



## Close Call with West Nile

**Observant citizens prompt removal of mosquito breeding ground.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**ith construction for the Indigo Hotel occurring in the area, it might have been easy to dismiss the pit of standing water at the corner of Duke and The Strand. But Yvonne Weight Callahan had more reason to notice than most. Callahan's husband Vincent Callahan, a former delegate to the General Assembly, died in September 2014 as a result of a coma brought on by West Nile Virus. West Nile Virus is carried by mosquitoes, the kind that flock to pits of still water as a breeding ground. Callahan raised the issue with one of her neighbors, who in turn contacted the city to have an inspector sent out.

"[We] responded to an inquiry regarding mosquitoes in standing water in the area," said Daniel Sherwood, an environmental health biologist for the Alexandria Health Department. Sherwood said that Brad Wright, Alexandria Health's vector borne disease biologist, went out to several sites and identified two potential breeding

grounds. One was not inhabited, but Sherwood said the department would continue to monitor the area. But the results from the water at the foot of Duke Street were more distressing.

"[There] was standing water and it was producing mosquitoes in large quantities," said Sherwood. "It's one of the biggest sites we've ever seen. It was a good find and it's easy to control."

According to Sherwood, there's no way to test and see if these specific mosquito larvae were carrying viruses, but Sherwood says the Health Department does test adults and has traps established throughout Alexandria.

"We get the results of those and we are constantly internally interpreting that information," said Sherwood. "This year, we have seen an increase level of viruses in the mosquito population. We are monitoring very closely what's going on at a local level and regional level. We're very concerned about potential for increased human cases. We're trying to stay on top of that surveillance and monitoring viruses."

**"This year, we have seen an increase level of viruses in the mosquito population."**

**— Daniel Sherwood, environmental health biologist, Alexandria Health Department**

Virginia Department of Health reports that there have been four new cases of West Nile in Virginia. According to the Alexandria Health Department website, the black and white Asian Tiger Mosquitos are the most prevalent variety in Alexandria, and while they are capable of carrying diseases like West Nile Virus, they are not very good at transmit



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The walled off mosquito pit at the end of Duke Street.

SEE CLOSE CALL, PAGE 20

## Skirmishes over Business Proposals in Del Ray

**Planning Commission navigates through conflicts.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**ithin an hour of returning to session: businesses, the public, and the Planning Commission were at odds. After a two-month summer break, it was business as usual in the Sept. 1 Alexandria Planning Commission meeting, where some big changes for small businesses were proposed in Del Ray. All three of the proposals centered around the growth of businesses and a school in Del Ray.

The first applicant was Hog Thaid LLC, which operates Holy Cow, Pork Barrel BBQ, and The Sushi Bar out of its 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue location. The restaurant hoped to add 12 outdoor

seats and to allow live indoor music. More contentious, however, was the three-space parking reduction. There was confusion on the commission regarding the use of tandem spaces.

Ultimately, the Planning Commission approved the proposal, but the issue of increased development in Del Ray was far from settled.

One block away from Hog

Thaid's restaurant complex, the Del Ray Pizzeria was hoping to expand its business to a second floor. The second floor was originally approved for parties and special events in a 2012 SUP. However, a 2014 inspection of the site found numerous violations of the SUP, including offering only four off-street parking spaces instead of

SEE SKIRMISHES, PAGE 20



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

An expansion to the second floor of the Del Ray Pizzeria was the center of a Planning Commission controversy.



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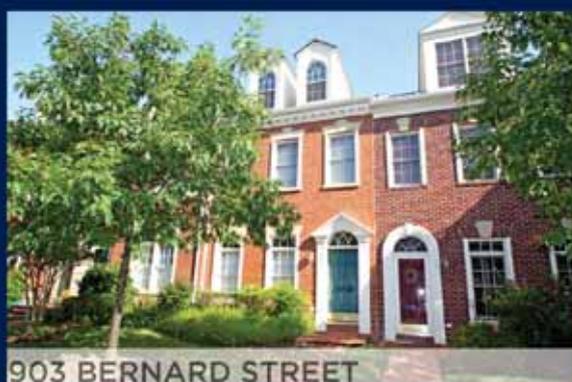
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## Become 5 Millionth Trolley Rider

The Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) anticipates reaching its milestone of carrying 5 million King Street Trolley riders since the service started in 2008.

DASH will be on the lookout for the 5 millionth rider who will be boarding one of the trolleys on Wednesday, Sept. 9, sometime between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Mayor Bill Euille and DASH Board Chairman Paul Abramson will be waiting at the Market Square to congratulate the lucky customer. The 5 millionth rider will receive a number of gifts.

DASH began operating Alexandria's first clean diesel hybrid electric King Street Trolley in April 2012. The hybrid trolleys consume less fuel, emit fewer pollutants, and provide a quieter more relaxing ride.

The King Street Trolley transports approximately 2,500 riders a day between the King Street Metrorail Station and the Potomac River waterfront daily every 10 minutes, Sunday - Wednesday from 10 a.m. - 10:15 p.m. and Thursday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Riders can access trolley schedules and information at [dashbus.com/trolley](http://dashbus.com/trolley). For information on DASH routes and schedules, visit [dashbus.com](http://dashbus.com).

## Free Cleanings, Exams for Military

On Thursday, Sept. 10, Kathleen Mullaney D.D.S., at 700 North Fairfax St., Suite 230, will join businesses across the country in observing Freedom Day USA, a national Thank You Movement for members of the military and their families, along with veterans. Mullaney will offer free cleanings, x-rays, exams fillings and sealants to those who serve the country. Active duty and retired service members are eligible for this service with either an active duty or retired military ID or their DD214 Notice. Military members are asked to call the office at 703-835-9251 to schedule their appointment. A complete list of participating businesses and the services they are providing can be found on [www.FreedomDayUSA.org](http://www.FreedomDayUSA.org).

## Backpacks for Brighter Futures

The Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC), a nonprofit provider of free preschool and wraparound services to the children of the working poor, hosted its first Backpacks for Brighter Futures event on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015.

Through sponsorships and community partnerships, CFNC raised more than \$25,000 and stuffed more than 150 backpacks with school supplies and books, preparing preschoolers for academic success. On the first day of school, Sept. 8, each CFNC student will receive the tools (crayons, markers, colored pencils, eraser, safety scissors, glue stick) to support creative learning activities that help children with motor skills, language development, decision making inventiveness, cultural awareness and visual learning. Columbia Capital, LCOR, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, Cotton & Company, American Advertising Distributors of Northern Virginia, Kaiser Permanente, Cypress International, Dominion Power, In-Kindness, and Regulatory Economics Group sponsored the event.

## Cafe To Support Nonprofits

Founders David Clapp and Dave Nicholas of Alexandria Restaurant Partners (ARP) have entered into a partnership with ACT for Alexandria, a community foundation that serves to increase charitable investment in Alexandria. Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8, The Majestic Cafe, located at 911 King St., will begin raising money to support The Majestic Grant Fund which will be hosted by ACT. Restaurant-goers can participate in two ways:

❖ Those who dine at The Majestic Cafe will receive a flyer in their check presenter billfold with details about ACT for Alexandria. On this flyer, customers will have the opportunity to list

SEE NEW BRIEFS, PAGE 8

# New Defibrillators around City

## Area incident inspires adding more equipment.

By VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

In January, Judge Thomas J. Kelly Jr. in Arlington saved a man's life. A victim of a trespassing was testifying in trial when he began to exhibit signs of a heart attack. Kelly cleared the courtroom and leapt down from the bench to begin performing CPR on the victim. With chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, Kelly kept the victim alive until EMTs arrived on the scene, took the man to the hospital, and stabilized him. EMTs at the scene credited Kelly's quick action as potentially life saving, but in a way, Kelly's actions might begin saving more lives in Alexandria.

The victim's sister-in-law, Monica Hart, is a legal secretary in the office of the commonwealth's attorney in the Alexandria Courthouse. She relayed the story to a member of the Sheriff's Department, who works security at the courthouse, and the story eventually found its way to Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

"[The story] caused me to stop and take an inventory of what we do," said Lawhorne. "I realized we only had one in the courthouse, so I initiated the process to get more of them."

Most of the defibrillator units were donated by the Alexandria Fire Department. The new defibrillators are installed on every floor of the courthouse. While there were always defibrillators in the jail, one has been added to the administrative side of the com-



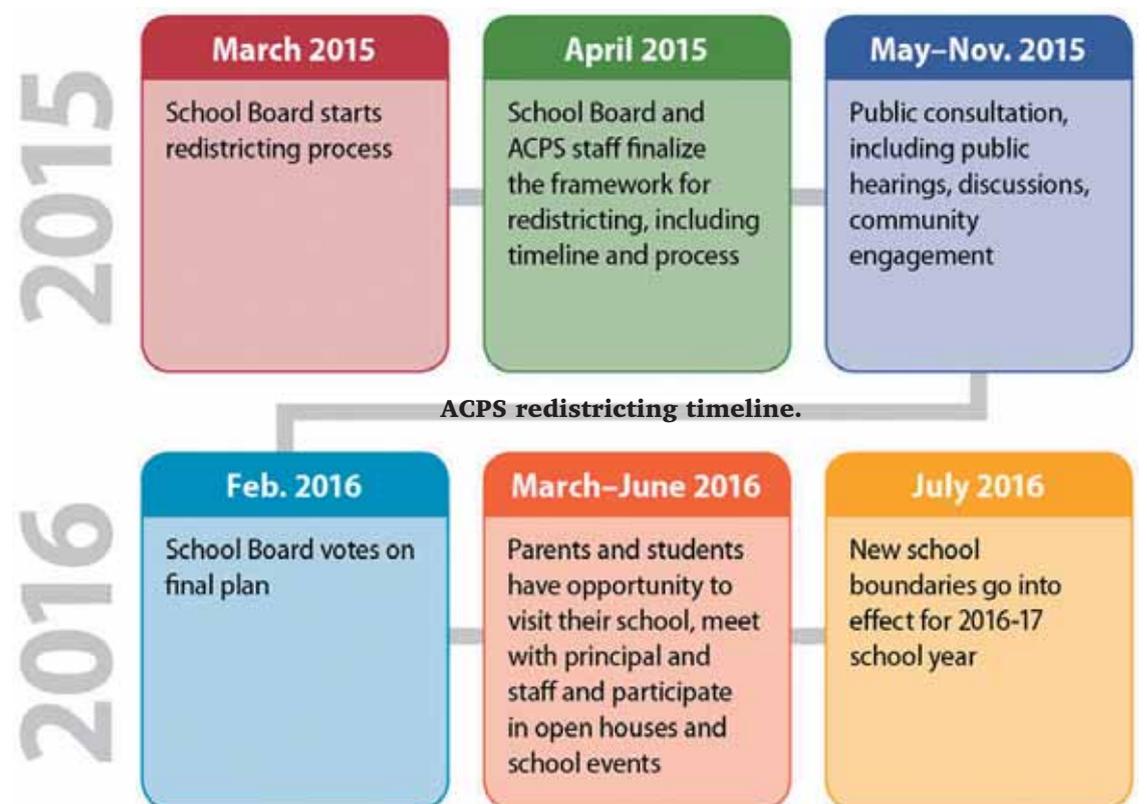
Deputy Gloria Wright with the AED on the third floor of the Alexandria Courthouse.

plex. The biggest change, however, is that the defibrillators have also been installed in five of the Sheriff's Department patrol vehicles.

"Having them in public buildings is not a new idea," said Lawhorne, "but this is the first time they're being put in non-fire vehicles in the city."

Hart said she was surprised to see the new defibrillator units in the courthouse and didn't connect that it was all the result of her brother-in-law's heart attack until someone from the Sheriff's Department told her. Her office is undergoing training on how to operate the defibrillators this week.

"I'd never seen that before," said Hart. They have fire extinguishers and such. It's a great idea and I think it's a really good thing. I was relieved when I saw them. If no one knew CPR, that person wouldn't make it."



# Redistricting Starts for Schools

## ACPS chooses J.R. Reingold as redistricting partner.

With a whimper rather than a bang, redistricting has started for Alexandria Public Schools. On Aug. 24, Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) selected J.R. Reingold & As-

sociates Inc. as a partner for its redistricting process. "We're excited and we're happy to contribute to Alexandria," said Joseph Ney, a principal at J.R.

SEE REDISTRICTING, PAGE 8

# Young At Art Senior art exhibit celebrates 29 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**hen artist Wilda Gadzik finally got around to taking a formal art class as a resident of Goodwin House, it wasn't her familiar paintbrush she was told to reach for. Instead, the 87-year-old was handed a pencil.

"I had never worked with a pencil in my life," said Gadzik, who usually works with acrylics. "Then suddenly two months ago a piece of paper was put in front of me and I was told to draw myself. Without thinking, I just started drawing and when I stepped back, I couldn't believe it. All I could say was 'It's me!'"

Gadzik's self-portrait in pencil was one of 63 works selected for display as part of the 29<sup>th</sup> Young At Art juried art show for artists aged 55 years or older. Co-sponsored by the Goodwin House Foundation and Senior Services of Alexandria, the show held its opening reception and awards ceremony Aug. 26 at the Durant Arts Center.

"This is always such a special night," said SSA executive director Mary Lee Anderson. "There are so many talented senior artists in the area and with the support of the Goodwin House Foundation we are able to showcase those talents."

Works were submitted by teachers, professionals and amateurs in mediums ranging from oil and acrylics to digital composition, fiber and mixed media.

"We are proud to be the organizers of this major art show in the Washington area," said Jeanne Jacob, executive director of the Goodwin House Foundation. "We are also grateful to our generous sponsors for helping make this event happen."

