

Pet Gazette
BobbieJo with her tiara.

PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

MORE PET PHOTOS, INSIDE.

Butting Heads on Ramsey Homes

Sudden reversal in saga of Alexandria affordable housing.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Councilman Paul Smedberg cast the deciding votes against a proposal to redevelop the public housing in the Braddock area at the Feb. 20 City Council Public Hearing, but in the last 20 minutes of

After seven hours of debate, the decision not to rezone Ramsey Homes on Saturday

was rendered moot when one City Council member announced three days later that he'd changed his mind. The reversal was the latest in a series of battles between City Council and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA).

“If you care about your residents so much, what about the maintenance of these properties?”

— Councilman Paul Smedberg

the Feb. 23 City Council meeting, Councilman Paul Smedberg proposed a motion to rescind Saturday's vote and start over.

“I left that meeting emotionally drained and extremely frustrated about the whole process and how we got to where we got,” said

SEE RAMSEY HOMES, PAGE 14

Budget Tightrope

2017 proposed budget focuses on funding schools, but sets aside pre-k programs.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

budget was surviving somewhere in the middle while providing funding to enhance schools, the fire department, and parking.

With Fairfax County looking at raising its real estate tax rate by 3 cents and Arlington County lowering it by a half cent, the main theme of City Manager Mark Jinks' FY 2017

At a presentation of the budget to the City Council on Feb. 20, Jinks announced that the real es

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 15

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Birders Protest Chemical Treatment at Monticello Park

Warbler watch set to begin in this migration spot.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's almost March 1, the official beginning of this year's warbler watch at Monticello Park in Alexandria. Last weekend a resident of the Beverly Hills neighborhood where the park is located was walking her dog and saw a new sign at the park's entrance announcing "invasive plant management is underway at this site. Chemical and mechanical methods are being used to control non-native plant species." The sign indicated: "For more information please contact the local resource manager."

Larry Cartwright, a local bird expert and guide, explains the importance of this small park in the middle of an urban area that attracts warblers migrating from South America to their breeding grounds in northern North America: "Monticello is one of many locations that migrating birds stop to refuel and rest before continuing on their northbound journey. It is like an automobile trip. Periodically you have to stop at a gas station to refuel. Close enough of them down and you can't make the trip. Monticello is a gas station for migrants."

Paula Sullivan who started birding at Monticello Park in the 1990s said, "If this sign is supposed to be notification, it is a joke. There is no phone number, no mention that it is the City of Alexandria and who is the resource manager anyway?"

Rob Simmons, the natural resources manager for the City of Alexandria, said the invasive plants targeted for removal at this time are English Ivy and Wintercreeper. He said there is no requirement for public notification; "it is more of a policy because we care about community involvement." Simmons said that a notice was published

on the City of Alexandria Natural Resources Communication website and the signage was posted in the park Friday, Feb. 19. Spraying began the same day. He said removal of English Ivy and Wintercreeper is part of a long-term plan that was included in a report that he wrote in 2014 on best practices for removing invasives and woody shrubs in the park.

Simmons explained that English Ivy and Wintercreeper are highly invasive non-native plants that are so thick they prohibit the germination of seedlings and prevent all natural forest succession. Eventually the current trees will be gone without replacement and the canopy would disappear that serves as a shelter for the migrating warblers.

Simmons says some of the birding community was aggrieved a couple of years ago about the status of the park because they said the English Ivy was intolerable. He added that they asked what the city was doing about it and said it was killing the forest. Last year Simmons organized volunteers to pull English Ivy off tree trunks and rip it out of the ground on several occasions but their efforts hardly made a dent. It became clear they needed to try another method. Simmons said they started spraying on Monday: "There is a short window in early March to get English Ivy. In the spring it gets intertwined with the wildflowers and you can't pull out the vines without ripping out the other plants." He added that the treatment should be complete in the next couple of days although they can't spray in the rain. "It will end the first week in March."

Tom Albright, an avid birder at Monticello and keeper of daily warbler records at the park since 2003, said, "We fought this issue back in 2009 and I thought we had a deal with the city on the abatement program for English Ivy and Winter Creeper. They said they would run it by us. Suddenly this sign shows up. What is going on? I heard they are using Round Up which is a probable carcinogen." He said not only will this affect the birds but also people walk their dogs in the park. And the neighborhood children play in the stream. "The sign says to stay on the trails — what does that imply about the danger of the chemical?" Albright said, "There are fanatics in the plant community who want invasives out of every park."

Simmons explains that they are not using Round Up but "a glyphosate product that is not toxic and does not contain surfactant that which has been identified as a problem. Glyphosate is an EPA-registered chemical." He added, "Only licensed, certified applicators and technicians are allowed to apply pesticides in the City of Alexandria, including this

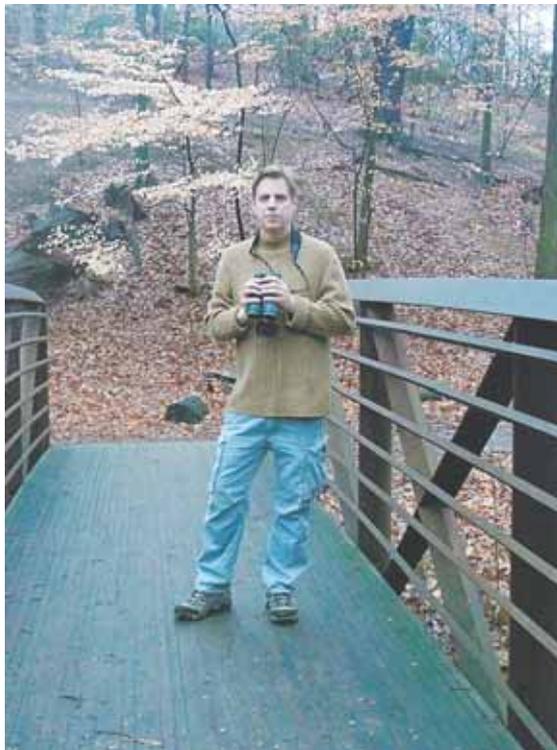


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY L. RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Tom Albright, a Monticello park regular and compiler of daily statistics during warbler migration, says he thought there was an agreement with the city on moving forward with English Ivy and winter creeper. But he questions where the public notification took place with time for community input: "It's the process; people need to have buy in."

project."

There is a great deal of discussion among birders and naturalists about the herbicide that has been used at the park. Many birders don't support the use of any chemicals at all since the full impact is often unknown. Others question the current approach since last March the World Health Organization declared glyphosate to be a probable carcinogen based on the view of 17 experts from 11 countries. Different studies have come to different conclusions. Sullivan said, "However, in the midst of such uncertainty and controversy and with the EPA currently conducting a formal review of the safety of glyphosate, I think it is totally unreasonable to use such

a chemical in a public park merely to kill English Ivy, particularly without proper notification and input from the public."

Steve Young, a certified master naturalist in Arlington and anti-invasive advocate, says he has spent the last 20 years working with others to pull English Ivy out of his

neighborhood park, Long Branch on S. Carlin Springs Road. He said it is now hard to find any English Ivy but it "took hundreds of hours and was labor intensive. Environmentally responsible treatment allows for more rapid progress." Young says a dense carpet of English Ivy has a number of negative impacts including the attraction of rats, with the dense carpet prohibiting robins from finding worms and with seedlings unable to germinate without light. In addition, the invasive species outcompetes native plants because they have few enemies in this country.

Albright says he is worried about the slippery slope. "Next they will go after the honeysuckle." Albright explains there are decades old eight-foot high honeysuckle bushes dotted along the trails by the stream that meanders through the park. The warblers use their branches as diving boards to fly into the stream for a mid-morning bath and then back to the honeysuckle to preen their feathers. "If they replace the honeysuckle with dinky two-foot shrubs there will be an eviscerated stream while it takes the new plants 15 years to grow. The banks will erode; the birds will disappear. I am there every day. I observe what is going on."

Simmons confirmed they will be gradually removing honeysuckle bushes in the future but he has worked it out with the birding community that they will replace the plants with comparable size shrubs if possible.

Marty Meserve, a long-time Monticello birder who remains skeptical of many assertions from EPA about the safety of herbicides, compares this to a beloved island in Maine that is being devoured by black swallowwort, the New England equivalent

of English Ivy. She said, "We have watched this noxious invasive over the years as it has marched through our native habitats, and finally got to the point where it was either kill the weed or lose the island. After hand pulling, mowing and working with the reproduction cycle didn't work, the state naturalist who avoids the use of pesticides said the only way to get the island back was to use a herbicide. Meserve said, "We

have a nasty dilemma, both at Monticello and on our island. If we do nothing, this will slowly devour the native habitat. The choice is a difficult, maybe impossible one to resolve. So people are making choices to the best of their ability based on their study and understanding the science."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A sign was discovered by neighbors over the weekend announcing invasive plant management underway at Monticello Park. This neighborhood park is a birder's hot spot as well as a popular play area for dogs and children.



PHOTO BY MIKE POLLACK

This Wilson's warbler is one of more than 20 species of warblers who use Monticello as a stopping point on their migration from South America. They are attracted to the small park in an urban area because of the stream running through the park, the protective cover and the availability of food.

