

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



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25 CENTS

MARCH 16, 2017

PHOTO BY DAN BRENDL



**Members of Housing Alexandria and VOICE stand at the March 13 public budget hearing to support additional funding for the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection's proposed affordable housing project. Housing Alexandria and VOICE are two broad-based coalitions, together including nonprofits, religious congregations, and other community institutions and advocates.**

## Death or Resurrection?

### Church's offer on affordable housing needs additional city support.

BY DAN BRENDL  
GAZETTE PACKET

The future of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection's slated affordable housing project hangs in the air while City Council decides on the FY2018 budget.

The congregation feels called by God to give a large part of its church property on the West End over to affordable housing. They say they've made some big sacrifices along the way so that their plan — what they call their "bold idea" — might succeed for the community's benefit.

The bold idea now depends on whether City Council decides to fund a \$4.3 million "supplemental" option in the proposed Capital Investment Project budget. If council finds the money,

Resurrection's project will go on to compete for federal subsidies in 2018. If the council does not find the money by May 1, when the budget process ends, the project will not go forward.

"We need our community not to be monolithic, but we're headed in that direction," said the Rev. Jo Belser, Resurrection's pastor. The congregation experiences gentrification directly. Belser says that she and other of her parishioners cannot afford to live in Alexandria.

This is "an opportunity for ... effectively a permanent commitment to affordable housing in a place that desperately needs it," said John Welsh of AHIC, the church's nonprofit developer. "[A]ffordable housing projects ... don't come by every day. And when you have an opportunity to do something like this — when you can get control of a piece of land ... with willing partners ... — that is going to be a good deal for the city, when the alternative might be dealing with some [for profit] developer who is trying to either ... get more density or get out of some other commit

SEE RESURRECTION, PAGE 18

## Paint by Numbers

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Torpedo Factory is the biggest attraction in Alexandria to people already in the Torpedo Factory — it's getting people there that's the trouble. A study prepared for the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA), "The Impact of the Torpedo Factory Art Center on the City of Alexandria's Economy," polled visitors to the Torpedo Factory on what brought them into the city and what their daily activities were like. The study, conducted by the Stephen S. Fuller Institute from George Mason University, encouraged the city to promote more activities at the arts center and to use it as a catalyst

### New study shows Torpedo Factory as top ranked city attraction.

to draw more visitors to Old Town.

It has been six months since the city took over temporary management of the Torpedo Factory last October. The takeover is a temporary action by the city until a more permanent management structure for the center is put together. The Torpedo Factory is owned by the city and leased directly to artists, galleries, the Art League and the cafe on the first floor.

"The Torpedo Factory Art Center offers the City of Alexandria a unique and well-recognized destination-visitor attraction," the study concludes. "It is ingrained in the city's tourist brand. The research find

SEE PAINTING, PAGE 8

## Above and Beyond

### Council exceeds city manager's recommended maximum tax rate.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

In a year of new fees and a proposed real estate tax increase, the Alexandria City Council upped the ante by surpassing the recommended maximum tax rate to provide more funding to city schools.

City Manager Mark Jinks recommended a 2.7 cent maximum tax rate increase for FY2018. At its March 14 meeting, the council voted 6-1 to go above the recommended increase for a 5.7 cent increase. The FY2018 maximum tax rate will be \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value.

"Every day, we learn more scary things about the revenue environment," said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, who proposed exceeding the manager's recommendation. "It doesn't really matter why we're

here, we're going to have to work this out and collaborate with everyone who's committed to having this dealt with. We have to do things differently. What we're doing right now is not working. We're going to be in this situation every single year with significant tax rate increases to try and deal with this stuff. It's going to be a failure to just pick a large number, provide that number, and go on our merry way. The amount of funding we're doing, we have to do this collaboratively. We need to come up with a real plan, a joint plan the city can live to."

The largest focus of discussions, both at the March 14 council meeting and among citizens at the special budget presentation the day before, was the school budget. The proposed operating budget includes a \$7.5 million increase to

SEE CITY BUDGET, PAGE 22

## The Mailman

### One of city's first African American mailmen, and a civic activist, dies.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

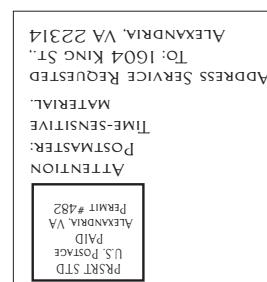
Even for those who didn't know his name, Arthur Martin Nelson was the face of the community. He was the mailman. For nearly 40 years, Nelson walked door to door delivering letters and packages as one of Alexandria's first African American mail carriers. Nelson was 89 when he died on March 7.

According to "African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of

Light in the Twentieth Century," Nelson was one of the earliest African American mail carriers in Alexandria. Rosier Thompson, another African American, began carrying mail in 1920. Nelson held his post as mailman for 38 years and knew most of his customers by name.

"He was always cognizant, when he was delivering mail, of being a black person in a more white world," said Rose Kary, Nelson's daughter. "He carried himself in a

SEE MAILMAN, PAGE 5



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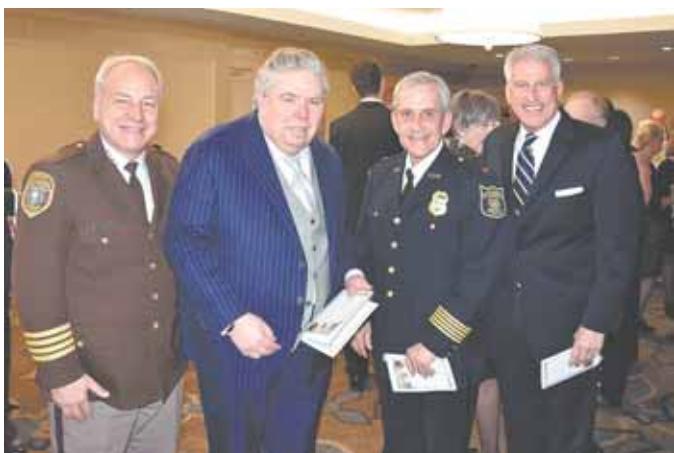
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Honoree Jack Taylor, second from left, with Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Police Chief Michael and David Baker.



Mary Ellis Fannon, Councilman John Chapman, Blaine Jackson, Deborah Warren, Amy Jackson and Pat Miller at the Generation to Generation Gala.



William Charity, who recently celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, acknowledges the applause after being honored for his service to the community at the Senior Services of Alexandria Generation to Generation Gala March 4.

## All in the Family SSA gala honors community service.

**A** record crowd gathered March 4 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center as Senior Services of Alexandria held its 2017 Generation to Generation Gala to recognize two Alexandria families for their long-term commitment to



Gant and Fran Redmon were honored by Senior Services of Alexandria for their decades of leadership and service to the community.

giving back to the Alexandria community.

Jack Taylor and his son John Taylor and the Charity Family — William Charity, who recently celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, Diane “DeeDee” Marshall, Marjorie and Albert Burts and Kendra Gleaton — were honored for their decades of service to a multitude of organizations throughout the city.

“The families honored at this year’s Gala exemplify the spirit of community service that makes Alexandria such a wonderful city,” said SSA executive director Mary Lee Anderson. “They each have helped make life better for those around them and SSA was proud to honor their dedication and the positive impact of their good work.”

SSA also presented a special award to Gant and Fran Redmon for their many years

of leadership and service.

“We’ve been in Alexandria for 55 years,” said Fran Redmon. “From my days as a substitute teacher in

the Alexandria public schools to working with arts organizations, it’s been a joy watching this community grow.”

For more information or to volunteer with Senior Services of Alexandria, visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Honorees gather for a group photo at the Senior Services of Alexandria Generation to Generation Gala March 4 at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Pictured in back are: Jack Taylor, John Taylor, Fran and Gant Redmon, Mary Lee Anderson, Lynnwood Campbell and Donna Shaw. In front: Habib Azmi, Mayor Allison Silberberg, William Charity, Diane Marshall, Marjorie and Albert Burts and Kendra Gleaton.

## The Music Man ASO executive director Paul Frank dies at 76.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** conductor’s podium was as much an office for Paul Frank as was the traditional CEO corner suite. A simple baton would come to life in the hands of the master puppeteer, his love of music infectious. When Frank was hired as executive director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in 2016, he called it his “dream job,” the perfect fit for his business acumen and musical artistry.

“I am excited about the possibilities ahead,” Frank said at the time. “Serving as the executive director for the ASO provides a unique opportunity to participate

in the search for a new music director and inject new energy and experience into the position. My goal is to make an impact.”

Frank was leading the ASO search to replace longtime conductor Kim Allen Kluge when he died March 13 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 76.

“Paul was a combination of businessman and music man,” said Gant Redmon, a friend of Frank’s for more than a quarter century. “He was an excellent fundraiser and superb performer and excelled in all the various phases of his career. He was quite a guy.”



**Paul Frank, executive director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, died March 13 after a brief illness. He was 76.**

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO

Frank was born in Washington, D.C. on July 4, 1940, to Murray and Freidel Frank. He attended Coolidge High School and graduated from George Washington University. An accomplished musician, Frank led The Collegians musical group during the 1970s and later performed as both a solo

pianist and accompanist throughout the greater Washington area including the Kennedy Center, the Jewish Community Center and countless other venues.

“Music was always a big part of Dad’s life and our house growing up was always full of music and musical instruments,” said Todd Frank. “I am forever grateful to him for passing along not only whatever ‘talent gene’ we got from him, but also the appreciation of music. Thanks to him I’ve filled my life with music and am passing that appreciation on to my kids.”

Mark Frank also recalled the influence of his father’s music.

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 9



## CONGRATULATIONS JEN WALKER 2017 LIVING LEGEND OF ALEXANDRIA

It is a great honor and privilege that McEneaney Associates announce that Jen Walker will be a 2017 Living Legend of Alexandria. For more than 20 years, Jen has made significant contributions to Alexandria communities and beyond. Jen Walker's name is synonymous with community, and she has earned incredible respect from her peers and Alexandria residents for her generosity. From starting Cinema Del Ray to mysteriously spreading a message of kindness throughout Alexandria with

her signs, it is simply natural for Jen to give back. Jen Walker is first a philanthropist and community leader, and second a homes specialist. In sum, Jen has been involved in more than 20 charitable community organizations and leadership roles in Alexandria as well as finding clients the home of their dreams. We are extremely proud of her accomplishments, and McEneaney Associates congratulates Jen Walker on becoming a 2017 Living Legend of Alexandria.

