

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MARCH 31, 2016



PHOTOS BY RICK MUMFORD/GAZETTE PACKET

## And They're Off

Children sprint from the starting line at the 17th annual Easter egg hunt at Lee-Fendall House on Saturday, March 26.

Aidan (left) and Nicholas Lapertosa check their toy-filled eggs with their parents, Grace Jimenez and Max Lapertosa.



Olivia Gonzalez poses in her Easter bonnet with the Easter Bunny following the hunt.

## Door to Door

City Council and state legislators examine Alexandria's business woes.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Over oatmeal, Alexandria's City Council and state legislators did their best to reassure local businesses, distressed by a recent spate of closures in Old Town. The 2016 Legislative Breakfast, hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce on March 29 in a room at the Hotel Monaco, offered local business leaders and professionals an opportunity to catch up with their city and state representatives.

Most of the meeting focused on City Council's role, centering around questions about what the local government plans to do to

help local businesses thrive.

"It is concerning that businesses are closed, and yet a number of those had nothing to do with Alexandria's business climate," said Mayor Allison Silberberg, noting that some were pushed out by the internet while others wanted to retire.

As she'd suggested in the past, Silberberg recommended a coffee meeting with various business leaders in the area and reexamining suggestions from prior economic sustainability reports.

Other members of City Council noted that the businesses that had closed had, in many cases, not made use of various services of

SEE BUSINESS WOES, PAGE 5

## Transitway Plan Branches Out

Council approves West End Transitway after argument over tree canopy.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

If all goes as planned, implementation is still four years away, but the West End Transitway took a step forward at the March 29 meeting with the City Council unanimously voting in support of guidance for the planning of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route between the Van Dorn Metro Station and the Pentagon.

The \$140 million project will

include bus-only lanes, stations that include real time bus information, and improvements to the safety of the nearby sidewalks. The city plans utilize the BRT implemented on Route 1 in 2014 as a template, with the possibility of the service expanding into a streetcar at a future date.

While the City Council expressed hope that the improvements might also fix traffic prob-

SEE TRANSITWAY, PAGE 7

## For Whom the Bell Tolls

Michael Conner, former deputy fire chief, dies at 68.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Each October during National Fire Prevention Week, a solemn ceremony takes place at Ivy Hill Cemetery where a Roll Call of the Fallen is taken to honor firefighters who have given their lives protecting the citizens of Alexandria. This year's ceremony will take on new meaning when the toll of a bell rings out for Michael Conner, the former

deputy fire chief whose recruit class first dedicated Ivy Hill's Circle of Honor in 1970.

"Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a firefighter," Conner told the Gazette Packet following his retirement in 2005. "When I was still in high school and too young to join the department, I started as a volunteer at Station 204. Being assigned to the headquarters opened the door for me to become the city's first paid cadet and led to my career in firefighting."



Michael Conner

SEE FORMER DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, PAGE 4

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PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The 2016 Living Legends of Alexandria gather with city officials for a group photo at the March 15 Meet the Legends reception at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Seated are Ruth Cleveland, Wanda Dowell, Betsy Anderson and Diane Charles. In back are Herman Boone, Bill Cleveland, Warden Foley, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), Janet Barnett, Mayor Allison Silberberg, Ulysses James, Jodie Smolik, Steve Nearman and council woman Del Pepper. Missing are Bill McNamara, Lorraine Friedman and Kim Allen Kluge.



WWII veteran Col. Kim Ching, left, shakes hands with Del. Charniele Herring as David and Marcia Speck look on.



Honoree Janet Barnett, third from left, is joined by Lynnwood Campbell, her brother Richard Safren, Michele Evans, her mother Norma Safren, daughter Susan and Sandra Reyes at the Meet the Legends reception.

# Meet the 2016 Legends 14 honored for their community contributions.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The 2016 Living Legends of Alexandria were honored March 15 at the Meet the Legends reception, where more than 200 people turned out to celebrate the accomplishments of 14 individu-

als who have made a significant impact on the city.

"We are honored to acknowledge this year's legends for their vision, hard work, and accomplishment," said Living Legends of Alexandria president Jennifer Ayers. "Their unique and significant contributions have and will continue to benefit the com-

munity for years to come."

The newest Living Legends are: Elizabeth "Betsy" Anderson, Janet Barnett, Herman Boone, Diane Charles, Ruth and Bill Cleveland, Wanda Dowell, H. Warden Foley and William McNamara, Lorraine Friedman, Ulysses James, Kim Allen Kluge, Steve Nearman and Jodie Smolik.

Held at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, food was provided by Pork Barrel BBQ, Dishes of India, Alexandria Cupcake, Chadwick's and Bistro Du Soleil with entertainment by members of the George Washington Middle School Orchestra.

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

## Inside the Alexandria Police Department

An occasional series, drawn from the Alexandria Citizens' Police Academy

### Part 1: Criminal Investigations

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Citizens' Police Academy is a 10-week course hosted by the Alexandria Police Department (APD) to offer citizens a better understanding of how the department works. Throughout the course, participants sit in on emergency calls and ride along with police officers on patrol.

In the third week of the course, Deputy Chief David Huchler introduced his department: the Investigations Bureau which looks into major crimes and pursues other investigations beyond the scope or normal Patrol officers. The bureau includes the undercover agents in Vice and Narcotics Section, the Crime Scene Investigation Section, the Public Information Office, and the Internal Investigations section.

#### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION (CIS)

CIS is divided into Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Property, a layout Lt. Steve Carr described as a two-headed hydra, where two divisions lead

one body of police. While each of those categories have their own leadership, the same detectives work both sides of CIS.

According to Carr, crimes against persons take priority over crimes against property. When police begin an investigation, they review the evidence at the crime scene and assess its "solvability factors," aspects of the case like evidence or timeliness.

"If we were looking at a stolen auto, for example, we'd look for clues like leftover receipts," said Sgt. Brendan Jackson, explaining that the receipts could point the police towards a restaurant that may have surveillance or show where the vehicle has been.

"We found a car in Jacksonville that had been stolen in 2011," said Jackson. "It had been sold in New York, and then in Florida, and was about to be shipped off and sold in Libya when someone checked the vehicle identification number (VIN)."

For other stolen property, Jackson says police check with the two pawn shops in Alexandria.

"If it's in the shop, we call the store and they put a hold on the item," said Jackson. "We call the owner to say it was found and ask them to identify the item."

One of the major property crimes involves scams and identity theft. Sgt. Joseph Green reviewed one of the most prevalent scams hitting local businesses: the Virginia Power Scam. A caller will contact a business on Friday, saying that they've been trying to reach the business but have been unable to and that they're about to cut off power to the building. The business will often yield and pay the cost being quoted out of fear that the business would lose customers on one of their most busy nights of the week.

Another scam in the area is the overpayment, where someone sends a check in advance to a person advertising a service, like babysitting, but deliberately puts a higher amount than previously agreed to. The recipient will inform the scammer that they sent more than they were supposed to, to which the scammer proposes that the recipient deposit the check and send the balance back to the scammer in cash, except the check is a fake and bounces after the recipient has already mailed the money.

But some local scams don't require any human contact at all. One of the biggest theft issues in the area remains ATM skimming, where a device will be attached to an ATM that collects credit card information and a camera that records the key code.

Green says that the devices are usually

attached using double sided tape, so wiggling the card in the slot can sometimes dislodge the device.

"Skimming is so prevalent that I don't use street ATMs," said Huchler. "I go into the bank if possible. We get a skimming case about every other day."

According to Carr, groups of criminals go up and down the coast planting and collecting traps on ATMs. When caught, it's usually at traffic stops or search warrants where the skimming equipment is found.

"It is not regional, it's a big crime," said Carr. The criminals sell the information websites where someone can buy 10,000 credit card numbers, and while some may already have been caught,

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Green also supervises the Domestic Violence Unit. The department defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive or coercive behaviors by an individual to control another member of their family or a relationship. According to police, domestic violence situations can be one of the most unpredictable, as the region was recently reminded when two

SEE INSIDE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 8





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**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

## News



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

**Mike Conner, left, with Pat Troy and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne at a St. Patrick's Day Parade breakfast.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Former Deputy Fire Chief Michael Conner died March 23 at the age of 68.**

# Former Deputy Fire Chief Dies

FROM PAGE 1

A decorated disabled Vietnam War veteran, Conner died March 23 at Inova Alexandria Hospital. He was 68.

"Mike Conner spent 40 years in service to the residents of Alexandria, serving in many capacities but always with the goal of protecting life and preserving property," said then-Fire Chief Gary Mesaris upon Conner's retirement. "The people of Alexandria have benefitted greatly from his commitment to their well-being."

Born Michael Allen Conner on March 27, 1947, Conner was raised in the Rosemont section of Alexandria. Following graduation from George Washington High School in 1966, he joined the U.S. Coast Guard, serving for four years as a damage control petty officer aboard the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton.

Conner's military awards include the National Defense Ribbon, the Vietnam Service medal with a Bronze Star, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, the Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation, the U. S. Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon and a Good Conduct Medal.

Following his military service, Conner returned to the fire department, rising through the ranks to become chief fire marshal in 1983. At that time he was also appointed by Gov. Douglas Wilder to serve on Virginia's State Building Code Technical Review Board. He was subsequently reappointed by governors George Allen, Jim Gilmore and Mark Warner and served for 13 years as the board's chairman.

Named Fireman of the Year in 1973, Conner was honored that same year with the Recognition of Service Excellence award by the Andrew Jackson Masonic Lodge of Alexandria.

Conner first retired in 1998 but returned to service a few months later when he was hired for the second time as chief fire marshal to lead the Property Maintenance Division of the Code Enforcement Bureau.

As one of the first responders to the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, Conner helped establish some of the command operations that remained in place for several days in the aftermath of the attack.

"I had not seen such carnage since my time in Vietnam," Conner would recall in

later years.

Upon his second retirement in 2005, Conner became a licensed private investigator and subject matter expert (SME) in the areas of fire investigation and fire administration. As such, he traveled throughout the country investigating fires and other crimes and civil cases while assisting cities with the evaluation and administration of their fire departments.

Conner was a charter member and past president of Local 2141 of the International Association of Fire Fighters in Alexandria. Other affiliations included the United States Fire Administration; the National Fire Protection Association, where he helped develop nationally recognized training and testing standards for fire inspectors; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Arson Investigators; the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, where he served as president emeritus; the American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Henry Knox Field Masonic Lodge #349; the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies; the U. S. Coast Guard Combat Veterans Association and the Alexandria Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff's Association.

Conner is survived by his wife of 42 years, Linda, four children, Michael Allen, Jr., of Northern Virginia, Margaret Christine, of Marietta, Texas, Michael Scott of Prince William County and Suzanne Marie, of San Antonio, Texas, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Florrie Conner, and his brother, James Conner Jr., and sister Joyce Conner Baggott.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 31, from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, where a funeral service will be held on Friday, April 1 at 11 a.m. Interment will follow in the Ivy Hill Cemetery Circle of Honor. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2 Ohio, P.O. Box 485, Lakemore, OH 44250.

"I can remember as a kid seeing a sign stretched across King Street that said 'Alexandria reaches 17,000,'" Conner recalled recently to a friend. "I know how lucky I have been to be a part of the city's growth and to be blessed with such a special family and loyal friends. God has truly been good to me."



# Addressing Business Woes

FROM PAGE 1

ferred by the city.

"The closing businesses are often not plugged in with our local support services like the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership," said Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper. "It might be that our city and services need to go door to door to these businesses to talk about what Alexandria has to offer."

For Councilman John Chapman, it's not just the city and services that need to be comfortable going door to door, but the customers.

"We have to make sure our main street is better than Tyson's," said Chapman. "We need to offer people a place to park here if they want to shop downtown and we need to look at our entertainment options."

