Party at Port City Brewing, Nov. 2

Tis the season already? It's true. Port City releases its seasonal Tidings, a Belgian-style blond ale, this weekend. Borinquen Lunch Box will pull its truck around to provide some Puerto Rican fare for the festivities, which will extend into the night. The brew will be available throughout the holiday season and can be enjoyed on tap, in six-packs and in growlers and crowlers. 3950 Wheeler Ave. 3-10 p.m.

Novemberfest at Rustico, Nov. 3

Move over, Oktoberfest; Rustico's annual Novemberfest is on the way. The Slaters Lane mainstay is back with its 2018 rendition of one of its most fun events of the year. Featuring nearly three dozen Virginia breweries, including the red-hot Aslin as well as Ocelot and Hardywood Park, and a plethora of

beer styles as well as a hearty slate of food offerings from the kitchen, this is definitely a good way to kick the month off on the right foot. 827 Slaters Lane. Noon-5 p.m. \$25 in advance, which includes 20 food and drink tickets; \$10 at the door, with tickets sold a la carte.

Thanksgiving from 1621 to the Present at Lee-Fendall House, Nov. 10

Join food historian Joyce White as she takes participants on a tour of Thanksgiving traditions from early America to the modern day. From the 1600s celebration of "Harvest Home" to the Norman Rockwell ideology of the 1900s and beyond, with stops all along the way, White's presentation is sure to be informative, enlightening and entertaining. Plus, guests will have an opportunity sample Thanksgiving specialties from four centuries of celebration. 614 Oronoco St. 2-3:30 p.m. \$20.

Rock the Block: A Culinary Tour of Old Town, Nov. 14

Chow down on some of Old Town's favorite restaurants and help raise money for a worthy cause: It's a win-win. Supporting the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Rock the Block takes diners on a tour of King Street and its tributaries, ranging from Vermilion to the Hi-Tide Lounge and many stops in between. Participating restaurants will offer several small plates and specialty drinks; diners can work their way through the neighborhood and eat as much as they want (until the event ends, that is). 6-9 p.m. \$125 general admission; \$300 VIP.

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

CALENDAR

demonstration. Observe a cavalry demonstration on the 12-acre field before meeting the breeds that Washington loved so much. Learn about the role these animals played in the American Revolution and even meet Nelson, a horse similar to Washington's beloved warhorse. Included with general admission. Visit mountvernon.org/horsehounds.

Classic Car Show. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Meet at River Farm for cars, food, and fun. Registration: \$20 per show car. Spectators: \$5 (walk-in or bicycles, kids under 12 free); \$10 (per car). For more information, email development@ahsgardening.org. Proceeds benefit the American Horticultural Society and its headquarters, River Farm. Email development@ahsgardening.org. Visit the website www.ahsgardening.org.

Tour of Friendship Firehouse Museum. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at 107 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Take an in-depth guided tour of Friendship Firehouse Museum and learn about the Friendship Fire Company's firefighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. The Friendship Fire Company, established in 1774, was the first fire company in Alexandria. Today the Friendship Firehouse, built in 1855, is a museum open to the public. The docent-led tour is for ages 10 and older. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Purchase tickets at

shop.alexandriava.gov or by calling 703-746-3891.

Portside History. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria waterfront, 1 King St., Alexandria. Free. Explore Alexandria's waterfront history through free hands-on activities and pop-up displays presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria. On Nov. 3, visit the Ship's Company Chanteymen. Experience Alexandria's maritime history through song. Join the Ship's Company for nautical songs and hands-on maritime and navigation activities.

First Tour. 11 a.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Free. Come learn about the unique treasures held at the Local History / Special Collections the first Saturday of every month. Visit the website: www.alexlibraryva.org

"Bound to the Fire." 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Old Town Alexandria. Historical archaeologist and historian, Kelley Deetz, will discuss her new book, Bound to the Fire: How Virginia's Enslaved Cooks Helped Invent American Cuisine. Cost is \$12 per person and \$10 for FOAA/ASPBH members. Tickets may be purchased online at www.Alexandriava.gov/Shop.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Every first Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. the Alexandria Black History Museum will host a children's story time in the Alexandria Black History Museum. This week: Baby Rattlesnake bold by Te Ata. Join us for cultural stories and creative craft activities that

introduce world history and folklore. Explore the museum exhibits afterwards to learn about local Black History. For a limited time, complete the scavenger hunt for our special dollhouse exhibition and take home a prize. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 - 7 years old. Admission is \$3 per person. Call 703-746-4356.

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Step back in time and join "Lady Washington" for high tea at the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant. Learn about the art and social history of enjoying the refined beverage while being served fine tea and light fare. \$35 per person. Visit mountvernon.org for more.

Betsey Mason's Letter. 2 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Associate Curator Jessie MacLeod, from George Washington's Mount Vernon, will provide a presentation: "Thank God it is now in your hands": Unpacking Betsey C. Mason's Letter to John Augustine Washington III. MacLeod will connect Mason's letter with a key journal entry by Magistrate John Augustine Washington III on the 1845 trial of five enslaved men from Huntley for trespassing. Call 703-768-2525.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

Raven's Night. 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. \$25. This modern take on the traditional masquerade ball celebrates life. The theme for 2018 is Momento Mori, so get ready to be transported to another realm where other-worldly beings come to visit and entertain you. Raven's Night: Momento Mori 2018 includes three events woven into one: world-class dance performances at The Cabaret Macabre; a dinner concert featuring live music; and a pre-show event combining an alternative World's Fair-styled exposition and sideshow, including Tarot card readings, magic and belly-dancing. Visit www.ravensnight.com