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Tucker Modified Calendar Yields a Win-Win

Intersessions provide remediation or enhancement.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The school year is just half over. Rene Paschal, principal at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, says the school's modified school calendar has worked well for everyone from school children to teachers to parents. The modified calendar adds 20 optional extended learning days to the school calendar and shortens the summer vacation to 5-6 weeks. He said a number of schools around the country are using a modified calendar but Tucker is the first and only school in Alexandria to use it.

School started this year on Aug. 6 and will end June 24 at the same time as the other schools. This leaves a 6-week break during the summer this year. Paschal says that the students don't lose as much knowledge over this time period as during a normal summer break, and the intersessions also offer the opportunity for the students to get more instruction.

Optional two-week intersessions are of-

fered from Oct. 19-30 and March 28-April 8. About 600 of the 750 students take the option to sign up for the intersessions.

Pam Tiemeyer, intersession coordinator, says the intersessions are separate from the regular school calendar. A child can be invited to remediation or choose an enrichment class. There is a charge of \$125 for the intersessions or \$10 for students who receive reduced price lunches. The remedial classes are split into two learning periods each day with one devoted to remediation and the other an elective of arts/PE.

Because students struggle with basic facts, Paschal says every day there is a 15-minute drill: "You could be going to play soccer but first you're going to spend 15 minutes doing math."

Enrichment classes offer a variety of experiences. Tiemeyer said one popular choice was Tango Soccer: A Taste of Argentina where the performing group Quintango taught the students about Argentina and how soccer and the tango use similar steps. At the end of two weeks, the youngsters put on a performance for the school and invited



**Rene Paschal,
Principal**

guests. Tiemeyer said other classes focus on world travelers with one on French culture, geography and food. "Since we have such a diverse culture here, the kids like the country classes," she said.

Another option is service-oriented where the older students learn to be a tutor. "This is hugely popular and not just the exceptional students participate. It is an area where some of our special ed kids shine," Tiemeyer said, "and the younger kids love cooking. They read a book like 'Green Eggs and Ham' and then they make it. In one class Home Depot came and helped them learn how to build something by measuring and constructing."

Paschal said the students produce the Tucker Today show, which is broadcast every morning before school starts. Paschal says the students read the school menu for the day, the birthdays, weather and other events." He said one father takes two weeks off work to come and teach one of the intersessions on how to make videos, special effects and write scripts for the morning show. These are interspersed in Tucker Today throughout the year.

This modified calendar began in 2003 after a process of garnering community and parental support and teacher input. They were required to get at least 75 percent parental buy-in to move ahead with the

proposal as well as approval by the School Board.

"Teachers are given the option on whether to teach the extra 20 days but it is extra income and most of them like to do it," Paschal said.

But this isn't like regular school. A teacher must present a proposal for an enrichment intersession class and have it approved. Tiemeyer said, "I wondered if the kids would resent starting school in early August while their friends are still enjoying summer. But our kids love it here. And their summers aren't all that exciting so they would rather be here." She added that the students haven't been out of school that long when they return in August so by the third day of school they are up and running without the learning lag.

Paschal said they are always tweaking the program. In the beginning, the intersessions were mandatory but free. Now they are optional but everyone pays something. The other major change was incorporating some academic element even in arts and athletics. It used to be that students just made a choice and got it, "but over the years we realized it is a school, not a summer camp." Paschal said, "It's difficult to prove that test scores have increased as a result of the modified calendar but teachers anecdotally say they can see the difference."

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Wash, Fluff and Cut Makes a Happy Dog

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Max tumbled through the door at Hairy Situations and bolted over to give owner Rachel Winstead a dog nuzzle. Winstead said, “Max is a special needs dog with high anxiety. He will go to our VIP room, which is quiet and secluded away from the noise of other dogs to relax and reduce his anxiety.”

In a couple of hours Max will have his bath and hair cut, same length all over except shorter in the summer when he goes swimming in the backyard pool. His owner said she had given him a happy pill from the vet several hours before he came. She said, “Max has been coming here for seven years and has made incredible progress. Rachel has been amazing with the way she handles him. She knows when he is chilled out.”

The door opens and Lewie, a Shetland Sheepdog, arrives for his hand-scissored cut to trim up and sculpt his feathers. Stretch, a Corgi Husky mix, is not far behind. He is there for a bath. Winstead said, “He has a lot of undercoat.” A sign on the wall also advertises nail filing (\$10), toothbrushing (\$10), and nail painting (\$12). “Every now and then someone wants their dog’s nails painted. They especially like purple or something sparkly. And we’ve got it.”

“Let’s go to the back and see who is ready for a cut.” Winstead checks the large white board and sees that Chloe, a good natured Golden Retriever, has been bathed and



Derek Kittrell clips Ella, a Silky Terrier, on the grooming table. He says, “she is a little nervous.”

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ GAZETTE PACKET



Katie Choi shapes the hair inside Chumlee’s pad to remove any hair so the dog doesn’t slip. Chumlee is considered a two-unit dog because this Goldendoodle takes the same amount of time to do as two normal haircuts.

fluffed by Melissa and is ready for her haircut. “It is opposite of people who get their hair cut wet and then get a blow dry,” she



Rachel Winstead says Chloe, a calm, gentle Golden Retriever will be happy when she is finished with her haircut. “She knows she has been a good girl.”

said. Chloe steps onto a grooming table and the table is slowly raised several feet to cutting height.

Katie Choi is grooming a Goldendoodle, Chumlee, on the back table. Winstead explains Chumlee is so big she is a two-unit dog who takes the amount of time it would take to give two normal haircuts. On the middle grooming table Derek Kittrell is just finishing with Ella, a Silky Terrier “who is a little nervous.” Winstead says she prefers to keep dogs with the same groomer every time so they get to know each other and the dog runs up and says, “hi Derek.”

She reaches into a container of silver handles and pulls out a pair of 10-inch shears. “Oh look, Chloe, you have a large mat in your tail.” Winstead works around the mat a little at a time and it drops on the floor at her feet. Winstead said she always

starts at the back of the animal and works to the front. “Good girl Chloe.” Next she moves to the feet, shaping the hair inside the pad so the dog doesn’t slip and also for sanitary purposes. “Some people want to leave the feet natural. We call them grinch feet.”

On to the britches (the flank) where Winstead might use her curved scissors. Chloe remains calm, looking around the room and observing herself in the mirror as Winstead moves to Chloe’s neck and face. Winstead said a lot of people want a standard breed cut for their dog such as Poodle feet or a Yorkie head. “These days a lot of dogs get a Mohawk. It’s the trendy thing for little dogs. That’s why we have this hairspray and gel.” Winstead adds that people get very particular about their dogs. “They care more about the dog’s haircut than their own.” She said the most unusual request came for a “great big huge Labradoodle with long legs. Her mom wanted to give her a Clydesdale cut (like the horse.) From the ankles down it was all natural ... whish. Totally non-breed standard. But anything is fine with me as long as it’s not hurting the dog.”

Winstead started working with dogs as a bather and walker when she was in high school. When she was about 19 her boss started teaching her to do haircuts, and she apprenticed with him for a couple of years. She worked in an Alexandria dog grooming salon for several years and then opened her own shop at Potomac Greens Drive In 2009.

Winstead lowers the table and Chloe steps off prancing through the door. “She can tell she was a good dog.”

Call a Taxi for the Dog

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

VIP Pet offers grooming, spa services and a dog taxi. Guzal Arslanova, owner of the pet salon, said, “Some people are so busy and they don’t want to deal with traffic. So our dog taxi delivers our clients to doggy school at Olde Towne School for Dogs, to the vet or doggie day care. We have doggie seat belts for very little tiny dogs to big ones. We get a lot of people staring at the van.”

Arslanova says they also offer dog massages with Madra Mór Muds that absorb dirt and oils and toxins while exfoliating the animal’s skin. They have a licensed physical therapist on staff that works on any kind of dog — older ones, those recovering from surgery or dogs who are psychologically stressed, “pretty much like people.”

They started the business in 2015 with



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

VIP pet salon offers a variety of services including a pet taxi for busy owners who don’t have time to deliver their dogs to appointments or don’t want to fight the traffic.

a mobile van that would groom one’s dog in front of the house. But, she said, “while it was very convenient, it is more expensive for the customer than bringing the dog into the shop. The mobile van business grew so much that we added a shop at 110



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Owner Guzal Arslanova recently opened her pet salon on S. West Street in Alexandria after her mobile grooming van business grew too much to accommodate all of the clients. Now she offers spa massages and grooming as well as a pet taxi.

S. West St. And it’s good for dogs to come here with other dogs so they can socialize.”

Arslanova had been a groomer for two years in McLean previous to starting the business and had worked in a number of other dog grooming shops. She started out bathing dogs and then learned the basic techniques of grooming. “I went to a lot of different seminars; there is always something new in the industry.” Now Arslanova competes in grooming competitions all over the country, recently returning from California and Tennessee and heading off to Ohio in June. Sometimes she uses one of the dogs she has groomed, and sometimes she rents a dog.

Arslanova says her pet taxi is relatively new and not too many people know about it but she has regular clients who go to doggy day care daily, or for several weeks of training or periodic trips to the vet. She added the pet taxi is available seven days a week but appointments are necessary.

PET GAZETTE



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER
Bocephus the Tortoise, named after Hank Williams, Jr.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT
Auden, resting in the laundry basket.