## Jen Walker Team

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# NEWS

## The Mailman

FROM PAGE 1

way that my dad knew, if he didn't provide great service, that it might be a problem in keeping his route. Had to be mannerable and do a great job. It took a lot. He wasn't Jackie Robinson, but it took a lot of patience and control knowing you are representing everybody in that job."

Alexandria was home for Nelson. He was born in Alexandria on Nov. 9, 1927 as the youngest of 11 children. Nelson attended school at Lyles-Crouch Elementary School and later Parker-Gray High School. He dropped out to enlist in the military, only to be discharged later when it was discovered he was underage. He lived in Alexandria all his life until summer last year, as his health began to decline, he moved to be closer to his daughter in Georgia.

Outside of his job, Nelson was also active in the local community. Nelson was vice-president of the Departmental Progressive Club, responsible for the organization and management of the club. He was a member of Elks Lodge No. 48 for over 50 years and a member and trustee of Beulah Baptist Church since 1948. According to "Beacons of Light," Nelson was instrumental in many of the local civil rights programs during segregation.

"I knew Arthur [Nelson] very well, I had a lot of admiration and respect for him," said William Euille, former mayor of Alexandria. "He was a strong friend and supporter. [Nelson] was very active in the city, and a very vocal advocate for MLK day memorial services. He was a citizen we should all appreciate and respect, for his dedication and support."

Kary said she remembered her home being filled with food on nights when he would host events

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 17

##### Conversations with the Superintendent.

8:15 a.m. at Mount Vernon Community School, 2601 Commonwealth Ave. Visit [bit.ly/2mJWiUm](http://bit.ly/2mJWiUm) to register.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 18

**City Council Meeting.** 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 301 King St. The Alexandria City Council will hold its public hearing meeting. The docket and all materials may be found at [alexandriava.granicus.com/](http://alexandriava.granicus.com/) ViewPublisher.php?view\_id=57.

#### 7th Annual Northern Virginia Housing Expo.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Dominion High School, 21326 Augusta Dr., Sterling. The Expo will showcase both homeownership and rental opportunities and resources

for the Elks or when he'd bring her along to other civic events he was involved in.

"I remember going places with my father, and him being able to reach out to lots of people, white and black," said Kary. "He was very gregarious and friendly. He taught us that kindness will get you everywhere. A smile on your face, greeting people, and loving people will take you further than money and status ... He worked really hard to make sure we had what we needed. We grew up on Earle street, lived there all our lives, and he made us a part of what he was involved in, both his civic and church responsibilities."

Kary worked as a teacher in Alexandria before moving to Georgia, and she said it was neat having students whose parents would recognize her as the daughter of the mailman. She said it helped her connect with people who knew him.

Nelson was also involved in local public housing issues and served on the housing board for the city.

"Being a mailman gave him such a unique opportunity to see how people lived," said Kary. "When communities changed, he saw that. His route was on Queen Street. In his lifetime, he saw it go from being mostly black to more integrated. The way Alexandria changed, where public housing was: he walked that route. He's seen so many changes in the city. Being 89 and seeing that, it was phenomenal for him."

Nelson is survived by two brothers and one daughter, Kary.

He lived a life helping to make a difference for everyone, especially for youth," said Euille. "Alexandria was blessed to have Arthur Nelson as part of our lives. He will be missed."

## MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>

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## PEOPLE

# 'Together We Bake' Combines Empowerment, Life Skills

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**I**t is graduation day for Alison Miller. She has spent the last eight weeks with Together We Bake earning her ServSafe certificate. But more importantly she has been absorbing empowerment that is an essential part of this second chance program whose participants are predominantly formerly incarcerated women.

Miller stands before the group recounting her story. She has been introduced as "superwoman Ali." Miller looks down. "I'm Ali. I hate doing this in front of all these people." Miller begins, "No one wanted to be around me. I couldn't imagine my life without drugs or alcohol. But you, and only you, have to find your own way to recover."

After the program Miller recalls she was 16, but her mother interjects 14, when she started drinking, taking acid and smoking marijuana. "I had older sisters who had parties and I was exposed to it, and it seemed to be everywhere." Miller's mother says she was separated from Miller's father at that time and Miller spent separate time with both parents. When Miller was 16 she moved to West Virginia and began a relationship with an abusive boyfriend, dropped out of school and continued using drugs and alcohol. When she finally said to her boyfriend, "enough is enough," he dragged her down the stairs by her hair and set her clothes on fire.

Miller says she has been in and out of a lot of programs, and Guest House is her fourth treatment centers. But her mother says they were 30-day programs and that isn't long enough. And Miller says, "I was young; I wasn't ready." Now Miller is a resident at Guest House, a three-month residential program in Del Ray for recently incarcerated women that are drug and alcohol free. The program includes nine months of supervised after care.

In time she stopped using heroin but continued with alcohol. In August 2016 Miller passed out behind the wheel of her Ford



**Alison Miller displays her ServSafe certificate with her mother, Carolyn Melnikoff, "her rock and support." Miller has completed an eight-week course at Together We Bake, an organization that teaches skill development and empowers women through second chances.**

van and hit a truck head-on in W. Virginia. Her mother pulls out a picture on her cell phone of a barely recognizable vehicle. Miller says she was arrested for DUI. In about three months she decided to try to drive somewhere and was arrested for driving with a suspended license.

Several months later she was released and moved into Guest House a couple of days after Christmas. Together We Bake came to make a presentation. "I knew instantly this was for me; they weren't even done." Miller says she has worked in the food industry all her life. "And I liked the way they focus on your mind, the way you're thinking; it's empowering." She says the women who run it are caring and supportive. At the end of the first week she was comfortable. "I could



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

**Alison Miller joins a happy group of Together We Bake graduates and two program assistants at the ceremony on March 9. She says she never thought working with women, and only women, could offer so much. "None of you will ever be forgotten," she said.**

tell they weren't judging."

Miller arrives at the Downtown Baptist Church on S. Washington Street three days a week at 9:30 a.m. where "we meet in the kitchen, get our apron, hands washed and gloves on." She is on a different team each week: business, mixing, baking, cleaning. If you are on the business team you learn the back-of-the-house like ordering, shipping, packaging and stocking. She says every day you are on this team you are required to come up with an empowerment statement. "I remember this one of mine. 'Your mind is everything. What you think, you become.'"

Miller says on Tuesdays they make cinnamon chip apples. She pulls out a package of dehydrated apples labeled "handcrafted and hopeful." The recipe on the back of the package says "combine equal parts job training and personal development for women in need of a second chance." Miller says this team cores the apples, cuts out the bruises and halves them into a bowl.

Then they go on the dehydration tray. On Thursdays, it's granola. They also make chocolate chip cookies, a big seller. On Wednesdays they take a field trip or a guest cook will come in. One day they made bread, led by a previous graduate of Together We Bake. Once it was cupcakes and one week caramel and chocolate candy. "We get to take these special recipes home so the residents at Guest House get excited and ask me what I am bringing them this time."

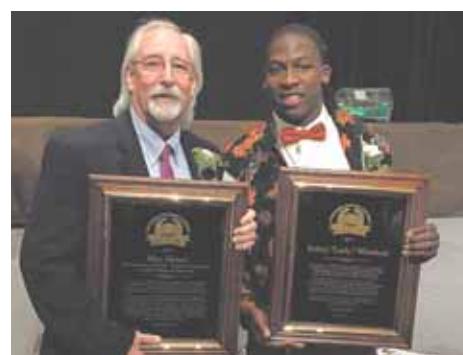
Things are looking up. Miller says she just got an apartment with the assistance of Guest House, has the support of her whole family and "I just got a job at Topgolf on S. Van Dorn Street." She says she has worked in the golf business in food and beverage management and catering in the past. Miller looks forward to being a server who will deliver food and beverages to golfers on the course. She says she likes the golfing atmosphere and, "I play golf, but I'm not very good." She has a plan to move up. "What you think, you become."

## Mac Slover Inducted into Regional Football Hall of Fame

Mac Slover, regional program director of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, was inducted into the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame at the 27th Annual Awards Banquet held on March 5 at the McLean Hilton Hotel.

The Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame recognizes and promotes the efforts of individuals from the local youth and scholastic football programs as well as their collegiate and professional counterparts.

An advocate for teaching the fundamentals of football and sportsmanship, Slover was recognized for his contributions to youth football in Northern Virginia. He has worked for the City of Alexandria for almost 29 years, and for the past 15 years he has supported the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program and the Fairfax County



**Mac Slover with Lucky Whitehead of the Dallas Cowboys**

Youth Football League.

Slover was inducted along with Lucky Whitehead, who attended Osbourn High School and now plays with the Dallas Cowboys.



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES – RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**Mac Slover with Alexandria Titan Player of the Year Joshua Clarke and staff members of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities**

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# Painting Torpedo Factory with Numbers

FROM PAGE 1

ings presented here should help to provide direction for the city and business leadership to better realize the potentials of its unique tourist industry assets."

The study asked visitors to the Torpedo Factory where they were from, what brought them to Old Town, what attractions they identify with Old Town, where else they will go on their trip and how they plan to spend their visit to Old Town. Of those polled, 49 percent said they identified the Torpedo Factory as their primary attraction for their visit. Eating lunch and shopping were the next most cited trip purposes at 18 percent and 13 percent respectively. Thirty-one percent said the Torpedo Factory was the attraction most identified with Old Town, followed by the waterfront at 22.5 percent.

"Clearly, as found in previous research, the Torpedo Factory figures large in visitor's decisions to make Old Town and the City of Alexandria their destination for an outing," the study concluded.

For attractions identified with Old Town, shopping was the weakest response, with only 11.8 percent.

"This percentage speaks to the changing nature of tourists," said the study, "espe-

cially the Millennials, who prefer the social interaction of a restaurant to a shopping experience that is no longer considered recreation but rather a necessity and more easily accomplished online than in a store."

For the TFAA, the study is a validation of the importance of the site. "We're happy with the findings," said Abby McClain, director of the TFAA. "It's really important to have that baseline."

**BUT THE STUDY** doesn't show the whole picture, nor does Fuller say it ever intended to. The study only polled visitors who were already in the Torpedo Factory, whose views on the importance of the Torpedo Factory may not be representative of the average visitor. Fuller also noted that the relatively short timespan of the study, only winter months in 2016-2017, could also have impacted the results.

"It isn't a random sample and it wasn't intended to be," said Fuller. "You have to be careful in drawing conclusions from that. The purpose was to talk to people who were in the Torpedo Factory and see if that's what they came to do. We wanted to get a sense of how many weren't from Alexandria; what's a profile of the person visiting the Torpedo Factory. You have to take that for what it's worth."

The study, presented on March 2, is the latest piece of an ongoing discussion over what to do with the troubled waterfront icon.

