

And Now for Something Different: Consensus

Council and School Board agree on capacity priority.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

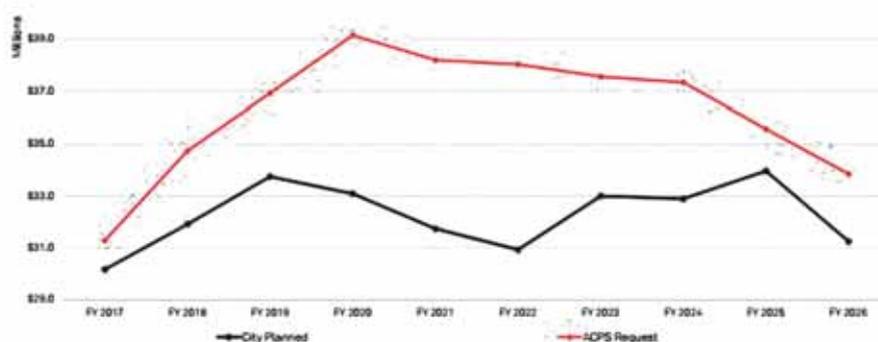
Here's how budget sessions go: the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) puts together a list of funding requests. The city puts its budget together and tells the school system to get its numbers lower. There's some haggling over prices and priorities, with the city eventually transferring a little more money into

"[The School Board] educated us for years that we had a crisis ... so we either go big or we don't go at all."
— Vice Mayor Justin Wilson

the schools and the schools announcing cuts to various programs or plans to reach the city's funding requirements.



PROJECTION OF ACPS DEBT SERVICE



CONTRIBUTED

The city plan spreads funding out across the next 10 years, while the school plan generally pushes for earlier funding.

So the last thing School Board Chair Karen Graf probably expected to hear from City Council was that the schools should spend more.

The primary theme of the Feb. 16 City Council and School Board work session for the FY 2017-2026 Capital Improvement Plan was, after years of putting it off, that it was finally time to deal with the school's capacity problems. The 2016 school year officially marked the schools exceeding capacity. At an elementary level, the FY 2016 actual enrollment was 8,239, while the school capacity is 7,492. The secondary schools didn't emerge much better, with enrollment for 2016 at 6,431 and a capac-

ity of 6,640. And while the rate of growth eventually tapers off, the school population is still expanding every year. The projected elementary school enrollment for 2026 is 9,971, which is 2,479 students over the current school capacity. For secondary schools, with a projected 2026 capacity of 8,829, the capacity will be exceeded by 1,215 students. While the rate is expected to slow, student population is expected to grow until 2030.

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson recognized that for years the school board has been doing triage on the capacity and school condition problems, assessing where increased funding would be most critical and setting less

wounded schools off to the side.

"You've educated us for years that we had a crisis ... so we either go big or we don't go at all," said Wilson. "If I'm going to spend 30 million on Minnie Howard, I want it to fix that problem."

Wilson asked the schools to lay out what they would hypothetically need to solve rather than just quickly fix their current problems. In the long run, Wilson expressed the seemingly prevailing opinion on the council, that it's better to take the budget hit now and solve the problem rather than get drawn out into an endless mire of quick fixes.

But members of the School Board may have smelled a trap, and were a little wary when getting their hopes up for full funding.

"If you're telling me you want to hear the blowout, I would give you a 10-year plan with two new schools each year," said Graf. "That's what we really need to deal with over 5,000 new kids ... [but] it would be irresponsible of us to propose a budget that we didn't think you could fund. This is our best proposal to make a dent. There are a number of things we could add to fix the problem, but frankly, I don't think you guys can pay for it."

With an unlimited budget, Graf noted that she'd love to tear down Minnie Howard and start over.

"It was supposed to be a quick Band-aid," said Graf, "not a full secondary school."

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 3

Residents Displaced by Church Expansion Assured Housing



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley presents the church plans to local residents.

The Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley presents affordable housing relocation plan.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

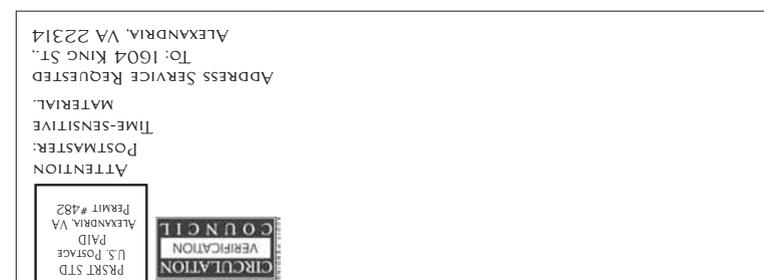
"One of our missions is to sustain affordable housing," said the Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley at a meeting with the local residents on Feb. 11. "This affects people and families. It's not something we take lightly."

Twenty-two of the existing units adjacent to the existing Alfred Street Baptist Church will be demolished to make room for the church's expansion. The plan is to

hold vacancies as they become available in the other 55 affordable housing units, with priority given to the more senior members of the 22 affected units. For the

other residents, Wesley said the church would work to find "equal or better housing as close to the

SEE WESLEY, PAGE 3



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Council and School Board Agree on Capacity Priority

FROM PAGE 1

The school proposals are just enough to tread water. At James K. Polk Elementary, the school plans to add five modular units in 2017, adding 94 students to the capacity. Cora Kelly and Maury Elementary Schools are both slated for modernization and modular additions, with 220 students added to Cora Kelley with a yet undetermined number for Maury. MacArthur and George Mason are both slated for demolition and rebuilding with an additional 220 and 232 student capacities beyond the schools' current sizes. Graf said that the demolition at George Mason will not affect the newly renovated portion of the building, around which the new school will be built. ACPS is also working on leasing commercial space to serve as temporary schools (called swing space) while their schools are being built or modernized. The biggest capacity addition, however, would be the construction of a new elementary school in the West End by 2019, which would add 700 students to the school capacity.

At the secondary school level, ACPS is planning on modernizing and expanding Minnie Howard, adding 257 students to the school capacity.

There were repeated references to Bailey's Elementary School for Arts and Sciences in Fairfax, which took an empty office space and turned it into a school. City Manager Mark Jinks noted that a project like that has an advantage in timeliness, but Graf said those types of projects came at their own heavy cost.

Project Description	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Elementary											
Retrofiting an existing vacant building for a new Pre-K center (240 student capacity)	8,242,000										8,242,000
Retrofiting an existing vacant building for new elementary school in the West End (730 student capacity)	16,065,000										16,065,000
James K. Polk- addition of 5 modular classrooms (150 student capacity)	4,532,208										4,532,208
Retrofiting an existing vacant building for Swing Space (800 student capacity)		18,819,000									18,819,000
Douglas MacArthur school replacement and expansion (775 student capacity)			7,908,885	99,544,424							107,453,309
Cora Kelly modernization of whole building and the addition of 38 modular classrooms (630 student capacity)					5,403,293	27,016,463					32,419,756
George Mason school replacement and expansion (300 student capacity)							4,983,747	34,918,833			41,902,580
Matthew Maury Design costs for modernization and the addition of 7 modular classrooms (150 student capacity)									3,563,796		3,563,796
Secondary											
T.C. Williams Minnie Howard Campus modernization of whole building and 10 classroom addition with extra space expansion (1,140 student capacity)	7,133,385	37,300,300									44,433,685
Retrofiting an existing vacant building for a specialized secondary academy (650 student capacity)			15,672,898								15,672,898
College											
Transportation facility				6,100,000							6,100,000
Subtotal	21,911,883	54,119,220	23,481,383	105,544,424	5,403,293	27,016,463	4,983,747	34,918,833	3,563,796		239,222,042
Non-Capacity Subtotal	8,333,318	6,884,450	5,409,171	6,138,031	6,711,551	6,759,160	5,002,100	2,423,802	2,432,000	1,806,000	51,970,383
Grand Total	30,245,201	61,003,670	28,890,554	111,682,455	12,114,844	33,775,623	9,985,847	37,342,635	5,995,796	1,806,000	291,192,425
City Approved FY 2016 - 2021*	23,000,000	22,500,000	22,500,000	14,875,000	15,000,000	22,900,000	37,000,000	37,400,000	28,000,000	18,000,000	211,175,000
Variance	(12,225,000)	(39,483,330)	(5,190,354)	(96,817,455)	(2,885,156)	(10,875,423)	(29,014,153)	(42,057,365)	(24,104,204)	(16,194,000)	(182,000)

CONTRIBUTED

Proposed timeline of costs for the school's 10-year CIP

"There are tradeoffs," said Graf. "It still costs money to retrofit those offices."

The potential for a project like Bailey's Elementary School, using commercial spaces for specialized academics programs, would add 650 students to the school capacity. Lastly, next year the school will begin conducting a feasibility study to examine the possibility of a "middle college" program that would house 11th and 12th grade students in an accelerated program on local college campuses which would allow them to graduate high school with an

associate's degree. If feasible, the project would be implemented in 2019 and would add 200 students to the school capacity.

The one major topic of disagreement between the city and the schools, however, was the timeline for funding the school growth. Members of the City Council and staff urged for a slower, steadier 10-year plan to address capacity, while the schools pushed for more immediate action within the next three years with funding tapering off afterwards. City Councilman John Chapman said that the city had to take the

longer view of the situation and balance its spending over the course of several years. School Board Vice Chair Chris Lewis argued that drawing out the solutions over the 10-year span would exacerbate the problem. The perspective didn't necessarily break along even lines between the schools and city either.

