

Tale of Three Businesses

Business owners look to future of local commerce.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Retail is struggling, nationally and at a local level. Walking up and down King Street, a new slew of stores close each month. On March 27, accountant John Renner from Renner and Company CPA, Adnan Hamidi, owner of Alexandria Cupcakes, and Rob Krupicka, operator of the Northern Virginia and DC branches of Sugar Shack Donuts, spoke at The Hermitage to discuss the challenges facing businesses in Alexandria.

The event, hosted by Agenda: Alexandria and moderated by Frank Fannon IV, reviewed the issues many local businesses face in the city. With three different stories, the business owners shared one common theme: things are going to have to change for business in Alexandria if the city wants to keep its com-



From left: Frank Fannon IV, John Renner, Rob Krupicka, and Adnan Hamidi.

mercial base alive.

Several of the business owners agreed that one of the biggest hurdles for a new business opening in the area can be the labyrinthian permitting and approval system.

"The city is a maze," said Renner. "You can go down one path and somebody else

comes in and says 'no, that's not right, you have to go this way.'"

The business owners had a variety of experiences with city government. For Krupicka, working through Alexandria's permitting process was the easiest of the local governments he worked with,

SEE CHALLENGES, PAGE 8

New Leader

Peter Balas appointed TC principal.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

For Peter Balas, being appointed to be the new principal of T.C. Williams High School isn't just a new job, it's a homecoming. On March 27, Superintendent Alvin Crawley announced that Balas was appointed as the principal after Principal Dr. Jesse Dingle retires in July.

"I was excited when I found out," said Balas, who started his career in education at TC 15 years ago as a 9th grade social studies teacher. "This is not your traditional high school. It's the largest high school in Virginia. We have some work to do to rees

SEE NEW PRINCIPAL, PAGE 8



Peter Balas

Bacon and Bureaucracy

City and State legislators talk sewage, BIDs, and development over breakfast.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

For the first time in the legislative session, Alexandria is getting a little help from Richmond. A bill from the General Assembly that would have required the city to complete its sewage system reforms by 2027 could be eased to 2030 if Gov. Terry McAuliffe's amendment is approved.

Alexandria has a combined sewer system, so household and business sewage fills the same tanks as rainwater, which flush into the river when they overflow. Because of this, 70 million gallons of raw sewage is estimated to be dumped into the Potomac River by Alexandria each year.

The demand from the state had been a major driving cost in the proposed FY2018 budget and a topic of discussion at every City Council event. At a legislative breakfast hosted by the Chamber

of Commerce on March 27, the sewage system was the first question posed to council members and the legislative representatives.

"We were able to negotiate to a less-bad version of the bill," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin. "We were

able to extend the deadline to just 'nearly impossible': five years ... I don't recall a single locality being targeted this way."

The legislators all said the bill was more about targeting Alexandria than environmental reforms.



From left: State Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charniele Herring and Del. Mark Levine.

"It's politics," said Del. Charniele Herring. "Sometimes it's as simple as someone didn't vote on someone else's bill."

Mayor Allison Silberberg expressed her gratitude to McAuliffe for advocating what the city sees as a more reasonable timeline for sewer system development. Silberberg, describing herself as a lifelong environmentalist, said she agreed that tackling all of the sewer outfalls was the right thing to do and hopes that a longer timeline can help the city accomplish these goals with minimal impact on local residents.

"This issue has been festering," said Silberberg. "The combined sewer dates back to the early 1800s. We are fully committed to getting this done and we will do everything we can to mitigate the impact on citizens. It's the right thing to do and we'll be stronger for it in the end."

Sewage wasn't the only controversy mucking around in Old Town. Another major topic of discussion at a more local level was the proposed Business Improvement District (BID). The proposal would charge an additional tax to

SEE BACON, PAGE 12

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Trail Season

A guide to bike and pedestrian trails throughout Alexandria and beyond.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Strap on those running shoes and pump up those bike tires, spring is here. April 8 is the national launch of trail season.

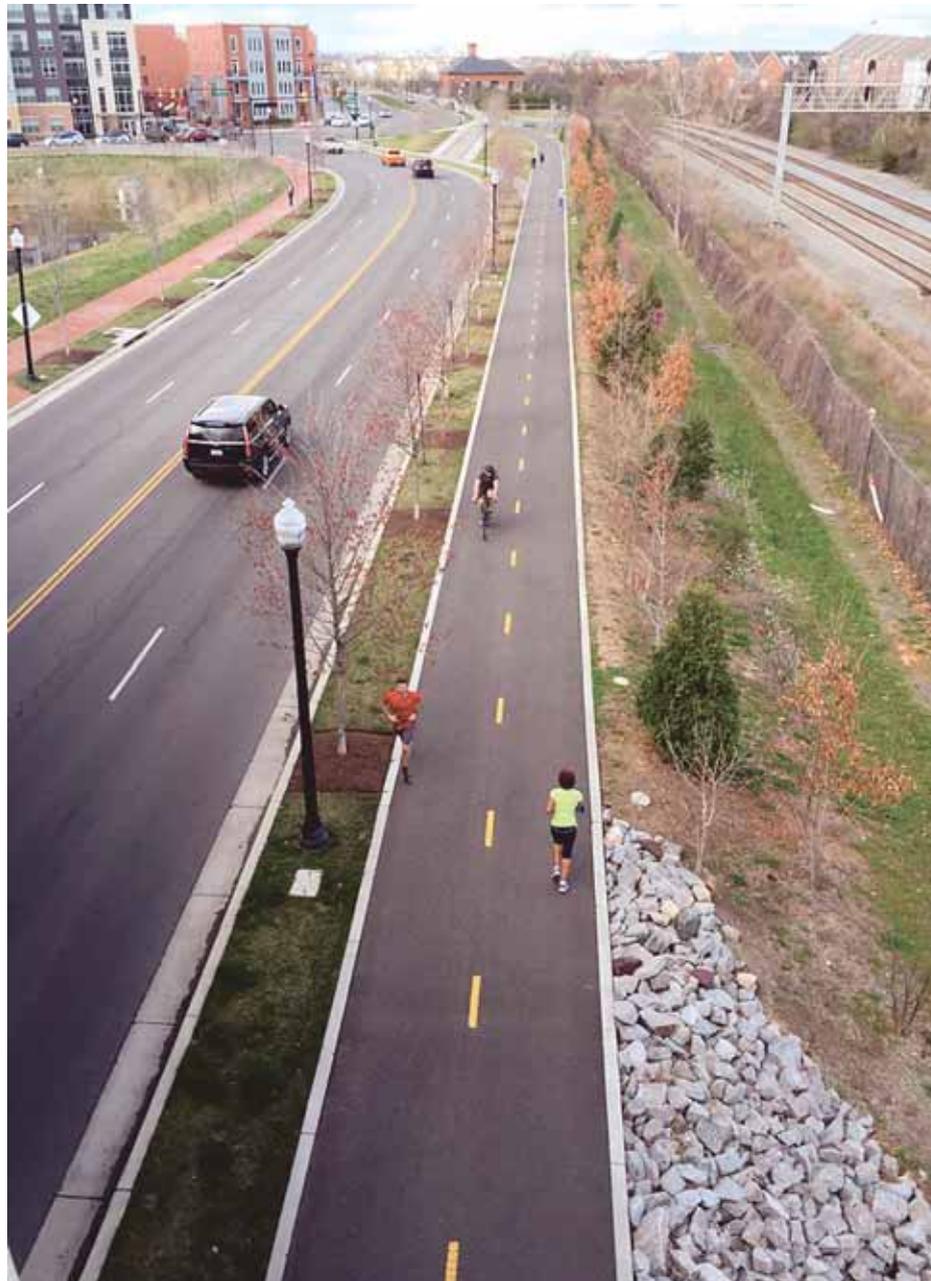
In Northern Virginia, local trail advocacy group Rails to Trails will be hosting a free run event at Bluemont Park in Arlington. The park is at the intersection of the Washington and Old Dominion trail and Four Mile Run. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the race begins at 9 a.m. Activities like face painting, music, and local exhibitors will continue in the park until noon.

“It’s the start of the spring season, so it’s time to shake the dust off the trails,” said Brandi Horton, vice president of communications for Rails to Trails. “It’s all about celebrating trail system we have, how important that is to people’s lives. People like trails, but when we have to make decisions about investments in infrastructure and how they see communities designed, important to show that trails are a piece of that future.”

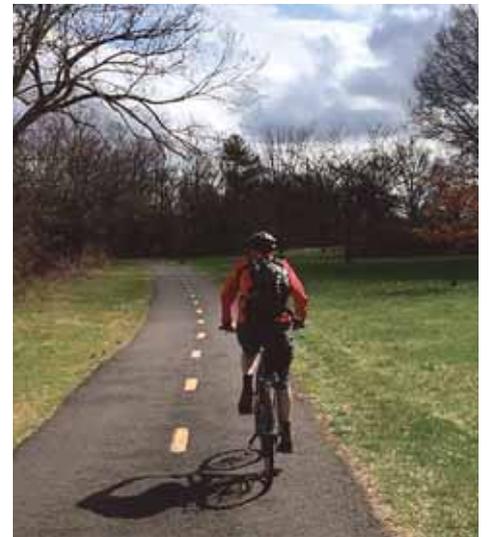
Horton’s favorite is the Washington and Old Dominion Trail, which starts just north of Four Mile Run.

“W&OD is a hall of fame trail; designated nationally as a stand out. In part for its length, in part for trail user experience, and for its connections. It extends from Alexandria into Arlington and further out west for over 45 miles. It’s a wonderful rail trail that connects to a lot of places,” said Horton.

Bike and pedestrian trails cut through Alexandria and across Northern Virginia, connecting to broader networks that stretch up and down the east coast. Some are frequently packed with bicyclists and pedestrians, like the Mount Vernon trails, while riders traveling on the scenic Holmes Run



The Potomac Yard trail.



Bicyclist on the Mount Vernon Trail

bridges throughout the trail. This time of year, they can be ice-slick. I’ve heard of plenty of people wiping out there.”

Moore says the Mount Vernon trail a great ride, but if bikers in the area are interested in a longer alternative route, he recommended riding up to the Key Bridge, connecting with the Custis Trail, riding to where it meets up with the Washington and Old Dominion trail, and taking that to end back in Old Town. All in all, Moore said it’s a roughly 24 mile trip.

From Old Town, Moore also said riders could easily get across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Maryland, where they can turn north and head through Oxen Hill Farm up into D.C. via the Anacostia Trail.

For anyone pulling their bike out of a long winter storage to take it for a spin, Moore encouraged riders to fill up their tires and check to make sure all the gears work properly. Moore added that it wouldn’t hurt to take it by a local bike shop and get it tuned up before racing out into the spring.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET
Wvette Flowers with her dog Rudy on the Mount Vernon Trail.

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Trail often have long stretches of lush, forested trailway all to themselves.

“There are many great trails in this city,” said Raymond Hayhurst, Complete Streets coordinator for the City of Alexandria. “The Potomac Yard trail is one of the newest. It’s very useful, running from Braddock up to Crystal City parallel with the metro.”

Hayhurst also noted that southern and western Alexandria have some useful sets of trails, like the Holmes Run Greenway and the Eisenhower trail, which connect and run from Eisenhower Street and Telegraph Road all the way to Columbia Pike.

“The trails are going to be more crowded as it gets warmer,” said Hayhurst. “All trail users should follow good trail etiquette. Bikers: call out or use a bell when passing. Pedestrians: walk in a safe and predictable manner. Ideally you should wear light colored clothing or reflective gear, which can be helpful.”

Bennett Moore, owner of Big Wheel Bikes on The Strand, says the busiest trail he serves in the area is the Mount Vernon Trail which runs from Rosslyn, through Old Town, down to Mount Vernon in Fairfax County.

“Watch out for other riders and pedestrians,” said Moore. “The biggest danger are the wooden



Nathan Cummings bird-watching along the Mount Vernon Trail. Cummings says he spotted a prairie falcon, a very rare bird in Virginia, a little ways north on the trail earlier that day.

NEWS



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City Council members review the city budget during a work session last week.



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Taxes, Fees and City Spending

Budget session focuses on “Livable, Green and Prospering City.”

BY DAN BRENDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

At last week’s budget work session, City Council discussed allocating resources to make Alexandria a “Livable, Green and Prospering City.”

This focus includes departments relating to the local economy and transportation, commercial and residential development, and the environment and parks. It accounts for about one sixth of the operating budget and nearly two-thirds of the 10-year Capital Improvement Program.