"It only tells one piece of the story," said Patricia Washington, president and CEO of Visit Alexandria. Washington says Visit Alexandria commissioned a study in 2014 from Destination Analysts which conducted a poll of 500 in the region who were not residents of Alexandria. Among those polled, Alexandria was primarily a destination for its restaurants, proximity to D.C., transit accessibility, and its relative cleanliness and safety.

"This is so narrowly focused on the Torpedo Factory," said Washington, criticising Fuller's conclusions on shopping in Old Town. "The \$35 million impact from visitors to Torpedo Factory lines up with what we might expect. It is a major attraction. But the Virginia Tourism Corporation found in its annual study that visitor spending in Alexandria was \$771 million in 2015. That's only 4.6 percent. The study doesn't provide that context. [As attractions,] King Street, the Waterfront, and the Historic District in general are larger draws than the Torpedo Factory alone."

"The study sort of talks about the Torpedo Factory as an island of a single attraction,"

said Vito Fiore, director of marketing and research at Visit Alexandria, "but to be fair to all of our attractions, want to be sure that the broader information we have available is mentioned."

"We agree with Dr. Fuller, who says this is the time to make the Torpedo Factory more," said Washington. "How to do that is what city has proposed, public engagement process to see how the Torpedo Factory can reinvent itself. The Torpedo Factory needs to evolve. The TFAA has been more towards status quo, but movement is needed to get the public engaged."

The TFAA has been in an ongoing struggle for leadership of the arts center and says the city leadership over the last few months has been lacking.

"The city is overwhelmed with managing this," said McClain. "With a new bureaucracy comes the fun of red tape. Any art space in the hallway requires a permit first and the gift shop hasn't made sales in months. The Mobile Art Lab is in Studio 8, but it's only been open for two days. It's been frustrating. Artists are now treated as untrusted tenants."

For McClain, the ultimate goal is returning the Torpedo Factory to management by

SEE PAINT BY NUMBERS, PAGE 18

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## OBITUARY

# Remembering Paul Frank

FROM PAGE 3

"My bond with my father centers around music," said Mark Frank. "My fondest memories are the little things — how he would wrap his arms around me as a young boy and show me how to play something at the piano or how he would holler from upstairs and tell me to slow down when I was practicing my scales. But the one memory that I truly cherish was falling asleep as a kid to the sound of Dad playing the piano. To this day, I play piano for my kids when they go to sleep. And these past few weeks, I have been playing all of Dad's favorites."

Prior to joining the ASO, Frank served as CEO of the Collingwood Library and Museum as well as executive director for the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Most recently he was the interim executive director for the McLean Symphony Orchestra.

Frank actively participated in several area chambers of commerce as well as the Rotary Club of Alexandria, where he was a Paul Harris Fellow and led the musical "Rotary Rooters." He is a former president of the Alexandria Arts Forum and served as the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival chair.

In the private corporate sector, he was president of Paul A. Frank Associates, Inc.,

a human resources firm, and human resources director for the Boeing Company.

"Even later in life when Dad was more focused on his professional and nonprofit work, he was still involved with musical endeavors on the side," Todd Frank said. "It all intersected with his involvement with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Sadly, he mentioned to me a few weeks ago, 'I just got my dream job.'"

Frank is survived by his wife of 23 years, Barbie Beggs Frank; a brother, David Frank, and sister, Judy Koldaro; children Todd Levinson Frank (Marcella), Denise Frank-Conneen (Michael), and Mark Frank (Suzanne); stepchildren Carter Poole (Woody) and Sarah Poole Wincovich (Nick); and grandchildren Zachary, Keira, Ian, Ryan, Sophia, Stelianos, Andreas, Sammy and Arn.

Visitation will be held Sunday, March 19, at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, from 4-7 p.m. A memorial service will be held Monday, March 20 at Everly-Wheatley at 11 a.m.

"Paul was a natural for the ASO," said arts patron and former ASO board member Fran Redmon. "He loved everything about how a symphony orchestra operates. From the ASO to the Torpedo Factory, every organization Paul touched, he changed for the better."

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# OPINION

# Stop Bullying Federal Workers

BY U.S. REP. DON BEYER (D-8) AND  
U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

**R**epublicans hold control of all three branches of government, and therefore have a responsibility to lead the civil service that employs millions of Americans, and every American relies upon for myriad services. The overwhelming majority of federal workers are hardworking people who devote themselves to public service. They secure borders, keep food safe, advance scientific and medical research, deliver our mail, and provide care to many of us, including our veterans.

Republican leaders have repaid this service with repeated attacks.

In 2013, they shut down the government as a political stunt, and came hours away from doing it again in 2015 at the Department of Homeland Security. They enacted the Budget Control Act, which ultimately led to Sequestration, cutting the budget of every federal agency with the surgical precision of a meat-ax.

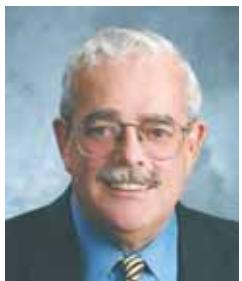
But since Republicans acquired total control over government, their treatment of federal workers has been beyond the pale.

On the first day of the new Congress, House Republicans passed a rules package over our loud objections containing a reinstatement of the Holman Rule, which would potentially allow Congress to engage in political retribution against federal workers by reducing any given employee's salary to \$1. Only three Republicans opposed the measure on the floor, none from Virginia or Maryland.

The Holman Rule was especially troubling in light of the new administration's so-called "enemies list" of employees who had worked



Beyer



Connolly

on specific policy areas for the Obama Administration, such as climate policy.

As one of his first actions, President Trump announced a hiring freeze for federal workers. This is terrible policy and a mindless approach to management that dodges hard decisions.

The Government Accountability Office studied past hiring freezes and found them "not effective." The government is more likely to rely on overtime and contract work, which often costs taxpayers more. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Americans have total uncertainty in their professional lives. Agencies are unable to make efficient, long term plans, driving up costs and hurting morale. Over time, Americans trying to manage social security benefits, travel in airports, or secure healthcare will see the impact of this freeze when benefits are not mailed or airport security lines move much more slowly.

Two other classes of citizen are hit particularly hard: people with disabilities and veterans.

In 2015, due to Obama Administration initiatives, 19 percent of the federal government's new hires were people with disabilities. The federal government has hired

109,000 people with disabilities in the past five years.

Veterans stand to be among those hardest hit by the hiring freeze. The Veterans Administration is one of the largest federal employers, but is also significantly understaffed. Delivering the care promised to those who served in the armed forces depends on having effective staff to deliver that care.

Over 30 percent of the civilian federal workforce is made up of veterans, a number which has grown consistently as agencies prioritized hiring vets. Many of the positions held vacant by the hiring freeze would have gone to vets, and the progress we have made on veteran unemployment will be halted.

Contrary to this administration's claims, the federal workforce is dwindling as a share of the population. And 85 percent of federal workers are located outside the beltway. It is also aging, and over a third of the current feds will be eligible for retirement by September. Federal workers have been treated as a piggy bank by Congress for years now, their pay raises delayed or denied, they've been furloughed and had their benefits cut. Now their morale is hit by politicians who make them a political punching bag. A bill just proposed in Congress would make all federal workers "at-will" employees, exposing them to political retribution and punishment by a hostile administration without recourse.

The federal workforce is not, as Mr. Trump has said, a "swamp." It is a group of committed Americans who serve us, and they deserve better from Congress. The Republican Party has total control over the levers of government. Will any of its leaders have the decency or the courage to fight for the civil service which serves us all?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Support Libraries

To the Editor:

At a time when Alexandrians are eager to proclaim their city an open and welcoming one, let's keep in mind our wonderful libraries. They offer beautiful and tranquil interior spaces to all comers. Entertainment and instruction are equally available, and the highly trained librarians ease our paths into both.

As much as many of us love nothing more than bringing home a big stack of books, the days are long over when libraries served just voracious bookworms. Their programs help out seniors and babies, science project students, knitters, and gardeners, along with that newest form of everyman, the job seeker. If they have their way, we'll be 100 percent computer literate, cradle to grave. In a city in which we're all geographers — more than a quarter of us are foreign born — they provide not just books and CDs but also classes in English.

If you sit in the library for a while you'll see that they're also good places to meet people. In fact, they have great parties, with lots of free food and entertainment for all ages. I think these may be the only such gatherings in the city.

Did I leave anything out? Only the need to en

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Alexandria  
**Gazette Packet**

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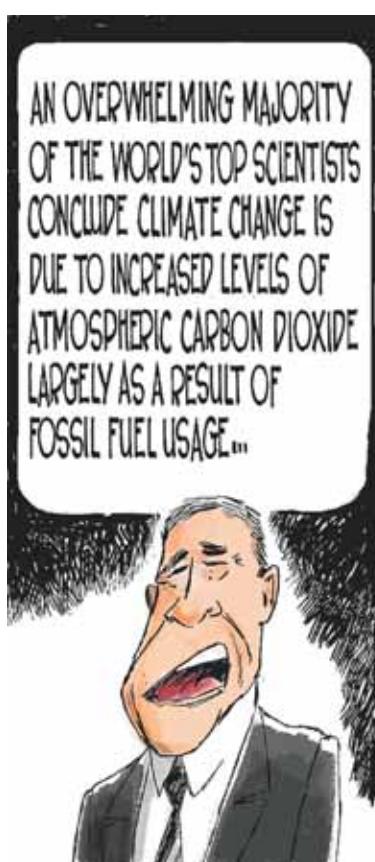
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STEVE ARTLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

## OPINION

# Finding Joy in Reading

BY CORRINE COOK

In late 2015, I began looking for volunteer opportunities as a way to give back to my community. I came across Wright to Read and was impressed with the organization's mission and what they've accomplished. I know how important and enjoyable reading can be and I wanted to help a child experience this same joy and prepare them to succeed in life. Shortly after expressing an interest

**MENTOR OF THE MONTH**  
and going through the formalities, I was paired with Liam — a wonderful second (now third) grade student at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

When our sessions first began in January 2016, Liam wasn't very interested in reading on Saturday mornings (let alone at all); however, I soon gained his trust and utilized some resources from Wright to Read to make the sessions as enjoyable as possible. As time progressed, Liam began to make improvements in the way of taking the time to sound out words, identifying words more quickly, and reading comprehension.

Liam began to take note of his own progress, which only made him want to get better. Noticing the positive change in his effort and attitude towards reading, I made sure to acknowledge his progress in various ways (e.g., verbal praise, stickers, and spot awards). Overall, Liam has become more interested in reading and is eager to get to the reading portion of our sessions, which gives me great joy.

