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July 21, 2016



Photo by John Borden

**Ultimate Styles Barbershop on Mt. Vernon Avenue is one of 15 participating locations in the new Beauticians, Barbers and Books literacy initiative. Kicking off the program July 5 are from left: John Porter, Councilman John Chapman, Bennie Evans, Kariem Perry, Councilman Will Bailey, Alexandria Library Director Rose Dawson, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, Lucresha Murphy, Michael Johnson and Mac Slover.**

## Beauticians, Barbers and Books Literacy initiative targets youths on summer break.

By Jeanne Theismann  
Gazette Packet

Local barber shops and beauty salons across the city have united to promote Beauticians, Barbers and Books, a new literacy initiative to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer.

"We have placed books in 15 barber shops and beauty salons across the City of Alexandria," said City Councilman Will Bailey, one of the architects of the program. "We believe the achievement gap begins long before the first day of kindergarten and the Beauticians, Barbers and Books literacy initiative is a way to head that off."

When a child reads a book while waiting for a

haircut or styling session at a participating location, the local barber or beautician will give them a coupon for a free Slurpee courtesy of the 7-11 Corporation.

Organizations supporting the Beauticians, Barbers and Books literacy program include Firefighters & Friends to the Rescue, Alexandria City Parks & Recs Department, Alexandria Libraries, 7-11 Corporation, ACT for Alexandria and Barnes & Noble.

"We keep receiving calls from shops that want to participate in this program so we are adding to our list of locations now," Bailey said. "We want to place books in the hands of kids earlier and guarantee that the kids who are already in school are engaged in reading throughout the summer."

## Market Affordable Homes in Freefall

**Tax increases push rent increases; rent increases push out residents.**

By Vernon Miles  
Gazette Packet

Alexandria has lost 8,000 market affordable homes since 2010. Most weren't lost to dramatic demolitions or fires. They were lost in moments like the one Clifford Wilkening is facing; where an increase in property taxes is forcing the owner of 31 buildings housing 200 city residents to consider his first rent increase in around eight years.

There are two main categories of affordable housing in Alexandria, committed affordable housing and market affordable housing. Committed affordable properties are units guaranteed by agreement with the federal, state, or city government. Rents in these apartments are generally designed to be affordable to those earning 60 percent of the area median income (AMI). In the Washington-

Arlington-Alexandria Metro Area, an income at 60 percent AMI for a one person household would be \$45,900. That rate is set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The other type of housing is market affordable units, the kind Wilkening owns. The units are privately owned and leased, with

affordability fluctuating with market prices. But while the city has been working to stabilize the loss of committed affordable units in the city, the majority of the affordable housing losses have been in the market affordable freefall.

In 2000, there were 18,218 market affordable housing units in Alexandria. Today,

there are 3,853.

"Wages have been stagnant," said Helen McIlvane, director of Housing. "It does not take a big bump in the rents for things to

See Property Taxes, Page 8

**"The constant bottom line is that we continue to lose market affordable units, partly because rents go up and partly because wages are stagnant."**

— Helen McIlvane,  
Director of Housing

## Cora Kelly Pre-Testing Irregularity Under State Review

**Administration takes disciplinary action against principal.**

By Vernon Miles  
Gazette Packet

Pre-Standards of Learning test irregularity at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology resulted in disciplinary action against Principal Brandon Davis and an ongoing investigation by the Virginia

Department of Education.

"ACPS regrets that this happened," said Superintendent Alvin Crawley in an email. "Our understanding is that this was not a deliberate error. It was investigated and corrective action was taken by Central Office as soon as the irregularity came to light, prior to the start of SOL testing. During

this period of investigation, ACPS actions were transparent, accountable and followed procedures set out by the state at all times."

According to Charles Pyle, director of communications for the Virginia Department of Education, the issue is not settled yet.

"This matter was reported for an assessment decision," said Pyle. "That report is in the process of being closed. It hasn't been closed yet. While a case is still open, it's something we can't discuss."

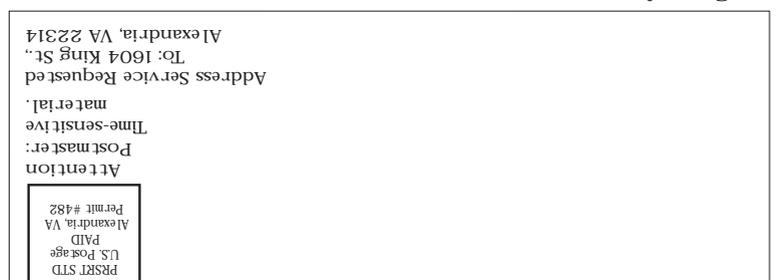
Pyle said the schools use an

online system to report irregularities, which the Department of Education reviews.

"If there was a case with violation of protocols, there may well

be a directive from the Department to the school district to provide corrective action plan," said Pyle. "That could involve training

See Cora Kelly, Page 8



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# Takin' It to the Streets Del Ray Music Festival moves to The Avenue.

By Jeanne Theismann  
Gazette Packet

**C**hanges are brewing for this year's Del Ray Music Festival, including a new location and the debut of pop-up beer gardens, a first for an outdoor street festival in the City of Alexandria.

"No one has tried something like this before," said "Mango" Mike Anderson, co-owner of Pork Barrel BBQ and host of one of the beer gardens. "The city and other neighborhoods will be watching to see how this works out."

Now in its ninth year, the festival will take place July 23 from 3 to 8 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be closed from E. Custis to E. Uhler avenues. Musicians will perform on two stages at the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, located at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford Avenue, a change from the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields.

"We have seven restaurants setting up beer gardens for the festival," said Bill Blackburn, president of the Del Ray Business Association and Anderson's partner in Pork Barrel BBQ and Holy Cow Del Ray. "We're excited about this and think it is a great opportunity to showcase the Del Ray community." Restaurants hosting pop-up beer gardens include Pork Barrel BBQ/Holy Cow, Del Ray Pizzeria, Stomping Ground, Caboose Café, Cheestique, Taqueria El Poblano and St. Elmo's.

Headlining this year's festival is award-winning guitarist Anthony Pirog, a recipient of the Washington Area Music Association's Best Modern Rock Instrumentalist award. Artist Jack Kilby & The Front

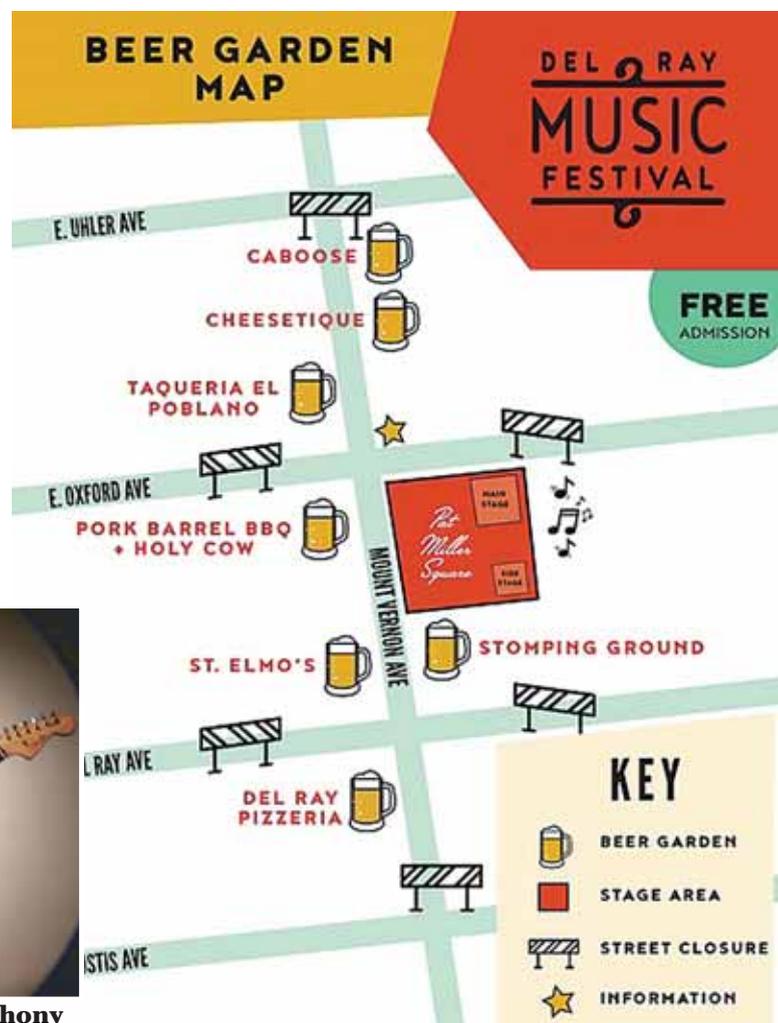


**Signs promoting the Del Ray Music Festival are ready to be placed along Mount Vernon Avenue. The festival will take place July 23 from 3-8 p.m. at Pat Miller Square at the corner of E. Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues.**



**Award-winning guitarist Anthony Pirog will headline the Del Ray Music Festival.**

**Seven Del Ray restaurants will host outdoor beer gardens during the Del Ray Music Festival. Mount Vernon Avenue will be closed from E. Custis to E. Uhler avenues during the event.**



Photos Contributed

Line open the festival at 3 p.m., followed by Noise in the Basement, Elroy Jenkins, Geno & The Spirit of Jazz, Wanted Man and Near Northeast. Pirog will take the stage at

6:45 p.m. "The Del Ray Community is excited about this signature event," Blackburn added. "We hope to show once again that Del Ray is the best neighborhood for fun in

Alexandria." The Del Ray Music Festival is free and open to all. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit [www.delraymusicfestival.com](http://www.delraymusicfestival.com).

## Dropping Off 320 Pounds of Drugs

"Drug Take Back" event collects 11 bags of prescription drugs.

By Antonella Nicholas  
Gazette Packet

**I**n front of the Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, residents dropped medication into large clear trash liners within cardboard bins from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16.

The pharmacy partnered with the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria and the Sheriff's office to hold a "Drug Take Back," an event where the Sheriff's deputies collect unwanted or expired prescription drugs and other medications.

The Drug Enforcement Administration holds two national Drug Take Back events each year in the fall and spring at the Alexandria Police headquarters, the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, and in front of the



**Volunteer Cullen Prall, Sheriff's Deputy Valarie Wright, and SAPCA Vice Chair Shelly Morgan, stand with full bags of unused, unwanted and expired prescription drugs.**

Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, where Saturday's event was held. However, Alexandria residents wanted more opportunities to dispose of unwanted, expired and

dangerous drugs, so, since last year, a third event is held in the summer in front of the Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray.

See Dropping Off, Page 9



**In front of the Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray, Captain Robyn Nichols and Deputy Valarie Wright collect medication at the Del Ray Drug Take Back event on Saturday July 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

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## News

# The Band Plays On

Students, parents, and teachers reflect on music camp experience before Friday's concert.

By Vernon Miles  
Gazette Packet

**O**n Friday, the George Washington Middle will host a student orchestra and jazz concert. For attendees, the concert will be a free hour of live music. But for the performers, the concert is the culmination of a week of practice and learning at the Alexandria City Public Schools' music camp.

Veronica Jackson has been coordinating the music camp for four years. Over those years, the program has swelled from 30 students in the first year to 205 this week. Jackson says support from the school system has been a large part of the increase in the camp's popularity. At first, the program cost \$30 per student, which covered the costs of the program. Since then, Jackson says Alexandria Public Schools has come in and covered all of the expenses of the program.

"[The school system] really stepped in when we asked," said Jackson. "They provide the instruments for the students who need them over the summer. It's a win-win for the students, parents and public."

During the year, Jackson teaches orchestra at Francis Hammond Middle School, and says the summer camp has had a noticeable effect on the school's music participation.

"Our numbers during the school year have greatly increased because of the music camp," said Jackson. "It's a chance to build your skills or try a new instrument. Five years ago, we had 70 students in my class at Hammond. Last year we had 182. That's been the most rewarding result of the camp. And our students keep getting better and better."

Over the course of the week, various renowned musicians will visit the camp and help lead classes with the students. On Tuesday, Glenn Donnellon, a violinist with the National Symphony



Photo contributed

**From left: Harris Hunter, rising sixth grader at George Washington Middle School; Joy Moment, rising sixth grader at Hammond Middle School; Lily Fanning, rising sixth grader at Jefferson-Houston School; and Claudio Cabello, rising seventh grader at Hammond Middle School.**

Orchestra, came by the camp to teach about various types of string instruments. On Wednesday, the group took a field trip to the Kennedy Center.