ECONOMY & TRANSPORTATION

A key theme throughout this budget process has been, in City Manager Mark Jinks’ words, “anemic revenue growth.” In that vein, much discussion focused on economic development.

Council and staff considered the draft FY2018 Interdepartmental Long Range Planning Work Program which aims at prioritizing large development projects. Priority undertakings for FY2018 include, for example, “development in Eisenhower East to take advantage of the momentum created by the National Science Foundation [NSF],” said planning and zoning’s Karl Moritz at the Jan. 24 legislative meeting.

At the work session, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson asked about accelerating the plan. “[I]n light of some of the challenges potentially coming from Washington ... we got to have a discussion around how we prioritize our work plan to really focus on where we have opportunities for economic growth in the near term ... I think we have a big problem on our hands,” he said.

“We have some real opportunities at three of our Metro stations that we’re not taking full advantage of,” said Councilman John Chapman. The Braddock Road station is one example. “Along with the redevelopment that’s happening right across the street [at the Andrew Adkins public housing site], there should be an opportunity to take advantage of something there. ... I know WMATA has a ton going on. ... But I would love for us to try to swing for that.”

Visit Alexandria wants to target the MGM National Harbor with ads and the NSF with “proactive” outreach. The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership wants to intensify the city’s “sense of place”

— its spectrum of activities — to attract major office tenants.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The NSF, a federal grant awardee, is expected to be a boon for local business, bringing in some 200,000 visitors annually. Councilman Paul Smedberg lamented that developers didn’t pursue building a lively “town center” around the NSF’s new location as soon as the deal was announced in 2015. Such development is now in the works, but it won’t be finished for years. In the meantime, “[W]e don’t have the hotels we need. We don’t have the conference space we need. We don’t have the restaurants we need for even just the employees to go out at lunch,” said Smedberg.

A proposed affordable housing development on the Church of the Resurrection’s property in the West End depends on whether or not the council includes it in the CIP. The church accepted about \$2.8 million less than what it could have gotten for its land, had it opted to incorporate pricier market rate units. But the church says it’s called to maximize affordable housing. The project needs an additional \$4.3 million — \$8.4 million total — from the city in order to proceed.

“[A]s laudable as [the city’s] goal is, of one [affordable housing project] a year, and as much as that might be our aspiration, ... we can’t promise it ... The budget circumstances are just too unpredictable,” said Councilman Tim Lovain.

Councilman Willie Bailey had a different take. “It seems like a lot of groups are stepping up to the plate and being real creative to help us try to find affordable housing in this city,” he said. “I just say, whatever we decide to do as it relates to the tax rate, that we keep affordable housing at the forefront. ... I see this almost as a once in a lifetime project. You know, there’s nowhere to build. ... And I applaud this church 110 percent. ... [N]ot to bring religion here, but I think this is what God wants a lot of folks to do. ... I just can’t believe they’re giving up their land to do this. And we need to find a way to make this work, now.”

Smedberg worried that ARHA redevelopments will take up an ever-increasing share of the city’s affordable housing resources. With “what they’ve got coming down the pike, all our money would theoretically go to ARHA, if we want those projects to happen,” he said.

ENVIRONMENT & PARKS

Alexandria needs to overhaul Old Town’s “combined sewers” to prevent human waste from over



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SEE DIGGING INTO, PAGE 12

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Volunteers celebrate at last year's Spring2ACTION event.

Spring2ACTion 2017

Community giving day set for April 5.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Mark your calendars. April 5 is the ACT for Alexandria online Community Giving Day known as Spring2ACTION, with donations this year on track to exceed \$5 million for local charities since its inception in 2011.

"We've been so pleased and excited with the response from the community over the years resulting in just under \$5 million being raised for local nonprofits," said ACT for Alexandria president and CEO John Porter. "We are truly lucky to live in such a caring community."

Spring2ACTION is a 24-hour online event that provides a streamlined way to connect donors to local charitable causes and encourages them to take action. The virtual fundraising effort is hosted by ACT for Alexandria and will offer local nonprofits the chance to raise thousands of dollars for the benefit of all Alexandria.

"In 2016, 8,613 donors raised \$1,337,493 for 152 nonprofits serving Alexandria," Porter said. "We are excited by the possibility this year's giving day presents. With so many deserving nonprofits, Alexandrians have the opportunity to show their support for the causes they support and our community overall."

Since its inception in 2011, Spring2ACTION has raised \$4,728,348 to support local nonprofits. Donations have assisted organizations in providing a variety of resources and services including food, shelter, education and health care.

More than 150 organizations are participating in this year's Community Giving Day and online donations can be preloaded on the website prior to April 5.

"Whether you are able to give \$10 or \$10,000, your gifts are valuable and important to the organizations you select," Porter said. "No donation is too small nor, might I add, are any too large. I encourage everyone to participate and become one of what we hope are over 10,000 donors this year."

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.Spring2ACTION.org.

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ACT for Alexandria president and CEO John Porter, right, and ACT staff promote the upcoming Spring2ACTION day April 5.

How To Help

The first way to support Spring2ACTION is by making an online donation at www.Spring2ACTION.org. The minimum donation is \$5. Residents can also support this citywide giving day by visiting local businesses that are donating a percentage of sales back to nonprofits. Some of these businesses include Holy Cow Burgers, Pork Barrel BBQ and Sweet Fire Donna's and the Alexandria Restaurant Partners groups Lena's Wood-fired Pizza & Tap, Palette 22, The Majestic, Virtue Feed & Grain, and Vola's Dockside Grill & Hi-Tide Lounge. Anyone who donates online for Spring2ACTION can also stop by Sugar Shack for a free donut.

Spring2ACTION is hosted by ACT for Alexandria and presented by the Mason Hirst Foundation. Giving Day Sponsors include Access National Bank, Alexandria Restaurant Partners, Caudron Megary Blackburn Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, City of Alexandria, Colonial Parking, Frantz Family Fund, Grant Thornton, Maria & Harry Hopper, Amy Liu & Craig Witmer, McEneaney Associates, Inc. Realtors, Reingold, and Six Half Dozen. Community Partners include the Alexandria Arts Alliance, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Alexandria Gazette Packet, AlexandriaNews.org, Alexandria Times, Christ Church, Del Ray Business Association, Holy Cow Burger, The Old Town Boutique District, Pork Barrel BBQ, Red Brick Town, Sweet Fire Donna's, Sugar Shack Donuts, Visit Alexandria, and The Zebra Press. Spring2ACTION is hosted on the Razoo platform.



The Kensington Falls Church Presents Energized Fitness for Parkinson's

Announcing an Introductory Orientation with Laxman Bahroo, MD and Angela Onyekanne, DPT, GCS, CEEAA
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The Kensington Falls Church is pleased to announce its collaboration with the Parkinson Foundation of The National Capital Area (PFNCA) and Genesis Rehab Services to offer Energized Fitness for Parkinson's. The program provides a high-energy fitness experience geared toward improving mobility and strength while participants share time with others facing Parkinson's.

Energized Fitness will be introduced by Dr. Laxman Bahroo, a neurologist who focuses on movement disorders, and Angela Onyekanne, a therapist who is trained in LSVT BIG (a therapy that involves large amplitude, exaggerated movements that lead to smoother, larger, safer movements). Dr. Bahroo and Angela are our allies in striving to maximize health and optimize independence for people with Parkinson's. **Please RSVP to join us.**



Dr. Laxman Bahroo is an assistant professor and co-director of the Neurology Residency Program at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. He is a board certified neurologist and member of the Movement Disorders program. Primary areas of focus in movement disorders include the medical and surgical management of Parkinson's disease and essential tremor.



Angela Onyekanne, DPT, GCS, CEEAA has ten years of experience working exclusively with geriatric clients in a variety of settings. She is APTA Board-Certified in Geriatric PT and LSVT BIG certified for individuals with Parkinson's disease.



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OBITUARIES

Al Grande Dies at 80 Founder of ASAP Printing helped transform Del Ray.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

When Al Grande decided to open a business in Del Ray in the 1970s, Mount Vernon Avenue was hardly “Where Main Street still Exists,” as it’s known today. Instead, it was what some might call a “sketchy” part of Alexandria. But it was affordable for the Vietnam veteran, so undeterred, Grande opened ASAP Printing & Mailing and set about building both a successful business and a thriving community. “No question Al was a real fixture in Del Ray,” said longtime friend Shawn McLaughlin. “He was in Del Ray before Del Ray was cool.”

Grande is credited with helping transform Del Ray into the vibrant community that exists today. In 2012, he was recognized for his many efforts throughout the city when he was named a Living Legend of Alexandria. On March 23, Grande died after a brief battle with lung cancer. He was 80 years



Al Grande, founder of ASAP Printing & Graphics, died March 23 at the age of 80.

old.

Born June 21, 1936, in Dover, N.J., Alfred F. Grande Jr. graduated from Blair Academy and Bucknell University, where he majored in sociology and psychology. He was later

commissioned as a Regular Army 2nd Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. After serving 20 years of active duty, Grande moved to Alexandria and opened ASAP Printing & Mailing Co. in the Del Ray neighborhood.

He joined the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and was later recruited to serve on the chamber’s board of directors. He also was elected chairman of the Potomac Trade Association, now the Del Ray Business Association, and was subsequently elected to its board of directors.

Grande donated time and resources to local schools by serving as a volunteer reader at the Mount Vernon Community School teaching children how to read the English language, donating materials to local art programs and establishing a relationship with T.C. Williams High School which allowed seniors in the printing program to receive hands-on experience with ASAP’s presses and binding equipment.

Grande was elected chairman of the Alexandria Small Business Development Cen-

ter and was a founding member of the Alexandria Police Foundation. In retirement, he and his wife Claire moved to Greenspring in Springfield, where Grande served as a resident ambassador and a member of the Greenspring Resident Advisory Council’s Marketing and Publicity Committee.

Grande is survived by his wife, Claire, son Dean, daughter Donna and several grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in the coming weeks and a funeral with full military honors will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield.

“I feel very fortunate,” said McLaughlin, who had nominated Grande for the Living Legends honor. “Al and I spoke on the phone often but our visits had become less frequent. But just before Christmas, before his diagnosis, we spent a wonderful afternoon together. Little did either of us know what was to come. I am lucky to have had that time with Al and to be able to remember him at his best.”

Albina ‘Kay’ Kozonasky, 93

Albina “Kay” Kozonasky, a veteran of the U.S. Army Nursing Corps, died March 25 at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank, N.J. Her family, including daughter Michele Evans, was by her side. She was 93.

A Texas native, Kozonasky graduated from St. Agnes Academy and St. Joseph’s Nursing School (now part of St. Thomas University) in Houston. She served as a lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps in the 1940s and spent time on assignment in Korea.

Following her marriage to her former husband, the late Michael J. Kozonasky, she lived in New York City, Passaic, Philadelphia and Langhorne, Pa. She has resided in the Fairview section of Middletown, N.J., since 1958. In the early 1960s she began her career of more than 30 years as a nurse at Riverview Medical Center. She spent many years working nights in the Intensive Care Unit and the Cardiac Care Unit. During the 1980s she attended Jersey City State University and obtained her Bachelor of Science degree. When she retired in 1992 she was serving as a nurse in Riverview’s Outpatient Clinic.

Kozonasky was an accomplished gardener, an avid reader and a follower of the stock market. She was a graduate of the Ocean County Master Gardener program and a member of a N.J. Utilities Investment Group. She was not fond of computers and prided herself on hand writing letters and mailing cards to her many friends and relatives. At age 93, she and her Houston childhood friend Hilda Drohan continued to exchange letters on a regular basis to keep in touch about the activities of their friends,



Albina “Kay” Kozonasky died March 25 at the age of 93.

children and grandchildren.

Kozonasky was predeceased by her parents, Peter and Caroline Chajkowski; three brothers: Dimitri, Frank and Paul Chajkowski; her foster parents Joseph and Marie Drohan, foster brothers Joseph and William Drohan and daughter-in-law Linda Kozonasky.

In addition to her daughter, Michele Evans of Alexandria, she is survived by sons Christopher Kozonasky of Brick; and Paul (Martha) Kozonasky of Concord, Calif.; grandchildren Caroline (Scott) Bickford and Kate (Andrew) Barnes of Glen Allen, Va.; Paul Kozonasky, Jr. and Mathew Kozonasky of Concord, Calif.; and a great grandson Ambrose Barnes.

Kozonasky was especially close to her sister-in-law and best friend Dorothy Eberhard and her niece Ellen Eberhard Andreas of Middletown. She greatly appreciated the many years of love and support she received from the Eberhard, Kozonasky, Chajkowski and Dolinsky families.

