‘Live Big’

With a musical session and a baseball game, the Miracle League Program and several Alexandria institutions came together to celebrate the unveiling of a mural encouraging Alexandrians to “Live Big.” The mural, inspired by the Courage Wall that went up in Del Ray in 2015, was painted by artist Matt Corrado from Silver Spring. A friend of a friend told him about the project, and he wanted particularly to focus around making the design playful and colorful, but with an overall inspirational theme.

“It is amazing where courage has spread,” said Nancy Belmont, who had started the Courage Wall last year. “Fear is part of the human experience, you’re not alone. We’re all holding back from the world. But when fear is holding you back … remember that we’re with you.”

The Miracle League Program celebrates the “Live Big” mural.

Food Trucks Cook Up Trouble in Old Town North

Parking and Transportation Board approves food trucks at Metro sites, but not in Old Town.

Food trucks took three steps into Alexandria following a City Council meeting on April 16, but an April 25 Parking and Transportation Board hearing may have set them two steps back. The council had approved food trucks to move into Alexandria with the locations to be determined. Staff proposed that the trucks be allowed to park at the Braddock, King Street, and Eisenhower metros, as well as two locations in north Old Town. But at the Traffic and Parking Board, skepticism on the board about the proposal’s impact on parking led to the elimination of the two Old Town North sites.

The proposal follows the two year-long pilot program that allowed food trucks to set up shop in various parks and city properties around the city. However, the program saw poor participation due to the heavy restrictions. City staff hope new allowances for food trucks to park around the city will boost participation in the program.

But even before the comment was turned over to the public, members of the board expressed concerns about general food truck issues. Jay Johnson, for instance, argued that eight hours was too long to allow food trucks to move into Alexandria with the locations to be determined. Staff proposed that the trucks be allowed to park at the Braddock, King Street, and Eisenhower metros, as well as two locations in north Old Town. But at the Traffic and Parking Board, skepticism on the board about the proposal’s impact on parking led to the elimination of the two Old Town North sites.

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“IT’S NOT CONDUCIVE TO THE COMMUNITY AND NOT CONDUCIVE TO LOCAL BUSINESS.”

— Margaret Townsend, President, Old Town North Community Partnership.
A Distinguished & Expansive Home of Stature

Old Town Alexandria

Impeccably maintained and richly appointed, this stately residence boasts an elegant interior graced by high ceilings, deep detailed moldings, tall doors and windows, and quarter-sawn hardwood floors throughout. Six stunning fireplaces with detailed mantels lend an air of warmth and character. The well-designed floor plan offers a formal dining room that seats 14 comfortably, and a spacious living room, both with fireplaces. The gourmet kitchen, equipped with stainless steel appliances, an iron pot rack, 6-burner gas stove and breakfast room, is brightened by a sunny wall of windows. Across the way is a relaxing family room with a built-in TV, fireplace and bar area. Read quietly in the handsome wood paneled library with built-in bookshelves and fireplace. Tall French doors from the living room, family room and library open to a peaceful patio and garden area. Offered at $4,850,000.

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Alexandria

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Expanded 6-bedroom colonial is sited on a picturesque and tranquil lot. This crown jewel shines. Three spacious levels includes an attached three car garage and two au pair suites. This landmark property is simply stunning. 2/100 Whiteoaks Drive

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Old Town

$1,400,000

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www.CherieWilderottter.com
Part 5: Crisis

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Alexandria's Civil Disturbance Unit displays shield and pepper-ball tactics.

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 sixth week of the course, citizens learned more about how the Alexandria Police react to crisis situations, including hostage situations and riot control.

When the police arrived at the Carlyle apartment complex to serve a warrant, one of the officers heard the man inside rack his gun and tell the officers to go away. Soon, police were swarming around the building, and a late night rainy standoff was underway.

In the middle of emergencies, Captain Jamie Bridgeman with the Special Operations Bureau says the Incident Commander is in charge. It's a clear distinction of leadership that keeps the situation from being muddied by tangled chains of command, and afterwards can help provide clarity regarding responsibility for the incident's outcome.

Much of this job involved juggling several competing needs. The public needs to be made aware of what's going on at a site, but Bridgeman said the suspects more often than not are monitoring the news and social media to find out what's going on. The area around the incident needs to be cleared of anyone who might be in danger, and yet the police also aim to minimize the public impact of this crowd control. In the Carlyle incident, police cleared the rooms adjacent to the suspect and above and below, but encouraged others in the apartment complex to remain in place. Given that the suspect had a window view overlooking the courtyard, the police also had to close off the main streets in the area. But in a few hours, the Federal Courthouse next door was going to be opening, and people would start trickling in and out of the area to go to work.

Eventually, the police used a roommate's key to enter the building. They found the suspect in a back room of the apartment, still armed. They flooded the room with a pepper-spray gas, and the snipers across the street saw that he went over to the window to get a fresh breath, at which point the police entered the room and arrested him.

Alexandria police say, on average they see two instances a year. Between that time and the 1970s, the primary reaction to an active hostage situation was to use lethal force to end it and to consider the captives expendable. However, during the 1970s, a series of incidents like the Attica Riot and the Munich Olympics forced police in the U.S. to begin to reconsider their tactics. One legal case, Downes v. United States, had the widow of a man killed in a hostage standoff successfully sue the government for failing to try and find a peaceful resolution. Patterson said hostage negotiation was born out of that legal case.

The trick to hostage negotiation isn't knowing how to talk, it's knowing how to listen. More often than not, the suspects in these cases just want someone to talk to, and the hostage negotiators give them an outlet. One negotiator, a primary, is ideally on the phone with the suspect and gives them their undivided attention. A coach, meanwhile, listens in on the conversation and offers advice on sticky notes to the primary.

Sometimes it can be difficult to establish that initial connection. Police try to use a phone as the primary form of communication, but they will use whatever means they can if that fails, including at one point passing sticky notes to and from a suspect under the door of an apartment. During the incident at Carlyle, one police hostage negotiator's first time on the job, they were unable to make contact with the person inside the apartment. The negotiator had to keep talking and trying to keep up a one-sided conversation. This lasted over five hours, only for them to discover at the end that the suspect hadn't even been in the room.

Other outside factors can complicate negotiations. Deputy Chief Chris Wemple recalled two instances where police were working to talk down a person attempting suicide of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The negotiators would be talking to the suspect about getting them to step down, but then people passing in traffic that had gotten backed up would shout for the man to jump.

"It's empathy," said Patterson. "Identification of, not with, their motives, feeling, or situation. It's not sympathy or being nice."

Most often, someone taking hostages is in a heightened emotional state, so the Hostage Negotiations Team works to bring them back to a reasonable level. That can include bargaining, the most common chip being food, to possibly trade for hostages.

Next week, the Citizens' Police Academy meets the Alexandria K-9 Unit.
Responding to Teen Sex Trafficking

Comprehensive approach seeks to educate teens.

This story is part of a series that is focusing on child sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

By Shirley Ruhe

In 2012 Fairfax County Detective William Woolf discovered a 16-year-old girl being prostituted by the MS-13 gang. At the time there was little recognition that the problem existed locally. The girl was recovered and since then Woolf has interviewed 300 recovered victims, some as young as 12 years old. After the initial shock, Northern Virginia businesses, faith communities and educational groups sought to understand the extent of the problem.

While Woolf says there is evidence of teen sex trafficking in every high school in Fairfax County, Arlington County Police detective Danny Oh says that in his 11 years with Arlington County he has never seen a case of teen sex trafficking. Senior Public Safety Information Officer Crystal Nosal of the Alexandria Police Department reports only three cases of teen sex trafficking in the last three years.

The solutions to teen sex trafficking involve education, prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation. “I believe education is the key,” Woolf said. “We want to stress prevention so it doesn’t get to the law enforcement stage.” To further this goal, Woolf is in his previous role as the only human trafficking detective in Northern Virginia, trained law enforcement officers to recognize the signs of human trafficking, serves as chairman of Just Ask, an organization established to educate and prevent teen trafficking and has worked with the school system to incorporate lessons on human trafficking into the middle and high school curricula in Fairfax County.

Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Education for Fairfax County Public Schools reviews online the new curriculum designed for grades 6-12 grades that incorporates human trafficking into the regular lessons. “The teen sex trafficking court cases just kept coming; we knew we had to act,” she said.

She said they had members of the Arlington police gang task force talk to the teachers last spring about known incidents, arrest and inquiries in Arlington. DeFranco added, “We are working on sexual violence prevention. When a child comes to report, they can experience double victimization and we need to be aware of that to avoid it happening.”

Payne said the system is starting to yield results. She said she spoke recently to five middle school girls who had run away and were at high risk. “They said no, no, no problems to me but as soon as I left it was reported to me they started talking about their concerns about fraud. There is a lack of shame associated with this and the trafficker may have threatened them. But we are finding sometimes they will go to a trusted adult at school,” she said.

Arlington Public Schools updated its curriculum last year according to Deborah DeFranco, supervisor of Arlington County Public Schools Health, Physical and Driver Education & Athletics, “Arlington Public Schools has specific health units on human trafficking in grades 7-10. Since it is part of the PE curriculum instead of Family Life, we didn’t go through the same procedure as Fairfax County of parental notification — the opt out option and community input. We know sex trafficking is out there and we wanted to get out ahead of the problem. There are many myths out there; we wanted to give the students facts,” she said.

In addition, DeFranco is participating in the Northern Virginia Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. The result of the group’s work will be updated and incorporated into these units of study. “It is close by,” she said. “We know it is happening locally in south Alexandria.”

