



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children play on the moon bounce at the Alfred Street Baptist Church during the Brother's Keeper event on Saturday, July 27.

Church Outfits 1,000 Children

11th annual Brother's Keeper event reaches out to underserved students.

In an effort to give back to the community, the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church distributed new backpacks, school supplies and clothing to hundreds of Alexandria schoolchildren on Saturday, July 27.

The church's 11th annual Brother's Keeper outreach project welcomed an estimated 500 underserved children and their families who registered in advance for the event. Items also will be delivered to some area schools and shelters for another 500 children.

In addition to free backpacks and school supplies, the participants also received new winter coats, hats and gloves, school uniforms and gift cards for new shoes. Brother's Keeper also provided free medical and dental screenings.

"When asked in Genesis 4:8, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' we say emphatically 'Yes,'" said the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, pastor of Alfred Street Baptist. "We take seriously our re-

sponsibility to bear one another's burdens."

"We want to give back and connect with the community," said Amanda Stafford, director of Brother's Keeper. "We want to equip the children with tools for success. And we're teaching them how to give back to others."

This year's daylong event involved more than 300 adult and youth volunteers who assisted in a variety of ways to make participants feel at home. Helpers served as bilingual interpreters, "buddy" escorts to the children, registration assistants, food servers and gift distribution coordinators.

Brother's Keeper began in 2003 as part of the church's bicentennial celebration and has served nearly 10,000 children since its inception. It is among many community outreach projects — ranging from the winter homeless shelter to the fall Health Fair to the Feed the 5000 food distribution — that aim to positively impact the city of Alexandria.



By LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON

Volunteers and church members Sheila and her mother Earnestine McClain help out at the 11th annual Brother's Keeper community outreach project.

Alfred Street Baptist Church is located in Old Town and has served the community for more than 200 years.

For more information, www.alfredstreet.org; www.facebook.com/AlfredStreetBaptistChurch; or follow the church on Twitter @AlfredStreetBC.

Archive War

History of Cameron Run Park may determine future of Hensley Park.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The history of Hensley Park has become a battlefield in recent weeks, as city leaders clash with opponents of a proposal to hand over open space to a developer who wants to build a sports complex. At issue is whether or not Alexandria received money under the Land and Water Conservation Act to develop a stretch of land in the Eisenhower Valley into one of the city's most popular sports fields. If federal money was used to develop Hensley Park, the land would have restrictions forcing the city to keep it in public recreational use.

"There appears to be no legal impediment to the future development of the site because of federal

funds," said City Attorney Jim Banks. "Typically whenever federal funds are used in the acquisition of property there is some indication in the title restricting future use of the property, and the feds are not shy at all about putting that kind of restriction in the title."

Not so fast, say critics of the proposal. They say that the deed tells only part of the story, and they'd like to see a 1977 grant application for money they city received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Banks says city officials have not been able to track down the grant application, and state officials say they are still trying to track down the 1970s-era paperwork. Critics say those documents could be the missing piece

SEE ARCHIVE WAR, PAGE 5

Murder on Armistead

Alexandria police investigate fifth murder of the year.

Last week, Alexandria police officers responded to a call of shots fired at a seven-story condominium building known as the Seasons. There police officers found the body of Bradley Bostick, 40, who had been murdered.

"When they got to the building, they found the victim in a stairwell that leads to the rear," said Lt. Mark Bergin. "He had an apparent wound to the upper body." It happened on July 24 at about 5:30 p.m. in the 400 block of North Armistead Street. Paramedics examined the victim and pronounced him dead on the scene. After an autopsy was performed

the next morning by the Northern Virginia medical examiner, the manner of death was ruled a homicide. Police officials say an investigation is ongoing, although they have not been able to identify any suspects at this point.

"We talked to everyone who was out and visible in the area," said Bergin. "Since that night, we've talked to everybody who was in the building. We've knocked on doors and approached pedestrians and tried to find anybody who may have seen the event."

At press time, no arrests have been made in the case.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

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Secret Murder

Last week, the Alexandria Police Department issued a press release announcing the fifth murder of the year. For those keeping count, that was the fourth murder police officials had publicly disclosed. When asked about the discrepancy, Lt. **Mark Bergin** explained that previously undisclosed murder happened in January. It was originally classified as a “sudden death,” until the medical examiner’s report caused investigators to reclassify the case as a homicide. Bergin said the police do not usually issue press releases for sudden deaths, and when the case was designated a homicide the department decided against alerting the public. “It wasn’t an event that had an impact on the general public,” said Bergin. “We had a subject who we considered to be involved, but we were continuing an investigation.”

The previously undisclosed murder happened on Jan. 8 at the Envoy of Alexandria on Virginia Avenue. Police officials were called to the scene by staff members at the nursing home, where they discovered an unconscious 83-year-old man. Investigators learned that he had an altercation with a fellow resident. The victim was taken to the hospital, where he died three days later. The case was classified as a sudden death until May, when the report from the medical examiner’s office became available. No press release was issued in May when the case was reclassified as a murder. “We’re looking at our procedures to see where we might have done a better job on that,” said Bergin. “We didn’t seek to conceal it, we just didn’t think to send out a press release when the status of the case was revised.”

Fall Food Fight

City officials are preparing themselves for a bitter food fight this fall, as food truck advocates and brick-and-mortar restaurants prepare for battle along familiar lines. Restaurants want to limit food trucks to what they call “food deserts,” parts of town that are lacking restaurants such as Mark Center or Canal Center. Food truck owners and their advocates want the portable businesses to be able to set up shop in more populous areas, including places that already have a number of restaurants such as Market Square and Del Ray. Caught in the middle are city officials and elected leaders. Back in June, city leaders prepared a draft legislative proposal that would have allowed food trucks at three locations in Old Town, one location in Del Ray, one in Arlandria and another spot in Carlyle. That proposal was spiked as city officials went back to the drawing board for the summer. Now city leaders are planning to put together an advisory task force and put together a citywide policy. “Implementing a citywide policy and getting citywide buy-in is going to take a lot longer, and that’s part of the reason we didn’t see action in June,” said Councilman **John Taylor Chapman**. “So I would like to see something where we start with the food deserts and then move to a citywide policy.” A draft proposal prepared earlier this year set out a series of restrictions for where and when food trucks can operate. For example, the draft policy said food trucks must be at least 20 feet away from a restaurant that has outdoor dining. They would be allowed only from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. And they must be less than 10.5 feet high in vehicles that can fit into a standard parking space. The policy now working its way through City Hall for the fall is a citywide policy rather than one that is limited to food deserts. “Their goal out of the gate is a citywide policy,” said Chapman. “I’d rather stair-step it, but either way the goal is to get to a citywide policy.”

Back Again

City officials are preparing themselves for yet another controversial proposal for the Cummings property, one of the three sites slated for redevelopment as part of the controversial waterfront plan. Last year, members of the Board of Architectural Review rejected the proposal as too big and too boxy. Now that Carr Properties may be moving forward with another proposal, board chairman **Tom Hulfish** says he hopes to see a drastically different plan. “The first proposal wasn’t a boutique hotel, and it was just too damn big for the site,” said Hulfish. “And if this is the first thing on the waterfront plan, it better be something big, something nice.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Families and friends celebrate as apprentice of 10 months Nashell Dennis, apprentice of four months Coby Stewart, apprentice of eight months Juan Carlos Henriquez and apprentice of five and a half months Anthony Ness receive their certificates during the apprentices graduation ceremony at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation on July 26.

Launching Their Futures

Apprenticeship program builds career and life skills.

With bright blue skies and sparkling waters of the Potomac as a backdrop, the Alexandria Seaport Foundation celebrated the accomplishments of four apprentices on Friday, July 26.

Parents, friends, ASF staff, volunteers and board members watched Anthony Ness, Nashell Dennis, Coby Stewart and Juan Henriquez graduate from the foundation’s Apprentice Program. The celebration marked months of hard work and the acquisition of new career and life skills.

Through the building of wooden boats, ASF’s workforce development program readies unemployed youth to become successful, confident employees armed with the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the workforce. Alexandria’s unemployment rate for youth between the ages 16-19 is currently at 25.9 percent.

To learn more about the Alex-



Apprentice graduate Anthony Ness stands in front of one of several original pieces he painted and displayed throughout the Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

andria Seaport Foundation’s Apprentice Program, STEM on the Potomac (an on-the-water program focused on science, technology, engineering and math), or its math enrichment program with

Alexandria and Arlington middle schools, contact Mari Lou Livingood, executive director, at 703-549-7078. The Alexandria Seaport Foundation is located at 2 Duke Street in Old Town.



Mari Lou Livingood, executive director of Alexandria Seaport Foundation, watches the apprentices receive their certificates.

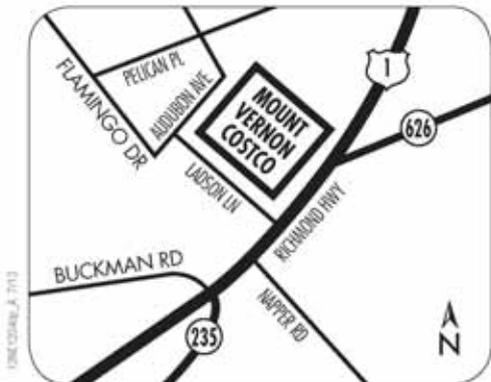


Former Executive Director Kent S. Barnekov smiles as he accepts a hand-crafted wood chair made by the apprentices.