Visitation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, at the Thompson Memorial Home at 310 Broad Street, Red Bank, N.J. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 31, at the Thompson Memorial Home followed by interment at Fair View Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends of the Middletown public Library, 55 New Monmouth Road, Middletown, NJ 07748 www.friendsofmontpl.org or The VCU Massey Cancer Center, P.O. Box 980214, Richmond VA 23298-0214. www.support.vcu.edu/give/massey.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Eric Michael Weight, 51

Eric Michael Weight, a 1983 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, died March 22 in Bellingham, Wash., when the bicycle he was riding collided with a pickup truck. He was 51 years old.

Weight was born July 8, 1965, to Yvonne Weight Callahan and Forrest F. Weight. He graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1987 then traveled extensively throughout Asia before entering law school at the University of Richmond. Following his graduation in 1991, he practiced law with his mother, Yvonne, in Alexandria until 1995, when he moved to Washington State.

An avid skier and cyclist, Weight initially worked in the Whatcom County public defender’s office until 2005, when he and his wife Laura opened the law firm of Weight Law Offices. At the time of his death, Weight was practicing as a defense and divorce attorney and had previously served on Bellingham’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, where he advocated for bicyclist safety.

In addition to his wife Laura, Weight leaves behind six children: Haidyn Chloe, Gabriel Clay and Skyler Caedmon (and their mother, Kirsten D. Barron), and Lily Celia, Otto Cash and Iker Costello Weight. He is also survived by his mother, Yvonne Weight Callahan of Alexandria, father Forrest Weight, siblings Christo-



A “ghost bike” is left by mourners at the intersection where Eric Weight was killed when he collided with a pickup truck in Bellingham, Wash.

pher F. Weight (Karin) and Elizabeth Weight (Jeff), and nieces and nephews Margaret Watts, Cailyn Smith, Zander Weight, and Corwin and Fiona Dark. He was predeceased by his stepfather, Vince Callahan, in 2014.

A remembrance for Weight will be held at the Bellingham Ferry Terminal on Sunday, March 26, from 1-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Montessori School at Samish Woods (where his children are enrolled) or LAW Advocates, a civil legal aid organization. www.samishwoods.org and www.lawadvocates.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Denouncing GOP Health Bill

And worrying
about cost of
losing coverage.

BY EDEN BROWN
GAZETTE PACKET

Laura Toth from Alexandria joined the small group of healthcare activists in the lobby of Alexandria's City Hall on March 21 because she is very afraid of losing "Obamacare." For Toth, it is a matter of life and death. She spoke about the "invisible illness" shared by millions: depression. "One medication alone costs \$300 a month. People max out on health costs, they have to go into their 401K. I live with my parents to make ends meet. I lost my job as an EMT B (Emergency Management Technician Base) a while back and will need to self-insure now. The American Health Care Act (ACHA) plan doesn't cover mental illness. People don't understand how scary it is to think you won't be able to pay for medications that are keeping you functional."

Toth is one of 24 million Americans who risk losing their lifeline: the ability to afford high-cost prescription drugs that keep them in jobs, out of hospitals, and off welfare. Mayor Allison Silberberg, Councilman Timothy B. Lovain, McArthur Meyers, Richard Merritt, Dan Hawkins, Arlene Hewitt, Sarah Stott, and other interested Alexandrians speaking out on behalf of their fellow residents met to talk about the impact of the ACHA as envisioned by the GOP and to support the mayor's signing of the "Cities Thrive" letter to Speaker of the House Ryan, which she did on March 18.

"How many Alexandrians will lose health care?" asked

Silberberg. "I've seen the number 5,000 but I am pretty sure it's double that. The budget would be cut \$150 million. We need to raise our voices, but we also need as many voices as possible to bring to the table. We need to avoid the partisanship and speak in one voice in favor of health care access."

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that under the AHCA, 24 million Americans will lose mental health coverage by 2026. Of these, 14 million fewer people would be covered by Medicaid, according to the website for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI).

Lovain told the crowd that no matter what, Alexandria was one of the communities that would stand by the uninsured. It's annual health fair will now be spearheaded by Neighborhood Health, but continues to be supported by local residents who volunteer time and money to make it happen.

Toth asked the group: "How can an ordinary citizen help support your effort? I'll be one of those who loses health care. I want to do what I can." Silberberg suggested those who want to help can work at the health fair, and support efforts of politicians to tweak the ACA, not repeal it. "We need to tweak it," said the mayor, "How can we improve it? What do doctors want it to look like?"

"Stay involved or get involved," said Lovain. "We have a three front war going on here: we need to support the nonprofits, find funds, find volunteers, support legislation for medicare expansion," he said.

"The Health Fair we hold annually now is important; but we can't support it with just one agency," said Merritt. "Support 'Spring2Action,'" he urged, referring to Wednesday, April 5, Alexandria's Giving Day.

Alexandria thanked Mayor Allison Silberberg for her decision to sign the Cities Thrive letter denouncing the GOP Health Care bill (that was since defeated). From right are Dan Hawkins; Arlene Hewitt; Richard Merritt; Mac Meyers; Silberberg; Elizabeth C. Ghandakly, health commissioner; Katya Wanzer, Chair of the Public Health Advisory Commission; and Lauren Tamara Wilson, public health commissioner.



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

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Challenges of Businesses in Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

though he admitted some of that might have been his familiarity with the system.

"My city process was pretty positive," said Krupicka, comparing Alexandria favorably to his permitting experience in Arlington and for the D.C. location launching in May.

Hamidi didn't realize just how unfriendly Alexandria's process is until he started opening a franchise location in Fredericksburg.

"Minutes after you walked in, they were very welcoming," said Hamidi, saying that staff who were directing him to another department actually walked him to the person he needed to see. "The level of courtesy we experienced ... I had a smile on my face walking in and walking out."

Hamidi said not only did the city arrange for him to meet with the heads of every department to review his summary and help with devising a plan, but on a regular basis he would receive an email or phone call from a city official saying they were excited to see the store moving in. It doesn't take much, but Hamidi said the touches like that can completely change the permitting process for an incoming business owner.

The Alexandria process Hamidi described was less pleasant.

"I walked into City Hall for another business to have a discussion and 45 minutes later I was ready to jump out the window," said Hamidi. "Had my business partner gone in by himself, he would have said 'I'm out' and it would not have happened. The city needs to streamline the process for business owners coming in."

Like the phone calls from the Fredericksburg officials, Hamidi says some of the smallest touches can have the biggest impact.

"The city just needs one or two persons knowledgeable about the process of opening a business," said Hamidi. "It doesn't take much, but I guarantee you

it will shave hours off someone's timeline."

Krupicka said other changes that need to happen to the system will be less easy and straightforward.

"Retail in America is going to dramatically change," said Krupicka. "It's happening at a faster clip. Who hasn't bought something from Amazon because it's faster? Those kinds of retailers have to be making product on site, they have to be unique and it has to come from that place. It has to

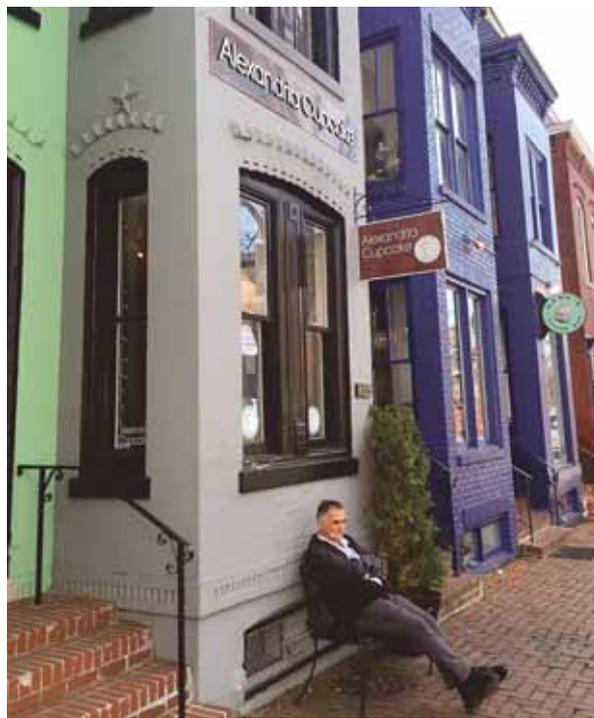
be a maker type businesses: clothing or art or other items. I would even call accounting firm a maker businesses. The kind of businesses that will make it in Alexandria will be on the ground. That will mean different kinds of businesses in retail on King Street, and [with current city restrictions] King Street is not ready for that."

According to Krupicka, sometimes that will mean difficult decisions about which buildings stay and which buildings get rebuilt to be more retail-friendly.

"We have to look at what we do with buildings," said Krupicka. "Old buildings, sometimes they're not equipped to be maker-spaces. We have to open ourselves up to figure out how to rethink our spaces if we want to reinvigorate retail. It's not easy, everything I said will have 100 controversies, but we have to do it." Throughout the meeting, the three business leaders offered advice for newer businesses starting up in the city. Renner encouraged small businesses to take advantage of all the Small Business Development Center has to offer, like free counseling. Krupicka and Hamidi both encouraged businesses not to let excitement over initial hype for the store keep them from spending extra on advertising.

"It is worth your investment to set aside money for marketing," said Hamidi. "Crowds disappear, you have to take time to invest in marketing."

Hamidi also addressed an issue that's been at the forefront for



Alexandria Cupcakes

many local business discussions on the future of retail in the city: the proposed Business Improvement District (BID). Both as a local business owner and as a board member of the Chamber of Commerce, Hamidi says he isn't opposed to the idea but he remains unconvinced.

"If I am assessed additional tax, am I going to be able to recover that tax and then some?" Hamidi asked. "If it is for the enhancement of my business, I need projections for that enhancement. Not just 'it will make your business better.' As board member for Chamber, I need to look beyond that at what services are proposed under BID and how many services duplicate city services which should already be in effect. If those services are not carried out to their maximum, we need to look at what's happening, not suddenly add on a tax. If someone can prove to me that this will be a good thing, that this will bring more revenue and more business, I don't have an issue. But until I'm shown that, I have an obligation to look at this with a grain of salt."

Looking to the future of local businesses, Krupicka and Hamidi couldn't resist a few shots towards the teenagers and younger generations like those running the electrical equipment for the event.

"Our challenge is finding people with basic teamwork and cooperation skills to be successful in workplace," said Krupicka. "You have to be able to work together. I'm surprised how poorly schools are able to teach that. You have to teach people how to work together without being mad."

"Our kids are not prepared to work in the real world," Hamidi agreed. "You don't get to text on your phone all day, don't get to throw a temper tantrum when things don't go your way."

New Principal

FROM PAGE 1

establish TC as the hub of the community. We need to start by working with staff and students and make sure we're all on the same page.

Balas started his time at the school at the Minnie Howard Campus of TC before becoming an administrator on the main campus.

"Having taught there, it was a great experience and a truly special place," said Balas. "I will be [making an] effort to make them feel united."

Balas says he will be holding informational sessions for parents to meet him and hear about new plans in the school as they develop. For the last five years, Balas has been working to transform Mount Vernon Community School into the first full K-5 dual language program in the city. Balas said the school served two different neighborhoods: Del Ray and Arlandria, and Balas learned to reach out to staff and rely on them to establish relations and make inroads in both communities.

"I plan on doing a lot of listening and a lot of learning," said Balas. "I've learned to rely on my staff. We need to listen to them, hear what is going well and what needs to be looked at."

Balas said he is eager to begin listening to teacher and student feedback on a number of topics, including a push to implement restorative justice practices at TC. Restorative justice is a remodeling of the discipline system to involve the students in working on a solution to a problem rather than resorting to punitive actions that impede education, like suspensions.

"In schools I do feel that often we hand out discipline," said Balas. "I do like the way restorative justice gets kids involved in reaching a solution."

