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Burning Old Glory

Mysterious arsons target American flags.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Mike Rosenberg had an idea. He lived in a condominium, which doesn't give him much access to a yard but he did have an exterior garden. Rosenberg, thinking to make use of this space, erected some American flags around independence day. What Rosenberg didn't know at the time was the new flags made him a target for a series of attacks in the West End where residents have had their American flags destroyed or removed.

"A couple months ago, we had these little American flags in our planters in our front yard," said Rosenberg. "In one planter, we noticed it was completely burned. What was left

SEE MYSTERIOUS, PAGE 8



A burned flag outside an Alexandria home.

PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE-PACKET



A West End home covered in American flags.

Sentenced to Prison

Cases involved two relationship-related murders.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Two Alexandria murders from relationships gone wrong were brought to a close on July 13. For the murder of her husband, Paula Thompson Marshall was sentenced to 14 years in prison with three years of post-release supervision. For his role in the murder of Jose Luis Perez Ferman, Reinaldo Mauricio Portillo Membreno was sentenced to 60 years in prison with 30 years suspended with good behavior and supervised probation for 20 years after release.

Paula Thompson Marshall claimed that she had accidentally killed her husband when the two were arguing over whether to euthanize their dog in October last year. He had been shot once in the torso, his body turned away in a defensive posture. She was convicted in April.

Membreno, who was 17 at the time, was pulled into a love triangle. Ferman had been flirting online with Leidi Granados Gutierrez, who was dating MS-13 gang member Alvaro Saenz Castro. Gutierrez lured Ferman to the park under the pretense of a romantic encounter. When Ferman arrived, Gutierrez was waiting there with Castro and Membreno. Castro began telling Ferman to stop seeing his girlfriend, but lost control and started to attack

SEE SENTENCES, PAGE 8

Berlin to Alexandria

Former Alexandria principal returns as ACPS interim superintendent.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Dr. Lois Berlin was retired. After 31 years working in education, she stepped down in 2011 as superintendent of Falls Church City Public Schools with every intention of staying retired. But Berlin said when the opportunity opened up to temporarily replace Dr. Alvin Crawley as interim superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools, it was too much to resist.

"I'm thrilled to be here," said Berlin. "It feels like coming home."

Berlin started her career in Alexandria schools as a teacher in 1980, eventually becoming assistant principal at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, then principal of Jefferson-Hous-



PHOTO: VERNON MILES

Interim Superintendent Dr. Lois Berlin.

ton Elementary school and later George Mason Elementary. She left ACPS in 2004 to accept a position as superintendent in Falls Church.

"I wanted to do this," said Berlin. "I had such good years here. I missed Alexandria. I missed the diversity."

Berlin is returning to a school system in the middle of a transition. ACPS has been in the middle of developing its 2020 strategic plan, redistricting, and several major school renovations. Berlin

SEE FORMER, PAGE 8

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You Flush, They Clean

When you flush the toilet, what happens to the water and the waste?

BY ANTONELLA NICHOLAS
GAZETTE PACKET

Last weekend at Shirlington Branch Library, residents had the opportunity to learn about how waste water is treated in Alexandria from Jae Watkins, community outreach and education manager for Alexandria Renew Enterprises.

Alexandria Renew is a public water recovery utility and cleans the City of Alexandria's water.

Watkins began the lecture with a recap of wastewater treatment history. There has always been wastewater, but wastewater treatment has only been around since the 1800s. In Alexandria, when scientists discovered that contaminated water made residents sick, wastewater was routed to Hunting Creek and the Potomac River.

The larger the city, the larger its sewage. "As Alexandria grew, local water started to show wear and tear," Watkins said. The Potomac River, especially, was congested with sewage contamination.

In 1952, the City Council created the Alexandria Sanitation Authority to address the



Jae Watkins, community outreach and education manager for Alexandria Renew Enterprises, explains Alexandria's history with wastewater treatment. Before the city commissioned a public utility to clean dirty water, wastewater flowed into the Potomac River unsanitized.

city's problem of contaminated water. It became Alexandria Renew in 2012.

Alexandria Renew prides itself on its integration into the community. Located in

the East Eisenhower area, the architecture of the facility blends into its surroundings — even though the facility processes all sorts of sewage, the refuse is not visible to passersby. "When you walk by, you don't smell us," Watkins said.

The facility has a small footprint, which Watkins says makes it more innovative. Most water treatment facilities are laid out horizontally, but Alexandria Renew has a vertical construct to maximize space for the water treatment process.