"I keep hearing about kicking the can down the road, but that can is going to be expensive," said Councilman Willie Bailey. "We laughed when Councilwoman [Del] Pepper brought up the Victory Center, but we need to think outside the box on these things. We really need to look at the Lee Center."

Wilson noted that the realistic view of the school financing might kick back in once budget season starts for the city, but for now, Graf said she was satisfied that the city was recognizing the problem.

"We can't keep looking at the city needs and school needs as separate," said Graf, a sentiment shared by members of the City Council.

"We've got to be joined at the hip when we do municipal planning," said Wilson. "On the city side and the school side, the first thing we have to do is stop calling it the city side and the school side."

Meanwhile, the schools will continue to work through the final stages of the add-delete process before approval of the CIP budget, while the City Council is just getting started on its budget season. Final adoptions of the combined funds and CIP budgets will occur in the end of May.

"We have the potential, in this generation, not to pass this problem down," said Graf.

Wesley Presents Affordable Housing Relocation Plan

FROM PAGE 1

local area as possible." If residents were not satisfied with the available choice of housing, Wesley said the church would continue to work to find acceptable homes. Wesley reassured residents that nothing was happening immediately, that steps towards church expansion wouldn't start until 2020.

"We want to make good for God and our membership," said Wesley. "We have nothing to hide."

Church trustee Dexter Bordes said the church is partnering with the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, a local affordable housing non-profit, to find homes. John Frederick, executive director of the AHDC, said that his organization has signed a memorandum of understanding to help the church address the affordable housing issues with their proposed expansion.

"We're still kicking around ideas of what's possible," said Frederick. "We have the Gateway project on the west end of town that was approved by City Council in November. We'll be trying to get financing and start to build this year. Lacy Court is another project we own that we will certainly have openings in over time."

Currently, Frederick says AHDC has 184

units in the city with only one currently vacant.

"We certainly have a high demand for affordable housing," said Frederick, "but we have time to figure out what that solution is, whether it is acquisition of some other property, like the garden style apartments in the city, or if it's a new development like Gateway. So 22 people over the next three or four years? We can certainly find places to house them ... The short of it is: we'll find a solution, and the church is committed to it."

The Gateway project will add 74 new affordable housing units to the city. One of the other projects coming up for AHDC is the possible redevelopment of Alexandria's Carpenter Shelter, a homeless housing shelter in the Braddock Neighborhood. The redeveloped Carpenter Shelter would add 100 units.

Some of the residents who spoke at last week's meeting had questions about the move, though each resident also expressed appreciation for the work the church has done for residents and for handling the transition so transparently. Some asked whether the new residences would be more expensive, and Bordes acknowledged that most affordable housing in Alexandria charges 40 percent of area median income, while resi-



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Lacy Court Apartments, an AHDC property.

dents currently pay 30 percent of their total annual income. Bordes also noted that the church will continue to provide afford-

able housing for the other 55 units, even after the contract on the housing is set to expire in 2020.



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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Rhoda Worku, right, owner of the Caboose Café and winner of the 2016 Heart of Del Ray award, is joined for a photo by past winner Pat Miller, Caboose Café employee Iris Hasing, and past winners Serdar Basegmez, Bobi Bomar, Eric Reid and Megan Brown.

Heart of Del Ray

Caboose Café wins 8th annual award.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Forget Iowa and New Hampshire. It was the Caboose Café and Bakery that came out on top once the votes were counted in the 8th annual Del Ray Business Association's Heart of Del Ray award.

Caboose Café owner Rhoda Worku was presented the award Feb. 12 by DRBA president Bill Blackburn. Given each year during the Valentine's Day holiday, the award's giant heart goes to the business that serves as the "heart and soul of Del Ray."

"We want to thank everyone that nominated a business," said DRBA representative Gayle Reuter. "Over 35 wonderful businesses were nominated making it very tough to narrow it down to just five finalists. Many voters also expressed continued

strong support for past winners, which is a tremendous compliment to them and reaffirms how lucky we are to have such great businesses in Del Ray."

Other finalists for the 2016 award were Affordable Signs and Banners, Holy Cow/Pork Barrel BBQ, Taqueria Poblano and Truly-Life Eco Gifts.

Voting is open to the public and takes place via email in the week leading up to Valentine's Day. According to the DRBA website, selection is based on which business best demonstrates a "warm and welcoming attitude to the community and customers, a commitment and generosity to the community and to an overall contribution to what makes Del Ray the best place in the world to live, work and shop."

"The one thing I heard most from voters was how hard it was to vote for just one business because we are so lucky to have such great businesses in Del Ray," Reuter said.

The Caboose Café, located at 2419 Mount Vernon Ave., has been in business for more than 12 years serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. A second location is in Cameron Station in the city's West. End.

According to Reuter, voters commented on "how welcoming the Caboose Cafe staff always is and how it feels like home. Several parents also mentioned that they love that Rhoda and the Caboose staff have provided such a safe and happy place for their kids to visit before and after school."

More than 1,600 votes were cast and a business can only win once. Previous winners of the award include A Show of Hands, Jen Walker McEneaney Associates, Bobi Bomar Homes of Alexandria, The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, Greener Cleaner of Del Ray, Del Ray Pizzeria and Mind the Mat.



Caboose Café owner Rhoda Worku, right, is presented with the Heart of Del Ray award Feb. 12 by DRBA president Bill Blackburn. They are joined by Iris Hasing, a café employee.

Brooke Curran, front, celebrates Feb. 10 with recipients after awarding \$70,000 in Move2Learn grants to 12 nonprofits through the RunningBrooke fund.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Presenting Move2Learn Grants

RunningBrooke awards \$70,000 to local nonprofits.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

cycle, the funds will benefit more than 1,755 at-risk children.

Brooke Curran, founder of the RunningBrooke fund, presented \$70,000 to 12 local nonprofits Feb. 10 as part of the 2016 Move2Learn grants awards. Awarded as part of the 7th RunningBrooke grant

“This year, priority was given to nonprofits that use exercise and physical activity to boost learning,” said Curran, who has raised more than \$750,000 since founding the organization in 2009. “Research

SEE MOVE2LEARN, PAGE 7

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PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

School Board Vice Chair Chris Lewis (left) prepares to unveil plaques for the Hall of Fame inductees.

TC Honors Its Titans

Hall of Fame inductees include serviceman killed in Iraq and “Remember the Titans” coach Herman Boone.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

For one of T.C. Williams High School’s biggest celebrities, Coach Herman Boone made a quiet entrance to the Alexandria City Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony. He worked his way apart from the crowd, finding and greeting some of the men he used to coach in football. Boone was among the athletes inducted and coaches honorarily inducted into the ACPS Hall of Fame at a ceremony on Feb. 12.

As more and more people in the hallway began recognizing him, Boone was quickly approached by young students who’d just seen the “Remember the Titans” movie for the first time. In 1971, Boone was appointed head coach at TC and won the Virginia State Championship. The team was ranked as second in the nation by national polls and Boone was selected as “coach of the year” six times. There was a screening in the auditorium earlier that day of the movie centered around Boone and the 1971 Titans football team, but 16 years after the movie premiered Boone says he’s just fine skipping out every once in awhile.

“I don’t watch the movie,” said Boone. “I’ve seen it enough times... but without the movie, young students might not understand the importance of this place.”

But just because Boone isn’t teaching football at TC anymore doesn’t mean he’s stopped following his team.

“I watched the football team this year,” said Boone. “They’re small, but hustling. I wouldn’t want to play against them. They’re like flies, they get hit but they get back up. They have spirit. They’ll be all right.”

Boone said he’s happy to still see students at the school so involved in the sport, noting that it helps keeps students off of the streets and teaches them the value of teamwork and dedication.

“Football is a metaphor for life,” said Boone. “It teaches you the important lessons you’ll carry with you.”

Along with Boone, TC honored coaches Bill Yoast (also featured in “Remember the Titans”) and Glenn Furman. Yoast worked alongside Boone on the 1971 football team. Furman was coach of T.C. Williams’ junior varsity football team with a 65 win, 1 loss record, including a 38-game winning streak and unscored on 9-0 season. Furman later became head coach and helped the Titans win two state championships. In over 30 years of coaching, Furman has never had a losing season.

SEE TC HONORS, PAGE 18



Coach Herman Boone with Coach Bill Yoast.

Anne Smith Paul Dies

Devoted preservationist, volunteer.

Anne Paul, a longtime resident devoted to the preservation of Alexandria’s history, died Feb. 14 at her home. She was 75.

“This is a terrible loss,” said Mayor Allison Silberberg. “Anne was such a lovely person.”

Born Anne Smith on Feb. 12, 1941, in Athens, Ohio, Paul was the daughter of Air Force Col. Wilfred Smith and his wife Elizabeth Ebersbach Smith. After leaving Ohio, the Smiths lived in Alabama, Virginia and Colorado. They also lived overseas in Morocco.

Paul graduated from St. Agnes School in Alexandria and attended Pine Manor Junior College in Massachusetts. She completed her education at George Washington University where she earned her bachelor’s degree.