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Archive War

FROM PAGE 1

of the puzzle that could prove Hensley Park was developed using federal money.

“His declaration is premature,” said Bill Dickinson, chairman of the Alexandria Historical Society. “What the deed says is interesting, but it’s not conclusive.”

COURT RECORDS show that city leaders used the power of eminent domain to acquire the land back in 1975, paying \$580,000 to Edwin Lynch who was acting as a trustee for a partnership known as Vernon M. Lynch and Sons. That land was developed into Cameron Run Park, which was a city park for more than a decade. In the late 1980s, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority leased the property to create Cameron Run Regional Park. In 1991, the park authority modified the lease to return part of the land back to city control. That part of the park was renamed in honor of Joseph Hensley, the longtime director of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs who retired in 1987. Because Hensley Park was once part of Cameron Run Park, critics say the city attorney may have jumped the gun in his determination.

“Things don’t jive,” said Dickinson, who is a former chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. “Just going to the property records isn’t sufficient. I’d like to see what the grant application said, as approved.”

Federal records show that Grant 165XXX allocated \$935,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to the city of Alexandria for “parks and trails” in 1977. That was the year Alexandria city leaders began a \$1.4 million project to develop a 40-acre tract along Cameron Run for 13 different sports, community garden plots and 20 acres of undisturbed woodland. The original version of the park stretched through westerns and southern Alexandria and part of Fairfax County.

“It seems likely that the area where Hensley Park is now located was developed with some of the money that came from that

“I just don’t think we should be bargaining away hard-fought parkland.”

— Jack Sullivan



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Joseph Hensley Park was originally developed in the late 1970s as part of Cameron Park. When part of the park north of Eisenhower Avenue was leased to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the part south of Eisenhower was renamed for a longtime director of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, who retired in 1987.

grant in 1977,” said Jack Sullivan, who lives in Seminary Hill. “I just don’t think we should be bargaining away hard-fought parkland.”

LAST MONTH, city officials received an unsolicited proposal from the St. James Group to transform Hensley Park into a sports complex. City Manager Rashad Young is currently reviewing the proposal to determine whether or not the city should consider a 40-year lease of the city-owned property to a private developer. Critics of the proposal say the city should not hand over public land for private gain. Sup-

porters say the sports complex would offer a wide range of options that are currently unavailable in the city.

“I think this could potentially be a fantastic thing for the city,” said Mayor Bill Euille during a recent discussion of the issue at City Hall. “I just don’t want us to be caught being accused that we rushed to judgment.”

The unprecedented proposal for the 15-acre site includes aquatics, ice rinks, field house, baseball, basketball, racquet, golf, climbing, gymnastics, track, wellness ser-

vices, childcare and retail. It would have the city’s first Olympic-sized pool. It would have basketball courts contracted to regulation of the NCAA and ice rinks contracted to regulation of the NHL. It would also take away one of the city’s most popular public recreation sites, which has three baseball fields and one multi-purpose field.

“Right now this is public land for a public park for the public good,” said Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg. “It’s not like we are growing land like some people grow

beef.”

FOR NOW, the city attorney has offered his legal opinion to City Council members. But opponents say they are hoping the 1977 application for federal money might shed light on how and where the money was used. If they can prove some of the \$935,000 was spent on the part of Cameron Run Park south of Eisenhower Avenue, the proposal from St. James might have a new hurdle.



BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/GAZETTE PACKET

Helping Cats

The community came together to help support the 7th Annual Theater Night Fundraiser at the Little Theatre Alexandria on Friday, July 26, to support the King Street Cats. Money raised from the event will benefit severely injured cats like Bacon who was badly burned. Visit www.kingstreetcats.org.



Environmental Policy Commission Meeting - Monday, August 5

When: 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Where: City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St.

The City’s Environmental Policy Commission encourages residents to provide public comments at its planned Information Meeting and Public Hearing on the draft Combined Sanitary Sewer (CSS) Permit proposed by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) and process used to develop the Long Term Control Plan Update. For more information on the City’s Combined Sewer System, visit alexandriava.gov/Sewers. To provide comments, contact Lalit Sharma P.E., Division Chief, Office of Environmental Quality, at Lalit.Sharma@alexandriava.gov and 703.746.4065.



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Quiet But Tenacious John Braswell, 58, dies in a swimming accident in Michigan.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

John Braswell, a hard-charging litigator with an expansive intellect, died while trying to swim from an island in Long Lake, Mich., to the mainland. After he disappeared, the Grand Traverse County sheriff's department deployed a dive team, which found him in about 50 feet of water between the mainland and the island. He was 58.

"I was very sad to hear about his tragic death," said Mayor Bill Euille, who had known Braswell since they were teenagers. "It's like a nightmare, and you keep thinking it's going to end."

A native of Alexandria, Braswell was a fixture in the city with deep roots and a wide circle of friends. His father was a longtime chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission, and Braswell worked for three decades in the same office overlooking the city courthouse at Redmon, Peyton & Braswell. Colleagues remember Braswell as an adventurous spirit with an inquisitive mind.

"He had a vocabulary that was stunning," said Gant Redmon, who worked with Braswell for 30 years. "And he was a tenacious litigator."

Redmon recalls one bankruptcy case that took Braswell four or five years to unravel.



John McCauley Braswell

eventually accomplished the goal and recovered all the assets for his client.

"He was competitive, but he also believed that lawyers should work together to bring out the best in each other," said attorney Bud Hart. "That's why he hosted a monthly meeting of real-estate lawyers in Alexandria."

JOHN MCCAULEY BRASWELL was born on Jan. 3, 1955. He received a bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1977, a juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1980 and a master of laws in taxation from Georgetown in 1983. For the last 15 years, he concentrated his practice in taxation, mergers and acquisitions. He specialized in commercial controversy work, and had a particular emphasis on complex

commercial disputes in state and federal courts.

"Although it may be difficult for people to believe that a lawyer could be beloved, John Braswell belied that notion," said Alexandria General District Court Chief Judge Becky Moore. "He was funny and smart and universally admired."

Friends and colleagues remember Braswell as a quiet but important force in Alexandria.

"He was kind of reserved, but he had a fierce intellect," said Oran Warder, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. "He was so committed to this church and this community, and he served them quietly — kind of a behind the scenes kind of guy."

Although he graduated from Ascension Academy, Braswell became a fan of T.C. Williams High School and the famous football team celebrated in the movie "Remember the Titans." In his law office on King Street, he kept a picture of himself with Coach Herman Boone and Mayor Bill Euille. In his free time, Braswell was a soccer coach who was known for his patience and determination.

"If someone stole the ball from you, he wouldn't make you feel bad," recalled player Fletcher Wilson. "He would simply offer his famous expression that my family still uses to this day — 'unlucky' — and



John McCauley Braswell was soccer coach to Fletcher Wilson.

you'd move on to the next play."

He is survived by his wife, Pauline Calande Braswell; a daughter, Morgan Sarah Braswell; his father, Thomas Edward Braswell Jr.; his mother, Jeff Armstrong Braswell; and three brothers, Harry, Thomas and Andrew Brawell.

The family will receive friends Thursday Aug. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where services will be held Friday at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow at Belle Haven Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Claude 'Buzzie' Harris Rotarian, former Little League commissioner dies at 81.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was 1957 when Claude "Buzzie" Harris first laid eyes on Nancy Cooper at a party at George Washington University.

"I noticed her right away," Harris would say when asked about that fateful night. "I thought she was real cute."

Both graduates of George Washington High School — he in 1949 and she in 1956 — the couple married on Feb. 27, 1960 at the former Second Presbyterian Church at the corner of Prince and St. Asaph streets, a memory that always elicited laughs when Harris recounted how they arrived at that date.

"It fit in between hunting and fishing seasons," the avid outdoorsman would reveal with a twinkle in his eyes.

A devoted husband and father, Harris died July 29 at Alexandria Hospital with Nancy, their only son David, daughter-in-law Mary and grandsons Will, Wade and Jack by his side. Close family friend Leslie Klingensmith



Claude "Buzzie" Harris

was also in attendance.

Born Aug. 12, 1931 in Washington, D.C., Harris grew up in the City of Alexandria. After earning a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech, Harris went on to serve in the U.S. Air Force. Upon returning home, he entered the family business, C. B. Harris and Company, a plumbing and heating contractor in Alexandria.

Harris semi-retired when the family business closed in 1982. After a few years, he became a residential real estate appraiser. In 2008, he retired for good to become "a kept man," as he liked to joke in reference to Nancy continuing her work at the Salvation Army National Headquarters.

An active Rotarian and past president, Harris achieved a perfect attendance record of more than 50 years with the Alexandria Rotary Club. In his spare time, he volunteered his time helping others, both locally with organizations such as Meals on Wheels and on international mission trips. Harris also served for several years as commissioner of the Alexandria Little League.