PHOTO BY MISSI COX
Willie as the Easter Bunny



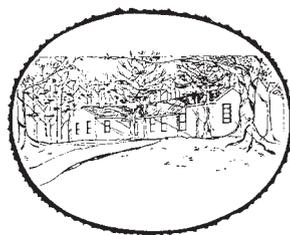
Karen Garcia with Yogi sitting on the Pilates reformer at her Pilates studio, Studio Body Logic. Yogi is a 3-year-old dachshund / pekinese rescue. He loves to come to the Studio and hangout under the desk or better yet, on a staff member's lap.



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER
"It's all in the eyes," meows Sweetie.



Tina and Natasha Edwards



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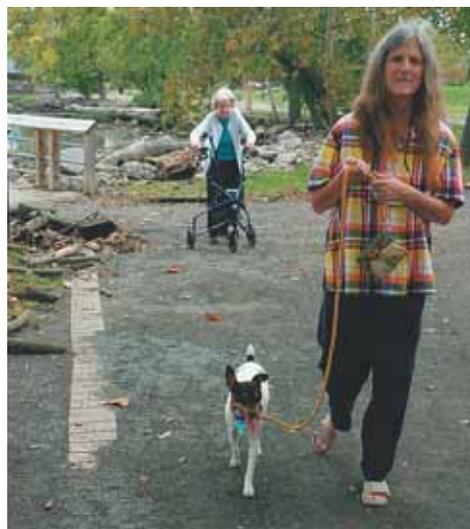


PET GAZETTE



PHOTO BY HAL HARDAWAY

Doberman Guinness is the son of Henni George-Collins and Scott Collins of Alexandria. In this photograph, taken Dec. 29, 2015, Guinness is reunited with his mum after her five-week absence at flight attendant school. He was so excited and, with his rear feet well off the ground, he still managed to plant a perfect, gentle kiss on Henni's nose.



Duke, the 2-year-old Toy Fox Terrier, is frequently walking in Oronoco Bay Park with "mom," Susan O'Flaherty Griffith, Alexandria native, and her mother, Resa O'Flaherty, age 92.

Henry

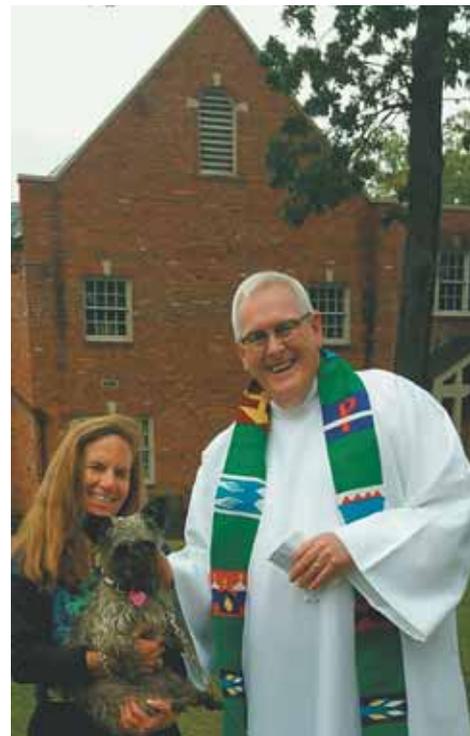
I have Henry because the Gazette ran photos of dogs seized from an Arkansas puppy mill approximately two years ago. I was shown his picture from my friend Mary Alyce Delaplane, and was fortunate to adopt him. He is alert, curious, and works at being a watching dog. I think each of us lucked out.

— Dorathea Peters



PHOTO BY HAL HARDAWAY

Charlotte Hall of Potomac Riverboat Co. with Rio.



Kay K, a 3-year-old Yorkie/Bichon ("YoChon") mix, with Lucelle O'Flaherty, being blessed at Trinity United Methodist Church by Pastor Bill Davis. The Blessing of the Animals is an annual event, in memory of St. Frances of Assisi. Next event is Oct. 1, 2016 at 9 a.m. www.trinityalexandria.org

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9:00 am Mass
En Español: Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm;

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

Confession:
Wednesday, 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am, 4:00 pm
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Microchips Save Pets' Lives

BY EDWARD WRIGHT
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF
ALEXANDRIA VOLUNTEER

Penelope had been missing for over a year, but this winter, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) returned the cat to her owner, all thanks to a microchip. Penelope's story is not unique: The shelter uses microchips to help reunite lost pet with their families on a regular basis. The AWLA encourages all pet owners to ensure their pets wear collars and ID tags in addition to having microchips with current information on file with the microchip company.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, each year 7.6 million pets enter shelters and less than 12 percent are returned to their homes. Fortunately, pet microchips are a cheap and effective solution: Most cost less than \$50 and can be quickly implanted by a veterinarian with a simple injection.

Microchips are approximately the size of a grain of rice and are placed under the skin near an animal's shoulder. Each chip has its own unique identification code that is read by a hand-held scanner. The chip has no internal power source, so it will function for the duration of the animal's life without need for replacement, though microchips may migrate

from the site where they were initially implanted. Like a credit card, the chip does not actively transmit; instead, a radio-frequency identification (RFID) scanner emits a low-frequency radio wave that generates a return signal from the chip, providing the pet's ID code.

Pet owners who are uncertain if their animals have microchips can take their pets to a veterinarian to be scanned. If their pet has been chipped, www.petmicrochiplookup.com can help find the name and contact information of the microchip company using their pets' microchip ID code. Pet owners will then need to contact the microchip company to register their pet's chip or update their information. For more information on microchip brands and the implantation procedure, pet owners should contact their veterinarian.

All dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets from the AWLA are microchipped prior to adoption at no additional fee.

The AWLA will be scanning dogs at its Walk for Alexandria's Animals on May 1 to check for microchips and to see if they have migrated. The Walk will also feature a fun game involving microchips. Register for the Walk at AlexandriaAnimals.org/walk.

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

2016 Alexandria Entrepreneur Bootcamp. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Downtown Baptist Church, 212 S. Washington St. This two-day (second day is Saturday, March 5) intensive bootcamp aims to demystify entrepreneurship for women who are considering starting a business. Free to women who are residents of the City of Alexandria. Space is limited, register at <http://bit.ly/1nLGMZb>.

Windmill Hill Park Shoreline. 10-11:30 a.m. at Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union St. The City of Alexandria will host a community update meeting on the design progress for the bulkhead replacement and shoreline improvements at Windmill Hill Park. The meeting will be held rain or shine. There will be opportunities for attendees to ask questions and to provide feedback. Visit <http://1.usa.gov/1VCh7Dn> or contact Tony Gammon at anthony.gammon@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4155.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

Lemonaide Day 2016 Kickoff. 6-7:30 p.m. at Alexandria Country Day School Cafeteria, 2400 Russell Road. Kickoff event for Kids Helping Kids/ Lemonaide Day 2016.

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OPINION

Bad Bills

General Assembly has potential to do lots of damage in a short period.

From pressing for use of a barbaric form of execution, the electric chair, to codifying discrimination, to stripping localities of the major tool for ensuring infrastructure is in place for new development, to hiding more and more critical public information from the public, the Virginia General Assembly is poised to do harm to the Commonwealth. (We'll look at good bills in a future editorial.)

EDITORIAL

Here are bills that have passed either the House or Senate by crossover, and important bills that were killed, in no particular order. This is by no means a complete list.

HB815, Electric Chair, passed the House 62-33, brings back the electric chair, providing that if lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead and vice versa.

SB552 creates secret police departments, and moves in exactly the wrong direction. Provides that the names and training records of law-enforcement officers and fire marshals shall be considered personnel records and excluded from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Passed 25-15.

SB549/HB770 on Proffers, uses a megaton bomb to tie localities' use of proffers to help pay for infrastructure needs with new development when what was needed was a study of flyswatters to address specific limited abuses.

HB773/SB41 - Codifies discrimination, prevents the state government from taking any action against a person or organization that discriminates based on a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.

Sanctuary bills: SB705 Makes "sanctuary cities" liable for "full amount of any personal injury or property damage caused by an illegal alien within such locality." SB270 The General Assembly shall reduce state funding to the extent permitted by state and federal law to any locality found to be a "sanctuary city."

Senate killed several bills on title loan oversight, even after investigative reporting showed interest charges exceeding 200 percent, bait and switch tactics and many poor Virginians losing their cars.

HB 2 - No "right to breathe." Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HB 1090 - Defunds Planned Parenthood

HB 143 allows high proof grain alcohol sales.

HB 560 - Makes it more difficult to convict someone of brandishing a firearm by requiring proof that a person pointing, holding or

brandishing a firearm or similar weapons had the intent to induce fear in the mind of another.

HB 766 - Allows any protective order to be used as a de facto concealed carry permit, without requiring the holder to receive any training in the safe handling of a firearm, or show any proficiency with a firearm. Advocates for victims of domestic violence say what is needed is to remove weapons from such situations.

Killed SB67, would have added discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to the Virginia Fair Housing Law as an unlawful housing practice.

Killed SB12, would have prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Killed bills that would have required notification of oil spills.

Outlawed living wage requirements for contractors of local government.

HB 4 Anti-union, proposed constitutional amendment putting Right to Work in the constitution.