When you take a shower, flush the toilet, or use the sink, washing machine or dishwasher, the dirty water, or "wastewater," flows out of your home through the sewer to Alexandria Renew's water treatment facility. On a given day, the facility processes around 30 to 35 million gallons of wastewater.

The seven-to-eight hour process begins with screening out heavy items from the wastewater. Then, as more junk sinks to the bottom, fats, oils, and grease are pushed out. The remaining water is then pumped to Biological Reactor Basins where naturally occurring microorganisms eat nitrogen,

SEE WASTE WATER, PAGE 21

PHOTO BY ANTONELLA NICHOLAS/GAZETTE PACKET

Friendship Firehouse Festival

243rd birthday celebration set for Aug. 5

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association will hold its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival on Saturday, Aug. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free to the family event, which will take place in the 100 block of S. Alfred Street between Prince and King streets. The block will be closed to traffic for the festival.

Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department. Children will enjoy "driving" these big rigs and each child attending will receive a free fire helmet.

Other attractions include craft booths, community information tables and the Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company food truck. Free birthday cake will be served at 11 a.m.

In addition to the day's outdoor events, festival participants will be able to tour the Friendship Firehouse Museum. The building was originally built as a firehouse in 1855, remodeled in 1871 and restored in 1992 before undergoing roof and cupola repairs several years ago. Inside, the museum features the old hose reel, as well as the suction pumper fire engine, both pulled by hand.

Now a philanthropic organization focusing on fire and life safety, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association remains active in community events, including this



The annual Friendship Firehouse Festival will take place Aug. 5 in the 100 block of S. Alfred Street.

year's festival, which marks the 243rd anniversary of the company.

For more information, visit

www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pretty in Pink

The Pink Heals Tour will be making its second visit to Alexandria on Saturday, July 22. Pink Heals partners with public safety, medical professionals, local businesses and community leaders to provide health care support for local citizens through their message of love, hope and healing. Visit the Pink

Heals Tour at the intersection of King and Union streets between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to support people in need and see the pink fire trucks. Visit www.pinkheals.com.



COURTESY OF WIRELESS ZONE

Jacob Brock and Alexander Phifer-Rogers, employees of Wireless Zone on King Street, hold backpacks that will be given away at the School Rocks Backpack Giveaway on July 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Backpack Giveaway

Alexandria Wireless Zone is giving back to the community by partnering with The Cellular Connection and The Culture of Good — a company that helps other companies make a positive change in communities — to supply youngsters with backpacks for the upcoming school year in its fifth annual School Rocks Backpack Giveaway. This will be a nationwide event, with backpacks going out by the hundreds at various Wireless Zone locations. In the backpacks will be a pencil case, a ruler, pencils, pens, a three-ring binder, and folders. The Alexandria backpack drive will be held on July 23 at the 3518 King Street Wireless Zone location. The event will last from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Youngsters will be able to get a backpack, eat food, and play games.

— ANTONELLA NICHOLAS



Seaport Foundation kayakers ply the wrecks in the Mallows Bay shallows during an excursion June 21.



Mallows Bay experts Kim Hernandez and Steve Bunker explain the site's place in the history of the Chesapeake region.



The main "boneyard" at Mallows Bay is a haven for fish, which attract birds of prey including Bald Eagles.

Marine Sanctuary Proposed for the Potomac

ASF apprentices visit Mallows Bay.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Apprentices of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation traded in their workshop tools for kayaks June 21 when they got an up close look at Mallows Bay, the proposed National Marine Sanctuary along the Potomac River 30 miles south of Alexandria.

"The eagles at Mallows Bay were so close to us, I thought one might land on my kayak," said ASF executive director Steve Mutty. "It was enthralling to see these birds up close."

In Mallows Bay, the hulks of over 130 World War I-era wooden steamships share this patch of water with a thriving population of Bald Eagles, Ospreys and Great Blue Herons. There's also a direct historical link between Mallows Bay and Alexandria.

Popularly known as the Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet, this collection of decaying ships along the banks of the Potomac are both a monument to post-war American enterprise and mismanagement. As WWI raged, the United States activated a plan to have ships



Dozens of decaying wrecks make up the "ghost fleet" of Mallows Bay on the Potomac River off Nanjemoy, Md.

built by the Emergency Fleet Corporation between 1917 and 1919 under the auspices of the United States Shipping Board. By the time most of them delivered, the war had ended and they were rendered obsolete before they were even put into service.