"Buzzie was always looking to help people out," said Lee Duncan, a fellow Rotarian who knew Harris for more than 30 years. "He had so many friends in Alexandria through his decades of service to the community. He will be missed."



Buzzie and Nancy Harris were married for 53 years.

As his wedding anniversary approached earlier this year, Harris was asked to share his secrets to a happy marriage. His eyes welled up as he spoke of Nancy, his wife of 53 years.

"It's a cliché but be considerate of each other and don't go to bed mad," he said. "And don't forget that you are a gift from God to each other. I have been blessed to be able to share my life and my faith with Nancy."

A memorial service will be held Thursday, Aug. 1 at 2 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road



Buzzie Harris, along with his wife Nancy, was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

in Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Rotary Foundation, Westminster Presbyterian Church or The Salvation Army. A register book can be found at www.everlyfuneralhomes.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Presentation for Small Business Owners. 8 a.m. at the community room in Landmark Mall,

5801 Duke St., on the second floor near Macy's. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran will host "Navigating the Affordable Care Act: Make Health Reform Work for Your Company." A discussion will follow the presentation. In order to attend RSVP is needed.

Visit www.moran.house.gov/event/affordable-care-act-forum.

MONDAY/AUG. 5

Community Conversation. 7 p.m. at the

Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St. ACPS welcomes the community to this quarterly meeting and conversation on the Jefferson-Houston School of the Future. Contact Mark Eisenhour at 703-965-3418.

Local History Is in Her Heritage

Susan Hellman is new director of Carlyle House.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Carlyle House on North Fairfax Street has a new director — Susan Hellman. She started on June 1 and settled in immediately. She may be new to this 260-year-old national landmark, but her knowledge of area history has allowed an easy transition.

Hellman previously was deputy director and then acting director of Woodlawn Plantation, the home of George Washington's step-granddaughter. Before that, she was the local history expert at the Fairfax County Planning and Zoning Department and historian in the county library's Virginia Room. Hellman, a Duke graduate, has a master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia.

She is also the descendent of several families that revitalized the greater Alexandria area in the mid-1800s. Led by Jacob Troth and Chalkley Gillingham, who bought Woodlawn Plantation in 1846, 40 families moved to Virginia from New Jersey.

Hellman's great-great-great-grandfather, Edward C. Gibbs, and his wife, Elizabeth Troth Gibbs, were part of that group. They bought Hollin Hall I in 1852 from George William Mason, grandson of George Mason of Gunston Hall.

The families wanted to establish successful agriculture enterprises without slave labor, and their efforts revitalized the area. Simultaneously, the Quakers channeled their energies and community spirit into creating better schools in the Alexandria and Mount Vernon area.

Hellman's family heritage and experience prepared her well for her new position at the Carlyle House. The finest of the grand homes built in the early years of the city, the structure harbors memories of famous families and distinguished guests. It has borne witness to key events in Virginia's history, from colonial times, independence, the Civil War, Alexandria's industrialization, and the rebirth of Old Town.

"I'm getting up to speed on the administrative details," Hellman said in a recent interview, "and the collections within the house. I'm thrilled to have been selected for the position and I look forward to helping keep Carlyle House a vibrant part of the city."

She and her husband Dave live in Del Ray, and they have two grown children.

The Northern Virginia Park Authority



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN/GAZETTE PACKET

Susan Hellman is the new director of Carlyle House in Old Town. The Del Ray resident is a local history expert and her great-great-great-grandparents were part of a group of Quaker families who moved to the Mount Vernon area in the 1840s and '50s. They rejuvenated agriculture, commerce and education in southeast Fairfax County.

owns and operates Carlyle House. For details, visit: www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Back-to-School Drive. Through Aug. 19. Donate new backpacks and school supplies to any of the donation boxes in the area, send gift cards to the FACE Center, T.C. Williams High School Room A123, 3330 King St. or volunteer to sort supplies on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Visit <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/face-centers>.

Diana Polson, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, has earned a doctoral degree in political science from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The **Alexandria City Public Schools** Office of Communications and Public Relations received six awards in the 2013 Publications and Electronic Media Contest sponsored by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA). ACPS received an Award of Excellence in the category of Social Media for the ACPS and Social Media entry and an Award of Merit in the category of School District - Special Purpose Publication for "A Planning Guide for Students and Parents." ACPS earned Honorable Mention awards in the category E-Newsletter (Internal Audience) for ACPS Daily Digest for Feb. 15, 2013; in the category Internet/Intranet Website for the ACPS website; in the category Special Purpose Publication for Education Digest; and in the category Videocasting/Videostreaming for "ACPS News Break."

Glancy Rosales of T.C. Williams High School accepted an honors scholarship awarded by Northern Virginia Community College.

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Enjoy Tax Holiday, Donate School Supplies

Good timing to help those in need.

It is debatable whether recurring tax holidays for different seasonal needs are good policy. But since this weekend is Virginia's tax holiday on school supplies and clothing, it makes sense to take advantage of the savings, and to spread the wealth around. The savings are more significant this year with the new sales tax increases in effect as of July 1.

This year the tax holiday is Aug. 2-4. During this three-day period, school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from Virginia sales tax. There are some items that do not qualify, for example digital school supplies. See <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/> for more details.

When you are buying school supplies for your family, buy extra to donate to local families who are not able to afford to do the same.

Alexandria Public Schools are asking for help to ensure every child in Alexandria starts the first day of school with a backpack and school supplies. Donations are needed by Aug. 19 at drop-off locations below.

Supplies needed: Backpacks, spiral notebooks, wide-rule filler paper, 3-ring binders, 2-pocket folders, subject dividers, pencil boxes/zipper pouches, scissors/glue/rulers, pencils,

pencil sharpeners, erasers, markers, colored pencils, crayons, highlighters, and tissues

Drop off locations:

- Del Ray Area
- A Show of Hands – 2301 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Artfully Chocolate – 2003A Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Caboose Café – 2419 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Cora Kelly Recreation Center— 25 W Reed Ave.
- Dairy Godmother – 2308 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Eclectic Nature & Garden Center – 1503 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- FireFlies – 1501 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Grace Episcopal Church – 3601 Russell Road
- Nature's Nibbles – 2601 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Neighborhood Pharmacy— 2204 Mt. Vernon Ave
- Pork Barrel BBQ— 2312 Mt. Vernon Ave
- St. Elmo's – 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave
- Ultimate Results— 2305 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Yates Automotive – 317 E Braddock Road
- Yoga in Daily Life – 2402 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Old Town Area
- Alexandria City Hall – 301 King St., main lobby and 2nd floor
- ASIS – 1625 Prince St.
- Charles Houston Recreation Center— 901 Wythe St.
- McEanearney Associates – 109 S. Pitt St.
- Today's Cargo – 1102 King St.
- Volunteer Alexandria – 123 N. Alfred St., 1st floor
- These Burke & Herbert Locations:
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Burke & Herbert King Street – 621 King St.
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Burke & Herbert Monroe Ave – 306 E. Monroe Ave.

All Alexandria Public Library Branches
Barrett Branch – 717 Queen St.
Beatley Branch – 5005 Duke St.
Burke Branch – 4701 Seminary Road
Duncan Branch – 2501 Commonwealth Ave.
Other Alexandria Locations
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Alexandria INOVA – 4320 Seminary Road
William Ramsay Recreation Center— 5650 Sanger Ave.

Lee Center— 1108 Jefferson St.
State Farm— 1705 Centre Plaza
Church of the Resurrection – 2280 N. Beauregard St.

Commonwealth Federal Credit Union – 4875 Eisenhower Ave.

Congregation Agudas Achim— 2908 Valley Dr.
The Church of St. Clement – 1701 Quaker Lane

The Sentinel of Landmark – 6300 Stevenson Ave.

Crave Frozen Yogurt – 3610 King St., Bradlee Center

Northern Virginia Community College - 3001 N. Beauregard St.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Use Hensley For Robinson?

To the Editor:

The St. James unsolicited proposal to build a sports and entertainment complex where Hensley Park exists today may have been unsolicited, but it was neither a new idea nor one lacking proponents at city hall. In 2005, Alexandrians for an All City Sports Facility approached the city with a similar request to

build expansive sports facilities on Hensley Park. Kerry Donley, David Speck, and other community leaders, then and now, promoted this plan. Funding shortfalls stymied this idea, in the end.

A significant problem besides funding still exists. If the city used monies received from the federal government under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to acquire or develop Hensley Park, it must remain parkland in perpetuity unless the Secretary of Interior approves of a conversion and replacement

lands are substituted. Such a decision will most likely never happen unless commensurate green space is preserved and environmental quality is enhanced.

What to do? It is past time to get creative in this city. There may well be a better option that satisfies all, one that produces dramatically more revenues, displaces density to more suitable settings, and retains and enhances park and recreation space. Let me explain a modest unsolicited amendment to an unsolicited proposal. In general terms, the idea is relatively simple. First and foremost, require St. James to proffer replacement playing fields within the city; then, use the 40-year lease and expected tax revenues received from St. James to secure commercial funding for purchase of Robinson Terminals, North and South to create replacement open space and promote flood mitigation; redesign the scale and fiscal plans for a completely city owned waterfront allowing mixed use, leased properties with expanded public facilities.