After college, Paul worked at the Federal Maritime Commission. She married Nicolas Paul in 1965 and settled with her family in Alexandria. Paul became a dedicated volunteer, devoting her time and energy to the community and the preservation of its history. She was an active member and held leadership positions in numerous organizations including the Garden Club of Alexandria, the Garden Club of Virginia, the Junior League of Washington, the Alexandria Landmarks Society, the Alexandria Historical Society, the Alexandria Library Company, the Alexandria Public Library Board, the Historic

Alexandria Resources Commission, Daughters of the American Revolution and Stratford Hall. She was an avid researcher and published historian on Alexandria.

Paul was president of the Swann-Dangerfield Condominium association in Old Town where she lived for more than 17 years. Prior to that, she was a 27-year resident of the Belle Haven neighborhood and a longtime member of Belle Haven Country Club.

She is survived by her former husband, Nicholas I. Paul of Annapolis; her daughters, Catherine Anne Geasling of Annapolis, and Mary Elizabeth Duke and her husband Andrew of Alexandria; and her two grandchildren, Ann Duke and James Duke.

A visitation with the family will be held Thursday, Feb. 18, from 6-8 p.m. in Norton Hall at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. A memorial service will take place at St. Paul’s on Friday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the charity of your choice.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Anne Smith Paul died Feb. 14 at the age of 75.

Scholarship Honors Peter Williams

Application deadline Feb. 28.

Applications for the Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship are being accepted through Feb. 28. Created by Old Town Alexandria Connections (OTAC), the Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the memory and contributions of Peter Williams and further his legacy of responsible business practices and service to others.

Williams, long-time Alexandria business attorney, civic leader and leader of OTAC until his death in February of 2014,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peter Williams

touched the lives of countless Alexandrians through his work and civic involvement. He died while helping a neighbor clear snow from a driveway.

High school seniors currently enrolled in public or private schools located in Alexandria City or Fairfax County with an Alexandria address are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The application can be found online at www.otacnetworking.com.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Presenting Move2Learn Grants

FROM PAGE 5

has shown that kids who move more do better in school so we honed our focus for this year's funding on initiatives that will get a kid moving."

Recipients of the 2016 RunningBrooke Move2Learn awards are: Alexandria Police Foundation: Summer camp for kids; Alexandria Seaport Foundation: Yoga classes to compliment job readiness; Alexandria Tutoring Consortium: Heart-pumping warmups to enhance reading; ALIVE!: Movement programs for preschoolers; Center for Alexandria's Children: Learn and Play Groups; Child and Family Network Centers: Health and Wellness programs: play, games and dancing; Community Lodgings: After-school tutoring with Fitness Fridays; Friends of Huntley Meadows: Hiking, field learning and drawing; Girls on the Run, NoVA: Running scholarships to empower girls to make healthy choices; Jane Franklin Dance: Dance workshops for preschoolers through third graders;

Quintango: Daily classes of tango, soccer and music at Samuel Tucker Elementary; YoKid: After-school yoga at Jefferson Houston Elementary and SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now).

Curran, who has pledged to run 100 marathons for charity, expects to hit that milestone later this year.

"If things progress as planned, my 100th marathon is likely to be in August," Curran said. "I haven't decided where that will be but it would be a great honor for me to run with someone running a marathon for the first time. We could run and celebrate both of our achievements together."

Curran also expects to surpass the \$1 million mark in funds raised sometime in 2016.

"Both of these are big milestones for me," Curran said. "And they are milestones for the community and the many nonprofits that help at-risk children in Alexandria."

For more information, visit www.runningbrooke.org.

Correction

The Feb. 10 article "How Much Was Spent in Local Election" mistakenly noted that Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova raised \$393 million, which should have read \$393,800. Additionally, The Virginia Public Access Project later noted that the chart only reflected the final period of election spending, not the total spent during the election.

BULLETIN BOARD

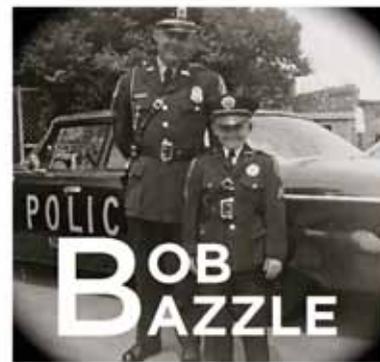
Email announcements to gazette@connectionnews.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

Bullying Prevention at School. 8:15-10 a.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Parents and guardians are invited to join in a discussion focused on how to identify and stop bullying and create a safe environment for students. All ACPS families are welcome. A light meal,

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 9

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OPINION

Closing Businesses: Ghost of Times Past?

BY JODY MANOR

COMMENTARY

Take a look at the list of businesses along our “Main Street” that have recently closed or announced their closing: Curzon Antiques, S. Columbus Street; Urban Angler, N. Washington Street; Ladybug Bath & Body Boutique, S. Union Street; Yogi Castle, King Street; Hannelore’s, N. Lee Street; Imperfections!, King Street, J Brown (2nd location), King Street, Le Star, King Street; Cove Office, King Street; Pure Prana (2nd location), N. Alfred Street; Why Not?, King Street; Old Town Tea & Spice, S. Union Street; European Country Living, King Street; Decorium, King Street; Trojan Antiques, King Street; Candy’s Candy, N. Fairfax Street; The Virginia Shop, S. Union Street; Bittersweet, King Street.

These were tax-paying businesses with customers, employees, landlords and important parts of the fabric of our city — and a reason to visit our city. Their owners were also contributors to an enormous number of local charities. Their sudden loss should be a wake up call.

While there are many reasons for this spate of business closings, one cannot deny the changing nature of retail. With 17 blocks of retail space from the waterfront to the Metro,

we are challenged by many factors including online sales. If we are to preserve the economic vibrancy of our historic core it is time to examine what the city can do to reverse this trend.

As a long-time business owner here, I can tell you that our regional reputation as a difficult place to do business is well deserved. An arduous approval process (which is not well known or well explained to new businesses), high license and permit fees, numerous taxes, regulatory minutiae, business unfriendly parking policies and an inadequate wayfinding program are at the heart of this. These obstacles collectively undermine our competitiveness when trying to retain and attract new businesses. Our civic leaders need to continue to address these issues. And, as citizens, we need to support leaders who support our economic vibrancy.

In this day and age of increased competition from online sales we can no longer rest on our laurels as a historic colonial city that the world’s largest (online) bookseller deems the country’s most romantic. We must take a hard look at placemaking, beautification and better maintenance of our streetscape. We need to employ better coordination and deployment of

historic resources between city departments, increased programming and utilization of our parks and public spaces, and examine our very restrictive special events policies. Our waterfront plan needs to be fully implemented without further delay. As part of that, the Torpedo Factory Arts Center should proceed with the recommended restructuring so that it can appeal in the 21st century to local families, millennials and visitors (and begin generating tax revenue for the city rather than being subsidized by the taxpayer).

Yes, if we want our retail core to survive, we need to attract more people here — people who want to shop, dine, attend events and put tax revenue in our city’s coffers while keeping our locally owned businesses in business.

At a time when there are so many demands of our municipal budget (including long overdue maintenance of our City Hall building) it’s time to start thinking about how we create a dynamic economy for the modern world while retaining our colonial charms.

Besides running a business in the heart of Old Town for the past 33 years, my prism is my recollection as a young boy of the many empty retail spaces along King Street in the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s. Let’s not make the mistake of thinking this cannot happen again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alternatives to Wholesale Renaming

To the Editor:

I don’t support efforts to remove the Confederate statue from Washington Street, and rid Alexandria of Confederate street names. We can’t and shouldn’t erase the town’s past, even the unpleasant memories.

There are many streets that could be renamed for African Americans throughout Alexandria while retaining the Confederate street names that remind us for good or bad of the city’s past.

But that’s hardly a sufficient answer to the issue of whether to remove symbols of the city’s support for and participation in an economy based on slave labor. Where do you draw the line? George Washington was a

slaveholder. Do we remove his name from the Masonic Memorial? Do we rename the Lee Boyhood Home? Rename Maury School?

I believe there are more constructive ways to examine and remember this terrible part of our history. We have already made a good start by memorializing the freed men and women and contraband slaves that died in Alexandria and are buried at the Freed-

men and Contraband Cemetery on South Washington Street.

We could actually expand the African American History Museum and make it a centerpiece of our community. We could do more to draw attention to the slave trading activities that took place in Alexandria, and the impact slavery has had on the city, and the nation. I’m sure that the waterfront offers us an opportunity to look more closely at the role of African Americans in Alexandria’s shipbuilding and fishing industries, for example.

Alexandria has an important African American history that began long before the Civil War. Why not better tell the story of Benjamin Banneker, the son of a former slave from Guinea and his free African American wife? In 1791, Banneker, a surveyor and almanac author, made astronomical observations at Jones Point that identified the cornerstone for the start of the survey of the federal district.

My suggestion is that we do more to recognize the achievements and sacrifices of Alexandria’s African American community before, during, and after the Civil War and not to try to selectively remove reminders of our town’s history.

Andrew Macdonald
Alexandria

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 10



STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper

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

Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



OPINION

The Pillars and the Princess

BY KATHARINE DIXON
PRESIDENT, REBUILDING TOGETHER ALEXANDRIA

Homeownership is often equated with success and the fulfillment of the American Dream. But it takes money to maintain a home so it can remain a safe haven for a family. For some, this can be difficult, especially in a region as expensive as ours.

According to the nonprofit Wider Opportunities for Women, the reality is that “45 percent of Americans live on incomes that fail to provide basic economic security,” a fact even more pronounced among the elderly. By federal definitions, many of these people are not “poor;” but in fact, we all know people who are gainfully employed or worked hard their whole lives but still struggle to pay bills.