ASO Presents: Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 "Scottish." 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, celebrates the past and present of American music. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, cellist. Tickets: \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Fall Festival FUNdraiser. 2-5 p.m. at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria. Fall Festival Fundraiser benefitting Agudas Achim Preschool. There will be games, prizes, crafts, bounce house, face painting, a petting zoo (from 2-3:30 p.m.) and music by Alexandria's Rainbow Rock Band (starting at 3:30 p.m.). Email: preschool@agudasachim-va.org. Visit the website: www.facebook.com/events/470913836727081/

ASO Presents: Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 "Scottish." 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. With pre-concert talk at 2:15 p.m. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, celebrates the past and present of American music. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, cellist. Tickets: \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Nordic Fiddlers Bloc. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc is a fiddle trio from Norway, Sweden and the Shetland Islands whose use of harmony, rhythm, riffs and bass lines creates a sound that leaves the listener enthralled but at the same time dumbfounded that the sound only comes from three fiddles. Tickets \$18/advance; \$20/door. For tickets, visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets. Contact Herb Levy at Herb@FocusMusic.org or 703-380-3151.

MONDAY/NOV. 5

Open House and Master Class. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts' Academy, 5775 Barclay Road, Alexandria. Hosting an Academy Open House and Master Class, led by world-class performers, soprano Nova Y. Payton, and Melissa Rector from Koresh Dance in Philadelphia. The master class will focus on voice and performance as Payton works with some current Metropolitan School of the Arts students. Afterwards she will sing, then have a question and answer session. The master class is free, but only open to prospective Academy students accompanied by a parent. Registration is required at www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.

Poetry Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Nordic Fiddlers Bloc

Nordic Fiddlers Bloc performs at 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc is a fiddle trio from Norway, Sweden and the Shetland Islands whose use of harmony, rhythm, riffs and bass lines creates a sound that leaves the listener enthralled but at the same time dumbfounded that the sound only comes from three fiddles. Tickets \$18/advance; \$20/door. For tickets, visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets. Contact Herb Levy at Herb@FocusMusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. "Building Cultural Bridges" with Wendi R Kaplan, Poet Laureate. At these workshops, poetry can be read and written. The Poet Laureate and literary programs are part of the Office of the Arts, a division of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The workshops are free; to register, RSVP at poet@alexandriava.gov or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at 703-746-5565 or cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov, or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts.

NOV. 6-JAN. 6

Sparkle and Glow: Holiday Show. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Free admission. The Gallery shines with holiday spirit – unique gifts to give, lovely pieces to wear, and enchanting and decorative works for the home. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Dino-venber. 4 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Free. Simple STEAM activities with a dinosaur theme. All materials supplied, no registration required. For children ages 5 and up. Visit the website: www.alexlibraryva.org.

Film Screening: "Sergeant York." 7 p.m. at Alexandria History Museum at Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Screening of the 1941 film about World War I hero Alvin York starring Gary Cooper and directed by Howard Hawks. During a reception before the screening, World War I re-enactors will be on hand with examples of the equipment soldiers carried and they will periodically play music on an original early 20th-century phonograph. The evening will also include brief commentary regarding the life and career of Sergeant York and how it is portrayed in the film. Light

refreshments, beer, and wine available for sale. Purchase tickets at Alexandriava.gov/Shop or by calling 703-746-4994.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 7-11

Friends Book Sale. At James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria. Free. Friends First Choice Night on Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 3:30-8:45 p.m. Discover great books for sale for bargain prices, and support your local library. Email amurray@alexlibraryva.org. Visit the website www.alexlibraryva.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Free. Join author Joseph Esposito as he talks about his book "Dinner in Camelot: The Night America's Greatest Scientists, Writers, and Scholars Partied at the Kennedy White House." Email amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 8-11

Alexandria Film Festival. Four-day festival features 60 filmmakers and 70 films. The celebration begins Thursday, Nov. 8 with a free program of six short films, screening outdoors at Waterfront Park in Old Town. The Free Flowing Musical Experience will kick things off at 6:30 p.m., with the shorts beginning at 7 p.m. AMC Hoffman 22 Theater (206 Swamp Fox Road, Alexandria) and Beatley Central Library (5005 Duke St., Alexandria) serve as the principal venues with more than 60 filmmakers presenting films over the festival weekend. With 50 premieres of short and feature-length films, the festival features films from around the world including Canada, France, India, Lebanon, Spain, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, the U.K., and the U.S. Local filmmakers will screen new work and several directors, producers, actors and crew will take questions from the audience. See full program details at AlexFilmFest.com. Ticketed shows can be found at

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“Snow in the Piedmont” by Bradley Stevens.

‘Seeing the Light’

“Seeing the Light: Virginia Landscapes and Beyond,” is a solo exhibition by Bradley Stevens. His style is contemporary realism—rooted in classical training, yet boldly depicting the modern world with his penetrating eye. Reception is open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. Visit www.broadwaygalleries.net for more.