Michelle Knight, Social Justice and Outreach Minister for Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington, says the church had a program Feb. 12 focusing on teen sex trafficking because churches have a responsibility. “We want to raise awareness, and it is a much bigger problem around here than most people think. I don’t know if we are doing enough but we should be letting our youth know so that they can ask each other what’s going on.” She said that churches teach respect and dignity — that each person is special and loved by God and it gives less of a need to respond to the traffickers.

“When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives.”

— Beth Saunders, President, Just Ask

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) human trafficking hotline (1-800-THE-LOST) in case they thought they might have been approached for sex trafficking.

“The community needs to know what to look for as part of the solution,” Davies said. “And the community also needs to change their own biases about who we might see as a prostitute.”

Beth Saunders approaches it from the business community. Saunders is president of Just Ask, a non-profit that was created specifically to work in Northern Virginia on education and prevention of teen sex trafficking. Saunders says the organization is broken up into sectors managed by volunteers and she is in charge of the business sector. “This is important because many of these kids’ parents work in businesses. They can update their employees on the facts about trafficking.”

Just Ask also has board members responsible for outreach to schools, churches and law enforcement. “When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives,” Saunders said.

She emphasized, “The thing that matters for an organization like ours is hard core data like we got from Detective Woolf in law enforcement. People don’t care what we think; actions have to be based on facts, statistics.”

Woolf says churches also play a role in education because “it is also a morality issue and we’re not educating kids on what sex is.”

Deepa Patel, director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield, says sexual normalization is a huge problem: “It’s OK for girls to wear skimpy outfits and they slap each other on the butt which is perfectly acceptable for them. Rappers talk about money, sex and power as the three things you need and pimps on TV are glamorized.”

Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for the County of Fairfax, says there is a long way to go with this issue but he sees much more coordination than several years ago: “It is important to know where we have found success...”
Alexandria residents James Caple and Cindy Way gathered with family and friends April 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club to christen a specially designed boat that the couple plans to row across the Atlantic Ocean.

Bon Voyage

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Alexandria residents James Caple and Cindy Way gathered with family and friends April 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club to christen a specially designed boat that the couple plans to row across the Atlantic Ocean later next month. Caple and Way will begin the 2,800-nautical mile voyage on May 16, pushing off from Cape Cod, Mass., and row across the Atlantic Ocean to Ireland. All required supplies, including a desalinator to make fresh water, will be carried on board.

See Rowing Across, Page 26.
Cleaning King Street from One End to the Other

By Shirley Ruhe
Gazette Packet

Louis Simms has spotted a large wad of paper on the sidewalk across King Street and he approaches it. This John Deere of a street sweeper to pick it up, "I have a little bucket back there," he says. "I start on King Street by the subway station and do the street all the way down to the torpedo factory. I like cleaning. When I go to my friends' houses, they say, 'Louis, don't start cleaning!'"

Simms puts down the street at "about two miles an hour I guess." He says, "You find everything; you'd be surprised. The oddest thing he ever found? "Oh, oh. That would have to be the really huge live rat. I went to empty a trash can, and he ran out. You never know what you will find."

Simms waves to a pedestrian crossing the street. "I know a lot of people, but not their names. But they know me."

Simms has been cleaning streets for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services for 17 years. "I started on a trash truck recycling stuff." Then Simms worked five years in Mount Vernon sweeping the streets and picking up trash. He pulls out a long green handled picker. "I don't know what this is called. I just call it my picker upper." Simms said Mount Vernon is where it all started for him. "I got real close to the community."

Louis Simms, an Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services City employee, has spotted some waste paper and has hopped out of his green John Deere to sweep it off King Street. Simms says he loves to clean.

"He worked in the Mount Vernon neighborhood for five years. Now he sweeps King Street five days a week from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Simms pops open the door and hops out again to get some stray pieces of paper stuck in the bricks. He explains the key spot in bristled broom and red metal covered pan. "In it goes."

He says, "We're getting to the hardest part right now at Henry Street. Sometimes the parking is so bad that I have to park on the sidewalk and leave room for people to get around. That's a couple of blocks to see what I can find."

Simms says his street cleaning truck doesn't have heat or air conditioning. So when it gets cold, he wears thick clothes and keeps moving. "The lady at the cleaners over there knitted me a nice scarf last year. It came in handy."

He adds, "I just live for days like today." Simms says in the winter he is on shift B that works from 11 p.m.-7 a.m. He fills up the gas tanks for the vehicles coming back in for refills of sand and he logs in what time the trucks come in and how many loads they get. When it rains, "oooh, we have rain suits I just put on. The rain washes up a lot of things from the river like a catfish one year and an eel, too. And if I know it is coming the next day, I try to clean everything up ahead of time."

Simms said last year he was emptying a trash can at the compact room "and I moved the wrong way. Whew it popped out. I kept working. Thought maybe the rain would go away. It didn't; it got worse and I had to get rotator cuff surgery. Was out for nine months."

He adds, "People thank me every day for keeping their area clean. It makes me feel good. I just love this job."

Champions of Change

Community leaders to be honored at Philanthropy Summit.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

When Bill Butcher opened Port City Brewery in 2011, not only was he committed to producing a quality craft beer, he also made it a goal to use his time and resources to improve the lives of others in his hometown. On May 6, he was honored as a street sweeper of the year. This award is given to an Alexandria business leader in recognition of extraordinary commitment to volunteerism and financial support to the Alexandria community.

The Campagna Center CEO, Tammy Mann, who has supported ALIVE! for many years by leading its board, raising much-needed funds and volunteering countless hours, is the 2016 Non-profit Board Leader of the Year. This award is given to a non-profit board leader who has shown extraordinary leadership for his or her organization, and has made a broader impact on the Alexandria community and the region.

Cheryl Malloy, ALIVE! – Non-profit Board Leader of the Year

Under Mann's leadership, the Campagna Center was awarded the 21st Century Learning Center grant for middle school programming and the Family Child Care Partnership Grant, providing increased access to early care and education for children and families. This award is given to a non-profit executive who has shown extraordinary leadership for his or her organization, and has made a broader impact on the Alexandria community and the region.

Tickets to the Alexandria Business Philanthropy Summit are $35 and can be purchased online at www.volunteeralexandria.org.
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WELLINGTON $1,695,000
7110 Ridgecrest Drive
Majestic poolside haven features an outdoor pool, hot tub, pvcic, screened porch, deck & gardens. Serene interior with 7 bedrooms & 6.5 baths, chef's kitchen, artist's studio & more.

YACHT HAVEN ESTATES $1,395,000
4009 Doughty Lane
Enjoy boating, kayaking & fishing from your backyard! Custom built with award-winning landscaping, private dock, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths & water views from nearly every room.

COLLINGWOOD ON POTOMAC $825,000
1100 Neal Drive
Stunning renovated split-level consisting of 5 finished levels. Gorgeous inside & out with inviting front porch, year-round sunroom, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths & large landscaped backyard.

FORT HUNT ESTATES $649,000
4501 Linton Lane
Cheerful and warm split foyer features 5 bedrooms, 3 renovated baths, double crown molding, Pella windows & hardwood floors, gorgeous deck & spacious lower-level family room with wet bar.

HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE $924,900
2061 Fairfax Road
Gorgeous sun-filled Craftsman-style home with 5,500 sq ft, 4 finished levels, 6 BR, 5.5 BA, 2-car garage, gourmet kitchen, private office, beautiful master suite & walk-out basement.

HUNTERS MANOR COMING SOON
6200 Nile Place
Spacious colonial on quiet cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, light-filled eat-in kitchen, office, formal dining & dining rooms, cozy family room, expansive deck and welcoming front porch.

CAPITOL HILL $479,000
229 11th Street SE #12
Walk to Eastern Market metro and Barracks Row restaurants from this 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom unit in historic Grace Church Condominiums. New kitchen & renovations throughout.

BOULEVARD ACRES $1,395,000
2262 West Boulevard Drive
Grand colonial just steps from the Potomac River. Over 5,000 finished square feet with 6 bedrooms and 4.5 baths, chef's kitchen, game room, 3 main-level living rooms, gym & outdoor fireplace.

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New Shops, Restaurants Crop up across the City

A look at change in businesses.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

It’s a good time to dine in Alexandria. According to Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, the city has seen a boom in the last year of new retail and restaurants. Many of the new locations are taking over old old spaces, one upcoming restaurant restarting a business from Alexandria’s prohibition era. “It’s a great place to come and dine,” said Landrum. “And as more restaurants come in, they tend to cluster together.”

Poppy Nails and Spa, a new salon in the Potomac Greens shopping center.

An interior view of Poppy Nails and Spa.

Old art depicting Robert Portner’s Brewing Company, which lasted in Alexandria from 1869 to 1916. The new Portner Brewhouse is coming to Van Dorn and is being run by Robert Portner’s great-granddaughters, Catherine and Margaret Portner.

The Waterfront Cafe near the Torpedo Factory at the end of King Street is closed and will reopen as Vola’s Dockside Grill, named for late city manager Vola Lawson.

Photos by Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Stitch Sew Shop, a new crafting supplies store scheduled to open May 1 on N. Fayette Street.

Photos by Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Junction Bakery and Bistro, opening in Del Ray.

Sweetgreen, a salad chain, will replace the Bittersweet Cafe at King Street, with interior construction expected to begin in the spring and an end-of-summer opening planned.

Periwinkle isn’t new to Alexandria, but the former Shirlington business recently closed its doors in the West End and reopened them at 111 S. Columbus St.
Above and Beyond

Honorees pose for a group photo with local officials following the April 20 Valor Awards presentation at Belle Haven Country Club. Sponsored by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 16 individuals were honored for heroic actions performed in the line of duty, including Captains Jason Wehmeyer and Wells Wilson, whose photos were inadvertently omitted in an April 14 profile of honorees.

