

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2016-2017



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE PACKET

A hidden gem, Winkler Botanical Preserve in Alexandria boasts a large pond, lodge and outbuildings, trails and bridges around the park.

Alexandria
Gazette Packet 



CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2016?
Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!
Leading the Area in Real Estate. SOLD!!!*



**8708 Plymouth Rd
\$1,559,000**

New Build Just Completed!

Best of both worlds-classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous features include open floor plan, high ceilings, top line kitchen and baths, screened in porch, the list goes on. Prime location on half acre level lot in popular Plymouth Haven. Finishing touches just completed!!



**Two water privileged homes in
Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!**



**9419 Mt.
Vernon Cir.
\$1,299,000**

Custom estate caliber home with classic French Provincial flair. Premier location in Mt Vernon on the Potomac-the only community in the area with a private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open foyer with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings, spacious room sizes and oversize garage. Columned veranda overlooks pool and grounds.



**9515 Mt. Vernon Lndg
\$975,000**

Unique nautical environment, with some river views and steps from marina in Mt. Vernon on the Potomac. The area's premier waterfront community. Spacious home has many features include: 3 finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen, brick exterior and 2 car garage. Expansive rear deck overlooks spacious grounds. A truly unique opportunity!



**3808 Washington
Woods Dr.
\$1,299,000**

Absolute Perfection

Best of both worlds. Stately colonial exterior combined with stunning bright open floor plan. Enhanced by over

\$400,000 in recent expansion and upgrades including: Kitchen, 3.5 Baths, HVAC system and cedar shake roof. Other features include: Three beautifully finished levels, 4 fireplaces, and three car garage. Custom "Trex" deck overlooks magnificently landscaped grounds. True one of a kind property in the exclusive "Wycliffe on the Potomac."



**4218 Dandridge Terr
\$675,000
New England Style
Colonial!**

Magnificent 5 BR, 3.5 BA in prime location on beautifully landscaped lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac. Rare, 3 car garage! Other special features include: 3 finished levels with full walk out lower level, thermal windows, open kitchen to family room, well maintained hardwoods on both main levels, & expansive exterior decking. Home is in pristine, move in condition. Exceptional value!



**8803 Mansion Farm Pl
\$668,950**

Treetop Wonderland

**4107 Adrienne Drive
\$499,900
Stunning home!**



**Wakefield Homes
Pre-Construction Opportunity!**

**8717 Plymouth Rd.
\$1,399,000***

• New Melson II Model- 3,525 sf

- 1/2 Acre Lot in Plymouth Haven
- Open floor plan - High ceilings
- Upgrades throughout
- Finished recreation room & bathroom in basement
- Maximum opportunity to customize



**3006 Doeg Indian Ct.
\$679,950
Fabulous Wessynton
Opportunity!**

Spacious 2 level mid-century contemporary! Glass walls bring light to both levels. Major updates throughout include: windows & glass doors (renewal by "Anderson"), "Trane" HVAC system & hot water heater, Interior and exterior painting, extensive landscaping and hardscaping enhance the beautifully wooded grounds. Easy walk to community pool and waterfront facilities.



**9421 Coral Lane
\$775,000
One level living
at its finest!**

**4520 Dolphin Lane
\$745,950
Great setting!**



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com
chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



There's No Place Like Home

Alexandria: From the waterfront To the West End.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Most visitors to Alexandria know the city as the hometown of such notables as George Washington and Robert E. Lee. Dig a little deeper and you'll learn that Jim Morrison, Mama Cass Elliot, Dermot Mulroney and House of Cards creator Beau Willimon also called Alexandria home.

No longer the sleepy Southern city portrayed in the Disney film "Remember the Titans," Alexandria's cobblestone streets and lively waterfront attracts more than three million visitors every year.

At 15.4 square miles and with a population of just over 150,000, Alexandria hosts nationally recognized events such as the Scottish Walk and Del Ray's Art on the Avenue. But off the beaten paths of King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

In the West End are the Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site and the Winkler Botanic Reserve, a tranquil nature sanctuary tucked in the shadows of the BRAC center and Interstate 395.

While there are volumes written about Alexandria's historic past, there is an edgier side of the city that attracts artisans and even inspired musician Dave Grohl of Foo



Alexandria is home to 70 major parks totaling 950 acres, including Founders Park along the waterfront.

Fighters fame to write "Arlandria" in homage to his hometown neighborhood.

Willard Scott, "Nashville" star Chip Esten and "Saturday Night Live" alum Casey Wilson also hail from Alexandria, as does Christopher Meloni of "Law and Order SVU" fame. But you can't consider yourself a local until you've listened to Jamey Turner play "Ode to Joy" on his glass harp at the waterfront.

More traditional entertainment can be found at the Birchmere, MetroStage, The

Little Theatre of Alexandria or Port City Playhouse.

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, which performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the campus of Northern Virginia Community College, is considered one of the finest in the nation.

If you're looking to perform yourself, a variety of classes are available for children and adults at LTA's home on Wolfe Street, where both Mulroney and Academy Award

winner Marcia Gay Harden honed their craft.

But what many consider to be Alexandria's finest attraction is its sense of community and service. Organizations like the Rotary Club, Senior Services of Alexandria or Carpenter's Shelter provide a helping hand to some of the city's most vulnerable citizens.

So whether you spend a few years or stay for a lifetime, there really is no place like Alexandria to call home.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

Market Square is a popular destination for festivals, the Saturday morning Farmers Market or people watching.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The Scottish Walk Parade has been named one of the Top 10 Christmas events in the country. Other signature parades celebrate Saint Patrick's Day and George Washington's Birthday.

A Safe Bet? Impact of MGM casino to open Agenda:Alexandria 2016-17 series.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

What are the odds that the opening of the MGM Casino at National Harbor will be good for Alexandria? That is the subject of discussion as Agenda:Alexandria begins its 2016-2017 series Sept. 26 with "Gambling on the Future: What Will Maryland's Casino Mean for Alexandria?"

The nonprofit, non-partisan organization hosts eight sessions each year to encourage informed debate on various issues of concern to Alexandria.

"Agenda will continue its mission of impartially examining all sides of timely, relevant and occasionally controversial issues of interest to Alexandria residents," said board chair Janet Barnett. "Highlights include a look at the effect National Harbor's new casino will have on Alexandria commerce as well as examining the challenges of running a

small business in our city." Originally formed in 1998, Agenda:Alexandria hosts eight dinner meetings a year on a wide range of issues of interest to residents. All programs are held on the fourth Monday of the month and presentations are followed by a question and answer session based on written questions from the audience.

Other upcoming topics include:

- ❖ "Small Area Plans: Are They Worth the Paper They Are Written On?" – Oct. 24

- ❖ "Veterans in Alexandria: Talent Ready to Serve, Ready to Work, and Ready to Grow" – Nov. 28

- ❖ "City Elections: Are We Getting It Right?" – Jan. 23

- ❖ "Dispensing Mercy – Civil War Nurses at Alexandria's Mansion House Hospital" – Feb. 27

- ❖ "Profit or Loss: Stories from Small Business Owners in Alexandria" – March 27

- ❖ "Here Come the Scientists: How Will the New National Science Foundation Impact Alexandria?" – April 24



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Agenda:Alexandria will open its 2016-17 series of discussions Sept. 26 with "Gambling on the Future: What Will Maryland's Casino Mean for Alexandria?"

- ❖ "Guns: Taking a Look at the Issues Without Taking Sides" – May 22

Agenda:Alexandria membership is \$35 per year and open to all. Non-members can participate in the individual sessions and everyone has the option to attend the din-

ner or program only portions of the evening. Meetings are held at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. For more information, call executive director Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or visit www.agendaalexandria.org.

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A Mayoral Welcome

BY ALLISON SILBERBERG
MAYOR, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



Hope everyone is enjoying the last days of summer. Soon the air will be crisp and the leaves will be changing color. Alexandria is stunning in the fall.

For those who are newcomers to Alexandria, I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our beloved, historic city!

Founded in 1749, Alexandria is authentic and charming. We have a number of historic districts throughout our city, and Old Town Alexandria is recognized as a national gem with its restored homes and buildings of the 1700s and 1800s, gas lampposts, brick sidewalks, cobblestone streets, and historic markers and ubiquitous plaques that show us where President George Washington's lawyer and physician lived or where Robert E. Lee lived as a boy. Over three million visit Alexandria each year. Historic preservation is a core value here.

With a small town feel, we have an excellent sense of community. We are a city of great neighborhoods. Farmers' Markets thrive across our city. The Old Town Farmers' Market is the oldest, ongoing farmers' market in the country. Known for some of the best culinary talent in the region, Alexandria is for foodies.

We have beautiful parks plus biking and walking trails. Many Alexandrians love gardening, and the city will sell trees at a reduced rate this fall. I ask my

fellow Alexandrians to please plant a tree. Let's "green up" our city and go from our 34 percent tree canopy to the national goal of 40 percent. This is a community-wide and team effort. Please join us in this endeavor. We are a compassionate city with a phenomenal nonprofit sector. If you want to volunteer, we have a nonprofit for you. We are a can-do city. Our citizens see an issue and roll up their sleeves to create change. Here are some fun highlights for this fall. On Sept. 24, the TWIG will host its 75th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. On Oct. 1, the Del Ray Art on the Avenue is fantastic and has a homemade pie contest. Be sure to catch the Del Ray Halloween Parade. It is old-fashioned fun.

On Dec. 3, the Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Parade will thrill thousands. There is our ever-popular First Night Alexandria on New Year's Eve. Months later, the Ballyshanners' St. Patrick's Day Parade is amazing. These traditions and more create the glue that gives our city an abiding sense of community. I am so honored to serve as your mayor.