Financial supporters for Young At Art include David Martin and GoldWorks; Sue and Allison Goodhart; Redmon, Peyton and Braswell; Fiske Law Group; ACC Family; Speck-Cauldron Investment Group of Wells Fargo; Renner and Company; Nina Tisara; Donnan C. Wintermute; Councilwoman Del Pepper and Mayor Bill Euille.

Chris Haggerty, professor of Fine and Applied Arts at Marymount University, served as juror for the exhibit that included 114 pieces of submitted art. Winners of the 2015 Young At Art show include: First Place: Charlotte Landis, "Winter Sycamore," watercolor; Second Place (tied): Gretchen Thompson, "A Warm Church Window," watercolor, and Lisa Gillespie, "Emerging," watercolor; Third Place: Michael Franz, "Life On an Even Keel," watercolor.

Gadzik, a Young At Art show veteran, was excited about the feedback generated by her foray into a new medium.

"Everyone has been so encouraging," Gadzik said. "While I still prefer working in acrylics, this has been a wonderful experience for me."

The Young At Art exhibit will remain at the Durant Arts Center through Nov. 20 and many pieces of art are for sale by the artists. For information on the Durant Arts Center hours, call 703-519-3494.



Artists and sponsors from the Goodwin House Foundation and Senior Services of Alexandria gather Aug. 26 at the opening reception of the 2015 Young At Art show at the Durant Center. The juried show celebrates artists 55 and older and will be on display through Nov. 20.



Young At Art juror Chris Haggerty, right, talks with Senior Services of Alexandria executive director Mary Lee Anderson prior to the awards presentation.



Goodwin House resident Wilda Gazik displays "It's Me!" a self-portrait and her first attempt at working in pencil.



Nina Tisara stands next to her porcelain mosaic "Two Cranes."

PHOTOS BY  
JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET



Artist Tom Kirby studies some of the entries on display at the Young At Art opening reception at the Durant Center Aug. 26.



An attendee photographs "A Warm Church Window," a watercolor by Gretchen Thompson that tied for second place in the show.

## NEWS

# 'Building Better Futures' Campagna Center receives \$25,000 SunTrust grant.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**an O'Neill, president and CEO of SunTrust Greater Washington/Maryland Division, presented a check for \$25,000 on behalf of the SunTrust Foundation to The Campagna Center's Building Better Futures program for at-risk teens.

"Our partnership with The Campagna Center goes back many years," O'Neill said as he presented the check to Campagna Center CEO Tammy Mann Aug. 27. "This is a vital organization in a community where many people have needs."

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, Building Better Futures is a program operated by The Campagna Center to serve primarily at-risk high school students in the City of Alexandria. During the 2014-2015 school year, Building Better Futures served 134 students at T.C. Williams High School, with 82 percent of those students qualifying for free or reduced price lunch.

One element of Building Better Futures is the College Leadership Program, which includes visiting colleges, learning about applying for financial aid and scholarships, resume writing and interviewing skills, and participating in community service projects throughout the year. Last year, 100 percent



**Dan O'Neill (right), president and CEO of SunTrust Greater Washington/Maryland Division, is joined Aug. 27 by senior vice presidents Mary Anne Martins and Laura Lawler in presenting a check for \$25,000 to The Campagna Center CEO Tammy Mann to support the Building Better Futures program for at-risk teens.**

of regularly participating seniors applied and were accepted into college.

"Now, more than ever it is imperative that young people have access to people and resources that help them navigate the complicated landscape of life beyond high school," Mann said. "We are deeply grateful for the grant provided by the SunTrust Foundation as we prepare to kick-off an-

other successful program year. This is a program we know is making a difference."

Alejandro Villarroel, a participant in the Building Better Futures program while attending T.C. Williams, went on to earn a master's degree in nutrition sciences from George Mason University and was recently hired as The Campagna Center's health and nutrition coordinator.

"The amount of volunteer work and writing opportunities that I received through Building Better Futures is the foundation on which all my skills are based," Villarroel said. "I learned to appropriately and successfully interact with people. I learned the importance of effective networking. And most importantly, I learned the importance of continuing my education."

Joining O'Neill in presenting the grant award were SunTrust senior vice presidents Mary Anne Martins and Laura Lawler, both of whom have served on The Campagna Center's board of directors. "The bank has been a supporter of The Campagna Center for 35 to 40 years now," Lawler said.

Mann also announced that the center will be consolidating its middle school program, formerly operated through a 21st Century Grant, as a part of Building Better Futures to create a program for 6th through 12th graders.

"The Campagna Center's Building Better Futures program helps young people achieve greater success as they enter adulthood and aligns with SunTrust's purpose of 'Lighting the Way to Financial Well-being,'" O'Neill said. "We are pleased to provide this contribution to support delivering this practical knowledge and these important skills to high school students."

Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org).

### **VAN FLEET 2015 SCHOLARSHIP: OPEN to JUNIOR OR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS in the CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

The "Van Fleet for Alexandria Council" campaign is sponsoring a scholarship program open to all Junior or Senior High School Students (11th & 12th Grade) who are residents of the City of Alexandria. The program will enable participants to learn what is involved in running for elected office, the issues currently facing Alexandria City government, the electoral process, and the importance of voting. Participants will work on the campaign a minimum of 4 hours a week for roughly 5 weeks (18 SEPT. – 25 OCT.). Each student will be required to write an essay on his/her experience, describing what he or she has learned about the electoral process, the nature of political campaigns, Alexandria City issues, and the importance of voting. Students will be judged on both their participation and their essays by an impartial panel of three judges. The first place winner will receive \$1,000 to be used for higher education. Second and third place winners will each receive \$500 towards higher education.

To apply, **STUDENTS MUST ATTEND the kickoff Ceremony at the Chinquapin Recreation Center (3210 King St., Alexandria, VA 22302, across from T.C. Williams High School) on Friday, 18 SEPT., 2015, from 6-8 P.M. A Parent or Guardian must accompany the Student to co-sign the application form.**

**Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet  
Candidate for Alexandria Council**

# Clarke: The Painting Takes Over

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Lesley Clarke brushes an amber brown across the large canvas in Studio 341 in the Alexandria Torpedo Factory. A tub crammed with multi-sized tubes and bottles of paint sits beside the canvas. “You can never have enough paint,” she says with her native Scottish brogue. “I just started this canvas an hour ago and it’s dry already. That’s why I like acrylic paint instead of oil.”

Clarke says, “This just the first layer; it has a long way to go, and you probably won’t see much of this when it is finished.”

## PEOPLE AT WORK

She points to the painting on the floor behind her that is almost complete. The average painting takes about a week to finish. “I always just let the paint flow and then go back and make sense of it,” she says. She has a lot of energy in the beginning and then “I go in and look for shapes.” Clarke works with three to four paintings at a time or else she “will overwork one.”

Clarke stares at the painting with predominately dark colors and a hint of yellow running through it. “I’ve been in a dark period, a moody phase so the colors are dark.” But she adds, “The best thing is not to fight it. It will take care of itself.”

How does Clarke know when a painting is finished? “Good question,” she says. “When I start to overwork it, I let it sit for a couple days. It needs space. Then I come in, and I just know.”

Clarke used to paint on her kitchen floor. “I don’t have a studio at home. But when I paint it is really messy, and I had to clean it up.” She points around the room. “You can see it is really messy in here, but it is OK.”

As a child, Clarke was always drawing and then moved to watercolor. “I was never really satisfied with watercolor — it was realistic.” Then when her mother was sick with cancer in Scotland, she called her every day and she started painting abstract “because it helped with my stress levels.” She said, I had no idea what I was paintin’.” Clarke adds, “That’s the beauty of abstract. Everyone sees somethin’ different.” She remembers one of her paintings where someone saw molars and someone else saw beer stains. “You could do a Rorschach test with my paintin’.”

But it wasn’t until a few years ago that “we could afford for me to paint. You don’t make a lot of money.” Clarke says you can go for months without selling a painting but then “last month I sold four.” She has a lot of repeat customers. “In fact when I was gone recently in Scotland a lady came in and bought her third.” This customer works so she always comes to the studio on weekends when Clarke isn’t there. “I’ve never seen her. We joke we need to get together.” Clarke is usually in her studio from Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and on odd weekends. She says it takes a long time to get space in the Torpedo Factory. “I feel very fortunate. I love my third floor space in the corner. The light is fantastic, and there are so many nice people in this little corner. She says it is hard for



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Lesley Clarke begins a canvas in Studio 341 at the Torpedo Factory. She says it will take a week to finish and one probably won’t see much of the beginning when it is finished.**

artists to find a space and it’s not easy to sell your art on the internet when people can’t see it in person.”

Clarke has had no formal art training. She went to school for accounting and “absolutely hated it.” She joined the British Army in Scotland and met her Marine husband there on a joint exercise. She came to America from Scotland 24 years ago. She started at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center in 2009 or so and they suggested she take an abstract art class at the Torpedo Factory. So she started taking classes and applied to the jury where she was accepted in 2012. In an average year there are about 80 applicants to become a juried artist with about about 15 chosen for their artistic excellence.

Clarke spent yesterday deciding what to do next. She is thinking about the seasons with migrating birds for the spring. “I’ll know it is a bird,” she jokes. “It will be in the shape of a bird but not necessarily a bird you would recognize. Then maybe popsicles for summer” — more shapes than anything with primary colors — “and a pile of leaves with darker colors for fall. But my plan may change and that’s OK or if the plan decides it’s going to be something else.”

She is a member of a group of abstract painters who work with a theme, “but none will look alike.”

Clarke focuses on layers and texture in her work. She pulls open a drawer and pulls out an onion bag, mesh from an old screen door and a small strip of a car smashed flat that she will use to add texture to some of her paintings. She said a man rides around Alexandria on a bike collecting these pieces of things for artists at the Torpedo Factory, and she points to a painting on her wall incorporating a piece of string. “Sometimes on the weekends the bike guy leaves me little surprises.”



**Lesley Clarke explains that she just lets the paint flow and then goes back and makes sense of it. She is juried artist at the Torpedo Factory, occupying a corner space with lots of light.**

# Exploring Self-Acceptance

## Alexandria resident writes children’s book.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident and account executive Emilie Bair’s new children’s book “Polly Peacock and the Pink Flamingos,” teaching children about self-acceptance, was released nationwide in August.



Emilie Bair

The book focuses on a young peacock named Polly learning to accept her differences as gains the acceptance of the Pink Flamingos, a flock of birds who previously bullied Polly because of her differences.

“I think all of us have witnessed it at some point in time. My heart breaks for people who have actually been through it, and I regret playing the role of bystander in some instances growing up,” Bair said.

She also believes that many individuals can be their own bullies, which is another reason she stresses self-acceptance in the book.

“When thinking about what the most important advice I could offer to kids, it was to love and accept themselves and others. I mean, I think that’s great advice for everyone,” she said.

While many authors have an extensive writing and editing process, composing “Polly Peacock and the Pink Flamingos” was an easy process for the new author. During a creative writing

course in high school, she was assigned to write a children’s book. She decided to write about a wacky bird’s journey toward self-acceptance.

Years later, she decided to follow her teacher’s advice and publish the story. She immediately begin shopping it around to various publishers. While writing the manuscript took only a week, getting it published was a much longer journey.

Bair credits her high school friend and illustrator Trent Barfield in helping her bring her vision of Polly Peacock and her fictional world to life on the page through his creative and vivid illustrations.

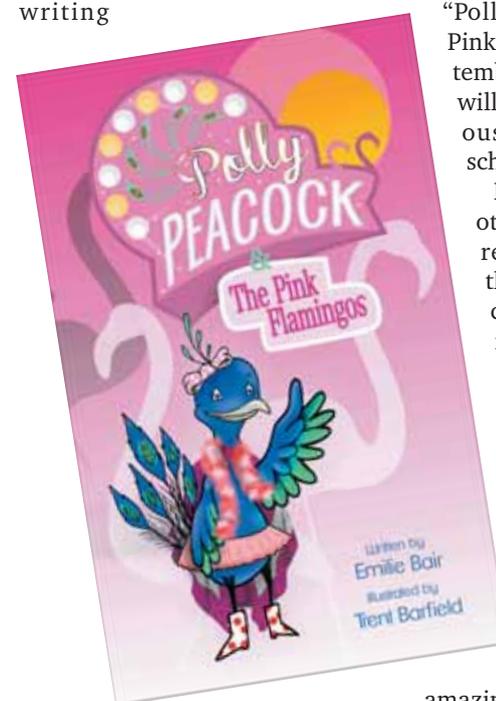
“Polly Peacock and the Pink Flamingos” is available through the publisher at [www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore](http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore), or by visiting [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). It is also available at bookstores nationwide.

Café Amouri in Vienna is holding a book reading for “Polly Peacock and the Pink Flamingos” in September. In addition, Bair will be speaking at various local elementary schools this school year.

Readers can find other upcoming book readings and events through the Polly Peacock & The Pink Flamingos Facebook page.

Her favorite children’s stories were “Puff The Magic Dragon” and anything by Dr. Seuss.

“He’s my favorite. I hope I can create a world of make-believe as amazing as his,” she said.



# OBITUARY

## Ora Lee Mudd Mason

Ora Lee Mudd Mason, 90, of Lorton, died Sunday, Aug. 16, 2015 at her home.

Mrs. Mason was born to Horace and Belle Mudd on June 21, 1925 in Alexandria. She grew up as the youngest of eight brothers and sisters on North Saint Asaph Street and lived in the city until 2002. She was predeceased by her husband of 60 years Harry W. Mason in 2002.

A career employee of the Alexandria City Public Schools, she worked in the cafeteria at both Mount Vernon School and George Washington High/Middle School retiring in 1990 as the last in-house baker in the Alexandria school system.