Some specifics:

- ◆ Hensley Park encompasses 642,000 sq.ft. of development space; Robinson Terminals advertise “greater than 600,000 sq/ft of mixed use development space”; the parcels offer similar sites.

- ◆ Hensley Park represents displacement of 12.4 acres of open space; Robinson Terminals represent 6.7 acres of land; replacement ball fields within the city can replace the remaining 5.7 acres shortfall; Department of Interior

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Winds on High

Music through the breeze of coolness
Hot summer days of high winds
Old Glory dances
Twisting and twirling
Pausing through the breeze
Tree pollen twirling like little snowflakes
Of winter days afar
For summer it is
Refreshing coolness of summer breeze
And shower of rain that is pure.

I was recently ask how did I take the picture of the flag to get it to stay that way? My reply was: The wind — three times until each picture is right.

— GERI BALDWIN



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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria.

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-917-6480 or by email to

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8
and citizens will like this!

❖ The Chelsea Pier in New York City is cited as the best example of a sports facility similar in size and purpose to the St. James proposal. Estimated NYC tax revenues for Chelsea Pier in 1995 were \$11.9M per year - inflation adjusted equal \$17M this year; why would we lease to St. James for comparatively less?

❖ Hensley Park build out, at minimum density (F.A.R. = 1) produces \$4.3 M in real estate tax revenue per year by city tax accounting; a scan of St. James plans shows far greater density along with restaurant, lodging, and retail tax potential; tax and/or lease revenue begins as early as 2015; The most conservative cumulative revenues equal \$63M after 15 years; cumulative revenues for the proposed 40-year lease are dramatically greater!

❖ The city estimates annual net tax revenues from its Waterfront Plan build out to equal \$4.2M at maximum density at the end of 15 years; cumulative revenues would equal \$42M at this 15 year point; this revenue stream faces market risk and flooding hazards.

There is certainly more analysis to flesh out such an option, but time is extremely short. We are within weeks of final submission of "last and best" offers from buyers for the two Robinson terminal parcels on the river. Citizen demands for more open space and flood mitigation on the waterfront face impending plans for concreted density. It's time for City Council to innovate and examine city plans in an integrated manner rather than one parcel of planning at a time. Imagine the possibilities!

Bob Wood
Alexandria

Passion and Caring For Officer Laboy

To the Editor:

The words "passion and caring for the community" can best describe the effort put forth by Arlington resident Karen L. Bune. Ms. Bune has been in the forefront of a region-wide fund raising campaign to provide relief and support for Alexandria Police Officer Peter Laboy and his family. Earlier this year, Officer Laboy made a traffic stop after a report of a person acting suspiciously in the Old Town section of Alexandria. Before he could even get off his motorcycle, he was shot in the head by the suspect.

Fortunately, due to the rapid response and quick assistance from Alexandria Fire/EMS units on the scene, Laboy survived. However, his life and that of his family will never be the same. He has had to undergo myriad and expensive medical procedures. In the aftermath of this terrible incident, many public safety agencies and the community in general have bonded together to provide support and financial assistance to Officer Laboy.

As for Ms. Bune she deserves special mention. Ms. Bune has had a long and distinguished career in public service; most notably as a "victim specialist" working with prosecuting attorneys in local offices in Virginia and Maryland. She is also an adjunct professor at local Virginia universities. Her accomplishments are too numerous to mention.

Ms. Bune thought of the idea to create a badge pendant in honor of Officer Laboy and to raise money for his family. She developed the words for both plates of the badge. The top plate reads, "Superman,"

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO TOUR TWO REMODELED HOMES IN LEESBURG!

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18706 Woodburn Road

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

which signifies Laboy's nickname for having survived and for his favorite character hero. The bottom plate she devised reads, "Motor 8" which is his call sign.

Ms. Bune proposed her idea to a friend, Vicki Forness, the owner of B&C Jewelers in the Bradlee Shopping Center, and asked her if she would be willing to collaborate and partner with her for this endeavor and to have all proceeds go to the Laboy family. Ms. Forness agreed and ordered the sterling silver badges. She even does the engraving for free.

Ms. Bune created a flier that a kind donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, had made into placards that are posted around the region. The owner of National Art and Framing in the Bradlee Shopping Center also assisted her by making posters as a donation for the effort.

Ms. Bune has been relentless in this fund-raising project that she developed, and her untiring efforts have not gone unnoticed. She has always had a passion and caring for the community far beyond most professionals in the field. We must give Ms. Bune praise and credit and, most importantly, a "thank you" for caring.

Note: The Laboy badge pendants are available at B&C Jewelers in Bradlee Shopping Center in Alexandria. They sell for \$47.50 and all proceeds to go the Laboy family.

Charles Flinn III

Captain, (Ret.) Prince Georges County,
Maryland Fire/EMS Department
Alexandria

Problem: Cars, Not Bicycles

To the Editor:

Bicycles are not the problem. I was stunned when I observed the debate over bicycles in socially "progressive" Old Town Alexandria. Let me get to the point: cars and the failed — not best practices — city parking policies are the problem, not bicycles. The problem is that free parking attracts visiting cars and these drivers have a habit of going through stop signs without stopping and cruising for parking spaces when they should be looking where they are going, case in point: my wife was hit by a car one evening while she was crossing Fairfax street (Cameron) in the cross walk next to City Hall by a driver who was looking for parking instead of looking at the cross walk. Fortunately, it was a low speed collision that knocked her and her groceries onto the pavement and there seems to be no long-term injuries. Our family has had many close calls walking our kids to school or other places, having close encounters with cars while in the cross walk or just seeing cars including police cars go through stop signs without stopping. Given that a car is 2000-4000 lbs and able to travel quite fast in Old Town, up to 40 mph in a block, and a bike with a rider is about

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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End Unit, feels like sfh! Everything updated- 3BR/2.55BA, granite, cabinets, appls, hardwoods, windows, a/c/ roof, just move right in, private rear patio. Great location!
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



NEW LISTING



Alexandria \$289,000
1207 Pitt Street N. 3A, Alexandria, VA 22314
Absolutely charming 1BR/1BA condo in peaceful community. Wood burning fireplace, abundant storage space and updated eat in kitchen with peek a boo Potomac River view.
Phyllis Patterson 703-518-6158



NEW LISTING



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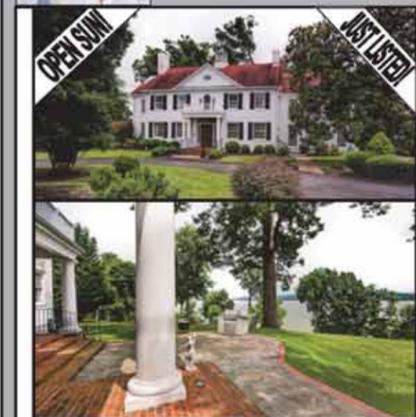


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 OPEN SUN 8/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Washington Woods; R-Ludgate



3709 Carriage House Court \$769,000
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 * Magnificent custom pool and professionally landscaped grounds!
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 OPEN SUN 8/4, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Riverwood; L-Carriage House Ct



9124 Volunteer Dr \$649,900
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4401 Neptune Dr \$629,500
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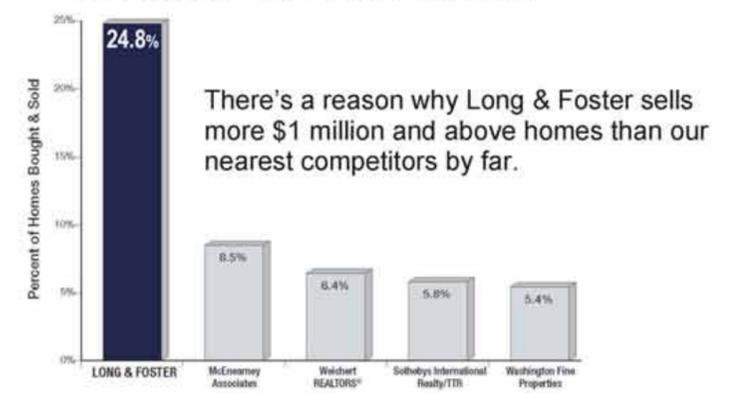


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\$ 299,000 Alexandria "STYLISH & COMFORTABLE"
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OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4! \$ 350,000 Alexandria 1014 PRINCE ST #5
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SUMMER FUN

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Summer Classes. Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Art Exhibit. Open through Aug. 3, "Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists" is on display at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. Free. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or 703-746-4356.

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery is opening a juried show called "Where in the World." In this show, artists derive inspiration from travel and adventure. Free. Through Sunday, Aug. 4. The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery is located at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-548-0935.

National Park and Recreation Month: Open Play Days and Nights. Through Aug. 18. Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park Field, 4800 Brenman Park Drive and at Four Mile Run Soccer Field, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. Saturdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays noon-5 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, Four Mile Run Soccer Field and Witter Fields, 2700 Witter Drive. Call 703-746-5402 or e-mail mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

Art Exhibit. Noon-4:30 p.m. at the Green Spring Garden Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Grace Rooney's watercolor paintings on display through Aug. 25. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Art Class. Running through Saturday, Aug. 31, classes meet 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage, drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Classes held at Art at The Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Register online at www.artatthecenter.com.