The parents volunteering at the music camp were enthusiastic about the children's participation. Yolie Carrasco, a parent of a seventh grader studying percussion, says she's happy to see her child get to know the students and teachers at the local schools.

"She did it last year and she got to know her teachers at Hammond," said Carrasco. "Now she's at George Washington and she's getting to know this school and make new friends."

See The Band, Page 20

**"My first day, I walked into jazz band scared. I was one of the only fifth graders, but multiple people took me in. Music gave me new friends."**

— Ellie Lo, Seventh Grade Cellist

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# Walking through City's History

By Shirley Ruhe  
Gazette Packet

“There is no real place called Mercy Street although it would have been right there on the 100th block of N. Fairfax Street,” according to Meredith Barber, tour guide for DC Military Tours.

Barber paints a graphic scene of troops thrown on the street with nurses triaging them where they lay. Barber is giving the Sunday afternoon Mercy Street Walking Tour that relates events in the new Civil War television mini-series with the places where they happened in Alexandria.

Barber walks from the Alexandria Visitor's Center around the corner to Carlyle House, which had been owned by a wealthy furniture factory owner in 1750 but was turned into a Civil War hospital when Union troops took over the city. “Up there on the second floor were the officers and down below were the others. In the corner was the kitchen. That's where the grimy cook, the character you love to hate on Mercy Street, would have been cooking supper.” In front of Carlyle House there was a 700-bed hospital and by the 1970s it had become tenement apartments. When a choice had to be made between the two historic buildings, the Mansion House Hotel was torn down.

And around the corner, “Welcome to Gadsby's Tavern — very historic.” Barber said that George Washington had a townhouse just down the block but had no kitchen so he used to eat at the closest fine dining place, Gadsby's Tavern. “And George Washington danced in the ballroom and died in one of the dining rooms here.” She continues, “You know the scene in Mercy Street where the Union Army takes over and has a big celebration? That would have happened in the big ballroom here in Gadsby's Tavern.”

Down the block is the Alexandria Farmer's Market, the oldest in the United States, where George Washington defied social conventions and sold his tobacco. “Now just down the block is the apothecary from 1790 ....”

Barber says her 75-90 minute tours include people from all over the world — recently a man from France, a couple from Alaska and a lot of people from Long Island. She says there aren't a lot of children on the tours but it is a “kid-friendly” presentation. Barber explains, “I tell a lot of stories.”

Tom Schultz, owner of DC Military Tours, says history can be boring but Barber makes it come alive. “It comes off the page. People walk away not knowing they have had a history lesson.”

Barber says the tours are a give and take and each learns from the other. “I engage my tour and find out what they are interested in.”

They both receive a lot of questions about the architecture of the buildings; a common question is why some buildings have a star. Schultz explains the star is both decorative and structural since it is the screw holding the tension rod



Photos by Shirley Ruhe/Gazette Packet

**Meredith Barber, tour guide for DC Military Tours, stops at Carlyle House which was turned into a Civil War hospital when Union troops took over Alexandria. Barber is giving the Sunday afternoon Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour that connects the events in the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street” with the history in the city.**

that keeps the building straight.

Schultz says he first met Barber through family connections when she was 7-years old and the families were on a candlelight tour of Mount Vernon. “She asked pointed, germane questions about history, very advanced for her age.”

Now Barber is attending the College of William and Mary and Schultz has hired her as a tour guide for the Mercy Street tour as well as general tours on Wednesday-Saturday.

Barber credits her grandparents with her early interest in history. “They used to take me to the Saratoga Battlefield when I lived in New York. You could fly kites, and you could also learn about history.”

Schultz, a retired 20-year Navy veteran, also offers experiential military tours designed for a specific request. For instance on Friday, he took about 30 military veterans to Ft. Myer to see the Presidential Salute Battery with the loading and firing of cannons and 21-gun salute. Schultz says he got the idea for the Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour in January when there are often no tour customers. Schultz says PBS has announced a second season of Mercy Street so he is expecting a renewed inter-

est. Although the mini-series was filmed in Petersburg and Richmond, “it all took place within three blocks of where we are sitting.”



**Tom Schultz, co-owner of DC Military Tours and a 20-year Navy veteran, explains, in addition to his general tour, he offers experiential military tours for groups who come to D.C. with a specific request. He says as a small businessman in Alexandria, he is invested in the community.**

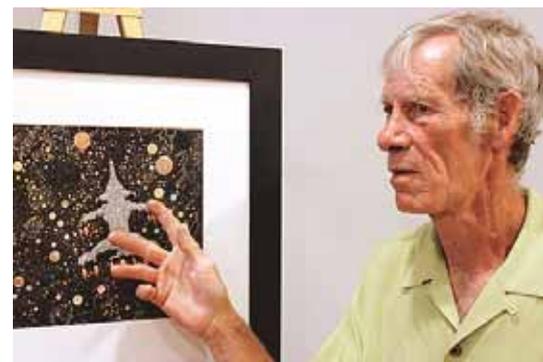


Photo by Hernán Martín Alonso

**Jerry Loughlin at his solo exhibition at @Home Real Estate on July 14.**

## Local Artist Presents First Solo Exhibition

By Margaret Corum  
Gazette Packet

Jerry Loughlin displayed his artwork on July 14, in his first solo exhibition at @Home Real Estate.

Curator Angelica Guadamuz described Loughlin's exhibition as “a map of the rough seas of his life.”

She considers much of his work to be built on a system of “personal codes.”

The densely-packed ink, color markers, and pencil drawings feature many recurrent images symbolic of Loughlin's personal history. Interwoven into a landscape of large, colorful shapes and bodies are intricate, almost hidden details: mac & cheese, bananas, demons, hands, and nails.

“Loughlin's eyes are like a camera that collects everything he sees and then draws it, colors it, grates it, or turns it into a scrawl,” Guadamuz said.

Guadamuz met Loughlin while volunteering at Look Again Resale Shop, where he works. She saw some of his

drawings and convinced him to show her larger, completed pieces. She wanted to formally show his work.

Born in California in the 1950s, Loughlin moved to Shirlington in 2011. He now lives in Del Ray. As a self-taught artist, Loughlin said, “The only way I could learn to draw was trial and error.”

He describes his psychedelic expressionist pieces as coming from “the energy and disorientation of nightmares.” He is also deeply influenced by science fiction: #37, finished in 1979, was inspired by space travel and study.

Patrons were also enthusiastic about Loughlin's work. Yvonne Bonner, a retired U.S. marshal, was in awe of Loughlin's use of color. She was also struck by details so small that she discovered something new each time she returned to a piece.

Select pieces of Loughlin's are available for purchase at @Home Real Estate on 111 South Alfred St. until the end of the month.



**Jerry Loughlin's piece #37, inspired by space travel and study.**

# Finding Echo

## From Sri Lanka to Alexandria

By Corey Jenkins  
Gazette Packet



**Echo**

On the way to the Metro stop, by the narrow alley way you pass every morning on the way to work, or even from the comfort of your own home you've seen your fair share of cautious glowing eyes belonging to one of the area's many stray animals. With there being hundreds of lost or stray animal cases each year in the Northern Virginia area alone, it's easy to forget that each of these four legged companions has their own story. However, few of these stories quite match Alexandria's newest four-legged resident who recently went missing around the northern Alexandria area: a female terrier-beagle mix who goes by the name, Echo.

Echo's story begins more than 9,000 miles away as a stray trying to survive in the city of Colombo, Sri Lanka. As fate would have it, she was eventually rescued by Embark, an animal rescue organization that focuses on the rescuing and adoption of street dogs in Sri Lanka.

Shortly after being nursed back to health, Echo would find that for the first time she would have a home and a loving owner by the name of Sheela Krishnan. Krishnan was working as an American state diplomat posted in Sri Lanka, when she came across Echo at one of the local shelters.

"When I first saw Echo she was behind several other dogs, curled up in the corner, scared, and protecting her babies," Krishnan said, recapping the events of their first meeting.

Along with her fellow rescue dog Bella, Echo and Krishnan would spend the next two years in Sri Lanka, forging a bond before making the journey halfway around the world, eventually landing in their newest home in Alexandria. Despite being eager to begin the next chapter of their life, an unfortunate turn of events would result in Echo becoming startled and lost in the unfamiliar City of Alexandria.

"We went out for a walk and it was hard to see that there was another man walking his dog coming around the corner. When Echo saw the other dog it startled her and she took off running, jerking the leash out of my hand. The man was trying to run after her to bring her back, however to Echo she was being chased. I was shouting 'Don't chase, don't chase! Echo stop!'"

Krishnan describes Echo as a very affectionate, very sweet dog, however her time on the streets of Sri Lanka, has made her very weary towards other people and dogs alike.

As with Echo, many pets often become lost under similar circumstances. Regarding lost pet incidents, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria states that it's important for owners to report lost pets as soon as possible and be sure to search their own

neighborhood, as well as checking in neighboring areas as it is common for lost pets to venture outside of the initial area where they become lost.

Krishnan took action immediately and began coordinating searches around the northern Alexandria area in search of Echo. Despite being forced to take down many of her search and rescue posters due to a city law that prevents the posting of certain informational flyers, Krishnan's resolve to find her lost companion caught the attention of a fellow colleague, Jennifer Marsh. Marsh has been helping with the search and rescue campaign for Echo.

"Sheela and I work for the same organization — for the state department — and we have a Facebook group for the employees of the state department. She posted on there about Echo right after she was lost," said Marsh.

"It really caught my attention because I have rescue dogs myself. I'm a big dog lover and she lives right down the street from me, so I contacted her and started trying to help her in any way I could to find Echo."

Together the two created a Facebook group called "Help Echo-Lost Dog In Northern Virginia" to post and share information regarding Echo's whereabouts and possible sittings.

"I think it has helped" Marsh said. "It's a platform where people can share information and they can message [Sheela]. We're hoping that it will just continue to be shared and hopefully go viral a little more. We have like 275 likes right now and still, we would love it if we had thousands and thousands because obviously that would mean that more people know about Echo's situation ..."

Echo went missing the evening of June 8 and is still missing at the time of this article. Despite this, Krishnan has not let her resolve fade and continues to search for Echo in hopes that they will soon be reunited. Echo's last sighting was as recent as July 12 in Old Town. Krishnan wants it to be known that she is offering a reward for Echo's safe return, but she does ask that people do not try to apprehend Echo right away, as she will most likely run away immediately. Instead she advises attempting to approach her with chicken, or another safe dog treat, to keep her in an area and send the location and a picture to Krishnan's cell phone. Her number can be found on the Help Echo Facebook Page.

See Help Echo Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lostdogecho](http://www.facebook.com/lostdogecho).

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# Property Taxes Affect Rent, Rent Affects Affordability

From Page 1  
show up as being a big loss of affordable housing. It's a reflection of the fact that wages aren't keeping pace."