HB 3 - Charter Schools Constitutional Amendment - removes local control over local schools and spending, doesn't belong in the constitution.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Support of Hillary

To the Editor:

I wish to add my voice to the many supporters of Hillary Clinton for President here in Alexandria. I enthusiastically endorse the views Lonnie Rich put forth in his letter of support published here on Feb. 4.

While Bernie certainly has his attributes, Hillary is "the whole package" — moderate-progressive values, experience, and the com-

mitment and know-how to get things done. No, she's not perfect but is still far and away the best candidate of either party. Hillary's efforts throughout her life to accomplish lofty goals for Americans make her the best choice for President and I plan to continue volunteering on her behalf through the March 1 primary and beyond.

Ellen Harmon
Alexandria

Knowledge and Vision

To the Editor:

I am voting for Hillary Clinton in the Primary Election on March 1. How could I not vote for her? She speaks to my concerns on so many issues; it's hard to imagine anyone else leading the country.

❖ She speaks to me when she talks about a goal of 500 million solar panels; about renewable energy of several types; about reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30 percent by 2025, over 2005 levels, and about encouraging solar energy efficiency investments.

❖ She speaks to me when she says that her goal is to end mass incarceration, reform mandatory minimum sentences, end the privatization of prisons, and instead focus on treatment and rehabilitation of offenders.

❖ She speaks to my sense of justice when another of her goals is to enact comprehensive immigration reform and create a pathway to citizenship. She wants a fair and just immigration system, certainly one that will keep families together.

❖ She encourages me when she says she wants to build on the Affordable Care Act rather than start over at this point. (She knows how hard it is to pass healthcare reform from her own experience when her 1993-94 proposals as first lady were defeated by Congress. After that, though, she worked with Democrats and Republicans to get the Children's Health Insurance Program — CHIP — passed, giving health insurance to 8 million children.)

She has knowledge; she has vision; she has

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



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PET GAZETTE



SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY
Benny



PHOTO BY ALISON SATINOFF
Bonnie



PHOTO BY EVAN OWENS
Goober



SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY
Herman



SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY
Sabi



PHOTO BY ALISON SATINOFF
Samantha and Theodore

Ready for Adoption

Some of the animals currently up for adoption at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

It Takes a Village to Recover Lost Shelter Beagle

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

A shy two-year-old beagle with large, sweet eyes provided an adventure for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria that its staff and volunteers won't soon forget. The dog, who had come to the AWLA from partner Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue in West Virginia, was so fearful that the staff sent her home with a volunteer so she could become more comfortable with people.

Known as Maizee, the beagle was on a walk on Yoakum Parkway a few days after Christmas with her foster "mom" Nora Cole when she bolted, her purple leash trailing behind her. To Cole's dismay, Maizee had vanished.

AWLA staff sprung into action. Signs picturing Maizee were posted in the neighborhood and on Facebook, and AWLA Animal Control officers and other staff and volunteers formed search parties to comb the area. "The response from the shelter staff and volunteers was really amazing," Cole said.

As the search area widened and flyers went up in Alexandria's Overlook community, calls of possible sightings of Maizee started to pour into the AWLA. Images from wildlife cameras set up by Fairfax County to monitor deer in the nearby woods showed that Maizee might not be the only beagle on the loose — there were others running free out there. Abbie Hubbard, AWLA's deputy director who was heading up the search, soon spotted one of them, a

pup called Rosie who had been missing from her home in the area. Hubbard grabbed her before she could run and returned her to her worried family.

The next step was to set up a humane trap near where Maizee had been sighted, and Overlook neighbors joined in the effort, even inviting staffers and volunteers into their homes to warm up. But the trap failed to lure Maizee; it was time to call in outside help.

Hubbard turned to Dogs Finding Dogs, a nonprofit based in Baltimore that uses trained dogs to search for lost pets of all kinds. The group counseled Hubbard that search parties aren't generally effective. "One of the most difficult things to get across to people is that once they are out on their own, their pets probably won't come to them even if they are called," said Anne Wills, founder of Dogs Finding Dogs. "At that point they are all about survival and have the mentality of a fox or other wild animal. They are frightened away by people."

Dogs Finding Dogs helped Hubbard use information from the citizen sightings to plot on a map Maizee's likely routes. That data pointed to the Overlook neighborhood, where food for pets and feral animals and hiding places were available. A larger trap was placed in a spot behind a row of townhouses where Maizee was frequenting and baited with a chum trail of smelly catfood and rotisserie chicken. Next, on the advice of Dogs Finding Dogs, staff members cut up a sheet that one of Maizee's puppies had slept on and laid the strips on the ground to create a strong scent trail to the

trap. On Jan. 8, as the weather turned frigid, Hubbard and Cole split the duties so they could check the trap every three hours. During the evening shift, Cole approached the trap and peered into it through the dark; she could tell that some kind of animal was confined inside. A flashlight provided by a nearby resident illuminated the trap. "I believe I squealed," Cole said. "It was Maizee!"

Cole hasn't forgotten the look on the dog's face when she realized she had been found after two weeks on the run. "It was a combination of dejection and relief — she just sank right into her blanket," she said. Cole had only been fostering dogs for the shelter for a few months when Maizee escaped

but wants to continue fostering. "I wouldn't give it up," she said. "It's the best thing in the world."

But that wasn't the end of the beagle adventure. Over the weeks of searching for Maizee, AWLA staff had learned of a third beagle, named Kai, on the loose in the neighborhood who had gotten away from a beagle rescue group. Again, it was Hubbard to the rescue, with the aid of a trap, a camera and newly gained wisdom.

Hubbard was exhausted but gratified after more than two weeks on beagle patrol: "One of the coolest things for me was to see how the staff, volunteers and community all worked together to bring Maizee and her friends home."

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

experience; she is tireless, she is fair, and she will work for justice. I want Hillary Clinton for President.

Marianne Anderson
Alexandria

Supporting Bernie

To the Editor:

Unlike most elections in our fair city, next Tuesday's Presidential primary is largely flying under the radar, since most of the local Democratic establishment views Bernie Sanders as a threat to politics as usual. For us, the choice to support Sen. Sanders, based on his energy, vision and hope, is crystal clear.

Great leaders like President John F.

Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., inspired citizens with bold, ambitious goals. In 1961, the thought of landing an American on the moon was beyond realistic. And yet, without setting lofty goals real change does not happen.

But with effort we believe that most of today's challenges are not insurmountable. Both of us have traveled or lived extensively in Northern and Western Europe. Americans are a "can-do" people and if universal healthcare or free higher education is possible in every other advanced nation, certainly this should not be a high hurdle for America, as long as we have a leader brave enough to raise the issue. To us, Sen. Sanders is the logical person to pick up and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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George
 This is George Johnson (the white Bull dog) with his "sister" Nancy Johnson at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria for the annual blessing of pets by Father Dennis Klineman. George joined our family about 4 years ago and after the loss of our cat we had for 17 years, he has been a wonderful addition. So every year we make sure he gets his annual blessing at the church. As you can tell ... he is not always on his best behavior... even at church.

— GEORGE'S "MOM," AMY JOHNSON



PHOTO BY CECILY KIDD

Bud
 This is my Service Dog Bud. He was raised and trained for two years by Canine Partners for Life in Pennsylvania before being partnered with me in 2013. People frequently ask if he gets to have playtime. Yes, every day! Although I'm not in this picture it's one of my favorites of him. He's playing in the snow trying to catch a snowball I threw. Running after balls is his favorite thing to do during playtime. I call this picture "Air Bud." Right now Bud is receiving treatment for cancer. Happily his prognosis is good.

— TONI POPKIN



Anya Traub giving water to Sherlock the Bearded Lizard assisted by Natasha Edwards.



Ninja by Anya Traub



Rex

Rex is certainly king of my feral cat colony. But, he is a mild-mannered ruler, good-natured, and friendly to all. When I started working with the colony a couple of months ago I immediately noticed that Rex was different from the other cats. None of them hiss at me, but they always back off when I approach. Rex was not afraid. Soon, I was petting him on the head, then on his flanks. I decided to bring some toys and although the other cats didn't play with them Rex did. We now have a daily play session with a mouse on the end of a string. He weaves in and out of my legs as I fix their wet food. He follows the broom as I sweep up and lights up when I've finished my chores and it is playtime. I have picked him up briefly several times. He is always the first out of the bushes when I show up at feeding time, and he watches me leave with a quizzical look on his face ... how can I leave him? He is a lovely, handsome boy. Rex did find a forever home — he now lives with us.

— DEVON CAIN



LAURA MAE SUDDER

"Everyone knows cats rule," meows Belly Cat aka Dusty.



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

"Think I'll have a snack," meows GoodBoy.



PHOTO BY HAL HARDAWAY

Alice goes mouse hunting in the barn. Alice belongs to Yvonne Callahan who lives on South Lee Street.



Cocoa Latte by Anya Traub

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Willi in his very short-lived home.



Willi's release into the grass tubs



Willi's new home.