Jason Wehmeyer – Life Saving Award
Wells Wilson – Certificate of Valor

We’ll be at work in your neighborhood soon!

AlexRenew Enterprises cleans the dirty water that’s pumped to our large sewer lines from the smaller sewer lines owned and maintained by the City.

AlexRenew’s vendor, Video Pipe Services, will perform preventive maintenance on the Holmes Run Trunk Sewer starting in February through the summer. We’ll be cleaning and inspecting this major sewer line to keep them in proper working condition and reduce the likelihood of flooding and pollution.

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More Voters Might Not Mean Much More Voting

Governor’s action brings Virginia in line with 39 other states.

L ast week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements. This moves Virginia into the mainstream; only 10 states have more restrictive policies about voting for people who have been convicted of felonies. Previously, Virginia had been one of the most restrictive states in terms of restoring voting rights. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual’s term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

While some claim partisan motivation, with most of those affected presumed to be Demo- crats, getting these men and women registered to vote and to the polls is unlikely to result in 100,000 new voters in November. Studies show that people who were previously convicted of felonies who are eligible to vote register and vote at lower levels than the general population, according to the New York Times http://nyti.ms/26KnS52, with a registration rate of around 20 percent and about 20 percent actually voting, although some suggest voting rates of between 10-15 percent. If, as the studies suggest, 55 percent of those would vote Democratic, then likely new Democratic voters would be around 22,000.

While that’s a lot less than 200,000, it’s also more than the margin of victory in quite a few statewide races. Consider that Attorney General Mark Herring (D) won his race by about 900 votes out of more than 2 million cast.

These new voters could have an impact on statewide races.

Districts for members of Virginia’s General Assembly are so gerrymandered, it’s hard to imagine that the impact of these new voters will be huge in terms of local representation.

In a Democracy, it’s better when more people vote.

McAuliffe said: “If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance. We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy.”

Again, this action brings Virginia into line with 39 other states, with more than 20 states having less restrictive policies. For example, on Feb. 9, 2016, the Maryland General Assembly override the Governor’s veto and restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote. In Virginia, such individuals have to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

— Mary Kimm

Letters to the Editor

Correct History

To the Editor:

I am writing to comment on the article about the latest meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names (“Civil War Still Reverberates,” April 14). There were some misinterpretations of history in the article that need to be corrected.

One member of the Advisory Group said the difference between Jefferson Davis and the other Confederate leaders is that Davis never pledged his allegiance to the United States the way Robert E. Lee did. But this is not true. Davis was a West Point graduate, a Mexican War veteran, and a former Secretary of War. Davis had a record of Federal service similar to that of Lee.

It was also stated in the article that many of the streets in the West End named after Confederate leaders, like Beauregard Street, run through traditionally African-American neighborhoods. But the historical reality is that the extreme West End does not have any traditionally African-American neighborhoods.

The old original Hammond High School that existed from 1956 to 1971 served a white population from the West End. That was the reason for the controversial consolidation plan in 1971. It was to achieve a better racial balance in the city’s secondary schools. It took a long time for the West End to become diverse.

I spoke before the Advisory Group at their third meeting on March 28 at the Downtown Baptist Church at 212 South Washington Street.

As a 55-year-old, lifelong Alexandrian with family roots in the city going back to the early 1920s, I felt it incumbent upon myself to do so. I am firmly opposed to changing the names of any streets or schools or moving the statue around. It would be costly and confusing and it would set a bad precedent. We must preserve our heritage, not desecrate it.

Historical study and historical education in the United States today are in bad shape and the causes are varied. We seem to have lost our way as a culture and as a society.

Gregory G. Paspatis
Alexandria

Send in Photos for Mother’s Day

Mother’s Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother’s Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.
Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Cameron Station
5011 John Ticer Drive, Alexandria VA. This Elegant Single-Family Home represents the Apogee of Cameron Station Luxury meets Casual Living. Cambridge-Built Quality w/ 3 Levels, 4 Br, 3 1/2 Ba with too many upgrades to list! $999,000
David & Stephanie Thorpe 561-282-7000
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King’s Cloister 640 Kings Cloister Circle, Alexandria VA. This lovely brick Georgian colonial boasts 6 br, 4 1/2 ba, an open floor plan, high ceilings, fine moldings, spacious lower level w/game room & abundant storage + 2-car garage. $1,279,000
Donnan C. Wintertime 703-608-6868 MLS # AX9630953

Open House Sunday 2-4 pm  Waynewood 8716 Eugene Place, Alexandria VA. Huge Hartford model in Waynewood! 4 Beds, 3.5 baths, gleaming hardwoods, eat-in kitchen, screened porch, gorgeous fenced yard, beautiful quiet street. Waynewood Pool membership! $775,000 Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562 MLS # FX963009

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Kerrybrook 4401 Dartmoor, Alexandria VA. Wonderful curb appeal on this 3-level colonial near Clarendon Elementary. 4 br, 2.5 ba. Updates include roof, HVAC, Windows, refinshed hardwood floors, hot water heater $589,000 Rita McCauley-Redmond 703-447-0114 MLS # FX9631451

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Bush Hill Woods 5829 Bush Hill Drive, Alexandria VA. Charming rancher with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2-car garage. Good size bedrooms, 2 car garage, hardwood floors. $449,900 Michael Bergin 703-859-6362 MLS # FX9631650

Open House Sunday 2-4 pm  Saratoga 7917 St. George Court, Springfield VA. 4 br, 2.5 ba Stunner of a home in an established Springfield neighborhood. Freshly painted, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 2-tier deck, backs to trees! Tons of commuter options. $569,900 Ann-Marie Grotticelli 703-501-4092 MLS # FX9637344

Open House Sunday 2-4 pm  Groveton Woods 7127 Huntley Creek Place # 51, Alexandria VA. Beautiful! 3 br/2.5 ba 3 level condo with too many upgrades to mention! 1-car garage. Minutes to old town Alexandria, Huntington Metro, 95/495, shops, restaurants! $387,000 Wendy Smith 703-608-1725 MLS# FX9630757

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Manors at Mount Vernon 8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA. Come take a look – pristine center hall colonial w/4 br, 4.5 baths, open gourmet kitchen, fam, rm, deck, fin basement; on a cul-de-sac. Best value in 22308! Close to all routes. $899,000 Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788 MLS # FX9597758

Del Ray 601 E. Cameron Avenue, Alexandria VA. Perfect end townhome w/parking and yard in Del Ray. Everything only 5 yrs old, 2 br, 2 ba, 3 level, granite, stainless, hardwoods. Near everything in Del Ray! $599,000 Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788 MLS # AX963362

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Manors at Mount Vernon 8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA. Come take a look – pristine center hall colonial w/4 br, 4.5 baths, open gourmet kitchen, fam, rm, deck, fin basement; on a cul-de-sac. Best value in 22308! Close to all routes. $899,000 Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788 MLS # FX9597758

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Saratoga 7917 St. George Court, Springfield VA. 4 br, 2.5 ba Stunner of a home in an established Springfield neighborhood. Freshly painted, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 2-tier deck, backs to trees! Tons of commuter options. $569,900 Ann-Marie Grotticelli 703-501-4092 MLS # FX9637344

Open House Sunday 2-4 pm  Groveton Woods 7127 Huntley Creek Place # 51, Alexandria VA. Beautiful! 3 br/2.5 ba 3 level condo with too many upgrades to mention! 1-car garage. Minutes to old town Alexandria, Huntington Metro, 95/495, shops, restaurants! $387,000 Wendy Smith 703-608-1725 MLS# FX9630757

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Kerrybrook 4401 Dartmoor, Alexandria VA. Wonderful curb appeal on this 3-level colonial near Clarendon Elementary. 4 br, 2.5 ba. Updates include roof, HVAC, Windows, refinshed hardwood floors, hot water heater $589,000 Rita McCauley-Redmond 703-447-0114 MLS # FX9631451

Open House Sunday 1-4 pm  Bush Hill Woods 5829 Bush Hill Drive, Alexandria VA. Charming rancher with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and 2-car garage. Good size bedrooms, 2 car garage, hardwood floors. $449,900 Michael Bergin 703-859-6362 MLS # FX9631650

Open House Sunday 2-4 pm  Saratoga 7917 St. George Court, Springfield VA. 4 br, 2.5 ba Stunner of a home in an established Springfield neighborhood. Freshly painted, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 2-tier deck, backs to trees! Tons of commuter options. $569,900 Ann-Marie Grotticelli 703-501-4092 MLS # FX9637344

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Taking Steps To End Gun Violence

By Brian Moran
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the State of Virginia

On April 7, I was pleased to be back in Alexandria, the city I love, to stand with Governor McAuliffe at City Hall as he vetoed three bills that will prevent gun violence and protect victims and survivors of domestic violence in the Commonwealth. Since taking office, Governor McAuliffe has been and continues to be a dedicated gun violence prevention advocate and has continuously promised Virginians that he will take action to keep our communities and families safe.

At the ceremony, advocates spoke on the importance of continued efforts and a strong commitment to ending gun violence. Then, surrounded by public safety officials, sexual and domestic violence prevention advocates, gun violence prevention advocates and elected state and local officials, Governor McAuliffe took action and signed three veto statements.

As a former prosecutor, defense attorney and Alexandria legislator, I was glad to see House Bill 560 vetoed. The bill related to banning of firearms and attempted to incorporate the element of intent into the law by requiring that a person know or reasonably should know that his or her actions would induce fear into the mind of another. This bill would have turned jurisprudence on its head by attempting to get into the mind of an offender and speculate at the offender’s intent during a reckless and dangerous situation while also giving credence to the defense of “I didn’t mean it.”