Liam has been such a joy to work with and I have been so impressed and amazed with his progress. It's safe to say that Liam now enjoys reading. He has improved by leaps and bounds, and even recently received a verbal shout out over the PA system at school for his progress in reading. Liam's parents tell me about all the various opportunities he takes to improve his reading skills: reading to younger neighbors, reading to his parents, requesting to read the newspaper, among others. Every time I hear something like this, it puts a smile on



Corrine Cook with Liam

my face and makes what I'm doing worthwhile. Liam was promoted to the third grade and I look forward to continuing our work together.

#### FROM LIAM

Each week, Ms. Corrine and I practice sight words and read together at the library. We have been working together for over one year. The types of books we read include half human and half animal books. We also read monster and superhero books. Some special things I have enjoyed doing with Ms. Corrine include reading books and fun activities such as word games. I also enjoy when Ms. Corrine talks to my parents. Ms. Corrine has helped me learn how to spell her name, to enjoy reading, and I've learned more about animals. I think Ms. Corrine should be mentor of the month, because she has helped me with my reading and she has been with me every step of the way.

#### FROM LIAM'S MOM

We have seen great progress in our son's reading level since he began being tutored by a wonderful, encouraging, and generous woman. We are so grateful to her and Wright to Read for all of their assistance.

*Wright to Read is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit: [www.wrighttoread.org](http://www.wrighttoread.org) or to learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

sure that the City Council realizes that if any Alexandrian institutions deserve full funding, it's the libraries. And attention real estate and business people: they're spectacular assets for you to advertise.

**Beth Vodola**  
Alexandria

## Best Use of Taxes?

To the Editor:

Many third world countries would be ashamed of the condition of paving in Alexandria. That said, it is astounding that the city is wasting money and time doing cosmetic renovation of many street corners in the city. Doing this cosmetic (traffic calm-

ing?) alteration takes away parking spaces and, in some cases, right turn lanes. Some of the calming cosmetics are being done on blocks which have four way stops at each block. Might there perhaps be a better way to spend this money?

**David A. Norcross**  
Alexandria

## Paying for Illegal Immigration?

To the Editor:

Vic Glasberg's "Resist Complicity" letter [Gazette Packet, Feb. 28] urges local officials and news editors to "resist complicity"

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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**Susan Perry** is the Vice President of Client Services at Care Options, a Lifematters Company. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Virginia with 25 years of experience in acute care, long-term care, rehabilitation, home care and hospice care settings. Susan has served as a member of the Geriatric Consultation Team at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University.



**Diane Vance** is the Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. She has been immersed in dementia care professionally and as a caregiver for many years. Diane served as the Director of Dementia Care Services in Assisted Living and Director of an Adult Medical Day Program for elderly individuals with cognitive impairments. As a passionate advocate for those with dementia and their families, she has provided invaluable support to many.

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## OPINION

# A Day Without Whining

BY KERRY CARTER

**W**hat do women really want? If you live in our area, the obvious answer is a day off from work. What do kids want? A day off from school, duh. What do parents want? They want the kids to go to school so they can show up for work and make money for the family. They also want to give the Alexandria school system some serious grief about the decision to cancel school on March 8, but we know that'll never happen.

Commentary I, like firefighters, police, healthcare providers, security personnel, food service producers, transportation workers and other essentials, did not have the luxury of taking March 8 off. Well aware that Daisy needs her morning and evening kibble and three walks precisely on schedule, anything less would have been an egregious dereliction of duty. But despite being 100 percent female chromosomally and not currently questioning my gender, I still have trouble figuring out the point of this "women's strike." What's in it for me, and why should I even care?

Researching the history of "International Women's Day" online, I confirmed a nagging suspicion that it has a distinctly socialist origin. Wikipedia explains that IWD celebrates, among others, those lovely sisters-in-arms of the Bolshevik revolution who had a major hand in arranging for the Czar and his family to meet their Maker. We are told that in 1917 thousands of amazing Russian women who were tired of war and a poor economy decided to hold a nationwide "bread and peace" strike to force the Czar to abdicate. One might say their efforts were elegantly executed, for shortly thereafter the Czar, his wife and kiddies were all dragged out of the palace and wiped off the

face of the earth. I must say that after reading this fabulous account I am very impressed by what determined women who unite together can achieve.

The continuing history of this day around the world also provides a strong clue as to what IWD in its present incarnation might really be about for at least some of its participants: a certain Imperial Family dwelling in the palace at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Truth be told, there are many undeniable parallels. First, there is the iconic Anastasia, er, Ivanka, and all of her precious jewels. Everything about her says "aristocracy." She should not be allowed to travel in ordinary public conveyances without reproach, sell her fancy clothing and shoes to the rich or work out in gyms also used by us, the proletariat. Ditto for the good-looking and similarly privileged husband, kids, siblings and stepmother. Czar Donald is more of a problem. However, it's only a matter of time before he is toppled, if not by the force of Saturday Night Live, Hollywood, and the media, then by the brave women of the world striking and wielding their symbolic pitchforks.

If that interpretation of IWD sounds a little violent, know that there's another contingent of dissatisfied women sending out their own International Women's Day message. These women say the day is about not showing up for your job so everyone will realize how much they need you. I can totally sympathize with this latter sentiment. Every woman — whether single, married, religious, working, at home, healthy or ill — deserves far more respect and appreciation for carrying out her duties day in and day out.

And all those clueless men? I hate to tell you, ladies, but they say the need for appreciation cuts both ways. They say they just want a Day Without Whining. Those aren't my words, I promise. I'm just the messenger.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE II

ity" in federal enforcement of our country's immigration laws, which he considers "perverse, counterproductive, and discriminatory." These laws, enacted by bipartisan majorities, are long-standing. When the Obama Administration attempted to annul them through executive action, 26 states successfully sued.

It would be hard to imagine a country today which does not enforce who can and cannot immigrate. E.g., to stanch continental immigration, UK voters recently adopted "Brexit." Had continental European countries been more open to allowing the UK to restrict EU immigration, UK voters might have upheld the UK's continued participation in the EU's free-trade zone.

Illegal immigration involves considerable costs. E.g., would Alexandria need a new elementary school if it did not have to educate children from illegally present households? Because when Alabama tried to quantify the costs of illegal immigration, the

Obama Administration threatened to sue, Alexandria cannot be faulted for failing to quantify the costs to city taxpayers. But now that a new administration is in office, city hall owes the public an honest, independently arrived-at estimate of the costs to city taxpayers associated with illegally present persons and their households.

For City Council and for those who would have us "resist complicity" to express support for illegally present persons, at a time when City Council is contemplating imposing enormous tax and fee burdens on residents, without leveling with the public about the associated price tag, is dishonest. It amounts to a non-negotiable demand to write a blank check to benefit, and even privilege, a category of lawbreakers, while the rest of us continue to be expected to abide by laws.

What could imaginably be more perverse, counterproductive, and discriminatory than that?

Dino Drudi  
Alexandria

## OPINION

# Harnessing All That Energy

BY MARION BRUNKEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER  
ALEXANDRIA

**W**ell, something's happening and it's got people's passion stirring! The good people of Alexandria have always rallied to the call to help others, and we are a much better place because of them. Our community has had an ongoing need for volunteers to step forward and lend a hand to those needing help, and people have always responded. But I'll tell you this. Lately, there has been a new spirit rising, a new restless energy flowing, a new interest in doing good. Many women and men are broadening their civic interests by contributing to their fellow humans in a different way. There's a keen interest in wanting to help women's causes, immigrant families who live among us, the LGBTQ community, an interest in the environment, and a desire for equality and fairness for all. It will take each of us, in some personal way, doing what we can to make things better. Together, we bring a wealth of knowledge, talent, skills, experience and time. As we like to say at Volunteer Alexandria, we are better together.

I know from my own experience in volunteer management that most folks would like to make social change happen, make a



difference, and be engaged, but just don't know where to begin. Can anyone serve, and how can one become involved? Suppose a fellow prefers to work alone. Can he find a place? How can one find the terms of commitment? Can groups work together? Can schools and businesses be involved? What first step should I take to get started? There's where we come in. Volunteer Alexandria matches people who want to be involved with organizations that need help. Visit our website ([www.VolunteerAlexandria.org](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org)) and peruse the many opportunities and causes posted.

You can also start with our city-wide Spring for Alexandria Community Service Day presented by Volunteer Alexandria and the City of Alexandria on Friday, May 12 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Teams are formed and will be assigned to one of the many activities throughout the city. It's a fun way to be part of a team and a good way to get started. If you're game to try, you can visit [2017springforalexandria.kintera.org](http://2017springforalexandria.kintera.org) to register. The funds you raise go toward event expenses including work tools, materials, and a t-shirt.

If you have any questions, call us at 703-836-2176, and one of us at Volunteer Alexandria will be happy to work with you further. Let's take this new energy and join together. No matter how large your help, no matter how small, there is strength in numbers. Better together.

## COMMENTARY

their civic interests by contributing to their fellow humans in a different way. There's a keen interest in wanting to help women's causes, immigrant families who live among us, the LGBTQ community, an interest in the environment, and a desire for equality and fairness for all. It will take each of us, in some personal way, doing what we can to make things better. Together, we bring a wealth of knowledge, talent, skills, experience and time. As we like to say at Volunteer Alexandria, we are better together.

I know from my own experience in volunteer management that most folks would like to make social change happen, make a

# Academic Success

## It's about science, not luck.

BY BROOKE CURRAN

**D**id you know that kids who move more do better in school? It's not just proven by test results, it's proven by scientific research.

Research has shown that physical movement can affect the brain's physiology by increasing cerebral capillary growth, blood flow, neurotransmitter levels and brain tissue volume, just to name a few. Studies show that active kids have better focus, do better academically, have improved behavior and social skills and are more physically fit.

What does this mean for Alexandria's under-served youth, many of which may not have access to programs, playgrounds and activities that give them an outlet for physical activity?

We know that two out of three of our kids don't get the recommended daily activity of 60 minutes a day. We also know that 30 percent of our kids don't pass their third grade tests, an important indicator of future success, and that the most at risk are our underserved students, 36 percent of whom live below the poverty rate and are especially vulnerable to failure.

When we get kids moving and elevating



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Brooke Curran raises monies for children's charities through the nonprofit RunningBrooke Fund.**

their heart rates, we give them a better shot at academic achievement and a better shot at success at school and in life.

By working with the city, other local nonprofits, teachers and extracurricular organizations to combine movement and learning into their plans and curriculum, we begin to give kids what they need to gain the academic advantage that other kids in our community have access to through private programs and sports. By working to raise awareness among educators and community leaders, we empower those already invested in our under-served youth to serve them in an even stronger way.