At City Hall, we are working hard for all our citizens. I ask you to help us make our great city even greater. Please consider joining one of our 100 boards or commissions. Civic engagement is critically important. The City Council holds a monthly public hearing on a Saturday, and citizens can speak for three minutes about any concern. I welcome your input and host a monthly coffee called "Mayor on Your Corner."

Please let me know if I may ever be of any help. Together, we are making Alexandria even stronger.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Concept rendering for the new Beauregard Town Center in the West End.



Concept rendering for the planned Fitzgerald Square Park at the end of King Street.



Concept rendering for the Robinson Terminal South development.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Upcoming Development A guide to the city's growing pains.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

For residents of Alexandria, developments might seem to spring up quickly, but many of the plans to reshape the result of decades of planning and negotiations. Some long gestating developments, like the open Waterfront, are beginning to bloom within the next year. Others, like the development of the Potomac Yard Metro, are just getting started.

Beauregard Town Center

The redevelopment of the Beauregard Town Center in the West End was part of the Beauregard Small Area Plan approved in 2012, but City Manager Mark Jinks said the marketplace at the time kept the developers from moving forward on the project. However, Jinks said developer JBG Cos. is beginning plans to move forward with the development of the retail and residential complex. The design now is smaller than some of the original plans, but the buildings will still replace the existing 2,600

apartments. According to Jinks, the Beauregard Town Center is part of a longer-range plan to bring transit oriented development into the area.

“[Beauregard Town Center] sits roughly where the current retail center is,” said Jinks. “The plan for Beauregard corridor is redevelopment of older garden apartment community into mixed use, transit-oriented development. The Beauregard corridor will be part of the West End Transitway; bus rapid transit like on Route 1 that will run from the Van Dorn Metro station along Beauregard corridor, ending either in Arlington or at Pentagon station.”

Jinks said the developer had the right to tear down the existing apartments, but negotiated with the city to preserve 800 units of affordable housing.

Landmark Mall

Landmark Mall is a complicated site. Macy’s, Sears, and the Howard Hughes Corporation each own a third of the property, meaning any development will need to take the approval of all three. Progress has been made in 2016, but it’s been slow. Jinks said

the latest update came in May when the Howard Hughes corporation showcased the mall to retailers and restaurateurs at the International Conference of Retailers in Las Vegas.

“People are interested in being there,” said Jinks. “It’s these macro business deals that need to be completed.”

But as the project moves forward, Jinks says the site will likely require a level of public participation, meaning the city would pay to redevelop the complex. No exact details on cost have emerged, but Jinks said the city has had “productive conversations” with Howard Hughes about the potential for public participation in paying for infrastructure on the site. Jinks compared the city’s potential involvement in Landmark Mall’s redevelopment to Arlington County’s \$10 million investment of public revenue for garage and transportation improvements for the Ballston Mall.

“For big retail centers, some kind of public participation is a common element of the financing,” said Jinks. “We’ve said for over a decade that may well be needed to make development work.”

While no date is set for development, Jinks said he was hopeful the city could proceed in 2017.

Victory Center

The Transportation Security Administration had been planning on moving into the long vacant Victory Center on Eisenhower Avenue, but a lawsuit in 2015 stalled that move and forced the TSA to reconsider its future in Alexandria. Of the eight sites being reconsidered, Jinks says two potential locations are still in Alexandria: the original Victory Center location and a site nearby at the Hoffman Center.

“The [General Services Administration] will be going through all those sites to determine the site that meets all of their specifications and has lowest cost to federal government,” said Jinks, adding that the new determination should be made sometime in 2017 with the final move expected in 2020.

North Potomac Yard

With one year left before construction on the North Potomac Yard Metro project gets

SEE UPCOMING, PAGE 18

Getting Down to Business Navigating the ABCs of Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The acronyms run from AEDP to WEBA and represent citywide organizations and various business associations that span every corner of the City of Alexandria.

Some, like the Chamber of Commerce, have been around for over a century, while others, like the Capitol Post, represent the needs of the city’s shifting demographic.

“Capitol Post offers military veterans and spouses in the Washington, D.C. region personalized guidance through mentoring, business counseling and access to key resources, programs, mentors, and co-working space,” said Capitol Post executive director and West Point graduate Emily McMahan. “Our mission is to establish and cultivate the top community for veterans to start a business, grow a business, explore a new career and get involved locally.”

In addition to hosting workshops and

events, Capitol Post offers co-working, conference and training space and is the host of business incubator Bunker Labs DC. Bunker Labs DC integrates military veteran entrepreneurs into the greater business ecosystem through connections to potential customers, employees, advisors and investors.

The Capitol Post is located at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 425. 703-652-5377 or www.thecapitolpost.com.

Visit Alexandria

Visit Alexandria is the city’s tourism marketing agency and attracts visitors to the city through sales and marketing programs. The Visitor’s Center is located at 221 King St. with administrative offices at 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. VisitAlexandriaVA.com

Alexandria Economic Development Partnership - AEDP

Founded in 1992, the Alexandria Eco-

nomics Development Partnership actively positions and promotes commercial spaces and economic opportunities in the City of Alexandria as the city’s primary engine for economic development. AEDP serves as the leading resource for economic data, customized reports, development maps, real estate insights and information on tax and financial incentives for businesses and commercial real estate professionals. 625 N. Washington St., suite 400. 703-739-3820 or www.AlexEcon.org

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Alexandria is home to one of the largest chambers in the Greater Washington region, with 850 professional business members and partners employing more than 49,000 people region-wide. Founded in 1906, it serves as the voice of the business community in the City of Alexandria through lobbying efforts at the local, state and federal levels. 2834 Duke St. 703-549-1000 or

SEE NAVIGATING, PAGE 18



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Patricia Washington is president and CEO of Visit Alexandria, the city’s convention and tourism marketing agency.

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

About the Gazette Packet

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Gazette Packet's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon,

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supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to

SEE WELCOME, PAGE 9



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First Christian Church of Alexandria located at 2723 King St. is an open-minded, open-hearted, open to all congregation. We seek changed lives and community through worship, learning, fun activities, and service to our neighborhood and world. We worship each Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and offer various Bible study and book study groups. Child care, children's ministries, and youth ministries are an important part of our congregation. We take our faith seriously, but we don't take ourselves too seriously.

Join us as we seek to grow in Christ and serve Christ and our community together. On Saturday, Nov. 12 we will host a great craft fair. For more information call 703-549-391, email contact@fccalexandria.com, check out our website www.fccalexandria.com or Facebook page, or come and visit.

— THE REV. TIM BOBBITT
SENIOR PASTOR

**First Christian
Church of Alexandria**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Stroll Through Simpson Gardens

VCE Master Gardeners who maintain Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens will be in the garden on Tuesday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to noon to welcome visitors, answer gardening questions and describe what's blooming in the garden.

Simpson Park Gardens are located at 420 E. Monroe St., Alexandria, by the YMCA. They comprise a series of gardens that demonstrate what plants do

well in a variety of situations: the Waterwise Garden, the Flagstone Garden, the Tufa Garden and a new Shade Garden. There is also a Butterfly Garden containing plants attractive to butterflies, and a Scented Garden.

For more information, contact the VCE Help Desk at 703-228-6414 or by email at mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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Back 2 Safety.**
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DATE	TIME	OPEN HOUSE	LOCATION
Friday, October 14	7:50 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Be an Oakie for the Day A day of fun making new friends, being a part of engaging classroom conversations and learning about Oakcrest traditions.	850 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA
Saturday, October 22	2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Fall Open House Come speak with our faculty, students, parents and administration. Experience a student-led tour. Learn more about our rich liberal arts curriculum, our vibrant mentoring, arts, sports and service programs, and the difference our graduates are making in the world.	850 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA
Sunday, November 13	2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Permanent Campus Open House Visit our permanent campus and speak with students, faculty, parents and administration. You'll get a sneak peek of our new space, opening in fall 2017.	1619 Crowell Road Vienna, VA

Register Today at Oakcrest.org

O'Donovan Humanities Lecture
Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Arthur C. Brooks, President, American Enterprise Institute
Life Lessons from the World's Greatest Composers
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November 4, 2016 - 7:30 pm
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The Velveteen Rabbit

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Schools Benefit from Community Support

BY DR. ALVIN CRAWLEY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



As Alexandria City Public Schools starts the 2016-2017 school year, we would like to welcome all of our families.

ACPS is a very special place. Our schools are the heart of Alexandria. They are a rich and diverse collection of communities that come together to make up one school division. We pride ourselves on our diversity and celebrate the fact that, with students from more than 80 different countries speaking more than 60 languages, we are one of the most diverse school divisions in the United States.

Our schools are places where communities gather before, during and after school. They are places where new friendships are made, many of which will last a lifetime. Our schools are also places where students can feel safe and cared for, and where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

ACPS continues to demonstrate steady increases in student achievement through a relentless focus on becoming a high-performing school division.

High-performing schools are characterized by a clear focus; expectations for all students; a strong instructional program; collaboration and communication; alignment with state standards; frequent moni-

toring; ongoing staff training; and a supportive learning environment.

These characteristics are well-aligned in the school division's 2020 Strategic Plan and its mission of ensuring

that every student succeeds through six bold goals: Academic Excellence and Educational Equity; Family and Community Engagement; Exemplary Staff; Facilities and Learning Environments; Health and Wellness; and Effective and Efficient Operations. These goals are supported by department and school education plans that are focused on ensuring the success of all students, and that there are strong systems of accountability and interventions in place through our multi-tiered systems of support.

There are several key initiatives in action to strengthen our supports to students and staff. We are forward thinking in technology, with the expansion of Chromebooks for students in grades four through 12. The school division is undergoing a comprehensive curriculum evaluation, with Phase I results expected in September.