As is the standard in all other criminal proceedings, the offender’s intent can and should be inferred by the evidence; rendering this bill unnecessary. The Governor’s veto demonstrates that he will not burden our public safety officials and create an avenue for individuals who recklessly handle firearms to mount a defense based on fears from gun advocates that they will be prosecuted for brandishing while openly carrying firearms in the Commonwealth.

Governor McAuliffe also vetoed Senate Bill 626 and House Bill 766. These proposals would have allowed individuals seeking protective orders to lawfully carry concealed handguns for up to 45 days without having submitted a concealed handgun permit application or completed any of the necessary training that is essential to safe and proper handling.

This dangerous approach reintroduces firearms into already volatile situations and removes all safeguards currently in place that ensure individuals carrying concealed, particularly victims and survivors of domestic violence, have given careful consideration to the risks and responsibilities associated with carrying concealed handguns. This is not the right approach.

In fact, we know that when firearms are present in domestic violence situations, women are five times more likely to die. Virginia experienced 112 domestic violence-related homicides in 2014, 66 of which occurred with a firearm.

Earlier this year, Governor McAuliffe signed several pieces of legislation as part of a bipartisan firearms agreement, including Senate Bill 49 and House Bill 1391 that addresses this issue head on and will save lives in the Commonwealth. With the Governor’s action, individuals subject to permanent protective orders of family abuse will now be required to sell or transfer their firearms within 24 hours. Any person who fails to turn over their firearms will be guilty of a Class 6 felony, resulting in up to five years imprisonment in permanent loss of his or her firearms rights. This will be the toughest domestic violence law in the nation when it takes effect on July 1.

As the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, I share Governor McAuliffe’s commitment and dedication to keeping Virginians safe. As a candidate, he made gun violence prevention a top priority and as Governor, he has succeeded in taking real, tangible steps to end gun violence in Virginia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From PAGE 10

Airport Noise: City Approved?
To the Editor:
My wife and I just returned after four months in Arizona. We live in Old Town just two blocks from the river. When we left, the noises from aircraft leaving and landing at Reagan National Airport were annoying and barely tolerable. But one would worry what the effect might be on our history, our culture, and the arts and is not intended to achieve a ‘highest and best’ in regard to direct fiscal return on investment for the City ...

Rental Rates Cheat Taxpayers
To the Editor:
The article in the Gazette Packet last week (“Battle at Torpedo Factory”) fails to highlight the problem that the City of Alexandria has been giving the Art League an extra-ordinary deal on the rent of the building over the past 40 years.
The city currently receives $370,000 (they want to pay less but that is another story) per year for 72,500 square feet of prime waterfront space (about $5 per square foot) plus utilities. This compares to $20 - $25 per square foot that everyone else pays for commercial space in the area. The difference between what the city gets and what they could get if they charged a market rate rent is about $1 - $2 million per year. If the status quo stands, the taxpayers of Alexandria will be on the hook to pay for this shortfall of potential revenue so that the Art League can continue to enjoy their highly discounted rental rates for the Torpedo Factory.

I contacted the City Manager’s office to determine whether there would be an effort to obtain competitive bids to rent space at a market rate (and why wouldn’t they do it if they were planning to continue on with the current arrangement). The answer I got from the City Manager was that “… the Torpedo Factory is a City investment in the arts and is not intended to achieve a ‘highest and best’ in regard to direct fiscal return on investment for the City ...

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By Brad Penney

A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 24, honoring the soldiers and firefighters who perished the night of April 23, 1865 during the collision of the steamship Massachusetts and the canal barge Black Diamond. Among the casualties in the maritime tragedy were four Alexandria firefighters who were assigned to the Quartermaster Corps in search of John Wilkes Booth, following the assassination of President Lincoln. The Black Diamond was on picket duty on the Potomac, in pursuit of Booth, at the time of the collision, which claimed a total of 87 lives.

The service was held at the St. Clements Island Museum; the collision occurred just one mile off of the island in southern Maryland, where military intelligence expected Booth to undertake a night-time crossing of the Potomac into Virginia.

The Alexandria Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the ceremony, which was attended by a number of city firefighters who laid a wreath at the museum overlooking the site of the collision. The four Alexandria firefighters are buried in the Alexandria National Cemetery at 1450 Wilkes St.

The story of the pursuit of Booth by civilian employees of the Alexandria Fire Department has been largely forgotten and overshadowed by the momentous other events of April 1865, which included the evacuation of Richmond; the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox and later General Joseph Johnston in North Carolina; the assassination of President Lincoln; and — the day after Booth was killed at Garrett’s Farm — the sinking of the steamship Sultana on the Mississippi with a loss of 1,800 lives, more casualties than were sustained in the loss of the Titanic.

The Black Diamond was an iron hull steam propeller canal boat (or barge) built in 1842. Before being chartered by the Quartermaster Corps during the war, the Black Diamond’s normal duties were transporting coal between Washington, D.C. and Alexandria.

The crew of 20 consisted of men from the Alexandria fire department. Unknown to the crew of the Black Diamond, Booth had already crossed the Potomac into Virginia at the time the collision with the Massachusetts occurred.

Plans are currently underway for a monument to be erected on St. Clements Island in honor of the 87 soldiers and firefighters who died in the collision of the Massachusetts and the Black Diamond.
Rational Spending

To the Editor:

I want to thank Mayor Allison Silberberg for her April 21 reflection (“Decision Time on City Budget Deliberations”) on the city’s upcoming budget decisions. She continues to live up to her reputation as “A Voice of Reason” as her campaign claimed. I am not intimately involved in all aspects of city governance and decision making. But I have had the opportunity to witness one such process in the planning for a new recreation center in conjunction with the rebuilding of Patrick Henry Elementary. To this day, despite a decision to build a neighborhood (i.e., community) center, city staff continues to advocate for enhancements beyond its mission, enhancements to the tune of several million dollars that have been consistently opposed by the immediate neighborhood and its residents. Mayor Silberberg’s transparency and ethics efforts cannot overcome city hall’s entrenched modus operandi of governance hidden agenda. For example, out of seemingly nowhere, comes city hall’s recent Ramsey Homes volley face (about face).

In 2010, the Torpedo Factory artists were covered in silence by city hall’s threat against the Torpedo Factory’s governance structure, but their ensuing silence on the waterfront plan may come back to haunt them. Behind the back-and-forth over consultants’ reports, the Torpedo Factory’s governance structure, and city hall’s reluctance to invest in the Torpedo Factory must lurk some unspeaked motive likely connected to the waterfront plan and city hall’s and the developers’ as yet unspeaked goal of integrating the Torpedo Factory into the theme developers’ as yet unspoken goal likely connected to some broader, quietly contemplated commercial waterfront vision.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Making Mockery Of Historic Easement

To the Editor:

I have fond memories of growing up in an historic home with a lovely garden on South Lee Street. My mother loved the large magnolia tree and its riverfront views, etc., their ulterior vision is the antithesis of “tax and spend.”

I hope the Patrick Henry position is the antithesis of “tax and spend.” Mayor Silberberg’s priorities, including our debt and major infrastructure repair needs. I hope the Patrick Henry Elementary’s soul. As a taxpayer, I am a lifelong Democrat. For the most part, the Party represents my personal ideals for social action and social justice. I have bristled at the label of “tax and spend” often leveled against my Party. I don’t mind paying taxes, or even increases in taxes, for what is genuinely needed by our community and its residents. Mayor Silberberg’s position is the antithesis of “tax and spend.” It is a reasoned approach, acknowledging priorities, including our debt and major infrastructure repair needs. I hope the Patrick Henry process is not reflective of other processes across the city. It if is, then I fear that those who might accuse us of being “tax and spend” might find justification.

Tom Suydam
Alexandria

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

we need to start paying for these services by eliminating the perks that special interests are getting.

I don’t mind paying taxes for services and things that help people who need it, but I do object to paying more taxes just because people don’t want to pay their fair share when they can (this includes artists who are probably not starving, developers, insurance companies and billion dollar corporations).

The current contract with the Art League is set to expire in June. Everybody who feels strongly about this issue should communicate their views to the City Council as soon as possible.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

What’s the Plan For Torpedo Factory?

To the Editor:

Are we seeing only the tip of the iceberg in news accounts about the long-lasting friction over the Torpedo Factory’s future? Does behind what we see lurk some ulterior agenda, albeit disguised in consultants’ reports and other smoke screens? The Torpedo Factory controversy is not just about artists versus accountants, but really about Alexandria’s soul.

We hear from city hall a constant litany about the need to “invest” in infrastructure, schools, etc. While in some respects this is merely a euphemism for a gargantuan tax increase, about what we would well wonder might better be why city hall is more than happy to throw millions of dollars at various investments, but not a few hundred thousand at the Torpedo Factory which indirectly returns what the city invests in a dozen times over in tourist-generated tax and business revenues.

On its face, this disparity is so cognitively dissonant that there must be some hidden agenda. Indeed, one lately fears that Mayor Silberberg’s transparency and ethics efforts cannot overcome city hall’s entrenched modus operandi of governance hidden agenda. For example, out of seemingly nowhere, comes city hall’s recent Ramsey Homes volley face (about face).