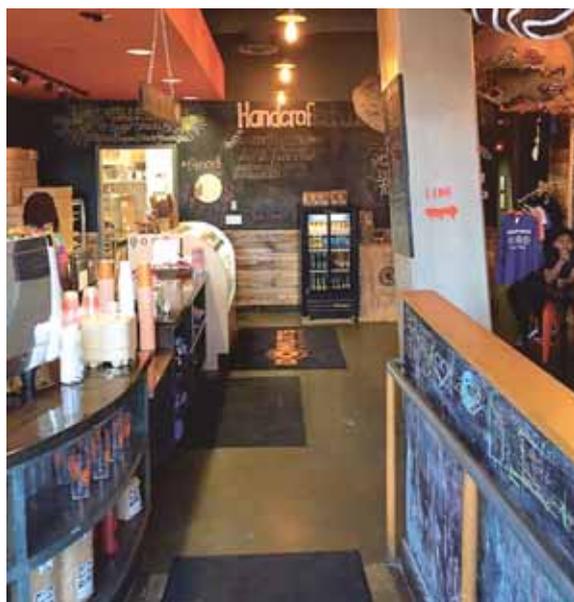
So far, reaction to Balas' appointment has been positive from school staff and officials. Holly Dowling is a school transformation coach at Mount Vernon Community School and has worked with Balas for the last five years.

"He is by far the best leader I have ever worked for because he is a great listener, extremely compassionate, and an excellent motivator," said Dowling in an email. "He respects everyone in his school and every decision is made with the students' best interest in mind. Teachers and students alike work to make him proud. As a teacher that made the transition out of the classroom and into a coaching role under his leadership, I am forever grateful. His guidance, motivation, and constant push to be better helped me tremendously."

Dowling said Balas has a reputation of being energetic and working to keep students engaged in school activities.

"Peter is full of energy and always willing to go the extra mile," said Dowling. "He has been taped to the wall and dunked each year by of his students, he fully participates in spirit week even wearing pajamas. He can be seen throughout the building every day speaking to students by name, asking them personal questions or just giving high fives."

"T.C. Williams is an incredible learning environment that presented an exciting leadership opportunity," said School Board Member Veronica Nolan, who represents T.C. Williams. "We could not be more thrilled to benefit from Peter Balas's expertise and proven track record. We are grateful to Dr. Jesse Dingle for the foundation he has paved and appreciate Mr. Balas' inspiring vision to ensure T.C. Williams is a rigorous academic community that allows every student to reach their potential."



Sugar Shack Donuts

Leadership Changes at Inova

The retirement of H. Patrick Walters, SVP, CEO of Inova Loudoun Hospital will lead to changes at Inova Alexandria Hospital and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

From Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Deborah Addo, SVP, will become CEO of Inova Loudoun Hospital. From Inova Alexandria, Susan Carroll, SVP, has been promoted to regional executive officer over Inova Alexandria and Inova Mount Vernon Hospitals. Don Brideau, MD, has accepted the interim CEO of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital position, and the selection process for the next CEO of Inova Alexandria Hospital is underway.

Prior to joining Inova, Walters served as president and chief executive officer of Alexandria Health Services Corporation and as administrator of Alexandria Hospital from 1992 to 1997. Following the merger with Inova, Walters led both Inova Alexandria and Inova Mount Vernon hospitals as

their regional vice president.

Addo came to Inova in June 2014 with nearly 30 years of leadership experience in healthcare operations and management. Addo previously served as the chief operating officer and senior vice president of Meritus Health in Hagerstown.

Carroll, a healthcare executive with 21 years of experience, previously served as vice president of Inova Cancer Institute and Inova Translational Medicine Institute. Carroll was also on the executive management team at Inova Fairfax Hospital prior to being named SVP, CEO of Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Brideau will continue as Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's chief medical officer in addition to serving as interim CEO beginning April 24. Brideau joined Inova Mount Vernon senior leadership team in 2009 with oversight ranging from clinical quality to patient experience.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Walk and Talk on Cameron Run. 9 a.m. in the Cameron Run Park Parking Lot, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. A discussion of the park's future. For additional information, visit the Cameron Run Park Planning Process project website or contact Dana Wedeles, Acting Principal Planner, RPCA, at 703-746-5491 or Dana.Wedeles@alexandriava.gov.

NOVA STEM Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus. Northern Virginia Community College offers a showcase of opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math. This event is free and open to the public, and parking will also be free in the Dawes Avenue Garage during the event. Visit www.novastemday.com.

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3 & 5

Youth Mental Health First Aid. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) offers Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for laypersons and paraprofessionals. MHFA is an eight-hour training for adults that demonstrates the initial help given to a youth showing signs of mental illness or a mental health crisis. Visit www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs.

TUESDAY/APRIL 4

Practical Window Solutions. 8:30-10 a.m. at Alexandria Small Business Development Center, 625 North Washington St., Suite 400. Learn about the windows in a business. Call 703-778-1292 for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 5

Nonprofit Bootcamp. 9-11 a.m. at Alexandria Small Business Development Center, 625 North Washington Street, Suite 400. Nonprofit Bootcamp Session #3 - Operating Well. Call 703-778-1292 for more.

Electronics and Social Media Workshop. 6:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School Rotunda, 3330 King St. The goal of this workshop is to help parents set appropriate limits on their child's use of electronic devices and social media and to keep their children safe. Call 703-824-012 or email janet.reese@acps.k12.va.us.

Spring2Action. A day when Alexandrians get together and donate to the non-profits they care about. Volunteer Alexandria is supporting the fight against hunger. Make a difference by donating on April 5 and sharing our fundraiser on social media. All donations will help us in ensuring that Alexandria's children and families have enough to eat. Visit

spring2action.razoo.com/story/Volunteeralexandria on April 5.

THURSDAY/APRIL 6

Planning Commission Briefing. 6 p.m. in City Hall, Council Workroom, 301 King St. The regular monthly meeting of the Planning Commission will include an update on the Old Town North Small Area Plan. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Planning for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 12

Foster Parent Orientation. 6-7:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. Call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Community Open House. 7 p.m. at Salvation Army National Headquarters, 615 Slaters Lane. Staff will be on hand to provide information and answer questions regarding the Draft Old Town North Plan document and process. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Planning for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 19

Workshop for Seniors. 10 a.m.-noon at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S Alfred St. Workshop for seniors on "Protecting Against Identity Theft and Fraudulent Schemes." To register go to seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

19th Annual Business Philanthropy Summit. 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N. Alfred St. \$35. David Gardner of The Motley Fool is the keynote speaker at the Summit. Visit squareup.com/store/volunteer-alexandria or call 703-836-2176 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Award Presentation. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. The Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award will be presented at the 2017 Alexandria Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave. The theme of this year's event is "Clean Water Starts with You." Visit www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 15

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Expand Medicaid Now

Virginia has missed out on \$10 billion, 30,000 jobs and care for 400,000 citizens.

Virginia's General Assembly has refused to accept one of the key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, expansion of Medicaid at almost no cost to Virginia that could have covered 400,000 uninsured Virginians and would have brought more than \$10 billion into the state. It has also cost lives.

Ironically, the failed bill to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act included changes to Medicaid that would have penalized states, like Virginia, that did not expand Medicaid, permanently reducing federal funding.

On Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed a budget amendment restoring his authority

to pursue planning for Medicaid expansion in the wake of the failed repeal effort in Congress.

Kansas and North Carolina are taking steps this week to expand Medicaid, hoping to join the 31 other states plus the District of Columbia that have already done so.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. More than 40,000 residents of Arlington and Alexandria have no health insurance. That's more than 12 percent of the people who live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in. In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid: between 266 and 987.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with

a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed.

"The time has come for us to bring our taxpayer dollars back to serve the individuals who need them the most," said McAuliffe. "With this amendment, I'm asking the General Assembly to work with me to pursue Medicaid expansion and put this funding to work for our most vulnerable Virginians."

Primaries for candidates for the House of Delegates plus governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general are in June, with all seats on the ballot in November. An important question as voters choose: What is their position on Medicaid expansion? How did incumbents vote?

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Digging into BID

To the Editor:

City Tax BID is already a boondoggle.

Alexandria is being encouraged to create a new special tax district in Old Town. It will raise \$2.2 million in new taxes from businesses, then spend it on unknown things and will be managed by an unknown process by unknown people. The proposal has many flaws.

Once created, the BID will be managed by the vote of businesses and commercial property taxpayers in the district. But it has specific provisions that discriminate against

owner-occupied businesses. So this leaves more power in the hands of the big commercial interests and discriminates against small businesses. The preliminary governance bylaws and its election rules won't even be drafted until the tax increase option is passed.

The committee promoting the BID specifically wants it to tackle traffic, parking, garbage removal, public art, street signage, event management and marketing for Old Town. Every one of those functions has at least one taxpayer-supported or city-run entity already doing that. So supporting the BID means the city is mismanaged and incompetent. If that is

true, who is being fired and which budgets are being cut? The properties to be hit with the new BID tax are already paying tens of millions in property taxes, not to mention the many millions of business license taxes. Support for the BID, then, is a statement that we need the firing of dozens of staff and the resignation of elected officials.

However, 43-60 percent of the BID tax district membership would be made up of office space businesses — lawyers, accountants, and consulting firms. These businesses will receive zero benefits from BID yet would be forced to shoulder about half the tax burden.

Who could benefit from the BID? Well it proposes money to subsidize valet and/or parking garage fees. Obviously this is a selling point for restaurants and the owners of parking facilities and services. It also proposes paying for six new staff positions to manage the BID.

With the extra \$2.2 million to spend in Old Town, will the city shift its spending to other priorities since these are now covered? We don't know. We can't know until a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is drafted and we won't see that until after the tax is authorized. Since the city is already raising taxes and complaining about too many priorities, we know how this ends up. These are just the opening problems that have not been addressed. There are many deeper issues if you wade into the details. But the ones that leap out at first glance are decisive in their own right.

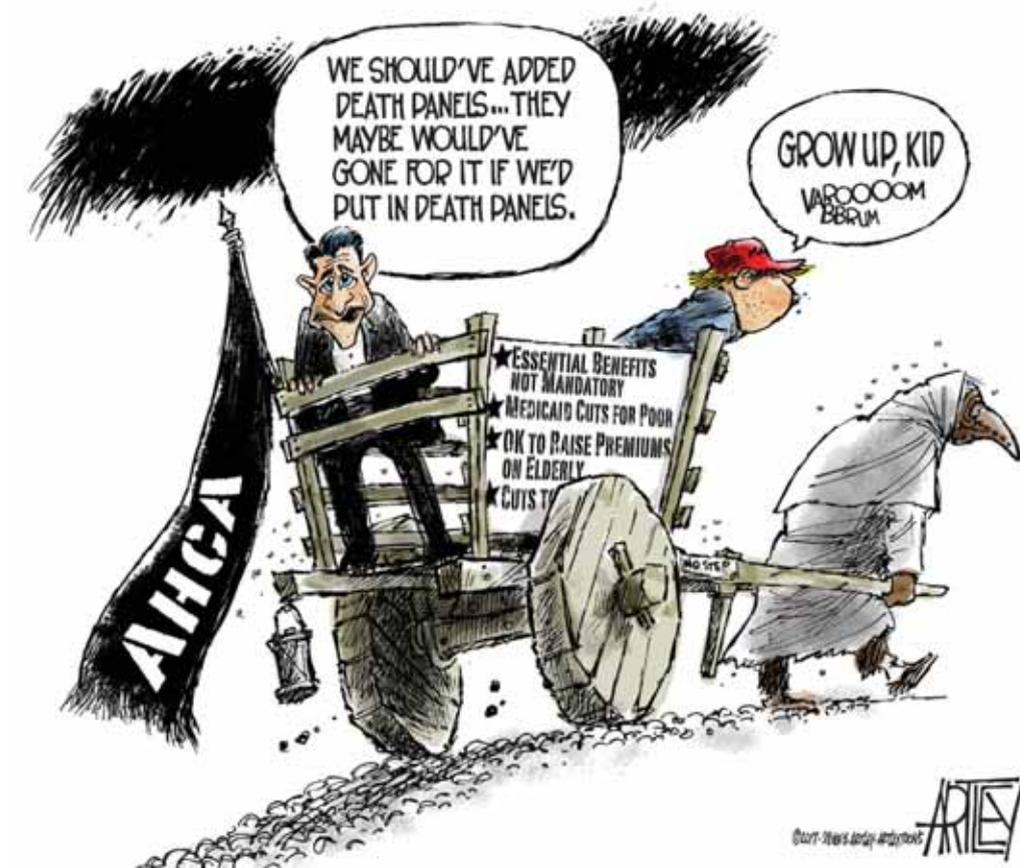
Dan Hazelwood/Alexandria

BID Over-reaches

To the Editor:

As described in the full BID proposal, the total annual cost of running a limited area Business Improvement District (BID) in Old Town would be \$2,090,000 and be run through a dedicated tax and nonprofit entity. But cost

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



STEVE ARMLEY/GAZETTE PACKET

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OPINION

'Help Line' at Animal Shelter

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Alexandrian Jean Schumann didn't know where to turn. She loved her three cats, all of them domestic shorthairs, but two of them had quit using their basement litter box properly, attracted by new carpeting she had installed on another level of her home. A check with her veterinarian had turned up no health concerns, and adding more litter boxes to other levels of the house had failed to solve the problem.