There are planned evaluations of our Tal-

ented and Gifted and Special Education services. This information will help us to implement a rich, rigorous and engaging instructional program that meets the needs of all students.

We are also moving forward with the continued implementation of restorative practices and cultural competency initiatives to promote equitable practices within and across schools.

ACPS benefits from the strong support of our City Council, the business community, community partners, community organizations, faith-based institutions, and non-profit organizations.

We also benefit from connected Parent Teacher Associations and Booster clubs that together create a strong network of support for our students, programs and infrastructure. We look forward to nurturing and deepening these relationships even more through the opening of our new Office of School, Community, and Business Partnerships.

Whether or not you have children in ACPS schools, I encourage you to volunteer, partner with us and to be a champion for our school division.

I am proud to be your superintendent of schools and look forward to another exciting school year filled with opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff.

Welcome

FROM PAGE 7

us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

The Gazette Packet is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

It is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

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How to Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

The Alexandria ballot will include President and Vice President of the United States, U.S. House of Representatives (Eighth Congressional District), and two proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution. There are no local ballot questions or local offices particular to Alexandria on the ballot this year, but voter turnout in the City of Alexandria could well have an impact on the outcome of the presidential contest in Virginia.

Absentee Voting in Person in Alexandria

Voting begins Sept. 23, and with record turnout possible, voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible. <http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first check your voter registration status to

make sure it is up-to-date. If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location. There are two locations in Alexandria, the Office of Elections and the Beatley Library.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections

132 North Royal Street, Suite 100 (beginning Friday, September 23)

In-person absentee voting at the Voter Registration Office begins on Friday, Sept. 23 at 8 a.m. and ends on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.

Regular hours for in-person absentee voting are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Closed on Monday, Oct. 10.)

Extended hours for in-person absentee voting:

Saturdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

Thursday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 4, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You may complete your absentee application when you come to vote.

Beatley Library, beginning Thursday, Oct. 27

5005 Duke Street

The hours will be as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 27, noon to 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 28, noon to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 31, noon to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 1, noon to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2, noon to 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 3, noon to 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 4, noon to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has a stringent voter identification requirement, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an in

SEE VOTING, PAGE 15

Upcoming Deadlines

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

To determine whether you are eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at <http://elections.virginia.gov/> or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

❖ Sept. 23: In-Person Absentee Voting Begins <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>

❖ Oct. 17: Voter Registration Deadline - In-Person: 5 p.m., Online www.vote.virginia.gov 11:59 p.m.

❖ Nov. 1: Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, Email or Online: 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Final Day for In-Person Absentee Voting

❖ Nov. 8: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7 p.m.

CONTACT

Call the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at 703-746-4050

Email anna.leider@alexandriava.gov

www.alexandriava.gov/Elections

Work as an Election Officer

Alexandria will need up to 500 election officers to cover the 200 polling places. These officers are needed to maintain a high level of service throughout Election Day. For more information call 703-746-4050 or visit 132 North Royal St.

Apply Online <http://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/ElectionOfficerApplication>



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Alexandria Gazette Packet Community Partner

PARKS

A SAMPLING OF ALEXANDRIA PARKS

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES
 FEATURING WINKLER BOTANICAL PRESERVE
 MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG; DESIGN BY JEAN CARD



1 Armistead Boothe Park
 520 Cameron Station Blvd.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 10.81 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, playground, picnic pavilion, restrooms, tennis courts, and walking/biking trails.

2 Ben Brenman Park
 4800 Brenman Park Dr.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 59.3 acres, Features: ADA accessible picnic benches and pathways, Amphitheatre, athletic fields, dog park, parking, picnic pavilion with grill, playground, pond, restrooms, and walking/bicycle trails.

3 Brookvalley Park
 5599 Holmes Run Parkway
 Citywide Park
 Size: 22.03 acres, Features: Garden plots, natural area, playground, picnic areas, walking/bicycle trail, home to Bicentennial Tree.

4 Cameron Station Linear Park
 5131 Brawner Place
 Citywide Park
 Size: 7.56 acres, Features: Biking/walking/jogging trail

5 Chinguapin Park/Forest Park
 3210 King St.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 52.89 acres (Chinguapin: 32.08 acres; Forest Park: 20.81), Athletic fields, basketball courts, garden plots, picnic area with grill, parking, playground, tennis courts, recreation center with an indoor swimming pool, and wooded area.

6 Four Mile Run Park
 3700 Commonwealth Ave. and 4131 Mount Vernon Ave.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 46.75 acres (an additional 1.47 acres has recently been acquired and a planning process is currently underway for the additional land),

Features: Athletic fields, basketball, biking/jogging/walking trail, bird and river watching, fishing, playground, picnic benches, and seating.

7 Holmes Run Scenic Easement
 Holmes Run Parkway
 Citywide Park
 Size: 8.02 acres, Features: Natural wooded area, walking and biking paths.

8 Joseph Hensley Park
 4200 Eisenhower Ave.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 21.66 acres, Features: Softball fields, soccer field, restrooms, on-site parking, picnic area, park shelter with grill.

9 Potomac Greens Park
 700 Carpenter Road
 Citywide Park
 Size: 18.47 acres, Features: Playground, seating area, wooded area with trails

10 Potomac Yard Park
 2501 Potomac Ave.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 23.4 acres, Features: ADA accessible picnic tables and pathways, special events area with outdoor stage, athletic fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, picnic area, interactive fountain, ADA playground, stormwater management ponds, and walking/bicycle trails, passive seating areas and historical interpretation. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

11 Tarleton Park
 4420A Vermont Ave.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 6.14 acres, Features: Dog exercise area, nature area with trails, open play area, playground, walking/biking trails, and sitting area.

12 Witter Recreational Field
 2700 Witter Drive
 Citywide Park
 Size: 13.7 acres, Features: Athletic fields (two synthetic turf rectangular), cemetery, park shelters, parking, and restrooms.

13 All Veterans Park
 4725 Duke St.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 37.78 acres, Features: Dog exercise area, trail, observation deck to view Bicentennial Tree.

14 Eugene Simpson Stadium Park
 426 E. Monroe Ave.
 Citywide Park
 Size: 9.94 acres, Features: Baseball fields, basketball court, dog exercise area, garden, playground and tennis.

15 Armory Tot Lot
 208 S. Royal St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.18 acres, Features: Playground/tot-lot, sitting area.

16 Fort Ward Park
 4301 W. Braddock Road
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 43.46 acres, Features: Amphitheater, dog exercise area, museum, park shelter, parking, picnic areas, playground, and restrooms.

17 Founders Park
 351 N. Union St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 4.67 acres, Features: Dog exercise area, volleyball court, benches, walking paths.

18 Freedmen's Cemetery
 638 North Alfred Street
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.43 acres.

19 King Street Park
 1 King St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.38 Acres, Features architectural design, farmers market, flower beds, plantings, and sitting areas

20 King Street Gardens Park
 1806 King St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.80 acres, Features open play area, playground, park shelter, and sitting area

21 Market Square
 300 King Street
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 1.11 acres, Features: Event space, farmers market, open plaza with fountain and planting beds

22 Old Town Pool
 1609 Cameron St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 2.71 acres (0.48 acres Facility Area), Features: Basketball court, parking, picnic area, and swimming pool with handicap accessible wading pool

23 Oronoco Bay Park
 100 Madison St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 5.08 acres, Features: Event

space, parking, picnic areas, and walking/biking/jogging trails

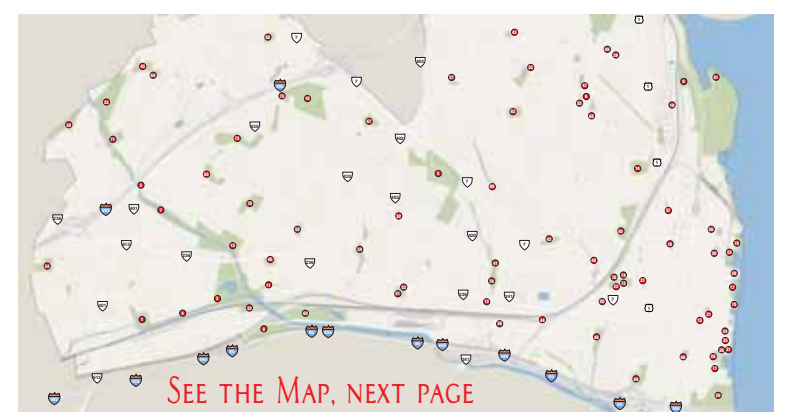
24 Point Lumley
 1 Duke St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.38 acres, Features: Riverfront sitting area

25 Roberdeau Park
 1 Wolfe St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.23 acres, Features: Riverfront sitting area

26 Shipyard/Harborside Park
 1 Wilkes St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 1.52 acres, Features: Trail and riverside seating

27 Waterfront Park
 1A Prince St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 1.37 acres, Features: Boat docking, open lawn space, riverfront seating, and walking trails

28 West's Point Park
 1 Oronoco St.
 Historical/Destination
 Size: 0.07 acres, Features: Riverfront sitting area and observation deck