In 2010, the Torpedo Factory artists were covered in silence by city hall’s threat against the Torpedo Factory’s governance structure, but their ensuing silence on the waterfront plan may come back to haunt them. Behind the back-and-forth over consultants’ reports, the Torpedo Factory’s governance structure, and city hall’s reluctance to invest in the Torpedo Factory must lurk some unspeaked motive likely connected to the waterfront plan and city hall’s and the developers’ as yet unspeaked goal of integrating the Torpedo Factory into the theme developers’ as yet unspoken goal of integrating the Torpedo Factory into the theme developers’ as yet unspoken goal likely connected to some broader, quietly contemplated commercial waterfront vision.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUMMER 2016

Host Families Wanted. The Alexandria Aces are planning to be playing in their ninth season in Port City, this year, and are actively seeking host families for the upcoming 2016 season. Players need a spare bedroom with access to a washer or dryer during the upcoming months of June, July, and early August. Contact Amy Goodrich at amy_goodrich@comcast.net for hosting information. Visit www.AlexandriaAces.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Breakfast With The Principal. 8:15-10 a.m. at Cora Kelly Elementary School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Join Cora Kelly’s Principal and FACE Manager for coffee to learn how to be engaged in your child’s education. Light breakfast and interpretation services provided.

See Bulletin Board. Page 24

You Can Make a Difference

Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
3 Farmer's Market Finds for Spring

By Hope Nelson
Gazette Packet

T he dawn of spring brings lots of vendors back to Alexandria’s farmer's markets. Fresh lettuce, tomatoes, the short-but-sweet ramp season — it’s always a feast for the senses this time of year. Here are three area vendors to pay particular attention to.

Bigg Riggs Farm, Old Town Farmer’s Market
Visit the Old Town Farmer's Market more than once and you'll know this farm's tent by sight — and have likely received a friendly greeting by Bigg Riggs' gregarious owner Calvin Riggleman. Come springtime, Bigg Riggs' stand is overflowing, offering spring greens such as fresh lettuce and pac choi, some relics of winter like sweet potatoes, and that delicious spread of ramps, ramps.

Ramps can be a bit of an acquired taste. But give them a chance to show off their onion-like, garlicky taste in anything from biscuits to omelets to salads and they'll likely win you over. With green leaves that resemble an unferled scallion and a white base that looks like a tiny leek, these slight, slender wild onions pack a punch. And their season is short: Just several weeks in duration, their presence is the epiphany of making hay while the sun shines. Give them a try before the season passes.

No. 1 Sons, Del Ray and Old Town markets


Mount Vernon High Presents ‘Starlight Express’

West Potomac’s Beyond The Page Theatre presents an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the imagination of a young boy and his toy trains. Shows are April 28-May 7, 5 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. Saturdays at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Tickets are $12 plus a service fee. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Art League challenges miniologists from local restaurants in each select a piece of artwork as inspiration to whip up a new, artistic cocktail and pair it with an appetizer. Early-bird tickets are $55, $65 regular priced. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Spring Benefit: The Child & Family Network Center. 7-11 a.m. at 6020 Monticello Blvd. This event is “An Evening in Venice.” Donations accepted. Call 254-931-5249.

Boundary Stone Bike Tour. 9-11 a.m. at Entrance to East Falls Church Metro Station. Bike for 35 Miles visiting boundary stones and parks. See 12 historic D.C. Boundary stones in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County. Free. Call 703-798-8686 or Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or vbgpromo@aol.com.


SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Hollin Meadows Neighborhood Gala. 7-11 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2110 Northlock Place. Proceeds benefit the school’s STEM Lab and outdoor education programs. Tickets are $100. Visit hollingwell.com/HMGala.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gaddy’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The ball will include live music, dance instruction and period desserts. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. Tickets are $45. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GaddysTavern.

May 7th from 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Belle Haven Country Club

Tickets $100 available at www.campagnacenter.org/events/boutiques-belles

See Calendar, Page 20
**Happy Moms**

**MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH**

$55 Grand Buffet in the Hotel Monaco’s Paris Ballroom or a la Carte in Jackson 20

**Sunday, May 8th**

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

excludes tax and gratuity

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parking for our
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Mother’s Day Brunch Special
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This Mother’s Day treat your Mom to a day without cooking
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A thol Fugard’s “Coming Home,” being staged by Port City Playhouse, centers around an HIV-positive woman who returns with her son to the rural South African village where she grew up, hoping to persuade the man she left behind years before to be a father to the boy after her death. It’s a bittersweet story of love and loss, grace and forgiveness.

Director Eleanore Tapscott said what she was trying to do in telling this story is that hope — even the smallest, tiniest seed of hope — is possible even in the bleakest of situations. “Dreams are the undeniable hopes that make all human beings equal,” she said, “and living dreams fail is a universal experience. However, when our dreams fail, it is important to be able to come home for rest, reassembly, and healing.”

She said her challenges as the director of being the story was the dialect/accent. “This play’s language is tricky because it is primarily in English but then some Afrikaans words are thrown into the mix,” she said. “It was important to ensure there was consistency in the pronunciation of those words.”

Another challenge was the long monologues spoken by some of the characters. “Not only is it important for the actor saying the monologue to act the intent and relevant emotions of the story, but the other actors on stage have to listen — not pretend to be listening but actually listen and respond (even when they have no lines),” she said.

She added: “What I found interesting is how the playwright builds on the cultural tradition of story telling — each of these monologues is the base for telling a story — and that oral tradition of telling stories so prevalent in this play’s culture is one that’s being increasingly lost in current American culture.”

She added that the work is not done when it comes to HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS, there are 36.9 million people globally living with HIV. In the metro-D.C. area, HIV rates remain high among young African-American gay men. “We, as a nation, and in our individual communities, cannot become complacent,” she said. “We are all responsible and have a role to play to ensure the continued public health policies that provide necessary medical care and medicines — without judgment — to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Producer and Port City Board member Becky Patton said she is excited to be able to showcase Fugard’s talent as a playwright and his commitment to bettering the lives of South Africans. “I don’t think we have a good appreciation for how devastating HIV/AIDS is in a country (or on a continent, for that matter) that still has large swaths of populations that are living so far below what we consider the poverty line and the lack of available government or social services to provide any kind of safety net,” she said.

As far as challenges, she said: “You would think casting a show with only four people would be easy — it’s not. We have such a wealth of community theatre in the D.C. area that it made choosing just four very difficult.”

She added: “It was exciting to watch our designers interpret the playwright’s directions on sets, costumes and lighting. The Port City Playhouse space at the Lab for Convergence really challenges designers to be creative and gives them a chance to shine.”

As far as audience takeaways, she said, “What HIV/AIDS is still a devastating illness that has tremendous repercussions across entire societies, the strength and courage with which individuals deal with the hand they are dealt is inspiring. There is hope and with commitment to that hope, we can find peace.”

Actor Mack Leammon plays the role of Alfred Witbooi, a simple man with a simple life. “His big dream in life is to own his very own bicycle,” he said. “He possesses a child-like innocence about the big world around him.”

He said the biggest challenge with the piece was some of the language. “It is a South African play, so learning the different sounds and speech patterns was a big challenge, but also very interesting and fun,” he said.

He hopes the audience will first and foremost be entertained. “I also hope that they are able to feel every emotion in the play. I want them to be a part of our little family,” he said.

Actress/Actor Alexander Ervin plays the role of Mannetjie Jonkers, of which he said: “I like Mannetjie. Sometimes he’s a little hateful to Alfred, but he could think that Alfred is going to go away like his real father. He definitely loves his mom.”

He said the challenge with the role was getting stopped all the time in rehearsal and trying to hold still during all his speeches.

“I think the audience should walk away believing that this show is amazing,” he said.

Port City Playhouse is staging “Coming Home” April 29-May 14. The Lab Studio Theatre venue is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. See www.ourconvergence.org.
the lens of George Washington and his childhood. While no one could have imagined the unique role that he was to play in our nation’s founding, historian ostracizes that Washington was no ordinary young man. $12 for general admission, $10 for members of the Gadsby’s Tavern Museum and Gadsby’s Tavern Museum volunteers.

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**Choral Evensong for Ascension**

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans’ Spring Art Markets showcases original artwork and a wide range of mediums. Rain or shine. Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/

**Eventide**

9-10:30 a.m. at Moore Memorial Episcopal Church, 332 N. Alfred St. An afternoon tea service, games, and live music. $20 suggested donation. Call 703-549-1334 for more.

**Fungi in our Forest**

10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center, 3701 Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Participants will be taken to the woods to find and identify salamanders and learn about the role they play in promoting healthy forest ecosystems. This event is designed for those 7 and older, and children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is $6. Participants should remove all high-heeled shoes before arriving to help prevent the spread of pathogens. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.
Origin of a Song

As a producer of plays I find the playwright’s inspiration for a play to be fascinating. Is it a historical base or inspired by or simply a jumping off point for a purely fictional story? In the case of “Black Pearl Sings!” it is all of the above. Playwright Frank Higgins was intrigued by the research happening in the 1930s where ethnomusicologists were traipsing around the country trying to locate indigenous American folk songs and then trace them back to their origins whether it be Ireland, Africa or Appalachia. Musicologist John Lomax is famous for his recordings of more than 10,000 folk songs during that period that have ended up at the Archive of American Folk Song of the Library of Congress. His most famous discovery was Huddie “Leadbelly” Ledbetter in a Texas prison discovering Pearl who just might have information about the origin of a song that can be traced back to its original roots in Africa. A fascinating relationship arises from this unlikely partnership. References to Pearl’s family in “the islands” with that funny name, “Hilton Head.” and many other clues make the play particularly interesting when you know some of the background. There is even a reference to Zora Neale Hurston, the famous author but also folklorist and anthropologist, who is a supposed neighbor of Susannah’s in Greenwich Village, where we find our two characters in the second act. Those are all the clues you are getting. Now you will have to come see the production to find out how it ends. Running through May 29, so call the theatre today for tickets.

By Carolyn Griffin
Producing Artistic Director
MetroStage

Scholarship Fund Of Alexandria Gala

At the 30th Anniversary Spring Gala of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria were seven scholarship winners, all students of the International Academy at T.C. Williams High School, from left, Daniel Villarroel, Jesusina Abankwa, Isha Rashida Sankoh, Eyois Agonafer, Subinuer Aikebaier, Nada Elhawary and Melak Alradhi.