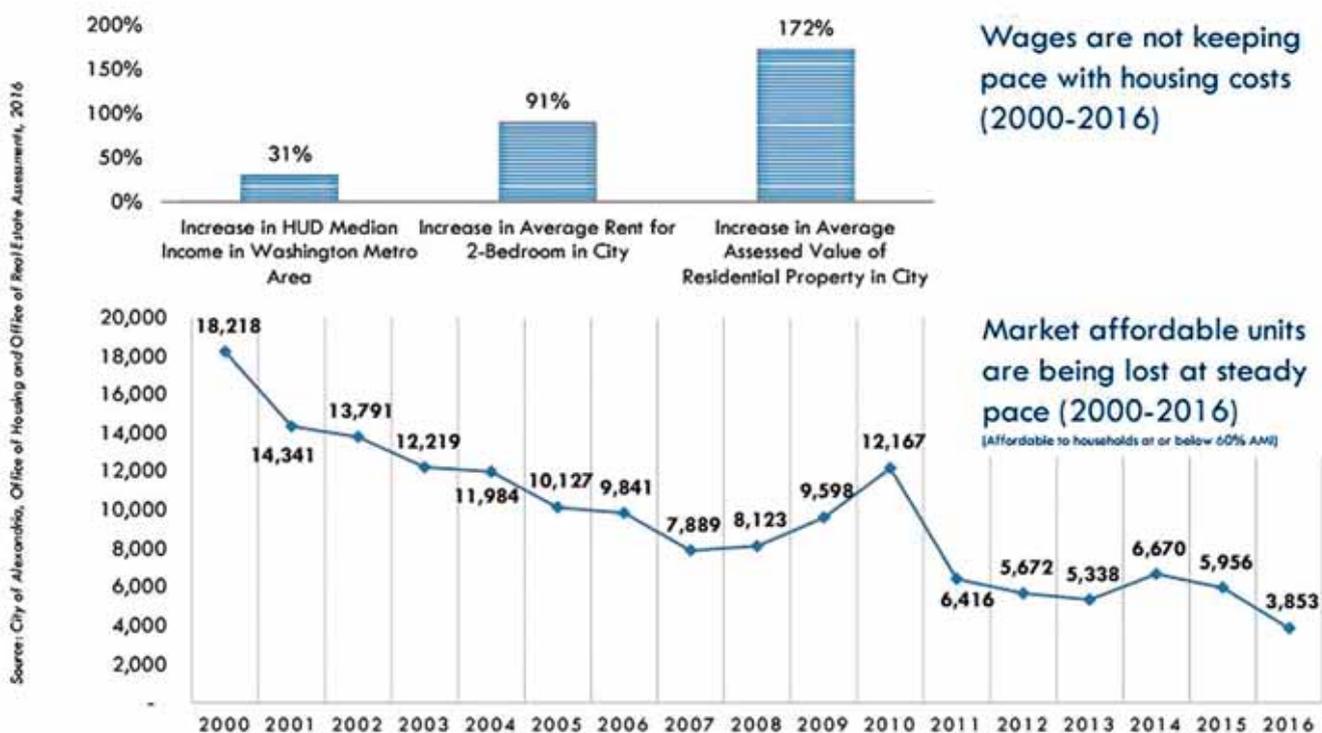
While some of those rents are increased when apartments are remodelled for more of an upscale client base, Wilkening says many apartment owners are struggling to keep pace with rapidly rising property tax increases. For Wilkening, property values rose by about \$11,000 last year.

"The property value is going up, but that doesn't pay the bills," said Wilkening, who noted that the increased values, and increased taxes, hurt the apartment owners trying to keep their units affordable. "I'm tired of people thinking we're in it for the bottom line."

Wilkening's tenants are largely Alexandria's working class, many are teachers or young people starting out at nearby offices like the Patent and Trademark Office. A few local police officers have lived in the apartments. According to Wilkening, a \$15 rent increase to keep up with the property tax increase could force a lot of those residents to look for housing outside of the city.

"When those values rise, the costs of rental housing rises; as, of course, does the asking price for homes and condos," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center of Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "It puts an increasing amount of a county or city's housing out of reach not just for new families but also for those potentially forced out of housing when their current lease expires."

According to Shafroth, third parties that offer housing without directly paying taxes could also start to put a larger strain on the city's economy, forcing those property taxes



"[The city] doesn't have authority under Virginia law to change the tax rate for one or more particular people," said Melodie Seau, division chief of the Alexandria Office of Housing. "We can exempt certain types of properties, but we can't say 'If you keep units affordable, we'll keep tax rate lower.'"

"We can't direct them not to raise rents," said McIlvane. "With committed affordable units, there is a clear ceiling and rents have to take into account. But we don't have control over the market."

"A few years ago, Melodie [Seau] convened a meeting with landlords to find out what to do to moderate

higher.

"This problem has grown worse with the advent of Airbnb," said Shafroth. "Airbnb, which has some 1,500,000 listings in 34,000 cities around the globe and projects annual revenues of \$10 billion by 2020, [is] creating an awkward governing balance between states and local governments, and between the provision of affordable housing and municipal revenues. The increasing challenge for municipal leaders, especially in high housing cost cities, is how to balance the needs for affordable housing against potential Airbnb tax revenues, amid apprehensions that Airbnb is driving up rents to unaffordable levels. According to a report 'Short Changing New York City' by a consortium of housing activists in New York, 55 percent of the 51,000 or so Airbnb listings in the city were considered commercial .... The report notes that the number of vacant and available apartments in New York City would increase by 10 percent if those listings were returned to the rental



Photo contributed

**Interior of a \$1,375 one-bedroom apartment.**

market. And, presumably, rents would drop by an offsetting amount, making for significantly more affordable shelter for low and moderate income families."

Currently on airbnb.com, there are over 300 listings for apartments available in Alexandria for rent.

But while both Wilkening and McIlvane recognize the vanishing market-affordable housing as a problem, both struggle for solutions.

rents, like low interest loans for building repair. But most don't want to have government interference." Wilkening confirmed that more government interference is exactly what many property owners don't want. From accepting tenants from the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) to city maintenance workers destroying decorations on the nearby noise barrier by Route 1, Wilkening has a laundry list of bad experiences with the city.

"I don't want the city involved, the bureaucratic process will muck it up," said Wilkening. "I don't trust the city, many [apartment owners] don't."

Meanwhile, year after year, the city continues to lose its market affordable housing.

"The constant bottom line is that we continue to lose market affordable units," said McIlvane, "partly because rents go up and partly because wages are stagnant. We're in a market with a very high demand for housing."

## Cora Kelly Pre-Testing Irregularity Under State Review

From Page 1

or decisions about who gets to proctor what tests. Then there's a final report and the matter is closed. That doesn't mean the case is really closed. There may well be personnel piece at the local level. Potentially there could be licenser piece."

Pyle said that while those are some potential results of the state's decision, none of this was specific to the Cora Kelly testing irregularity.

The following is a statement from Davis released Tuesday, July 19:

"On May 11, 2016, information was shared with the superintendent suggesting irregularity with the pre-testing process at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.

"On May 12, 2016, the superintendent ordered an investigation into this information, which was carried out from May 12 through May 16, 2016. The matter was immediately reported to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Additional discussions occurred with VDOE throughout the process.

"The investigation found that an irregularity had occurred prior to Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. I asked staff to inform parents of 37 third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students that they had the right to opt-out of state testing in line with state procedures.

"I only asked staff to share the information that came as part of the state's 457 announcement allowing students to opt-out

of testing, which came out via the Office of Accountability. My error was not inquiring as to how this information should have been shared with parents, and only contacting 37 parents with the information.

"My actions did not affect the subsequent SOL testing procedures at Cora Kelly. The testing procedures that were followed were in line with procedures set by the state and ACPS.

"Corrective action was taken by Central Office as soon as the irregularity came to light, prior to the start of SOL testing. The school division personally contacted each of the parents of the students involved and no student went into the testing period without the opportunity to participate in the tests. Further, the school division had addi-

tional staff from the Office of Accountability participating in the monitoring of SOL tests at Cora Kelly during the testing period.

"During this period of investigation, ACPS actions were transparent, accountable and followed procedures set out by the state at all times. I have also been open and transparent at all times throughout the process.

"As a result of this, ACPS took appropriate disciplinary actions. I will ensure that I check with the division prior to dissemination of public information in the future.

"I wish to stress that I did not do anything that I perceived was intentionally wrong at the time. I did not place my opinion on anybody. I apologize for the impact my actions have had on ACPS."

# Dropping Off 320 Pounds of Drugs

From Page 3

According to Amy Bertsch, the Sheriff's communications specialist, in April 2016, police officers and deputies collected 392.4 lbs citywide. This summer, deputies collected 11 bags, consisting of 320 lbs.

Captain Robyn Nichols said that the Take Back event benefits the community and that many residents feel relieved to get unwanted medication out of their possession. "Back in April, somebody turned in drugs from the '70s," she said.

Shelly Morgan, vice chair of the SAPCA, advised residents not to dispose of prescription medication themselves. Flushing the medication may add drug residue to the water system, and drugs that are thrown in the trash can be stolen and abused. Morgan suggested that residents save their medication in a safe, secure place and drop it off at a local Take Back event, where the medication



Photo by Antonella Nicholas/  
Gazette Packet

**The deputies accepted all medication, but rejected needles and syringes.**

is disposed of safely.

Morgan said that the SAPCA has been lobbying to get a metal "drop-off" box placed at the Sheriff's office. The box would be a "safe place" for residents to drop off unwanted medication so that they don't have to wait for Take Back events.

The company Covanta incinerates the drugs at a site with DEA supervision.

Morgan also said that though she has been asked many times if unused drugs can somehow be recycled, no pharmacy that she knows of will take unused medication.

As for prescription drug abuse in Alexandria, Morgan said that abuse is "lower than the national average." At SAPCA, "we focus more on alcohol and marijuana abuse because in Alexandria, prescription drug abuse isn't a large problem." However, SAPCA is aware that prescription drug abuse is on the rise nationally.

## Obituaries

### Evalyn Tripp Hutzel

Former Alexandria resident Evalyn Tripp Hutzel, 100, of Medford, Oregon, died July 11, 2016 with her family by her side. She was born in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada, and grew up in Detroit, Mich. She received bachelor's and nursing degrees from the University of Michigan and later, in her 60s, earned a master's degree in health care administration from San Jose State University. In 1941 she married John M. Hutzel of Ann Arbor, Mich. and subsequently taught nursing at Ohio State University while her husband completed a Ph.D. in entomology. During World War II she lived in Santa Monica, Calif. while her husband, a Navy reservist attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, served in the Pacific. Following the war, the Hutzels relocated to Alexandria where she later worked as a pediatric nurse in the practice of the late Dr. Thistle McKee, and was active in Westminster Presbyterian Church as well as the American Association of University Women.

From 1954 to 1956, the Hutzels lived in Karachi, Pakistan where she volunteered as a nurse working



in refugee camps and also helped to establish the first American Girl Scout Troup in Pakistan. The Hutzels eventually moved to Palo Alto, Calif. in 1965 where she worked in dermatology and neurology practices. Subsequently she and her husband lived in Pebble Beach, Calif. before retiring to the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, Oregon. Following her husband's death in 1989, she performed with a tap dancing group and volunteered at the Rogue Valley International Airport information desk as well as at the Rogue Valley Medical Center library. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Medford, Oregon. She is survived by two daughters, Joy Nathan (Richard) of Arlington, Va., and Cynthia Bryant (Lawrence) of Palo Alto, Calif., as well as her nephew Anson Tripp of Okinawa, Japan.

Graveside services were held on Monday, July 18, in Ann Arbor, Mich. with arrangements by Muehlig Funeral Chapel. Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to the Health Center Fund, Rogue Valley Manor, Medford, Oregon.

### Charles Somerset Parran

Charles Somerset Parran, 73, of Alexandria and Hillsboro, N.H., died on Thursday, July 7, 2016 at Hillsboro House Nursing Home. Born in Washington, D.C. at Columbia Hospital on July 29, 1942, Charles grew up in Prince Frederick, Md. He graduated from Calvert High School, attended the University of Maryland and served in the Army in Europe.



toration, his work included Robert E. Lee's boyhood home, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House and the Chinese Room at Gunston Hall.

Charles was known to be a true friend and gentleman. He loved history, travel and boating. He is preceded in death by his parents, William Shemwell and Grace Stuart, and his siblings, William and Rebecca. Retiring in 2008 to New Hampshire he is survived by daughter, Gweneth Airgood and her husband James of Henniker, N.H. and daughter, Susan Parran of Amherst, N.H.

A service and burial will take place in the fall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick, Md. Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.



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# Making Progress Against Childhood Hunger

## Serving up ways to provide food.

By Shirley Ruhe  
Gazette Packet

**“W**hen you look at the big picture of childhood hunger in Alexandria, you almost don’t want to tackle it,” said Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission at Historic Christ Church in Alexandria. “So we take it one piece at a time.”

Gray is the convener of Hunger Free Alexandria, a consortium of 30 local community leaders, churches, and non-profit organizations who meet monthly to strategize on hunger. The group was launched in 2014 after a report prepared for the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network (ACOAN) about food access problems in the city.

“The report was a springboard to action,” Gray said. She says lack of information is still a major issue but when people become aware and they are asked to help, they are very willing to assist.

Deborah Warren, director of the Center for Children and Families in the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services added, “No matter how much we communicate there is so much more to be done. And,” she said, “whose job is it? There is no single hunger czar in Alexandria whose job is to address childhood hunger in the city.”