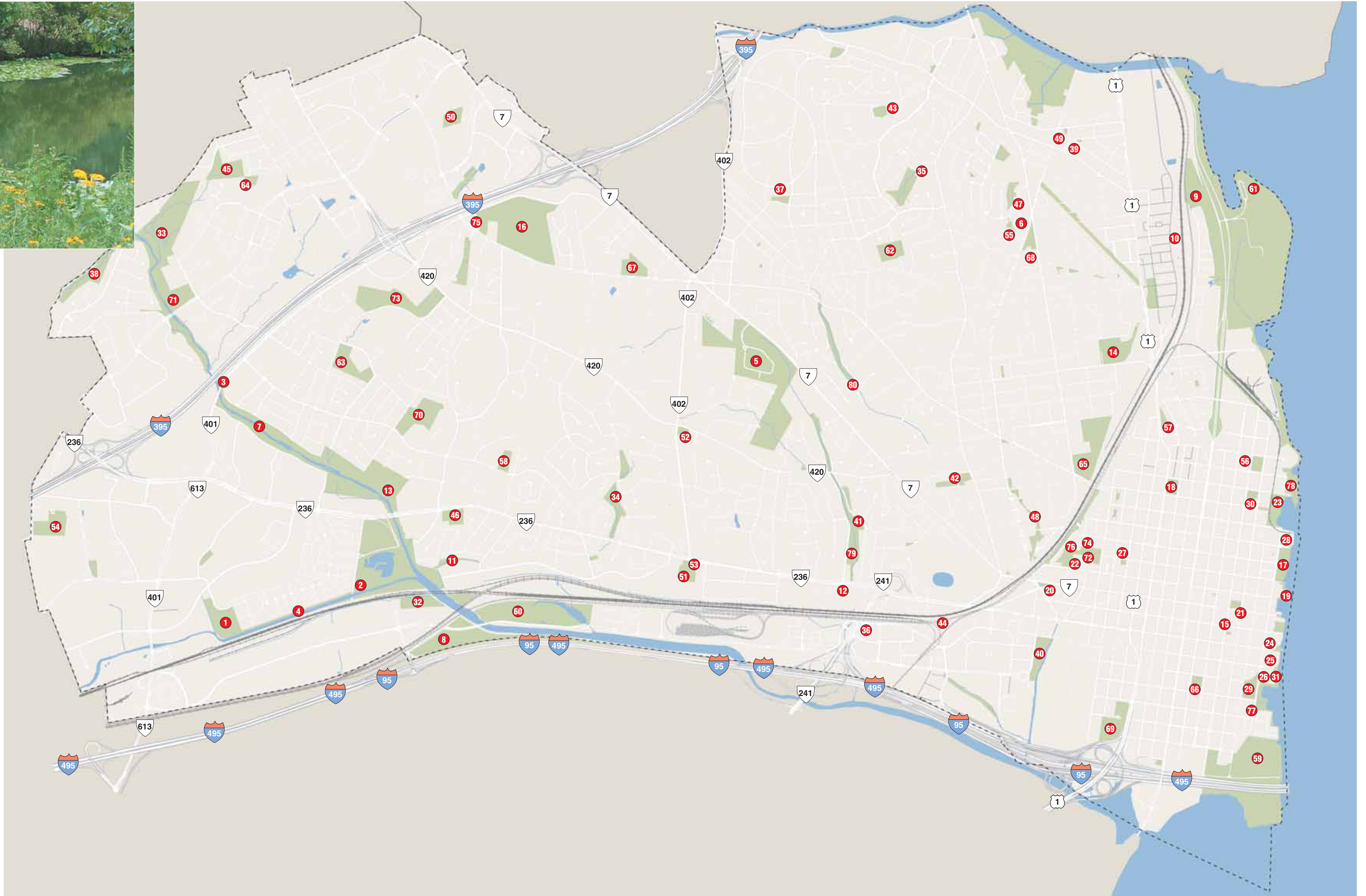


SEE THE MAP, NEXT PAGE

PARKS



- 29 Windmill Hill Park**
501 South Union St.
Historical/Destination
Size: 3.43 acres, Features: Basketball court, playground, riverfront seating, and sand volleyball
- 30 Wythe Street Plaza**
705 North Fairfax St.
Historical/Destination
Size: 0.44 acres, Features: Seating area and flower beds
- 31 Harborside/Shipyards Park**
1 Wilkes St.
Historical/Destination
Size: 1.52 acres, Features: Trail and riverside seating
- 32 Clermont Natural Park**
4551 Eisenhower Ave.
Natural Area
Size: 5.95 acres, Features: Wooded area
- 33 Dora Kelley Nature Park**
5750 Sanger Ave.
Natural Area
Size: 46.61 acres, Features: Environmental programs, sitting areas, walking/biking trail, Nature Center, and wooded natural area.
- 34 Fort Williams Park**
501 Fort Williams Parkway
Natural Area
Size: 8.3 acres, Features: Wooded nature area with a walking path.
- 35 Monticello Park**
320 Beverley Drive
Natural Area
Size: 6.24 acres, Features: Bird watching, dog area, stream, walking trail
- 36 Old Cameron Run Channel Park**
2551 Mill Road
Natural Area
Size: 2.83 acres, Features: A nature area with stream
- 37 Robert Leider Park**
3002 Valley Drive
Natural Area
Size: 1.3 acres, Features: Nature area with trail
- 38 Rynex Nature Park**
1500 North Chambliss St.
Natural Area
Size: 9.32 acres, Features: Heavily wooded nature area
- 39 3550 Commonwealth Avenue**
3550 Commonwealth Ave.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 0.53 acres, Features: Adopt-a-Garden
- 40 African American Heritage Memorial Park**
500 Holland Lane
Neighborhood Park
Features: One-acre 19th century African American Cemetery, memorial sculptures, park design includes part of the original landscape of the cemetery and a wetland.



PARKS

41 Angel Park

201 W. Taylor Run Parkway
Neighborhood Park
Size: 10.34 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, playground, and shelter with grill.

42 Beach Park

201 Rucker Place
Neighborhood Park
Size: 1.42 acres, Features: open lawn area with seating, playground.

43 Beverley Park

620 N. Overlook Dr.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 1.74 acres, Features: Hard court play area, playground with a park shelter and picnic tables, sitting areas, and wooded nature area.

44 Carlyle Dog Park and Tennis Courts

450 Andrews Lane
Neighborhood Park
Size: 2.96 acres, Features: Fenced dog exercise area, tennis courts, parking

45 Chambliss Park

2505 N. Chambliss St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 8.16 acres, Features: Parking, tennis courts, wooded nature area with a walking trail

46 Ewald Park

4452 Duke St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 3.88 acres, Features: Basketball court, open space/field, parking, playground, swimming pool and bathhouse

47 Goat Hill Park

33 Kennedy St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 2.47 acres, Features: Playground equipment, sitting areas, natural wooded area.

48 Hooffs Run Park and Greenway

18A E. Linden St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 4.53 acres, Features: Basketball half court, dog exercise area, garden, tennis court, and playground.

49 Hume Springs Park

100 Dale St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 0.53 acres, Features: Playground and sitting areas.

50 James Mulligan Park

3300 28th St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 3.55 acres, Features: Natural wooded area, picnic area, and playground.

51 Lockett Field

3540 Wheeler Ave.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 3.31 acres, Features: athletic fields

52 President Gerald R. Ford Park

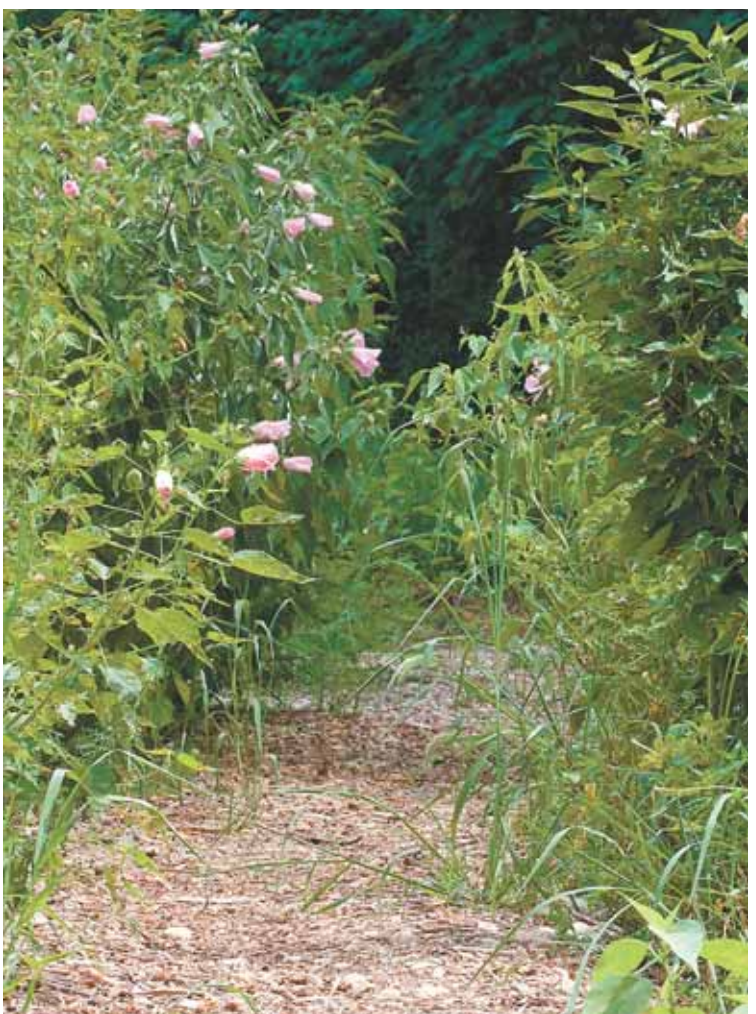
1426 and 1422 Janneys Lane
Neighborhood Park
Size: 1.13 acres, Features: open lawn and seating areas

53 Schuyler Hamilton Jones Skateboard Park

3540 Wheeler Ave.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 0.99 acres, Features: skateboard ramps

54 Stevenson Park

300 Stultz Road
Neighborhood Park



Size: 8.49 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, park shelter with grill, playground, and seating

55 Timberland Park

66A Kennedy St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 0.53 acres, Features: Passive park area

56 Montgomery Park

901 N. Royal St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 2.01 Acres, Features: Fenced dog run, tennis courts, tennis practice board, picnic tables, playground, shelter, and water fountain

57 Powhatan Park

1010 Douglas St.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 1.47 acres, Features: Basketball court, playground, and tennis court

58 Taney Avenue Park

4149 Taney Ave.
Neighborhood Park
Size: 2.57 acres, Features: Open play

area, sitting areas, picnic area, and wooded nature area.