From left: Beth Lovain, executive director, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria; Rosie Wiedemer and Albie Dickson, gala co-chairs; and Kathy Conrad, chair of the board of trustees, Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

Subinuer Aikebaier and Thomas Ahern. Subinuer spoke to dinner guests about her determination to leave western China and come to the United States, her struggle with homelessness here and her successful quest to graduate from high school and pursue a college education. The audience applauded when she said she will attend the University of Virginia this coming year. Thomas and Marcella Ahern are her guardians.

Three people with major roles in the education of Alexandria’s youth, from left, are Mark Eaton, co-chair of the English department, T.C. Williams High School; Cindy Anderson, board member, Alexandria City Public Schools; and Jesse Dingle, principal of T.C. Williams High School.

From left: Allison Silberberg, mayor of the City of Alexandria; Charniele Herring, delegate for the 46th district in the Virginia House of Delegates; and John Porter, president and chief executive officer, ACT for Alexandria and former principal, T.C. Williams High School.

Roz White and Teresa Castracane in “Black Pearl Sings!” at MetroStage.

 NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

The other influence is equally compelling as described by playwright Higgins in an email about the documentary film “The Language You Cry in.” He writes, “It’s how I became aware of the story behind the African song that appears at the end of ‘Black Pearl Sings!’ Back in the ‘30s a professor recorded a Gullah grandmother and her granddaughter singing what to them were nonsense syllables in what sounded like a children’s song. Decades later, a professor from Sierra Leone heard the recording and thought that there were words that sounded like a dialect from his country. The filmmakers searched for years and finally found a woman in an inland village who recognized the song. The filmmakers then brought the granddaughter (now a grandmother herself) and her granddaughter to Sierra Leone to meet the woman who knew the original African song.”

In “Black Pearl Sings!” we find musicologist Susannah in a Louisiana prison discovering Pearl, who just might have information about the origin of a song that can be traced back to its original roots in Africa. A fascinating relationship arises from this unlikely partnership. References to Pearl’s family in “the islands” with that funny name, “Hilton Head,” and many other clues make the play particularly interesting when you know some of the background. There is even a reference to Zora Neale Hurston, the famous author but also folklorist and anthropologist, who is a supposed neighbor of Susannah’s in Greenwich Village, where we find our two characters in the second act. Those are all the clues you are getting. Now you will have to come see the production to find out how it ends. Running through May 29, so call the theatre today for tickets.
Successful Saints lost to BI in last two VISAA state finals.

By Jon Roetman

I
took 37 seconds for Ellie Carson to score a goal, with an assist from Zoe Belodeau, and give the St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes girls’ lacrosse team a 1-0 lead against Collegiate on April 22. Less than a minute later, Belodeau was on the receiving end of a Carson pass and found the back of the net for a 2-0 Saints advantage.

By the end of the first half, six different Saints had scored at least one goal and St. Stephen’s led 10-1. It was business as usual for the Saints during this Friday home game. St. Stephen’s built a 10-goal advantage early in the second half, triggering a running clock, and cruised to a 14-4 victory over Collegiate.

The Saints are once again one of the top teams in the nation, ranked No. 5 in the latest Nike/Lacrosse Magazine national poll. Friday’s victory improved their record to 14-1, with their only defeat coming against No. 4 Good Counsel on April 2.

In the last decade, St. Stephen’s never lost more than three games in a season. From 2007 to 2013, the Saints won seven consecutive VISAA Division I state championships. Head coach Kathy Jenkins is the all-time leader in career victories for high school girls’ lacrosse, surpassing 700 this season.

While St. Stephen’s has an impressive resume and appears on its way to another successful season, the team’s inability to beat fellow Alexandria private school Bishop Ireton in the state final each of the last two years has left the Saints with a lingering desire to finish the job.

Ireton defeated St. Stephen’s for the first time ever in the 2014 state final, 9-7. Last year, the Saints entered the championship game with an undefeated record, but the Cardinals won a second straight title, 12-10.

Bishop Ireton is ranked No. 6 in the national poll and improved to 14-3 with a win over Bishop O’Connell on Tuesday. The Cardinals and Saints will not play during the regular season, but could meet again in the VISAA state final for a third straight year.

“Bishop Ireton is such a strong program every single year, so we are always keeping [the losses] in the back of our head,” Carson said. “… Ever since those two games, we just always are … thinking about Bishop Ireton in the back of our head, sort of getting excited for that game. We think of all of our big games as preparation for that.”

Carson, a senior attacker who will play for Dartmouth, finished with two goals and an assist against Collegiate on Friday. Sophomore attacker Grayson Offutt had four goals and one assist, Belodeau totaled three goals and two assists and freshman midfielder Briana Lantuh scored two goals.

Junior attacker Lea Cox had one goal and four assists, and sophomore attacker Annie Dyson and junior midfielder Caroline Wiseman each scored one goal.

Senior goalkeeper Molly Dougherty had four saves.

“This season, we’ve definitely taken it game by game,” said Belodeau, a Penn commit, “but [the losses to Ireton are] always in the back of our head. We’re always working for that. We’re just really excited this year to get another shot at it. This team, this is a great team. It’s different this year because I think we have seven attackers that … have had the same amount of goals, we have seven great defenders, we have subs … so I just think we’re just really, really excited to get the opportunity to prove ourselves again this year.”

One game that could help St. Stephen’s come playoff time is its loss to Good Counsel. The Saints entered the game with a 6-0 record, having beaten each opponent by more than 10 goals. They came out of it with their first loss and a better idea of how to handle pressure.

“By having a hard game like that early in the season that we did end up losing, it was actually beneficial to us in the long run, I think,” Carson said, “because then [during] our harder games for the rest of the season, we think about that game and think about how we didn’t come back and come out strong in the second half like we needed to.”

Belodeau said the loss was a reminder to keep working.

“It’s really good for us to see that we are beatable,” she said, “so we have to … work hard every minute of the game.”

St. Stephen’s improved to 15-1 this season with a 16-2 road win over Bullisson Tuesday. The Saints will travel to face Flint Hill at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

The ISL AA tournament final is scheduled for May 16 at Stone Ridge School in Bethesda, Md. The VISAA state final is scheduled for May 21 at the University of Richmond.

“I would love to be back on top of it,” Jenkins said about the Saints’ meetings with Bishop Ireton, “but I think we have to continue preparing ourselves for it because they’re an excellent team, they have a lot of speed, too, they play a great defensive game. We know that we’re working toward that in every game we play.”

TC Crew Girls Extend Winning Streak at Noxontown Regatta

The TC Williams girls’ crew team won four key races and captured second place in two others, during the Noxontown Regatta at St. Andrew’s School in Middletown, Del., on Saturday, April 23. The TC team captured the Ward trophy from regional crew powerhouses such as St. Andrew’s in Delaware, Kent from Connecticut, Georgetown Visitation from Middletown, Del., and Thomas Jefferson from Virginia.

The Titan first varsity lightweight 8 boat set a first place winning time of 5:31.6. The Lightweights started strong, advanced their lead throughout the 1,500-meter race, and sprinted to the finish line.

They beat rival Kent by almost 6 seconds. Members of the lightweight 8 include Paige St. John (coxswain), Anissa Ashraf, Lauren Kelly, Sierra Arnold, Leeann Richards, Tori Cook, Olivia Anthony, Sarah Scroggs, and Emily Debodune. Jaime Rubini coaches the boat.

The TC freshman 8 girls pulled off the most dramatic win of the day, crossing the finish line 20 seconds ahead of rival Georgetown Visitation, with open water between them. This continues a season in which the TC freshman girls are undefeated. Members of the freshman 8 include Paula Filios (coxswain), Chloe Marsh, Grace Fluharty, Blythe Markel, Ailysh Motinger, Marley Osborne, Charlotte Milone, Elspeth Collard, and Anna Guynn. It is coached by Mary Carey.

The TC junior 8 also continued its string of strong performances, outpacing all competitors to finish with a time of 5:58.0, about 8 seconds ahead of rival Kent. As the first boat racing for the day, the junior 8 set the standard for the rest of the team. Members of the junior 8, coached by Mary Carey, include Victoria Anthony (coxswain), Hope Patrick Marquardt.
Runners came from near and far to support causes and each other.

By Eden Brown  
Gazette Packet

They came from as far away as Cali, Colombia and Bristol, England. They were from Arlington, Burke, Alexandria, Lorton, Reston, Falls Church, and from Colorado and Canada. They were old — 88 — and they were young — 12 year olds and babies in strollers. One woman from Silver Spring was running at 7 months pregnant. One runner was blind.

The Star Spangled Banner resonated across a crowd of 5,330 runners in the sunlight near George Washington’s home; American flags snapped in the breeze. People had goosebumps, and not just from the cold air at 7 a.m. because the most moving thing about the George Washington Parkway Classic, now in its 32nd year, was the number of runners who came out to support veterans, the poor, the sick, and the homeless.

The race was supported by an army of volunteers, some of whom have been coming for 20 years. They handed out water and gatorade. The moving company “Two Men and a Truck” took runners’ belongings and transported them. Starbucks served coffee. And all along the track, residents came out to cheer on moms and dads, grandmothers and grandfathers, neighbors, and team members.

Sometimes called the “Prettiest run this side of the Potomac,” the annual George Washington Parkway Classic 10-Mile and 5K races are for serious runners, new runners, team members. The 10-mile race starts in Mount Vernon, and passes through Riverside Park, Fort Hunt Park, Collingwood Park, the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, on to Old Town, Alexandria, James Darlington and Reginald Maye, have worked at the George Washington Parkway Classic for 16 and 11 years respectively.