In desperate need of help, Schumann made a call to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), the shelter where she had adopted two of her cats. She received a response from Jennie Lane, one of the League's animal behaviorists, who asked Schumann for details about the cats and the home so she could analyze the problem. "It's really an investigation," Lane said. "Once any medical issues are ruled out, we gather as much information as we can and make recommendations to the pet owner. There's always hope."

In litter box cases, Lane, who has worked with animals for 15 years, often studies a home's floor plan to determine if the box is in a spot with too much human activity, which might cause anxiety for the cat. In one case Lane helped with, a cat was distracted from using his box because of a hawk often perched just outside a nearby window; a fake owl was mounted outside the window to eliminate the threat.

Lane and AWLA's other behaviorist, Danielle Grand, also hear from plenty of worried Alexandrians about their dogs. To redirect dogs who bark and pull on the leash when around other dogs, Lane recommends seeking help from a certified applied behaviorist or a trainer who uses humane methods. Dogs with this problem often can be trained to concentrate on their owners by using focus commands and rewards. After mastering this in a quiet setting, dogs can be moved to higher-stress environments to practice the skill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

is only a part of this equation. King Street small businesses are the face of the city, and their financial management structures and needs are vastly different from the offices, hotels, and mixed use properties who are also part of the proposed tax mix.

Let's look at the detailed breakdown and see if both a short term and long term win can be crafted for the small business owners in the BID. To do this two things are essential: a willingness to first, cut costs to the bone, and a phased implementation.

According to the BID proposal, the greatest costs are also the least immediately impactful, i.e. public relations, advertising, and marketing. They constitute \$785,000 or 38 percent of expenditures. If you add non-essentials such as ambassadors (never explained in the proposal), additional



PHOTO BY MARY FLYNN/AWLA

AWLA behaviorist Jennie Lane conducts a behavioral exam on shelter dog Wynonna. Lane responds to questions on pets from Alexandrians who call the shelter's help line.

In Schumann's case, Lane offered several recommendations: Use a special enzymatic cleaner on the soiled carpet; remove litter-box liners; wash litter boxes only with dish soap; and switch to a specific brand of litter. Schumann put all of the suggestions to use, and after a few months was able to remove the extra litter boxes. All is now well. "If people can't solve these problems, they don't have a good relationship with their pets — the people aren't happy and the pets aren't happy," Schumann said. "The AWLA help line is a great way to make sure that pets keep their forever homes."

Alexandria residents who have questions or problems with their pets can call the shelter at 703.746.4774 or email Jennie Lane at jlane@alexandrianimals.org.

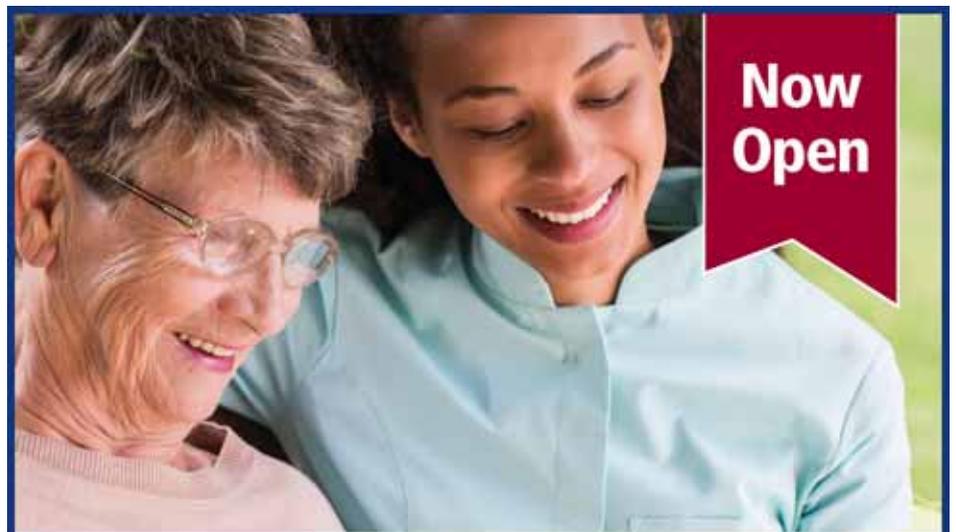
The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, celebrating its 70th anniversary, is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the City of Alexandria community. More information is at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

signage and lights, park management (undefined), public art (undefined), and public space events management (already city staffed and funded) you get roughly \$579,000 or 28 percent of the total ...

Taken together these elements constitute \$1,364,000 or 65 percent of the proposed total cost.

This means there is enormous room for a compromise and phased implementation, that would focus initially at least, on making the streets clean, tree wells attractive and funding the people and equipment needed to do this. In addition, the gold standard for nonprofit administration costs is 15 percent, not the 17 percent of the proposal. With city synergies this realistically should shrink to 12 percent.

Finally, there is nothing worse than get
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



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Spring2ACTion is a 24-hour online event that provides a simple way to connect donors to the charitable causes they care about most and encourages them to take action.



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Your donation will go towards our \$85,000 goal to renovate the **Life with Cancer suite at Inova Alexandria Hospital** to create a more welcoming and comfortable environment.

I'm ready to Spring2ACTion! What can I do?

Donate on April 5 (or even right now!) to support **Life with Cancer at Inova Alexandria Hospital**.

Follow us on Twitter @InovaHealth and on Facebook — search **Inova Alexandria Hospital**.

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Spread the Word!

<https://spring2action.razoo.com/story/Inova-Alexandria-Hospital-2>



NEWS

Bacon and Bureaucracy

FROM PAGE 1

businesses along King Street and a few adjacent streets in order to create a BID, an organization that helps beautify, advertise, and improve public spaces along King Street. Many on the City Council were supportive of the idea.

"I like that it gives us an entity we can work with and fill in the gap of what the city can't provide," said City Councilwoman Redella "Del" Pepper. "It has a great deal to offer in terms of setting an identity as a business community with the best restaurants around. All of that is really important. It gives us a chance for a solid identity and I think it's great."

For Councilman John Chapman, the biggest advantage of a business improvement district is bringing visitors from the main street to the side-streets.

"If you're on King Street, people walk by, but off of King [they don't get that foot traffic]," said Chapman. "The opportunity for additional marketing won't come from city government." Chapman referred to Crystal City, where a BID came in and helped redevelop the area as one friendly to smaller businesses and restaurants.

The holdout among the council representatives was Silberberg.

"I think this is something the city should be handling," said Silberberg. "I want to hear from more businesses. The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Visit Alexandria should already focus on what the BIDs do in other cities. I want to see it more fleshed out."

Looking outside of Old Town, the council addressed another long-running challenge for the city: Landmark Mall. On Jan. 9, the Howard Hughes Corporation acquired the 11.4 acre Macy's store and parking lot, giving it control over two-thirds of the site. Pepper, who had been one of the most prominent voices about transforming the mall, said all of the paperwork and policy on the city side is put into place and Howard Hughes is starting redevelopment plans for the site to turn it into an open-air commercial hub.

"The ball is in their court now," said Pepper. "The West End will rise again."

Councilman Paul Smedberg noted that



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson.

city plans were in place for more than just Landmark Mall, but reforming that site will help bring a real center and create a uniform sense of place for the surrounding area. But while things are looking up for Landmark Mall and the city pursues new development around the planned Potomac Yard Metro station, Chapman said he's been disappointed at the limited development in the Eisenhower Metro area. With the National Science Foundation moving in across the street and the Metro station on one of the most active Metro lines, Chapman said it was inexcusable to see huge amounts of empty land near the Eisenhower Metro station.

"[Eisenhower and Van Dorn] are two of the most underutilized stations in the whole system," said Chapman. "These should be the low hanging fruit. Why haven't we done anything with them? That is inexcusable to me."

The state legislature will reconvene on April 5 to either accept the amendments or reject them, after which McAuliffe could still veto the remaining bills.

Digging into the Budget

FROM PAGE 4

flowing into the Potomac. At \$390 million, this upgrade alone accounts for one-fifth of the CIP. To pay for it, Jinks proposed increasing the Sanitary Sewer Fee every year for the next decade, for a six-fold increase by FY2027. This fee would secure the issuance of new city bonds.

Wilson inquired about the ramifications of increasing the first year's hike above Jinks' proposed 30 percent. For example, "a rate increase of about 80 [percent] would raise more than \$3.2 million and...avoid a rate increase in FY2019," according to a March 20 budget memo. Wilson voiced support for a further increase along these lines.

Council members discussed how effectively to communicate these fee increases to the public.

The city's parks face another round of cuts, including reduced baseball field preparation and reduced mowing and leaf collection. The cuts are expected to save the city \$169,000. "What's the point in having parks if they're not beautiful and maintained? To nickel and dime this aspect of our open space seems very shortsighted," said Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Councilwoman Redella Pepper concurred, saying, "I don't think we're winning here."

Wilson replied, "I don't think you're losing, you just got to find the money."

FAMILY CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local national parks like Theodore Roosevelt Island are ideal for family staycations, says Lois Stover, Ph.D. of Marymount University.

Backyard Adventure

Ideas for a spring break family staycation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

For Katie Wendel, a spring break vacation this year won't mean loading up the car and driving several hundred miles or waiting in long lines at the airport. While the Bethesda mother of five is planning to enjoy some relaxing downtime with her family, she won't venture far from home.

"We're going to be tourists this year and visit the monuments and museums in Washington. We're also going to try to find every avenue in the city that's named after a state," said Wendel. "If you think about it, there's so much to do in this area that we all take for granted. You really don't have to leave the area to feel like you're in another city."

From museum exhibits to adventure centers, a goldmine of family getaways abounds locally. There are even activities for family bonding available without leaving home.

"Ask the kids what they would like to do. Involve them and give [them] a choice. Whatever it is they suggest, come up with a plan to document their adventure so they can share it with grandparents or siblings away at college, said Lois Stover, Ph.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University. "Let them help plan the Metro route or just look at the Metro map and randomly pick a station and explore that area."

"A lot of adults assume that kids want a big trip, but a lot of times a kid will say, 'I want to blow bubbles in the back yard.' It's important for children to have a say in how the family uses its free time," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Among the recommendations that Stover

offers are activities at one's neighborhood library and trips to indoor public swimming pools. For animal-loving families the National Zoo offers beasts ranging from elephants and eagles to tigers and frogs.

"Get outside and take the family to one of the lesser known national parks, like Prince William, or walk the C&O Canal," said Stover.

There's also Gravelly Point Park near Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, which is ideal for family picnics, games of kickball or simply watching airplanes take off and land.

"If it's warm, do a beach day in the backyard [or] set up an indoor mini-golf course with Nerf balls [or use] Wiffle balls and bats," said Stover. "Have a dance party, a science day. Have a 'Today is Blue, or whatever color works, Day,' so everyone wears blue, all foods are blue, you ride the blue line Metro just to see where it goes, [for example]."

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory on the National Mall is where Stephanie Kleinman is planning to take her twin daughters during spring break.

"The girls call it a museum for plants, and it's neat to go from the desert to the jungle all within one building," said Kleinman who lives in McLean. "We'll probably check out some of the other museums while we're downtown."

There are times when a staycation can be more relaxing than travel, says Lorente. "If you look at the list of the top 100 stressors in life, taking a vacation is on the list," she said. "A staycation, when done with purpose, can really be good."

Advanced planning is a key to making that time spent together meaningful, advises Lorente. "A lot of times people say they're taking a staycation and they end up doing chores around the house. And everybody is on their electronics," she said. "But it's really about family bonding and everyone coming together and creating shared experiences as a family."



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BY MARION BRUNKEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA

“I hope that everyone will join me as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Spring for Alexandria. It is fun and meaningful to be with friends, neighbors and local businesses in giving back to our community,” said Mayor Allison Silberberg. “This is a great opportunity to ‘spring forward’ and to help make a difference in our beloved city.”

COMMENTARY

2007 ... Alexandria, the night when a group of four happy, committed and visionary community leaders, having a meal together, broached the idea of engaging residents city-wide in giving to the beautiful little city that sheltered them and kept them safe. It would take planning and communication, a good organizer and recruiter to gather volunteers to make it something worthwhile. Realizing they couldn't muster enough people at that late point, they sat off to plan for the following Spring. In fact, they even named their soon-to-be-born baby, “Spring for Alexandria” (SFA) — a celebration of giving of service in our community.