To find out more about how you can help get kids moving to spark academic learning in the classroom, visit [runningbrooke.org](http://runningbrooke.org).

**EXTRAORDINARY**  
*Alexandria*  
**SPRING EVENTS**

## FEATURING

### Cherry Blossoms Monuments Cruise

March 17-19 & March 25-26

### Water Taxi to National Mall

March 24-April 16 plus weekends starting April 21

### Alexandria Historic Homes & Garden Tour

April 22

### George Washington Parkway Classic

April 23

### Attics & Alleys Historic Tours

Saturdays from May 6-27

### Mercy Street-inspired Experiences

Ongoing, see [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/MercyStreet](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/MercyStreet)

FOR MORE SPRING ACTIVITIES CHECK OUT:

**VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Spring**



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## OPINION

# Congratulations, But What Does ACT Do Again?

BY BETSY MICKLEM

**A**s the new director of development at ACT for Alexandria, I was excited to begin sharing the news with my friends about my new job and this fantastic organization. As I shared about ACT, I received some version of the same reaction — first excitement for me and a positive impression of ACT, but then quickly followed by some confusion. Often they would say something like “oh I love ACT!” or “ACT is a great organization.” But invariably it was then followed up with “what is it they do again?” or “are they the theatre group/drug rehab/preschool ... fill in the blank?” It was clear to me that ACT for Alexandria needed to help everyone not only know our name, but also know more about what we do.

ACT for Alexandria was founded in 2004 to honor the legacy of Norma L. Steuerle, a long-time Alexandria resident who was committed to improving the lives of others. After she died on Sept. 11, when her plane hit the Pentagon, Norma’s family chose to keep her memory and philanthropy alive by helping to launch the Alexandria Community Trust, now known as ACT for Alexandria. In the last 12 years, ACT has awarded more than \$10 million in charitable grants from our donor advised funds, and almost



\$5 million in additional charitable dollars supporting capacity building grants for local nonprofits, grants and prizes for Spring2ACTION, and the creation of the Center for Alexandria’s Children. As our President and CEO

John L. Porter likes to say, “we don’t feed the hungry or house the homeless, but we do help the organizations that do that to be able to do it better.” It is a people business and it takes all of us to have this sort of impact.

Now that you know some of the numbers, let’s talk about what it really means.

As Alexandria’s community foundation, our primary goal is to keep charitable dollars at work right here in Alexandria. How we do this is wide ranging and may explain some of the confusion about who we are and what we do. First, ACT helps strengthen individual nonprofits and the sector as a whole through capacity building grants and activities and by encouraging and facilitating collaboration with other nonprofits and local government agencies. Second, we work with donors, many of whom set up donor advised funds with us, to help donate to causes they care about both here locally, but also around the country and the world. We also engage businesses in supporting our work and the work of our nonprofit partners. We are grate-

## COMMENTARY

ful for a number of incredibly generous corporate partners including Alexandria Restaurant Partners, Grant Thornton and Sotheby’s. But ACT does even more than that.

ACT hosts Spring2ACTION, Alexandria’s Giving Day, and last year this event raised \$1.3 million in 24 hours for 152 Alexandria nonprofits. All of the money raised supported local organizations benefitting Alexandria causes. In addition to hosting this online event, dozens of local businesses either sponsored this event and/or donated a percentage of sales to nonprofits and individuals provided more than \$200,000 in matching grants which only fueled the gen-

erosity. Spring2ACTION is the only city-wide giving event in our region. This year’s Spring2ACTION event will be on Wednesday, April 5. Check out [www.spring2action.org](http://www.spring2action.org) and start thinking about the nonprofits you would like to support.

ACT for Alexandria turns ideas into action and resources into results. ACT is Alexandria and the people who live and give here. So next time you hear about ACT for Alexandria maybe it will make just a little more sense and maybe you might want to get involved too. If you want to know more, please stop by our new offices at 201 King St., Suite 200 in Old Town Alexandria or visit us online at [www.actforalexandria.org](http://www.actforalexandria.org).

## GOP Lieutenant Governor Candidates To Debate in Arlington

The Republican Women of Northern Virginia will host a Republican Lieutenant Governor debate on Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m. at the Army Navy Country Club, in Arlington. The three candidates, Del. Glenn Davis, Sen. Jill Vogel and Sen. Bryce Reeves, will participate in the debate. Co-moderator of the debate is Thomas McDevitt, chairman of The Washington Times.

Individual tickets are \$12. High school

and college student tickets are \$6. RSVP at [www.cliftongop.com/onlinepayments](http://www.cliftongop.com/onlinepayments).

Davis represents the 84th House District, Virginia Beach. Vogel represents the 27th Senate District, Winchester and Frederick, Clarke and Fauquier counties as well as parts of Loudoun, Culpeper and Stafford counties. Reeves represents the 17th Senate District, Fredericksburg, Orange County, parts of Spotsylvania, Culpeper, Albemarle and Louisa counties.

## Greetings! from Sugar Shack

It was a little over two years ago that I brought Sugar Shack Donuts & Coffee to the DMV. I want to thank this community for believing in us. We still believe that great hand crafted donuts and coffee that benefit our community is a pretty cool business.

We craft the products we make for you by hand. This does take extra labor and time, but it's worth it. We don't have machines to turn on and spit out donuts. We don't have buckets of pre-made glaze. Our coffee comes from Zeke's, based in Baltimore. We don't use automated machines to make your espressos or lattes when you come in to start your day. Our manual machines make better coffee.

We appreciate that you prefer our hand-crafted community goodness. We are here for you, whether you're the hero bringing donuts to the game, office party or a friend's house;

a family making a special pilgrimage to spend some quality time with your children; a daily coffee drinker, or; the person who comes in after their workout looking to recharge.

Thank you for recognizing our staff's great work. We continue to hire staff from our community and believe in giving people a second chance to get ahead. We're proud that many of our staff have been with us since the beginning and that they know a lot of you by name.

This year, in addition to our stores in Alexandria (804 North Henry) and Arlington (1014 S. Glebe Road, at the intersection of Columbia Pike), we are opening a new shop in Northwest DC near the intersection of 9th and U. We're also evaluating a fourth store in the region for the Fall.

We continue to believe high quality products that help the community is good business. So instead of investing a ton in marketing, we give to local charities, schools, the military, and many other organizations.

You can even buy our “Donut4Good” cards to reward people in the city that are doing great things. I know a local mom that buys these cards and gives them to her kids to give out. It reminds them how important it is to be grateful.

Lastly, many of you try to call the store to place orders and can't get through because of the volume of customers. We are happy to announce that we have a new system. You can now go online to [www.sugarshackdmv.com](http://www.sugarshackdmv.com) and place orders. We'll call you with any questions and will email you an invoice. For parties, weddings, office events, we hope this makes things easier for you.

*Thank you,  
Rob Kupicka (Owner)*

P.S. Bring this letter into one of our stores for a free donut - If you follow our stores on Facebook, you can learn how to earn a free donut daily.



ALEXANDRIA: 804 N HENRY ST  
ARLINGTON: 1014 S GLEBE RD  
DC: 1932 9TH ST NW (OPEN SPRING 2017)



@SugarShackDMV

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Local Filmmakers at Bethesda Film Fest

Films include art of painting with wax, history of collard greens, and a doctor walking the line of his own morality.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

The fifth-annual Bethesda Film Fest will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 17-18, and will feature five short documentaries made by local filmmakers. The same five documentary films will be shown at each of three screenings, which feature filmmakers from Virginia, Maryland or Washington, D.C., and each screening is followed by a discussion with the filmmakers. They will be held at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., in downtown Bethesda. The cost is \$10.

The films, which are under 20 minutes each, include: "Charlie & Sam" by Ben Powell and Taylor Powell of Falls Church; "The Culture of Collards" by Vanina Harel of Washington, D.C., and Aditi Desai of Arlington; "Encaustic" by Joe Dzikiewicz of Alexandria and Jaclyn O'Laughlin of Arlington; "Frogman" by Tyler Trumbo of Richmond; and "The Sandman" by Lauren Knapp of Alexandria.

Filmmaker Jaclyn O'Laughlin of Arlington created the five-minute film, "Encaustic," with Joe Dzikiewicz of Alexandria about a small community of artists that practice the ancient art of encaustic painting, which is painting with melted wax. This art form dates back to the Egyptian times

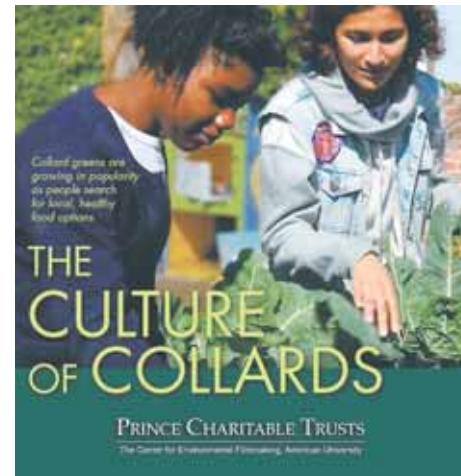
and had a resurgence in the 1950s with artist Jasper Johns.

"My filmmaking partner Joe and I competed in a timed competition through Docs In Progress in Silver Spring, Md., and we only had two days to make our documentary. It was challenging to find a subject matter for our film within a tight timeframe and individuals who would agree to be interviewed on such short notice," said O'Laughlin.

"The stars really aligned for us and we found some amazing encaustic artists who agreed to be filmed, and the subject matter was also visually appealing and really perfect for a five-minute film," she said.

Dzikiewicz added: "The big challenge in making this film was filming four interviews and B-roll or background shots on Friday and Saturday and then doing all the editing on Sunday."

Lauren Knapp of Alexandria made the 19-minute film, "The Sandman," which explores the issue of capital punishment from the perspective of medicine. She said at the center of the film is Dr. Carlo Musso, who has been helping the state of Georgia execute inmates by lethal injection since 2003, adding that the medical community strongly opposes the use of medicine for executions. Yet, she says, most states practicing lethal injection require a physician presence. In exchange, they offer a cloak of anonymity.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED  
**"The Culture of Collards" by Vanina Harel of Washington, D.C., and Aditi Desai of Arlington.**

Her film explores Musso's own moral equivocation and justification for providing "end of life care" within the correctional environment, while personally opposing capital punishment.

"Because of the controversial nature of the job, most participating health care professionals remain anonymous," she said. "And so it was difficult to find the names of individuals participating — let alone someone interested in actually talking with me."