In Alexandria, we see this all the time. We encounter families — many who have worked in positions supporting businesses, schools and local governments — that are facing difficult choices about paying to fix a leaky roof or paying a doctor bill or paying for food.

Isaac and Sue are one such couple. Isaac is a US Army veteran who served in the Korean War. After the war, he began his career as a school bus driver and continues to work even now part-time, which he loves.

Both Isaac and Sue have called Alexandria home since they were very young children. They raised their family in a tidy row house, where they have lived for more than three decades. Isaac’s favorite place is his basement where he relaxes with a 6 year-old Chihuahua named Princess that rules the home. They also enjoy entertaining their grand and great-grandchildren.

The couple loves their home and neighborhood and don’t want to move out. Built in 1954, the home requires maintenance that is harder for them to do themselves or afford to have others do. When they



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers provided a variety of upgrades to this home.

were introduced to Rebuilding Together Alexandria, which works to preserve housing affordability and revitalize the Alexandria community by providing free home repairs, they felt relieved and grateful.

Earlier this year, Rebuilding Together Alexandria volunteers added handrails to their bathroom, fixed the plumbing issues with their toilet, and installed a ceiling fan in their bedroom. These type of upgrades are important since most of our clients are homeowners who live near the poverty level. By improving their housing conditions, we can help them remain active in their neighborhood and in turn help our city remain economically, socially and culturally diverse. For Isaac and Sue, these upgrades bring peace of mind and ensure that these pillars in the community can remain living where they are.

If you know someone like Isaac and Sue who could benefit from our services, we encourage you to introduce them to us. To learn more, visit www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org or call 703-836-1021.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

interpretation services and childcare provided with registration. Visit <http://conta.cc/1mrjmNq> to register. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Bullying Prevention at School. 6-7:30 p.m. at William Ramsey Elementary, 5700 Sanger Ave.

Parents and guardians are invited to join in a discussion focused on how to identify and stop bullying and create a safe environment for students. All ACPS families are welcome. A light meal, interpretation services and childcare provided with registration. Visit <http://conta.cc/23Vpjin> to register. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Community Meeting. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Alexandria Police Department Headquarters, 3600 Wheeler Ave. Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook will hold a community meeting to review significant events and crime trends of 2015 and discuss where the police department is going in 2016. The meeting will be “live streamed” online for those who cannot attend but still wish to participate. Call 703-746-4444 for more.

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Old Town Alexandria

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Historic Captain's Row



Brimming with character and updates, this late 19th Century brick end town house offers 3 bedrooms, renovated kitchen and bath, main

level powder room, high ceilings, vintage wood floors, extensive built-ins and a brick walled patio with sweet garden shed. Details of 112 Prince Street at betsytwigg.com

Alexandria

\$850,000

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Commanding views from sun-filled 3 bedroom 3 bath home nestled at the top of a quiet cul-de-sac. High-end renovated kitchen opens to dining room with doors to pergola covered patio and large, level rear yard. Fireplaces in living room and rec room, extensive built-ins, wood floors, updated bathrooms, den, extensive storage, and one-car garage. Details of 3900 Gresham Place at betsytwigg.com.

level powder room, high ceilings, vintage wood floors, extensive built-ins and a brick walled patio with sweet garden shed. Details of 112 Prince Street at betsytwigg.com

Old Town Alexandria

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Refreshed 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath three level brick town house with large walled patio near shops and restaurants. Wood floors on three levels,

stainless & granite kitchen, updated bathrooms, built-ins, many recent updates, plus garage parking. Details of 660 South Columbus Street at betsytwigg.com



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General Assembly Reaches Crossover

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



COMMENTARY

Alexandria's Public Defender Melinda Douglas. This legislation removes a consequence wholly unrelated to the underlying criminal offense, which too often results in loss of employment and other hardships that disproportionately impact the most economically disadvantaged Virginians. Passing this bill through the House would allow Virginia to join the 34 states — including every state bordering the Commonwealth — in eliminating this ineffective policy. I also co-patroned SB22, sponsored by Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-Hanover), which allows for the expungement of alcohol and marijuana possession offenses after a period of five years if those offenses occur before a person turns 21. This passed the Senate unanimously.

The Virginia General Assembly has finally reached “Crossover,” the halfway point by which each chamber must complete work on its own bills and begin considering legislation passed by the other body. Over 870 bills have passed the House of Delegates and over 700 made it through the Senate. We will be working diligently over the coming weeks to consider the remaining legislation, including 13 of my bills that have passed the Senate and await consideration by the House.

This week on the floor I spoke against two

bills — SB270 and SB705 — that seek to end the non-existent problem of “sanctuary cities” despite federal prohibitions, the Dillon Rule, and state mandates that already make “sanctuary cities” an impossibility in Virginia. Rather than asking localities to enforce immigration law to the extent required by federal law, this legislation demands immigration law be enforced “to the full extent permitted.” These bills mischaracterize localities that have internal police policies that discourage profiling and encourage community policing as “sanctuary cities.” Currently, policies such as not inquiring about the immigration status of witnesses at a crime scene are widely practiced to encourage residents to report wrongdoing regardless of their residency status. SB270 would reduce state funding to localities with such policies, while SB705 would hold them liable for the “full amount of any personal injury or property damage” caused by an undocumented person forcing law enforcement to choose between public safety and state dollars. Unfortu-

nately, these bills passed the Senate along party lines despite the fact that effective pro-community policing policies exist throughout the state, from Virginia Beach to Prince William County, and despite the Senate's unanimous support for such policies three years in a row.

Please join me at one of my Town Hall Meetings on Saturday, Feb. 20:

❖ Lee District: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road, Alexandria

❖ Mt. Vernon District: 12:30-2 p.m., Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria.

Please share your thoughts on legislation and other state-related matters with me by emailing district30@senate.virginia.gov. Follow me on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. You can sign up for my weekly email updates at www.AdamEbbin.com.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARHA Proposals Flaunt Regulations

To the Editor:

I would like to share my opinion on disturbing development proposal of Ramsey homes in City of Alexandria.

Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's current plan to replace the existing Ramsey homes in the Parker-Grey neighborhood is disturbingly full of contradictions.

First, the parking solution ARHA has presented cannot possibly work. The entrance and exit for the underground garage ARHA wants to build would be located in a narrow residential alley, one which cannot accommodate the turning radius of a Toyota Camry, let alone larger vehicles. Does ARHA really expect every single driver who enters and exits the garage to back up and make multiple sharp and potentially dangerous turns every time they use the garage?

Another contradiction: The City Master Plan that the city has adopted for the rede-

velopment of this area stipulates that “Each residential block should have safe and convenient access to play spaces for young children.” The same plan also states that the open space “... should be designed and located to allow effective supervision and surveillance from surrounding streets” ARHA has instead suggested that the only play space for children in the development would be a built-out space on the roofs of the proposed buildings. The very nature of this concept prevents “effective supervision and surveillance.”

Additionally, any sort of guard rail, wall, or fence that ARHA would have to install for a playground's protection would not only be unsightly, but also make the proposed building taller than the city's own regulations permit.

These sorts of questions make me wonder: Does ARHA think that they can blatantly ignore residents' objections and city regulations alike? Do they expect us not to notice that what they have proposed violate the city's own rules, not to mention common sense? Can ARHA truly justify this out-of-control proposal to the residents of

the Parker-Grey neighborhood?

Mykhaylo Panarin
Alexandria

Church Expansion Deserves Support

To the Editor:

We feel very privileged to live here in Alexandria amongst neighbors so willing to “put community first.” Regarding the proposed Alfred Street Baptist Church expansion we want to take a positive stand of support and inclusion of all our neighbors and especially with the ASBC as they go through their expansion process. Since moving here in 2001 we noticed the willingness of the church to be “good neighbors,” acknowledging our “pain” over parking issues, security issues and general traffic disruptions.

We have noticed they have friendly guards and off-duty police to help whenever they are expecting large crowds. They are a place of safety and community. Their

standards of behavior are unfailingly high. We really appreciate their presence in the neighborhood and the sense of continuing history as the oldest African American church in Alexandria. We have attended services there on occasion, taken friends from out of town, and have always been welcomed with open arms.

We have seen their need for increased worship space. So we want to encourage all our neighbors to engage with them with loving neighborly concern and cooperation as opposed to “assuming the worse,” obstructing their progress, and being closed and fearful of change. Change comes whether we welcome it or not. Let's try to be a part of the change through cooperation and acceptance of their needs.

I am afraid that if their very real need to redesign their space is obstructed that they may just take their congregation elsewhere. The law of “unintended consequences” might come into play and we may end up with an enterprise at that location that is far more detrimental to our community

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

than these good people have been. Being “good neighbors” is a two-way street.

Annabel Foery
Alexandria

Look to The Future

To the Editor:

As a born, raised and very proud Alexandrian, I watch with a heavy heart, the results of society trying to tear down and dispose of our American history in all respects. When America was being born, and it went through growing pains, people named towns, cities, streets, buildings, etc., after those who made impacts to this country.

Now it seems that our country has changed, and not for the better.