“Spring for Alexandria was the brainchild of a few of us who wanted to celebrate and coordinate efforts of giving back to nonprofits here in Alexandria,” said Allison Cryor DiNardo, one of the early organizers. “It was a bit ambitious, but launched in 2008 in partnership with ACT for Alexandria, Volunteer Alexandria, the city, the chamber, Rebuilding Together and LEMONAIDE. We wanted to promote and encourage our community's enthusiasm for volunteering and local philanthropy.”

During the first great get together in 2008, 400 eager and willing volunteers arrived, spreading out to different sites across the city, performing necessary upkeep and repairs. Marine Captain Sam Moore, who took a day of leave as part of The American Legion Post 24 team, was heard to say, “I love being a part of this. I know how much I appreciated so many strangers volunteering to send packages when I was in Afghanistan — so this is one small way of giving back.” Did I mention that in that same year,



Spring2Action, a 24 hour online donation drive raised \$320,000 for our local charities? Spectacular!

In 2013, our sixth year, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office's Helping Hands Team sprang into action cleaning the fields and woods behind a middle school, getting “down and dirty” to help keep the students safe.

Are you getting excited yet? Can you feel the spirit? Since its inception, the event continues to be steady. Last year, more than 600 people, who love the safety and friendly spirit of our town, arrived with work gloves, sun hats, pruning shears and happy hearts, to add their “two cents worth.”

Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter said, “Having a team of my employees volunteer for Volunteer Alexandria and city-supported events like Spring For Alexandria accomplishes a number of important goals: it builds a connection between my office and the Alexandria community, it provides my employees with a very real feeling of having accomplished something important for the community and, because while volunteering can be hard work, it is also really fun, and it therefore improves the morale of my employees. Volunteer Alexandria is an incredible organization and I truly appreciate what it does for the Alexandria community.”

Every year, in average of 600 volunteers

contributing 2,200 hours, which resulted in more than \$470,000 in nine years in economic impact. I am sure we will reach \$500,000 worth of services this year.

Today, SFA is hosted by Volunteer Alexandria, in collaboration with the City of Alexandria, and includes the Annual Business Philanthropy Summit – Invest in our Community, a breakfast event that brings together approximately 220 businesses and nonprofit organizations to discuss community needs and celebrate local philanthropy on April 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the George Washington Masonic Temple. David Gardner, co-founder of The Motley Fool, will be the keynote speaker. A Community Service Day where hundreds of city and business employees and individuals volunteer their time helping nonprofit and city agencies on May 12 and a Service Day for youth and families on May 20. To be a helping hand, you only need to go online and sign up at <http://2017springforalexandria.kintera.org>. You'll be glad you did. It's good medicine for the soul. Looking forward to meeting you there. For more details and to view sponsor opportunities, visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org or call 703-836-2176. “It's amazing that in 2017 it still continues ... yet another example of how Alexandria truly is a special place,” says Cryor DiNardo.

FROM PAGE 11

ting out ahead of your promises, i.e., leading with marketing, advertising, communications, even public events that set up visitors for experiences that cannot be delivered. The key to visitor satisfaction is the fun of shopping the unique Street that is King ... as Ms. Putens observed, blocks of vacant storefronts offer little opportunity to spend your hard earned cash. They look like shared failure.

So, let's cut to the chase — spend where you must, today — make it affordable, right now. Let's keep the the heart of the BID Zone beating. We don't need unnecessary costs to get this off the ground and make our house look better.

Kathryn Papp/Alexandria

Audit Needed

To the Editor:

Although I did not win a seat on Alexandria's City Council in 2006, I have continued to advocate for an independent audit of the city's major accounts, to include the Operating and Capital Improvement budgets. I also pressed for an audit of the schools to be conducted by the Department of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Jim Hartman, who was the city manager at the time, took my initiative and initiated an efficiency and effectiveness audit for several of the city's departments, with good results. However, a number of departments were not required to undergo this audit, so the overall results for the city as a whole were not truly assessed. Ten years later, a valid requirement still exists for the city to conduct an efficiency and effectiveness audit for all departments.

Since the city has a debt of \$600 million with an annual debt service of \$90 million (with \$2 billion in unfulfilled infrastructure requirements), it doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine that an overall, comprehensive audit just might be required.

During the November 2015 election cycle, I stated that the city should “initiate a thorough independent performance audit of the city's Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets to ensure that the citizens of Alexandria are receiving cost effective, efficient and reliable services.” In this time of fiscal constraints and impending revenue declines, anything less is a disfavor to our citizenry.

Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet
Alexandria

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

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

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

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PEOPLE

Celebrating Her 99th Birthday

At age 99, Eleanor W. Bune, of Arlington, recently celebrated her March birthday at a dinner party held at Essy's Carriage House in Arlington that her daughter, Karen L. Bune, organized. A 64-year-old guest said, "I've never known anyone 99-years-old." Her internist, Dr. Lawrence Stein, said, "You've reached a milestone."

Eleanor Bune enjoys good discussions, reading the newspaper, keeping up with current events, and dining out. Despite some health issues and the pain of arthritis that embrace the elder years, she keeps going. She lives with her daughter and says Karen is of great help to her.

Karen Bune is employed as the patient relations manager for Inova Alexandria Hospital.

"I'm assisting the patients at the hospital and also caring for my mom. I'm truly in the caregiver role," Karen Bune said.

Karen Bune credits Stein for her mother's success in reaching age 99. "Dr. Stein is my hero, and he holds a special place in my



Eleanor W. Bune with her daughter Karen.

PHOTO BY LAURIE GRAHAM

heart always. In 1996, he saved her life when she was seriously ill with pneumonia. If it weren't for him, she would not be here today. He is a physician that truly cares about his patients, and he is #1 in my book," she said.

Essy and Janet Saedi, the owners of the restaurant, always provide a warm welcome to Eleanor and her daughter. Noting Eleanor Bune's spirit for her age, Essy Saedi always asks with a smile, "Are you ready to go to Georgetown with me?"

more.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

FRIDAY/MAY 12

Community Service Day. 12:30-4:30 p.m. at at Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N. Alfred St., 1st Floor. Community service day as part of the 10th Annual Spring for Alexandria for employees of City government, businesses and nonprofits. \$25. Visit 2017springforalexandria.kintera.org for

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Community Service Day. 12:30-4:30 p.m. at at Volunteer Alexandria, 123 North Alfred St., 1st Floor. Community service day is part of the 10th Annual Spring for Alexandria. For youth and families. \$15. Register online at 2017springforalexandria.kintera.org for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Next in the Pipeline: 'Around the Snake Turn'

Play by Patricia Connelly about West African practice of trokosi, or sex slaves.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
GAZETTE PACKET

The third reading of the Pipeline Playwrights' world-premiere play, "Around the Snake Turn," by Patricia Connelly, will be held on Monday, April 3, at MetroStage in Alexandria.

"'Around the Snake Turn' came out of an article I read over a decade ago in The New York Times about the practice of trokosi," said Connelly who spent two years researching and writing the piece. Accompanying the newspaper article was a photo of a young 12-year-old girl who was serving as a slave to a traditional tribal priest. "The story and photo haunted me," she said.

The play centers around Baaba, whose son is accused of a crime in her West African village, and the local fetish priest places a curse on the entire family. Baaba knows that to appease the gods and remove the curse, the family must offer a young virgin girl to serve the priest as "wife to the gods" or trokosi sex slave. Baaba, however, challenges the accusation, knowing she could never turn over her young daughter or any

other child to the local priest. In so doing, Baaba risks everything, fighting family and tradition to save her children.

Connelly said she spent a lot of time researching both the religion and the West African culture, talking with people and asking questions. "I have to know enough to create characters who are fully realized, complex, feeling human beings who live and work within this culture," she said.

Directed by Cody Jones, the reading will feature: Gayle Carney, AakhuTuahNera Freeman, Obinna Nwachukwu, Caroline G. Pleasant, William Shipman, and Kanysha Williams.

The reading is the next step in the development of the play. The first reading was at The Kennedy Center Page-to-Stage Festival in early September and since then Connelly's made a number of revisions. "At this point, I want to see how an audience responds to the story and which parts of it still need revision," she said.

Connelly hopes the audience will be drawn into this family's story and ultimately be moved by the courage and conviction of the characters, particularly the mother of the family. "I also hope the audience will



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Caroline G. Pleasant will be reading from "Around the Snake Turn" by Patricia Connelly on Monday, April 3, at MetroStage.

come away with a greater understanding and awareness of religious practices and a culture that are different from what we know and experience in our country," she said.

Pleasant will be reading the role of Baaba, the mother who tries to keep her young daughter from being sent to the village priest to be his slave.

"I don't understand or agree with the practice of trokosi, and had never heard of the practice until working with this piece,"

she said. "One challenge was to not get too angry too soon. I had to be a woman who knows about the practice, but never thought she'd have to worry about her daughter going to the priest."

As far as audience takeaways, she said: "I want the audience to take away the strength, tenacity, and determination people have, and sacrifices we're willing to make when people we love are in danger."

She added: "And I want them to see that also family pressures, traditions, and cultural conditions, can sometimes overrule what we know is the right thing to do. I hope the audience sees there is not one single way to look at issues ... there are as many ways as there are people looking at the issue."

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia, working together to support, present, and promote each other's work with the goal of moving their plays into the local and national theater pipeline.

The reading of "Around the Snake Turn" will be held on Monday, April 3, at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St. After the reading, enjoy refreshments and informal conversation with the playwright and actors. More info about the reading can be found at www.facebook.com/events/247702042346106/.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar. 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

UCM Raffle Tickets. Ongoing, the United Community Ministries is raffling off a trip to Cancun at the 'Give From the Heart' Gala on May 6 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. \$175 admission, \$25 raffle ticket. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

The Hand Print Workshop. Through April 2, various times at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dennis O'Neil's Hand Print Workshop exhibit features a wide representation of the prints created by these artists in his Alexandria studio, including some by William Christenberry and Renee Stout, as well as works by O'Neil himself. Opening Reception, Sunday, Feb. 26, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Water Taxi to National Mall. Through April 16. Departing at 11:10 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. from the waterfront at Cameron and Union streets. Potomac Riverboat Company offers a 30-minute direct water taxi to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to access events of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, including the Blossom Kite Festival. \$28 round-trip for adults, \$16 one-way for adults; \$16 round-trip for children under 12; \$8 one-way for children under 12. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/water-taxi/national-mall/ or call 703-684-0580 for more.

The Mercy Walk Tour. Saturdays and Sundays through April 16, 2:30 p.m. Tour starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. The Mercy Walk tour will give visitors and locals alike a feel for what it was like to live in an occupied city during the Civil War. \$13 adults; \$7 children; \$12 seniors Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com/themeracywalk for more.

3-Dimensional Views Artshow. Through April 23, 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.potomacfiberarts-gallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five

are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com 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 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/mtvernon/ or call 703-768-3224 for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward

Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria



'Wizard of Oz'

Various times from March 31-April 2 it's the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre production of **Wizard of Oz** at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. \$12. Visit www.mvcct.org for more.

during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum.

Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit. Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include

military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org.

Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit. Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-

ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria Symphony Partners With Washington Choral Arts

BY MELINDA KERN
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will present a pair of choral performances in partnership with the Choral Arts Society of Washington and guest conductor Scott Tucker on April 1 and 2. The concert set continues the ASO's 73rd season with a focus on musical masterworks, led by five renowned guest conductors.

Tucker has expanded the reputation of Choral Arts since his tenure began in 2012 and launched the Choral Arts Chamber Singers. This hand-selected group of 58 singers will add their voices to the ASO at the upcoming performances.

This special concert will feature two major works: Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Haydn's Mass in D Minor (better known as the Lord Nelson Mass). Written at the height of his career, Bernstein composed solos for the Psalms for boy soprano as the voice of David himself and set the text in the original Hebrew. "The music is a mix of original music cut from previous pieces," said Tucker. "There are references to other religious texts and draft sketches

from West Side Story."

The Lord Nelson Mass, which Haydn composed amongst his greatest liturgical works including The Creation, was inspired by Napoleon's advancing armies, certainly a "mass for troubled times." The ASO and Choral Arts welcome soloists Esther Heideman (soprano), Linda Maguire (mezzo-soprano), Brian Thorsett (tenor) and James Shaffran (baritone).

Rounding out the program will be two works by Brahms, who greatly admired Haydn and the Viennese School. Variations on a Theme by Joseph Haydn will feature the orchestra with no chorus. The combined groups will also perform Nänie, an elegy written for one of Brahms' dearly-departed friends.