She was a dedicated member of the First Assembly of God Church from its origins on South Patrick Street in the 1930s and was later a pillar of the congregation which moved to Braddock Heights in 1965. Ora Lee, known by the congregation as "Mama Mason," served the church and the community as a caterer for over five decades at scores of socials, weddings, and special events often serving hundreds of people at a time. Her catering was extended



to other Alexandria groups including the Railroad Evangelists, Alexandria-Washington DeMolay, G.

W. sports banquets and the former Methodist Protestant Church. Never was there a charge for her labors as she considered it as her calling in the service of the Lord.

Ora Lee and Harry's kitchen ministry was at its height during their summer-long "vacation" every year as the cooks for the Assembly of God's Potomac Park Camp in Falling Waters, W.Va. For over 30 years, thousands of campers, staff and visitors feasted on their food preparations. For several years in the 1970s they served as cooks during mission trips to the Lumbee Indian reservation in North Carolina.

Ora Lee was devoted to her family and friends. She is survived by her daughter Noreen L. Perry of Lorton and had three grandsons, a number of great grandchildren and many adoring nephews and nieces.

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# Redistricting Starts for Schools

FROM PAGE 3

Reingold. “Essentially, the basic need that we’re going to help fulfill is to guide the community engagement process. At some future point there will be a website to participate and engage with the public.”

While Stephanie Kapsis, a School Board member involved in the selection process, said that she couldn’t disclose the official guidelines for selection, she did say that the School Board was excited to work with a group that had experience working in other local school districts. In January 2015, J.R. Reingold & Associates worked with Arlington Public Schools on a controversial redistricting plan. Through the public hearing process, parents accused Arlington schools of inaccurately manipulating class size numbers and unfairly dividing established school communities. However, parents praised the online option that allowed parents to design their own redistricting plan, a model created by J.R. Reingold & Associates.

“Reingold is going to be a great partner,” said Kapsis. “We’re looking forward to looking with them. We’re excited that Reingold has the experience in Arlington, and we’re looking forward to hearing about the good and the bad.”

In collaboration with ACPS staff, J.R. Reingold & Associates will select a committee of parents and members of the public

**“Essentially, the basic need that we’re going to help fulfill is to guide the community engagement process.”**

— Joseph Ney, J.R. Reingold

for a Redistricting Review Committee which will work in tandem with the Redistricting Steering Committee, composed of board members and ACPS staff. J.R. Reingold & Associates will be responsible for choosing the redistricting options deliberated on by the reviewing committee.

“The Steering Committee will continue to work with Reingold,” said Kapsis, “but in terms of reviewing potential decisions, the [Redistricting] Review Committee will be doing much of the work.”

ACPS last redistricted in 1999. Since then, Kapsis says ACPS’ student population has risen by over 3,200. Kapsis said that redistricting is part of the School Board’s plans to create more optimal learning environments, and that while it’s still early in the process for specific details, the redistricting process will have thorough public engagement over the next few months before a final plan is voted on in February 2016.

## NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 3

their name and favorite Alexandria-based charity.

At the end of the month, those who filled out the flyer will be entered into a drawing to win \$100 gift certificate for a return visit to The Majestic Cafe, and the Alexandria charity of their choice which will receive a \$500 charitable donation on their behalf if selected. In total, there are 12 drawings a year.

❖ The Majestic Cafe will also offer a complimentary appetizer to anyone who speaks the code word “ACT” to their server upon arrival. This entitles them to a 5 percent savings off their total check, and an additional 5 percent donation will be automatically be made to support The Majestic Cafe Grant Fund.

The 5 percent donation will accumulate throughout the year and an annual grant check presentation will be made by The Majestic Cafe through ACT to a local nonprofit in January.

This special offering is available Sunday through Thursday during both lunch and dinner service.

## Richards Joins SCAN

Sally Richards has accepted the posi-



tion of SCAN’s director of development and will begin on Sept. 8. Since moving to Alexandria in 2014, Richards has been involved with grant writing and

fundraising locally at Volunteer Alexandria, where she spearheaded their free agent fundraising during Spring2Action in April.

Richards volunteers with the Del Ray Business Association, Volunteer Alexandria and Career-Confidence.org. Before moving, she was an attorney working as a Guardian ad Litem in Ohio, where she also served on the board of Conneaut Community Foundation, Inc. and consulted for the Conneaut

Historical Society. Richards graduated with a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University and a B.A. from RIT Eisenhower College.

Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the well-being of children, improve parent-child relations and prevent child abuse and neglect. See [www.scanva.org](http://www.scanva.org).

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**The Woodlands** 8129 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA PRICE IMPROVEMENT – Luxurious 1-owner home in Mount Vernon. Scenic commute down G.W. Parkway. 5 Br. 4.5 Ba open floor plan, double tiered deck backs to woods, gourmet kitchen opens to 2-story family room. 2nd large family room on lower level plus bed & bath. \$896,000 Peter Rickert & Gail Warman MLS # FX8686583



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# OPINION

## How to Vote; It Matters

Voting begins in two weeks, Sept. 18.

**E**lection Day is Nov. 3, and on that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 18, barely two weeks from now. Virginia Law allows voters to absentee vote if they could be “working and commuting for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day.” You’re allowed to count your worst possible commute in estimating how many hours you might be working and commuting on Election Day.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 13, 2015. You can check your registration status online by going to [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov).

It’s also worth noting that new, more restrictive voter identification regulations took effect last year.

Each voter in Alexandria will make choices

in five contests: Mayor, City Council, one State Senate district, one House of Delegates district and one School Board district. Because of the way these districts intersect, there are seven different ballot combinations.

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

As of last summer, there are new requirements for voter identification that voters must bring with them to the polling place.

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality’s electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

Virginia’s photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

Here are the “acceptable” forms of identification: Valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card; Valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran’s ID card; Valid United States Passport; Other government-issued photo identification cards (must be issued by U.S. Government, the

Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, must be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business; Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar’s office. “Valid” is defined as a genuine document, bearing the photograph of the voter, and is not expired for more than 12 months.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar’s office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

### For More Election Information

Alexandria Voter Registration & Elections  
132 North Royal St., Suite 100  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703.746.4050  
Fax: 703.838.6449  
[anna.leider@alexandriava.us](mailto:anna.leider@alexandriava.us)

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ensure Vibrant Diverse City

To the Editor:

Housing affordability is a crisis. Neighborhoods are undergoing gentrification and apartment communities are being redeveloped. Middle and lower income families are being pushed out and can no longer afford the city they were raised in, work in, or love. We can counter this trend and create a

community with a diverse housing base where residents of all economic strata can happily coexist. The ideas proposed below do not address subsidized housing that costs taxpayers; they address affordability by increasing and protecting the supply of all housing. Their goal is to increase housing supply that rents or sells below current market rates.

Housing is subject to supply and demand and an increase in housing supply can place downward

pressure on housing costs. Policies that encourage housing can result in greater affordability. One possibility is a city-wide housing overlay zone that allows housing as a use regardless of underlying zoning. The overlay zone would allow housing up to the FAR of the underlying zone. This strategy would:

1. Increase overall housing supply and lower the pressure on housing costs;
- Op2. Alleviate pressure on devel-

opment of housing within existing residential zones — possibly discouraging the demolition of existing affordable housing stock, and;

3. Lower the cost of housing developed within less favorable sites that have a lower land basis.

Older, less favorable housing is the primary source of low cost housing, and this commodity needs to be protected. Can tax relief be offered to owners who maintain but not improve current housing stock? In addition, the city can discourage owners who ask for entitlement increases that greatly improve or demolish existing housing.

Take a leadership role and establish an initiative to address housing affordability. The initiative could bring local developers, architects, planners, construction professionals, financing professionals and residents to address housing needs. Participants could contribute time and ideas, more able participants could contribute services, funds and even land in an effort to create and test solutions. National associations such as the ULI, NAHB, and AIA may be attracted to participate.

Housing affordability can be addressed through a mix of strategies including but not limited to those presented above. We need more housing, we need to maintain current housing, we need to prevent the removal of existing housing and we need to identify and explore other approaches.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

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

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Housing affordability can help ensure a vibrant, diverse city.

**Deena de Montigny, AIA  
And Joe Demshar**

## Time for 'New Blood'

To the Editor:

This will reply to the letter in your Aug. 20 edition asking "[W]hat is it about Euille's candidacy that so concerns the vice mayor's supporters?"

First, I am upset by the frenetic pace of building townhouses on most every open green spot in Alexandria. I bank at Wells Fargo on Washington and Princess streets. The Euille administration permitted the building of five townhouses on Princess and Columbus streets that cut the bank's parking lot by more than half and induces illegal parking on visits to the bank.

Second, the Euille administration permitted townhouse building at Wilkes and Columbus streets eliminating my grand-daughter's favorite hotdog building.

Third, the Euille administration permitted the building of 22

townhouses in the 1300 block of Wilkes street, in part, inducing me to sell my home in the 1200 block of Wilkes street after 10 years.

Clearly, this frenetic and not well thought-out pace of building has disrupted my life.

I have resided in the DMV area since 1967 and moved to Alexandria in 1988 because of its attractive federalist style. The Euille administration is destroying the allure of Alexandria by permitting the building of "New York Warehouse" buildings on north and south Route 1 near Madison and Montgomery streets. This ruins the federalist character, charm and appeal of Alexandria.

I leave the debate of Alexandria's rising debt of \$530 million (and for what) to others more knowledgeable of the facts. These are some of the reasons I support Allison Silberberg for Mayor and Van Van Fleet, Monique Miles, Bob Wood and Fernando Torrez for City Council to stop the carnage and plunder of Alexandria's character, beauty, appeal and resources.

It is time for "New Blood" to lead Alexandria in the 21st century.

**Herve Aitken  
Alexandria**

## Demand Action For Gun Sense

To the Editor:

Virginia is now known as the state where murder is broadcast on live TV.

A disgruntled former station employee shot and killed reporter Alison Parker, 24, and her cameraman, Adam Ward, 27, in Moneta. Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce Director Vicki Gardner is recovering after being shot in the back.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of Adam, Alison and Vicki, but thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need to take action. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a grassroots movement of American mothers fighting for public safety measures that respect the Second Amendment and protect people from gun violence. We campaign for new and stronger solutions to lax gun laws and loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our children and families..

It's not just for moms; anyone can join.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



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## LIVING LEGENDS

# Learn How To Dance in the Rain

## Joyce Rawlings teaches to persevere.

BY DONNA WALKER JAMES

If it has to do with families in Alexandria, Joyce Rawlings was (and is) there! Her volunteer and professional work has led to myriad parent, school and community initiatives and to her selection as a 2015 Living Legend of Alexandria.

Joyce Rawlings worked with former School Board member Susan Johnson and Mount Vernon Community School Parent Liaison Rosa Landeros to advocate for and create Alexandria's Family Resource Learning Centers, the precursor of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) centers. The goal of the FACE is to provide opportunities and resources for students, families and community members to participate in activities relevant to the academic achievement of Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) students.

Rawlings believes strongly that parents and community members need connections to the schools out in the community. Services needed include advocacy, homework help, tutoring, attending Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings with parents, translation, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) prep for parents, workshops and field trips. Dr. Jay Grymes of ACPS appointed these women to find out-of-school sites for the centers which are in place at Community Lodgings, Essex House (now called Brent Place), T.C. Williams High School and Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Ruby Tucker Center and 910 Montgomery Street Center. The 910 Montgomery Center has since been demolished and some services are now offered at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Taking on the role of program coordinator at the Montgomery Street FACE Center, Rawlings provided everything from tutoring to clothing. One of her projects was to create a garden with assistance from Shirley Harris and Marti Myers. Always looking for "teachable moments," Rawlings had the children "throw some seeds" in the unmaintained back yard of the re-purposed public housing unit used as the youth center. The garden flourished and provided an opportunity to teach about health, nutrition and appreciation of a variety of cultures. This gardening program is now funded through a Healthy Families Alexandria grant. Having always "planted seeds" to get important programs going in Alexandria, Rawlings continues the educational gardening as a volunteer at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

One of seven children (siblings: Bruce, Matthew, Wilson, Tenna, Doretta, and Marjorie), Rawlings was raised in Calvert County, Md., and in Washington, D.C., by Landous Beatrice Rawlings and Clarence Irby, grandparents Ashby and Sarah Rawlings, and by stepfather Clarence Smith.

Rawlings has three sons: Donnell who

served six years in the Air Force and is now a well-known professional comedian/actor; Dwayne, a graduate of Brown University and Georgetown Law; and Dawud, an educator with Alexandria City Public Schools, a community advocate, mentor and entrepreneur.

Rawlings moved to Alexandria in 1978 and was embraced by and became deeply involved in the Lynhaven neighborhood. Several programs she helped implement are still in existence: the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) with Joyce Woodson, Fay Slotnick and Karen Parker-Thompson; Project Discovery (as a parent); and Jireh's Place at Cora Kelly Recreation Center with her daughter-in-law. Jireh's Place is a girl's empowerment program that meets twice a month.

Among programs she was involved in that have not continued, are This Way House, a house for runaway teens; Families First which advocated on behalf of underserved special needs children and parents; the Youth Activities Program at Cora Kelly Recreation Center; and We Care, an initiative involving parents, children and faith communities to combat drug abuse. She was also a licensed foster mother to eight children. In Washington, D.C., she was an elected member of the Head Start Parents' Policy Council with jurisdiction over 16 Head Start Centers.

In addition to being a PTA officer in two schools, Rawlings has served on Alexandria City Schools Strategic Planning Committee, Concerned Alexandria Parents, Cora Kelly and Mt. Vernon Recreation Center's advisory groups and the White House Blueprint Committee for a Drug-Free America. She is currently a member of the Cora Kelly Parent Advisory Group and the Children, Youth, and Families Collaboration Commission where she helped develop the city's Youth Master Plan.