Visiting Artists. Through Saturday, Aug. 31, the Visiting Artist Program is a professional development opportunity for emerging and experienced visual artists from all over the country and provides an opportunity for visitors to interact with a rotating group of visual artists. Torpedo Factory located at 105 N. Union St. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Dog Days Dog Show. July 18-Sept. 1 in the Athenaeum Gallery. The show includes a variety of photographs about dogdom, portraits are also included. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-683-5058.

Art Exhibit. Aug. 3- Sept. 1, at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The exhibit is "Radio Sebastian: You, Me, and the Void". An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m. in the gallery. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target or call 703-838-4565.

Distillery Open. George Washington's Distillery and Gristmill open through Oct. 1. \$17/adult, \$8/child, 5 and under are free.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and

Irish Festival

The 28th annual Ballyshanners Irish Festival will take place Saturday, Aug. 10 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria. This year's festival features Irish musical and cultural groups, including the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums, the Washington Scottish Pipes and Drums, the Boyle School of Dance, the Culin School of Dance, the Celtic Rhythm School of Dance and the O'Neill-James School of Dance. Local musical favorites include Mary Smith, Pat Garvey, Rocky Guttmann and Strutton/Glasgow.

Browse Irish goods as well as arts and crafts from a wide variety of vendors and community supporters. Numerous culinary vendors will be participating, with food and cold refreshments being served throughout the day.

Proceeds from the festival help cover the cost of staging the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Alexandria.

The Irish Festival is sponsored by the Ballyshanners. A not-for-profit 501(c)3, the Ballyshanners' mission is to promote and preserve Irish heritage through sponsorship of the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, held annually each March, and the Alexandria Irish Festival.

Festival organizers suggest using Metro (King Street Station) and the King Street Trolley to access the festival. Lawn chairs are welcome, but coolers are prohibited at the festival.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Bella Miner applauds as the Irish dancers conclude their performance.



Harp and Guinness flow through the taps as customers line up for a taste of ale.



Brian Little watches the crowd in the A&B soft serve ice cream truck

transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this time, as well as period photographs and collections items. Open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone figure drawing skills. Drop-in with your supplies to draw our live models. Fee: \$8-12. View the calendar at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

The **West End Farmers Market** will run Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. through November. Located at Ben Brenman Park, browse food, crafts and more. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org.

This **exhibit at Fort Ward**, located at 4301 W. Braddock Road, features objects from the museum collection, to tell this story of the event that launched the Civil War in Alexandria. Free. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwardroad.org or call 703-746-4848.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and

Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

African American Activists Exhibition. Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

The Marshall House Incident Exhibition at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Visit www.fortwardroad.org or call 703-746-4848.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Summer Youth Programs. Metro Fine Arts Center 6450 Landsdowne Centre Drive. Classes start July 8. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com.

Gallery. Through Aug. 5 at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Fantasy of the Real," a solo show. Call 703-683-1780 or visit

www.theleague.org.

Book a Librarian. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

Computer Tutoring. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

Art Exhibit. Friday, Aug. 2 to Sunday, Sept. 1 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue. The exhibit features seven Del Ray Artisans following their own theme and inspirations to create their own artwork. The gallery is free and open to the public. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Mobile Market. Thursdays through October, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Landmark Mall parking lot on the Duke Street side. The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture Mobile Market is a refurbished school bus offering produce, meat, eggs and more from small farmers and food artisans within 100 miles of the area. EBT cards and WIC and Senior FMNP vouchers accepted. Visit arcadiafood.org.

Friday Affair Market. 12-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held July 26, Aug. 9 and the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore

Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Metro Club After-School Program. Beginning Sept. 9 and running through June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents a new after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs offered will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run after school on Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. MetroClub offers MetroRide buses so students can be transported from certain area schools. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SUMMER CAMPS

The **American Backstage Company** is offering a variety of summer classes and workshops, many which are free. Located at 5380 Eisenhower Ave. Visit www.americanbackstage.com for a full listing.

August Art Explorers. Aug. 2-23, every Friday, 9:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. at 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Bring toddlers or preschoolers for guided exploration of clay, paint, collage,

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drawing and building in a supported studio environment. Visit www.artatthecenter.org.
The Little Theatre of Alexandria is offering a new camp for children ages 5-7 from Aug. 12-16. Children are able to learn about the world of acting by participating in movement games, improv activities and performances of skits. Full or half day sessions available. Call 703-683-5778 ext. 2 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Summer Quest: Dance Party. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 2 and up can dance along to all kinds of music. Free. 703-746-1703.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1702 x5.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Just Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 2-6 can enjoy stories. Free, registration required. 703-765-3645.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Family Dig Day. At Alexandria Archaeology, 105 N. Union Street. Learn and assist City archaeologists as they examine soil and artifacts gathered from a real dig. The day begins with a lesson on the history and archaeology of Shuter's Hill and

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

August

SATURDAY/AUG. 3-SUNDAY/AUG. 4

County 4-H Fair and Frying Pan Farm Park Show at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon. Farm animals, rides, displays, horse and dog shows, the tractor pull, children's crafts and face painting and live music. <http://www.4hfairfax.org/>.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 7-11

Arlington County Fair. Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second St. South. Indoor and outdoor activities. Visit arlingtoncountyfair.us.

THROUGH SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

2nd Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition. at McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. View the breadth of contemporary ceramic artwork being created throughout the USA during the Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition. <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

September

SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., on King Street, Alexandria. In a burst of vibrant color and activity, the 11th Annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival transforms the city's historic main street into a world-class outdoor art gallery.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 8

King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., on King Street, Alexandria. In a burst of vibrant color and activity, the 11th Annual Alexandria King Street Art Festival transforms the city's historic main street into a world-class outdoor art gallery.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Clarendon Day Run. 7-9:30 a.m., Corner of North Highland Street and Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Kick off the Clarendon Day Festival with a 10K, 5K, and a Kids Dash. \$10-\$55. <https://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=QT2VCJ7>

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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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SUMMER FUN

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continues with a tour and an opportunity to sift through excavated soil in search of artifacts. \$5; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Equipment provided. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology.

Friendship Firehouse Festival Birthday. 9 a.m. in the 100 block of S. Alfred Street, between Prince and King Streets. The family friendly event will be free for everyone to celebrate the 239th birthday of the historic fire company. Enjoy a collection of antique fire equipment as well as other attractions such as craft booth, food vendors, and free birthday cake. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to make cold process soap with natural ingredients. Lessons include ways to safely handle and store lye, how to add fragrances and exfoliants and ideas for molding and packaging. Registration is \$62. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet local artists and hear live music. Visit www.thedelrayartists.org/artmarket for more.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Book Signing. Noon at the Special Collections Branch, 717 Queen St. Join the authors of the new book, "African Americans of Alexandria Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century" for a discussion and book signing. The writers, Char McCargo Bah, Christa Watters, Audrey P. Davis, Gwendolyn Brown-Henderson and James E. Henson Sr. will all be present at the event. Copies available for purchase at the signing. Call 703-746-1770.

Dog Days Adoption Event. 1-4 p.m. at the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria presents this chance to find the perfect canine. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

Tavern Day. 1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street. Learn how to dance like George Washington or partake in some scientific discussions and experience Alexandria's five-star hotel of the 18th century. Visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us.

Book Signing. 2-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Civil War historian B. Franklin Cooling III signs his book "The Day Lincoln Was Almost Shot: The Fort Stevens Story" about President Abraham Lincoln's role in the Battle of Fort Stevens in July 1864. For this event a special book price of \$40 will be offered. Call 703-746-4848.

Crafts With Shannyn. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Transform a cigar box into a keepsake treasure trove. Free, registration required. 703-746-1743.

Tangle of Tales. 2:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All ages can enjoy folk tales from around the world, presented by Grey Seal Puppets. Free. Registration required, 703-765-3645.

Music Recital. 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Ava Oaxaca, alto saxophone, and Joe Broom, euphonium, perform "Summer Music." Free. Call 703-838-4994 or email avaoaxaca@aol.com.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere



Tom Koerner and Debra Sternberg hold dances and give lessons regularly in the area. Dances are preceded by classes for new and returning dancers. Visit gottaswing.com.



Dance classes are followed by more time to practice or show off new skills to live music.



PHOTOS BY CAROL E. WARD

Ohio's Blair Carman and the Bellevue Boys play rock and roll just like Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins and have long been a favorite of the DC swing dance community.

Gotta Swing

Tom Koerner and Debra Sternberg have been teaching Jitterbug and Lindy Hop since 1987. Starting with a single class each week, their swing lessons are now taught at eight locations, with more than 500 students each week. Visit gottaswing.com to find dances and classes in the area.

More dances with Gottaswing:

Sunday Nights: After-class DJ dance 8-10 p.m., free. McGinty's at 911 Ellsworth Dr., Silver Spring, Md.

Monday Nights: After-class DJ dance 9-11 p.m., \$5 at the door. Chevy Chase Ballroom at 5207 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday Nights: After-class dance with live music 9-11 p.m., \$10 at the door. DJ dances 9-11 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month, free; live music 9-10:30 p.m. followed by DJ music 10:30-11 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday, \$10 at the door. The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria.