The fully-professional Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at both the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center (Saturday performances) and the George Washington Masonic Memorial (Sunday performances). Ticket prices: \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. To order tickets and for more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

CALENDAR

549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. www.nfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.forward.org or call 703-746-

4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

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

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 30

Civil War Music. 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join historian Carson Hudson and fiddler Arden Clark as they musically explore the story of a time when America was at war with itself in the 1860s. \$25. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 31

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Breaking the Glass Ceiling - The Sky's the Limit" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans runs March 31-April 30. Artists reflect on this metaphor of pushing through barriers. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

NOVA Idol 2017. 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. Vocalists from all six campuses of Northern Virginia Community College, and winners will receive cash prizes between \$1,000 and \$4,000. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

Russian and Ukrainian Folk Music. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Tetiana Khomenko (balalaika) and Vitalii Lyman (piano) will present an evening of diverse music. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or

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Del Ray Artisans

“Breaking the Glass Ceiling – The Sky’s the Limit” is a theme at the at Del Ray Artisans show running March 31-April 30. Artists reflect on this metaphor of pushing through barriers. Opening Reception: Friday, March 31, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/ exhibits

CALENDAR

call 703-838-4994.

MARCH 31-APRIL 2

Wizard of Oz. Various times through April 2 at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre production of “The Wizard of Oz.” \$12. Visit www.mvcc.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 1

Watershed Clean-Up. 9-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Help remove bottles, cans, tires, and other carelessly dumped debris from local streams. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/.

Distillery and Gristmill Reopens. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Demonstrations by costumed distillers take visitors through the historic process of whiskey-making in this reconstruction of Washington’s 18th-century distillery. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Save Our Ship Lecture. 10-11 a.m. at 105 North Union St. First Floor Lobby. Special lecture on new discoveries on Alexandria’s 18th-century ship by Benjamin Skolnik, Alexandria Archaeology. Find out the latest news about the ship excavated last year on the Alexandria Waterfront. Reservations required, recommended donation \$10. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

Forgotten Fairfax Lecture. 11 a.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Forgotten Fairfax Presents Beacon Field and Hybla Valley Airports: A Talk by Anna Marie Hicks and Harry P. Lehman. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext. 4.

Rail Passengers Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Joe Theismann’s Restaurant, 1800 Diagonal Road. Attendees will hear from Jim Matthews, President & CEO of the National Association of Railroad Passengers; Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation; Chuck Riecks, head of Friends of the Cardinal (an Amtrak train); and others. Visit www.varprail.org

more.
Gunston School House. 5-7 p.m. at 411 Jackson Place, Del Ray. Historical setting sponsored by the Alexandria Committee of the Colonial Dames. \$30 or \$100 for two people for the wine and appetizer party. Visit wp.nscdava.org for more.

Rum Punch Challenge. 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. \$50 per person, or \$100 to include both admission and a VIP pre-event tasting of Bacardi’s special rums. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

Classical Music Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. With Scott Tucker, guest conductor and the Choral Arts Society of Washington. \$20-\$60 adult, \$10 student, \$5 youth. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

SUNDAY/APRIL 2

Science and History. 1-4 p.m. at The Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Highlights where science and history mixed, with a collection of medicinal herbs, shop furnishings, and apothecary bottles and equipment. call 703.746.3852, or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org for more.

Classical Music Concert. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$20-\$60 adult, \$10 student, \$5 youth. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

APRIL 5-6

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. noon and 7 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Activities commemorating the martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Call toll free at 1-800-941-0083 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 6

Coffee & Connections. 8-9 a.m. at National Industries for the Blind, 1310 Braddock Place. Join the Alexandria Chamber’s Professional Women’s Network. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members Visit web.alexchamber.com for more.

Thai Restaurants in All Corners

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

From beef to tofu, soup to noodles, rice classics to salads, Thai food is always on the menu in Alexandria. Thai restaurants are in ample supply across the city, which makes it hard to narrow down the best options on any given day. Here are three of the city’s crown jewels.

Thai Lemongrass, 506 South Van Dorn St.

Tucked away in a strip mall in Alexandria’s West End, Thai Lemongrass is admittedly not much to look at from the parking lot. But diners who venture in the front door will be handsomely rewarded by good food and good service — and, since the restaurant is usually quite popular, they won’t be dining alone.

One of Thai Lemongrass’ specialties is the Paradise Curry, a red curry with shrimp, chicken and pineapple. Or enjoy the tangy tofu with ginger, which features the eponymous ingredients with mushrooms and onions in a black-bean sauce.

Thai Peppers, 2018 Mount Vernon Ave.

Thai Peppers has enjoyed a lengthy residency in Del Ray, and for good reason: Its food is consistent, well-apportioned, and most importantly delicious. And over the years, the restaurant has expanded to Bristow and Haymarket, as well, extending its reach to a wider audience.

Mount Vernon Special Tour. 5:30-8 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. “A Neighborly Visit: A Special Evening at Mt. Vernon” includes private after-hours tours of the Mansion, the Distillery and the Grist Mill. \$40 for non-members and \$35.00 for Alexandria Historical Society members. Visit alexandriahistoricalociety.wildapricot.org/ for more.

Hometown Habitat. 7-8:30 p.m. at the at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Alexandria Beautification Commission is sponsoring a free screening of “Hometown Habitat,” a film that focuses on local ecosystems. Visit alexandriabeautification@gmail.com for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 7

Blessed Sacrament Musical Offering. 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be prayed in a musical setting for choir and organ by Franz Liszt. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir will sing with organist Ann Carney. Email jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org or call 703-998-6100 x103 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 8

Living History Encampment. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the history, training and army life of the U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Call 703-746-4848, or visit forward.org for more.
Ikebana Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Ikebana is a Japanese art of flower arrangement. Learn its rich symbolism and fundamentals,

The menu runs the gamut from curry to noodles to Thai Peppers’ “Wok Corner,” and you’d be hard-pressed to find a bad apple in the bunch. Unlike some restaurants that shoehorn diners into a particular protein choice at the outset, Thai Peppers allows customers to order virtually any menu option with a choice of meat or tofu — a boon for vegetarians and carnivores alike. Some of the gems are the pad-kaprow, a stir-fry with Thai basil and vegetables in a spicy garlic sauce, and the pa-nang curry, a red curry mixed with coconut milk and served with your protein of choice.

Sam Phao Thai Cuisine, 1019 King St.

Located between Patrick and Henry streets in Old Town, Sam Phao looks absolutely tiny at first glance. But looks are deceiving; the restaurant has a second floor with a great deal of dining room space should the few first-floor tables be taken. Sam Phao has called Old Town home for almost a decade, and within that time it has begun to shine as one of the neighborhood’s best Thai eateries.

One of Sam Phao’s most impressive dishes is its pineapple fried rice. Served with shrimp, tomatoes, egg, and vegetables, the rice dish rests neatly in a hollowed-out pineapple, causing other tables to crane their necks as the server brings it out of the kitchen. For something a bit more low-key, go with the Pad Pak entrée, a mix of meat (or tofu) with vegetables served with a light brown sauce.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

and take home a flower arrangement. \$38, supplies extra. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ or call 703-642-5173 for more.

French and Indian War in Alexandria. noon-4 p.m. in the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The “Grandest Congress”: The French and Indian War in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-2997 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 11

Garden Experts Answer Questions. 11 a.m.-noon in Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stop by and chat with the VCE Master Gardeners who maintain the Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens and see what is springing to life. Visit mgv.org for more.

Dale and Ray in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Dale Watson and Ray Benson. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.daleandray.com for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 13

Level Office Alexandria Opening. 6:30 p.m. at 950 N. Washington St. Grand opening of a remote office complex, new entrepreneurial community. Open to public. Visit leveloffice.com for more.

The Migration Project. 7:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The Migration Project explores stories of relocation. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac to sign up or www.janefranklin.com.

Samantha Fish Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Fish is a Kansas City blues guitarist and singer. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

APRIL 13-15

Revolutionary Gentleman Comedy. 7:30 p.m. at the at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The musical is based on the life of Benedict Arnold. Tickets are \$34 and \$39 at the door, or \$29 and \$34 online at www.InfinityStage.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 14

Marc Scibilia in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. With Corey Harper & Brad Ray. \$19.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 19

Antiques Club. 7 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Free, public invited. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Mary B. Gallagher, the author of “My Life with Jackie Kennedy,” for whom she worked as her secretary for a number of years. Call 703-360-4979 for more.

Alexander Hamilton Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, will highlight this historical figure. \$12 or \$10 for members of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby’s Tavern Museum volunteers. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Celebrate spring with the Friends of Carlyle House’s Annual Garden Day Herb and Craft Sale. \$5 for adults; \$3 for children; free for

ENTERTAINMENT

Friends of Carlyle House. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. The members of the Garden Club of Alexandria and The Hunting Creek Garden Club are sponsoring a tour of five homes in Old Town. \$45 in advance, \$55 day of tour. Visit www.vagardenweek.org for more.

Raptor Rapture Birdshow. 10- a.m.-noon at the Belle Haven picnic area of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Celebrate Earth Day by learning more about raptors, a family that includes owls, hawks, and falcons. Visit www.fodm.org for more.

Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon. 10 a.m. at Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Road. Advance tickets \$25. Limited tickets at door \$30. Call 703-765-6555.

Discovery Day at Historic Huntley. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Enjoy activities for the whole family while discovering how Historic Huntley changed over time. Suggested donation \$5, children under 10 free. Call 703 768-2525.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 22-23

Barley & Music Fest. noon-6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Craft brews from 18 artisanal breweries, live entertainment, and food vendors. Email barleymusicfest@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

Meet the Artists. 1-3 pm. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Some of the area's watermedia floral and landscape painters highlighting their exhibit "Natural Beauty: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists," which runs April 18-June 18. Free. Visit www.PotomacValleyWatercolorists.org or call 703-941-7987 for more.

Dominion Chorale Opera. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The chorale will be joined by finalists and semifinalists of the 2016 Washington International Competition for Voice, and pianist, Thomas Pandolfi. Visit www.newdominion.org for more.

The Jayhawks in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. The band is playing in support of 2016's "Paging Mr. Proust." Produced by Peter Buck (R.E.M.). Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 24

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. An assortment of goods for sale. Free. mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

Democrats To-Go Meeting. 7-8:30



Hand Print Workshop

Dennis O'Neil's Hand Print Workshop: Twenty Years of Partnership in Print will be on exhibit through April 2 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

p.m. in the Alexandria Democratic Committee Office, 618 N. Washington St. All are welcome to this Democrats To Go outreach effort to help communicate the truth, build ADC base, and elect more people throughout the Commonwealth. Email Petersdorathe@gmail.com.

APRIL 25-MAY 21

Singing the Blues exhibit. Various hours at the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Highlights the work of three featured artists Beverly Baker, Joanne Bast, and Laura Savage. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 26

2017 Public Safety Valor Awards. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Crowne Plaza, 901 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's 31st annual Valor Awards to salute the brave women and men of our Police and Fire Departments, and Sheriff's Office, who showed poise and courage in extraordinary circumstances in 2016. Members \$65, non-members \$75. Visit web.alexchamber.com for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

NOVA Student Film Festival. 6-9

p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Bisdorf Building, Room 196, 5000 Dawes Ave. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Former FBI investigator Robert K. Wittman highlights "Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures." Free. Call 703-746-1770 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. "A Place Called Home: Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event" is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext 6.

Car Show Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Car Show to support the graduating senior class at West Potomac High School. \$20 to enter a vehicle, attendance is free. Visit www.angwestpotomac.com/ for more.

Meet the Author. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Genealogist and historian Char McCargo Bah explores the historical issues surrounding the Ramsey Homes Redevelopment Project. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

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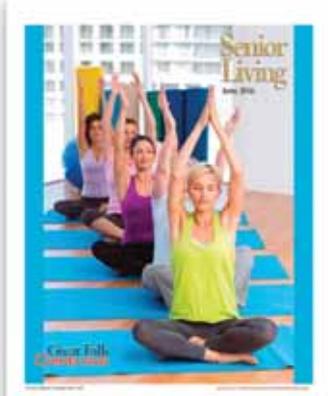
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Titans 13 RED were Silver medalists in the Gold Bracket of the Montgomery Village Sports Association's 13s Invitational volleyball tournament held Saturday, March 25, at the Discovery Center in Boyds, Md. Members of Titans 13 RED include (from left) Jill Jones, Maura Munson, Kaitlin Peters, Addie Fielding, Head Coach Ripley Forbes, Dylan Rex, Lila Randall, Harper Lucchesi, Rachel Wilson and Milan Rex. Anna Harrington was missing from the photo.