Rawlings has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Alexandria Commission for Women's Salute to Women Adult Community Services Award (2014); Black Roots of Alexandria Community Leadership Award (2014) [Black Roots was established to give African American artists a showcase for their talents and to educate and encourage all ages of the community through the arts]; First Friday Women's Ministry Group Black Girls Rock Community Service Award (2013); Departmental Progressive Club's Outstanding Community Service Award



Joyce Rawlings

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON

storm while showing others how to dance in their storm."

After several years working for the city's jail (1979-1985), Rawlings became discouraged by high recidivism rates and determined that she wanted to focus on positive intervention at younger ages. She spent the rest of her career helping children and families as a Family Service supervisor for Alexandria Head Start; at an after-school program; as a counselor and program coordinator at Residential Youth Services; as a program aide to young mothers at Resource Mothers; as a parent educator workshop facilitator in a transitional housing program; and as a parent support group facilitator for SCAN of Northern Virginia. Rawlings also served as aide to Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland

when his aide Rosalind Bovey ran for City Council.

Rawlings fondly remembers her work with Eula Miller at Northern Virginia Community College on a higher education grant to help get young mothers into college in the late 1980s. She described her role as "door knocking with follow-up support." She would go to a young woman's house, tell her it was "time to go to school and to get the baby ready," then wait until finally the young woman complied. Rawlings has kept in touch with many of the young women and knows about their career successes.

Rawlings sees her role in the community as being approachable for people of all races, cultures and faiths. She described her work as tying knots in the rope to help people climb up and not fall too far back down when they slip. Now she has gone from a "door knocker" to a teacher of others, trying to bring a new generation into community leadership. She continues to plant seeds. She has more ideas for improving education and community relations in the city, but does not want to reveal her next project yet. Her advice to others is, "You should never completely stop trying to contribute to your community."

(2010); Project Discovery Special Advisory Board Award for Advocacy on Behalf of Alexandria's Youth (2003); Tenant and Workers Support Committee Community Activist of the Year (1998); Community Praise Center Church's Certificate of Recognition of high standards of excellence in ministering to the community (1998); Economic Opportunities Commission's Martha Miller Award for outstanding service and dedication to Alexandria's low-income community (1987); Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission Recognition of dedication and effort in improving the quality of life in the City of Alexandria (1986); Optimist Club of Alexandria-Optimist International Law Enforcement Award; and the Alexandria Red Cross Award for tutorial volunteering.

Perhaps her favorite award was the Phenomenal Mother Award (2012) which included the quote, "Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass, it is about learning how to dance in the rain." This award was presented to her by appreciative members of the community, many of whom lived in public housing or had low-income housing vouchers, and who wrote: "You have demonstrated a phenomenal faith throughout your journey. Continue to dance in your

## Living Legends: The 2015 Project

Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle the people making current history in Alexandria. The project was conceived in 2006 to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria.

This is one of a series of profiles that will appear this year. For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.org](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.org) or contact [Info@AlexandriaLegends.com](mailto:Info@AlexandriaLegends.com).

OPINION

# Now Hiring

## The importance of employment for Alexandria's homeless population.

BY SHANNON STEENE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CARPENTER'S SHELTER

Imagine having to choose between paying rent and feeding your family tonight. Imagine cancelling a doctor's appointment because the expense would cost you your housing. Imagine having to make these difficult decisions after a long day at work. This is reality that hundreds of low-income individuals and families face every day in the City of Alexandria.

The City of Alexandria's annual point-in-time (PIT) count showed 159 single adults and 108 members of families, including 71 children, experiencing homelessness as of January 2015.

**COMMENTARY** Only 36 percent of Alexandria's single adults in the count were employed, and the majority of those receiving an income reported it as being between \$501-\$1,000 each month. In households with children, 78 percent of adults were employed and 97 percent reported receiving an income; however, half of these households received a monthly income between \$251 and \$1,000. For both populations, this income is significantly less than the monthly income needed to afford a basic two-bedroom apartment in

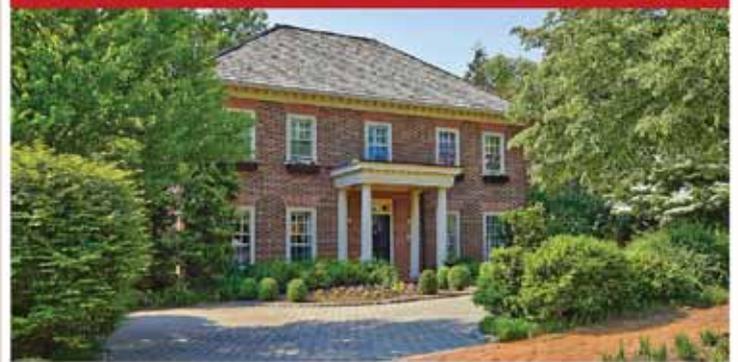
the City of Alexandria — \$4,860.27 (\$28.04 per hour) according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Given the lack of affordable housing and high cost of living in the Alexandria area, stable employment is vital to attaining and maintaining housing and independence. Although many homeless individuals are employed, most are significantly under-employed, earn wages well below 50 percent of the area median income, and lack many of the skills needed to secure better jobs. Often, individuals who are experiencing homelessness find themselves in crisis due to job loss, salary reduction, limited formal education, unstable family arrangements, mental or physical health issues, a history of substance abuse, or a criminal background. To get back on track, they need to identify, address and eradicate these barriers, which is a daunting task.

To make this more concrete, consider the story of Martha and Alex, former Carpenter's Shelter residents who experienced a housing crisis tied to employment limitations. Although Martha and Alex both had part-time jobs, their hours were not consistent and their benefits non-existent. With no real job stability or certainty when they would be called in to

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 26

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## WELLBEING

# Get Fit: Workplace Initiatives

Employer-based health and wellness programs are good for business.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's Wednesday afternoon and a cohort of George Mason University staff, students and faculty hit the pavement. Clad in attire ranging from running shorts and brightly colored sneakers to neutral walking shoes and business suits, the group takes part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," part of an initiative to get moving for health and wellness.

"It's really important to connect faculty and staff into well-being and wellness practices," said Janet Walker, life/work connections manager at George Mason University. "It benefits everybody in terms of their own personal health and wellness. It creates a community where people interact over more than just work."

The effort underscores the role of workplace health and fitness programs can play in decreasing stress and improving overall well-being. A National Institutes of Health study of more than 29,000 employees who participated in comprehensive workplace health programs that included components such as fitness, weight control and smoking cessation, showed a 14-percent decline in illness over a two-year period, as well as a six-percent increase in productivity.

Workplace health programs can also consist of health education, fitness programs, health coaching and screenings.

"There's all sorts of research about how time spent outdoors and taking walking breaks at work fosters creativity and problem solving," said Jeanne Bliss, director of marketing, Center

**"It's really important to connect faculty and staff into well-being and wellness practices. It benefits everybody."**

— Janet Walker, life/work connections manager, George Mason University



Staff, students and faculty at George Mason University take part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," an effort to increase physical activity and well-being. Research shows that workplace health programs can lead to increased productivity.

for the Advancement of Well-being at George Mason.

Bliss says university officials hope to impact the well-being of 10 million people within the next four years through the center. "We want to be a replicable model for well-being," she said. "That has been one of our strategic 10-year goals."

"We're in a position to help the next generation in terms of how they connect with their own workforce in terms of health and well-being," said Brandice Valentino, director of well-being programs and mindful living coordinator at the Center for the Advancement of Well-being. "Our programs focus on topics for well-being and integrating mindfulness practices."

Amy K. Turner, executive director of Innovation Health, a Northern Virginia health insurance company formed as a re-

sult of a partnership between Aetna and Inova, says her company has improved the health of its workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

Innovation Health has also created corporate wellness programs for its corporate clients. In fact, the company received the Loudon Chamber of Commerce Healthy Business Award, which honors the winners of the Loudon Healthy Business Challenge, a competition designed to recognize Northern Virginia businesses that have improved the health of their workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

A group mentality is one of the keys. Group fitness activity can lead to success, say experts. "I feel like when you do it in a group and you're part of a group, you're more committed," said Turner. "It holds people accountable and promotes success."

"Our 'Get Active Challenge' is where employees set fitness goals and challenge other teams within their corporation," she said. "It engages employees to work together in teams, challenges them. We've found that it improves employee satisfaction."

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Moms Demand Action supports the 2nd Amendment but we believe common-sense solutions can help decrease the escalating epidemic of gun violence that kills too many of our children and loved ones every day — when they are going to the places we all go: church, the movies, to work.

Gun violence kills 88 Americans every day including seven children and teens. We can be better than this. For the families of Alison and Adam, for Charleston, Chattanooga, and Lafayette, there is more we can do to prevent senseless gun violence.

We are doing great work right here in Alexandria, you can join at [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org), follow us on Facebook or on Twitter at @MomsDemand

**Gail Gordon Donegan**

Moms Demand Action volunteer

## Protect Historic Public Housing

To the Editor:

Do Alexandria's historic districts mean anything? That is the question that City Council will answer Sept. 12 when it decides whether to uphold or overturn the Parker Gray Board of Architectural Review's unanimous decision to reject the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (ARHA) request to demolish Ramsey Homes on 600 block of North Patrick Street. Not only was the BAR's decision unanimous, they also agreed that Ramsey Homes met four of the six established criteria to merit preservation.

The 15-unit garden-style Ramsey Homes were built in 1942 under the Lanham Act to provide permanent housing for defense workers for WW II — specifically, African American defense workers. They were the first public housing to be built in Parker Gray, and remain today an example that small-scale scattered site public housing works. The City of Alexandria specifically designated Ramsey Homes as a contributing resource to the Uptown/Parker Gray National Register Historic District whose period of significance runs through 1959. The city's nomination form highlights that the Ramsey Homes "present an attractive appearance and represent stylish trends of the 1930s and 1940s, modestly detailed but reflecting the Craftsman and Prairie-style characteristics..." Today, the Ramsey Homes is the only extant public housing of the modest International Modernist style in

Parker Gray. So, one must ask, how can the city on the one hand affirm the architectural and historic importance of Ramsey Homes, and on the other hand, authorize its destruction?

The Braddock Metro Small Area Plan warns that "there is a sense that this vital neighborhood, with its rich history and charming residential streets will become just an anonymous part of Alexandria's urban expanse and an afterthought to Old Town unless steps are taken to affirm its individual character." It is scattered sites like Ramsey Homes that differentiate Parker Gray from other parts of Old Town. The placement and architecture of Ramsey Homes is unique as are the wide expanses of green-space and the reason they were built; together these features constitute an important chapter in the story of the Parker Gray neighborhood.

If City Council approves ARHA's appeal and permits the demolition of a unique site that the city continually describes as a contributing resource to the Parker Gray historic district, then how can the city ever deny future requests to demolish any structure in the historic districts? If meeting four of six criteria for preservation isn't sufficient, then what exactly is? We are on the precipice of a very slippery slope. ARHA has not maintained the units, nor does it appear it has undertaken the typical upgrades that single family homeowners routinely make to their historic properties. Now, ARHA is arguing that it is more cost effective to tear down the units rather than rehabilitate them. Well, if expense and convenience are justifiable reasons for destroying historic properties, then we might as well say goodbye to our historic districts and the fabric of our historic neighborhoods.

**Ninette Sadusky**  
Alexandria

## Voices of Reason

To the Editor:

In 1998, I established my residence in Old Town, Alexandria, and have grown to love this charming city, although recently the City Council's political bickering has challenged my enthusiasm. Nevertheless, I am happy to see signs of hope in Alexandria. For years the City Council has been dominated by a one-party agenda. Council votes have been in the order of 6 to 1, with the one being

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21



The plan for renovating the Hume Springs Park playground at 100 Dale St.

## Transforming a Neighborhood Playground

In partnership between RunningBrooke and the City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation Department, the Hume Springs Park playground, located at 100 Dale St. in Arlandria, will be transformed.

Currently a neglected park, it is in a neighborhood filled with the highest percentage of children under the age of five in the city and where more than 80 percent are eligible for free and reduced meals.

With help from Rebuilding Together Alexandria, and the support of Teva Respiratory, The Brickman Group, Simpson Development, The Rotary Club of Alexandria, Rosemont Landscaping and Lawncare, and the Hume Springs Neighborhood Association, the park's makeover is already underway.

RunningBrooke Volunteer Build Day is Sept. 19 when the community will be out in force to put the final touches on the park makeover. Volunteers will help plant flowers, create a butterfly garden, and build tables and benches. For more information, visit [www.runningbrooke.org](http://www.runningbrooke.org).



Judy Lo of Parks and Recreation Department, George Novey of Site Concepts, and Arthur Luce, Mid-Eastern Construction, review the plans for renovating Hume Springs Park playground.



Renovation work is underway. RunningBrooke Volunteer Build Day is Sept. 19. See [www.runningbrooke.org](http://www.runningbrooke.org).



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# ENTERTAINMENT

## LTA Stages 'Laughing Stock'

This play-within-a-play promises laughs galore.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Laughing Stock," a play-within-a-play, from Sept. 5-26.

The show gives audiences a backstage look at a ragtag troupe of actors and their backstage mischief as they attempt to stage three repertory productions: "Hamlet," "Charley's Aunt," and "Dracula." This show is a humorous testament to theaters everywhere that never seem to have enough time, staff, money, or talent to pull off the show — but in the end, the show must go on.

Director Shawn G. Byers decided to direct the play because of fond memories of having worked in summer stock theater at Weathervane Playhouse in Ohio. "I love 'Laughing Stock,' not only because it brings back such wonderful memories of Weathervane; but also because it manages to be wildly funny and really touching and sweet all at the same time," he said.