A patchwork of programs, funding sources and solutions currently exists, often uncoordinated and overlapping. But Warren points out a lot of progress has been made in the last several years.

“A few years ago we weren’t even aware hunger existed in Alexandria,” Warren said. The city’s first Children and Youth Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in June 2014 and by the ACPS School Board in May 2014. “It’s a big deal.” It establishes long-term, community-wide priorities for youth as well as the specific action steps necessary to realize those priorities. Number one goal: “each child will be physically safe and healthy.”

Warren said, “The plan doesn’t call out hunger but coordinates efforts across agencies to develop a systems approach for solving problems for youth.”

Programs are delivered through the schools, non-profit organizations, community groups and church pantries. Efforts are funded in a variety of ways including the federal government and city budget as well as contributions from a number of commu-



**Melanie Gray, director of Outreach and Mission at Historic Christ Church on N. Washington Street**



**Principal Pierrette Hall, Hammond Middle School**

Photos by Shirley Ruhe/  
Gazette Packet

nity organizations, companies, farmers, non-profits and faith-based organizations.

### BREAKFAST-IN-THE-CLASSROOM

**(BIC)** is a universal breakfast program currently offered at Cora Kelly Elementary, Patrick Henry Elementary, William Ramsay Elementary and was initiated at Francis C. Hammond Middle School in the spring of 2016. Although funding for the food is provided by the federal government, many schools have start-up obstacles due to inadequate infrastructure needed to support the program. For instance, at Hammond, according to Greg Tardieu, grants officer for Alexandria Public Schools, a school that was built for 800 students now houses 1,400. There was inadequate storage and cooling areas to support the existing lunch and breakfast programs. Expanding even further to provide universal breakfast was impossible with the facilities available. As a result, Tardieu interested Wal-Mart, and Hammond received a \$149,000 grant to construct an exterior walk-in freezer and retrofit the cooler, doubling the capacity of the freezer and eliminating the chaos of food delivery 2-3 times a day. In addition Mid-Atlantic Dairy donated \$10,000 for 90 thermal bags so that more youths could have access to milk.

Low and Reduced Price Breakfast is offered in all public schools for eligible students. However, there are obstacles to participation that have been solved by the Breakfast-in-the-Classroom program where all students receive breakfast. Michael Routhouska, principal of William Ramsay Elementary School, says the idea is to assure that more children eat breakfast. Routhouska says the breakfast is served in the classroom where

all of the students can eat together and socialize with their friends instead of in the cafeteria where eligible students feel stigmatized. “We expect everybody will eat. It is a great community builder like breaking bread with anybody and there is no longer a stigma attached,” he said.

Pierrette Hall, principal at Hammond, says five cafeteria staff load 90 thermal bags each morning. They are stacked on carts and are delivered to the classrooms by “breakfast ambassadors.” She explains the ambassadors are youngsters with a

leadership role, and “they are very excited.” This day the blue bag is zipped open to reveal cinnamon Golden Graham cereal and the red bag piled high with cartons of milk and orange juice. By 8:30 a.m. breakfast is over and class ready to begin.

A seventh grade student in the International Academy at Hammond said, “If you don’t eat, you don’t think about things. If you are less hungry, you work more.”

### FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES

are easier “because they don’t have the stigma attached,” according to Isabel Pérez, Hammond site coordinator for Communities in Schools of NOVA. She explains there is nothing to single the children out. Each child has the same choices and a lunch code with money in their account and no one knows whether it is from a parent or from federal funding.

The schedule for lunches for hungry children can be a challenge but one with solutions. Due to the large number of students and lack of cafeteria space, students often eat in shifts. Carolyn Hemingway who serves school lunch at Ramsay said, “They love it all today — the chicken patties, cheeseburger, popcorn chicken and peanut butter and jelly pockets.”

At Ramsay, lunch begins at 10 a.m. Routhouska has solved the problem of early lunch by giving early lunch students an afternoon snack and those in extended day get another limited lunch.

Hall says they are looking at the super snack idea for Hammond next year. “By the time 2 p.m. comes, they are hungry.”

**THE BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK (BIB)** program is another food supplement program, this one supported by private

fundraising. Three schools out of 16 public schools offer this program. The backpack includes non-perishable breakfast, lunch and dinner items and snacks for the weekend for 50 of the neediest students identified by the school.

Charlotte Martinsson, Chair of the ALIVE! Food Program, says the school backpacks are meant to be a supplement not a replacement for meals. She explains they are not necessarily the food pyramid but the best they can do. She said ALIVE! supplements what the schools provide with food donated by the community if they have extra.

Pérez said, “One of the challenges of the BIB program is to get food into kids’ hands. Stigma is an absolute challenge.” She added, “We definitely have to rethink — is it so anxiety driven — they say they don’t need the food when we know they do. Also this program doesn’t consider the cultural aspect that the parents think they should bring home the food and for the child to bring food instead is difficult for them.” In addition, she says these backpacks of food are heavy and they are thinking about alternatives like a drop-off location.

Pérez says ALIVE! agreed to be the hub for food distribution for this program. But ALIVE! doesn’t manage the program. She explains it takes a strong liaison coordinator, usually a parent, to make BIB work for a school. Someone has to pick up the food, deliver it to the school and act as a liaison between social services, the school and ALIVE!.

### THE SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

offers free meals to children during the summer break. There are 14 sites at recreation centers, most open from through Aug. 19 and 15 sites at schools, open on a varied schedule. [See map in the June 8 Gazette Packet for full details.]

According to Cynthia Hormel, director of School Nutrition Services, they plan to add hot food to the school sites this year. For children attending summer school, there is transportation available but for those not attending summer school or who go to the recreation sites, transportation can be an obstacle to participation.

Tardieu says sites like the Seminary Road high rise live in an island across busy roads and children can’t walk from there to the school for meals. Another obstacle is lack of knowledge about the availability and eligibility for this program. Unlike

the school year, all meals are free for anyone 18 years of age or younger. The child does not have to be registered in summer school or a recreation program, but trans-



**Sheila Frazier chooses weekly food for six children at Historic Christ Church’s “pop up grocery.”**

See Fighting, Page 9

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# Fighting Childhood Hunger

From Page 8

portation is only provided for children attending summer school. Tardieu says his dream in five years is to have "lunch bus cafes" that drive around to sites and deliver food to children who can't get to the summer feeding sites.

**A NUMBER OF LOCAL CHURCHES** provide assistance with Meade Memorial serving daily lunch, Old Presbyterian Meeting House a sit-down breakfast and with St. Paul's Episcopal Church open in the morning on Tuesdays and Historic Christ Church on Thursdays for food distribution. A list of local food resources can be found at [hungerfreealexandria.com](http://hungerfreealexandria.com) under Resources.

Gray says that Christ Church depends on volunteers and "We never know how many we will have. We preorder our staples and drive to Lorton every Thursday to get our supplies from the Capitol Area Food Bank."

Gray says about 10 percent are homeless but the others are "precariously housed. They live on the edge." Gray says this is the only pantry that offers fresh meat, produce, cheese, eggs and bread every week. "It's a pop-up store for grocery shopping."

Sheila Frazier has come to pack plastic bags with fresh swiss chard, hamburger patties, a carton of strawberries and bread donated by Panera for her six children who also receive free breakfast and lunch at



Photo by Shirley Rubhe/Gazette Packet

## Breakfast ambassadors Fekrat and Bessen Sayededres.

school.

Raymond Ellis has come to pick up groceries for his family of four on his way to dialysis. While people wait their turn to shop, health screening is offered.

Gray said, "We also have cooking demos to show the clients how to use what was donated that week. This week it is roasted vegetable pasta but last winter they got tons of deer meat donated so we came up with recipes for venison."

Gray acknowledged childhood hunger is a major issue but despite the obstacles, the will is there among a number of organizations. She added "We keep chipping away; we're more and more getting connected. And this allows us to move forward."

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# Opinion

## Voting, for Former Felons and Others

In a Democracy, we're best served by more voter participation.

Today, the Virginia Supreme Court will hear an expedited challenge to Gov. Terry McAuliffe's (D) restoration of 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.

The restoration of voting rights moves Virginia into the mainstream. Virginia had been one of four most restrictive states with lifetime bans on voting for those convicted of felonies. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison. Only 10 states have more restrictive policies than McAuliffe's order about voting for

people who have been convicted of felonies. While the perception is that such a move will favor Democrats, in a Democracy, it's better for all when more people vote.

According to statistics released by the governor's office, 51.5 percent of those whose voting rights have been restored by McAuliffe's order are white; 45.9 percent are African American. Eighty percent were convicted of nonviolent offenses. Almost half had been completed both their sentences and supervision more than 10 years ago.

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."

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 re-

stored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted of felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote.

In Virginia, such individuals still are required to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

MEANWHILE, for all Virginia voters, the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 8, 2016 general election is Oct. 17. You can verify your voter status at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. This is especially important to do if you have moved or have not voted recently.

In person absentee voting begins Sept. 23. It's an important election, with Virginia playing a critical role in the outcome of the race for U.S. President. There will also be many important local issues on the ballot, along with the races for U.S. Congress.

— Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

### Editorial

### Letters to the Editor

## Compile Better Data

To the Editor:

When we were surprised by the Bike Share station on S. Royal Street and asked the city why proper outreach and permitting was not followed, it came to my attention what a poor job that some city staff does disseminating data and information to City Council, committees and commis-

sions. This means that these entities are not making decisions affecting our neighborhoods and businesses based on comprehensive facts and knowledge of the situations being presented.

The examples I am going to give are related to Bike Share, but I am not trying to discuss the merits or problems with the program. But rather how the city staff appears to be presenting less than accurate statistics. While these examples are small, they should exemplify

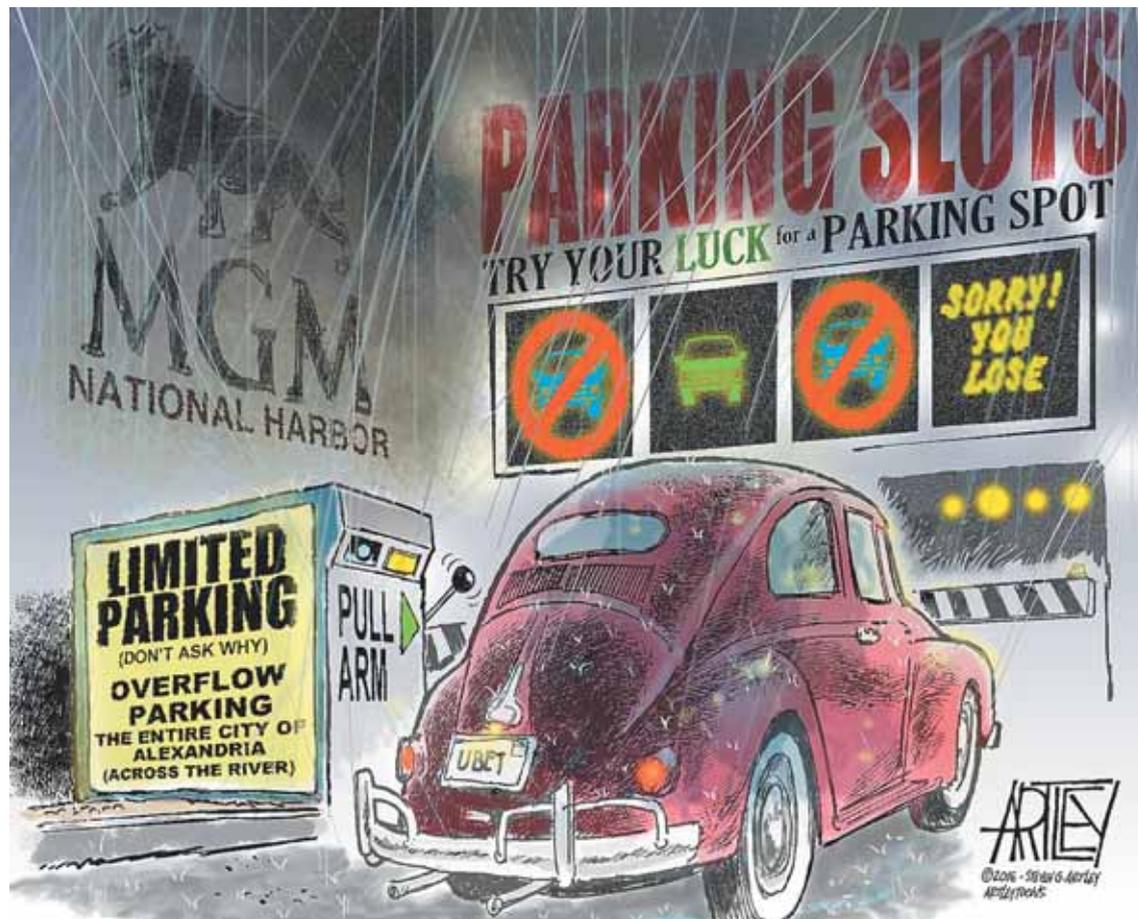
that the larger problem is staff presenting misinformation.