There are those who feel that up to now, they had no say, as though they were “passed over” in some way, and now want to abolish all remains of our history, due in part because they feel it’s “owed” to them. Well, no it isn’t. We are hundreds of years past the wars, including the Civil War in case you haven’t yet recognized that fact, and you need to move on in your life. It’s history. Leave it alone — it’s done and finished. If you feel wronged in some way, now you have a chance to make your own mark, but that doesn’t include changing history — it’s in the past. Make a new mark of your own; honor your own by doing something new.

Regarding the Appomattox statue — he is part of Alexandria — he was put there to honor the soldiers that marched off to war to fight for what they believed in. He isn’t standing there as a symbol of oppression, or looking “down” on anyone. He was put there to honor all.

Alexandria’s monies shouldn’t be used to change names of streets, buildings, schools, or remove statues that “offend” someone — it should be used for things to benefit the city and all who live there; to update the city’s infrastructure, for the homeless and poor, to better the schools, the roads, etc. Don’t be “offended” by everything. Put yourselves into new ideas and projects, and leave the history alone. It can’t and won’t hurt you. It’s gone, but we need to be proud of all of it, because our ancestors believed in it and gave their lives for it.

Now we can honor them by moving on, working together, and making America something they would be proud of.



Snapshot

PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

In honor of Presidents Day — with thoughts of liberty and justice.

Our America is in turmoil. We have bigger things to worry about than changing the name of street, school or removing a confederate statue or flag. Come on people, let’s work together and get it done.

Sue Emerson Bonnett
Augusta, W.Va.

Skepticism Warranted

To the Editor:

Councilmembers Lovain and Smedberg are right to be skeptical of the proposal for a City Ethics Commission.

While there is wide agreement that public officials should be “ethical,” there is less agreement as to what constitutes “unethical” conduct. What bothers you, may not bother me.

For public officials this is particularly vexing because making tough calls is part of the job. Controversial decisions often involve charges that the “fix” is in and the result of unethical conduct.

A properly functioning Ethics Commission requires ascertainable standards, not vague hortatory pronouncements. Even these may not be enough. As with rest of us, ethical behavior by public officials requires recourse to the “policeman within” and citizens paying attention with their votes.

Robert Calhoun
Alexandria

We Are All Americans

To the Editor:

If George Washington was alive today, and someone asked him if he was a Democrat or a Republican, what would he say? Although he and I share some DNA, I do not presume to answer this question for him. However, in his Farewell

Address, he offers an answer I believe he would offer again. George Washington was not a Democrat or a Republican. He was an American.

In his address, an open letter to the American people, Washington asked his countrymen to discourage and restrain “the spirit of party.” He wrote,

“The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations.”

He firmly opposed those who sought to divide Americans by their differences. In his day, small segments of the community sought to acquire influence by misrepresenting other segments. They sought power in turning people against one another. He believed this attitude, this us-against-them mentality, was wrong. It does an injustice to the unity which exists among Americans.

Instead, Washington encouraged Americans to look past their differences and focus on their commonalities. Granted, this was slightly easier in 1796. In his words, “with slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles.” This is no longer the case. We are more diverse in these respects than perhaps ever before. However, this diversity makes Washington’s ultimate point even more important. In our Union,

“...all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource...”

In America, everyone survives by serving someone else. Whether we do so in a restaurant or in the oval office, our lives are inextricably intertwined. Our union, and the strength we derive from it, is the foundation on which our national prosperity is built.

In a recent speech, President Obama made an appeal to all Americans for a more respectful politics. Today, as in Washington’s time, a spirit of party threatens to distort our union. If he were alive today, George Washington would undoubtedly make the same point that he made in his farewell address. No matter what divides us, we are all Americans.

Jack Washington
Arlington

The writer notes that George Washington is his seventh-great uncle.

Deal on Guns Falls Short

To the Editor:

I considered Gov. Terry McAuliffe one of the nation’s best governors on gun safety. I was proud to support him in his gubernatorial campaign and vote for him.

So you can imagine my anger and disappointment when Gov. McAuliffe cut a so-called gun safety deal with the gun lobby and the NRA, just weeks after standing with us at a vigil in Richmond and vowing to help us prevent gun violence. The resulting deal is a gift to the gun lobby that will make Virginians like myself less safe.

While I have no doubt that Gov. McAuliffe wants to protect abused women in Virginia, the bill he negotiated falls short of that mark because it lacks explicit language requiring domestic abusers to turn in their guns. This is a dangerous omission. It also makes background checks for individual sales entirely voluntary. What dangerous criminal volunteers for a background check?

I can only hope Governor McAuliffe strengthens this domestic violence bill before signing it into law. Moms across Virginia are paying attention.

Gail Gordon Donegan
Alexandria

Expand Advisory Group

To the Editor:

I am a native Virginian, a retired Army Veteran, a resident of Fairfax County since 1995 and a long-time member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. My avid interest in early American history and Civil War history has led to countless hours and days exploring the many historical sites, buildings and events the City of Alexandria has to offer.

I have been following with interest the formation and proceed-

ings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Confederate Memorials and Street Names, established by the Alexandria City Council.

The specific tasks assigned to this group, along with the entities designated by the City Council to provide an Advisory Group member gives the impression of bias (or a politically motivated effort) to remove the Appomattox statute and change all the subject street names. While perhaps an understandable emotional reaction to the June 17, 2015 mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., actions potentially being considered by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group deal directly with the 19th century history and growth of the City of Alexandria and Virginia. To ignore or attempt to remove this history does a tremendous disservice to the city, and its residents and the scores of local, U.S. and international tourists who come to Alexandria and Virginia specifically to experience and better understand this history.

Given the impact potential actions being considered might have from a historical perspective, it is striking that no civil war heritage group, the city’s own Office of Historic Alexandria, or historians are included in the membership of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Relying on public comment and input to fully understand the historical and cultural relevance and significance of the issues the group is tasked to address is insufficient — I strongly recommend including the director, Office of Historic Alexandria in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group as a full member, or alternatively in an advisory role.

Having attended recent meetings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and in light of the public comments and input received to date, it is heartening to see that several group members are looking beyond the narrowly worded tasks included in the City Council Resolution establishing the group. Alexandria and Virginia residents and visitors alike want to learn more about and discuss this period of our shared history (as recent events have shown) — the City of Alexandria should capitalize on this, not retreat from it. I urge the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and the City Council to look towards more effective and holistic ways to convey Alexandria’s history, including increasing public knowledge and awareness of the City’s civil war and post-civil war history, not to simply remove it.

J. Blake Myers

Chair, Preservation Committee,
Bull Run Civil War Round Table,
Centreville

ENTERTAINMENT

Hula Girl Brings Taste of Hawaii to Shirlington

What started as a food truck has blossomed into a full-fledged restaurant giving Hawaiians — and Hawaiian food fans — a taste of home.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Northern Virginia is home to innumerable cuisines. Salvadoran, Korean, Vietnamese, Southern barbecue, Ethiopian ... the list goes on and on. But there's been a dearth of Hawaiian cuisine in the region — until Hula Girl's grand opening in Shirlington changed that.

Hula Girl is one of the newest neighbors in the Village at Shirlington, but its roots go much deeper than its new location alone. Beginning as a food truck during the economic downturn several years ago, the restaurant quickly filled a void in the patchwork of cuisines that knit the region together.

"Lo and behold, the truck kind of just took off," said owner Mikala Brennan. "Our lines got longer and people kept finding us."

And the customer base was diverse. East Coasters found a new outlet for culinary adventures, and native Hawaiians got a little taste of home.

"Hawaiian food was this weird hole here that had not been filled," Brennan said.

In 2013, Brennan determined it was time to grow the food truck into something bigger. She initially set her sights on space in Washington, but quickly determined that moving across the river would meet the restaurant's needs better.

"As I kept looking in D.C., I just wasn't finding what I wanted. One of the big things for me was to have something all on one floor," she said. Two floors "just didn't appeal to me. ... I want it to be residential. I

want it to be a community. I want it to be a neighborhood place."

Walking through the Village at Shirlington one day, Brennan noticed an empty storefront with a sign in the window advertising its availability. But to her consternation, it turned out the space had already been taken. A month later, though, the landlord called to tell Brennan the deal had fallen through and offered her the space.

"I had already looked at the space. The kitchen was done really well; I knew we would have to do a lot of demolition in the front end, but I felt like OK, we've finally found it, after a year-plus of looking," Brennan said.

It didn't take long for Brennan and her crew to settle in and make the space their own. While the food is always a linchpin of any restaurant, it's crucial not to underestimate the importance of the décor and ambience, and Brennan spent a lot of time thinking that through.

"I think a lot of people can look at Ha-

Details

Hula Girl

4044 Campbell Ave., Arlington
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

Hidden gem: The wood ear mushroom salad. "I think when people do kind of find it, they're like 'Oh my gosh, this is so great,'" says owner Mikala Brennan. "I wanted to do something that was vegan-friendly."

Point of pride: The bathroom, which is decorated with photos that bring meaning to Brennan's life. "A lot of them are pictures of my mom," Lynda "LB" Brennan, who was a Pan-American flight attendant. "If you look closely at the pictures, it's a story."



Hula Girl's table décor is fun — and functional.

waiian and it can go in a lot of different directions," she said. "... I wanted to bring elements in that were Hawaiian, but I didn't want to bang people over the head with it. I wanted it to be subtle."

The final result is less tiki bar and more friendly, comfortable beach-chic. Light-colored wood tables and walls serve as the foundation for the space, and lively artwork dots the walls.