His goal was to make the show funny and appealing to all audiences, he said: "One of the issues, sometimes with backstage farces, is that they can get a little too insular. So I wanted to make the humor accessible."

Co-Producer Jamie Blake had produced "Plaza Suite" for Shawn in 2014, so this is an encore performance; and co-producer Becky Patton wanted the chance to work with an established director and learn more about how he puts together great theater.

"This show is pure fun," said Patton. "It's a theater person's show — anyone who has ever been involved in theater will see something of themselves, and anyone who hasn't will now understand a little more about what goes on back stage."

Will MacLeod plays the role of Tyler, an actor who takes himself a little too seriously and thinks he's God's gift to the proscenium. "I'd like to think I don't relate to him very much but that may be up to other people to decide," he said.

He said the challenge is trying to make

his character likeable when he's kind of an annoying jerk most of the time. "Shawn (the director) has been helping me try to show the parts of the character that show he's an insecure guy that's trying to hide that behind a pompous exterior," he said.

Tom Flatt plays the role of Vernon, a bitter 30-year veteran who never quite hit the big time. "I like his wit and although I'm not bitter, I appreciate his frustration (as all actors do)," he said.

As far as challenges, he said, "Shawn (the director) has a good eye for helping me strike a balance so that Vernon is not mean. He's just honest. It's always tricky to pull off that balance when the character says some awful things."

Ted Culler plays the role of Richfield, a lovable elder statesman of the theater group who is having memory issues. "Like Richfield, I have reached senior status and have to work a little harder than I used to work to learn my lines and remember blocking," he said. "But in spite of that, like Richfield, I love theater and want to continue as long as directors allow me to be on stage."

As far as challenges, he said the biggest is keeping his character's reactions believable. "Because this is farce and my character is often confused, it's easy to over do it and become a caricature," he said. "Shawn encourages us to explore, go big, and play with our roles with the understanding that he will rein us in if we go too far."

Abigail Ropp plays the role of Mary, the classic ingénue type. "She's a little self-centered, but without much of an ego, which I think makes her likeable and fun, even when you're rolling your eyes at her," she said.

For challenges, she said it's a very physical show, and she's a very cerebral actor: "So while I can think through and visualize every move and decide what's funny and what's not in a very intellectual sense, getting my body to project the idea in my head is always one of my actor challenges," she said.



From left: Tom Flatt as Vernon Volker, Ted Culler as Richfield Hawksley, Michael Dobbyn as Jack Morris, and Abigail Ropp as Mary Pierre.

Hilary Adams plays the role of Karma, one of the playhouse interns. "I think she and I share the hope that in the theater we'll find people just as dysfunctional and neurotic as we are, and they'll love us for it, not in spite of it," she said. "We're both looking for a family of people, however temporary, that understand us."

For challenges, she said she decided Karma was coming to the playhouse to get away from her parents who are going through a big ugly divorce, and her journey in this show takes her from not necessarily trusting adults to being more comfortable around them, as well as in her own skin.

Larry Grey plays the role of Craig Conlin, the accountant, business manager, producer and the voice of reason in a sea of dreamers. "I believe my character sees himself as the protector of the group," he said. "He takes on the reality so they can dream their dreams, and guides them to realistically achieving the dream."

He said he has to try hard not to make Craig cranky or cynical, just practical. "One thing the director did was devote an entire evening to character development with each member of the cast individually. It not only helped us to dig deep and see our character, develop a back story, but understand Shawn's (the director) vision, which is vital to bringing the show to life," he said.

Lars Klores plays the role of Gordon Page, the artistic director of the Playhouse.

"He's desperately trying to hold things together while they inevitably fall apart around him," he said.

His biggest challenge was learning the entire script, in which he's in every scene but one, in two weeks. "Our performances are now able to really deepen with the scripts out of our hands," he said.

Brian Selcik plays the role of Braun Oakes, an apprentice at the summer Playhouse. "I relate to my character because he is very energetic and is trying a new thing, which is what I like to do," he said. "It's really fun to play him because I do feel like he changes throughout the show, so it's fun and challenging to work with that."

Melissa Dunlap plays the role of Sarah, the stage manager who attempts to organize the chaos of the cast and crew. "At home and at work, I am always trying to manage the chaos," she said. "Sometimes I am more successful than at others."

As far as challenges, she said Sarah is fairly guarded and sarcastic, but she has some vulnerable moments. "Those vulnerable moments are special and a bit tricky to get right," she said.

*The Little Theater of Alexandria is staging "Laughing Stock," from Sept. 5-26. Show times are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).*

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### ONGOING

##### Leigh Merrill: "Cloud Seeding."

Through Sept. 7, during gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill shows photography and video in her solo exhibition Cloud

Seeding. Merrill's work examines the construction of desire, fiction and beauty in urban landscapes by digitally compositing images and videos. Admission is free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**"Fields."** Through Sept. 6, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Abstract Artists David Carlson and Pat Goslee make art based on their interests in spiritual exploration and energy fields. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

##### Special Family Museum Tours.

Saturdays through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum,

134 N. Royal St. Flexible tours and hands-on activities provide a deeper experience into the social and political life of Alexandria in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Tickets are \$5 for adults (\$4 with AAA card), \$3 children ages 5-12, and children ages 4 and under as well as Alexandria Public School and Blue Star families receive free admission. Coupons accepted. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Art Exhibit: Sultry Colors.** Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Enamelists at The Torpedo Factory collaborate for an exhibit

filled with sultry colors and patterns. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/event/sultry-colors/](http://www.torpedofactory.org/event/sultry-colors/) or call 703-838-4565.

**Exhibit: "Scapes."** Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. View the annual August landscape exhibit juried by Elizabeth Peak. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

**Exhibit: "Taking Shape."** Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. This exhibit features three-dimensional works by Art League member artists. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

**Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.** Through Sept. 26 at various times.

Leaves from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Baseball fans can avoid heavy traffic and cruise along the Potomac to Nationals Park. Tickets are \$20 one-way and \$25 round-trip, Monday-Thursday, \$28 roundtrip Friday-Sunday. Visit [www.potomacriverboatco.com](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com).

##### Fred Eberhart Photography

**Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographer Fred Eberhart focuses on local Virginia landscapes. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygalleries.net](http://www.broadwaygalleries.net).

**Doggy Happy Hour.** Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson

# ENTERTAINMENT

20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit [www.jackson20.com](http://www.jackson20.com).

**Water Taxi to the National Mall.** Through Nov. 1, at various times at Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Cruise from Old Town to D.C. on the *Miss Sophie*, while stopping view some of the area's most popular attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. For children under 12, tickets are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit [www.potomacriverboatco.com/](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com/).

**Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now.** Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for children younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit [www.mountvernon.org/3D](http://www.mountvernon.org/3D).

**"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance.** Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit [www.stelmoscoffee.com](http://www.stelmoscoffee.com) for more.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.lataasca.com](http://www.lataasca.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery.** Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

**Alexandria Cars & Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount

Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

**Art for Life.** Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**THROUGH SEPT. 18 International Guild of Realism 10th Annual International Juried Exhibition.** During gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. The Guild is dedicated to the advancement of realism in fine art. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.principlegallery.com/alexandria](http://www.principlegallery.com/alexandria) for more.

**THROUGH NOV. 20 Young at Art Juried Art Show.** Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. On Thursday, Aug. 20, artists can bring their work to the Durant Center from 10 a.m.-noon to be registered and displayed. Artists must fill out a Entry and Artist/Lender Agreement and pay an entry fee of \$20 for up to three works of art, \$5 for any additional pieces. Entry forms can be found at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or by calling Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, extension 111.

**THROUGH OCT. 18 Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation."** 10-5 p.m., 10-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 18. View summer vacation-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**FRIDAY/SEPT. 4 Big Chalk Draw 2015.** 8-10 a.m. at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supply donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-201-1250 or visit [www.artatthecenter.org](http://www.artatthecenter.org).

**SEPT. 4-OCT. 31 "Seven Deadlies."** Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sculptor Karen Swenholt explores lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride.

Free. Visit [www.convergence.org](http://www.convergence.org) for more.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 5 Pohick Church Tours.** 1-3 p.m. at The Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church. Free. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).  
**Jonathan Edwards.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Folk artist who has collaborated with Emmylou Harris and Darrell Scott will make a stop on a tour celebrating the release of "Tomorrow's Child." Tickets are \$39.95. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 5-6 Labor at Lee-Fendall Tours.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the life and times of the free and enslaved laborers who inhabited the grounds. Admission is free for museum members and \$7 in advance for others. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) for more.

**SUNDAY/SEPT. 6 Walk With Washington.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitor Center, 221 King St. Take a guided walking tour of locations in the heart of Old Town Alexandria associated with George Washington. Hear stories about the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and our first President. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-549-9128.

**TUESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 8-OCT. 18 Photography Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View the work of photographer Karen Keating, who combines words and images in her photos. Free. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

**WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9 Get Moving in Carlyle.** 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor yoga class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit [www.localmotionstudio.com](http://www.localmotionstudio.com) for more.

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 18 "Angel Soldier Dance Sublime."** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View work exploring femininity and masculinity by female artists from Maine's Blue Hill Peninsula. Free. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 25 Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition.** During gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Works inspired by the song "Don't Fence Me In," by Cole Porter, will be on display. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 10 Second Thursday Art Night: Sharpen Your Pencils.** 6-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Personalize your own art journal and leave a sketch in the six notebooks scattered around the building for a community sketching project. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).  
**Second Thursday Live: Rhythm and Roots Experience.** 7 p.m. at



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# ENTERTAINMENT

the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This performance will feature West African music. Admission is \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## SEPT. 10-OCT. 5

**“The Ring of Fire.”** Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Indonesian American artist Wijati Soemantoro expresses her emotional response to the natural disasters she experienced while growing up in the most seismically active zone in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

### SPARK Health and Fitness Festival.

4-8 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Hosted by SPARK Physiotherapy, LLC., fun and safe games, competitions, entertainment, raffles and giveaways. Free. Visit [www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/](http://www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/) or email [njbabka@sparkphysio.com](mailto:njbabka@sparkphysio.com).

### DC Public Opera Presents:

**Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte.”** 7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. DC Public Opera presents a contemporary production of Mozart and DaPonte’s comic opera masterpiece “Cosi Fan Tutte (The School for Lovers).” Inspired by Andy Warhol’s work and his infamous parties at his New York studio, The Factory, the performances take place in the Torpedo Factory Art Center as a live installation. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.dcpubliopera.org](http://www.dcpubliopera.org) for more.

### Fort Hunt Preschool Outdoor



Throughout September, photographer Fred Eberhart will display his work at Broadway Gallery, located at 5641-B General Washington Drive. The exhibit is a collection of Virginia landscapes. The photo above is titled “Sunplay on Lime Kiln Road.” Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.broadwaygalleries.net](http://www.broadwaygalleries.net).

**Movie Festival.** 7:30 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane. Watch animated film “Madagascar.” Admission is \$5, free for children under 2. Call 703-768-7584 or visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com).

### Four Mile Summer Movie Festival.

Movies start at dusk and are shown at the Four Mile Conservatory Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Community Church’s Inaugural summer movie festival is

co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Film is “Cool Runnings.” Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit [www.theaterchurch.com](http://www.theaterchurch.com) for more.

## SEPT. 11-OCT. 25

**“Artifact” Exhibit.** Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and during performances at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. In

this exhibit artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or “gestures” in the wood. John James Anderson will also share the space. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

**Community Yard Sale.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Seminary Walk Condominium behind Buildings 105, 203, and 205

Skyhill Road. Free to attend. Rain date: Sept. 19. Call 703-370-6914.  
**Civil War Walking Tour.** 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Discover locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including Robert E. Lee’s departure from his hometown, the occupation of Alexandria, and emancipation. Admission is free for museum members, \$12 in advance, and \$15 on the day of the event. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) for more.

### Container Gardening in Cold

**Weather.** 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Arlington/Alexandria) will present a program on gardening in containers. It will emphasize the use of edible herbs and vegetables that not only look attractive but also can survive cold conditions. Free, but registration is required. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org).

**Canine Cruise.** 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The family dog is welcome to join in on an hour-long cruise through the Alexandria Seaport. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$10 for children. Dogs ride free. Visit [www.potomacriverboatco.com](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com).

### Dogtopia of Alexandria Grand

**Reopening.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Dogtopia of Alexandria, 3121 Colvin St. Dog daycare, boarding, and spa facility Dogtopia is reopening. The grand reopening is open to the public and will include facility tours, pet-friendly vendors and more. Free. Visit [www.dogdaycare.com/alexandria](http://www.dogdaycare.com/alexandria).

**Music Festival.** 12-4 p.m. Four Mile Run Park Community Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. There will be live entertainment, local performers, children’s interactive games and crafts, food, face painting and various

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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**Book Signing & Reception.** 2-5 p.m. at the Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Joseph and Sharon Scopin will be on hand to discuss their book "As I Remember." The book is about local Civil War veteran Lewis Cass White, whose story and memorabilia was discovered in the authors' basement. Free to attend. The book will be available to purchase for \$35. Only cash or check will be accepted. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) for more.

**"Artifact" Exhibit.** 4-6 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Celebrate the exhibit in which artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or "gestures" in the wood. Also meet, John James Anderson, an artist who will share the space. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

**Collective Delusion.** 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band will perform rock songs from the 1970s to the present. Free. Visit [www.collectivedelusion.net](http://www.collectivedelusion.net).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

**Friends of the Torpedo Factory Present Art and Light.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. As part of UNESCO's International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies, The Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center present Art and Light, an afternoon celebration of art, music, dance, and light. Jane Franklin Dance, the Francis C. Hammond Middle School Orchestra, The Alexandria Singers, The Dance Studio at Hollin Hall, cellist John Kaboff, and the St. Petersburg Duo will perform alongside the Radiance Orb, a large geodesic globe that responds to music and motion with flashes of color. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/orb](http://www.torpedofactory.org/orb).