59 Jones Point Park

1 Jones Point Drive
National Park
Features: Playground, athletic fields, trails, fishing piers

60 Cameron Run Regional Park

4001 Eisenhower Ave.
Regional
Features: Great Waves Waterpark, miniature golf, batting cages, picnic shelter and a special events pavillion

61 Daingerfield Island

1 Marina Drive
National Park
Size: 106 acres, Features: sailing, sailing classes, fishing, field sports and a restaurant

62 George Mason Park

2601 Cameron Mills Road
Shared Use
Size: 5.36 acres (9.40 acres with school), Athletic fields, basketball

courts, tennis courts, parking, playground, and sitting area

63 James K. Polk Field

5000 Polk Ave.
Shared Use
Size: 8.44 acres, Features: Located on Polk School grounds, athletic fields, basketball courts, and playgrounds

64 John Adams Park

5651 Rayburn Ave.
Shared Use
Size: 1.54 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, and playground.

65 Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park

1005 Mount Vernon Ave.
Shared Use
Size: 7.09 acres - Braddock Field / 2.61 George Washington Fields, Features athletic fields

66 Lyles-Crouch School

530 S. Saint Asaph St.
Shared Use
Size: 1.39 acres, features small ballfield and playground

67 Minnie Howard Field

3701 W. Braddock Road
Shared Use
Size: 5.38 acres, Features: Lighted athletic field with synthetic turf, lighted tennis courts, parking, and rest rooms

68 Mount Vernon Field & Recreation Center

2600 Mount Vernon Ave.
Shared Use
Size: 1.58 acres, Features: Athletic fields and tennis court

69 Nannie J. Lee Center

1108 Jefferson St.
Shared Use
Size: 14.6 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, playground, recreation center, tennis courts, and volleyball court

70 Patrick Henry Field

4643 Taney Ave.
Shared Use; Size: 11.56 acres, Features: Athletic fields, tennis courts, wooded area

71 William Ramsay Field

5700 Sanger Ave.
Shared Use
Size: 10.94 acres, Features: Athletic fields, basketball court, playground, and tennis courts recreation center with a full basketball court, and adjacent activity/game room.

72 Jefferson Houston Elementary School Park

1501 Cameron St.
Shared Use
Size: 8.44 acres, Features: Basketball court, playground, open field.

73 Hammond Upper and Lower Fields

4646 Seminary Road
Shared Use
Size: 18.91 acres, Features: Athletic fields, running track, asphalt track and soccer field, lit roller blade hockey rink

74 Buchanan Park

1501 Cameron St.
Size: 0.3 acres, Features: Basketball court and playground.

75 Fort Ward Athletic Facility

4421 W. Braddock Road
Size: 5 acres, Features: Synthetic Turf Athletic Field, Tennis Courts and Parking.

76 Metro Linear Park

300 Buchanan Street
Size: 3.83 acres, Features: A pathway connects the Buchanan Street neighborhood community to the Metro Stations at Braddock Road and King Street.

77 Pomander Park

600 S. Union St.
Size: 0.84 acres, Features: Riverfront sitting area

78 Rivergate City Park

2 Montgomery St.
Size: 2.84 acres, Features: Riverfront sitting, picnic areas, and volleyball

79 Taylor Run Park

Taylor Run Parkway East
Size: 3.34 acres, Features: Wooded area

80 Timberbranch Parkway

Timberbranch Parkway
Size: 6.19 acres, Features: Dog exercise area, and wooded area



GUIDE

Voting

FROM PAGE 10

stitution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. Voters may submit a copy of their ID via fax, email, in-person submission, or through USPS or commercial delivery service. Please note that the copy of the ID must be delivered to the electoral board by noon on Friday, or the provisional ballot cannot be counted.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.



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Please direct all questions to the MGTA Program Director:
Vera Lichtenberg
vlichten@gmu.edu
<http://mgta.masongamedesign.org>

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ENTERTAINMENT

A SAMPLING OF ANNUAL
COMMUNITY EVENTS

August 2016

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 27-28

Begonia Show and Sale. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, 12-3:30 p.m. Sunday at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The sale offers a wide variety of begonias, including subtropical species. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/events.htm.

September 2016

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 9-11

Hope Fest. Various times at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Find youth concert and community basketball game. Free. Email Info@cityofhopemetro.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

9/11 Heroes Run. 8:30 a.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Honor our military and first responders and remember those who died on 9/11 and in the wars since. Registration is \$22.50-80. Visit www.911heroesrun.org for more.

SEPT. 10-21

34rd Annual Senior Olympics. Various times at various locations. Participants over 50 years old will participate in track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, scrabble, duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mexican train dominoes, pickleball, racquetball, handball, volleyball, badminton, bocce, eight ball pool, cycling, horseshoes, yo-yo tricks, American style Mah Jongg, 5K run and more. Admission varies based on event. Visit www.nvso.us.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

The George Washington Patriot Run. 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Run the first USATF-certified road race to enter George Washington's Mount Vernon. Organized by Mount Vernon and the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, the race will take runners up the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Return down the Parkway to trace Washington's footsteps through the historic area at Mount Vernon. Registration is \$50, spectator tickets are \$10. Visit www.mountvernon.org/run.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

Scottish Heritage Outlander Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Events will include three Scottish and Celtic storytelling performances during the afternoon, an appearance by the Granfling School of Highland Dance, a concert by the Devil's Tailors, and a bagpiper.

Barley & Music Fest. 12-6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park. Attend the inaugural Barley & Music Fest to find over a dozen craft breweries, music, and more. Admission to the festival is free, but drink tickets are \$15 for 5, additional tastes may be purchased for \$1. Visit www.barleymusicfest.com.



Menu items from previous Alexandria Restaurant Weeks

Alexandria Restaurant Week

Every year near the end of summer, Alexandria's Restaurant Week offers diners a prix fixe menu at some of the city's best restaurants for a great price — generally, \$35 per person or per couple depending on the establishment. Also look out for a Winter Restaurant Week near January. Visit www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com.



FILE PHOTOS BY HOPE NELSON

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY/ SEPT. 17-18

Colonial Market And Fair. Saturday and Sunday/ Sept. 17-18

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

King Street Art Festival. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. The festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest.

Kingstowne Area Arts Show. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 12-5 p.m. Sunday at Snyder Center, 6450 S. Van Dorn St. Work in a variety of media will be on display. Free. Visit www.kingstowneartists.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 18

Outlander Tea. 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Celebrate Scottish Heritage at the oldest stone house in Alexandria, home of John Carlyle. Attend the tea and fashion show and specialized tour. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

SEPT. 18-24

ReelAbilities Film Festival. Various times and places throughout Northern Virginia. The 5th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival is a lineup of award-winning feature and short films and a preview of guest speakers and special events. ReelAbilities is the largest film festival of its kind in the nation dedicated to showcasing films by and about people that experience a disability. Opening and Closing Nights: advance tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for JCCNV members, seniors (65+), and for groups of 10 or more, \$10 students with valid student ID. All tickets are \$20 the day of the opening and closing events. Other ticket prices vary. Visit www.northernva.reelabilities.org.

SATURDAY/ SEPT. 24

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The

flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties and more. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more.

St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also, fresh produce from a nearby farm, entertainment provided by a guest guitarist and two local pianists. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net or call 703-765-4342 for more.

75th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 75th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N. Columbus St. Visit www.thetwig.org/homes-tour for more.

Mount Vernon Celebration! A Community Showcase. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. The 2016 Celebration will feature a church choir competition. Inova will provide health screenings and the Bloodmobile will come for a community blood drive. Free. Visit www.celebrationmvl.org.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Family Fall Festival. 12-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Find activities for kids, live music, food trucks, beer, wine, and more. Tickets are \$20 for adults, free for children 13 and under. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Run! Geek! Run! 8 a.m. at Potomac Yard. All proceeds from Run! Geek! Run! will go directly to support the nonprofit Capitol Post. Capitol Post offers veterans in the Washington, DC., region personalized guidance through mentoring, business counseling, and access to key resources, programs, and leaders. Registration is \$30-50. Visit www.rungeekrun.net.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

New Neighbors Oktoberfest. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The 2016 school year marks the 15th anniversary of The Campagna Center's New Neighbors program and the many contributions it makes to adult refugees and immigrants in Alexandria who strive to improve their English skills. Celebrate with a night of beer, brats and more. Tickets are \$60. Visit www.campagnacenter.org.

October 2016

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Charity 5k. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cameron Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Run or walk to promote traffic safety. \$20-35 per person, depending on when you register. Visit www.theartofdriving.org/ART_5K!/.

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating the community's diversity through the arts. The event takes place along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, and features over 350 artists, live music, free children's crafts and entertainment, artist demonstrations, a pie-baking contest, and more. Free. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/OCT. 7-9 Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.

6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the successes and failures of George Washington's wine endeavors, listen to live music and tour where Washington stored his wine. Friday, Oct. 7: \$40; Saturday, Oct. 8: \$48; Sunday, Oct. 9: \$36. Visit www.mountvernon.org/calendar.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Family Fall Festival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Armistead L. Booth Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd. A family favorite event featuring fall activities such as scarecrow making, pumpkin and face painting, arts and crafts, exhibitors, food vendors, puppet show, pony rides, and band performance. Free to attend. Call 703-746-5592 for more.