And that’s when the party began. The runners drank water and ate snacks handed out at the finish line. They took pictures with their teams, and listened to the live band, The Joe Chiocca Band, which did some great “rootsy rock” numbers, and were given a free brew by the Port City Brewing Company. And they met up with other runners, comparing times and causes. One local Alexandria resident was just glad to finish: Donald Trilling, 88, who has been running for 20 years. They were old - 88 - and they were young - 12 year olds and babies in strollers. One woman from Silver Spring was running at 7 months pregnant. One runner was blind.

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**Official Sock Burning**

The Commodore of the Old Dominion Boat Club, Bill Gard, presents a pink sock to Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg to toss into a fire pit. The sock burning is the celebration of the beginning of the boating season.

**LaDonna Hale Curzon**

**Rowing Across the Atlantic**

**From Page 5**

Caple, who rows competitively for Alexandria Community Rowing, is a software engineer and 1991 graduate of the Citadel. He completed his first Ironman Triathlon in 2012 and ran the Marine Corps Marathon in 2013.

Way, a seven-year Navy veteran, is the chief learning officer in the Oceanographic and Atmospheric Research division at NOAA. She also rows competitively for Alexandria Community Rowing and is finishing her doctorate in education at George Washington University.

“I am super excited to start this adventure,” said Way, who is using the ocean rowing her doctorate in education at George Washington University.

**Chance Breakfast**

The second breakfast is scheduled for April 18 and will include a chance breakfast on April 6. He said Virginia now has the second lowest recidivism rate in the country. “In this year’s budget we have requested 16 mental health specialists to address the problems of prisoners and we offer free college credits to provide education so they can get jobs on reentry.” OAR was founded 42 years ago as a community-based non-profit serving Arlington County and the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. They provide reentry services for men and women returning home from incarceration. In fiscal year 2015 OAR served 2,698 clients: 1,863 community service clients, 556 reentry clients and 463 pre-release clients.
Board OKs Food Trucks at Metro Sites, But Not in Old Town

The potential 300 Madison Street potential food truck location.

in that neighborhood.

The 900 North Fairfax Street potential food truck location.

to stay on the streets, both out of the possibility that they’d be blocking the rush hour traffic home and that they’d be cutting into the local restaurant dinner hours.

While the conversation was ostensibly about the impact of the food trucks on parking and transportation, many business owners and private citizens expressed fears that the food trucks would destroy the community.

“They will be right across the street,” said Michael Naieri, owner of A La Lucia, which sits almost directly across from the Madison Street location. “The businesses in Old Town are already suffering, this is not going to help. We pay rent and taxes, and this hurts us.”

Rebecca Beard, a manager at A La Lucia, said that the food trucks would not only poach their business, but take up parking that customers already pay for.

“It’s not conducive to the community and not conducive to local business,” said Margaret Townsend, president of the Old Town North Community Partnership. “We’re opposed to the ones in Old Town North, but throughout the city we don’t think we have enough parking for this.”

The exclusive possession of the parking spaces in North Old Town upset more than just the local restaurants. The Art League sits across from the food truck location on Madison Street, and the Art League executive director Suzanne Bethel said that many of her students are carrying heavy equipment to the studio and need to be able to park nearby.

The board made special note of a suggestion by local resident Engin Artemel, who suggested that this discussion should have touched on the deeper ethics issues of the city that exist beyond the levels of individual conflicts of interest.

While the board included their concerns about the process, parking was the issue that ultimately doomed the two north Old Town locations. For some on the board, the two issues were interconnected.

“I don’t understand how there is such an enormous gap between staff saying that [parking] is not an issue and everyone’s experience that it is,” said board member William Schuyler.

“We need to be able to feel a confidence in that data,” said Ana Tucker. “We need to be able to trust that.”

Though the decision was based around parking, the input from local businesses had an influence on the board.

“We’re hearing an obvious story about these locations,” said board member Melissa McMahon. “The small area planning process going on there now, that would be to raise these issues. I don’t want to put a big X on the future for food trucks, but I don’t want to deterrent the local businesses either, so I don’t recommend those two [North Old Town] sites.”

McMahon suggested, in the future, that staff speak with Arlington businesses to find out about the impact of food trucks on businesses there. Roslyn and Old Town are different sites in a lot of ways, but Mary-Claire Burick, president of the Roslyn Business Improvement District, said in an email that the reception to food trucks in that area has been well received by customers and that businesses had learned to live with it.

“When the consumer in mind, the Roslyn BID worked in close partnership with Arlington County, property owners, restaurants, and food trucks to develop and launch a mobile vending pilot project that we think benefits everyone,” said Burick. “Consumers have safe, convenient access to more food options; Food trucks have a guaranteed place to park (removing uncertainty); and owners of brick and mortar restaurants are able to retain easy access and visibility for their customers. So far, we’ve received positive feedback from consumers. The BID conducted an online survey of the zones in late 2015 and found that a majority (69 percent) of respondents approved.”

Najib Hlemi from the Food Truck Association said she was also disappointed with the process, but in that she’d hoped the city would consider zones of allowable food truck locations rather than specific parking spots. Hlemi said the association was grateful to the three locations that trucks would now be allowed to sell in, though she was still disappointed with the perception of an anti-food truck bias on the board, especially after City Council had been so approving of the plans.

“The board made their decision on what is best for the businesses,” said Hlemi, “but they shouldn’t be able to decide who gets to compete. That’s for consumers to decide.”

The day after the meeting, Mike Tam, catering director for Perfect Pita, said he was satisfied with the two locations being taken out of consideration. Tam said the store in Tysons Corner had to deal with a food truck vending illegally across the street, which was eventually moved into a nearby lot, but when Gov. Terry McAuliffe lifted the ban on food trucks from state-run roads in 2015 the truck was back out across the street and the store’s business hasn’t recovered. At the King Street location, Tam says he isn’t as concerned because there’s already competition in the area, and the food truck might even bring new business to the area.

“But here it would be tripling our competition,” Tam said, pointing across the street to the parking space that could have been filled with a food truck. “I breathed a sigh of relief when I heard.”

**Graph from the city presentation depicting survey responses with and without the 500 “uncivil” comments.**
Alexandria $635,000
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Steps to Potomac River and bike path. All brick raised rambler with open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3 renovated bathrooms and family room. Huge fenced backyard with a vista to die for! Deck, hot tub, garage and driveway parking for 3 cars. 8307 West Boulevard Dr.
Annette Hinaman
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www.AnnetteHinaman.com

Alexandria City $870,000
WOW. You won’t believe the space for the price of this 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath beauty. 2 fireplaces, main level family room/study, lower level with door to exterior is perfect au pair space or home office/playroom. Yards of counter space, cabinetry & breakfast bar. 3519 Old Dominion Boulevard
Betty Mallon
703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com

Old Town $955,000
Serenity & fabulous river views! Watch the sail boats, eagles, herons & more. This quiet 2 bedroom 2 bath end-unit beautifully renovated condo features new wood floors, lots of closets, granite counters, stainless appliances, travertine marble baths, & a garage space. 501 Slate Ln # 508
Nada Seide
703.350.3803
www.CallNada.com

Old Town $200,000
Have your own little piece of Del Ray with this convenient 1-bedroom condo. Features upgraded kitchen with granite counters and gorgeous hardwood floors. Only 1 block to Mt Vernon Ave, full of restaurants, shops and festivals. Easy walk to Braddock Metro.
Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676

Old Town $514,900
Supers location, rarely available, first floor with grand terrace. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, plantation shutters, gas fireplace, and hardwoods throughout. Garage parking & storage. Just a few blocks to all things Old Town. 621 N Saint Asaph Street #104
Cindy Clemmer
703.966.0403
www.CindyClemmer.com

Old Town $970,000
Double parlor living rooms plus a family room contributes to this unique historic home in the heart of Old Town. 2 bedrooms, 1.55 baths, original hardwood floors, and high ceilings. An up-to-date kitchen and dining room with brick floors and French doors open to a private terrace and garden filled with flowers and highlighted by a beautiful mature tree. Garage parking paid for one year.
Babs Beckwith
703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com

Kent Island $550,000
Queen Anne Colony – Paradise on Chesapeake Bay! Gracious one-level home with unobstructed views on deep water, large kitchen with updated appliances, family room opens to 3-season huge porch, separate living/dining rooms, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Great marina community! 229 QueenAnneClub.com
Susan Leavitt | Dave Kolakowski
703.855.2267 | 301.455.8525
www.SusanLeavitt.com

Shutters Hill $649,000
This pretty 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, all brick, 3-level townhouse backs onto woods behind the Masonic Temple and is a 10 minute walk to King St Metro. Renovated kitchen, hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, deck and brick patio. 4th bedroom, 3rd bath and family room on lower level could be au pair suite. 2 unassigned parking spaces.
Annette Hinaman
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www.AnnetteHinaman.com
Albert Einstein did it. So did Mark Zuckerberg, Denzel Washington, Lady Gaga and Sandra Day O’Connor. What do they have in common with millions of other children across the nation?

They all attended summer camp.

“In our summer camps we try to create a safe environment for kids to express their creativity,” said Michael Page, the summer camps coordinator for The Little Theatre of Alexandria. “Most classes focus on performance while others work on storytelling through play. But they all help kids grow in self-confidence while having fun.”

According to the American Camp Association, research shows that camp experiences often increase a child’s confidence, self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership qualities, adventurousness and connection to nature.

First Lady Michelle Obama served as a summer camp counselor, an important role as children learn new skills and develop interpersonal relationships.