**Grandparents Day Celebration.** 12-2 p.m. at Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7115 Fort Hunt Road. Celebrate Grandparents Day with family and friends with family-oriented activities including pony rides, a moon bounce and a magician accompanied by a traditional picnic lunch and live music from the Mt. Vernon Community Band. A raffle will be held by the resident council. Free. Visit [www.rui.net/paul-spring/events-activities](http://www.rui.net/paul-spring/events-activities).

**DC Public Opera Presents: Mozart's "Così fan Tutte."** 7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. DC Public Opera presents a contemporary production of Mozart and DaPonte's comic opera masterpiece "Così fan Tutte (The School for Lovers)." Inspired by Andy Warhol's work and his infamous parties at his New York studio, The Factory, the performances take place in the Torpedo Factory Art Center as a live installation. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.dcpubopera.org](http://www.dcpubopera.org) for more.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 14

**Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 p.m. practice and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come with or without a partner to learn several classic dance styles from Gary Stephans. Admission is \$15. Email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com) or call 703-505-5998 for details.

**History Lecture: Medical Heroism in Alexandria.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about the Athenaeum's role in the Civil War and medical efforts in Alexandria from historian Tom Shultz. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

**Genealogy and DNA Talk.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Jim Bartlett tells how to use DNA test results to prove lines of ancestry in this free talk sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org) or call 703-768-4101.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

**The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club Meeting.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Speaker Barbara Stewart will share her experiences as a buyer of antiques for dealers, decorators and individuals, as well as her volunteer work at a local thrift store, where she has found many items. Members and guests are encouraged to bring their own "finds" to share. Free. Call 703-360-4979 for more.

**Get Moving in Carlyle.** 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor pilates class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit [www.localmotionstudio.com](http://www.localmotionstudio.com) for more.

**"An Ordinary Hero."** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join Joan Mulholland, civil rights activist, and Mike O'Brien, author, for a screening of the documentary "An Ordinary Hero" followed by a Q&A session. The documentary focuses on Joan's experiences in the Civil Rights Movement and at the Woolworth Sit-in. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) for more.

**What is a Healthy Forest?** 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park-Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen to geology and forest ecology instructor Joe Marx discuss issues facing Mid-Atlantic forests. Free. Visit [www.vnps.org/potowmack](http://www.vnps.org/potowmack).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

**Medical Heroism in Alexandria.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Tom Schultz of DC Military Tours will discuss medical heroism in Alexandria during the Civil War. The discussion will be based on the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street" which will depict hospital workers in Alexandria during the war. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**2015 SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival.** 7-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Washington DC ACM SIGGRAPH is partnering with the Torpedo Factory Art Center to host some of the best examples of computer animation from the past year. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Dave Mason's Traffic Jam Tour.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Dave Mason's music is influenced by rock and roll and is backed by guitar. Tickets are \$55. Visit [www.davemasonmusic.com/tour](http://www.davemasonmusic.com/tour).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

**"Seven Deadlies" Opening Reception And Artist Talk.** 5-8 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate sculptor Karen Swenholt's exploration of lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride. Free. Visit [www.convergence.org](http://www.convergence.org) for more.

**Factory Society Open House.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Factory Society is a new young-professionals group at the Torpedo Factory Art Center dedicated to hosting innovative



## Scottish Heritage Weekend to Accompany Arts Festival

During the Alexandria Arts Festival, Sept. 19-20, the Carlyle House will host a Scottish Heritage Weekend: Outlander Style. On Saturday, guests may experience Scottish tradition with a fashion show, dance performance, and concerts. Admission to the museum is free. On Sunday, find an Outlander-style tea at 11 a.m. accompanied by a tour of the house. Tickets are \$30 for the tea alone, or \$35 with the tour. Visit [www.novaparks.org](http://www.novaparks.org) for more.



programs to advance the region's creative community and engage with artists at the Torpedo Factory. Young professionals are invited to get an exclusive, after-hours peek of the Target Gallery's new exhibition, Angel Soldier Dance Sublime, hear about new projects, and learn how to get involved as a charter member or a volunteer. There will be an open wine bar and DJ Juan Zapata will perform throughout the evening. Free, but registration is required. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/openhouse](http://www.torpedofactory.org/openhouse).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-20

**Colonial Market And Fair.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**King Street Art Festival.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. In its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest).

**Scottish Highlander Festival.** 10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. on Sunday at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Attend a fashion show, highland dance performance, or Celtic concert on Saturday or an Outlander Tea and Tour on Sunday. Prices vary based on activity. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

**Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.** 1-5 p.m. at The Waterford at Springfield, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Event will recognize numerous organizations and individuals for continued community service. Eric Broyles, co-author of "Encounters with the Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival," will be the event speaker. The evening will include a silent auction, cash bar, and door prizes. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$600 per table of 10 guests. Payment due by Aug. 23 via [www.evite.me/Wb3XgF4HP8](http://www.evite.me/Wb3XgF4HP8). Email [fairfaxnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxnaacp@gmail.com).

**Ladies Night Out: Radiating Joy in Painting.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. In this workshop participants enjoy

the practice of centering through painting. Admission is \$45 per person. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com) to register.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

**Jazz at Meade.** 4-6 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Jazz artist Marshall Keys will perform. Suggested donation is \$15. Visit [www.meadechurch.org](http://www.meadechurch.org) for more.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

**STEM Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology.** 1-2:30 p.m. at 107 S. Alfred St. Homeschool student and their families are invited to explore science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) with a monthly program sponsored by the City of Alexandria. At this event, visit the Friendship Firehouse to learn how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Features the 1851 Suction Engine. Children may attend for free, adult tickets are \$8. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

# Close Call with West Nile for Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

ting it. Of greater concern are the small, brown Culex mosquitos, which generally feed on birds, but also bite humans and other mammals. Of those infected with West Nile virus, the Alexandria Department of Health says 80 percent will not have any symptoms at all. Those who do, symptoms generally begin showing within three to 15 days after infection. Twenty percent of those infected with West Nile Virus develop a fever and one in 150 infected people will develop serious illnesses.

“There are viruses present throughout Alexandria in the mosquito population, and West Nile virus is an endemic, so we are concerned about that,” said Sherwood. “There is West Nile virus in Alexandria. For the public, they need to be covering up with long-sleeved loose clothing or some type of insect repellent, especially during dusk or dawn, and reporting things that they can’t control, like standing water.”

For most Alexandrians, West Nile isn’t a major concern during the work day. It certainly wasn’t for Callahan, who recalled only vaguely hearing about it before her husband was infected. Callahan recalled maybe seeing a story

about someone in Maryland and a woman in D.C. who were infected, but it was a remote problem until it took her husband. Since that time, Callahan says she’s studied a lot about the virus and became more aware of it as a health threat. She says she was very satisfied with the Health Department’s response to the community feedback.

“The Health Department was very responsive. They arrived within just a few hours of the complaint,” said Callahan. “They have continued to be vigilant. The city is very careful about looking for standing pools of water and treating them with larvicide.”

However, Callahan was critical of the National Park Service, which refuses to use any sort of larvicide on standing water in Jones Point Park, and to the contractors that allowed a pool of standing water to remain on their site. In an email to local residents, Emilio Pundavela, a civil engineer for the city, said that the contractor had drained the water out of the pit and would continue to do so three times each week, sufficient time to keep mosquitos from laying larvae in the pit.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The walled off mosquito pit at the end of Duke Street.

## Skirmishes over Business Proposals in Del Ray

FROM PAGE 1

the required 10. The SUP also required that the space be used on a reservation basis only, with the applicant representing the project as only being used for special events for private groups or gatherings. However, after the approval, Del Ray Pizzeria began operating the space as second restaurant called “DRP Reserve” with loose reservation requirements. In its proposal to the Planning Commission, the Del Ray Pizzeria sought to finalize the second floor’s transformation into the restaurant by removing the reservation seating requirement. The second floor would keep the name DPR Reserve and would operate on a different schedule with a different menu focused more on fine cuisine.

The series of violations of past SUPs was fresh on the mind of many commission members, who threw accusations of manipulation and miscommunication at both the Del Ray Pizzeria owners and city staff. “If there’s any gaming of the system ... it’s with this one,” said David Brown, a member of the Planning Commission. Each of the commission members, in turn, expressed similar levels of discomfort with approving the Pizzeria’s request. “There’s a history here that makes me very

uncomfortable approving this,” said Commission member Maria Wasowski.

In addition to accusing the pizzeria of manipulating the commission, some on the commission pointed fingers towards staff for not catching the manipulation.

“It was advertised as one thing, and now it’s being voted on as another thing,” said Stewart Dunn, a member of the Planning Commission. “Originally it was going to be just for parties, then for anyone who made a reservation, but that’s not what we’re now discussing.” Karl Moritz, director of Planning and Zoning, said the accusation was unfounded. “Staff is not proposing anything different from what the staff report says,” said Moritz. “I’m worried about the thought that we are somehow misleading or misrepresenting.”

Ultimately, the commission unanimously voted to defer the decision on the DRP Reserve and asked staff to reconsider the second floor as part of the entire restaurant to remove any special privileges it might have as a separate entity.

“Making special arrangements for the second floor restaurant is not tenable,” said Commission Chair Mary Lyman.

While the Del Ray Montessori School of Alexandria didn’t fall into the same com-

mercial category as Hog Thaid or the Del Ray Pizzeria, its request for increased enrollment and increased hours of operation, as well as reduction in parking, did cause a stir with the commission. With approval, the school would increase from 64 students to 102 students, all of the 38 additional children coming in as preschool students. The plan would revise the current student pick-up and drop-off arrangement from 30 minutes to an hour, with faculty meeting students at their cars and walking them to the building.

Sarah Fondriest, director and co-founder of the school, said the school hadn’t heard complaints from the community since it started in 2011, which is why she said she was so surprised to hear a public outcry at the Del Ray land use committee meeting on Aug. 11 against the expansion. For Brown, however, the outcry was completely expected and raised a fair point. The proposal had been submitted to the Planning Commission in June, but no public outreach had been done until the meeting just a month before the proposal was set to appear before the Planning Commission.

“How could you not understand, in June, that there would be some kind of outcry?” asked Brown. “You’re proposing quite a large increase. From what I can see, you filed this application on June 2, and the community didn’t get any word on what was going on until the dead of summer.”

Fondriest’s response, saying that she’d apologized to the community for the over-

sight and that her actions weren’t malicious, only prompted further rebuke from Brown, who implied that Fondriest was understating the gravity of her error.

“You were inattentive in what you had to see as a problem in the community,” said Brown.

Fondriest was supported during the public comment by teachers and parents from the school, who said that the school was run very efficiently and could easily accommodate the student population increase. Several members of the local Del Ray community, however, urged the commission to consider the effects of the increase on the larger neighborhood, specifically how the longer drop-off and pick-up hours, as well as the increased student population, would impact local traffic. The commission approved the change, but shortened the review of the proposed changes from one year to six months. Overall, members of the commission hoped that future conflicts between the school and the community could be resolved by better communication.

“I hope the citizens concerned about this project aren’t concerned about this outcome, and that the parents of Montessori children aren’t the least discouraged by the fact that there was some community opposition,” said Brown. “I believe strongly in dialogue between the community and the applicant for any land use project ... when this matter comes back before us, if you’ve worked out difference between yourselves, we’re going to adopt those changes.”

**“How could you not understand, in June, that there would be some kind of outcry?”**

**— David Brown, member, Planning Commission**

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

Allison Silberberg, a Democrat. She has consistently called for curbing expenditures to rein in a ballooning debt, and has critiqued inadequate planning for the Old Town waterfront development project. In the recent Democratic Primary she campaigned as "A Voice of Reason," a campaign noted for its early and effective marketing.

The good news is a developing concept of "Voices of Reason," inclusive of Republicans, led by a former candidate for mayor, Townsend "Van" Van Fleet. Van Fleet is joining up with Silberberg with less talk of party labels such as Democratic Plan and Republican Plan, and more talk of a "Citizen's Plan." This is indeed welcome news. This concept will be a joint effort to focus on preserving the beauty and uniqueness of Old Town, improving the quality of public education, increasing police and firemen presence, and endorsing sensible growth. If this concept is able to deliver a more rational, balanced approach to prioritizing the city's needs, followed by budgeting and budget execution, they will have made a solid contribution to Alexandria's quality of life.

**John O. B. Sewall**  
MG, USA (Ret.)

## Not All Are Opposed

To the Editor:

I need to respond to your front page article in the Aug. 27, 2015 Alexandria Gazette Packet "Re-developing and Reshaping Old Town." The article is imbalanced and implies that there is no support among Old Town residents for the waterfront redevelopment. Further, it strongly positions Townsend "Van" Van Fleet as "the leading spokesperson for residents of Old Town." Both the representation of Old Town resident attitudes and the description of Mr. Van Fleet are partisan positions, surprising to see on the front page of the Gazette Packet at a time when Mr. Van Fleet is running for City Council. I would have expected more balanced reporting from the Gazette Packet.

I have been a homeowner and resident in the heart of Old Town since 1994 (and Del Ray for two years prior to that). When I arrived in Alexandria one of my first observations was that the city was failing to capitalize on one of its greatest assets, the Potomac River waterfront. The warehouses and parking lots between Pendleton

and Oronoco and between King and Duke have been an ongoing eyesore, and have limited citizen access to the waterfront, one of the defining assets of Old Town. While it is not perfect, I am thrilled that the current waterfront development is finally starting to address this issue.