Willi the Library Fish came to the Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus Library last year for Nowruz, which is the celebration of Persian New Year, and occurs on the first day of spring. Goldfish are a Persian symbol for life and are also considered lucky. A well-meaning student who was helping the library with our Nowruz display brought in some fish in a little bowl to be part of our Haft Seen table. Unfortunately, the little bowl was not a Goldfish symbol for life, and two of Willi's companions were not so lucky. In desperation, we released our lone survivor into the

only water we had available — a large tub full of aquatic grass that we were growing as part of the Chesapeake Bay's Grasses for the Masses program. Willi loved his new home and thrived on an all-you-can-eat algae buffet, a wild fish among the river grasses. When the grass went to the Potomac River, Willi needed a new home. He now lives in the offices behind our circulation desk, the king of his own little castle. Willi is now our mascot. His reading choices figure regularly on our Blog, and he's the face of our Twitter account.

— MICHELLE JERNEY-DAVIS



Cinco and the holey box — SUSAN D. DAWSON

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

advance the forward-thinking ideas advocated by President Obama. A future based on the status quo — especially now as manifested through Sen. Sanders' strong support among the youth — is no longer acceptable.

Together let's keep America moving forward. We hope that you will join us in voting for Sen. Sanders on March 1.

Tessa Read and Matt Harris, Alexandria

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Karen Leonard 703-328-7041 MLS # AX9561713



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Ann-Marie Grotticelli 703-501-4092 MLS # FX8748474



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Butting Heads on Ramsey Homes

FROM PAGE 1

Smedberg. “There’s a lot of blame to go around. I keep coming back to the plan, at the [families] living in Ramsey... No one won on Saturday, it was that much of a disaster... [This] gives us a chance to reset everything, particularly with ARHA staff ... We have to consider the whole thing again, as if it were a new topic.”

According to City Attorney James Banks, a vote to rescind Saturday’s decision would effectively erase the slate, and all three parts of the bill would come back to the City Council for approval.

Banks had prepared legal documents for the evening in case the topic came up, and was scolded by Silberberg for not warning the council that this might happen.

The Ramsey Homes proposal was a three-part vote: a master plan amendment that would increase the number of allowable housing units from 30 to 53, a rezoning of the area from residential townhouse to commercial-residential mixed use, and a Development Special Use Plan (DSUP) for 53 multi-family housing units.

Normally, a question of whether or not to add affordable housing to the city would be foregone conclusion. On the surface, redeveloping Ramsey Homes in the Braddock neighborhood to add 38 affordable housing units to a city that’s lost 25,000 over the last decade would be an easy choice.

But there was nothing normal, or easy, about the Ramsey Homes decision. A Planning Commission vote at its Feb. 4 loomed over the council. At that meeting, the Planning Commission voted in support of the master plan amendment and the rezoning with six in favor and one abstention, but denied the DSUP in a 4 to 3 vote. A successful protest motion signed by over the required 20 percent of the neighbors forced the approval of Ramsey Homes to pass with a supermajority, meaning six of the seven members of the council would have to approve. But nothing prepared members of the council or the public for the 7-hour brawl in City Council at its Feb. 20 meeting.

Even before that meeting started, there was unease between the City Council and ARHA. At a council meeting in September 2015, ARHA had presented its initial plans to the city for demolition of Ramsey Homes. The demolition plans were approved, but ARHA agreed not to begin demolition until the DSUP for the replacement buildings was approved. At the September meeting, the council directed ARHA to find a “hybrid option” of preservation and new housing. However, as Smedberg noted, ARHA’s DSUP proposal at the Feb. 20 meeting was virtually identical to the September one. Furthermore, Smedberg expressed outrage that ARHA’s insistence on the urgency to replace the housing because of poor maintenance conditions.

“We gave very explicit instructions five months ago about what we’d like to see, and there seemed to be an awful lot of time that passed where not much was happening,” said Smedberg. “Ever since I’ve been on council, we’ve been dealing with this is-



North Building – North Patrick Street

Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) designs for the affordable housing replacing Ramsey Homes.

sue of sharing information, getting information to staff on time. It is utterly frustrating. This is a project we should be celebrating together, but here we are. It is so utterly frustrating ... Come on. If you care about your residents so much, what about the maintenance of these properties? Not just this site but other sites? My gosh. To imply that we’re the ones to blame if we don’t do anything?”

One day before the meeting, in response to the protest petition by the neighbors, ARHA requested a deferral of the DSUP approval while still seeking approval for the master plan amendment and the rezoning. At the meeting, both Smedberg and Silberberg echoed a sentiment expressed by Planning Commission member Stuart Dunn, saying that it would be inconceivable for the city to approve rezoning for a project without also approving the plans for the building to replace it.

“We potentially tie future council’s hands if we rezone the property without the project before us,” said Silberberg. “We are all committed to more density and more affordable housing, but I want us as a council to retain the abilities with rezoning. When you come forward with the new project, then we can support that. If we rezone it, and then ARHA decides it’s more valuable to sell it to a private developer, then we’ve lost that leverage.”

Duncan Blair, the attorney representing ARHA, noted that the city still has veto powers if the property is sold to developers. It wasn’t a compelling enough argument to sway Silberberg or Smedberg; it was for the majority of the council, just not a supermajority. Blair had argued that having the property already rezoned would help ARHA during the planning process and give them some type of assurance. This point resonated with some members of the council.

“We need zoning in place to move forward with any planning,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper. “How can you plan if you don’t have the zoning in place? If we defer [the DSUP], it will give us some time to decide what we can do [with the remaining units.]”

Councilman Tim Lovain added to Pepper’s comments, directing towards ARHA that deferral of the DSUP would mean ARHA would be expected to come forward with a more balanced proposal.

“If we pass this deferral, that is for the purpose of giving ARHA time to consider the [hybrid option],” said Lovain.



View looking East on Patrick Street

Ramsey Homes in the Braddock neighborhood.

But as the night went on, the debate over Ramsey Homes took a personal turn. What started as questions around the allowances of a zoning ordinance change began to show cracks in the current City Council. There were questions about communication and trust. The conversation slowly evolved into Silberberg’s leadership questioned by her peers. While Silberberg and Smedberg had accused ARHA of communications failings, Chapman argued it was the mayor whose communications lapse was the most concerning. Chapman referenced a meeting that took place between Silberberg and ARHA leadership without the knowledge of the ARHA Council task force, a group Chapman sits on designed to resolve issues between ARHA and city staff.

“This isn’t a meeting between you and Jinks, there is a task force that should be taking these issues on,” said Chapman. “We’re not having proper communication. That is not happening. Meetings are happening and we’re not getting informed of those meeting until someone else tells me about it. And then we talk about how the process is messed up? Of course the process is messed up. Because meetings are not happening as they should be.”

Silberberg responded that she felt Chapman’s anger towards her was misplaced, and that it was within her purview as mayor to meet with various city leadership to try and resolve problems. But for Chapman, it established the wrong tone for the discussion.

“You pulled the staff of ARHA into your office, and you didn’t talk to anyone on the board,” said Chapman. “You didn’t talk to anyone on the task force. So how is that process not broken on our side? On this body’s side? I didn’t want to bring that up, but that’s not right. It’s not about you working with Roy, it’s about you working with us to work with staff to working ... with

the community. This is a joint run government. I get that you are the mayor and you are focused on issues, working towards the conclusion of them, but with any of us, the ability to pull others in with us makes us that much stronger.”

Some on the council were frustrated that innocent Alexandrians were caught in the crossfire between the city government and ARHA, an argument Smedberg would ultimately refer back to in his decision to file a motion to rescind Saturday’s decision.

“We have to wait another year now,” said Councilman Willie Bailey. “That’s 40 families that are not going to receive affordable housing. We spend a lot of time. We wanted to be a model for the country. But as it relates to affordable housing, we’re not even a local model. We need to get our priorities straight.”

The criticism touched briefly on Silberberg’s Ethics Commission from earlier in January, where Silberberg had struggled to gain the support of her colleagues and was ultimately forced to pass a more moderate version of her original plans.

“The ethics commission?” said Bailey. “I didn’t think we had ethics problems, but I was going to support my colleagues. Affordable Housing. Warm bodies. Indecent homes. Now we have to wait? I’m a product of affordable housing. As a single parent, raising two kids on my own and putting them through college because of affordable housing. So I have to speak on it. I have to be a voice for the voiceless.”

The council approved the master plan amendment, but couldn’t secure the supermajority votes for the rezoning or to approve the deferral of the DSUP. If it sounded difficult to follow, it was for the council as well. At least one of those seven hours was spent figuring out exactly what the proposed approvals meant, which Lovain referred to as a “procedural thicket.”

When it was not approved, the mayor and members of the City Council encouraged ARHA to come back with a better proposal, but Blair responded ominously “whether or not it comes back will be an issue.”

At the City Council meeting on Feb. 23, Smedberg’s proposal was met with a positive reaction by the rest of the council.

Silberberg maintained a positive spin on the development. “I appreciate the spirit in which it was offered,” said Silberberg. “If it gives us as a chance as a community to find common ground ... then that’s a chance that I’m willing to take as long as ARHA works with the community to find that common ground, works harder with us at the city staff level, and offers the council the options that we asked for in September. Viable options. That was a council directive that was not delivered.”

With the rescension approved, the Ramsey Homes discussion will return to the council at its March 12 public hearing.

“I think as far as the substance of it goes, we have an opportunity to hopefully correct what I think was a pretty big mistake on Saturday,” said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. “We’ll have to see where it goes from here.”