But at the end of the day, the Hawaiian food is the star of the show. The poke — traditional Hawaiian raw fish salad — and Spam musubi are two of Hula Girl's top sellers, Brennan said. The musubi, a sushi snack containing marinated Spam, can be an acquired taste for some, but it generally wins over a number of converts, Brennan added.

Don't discount the mainland entrees. Brennan says the non-Hawaiian dishes pack a punch despite their stateside roots.

"We have beautiful New York steaks in here," she said.

And vegetarians won't be left out of the fun, either. The menu boasts several teriyaki plates, one featuring tofu as the protein of choice, served with rice or a salad.

Also, Brennan says, the wood ear mushroom salad is a bit of "a sleeper hit." Teaming with sweet potato noodles, edamame, daikon, and of course the featured mush-



The restaurant's cocktail, wine, and beer lists are extensive. The Spicy Hula begins with a habanero-infused tequila and cools the tongue off with some lime and hibiscus syrup.

rooms, it's great by itself — or with grilled chicken or steak for the omnivores at the table.

The bar offers a plethora of cocktails, wines, and beers to wash down your meal.

"Our mai tai is one of the best things that we have," Brennan says, and the wine list sports many regional and further-flung offerings, beginning with Maryland and stretching out to the Finger Lakes region of New York and beyond. The beers, Brennan says, are a blend of local and Hawaiian breweries, ranging from Adroit Theory in Purcellville to Kona Brewing Company on the Big Island.

The restaurant's first few months of life have been a whirlwind of growth, but Brennan says they're not finished yet. She's still aiming to get one of the D.C. area's most famous Hawaiians — President Obama — in for a meal before he moves out of town.

"I briefly went to the same high school as he did and we were born in the same hospital," Brennan said.

Based on the reception Hula Girl has received from the community, he wouldn't be disappointed.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to 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

"Mountains: Recent Paintings by Sue Grace." Gallery hours, through Feb. 22 at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St. Sue Grace's paintings draw inspiration from the West Virginia Mountains and time she has spent there. These paintings present representational, abstract, and figurative elements of her painting. Free. Email Anthony Brock at abrock@goodwinhouse.org.

"No Holds Barred." Through Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is named for the "don't hold back, just let go" approach artists Pamela Underhill and Rusty Lynn employ in their artmaking. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

Art League Student and Faculty Show. Gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Faculty works will be showcased alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by our student body. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

"Color and Shape." Through Feb. 28, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery (TAG) February exhibit features two painters — Jill Finsen and Barbara Muth. Both Finsen and Muth paint moments made vivid through color and shape. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

"All aBoard." Through Feb. 28, gallery hours at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Eight board members, Ron Blank, Michele Reday Cook, Kim S. Joy, Stephen Lally, Marlin Lord, Elizabeth Guerry Mead, Kathy Turner and Joan Woodill, display their work. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org/show.

Art Exhibit: "Women Do It!"

Through Feb. 28 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The National Women's Caucus for Art presents the "Women Do It" exhibit. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

"Shake Loose." Through March 6, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. "Shake Loose" features music and lyrics by Thomas W. Jones II, William Hubbard and William Knowles. It features stories and songs from MetroStage productions including "Three Sistahs," "Cool Papa's Party," "Ladies Swing the Blues" and more. Tickets \$55-60. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Art Exhibit: "Storytelling/Global Narratives." Through March 13, gallery hours at Schlesinger Center's Fisher Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Part of the regional project "Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016", a book, arts and cultural festival through March throughout the Washington, D.C. area. "Storytelling/Global

Narratives" will commemorate the 2007 bombing of Baghdad's historic bookselling street and celebrate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

"A Salute to Primary Colors." Through March 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 9 p.m. on second Thursday of each month. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents primary colors in all forms including as gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

"Wings from Chains." Through March 13, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists consider the roles and responsibilities in society. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward.

"Ancient Art of Movement." 1 p.m.

at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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.latascausa.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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

ENTERTAINMENT

National Art Education

Association Inaugural Event. 4:30-6:30 p.m. at 901 Prince St. An exhibition of diverse works of art created by pre-k-12 students in Alexandria public schools will mark the inauguration of the new headquarters of the National Art Education Association. Free. Call 703-860-8000 for more.

Marshall Tucker Band. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Southern rock band performs. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

The Derds. 8 p.m. at Evening Star Cafe, 2000 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/derdsmusic for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19

Harlem Renaissance Fair. 6-11 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College-Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little Turnpike, Annandale. The event will include performances by Thad Wilson's Jazz Orchestra, featuring vocalist Sharón Clark. During the musical performances, dancers will demonstrate dance steps of the era. Actor and poet David Mills will also present a one-man play based on the life and poetry of Langston Hughes. Tickets are \$20-50. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

FEB. 19-MARCH 15

Solo Exhibit: Lynn Boggess. Gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Lynn Boggess paints landscapes from the West Virginian woods to Floridian seascapes with palette knives and cement trowels for texture. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

Workshop: Vegetable Gardening. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, (Arlington and Alexandria) present a workshop for the beginning vegetable gardener. Program will address best practices for site selection, soil requirements and soil improvement, as well as guidance on crop selection and planting schedules. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

Live Painting Demonstration. 1-2:30 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Artist Lynn Boggess demonstrates her painting techniques using palette knives and cement trowels. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com for more.

GenreCon5: Who Dunit Best? 2-4 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 10 and up are invited to wear their best detective outfit and participate in sleuth trivia, games, and more. Free. Call 703-746-1751 for more.

Auction and Potluck Dinner. 3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. This event starts at 3:30 pm with a silent auction and refreshments. At 5:30, partake in a potluck dinner. Then, at 6:30, a live auction showcases donations such as quilts, dog sitting services, professional tarot card reading, and a professional photography session. Free. Call 703-298-2176 for more.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. lessons and 7:30-10 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with

music provided by a DJ. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 20-21

Tea with Martha Washington. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. 18th century tea includes the museum's special blend of tea, pound cake, dried fruit, and assortment of cookies. Also learn how Martha Washington might entertain guests. Tickets are \$25 each, \$20 for groups of six or more. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. starting at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Visit George Washington's hometown and view some of the sites connected to the General, such as where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

"African-American History in Alexandria." 2-4 p.m. at Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd. Audrey P. Davis, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, presents "African-American History in Alexandria." Free. Call 703-256-4541 for more.

Children's Tea with Martha Washington. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. "Martha Washington explains 18th-century tea customs as well as clothing and dancing of the period. The tea includes the

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SHOW DATES:
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ENTERTAINMENT

museum's special blend of tea, pound cake, dried fruit, and assortment of cookies. Party attire is requested. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4242 for more.

Barbershop Harmony Concert. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The 30-member Harmony Heritage Singers presents a concert of familiar patriotic and popular music. The men's a capella chorus preserves the American tradition known as "barbershop." Free. Contact 703-765-4779 or brandtron@verizon.net.

West Potomac High School Showcase. 5 pm. at West Potomac's Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac High School dance and theater students will join with local studios to present showcase performances for the public. \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door. Email glisenby@verizon.net for tickets.

2CELLOS. 8 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW, Washington, D.C. The Birchmere of Alexandria presents 2CELLOS, a band comprised of Croatian cellists. Tickets are \$47.50-67.50. Visit www.2cellos.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 22

George Washington's Birthday. 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit Mount Vernon for special wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the day and watch as newly naturalized Americans take the oath of citizenship. Also find birthday cake, storytelling and more. Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Live Animal Lunchtime. 12 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring your lunch and dine with a special animal guest; a snake, turtle, or toad. Learn about their diet, adaptations, and habitat through crafts and hands-on learning for adults and children. \$8 for residents of Fairfax County, \$10 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Lecture: Women of Alexandria. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Women of Alexandria, from Antebellum to the 20th Century" will depict the effect of the Civil War on the lives of Alexandria's women before, during, and after the war. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Sanctuary Studio. 10:15-11:45 a.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Using drawing, watercolor, and collage materials, explore line, shape, and color as a meditative process. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com.

Women & Wine. 6 p.m. at Sara Campbell, 320 Prince St. This event is for women 21 years and older who enjoy wine and are interested in getting to know other women in Alexandria. Tickets are \$27. Visit www.eventbrite.com/o/volunteer-alexandria-230855757.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Center for Alexandria's Children Gala. 7-10 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St. This year's theme is "boots & bling." Enjoy custom signature cocktails, taco bar, raffle and live music. Tickets are \$150. Visit www.alexandriaskids.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool

games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Kids Consignment Sale. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Doors close at 11:15, then everything is 50 percent off. No strollers allowed. Free. Email momsclubconsignment@gmail.com.

National Historic Landmark Unveiling. 10-11 a.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Followed by a special tour of the Memorial. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Bright Horizons Grand Opening Celebration. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bright Horizons, 411 John Carlyle St. Explore the new early education and preschool center. Free. Visit www.brighthorizons.com/alexandria.

Civil War Recruiting Day. 1-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Soldiers and civilians of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will be on hand to talk about period clothing and equipment, present drill demonstrations, and explain the variety of roles that military and civilian interpreters can portray. Visitors can also inquire about how to join local reenactment units and learn what kind of clothing and equipment a novice reenactor requires. Admission is free. Visit www.forward.org for more.