In particular, Chapman lamented the demise of the Old Town Theater, saying the city needs to find more entertainment options to bring the kind of foot traffic into Alexandria that will cause them to shop at other nearby venues.

Councilman Justin Wilson noted that while the foot traffic is good, citizens still need to find a place to park. Wilson said the city needed to focus more on wayfinding to parking garages and parking availability throughout the city to combat the notion that there's no parking in Alexandria. However, when the question about the extended meter hours implemented in 2014 came up, a move that many business leaders say has severely hurt their businesses,

most of the council was completely silent.

"When the council added hours to the meters in Old Town, business went down," said Silberberg. "That's something the council needs to look at. We need to encourage people to go to parking garages, but when I go to Arlington, the meters end at 6 or 7 and I park there. That is a big issue for folks. We need to make it easier for people to come here and shop and eat."

A smaller portion of the breakfast addressed the returning Virginia legislators. With a Republican majority in the house and senate, most of the major Democratic bills failed, though Del. Charniele Herring said that the relationship between the parties in Richmond is beginning to improve. The state legislators each referenced the new GO Virginia program as the greatest success, and the failure to expand Medicaid as the ongoing greatest failure. GO Virginia is an initiative that focuses on creating incentives, technical support, and assistance for collaboration for businesses working to diversify Virginia's economy.

"With GO Virginia, we're concentrating on business development in the region," said Herring. "It's easier this year because the economy is a little better, though it's still sluggish."

Both Herring and Del. Mark Levine lamented the continued blocking by the Republicans of any attempt to expand Medicaid, citing not only the humanitarian benefits, but the federal funding that it would come with it and the state funding that could be cleared up for other projects.

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## PEOPLE

# From Stories to Songwriter

Emily Henry makes transition from story hour to the guitar.

By Shirley Ruhe  
Gazette Packet

It is 10:29 a.m. and the floor is crowded with chairs all filled for the Friday morning story hour at Hooray for Books on King Street. The clock ticks down. Patterned pants, a purple headband, bib and pacifier jostle for the best position in front. One little boy rushes to the bathroom before the stories start. A grandfather sits reading "One Cool Friend" to his granddaughter who

### PEOPLE AT WORK

twirls her blond pigtail as she turns the pages before he has finished them. "Hi Amy," friends greet each other and struggle through the crowd to sit together. Emily Henry is about to begin her weekly half hour story hour for children under 2 years old. She says, "I read a lot of short books and sing songs because these little guys can't focus very long."

"I look for books that sound good out loud, are bright and visually interesting. And it's good if they make a sound." She weaves her way through the chairs to her large chair upfront. "Hello everybody. Everybody wave hello." Arms wave around in the air. "We have many of the same families and some have friends here so story hour is a social experience, too."

Henry runs through about 10 books in half an hour. "You go a million miles an hour; it's like trying to catch a moving train." She said there are always a percent of the kids running around but "you just keep moving." And the weather makes a difference. "We can't tell you why but the kids just don't act the same." She launches into "can you see your eyes, eyes, eyes. Of course you can." She says books like this are really good for kids who need repetition to



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Emily Henry reads Friday morning story hour for children under 2 years old. She says you have to go as fast as you can to keep their attention.**

learn. She reads about 15 of the books over and over and the kids memorize the words and repeat them with her. And before anyone can become bored, she has them singing, "the itsy bitsy spider goes up the water spout," while they are valiantly trying to make their fingers cross over and move up the imaginary spout. The favorite of the kids is "Hooray for Fish."

"Everybody yawn. Wiggle your nose, shout out loud good morning sun." There is a lot of action. Henry says this bookstore has been here for a long time under a number of different names but the story hour has always been a feature of the store. "This was my bookstore when I was a kid. I've always been a reader." This is Henry's busiest half hour of the week. "But it's pretty cool when regulars move away but come back to visit because they remember the story hour and maybe me."

Henry has been working at the bookstore for four years and doing the Friday morning story hour for almost that long. She said she took it over from the regular story reader who left to become an actor. Henry will leave soon herself to pursue her career as a songwriter, singer and guitar player in Alexandria. "I play locally in coffee shops, wineries, and some local restaurants." She says her first album is scheduled to be out in April or May.



**No broccoli for you. Just for the bunny.**



**Rmmmm around the corner comes the truck.**



**Can you find your ears? Yes you can.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Memorial Table

Members of the Alexandria Police Foundation presented Chief Earl Cook with a table made from a sample piece of the glass from the Alexandria Police Fallen Officers Memorial. Foundation Chairman Willem Polak, Foundation Board members Charlotte Hall and Ann Dorman, Foundation Executive Director Virginia Hill-Obranovich and others gave the hand-crafted table to the department on the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the Fallen Officers Memorial. The three-inch-thick, 100-plus pound glass segment was created by Savoy Glass of Portland, Oregon based on plans from HDR Architects and Whiting Turner Construction, the companies who donated their services to plan and build the Alexandria Police Fallen Officers Memorial. The Memorial was opened March 28, 2015, built by private donations organized through the efforts of the Alexandria Police Foundation, a non-profit formed in 2002. The segment rests on a black walnut table hand-crafted by retired APD crime scene investigator Garry Ground, now a police volunteer.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### On the Hill

Hammond Middle School students who participated in the RARE (Reach and Raise for Excellence) Program of the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA) attended the Fifth Annual BWR (Black Women's Roundtable) Women of Power Summit at the Capitol last week. March 17 was designated as Advocacy on the Hill Day, where the youth met with U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's Chief of Staff Ann O'Hanlon, and discussed gun safety, family violence and voting rights legislation. Participants were Maryam Khan, Nansira Doumboy, Edna Pokuaa, Shaqueya Mitchell and Jahaira Navarrette. The city's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Division Chief Margaret Orlando helped provide transportation when the group's original plan fell through.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Transitway Plan

FROM PAGE 1

lems at various West End sites along the BRT route, Yon Lambert, director of Transportation and Environmental Services, said that the project focuses specifically on BRT.

But it was conservation, not financing or transit, that dominated most of the conversation on the project — specifically, whether language in the guidance should call for a “tree canopy” or “canopy trees.”

Councilwoman Del Pepper and Mayor Allison Silberberg expressed concern that the project would remove many of the existing trees along the Beauregard corridor and were unsatisfied with staff’s initial answer that there would be a net increase in local tree canopy. For Pepper, the primary issue was that there was no guarantee that the new trees wouldn’t be entirely bunched around the Van Dorn Metro Station.

“Oh Banana Oil,” Pepper said. “I want to make sure we don’t wake up one day and find all the trees gone ... without trees, this turns into ordinary development.”

Lambert added that trees would be planted along the sides of the route and in the medium. For the type of tree, he said the staff would defer to the city arborist, but while Pepper seemed satisfied by the answer, Silberberg was just getting started.

Initially, Silberberg asked that staff look into uprooting and replanting the existing trees rather than wait for new saplings to grow, but Lambert answered that the type of trees in place would make that impossible. The mayor then insisted that the plans include “trees like maple and oak,” which prompted a scoff from Vice Mayor Justin Wilson as the conversation continued to center around what type of tree would be planted.

“We’re not arborists,” said Wilson, “why are we dictating this?”

Lambert answered that it was difficult, at this stage of the process, to say for certain what types of tree would be planted. The city unanimously approved the guidance. By summer, the Transitway is expected to move into the project design phase.

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# Inside the Alexandria Police Department

FROM PAGE 3

Prince William police officers were shot in response to a domestic violence call and one was killed.

“Domestic violence is a very dangerous situation,” said Huchler. “You don’t know what you’re getting into. In Virginia, there’s a mandatory arrest for cases of domestic abuse.”

“Officers need to keep in mind that they’re taking a family member or a financial provider,” said Carr. “Emotions change, and couples might team up. You’d think the abused would be happy to be out of the situation, but they sometimes attack the responding officer.”

The situations can also be complicated, with underlying issues that are not immediately apparent. Carr referenced a case where a woman found out a man was cheating and slapped him, but then the man began to beat her. In this scenario, when the police arrived on the scene, he did not admit to any wrongdoing but she confessed that she had started it by slapping him. Later, when she is brought into jail, further evidence and examination reveals that he had physically assaulted her. He is arrested and charged with aggravated assault.

“It’s not about who assaulted who first,” said Green, “it’s about who was the predominant aggressor.”

## INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Sergeants Nick Lion and Linda Erwin compose Alexandria’s Internal Investigations, the section that coordinates all internal investigations and disciplinary action, though only the Chief of Police can assign punishments. The two of them also screen complaints and concerns received from citizens.

Investigations range from minor infractions to reviewing the use of force by an officer. The latter is fairly uncommon in Alexandria. Of the 5,128 criminal arrests in 2015, only 33 involved any type of force. Eighteen of those were “body,” meaning an officer had to grapple in some way with a suspect. Internal Investigations looks into each of those instances though to examine whether the use of force was appropriate.

“Officer-involved shootings are first investigated as a criminal case, then as an administrative one,” said Lion, explaining that during the criminal investigations, Police have the same rights as any citizen. However, during the administrative review by internal investigations, they are not given those same rights. “The Miranda does not apply, they cannot remain silent.”

Internal Investigations keeps track of uses of force by officers, even where exonerated, to check for patterns of behavior to determine if additional training is needed.

“It’s not about the number of inquiries,” said Erwin, “It’s about the results.”

There were 91 total internal investigations in 2015, of which 64 were sustained.



**Cocaine, firearms, and money seized in a vice bust.**



**Illegal pills and money seized in a vice bust.**

Only one-third of the investigations are prompted by outside complaints. Lion says many investigations center around minor policy violations. Most of the calls that come in from outside are not people wanting to file formal complaints, but rather informal complaints that Internal Investigations pass along to the officer and his commander.

“Sometimes parties have good or bad experiences with officers, like in traffic stops, and just want to vent,” said Lion. “They’ll say something like ‘the officer was too robotic’ and we explain that their behavior is for safety reasons and for protection in court.”

When someone outside the department does lodge a formal complaint, they receive a letter from the Chief of Police detailing the outcome of the investigation, though it doesn’t specify what the punishment was.

Internal Investigations keeps all of its work in paper files, though they are currently looking into the possibility of updating to an electronic system. The difficulty, Lion said, is that Internal Investigations servers would need to be kept separate from the rest of the police servers.

Internal Investigations also conducts some training for new hires on rules of conduct.

Lion says those rules of conduct cover the actions of police officers both on and off duty. This includes, increasingly, social media usage by police officers. Erwin tells officers, as a rule of thumb, to follow the “Mom rule.”

“If you wouldn’t do it in front of your mother,” said Erwin, “don’t do it.”

## GANGS

Detective Darryl Ferrer, who leads the APD’s Gang Unit, gave his presentation in civilian clothes having just returned from a surveillance operation. There are at least seven gangs represented throughout Alexandria, though some have a more active role than others. One of the most popular gangs in the area is MS-13, a gang whose membership consists largely of Salvadoran immigrants. MS-13 gang members are allegedly at the center of two unrelated 2015 murders, both set to begin preliminary hearings in April. Ferrer said the gang started in

Los Angeles in the 1980s as a group of immigrant youths listening to music and smoking marijuana, but the group became increasingly violent over the years.

However, Ferrer also made the distinction that there is nothing illegal about belonging to a gang, it’s activity that the individuals engage in as part of a gang that is criminal. Ferrer said he believes that youth, through movies, music, television, and unfiltered access to the internet and social media, grow up in a heavily gang-influenced society.

“I like the movies, but if you don’t educate your kids, they can grow up idealizing a [lifestyle] of money and fame.”

Ferrer said that gang activity follow a few common sets of behavior, no matter their affiliation: the gang members don’t usually walk around alone, and while they usually carry weapons of some sort, they are often hidden. Higher ranking gang members tend to take things from their underlings, from shoes to girlfriends, as a form of tribute.