SATURDAY/ OCT. 22

VolunteerFest. A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$12 for children participating in the hunt. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or contact John Christiansen at 703-548-1789 or contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY /OCT. 22-23

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides,

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/CAZETTE PACKET



Green Escapes

Alexandrians enjoy green escapes with parks. There are parks with basketball courts, dog parks and even kiddie parks, such as this one on North Montgomery Street.

Shopping

Old Town Alexandria offers fashion boutiques, home décor, antiques and more.

Plan Ahead: First Night Alexandria

Alexandria will be celebrating the 22nd anniversary of First Night on Dec. 31, 2016. This New Year's Eve party — showcasing singers, dancers, actors, magicians, visual artists and musicians — includes 28 indoor venues with multiple stages featuring performances from 7-11:30 pm. A finale begins at 100 p.m. in the first block of King Street (closest to the water) followed by fireworks on the Potomac River at midnight.

Everything takes place within four Old Town "Spotlight" areas and one in Del Ray. Attendees can take the metro, King Street Trolley, buses or drive and park, walking to their favorite venues and award-winning restaurants. Links with details will be available in October at www.FirstNightAlexandria.org and #ALXFirstNight.

Start the afternoon with the Eighth Annual First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt, a

scavenger hunt throughout Old Town that combines geography, history and knowledge of local businesses. Complete the Hunt and turn in answers by 5:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center where prizes will be awarded to six lucky entrants. Details will be posted at <https://www.firstnightalexandria.org/events/fun-hunt>.

Purchase admission badges online starting Oct. 1.

Want to come for free? Volunteer for three hours during the evening and get free admission for one, a souvenir apron and box dinner. Sign up on the web site; do it early and choose the venue and time.

In addition to the Fun Hunt, dozens of other activities are being planned for the afternoon this year. They will be posted in the fall at www.FirstNightAlexandria.org and #ALEXFirstNight.

THE ARTS

Alexandria Archeology Museum

105 N. Union St., #327. Showcases Alexandria's 13,000 year old history through artifacts and exhibits. Call 703-746-4399.

Alexandria Black History Museum and Watson Reading Room

902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Preserves the history of Alexandria's and Northern Virginia's African American heritage. Call 703-746-4356 or visit AlexandriaVA.gov/BlackHistory

Torpedo Factory Art Center

105 North Union St., Alexandria. Featuring art-

ists' studios, galleries, workshops, and the Alexandria Museum of Archeology, the Torpedo Factory showcases art in a variety of different forms. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org

The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The Birchmere Music Hall is recognized for fostering unique talent and providing legendary performances. "America's Legendary Music Hall" showcases music in a dinner-theater style. All guests must have a ticket. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com

Del Ray Artisans

2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans is a nonprofit group that organizes different themed art exhibitions from local and community based artists. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

SEE THE ARTS, PAGE 21

COMING EVENTS

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Upcoming Development in Alexandria

FROM PAGE 6

underway in 2018, Jinks says the city is anticipating the environmental impact statement in fall 2016 and spending 2017 looking for additional development in the area. The lease for the AMC movie theater currently at the site of the Metro station is set to expire in December 2018.

“[The theater site] is one of the touchstone points for entry to North Potomac Yard,” said Jinks. “It basically will be developing into mixed use development that will have entry to the Potomac Yard Metro Station.”

The National Institute for the Blind will also be moving into the area, and Jinks said the city is still looking for occupants for other spaces.

“There’s interest in other parts of North Potomac Yard,” said Jinks. “In southern part, a number of land bases that haven’t been developed.”

The Waterfront

For residents of the city, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership President Stephanie Landrum says it’s important to know what’s going on along Alexandria’s waterfront.

“People driving along the waterfront see a couple projects under construction, but people don’t know that [these areas] will be a great public space in the future,” said Landrum.

While most of the Waterfront is moving forward with development plans, at least one site has faced recent setbacks. Plans for the hotel, retail, and residential complex at Robinson Terminal North collapsed in late July when CityInterests Inc. and Rooney Properties announced that the project was being put on hold.

“The project had costs where, at the end of the day, the market could not support those costs,” said Jinks. “It was not economically feasible. This is going to force them to rethink the project and have discussions with the city about what a new project might be.”

The plans for the site were approved by City Council in 2015, and Jinks said any alternate construction at the Robinson Terminal North would need to go through the approval process at City Council

again.

“We would expect, through the next 12 months, there will be discussions within the community and a process for whatever they come up with,” said Jinks. “It will most likely have to go back to the Planning Commission and the City Council.”

Further south, at the end of King Street, Jinks says the new Boat Club building will be going up this fall to replace the recently demolished Beachcomber building.

“When the Boat Club leaves, their site [is] turning into an interim waterfront park at the foot of King Street,” said Jinks. “That process is funded for fiscal 2017 budget. We will be ready to go when the Boat Club moves out.”

Jinks estimated that it would probably be between 12 to 18 months before the Boat Club was ready to move into its new location. Jinks said the city’s goal was to time the move so that as soon as the Boat Club moved out, the city would be ready to step in and build the park.

“The public has been expecting access to the foot of King Street to enjoy that section of water that’s been blocked off for decade,” said Jinks. “Once it’s in our hands, they’ll expect us to deliver. That’s our goal.” A few blocks south along The Strand, the warehouse at Robinson Terminal South is going down while the Carr Hotel site across Duke Street is on the rise. Jinks said the hotel is currently undergoing interior work and construction of the building’s facade.

“The whole purpose of waterfront plan is public access all along the river in Alexandria,” said Jinks. “That has been a city goal for probably over three decades. Gradually we have achieved that. With these last pieces: Robinson South, the Strand, and Boat Club property, we will be achieving that access.”

Robinson Terminal North is the last piece. With that, we will have public access from Dangerfield all the way down to south of Jones Point. That’s a really major accomplishment and benefit to the public. The development has gotten a lot of the attention, but the benefit is the public will be getting a new set of parks along the Potomac.”

Navigating the ABCs of Alexandria

FROM PAGE 6

www.alexchamber.com

The Del Ray Business Association - DRBA

The Del Ray Business Association is run by volunteers who are themselves business owners. Started almost 45 years ago, DRBA now has over 200 members and sponsors several events in the Del Ray community each year. www.visitdelray.com.

Old Town Business and Professional Association - OTBPA

Open to businesses of any type, OTBPA is the result of a merger of two organizations – Old Town Business (OTB) and King Street Metro Enterprise Team (KSMET). OTBPA’s most visible project is the annual Alexandria Retail Coupon Book. www.otbpa.com

Alexandria Small Business Development Center - SBDC

The Alexandria Small Business Development Center is Alexandria’s economic development program that focuses on small businesses, which comprise the

largest segment of Alexandria’s economy. SBDC offers individual and confidential assistance without cost to City of Alexandria businesses and Alexandria residents with businesses elsewhere. 625 N. Washington St., Suite 400. 703-778-1291 or www.alexandriasbdc.org

West End Business Association - WEBA

The West End Business Association is comprised of West End Businesses and those that do business on the West End of Alexandria. WEBA provides members with networking opportunities, education and growth opportunities and representation before the city and economic development officials on matters important to the West End of Alexandria. www.alexandriaweba.com

Eisenhower Partnership

The Eisenhower Partnership is a group of commercial and residential property owners and occupiers along the Eisenhower Avenue Valley corridor. The Valley is anchored in the East by the Patent and Trademark Campus and in the West by the Victory Center development/Van Dorn Metro Station. www.eisenhowerpartnership.org

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The 31st day of
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

VIEWPOINTS

What residents say about Alexandria

PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE AND ANTONELLA NICHOLAS



Ann Michael has lived in Alexandria for 38 years. Michael enjoys “the small town feeling about the city and the historical background.” She recommends that newcomers enjoy the sites that Washington D.C. has to offer, but also to look to Alexandria for their interests. She also enjoys Alexandria’s farmer’s markets and its convenience to Washington D.C.



Paula Dubberly, a Christ House parishioner, helps manage the gardens. Christ House has a “vibrant congregation.” It is diverse, she says, and an exciting time to rediscover the church with a new rector coming on board in September. She also recommends Jones Point Park. It has basketball courts, playgrounds and walking paths.



Karen Whelan, visiting Alexandria’s Kate Waller Barrett library branch, moved from Australia to Del Ray. She didn’t want to live in the suburbs. “Del Ray is great for families, close to Old Town and ... no commute.”



Gordon Elcan Booker III, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, likes Alexandria, its “history from the 1700s to now” and stories about slaves.

Gordon is studying to be a Jehovah Witness like his mother. He said, “A family that prays together, stays together.”



Louis Sabb, soon to be 70, has lived in Alexandria for 47 years. In his youth, he’d go swimming ... borrow a boat and “bring up” smelt. “Alexandria is a clean city,” he said. “It’s not bad the same faults.”



Maria Calloway was born and raised in Alexandria. She recommends Saint Joseph Catholic Church on N. Wythe and N. Columbus. She also likes Old Town’s waterfront.



Araia Ghebremeskel, with cart in hand, says Alexandria is “very good.” From Eritrea, he’s lived in Alexandria for three years.



Joel Sachs has lived in Boston and Annapolis prior to residing in Alexandria — all similar port cities, being historical and walking towns. Joel says Alexandria is a

park town, with friendly people, and good, inexpensive restaurants and bars. “The city has put a lot into events”



Barbara Brown, a government retiree, dog walks to keep busy. She’s lived in Alexandria for over 50 years. She bought at Cameron Station at the right time. She likes the parks. Alexandria is “friendly.” And she likes the new mayor — Allison Silberburg.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

ACT for Alexandria

ACT for Alexandria is a community foundation that serves as a catalyst for increasing charitable investment and community engagement locally. Their mission is “to raise the level and effectiveness of giving and engagement in Alexandria.” Located at 421 Prince St., Suite 220. Call 703-739-7778 or visit www.actforalexandria.org.