In several memos T&ES staff stated: "Capital Bike Share has been very popular with residents and visitors to Alexandria, with over 105,000 trips departing from Alexandria stations since the program began, and 17,600 members in Alexandria." This is a misleading statement and statistically worthless metrics. These are cumulative numbers over the life of the program. The life of the pro-

gram is not an analytical measurement. The 17,600 comes from whenever Alexandria installed the first Bike Share station until present. This means "members" may have been counted multiple times (I have to say I was surprised that no one on council said wow that means over 10 percent of our city's population are members, that does not make sense).

And of the 17,600 "members," 14,044 are one-day members. A more relevant number would have been the number of current members or even better a graph showing current members over time.

The T&ES staff often refers to a wiki online survey when discussing how they gathered community input about bicycling and pedestrian activities. This survey was not sent out on the city's general email list, but only to a list of residents they think would be interested. The survey was designed by Toole Design, which admitted the survey results were not statistically meaningful. Only 540 people responded with very little response from residents of the "West End." Over 85 percent of the respondents claimed to be Caucasian, 99.2 percent English speaking and 71.4 percent having a household income in excess of \$100,000. Meaningless bar and pie graphs have been produced for the public and for other city commissions from the survey results without a note that the survey lacked adequate representation from lower income, minority, disabled and diverse geographic areas of the



Steve Artley/Gazette Packet

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# Letters

From Page 12

city. And city staff continues to cite this as a prime reason for its decisions about bike stations and bike lanes while refusing to talk to the relevant civic associations in the affected neighborhoods.

Assuming the city staff genuinely wants the best outcomes for Alexandria and its residents, it's critical that all departments that create and disseminate data ensure that data are reliable and valid and most of all accurately reflect the topic under discussion. The BikeShare program should be the starting point for doing so.

**Ayne Furman**  
Alexandria

## Residents Deserve Better

To the Editor:

Alexandria is not on the worldwide map of historical significant places by happenstance. Its unique place on the map was protected by past Alexandria leaders who recognized the long-term value of Alexandria's history, its cobblestone streets, its 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, its unique water-

front. But all this seems to have been forgotten by our current city government and its elected leaders. Following are some of the sad examples of what's happening to the Old and Historic District that former Mayor Beatley worked so hard to enhance and promote.

Just this past week, the iconic Beachcomber building was completely demolished despite the fact that it was perfect for the "adaptive reuse" that many Alexandria residents support. Instead of a public place for all, we'll have the Old and Dominion Boat Club once again having a commanding location on the waterfront for its elite members.

And then there's the BikeShare program, again for an elite group of high-income users, that continues to inflict its ugly, commercial stations throughout Old Town without any serious consideration of where they're being placed — both from an aesthetic perspective but also from a business consideration. Apparently, there was no notice except for a hard-to-read map on the city's website that showed residents where stations were planned .... and apparently no notice was given to neighbors or the Old Town Civic Association whose mission includes historic

protection.

Here again Arlington has done right by its residents who are at the table for BikeShare station location planning. And unlike Alexandria that sneaked a small section into Bicycle Master Plan, Arlington provided a very comprehensive, long-term plan for its BikeShare plan. In comparison, we are cited data that are not validated in any way and are in fact, suspect since in the same document the numbers differ a lot.

And finally, there is the waterfront .... the adopted Waterfront Plan was supposed to be a waterfront for all, with lots of open, public spaces. Instead we are getting a litany of upscale condos with a hard-surface waterfront path that will be less than welcoming to visitors and residents who do not reside in the condos. There will be little to remind us of the Colonial history that put Alexandria on the map.

The Old and Historic District is quickly becoming obsolete and sadly with little concern by many of the residents who now reside here. Sorry, Mayor Beatley, some of us still do care.

**Linda Couture**  
Alexandria

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# Opinion

## America Let's Do Lunch

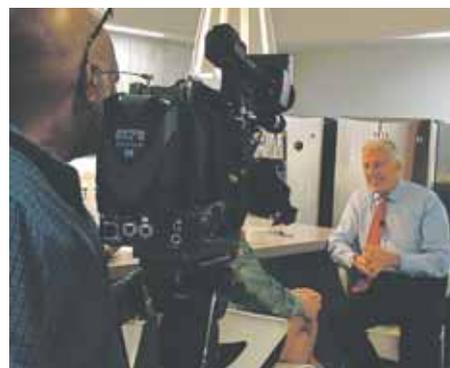
By MaryAnne Beatty  
And Ellyn Kirtley  
Senior Services of Alexandria's  
Meals on Wheels Program

**M**ore than 10 million (1 in 6) seniors in the U.S. face the threat of hunger and more than 15 million (1 in 4) are living in isolation. This summer, Meals on Wheels America, in partnership with the Ad Council, will launch its first-ever national campaign to recruit volunteers to serve the nation's most vulnerable citizens. With the senior population projected to double by 2050, Senior Services of Alexandria is joining the effort to help inspire a new army of volunteers in Alexandria to meet the growing need.

"Meals on Wheels America is excited to launch the 'America Let's Do Lunch' Campaign in partnership with the Ad Council to encourage communities to volunteer for their local Meals on Wheels program," said Ellie Hollander, president and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. "As the senior population continues to grow, there will be an even greater need for the services that Meals on Wheels provides — and an even greater need for volunteers to help."

The national integrated public service campaign, created pro bono by the ad agency, Anomaly, will invite America to "Do Lunch" by volunteering to deliver meals and a smile to seniors. The TV, radio, print, out-of-home and digital public service advertisements (PSAs) will tell the poignant stories of just a few of the 2.4 million seniors the national Meals on Wheels network serves each year, stories that celebrate their lives and show how inspiring, wise and charming they really are.

Two of SSA's volunteers, Gerry Cooper and David Baker, had the opportunity to participate in the launch of the "America Let's Do Lunch" campaign by being interviewed about their experiences as Meals on Wheels volunteers. David Baker was featured in a morning spot on NBC Washington about his volunteering through Goodwin House Alexandria and as a member of SSA's board of directors. Gerry Cooper,



Photos Contributed

**SSA Board Member and Volunteer Dave Baker being interviewed about his experience volunteering with Meals on Wheels.**

per, SSA's chair-elect, teamed up with Meals on Wheels America's Ellie Hollander, talking about the Alexandria program and his volunteering through Old Presbyterian Meeting House with media outlets around the country. These interviews will air during the campaign.

"SSA was honored to be part of the roll out of the 'America Let's Do Lunch' National Campaign that will continue to bring awareness around senior hunger," said Mary Lee Anderson, SSA's executive director. We have a dedicated volunteer corps, but are always looking for additional volunteers to serve Alexandria seniors."

Many people know Meals on Wheels as a food delivery service for the homebound. However, what they don't know is how impactful the moments of contact between the volunteer and the recipient can be. For many seniors, the volunteer who drops off their meal is the only person they will see that day. The delivery isn't just about nourishment; it's about a valuable moment of human connection. And in turn, it's those moments of human connection that make volunteering so rewarding.

What can you do? You can experience these special moments of human connection right here in Alexandria by volunteering with Senior Services of Alexandria. We have opportunities for volunteers to help with our Meals on Wheels and Groceries to Go programs. Sign up to volunteer at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) or call 704-836-4414 and start making a difference right here in our local community today.

site coordinator for Francis C. Hammond Middle School should have said: "People in Alexandria are extremely generous with their resources when they understand the situation. But I feel like I'm living in two different worlds. I work in the West End where 75 percent of the students at our school are eligible for Free or Reduced Meals, and I live on the East End where many people are not aware of the extremely high rates of Free and Reduced Meals that we are facing in all of our cities schools."

❖ In "40 Under 40" [Gazette Packet, July 7], the name under Brittany Ann Patterson's photo was incorrect.



**Brittany Patterson** is a licensed Realtor with the Patterson Real Estate

### Out & About

## The Mailbox

By Michael McMorrow  
Gazette Packet

**N**ot unlike a man of like age, it leans slightly as dictated by their common enemy, age. Eight decades will do that. One time, the old mail box on King Street at Highland Place and its kin were major channels of communication across the world, near and far. Gone are the days when this box received messages for sons in far-flung battlefields, and penny postcard valentines signed "your secret admirer," and bills a day late with penciled note intended to avoid late fees, and "dear john" letters to boys away at war or in college from girls who found four years of waiting unbearable, and mother's day cards with scripted verses, and comforting reports to home from those establishing themselves faraway, and expressions of grief to those who had lost loved ones, and "thank you" notes for a multitude of occasions, and applications for jobs or for admission to schools, and apologies oh-so-carefully crafted to repair the sting of a careless remark, and wedding announcements, and countless other threads of everyday life that tied together families and friends and commercial interests.

The corner postbox also helped build neighborhoods. Residents knew by heart the days and hours framed on its front. They would meet from down the street and around the corner. News would be exchanged. Common problems and complaints would be aired, and solutions proposed. Small children were declared "beautiful," while older ones squirmed, embarrassed by the fuss over how quickly they were growing up. Little things that wove lives together created community. Time has eroded the usefulness of the smallish box standing alone on the street corner. These days it has been overtaken by electronic messaging, "puffy" envelopes and oversized catalogs and parcels. The human aspect is diluted, lost when something of the writer touching the paper was replaced by the barren button marked "send."

Still, this box stands ready to serve. A pre-formed concrete post is etched with the date "1945." A different year, "1936," appears on the box itself. This is not unusual, according to Postmaster Mario A. DiPatrizio, because boxes "over the years have been moved to different locations to better suit the customers of Alexandria." The box is radiant in its bright blue coat applied in 1971. Undressed, layer by layer, the official colors of the post office over decades are revealed: Red-white-and-blue from 1955 then the original undercoat of surplus olive-drab



Photos by Michael McMorrow/Gazette Packet

**The old mail box on King Street at Highland Place.**

paint provided by the U. S. Army after World War I. Technically a collection box of "Owens design," the name comes from David C. Owens, postmaster-inventor from Milwaukee, Wisc. in the years 1906-1914. With a few hints, the site of the factory and the name of the manufacturer can be decrypted. The main clue is a beaver's representation on the side of the box. It tells of production by the Danville Stove and Manufacturing Company of Danville, Pa. Established in 1882, the company produced cast iron boxes for the Post Office Department until the 1940s. Shortly after creation, Thomas Beaver became the major shareholder. The firm's motto became "Beaver's the best" and a profile of the little creature was added to the product line, including thousands upon thousands of long gone mailboxes.

All this information leads to one conclusion: The box has served Rosemont and Taylor Run neighborhoods for more than 70 years. One day years ahead, accident or age will end the box's service life. Too much time or effort to fix. No spare parts. Insufficient number of customers. A work order from the postmaster's hand stamped "remove." Then it is all over. Within minutes of arrival, a pair of workers will tear post and box from the ground and transfer it, with loud clang, to the bed of their truck. Nothing lies ahead but meltdown in a foundry or burial in a landfill. Nevermore children excitedly reaching the handle on their own for the first time.

No more grown-ups hesitating to let go the letter containing their love, their sadness, their other heartfelt feelings. But until that day, the box at the corner of King Street and Highland Place stands vigil, at the ready to bring people together in its own special way. Without a doubt, it has earned the right to lean a bit.



**Mario A. DiPatrizio, Alexandria Postmaster/**

### Senior Services of Alexandria

❖ Dr. Julia Hollinger Wray of Cornerstone Chiropractic Family Wellness Center was misquoted in "Just a Tap Moves Bones" [Gazette Packet, June 30]. Discussing the technique she uses, the quote should have said: "There are two ways to adjust a joint — manually or with an instrument." She did not use the phrase bone cracking.