CALENDAR

AlexFilmFest.Eventbrite.com for \$12 or \$15 at the door. An All-Fest pass is also available for \$50 at AlexFilmFest.Eventbrite.com or \$70 at the door. Visit AlexFilmFest.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 8-11

Used Book Sale. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Come shop the selection of thousands of books and DVDs priced starting at just \$.50. The \$5/bag sale is Sunday from 1-3 p.m. Become a Friend of the Library at friendsofduncanlibrary.org and shop a special preview on Wednesday, Nov. 7. Cash and credit cards accepted. Hours are Thur. 10-6:45 p.m., Fri. 10-5:45 p.m., Sat. 10-4:45 p.m., and Sun. 1-3 p.m. Visit the website: www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 9

Alexandria After Work Concert Series. 6-8 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 North Washington St. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria sponsor a concert on the second Friday of the month with locations rotating between the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, Lloyd House, and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. Concert features Cold Chocolate. \$15 suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Visit www.fsgw.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 9-11

“Shrek – The Musical.” Hours are Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Join Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater for “Shrek – The Musical.” Featuring 46 area youth ages 8-18. Hilarious and charming – fun for the whole family. \$14. Visit www.mvccct.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Pancake Breakfast. 8-11 a.m. at Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond

Highway, Alexandria. The Mt. Vernon Evening Lions will be having a Pancake Breakfast – A perfect way to treat a Veteran. Adult \$10; children 12 and under \$3. Contact Reba Morse at 703-339-7099.

Environment Expo. 8 a.m.-noon at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. The Environment Expo: Saving the Earth One Person at a Time will feature an Exhibit Hall with a variety of County agencies, service providers and educators, informational and hands-on workshops and screenings of the film “Hometown Habitat.” The goal of the Expo is to educate and inform residents on environmental challenges that we all face on a daily basis, including ones that are unique to the Mount Vernon area given our proximity to water and the many industrial facilities nearby. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/environment-expo-saving-earth-one-person-time.

Bird Walk. 9-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Wander through the autumn gardens where birds are making their preparations for the cold winter ahead. Bring field glasses, if you have them, and Green Spring will provide a bird search sheet. Warm up with some hot cider and talk with your guide about the birds you see and hear. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. First Christian Church invites you to unwrap the holiday season by shopping at its craft fair/pancake breakfast. Visit the website www.fc alexandria.com.

Civil War Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Fort Ward Museum will offer soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward in honor of Veteran's Day. Tours are free, and will begin in the Museum. The tours will be conducted by an interpreter who will portray a Union army veteran reminiscing about his military service at Fort Ward during the Civil War. Participants will learn

about Civil War veterans' organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the design and construction of Civil War forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers' Hut and ceremonial entrance gate, and the fort's fully restored Northwest bastion. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

Veteran's Day Lecture. 11 a.m. at The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Free Veterans Day lecture by C.R. Gibbs, “Come Out Fighting: How the Original Black Panthers and Other African Americans Helped to Defeat the Axis and Win World War II.” This presentation describes the gallant and inspiring story of the nation's first African American armored unit. Organized during the Second World War, this unit rose above racism at home and skepticism on the battlefield to become one of the most hard-hitting, courageous outfits in the United States Army. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum for more.

Autumn Fest Beer Festival. 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Pizzeria Paradiso Old Town, 124 King Street, Alexandria. This season's festival features 21 brews from 21 Virginia-based independent breweries. The festival has no entrance fee but guests can purchase drink vouchers for \$15 which include three 6 oz. beer samples and a free Autumn Fest glass. The event will also feature entertainment for the whole family like corn hole, giant Jenga, and board games. Pizzeria Paradiso's non-profit partner, Art Works Now, a local organization which provides arts programming for the community, will have mini-pumpkin painting for a suggested donation of \$5.

AAUW Meeting. 2 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Free. American Association of University Women Mt. Vernon Branch presents AAUW Then and Now with Suzanne Gould, AAUW Archivist and Historian. Learn about AAUW's founding story and work throughout its 137-year history. Be inspired by AAUW's history of

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Taste of Thanksgiving History. 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, Alexandria. Food historian Joyce White will give a lecture and tasting program that explores the political, social, economic, and cultural traditions that have made Thanksgiving the truly American holiday that it is. Attendees will learn how Thanksgiving has transformed itself over time from the celebration of Harvest Home as practiced by the Plimoth Plantation settlers in 1621, and discover how the holiday has been influenced by prominent figures such as George Washington, women's magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Tickets are \$15 per person for this 90 minute program and are available at www.leefendallhouse.org.

Author Talk. 2 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Author of Raising America's Zoo, the story of the National Zoo's shift from a Victorian-era menagerie to its current day center for animal conservation, research and education. Email Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org

Thanksgiving 1621-Present. 2-3:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. This program explores the traditions that have made Thanksgiving the truly American holiday that it is, followed by samples of Thanksgiving food from four centuries. Tickets \$15. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/NOV. 10-12

Colonial Market & Fair. Hours are Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m.-4

p.m.; Monday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Features dozens of America's historic craftspeople and plenty of family fun. Colonial-attired artisans demonstrate 18th-century crafts and sell traditional wares such as food, woodcarvings, metalwork, furniture, and more. Performers charm audiences with music and entertainment, including an 18th-century air balloon, a magician, and a puppet show. Mount Vernon's historic interpreters will demonstrate how to make chocolate using an authentic colonial recipe and traditional methods. Visit mountvernon.org/colonialfair.

SUNDAY/NOV. 11

Armistice Day Ceremony. 10 a.m. at Gadsby's Ballroom, 400 Cameron St., Alexandria. The American Legion Post 24 of Alexandria will be holding an Armistice Day ceremony. To commemorate the 100 years anniversary, an Alexandria City representative jointly with American Legion officers will unveil a new plaque that will be affixed to the side of the historical Post home to honor local World War I heroes. The event includes a brass ensemble, World War I historian as a guest speaker, and more to honor all those who served. Poppy flowers will be available as well as light refreshments at the Post 24 clubroom will follow the ceremony for all participants and attendees. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=93363

Free Tours on Veterans Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Gadsby's Tavern Museum was saved from destruction thanks to



"Women's March 2017," encaustic with crystals and led lights by Julia Dzikiewicz.