“We also have a new Counselor in Training camp for high schoolers,” Page said. “This class is for students who are interested in furthering their education and getting a chance to work in a leadership role in a theatrical setting. We also try to find a nice balance for all of our campers – those who have been coming for many years and those who are just starting in theatre. It’s a great experience for everyone involved.”

Local summer camps offer traditional and nontraditional learning experiences.
Banishing Boredom with Arts

A large variety of summer camp classes are available at LTA for preschool through 8th grade children. Classes run June 6–Sept. 2.

For budding Picassos, the Del Ray Artisans invites campers ages 8 to 14 to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be one—day-only gallery show held July 23 and July 30 to show off the students’ work from their week of camp. The first camp session will be held July 18 — 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily followed by a second camp July 25–29.

Art Camp will be held at the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, contact the Art Camp Administrator/Youth Programs Director at Youth@DelRayArtisans.org.

For campers ages 5 to 15, The Art League offers weekly half—day or full—day camps in painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fiber, drawing, cartoons and more.


The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities offers a traditional slate of outdoor and sports related camps. But for those that aspire to be the next Bill Gates, there are also camps for video game design and development, 3D game design, Minecraft animation, chess camp and Jedi engineering with LEGO to name a few.

Registration for the city’s 2016 summer camp programs is open to both Alexandria residents and nonresidents and can be done online or in person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. A complete Summer Camps guide is available at www.alexandriava.gov/recreation and free printed brochures are available at City Hall, recreation centers and public libraries.

“The Little Theatre creates a wonderful learning environment for students of all ages,” Page said.

“A camp experience is one of tremendous growth for any child.”
From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

This summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they’ll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.

“I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right,” said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. “During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish.”

SPECIALTY CAMPS offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

“The name is definitely tongue in cheek,” said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization’s founder. “We teach personal finance, leadership and innovation. We give them life skills that they aren’t learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade.”

RISING FIFTH- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this summer at Mount Vernon’s Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington’s estate and learn about his legacy.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate’s heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

“The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun,” said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. “[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard.”

For More Information
Game and Technology Summer Camps
potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/

Future Millionaires Bootcamp/Stock Market Acres
moneynewsforkids.com/

Camp Washington and more at Mount Vernon
www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/

YOUNG GAME DESIGN aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy’s (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

“We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William,” said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

“We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers.”

MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.

Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.

Photo courtesy of Visit Fairfax

Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

Photo courtesy of Mason Game & Technology Academy

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**School Notes**

Suzanne Ketcham, of Alexandria, was named to the dean’s list at Salisbury University (Salisbury, Md.) for the fall 2015 semester.

Erin McCarty, Alexandria resident and a student at Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, N.Y.), was named to the president’s list in the fall 2015 semester.

Megan Jackson, of Alexandria, earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2015 semester in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kan.).

Cullen Scheland, of Alexandria, has been named to the 2015 fall semester dean’s list at Lafayette College (Easton, Pa.). Scheland is a graduate of American International School.

The following Alexandria-area students have been named to Clemson University’s (Clemson, S.C.) dean’s list for the fall 2015 semester: Ann Elizabeth Barletta, majoring in political science; Elise Margaret Bell, majoring in political science; Sydney Elaine Fenstermaker, majoring in bioengineering; Andrew R. Perham, majoring in civil engineering; and Kristin Anna Snow, majoring in communication studies.

Madison Hardimon, a member of the class of 2016, from Alexandria, has been named to the fall 2015 dean’s list at Loyola University Maryland (Baltimore).

Hailee Reeder, of Alexandria, participated in the seventh annual Intercollegiate Art Competition, a juried exhibit of artwork by students from Abilene colleges and universities, at the Center for Contemporary Art in Abilene. Entries were juried by professional, contemporary artists.

John Mulberger, of Alexandria, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Florham Campus (Madison, N.J.) has been named to the honors list for the fall 2015 semester.

Dawit Tsigie, of Alexandria, was named to the Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa) dean’s list for the fall 2015 semester. Tsigie earned honors.

Carla Cisneros, of Alexandria, was one of eight Mary Baldwin College Staunton, Va.) students who attended this year’s Algrenon See Notes, Camps Page 7
Academic Camps Combine Education and Fun

Local camps help students maintain school skills in a relaxed environment.

By Marilyn Campbell

One summer Ana Lado created a summer camp activity for students at her neighborhood pool. The Marymount professor set up a picnic area, and included activities and books. Her plan was to engage the students and give them the opportunity to read and build reading skills while still enjoying fun activities traditionally associated with summer.

“I got six kids who were older to read to six kindergartners. I chose kids who had potential, but who were at risk,” said Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington. “Reading with a kindergartner or first grader for 15 minutes got the students reading and built their confidence.”

This summer Lado and her colleagues at Marymount are offering “3E: Explore, Enrich, Enjoy,” one of several area camps with an academic component. Their goal is to enable students to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

Marymount’s 3E camp enables campers to choose what they focus on at camp. In addition to traditional camp activities, the camp will include academic projects like exploring science through nature and electronic gadgets, studying math by making boats, language arts by writing their own stories and fine arts by creating plays and cartoons.

For those who want an in-depth review of a school subject and the chance to participate in hands-on summer camp activities, academic camps fill both needs.

“[Academic camps] supplement what students are getting during the school year and allow them to experience subjects and topics that they’re not getting in public school,” said Dan Stalcup, Associate Director for Fairfax Collegiate, a Herndon-based organization that offers summer programs for students entering third through ninth grade.

Programs at Fairfax Collegiate run the gamut from filmmaking and robotics to engineering and classic children’s literature. For example, third and fourth grade students can learn to craft their own short stories during a Story Writing course in Alexandria, Chantilly, and Ashburn.

Camps who enjoy reading and want to delve into award-winning novels by authors such as Madeleine L’Engle or Rebecca Stead can take “Reading Newbery Winners” with sessions in Chantilly, Ashburn, Fairfax, McLean and Reston. Students can spend two weeks reading books that have been awarded the Newbery Medal for excellence in literature for children.

Fifth and sixth graders who love math and want to hone their analytical and logical thinking skills can spend their time engaging in chess, Stratego and other mind-bending activities in the “Brain Games” camp, which will be offered in Chantilly, Reston, Herndon, McLean, Alexandria and Oakton.

Future detectives might enjoy taking a forensic science class in Alexandria, Chantilly, Herndon, Ashburn, Falls Church and McLean. “Students learn about the science in criminal justice, like blood-typing and fingerprinting by actually doing the experiments and seeing them in action,” said Stalcup.

“Students get a lot of personal attention because the classes are small, and the instructors either have or are pursuing a degree in the topic they’re teaching,” said Stalcup. “They’re all very passionate about the subject they’re teaching.”

Academic camps might be a good fit for students who are curious about a particular area of study. “Many parents want something that is both fun and educational, meaning it will help their child keep busy and develop skills needed during the school year,” said Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University. “I think both parents and educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning.”

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“A student who is interested in math and wishes to advance to higher levels will benefit, as well as students who need a refresher or a better understanding before moving ahead.”

When choosing an academic camp, parents should look for camps that are not all work and no play. “I want to make sure it has a healthy balance of recreational and educational enrichment activities,” said Morris. “If the campers are enjoying the activities and the counselors are skilled, the program should, as a natural effect, promote the building of positive relationships with their peers and their counselors.”

“Students appreciate the ability to focus on one subject in a relaxed atmosphere in an academic camp. If kids are taking a subject at a fast-clip pace, but they don’t do well, they miss key skills. The next year they move to a higher level class, but the same problem still exists,” said Lado. “When they take a week or two during the summer and immerse themselves in a subject, they go stronger into the next school year. In camp, it’s the only thing they’re doing academically and they can concentrate on it.”

For example, The Madeira School in McLean is offering summer programs in Trigonometry and Geometry. “These courses are intended for advancement into higher level math classes, and based on our classes taught during the academic year,” said Ashley Smith, Associate Director of Communications at Madeira. “A student who is interested in math and wishes to advance to higher levels will benefit, as well as students who need a refresher or a better understanding before moving ahead.”

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Sydney Sullivan Ignite Retreat Oct. 16-18 at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, N.C.

Lara Barth, of Alexandria, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Barth was initiated at College of Charleston.

Molly Adler, daughter of Reid Adler and Jacqueline Arnold of Alexandria, has been named a Fulbright Fellow to teach English in Russia for the 2015-2016 academic year. Adler studied International Business and Russian at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., earning a bachelor’s degree in May. Adler gained international experience at Juniata College. After her freshman year, she spent a month at a language institute in St. Petersburg, Russia as part of the College’s Bard-Smolny Program.

Bishop Ireton High School senior Isabel Anderson has been awarded a President’s Volunteer Service Award for her service. The award, which recognizes Americans who have volunteered significant amounts of time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Bishop Ireton nominated Isabel for national honors in recognition of her volunteer service. Anderson started the Charity through Medicine Club at Bishop Ireton. Club members visit and hold events for sick children at Georgetown University Hospital.

Hailee Reeder, of Alexandria, received awards at the 2016 McMurry Student Art Competition, a juried exhibit of artwork now on display in the Amy Graves Ryan Fine Arts Gallery. Reeder received awards for Abilene Frame-n-Art Award for Live for the Light but Remember the Night/2nd Place - Advanced Ceramics/1st HM - Advanced Ceramics/1st HM - Advanced Photography.

Nasser Yasin, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean’s list for the mid-term spring 2015-2016 academic year at Wentworth Military Academy and College (Lexington, Mo.).

David Blake and Ryan Land have been named to the provost’s list for Term 3 of the 2015/2016 academic year at Troy University (Troy, Ala.).

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