There are several ways of entering gangs, but typically membership is earned by enduring a beating by the existing members, a blessing given by a leader of the gang, a criminal initiation usually involving committing a robbery, or being voted in by the existing membership. Women are often admitted to the gang in exchange for sexual favors.

Many gangs use graffiti to mark their territory or to dispute the markings by another gang, though it’s impossible to whether the marks are left by someone seeking to establish a foothold in the area or just someone passing through.

Graffiti associated with MS-13 ranges from simple spray paint of their name to a “La Garra,” or Devil’s Claw, a symbol with the middle and ring finger pointed in and the the pointer and pinkie spread wide. MS-13 is most commonly associated with blue and white clothing, representing El Salvador. But while some gangs are notorious for displaying colors, Ferrer says the reality of gang fashion has shifted and adapted to modern styles.

“Now they dress to blend in,” said Ferrer, adding that identification is complicated because, “a lot of people just imitate the

style and colors of the gang.”

## VICE

Vice works undercover. It’s officers are often unshaved and wear no police uniform and drive no marked police cars. There’s a sense of isolation to the posting, with little social media presence encouraged, not being allowed to attend funerals for other police officers or visiting police bars. When Captain Dennis Andreas was promoted from the unit to Commander of the Patrol Support Bureau, he said that many in the Alexandria Police Department had thought he’d transferred into the role. And yet, according to Sgt. John East, it is simultaneously one of the most thrilling and tedious assignments in the APD.

“I’d be lying if I said it’s not cool,” said East. “But it’s not glamorous, our world is very grey. A lot of times it’s like nailing jello to a tree.”

The Vice unit investigates prostitution and various illegal contraband, but their primary investigations center around drug use.

“By and large, the most prolific drug [in Alexandria] is marijuana, immediately after that is cocaine, then PCP, prescription drugs, and heroin.”

East said that heroin is making a comeback nationwide, but that Alexandria has not seen as significant an uptick in heroin use as neighboring D.C., where heroin is cheaper.

East said that, while some of Vice’s work is nerve wracking, much of it ranges from mundane to gross. East recalled trash rips with particular disgust; remembering a time when he was going digging through garbage and another officer on the unit threw up. “We’re not as interested in going after users, we’re looking at the mid to upper level [dealers and suppliers] in large scale networks,” said East. “We try to flip dealers instead of arresting them. [Investigations] always start local but eventually get regional.”

East described the way most drug rings start, with the convenience of one person in a state that’s a source of drugs (like California) sending a small supply to a friend in a state with a demand-heavy black market (like Virginia). The more the suppliers get away with at first, the more product they attempt to push through. Drug supplies often hide their product in toys, triple sealing the bag and trying to add perfume to mask the odor. East said they once discovered 40 lbs of marijuana being transported in the mail for distribution in the area.

The recipient might begin selling it to a friend or moving the supply into a friend’s place, from which the operation continues to grow. But as it does, it increases its risk of attracting a police presence. East said that informants are vital to Vice operations, and leverage is key to building a network of informants.

“Someone with a good job may not want to be charged with a drug offense,” said East. “That’s leverage.”

East admitted that, as good of an undercover police officer as he was, he could never capture the language or mannerisms quite the way a real customer does. For example: a Vick is 7 grams of a drug, usually

SEE INSIDE APD, PAGE 13

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## SENIORS

# Aging Well in Alexandria

BY JANE KING  
ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON AGING

**M**any of us love Alexandria and want to stay as we grow older. When considering their needs and hopes as they age, many Alexandrians may think about the health services offered in their community or nearby. In fact, to be able to remain independent for as long as possible, older residents must rely on many other community features.

Recognizing the importance of planning for an increasing aging population, the Alexandria City Council approved "The Alexandria of Our Future: A Livable Community for All Ages." This document, the Strategic Plan on Aging for 2013 - 2017, defined the steps the city should take to accommodate its older residents. The city's Commission on Aging and Division of Aging and Adult Services identified the views of older residents through two community town halls and a survey, but also wanted to assure that all generations would be well served by their recommendations.

The plan focused on communications, housing, transportation, community services, economic and workforce development, quality of life, and health, wellness and safety. Improved communications be-



came the major priority because many older residents at the town halls made it clear that they were not familiar with the many programs that the city offers. Significant progress has

been made since the passage of the Strategic Plan on Aging. The Commission on Aging, however, is working on updating the plan and hopes that Alexandria will become a member of the AARP/World Health Organization's Age Friendly Community Network. The network offers advice and ideas to communities that are working on becoming a livable community for all ages.

To make sure we provide the best plan moving forward for Alexandria's seniors we want to hear from you. Senior Services of Alexandria is holding a speaker series on Wednesday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. in Alexandria. There will be representatives from the City Manager's Office, Division of Aging and Adult Services and the Commission on Aging talking about all the programs and opportunities available to seniors, and we will solicit participant's input to help set priorities for the future. It is a free event, open to the public. To register online go to [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.



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# OPINION

## Money to Treat Addiction, Mental Health Issues

**Affordable Care Act could pay for help, better health for 100,000 uninsured people in Virginia with mental illness or addiction issues.**

**P**oor people without health insurance in Virginia are being unnecessarily tortured, in some cases to death, by a General Assembly that refuses to expand Medicaid. They deny healthcare to as many as 400,000 Virginians despite the fact that for the first three years, there would be no additional cost to the Commonwealth, and after that Feds would pay at least 90 percent of the cost.

A new report released on Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services points to an area beyond preventative medicine and primary care. According to the report, in Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act. The report estimates that more than a third of low income people in Virginia without health insurance have “behavioral

health” needs.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with huge growth in heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. People die as a result. In Northern Virginia, heroin-related deaths increased 164 percent between 2011 and 2013. In Fairfax County, in just one year – from 2013 to 2014 – the number of deaths from heroin overdose doubled.

Virginia is one of 14 states identified in a recent Centers for Disease Control reports with significant increases in overdose deaths in the last few years. Nationally, heroin overdose death rates increased by 26 percent from 2013 to 2014 and have more than tripled since 2010, according to the CDC. A mind boggling statis-

tic: In 2014, there were approximately one-and-a-half times more drug overdose deaths in the United States than deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

Turning away resources to treat this eviscerating epidemic ensures that some people who need treatment but cannot access it will die. Turning away this money makes no more sense than sending back federal funding for building rail to Dulles.

Depression and other mental health disorders result in significant economic cost as well. This week’s HHS report estimates that if Virginia expanded Medicaid, 16,000 fewer individuals would experience symptoms of depression, which would make them far more likely to be able to work.

Under the Affordable Care Act, states have the opportunity to expand Medicaid coverage to individuals with family incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Safety First

To the Editor:

In his recent letter [“25 MPH Please,” March 24], Jim Durham writes, “Will 25 mph speed limits ‘push’ traffic to nearby streets, such as W Taylor Run? Not really.”

We would like the above quote backed up with empirical evidence.

Prior to implementing the pilot speed reduction program on Quaker Lane and Seminary Road, the Clover College Park Civic Association is asking the city to conduct a thorough analysis and de-

velop a holistic approach that addresses the systemic problems of safety and congestion in each and every community in the Quaker/Seminary/Janney’s/West Taylor Run corridor.

Our neighborhood, like Mr. Durham’s, has suffered property damage, side-swiped cars, excessive speeding, accidents, and near misses due to cut-through traffic. In addition, it houses two schools, Bishop Ireton and McArthur Elementary, with a combined enrollment of approximately 1,500 students. Many of these students walk to and from school on our streets;

their safety should be a top priority. We are asking that all concerned and affected communities support our proposal that the city postpone the pilot program until it develops a comprehensive solution to the traffic problems we are experiencing.

If we take the spirit of Mr. Durham’s letter, and the city’s rationale for implementing the pilot program – that being safety on Quaker Lane and Seminary Road – the logical extension is that we should be concerned for the safety of our neighbors in surrounding communities.

## A Solution That Isn’t

To the Editor:

Growing up, I had two pre-k teachers: Mrs. Cook, who was kind and the one you could tell anything to, and Miss Lurton, the focused, learned disciplinarian. If you were lucky to go to preschool, I bet you remember your teachers too. They were often the first adults outside your family you grew to depend on and trust.

The Alexandria City Public Schools Board (ACPS), working diligently to address the need for more elementary school classrooms, has requested \$11.5 million in capital and operating funds in fiscal 2017 to lease a facility in order to relocate 360 (or more) 4-year old pre-k children out of school buildings.

We have studied this plan at Hopkins House, listened carefully to presentations by ACPS officials, spoken with School Board members, and participated in discussions with parents and preschool providers in the city. Through this process, we are drawn to three areas of concern: (1)

Isolating students from low-income families outside their neighborhoods, (2) Requiring their al

Clover College Park Civic Association Board  
**Melissa Yeardon, Lisa Montague, Ann Tucker, Lisa Porter, Don Brady, Deana Rhodeside, and Zorana Ilic**



STEVE ARTELY/GAZETTE PACKET

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## OPINION

# Holes in City's Safety Net

BY DAN HAWKINS  
AND RICHARD MERRITT  
CO-CHAIRS, ALLIANCE FOR ALEXANDRIA'S UNINSURED  
AND WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
FORMER MAYOR, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

**T**he recent adjournment of the 2016 Virginia General Assembly marks three years in a row state lawmakers failed to reach an agreement on expanding the Medicaid program, as permitted under the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare). This decision represents a clear challenge to the city's fiscal and economic vitality, but, more importantly, it is a significant threat to the health, well-being and quality of life for many of the city's most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged citizens.

Most affected by this decision are nearly 5,500 very low-income, non-elderly adults, many of whom are among the so-called "working poor." For over a decade, city funding has contributed to the presence of a strong safety net system for low-income uninsured residents. But the economic downturn plus the General Assembly's unwillingness to use 100 percent Federal Medicaid funds to cover the "gap" population, has resulted in some significant "holes" in the city's safety net.

Those challenges notwithstanding, current funding levels by the city enable Neighborhood Health, the largest community health center serving the poor and uninsured in Alexandria, to provide basic primary care services for approximately 70 percent of the 5,500 Medicaid "gap" population. It is the 30 percent (or approximately 1,600 individuals) that Neighborhood Health is unable to serve due to budget constraints that should become a priority concern for our community. The great majority of these individuals are without a routine source of care and, therefore, are less likely to engage in preventive health care and more likely to avoid care altogether until their symptoms are too severe to ignore, making it much more difficult and expensive to treat them.

The General Assembly's failure to act on Medicaid expansion locks in place a number of troubling health disparities related to access, coverage and outcomes, especially for low-income and minority members of our community. For example,

❖ In Alexandria, a far greater percentage of non-elderly adult Hispanics and Black/African Americans are uninsured (43 percent and 29 percent respectively) and have incomes below poverty (10.3 percent and 13.6 percent respectively) than their non-

elderly adult White counterparts (5 percent and 5.6 percent)

❖ African American non-elderly adults in Alexandria are 1.7 times more likely to die prematurely as White non-elderly adults.

❖ A man who was born in 1950 and whose annual income places him within the bottom 10 percent of earners has a life expectancy 14 years less than a man born the same year but whose income is within the top 10 percent. (For a woman in the same situation, the difference is 13 years.)

Several other perverse inequities are "baked in" to the General Assembly's refusal to expand Medicaid. For example, in the 20 states that have followed Virginia's path, those with incomes just above the poverty level (approximately \$11,800 for a single individual) can obtain health insurance, while those whose income fall below poverty cannot. They are literally too poor to qualify for coverage.

The short and long-range consequences for many in the so-called Medicaid "coverage gap" population can be quite severe. Studies by the Institute of Medicine indicate a strong association between lack of health insurance and increased risk of premature death. The risk level is even greater for those who suffer from a serious chronic illness and also face access barriers to obtaining timely and appropriate care.