Pink Hat Protest Paintings

Through encaustic wax paintings, Julia Dzikiewicz expresses her perception of rising racism, misogyny, and violence in the United States. Dzikiewicz creates her immense, evocative paintings with encaustic wax, an ancient and archival medium, by fusing layers of beeswax, pigment, gesso, and resin. On exhibit through Nov. 4 at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

the efforts of American Legion Post #24. To honor this special connection, tours of the Museum on Veteran's Day will be free for all guests. Visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

AAUW Meeting. 2 p.m. at Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd., Alexandria. The monthly meeting of the American Association of University Women - Alexandria Branch will meet. Melanie Barr-Brooks, J.D., Associate Vice President, Fair Practices for Northern

Virginia Community College will discuss the current state of Title IX. All are welcome. Visit alexandriava.aauw.net.

TUESDAY/NOV. 13

Alexandria Women in World War I. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities presents a lecture by Elizabeth Foxwell, editor of "In Their Own Words: American Women in World

War I." Featuring wine, desserts and light fare. Cost of \$10 per person supports ACSCC programs. For information and tickets, visit shop.alexandriava.gov. Contact AlexandriaCaenSisterCities@gmail.com or call 202-907-5941.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Rock the Block. 6 p.m. on King Street in Old Town Alexandria. Rock the Block 2018 proceeds will benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Several of Old Town's hottest restaurants will open their doors for this inaugural event and whip up some tasty dishes and drinks. Call 703-837-6111 or visit www.rocktheblocks.org for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be transformed into a festive Christmas atmosphere with rooms filled with Attic Treasures, a Consignment Shop, fresh baked goods, homemade candy and apple butter, and frozen casseroles made by the women of Pohick Church. Booths will feature the work of artisans showcasing handmade jewelry, stained glass, Christmas decorations and many other crafts. Colonial-attired ladies will serve luncheon at three sittings (11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.) for \$13. The Docent Guild will be leading tours of the historic colonial church and the Golden Dove Gift Shop will be open. Admission to the Christmas Mart is free. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

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Traffic circle owned by Potomac Greens Homeowners' Association.



"Tot lot" playground area and tennis courts owned by Old Town Greens Homeowners' Association.

Eminent Domain for New Metro Station?

FROM PAGE 1

erty owners will be compensated for the use of the land during the construction period, and all of the features will be restored once the construction has been completed [in 2022]. The tot lot will be temporarily relocated during the construction so residents will still have access to it."

But the parties haven't been able to agree about the particulars.

"WMATA's real estate team has negotiated in good faith for two years with both parties," said Jinks. But "WMATA reports that Old Town Greens has been non-responsive and Potomac Greens has made demands that are beyond the ability of WMATA to provide. WMATA is taking this action at this time because they are contractually obligated to provide the contractor all required lands to execute the project by January 1, 2019."

Neither HOA agrees with these characterizations about them.

Marla Diaz, a lawyer representing Old Town Greens, says the HOA hasn't been unresponsive but, on the contrary, "has been participating with WMATA in this process."

Ron Lafond, president of the Potomac Greens HOA, disagrees that WMATA has negotiated in good faith so far. He says the HOA received WMATA's initial offer in 2017, but that the residents had concerns about "a whole host of issues" — for example, impacts on street parking and processes for damages and emergencies. The HOA sent a counter-offer, but didn't hear back until this summer, about a year later. Claiming never to have received the counter-offer, WMATA reiterated its initial terms, which the HOA still rejected, according to LaFond.

"We don't have any desire to drag this through court, we are just trying to protect the safety interests of our community," he said. "We are hopeful that we can still come to a resolution without having to go through condemnation proceedings."

A resolution is still possible. The Justice Department has until early December to file for eminent domain.

"The Department of Justice has said they prefer to settle these matters and not use eminent domain," said Craig Fifer, a city spokesman, on Monday, Oct. 29. "WMATA has been considering options and will be reaching out the Potomac Greens association to discuss further."

In any case, it's "unsettling" that "WMATA did not provide any advance notice to the city that they had decided to ... proceed with eminent domain," said Jinks.

WMATA didn't respond to a request for comment.



Underlying map © OpenStreetMap contributors (www.openstreetmap.org); reproduced and modified under the Open Data Commons Open Database License (www.opendatacommons.org) and Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 (www.creativecommons.org). **Private properties that may be appropriated under eminent domain for the new Potomac Yard Metrorail station.**

Rescue at Sea: 'A Brotherhood of Survivors'

FROM PAGE 1

World War II.

The Frederick C. Davis had been deployed to the western Atlantic in early 1945. The ship served as a coastal convoy escort and anti-submarine patrol and in mid-April joined a special surface barrier force formed to protect the Atlantic coast from the threat of German submarines during Operation Teardrop. It was one of these, U-546, that hit the Frederick C. Davis on the forward port side.

Within minutes, the ship broke in two and efforts to preserve the buoyancy of the stern, where the damage was less and the majority of survivors were located, failed. Her survivors — only 27 out of a crew of 192 — abandoned the ship, with a loss of 115 men.

"I think I was in shock," Lundeberg said of the hours it took for survivors to be rescued. "We did our best to murmur words of encouragement to each other but we could still feel the rumbling of depth charges below us."

The U-546 was sunk by combined fire of five other U.S. destroyers. Her captain, Paul Just, and most of her crew were rescued by American vessels and taken to Argentia Naval Station.

"We had no inkling for years of the ordeal Capt. Just and his men would endure at Argentia," Lundeberg said. "We were dimly envious of the crew of U-546 as they were spirited off to Newfoundland."