Jinks Presents Budget Plan

FROM PAGE 1

tate tax rate will go up by 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value, with the new rate set at \$1.053. Jinks said the raise will bring in \$3.8 million to help with the projected \$5 million increased school enrollment cost in FY 2017 and the cost to make firefighter salaries more competitive.

IN A WAY, the schools are both the year's biggest winners and biggest losers. Jinks' budget includes a \$203.6 million transfer to the Alexandria City Public Schools, a \$7.75 million increase over FY 2016, along with a \$3 million School Enrollment Capacity Planning Contingent set aside.

In January, Superintendent Alvin Crawley proposed an operating budget of \$256.7 million, with a requested \$210.6 transfer from the city. However, since that time, Crawley reduced estimated lease costs by \$3 million, leaving a \$900,000 gap between the schools and city budgets.

According to Jinks, the sole difference in their budgets was that the schools had requested \$8.3 million in long term capital funds for a pre-kindergarten facility.

"Pre-K wasn't in last year's CIP planning," said Jinks, adding that funding to a pre-kindergarten program that had barely begun planning would have been premature. Jinks said that the \$900,000 gap between his budget and the superintendent's was the closest the city had ever come in recent memory to fully funding the school's proposal. The FY 2016 budget negotiations had started with a \$3.2 million gap between the city and schools. "The glass is more than three-quarters full here."

But Karen Graf, chair of the Alexandria School Board, said it was so close primarily because the schools had proposed the bare minimum of what was required, and that the pre-k program was a necessity for the schools.

"[Pre-K] wasn't in the plan last year because we were working with the early education group to develop the plan," said Graf. "We analyzed that if we took all of the pre-school classes out of our elementary schools ... we would be basically creating a new

pre-school. We would open 700 spaces. It's something we need to look at."

But more than space requirements, Graf said that expanding pre-kindergarten programs has a proven effect on education at higher levels.

"It actually advances academics," said Graf. "That's researched. We already have pre-school throughout the division, but we want to make sure we expand that citywide to our most at-risk population. That's the true mission, striving towards academic excellence for all, so there's a fiscal argument and an academic argument."

Among the other additions to the FY 2017 budget is a merit-based pay increase for city employees, totalling to \$5.1 million, and a living wage adjustment to \$14.14. The living wage has not been adjusted in Alexandria since 2008.

In FY 2016, one of the primary focuses was on improving police salaries. For FY 2017, the focus was on firefighters. \$491,000 was allocated for a 2.5 percent pay increase for all positions on the fire scale, a move Jinks says will push Alexandria into the average for the surrounding jurisdictions. \$448,000 went towards reclassifying fire officer pay, so lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, and deputy chiefs are all defined as officers and given a 5 percent pay increase.

"Having a competitive compensation package is critical to ensure we recruit and retain the highest caliber public safety employees," said Fire Chief Robert Dubé in an email. "This proposed increase will assist in that effort."

The budget also authorized overhires for the Alexandria Police Department to address demands for parking enforcement in residential zones. Jinks said that police speeding enforcement has been focused on areas where accidents happen most frequently, which tends to be in commercial zones, and that the overhires for the police are an effort to address speeding in residential zones that Jinks said has not been a city priority in the past. \$284,067 was allocated for overhires, but Jinks said that the costs are outweighed by long-term benefits to the city.

"The overhires write more tickets each year than their salaries cost," said Jinks.

"[A new pre-k facility] would open up 700 seats. It's something we need to look at."
— School Board Chair Karen Graf

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ENTERTAINMENT

Port City Playhouse Stages 'Fool for Love'

Play is an exploration of pleasures, perils and consequences of sexual chemistry.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love" will be staged by Port City Playhouse from Feb. 26 to March 12 in Alexandria. The play follows former sweethearts Eddie and May as they meet in a shabby motel room somewhere in the desert Southwest for a volatile reunion, while a mysterious Old Man observes and comments on the action. It is a raucous exploration of the pleasures, perils and consequences of sexual chemistry. The play was a finalist for the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Producer Mary Beth Smith-Toomey said she wanted to produce "Fool for Love" because Sam Shepard is a favorite playwright of hers. "He writes thought-provoking pieces that always get to the heart of a subject," she said. "And working with (Director) Jon Townson and this entire cast and staff has been a true privilege."

Melissa Dunlap plays the role of May, who comes from a dysfunctional family system and is trying her best not to repeat her parents' mistakes. "She is vulnerable and strong, she makes good choices and stupid mistakes, she's complex and flawed," she said.

She said even though the play is relatively short, it is jam packed with content. "No character nor any relationship is simple," she said. "It has been a challenge to find all those interesting pieces and bring them to life."

She added: "I hope the audience goes on the relentless ride with us, caught up in the action, the challenges and the questions that the characters wrestle with." After all, Sam Shepard's very first words after the title of the play are, "This play is to be performed relentlessly without a break."

Richard Fiske plays the role of the Old Man, who may or may not exist. "He sees much, remembers little and has opinions about everything. He treats both May and Eddie almost like a family," he said.



Ryan Sullivan stars as Eddie in "Fool for Love."

Some of the challenges in working on the piece were trying to develop a meaningful character with few words and no blocking while being on stage for the entire play, he said. "To provide hints about who the Old Man is and what the other characters mean to him (and he to them) without giving away the store."

He said he hopes the audience takes away that an internal monologue can be distracting, but it can provide insight if you listen. "The play also provides some insight, with the traditional Shepard themes, metaphors and symbols into the complexities of family relationships and how, without being careful, missteps from earlier generations can reverberate down the years."

Jeffrey Smith plays the role of Martin, the antagonist anti-anti-hero in the play. "Martin is really the only sane character on the stage and he is thrown into a very crazy and uncomfortable situation," he said. "He tries to hold his own, but Eddie (the protagonist), and in the end, Eddie and May and their situation, overwhelms his resolve. He stays to the bitter end, and is only saved from the situation because of the irrational

actions of the unseen Countess. I think of Martin as a sort of naive 'man' who although doesn't intend to save the Damsel in Distress, he is thrown into that situation and he tries to do right by May."

He said one challenge was figuring out how strong Martin's personality is and how much he would actually push back on Eddie's incessant taunting. "One interpretation of Martin is that he is only a little more than a simpleton that barely picks up on Eddie's jibes," he said. "But Jon directed me toward a fuller character who has his own story and, in fact, is a match for Eddie. This adds to the three-dimensionality of the play and increases the interest."

He added: "One thing I noticed is that the title is in the singular form. There are four players on stage; shouldn't it be 'Fools for Love?' Or is just one of the characters a fool for love? To me they are all fools for love, each in his or her own way. I want the



Melissa Dunlap stars as May in "Fool for Love."

audience to be reminded that love is a powerful, complicated force in our lives that may make us act in crazy ways, and for each of us it's a very personal, individual experience — an unavoidable experience."

"Fool for Love" by Sam Shepard is showing Feb. 26 and 27, and March 4, 5, 10, 11, and 12, at 8 p.m. Matinees are March 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and \$20. Port City Playhouse sits on the corner of Quaker and Crestwood Lanes in Alexandria. The address for the Lab at Convergence is 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.com.

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

"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 book 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.

Solo Exhibit: Lynn Boggess. Through March 15, 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.

Art Exhibit: "Partnerships." Through May 15, business hours at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. All artwork is available for purchase through Del

Ray Artisans. Artists are donating 20 percent of the purchase price of sold pieces in an equal split between Del Ray Artisans and the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital's charity of choice, Veterans Moving Forward. Free. Call 703-751-2022 for more.

"Who The Wounded Are." Through July 11 at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. "Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital" is about people who lived and worked at this site in Alexandria and their real life stories that inspired the PBS show, "Mercy Street." Tickets are \$2-12. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical

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objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

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 for more.

Alexandria’s Nurses & Hospitals During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama “Mercy Street,” with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

Occupied City: Civil War Alexandria Self-Guided Tour. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. learn about the real history behind the show “Mercy Street” on this self-guided walking tour, which features significant Civil War Alexandria sites all within walking distance of The Lyceum, which was seized and used as a hospital during the war. Tickets are \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

“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.

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

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of

Alexandria’s citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.forward.org or call 703-746-4848.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Exhibit. Through November at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

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 for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Charles Houston 2016 African American History Celebration. 11 a.m. at 901 Wythe St. The program agenda will highlight familial histories’ with the following families who will present a historical narrative about their families: Mary Holmes and Carrie Davis, Pearl Turner and Catherine Ward, Teresa McGhee and Gertrude Murray, Veronica Pace and Vanessa Greene. Free. Call 703-746-5456 for more.

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.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT



“Thanks” (left) and “Old Film, New Film” ‘Contradictions’ Opens March 1

Working in the medium of encaustic (a wax-based paint) Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Her exhibit, “Contradictions” will hang at The Associates Gallery, 105 N. Union St., March 1-26. Also meet Dzikiewicz on March 6. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Art Reception: “March Melee.” 7-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate this exhibit inspired by Roald Dahl quote: “A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest [wo]men.” Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Beer Dinner with Yards Brewery. 7 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. History-inspired beers from Yards Brewery of Philadelphia get paired with a four-course meal. Tickets are \$85. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

MARCH 4-27

Art Exhibit: “March Melee.” 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This exhibit features artists’ “boldest and wackiest art.” Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows.

SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Sanctuary Studio Art and Quiet Day. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Inspired by Taiye Salasi’s TED talk, “Where are You Local?” this event will reflect on how the day’s exploration of practice can inform opportunities for practice in our everyday lives. Free. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com for more.

Cooking with Tinky. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Williams-Sonoma Old Town, 825 S. Washington St. To celebrate maple month, writer/singer/TV personality Tinky Weisblat will cook from her “Pudding Hollow Cookbook.” Free. Visit www.tinkycooks.com.

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.

Family 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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 6

Meet the Artist: “Contradictions.” 6-8 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 7

Winter Warmer Tea. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 138 N. Royal St. Drink a special blend of tea or a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, eat period-inspired delicacies, with “Martha Washington.” During the tea, “Mrs. Washington” will be sharing stories from her life and visiting with each guest. Also take a tour at 2:15. Tea is \$35 per person, all inclusive, reservations are required. To make reservations call 703.746.4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

“Build a Beast” Textile Workshop. 6-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Learn how to construct a fantasy

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

for adults, \$20 for children. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Black History Month Quiz Competition and Celebration. 2-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage in partnership with the Alexandria Black History Museum will host a quiz competition. Free. Call 202-624-9082.

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.

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 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 for more.

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.

“Seeds of Independence.” 1 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Culinary historian Leni Sorensen and members of the Mason Neck community give a program exploring African-American culinary tradition in Virginia and memories of food and fellowship in Mason Neck. Free, but donations accepted. Email historical@gunstonhall.org or call 703-550-9220.

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 for more.

“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 for more.

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 of Africans and African-Americans. 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 for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 1

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple watercolor techniques and doodle designs with your child. Tickets are \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisae.com, or visit www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes.

Music at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. “Music at Mount Vernon” is a three-part series designed to educate through music. Tickets are \$175 for all three events, \$125 for members and supporters. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

MARCH 1-26

Art Exhibit: “Contradictions.” Gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors

embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

Book Discussion. 10:15-11:45 a.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. A discussion group for parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers, and child advocates. Discuss “Children’s Imagination: Creativity Under Our Noses.” Free. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com for more.

“Winds and Ivory.” 7:30 p.m. at Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The musicians are members of the faculty of the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College. The program includes “Concerto No. 2 after Vivaldi” by J. S. Bach, arranged by Mordecai Rechtman; “Divertissement” by Albert Roussel; “Sextett” by Ludwig Thuille; “Calder’s Circus,” written in 2015 by New Jersey composer Robert S. Cohen; and “Arctic Circle” for wind quintet and piano, written in 2001 by British composer Cecilia McDowall. Free. Contact flutist Teresa Bowers atbowers@gettysburg.edu.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick’s Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. The Colliders play classic rockabilly, blues, and honky-tonk. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

MARCH 2-31

Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition & Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The show will feature both contemporary and traditional needlework. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 3-6

2016 Biennial Ikebana Show. Gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Art League welcomes back the Washington, D.C., branch of The Sogetsu School for our 16th Biennial Ikebana Show. Recognized as a sculptural form of art, Ikebana is the art of Japanese flower arranging. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for

ENTERTAINMENT

Three Coffee Shops To Get the Chill Out

Beat the wintertime blues with some hot coffee around town.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

The faces of Alexandrians across the city display their query plainly: Will this snowy winter ever end? While waiting for warmer climes to make their appearance this spring, here are three venues to warm up with a hot cup of joe in the meantime.

Misha's, 102 S. Patrick St.

A venerable coffee roaster for years, Misha's hosts a dedicated clientele inside the shop. And upon setting foot across the threshold, it's easy to see why. The aroma of roasted beans smacks you in the face immediately, followed quickly by a feast for the eyes — breads and sweets grace the counter, and friendly, knowledgeable baristas stand at the ready.

What seems to be an ultracool cafe from the exterior quickly gives way to a laid-back, living-room vibe on the inside. Bags of coffee beans wait their turn in the corners, and the bar is teeming with various flavors and styles of java. On any given day, you're likely to see customers typing furiously on laptops, playing chess, venturing out on first dates, or just taking a breather from real life with a book. The relaxed, somewhat cluttered atmosphere feels like a place one could settle into for quite a while.

Be sure to peruse the selection before you order; there's a coffee for everyone. Unsure what to choose? Consider the Route 66 blend, Misha's house coffee that turns out to be a great sipping drink. Pick up a pastry to round out your order and sit down in

one of several rooms to read the paper or chat with friends both new and old. It's easy to make yourself right at home.

St. Elmo's, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave.

Any coffee-swilling resident of Del Ray knows that St. Elmo's, a vibrant longtime member of the neighborhood, has faced down quite a few changes over the past year. In mid-2015, the shop changed hands from longtime owner Nora Partlow to Café Pizzaiolo owners Larry and Christine Ponzi. And while the hotspot is undergoing some cosmetic changes as the months go by, the brews remain as strong as ever.

One of the great things about St. Elmo's is the expanse of options greeting customers when they come into the shop each day. A variety of coffees await your order, as do the espresso drinks; but a fan favorite remains the chai tea latte, which is equal parts sweet and tangy, smooth and frothy. Do yourself a favor and order one up.

If you're coming in hungry, you could do worse than the shop's rotating selection, ranging from sandwiches and quiche to muffins and doughnuts. If you spy an apple cider doughnut in the display case, you're in luck; order one and harken back to the

flavors of autumn, any time of the year.

The Uptowner Cafe, 1609 King St.

Situated several blocks east of the King Street Metro station, the Uptowner Café is an unassuming neighbor to the residents of nearby Harvard Street. A far cry from some of the other more boisterous cafes around Old Town, the Uptowner brings with it a refined ambience, complete with classical music and quiet conversation. On nice days, sitting outside is a graduate study in people-watching, but on cold winter days, the café's interior offers a great place to relax with a warm mug and a sandwich.

In the beverage department, give the Uptowner's lattes a try for a morning (or afternoon) pick-me-up. The espresso-milk

concoction is silky and rich, as a latte should be, and is one of Old Town's best.

For a lunch stop, the café's sandwiches are up to the task. These sandwiches are a far cry from prepackaged, ready-to-eat meals. For simple comfort, consider the Union Street sandwich — provolone, Swiss, and cheddar cheeses grilled on two slices of hearty bread (add a tomato to round out the dish). Or venture further afield with the St. Asaph, which features turkey, artichoke hearts, and pesto mayonnaise on sourdough. You won't be disappointed with the selection, the service, or the final product.

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



The Uptowner Café offers plenty of food and drink selections for breakfast or lunch.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

creature from your own doodles. The workshop fee is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, plus a \$5 supply fee. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

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.

MARCH 7-14

NOVA Restaurant Week. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce again partners with the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association to present the 2016 Northern Virginia Restaurant Week. Visit www.rosslynva.org for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 8

Homeschool Day at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200

Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. At the Pioneer Farm, watch costumed interpreters produce 18th-century goods as you learn about George Washington's innovative farming practices. Visit a reconstructed slave cabin, play colonial games, and see animals (such as horses, mules, sheep, and oxen). Free for children 5 and under, \$9 for homeschool students ages 6-18, \$10 for adults. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple watercolor techniques and doodle designs with your child. Tickets are \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaec.com, or visit www.metamorphosisaec.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

Sanctuary Studio. 10:15-11:45 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.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, but donations accepted. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

Meet With a Professional Organizer. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. A professional organizer will speak at the MOMS Club of Alexandria South monthly meeting. Children of all ages are welcome at the meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email Southalexmomms@yahoo.com or visit southalexmommsclub.webs.com.

CryBaby Art Studio. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple art techniques and exercise your creativity with your baby by your side. Tickets are \$20. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaec.com, or visit www.metamorphosisaec.com for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

"Speak, Sister." 7:30 p.m. at The

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local actors will read from diaries and letters of women, Harriet Jacobs, Isabel Emerson and Anne Frobel, who lived in Alexandria during the Civil War, and bluegrass band Dead Men's Hollow will play songs of the Civil War. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Spaghetti Dinner: Rising Hope Food Pantry. 5-8 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. St. Luke's Episcopal Church is holding a spaghetti dinner to support Rising Hope's Food Pantry and two other food programs in the community. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and \$30 for families. Call 703-298-5987 for more.

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 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.
Ladies Night Out: Painting Van Gogh Style. 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Tickets are \$45. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaec.com, or visit www.metamorphosisaec.com for more.

MARCH 11-APRIL 10

All City High School Visual Art Exhibition. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the "Alexandria City High School Art Exhibit," a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative pursuits of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from each of the four schools have collaborated in what they hope will be an annual event. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

T.C. Williams Girls Win Conference 7 Championship

Titans, down to five players, win in double OT.

BY JON ROETMAN
GAZETTE PACKET

The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team, playing in its third game in three days, entered a second overtime period during the Conference 7 tournament final against two-time defending champion West Springfield.

While inclement weather forced every team in the conference to deal with the challenges of completing the tournament in a single weekend, TC, at this point, was stretched exceptionally thin.

Due to injuries, the Titans entered the game with eight available players. Due to fouls, the Titans were now left with the five players they had on the court. Standout freshman guard Trinity Palacio, one of the Titans still able to play, had picked up her fourth foul late in the third quarter.

Despite the adversity, the Titans used tough defense and clutch free-throw shooting to emerge as champions.