Also, she does a complete history and exam on all new patients and assesses the need for treatment every visit through isolation and stress tests and by determining if the patient is improving or not. The article incorrectly noted the frequency of the complete history and exam.

The Activator was invented by a chiropractor nearly 50 years ago, not by a dentist three and a half years ago.

❖ In "Not a Box' Now on Display" [Gazette Packet, July 14], the exhibit closes Aug. 7 not July 31.

❖ In "Trying To Ease the Pains of Childhood Hunger" [Gazette Packet, July 14], the quote from Isabel M. Pérez, Communities in Schools of NOVA

# Entertainment

## Sharks and Jets Take over LTA Stage

**“West Side Story” sets a Romeo and Juliet story on the gang-riddled streets of 1950’s New York.**

By Steve Hibbard  
Gazette Packet

**T**he Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting “West Side Story” from July 23 to Aug. 13, 2016. The musical features a Romeo and Juliet story on the gang-ridden streets of 1950’s New York, dominated by the Sharks and the Jets. Two teens from the warring gangs meet and fall in love, causing tension between their respective friends. Can the two lovers survive when hate and ignorance are unwilling to yield?

The American play is based on a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins.

LTA’s choreographer Stefan Sittig has a long-time association with “West Side Story.” He’s danced in four different productions of it, playing the roles of Tony, Action, Baby John and A-Rab, and understudying Riff. “I know every note of this score and almost every line of text,” he said. “Of all the shows I have ever been associated with, this one is the one I know the best — the one I am most intimate with.”

Sittig has choreographed over 60 productions in a variety of venues, including Off-Broadway, internationally and down the East Coast for colleges and community theater. But he’s never had the chance to choreograph this show that he knows so well. “What was also very appealing to me was the chance to work at LTA again after the success of ‘In the Heights’ last season and all the fun I had choreographing ‘The Rocky Horror Show’ in 2013, also at LTA,” he said. He also wanted to work with director Susan Devine again, whom he’s worked with before on ‘A Chorus Line’ and on ‘Flora the Red Menace.’

“Susan and I have a good rapport — she gets me — she loves directing dramatic shows and I love choreographing them, so we work well together. So, the combo of getting to work at a wonderful theater and with a director I know and respect, and on a show that is so close to me, well that was just too good to pass up,” he said.

The two have had many discussions about

plain beautiful melodies,” she said. “Even for the non-musician theatergoer, this kind of detail works its subconscious magic to add layers of pathos, irony, and humor.”

She added: “Even though the script is full of 1950s idioms, it doesn’t feel nearly as dated as most musicals of the 1950s, ‘60s, and ‘70s do today, because the story is eternal and poignant. The music isn’t even remotely dated — it’s as sophisticated a show score as you will ever find.”

She said some of the music is deceptively simple to sing, but difficult to sing well ... “All of this is part of my very favorite thing about music directing: those moments when an actor realizes she does have the vocal range, or he does have the stylistic flexibility, to pull it off. When this talented cast gets in the zone, it’s a joy to see and hear,” she said.

Director Susan Devine said when working on a show like this, one spends hundreds of hours with the material, the music, the dance, the story and the characters. “To invest that much time and energy in a show, I need to love the material and respect the material,” she said. “As we wrap up rehearsals, I still enjoy seeing ‘The Dance at the Gym,’ hearing ‘Tonight’ and ‘Somewhere,’ watching the balcony scene and ‘The Rumble.’”

She added: “Every aspect of ‘West Side Story’ is challenging. However, as with any great show, casting is the most critical challenge. Casting the ensembles of Jets and Sharks who perform so much of the dance is always difficult. We were fortunate with the quality of dancers who auditioned and have assembled fantastic ensembles. And, of course, Tony and Maria have to be amazing performers, which they are.”

As for audience takeaways, she said: “‘West Side Story’ is one of the most loved shows in theatre. It is without peer for its



Photo by Mart Lipzak

Rehearsal for “West Side Story,” which will be presented July 23-Aug. 13.

“West Side Story,” which he combined with his experience on the show, and came up with a physical language that both pays homage to the original Jerome Robbins choreography while still putting a new, different spin on it that is unique to the production. “Those who have seen other productions of ‘West Side Story’ before will be familiar with some of the iconic dance moments from the show ... but they will also walk away feeling like they’ve seen something unique to this production,” he said.

As far as audience takeaways, he added: “I would love it if the audience was able to immerse themselves in the world of this show. The time, the place, the situation of these two young people who are so beautifully naive, unaware of the chaos around them, and who just focus on the love between them, on the positive in this world, on what brings us together rather than on what divides us.”

Music Director Francine Krasowska said nearly every show that she’s worked on offers some opportunity to get outside of her comfort zone and learn and grow, “but this one is the gold standard of musical theater,” she said.

“There is so much to delight in with musical motifs, internal references, re-working of themes, clever counterpoints, and just

music, dance, and story, which is why people see the show over and over throughout their lives. Whether this is their first or 10th time seeing the show, I want the two and a half hours to speed by with music and song and characters that they will want to hear and see again.”

Fred C. Lash, who plays the role of Doc, said he tries to offer both the Sharks and the Jets a safe haven (his drugstore) with this “demilitarized zone” where even a small amount of compromise can be found. He has taken a former gang member under his wing and sees, in Tony, someone who has a chance to escape from his present surroundings and make something of himself.

“I hope the audiences all come away from this production with a true respect for the hard work and tireless efforts put forth by the cast. Each member has put his or her heart and soul into it, with the goal of presenting the best version of ‘West Side Story’ that audiences have ever seen,” he said.

*The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting “West Side Story” from July 23 to Aug. 13. Showtimes are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$27 and \$32. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).*

### Calendar

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

#### ONGOING

**Exhibit: “A Retrospective Exhibit of Florals and Still Life.”** Gallery

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

hours at Goodwin House Alexandria Art Center, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Artist Concetta C. Scott presents her work. Call 703-578-1000 for more.

**Caribbean-American Jubilee Arts Exhibition.** Through July, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Second Art Impact USA Caribbean Jubilee Arts Exhibition is in honor of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Free. Visit

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

**“Last Five Years.”** Through July 23, 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School - Kogelman Theatre, 6500 Quander Road. Students and teaching artists from Rambunctious Theatre Company and Beyond the Page Theatre Company of West Potomac High School are working in conjunction to produce the show as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.westpotomactheatre.org](http://www.westpotomactheatre.org).

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:**

**“Circuses.”** Through July 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the juried show “Circuses.” Artists’ derive inspiration from clowns, animals, trapezes, jugglers, ringmasters, sideshows, crowds and other big house trappings. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

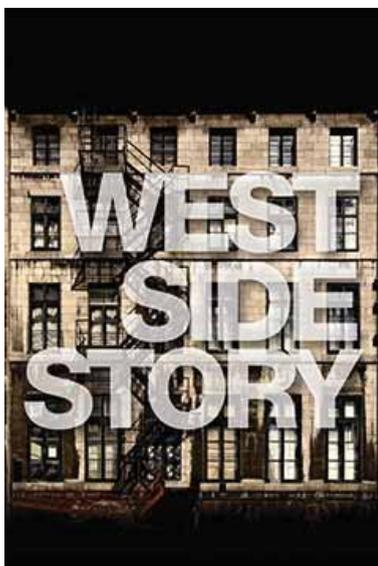
**“Violent Grace: A Retrospective.”**

Through July 30, gallery hours at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: “At Water’s Edge.”**

Through July 31, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery - Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A photographic exhibit by Maureen Minehan. Free. Visit

# Entertainment

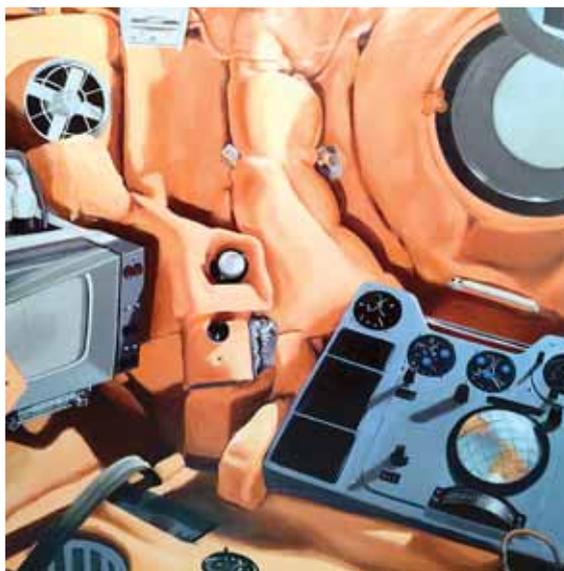


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July 23 - August 13, 2016



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Left: Kara Hammond, "Voskhod Interior" and a poster created by James Dean (below).



## 'Generations: Space History in Art' at Torpedo Factory

Realist artists, James Dean and Kara Hammond, celebrate the early days of space travel and exploration, in a retrospective of technology related work. Dean captured the early times of space exploration through original on-site sketches and personal photographs of the artists working at Cape Canaveral in the early 1960s - 1970s. Artist Kara Hammond will show her paintings and drawings, from the 1990s, of early space technology. "Generations" is open at Studio 306 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St through July 31. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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#### Art Exhibit: "Generations."

Through July 31, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center - Studio 306, 105 N. Union St. Realist artists James Dean and Kara Hammond bring together their space related works to celebrate the early days of space travel and exploration. Free. Visit [www.karahammond.wordpress.com](http://www.karahammond.wordpress.com).

**SummerQuest.** Various times at various libraries in Alexandria. SummerQuest is divided into three groups: SummerQuest, Jr. (ages 0-5), SummerQuest (ages 6-12) and Teen Summer Reading (ages 12-18). This year's theme is "Read for the Win!" Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us).

**"The Beauty of Inflection."** Through July 31, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Julia Bloom and Susan Hostetler have created complementary bodies of work, in both two and three dimensions, inspired by nature; murmurations and birdsongs, and organic grids of color and light. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**"Urinetown the Musical."** Through Aug. 1, various times at Ainslie Arts Center - Episcopal High School, 3900 W. Braddock Road. Winner of three Tony Awards, including Best Book, "Urinetown" is a tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. Tickets are \$30. Visit [www.monumentaltheatre.org](http://www.monumentaltheatre.org).

**"Not a Box."** Through Aug. 7, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. "Not a Box" was an opportunity for Art League artists to use a dedicated space in the gallery to create an installation. Juror Alex Paik, an installation artist, selected 12 works for the gallery. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**Exhibit: "Decathect: a verb."** Through Aug. 14, gallery hours at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of personal studies illustrating Richard Greenway's progression from when he began

painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

#### CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Olympic Champions Camp.** July 25-Aug. 26, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club, 401 N. Payne St. The Olympic Champions Camp incorporates "Triple Play" to engage mind, body, and soul. Campers participate in reading, STEM, sports, meditation and more. Prices vary. Visit [www.bcgw.org](http://www.bcgw.org) for more.

**Theatre Camp.** Through Sept. 2, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Offering a variety of camps for age 3 through 8th grade, covering creative play, acting, singing, dancing, musical theatre and improv. Sessions also include comedy, scene study, Shakespeare and drama. Tuition prices vary. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) for more.

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

#### THURSDAY/JULY 21

**Let's Grow Garden Club: "Bee Quest."** 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Test your pollinator spotting skills in the gardens with our pollinator game. Figure out how pollinators help us grow food and what plants they like to visit. Visit bee hives and sample flower honey. Take home some pumpkin seeds for planting. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Reception: "Decathect: a verb."** 4-6 p.m. at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of personal studies illustrating Richard Greenway's progression from when he began painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

#### FRIDAY/JULY 22

**Arlandria Quality of Life Walk.** 9-11 a.m. at The Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. This annual event is designed for City Staff and Arlandria residents to collectively walk the Arlandria neighborhood and observe and document areas or issues that need to be addressed or improved. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arlandria](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arlandria).

**Closing Reception: "Violent Grace."** 6-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Meet the artist. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

**"Luther Vandross Re-Lives."** 6:30-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Brencore presents a tribute to the singer. Tickets are \$30-35. Visit [www.brencore.com](http://www.brencore.com).

**"West Side Story."** 7 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. This musical will raise funds for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center. \$40 suggested donation. Call Tina Barry at 703-683-5778 ext. 1.