Lundeberg would go on to spend more than 40 years in military service, completing his doctorate at Harvard University and teaching at the U.S. Naval Academy before being hired by the Smithsonian Institution in 1959. He rose to the position of curator in the National Museum of American History and over the years organized reunions of the survivors of the Frederick C. Davis, U-546 and the rescue boats involved.

"There is a shared history of survivors of Frederick C. Davis and U-546 that has continued even after the passing of many par-



Philip K. Lundeberg, left, poses for a photograph with German Kapitänleutnant Paul Just at a U.S.S. Frederick C. Davis survivors reunion in Janesville, Wisc., on Memorial Day, 1990.

ticipants," said Lundeberg, who noted that he became particularly close with the captain of the submarine that sunk the Davis.

"As a Naval historian, I got to know Capt. Just well," Lundeberg said. "He brought chunks of the Berlin Wall to one of our reunions to express his gratitude for what we did after the war."

One such reunion occurred over Memorial Day weekend in 1990. The Davis survivors joined with men from the U.S.S. Hayter, Flaherty and Varian rescue ships, together with 11 survivors of U-546.

"There were many memorable insights shared during these deeply private conversations," said Lundeberg, who added that all of the German survivors are now deceased.

Lundeberg, now 95 years old, lives with his wife of 65 years, Eleanore, in the Wayneswood section of Alexandria. He said that he is unsure of how many Davis survivors are still alive.



Philip Lundeberg and survivors of the U.S.S. Frederick C. Davis warship struggle in the icy waters of the North Atlantic in April of 1945.

"Perhaps there are only two or three of us left," said Lundeberg, who said his friendship with the German U-546 captain was not unusual. "There is a brotherhood among survivors at sea. Friend, foe or rescuers, it



Philip Lundeberg with his wife Eleanore and son Karl at his home in the Wayneswood section of Alexandria. Lundeberg will receive the Distinguished Patriot Award from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 8.



Philip Lundeberg aboard the U.S.S. Frederick C. Davis just weeks before it was hit by a German torpedo and sunk in the North Atlantic during World War II.

becomes a close fraternity." Lundeberg will be presented with the Distinguished Patriot Award by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce at the Nov. 8 Salute to Veterans ceremony at the Carlyle Club in Old Town. For more information, visit www.alexchamber.com.

Chamber Panel Encourages Public-Private Partnerships

FROM PAGE 7

heights, the electrical loads, the code pieces."

In its planning, the city asks itself, "How can we get somebody else's money, other than city money, into a deal?" he said. It's also important to ask, "Can the private sector bring better expertise [than the government] to the table?"

Jinks offered the Alexandria/Arlington Waste-to-Energy Facility as a case in point.

Initially, that facility was proposed as a government-run operation.

But "what do we know about running a waste energy plant? The more we got into it, the more we realized that was exactly the right question," he said. In-

stead, Covanta, a waste recovery company, became a private sector partner.

"We basically got the private sector to design, build, operate, maintain," said Jinks. "It's about a \$400 million plant, if we had to reproduce that today. So somebody else's money. Although it's being paid back by the refuse fees" paid by property owners, as well as excess disposal capacity sold to private sector waste producers.

"If you allocate risks to the party that's best suited to take that risk, you're going to get more cost effective pricing," said panelist Farhad Soltanieh, investment director for Skanska, a development and construction company.

P3s are flexible, not one-size-fits-all.

"There are different shades of gray, different ways to allocate responsibilities, to

share the risks and rewards," said Soltanieh.

More specific to Alexandria, P3s could help maximize vertical density.

Jinks offered The Station at Potomac Yard, multi-family affordable housing built over a fire station, as a case in point.

"In Potomac Yard, a place where we're just about to start building a Metro station, [that would be] a terrible waste of density to just have a one-story fire station," he said.

In such joint setups, hotels as the private sector component return the highest net financial benefit to the jurisdiction, followed by commercial office, multi-family housing and single-family housing, said Millard.

P3s aren't without their challenges.

"Because of [the public sector's] bureaucracy and ... accountability requirements and our compliance requirements, some-

times the private sector is extremely concerned about where it could eat into the commitment that they're making and the risk that they're taking. To me, that's the most difficult thing to get over. The second most difficult thing, I think, is creating the vision for the public to understand." She suggested that so-called community engagement, part of Alexandria's public planning processes, doesn't always generate "as clear an articulation of what it is that's trying to be accomplished as maybe the public would like."

Also, because P3s involve multiple partners, "these are very complicated deals [for which] the document transactions are feet thick and take a lot of attention to make it work right," said Jinks.

ODBC Frosh Women Take Third at Philadelphia Regatta

ODBC's women's freshman eight rowed to a third-place finish in one of the biggest races of the fall season, the Head of the Schuylkill.

The race takes place on Philadelphia's Main Line, past the city's historic boathouse row. Nearly 9,000 rowers typically compete in the 40-year-old regatta. This year's race took place on a cold, damp day, when delays related to the sheer number of rowers meant teams waited on the river long past scheduled start times.

"I was worried about the time because we started 40 minutes late, and I was scared the girls were getting cold," said Maddy Glanz, freshman eight coxswain. "Also, before the race, my microphone broke, causing us to have to rewire the whole boat. Thank goodness we got it done in time."

The frosh eight overcame the cold with a time of 15:52.262. The winning boat from



ODBC's women's freshman eight rowed to a third-place finish with a time of 15:52.262.