T.C. Williams, the No. 3 seed, defeated No. 1 West Springfield 69-66 in double overtime during the Conference 7 tournament final on Sunday, Feb. 21 at South County High School. It was the Titans' first conference/district title since 2013 and the first time TC defeated West Springfield in a tournament final since 2009.

Junior guard Kaily Kocot knocked down a pair of free throws with 1:53 remaining in the second overtime period, giving TC a 67-66 lead. West Springfield had possession and a chance to take the lead with 7 seconds remaining, but Palacio got a hand on the inbound pass, TC junior forward Keyana Roberts secured the ball and the Titans called timeout. Palacio made a pair of free



The T.C. Williams girls' basketball team defeated West Springfield 69-66 in double overtime on Feb. 21 to win the Conference 7 championship.



T.C. Williams freshman and Conference 7 tournament MVP Trinity Palacio celebrates winning the conference title by cutting off a piece of the net on Feb. 21 at South County High School.

“[T]hey don’t give up. They fight until the end and they really wanted it.”

— T.C. Williams girls' basketball coach Kesha Walton

throws to extend the lead to three with 3.4 seconds on the clock and West Springfield's shot attempt at the buzzer was no good.

T.C. Williams made 5 of 7 free-throw attempts in the second overtime period and 9 of 12 in both overtimes combined. “Just never give up,” Palacio said about the Titans' approach. “Our coach teaches us to play hard defense, so we know our defense wins games, so we just kept going with that. Even when our shots weren't falling, that kept our momentum going.”

Palacios made two free throws with 8.6 seconds left in regulation, tying the score at 52. As West Springfield brought the ball up the court, TC senior Ajuanae Nelson came up with a steal and headed toward the basket. Nelson attempted a layup before time expired, but missed.

“I had to pull them in and say, ‘Ladies, we fought too hard. Believe in yourself and we'll [win it in] overtime,’” sixth-year TC head coach Kesha Walton said. “My senior who missed the layup started kind of hyperventilating, so I kind of had to pull her back in and say, ‘You've got this, you've just got to relax.’”

TC entered the first overtime with seven available players after junior Bhrandi Crenshaw fouled out near the end of regulation. With 1:52 remaining in the first OT, two more Titans had fouled out and West Springfield led 58-54.

Palacio tied the score at 58 with a short jumper and a putback, and helped force a second overtime period by going 4-for-4 at the foul line in the final 31.9 seconds.

Palacio finished 10-for-15 from the free-throw line, but made 8 of 9 attempts in the fourth quarter and two overtime periods.

How does the freshman handle pressure free throws?

“Just know you have 10 seconds, so take your time,” she said. “If you're not ready,

then don't shoot it yet. ... Just look at the center of the rim, I guess.”

Palacio finished with a team-high 25 points and received tournament MVP honors.

“Trinity is special,” Walton said. “We always joke about her being the baby, but she doesn't play like one. I knew once she got to the free-throw line, she's pretty relaxed and pretty cool, I knew she'd knock those free throws down. If anybody had to shoot a free throw, I would have picked her.”

Crenshaw scored 14 points for TC and Roberts finished with 10. Nelson, the team's only senior, made a pair of 3-pointers and scored nine points. What does Sunday's victory say about the Titans?

“That they don't give up,” Walton said. “They fight until the end and they really wanted it.”

T.C. Williams defeated Osborn 65-53 in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Tuesday. The Titans faced Fairfax in the quarterfinals on Wednesday, after the Gazette's deadline.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THROUGH FEBRUARY

Diaper Donations Needed.

Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday mornings at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. During the church's February collection drive, members of the Church of the Resurrection are collecting

diapers for children and adults in the community and will distribute them where needed. Visit www.welcometoresurrection.org/ for more.

ABSENTEE VOTING

In-Person Absentee Voting.

Through Saturday, Feb. 27, during business hours at Office of Voter Registrations and Elections, 132 N. Royal Street, Suite 100. Absentee voting for Virginia's March 1 Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary is open. Many Alexandria voters are eligible to vote absentee, to learn what circumstances qualify, visit

alexandriava.gov/Elections and click on “Absentee Voting,” or call 703-746-4050.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 23-27

Open Houses and Town Halls. The community is invited to attend a series of open houses and town halls to provide input on the development of a Citywide arts and culture plan. For a complete list of open house dates, time, and locations, visit www.alexandriava.gov/87578. Those unable to attend the meeting can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Diane Ruggiero, 1108 Jefferson St.,

Alexandria, VA 22314, or e-mail diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Bullying Prevention at School. 6-7:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry Elementary, 4643 Taney 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/1Q6q6rN> to register. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee.

7-9 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. The Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee will hold its tenth and final meeting. The Committee will receive the final draft plan for endorsement. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide guidance to City staff on the update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and the development of Complete Streets Design Guidelines. The meeting is open to the public.

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If all three offices are rented together a discounted rate would be discussed. The offices are located within the beautifully-decorated office space of a professional services company in a Class "A" building located in Old Town, Alexandria. Conference room can be reserved on an hourly basis.

If interested please email sbryant@sunstarstrategic.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Please be advised that the Low Income Housing Waitlist for Creekside Village Apts. will CLOSE on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 5:00 pm. No applications will be accepted after that date and time.



**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
and
THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NUMBER 16-01-02**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools and the City of Alexandria, Virginia are seeking qualification proposals for Construction Manager at Risk Services for Patrick Henry PreK-8 School and Recreational Facility.

Sealed Qualification Proposals with the notation RFQ# 16-01-02 – CM@Risk Services PH, will be received in the Financial Services Department, Procurement Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, MARCH 8, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFQ documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFQ from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions should be submitted before 4:30 p.m., March 1, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No RFQ may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFQ. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFQ and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

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Obituary – Edna Keys Dove

Edna Keys Dove died on February 20th. She would have turned 100 on March 5th. She was born in Richmond, VA to Owen and Sallie Keys. She spent the next 55 years in Alexandria and later retired to Weems. She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Vernon T. Dove.

She is survived by two daughters and one son-in-law: Cathie and Braxton Allport and Margaret Lee. Also surviving are her four grandchildren: Britney (Chris) Thomson, Gabrielle Lee Barnes, Hannah Catherine (Kevin) Munro and H. Braxton Allport III (Nicole) and her ten great grandchildren: Kelsey, Sidney, Katey, Jake, Jenna, Jon Keeton, Claire, Angus, Avie and Rowan.

She was a member of Washington Street United Methodist Church in Alexandria and later Kilmarnock and Williamsburg United Methodist Churches. She volunteered at Alexandria Hospital, Historic Christ Church, Rappahannock Hospital and the American Red Cross.

The family appreciates the loving care from the staff and families of Spring Arbor, her home for the last 10 years, and the staff of At Home Care Hospice.

A memorial service will be held at the United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, on March 11 and 11 AM. Her ashes will be interred at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria in May.

Memorial donations may be made to Lancaster Public Library, PO Box 850, Kilmarnock, VA 22482; Historic Christ Church Foundation, 420 Christ Church Road, Weems, VA 22576; and Child Development Resources, PO Box 280, Norge, VA 23127

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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids 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:

Invitation to Bid No. 00000588, Furnish and Install Bus Shelters (Re-bid)

ITB Opening Date and Time: March 21, 2016, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-bid Conference: March 3, 2016, 10 a.m.; prevailing local time at Purchasing Division, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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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CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

On Friday, March 25, 2016, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold a public hearing on items relating to the Commonwealth of Virginia's administration of the Consolidated Action Plan 2016-2017 Action Plan.

The public hearing will be held at 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM in the 12th Floor North Conference Room of the Main Street Centre, 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. DHCD will be taking comments on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan including goals and objectives for housing and community development; the projected use of funding; the method for distributing \$7,034,121 in HOME Investment Partnership funds; \$2,754,274 in Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds; \$745,593 in Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds, and \$16,881,481 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Copies of the plan document may be requested by calling (804) 371-7100, (804) 371-7122, or (804) 371-7084 TDD. Persons requiring special accommodations should call (804) 371-7110. The Plan will appear on the agency's web site at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov> under "What's New."

The Department will receive written comments and testimony on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan through the close of business on April 15, 2016 at the following address:

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Attention: Lyndsi Austin
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

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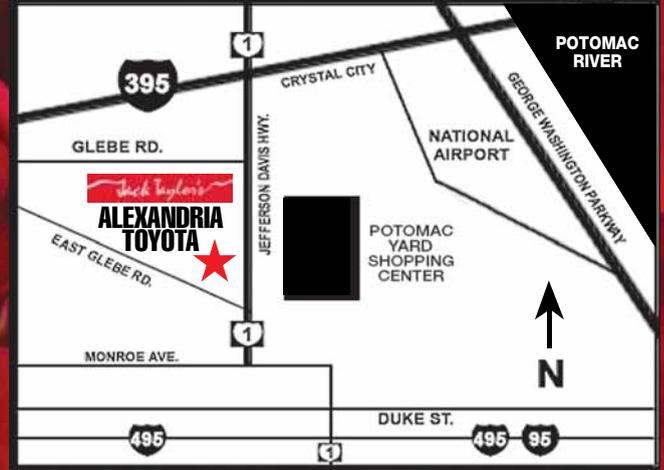
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Elizabeth Lucchesi
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