Many of the ships were towed to Alexandria for partial dismantling; their smokestacks, engines, equipment and metal for scrap were removed, then they were towed to Mallows Bay. For a time, there was an operation set up in a cove of Mallows Bay where wooden hulls were burned and the remaining scrap metal was recovered. This proved commercially unsuccessful and eventually shut down, but the ships kept coming. They stacked up in the rivers of the

Chesapeake region, creating navigation hazards. Many found their final resting place when they were sunk in and around Mallows Bay.

The remains of the ghost fleet, which is the largest collection of wrecks in the Western hemisphere, has produced a unique combination of American Naval history and marine wildlife habitat. For that reason, Mallows Bay is working its way through the process of being designated a National Marine Sanctuary. It would be a first for the Chesapeake Bay region, as the next closest NMS is a day's drive away. To the south, the USS Monitor NMS lies off the coast of North Carolina, while to the north, Stellwagen Bank NMS lies at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay, where humans and whales share one of the richest fishing grounds in North America.

Mutty organized last month's excursion as an educational kayak trip to Mallows Bay for its apprentices, volunteers and staff. Twelve ASF kayakers were accompanied by two individuals who have been instrumental in moving the NMS nomination forward — Steve Bunker, formerly of The Nature Conservancy, has been the Charles County Government's liaison to the U.S. Government on the National Marine Sanctuary designation; and Kim Hernandez, a coastal resource planner with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Chesapeake and Coastal Service. They guided the group through dozens of wrecks in one of the main "boneyards" of Mallows Bay.

Above the water line, many of the wrecks

are barely recognizable due to the overgrowth of trees, brush and a variety of plant life in summer bloom. Below the waterline, the wrecks are a natural attraction to fish. And, as Hernandez pointed out, "Where there are lots of fish in shallow water, birds of prey follow ... and many of them nest in the vicinity to be close to their main source of food." These include Osprey, Great Blue Heron and the Bald Eagle.

Mutty, a New England native, has spent every summer of his life within an hour's boat ride of the Stellwagen Bank NMS, and has visited the area over a dozen times on whale watches. Whales aren't here, but something equally iconic; "I had lived here in the D.C. area for 25 years before my first Bald Eagle sighting ... through a strong pair of binoculars," said Mutty.

In recognition of this assemblage of historical and natural resources in state waters, the State of Maryland, along with over 60 community partners, submitted a NMS nomination to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in September 2014. Since then, NOAA, the Maryland Historical Trust, the Department of Natural Resources, and Charles County have been working to draft a plan for how the area will be cooperatively managed, if designated a NMS. "The main purpose for NMS designation is to protect the historical resources in the area for future generations," said Bunker, "but additional benefits include increased educational connections with public schools in the region, ecotourism, and small business opportunities."

As the Seaporters came off the water from a 2-hour tour around Mallows Bay, they passed a group of more than 20 kayakers heading out on the water. "Excitement about the NMS nomination is running high," said Bunker, "Both on-the-water activity at Mallows Bay and community interest has increased exponentially. This is a very big deal for the whole region, and we are especially eager to work with Alexandria historians to uncover more about its connection with Mallows Bay."

Echoing that, Mutty said, "To have a National Marine Sanctuary less than an hour's drive from Alexandria and D.C. would be a treasure."



The bow of a wreck goes green at Mallows Bay with a full-grown tree.



Seaport Foundation apprentices view nesting Ospreys on the deck of the scuttled USS ACCOMAC at Mallows Bay.

PHOTOS BY STEVE MUTTY/ALEXANDRIA SEAPORT FOUNDATION

PEOPLE

Piece Of Cake

Lillian Patterson celebrates 90th birthday.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Lillian Patterson, a fourth-generation Alexandrian whose first ancestor was brought to America as a slave in 1779, celebrated her 90th birthday June 22 at a surprise party held in her honor at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

More than 70 well-wishers from across the city joined in the celebration for the 2012 Living Legend of Alexandria, including Patterson's daughters Marilyn Patterson and Valerie Patterson Connors; grandsons Marques Wilson, Charles Connors and Alexander Connors; and great-grandson Jeremiah Wilson.

Patterson is the eldest of seven children born to Rev. N. Howard Stanton, then a pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Esther Gray Stanton, who was a teacher. She graduated from the segregated Parker-Gray High School in 1944 and received a BA in social studies from Storer College in Harpers Ferry, W.Va., in 1950.

In 1956, Patterson married Edward Lloyd Patterson, a music teacher and assistant principal of Parker-Gray High School. They were married for 23 years before his death in 1979.