Saugatuck Rowing won with a time of 15:11.552. Other ODBC boats also outper-

formed: The men's lightweight eight was 10th in a field of 70 boats with a time of

13.43.464. The ODBC women's second varsity boat was 12th in a field of 56 boats with a time of 15:26.912. Sisters Maddie and Mac Allen competed for the first time together in the women's 2V.

Men and women's ODBC fielded 23 boats at the Head of the Schuylkill. This season, ODBC has drawn rowers from T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, Washington & Lee, Wakefield, James Madison, McLean and Maret.

Fall season gives a chance for rowers to get to know each other across schools. "It makes the spring season less intimidating," said Caroline Miles, women's 2V coxswain. "This program opens up the doors to new people and friendships."

Next week marks the last regattas of the fall rowing season, as ODBC lightweight boats travel to Head of the Hooch, and the rest of the club heads for Head of the Occoquan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF T.C. WILLIAMS CREW BOOSTERS

The 2018 Marine Corps Marathon: 'Totally Exhilarating'

FROM PAGE 1
MCM course.

"It wasn't totally my day," Curran said. "But it was a huge accomplishment for me to get back out there."

The race known as "The People's Marathon" was won by Jeffrey Stein, an attorney in the Public Defender's Office in the District of Columbia. Stein rebounded from last year's eighth place finish to win the men's division with a time of 2:22:49.

"I couldn't ask for anything better," said Stein, 32, after notching his first marathon victory. "It was totally exhilarating."

Stein was followed by Patrick Hearn, who ran a 2:23:27 race, and Will Christian, who placed third in 2:24:24.

In the women's division, Costa Rica's Jenny Mendez Suanca, 38, repeated her 2015 MCM victory to place first with a time of 2:40:19, setting a personal best by nearly five minutes. Army Lieutenant Lindsay Gabow of San Antonio was second in 2:46:35 with Marine Corps 2nd LT Lindsay Carrick of Fredericksburg finishing third in 2:48:45.

The top handcrank finisher was 39-year-old medically-retired Army infantryman Omar Duran, formerly of the 82nd Airborne, who completed the course in 1:21:28.

Alexandria's top male finisher was Kenny Rayner, 28, who placed 27th in the men's division with a time of 2:48:53. Other local runners in the top 100 included Nolan Compton, who finished in 42nd place with a time of 2:46:56, Patrick Murray (63rd in 2:52:08) and Patrick Wheeler (70th in 2:53:53).

Rachel Viger, 27, was Alexandria's top female finisher with a time of 3:03:59, placing 20th overall among women. Melissa Saunders and Kelly Buroker also broke into the women's top 100 with times of 3:13:34 and 3:19:33 respectively.

Alexandria's youngest marathon runner was 16-year-old Welles McHenry, who finished the course in 4:13:33 while 11-year-

old Matthew Bryant completed the MCM 10K in 1:31:38. The city's oldest competitor was Jacqueline Bardol, 77, who completed the marathon course in 6:32:08.

Other Alexandria marathoners included Gazette Packet contributing writer Hope Nelson (5:40:57), Sonoma Cellar owner Rick Myllenbeck (6:43:21), Del Ray Artisans treasurer Stephen Lally (4:22:33) and Audrey Davis, director of the Black History Museum (6:15:47).

Jim Spengler, director of the Alexandria Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department, completed the MCM 10K in 1:18:50.

Curran was greeted at the finish line by her husband Chris and daughters Clare and Kate. The neurosurgeon who performed Curran's brain surgery, Dr. Nilesh Vyas of Inova Fairfax Hospital, was also there to congratulate her after the race.

"He saved my life," Curran said of Vyas. "It meant a lot to me that he came out to watch me run. It was a special day all around."

For complete MCM race results, visit www.marinemarathon.com.



Hunter Stevens, 9, and his mother Katherine Stevens, of Richlands, N.C., cross the finish line of the 2018 MCM 10K in 1:22:31.



Double amputee Dmytro Kotov, a 41-year-old Ukrainian Army Sergeant, crosses the finish line of the 2018 MCM 10K in 2:03:21.



Alexandria's Brooke Sydnor Curran celebrates with her husband Chris and daughters Clare and Kate after completing the 2018 Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28 in Arlington. Curran finished the 26.2-mile course in 4:24:59 just six months after suffering a brain aneurysm.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LANE

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



The top three finishers in the male and female divisions of the 2018 Marine Corps Marathon receive their trophies during the MCM awards ceremony Oct. 28 in Arlington. Shown are Lindsay Gabow (2:46:35), Patrick Hearn (2:23:27), Jenny Mendez Suanca (2:40:19), Jeffrey Stein (2:22:49), Lindsay Carrick (2:48:45) and Will Christian (2:24:24).

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 22

This, though, is not the school board's doing; instead, it is a consequence of City Council's 2008 resolution welcoming households with illegally present members to Alexandria after Prince William County, under Corey Stewart's leadership, made policy changes that were less welcoming.

City Council, back then and still, wouldn't level with Alexandria residents about how much this resolution could cost us, but folks aren't stupid, so maybe that explains why in the next city election two were voted out. City Council passes Pollyanna policies, such as Alexandria's 2016 "commitment to fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness," available as a poster in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic, without ever even ascertaining the costs which result from having such an explicit policy, much less leveling with the tax-paying public.

Alexandria has seen recent record property tax increases, including when City Council converted the set-aside for stormwater remediation to a separate fee, colloquially derided as a "rain tax," but the set-aside, instead of being deducted from the property tax rate, was diverted to fund the city budget as a hidden tax increase, alongside now mayor-elect Justin Wilson's record 5.7 cent all-at-once property tax increase.

Prince William County has been better able to hold the line on property taxes precisely because, under county board chair Corey Stewart's leadership, that otherwise blue county was less welcoming than Alexandria has opted to be.