Vanina Harel of Washington, D.C., made the nine-minute film, "The Culture of Collards," with Aditi Desai of Arlington about collards greens, which were brought to the American South with the slave trade, and represent a critical aspect of African-American cultural history.

"This project was particularly interesting



**"Encaustic" by Jaclyn O'Laughlin of Arlington and Joe Dzikiewicz of Alexandria.**



**"The Sandman" by Lauren Knapp of Alexandria.**

because it combined the topics of food security, sustainable farming, and culture. We also had three different locations and characters with different activities," she said. "The biggest challenge was to figure out how to intertwine the three in a successful way in such a short amount of time."



The hours of the Bethesda Film Fest are at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 17; and at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 18. It is produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. For details, visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

##### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery.

Through March 19 at Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Cosmic Sights and Sounds, comes as the winter night sky's grand collection of brilliant stars begins to give way to the vernal equinox. This show will also highlight the work of featured artists Carol Bodin, Mickey Kunkle, and Lynda Prieleau. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Goldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of

Alexandria's history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtnvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtnvernon/) or call 703-768-3224 for more.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 16

**Chamber After Hours.** 5:30-7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St. Networking event. Members \$10, non-members \$25, members at the door \$25. Visit [www.alexchamber.com/](http://www.alexchamber.com/) for more.

**Author Claudia Kalb.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. An award-winning journalist will deliver "Inside the Minds of History's Great Personalities with a French Twist" talk and have her latest book, the New York Times bestseller "Andy Warhol was a Hoarder." \$5. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

**Vanessa Carlton in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Part of a 20-date solo tour. \$110. Visit [birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 17

**Spring Garden Kickoff.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603

Green Spring Road. Learn tips for the lawn and garden from Master Gardeners including best practices for selecting plants and starting seedlings. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakess](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakess) using code 2901896101 or call 703-642-5173 for more.

**Opening Reception.** 6:30-9 p.m. at the Principle Gallery, 208 King St. For Principle Gallery with Kevin Fitzgerald. Visit [www.principlegallery.com/alexandria](http://www.principlegallery.com/alexandria) for more.

**St. Patrick's Day Free Rides.** Free Lyft rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Alexandria. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com) for more.

#### MARCH 17-19

**Cherry Blossom Monuments Cruise.** Departing at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. from the waterfront at Cameron and Union streets. View and listen to the history of the monuments, memorials and bridges on the Potomac River and see the cherry blossoms. \$30 round-trip for adults on weekends; \$17 roundtrip for adults on weekdays; \$16 round-trip for children under 12 on weekends; \$10 round-trip for children under 12 on weekdays. Visit [www.AlexandriaVA.com/spring](http://www.AlexandriaVA.com/spring) or call 703-684-0580 for more.

#### MARCH 17-18

**Local Documentaries.** Screenings at

various times at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Local filmmakers include Ben Powell and Taylor Powell, Falls Church, with film "Charlie & Sam," Vanina Harel and Aditi Desai, Arlington, with film "The Culture of Collards," Joe Dzikiewicz and Jaclyn O'Laughlin from Arlington and Alexandria with film "Encaustic," and Lauren Knapp of Alexandria, with "The Sandman." \$10. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or call 301-215-6660 for more.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 18

**Advocacy Workshop.** 1-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to effectively use the voice to create change by speaking up for the environment. Visit [audubonva.org/contact-stacey](http://audubonva.org/contact-stacey) for more information.

##### Author Discusses Historic Furniture.

2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Hal Stuart, author of Virginia Sectional Furniture 1800-1860, compares two of 19<sup>th</sup> century Virginia's most successful furniture makers — James Green of Alexandria and African-American entrepreneur Thomas Day. \$5 in advance, \$7 the day of the program. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

**Silent Auction.** 5:30-8 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Benefit for the Alexandria Symphony. Reception and silent auction at 6 p.m., dinner, dancing

and auction at 8 p.m. Call 703-888-0367 or email [annarussi@live.com](mailto:annarussi@live.com) for more.

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincoln Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association is sponsoring the dance. \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call 703-860-4941.

**Tom Rush in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$45. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

#### MARCH 18-19

**Women of Civil War Alexandria Tour.** 11 a.m. Tour starts at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Presented by the National Women's History Museum. \$15. Call 703-461-1920 or visit [www.nwhm.org/get-involved/events/walking-tours](http://www.nwhm.org/get-involved/events/walking-tours).

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 19

**Understanding America in the Trump Era.** 10 a.m.-noon at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. This event features Robert Siegel senior correspondent and host of "All Things Considered," and Dante Chinni, journalist and author. Call 703-370-9400 for more.

#### DEADLINE MARCH 19

**2017 Open Exhibition.** At the Torpedo Factory, 201 N. Union St.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Pipeline Playwrights' Next Reading

### "The Men My Mother Loved" at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

Pipeline Playwrights will present its next reading of the world premiere play, "The Men My Mother Loved," by Soo-Jin Lee on Monday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria. In the play, a vacation to Korea turns a mother-daughter relationship into an exploration of why it's worth reuniting with ex-boyfriends. Through family, food, and former lovers, Jang-Mi, a 54-year-old Korean immigrant woman, drags her Korean American daughter, Sun Young, through life's most important lessons — who to love, how to love, who to kiss, and who to marry.

"This is a tale about your average immigrant mother who wants to teach her Korean-American daughter life lessons about love and marriage," said playwright Soo-Jin Lee, who spent eight years working on the play. "It is culturally specific but my hope as a playwright is to expose and reinforce to those already familiar with this, that even



Soo-Jin Lee

even worship herself. "Because most of our present world is still a patriarchal society, women are stereotypically seen as the weaker half, the nurturers, or the martyrs," she said. As a 54-year-old, the mother in the story is empowered in the affairs of love and relationships, she said. "She is trying to pass this baton of fierceness and fearlessness to love to her daughter, but how willing is the daughter to listen and learn from her mother's past?"

Lee said she wants people to walk away from the play learning something or feeling something new for the Korean immigrant/Korean American experience. "Some audience members may know the culture intimately because they were raised in it. Others may hardly know anything about it," she said.

though we may speak different languages and were possibly raised in different cultures, human relationships are eerily the same."

She wanted to show how one mother uses men as a vehicle to admire and possibly

The reading will be directed by Flordelino Lagundino and will feature these Asian-American actors: Tuyet Pham, Regina Aquino Smith, Jennifer Knight, Stan Kang, Steve Lee, Al Twanmo, and Amy Hard.

Lagundino said he's hoping that audiences go away having laughed, and nodded in agreement that they see something about themselves in the play. "This is whether you come from an Asian-American background or from whatever ethnicity you identify as. Soo-Jin's play is a story about family and love and how we find ourselves when we are put in unfamiliar situations. It is about self-discovery, and the importance of following your own path," he said.

Kang plays Kyung Tae, the mayor of Koje Island and one of the men that Jang Mi loved. "She is the one who got away and he still loves her despite all of the time distance between them," he said. One of his challenges was to try to make Kyung Tae remain a sympathetic character despite his infidelity to his wife, he added.

Smith plays the role of Jang Mi, who is both a matriarch and a young woman as the story is told from different places in time through her life. "She's a life-force that is full of love yet still longing for something more and has been since the day she was born," she said.

"The biggest challenge is being true to the

character regardless of what age she is in any given scene," she said. "The heart of Jang Min is always the same, but her objectives and understanding of the world around her changes from scene to scene. So, the key is finding that heart and letting it drive her actions."

Hard plays the role of Sun Young, the daughter who gets the opportunity to travel with mom back to Korea for a mix of fun and obligation. "She is a young Korean-American woman dealing with her own questions regarding tradition, expectations, loyalty, privacy, culture — and how they shape (intentionally, naturally, accidentally) her relationships," she said.

She said the show will have Asian-Americans connecting on many levels — "what we share, what we disagree with, what makes us so different," she said. "I hope it makes people question, laugh, talk to family in a deeper way — or respect why they cannot, and gasp at Soo-Jin's vulnerable and raw honesty in sharing her story."

The first reading of "The Men My Mother Loved" by Soo-Jin Lee will be held on Monday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. After the reading, enjoy Korean food and refreshments and informal conversation with the playwright and actors. See [www.facebook.com/events/247702042346106/](http://www.facebook.com/events/247702042346106/).



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Open daily 10 - 6 pm • Thursdays until 9 pm

The Torpedo Factory Art Center is managed by the City of Alexandria Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.



Alexandria Gazette Packet

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Blending Entertainment with Dinner

By HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**his week's cold snap may have shaken most of the cherry blossoms loose, but the month-long celebration of the United States' friendship with Japan continues apace. Beginning March 15, the National Park Service's Cherry Blossom Festival launched to celebrate all things Japanese. Here are three Japanese steakhouses to visit for a celebratory taste — and with the right grill master, a great show with dinner.

### Sumo, 2016 Eisenhower Ave.

It's easy to speed past Sumo, tucked in the middle of a strip of restaurants across from the Patent and Trademark Office. But come dinnertime, take a few minutes to pull in and grab a seat at one of the restaurant's hibachi tables — you'll be glad you did.

The menu sports a plethora of hibachi entrees, ranging from a vegetable-only meal to a "lover's dinner for two" with steak, chicken, lobster and shrimp. Between these extremes await two dozen choices based on your taste (and budget) for the evening. No matter your selection, you'll be treated to soup, salad, and a shrimp appetizer, as well as fried rice and noodles with your meal. Bottom line: Bring your appetite; there's a lot of food to consume, and it's all worthy of your time.

### Tokyo Japanese Steak House, 66 Canal Center Plaza

Tokyo Japanese Steak House — or "TJSH" on much of its branding — wins the award for Most Hidden

### CALENDAR

Open call for proposals for a solo exhibition in the summer of 2017. The individual or group associated with the chosen proposal will receive a solo exhibition in Target Gallery from July 13–Sept. 3. The artist(s) will also receive a \$1,000 stipend. Call 703-746-4590 or visit [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target) for more.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 21

**Megan Beyer Lecture.** 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Discussion with Megan Beyer, an arts and gender equality advocate, and journalist. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Documenting 20th Century Lives.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Historian Zack Wilske talks about historical records available through the Genealogy Program of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Archives. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org) or call 703-768-4101.

### MARCH 21-26

**Spring Book Sale.** 4-8:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books and audio-visual items. All genres. \$1 day on Sunday, March 26. Visit [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org) or call 703-746-1702 for more.



**Tucked away facing the Potomac River, Tokyo Japanese Steak House is a hidden gem.**

### Samurai Hibachi and Sushi Bar, 4603 Duke St.

Residents of Cameron Station or Alexandria's West End needn't venture all the way to Old Town to get their hibachi fix. Located in the Shops of Foxchase, Samurai Hibachi hits the spot quite nicely. With an array of hibachi tables and an extensive teppanyaki menu, you're sure to find both a seat and a good meal.