In the absence of Medicaid expansion by the state — which now looks to be the norm for some time to come — we believe the city has a unique leadership opportunity and a clear responsibility to step in and provide some financial assistance for those who are truly most disadvantaged and most at-risk due to the denial of Medicaid coverage.

The city took an important step last year toward addressing some of the access issues for the poor by sponsoring a one-day Free Community Health Fair for the adult uninsured in Alexandria. Almost 300 adult uninsured residents attended the fair and received multiple preventive health screens and services, such as, diabetes testing, vision and hearing screens, blood pressure evaluation and mental health screens. The health fair clearly demonstrated a high level of demand and need for essential health care services among the very poor and minority adults in the city.

To that end, we support the hosting of another Free Community Health Fair or Clinic in 2016, but we are also calling for much bolder action on the part of the city and community on behalf of making a difference in the health and well-being of some of the city's

SEE SAFETY NET, PAGE 12

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# Budget Seeks To Improve Preschool

BY KAREN GRAF  
CHAIR, SCHOOL BOARD



Preschool is the critical piece to serving Alexandria City's student population. For our English Language Learners, it can provide a setting that they start to learn to speak, read and write in English. For our Special Education community, it can provide an opportunity for identification and early services. For our Free and Reduced Lunch populations, it can provide the resources for growth and health of our most in need population. For our typical learners, it provides a diverse environment that familiarizes them with the school setting.

The superintendent, his staff and the School Board has presented a proposal to take the first step in accomplishing a small sliver of the vast early care goals of the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission. We are proposing a way to advance instruction and services to the children and families that we currently serve in the elementary schools.

In preparing the FY2017 budget, the superintendent, staff and the School Board

have considered a myriad of options that focus on raising student achievement, while also adding capacity to better support our current and projected enrollment. The considerations for the preschool have included investigating the need and costs of a building on the West End; expanding the half-day offering to full day; transportation for families without means to travel the city; working with partners to develop wrap-around services and, most importantly, looking at different instructional models.

Additionally, we have had, and continue to have regular meetings with current partners and community providers of Pre-K and daycare services. Public meetings and conversations have occurred in sessions with the following groups:

- ❖ CYFCC full commission and subcommittees;
- ❖ Early Childhood Education Work Group
- ❖ Independent conversations between the superintendent and staff and our current partners
- ❖ Campagna Center
- ❖ Child and Family Networks Centers
- ❖ Hopkins House
- ❖ Alive
- ❖ Private providers, such as Creative Playschool, Fairlington Preschool, Washington St UMC Preschool and others.

While ACPS has not engaged all members

of the early education community in this specific effort, it is important for ACPS to have open dialogue with these groups and eventually develop shared goals. This spring Dr. Crawley is planning an event in which the public and providers can learn about the goals for preschool in ACPS.

Delivery of the Pre-K programs currently linked with ACPS will essentially remain operationally unchanged as we add capacity via leased centers (with the ultimate goal being to have centers across the city). Adding capacity through Pre-K centers will not negatively change the demographics of the students served; our classes currently are very diverse including students from all backgrounds.

In fact, centralizing the location will increase the possibility of sharing more space with additional providers, therefore increasing the likelihood of enhanced diversity and shared services.

Dr. Crawley and his staff stand at the ready to discuss any and all aspects of the proposed ACPS 2017 Operating or Capital Improvement budgets and their ability to execute. We look forward to our continued positive teaming with council and we certainly continue to welcome questions and suggestions toward improving the services provided to Alexandria's public school students and families.

cars are following the lower speed limits, and our streets already feel safer. My family felt safer walking along Seminary Road, and pulling out of our driveway. In addition, while working in the front yard on Saturday, we saw an increase in families walking along Seminary Road and a family riding by on bicycles. Making our streets safe for families and people of all ages to walk, bike, drive or take the bus, was, after all, the city's objective.

If you have driven here in the last week, have you noticed how much (or how little) extra time it took? Less than a minute — the difference in driving time on Seminary Road at 25 mph compared to 35 mph from I-395 to N. Quaker Lane is less than a minute. It seems longer than that when driving, but that is probably because I am in a rush and every second seems so important when I am behind the wheel.

How important are lower vehicle speeds for safe streets? Driving more slowly provides greater time to react, for example, to avoid a person walking across the street, so the likelihood of a crash is reduced by driving at 25 mph compared to 35 mph. There is also less risk of serious injury or death if a crash were to occur. According to the Brian C. Tefft, senior research associate for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, the average risk of death for a pedestrian is 10 percent at an impact speed of 23 mph and 50 percent at 42 mph — a five-fold increase in risk of death. (The city reported that the 85th percentile speed on Seminary Road was previously 42 mph.)

Seminary Road and N. Quaker Lane serve neighborhoods and neighborhood streets

## Safety Net

FROM PAGE 11

most vulnerable residents. Specifically, we are calling for an investment of \$250,000 by the city for each of the next three fiscal years in an initiative called AlexCares. (We will seek a \$100,000 contribution from the community for each of the three years to add to the city's investment.)

The large majority of funding for AlexCares will go toward improving access to critical primary care services for the most vulnerable and at high-risk segment of the city's Medicaid "gap" population. (Estimates are that as many as 700 individuals could be served during the first year.) Funds will be targeted toward expanding part-time primary care clinic services in areas of the city that are underserved and for covering some of the costs related to conducting another free health fair or clinic in the fall of this year.

The moral and ethical case for AlexCares was stated so well many years ago by H. Jack Geiger, M.D., a pioneer in community and public health in the U.S.: "The poor are likelier to be sick. The sick are likelier to be poor. Without intervention, the poor will grow sicker and the sick will grow poorer. And that has troubling consequences for all of us."

There is sound evidence that approval of the Medicaid expansion option is one of the most important actions a state can make toward improving the health and well-being of its low-income, uninsured residents. Unfortunately, such a decision by the General Assembly appears to be a long way off. In the interim, we are hopeful that the community and our elected leaders will step forward and help break the vicious cycle where "the poor grow sicker and the sick grow poorer."

should be safe for all. Thanks for driving 25 mph on these streets to help achieve that objective. It takes less than an extra minute.

**Michael Michaelis**  
Alexandria

## Revolutionary Thought

To the Editor:

After the Revolutionary War was over, was there discussion in Alexandria about changing the names of streets such as King, Prince, Duke, Queen, Princess, Fairfax, and Royal? Since the names were not changed, what was the reason?

**Dana Moore**  
Alexandria

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

ready stressed parents to travel across the city to access preschool for the children, and (3) The educational appropriateness of housing 300 plus 4-year olds in a single building.

The pre-k students served by the ACPS are either in Head Start or the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) and are by definition, from low-income and low-resourced families. Alexandria has worked hard over the years to see that low-income families are not isolated in the city.

This has helped ensure that all our neighborhoods have a healthy mixture of people of various socio-economic backgrounds living in them and, that children are learning with and about those whose lives are different than their own.

The parents of these children are often single mothers and dads who work multiple jobs. Many of these stressed parents are already asked to travel daily by public transportation to take their children to preschool. This plan will exacerbate their stress.

While a single location for preschool, replete with "wrap around" services, may be more efficient, it also introduces the likelihood of stigma associated with going to that "special" school. We often think 4-year olds would not be aware of such things, but as I said earlier, I bet you remember your own preschool experience — good, bad, and in between. Our goal should be to encourage good experiences in preschool that help children grow into adulthood with a lifelong love of learning.

There are many ways to achieve great educational goals in our city.

Consider the following:

- ❖ Instead of constructing/leasing buildings solely for pre-k, use the new buildings as part of redistricting to create neighborhood schools.
- ❖ Spread this single proposed Pre-K Center into smaller campuses in neighborhoods across the city.
- ❖ Partner with Northern Virginia Community College to provide on-campus learning for more of our high school seniors, thereby freeing up classroom space in ACPS buildings.
- ❖ Take advantage of potential state resources by aligning with the mixed delivery system recently approved by the Virginia General Assembly for piloting in local jurisdictions. We believe that centralizing pre-k is the wrong solution to the school district's classroom capacity problem. We firmly support open discussion and debate about the school district's pre-k proposal in order to better understand the impact this plan may have on our children, their families, and our city.

**Julie Jakopic**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Hopkins House

## Less Than A Minute

To the Editor:

As a Seminary Road resident, I want to thank motorists on Seminary Road who have been driving at 25 mph since last Friday. The difference has been amazing. Most



# Public Policy and Locating Affordable Housing

BY SARAH BECKER

“Planning is both art — politics and leadership — and science — demographics and economics,” Bill Klein, director of Research for the American Planning Association explained in 2009. In Alexandria’s Braddock neighborhood many residents equate planning with a backward notion of racial politics.

Alexandria’s Braddock neighborhood, mostly mapped in 1798, is of two eras. Described now as diverse, it is promoted historically as mostly black.

**COMMENTARY** The victim of Virginia’s late-19<sup>th</sup> century segregation policies, the Braddock cum Old Town Alexandria neighborhood developed a disproportionate share of concentrated public housing.

In the early 1930s Democratic President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Public Works Administration, a New Deal construction agency whose policies “effectively established ... an overwhelmingly, inner-city, multi-family, rental non-white, public housing program.” Why? Roosevelt pandered to southern Democrats. He traded Jim Crow and the PWA’s Neighborhood Composition Rule for passage of his New Deal legislation. The Neighborhood Composition Rule assured segregated cities, like Alexandria, that the new federal presence would

not alter the existing racial composition of any given project area.

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, formerly known as the Alexandria Housing Authority, was established in 1939.

Today ARHA claims dispersal of its low income residents is “hard,” and only 50-plus unit buildings are profitable. ARHA’s current financial model trumps the well-being of its residents including Ramsay Homes’ demolition by neglect.

Alexandria’s first public housing was constructed in 1942 in the Braddock neighborhood, the 90 unit white-only John Roberts and the still standing, 15 unit black-only Ramsay Homes. By 1957 the public housing program was in dreary deadlock; “rigid and paternal in its management, crude and segregated.” Concentrated neighborhood construction continued through 1967.

Scholars describe affordable housing as a means to an end. To house defense workers during world wars, to create jobs during the Great Depression, to provide an antidote to 1960s civil unrest, and or to stimulate the economy generally. Still one-third of Alexandria’s Resolution 830 public housing units remain concentrated in the Braddock neighborhood; that is Census Tract 16. The 24 unit Pendleton Park Apartments as well as other set asides are in addition.

“Deterioration, crime and other forms of

blight are surface symptoms of prior and deeper economic and functional failure,” Jane Jacobs wrote in “The Death and Life of Great American Cities.” Non-management is a recurring ARHA problem and critical analyses are lacking.

In 1977 ARHA narrowly avoided a city takeover. Six years later the city reported “the accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand, Inc. recently completed a study designed to analyze past and current revenues, costs and deficits and recommend ways of improving ARHA’s cash flow.” Authorized by City Council, the sitting council should take note.

ARHA’s business model varies, and if Ramsay Homes is an example, its properties are poorly maintained. Yet ARHA in 2014 purchased 401 Wythe St., an office building for \$4.8 million “in hand paid by Grantee.” Financial accountability is wanting; city bailouts include ARHA-Glebe Park (2008) and RPJ Housing (2011). Rather than tread carefully Council members Wilson and Chapman, on March 2, told the city manager the ongoing ARHA-Ramsay Homes review will not include a Memorandum of Understanding.

The issue is not availability of rental housing. It is price point. Alexandria, in 1990, had the lowest level of owner-occupied housing of any Northern Virginia jurisdiction. Mobility was high and 60 percent of Alexandria’s total housing units — 61,156

— were renter-occupied, the 17<sup>th</sup> highest in the United States. Today — 25 years later — 56.7 percent of Alexandria’s occupied housing units are renters. That said ARHA’s 2012 strategic plan, combined with increasing land values and the failure to off-site, gives the Neighborhood Composition Rule renewed vim.