Even Alexandria residents who would prefer Prince William County's approach would respect Alexandria's City Council's opposite policy had city hall been more honest with the public about the associated costs. Folks should seriously consider casting a "protest vote" for Corey Stewart just to shake up "business as usual" in Alexandria's immune from accountability City Council — especially with lone accountability advocate Mayor Allison Silberberg's impending departure. If the Democrat Senate candidate carries Alexandria by a reduced margin, it will get the state party's attention and the state party will press local officials for reforms out of fear of losing statewide contests.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Preserve Soldier Statues

To the Editor:

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As an historian of the War Between the States, I believe more primary source perspective should be considered regarding who exactly the slaveholders were. Particularly during this current trend where some people seem to think the statues represent some sort of white supremacy. This is not what the soldier statues represent. The statues honor military service and sacrifice of ordinary citizens, not slavery or white supremacy. Knocking over soldier statues is misdirected ignorance and hate, no different than the spitting on American soldiers who came home from Vietnam.

It is also true that some slaveholders were black. For example, the fourth richest slave plantation owner by the 1850s in South Carolina was a black man named William Ellison (1795-1861). Ellison became a freeman in 1816, and began to apply his trade as a cotton gin maker. He set up shop in Stateburg, S.C. and in 1820 bought his first two black slaves. Ellison "rode King Cotton" like many other planters, and by the time of his death he owned 63 black slaves. (Source: Manuscript Census, Sumter District, SC 1820-1860). In 1856 he was worth \$80,000-100,000.

The story of William Ellison is also about the free black community of SC, and Charleston, where he engaged in business. 3,237 free blacks lived in the city in 1856 (8 percent of the total population). Interestingly, 150 of the "able-bodied free colored men" worked on the Confederate artillery batteries in 1860 for free alongside whites reported the local paper. Hard to imagine a school today teaching this history — whereby free blacks worked to defend the independence of S.C. and "secure possession" of their states' rights that secessionists believed then. Ellison is just one instance, and sticks out because of his wealth, but with over 400 free black slave owners in S.C. by 1830, there were more free black slave owners who clearly had enough money to own slaves in other cotton states as well. Something the ordinary infantry private in gray who fought the war could not afford.

Harold Knudsen
Alexandria

Unsocial Social Security Office

To the Editor:

Maybe you know how it feels when you go to a mobbed DMV for a driver's license or sit in a bus or train station the day before Thanksgiving or on New Year's

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 34

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Legals

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PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD AT BELT-WAY MOVERS ASSOCIATES, INC. 6308 Gravel Avenue Alexandria, Virginia 22310 on NOVEMBER 8, 2018 at 11:00 AM. Lots are being sold at auction to satisfy the storage fees, sale and other expenses as necessary and incurred in the preservation and handling of such goods pursuant to law. Terms of Sale CASH ONLY. Persons listed below have been duly notified of this auction: Boris Blatnik Pallet 2065, 106 (sofa) and 238 (sofa) Miscellaneous Items. Herve Razafimbahiny Pallet 1149 and 1676 Boxes

Legals

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Qualifications No. 786, Gadsby's Tavern 10-Year Plan.

Closing Date and Time: November 30, 2018, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on November 7, 2018 at 10:00 am EST in the purchasing conference room located at 100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301 Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

Obituary



Rhoda Seligmann, 93, beloved mother, artist, teacher and community volunteer, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018. Rhoda was born to Dolly and Manny Maginsky on Feb. 17, 1925. She attended Pratt Art Institute and in 1945, she married Jerome Seligmann. The couple moved to Alexandria in 1956. Rhoda was an active parent volunteer in the Alexandria School system from 1956-1981. A prolific artist, she exhibited throughout the Washington, DC area and won numerous awards for her acrylic and watercolor paintings. She taught art at Del Ray and Lee Community Centers for 36 years. Rhoda also volunteered as a poll worker for several elections.

Of her five children: Manny Seligmann, Steven Seligmann, Andy Seligmann, Riva Rachel and Aria Seligmann, she is survived by Manny and his wife, Martha, Andy and his wife, Brenda, Riva Rachel and Aria, as well as six grandchildren: Jason Seligmann, Joshua Seligmann, Ian Jordan, Jack Seligmann, Jessie Seligmann and Haley Seligmann; her brother, Steve Gorin; and her honorary daughter, Mickey Oyler. Rhoda was a staunch supporter of human rights and environmental justice. Donations in her memory may be made to the Second Harvest Food Bank or the Sierra Club.

Obituary

Employment

Membership Specialist. The Society of American Florists (SAF) seeks an outgoing and industrious go-getter looking to be part of a team that's working to increase membership, member engagement and revenue. Your days will be filled with a variety of work, ranging from entering and updating member files into the database and updating the website, to talking to members about how to use SAF products and services, to collaborating with the communications team on recruitment and retention campaigns. It's a great position for someone who enjoys — and can juggle — a variety of duties and projects.

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- Demonstrated experience working in teams
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- Ability to shift gears and be flexible

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Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite and social media a must; experience in Word Press, video editing, etc. a plus.

If you have a love of flowers and plants and a curiosity about and appreciation for the people who grow and sell them, this position could be for you!

Contact the Society of American Florists, Drew Gruenberg, COO, dgruenberg@safnow.org.

Employment

Legals

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Qualifications No. 777, Transportation Master Plan Update

There will not be a pre-proposal conference for this solicitation. This project will be developed utilizing Federal funds received by the City of Alexandria through the Regional Surface Transportation Program. The grant is administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation, UPC 106964.