One of the joys of living in Alexandria is the spirited participatory democracy. I respect and encourage every opinion, but being very vocal as Mr. Van Fleet is, does not make him a spokesperson for the residents of Old Town, nor does the vocal opposition expressed by some residents to waterfront development mean that is the attitude of all the residents of Old Town.

**Bill Phelps**  
Old Town, Alexandria

## Benefits of Redevelopment

To the Editor:

Vernon Miles of the Alexandria Gazette Packet wrote a significant article about redevelopment in Old Town. The article covered several areas. My letter will focus on the seven acres of the approved Waterfront Plan and Old Town. As indicated, Old Town drives tourism and its attendant revenue generators for the shops and restaurants along King Street. Important is that it is the commercial areas of Old Town, not the residential areas, that are the "golden goose" that is referred to in the article. The commercial areas of Old Town Alexandria lead to the Potomac River, with its views of Washington D.C. It is the location that drives tourism to Old Town. There are buildings on King Street from many eras: Original census to recently built structures.

A portion of the article focused on opposition to the redevelopment of the Alexandria waterfront. The plan includes replacing the empty warehouses with two new boutique hotels and additional residential units, additional and upgraded parks, a continuous walkway on the Potomac and improved flood control. This development has created two camps that have significantly different views. On one hand are people that support the city's Waterfront Small Area Plan which was approved by citizens appointed to the Planning Committee, the Board of Architectural Review and our elected officials. On the other is a group of Old Town citizens opposed to the plan and who have continually fought and lost.

Related groups have taken their case all the way to the Virginia

Supreme Court and lost. It is all of the citizens of Alexandria that are suffering from the delay and forced to pay for the defense. We do not need a war of Old Town residents against the rest of the city. Because of this group's extreme and loud opposition to the Waterfront plan many people in the city get the impression that Old Town residents prefer Old Town to be a gated community.

There are many residents of Old Town and Alexandria who are in favor of the Waterfront Plan seeing it as a great enhancement to the waterfront, again eliminating unsightly warehouses and the related rat control boxes. Many Alexandrians want to protect our existing historical buildings. And like many cities are in favor of complimentary development, not fake colonial. These voices need to be heard.

The city is cleared and in the position to implement the Waterfront plan. But the opponents to the plan continue to be obstructionist. The cost to the city and to the development continues. As an example on Sept. 12 there is a case to prevent the destruction of an unsightly, small, empty, concrete brick building on the Strand, a building with no historical value from being razed. I encourage all readers to see the building before it is razed, to have the first-hand experience of how silly the opposition can be.

Many Alexandrians feel that the new architecture will bring much more to Alexandria than we have ever had before and believe that the city and taxpayers will benefit from an open waterfront. Residents and tourist will visit the waterfront. Tourists will provide new tax revenue that will support the entire city.

**Lynn Hampton**  
Alexandria

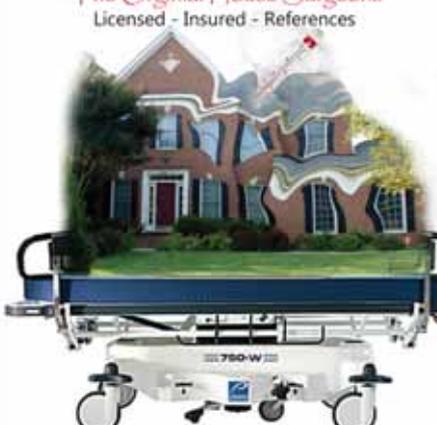
## Focus on Governance

To the Editor:

It's time for some Alexandria residents and local politicians to admit we don't live in a Banana Republic. When we disagree with the outcomes of elections, we don't riot in the streets. We don't call out the National Guard. We don't trash the winner because we disagree with the outcome. There was no vote fraud, no hanging chads, no stolen ballots. Any registered voter was free to show up in person or vote absentee, but only about 13 percent did. This perceived "conflict" in the out

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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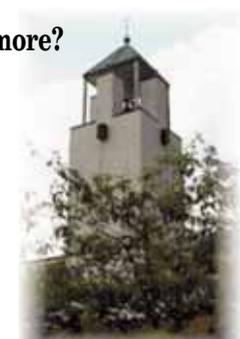


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# Summer Camp: One-on-One with Shelter Animals

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

Some Alexandria youths headed off to day camp this summer didn't learn anything about baseball or boating. They spent their hours getting to know the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter on Eisenhower Avenue and learning a little more about animals.

Every week the shelter, which is operated by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), hosted a group of campers representing specific age groups — third- and fourth-graders, fifth- and sixth-graders, and seventh- and eighth-graders — for some quality face time with the shelter's resident dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferret, turtles and birds.

"It's a fun camp," said camper Ethan Gotsch, 11. "My favorite part was sponsoring an animal." During the week, each camper was asked to choose one shelter animal to promote to the public for adoption. Ethan chose a brown-and-white spayed female cat called Goose, one that had been known to hiss at strangers. "She's a sweetie pie," he said. "If you put a treat in your hand and go into her cage, she starts snuggling." To acquaint the public with Goose's charms, Ethan produced a professional-looking poster that he posted on her cage. It concluded with: "If you give Goose a nice

home, she'll love you." Goose was adopted.

"We want to start teaching children at an early age that animals deserve to be treated with respect and kindness," said Chelsea Lindsey, who directs the camp. "We also teach them the language of animals so that they can understand what they're trying to communicate. I've seen a number of dogs surrendered to the shelter because they bit a child, sometimes due to poor communication between the dog and child. It's important to me that we teach the kids how to respect and understand a dog's emotions."

Each day at shelter summer camp was different: On Mondays, the campers toured the shelter and began work on producing a video that told a tale about life at the shelter.

Tuesday was Small Animals Day, when the kids learned about all of the small animals — rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, reptiles — that come to the shelter in need of homes and competed in making ideal habitats for specific kinds of small animals. Wednesday was Cat Day, which featured talks from the shelter's Animal Control officers and the staffer who manages fostering of cats and kittens. Thursday was Dog Day, which included taking shelter dogs for walks and viewing videos showing how dogs communicate with people; youths also smeared pea-



PHOTO BY CHELSEA LINDSEY/AWLA

**AWLA summer campers show off their ideas for "catified" homes — ways to make houses more cat-friendly.**

nut butter inside empty toilet paper rolls and provided them as treats to dogs awaiting adoption. Friday was Wildlife Day, which included a game about wildlife living in the area, terrarium making and a nature walk.

The youths also were treated to visits from a local veterinarian and an appearance by dog handlers from Guiding Eyes for the Blind, who brought along two seeing-eye dogs with them to demonstrate how the dogs aid blind people.

Camper Victoria Lopez's favorite moment of the week was when

about 10 kittens were transported into the shelter's community room for "kitten time" — playing with toys the campers had made for them. Victoria, 11, also enjoyed training the dogs, especially learning a special method to stop them from barking known as Four on the Floor. "We show the kids how to train their pets using only positive reinforcement," Lindsey said.

Kate Luwaski, 10, who doesn't have a pet of her own, decided dogs were her favorite shelter animal and also learned that cats' body language can give cues about

how they're feeling. "The veterinarian told us to watch a cat's tail — if it goes up, that means he's feeling friendly," Kate said.

Cami Holmes, who turned 11 in August, is allergic to cats and finds dogs "too rambunctious." Instead, she chose two black rabbits to sponsor and loved feeding them hay. Cami designed a persuasive "Adopt Theodore and Samantha" poster for their cage, but she was harboring a secret wish about the bunnies. "Hopefully they'll be adopted," she said. "Hopefully by me."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 21

come is unseemly in the perception that it is pitting a man against a woman, a black against a white, an older person against a younger person. Alexandria has always been a place that values diversity in its residents and in its representatives. I call on Mayor Bill Euille personally to immediately stop this subterfuge of a "write-in campaign." We have a winner of the June 9 race. The longer this charade continues, it demeans the reputation of the lame duck mayor and the good things he previously did. And it embarrasses our city, our political process and our state. Take all that energy invested in dissent and turn it into positive responses for the many troubling situations facing our city with finances, roads, low-cost housing, planning and zoning during the remainder of his term.

And I call on some of the mayor's current and former colleagues to refuse to be part of this effort to question the results of a validly held election. Start with a

return to civility at the first council meeting this fall. Over and over, several incumbents have refused to give Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg the courtesy of a "second" for her motions. Stop doing that, You can vote down everything she proposes from now until December, but stop denying her the necessary discussion process. We deserve a council full of adults, who take seriously the business of governance. We are tired of the pouting, the pretending, the pandering and the downright trivialization of our electoral process.

**Kathleen M. Burns**  
Alexandria

## Determined Republicans

To the Editor:

On the front page of your last issue you describe Republican candidate for Council Van Fleet as the "leading spokesperson for resi-

dents of Old Town." You may have given him this position because he probably has written more letters to your paper than any other resident. Certainly being president of the Old Town Civic Association does not entitle him to be the "leading spokesperson." That organization represents only a few hundred Old Town residents. Many Old Town residents, myself included, support the waterfront plan. And we would characterize Mr. Van Fleet as a gadfly, not our spokesperson. He is critical of nearly everything.

Van Fleet is no fan of contemporary architecture on the waterfront, preferring ersatz federal style buildings, like Harbor Front, where he lives. These "phony colony" buildings can be found everywhere in our region.

Robinson Terminal South, designed by one of the country's most outstanding architects, is a refreshing addition to the waterfront area. Charleston, S.C. — the paragon of how a city should be run according to Van Fleet — has

several contemporary buildings on its waterfront and elsewhere in its historic district.

Unfortunately Van Fleet is likely to be elected this fall. So far the Republican candidates for Council are running much more energetic campaigns than the Democrats, with the exception of Justin Wilson.

This complacency by the Democrats might very well mean that Virginia's most Democratic jurisdiction will have a Republican-controlled government. Allison Silberberg is the Democratic candidate for mayor, but her views are in many ways supportive of the Republicans. That is why the Republicans have not put forth a mayoral candidate.

**H.J. Rosenbaum**  
Alexandria

## Time to Tack Against the Wind

To the Editor:

It is rare to receive a letter complimenting a letter, but that's what just happened, when I received an email from someone who has lived in Alexandria for 30 years and who understands politics and political consequences better than I.

In essence, the comments were in support of Allison Silberberg and questioned the wisdom of Mayor Euille's potential write-in campaign in our current political climate.

The writer explained that he got up early, before catching a plane, to vote for Vice Mayor Silberberg in the Democratic primary. This special effort was motivated by the observation that there has been enough development without comparable investment in infrastructure in Old Town to create unease that relations between some city officials and developers may have grown too close.

The conclusion drawn was that it's time for someone who at least

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 22

knows how to “tack against the wind.” This might even help us regain a middle ground for constructive dialogue, one not dominated by super majority pre-emptions.

We need the best city councilors among us on the dais ... not all the incumbents have proven their worth in serving the people not the party. Let's vote for a new day.

**Kathryn Papp**  
Alexandria

## Council and Confederacy

To the Editor:

As part of Alexandria's Commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War, in June, Kim Holien gave a compelling talk about Civil War officers, six Union and six Confederate, for whom some of our west end streets were named; it noted that both sides included thorough rascals. If the city renames “Confederate” streets, renaming “Union” streets

is equally appropriate.

Last year, Dr. Charles Poland gave an excellent lecture about some of the numerous and complex factors that provoked the war. Dino Drudi's recent letter ably listed a good number of them. The causes of the War cannot be reduced to just slavery without mangling the truth.

Virginia's secession was a legal exercise of state's rights to resist Lincoln's unConstitutional invasion. Six months before his call for 75,000 troops to invade the Southern states, Virginians had voted 9-1 to remain in the union, but that action immediately reversed their vote, again 9-1. Alexandrians voted in the same proportions as other Virginians both times.

Re the slavery argument: Lincoln said he declared war to restore the seceded states to the union. He never attempted to free the slaves in the four slave states remaining in the union.

Slavery was legal under the U.S. flag until the 13th amendment was adopted in December 1865, although Lincoln's party controlled Congress. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued nearly a year and a half after his invasion,

applied only to the rebellious areas where all knew it had no means of enforcement; it was widely recognized as only a political ploy. At Appomattox, Grant owned slaves; Lee had freed all the Custis slaves by 1862, complying with his father-in-law's will; the Lees and other Southerners opposed slavery. The CSA Constitution outlawed the importation of slaves. The slave trade was a most profitable enterprise for Northern shipowners; many amassed great wealth from it.

History books and instructors have not emphasized these important facts. History books are mostly written and published in the North, which still wishes to minimize/omit mention of its responsibility for slavery as well as continuing racial divisions in housing, schools, etc.

Our mayor and council are on record in the July 9, 2015 Washington Post as calling for no longer flying the Confederate flag in Alexandria in accordance with our long tradition of so doing for Lee's Jan. 19 birthday and Confederate Memorial Day, May 24, although they said they will consider the matter when council reconvenes in

September.

Justin Wilson, in an interview aired on WTOP on July 12, said both sides of the War's history should be presented.

Because the city already has several museums, statues and cemeteries reclaimed/created and funded with our tax money, that present the Union side and Black history, the rest of our history of that time should also be told in full

and permanent form to educate citizens and visitors. How will council plan to do so? Flying the Confederate flag twice a year is now the only city-funded activity related to showing Alexandria's Southern sympathies during the War. Even the city's Civil War app omits all our Confederate sites.

**Ellen Latane Tabb**  
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# TC Volleyball Led by First-Year Coach DeSain

**Titans reached Conference 7 final last season.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**lexus Foreman stood behind the end line of a court at Virginia Volleyball Center in Sterling and bounced a ball five times with her left hand. The T.C. Williams senior then sent a serve over the net, which West Potomac failed to return.