**Movies Under the Stars: "Finding Nemo."** 8:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. The public is invited to attend an outdoor movie on a three-story high movie screen. Free. Call 703-746-5592 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation).

#### SATURDAY/JULY 23

**Photography Workshop with George Tolbert.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The former U.S. Senate photographer provides tips and techniques. Free. Visit [dc.linktank.com/event/workshop-photography-with-george-tolbert](http://dc.linktank.com/event/workshop-photography-with-george-tolbert).

**Superfoods: Avocado, Cauliflower, Coconuts.** 2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Culinary expert Nora Burgan demonstrates and shares recipes.

See Calendar, Page 17

[www.ConnectionNewsletters.com](http://www.ConnectionNewsletters.com)

# Entertainment

## Vola's Dockside Grill to Bring Classic, Casual Fare to Waterfront

The restaurant and bar take the place of the former Waterfront Market near the Torpedo Factory.

By Hope Nelson  
Gazette Packet

Stunter toward the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria and you're sure to spy progress afoot near the Torpedo Factory. The former Waterfront Market space at 101 N. Union St., closed since last year, is being transformed into Vola's Dockside Grill and Hi-Tide Lounge, with an aim at opening in August after months of construction.

"The restaurant is going to be a nice, big space (with a) big bar, an oyster bar, and raw bar," said Alexandria Restaurant Partners' Jennifer Motruk. "... It's not complicated, and it's also simple in a way that's classic."

The casual nature of both the restaurant space and the menu will be on display immediately upon diners' arrival. Guests can "eat out of a basket and feel great about it," she laughed.

But don't mistake casual food for pedestrian fare. Fresh, local, seasonal ingredients are the watchwords at Vola's, and many menu items will make good use of the Bay's best.

"We have a fantastic Chesapeake Bay chowder chock full of clams and blue crabs and corn and potatoes," Motruk said. "(The) chowder really great, it's delicious, and sweet when it needs to be sweet, and fill-

ing in a way that prepares you for the rest of your meal."

The kitchen will be helmed by corporate executive chef Graham Duncan, executive chef Santiago Lopez, and chef de cuisine Walter Silva. Duncan, who oversees all five of Alexandria Restaurant Partners' kitchens, has created the menu for Vola's, and Lopez and Silva will be tasked with executing it each day.

Lopez, who has worked his way up through ARP restaurants, is returning to Alexandria from Orlando's Café Tu Tu Tango and has developed a "great insight on flavor profiles, ingredients, and sourcing," Motruk said.

Silva, meanwhile, is venturing across the river from The Riggsby in D.C. to take his spot as chef de cuisine.

"He's got a great culinary pedigree," Motruk said. "He takes the recipes and perfects them to what (diners) want to see and want to taste."

The Dockside Grill component of Vola's is only half of the equation. Tucked away on the King Street side of the building will live a little hidden gem of sorts — the Hi-Tide Lounge, an intimate bar space with only three dozen seats.

Decorated with a "a Mad Men, retro, vintage, tiki ... loungey kind of a feel," Motruk said, the space will be a respite from the world outside — but will also not stand on pretense or pomposity.



Photos courtesy of Alexandria Restaurant Partners

**Top: Vola's Dockside Grill will aim to offer a casual, comfortable ambiance with unpretentious, locally sourced food. Below: The Hi-Tide Lounge, tucked away near King Street, will sport a mod, "Pan Am"-style ambiance.**

"You're not in a tourist-trap chain restaurant and you're not in a secret speakeasy — you're somewhere in between," she said. And molecular gastronomists may want to look elsewhere: "We're talking more like frozen drink machines and drinks that you wouldn't mind drinking out of a red plastic cup."

The restaurant's namesake should ring a bell. Vola's honors the late Vola Lawson,

Alexandria's former city manager (and chief animal advocate), whose legacy stretches across the area.

"She dined all over town and she was such an influential and recognized person," Motruk said, and the restaurant aims at paying homage to her history within the city.

Hope Nelson owns the *Kitchen Recessionista* blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## Calendar

From Page 16

from stuffed baked avocado to cauliflower crust pizza. Tickets are \$35 for Fairfax County residents, \$37 for residents. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm).

**Del Ray Music Festival.** 3-8 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. The 9th Annual Del Ray Music Fest is a celebration of local talent. Free. Visit [www.DelRayMusicFestival.com](http://www.DelRayMusicFestival.com).

**Summer Concert.** 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Surprise band performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit [carlylehouse.org](http://carlylehouse.org).

### MONDAY/JULY 25

**The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 p.m. lesson, 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Learn the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. For beginning and advanced dancers. Tickets are \$15. Email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com).

### MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 25-29

**Del Ray Artisans Art Camp.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites young campers 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 a one-day only gallery show held on July 30 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$300.

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

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

### JULY 26-AUG. 28

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Explorations Part I."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Artists' take inspirations from the early explorers: Vikings, Phoenicians, Marco Polo, tall ships, discovery of the New World and more. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

### THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Jane Austen Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing. Tickets are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-746-4242.

### FRIDAY/JULY 29

**Film Screening: "Back to the Future."** Movie starts at dusk, activities start at 6 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit [www.fourmilemovieseries.com](http://www.fourmilemovieseries.com).

**Movies Under the Stars: "Mrs. Doubtfire."** 8:30 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. The public is invited to attend an outdoor movie on a three-story high movie screen. Free. Call 703-746-5592.

### SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Children's Art Workshop: "The Beauty of Inflection."** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Julia Bloom and Susan Hostetler have created complementary bodies of work, in both two and three dimensions, inspired by nature. The artists will conduct a workshop for children ages 8-12, to explore various media including making stencils and create work reflecting the nature of the show. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Harry Potter Countdown to Midnight Party.** 8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Harry Potter fans are invited to Countdown to midnight and the release of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," a special rehearsal edition script book, which goes on sale July 31 at midnight. Free. Call 703-299-9124 for more.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 30-31

**Harry Potter Birthday Weekend.** At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Saturday features adult-only tours of the museum from 7-10 p.m. that includes an adult beverage, make-and-take activity, photo opportunities and time to explore items familiar from the Harry Potter series and their real-world uses. Event ends in time to join the midnight release of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - Parts I & II" at Hooray for Books. On

Sunday, celebrate Harry Potter's birthday with family-friendly tours of the apothecary from 1:30-6 p.m. Hooray for Books will sell Harry Potter merchandise and leading Harry Potter trivia. Tickets are \$15 for Saturday, \$6 for Sunday. Visit [shop.AlexandriaVA.gov](http://shop.AlexandriaVA.gov).

### SUNDAY/JULY 31

**Dueling Designers.** 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Two designers simultaneously create original floral arrangements using identical materials. Discover how different creative styles, techniques and approaches to design and materials are revealed. Tickets are \$22, \$45 for the program followed by a traditional English tea. Call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987 to register.

### AUG. 1-31

**Family Golf Days.** All day at Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike. Parents pay for their 9-hole round of golf and their son or daughter (ages 8-17) will receive their round and a pull cart rental for free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc) for more.

### TUESDAY/AUG. 2

**"West Side Story."** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See a performance of Little Theatre

of Alexandria preceded by a reception. Tickets are \$35. Visit [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/westsidestory](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/westsidestory) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

**Babes in the Woods.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Explore the parks of Northern Virginia with your babies in backpack carriers. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-228-6535 for more.

**Summer Reading Puppet Show.** 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Young story lovers are entertained by a puppet show presented by Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. Tickets are \$4 for Fairfax County residents, \$6 for non-residents plus a supply fee. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm).

### THURSDAY/AUG. 4

**Let's Grow Garden Club: "Sunny Days."** 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Kids will learn why the sun is important to photosynthesis and cook garden-fresh pizzas in a solar oven. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Jane Austen Dance Class.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13,

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### AUG. 4-SEPT. 18

**Exhibit: Kit Keung Kan.** Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Kit Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 5

**Reception: "FUN-derful."** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate a new exhibit featuring witty and humorous art created by local artists. Free. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for more.

### AUG. 5-27

**Exhibit: "The Silent World."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays at Gallery @Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "The Silent World" explores the intricacies of creativity. Students from preschool to graduate level are asked to respond to the prompt: "95% of the ocean is still unexplored. Make something that's never been seen before that you think lives in the deep ocean." Their responses will make up the Silent World Exhibit and lead to conversations about the way our creative nature changes over time. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

### AUG. 5-28

**Exhibit: "FUN-derful."** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites you to a curated exhibit of witty, punny, colorful, silly, humorous art. Free. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/AUG. 6

**Friendship Firehouse Festival.** 9

a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the City of Alexandria Fire Department. Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Free. Visit [www.friendshipfire.net](http://www.friendshipfire.net).

**Cold Press Soap Making.** 9:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to make cold process soap using all natural, botanical ingredients. This demonstration shows you how to safely handle and store lye, how to add fragrance, exfoliants and colorants, and covers molding, curing, and packaging ideas. Take home two bars of soap and soap recipes, along with new knowledge and confidence. Tickets are \$65 for Fairfax County residents, \$80 for non-residents plus a supply fee. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm).

**Floral Design Workshop.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Large leaves and bold flowers accent the arrangement that you will make and take with the help of florist, Chuck Mason. Reuse the container and design ideas to make your own tropical arrangement at home. Tickets are \$38 for Fairfax County residents, \$40 for residents plus a supply fee. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/manor.htm).

**Lecture: "A Fine Beginning."** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. In August 1753, John Carlyle and his wife, Sarah Fairfax Carlyle, moved into their new home in Alexandria. That night, Sarah gave birth to a son, William. Visit the museum and learn about 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial family life. Children can also play 18<sup>th</sup> century games on the front lawn. Free, \$1 suggested donation. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

**Youth Arts Festival.** 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. This festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. Free. Call 703-549-7115 ext. 370.

**Tavern Day Open House.** 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Experience Alexandria's five-star hotel of the 18th century, made famous by John Gadsby, whose guests included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Explore the museum with costumed guides, learn more about 18th century foodways and enjoy period music and dancing in the historic ballroom. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer).

**Pop-Cultured: Marvel.** 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Customers can explore the Marvel Universe and enjoy trivia, coloring, cosplay, special offers and more. Free. Call 703-299-9124 for more.

### SUNDAY/AUG. 7

**The Victorian Seaside.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Victorians flocked to the seaside for day trips and holidays but how did the proper Victorian lady preserve respectability at the beach? Hear about Victorian seaside attractions and entertainments, and the bizarre inventions, regulations and fashions that preserved 19th century notions of modesty. Tickets are \$32. Call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987 to register.

**Kit Keung Kan Opening Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Celebrate this new exhibit. Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### AUGUST

8/3/2016.....Wellbeing  
8/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle  
8/17/2016...A+ Camps & Schools - Back to School - Private Schools

8/24/2016...Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout  
8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

### SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is September 5

9/7/2016.....Wellbeing  
9/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout - Real Estate & New Homes

9/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses  
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# Creating a College Packing List Sorting out the essential from the unnecessary.

By Marilyn Campbell  
Gazette Packet

**W**hen a Chantilly family prepared to send their daughter to college, their process was threefold: packing up her childhood bedroom, setting up her college dorm room and getting organized in the process. They enlisted the help of professional organizer Jodie Campbell Jacobs of SOUPerior Organizing in Springfield. Jacobs discarded, preserved and streamlined, helping the family create a list of items that their daughter would need for college.

"I helped them clean out what they already had so they could get a better idea of what they needed to bring to school," said Jacobs. "I told her not to bring too much personal stuff. Going off to college is a new chapter in your life and you want to decorate the new space for the new stage."

Though it is the middle of summer, many families are preparing their rising college freshmen for a new school environment and the requisite lifestyle adjustments: sharing a cramped living space, awkward walks down a hallway to a shared shower and doing one's own laundry.

**A COLLEGE PACKING LIST** can help organize the transition, but students should find out before arriving on campus the items that are necessary, such as a microwave oven, mini-refrigerator, television, bed linens and laundry bags, as well as those that are questionable, such as extension cords, multi-plug adapters and toaster ovens.

"Students frequently arrive on campus bringing their pet, such as a snake, turtle or dog," said Yolanda Gibson, D.A., associate dean of First Year Experience at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. "Unless you have an approved service animal, be mindful of your community and roommate. Also, most college campuses won't allow you to burn items, such as candles and incense."