Wednesday Nights: DJ dances 9-11 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of the month, \$6; live music 9-11 p.m. the first and third Wednesday, \$10 at the door. Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett Street, Alexandria.

Friday Nights: Drop-in beginner swing lesson with Sue and Gary 8:30-9 p.m., dance 9 p.m.-midnight, \$15 at the door. Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

Third Friday: Drop-in beginner Balboa lesson 8:30-9 p.m., DJ dance 9-11:30 p.m., \$10 at the door. Backroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo, Md. Visit www.gottaswing.com to confirm dates.

Saturday Nights: Drop-in beginner swing lesson with Tom and Debra 8-9 p.m., dance 9 p.m.-midnight. Admission \$18 for adults, \$12 ages 12-17 years old, \$10 children 11 and younger unless otherwise noted; admission may be higher for special events. All admission at the door. In the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, Md.

Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see Poco and Pure Prairie League. \$35. Visit www.pocounut.org and www.pureprairieleague.com.

Washington St. Presented by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpamusic.org.

which will be closed off to traffic for the festival. Free. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Los Quetzales. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All ages welcomed to experience Mexican culture through music and dance. Registration Required. Call 703-765-3645.

Baby Lap Sits. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Sherwood Poetry Read-Around. 6:45 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can share favorite poems, either original or by a favorite poet. Free. 703-765-3645.

Evening Storytime. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children of all ages can wear pajamas and enjoy stories and activities about bedtime. Free. Registration required, 703-339-6700.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 7

Puppet Show. 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The "Time Capsule" puppet show will take place featuring The Three Billy

Goats Gruff and Jack and the Beanstalk. The show is \$3 per person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring and use event code 2903856301 or call 703-642-5173.

Children's Science Center. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Hands-on science experiments for ages 6-12. Registration Required. Call 703-768-6700.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Stories, songs and games for ages 12-23 months with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-765-3645.

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 13-23 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Concert. Noon-1 p.m. at Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza. Music by Silver City. Free. 703-746-5592.

Daytime Book Discussion. 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Call for title. 703-339-4610.

Cool Yoga. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Maureen Clyne of Prasada Yoga offers, outdoor yoga classes at 1900 Mt. Vernon

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SUMMER FUN

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Avenue in Del Ray. Open to all skill levels. Free. Call 703-967-8884 or visit www.prasadayoga.com.

AUG. 7-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit. At the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The annual August landscape exhibit "Scapes" features a variety of artwork from all media, inspired by the environment. Juried by Elizabeth Klimek. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-8 p.m. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 8

Doggie Happy Hour. 4-7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Bring your dogs for an evening in the Athenaeum garden. Lemonade and milkbones provided. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Call 703-746-1702 for title.

Movies at Martha. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults and teens age 13 and up can enjoy a movie. Call for title. 703-768-6700.

Night Time Tales. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 3-5 can listen to stories. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Performance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Joe Peck and Friends with featured artist Mercedes Mill. All tickets are \$10 and available online and at the door. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Twilight Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Concert by Jason Paul Curtis & Swing Lab. Free. 703-746-5592.

AUG. 8-SEPT. 2

Art Exhibit. At the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. "Shapes" features sculptures, forms and structures by Art League artists. Juried by Laura Roulet. The opening reception will be held Thursday, Aug. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Call 703-683-1780 or visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 9

Lori Williams. Opening for Jose' James at The Birchmere 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Tickets on sale now. Visit <http://lorijazz.com/> or www.Birchmere.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 9-10

Summer Sidewalk Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The sale includes books, exhibit catalogs, games, toys and DVDs. After visiting the sale, see the exhibitions within the museum's galleries. Proceeds go to museum programming. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org.

TUESDAY-THURSDAY/AUG. 9-11

Theatre. 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday; 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Arts on the Horizon presents "Under the Canopy" an interactive theatre performance designed for children 0-2 years old. \$3. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Workshop 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring staff shares casting and painting techniques for decorating the home and garden. Program registration is \$45. Supply

registration is \$20 and is due by Aug. 7. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to create a tabletop terrarium from begonia enthusiast Johanna Zinn. Container, plants, soil and care instructions provided. Registration is \$45. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Items for all ages. 703-339-4610.

I Dig Sign Language. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children of all ages can enjoy songs and games introducing basic American Sign Language. Free. 703-768-6700.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

28th Annual Ballyshanners Irish Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria. A day full of Irish culture provided by the Ballyshanners features musical groups, dancers and vendors of authentic Irish foods and crafts. All proceeds go to pay the cost of Alexandria's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Visit <http://www.ballyshanners.org/festival/index.htm>.

Free Meditation Workshop. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn breathing technique and more. Free. 703-746-1704.

How to Succeed at Iced Coffee. 11 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how to make iced coffee and sample what is created. Reservations recommended, 703-746-1703.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. David Majerowicz opens for Marty Stuart. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Jane Austen Ball. 8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern 134 N. Royal Street. This evening in the 1790s will feature a variety of English country dances in the historic ballroom, live music, and iced refreshments. After-5 dress encouraged. Visit www.shop.alexandria.gov or www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 10-11

4th Annual Alexandria Sidewalk Sale. New this year, the sale is over two days in two neighborhoods, Old Town and Del Ray with more than 55 shops offering clearance deals, promotions and product demos. Parking is free at meters and city-owned garages. More details at ShopLocalAlexandria.com and VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 11

Family Days at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Families can partake in tours by Junior Docents. The Museum is also offering a look at the newly restored Ice Well, which allows visitors to experience the science and history that goes along with the making of ice cream. \$5 for adults; \$3 for children age 5-12. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Film. 2 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The Summer Fun Sunday Film Fest presents "Enchanted." Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

EOD Warrior Foundation BBQ Festival. 2-8 p.m. at the American Legion/Gadsby's Tavern Complex, 400 Cameron St. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Warrior Foundation honors wounded and

fallen EOD warriors and their families. Festivities include live music by Red Star. \$20; all proceeds go to charity. Call 540-554-4550 or email info@eodwarriorfoundation.org.

Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Pianists Sylvia Hong and Michael Rector will perform. The event is presented by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. Call 703-799-8229 or visit www.wmpmusic.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 12

Baby Lap Sits. 1:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Literacy programs for parents and babies. Ages birth through 12 months. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

Film Series. 2 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Watch a political drama that takes a behind-the-scenes look at John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. Free. 703-746-1704.

Make it and Take it for Teens. 4 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Teens age 13-17 can explore what's "beneath the surface" when creating a craft. Free. 703-768-6700.

Books and Ideas. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague" by Geraldine Brooks. Free. 703-765-3645.

Interfaith Book Club. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Read nonfiction works that strive to find common ground through recognizing and celebrating common values. Free. Call 703-746-1743 for title.

Let's Talk Books. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Discuss "I Only Say This Because I Love You: How the Way We Talk Can Make or Break Family Relationships Throughout Our Lives" by Deborah Tannen. Free. 703-746-1703.

TUESDAY/AUG. 13

A to Zoo Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with an adult. Registration required. Call 703-971-0010.

All Creatures Great and Small. 2:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can meet local animals from the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

Paws to Read. 5:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades 1-6 can read to friendly dogs. Registration required, 703-746-1705.

Writing Triage. 6:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Get a resume or writing project reviewed and get suggestions on how to improve it. Free. 703-746-1742 to register.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Beach Music" by Pat Conroy. Free. Visit secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com or 703-339-4610.

Evening Book Group. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults can discuss "The Boy in the Suitcase" by Lene Kaaberbol. Free. 703-768-6700.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performance by George Duke. Tickets on sale July 12. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.georgeduke.com.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 14

Rising Words, Rising Images. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. For teens ages 12-18. Free. 703-765-3645.

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Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

200 lbs and travels about 6-12 mph, it takes very little intelligence to see which one is more of a safety problem going through stop signs without stopping and looking where they are going. In addition cars produce pollutants — no not CO2-plant food — but carcinogens and other toxins that have been shown to increase the risk of autism in children. Cars are a threat to our health, safety and welfare producing: toxins, traffic congestion, injuries and deaths, stress for pedestrians and cyclists, social isolation (people are not socially negotiable while driving), expensive and unattractive infrastructure, increased cost of living (owning/leasing cars, gas, insurance, parking, maintenance, etc.), loss of time commuting and they use up energy in a pedestrian friendly environment where one can and should walk or ride a bike to shops, workplaces, community facilities and transit, if possible. For example, because it is a long walk, I occasionally ride my bike to get groceries for my family at Whole Foods and my kids ride their bikes to school fairly often.

Old Town should be managing cars, not bicycles and should be charging visitors — not residents — for street parking at a rate greater than the garages, so — per research — people will tend to park directly in the garages and not cruise for parking creating congestion and pedestrian conflicts. Parking, like roadway capacity, is what economists refer to as a free good. Most people who use it do not pay its full cost, and as a result, it is overused and subject to shortages. When parking is provided — especially on-street — it should vary in price around the clock proportionate to demand. Accurately monitored valuation will ensure that a number of spaces are always available.” Donald Shoup in the “High Cost of Free Parking” recommends that “pricing be managed by centralized meters to maintain 15 percent vacancy at all times. But above all, municipalities must acknowledge that investments in parking often undermine investments in transit.”