Titans Volleyball Club Returns with Medals

Two 13-year-old youth volleyball teams from the Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club medaled in a recent tournament sponsored by the Montgomery Village Sports Association at the Discovery Center in Boyds, Md. The 13 Red team was undefeated in pool play and took home the silver medal in the GOLD bracket. The 13 Black team rallied from a loss in pool play to go undefeated in the championship round of the tournament's SILVER bracket.

Titans 13 BLACK are Silver bracket Champions of the MVSA Mixed 13s Invitational volleyball tournament held at the Discovery Center on Saturday, March 25. Members of the team include (back row) Genevieve Cyrus, Annalie McCarthy, Caroline Davenport, Annie Tucker, Meaghan Wendling and Head Coach Stephanie Murphy, and (front row) Natalie Keough and Mary Brewer. Additional members of the team include Tess Lundgren and Nellie Hartell.



T.C. Williams Crew Kicks Off Spring 2017 Season

Calm pre-dawn waters greeted the T.C. Williams High School Crew team and their rivals from McLean High School on Saturday, March 25, as they gathered at the Dee Campbell Rowing Center in Alexandria for a scrimmage to kick off the Spring 2017 season.

The Titans begin the season with approximately 150 scholar/athletes on the roster ranging from a crop of 8th grade novices to this year's highly decorated seniors, some of whom already have committed to row in colleges with top-tier rowing programs.

Veteran Men's Head Coach Peter Stramese and Women's Head Coach Pat Marquardt lead a group of coaches for the 2017 season, including Peter Hearing, Jaime Rubini, Kelly Kim, Enoch Cleckley, Matthew



Alexandria Crew Boosters President Michael Souza holds a ceremonial oar presented by the 1971 TC Williams Crew Team.

Yancey.

The March 25 scrimmage continued a tradition that dates back to March 1949, when the second year Alexandria George Washington High

Schilling, Colin Cantfil, Jeff Coan, Jr., Shannon Hoff, Chris Ottie, Andrea Huggins, Diane Woods, Azim Khodjibaev, and Beth

School crew team scrimmaged against the inaugural rowing team from Washington and Lee High School.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Alexandria residents **Bruce W. Grimes, Sherwin Clarke, Sarah Burley, and Alexandra L. Werner Winslow** earned degrees at Boston University in September 2016.

Amanda Humbertson, of Alexandria, was named to the Chancellor's List at Troy University in Alabama.

Aliyah Toler, of Alexandria, earned endowed scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio, this fall. Toler, a graduate of National Collegiate Preparatory Public Charter High School majoring in communication studies, earned the J. Everton & Mary Louise Houston Scholarship and the Marion & Frank Mueller Scholarship.

Bridgewater College freshman **Emma Daw**, of Alexandria, has been named the ODAC Swimmer of the Week after setting five school records in her first two collegiate dual meets. Daw set school records in all five of her individual events over two days last week for the Eagles.

Susquehanna University student **Heather Pearson, of Alexandria**, is studying at the University of Nicosia this fall in Cyprus. Pearson is 2014 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School.

The **St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School** literary magazine, *Fire & Stones*, received two national awards from the American Scholastic Press Association. The magazine was recognized with a "First Place" award and an "Outstanding Cover" award for their spring 2016 issue.

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium has recently selected **Karen T. White**, of Alexandria, to fill its newly established program director position. She will provide the day-to-day management and oversight of the program that trains nearly 200 volunteers in a University of Virginia curriculum to help struggling readers in kindergarten and first grade improve their literacy skills. White is a graduate of T.C. Williams High School.

Malik Thomas, 17, of Alexandria, was among 17 Cadets from the Commonwealth Challenge Youth Academy to earn Silver Phase, a distinguished honor, for their sustained progress and leadership, during the first Silver Phase ceremony of Class 46 on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Cadet Thomas is a T.C. Williams alumni.

Kate Whitmire, of Alexandria, earned the Colonial Athletic Association Championship as part of James Madison University volleyball as the Dukes topped No. 6 Delaware for the tournament title.

Senior guard **Jack Howerton**, of Alexandria, was one of 12 players selected this fall from Bridgewater College to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference 2016 All-Conference football team.

The long history of Alexandria high school rowing also was highlighted after the scrimmage when Jerry Kelly, captain of the first T.C. Williams crew team following the 1971 merger of the Alexandria's George Washington, Francis Hammond, and T.C. Williams High Schools, presented an oar marked with the three-color patterns of the three schools to Alexandria Crew Boosters President Michael Souza.

The oar had belonged to Kelly's father, who had been ACB president during that transition and signified the new unity of the team.

The Titans begin the official Spring regatta season on Saturday, April 1, at the Noxontown Regatta at St. Andrews School near Middletown, Del.

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Obituary



Peter Francis Smith, Ph.D.

Of Alexandria, VA, passed away February 23, 2017, peacefully at home surrounded by his family. He had multiple myeloma. Peter was born June 29, 1942 in New Brunswick, NJ. He attended St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick, received his BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Economics/Marketing from Rutgers University in 1964 and 1966 respectively, and his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1970. After receiving his Ph.D., Peter and his wife Patricia moved to Alexandria where Peter joined the Department of Agriculture. A life-long civil servant, Peter joined the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency in 1971, working on National Environmental Policy Act issues before returning to the Department of Agriculture in 1979. He worked with the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act and the National Resources Inventory analyzing long range land and water demands and their economic effect on the environment. He retired in 2005, last serving as a member of the Senior Executive Service, as Director of the Resource Economics and Social Sciences Division of the National Resources Conservation Service. In addition to his civil service, Peter was a lifelong educator. Peter taught marketing and economics at Southeastern University for 36 years as an Adjunct Professor. He may have taught the last Nigerian Prince that emailed you how to market his scheme! He also taught at the Florida Institute of Technology, Alexandria from 1989-1994. Outside of Peter's hard work and long career, he was a loving and devoted father, tirelessly supporting his children's soccer, swimming and diving, rowing and educational pursuits. Peter was a member of Army-Navy Country Club and an avid golfer. Peter was also a long time member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria. He was a member of the American Economic Association, the American Marketing Association and Delta Phi Fraternity, Epsilon Chapter. Peter loved to travel and represented the US at numerous international meetings throughout the world, including trips to Hungary, Greece, Finland, Spain, New Zealand, the U.K. and OECD meetings in France. Peter is predeceased by his parents George F. and Theresa K. Smith and his brother William G. Smith. He is survived by Patricia Bayly Smith, his wife of 50 years, his children Justin Smith and Courtney Smith, grandchildren Townson Cocks, Emmett Cocks, Anneliese Erb, and Holden Smith, as well as his sisters-in-law Victoria Langbein and Johanna Smith, eight nieces, two nephews, other relatives and many friends. His kindness and love will be missed by all. A celebration of Peter's life will be held April 8, 2-5 PM at his home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the T.C. Williams High School Crew Boosters, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

OBITUARY



Polly Norment Burke died peacefully at home on March 18, 2017, in Alexandria, Va. Born in Washington, D.C. on June 16, 1926, Polly was the daughter of the late Clarence Forbes Norment, Jr of Washington, DC, formerly President of the National Bank of Washington, and the late Margaret Polley of Buffalo, NY. She was a fifth generation Washingtonian. Polly was raised at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC and was educated at The Sidwell Friends School. Prior to her marriage, she worked for several years as the Junior Chairman of the Home Hospitality Committee, a non-profit organization that helped veterans of World War II and the Korean War, especially those who suffered injuries, as they re-integrated into civilian life upon returning home from war. On one auspicious occasion, Polly arranged for Winston Churchill to visit with wounded American veterans and their families.

In 1954, she married George Anderton (Andy) Burke of Alexandria, Va, who preceded her in death in 1985. Together they raised their three children, Clarence N. Burke (Maria) of Alexandria, VA, Mamey B. Cooney (Philip) of Southlake, TX, and Julian T. Burke, II, (Valerie) of Alexandria, VA, and two step-sons, G. Anderton (Tony) Burke, Jr (WaewDao) of Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Michael G. A. Burke (Ruth) of New Orleans, LA.

Since 1961, Mrs. Burke resided on Captain's Row in Old Town and was well-known for inviting visitors in to see her garden. In 1975, she and her friend, Anne Cabaniss, authored a cookbook, *Delectable Cookery of Alexandria*, which had been endorsed by the Bicentennial Commission of Alexandria. This was followed in 1980 by a sequel, *More Delectable Cookery of Alexandria*.

For many years, she served on the Alexandria Republican Party Committee and she campaigned actively for many candidates seeking elective office. During his tenure, Virginia Governor George Allen named her to serve on the Citizens Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion; the Alexandria Historical and Restoration Preservation Commission; and the First Lady's Advisory Council.

Polly was an avid tennis player and fan, and belonged to Belle Haven Country Club for over 60 years. She played tennis every day during her winter visits to Naples, FL, where she had made many friends since first visiting there in 1970.

In addition to her children, she is also survived by her ten grandchildren: Clarence Burke, Jr., Anthony Burke, Marjorie Burke, Philip Cooney (Jennifer), Polley Cooney, Ruth Cooney, Samuel Burke, Julia Burke, Anderton Burke, III, and Jonathan Burke (Vanessa). She is also very fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Polly was preceded in death by her brother, Clarence F. Norment, III. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Nancy N. McCabe of Bethesda, MD and Agnes F. Burke of Irvington, VA.

A private burial will take place on April 29th at Ivy Hill Cemetery, followed by a Memorial Service at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to:

Alzheimer's Association (alz.org/nca)
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OBITUARY



Simpsonville, SC

Dick Erlenbaugh, 75, of Simpsonville, SC, husband of Patricia Ann Bolton Erlenbaugh, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, March 23, 2017 while surrounded by his family.

Born in Villa Park, IL he was a son of the late Ralph Erlenbaugh and the late Marguerite Becker Erlenbaugh. He was the youngest of seven siblings.

He graduated in '65 from the University of Notre Dame, where he served as captain of the ND basketball team. His greatest love was spending time with family, cheering on ND athletes, and being an integral part of his church community.

In addition to his wife, Patti, he is survived by one son, Mark Erlenbaugh, and his wife, Cason, of Pelzer; one daughter, Ann Marie Bynum and her husband, Matt, of Simpsonville; five grandchildren, Matthew, Luke, John, Alex and Ethan.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Ann.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, March 31, 2017 at 4:00 PM at St. Anthony's Catholic Church with Fr. Patrick Tuttle officiating.

A Celebration of Life will follow in the school gym.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to: Notre Dame Club of the Western Carolina's and/or St. Anthony's Elementary School.

Online condolences may be made at www.CannonFuneralHomes.com
Cannon Funeral Home, Fountain Inn, SC is serving the family.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Request for Proposals No. 0000675, Commercial Passenger Boat Berthing at the City Marina

Pre-Proposal: April 10, 2017 at 10 a.m. Purchasing Division Conference Room, 100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301, Alexandria, VA. 22314

Closing Date and Time: May 8, 2017, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

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

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

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ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY

A public hearing on the 2018 ATC Transit Development Plan will be held on April 12, 2017 at 5:30 P. M. Alexandria City Hall, City Council Workroom 2410: 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

No significant changes in current service are contemplated in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018.

For a copy of the 2018 Transit Development Plan (TDP), please contact Fatima Ahmed, ATC Secretary, at 703-746-5637 or email Fatima.ahmed@alexandriava.gov. The TDP will also be posted on the DASH website at <http://www.dashbus.com/about/default.aspx?id=20534>.

Paul Abramson, Chairman
Alexandria Transit Company
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Alexandria City Public Schools

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 17-03-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking Proposals from qualified Offerors to provide services for an LED Retrofit at multiple ACPS sites.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 17-03-04 LED Retrofit for Alexandria City Public Schools** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, **on or before 3:00 pm, April 17, 2017**. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement Office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the Offerors responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. Registration on the Vendor Self Service (VSS) system is required at <https://acps.munisselfservice.com/>.

A Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference and site visit will be held on April 5, 2017 at 9 am at Central Office, Facilities Conference Room 610-2 located at 1340 Braddock Place, 6th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Thereafter, Offerors will tour four (4) representative sites. **However, it is highly recommended that Offerors visit all sites listed in the RFP at dusk or dark before the Pre-Proposal Conference.**

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

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

Meloni Hurley
Procurement Manager

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