ALIVE!

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE) is a nonprofit organization of volunteers from over 40 religious congregations and the community working together to help those in need. ALIVE provides emergency food assistance, emergency financial assistance, shelter, year-round preschool, furniture and housewares. ALIVE offices are located at 2723 King St. Call 703-837-9300 or visit www.alive-inc.org.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA)

AWLA provides pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach. AWLA is located at 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Call 703-746-4774 or visit www.alexandrianimals.org.

Ballyshaners

Join the Ballyshaners (Gaelic for “Old Towners”) to organize and host Alexandria’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and the Annual Irish Festival each August. There are undraising events to help cover the costs associated with the parade. Meets once a month from April through December at a local restaurant, then weekly from January until the St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Visit www.ballyshaners.org.

At Home Alexandria

Part of a national “village movement” of small nonprofit groups forming in communities all across the country, At

Home Alexandria’s (AHA) mission is to help residents ages 55+ in Alexandria live independently and in their homes for as long as they can. AHA provides an array of services like transportation, light home maintenance, errand running, gardening, technical support, snow shoveling, and light housekeeping. It also organizes a variety of social and educational events. The offices are located at 3139 Mount Vernon Ave. Call 703-231-0824 or visit www.athomeinalexandria.org.

Carpenter’s Shelter

Carpenter’s Shelter serves nearly 750 homeless individuals and families and formerly homeless children and adults each year. It offers continuous services that assist shelter residents to independent living. Volunteer opportunities available. 930 North Henry Street. Call 703-548-7500 or visit www.carpentersshelter.org.

The Campagna Center

The Campagna Center operates children’s programs related to Alexandria Head Start, the Campagna Early Learning Center, Afternoon Adventures, before- and after- school tutoring/child care, tutoring and mentoring with Building Better Futures and education programs for immigrants and refugee families with the New Neighbors program. 418 South Washington Street. Call 703-549-0111 or visit www.campagnacenter.org.

Center for Alexandria’s Children

The Center for Alexandria’s Children (CAC) is a public-private partnership based on the Children’s Advocacy Center Model, which has been shown to improve outcomes for families and victims of abuse. The center provides services for victims and their families and coordinates the response between victims and nonprofits aiming to serve them. The Center is located at 1900

North Beauregard St. Call 703-746-6008 or visit www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org.

Child and Family Network Centers

This nonprofit provides free and fully accredited preschool education for children living in poverty in Northern Virginia, including free family support, literacy, job training, and health programs to the parents of students. Currently, Child and Family Network Centers serve nearly 200 children and their families each year at six program sites throughout Alexandria and Arlington. The home office is located at 3700 Wheeler Ave. Call 703-836-0214 or visit www.cfnc-online.org.

Community Lodgings, Inc.

Community Lodgings’ mission is to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency through transitional-in-place housing, affordable housing and youth education programs. Volunteers needed. Main office is at 3912 Elbert Ave., Suite 108. Call 703-549-4407 or visit www.communitylodgings.org.

Computer C.O.R.E.

This organization helps low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills they need to pursue their career aspirations; tuition is free, and accordingly, donations are needed. The main office is located at 5881 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call 703-931-7346 or visit www.computercore.org.

Hopkins House

The mission of Hopkins House is to provide quality educational programs and opportunities to children, youths and their families, regardless of income, to help them achieve their full intellectual, economic and social potential. The central office is at 5904 Richmond Highway, Suite 525. Call 571-480-4282 or visit www.hopkinshouse.org.

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apple-roasting and a straw bale maze. The event is included with purchase of admission to Mount Vernon; tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, \$16 for seniors and free for children 5 years and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 30

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave. All are welcome to march in the parade. Parade ends in a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, games, best costume awards, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween for more.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-10 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to re-create Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. Individual works performed each year vary, but the program always includes a chilling story or two such as "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," or "The Tell-Tale Heart," along with well-known poems "The Raven" and "El Dorado." Tickets are \$15. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/events for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Trick-Or-Treating. 5-7 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com to register.

November 2016

FRIDAY/NOV. 4

Art on Tap 2016. 7-10 p.m. at the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Craft beers from local breweries have been artfully paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create the perfect complimentary appetizer. Enjoy the brew, bite, and artwork trifectas, then vote for a winner. Tickets are \$35-45 plus a service fee. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

TUESDAY/ NOV. 8

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 10-13

Alexandria Film Festival. AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The 10th annual Alexandria Film Festival brings together short and feature length films of all genres from emerging and established, local and international filmmakers. All ticketed events will be held at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22, with Beatley Central Library offering free programs to the public. Visit www.alexandriafilm.org.

FRIDAY/ NOV. 11

Mount Vernon Salutes Veterans. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Honored guests (veterans) are invited to place a flower at Washington's tomb, enjoy a concert by the Harmony Heritage Singers and the United States Air Force String Orchestra. Free for veterans and active duty military members, \$9-17 for everyone else. See www.mountvernon.org for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Virginia Cider Week Tasting Event. 7-9:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. In partnership with the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee, the Lyceum offers a cider tasting as part of Virginia Cider Week. Tickets are \$50-75. Visit www.show.alexandriava.gov/events for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. A Thanksgiving morning tasting as part of Virginia Cider Week. Tickets are \$50-75. Visit www.show.alexandriava.gov/events for more.

FRIDAY/ NOV. 25

Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-8 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Attend the ceremony in which the City Tree is lit and visited by Santa, the Town Crier, and other city officials. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 25-SATURDAY/JAN. 6

Christmas in Mount Vernon. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas.

December 2016

Alexandria Winter Restaurant

Week. More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner or a \$35 dinner for two. More than two dozen restaurants are also offering lunch deals at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Visit www.alexandriarestaurantweek.com for more.

FRIDAYSUNDAY/DEC. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18

Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The market offers handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

46th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Walk Parade. 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, the parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade.

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org.

February 2017

MID-FEBRUARY

Community Tax Assistance Day.

Fairfax SkillSource Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Suite 300 West, Annandale. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free assistance with 2015 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$52,000 or less. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/vita.php.

April 2017

APRIL - JUNE

Relay for Life. Fundraisers participate in all-night-long events to help those affected by cancer through the American Cancer Society. Visit www.relayforlife.org for specific events and details.

SATURDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-29

Historic Garden Week. This weeklong statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens, as well as houses with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

LATE APRIL

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Mixologists are paired with a piece of artwork to use as inspiration to create the most artistic cocktail and appetizer pairing and then compete for the title of Art on the Rocks champion. Ticket holders sample all of the delicious pairings and vote for their favorite at the event. A panel of experts will crown the winner of the most creative cocktail, appetizer, and artwork pairing. Tickets are \$55-65. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

May 2017

SATURDAY/MAY 13

Alexandria Tot Rock Fest. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The fun includes music, movement, and mindfulness for young children. Free. Visit www.totrockfest.com for more.

La Bella Strada. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. This modern street painting festival originates from an ancient Italian art form, featuring the creation of large-scale chalk paintings directly on the sidewalks of Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

MONDAY/MAY 23

Memorial Day Jazz Concert. 1-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, Alexandria. A variety of jazz performances take place throughout the concert. Food is available for purchase, but picnic lunches are welcome. Pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

June 2017

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Taste of Del Ray. 1-3 p.m. at the intersection of Mount Vernon and Oxford avenues. Top neighborhood restaurants participate in this competition. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Vine on the Waterfront Festival.

Late June, 12-6 p.m. at Oronoco Park, 100 Madison St. Formerly known as the Alexandria Food & Wine Festival, the festival will expand to include both restaurants within Alexandria and other eateries throughout the region. The event is



FILE PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

A home featured in the 2015 historic homes tour.

Twig Hosts Historic Alexandria Home Tour

Last year, the Twig, the junior auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital featured six homes in their annual fundraiser highlighting homes important to the city's history. This year, the tour will be held on Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N Columbus St. Visit www.thetwig.org/homes-tour for more.

free to attend, but tickets are \$15 per area (food or wine), \$20 after June 18. Visit www.vineonthewaterfront.com.

live music. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/events/USA-Alexandria-Birthday-Celebration/6607.

July 2017

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Independence Fireworks. 6 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet "General and Mrs. Washington" in the historic area before trying a turn at bocce ball and 18th-century dancing demonstrations. Also enjoy a fireworks show. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

JULY 4

An American Celebration. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Watch made-for-daytime fireworks shoot off over the Potomac River. Admission is \$9-20, free for children 0-5. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

FIRST TWO WEEKS OF JULY

Grown Ups Art Camp. Various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans is offering more than 30 workshops and sessions to choose from. Prices vary. Visit www.delrayartisans.org.

SECOND SATURDAY IN JULY

USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration. Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Alexandria's 265th birthday along the Potomac waterfront with fireworks, cake and

August 2017

Summer Restaurant Week. Mid-August, in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and West End. Menu options vary by location. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or call 703-746-3301 for more.