Especially of note are Samurai's lunch specials, which ring in from \$9 (vegetable) to \$15 (steak and shrimp). Since visiting a hibachi is entertainment with a meal, the prices can tend to hike up, but taking advantage of the lunchtime offering will bring the budget back down to baseline.

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

### MARCH 21-APRIL 23

#### 3-Dimensional Views Artshow.

Various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will also highlight the work of three featured artists: Emma Bednar, Gayle Roehm, and Emma Thompson. Free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935 for more.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 22

**WWI Airman Experiences.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "Lecture-A Great War Veteran with a Love of History," focusing on Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer, an airman of the Great War. Free for Alexandria Historical Society members, \$5 for non-members. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-746-4994 for more.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 23

**Greendale Women's Golf League.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Lansdowne Centre Drive. The Greendale Women's Golf Association is an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings at the Greendale Golf Course on Telegraph Road. The league is open to experienced golfers of all abilities. Join the information session to discuss the upcoming golf season. Call 703-399-6496 or visit [gwg1.wordpress.com](http://gwg1.wordpress.com) for more.

**Kasey Chambers in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt.

Restaurant in Alexandria by far. Tucked away on the first floor of Canal Center, facing the Potomac River, you've got to know of this hibachi's existence to ever stumble upon it. But take the time to venture to this more corporate corner of Old Town — good things await you.

Like many of its competitors, TJSH has a non-hibachi menu filled with teriyaki and the like, it's best to scan right down to the teppanyaki section and choose from an array of entrees to be cooked right in front of you. From chicken and shrimp to steak and lobster, scallops to a vegetarian option, you'll find a great many options to choose from. And a trip to Tokyo Japanese can easily be a family affair; the restaurant has several choices on its kids' menu for younger diners.

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## NEWS

# Death or Resurrection?

FROM PAGE 1  
ment ...”

The \$4.3 million in the supplemental CIP would bring the city's total investment to \$8.4 million; Resurrection's plan includes 113 apartments priced at 40-60 percent of the area median income. The city's contribution works out to \$74,300 per unit. That's on par with or higher than what it has spent recently on comparable projects, says the Office of Housing.

But Resurrection may represent a longer-term bargain.

[T]he Beauregard Plan builds [transit] infrastructure first and then deals with the housing,” said Helen McIlvaine of the Office of Housing. “So we would be spending money in the future — and probably spending more money — to create affordability, or to buy units from developers. ... [T]he opportunity to actually be creating affordable housing resources ahead of that redevelopment is pretty great. ... [I]t wouldn't have happened without a partner like the church that was willing to say, ‘We'll look at this use [for our land].’ ... They probably could have had lots of other suitors and plans, so the fact that they're ... helping this to happen is remarkable.”

Resurrection's “bold idea” began in 2012 with its search for a new pastor. To call the right person, they wanted to clarify their vision for the future. At that time the congregation “felt old and tired,” said Belser, whom they ended up hiring. They projected a deficit amounting to about a third of a typical annual budget. The congregation brainstormed 21 ideas about how to survive. Most had to do with internal cuts or consolidation. But one idea stood out. Why not leverage the value of the property to build some affordable housing? The proceeds could help stabilize the church's finances, while at the same time advancing its historic commitment to social justice.

When the idea came to its first congregational vote, it passed with 96 percent approval. “[T]hat 96 percent of a congregation would agree about anything is a rarity. I had less unanimity about the color of the carpet in the church,” said Belser. At first, the congregation “glommed on to the idea that ... we would get a lot of money out of it and the money would save us.” But eventually the dominant narrative shifted to community-oriented “mission.” Even after sale price expectations shrank, the bold idea passed a second vote with 86 percent approval.

The focus on mission in turn reinvigorated congregational life, said parishioners Betsy Faga and Kat Turner. They serve together on the church's ad hoc redevelopment committee. More people started attending and getting involved in outreach ministries, and outreach ministries multiplied.

“[W]hat I think is the crux of the story from our perspective is that it started out as ... ‘How can we save ourselves?’ And along the way it became, ‘What can we do for our community?’ And by doing that, by changing that focus, we've managed to save ourselves,” said Turner.

Still, the congregation is aware of what it has sacrificed. Some of the cost is measured in personal terms. The present church facility has been around for 52 years, and many people are emotionally connected to it.

Some of the cost is measured in terms of ministries. Three other congregations — a Spanish-speaking Pentecostal group, an English-speaking Pentecostal group, and an Ethiopian Evangelical group — use Resurrection's building. The church is also one of three distribution points for ALIVE's Last Saturday Food Distribution program. Resurrection will not be able to continue these activities due to lack of space in its new facilities.

Some of the cost is measured in dollars. One option presented to the church included “a smaller affordable building of 70-80 units and a strip of about 14 market rate townhomes,” said Turner in an email. Because of the more lucrative townhomes, this configuration could have fetched on the order of \$6.9 million. But the church chose to maximize affordable housing rather than value, setting a target of no fewer than 100 units. For its current proposal of 113 all affordable units, the church would get \$4.1 million for a 65-year lease of its land. The money would buy a smaller, mortgage-free, and less maintenance-burdened church facility adjacent to the apartment complex and a new parking access road.

\$4.1 million is the bottom limit. In a letter, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Richmond — the clerical authority who ultimately owns the land and approves any deal — applauds the congregation's commitment. Though he worries that any lower price poses too great a risk to the future of the church and its ministry.

The church has also invested \$20,000 so far in unrecoverable costs. “[T]hese figures would have been higher except that we have benefited from a number of pro bono and low bono arrangements with fellow Episcopalians who support our project,” said Turner in an email.

Overall, Belser has “no complaints about the city.” She acknowledges the city's commitment despite design setbacks and delays. “The city wants to provide affordable housing. And if our project's worthy of that ... they're going to do what they can .... Now, they've got a lot of other things that are competing against that, and they're going to have to figure that out.”

# Paint by Numbers

FROM PAGE 1

the artists. Under the TFAA, McClain said the Torpedo Factory was run more like a co-op. Looking back, she said it was clear the Torpedo Factory needed a more professional management structure, but she doesn't believe the city can provide that. McClain pointed to the difficulties artists have had putting their art on display in hallways and a turbulent process of turning over cleaning crews to being city-managed.

Many artists in the Torpedo Factory share McClain's views, but it is far from unanimous.

“In my book, it's been going OK,” said Marcos Teixeira, a jeweler on the second floor of the building. “I know the TFAA wants control but, but I think any judgement of the city is hasty. It's only been six months. I haven't had any issues.”

“Management under the city has been an improvement,” said Rosemary Feit Covey, an artist at the Torpedo Factory and formerly a member of the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board, the organization that managed the Torpedo Factory before the city takeover. “Personally, I'm grateful and I think the city understands our value. This has been a positive transition. They've been supportive for me as an artist. I've been able to do projects overseas, that's been a big change.”

**FOR MANY**, very little seems to have changed over the last few months.

“I haven't seen much difference,” said Susan Makara. “It's been pretty consistent. I have not seen a problem, things have been going pretty good. Sales are fine. I don't see what the problem is.”

“There's a lot of sides to this,” said Jennifer Brewer Stone. “We want good management, and I think there's good happening right now. I like being here. I'm comfortable in my space and I don't anticipate that much from the city or the TFAA will infringe on that. We have a lot of opportunity for growth.”

Stone said there have been a few issues since the city took over management, namely the firing of longtime cleaning staff, but mostly Stone says Diane Ruggiero, deputy director for the Office of the Arts, has done an admirable job in overwhelming circumstances.

“The overall goal is finding a means of working together,” said Karen Fitzgerald, “We want to continue to have a voice and want the TFAA to continue running the space. They've been the ones bringing in revenue and taking care of events. They have the artists in mind.”

For Fitzgerald, the uncertainty of the Torpedo Factory's future is what's most worrying.

“I think everyone is a little scared of change,” said Fitzgerald. “Artists here are on edge to see where we land, but I'm optimistic we'll find a solution that fits everybody.”

Wherever they fell on the politics of Torpedo Factory management, many of the artists shared Fitzgerald's anxiety about the future.

“I would love to see the artists get back control,” said Laurie Fields. “I hate this feeling of being in limbo.”

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# Practice Makes Perfect

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**hen Linda Gulyn's son reached high school age and asked to quit his clarinet lessons, the Arlington mother of four declined his request.

"My son Timmy is an excellent clarinet player. The philosophy I've established in my house is that music is part of your overall education like science or math, so you can't just quit," said Gulyn, saxophonist, former music teacher and professor of psychology at Marymount University.

During the month of March, which is designated at Music in our Schools Month, educators highlight the benefits of quality music education programs. Part of a music education is practice, encouraging that in children can be daunting for some parents.

For children who play a musical instrument, regular practice is not only a path toward proficiency, it helps establish discipline that is useful in other areas of one life's.

This habit, however, must be established purposefully says John Kilkenny, assistant professor of music at George Mason University. "Treat practice time like a part of

child's daily routine," he said. "They have to have a consistent time for practice. For example, they come home from school each day, have a snack and practice for 30 minutes."

One key to keeping children motivated to practice is setting goals, be they long-term or for the current practice session.

"Goal-oriented practice for younger kids, like a recital to work toward, for example is a good motivator," said Kilkenny. "The biggest thing is consistency, practicing at or near the same time every day just like everything else they do so that it becomes part of their routine."

For practice sessions to be effective, they must be organized and purposeful. This is another area where goal setting can be useful says, Ann McCoy, who teaches piano and violin in her Bethesda, Md. home. "Maybe a goal for a child who is working on a particularly dif-

ficult piece of music could be to spend their practice time perfecting three or four measures," she said. "Rather than focusing on practicing for a set amount of time, they could practice until they can play the three measures perfectly and then they're finished for the day. That is more effective than saying sitting for 30 minutes without accomplishing something specific."

Adding a light-hearted element to practice, which can be seen by some children as laborious, also encourages students to practice. "There should be some sense that playing the instrument is supposed to be fun and students should... have some flexibility beyond a rigid experience,"

said Kilkenny. "It shouldn't feel like it's a negative experience."

For parents who have trouble getting a child to start a practice session, McCoy recommends trying different times of the day.

Local educators share strategies for getting children to practice music.

**"Treat practice time like a part of a child's daily routine. They have a consistent time for practice."**

— John Kilkenny,  
George Mason University

"For example, I had one mother who had screaming matches with her children to get them to practice after they'd finished their homework in the evening," she said. "She changed their practice time to the mornings after breakfast, but before they left for school. That made a huge difference in their willingness to practice because they were rested and in a better mood."