As of 1993, Alexandria’s Affordable Housing Policy committed the city “to preserve the existing supply of affordable housing units (3,681 subsidized and public housing units and 224 units in buildings financed with tax exempt bonds), and to develop new affordable housing opportunities, primarily assisted home ownership, for households with members who live or work in the city and who have incomes between 50 percent of median income for the metropolitan area and the Virginia Housing Development Authority’s income limits.”

Alexandria’s public housing, integrated in 1965, was 91.2 percent black in 2008. Is it because affordable housing is now a political end, not a means, and Democrats — conservative, southern or otherwise — still “manage” Alexandria’s Jim Crow housing?

“Zoning is the filter for determining what actually gets built,” Klein, who retired in 2013, concluded. “It is a local power and there are all these fiefdoms. But, pulling poor people all in one place is terrible. Concentrated public housing settlements are not a good idea.”

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Problem? Just Raise Taxes

To the Editor:

During the most recent election process Bob Wood and I predicted there would be a large real estate tax increase this year if the incumbents were reelected. Our prediction has unfortunately come true, as your council on March 15 unanimously elected to set the maximum real estate rate for FY 2017 at \$1.073 per \$100 of assessed value, which is a three cent increase above the current rate.

Adding insult to injury is the fact that this year’s real estate tax base increased a little over \$1 billion generating about \$10.7 million of revenue through real estate taxes at the current rate. All told, the real estate tax increase of three cents added to the assessment increase, which equates to about another three cents, will result in about a six cent increase this year. Of course everyone remembers that the council is on record saying that they wanted to do the big tax raise this year, little to none in the next two years, so that the voters will then forget what they had done when the next election day rolls around.

The overall financial stability of Alexandria is not good. We have yet to solve our revenue and expenditure problem wherein we are currently spending more each year than we are taking in. We are currently \$540 million in debt with a debt service in 2017 of \$69 million. That total will jump another

\$7 million in 2019 when the debt service for the Potomac Yard Metro Station kicks in. That will result in an overall debt service in 2019 of \$92 million we will be spending out of the general fund to service our debt which could be better spent on a number of other citywide priorities.

There are a large number of capital improvement projects that are going to require a great amount of funding over the next 10-plus years. Our sanitary sewer system currently violates the Chesapeake Bay Act and if not addressed in the short term could result in the city paying some very large fines.

The conservative price tag to solve this problem is between \$200-300 million. This program also adds to our annual debt service. Too many of our 56 miles of roads are desperately in need of repair. The current plan is to repair 5 miles of roads each year. With that schedule, I would hate live on a street that ends up getting assistance some 11 years from now.

The first large school project facing us is to rebuild the Patrick Henry School and Recreation center that will cost approximately \$45-50 million.

In addition, the infrastructure of our schools is extremely poor and is short some \$78 million for school repairs in the next five years.

The real crunch is that with the yearly increase in enrollments we will need five or six new schools in the next 10 years costing mega millions. In addition, another \$23 million is programmed to design and build

a new 50-meter pool addition to the Chiquapin Aquatics Center next to T.C. Williams High School.

The city never bothered to maintain its buildings. Thirty-six of our 123 city-owned buildings have received a failing grade (F) and over the next 10 years will require roughly \$272 million to bring those structures back up to acceptable standards.

This City Council, most of whom have been in office for a long time, have failed to adequately address our financial woes over the years.

All of our unfunded requirements are now compounding and could drive the city toward ever-increasing taxes. One only needs to look at whether the City Council-approved debt limits are in compliance with their own previously designated debt ratios. The Capital Improvement Program is definitely not in compliance for debt as a percentage of the total personal income ratio for the years 2018-2024.

Additionally, for the time frame 2017-2026, the city is in compliance for debt service as a percentage of fair market real property values and debt service as a percentage of general government expenditures, however both exclude Potomac Yard Metrorail Station debt. The only counter may be that the council knows that it can tax us to death and we are already beginning to see the start of their ill-conceived strategy.

**Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

### Inside APD

FROM PAGE 8

cocaine, named after quarterback Michael Vick.

According to East, Vice stings can be intense or tedious, but are always unpredictable. East described stings as “boredom punctuated with terror.” Often, a meet is scheduled with drug dealers who cancel the meeting on a whim. It’s frustrating, but East said it happens regularly. Other times, deals can become dangerous very quickly. East referenced one scenario where, instead of marijuana, a dealer brought a gun and put it to one of the undercover officer’s head. Eventually shooting started between the two parties, but no one was hurt. Neither were killed or injured.

“It’s an endorphin high,” said East. “Those situations are their own kind of drug.”

When they do work as police, as in raids, officers in the Vice unit use balaclavas to cover their faces to protect their identity. Lion, from Internal Investigations, said that the officers working in Vice are still held accountable for their actions, but that the rules are a little different. “It’s a grey area that is more permitted within policy,” said Lion. “These guys are trying hard not to be cops.”



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**All City High School Visual Art Exhibition.** Through April 10, 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](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: “Art into Fashion/ Fashion into Art.”** Through April 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Fiber artists explore art inspired by fashion designers and fashionable wearables inspired by artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Georgia Nassikas: “Oils and Encaustics.”** Through April 24, Thursday, Friday, Sunday 12-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. In her wax and oil paintings, artist Nassikas explores the intersection of the abstract and the representational. She focuses on the elemental lines, shapes, and colors at the core of nature. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Art Exhibit: “It’s Black and White!”** Through April 24, Gallery hours at The Associates Gallery (TAG), 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery will feature two member artists in “It’s Black and White!” in a complementary scheme of black and white rendered in two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through April 24, gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. Ethiopian artist Daniel Taye will display his art. Taye is known for landscape, abstract and figurative work. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

**DASH for the STASH.** Through May 15. Learn about investing with DASH for the STASH, an investor education contest hosted by the Alexandria Library. Read four game posters at any Alexandria Library location, get a quiz question related to each, and submit your answers to have a chance at winning a \$1,000 retirement investment. Game posters are on display at all Alexandria Library locations. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1751.

**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](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) 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 Goldsmith Gallery, the historical 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](http://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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fortward).

**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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum).

**“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](http://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](http://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



Above: “Night Glow,” Fritz Desroches, left: “Laughing Queen,” oil on canvas with artist made frame, Teresa Oaxaca.

## ‘Misfits’ Follows ‘Caribbean – How Beautiful’

Haitian American artist Fritz Desroches uses acrylic paintings to show vibrant examples of both daily activities and traditional elements of Haitian art. His solo exhibit, “The Caribbean – How Beautiful,” will be featured in The Art League Gallery through April 3. On April 6, Teresa Oaxaca’s solo exhibit “Misfits” will open. The modern master poses 21st Century individuals in Victorian and Baroque costumes, paired with dolls, bones, teacups, fresh flowers, and masks. The exhibit will hang through May 1. Both exhibits are free. Visit [www.thehartleague.org](http://www.thehartleague.org) for more.

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](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**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.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.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](http://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](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month.

Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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

**Art for Life.** Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered 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](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).



# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Fort Ward Presents 'Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier'

Learn about surgical procedures and medical care of the Civil War period at a special living history program at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site on Saturday, April 23. The event is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is free. The program will be presented by Civil War medical historian and living history interpreter Von Barron, who will portray a regimental surgeon in a field hospital setting that features a variety of medical tools and equipment of the era. Visitors can also meet Civil War African American nurse Susie King Taylor, who will be portrayed by Heather Butts, author of the book "African-American Medicine in Washington, D.C.: Healing the Capital during the Civil War Era." Visit [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org) for more.

**Doggy Happy Hour.** Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit [www.monacoalexandria.com](http://www.monacoalexandria.com) for more.

**Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.** Starting April 7. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25 Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit [www.baseballboat.com](http://www.baseballboat.com) for more.

**Historic Alexandria Attics and Alleys Tours.** Saturdays, May-October, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Attics and Alleys is a three-hour walking tour featuring the rarely seen spaces of four sites—the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, and Carlyle House Historic Park. Tickets are \$35. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.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](http://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](http://www.532yoga.com).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 31

**"Celebrating Poetry in Alexandria."** 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. To kick-off National Poetry Month and to acknowledge Tori Lane Kovarik's contributions to the Alexandria community, Kovarik will read a selection of her works and works of others. This will be her last official reading as Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria and before leaving the Alexandria area. Free. Call 703-746-5565 for more.

**Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.** 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to a concert. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel) for more.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 1

**First Friday: "Fools' Day Merriment."** 6-8:30 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Guests are invited to dress in silly clothes, listen to music and jokes and more. Advance per person reservations: \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. To pay online (455205.01): [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac).

**Reception: All City High School Visual Art Exhibition.** 7-9 p.m. 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 the four schools have collaborated. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-2

**Children's Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Buy or sell children's clothes. Free to attend. Call 703-329-9327.

### APRIL 1-27

**Broadway Gallery April Artist Showcase.** Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featured will be the pastel and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net).

### APRIL 1-MAY 1

**Exhibit: "Creatures from the Sea."** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans interpret real and imagined "Creatures from the Sea." Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org)

### SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**RecExpo.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lee Center Complex, 1108 Jefferson St. Wish you could test out a program before registering? Take part in free demos and clinics, meet instructors and center staff to get any questions answered, and register for programs and camps on-site. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/C/12530](http://www.alexandriava.gov/C/12530).

**Fort Hunt Preschool Touch a Truck.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children are invited to get up close and personal with buses, trucks, and fire engines. Tickets are \$5. Visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com).

**Circles & Pastels: Draw Like Kadinsky.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Parent and children are invited to learn simple art techniques inspired by Master artist Wassily Kadinsky. The workshop fee is \$30 for a parent and child. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/).

**JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES**

## JACKI SORENSEN'S FITNESS CLASSES

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For information,  
Call: 202-657-1150  
Email: [JackisDC@gmail.com](mailto:JackisDC@gmail.com)

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Children's Cherry Blossom Festival.

1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Visitors can hear a story, try their hand at origami and chopsticks, paint a Japanese style lantern, and seek out beautiful cherry trees on a cherry tree hunt. Admission is free, craft tickets are \$10 each. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

**UCM Spring Gala.** 6 p.m. at the United States Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. United Community Ministries will host a "Viva Las Vegas" themed benefit. Tickets are \$175. Visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org) for more.

**Joe Crookston.** 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Singer-songwriter Joe Crookston performs. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance and for members. Call 703-380-3151 for more.

**Magi-Whirl 2016.** 7 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. This five-act magic show will benefit the Bishop Ireton Theatre Department. Tickets are \$17, \$15 for students 14 and under and seniors 65 and over, \$55 for a family pack of four, and free for military in uniform. Visit [www.familymagicshow.org](http://www.familymagicshow.org).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

**Lushness & Lyrical.** 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Jenny Oaks Baker headlines a program of classics telling tales of fancy, fairies and fantasy. Tickets are \$20-80, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

**Bagels and Bach.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music while your children learn how to appreciate it. Light brunch provided. Tickets are \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents, and free for children under five. To register online, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac) and use 455208-01 code to register.

**Eyewitness to Space.** 1 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Resident artist James Dean (Studio 306) leads a free public conversation on how he began the NASA Art Program. Free, but RSVP is required. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

## APRIL 3-30

**Art Exhibit: "The Shape of Water."** Gallery hours at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. "The Shape of Water" features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Free. Visit [www.oenonehammersley.com](http://www.oenonehammersley.com).