The ace gave T.C. Williams its 13th straight point. The Titans would extend their lead to 15-0 and cruise to victory in the opening set.

The T.C. Williams volleyball team went on to defeat West Potomac 2-0 (25-6, 26-24) in the 17th-place match of the NVVA Invitational on Aug. 29.

While finishing 17th in an 18-team tournament isn't ideal, first-year T.C. Williams head coach AJ DeSain said he was pleased the Titans were competitive for most of the day despite missing four starters for various reasons.

"For the most part, all day we were competitive, which is good playing with half a lineup with all young kids who aren't really yet sure exactly what they're doing,"

DeSain said. "It was exciting that we were in as many games [as we were]. Unfortunately, [with a] lack of experience late in games, we weren't able to close. We weren't able to win the games that I thought we could even with the lineups [we had]."

While T.C. Williams finished 17th at the tournament, DeSain and the Titans are hoping things get better once they're at full strength.

"Once we get everybody back and healthy and ready to go, with fingers crossed is [Sept. 3] ... we've got a chance to be a real good team," DeSain said, "but it's all got to come together and we've got to figure out how to play together once everybody actually gets back on the court because they've been out for a while."

Foreman, a setter and outside hitter, is one of the Titans' top players.

"She's diving all over the place on the floor, she's covering everything, she's chasing balls down in the far corner that a normal setter would never consider going for," DeSain said. "... She's the heart and soul of our team right now. She's playing as well as anybody we got."

Foreman served during the Titans' 15-0 run to open Saturday's match against West Potomac.

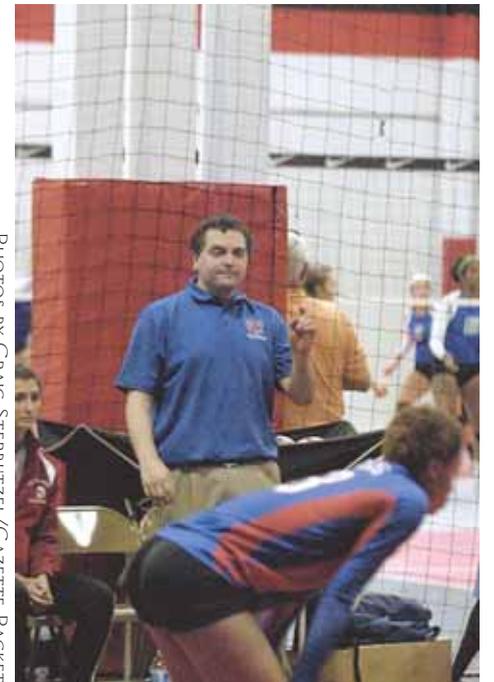
"You have to get into the zone of 'I can't miss my serve,' and just stay focused, stay in the game," Foreman said. "Don't think just because you've got a couple points the match is over."



**Amara Edwards and the T.C. Williams volleyball team placed 17th at the NVVA Invitational in Sterling on Aug. 29.**

Fellow seniors Oona Davies, an outside hitter, Olivia Devereaux, a middle blocker, and Amara Edwards, a right side, are also key players for the Titans.

T.C. Williams reached the Conference 7 championship match for the first time in program history last season under then-



**AJ DeSain is in his first season as head coach of the T.C. Williams volleyball program.**

head coach Michael Burch.

"It's a lot different than having Burch as a coach," Foreman said. "His philosophies are 10-times different than Burch's. We have to learn how to adjust to his coaching style."

The Titans will host South Lakes at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3

# Fall Rowing Kicks Off with Racing on the Waterfront

**W**hile most teenagers are sleeping in for the last two weeks of summer, Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) rowers are hitting the Dee Campbell Boathouse by 6:30 a.m. every weekday morning to pick up their oars.

Beginning their preseason training on Aug. 24, ODBC Select Crew rowers held their first race on Friday, Aug. 28 at the Dee Campbell Boathouse. With 70 athletes from five schools competing, the rowers sprinted down a 5,000-meter course from Four Mile Run to the Wilson Bridge. T.C. Williams junior Katie Murphy and McLean senior Kaela Wilbur won top honors in the race.

Patrick Marquardt, coach for the ODBC girls said, "Friday's race was a great way to start the season. Our rowers raced down the course in both double and quad sculling boats, as well sweep rowing 4s. While these are not normally what they'll row during the season, it is a lot of fun for our experienced rowers to get in shape on different types of boats."

With over 120 athletes on the team, this year's ODBC select crew is one of the largest in memory. The athletes — who are drawn from such area high schools as T.C. Williams, West Potomac, J.E.B. Stuart, Washington-Lee, Wakefield, Yorktown, and McLean — are guided this fall by head girls coach Patrick Marquardt and assistant girls



**T.C. Williams Junior Katie Murphy and McLean Senior Kaela Wilbur arrive at the dock after scoring the fastest time in the Aug. 28 ODBC race.**

coaches Jaime Rubini, Cathy Hott and Gracie Barbara. The ODBC boys are led by head coach Pete Stramese and assistant coaches Enoch Cleckley, and Tyler Buxton.

Marquardt said: "Having outstanding rowers from across the region participate

together in ODBC is a significant benefit for our rowers. While many will compete against each other during the high school spring crew season, the fall ODBC program allows them to get to know one another and test their skills together."

ODBC rowing has a long history in Alexandria. In 1947, ODBC members Julian Whitestone and Jack Franklin began training young men from George Washington and Francis Hammond High Schools in rowing.

The fall ODBC select crew program, which brings together elite rowers from across the region, has its origins in this event. For 2015, rowers will train at the Dee Campbell Rowing Center and compete in East Coast head races, including the Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia and the Head of the Charles in Boston. A "head race" is a race against the clock, usually significantly longer than the 1,500 meter races done in the high school spring season. Alexandria Crew Boosters, with support from ODBC, hosts the ODBC Select Crew Program.

The ODBC Select Crew's first races are a scrimmage at the Dee Campbell Boathouse on Sept. 19 and the Head of the Potomac in Georgetown on Sept. 27.

Beginning on Monday, Sept. 14 and running through October, the Alexandria Crew Boosters will hold the fall crew program for intermediate and novice rowers. These rowers will join the experienced ODBC rowers in the Dee Campbell Boathouse, preparing to take over the mantle of Alexandria rowing in the future.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Loving family seeking **child care provider** to transport children from school in afternoons to home and/or activities. 12 to 15 hours week. Excellent pay. Must have excellent driving record and own vehicle. Call 703-403-4045.

**Part-Time Admin Asst.**  
Consulting firm in Old Town Alex seeking part-time admin asst. Responsibilities include: word processing, answering phones, filing, database mgmt, research. Word and Excel 2010 knowledge required. 25 Hours per week. Casual dress. Email resume and salary requirements to [info@revparintl.com](mailto:info@revparintl.com)

**Part Time Admin Assistant-Front Desk**  
Dr's office needs admin assistant for answering phones, making appointments, posting payments. Helpful to know computers, use of Medical Manager system. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 - 5:00 in Alexandria Mt Vernon area. Please contact Nancy at [hfswanmd@aol.com](mailto:hfswanmd@aol.com) subject line "resume"

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**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, 2016 on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 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](http://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 6th and September 3rd.  
Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
BY: William Dickinson  
Secretary - Treasurer

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**21 Announcements**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly.  
-St. Francis de Sales

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**21 Announcements**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-06-05**  
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Security Services.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-08-03 Security Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, September 21, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>  
ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

**21 Announcements**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-08-05**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified bidders to provide Fencing, Installation and Repair.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-08-05 Fencing, Installation and Repair will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, September 14, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding and bid pricing will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>  
ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

**21 Announcements**  
**Estate Sale - 2nd Release**  
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**21 Announcements**  
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# OPINION

## Homeless

FROM PAGE 13

work, they lost their apartment and were homeless. After losing their housing, they experienced yet another challenge related to their homelessness — having to send their eight-year-old son to live with family in Pennsylvania. Martha and Alex were just like any other parent who wanted to ensure the safety, health and happiness of their child, which would not be found on the streets.

After spending several nights in Carpenter's hypothermia shelter, Martha and Alex were connected with emergency shelter services. Once they had a roof over their heads and food on their plates, they were reunited with their son and were able to focus on attaining better, more sustainable employment. While at Carpenter's Shelter, Martha enrolled in an 8-week training course which provided her with a job making \$11 an hour. Although this wage was low, it was a full-time job with benefits and allowed her to pick up additional shifts for overtime. Alex also obtained a full-time job working in a car dealership, making \$10.50 an hour. Their combined earnings and savings while in the shelter allowed them to attain and maintain an apartment in the city and support their growing family of four.

Martha and Alex demonstrate that employment is one of the greatest barriers, and yet the greatest key, to ending a housing crisis. With no home, no savings, no medical benefits, no transportation, and unexpected obstacles — such as the separation of a family — employment can be difficult to achieve. Further, given the current landscape and lack of affordable housing in this area, part-time employment is not always enough. The availability of living-wage jobs remains a key obstacle for the homeless population in the City of Alexandria.

In the spirit of Labor Day and its honoring of the social and economic achievements of workers, remember the key role that suitable employment plays in safe, stable homes. Martha and Alex's story ended with success, but there are still hundreds of other homeless individuals and families in the City of Alexandria who are struggling to achieve adequate employment and find new homes.

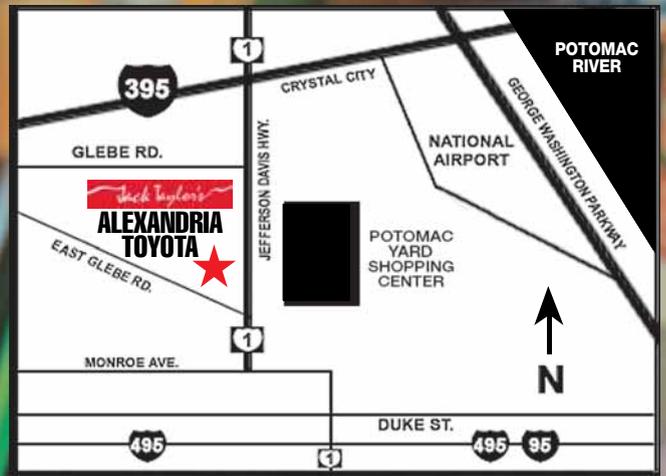
*Carpenter's Shelter is a member of The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness in the City of Alexandria. The Partnership is Alexandria's Continuum of Care, a collaborative group representing public and private stakeholders providing services or resources to persons experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness in the City of Alexandria.*

## Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue.  
Send to:  
Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette Packet  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
By e-mail:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

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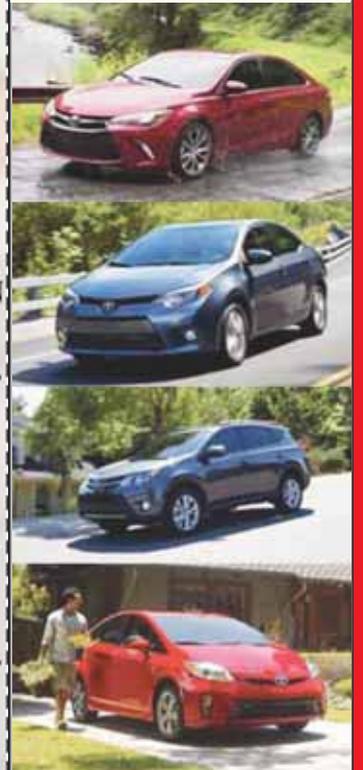
**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT**  
**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

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**Alexandria \$649,000**

Brick Colonial within walking distance to King Street Metro. Off-street parking for 3 cars. Fenced rear yard. Covered rear porch. Freshly painted inside & out. Beautifully refinished wood floors. MacArthur Elementary. Generous room sizes.

**Betty Mallon**

703.989.8548  
www.BettyMallon.com



**Alexandria \$725,000**

Gracious, brick-front, center-hall Colonial on sunny corner lot in Hollin Glen. Spectacular landscaping. Bright sunroom with French doors overlooking in-ground pool. Hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, attached garage.

**Trebor Lefévre Whearty**

703.627.5239  
www.McEneaney.com



**Alexandria/Hollin Hills \$599,900**

One-level living at its best in historic Hollin Hills. Goodman-designed Contemporary on nice flat lot with easy access to Sherwood Hall Lane and GW Parkway. Renovated kitchen and baths. Great value at \$599,900. 7716 Elba Road

**Peter Crouch**

703.244.4024  
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



**Alexandria \$584,990**

Location, location! Off Sherwood Lane, this serene home on a quiet street has 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, a nice finished lower level family room with a fireplace. The large deck and a level, fenced backyard is perfect for a BBQ. Call for an appointment to see.

**Joan Dixon**

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**Old Town Alexandria \$589,900**

Situated in quiet courtyard! Fabulously renovated 3- or 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath 3-level townhouse perfectly located in Old Town, super backyard, parking, shows beautifully. Perfect setup for au pair/roommate suite with private bath. A steal at \$589,900.

**Delaine Campbell**

703.299.0030  
www.DelaineSells.com



**Alexandria/Wilton Woods \$769,000**

Spectacular layered gardens surround this custom-built 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath, all-brick home - 4,200 square feet on 3 levels, cherry cabinets, stainless and granite, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, walk-out basement and 2-car side-load garage!

**Jane Manstof & Sean McEneaney**

571.276.8116 | 703.635.8836  
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**Old Town Alexandria \$725,000**

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**Robin Arnold**

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www.RobinArnoldSells.com



**Alexandria/Governors Grove \$654,900**

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**Bob Bazzle**

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