Jane Austen Ball. Mid-August, 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The evening will feature a variety of English country dances in the historic ballroom, live music, and "iced refreshments." Period costume optional; "after-five" attire encouraged. Tickets are \$45. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

Friendship Firehouse Festival. Mid-August, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. The festival celebrates the special 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. Free. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Youth Arts Festival. Early August, 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.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

THE ARTS

FROM PAGE 17

Art on the Avenue

Held the first Saturday in October, rain or shine. Saturday, Oct. 1, on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. A multicultural festival with 300-plus artists/artisans sell their work (all price ranges), creating mini-exhibits down the avenue, offering children's activities, music stage and food. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre

With a home in Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, the ACCT puts on plays and musicals for families. ACCT has a professional stage and are members of the Northern Virginia Theater Alliance and the Washington Area Theater Community Honors. Call 703-660-2611 or visit www.acctonline.org.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Lane. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria

600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Founded in 1934, **this** theatre offers classics and popular, new favorites. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Lyceum

201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Includes the original 1839 building and 5,000 objects. Call 703-746-4994.

MetroStage

1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. Presents Broadway quality theater productions. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Port City Playhouse

1819 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Featuring theater productions for all tastes, the Port City Playhouse is an Alexandria-based theater company. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

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—Helena Scott

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

A Look at Issues Facing the City

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It's not as visible as new construction, but the policy changes coming in Fall 2016 could have a major impact on local residents. As City Council is ramping up to resume its fall session, City Manager Mark Jinks says a number of policy questions will face Alexandria in the coming months. Some of these issues range from smaller questions about street names or food trucks, others could have major ramifications over the next decade of city development.

Jinks says the largest issue will be moving forward on discussion about the city's strategic plan. According to Jinks, the strategic plan sets the direction and priorities of the city for the next six years.

"This plan has measures of 'how are we going to know if we're successful' so we can focus our implementation efforts on activities that we believe will help reach our goals," said Jinks, noting that combating the city's crime rate is one of those priorities. "[Crime] is still trending down, but we need to focus on how we can get it down further. A strategic plan helps any organization focus on long term: what's important and develop plans to get there. When we do budgets and consider specific detailed actions, one of the questions that gets asked is how this relates to the strategic plan and

is it consistent. It sets clear guidance for the entire organization on what we want to achieve. Sometimes there are pressures on government to be all things to all people, but you can't be effective that way. Helps us stay focused and keep our resources on what's important."

On a smaller scale, Jinks says the City Council will receive a report from the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names. The group was established in September 2015 and met over the course of five meetings. Towards the end of the group's discussion and in draft reports, the group's consensus was to keep the confederate statue and most of the city's street names the same. The only major change proposed was renaming the limited parts of Route 1 through Alexandria still called Jefferson Davis Highway.

"There will be a lot of contention and passionate debate," Jinks said, "but it's not a major policy setting situation."

Stephanie Landrum, president of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, noted that a number of smaller, ongoing issues will be resurfacing for the city in the fall.

"On a smaller scale, we're going to see the continued implementation of the Bikeshare as it continues moving towards the West End of the city," said Landrum. "That's an interesting and cool advancement for the city."

Landrum also advised new residents of Alexandria interested in local business to keep an eye out for discussions about an Old Town Business Improvement District.

There's an exploratory committee in Old Town looking at what BIDs have done [in this region]," said Landrum. "The exploratory committee continues to meet. Their goal is to come forward with a possible plan that they would then start talking with stakeholders [in the fall], people like local businesses, property owners, residents, and the city council."

According to Landrum, new tax districts can only go into effect on Jan. 1. So it can either happen at the end of this year for implementation in 2017 or at some point early in 2017 for implementation in 2018.

Landrum also said the city will have to continue to have discussions about food trucks. "Food trucks are now legal in a few locations, but have you seen any?" asked Landrum. "There aren't any. We put a policy in place, but it's not viable for most food trucks. If our goal is to have food trucks come in, we need to revisit the restrictions."

For more established retail, Landrum advised Old Town residents to note the new Edens project coming online in Old Town where the former Giant and ABC store was located. Landrum said the new construction is currently getting its permits set, but when it opens will provide new retail options for North Old Town.



PHOTO BY RIKKI GEORGE/GAZETTE PACKET

Snapshot

Grotto at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. Located at the corner of N. Columbus and Wythe streets. This is a decorative structure erected in early summer 2016, which enhances the garden landscape at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

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PHOTOS BY PRESTON JONES/GAZETTE PACKET



Jones Point Park

Intersecting the Mount Vernon Trail, located directly underneath the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Jones Point Park offers both an expansive history and a variety of activities. The park is equipped with two fishing areas, two playgrounds and two separate basketball courts, along with other areas for recreation. A gravel interpretative trail explains the history behind Jones Point. The lighthouse pictured, located within the park, is the last remaining riverine lighthouse in Virginia.

Appomattox

Located directly in the center of the South Washington and Prince Street intersection, the Appomattox statue has become a popular sight for many within the Mount Vernon/Old Town area. Originally dedicated in 1889, the figure is of a lone confederate soldier.

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

2834 Duke Street, Offers a variety of programs and services to assist member firms in promoting and expanding their business base. Call 703-549-1000 or visit www.alexchamber.com.

sources to black-owned businesses in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Call 571-298-1187 or Visit www.northernviriniabcc.org

Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce.

The Alexandria-based organization provides re-

Visit Alexandria

With more than 300 members, Visit Alexandria has strong ties to the Alexandria business and tourism communities. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

Armed Forces Communication and Electronic Association of Northern Virginia

400 North Washington St., Suite 300. Based in Alexandria, the organization seeks to promote communication between private businesses in the region and government agencies. Call 703-778-4645 or visit www.afceanova.org.

SPORTS

Getting To Know TC Sports

Girls' soccer claims Conference 7 title.

School: T.C. Williams High School
Mascot: Titans
School Colors: Red, white and blue
Athletic Director: Steve Colantuoni
Football Coach: Marc Matthie (second year)
 The Titans finished 2015 with their second consecutive 2-8 and failed to qualify for postseason play.

Boys' Basketball Coach: Bryan Hill
Girls' Basketball Coach: Kesha Walton
Boys' Soccer Coach: Martin Nickley
Baseball Coach: Chris Metz
Rival School: West Potomac

What happened last year: The girls' soccer team finished a great season with a 19-3 record. The Titans defeated W.T. Woodson to win the Conference 7 title 4-1. T.C. Williams went on to lose to Battlefield in the 6A north region title game and then were beaten by Cox in the state semifinals.

Notable: The T.C. Williams football program, made famous nationally by the 2000 Disney movie "Remember the Titans," starring Denzel Washington, won state championships in 1971, 1984 and 1987. Despite success that spanned into 1990, T.C. Williams experienced a 22-year postseason drought that ended in 2013, when the Titans went 7-3 in the regular season and qualified for the playoffs.

— UPDATED BY AARON LUNDMARK



Alexandria Library: Quick Facts

How to Become a Borrower

Anyone who lives, works, owns property or attends school in Alexandria is entitled to a free library card and can apply for an account onsite or through our website. As a member of the Council of Governments, Alexandria residents are also entitled to obtain cards at public libraries throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Library Services

The Library provides something for all ages and interests. Services include: passport processing, wireless access, public computers, customized research assistance, technology training and meeting room spaces. The Library also provides books and resources to homebound customers and retirement communities throughout Alexandria.

Alexandria Library Online

The Library's website features free access to numerous digital services including downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines and music. Other virtual services include: instructor led courses, language-learning, practice tests for college and graduate school, resume builders and small business resources.

Programs and Events

The Library offers a variety of special events including author talks, book discussion groups, English language classes, film screenings, financial workshops, health seminars and music concerts. For children and families, we host story times and other programs to build reading skills and support learning in STREAM areas (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math).

Talking Book Service

A free service for the visually impaired. For more information, call 703.746.1760.

Locations

- Beatley Central:** 5005 Duke St., 703.746.1702
- Barrett:** 717 Queen St., 703.746.1703
- Burke:** 4701 Seminary Rd., 703.746.1704
- Duncan:** 2501 Commonwealth Ave., 703.746.1705
- Special Collections:** 717 Queen St., 703.746.1708
- Law Library:** 520 King St., LL34, 703.746.4077

For more information, please visit our website at www.alexandria.lib.va.us. Library hours vary by location. Beatley Central, Barrett Branch, Burke Branch and Duncan Branch are open on Sundays from 1 pm to 5 pm.

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3305 Old Dominion Boulevard
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SOLD

POTOMAC GREENS 22314
1850 Carpenter Road
Highly sought-after Carriage House model overlooking the park. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, pristine hardwood floors, open kitchen, dining, and living area, finished basement, 2-car garage.



SOLD

HUNTER'S MANOR 22308
1610 Noral Place
Classic Colonial on tranquil cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, sunny eat-in kitchen, office, formal living & dining rooms, cozy family room, expansive deck, and inviting front porch.



SOLD

BELLE HAVEN 22307
6044 Woodmont Road
Historic Colonial overlooking Belle Haven Country Club, National Harbor, and the Potomac River. 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath hilltop home in a beloved Alexandria neighborhood.



SOLD

ARLINGTON 22204
3827 S 8th Street
Spacious Colonial located on a quiet street near Ballston Metro. Open layout, large, fenced backyard, updated kitchen and breakfast room, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, detached 1-car garage.



SOLD

COLLINGWOOD ON POTOMAC 22308
1103 Neal Drive
Stunning renovated split level consisting of 5 finished levels. Gorgeous inside & out with welcoming front porch, year-round sunroom, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, & large, landscaped backyard.



SOLD

WILTON WOODS 22310
5911 Benfield Drive
Lovely residence with superb traditional layout. Bright kitchen & breakfast room, large master bedroom with sitting area or office, finished walk-out basement, & beautiful backyard patio.



SOLD

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN 22307
1810 Duffield Lane
Extensively renovated townhouse in great location. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, bright gourmet kitchen, open-concept dining & living room, finished basement, charming patio, & 1-car garage.



SOLD

KERRYBROOKE 22310
4598 Wessex Court
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