## TUESDAY/APRIL 5

**Creative Exploration Open Studio.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

**Reel Paddling Film Festival.** 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is hosting Rapid Media's Reel Paddling Film Festival World Tour on April 6 at The Lyceum in Alexandria. The award-winning films tell stories about canoeing and kayaking. Tickets are \$15, \$12 in advance and for students. Visit [www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com](http://www.reelpaddlingfilmfestival.com).

## APRIL 6-MAY 1

**Art Exhibit: "Misfits."** Gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Artist Teresa Oaxaca's latest paintings blend together portraiture and still life in elaborate, tightly cropped compositions. The modern master poses 21st Century individuals in Victorian and Baroque costumes, paired with dolls, bones, teacups, fresh flowers, and masks. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 7

**First Thursday: Hats Along the Ave.** 6-9 p.m. along Mount Vernon Ave. The April 7 First Thursday features music from Mars Rodeo (at the Farmers Market Lot), a hat parade, photo booth by Meghan LaPrairie, discounts for showing off hats at select local businesses, and more. Free. Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com) for more.

**Opening Reception: "The Shape of Water."** 6-7:30 p.m. at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. "The Shape of Water" features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Find a wine tasting and an appetizer. Free. Visit [www.oenonehammersley.com](http://www.oenonehammersley.com).

**Materialized Magic.** 6-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery hosts Ericka Cleveland and Stacy Cantrell's CRAVE-sponsored "Materialized Magic" community art project. The meet-up provides free lessons in crocheting, knitting, and felting. Participants help create a magical Yarn Bomb habitat and also have a chance to be featured with the key artists in a culminating display. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Opening Reception: "Misfits."** 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Celebrate artist Teresa Oaxaca. Free. Visit

[www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 8

**An Evening in the French Quarter.** 7 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. The annual Fostering the Future Gala benefits the Fund for Alexandria's Children. Tickets are \$75, adults only. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild](http://www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 8-9

**Spring Garden Market.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. members meeting Friday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday at American Horticultural Society's headquarters at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. This year's Spring Garden Market at River Farm in Alexandria will feature a variety of plant and garden-related vendors, demonstrations, kids activities, and more. More than 30 vendors from across the Mid-Atlantic region will offer a large selection of edible and flowering plants, as well as garden art, tools, and other accessories. Parking is \$5, admission is free. Visit [www.ahs.org](http://www.ahs.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Alexandria's African American Civil War History.** 10-11 a.m. at Alexandria Contrabands & Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, 1001 S. Washington St. Join City Archaeologist Fran Bromberg and Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey Davis as you learn about the history of contrabands (escaped slaves) buried in the cemetery, the fascinating archaeology behind its rediscovery, and how the site became a memorial. Free. Call 703-746-4399 or 703-746-4356 to make a reservation.

**Braddock Day.** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn more about the French and Indian War. Meet "General Braddock" and meet costumed interpreters. Tickets are free, \$1 suggested donation. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) for more.

**Lecture: "What a Photograph Tells Us."** 2-3 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn how Charles Joyce traced the history of Francis Snow's historical photograph of United States Colored Troops (USCT) at L'Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria. Images of USCT soldiers are uncommon, and remarkably, each man is identified on the back of this albumen photograph. These names provide an unusual opportunity to determine what happened to the men after the Civil War. Free. Call 703-746-4356 for reservations.

**Transforming Lives Gala.** 6-11 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400

Courthouse Square. Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services holds its annual fundraiser featuring silent auctions, cocktails, dinner and more. Tickets are \$200. Visit [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org) for more.

**12th Annual Rum Punch Challenge.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local distilleries, restaurants and caterers and vote for your favorite. Also find period and modern food. Tickets are \$50, VIP tickets are \$100. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 10

**The Walkers.** 10:45 a.m. at Church of God of Prophecy, 6409 Telegraph Road. The Walkers is a southern gospel trio with more than 20 years of experience in performing and ministering. Their music combines country, southern gospel, and contemporary. Free. Visit [www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/artist/12491](http://www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/artist/12491) for more.

**Madame Butterfly Program.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attend a Japanese-themed tea at the Madame Butterfly program built around the short story that influenced Puccini's opera of the same name. Discover the prevailing attitudes that brought these characters together in Japan and the "temporary wives" who became real-life "Butterflies." Tickets are \$42, \$12 for the program alone. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

**Spring Forward.** 5-8 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. program includes Philadelphia international recording artist The Intruders, live auction (bid for a stay in a country home outside of Paris, a Cancun villa that sleeps 8 and more) to benefit Community Lodgings. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door, \$40 for guests under 40. Visit [www.communitylodgings.org](http://www.communitylodgings.org).

**Art + Architecture Panel Discussion.** 6-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. For Virginia Architecture Week the Torpedo Factory Art Center will co-host a special reception and panel discussion with the American Institute of Architects Northern Virginia. The program focuses on the relationships between art and architecture. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Pohick Church Coffeehouse.** 6-8 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Pohick Church Episcopal Youth Community will present an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. The event is free, but

donations are accepted. Proceeds go toward the Senior High Summer Mission Trip. Contact Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or [rusty@pohick.org](mailto:rusty@pohick.org).

## APRIL 10-16

**Exhibit: "Intersection of Art and Architecture."** Gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. For National Architecture Week, the American Institute of Architects will have a display in the main hall featuring architectural designs created by institute members. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## TUESDAY/APRIL 12

**Creative Exploration Open Studio.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/).

**Workshop on Planting and Using Herbs.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Participants will learn the elements of an herb garden, tips for successful planting and how to use herbs they've grown. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex.org](mailto:mgaralex.org).

## THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**Gardening with Wildlife in Mind.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find out about habitat gardening, and how it incorporates the birds, bees, pollinators and so many others — all of course with native plants. Free. Visit [www.vnps.org/potowmack/events](http://www.vnps.org/potowmack/events) for more.

**The Church.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Church will perform two full sets. The first will feature The Church's classic second album — "The Blurred Crusade." The second set will consist of selections from the band's new album "Further/Deeper" along with other classic tracks. Tickets are \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 14-16

**Save Our Ship Tours.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every 30 minutes. Special behind-the-scenes tours are being offered of our 18th-century ship, before it is moved to a conservation facility. Reservations required, \$10 suggested donation. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov/SelectEvent.aspx](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov/SelectEvent.aspx).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 15-16

**"Guys and Dolls."** 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

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# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

## Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

**Saturday:**  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass  
6:30 pm Vigil Mass  
(en Español)

**Sunday:**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am  
(with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm  
(en Español); 6:30 pm

**Monday-Saturday:**  
9:00 am Mass  
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

**En Español:**  
Monday, 6:30 pm;  
Thursday, 7:30 pm;  
First Friday, 7:30 pm  
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# ENTERTAINMENT



**Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Pictured here: Charles Butler's "Faster." The exhibit will hang May 6-29. The opening reception will be held on May 6 at 7 p.m. Del Ray Artists is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).**

Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre students perform the musical "Guys and Dolls." Tickets are \$7 for students, \$8 for seniors, military, and Mount Vernon High staff, and \$10 for everyone else. Visit [www.mvstheatrearts.com](http://www.mvstheatrearts.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 16

**Fashion Show Luncheon.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Event begins with shopping and silent auction followed by buffet, fashion shows, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net) for more.

**Huntley Farm Day.** 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Find baby animals from Frying Pan Park, homemade ice cream, story-telling, and re-enactors. This prominent farming family owned Historic Huntley from 1868-1946. Tour the house, and stop by the various information stations highlighting local farming history, such as the Woodlawn Agricultural Society and Green Spring Gardens. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Call 703-768-2525 for more.

## APRIL 16-MAY 29

**Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now."** Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Kellner's site-responsive Paintings in Space use the room as a canvas. She creates organic, ethereal forms from silk. Viewers experience the intimacy of being absorbed with a room-sized painting. This is the first exhibition as part of the Target Gallery's New Media Invitational and is funded, in part, by March150 participants. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## TUESDAY/APRIL 19

**Creative Exploration Open Studio.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes/).

**Genealogy and Maps.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Tracking five generations of a family as it migrates across the country, genealogist Sharon Cook MacInnes, Ph.D., talks about using maps to locate ancestors, track migrations, reveal family relationships, and uncover historical context. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. All Wheel Jive will provide the music. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 22

**Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chiquapin 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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

**"Phantom of the Opera."** 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Watch the restored 1929 silent horror masterpiece "The Phantom of the Opera" with live improvisation by acclaimed organist Dorothy Papadokos. Not for children younger than 10. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu](http://www.vts.edu) for more.

**Concertos by Mozart.** 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra will be joined by hornist Tim Huizenga, clarinetist Parker Gaimes and pianist John McCrary. Each will perform a concerto by Mozart. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-998-6100 Ext: 103.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 23

**Carlyle House Herb & Craft Sale.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Stock up on herbs and other plants grown in

Mount Vernon greenhouses. Check out the selection of items offered by local artisans and crafters. Browse through gently used coffee-table, children's and audio books. Enjoy performances by local musicians. This event is free, however admission to the Carlyle House museum is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) for more.

**83rd Annual Alexandria Historic Homes & Garden Tour.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria. Celebrating the 83rd anniversary of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, this tour features privately owned Old Town homes and gardens plus historic properties like the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Carlyle House Historic Park and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 day of, \$25 for single-site tours. Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) for more.

**Civil War Medicine Living History.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site will sponsor a Civil War medical living history program presented by Civil War medical historian and interpreter Von Barron, who portrays U.S. Army Regimental Surgeon Captain Turner Kitt in a field hospital setting that features a variety of medical tools and equipment of the era. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard](http://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard).

**Screening: "An American in Paris."** 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch 1951 Gene Kelly musical. Free. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 24

**Annual George Washington Parkway Classic.** 8 a.m. at Old Town Alexandria, starting places vary. This course, with lush scenery and river views, takes runners down the George Washington Parkway and through the iconic brick buildings lining the streets of Alexandria. Registration is \$10-80. Visit [www.RunPacers.com/race/parkway-classic](http://www.RunPacers.com/race/parkway-classic).

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# Le Refuge Restaurant

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Sam Zang (20) and the T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse team defeated West Potomac on Tuesday night.



Dillon Smith (22) and the T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse team even their record at 1-1 with a 15-11 win over West Potomac on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

## TC Boys' Lacrosse Beats West Potomac

**T**he T.C. Williams boys' lacrosse team won its home opener on Tuesday night, beating West Potomac 15-11 at Minnie Howard. The Titans opened the season with a 16-11 loss to Lake Braddock on March 17, but evened their record at 1-1 by defeating the rival Wolverines.

"I thought we made a number of mental mistakes at various points in the game, but our guys were resilient, and improved from our first game," TC head coach Michael

Mulherin wrote in an email. "We don't have a big roster, so we have to control the ball, and we were able to do that when it counted tonight."

T.C. Williams goal-scorers included sophomore attackman Brody Dickson, senior attackman Dillon Smith, senior attackman Phil Reilly, senior midfielder Scott Passalugo and junior midfielder Sammy Zang.

"It's huge for us to start off with a strong performance after spring break and to show

improvement from Lake Braddock," Mulherin wrote.

"Annandale will be another tough game on Friday, so we wanted to get some momentum going in to that match."

T.C. Williams finished 5-10 last season and last qualified for the region tournament in 2011.

"We've always tried to stay away from focusing on a W-L record for goals, and in that same light we also try not to focus on a postseason record," Mulherin wrote. "We

want to play to our potential, which we feel is in the top half of the Patriot Conference, we want to improve every day/game, and we want to be competitive in all of our games, playing our best lacrosse by the end of the season."

The Titans will travel to face Annandale at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will return home for a game against Stuart at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5.

— JON ROETMAN

## Bishop Ireton Girls' Lax Improves to 6-0

**T**he Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team remained undefeated, improving to 6-0 with a 19-6 victory over Brighton (N.Y.) on Tuesday afternoon in Alexandria.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," Ireton head coach Rick Sofield wrote in an email. "We are still figuring things out and making mistakes so I'm very proud of the girls for finding ways to win while we are developing chemistry."