Chris Hubbard
Alexandria

Give Citizens Recall Power

To the Editor:

The Alexandria Gazette Packet got to the heart of the matter when it pointed out that City Council’s decision to put aside its established priorities to consider a public-private partnership proposal shows that, city hall’s diversionary rhetoric to the contrary, this deal to give public land to a private for-profit entity is already a “done deal” not necessarily because the deal has already been cut, but because most of the current incumbents (other than Councillors Silberberg and Smedberg) are favorably disposed toward doing business this way. Did, for example, City Council recently discontinue earmarking funding for open space precisely because city hall wanted to signal that open space would no longer be a pri-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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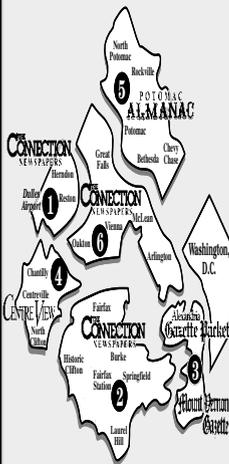
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-Dagobert Runes

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Serendipitous Inc. trading as Bittersweet Catering, 823 King St. Alexandria, VA22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. John P. Manor, Jr.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PRELIMINARY BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Administrative (J) Building located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The preliminary budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com and during regular business hours at the above address. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 549-3381 ext. 2260. August 1st and September 5th
Alexandria Renew Enterprises
BY: William Dickinson
Secretary - Treasurer

21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

OBITUARY
Mary Diana Geschickter, 78 of Scotch Plains, NJ, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on July 26, 2013, after a courageous battle with cancer. A celebration of Diana's life will be held on Saturday, August 3rd at 11:15 am at St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, NJ. Diana, as she was known to her family and friends was born in Ayer, MA and lived in Lorton, VA, Alexandria, VA and most recently Scotch Plains, NJ. She was the daughter of Walter and Margaret (Ryan) Vaughan, step-daughter of George Hare and sister to Walter Vaughan all of who predeceased her. Diana is survived by her sons, Tad (Jodi), Chris (Joanne) and Brian(Tracy). She will also be deeply missed by her grandchildren, Ryan, Katie, Garrett and Lyndsay. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the American Cancer Research Institute. Please visit www.dooleycolonialfuneralhome.com for her complete life story.

21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

LEGAL NOTICE
State of Wisconsin Circuit Court - Kenosha County Publication Summons - Case No. 13-CV-0808 Branch 3 - The Honorable Bruce E. Schroeder - Case Code 30404 (Foreclosure of Mortgage) - The amount claimed exceeds \$10,000.00 - Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC, 1100 Virginia Dr., Ste. 175, Ft. Washington, PA 19034, Plaintiff vs. Joseph R. Avila a/k/a Joseph Rafael Avila & Jane Doe Avila, 5010 Eisenhower Ave., Apt. 302, Alexandria, VA 22304-4857 and Cornerstone Villas Condominium Association, Inc., 4816 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha, WI 53144-1789, Defendants - The State of Wisconsin - To each person named above as a defendant: You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. Within 40 days after 7/18/13 you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 912 56th St., Kenosha, WI 53140 and to Gray & Assoc., L.L.P., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 16345 W. Glendale Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151. You may have an attorney help or represent you. If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. Dated 7/10/13, Steven E. Zablocki, State Bar No. 1027190, Gray & Assoc., L.L.P., Attys. for Plaintiff, 16345 W. Glendale Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151-2841, (414) 224-8404/(414) 224-1271. Gray & Assoc., L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

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Promoting Best Possible Beginning for Babies and Moms

BY CHRISTINE
CANDIO, RN,
FACHE
CEO, INOVA
ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL



If you could make a choice that would greatly improve the health of your family, would you do it? We did. Last year, Inova Alexandria Hospital charted a new course to improve the health of newborns and their mothers in our community family by encouraging more mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies. With its proven health benefits of preventing chronic illness in both mothers and babies, breastfeeding is the best possible beginning.

Now truth be told, we've always supported mothers who choose breastfeeding over formula feeding. And, we've always supported mothers who choose formula

feeding over breastfeeding — and will continue to do so. What's changed in the last year, however, is our commitment to promoting the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding.

What does that look like? Under the guidance of the national "Best Fed Beginnings" initiative, we developed new maternity policies and implemented evidence-based care processes to comply with established "Baby-Friendly" hospital standards. Now we talk to every mother about the benefits of breastfeeding, we don't offer pacifiers as standard practice, we promote mother and baby skin-to-skin contact within five minutes of birth, and we encourage keeping healthy babies in their mothers' rooms 24-hours-a-day in support of breastfeeding on-demand.

This is in addition to the services we've always provided through our in-house lactation service. Our lactation consultants

provide free one-on-one and daily group consultations for our postpartum moms during their hospital stay. They also run a weekly breastfeeding support group for moms after their stay and are available for hire for private consultations. The service includes breast pump rentals and a clothing boutique with nursing bras and shirts for sale.

Recent changes at the hospital also support our breastfeeding culture shift. Renovations to our existing four-story building resulted in our new "Women's Tower" designed to provide a comfortable, healing environment for women undergoing breast and gynecological surgeries or the birth of a child. It includes all private postpartum rooms with new furnishings and décor designed to give mothers the best birthing experience possible while promoting "rooming-in" with their babies.

We're also reaching out beyond our doors

to promote this important cause. Working with our physician partners, we developed educational materials to inform their prenatal patients about the benefits of breastfeeding and how our hospital can help. And through our partnership with the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network, we're educating expectant moms in the city's health clinics, too.

We're proud of the work we're doing and pleased to know we're making a difference. When we started this initiative in spring 2012, less than 24-percent of our postpartum mothers chose to breastfeed their newborns during their hospital stay. Today, more than 55-percent are choosing to breastfeed! We want to make sure all of our babies and mothers get the best beginning and will continue to promote breastfeeding for a healthy start.

Read more about Inova's breastfeeding and maternity services at www.inova.org/childbirth.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 18

ority to pave the way to erase 15 acres of open space for the right price?

If this appears to be a done deal, opponents should be shrewd about our approach, by having a fall-back requiring:

- ❖ Annual revenues from the public-private partnership all be earmarked into the open space fund and

- ❖ These earmarked revenues be used to identify land zoned otherwise for purchase and conversion to open space/parkland until the full 15 acres is matched elsewhere in the city.

Moreover, there is no guarantee this project will prove viable, so if the project proves otherwise, the city must have priority to obtain the newly constructed buildings based on the lower of their actual value or the outstanding mortgage debt on them. Otherwise, Alexandria will lose the value of the 15 acres while a partially occupied or constructed derelict property in bankruptcy sits on them.

Finally, elected officials who surely are putting on a list the folks communicating with them in favor of this project to recontact them for contributions, campaign workers, and votes at election time cannot collectively be trusted to make public-private partnership decisions in the public interest any more than folks like me can be trusted to "eat just one" Lay's potato chip or pistachio or M&M. Concerned citizens should not waste too much time with their City Council whose track record of supplication to business is well established. Citizens should, instead, press the Virginia legislature for a charter amendment allowing for citizens to recall their elected city officials and appeal City Council actions, including DSUPs and public-private partnerships, to referendum. Politicians now believe they have several more years before they face the voters, and even if voted out the "courageous decisions" they made, which look like egregious give-

aways to many of the rest of us, will not be able to be easily reversed. But the threat of recall and the prospect of referendum would be immediate, and this threat would lead to more measured decision-making and better public policy outcomes such that neither tool will need often to be used.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Failure of 'What's Next Alexandria'

To the Editor:

I originally welcomed the opportunity to participate in a series of meetings to improve public participation in city governance. The "What's Next Alexandria" initiative was billed as a conversation on civic engagement, how Alexandrians can best participate in public decisions that shape the city and reach agreement on principles that will guide civic engagement. This was a blatant attempt by city officials to quell the divisive debates surrounding the Waterfront Plan and the Beauregard Small Area Plan.

I was hoping for more given the length of time, city support and funding for the initiative. I was hoping the series of meetings would outline a process that would fundamentally improve public outreach, civic involvement, and collaboration. Instead, after nearly a year, the Preliminary Draft Handbook contains general guidelines and principles that are nice but do little to improve the current process. The handbook advocates principles of behavior, city staff monitoring of the civic engagement process and recommending improvements, recruiting community members to play supportive roles and providing facilitation training, all of this pales in contrast to what could have been.

The city currently engages the community often not in a constructive manner.

Consequently, citizens feel decisions have already been made and commenting is futile. Citizens are not actively engaged in identifying issues, considering and understanding options, working with staff to resolve issues. Instead hard and fast timetables are set by city staff with limited or no consultation with the community; a variety of meetings (uncoordinated) are scheduled; often with short notices, in rapid succession, with no agendas, and limited public input. Meetings with the citizens are often dominated by staff presentation and they evolve into meetings informing the community of progress being made by staff and actions taken by various commissions. This treatment leads to frustration, ramped up criticism of city officials and a breakdown of the public participation process.