Patterson, who retired as curator for the Alexandria Black History Museum in 2010, has been recognized by numerous organizations for her contributions to the community. Awards include the Outstanding Community Service Award (United Way National Capital Area); Community Service Award (Hopkins House); Community Service Award (Alexandria NAACP); Women-to-Women Making a Difference Award (Alexandria Commission on Women); and



Lillian Patterson, a fourth generation Alexandrian, celebrated her 90th birthday June 22 at a surprise party held in her honor at the Black History Museum.



The mother-daughter duo of Lillian and Marilyn Patterson celebrate Lillian's 90th birthday June 22 at the Black History Museum.

Generation to Generation Award (Alexandria Senior Services).

In addition, she has served as historian for Shiloh Baptist Church and twice as president of the Seminary Civic Association. She stays active in projects at the Black History Museum and is frequently seen assisting her daughter Marilyn, founder of the event planning company Joyous Events.

Tributes to Patterson were offered by Rev. Taft Quincy Heatley, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church; Nina Tisara, founder of Living Legends; Audrey Davis, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum; Mayor Allison Sillberberg; Lou Williams, Project Discovery; Carter Fleming, Seminary Hills Association; and Marilyn Patterson, of Joyous Events.

"Mom was quite surprised," said Marilyn Patterson. "It was a wonderful evening."

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PEOPLE

Wright Never Experienced a Boring Day

40 years as school nurse brings many changes.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Small chairs line the walls of the nurse's office right inside the front door of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School. Olga Wright has just retired after 40 years as a school nurse but is still very much attached. She still calls it "my school" and "her" office. She has seen many changes in her four decades as a school nurse but has never experienced a boring day.

Every day Wright has an agenda such as screening 50 students for hearing or vision. But if something else arises, she has to triage. She says she does the screening early in the year so she has time to work on the deficiencies.

Wright says after 40 years schoolyard fractures are still common but the job of a school nurse now includes preparation and training for possible disasters and pandemics. "I had a little boy with glasses who had very bad vision in one eye. He wasn't wearing his glasses. I had to get an interpreter to explain to his parents how important it was. It is my responsibility to know that I have conveyed the same im-

portance to the parents. It helped. He started wearing his glasses."

She says there are definitely more health concerns today. With the changing demographic, more youngsters need help at school. Wright remembers, "When I first started at Lyles Crouch in 1977 there was only one Spanish speaking family. "Now we have 26 or so languages in our school from all over the world. This means that we have interpreters for parent-teacher conferences. And we have a language line that I can use, for instance, to explain to parents in Arabic or another language that their child has a toothache.

"I don't remember students carrying around an inhaler at Lyles Crouch. Now there are a lot of children with asthma and with food allergies," she said. Teachers are also trained in the use of EpiPens and how to handle a seizure in the classroom. But one thing that has changed is a focus on wellness and prevention.

"There have been some things that are pretty heavy," she said. "We have always been concerned with infectious diseases. But now we understand better the pandemic like influenza H1N1. What does this mean for nurses? If someone is sick, I asked where they have been. I had to be a detective and a critical thinker." And she looked for patterns of symptoms.

And it has been terrifying preparing for disasters and emergencies. "We train and have workshops. And then there was the sniper; then, of course, 911 turned the



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

Olga Wright, former school nurse at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School

world upside down." But she explains that the nurses pushed the schools to develop plans for preparedness in 2002-2003. "We have drills for lockdown and position in place. And there is training about suspicious packages; we are aware if a book bag is left in the office. This brings a whole different environment to schools."

Wright's advice for a new nurse today is to be a lifelong learner. "Stay current so you are more competent in clinical skills. And,"

she said, "it is important to listen to children. Some kids come in repeatedly and you may be inclined to dismiss them. But it may not be a physical illness but may be experiencing anxiety."

Wright began her health career as a nurse in an emergency room of a hospital. Her experience as a school nurse started at Lyles Crouch in 1977 where she worked for eight years, then at William Ramsey for 15 years. "I've been at Samuel Tucker since it opened 17 years ago." She remembers the transition from an ER nurse to a school very well. "You are the only professional; there is no magic button to push for assistance. I remember the first time I had to call 911 holding up a student. With the big heavy walls at Lyles Crouch, no one would have heard me calling help."

Wright said, "Another piece I've been glad to see is adoption and use of electronic health records. The ACPS is ahead of many health care agencies. We have the documentation should you need it. If you have a substitute, you can come in the next day, and have continuity of care."

So what comes next? "I'm going to relax, to get rid of clutter. I love reading and walking. I'll swim more and travel. I'm sure I'll feel it the most when school starts in a month. She added, "I love being at Tucker." But there she goes again because she isn't at Tucker anymore.