Ireton senior attack Kelly Larkin (Navy) finished with four goals and four assists. Sophomore attack Lexi Ledoyen (Syracuse) had four goals and one assist. Junior midfielder Kayla Duperrouzel (William & Mary) had two goals, four assists and eight draw controls, helping the Cardinals win draws 23-2.

"Duperrouzel," Sofield wrote, "continues to do extremely well on draws."

Larkin is the team's leading goal-scorer this season with 21, and also has 11 assists. Duperrouzel has a team-high 12 assists, along with 11 goals. Ledoyen has 15 goals and five assists.

"We are competing at a very high level and are playing fast," Sofield wrote. "Our execution and decision-making will need to

improve before we are ready to reach our full potential."

Bishop Ireton remained at No. 8 in the March 22 edition of the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine Girls' National Top 25 poll. At that point, the Cardinals were 3-0, with wins over No. 25 Georgetown Visitation (16-8) on March 15, Ontario, Canada's Hill Academy (9-8) on March 17 and Bishop McNamara (18-0) on March 18.

Since then, Ireton has defeated Holy Cross (11-10) on March 22, Pennsylvania's Agnes Irwin (12-9) on March 28 and Brighton on Tuesday.

"Our point guards, Kayla Duperrouzel and Kate Carney (Cincinnati), keep getting better at running our sets and getting multiple players involved in the offense," Sofield wrote.

"Larkin is improving at taking advantage of her opportunities without trying to do too much on her own."

Britt Dolan (Penn State) and Maggie Lohrer (Boston) have really stepped up as the leaders on defense and out-work everyone else at making the little plays needed to be successful."

Ireton will face Victor (New York) at noon on Saturday, April 2 at the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The following day, the Cardinals will take on Loyola Academy (Illinois) at 10 a.m. at Catholic University in Washington.

After traveling to face Victor and Loyola Academy, Ireton will host two of the top teams in the country in a four-day span.

The Cardinals will take on WCAC foe Good Counsel at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 8 at Fannon Field. Good Counsel is ranked No. 3 in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine national poll.

On Monday, April 11, Ireton will face No. 1 McDonogh at 4 p.m. at Fannon Field. Last year, McDonogh defeated Ireton 14-4 in Owings Mills, Md., when the two teams were ranked 1-2, respectively, in the Nike/Lacrosse Magazine poll.

Sofield said the Cardinals will not be looking ahead.

"With the difficult schedule we play, we will have our hands full with the next team we face so we don't have the luxury of looking ahead to any particular opponents deeper in our schedule," Sofield wrote. "We are just trying to get a little better for our next game, whomever it is."

—JON ROETMAN



Kelly Larkin, seen earlier this season, and the Bishop Ireton girls' lacrosse team improved to 6-0 with a 19-6 victory over Brighton (N.Y.) on Tuesday afternoon.

PHOTO BY JEFF MCQUILKIN



# News



## Torchlight Supports Carpenter's Shelter

TorchLight employees (from left) Heidi Parsont, Julie Lowe, Amy Tsuchitani, Autumn Conrad Schiff, Jennifer Todd, Beth Ranzer and Ilene Hanin spent the day volunteering at Carpenters Shelter, where they prepared and served lunch for the residents.

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED



TorchLight President and CEO Heidi Parsont (left) presents a check for \$2,500 to Carpenters Shelter Volunteer Coordinator Kelly McDermott. TorchLight, a marketing and communications recruiting firm, is headquartered in Alexandria and the majority of its employees live in Alexandria. See [www.torchlighthire.com](http://www.torchlighthire.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

### IN APRIL

**Spring Clean-Up.** Residents who receive city refuse collection services are eligible to receive Spring Clean-Up on a Saturday in April. Residents are encouraged to clear out household clutter and place unwanted bulky trash and metal items at the curb on appropriate neighborhood collection dates. Visit [alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection](http://alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection) for dates and neighborhoods.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 31

**Holiday Lights.** The annual King Street Holiday Lights display will be suspended on March 31. The display will return to King Street the third week of November.

**"Coal Ash Stories."** 7 p.m. at Alexandria Library Beatley Branch, 5005 Duke St. Several Virginia organizations are launching "Coal Ash Stories," a statewide screening tour featuring four short documentary films focused on coal ash waste. Visit [www.coalashchronicles.com/tag/alexandria](http://www.coalashchronicles.com/tag/alexandria) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**Clean Power Plan Rally.** 2-4 p.m. at Alexandria Market Square, 301 King St. Individuals and organizations are joining together to hold a Day of Action in 12 locations across the Commonwealth. Rally and speaker's bureau will feature state Sen. Adam Ebbin, Delegates Alfonso Lopez and

Mark Levine, Dr. Samantha Ahdoot and youth clean energy advocates urging Gov. McAuliffe to cut carbon pollution and support a strong Clean Power Plan. Visit [bit.ly/1UCaGTU](http://bit.ly/1UCaGTU) for more.

### MONDAY-TUESDAY/APRIL 4-5

**MLK Commemoration.** Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to its annual commemoration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holy Eucharist: Monday, April 4 at 7 p.m., Immanuel Chapel. Two lectures by Dr. Carl W. Haywood, Director of the Division of Music at Norfolk State University, Tuesday, April 5: 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel and 1 p.m. in the Addison Academic Center. All events will be held on the Seminary campus, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free, no registration required. Visit [www.vts.edu](http://www.vts.edu) for more.

### MONDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 4-10

**Temporary Closure.** The Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., will be closed for a tile replacement project. If interested in reserving the Center, contact Cheryl Anne Colton at 703-746-5565 or [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 5

**Handing Down Possessions.** 2-4 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Financial Volunteers lead a session discussing best practices and tips for handing down possessions. Free. Visit [bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms](http://bit.ly/VCEFinancePrograms) for more.

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### APRIL

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

### MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout

5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/4/2016.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 8

5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

Memorial Day is May 30

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

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Roosevelt

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

## 21 Announcements

120 gal Fishtank \$300. No  
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## 21 Announcements

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Pursuant to the provision of  
section 4-1-16 of the code of  
the City of Alexandria, the  
Alexandria Police Department  
located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue,  
Alexandria, VA 22304 is  
now in possession of un-  
claimed 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.

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Hebri Exiotic Ethiopian  
Restaurant, LLC trading as  
Hebri Exiotic Ethiopian  
Restaurant, 410 East Glebe  
Rd A, Alexandria, VA 22305.  
The above establishment is  
applying to the VIRGINIA DE-  
PARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC  
BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC)  
for a Wine and Beer/Mixed  
Beverage Restaurant on  
Premises license to sell or  
manufacture alcoholic  
beverages. Kenubish  
Wondem, Officer  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance  
of this license must be  
submitted to ABC no later than  
30 days from the publishing  
date of the first of two required  
newspaper legal notices. Ob-  
jections should be registered at  
[www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or  
800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Kumo Asian Bistro Inc. trading  
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## 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-03-03

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public  
Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified  
Offerors to provide Preventative Maintenance, Installation,  
Repair and Emergency Services for Refrigeration, Freezers  
and Institutional/Commercial Cooking Equipment.

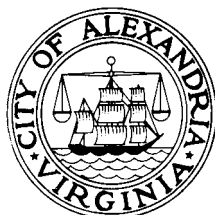
Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-03-03  
Preventative Maintenance, Installation, Repair and Emergency  
Services for Refrigeration, Freezers and Institutional/  
Commercial Cooking Equipment will be received in the Central  
Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, April 18,  
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. RFP documents may be obtained at the  
above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by  
downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at  
<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any  
or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements



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

Request for Proposals No. 00000602, Market Square Plaza  
and Garage Repairs Design Services

RFP Closing Date and Time: April 29, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing  
local time

For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist  
II at 703.746.3921.

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

# CLASSIFIED

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public  
hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with  
mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependen-  
cy problem, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Perform-  
ance Contract), available at [www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS). The  
hearing will be Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m. at 720 North Saint  
Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to  
send comments, call 703.746.3523 or email Donielle.Mar-  
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## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

## Virginia Horse Festival



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804-994-2800 Caroline County, VA  
[VirginiaHorseFestival.com](http://VirginiaHorseFestival.com)



## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

A public hearing on the 2017 ATC Transit Development Program and budget will be held on April 13, 2016, at 5:30 P. M., in Room 2410, City Council Workroom, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Proposed changes under consideration are:

1. No increase in the DASH base fare; the price of the monthly DASH Pass will remain at \$40.00.
2. Proposed service changes to DASH routes to take effect in July 2016, include:
  - (a) AT1 – Improved peak period service frequency to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes.
  - (b) AT4, AT5, and AT8 – Route realignments in North Old Town between King Street Metro and Braddock Metro to improve service efficiencies and coverage.
  - (c) AT7 – Route realignment between King Street Metro and Lee Center to improve schedule reliability, eliminate one-way loop, and restore bidirectional service in the Southwest Quadrant.
  - (d) Extend Saturday AT9 service from Bradlee Shopping Center to Mark Center to maintain same routing as weekday service and provide Saturday service to Park Center and NVCC.

Paul Abramson, Chairman

For a copy of the 2017 Transit Development Program (TDP), please contact Marlene Stevens, ATC Secretary, at 703-746-5637 or email [marlene.stevens@alexandriava.gov](mailto:marlene.stevens@alexandriava.gov). The TDP will also be posted on the DASH website at [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com).

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000605, Architectural & Engineering Service for the Warwick Pool Facilities Replacement

Closing Date and Time: April 22, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference on April 5, 2016, 9:00 AM prevailing local time, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Michael F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Deputy Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.

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

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY



**Marie Elizabeth (Koed) Kenney, 91**, passed away Monday, March 14, 2016, in her home in Alexandria, Virginia. She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, John F.C. Kenney, Jr. (U.S. Army Colonel, Retired), by less than a month. Marie is survived by her daughters, Catherine Marie Hale and Mary Elizabeth Brenner; her sons-in-law, Richard Hale and Matthew Brenner; and her grandchildren, Colleen, Ethan and Zachary Brenner.

Marie was born on June 15, 1924, to Walter and Gertrude Koed. She grew up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, where she knew her future husband John as one of brother Gene's best friends. It was when he returned from World War II service that they fell in love and became engaged. The wedding had to wait until John graduated from the United States Military Academy (West Point); they were married the next morning, June 4, 1952.

For the next 30 years, Marie served as an Army Wife through a dozen moves, raising their daughters and lending her time and talents to the community, volunteering in the hospitals where they were stationed, and leading a Girl Scout Troop in her Waynewood neighborhood. She became a guide at historic Woodlawn Plantation for many years, and helped found the in-house catering group for the Teas and weddings held at the house. Marie also partnered with John as small business owners after his retirement from the Army, and enjoyed the many new friends they made as well as the traveling they did.

Marie will be buried with John at Arlington National Cemetery on June 7, with the service at 10:45 a.m. at the Old Post Chapel on Fort Myer, and burial immediately after. There will also be a visitation the evening before (Monday, June 6) from 5:30 to 7:30, at Demaine Funeral Home in Old Town Alexandria.

### OBITUARY



**Lee Ann Crowe** was born on April 5, 1929 in Frostburg MD, the eldest of four children born to James Leroy Crowe and Ann Germaine Crowe (nee Creegan). After raising four children, she enjoyed many years working as a receptionist at the Barton House in Arlington.

She is survived by Dona Sherrill (Gary), Gary Patterson (Eileen), Paula Rodney (Eric), and Amy Poeppelman (Kevin) and four grandchildren Kristen Jaffee, Justin Sherrill, Emma Patterson, and Lauren Rodney and seven great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by her brother, James Crowe (Carolyn) of Frostburg, MD.