Gibson, who is in the midst of coordinating new student orientations for Marymount, recommends that freshmen get a packing list from their university or college and reach out to the person with whom they'll be living.

"Students often come to campus with televisions without consulting their roommate," said Gibson. "You don't want to have two tele-

visions in a dorm room. Be sure to communicate with your roommate before moving in."

When it comes to deciding what goes on a packing list, professional organizer Susan Unger of ClutterSOS suggests starting with a generic list, such as one created by one's college or a home merchandise store. "There's no need to reinvent the wheel, you can start with one of those and then personalize it to your own needs," she said.

One factor to consider when creating a packing list is the distance between one's hometown and their college campus, says Jacobs. "If you live within driving distance, for example, you can think seasonally and only bring what you need until your next visit home then swap out items," she said. "Don't bring a ton of sweaters that are going to take up space if you don't need them right away."

Organization is critical to managing a significant downsize, such as moving out of family home into a shared residence hall, said Jacobs.

"Maximize the space you have," she said. "When it comes to sharing a dorm room or bedroom in an apartment, look at all the unused space that you normally look past, like the space under the bed."

Risers, for example, can elevate a bed creating space for stackable storage bins that hold items such as extra towels, sheets and clothing. "These things allow you to maximize every use of space possible without causing a traffic jam," said Jody. "You can't build more space, but you can maximize the space you have."

Jacobs also advises resisting the urge to super-size. "You don't necessarily need the Costco size of shampoo, you can buy more whenever you need it," she said.

Think vertically advises Unger. "For example, use the backs of doors to hang a shoe organizer," she said. "These can be used for items other than shoes such as toiletries, snacks and school supplies. Consider using hanging shelves in your closet for the folded clothing. Use a double hanging rod to double your hanging space."

Use a shower caddy to corral all your bathing needs." One of those shower items might be a pair of waterproof thongs since many students will have to share a communal bathroom.

Since dorm living means sharing a space, make sure all personal items are identifiable. "Be sure to label everything, especially things

like phone chargers since they can easily get mixed up," said Unger.

Both Unger and Jacobs recommend hooks that attach to a wall with an adhesive. "They can be removed later with no wall damage," said Unger.

**ONE ITEM** that Jacobs says many people don't think about is a lockbox or safe that is fireproof and waterproof. "Keep documents like your social security card, certain medications and anything that you consider valuable," said Jacobs. "Since most freshman are going to live in a shared space, a lot of people will be going in and out of your dorm room or apartment, so it's great to have a space to put your lockbox where only you have access to it."

Jacobs suggests storing that safe or lockbox in a place that is out of view and inconspicuous. "If someone goes looking, it's not the first thing they will find," she said. "You can put it on closet shelf under a stack of sweaters or under the bed in a storage bin."

Finally, not all shopping needs



Photo courtesy of Marymount University

**College students move into a residence hall at Marymount University.**

to be done in advance. "Our word of advice is to wait to purchase some of the items until you get here," said Joey Allen, communication and events manager, Hous-

ing and Residence Life at George Mason University in Fairfax. "There is usually time on move in day and the days after to go shopping for items."



## Alexandria Aces

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Photo by Jeanne Theismann/Gazette Packet

### Music Video Premiere

Participants in the Kids Empowering Kids program of the Dream Dog Foundation pose for a photo with Mayor Allison Silberberg June 21 at Samuel Tucker Elementary School's Empowerment Assembly following the premier of the group's music video "Cyberbullying - Don't Do It!" Also celebrating the video screening is school principal C. Rene Paschal, left, and Lorraine Friedman, director of the experiential learning program.

## The Band Plays On

From Page 4

The social aspect is a large part of keeping the students invested. Ellie Lo is going into seventh grade and plays the cello. She played the violin first, but Lo said she heard the cello part of a Bach suite and knew that was what she wanted to play, so she recruited a friend to join her in learning the cello.

"My first day, I walked into jazz band scared," said Lo. "I was one of the only fifth graders, but multiple people took me in. Music gave me new friends."

For Lo and other students, being involved in music has also given them courage in other classes and activities.

"Confidence is key to what we've learned," said Lo. "It's really helped, especially during speeches and going up in front of the class. It's another solo."

Shamiah Scott is going into ninth grade and is the lead saxophonist at the camp. Jackson said Scott is usually fairly reserved, but through jazz band she's seen him gain confidence. "It's taught me to be more focused," said Scott. "In jazz band, when I do those solos, I have to be confident."

For Scott and other students, playing over the summer gives them an opportunity to practice on instruments they otherwise wouldn't.

"I don't have an instrument of my own, so coming to music camp lets me play over the summer," said Scott. "Otherwise I'd fall



Zacharia Stover, rising fifth Grader at Mt. Vernon Elementary School.



Adam Beshir, rising seventh Grader at Hammond Middle School.

Photos Contributed

back and it would be hard to get started up again next year."

"At home, I don't want to play," said Mannah Childlow, who plays clarinet and is going into sixth grade. "But I do want to play when I go to camp."

Viviane Cavanaugh has three girls in Alexandria schools, two at Hammond and one at Patrick Henry, and she says programs like the music camp have helped her children immensely. "For me, when schools provide this kind of program, it's a no brainer," said Cavanaugh. "[The kids] are into it. They love it. Now we schedule our summers so they can go to camp .... Music is a language, and the more languages you learn, the more your brain opens up."

The concert will be on June 22 at 10 a.m. at the George Washington Middle School Auditorium. The concert will be free and the public is encouraged to attend.

# Employment

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**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**



ALEXANDRIA, VA.....  
**Edward Washington Cather II, 80**, of Alexandria, died Friday June 24, 2016, at Bridgepoint Hospital in Washington, DC of COPD and heart failure. Ed was born on January 21, 1936 in Winchester, VA to Roy A Cather and Pauline Shoop Cather. Surviving in addition to his wife, Indie, are 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, a brother Roy and sister-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister Anne Cather Bowie. A summary of his many accomplishments and interests can be found at the Advent Funeral Home website along with online registry and expressions of condolences. www.adventfuneral.com/archives/edward-washington-cather-ii.htm

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-07-04**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of an Early Childhood Curriculum.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-07-04 Early Childhood Curriculum will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 11, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Chris Guy  
Procurement Manager

**21 Announcements**

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

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**3 RE for Rent**

**Rental Available**

Beautiful, bright, updated 3-lvl townhome - with outdoor area in rear of house. Brand new carpet in basement, hardwoods throughout floors 1-2, great location!!! Pets allowed case by case. Contact Day Properties for showing 703-842-7528.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-05-09**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Consulting Services for Access Control & Alarm Assessment at ACPS Schools.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-05-09 Consulting Services for Access Control & Alarm Assessment will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 16, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/> All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., August 4, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on July 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the address listed above. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)  
ACPS Senior Buyer

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**Alexandria City Public Schools Annual Public Notice  
Career and Technical Education**

Alexandria City Public Schools' Department of Career and Technical Education offers a variety of career and technical programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include the following:

- Business and Information Technology
- Health and Medical Sciences
- JROTC
- Technology Education
- Family Consumer Sciences
- Trade and Industrial Education
- Marketing

Dual enrollment credit for high school Career and Technical Education is available through an agreement with Northern Virginia Community College whether the student is pursuing a post-secondary education and/or entering the workforce. For more information about these programs call Sherri Chapman, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, (703) 619-8020.

Alexandria City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding Alexandria City Public Schools non-discrimination policies to the Executive Director of Human Resources, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 619-8020.

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Annie B. Rose House

Waiting List

The waiting list for the Annie B. Rose House will close effective August 31, 2016. Applications will not be accepted after the close of business (5:30 PM) on August 31, 2016. The waiting list is being closed because currently there is an excessive wait time for available apartments (greater than 24 months). If your name is already on the waiting list, you do not need to take any action. The Annie B. Rose House Management will maintain your name, date, and time that you were added to the waiting list. You are responsible for keeping you personal information up to date on the waiting list by calling (703) 548-4946 to report any changes. The waiting list will reopen in the future and a public notice will be issued at that time.

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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Dr. David L. Armstrong (866) 321-2030

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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**Chesterfield County Public Schools**  
Food and Nutrition Services Employment Opportunities  
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**Field Supervisor - Marketing**  
Provides strategic leadership for the marketing area of the Food and Nutrition Services Department and professional technical supervision in all areas of food services. Plans, develops, and executes the Food and Nutrition marketing plan to promote school meals and nutrition initiatives programs. Apply via the CCPS website at <http://mychesterfieldschools.com>. Complete job description and application procedures are available on the website.  
EOE/M/F/D

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**10-DAY INTERNET AUCTION**  
**JULY 18th-JULY 27th**  
**SECURED CREDITOR ORDERED SOLD**  
**INSPECTION DATES: JULY 21st & JULY 25th 10am-2pm**  
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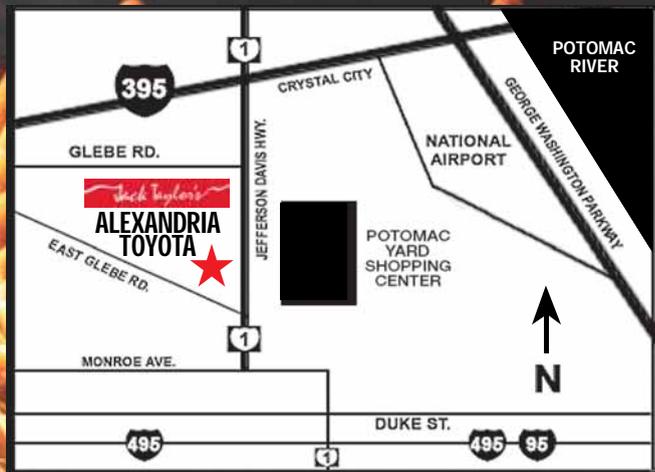
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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**SUMMER MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$59<sup>95</sup>**

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Plus Take **15% OFF** your bill if you choose to perform the repair with us.

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ANY PAIR  
Sight Line only

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Recommended Every 6 Months

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

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

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Recommended Every 12 Months

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**VENTILATION SERVICE \$49<sup>95</sup>**

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**Alexandria \$899,500**

This stunning home features a great room open floor plan with quartz/stainless kitchen, dining room & living room! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, amazing screened in porch and stone patio! Surprisingly large it's ready for you! 6208 Foxcroft Road.

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**Jefferson Manor \$449,900**

2 bedroom and 2 bath duplex. Fabulous front porch, open & bright floor plan. Renovated kitchen with white cabinetry & stainless steel appliances. Newly renovated basement with rec room. Main level bath. Large rear yard with patio & pergola. [6000williamsburg.mceneaney.com](http://6000williamsburg.mceneaney.com)

**Jen Walker**

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[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



**Alexandria City \$595,000**

Beautifully renovated 3 bedroom, 3 bath rambler situated in corner lot! The light filled living room opens on to a large gourmet kitchen and dining room. Amazing lower level with a rec room and abundant storage! Unbeatable location that is close to everything!!! 2249 N Early Street.

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Timeless and today. Impeccable offering with breathtaking kitchen and owner's suite bath. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Gleaming hardwood floors, serene patio and parking for 2 cars. Amazing location close to vibrant King Street.

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**Port Royal \$249,000**

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Historic, plaqued townhouse circa 1820 offers a serenely private grassy back yard and a brick paved driveway for parking right next to your door in the heart of Old Town! Featuring sunlit rooms with wide plank wood floors, a main level library and an English basement kitchen and dining room with French doors to a sunny brick patio.

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Stunning upgrades & maintained to perfection. Gorgeous front landscaping, new 3 ton HVAC, custom blinds, Tuscan stone patio with new fence, central vacuum, fresh paint, gleaming hardwoods. Kitchen & bath renovations total \$50k+! Amenities:shuttle to Van Dorn Metro,fitness facility, outdoor pool. Walking distance to park, trails, farmers market! Make your move!

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**Kingtowne \$389,000**

Rarely available in the heart of Kingtowne, three level townhouse with many updates. Open concept floor plan on main with fireplace and walk out deck. Kitchen offers stainless steel appliances, granite counters and possible third bedroom/full bath/laundry on lower level.

**Noel Kaupinen**

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[www.NoelK.com](http://www.NoelK.com)