George Washington Symposium. 1-3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with research on the life of George Washington. This year's theme is "From Relics to Repositories: Preserving George Washington's Legacy Yesterday and Today." Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Tea with Lady Washington. 2-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join "Lady Washington" for an intimate fireside tea and conversation. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Tune Into Nature News. 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Get in-depth reporting out in the field about the latest eco-updates throughout Huntley's habitats. \$7 for residents of Fairfax County, \$9 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Evening Woodcock Walk. 5:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Washington Birthday Gala. 5:30-9:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. This black-tie event will feature entertainment and a formal banquet and presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award. Tickets are \$125. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

"Music is Magic." 6 p.m. at The Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. "Music is Magic" is the theme for the 29th Annual Symphony Ball

Live Music



Anne Hills

FocusMusic is a mostly volunteer-run nonprofit organization that produces folk and acoustic music shows in Alexandria. On Sunday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Anne Hills and Susan Greenbaum will perform at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18 and \$15 in advance and for Focus Music members. Visit www.focusmusic.org for more.



Susan Greenbaum



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Derds will perform at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18 at Evening Star Cafe, 2000 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/derdsmusic.

and Auction. The Ball, presented by the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) supports fundraising efforts for the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Tickets start at \$200. Visit www.solaalexandria.org.

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Watch a 90-minute documentary on the life and principles of Aldo Leopold, author of "Sand County Almanac" and conservationist/environmentalist. Free. Call 703-298-2176 for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

Live Animal Lunchtime. 12 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring your lunch and dine with a special animal guest; a snake, turtle, or toad. Learn about their diet, adaptations, and habitat through crafts and hands-on learning for adults and children. Tickets are \$8 for residents of Fairfax County, \$10 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Wonders of Science. 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Visit the Apothecary and discover curious

objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, find out how they were used and if they worked. During the tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's historical-reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

"How Does Noise Affect Bird Communication?" 2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Dr. David Luther, biology professor at George Mason University will discuss how biological and human-made noises, like traffic, affect acoustic communication of birds in urban areas. His talk will cover some bird species commonly seen at Dyke Marsh. Free. Call 703-765-3645.

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-3:30 p.m. starting at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Visit George Washington's hometown and view some of the sites connected to the General, such as where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday.

Reception: Art League Student and Faculty Show. 2-4 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Celebrate this exhibit which features faculty works alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by our student body. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Live Fashion Shoot. 6-8 p.m. at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. Attend a live fashion photoshoot by Troi Hansley of Lenses by Troi, featuring designs of Joan A. Sealey of Jo-Ann's Atelier. Together the designers and fashion photographer wish to recognize and celebrate the creative, cultural and inspirational contributions that Africans and African-Americans bring to their clients and local communities. Free. Visit Call 703-299-9495 for more.

Anne Hills and Susan Greenbaum. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Contemporary folk singers Anne Hills and Susan Greenbaum perform. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance and for Focus Music members. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

'Star Wars' Fans Flock to Local Classes

Movie's popularity leaves fans wanting to feel "The Force."

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Beams of neon light flash around a dark room. Young Star Wars fans from a galaxy not so far away wield light sabers and move with carefully choreographed steps. These Jedis-in-training are undergoing a fantasy combat training that melds martial arts with light saber fighting, Star Wars-style.

"Star Wars fans are the ultimate martial arts enthusiasts. Star Wars is 100 percent developed on the concepts and philosophies of martial arts ... the use of the sword, the belief structure," said Michael Dietrich of Dietrich's Karate Fitness and Life Skills in Burke. "Now we have an opportunity to invite students because of their interest in the movie. It's an easy way to bring them into our schools and show them what martial arts are all about."

Building on the hype surrounding the recent release of "Star Wars: Episode VII - The



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETRICH'S KARATE FITNESS AND LIFE SKILLS
Students work on light saber skills during a class at Dietrich's Karate Fitness and Life Skills in Burke.

Force Awakens," Dietrich began offering classes at his newly created "Laser Saber Academy." Students sign up for a six-week class, where they learn how to use a light saber, tap into "The Force," and improve their focus, discipline and determination.

"Any time a new movie or TV show comes out that features a robot, there is a spike in

interest in robotics," said Dan Gallagher of RobotWorks in Burke. "Every kid I've talked to since the Star Wars movie came out wants to know how BB-8 works. Before that, they talked about other robots like Wall-E, R2D2, and Baymax."

At RobotWorks, Gallagher's students learn basic robot design, construction and pro-

gramming. "In general, though, kids are always interested in robots and how they work. Robots are fun," said Gallagher. "Building robots is even more fun, so we see a steady interest that might jump a little when a new movie robot makes an appearance because it acts as a reminder of that interest — bringing it back to the front burner."

The concepts of the Star Wars universe are seeping into the extracurricular class choices at local schools, with students opting to take offerings like robotics and 3-D modeling. "I think that there is some interest in our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) activities that grows from sci-fi movies like Star Wars," said Richard Rho, director of Technology Education and Innovation at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. "I have had students 3D model and print the Tie Fighters and X Wing from the movies as well as talking about how we could create our own BB-8 droid in the robotics lab as the off season project."

Educators say that such activities are fun and engaging while also educational. "It's great students are getting inspired by the movie to create ideas and designs and spreading that interest with the rest of our community," said Rho.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

Aquinas Montessori School
8334 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

February Parent Information Sessions

Grace & Courtesy:
The Framework of Montessori Discipline
Wednesday, February 24 — 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Montessori Journey
Put yourself in the shoes of a child—
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Saturday, February 27 — 8:45 am to 12:15 pm

Space is limited—reserve your spot today!
703-780-8484 or info@aquinasmontessorischool.com



COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule



Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	First Friday, 7:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday: 6:00 pm; Thursday: 7:00 pm; First Friday: following 9:00 am Mass & 7:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm	Confession: Wednesday, 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 am Mass En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm;	En Español: Sunday, 1:10 pm; Saturday, 6:00 pm

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SPORTS

TC Boys, Girls to Host Tournament Doubleheader

The T.C. Williams boys' and girls' basketball teams each finished the regular season with a top-four seed and will host an opening-round Conference 7 tournament doubleheader on Friday, Feb. 19.

The TC girls will play at 6 p.m. and the boys will follow at 8 p.m.

The tournament will run through the weekend, with semi-final games on Saturday and

championship games on Sunday. Semifinal games will be played on the higher seed's home court. Both championship games will be at South County High School, with the girls' game at 1 p.m. and the boys' game at 3 p.m.

The T.C. Williams boys' team closed the regular season with a 9-5 conference record. The Titans' tournament seed was undetermined as of press time. TC would enter the tournament as the No. 3

seed if West Potomac defeated Annandale on Wednesday. If Annandale pulled off the upset, the Titans would move up to No. 2.

If TC stayed at No. 3, the Titans would host No. 6 Woodson on Friday. The Titans won both regular season meetings with the Cavaliers, winning 79-76 in overtime at Woodson on Jan. 19, and winning 66-57 at home on Feb. 12.

If TC jumped up to No. 2, the Titans would host No. 7 South County on Friday.

TC won both meetings with South County this year, beating the Stallions 70-51 in Lorton on Jan. 8 and 63-60 in Alexandria on Feb. 2.

Last year, TC entered the Conference 7 tournament as the No. 2 seed and was upset by No. 7 South County in the opening round, ending the Titans' season. The Stallions went on to win the tournament title.

In the girls' tournament, TC will be the No. 3 seed after finishing with a 10-4 record, but the Titans' opponent was undetermined as of press time.

If West Potomac defeated Annandale on Wednesday, TC would host Mount Vernon on Friday. If Annandale beat West Potomac, the Titans would host Lake Braddock.

TC went 2-0 this season against both Mount Vernon and Lake Braddock.



PHOTO BY JEFF MCCOULKIN

Fahmmi Mamo and the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team will host a first-round game in the Conference 7 tournament Friday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Looking for Umpires

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association is in need of umpires for youth leagues, high schools, and collegiate-level baseball and volleyball games. Experience is helpful, but not required. Will give classroom and field training to aid you in acquiring skills needed. Contact John Porter at 703-978-3601 or assignor@umpires.org.

Field Hockey Coaches, Umpires Needed

Coaches and umpires are needed for our upcoming spring season. Umpires needed for youth games on Saturdays. Send coach inquiry to info@potomacfieldhockey.org; send umpire inquiry to umpire@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Potomac Field Hockey Registration

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring FUNdamental program for Pre-K through second grade and Youth Rec league program for grades 3-8. No experience necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Technical skills sessions included. Season begins March 28 and runs through June 4. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.



PHOTO BY GRACE FLETCHER

Letters of Intent

Four Bishop Ireton High School seniors signed National Letters of Intent on Feb. 3. Back row: Bill Simmons, Director of Athletics; Denise Tobin, Director of Instruction; and Dr. Tom Curry, Head of School. Front row: Lily Weber, soccer, Virginia Tech; Grace Hersey, soccer, University of North Carolina, Wilmington; Corey Johnson, football, United States Air Force Academy; and Amy Krotine, soccer, American University.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Claire Malkie earned a spot on the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.).

JaeBriona Walker, a junior at Kent State University (Kent, Ohio), was named to the fall 2015 dean's list.

Genevieve Francis was named to The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.) dean's list for the 2015 fall semester. Francis is a senior occupational therapy major in the University's Panuska College of Professional Studies.

Sarah Laane and **Jayne Orleans** have been named to the dean's list at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) for first semester 2015-2016.

Stephen Kasdorf started coursework at Fort Lewis College (Durango, Co.). Kasdorf's major is engineering.