She is preceded in death by her husband Joseph Patterson (1920-1997) and second husband Mark Boerner (1934-2013), her parents, one sister (Elizabeth Homer), and one brother (Raymond Crowe).

A funeral mass will be held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. on April 5, 2016.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY



**Katherine Duncan Andres of Warrenton**, Virginia passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday, March 21, 2016 in her home. On the Sunday preceding her death she celebrated the Holy Mass with family and close friends surrounding her bedside. She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Dr. Francis (Bud) Andres; her brothers James Reece Duncan, Jr. (Reston) and Thomas Duncan (Monterey, Virginia) and sister, Martha Duncan (Fairfax). Preceding her in death was her sister, Anne Duncan of Alexandria. She was the loving mother of five children: Kimberly (David) Livaudais of Herndon; Kristin (Nik) Brisbin of Manassas; Kara (Kevin) Carroll of Charlotte, North Carolina; Andy (Sharon) Andres of Atlanta, Georgia; and Christopher (Kimberly) Andres of Richmond. Her 20 grandchildren and two great grandchildren will miss her joy, warmth, charisma, and smile!

Katherine was born in Washington, DC on January 14, 1937, the daughter of the late Judge James Reece Duncan and Katharine Braunstein Duncan. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy Grade School and High School in Alexandria and Marymount Junior College in Arlington in 1957. After graduation, Kathie was employed at Georgetown Medical School in Washington, DC, where she met her husband whom she married in 1959. She is especially remembered for her love of family and service to others. While raising their five children, Kathie supported her husband's private medical practice; organized a religious education program for preschool children at St. Michael Catholic Church in Annandale; served as Co-Chairman of the Catholic Charities Ball; and participated in countless other fundraising and philanthropic efforts for the Arlington Diocese and the Medical Auxiliary of Northern Virginia.

In recent years, Kathie and Bud were active and beloved members of St. John Catholic Church in Warrenton, and loved spending time with family and visiting friends at Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington. She modeled the importance of gathering together and celebrating life, embracing others wherever she went. She was dedicated to all of her grandchildren, and frequently travelled to attend games, graduations, sacraments, and recitals. Kathie loved shopping and had a beautiful sense of style; she filled her home with flowers and lovingly did the arrangements for her oldest granddaughter's wedding; and, she organized countless vacations at the Outer Banks of North Carolina that provided so many with joyful memories.

Relatives and friends called at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street, Alexandria on Monday, March 28 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church, 310 South Royal St., Alexandria at 10:30 am Tuesday, March 29. Interment followed immediately at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Memorial donations in Katherine's honor may be made to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington by visiting [www.ccca.net](http://www.ccca.net) or calling (703) 841-3835.

### OBITUARY



### Michael A. Conner, Sr. Deputy Fire Chief - Alexandria, VA

On March 23, 2016 Michael A. Conner, Sr. answered his "final alarm" after a long and courageous battle with the many ailments he suffered from due to his exposure to Agent Orange when he became a decorated combat Veteran of the United States Coast Guard serving in the Vietnam War from 1969-1970. He was a 100% Disabled Veteran.

As many of us were taught from the Book 2 Timothy, Chapter 4 Verse 7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Mr. Conner is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Linda; four children, Michael Allen Jr. of No. Virginia, Margaret Christine of Marietta, TX, Michael Scott of Prince William County and Suzanne Marie of San Antonio, TX; seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Conner, born March 27, 1947 was a lifelong resident of Alexandria, VA. He was the last remaining sibling of James R. Conner, Jr. and Joyce Baggott. He was the last remaining child of James R. and Florrie A. Conner, also of Alexandria, VA. Mr. Conner was raised in the Rosemont section of Alexandria where he attended public schools and graduated from the George Washington High School in 1966.

While still in high school, Mr. Conner expressed his desire to become a Firefighter. He first joined the Alexandria Fire Department as a Volunteer in 1965. Later that same year, he became the first paid cadet firefighter when he joined the City's School Board's Industrial Cooperative Training program where he attended school in the morning and worked at the Fire Department in the afternoon.

That program became the precursor to his highly successful 40 year career in the fire service with a National reputation among his peers as a highly skilled professional after serving in nearly every facet of the fire service including; firefighting, rescue, fire prevention, communications, maintenance, investigations, and administration.

While serving in the United States Coast Guard from 1966-1970, Mr. Conner continued honing his skills of being a Firefighter as he was responsible for shipboard firefighting as a Damage Control Petty Officer aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton, the first 378 foot cutter owned by the Coast Guard which was built in New Orleans, LA., home ported in Boston, MA. His initial training was held at the U.S. Naval Shipboard Firefighting School in Newport, RI.

Mr. Conner's Military Awards include the National Defense Ribbon, the Vietnam Service medal with a Bronze Star, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, a Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, the Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation, the U.S. Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon, and a Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Conner took his entrance exam to return to the City of Alexandria Fire Department while returning from Vietnam and traveling through the Panama Canal while returning to Boston where he was honorably discharged in July 1970. Mr. Conner returned to the Alexandria Fire Department in September 1970 where he watched the Department grow from six stations to ten, and from two medic units to more than double that number due to the density in population and the growth of the City through annexation.

He rose through the ranks and became the Chief Fire Marshal in 1983. Mr. Conner was the first appointed by Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder to serve on the Virginia State Building Code's Technical Review Board. He was subsequently reappointed by Governor's Allen, Gilmore, and Warner where he served for thirteen years as the Board's Chairman.

Mr. Conner always enjoyed reciting his work ethic mantra to his children and his co-workers; "Once a job hath begun; leave it not until it is done. Be the labor big or small; do it right or not at all." Conner often quipped that "his children knew how to recite that before they knew their address." He had another belief for which he was well known: "If he thought he was right; you could expect a fight."

During his tenure in the Fire Department Mr. Conner

was awarded "Fireman of the Year" in 1973 for his successful attempt at reviving a victim of Cardiac Arrest with the newly developed Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) technique. He was a Facilitator in the City's "Investment in Excellence" Program, and in 1973 he was awarded the Recognition of Service Excellence (ROSE) award by the Andrew Jackson Masonic Lodge of Alexandria, VA.

While serving as Deputy Chief of the Fire Department, and upon the occasion of his first retirement in 1998 he received

congratulatory letters from Mr. Alfred K. Whitehead, President of the International Association of Firefighters, Inc. and United States President William J. Clinton who thanked him for "for a job well done."

Mr. Conner returned to a service in a few months later in the Alexandria Fire Department. He was again hired as the City's Chief Fire Marshal for the second time under City Manager Vola Lawson where he led the Fire Marshal's Office and the Property Maintenance Division of the then, Code Enforcement Bureau of the Fire Department.

Mr. Conner always felt those were challenging times as the City's population and several small sections of the City had become so densely and diversely populated.

Under City Manager Lawson's strong leadership coupled with the staunch support of the City Council, Mr. Conner with his participatory management style was able to accomplish the mission of bringing people together for a common goal and fulfilled his purpose of protection of the citizens of Alexandria from the ravages of fire. He also served as a citizen media advisor on FOX Television's program: "For Kid's Sake."

Mr. Conner was one of the first responders to the Pentagon on 9/11/2001, where he helped establish some of the command operations and sectors that would remain in place for several days while the incident was being mitigated. Mr. Conner, when speaking of 9/11 always said that he had not seen such carnage since he served in Vietnam. "The tragic life loss here combined with the losses in New York and Pennsylvania was overwhelmingly sad and a needless loss" Conner said.

During his second retirement in 2005, Mr. Conner returned to school and graduated as a Licensed Private Investigator and became a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in the areas of Fire Investigation and Fire Administration. In this capacity, he traveled throughout the United States investigating fires and other crimes, and civil cases while assisting large and small cities with the proper and modern-day evaluation and administration of their Fire Departments.

In March 2010, Mr. Conner became a thankful kidney transplant recipient after having to suffer through dialysis treatments three times per week for four years. Despite the fact that the donor was never known, Mr. Conner always looked upon that experience as another of life's challenges and always tried to live life to the fullest following his transplant.

Mr. Conner was a Charter Member and Past President of Local 2141 of the International Association of Fire Fighters in Alexandria. His other affiliations included: The United States Fire Administration where he worked as a Consultant, the National Fire Protection Association where he helped develop nationally recognized training and testing standards for Fire Inspectors, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association where he served as President, Emeritus, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Hendry Knox Field Masonic Lodge #349, AF&AM where he was a life member, the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies, the U.S. Coast Guard Combat Veteran's Association, and the Alexandria Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff's Association.

Mr. Conner's family will receive friends on Thursday, March 31, 2016 from 2-4 & 6-9 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA, where a funeral service will be held on Friday, April 1, 2016 at 11 a.m. Mr. Conner's interment will follow in the Ivy Hill Cemetery, Circle of Honor; which his Firefighter Recruit Class first dedicated during the National Fire Prevention Week celebration on Wednesday October 7, 1970 in Alexandria, VA. Mr. Conner saw to it that the ceremony continued each year in memoriam to Alexandria Firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the citizens of Alexandria. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Mr. Conner's name to Rolling Thunder, Chapter2 Ohio, P.O. Box 485, Lake More, OH 44250. Additional information may be found at [www.everlywheatley.com](http://www.everlywheatley.com).

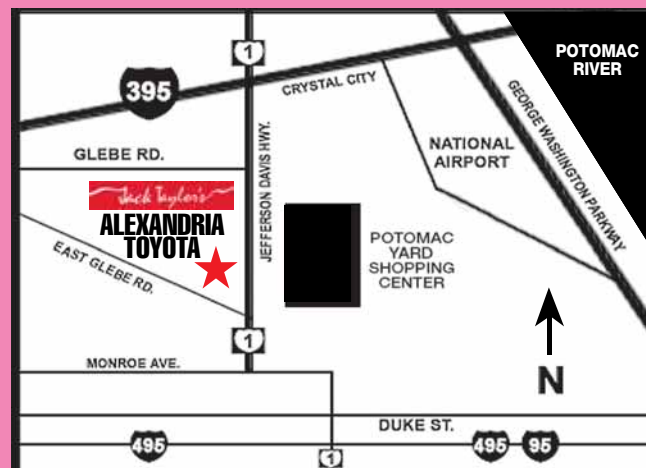


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Paul Anderson



Bob Bazzle



Vicki Binkley



Kay Blemker



Vici Boguess



Brenda Gail  
Brown



Clay Burke



Jodie Burns



Delaine Campbell



Cindy Clemmer



Laurel Conger



Barbara Cousens



Susan Craft



Donna Cramer



Waldi Crawford



Peter Crouch



Pat  
Crusenberry



Pat Day



Sue Dickerson



David Gray



Sally Z. Harper



Annette Hinaman



Noel Kaupinen



Sarah King



Betsy Leavitt



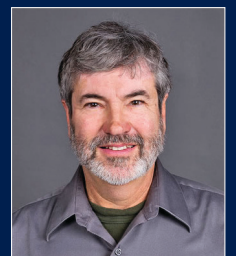
Bob Martini



Sandy McMaster



Ann Dozier  
Michael



Joel Miller



Brian Murphy



George Myers



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Janet Caterson  
Price



Ginger Quinn



Wendy  
Santantonio



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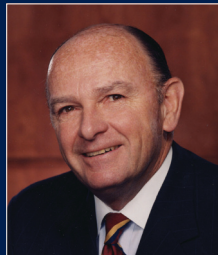
Sue Feintheil



Rochelle Gray



Joanne Gunn



Wayne Holland



Jane Manstorf



Susan McAteer



Sean  
McEneaney



Genevieve  
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Suzanne Morrison



Lydia Odle



David Rainey



Nada Seide



Melissa Shelby



Michael Sheridan



Pat Smith



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Whearty



Cecily Winchell