I suggest the city not waste any more time or money on the Handbook. Staff was given an impossible task given the very limited scope of the public initiative started in September 2012. The handbook is disappointing and not a major achievement.

Time and money would be better spent taking the information gathered at the meetings, recognize major dissatisfaction with current process. I suggest "What's Next" include a recommendation creating a taskforce to evaluate the current process, consider alternatives for improvement and make recommendations on reasonable steps to reduce costs, confusion, delays and improve participation and the quality of citizen involvement. After several years of contentious debates on land use and planning issues that divided the community, a more serious effort is needed to improve public participation making Alexandria a more attractive and livable community.

Harnessing public involvement and support on issues important to the community is a difficult task. It is not easy. But it should not be so easily set aside with a handbook espousing platitudes that have little impact on improving civic involvement and partici-

pation.

Dave Cavanaugh
Alexandria

Calling for Stricter State Ethics Laws

In reaction to Gov. Robert McDonnell's repayment of \$120,000 in loans last week, Del. Rob Krupicka released a statement calling for stricter ethical oversight of elected officials and campaign regulations:

"As elected officials we must hold ourselves to a higher standard. We need to earn the trust of the people we are supposed to represent. The only way to achieve this is by making our system as transparent as possible, and to create more stringent reporting policies to ensure that transparency remains un-obscured. Virginians should not have to tolerate such shady practices from the highest office in the state.

"The legislature needs to come together on this, because corruption real or perceived in the Governor's Mansion or anywhere in our government is not an acceptable status quo.

"I call on all my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, to come together and work for stricter ethics laws and more transparency in government. The last few months have created significant concerns about the openness and transparency of our government. Ethics reform is a critical step towards rebuilding that trust."

To contact Krupicka's office with any questions or comments call 571-357-4762 or email DelRKrupicka@house.virginia.gov

Ireton Graduate Khouri To Play Basketball at Catholic U

The Bishop Ireton boys' basketball program showed significant improvement during the 2012-13 season. The Cardinals won 18 games, their highest win total since 1986, and reached the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference semifinals for the first time in school history after upsetting top seed Gonzaga.

One of the reasons behind Ireton's success was senior guard Louis Khouri, who earned honorable mention all-WCAC. Khouri graduated from Bishop Ireton in 2013 with a 4.2 cumulative GPA, and his intelligence translated to the court.

"Louis plays the game like a 40 year old," head coach Neil Berkman said during the season. "His IQ is off the charts. He sees the next play. We're going to miss him dearly. He brings a lot of intangibles that don't show up on the stat sheet with him. He's just a terrific kid to coach"

Khouri will continue his basketball career at Catholic University of America.

Q: What made Catholic the right fit for you?

Khouri: CUA has a very good engineering program, which is my major, combined with a good basketball team for which I feel I can contribute, and a nice campus with plenty of opportunities to develop as a person.

Q: What position will you play?

Khouri: Mostly the 2 guard position, and I might run point as well at times.



Bishop Ireton graduate Louis Khouri, with ball, will play basketball at Catholic University of America.

Q: What is your favorite memory of playing basketball at Bishop Ireton?

Khouri: Favorite memory was upsetting Gonzaga in the WCAC playoffs.

Q: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Khouri: I would have played football. I've always been a huge fan, but never tried to play.

Q: At what age did you start playing bas-

ketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?

Khouri: I've been playing since I could walk. I've always dreamed of playing NCAA basketball, and I realized I had a good chance to play junior year, when I started to receive interest from various universities.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Khouri: I am most looking forward to meeting new people and exploring new

opportunities. I will be living on my own for the first time, so I'm excited to mature and develop as a young adult.

Q: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Khouri: J. Cole, because I'm a big fan of his music, and I admire the fact that he writes his own lyrics and makes his own beats. Outside of music, he attended and graduated from St. John's University, which is respectable and very rare for rappers today.

Q: What's your favorite movie? Why?

Khouri: "Coach Carter," because it's a great story about basketball that also teaches valuable life lessons and mixes in some comedy.

Q: What's your favorite food?

Khouri: My mom's chicken Parmesan and lasagna.

Q: What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball?

Khouri: I'm a huge NFL fan. I'm a die-hard Colts fan and I love playing fantasy football.

Q: What location is the farthest you've traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Khouri: I have traveled to Beirut, Lebanon, which is where my family is originally from.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS BRIEFS

Youth Volunteer Coaches Needed

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is seeking volunteers to coach youth tackle and flag football, girls volleyball and cheerleading. Criminal history background checks are required. Call 703-746-5402 or email mac.slover@alexandriava.gov or Tamika.coleman@alexandriava.gov.

Community Play

July is National Park and Recreation Month in Alexandria and throughout the United States. The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is celebrating "Rock Your Park" by offering free Community Open Play Days and Nights throughout the summer at Ben Brenman Soccer & Softball Field, Four Mile Soccer Field and weekends only at Witter Recreation Park.

Now through Aug. 18, the department will be providing the opportunities for families, friends and neighbors of all ages to come visit our fields to exercise, play soccer, lacrosse, touch football, rugby, Frisbee and more.

The dates and times for each location are: Ben Brenman Field (4800 Ben Brenman Drive), Tuesday and Thursday from 6-9 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.; Four Mile Soccer Field (3700 Commonwealth Avenue), Tuesday and Thursday from 6-9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.; and Witter Recreational Fields (2700 Witter Drive), Saturday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m.

Call 703-746-5402 or e-mail Mac Slover at mac.slover@alexandriava.gov.

Lil' Titans Youth Flag Football

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Sports Section is now accepting registrations for the Lil' Titans Youth Flag Football program. This developmental program is for participants ages 5-6. League age is determined by the age of the participant as of Oct. 1, 2013. Teams are formed by recreation districts. Registration fee is \$60. Online registration is available.

All participants must be resident of the City of Alexandria. Games will be held on Saturday afternoons in September and Oc-

tober. For more information, call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or go on the recreation department's Web site at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation for the registration forms or to register online.

Girls' Volleyball

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Sports Section is now accepting registrations for the girls' volleyball League for ages 9-14. League age is determined by the age of the participant as of Dec. 31, 2013.

The league is designed to develop the basic fundamentals and further the development of the skilled players. Teams will be formed in the 9-11- and 12-14-year-old divisions. Practice begins mid-September with practices on Sunday afternoons and games on Thursday and Friday nights through December. Registration will run through Sept. 15. The fee is \$50 and participants must be a resident of the City of Alexandria. There will be a preseason clinic in September for the girls registered.

For more information, call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or visit alexandriava.gov/recreation for the registration forms or to register online. Space is limited.

Youth Cheerleading

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; Sports Section is now accepting registrations for their youth cheerleading program for ages 5-16. Age is determined by the age of the participant as of April 30, 2014.

Learn the basic cheerleading skills and techniques. Teams are formed at the neighborhood recreation centers. There will be three divisions: pee wee (ages 8 and under), youth (12 and under) and junior (16 and under).

Registration will take place until Sept. 7. Submit the registration form to a neighborhood recreation center or mail the form to the Sports Office at 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

There is not a registration fee, but there will be fees associated with the program such as competition fees and uniforms.

Teams will compete in two annual Alexandria Invitational Competitions in December and April as well as perform at recreation center programs and youth sporting events.

For additional information, call the sports office at 703-746-5402 or visit alexandriava.gov/recreation for the registration forms or to register. Limited space.



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HAPPY DEMOCRATS

Ginny Hines and Will Parry entertained a large number of fellow Democratic voters at a party. Brian Moran told us that there is good news and bad about the upcoming election. There will probably be an extremely low turnout, so we must all work hard to get the voters out.

We must concentrate on discussing the economy and education. Our candidate, Terry McAuliffe, has always been a hard worker. He started his own business at the age of 14. Terry understands what the terrible traffic congestion does to all of us in this neighborhood and he has pledged to work on improving public transportation. The Republican candidate, on the other hand, has shown no support for transportation solutions and in fact voted against the Silver Line which will connect the Metro to Dulles.

Dak Hardwick, chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, Diana Bedoya, a vice-chairman, Del. Charneile Herring, Councilwoman Del Pepper, Dick Hobson, Kelly MacConomy, David Kamerick, Martha Harris, Larry Benenson, and P. J. Palmer Johnson were in attendance. Bill Dickinson was at the party, wondering why council could possibly consider giving a lease on land which will profit only the company that wants to build a sports complex in the Eisenhower valley.

"When the city cleaned up the flood there, we thought that all the children in Alexandria would benefit.

Now we find that they will have to pay money to get in if the complex is approved," said Bill.

Also present were Paul Vogel, Anne and Samuel Ulm, and Scott Kaplan, who was the speaker.

— LOIS KELSO HUNT

Save the Date!



Tee off at the annual Chamber Golf Tournament August 26 at Belle Haven Country Club.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Jay Palermino at jay@alexchamber.com

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This charming home is located on a large corner lot in Braddock Heights. Bright and airy main level with hardwood floors, living room with a fireplace and built-in bookcases, and a separate dining room which leads to a light-filled family room with French doors opening to a slate patio. The upper level includes three bedrooms and full bath. Finished lower level.

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