Parents should be realistic about their child's temperament and musical talent said Gulyn.

"A child is only going to enjoy playing an instrument if they're good at it and parents have to be realistic about that," said Gulyn. "Music isn't easy for everyone."

Choosing a teacher who is a good fit for one's child can have an effect on their desire to practice. "Ask around for recommendations, but find a teacher who inspires their students," said Gulyn.

"It's important to make sure the teacher is somebody who is credentialed and has degrees in music and also that they're continuing to be engaged professionally as teachers and performers," added Kilkenny. "Usually in terms of choosing a teacher, parents and children should have an opportunity to try a sample private lesson."

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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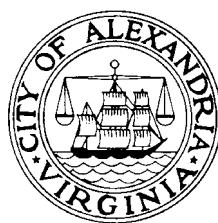


**Sunday:**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am  
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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed \$1.13, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 4, 2017.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. Assessment Increase: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 1.77 percent.

2. Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment: The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$1.054 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."

3. Effective Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be \$0.076 per \$100, or a 7.17 percent increase. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase." Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year's by 2.5 percent.

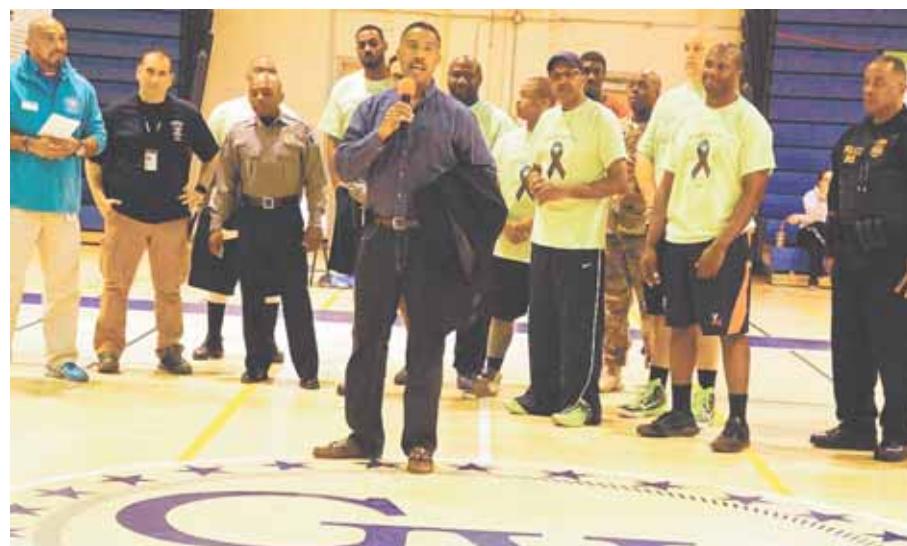
5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier I Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

A public hearing on the effective increase will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., at the City Council Chamber of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

All persons wishing to speak to this issue may contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council located on the second floor, Room 2300, City Hall, or may appear and be heard after completing a Speakers form before Council.

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements, or who require language translation services to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703-746-4550. We request that you provide a 5 day notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

## NEWS



**The March 11 event aims to build community relations with the police and other jurisdictions. Councilman Willie F. Bailey, Sr., stands before Alexandria players and the people involved in putting together the family event.**

PHOTO BY RONALD STARKS EL

## Bonding in Alexandria

**Unity Basketball brings police and "return" citizens together.**

BY RIKKI GEORGE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**P**eople of all walks of life ate together, prayed together and played together on March 11 at George Washington Middle School. The inaugural Community & Police event was part of a jurisdiction-wide Unity Basketball Tournament and brunch during Truth and Reconciliation Month.

Alexandria police and return citizens, or those with a judicial sentence, faced off first in two games of basketball with their respective counterparts from Prince George's County. A third game between Homeland Security Police and D.C. Firefighters followed.

Fans were into it. "I see a turnover," shouted one spectator. "Keep 'em in line PG," yelled another.

Everyone played with intensity — especially the young return citizens who for the majority of their game were neck-and-neck until the very last ticking-away second. That's when #11 Walter Smith threw a long shot for a 62-60 Alexandria victory.

Actually, the first annual Community & Police event was a win-win for everyone. "We see major payback

dividends," said Nicholas Ruggiero of the Alexandria Community Policing Unit. Events like these break down barriers. Seeing officers in civilian clothes, youth are more apt to report crimes, he said.

"Stigmas exist on both sides. This is an attempt to help relations," said Jack Kemp Foundation outreach leader Ronald Moten, who conceived of the Community & Police event. "We are turning people's lives around."

Delonta Badie, a player on the Return Citizens team, agreed. "It's good to bring people together." Badie now works in Alexandria.

Many supported Saturday's event, including the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Councilman Willie F. Bailey, Sr., and Pastor Lou G. Whiting of My Father's House Christian Church International, who led a prayer circle. Miles Rawls of the Goodman League made play-by-play commentary.

"This event is the culmination of humanity, said McArthur Myers, Alexandria community activist. "The police and return citizens are coming together for one accord. They took different paths but came together to express commonalities as human beings, irrespective of mistakes and vocations."

For more on Truth and Reconciliation events, including an All Star game in Prince George's County on April 1, semi-finals on April 8 and the final championship (date to be determined), contact Ronald Moten at 202-848-4394 or Info@Jackkempfoundation.org.



PHOTO BY TIM FISHER, JACK KEMP FOUNDATION

**Pastor Lou G. Whiting of My Father's House Christian Church International, located at 4746 Eisenhower Ave., blesses players and participants at the Alexandria Community & Police event during Truth and Reconciliation Month.**

# CLASSIFIED

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

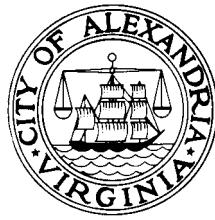
OBITUARY



**Mrs. Mary "Jean" Baker (Wade)** passed away peacefully at ManorCare in Alexandria, VA, on Monday, March 6, 2017, at the age of 85. She is preceded in death by her husband, Edward Baker, also of Alexandria, and her brother, Walter L. Wade, of CA. Jean is survived by her brother, Richard S. "Dick" Wade and his wife, Margaret "Betty" Wade of Manassas, VA, as well as two nieces, Ann Hornsby of CA, and Wanda Keith of FL, and two nephews, Richard E. Wade and Jonathan O. Wade of Manassas, VA. Jean was born on August 28, 1931, in Alexandria, VA, to Calvin and Mary Wade. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School. Jean worked as the Administrative Assistant to the General at Fort Belvoir for the US Army. Jean was a long time resident of the Mt. Vernon area in Fairfax County. She was an excellent communicator and writer. She enjoyed writing letters to her family and friends. A graveside service is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2017, at 10:00 AM. The Reverend Thomas A. Castle will officiate the ceremony at Pohick Episcopal Church in Lorton, VA. Friends are invited to attend and celebrate Jean's life with her family. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in her memory to Pohick Episcopal Church.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the Alexandria City Public Schools for fiscal year 2017.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the Alexandria City Public Schools in fiscal year 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 2-4-116 of Article P (Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS) of Chapter 4 (Committees, Boards and Commissions) of Title 2 (General Government) of the City of Alexandria Code.

The proposed ordinance would remove members from entities that no longer exist or work on HIV/AIDS issues in Northern Virginia, as well as adding more at-large citizen members to the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 9-301 (REVIEW REQUIRED) under Section 9-300 (SIGNS WITHIN THE OLD AND HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA, PARKER-GRAY AND 100 YEAR OLD BUILDING DISTRICT) of Article IX (SIGNS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2016-0008.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2016-0008 to update and revise sign regulations in historic districts.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday.

JACKIEM. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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-Elizabeth Barret Browning

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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NEWS

## City Budget

FROM PAGE 1

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), or 3.5 percent above the current funding. This falls short of the \$9.6 million requested by Superintendent Alvin Crawley. The Capital Improvement Plan proposed by the School Board proposed that the city fund \$611 million in school capital projects over the next decade, triple the amount ACPS was previously scheduled to receive from the city. The funds are requested for the replacement of the Minnie Howard campus of T.C. Williams High School, construction of a new middle school, and replacement and modernization of five elementary schools. Jinks made it clear in budget presentations that, while the city is not allowed to dictate what projects the schools decide to fund, the strong hint was that the funding was exactly what was needed for a new ninth grade center, a new middle school and eventually a new elementary school. The funding was not, however, enough to fund the \$194 million elementary school replacement and modernization proposed by ACPS. Additional CIP funding for the schools was presented as one of the unfunded supplemental CIP options.

The council made it clear that additional funding must also come with additional oversight and responsibilities.

"I'm supportive of this concept, but I am so tired of conversations we have had over the years with Capital Budget, particularly with the schools," said Councilman Paul Smedberg. "That whole dynamic, that whole relationship, has to change. The way that relationship plays out is not respectful to anybody involved in it. I'm tired of it ... this has to end."

Smedberg proposed an independent blue ribbon panel that have oversight and approval for school projects. The idea had support from the council, but whether a panel emerges or what form it takes remains to be seen.

**THE LONE OPPOSING** vote against the tax rate increase was Mayor Allison Silberberg. Silberberg said she supported Jinks' proposed tax rate increase but not the higher number set by Wilson.

"Jinks' budget was pro-education: proactive yet prudent," said Silberberg. "We can't do all that we want all at once, but this is a huge leap forward for our schools and other priorities ... At a time of great uncertainty, this was a significant tax increase. For the first time ever, we're introducing fees for stormwater as well as sewers that will increase the burden on taxpayers. Sewer rates will go up over time."

Silberberg said that while the budget did not fully fund the School Board's requested levels, it did provide ample funding to meet their needs.

"I believe this increase is too much to ask for our taxpayers to shoulder," said Silberberg. "I have to take a stand and do what I think is best. The budget was prudent and proactive."

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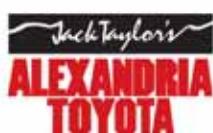
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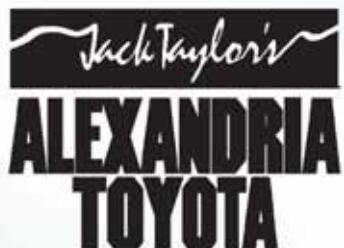
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Pristine 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath end townhouse with views of the river! Large entertaining spaces, rec room with fireplace and wet bar, renovated kitchen and family room which open to the back deck. Beautiful master suite with renovated bath. Lovely front terrace off the living room. Just a short walk to the park and restaurants.

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