Closing Date and Time: November 29, 2018, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact David Bakhshaei at david.bakhshaei@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**



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As It So Happens



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and attempt to write next week's column, I do so on Saturday, Oct. 27. Aside from being my close friend, Cheryl's, birthday, and the day before my brother, Richard's, birthday, it is a date (the 27th), to invoke our 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, that "will live in infamy." It is the date that Team Lourie, such as it is: my wife, Dina; my brother, Richard; and yours truly, met my oncologist for the first time to learn what my previous week's "malignant" biopsy actually meant.

What it meant was that I was officially a cancer patient. Specifically, a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, patient, and one given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis to boot, at age 54 and a half. Not a guarantee, mind you, but definitely a kick in the stomach. Not literally of course, but hearing such terrible, unexpected news, it certainly took our breath away.

After we all regained our composure, we tried to sort out what we had just heard and ask some intelligent questions (quite a challenge at that moment, I have to admit).

It was difficult because cancer was a subject with which Team Lourie had zero personal experience, having had no immediate family history other than my mother's very treatable skin cancer. As such, in talking with the oncologist, we were all at a disadvantage. In addition to never having met, neither did we know exactly what we were to be discussing until we sat in the doctor's office.

Talk about ill-prepared (pun intended).

Throw in the shock value of what we were hearing – for the first time (akin to that of a neutron bomb since we were still standing; sitting, actually), we were very nearly blown away and having difficulty processing what we were hearing: "13 months to two years," out of the blue, basically.

We might have understood "the macro," to steal one of my brother's favorite expressions, but we were having a little trouble grasping "the micro" – meaning me.

Certainly we were clear that my life going forward was going to be different, but we had no idea, really, what we were all in for, collectively. Though a sort of handbook called "The Five Questions" was provided to us, it was hardly a GPS that guided you step by step. At that point, you stumble and stammer and don't exactly know what to ask next.

Nowadays, a new professional certification has evolved called a "nurse navigator." This person is assigned to help you maneuver through the cancer/twilight zone of tests, treatments and appointments that you have just entered: labs, scans, infusion schedule, and oncology appointments; plus miscellaneous other secondary-type activities/appointments/procedures (aromatherapist, acupuncturist, nutritionist, pulmonologist, nephrologist, internal medicine doctor, thoracic surgeon, ophthalmologist, urologist, dermatologist, psychologist, pharmacist) and a few others that "chemo-brain" – a recently confirmed side effect of chemotherapy – has likely caused me to forget.

It's no wonder new cancer patients begin to melt down even before the first beam of radiation has been focused and/or the first dose of chemotherapy has been infused.

And not that I need reminding, but the 27th does seem to focus a "confinement beam" ("Star Trek") of sorts on what I've been doing and why and how much longer I'm likely to be doing it. And that, of course, is the rub, because in the cancer business, there are very few guarantees, any of which is constantly rubbing you in various directions. Directions which cause you to ebb and flow and bob and weave and try to hang on for dear life. Because so far as most of us know, this life is pretty dear and we kind of think we want to hang on to it for awhile.

And I'm one of the lucky ones, a survivor, that is. Many of my fellow "diagnosees" have not been nearly as fortunate as I have been. Ten years, come Feb. 20, 2019, the anniversary of the actual date when my Internal Medicine doctor called me to tell me the results of the previous week's biopsy. I remember where I was and what I was doing when I received that call.

That I'll never forget.

That was my Dec. 7, 1941.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 33
Eve.

The same feeling came over me when I arrived one Friday morning at the Social Security Office on Edsall Road in Alexandria in order to replace my lost Social Security card. The room overflowed with people. Some of the clients attempted to soothe crying babies and squirming toddlers, others diligently filled out government forms. Other people were standing about outside in the parking lot knowing they would have to wait from here to eternity for their number to be called.

Which leads me to ask what exactly were government authorities thinking when earlier this year they closed the Rosslyn Social Security office in Arlington County, which was at least readily accessible by Metrorail. What weird calculation had gone into having a Social Security office situated at a hard-to-find office park in Alexandria making it especially difficult to reach for those without cars, unless you happened to reside in that neighborhood on Edsall Road? Not to mention forcing more people to crowd into fewer places to deal with Social Security issues.

Sure, there's Metrorail's Van Dorn Street station, but it's not around the corner, a good 25-minute walk away, not exactly accessible to the Alexandria Social Security office for those who can't walk or are otherwise physically challenged. Also noteworthy is that Metrorail has announced that the Van Dorn Street station, along with other Metro stops in Alexandria, will be closed between Memorial Day and Labor Day in 2019.

The next closest Social Security office in the Northern Virginia suburbs is listed as being somewhere way far out in Fairfax County, which seems even more remote for those without cars.

I've read that Social Security offices are being consolidated around the country supposedly to save money. In that vein, the Rosslyn office was closed despite citizen protests against that action. From my experience at the Alexandria office, many of the people having to apply for Social Security are infirm, disabled, and/or old, forced to take time off from work, or must bring their children with them because they don't have the means to pay for day-care. It's like the government is making life harder for those people who most need supplemental security income, Medicare, or disability benefits, which are all covered in the Social Security program.

Forget about how long it takes to reach a Social Security representative by phone. Sure, there's the Internet, but if you want to get a Social Security card over the website you have to give out personal information, risking identity theft — which is why in my case I went to the Alexandria office in person.

At least I had a car to get there. Those less fortunate don't have that luxury. I say to the government that it should locate a Social Security office in Alexandria that offers better access to mass transit. Make the Social Security experience at least halfway more secure and sociable.

Eric A. Green
Alexandria

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