Cadet **Mason S. Malone** was among approximately 130 members of Virginia Military Institute's Band Company to travel to Pasadena, Calif., to participate in the 127th annual Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 1. Malone is the son of Gale A. Malone.

Matteson Lauroesch has been named to the fall 2015 dean's list at Muskingum University (New Concord, Ohio).

Celena F. Gonzalez, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester. Gonzalez is scheduled to graduate in 2017 and is majoring in modern foreign languages.

The following students have been named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the fall 2015 semester: **Brooke Barwick**, majoring in public relations; **Karissa Cameron**, majoring in business management; and **Lauren Golis**, majoring in creative media.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

LEGAL NOTICE

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

RFP No. 00000581, Professional Engineering Services for the Design of a Transit Signal Priority (TSP) System

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit: February 23, 2016 prevailing local time, 100 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Suite 301

RFP Closing Date and Time: March 22, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4298.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000595, Construction Management and Inspection Services for the Four Mile Run Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Closing Date and Time: March 9, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference. February 25, 2016, 10:00 AM prevailing local time, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Shawn Brooks, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4289.

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

21 Announcements

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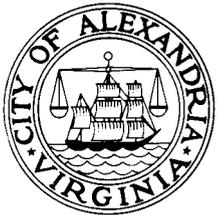
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The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article IX (Signs, Marquees and Awnings) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council on January 30, 2016 as Text Amendment No. 2015-0005 regarding signs in the public right-of-way.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2015-0005 to revise the sign regulations pertaining to signs in the right-of-way.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article A (General Provisions) and Article G (Posting of Signs in the Right-of-Way) both of Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance adds language to the City Code to prohibit signs in the right-of-way and to allow certain street banners over public streets during special events.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK



Coach Herman Boone signs a football.

PHOTO BY
VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

TC Honors Its Titans

FROM PAGE 6

Alongside the coaches, TC inducted five athletes into the hall of fame.

Michael Casey was one of the premier basketball players in TC history with an average of 17.9 points, 10 rebounds, and 3 blocked shots per game his senior year. Casey let the TC team to regional finals in 1971, after which he played four years at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Casey played professionally in Venezuela before earning his Master's and Doctoral degrees and becoming an educator in D.C. and Alexandria.

John Kemper, from the George Washington Class of 1964, was awarded nine varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball, and was named Alexandria's Outstanding High School Athlete in 1963 and 1964. He has since been honored as one of Alexandria's 100 greatest athletes and in 2003 was given the Alexandria Sportsman's Club Gene Bode Memorial Hall of Fame Award. Kemper went to college at the Virginia Military Institute where he was a three year starter on the basketball team. After graduating, Kemper served three years in the Army before working in engineering and construction.

Clark Mercer was called the first "soccer superstar" to come out of the Alexandria Public Schools, as goalkeeper for TC varsity team for four years and serving three seasons as team captain. As a senior, he was district and regional player of the year, earning a school record 10 shutout games. Mercer went to Yale and played four years for the varsity football team, graduating summa cum laude. He earned a master's degree, also summa cum laude from George Washington University, and has since served as a political advisor and youth soccer coach.

Kelly Mercer was praised for her excellence in track, with five state titles during her junior and senior years, and finishing second in the nation in the one mile run at the Golden West Invitational. After graduating, Mercer attended Georgetown University where she graduated second in her

class, then received a medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine. Mercer works as an oncologist at the University of Virginia Hospital.

Ratcliff Thomas was a linebacker and running back at TC in the class of 1992, as well as a star of the basketball team with an average of 20 points per game his senior year. After attending University of Maryland, he was drafted into the Carolina Panthers and later the Indianapolis Colts, eventually named to the Sports Illustrated All Pro team. After retiring from football, Thomas came home to Alexandria to mentor youth and work as an assistant coach for the Titans football team.

But the standing ovation of the night was reserved for the family of DeForest Talbert, 2001 graduate from T.C. Williams known on the football team as "Touchdown Talbert," Talbert earned a scholarship to West Virginia University, but after becoming a father, enlisted in the Army reserve. In 2004, DeForest was killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom when a roadside bomb exploded beneath his vehicle. After his death, his comrades in the 150th Armor Regiment sponsored an annual motorcycle ride from West Virginia to Alexandria,

known as the Patriot's Pride, and started a scholarship fund for his son. "Words cannot express our gratitude," said Tawanna Talbert-Loving, older sister to DeForest Talbert. Coming back to her home in Alexandria, Tawanna Talbert-Loving said so much has changed, especially the school, and said she was impressed with the maturity and confidence of the students she spoke to at TC. "We just wanted people to remember the young man that was born and raised here." Dr. Jesse Dingle, midway through his first year as principal of T.C. Williams, said he was moved by the enthusiasm and support of the community for the school and its alumni.

"You could really feel the Titan pride in the room," said Dingle. "Tonight we celebrated 50 years of excellence, and we look forward to another 50 years."

"We just wanted people to remember the young man that was born and raised here."

— Tawanna Talbert-Loving, older sister to inductee Sgt. Deforest Talbert

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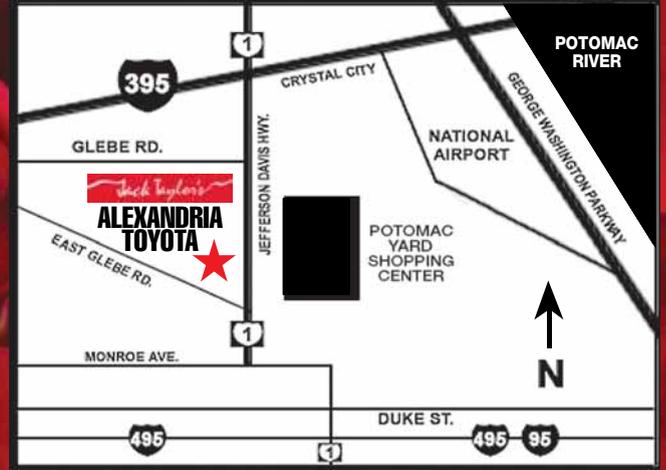
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Alexandria **\$899,000**

The master suite with cozy fireplace in this home is perfect for February weather! Large family room and updated kitchen has counter space to prepare a feast. Close to Del Ray or Shirlington and it's an easy commute to DC. 3116 Circle Hill Road

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676
LizLuke.com



Old Town **\$895,000**

Charming & light-filled free-standing home in the SE quadrant, off-street parking, English garden & back patio. Three French doors open to the porch and garden. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths & sitting room on second level with two French doors that open to the second level veranda. 731 S Lee St.

Jo Erkiletian

703.862.6870
McEneaney.com



Old Town/Liberty Row **\$859,000**

Sophisticated & stylish 2-bedroom condo with great floor plan. Kitchen has 42-inch cherry cabinets, granite, & stainless appliances. Almost 1,800 SF of living space. Hardwood floors, plantation shutters, crown molding & more. 2 garage spaces. Walk to grocery and restaurants.

Chris Hayes & Gordon Wood

703.944.7737 | 703.447.6138
HomesByHayes.com | GLWBroker.com



Alexandria **\$799,900**

Great location. Generous rooms. Convenience meets charm in updated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home. Inviting living room with fireplace & built-ins. French doors to sunny family room. Den/guest room + storage. Fenced yard! Near Old Town, Del Ray & DC. Must see! 717 Fontaine St.

Sue Feintheil

703.819.1964
sue4homes.com



Alexandria/Belle View **\$325,000**

Rarely available and sought-after 3-level townhouse unit in Belle View. 2 bedrooms and 1 bath with beautiful wood floors. Plenty of storage and closets. Freshly painted and clean as a whistle. Easy parking just outside your door. Walk to shopping and restaurants.

Chris Hayes & Gordon Wood

703.944.7737 | 703.447.6138
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Alexandria **\$839,000**

Beautifully maintained 5-bedroom, 3-bath home, located on a cul-de-sac within walking distance of George Mason Elementary. Spacious living & dining rooms, updated eat-in kitchen, family room with wood-burning fireplace. Close to Del Ray, Shirlington, short DC commute. 2908 Mayer Place

Kate Crawley

703.888.8141
KateCrawley.com



Old Town
\$899,900

Walk to the river, shops & dining from this completely renovated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath 1820s townhome in the heart of Old Town. The best of both worlds, the main level has formal living and dining rooms, as well as a gorgeous kitchen opening to a spacious family room with fireplace. Upstairs is a stunning master with carrera marble bath & walk-in-closet. 207 Wolfe. mceneaney.com

Sue & Allison Goodhart

703.362.3221
TheGoodhartGroup.com



Old Town
\$724,000

Renovated to perfection with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths in a central Old Town location, you can walk everywhere from this charming home. Gas fireplace, high-end kitchen, wood floors and gorgeous paint colors throughout. Fenced backyard with patio for summer days or building snowmen. 525 N Alfred Street

Elizabeth Lucchesi

703.868.5676
LizLuke.com



Alexandria
\$649,000

Very updated Austen model with hardwood floors, stainless appliances, granite counters & tile back splash. Lower level features soaring 14-ft ceiling, gas fireplace & third full bath. Huge master suite with 2 walk-in closets & luxurious master bath with separate tub, shower & private water closet. New upper & lower TREX decks & fully fenced rear yard. Walk to Metro!

Bob Bazzle

703.599.8964
BobBazzle.com