This is the second in a series on teacher retirement in the City of Alexandria.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Awards Grants

Westminster Presbyterian Church presented its 2017 community grant awards to seven local organizations on Sunday, June 25. The 2017 Community Grant Award winners include:

- ❖ Bethany House — www.bhmv.org/
- ❖ Just Neighbors — www.justneighbors.org/
- ❖ Neighborhood Health — www.neighborhoodhealthva.org/
- ❖ SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) — www.scanva.org/
- ❖ The Reading Connection — thereadingconnection.org/home
- ❖ Velocity Bicycle Cooperative — velocitycoop.org/
- ❖ United Community Ministries — www.ucmagency.org/ucm-early-learning-center.html

Since 2012, Westminster has given 38 awards to area nonprofits worth more than \$110,000. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 2401 Cameron Mills Road in the North Ridge neighborhood of Alexandria. With a membership of 1,000.



From left: Patrick Hunnicutt, Pastor Westminster Presbyterian Church; Sindy Umanzor, United Community Ministries; Bayley Vanderpoel, Velocity Bicycle Cooperative; Sonia Quinonez, SCAN; Maria Evans, The Reading Connection; Erin McKenney, Just Neighbors; Tanya Thomas, Bethany House; Courtney Riggie-van Schagen and Dr. Monte Upshaw, Neighborhood Health; Christine Matthews, Westminster Grant Committee chair; Elizabeth Martineau, Westminster Local Mission chair; and Laura Kopp, Westminster Grant Committee member.

Nicolas Villar, shown with his mother Marlina Villar at his graduation from Hayfield Secondary School, was presented the Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship at the June 28 meeting of Old Town Alexandria Connections at Belle Haven Country Club.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Villar Awarded OTAC Scholarship

Nicolas Villar, a senior at Hayfield Secondary School, was awarded \$500 at the third annual Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship ceremony during the June 28 meeting of Old Town Alexandria Connections at Belle Haven Country Club.

The scholarship was established by OTAC in 2015 to honor the memory and contributions of the late Peter Williams, past OTAC President, and to further his legacy of responsible business practices and service to others.

Nicholas, who was accompanied by his mother Marlina Villar, will attend Virginia Tech this fall and will major in biology/pre-med. He plans to enter medical school with hopes of becoming a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon.

In addition to his academic achievements, Nicholas was active in school clubs and as a community volunteer, while interning with several organizations including on a surgical team at MedStar Health that inspired his choice of career path.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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Mysterious Arsons Target American Flags

FROM PAGE 1

was just a little stick. We replaced it, then a couple days later the two in the planter were missing.”

Rosenburg said he thought it was strange, so they bought another pair as well as a surveillance camera. Sure enough, the camera showed grainy footage of someone approaching their home and setting their flags on fire.

But the Rosenberg family isn't alone. Across the Westridge townhouse community and the surrounding suburban neighborhoods, someone had been going around setting fire to American flags.

Ninety-six-year-old WWII veteran Richard Cohen awoke on July 5 to find his American flag burned in the front yard. Because the flagpole was attached to the house it's considered arson. According to Alexandria Police, only one of the cases is being investigated as arson. The others are investigated for vandalism or property damage. The attacks that started around July 4 have continued throughout the month, with neighbors saying there were four more flag-related incidents over the last weekend.

Joyce Dexter runs a neighborhood news-



John Esposito with an American flag outside his home.

letter and included an update about the flag burning incidents. According to Dexter, the neighborhood was originally built in the '50s and has a large number of retired resi-



Amanda Van Hooser helps Richard Cohen put up a new flag.

dents with a few younger couples scattered around.

“I couldn't believe it,” said Dexter. “People know their neighbors here. This is gener-

ally a nice neighborhood. It's kinda bizarre really. You just have to wonder what would compel someone to do that.”

Captain John Esposito, retired from the Navy on June 1, lives with his family in the nearby Seminary West community. He described the neighborhood as very diverse and tolerant.

“Last week, on Sunday night, we got an email about a number of flag burnings on the eve of July 4th,” said Esposito. “I read that and it really bothered me.”

Esposito reached back out to Dexter, and together they planned their own “flag day” in response. Across the Seminary West neighborhood, several homes were covered with American flags flying from poles or hanging from walls. Esposito's is the largest: a red white and blue banner that hangs two stories tall. It was a gift to Esposito from his retirement.

“These are the symbols that define the character of America,” said Esposito. “We are a nation of rules and laws. Whoever did this violated laws of trespassing, arson, and vandalism. He's attempting to undermine the character of our nation, and that can't stand.”

Sentences Follow Two Relationship-related Murders

FROM PAGE 1

Ferman with his machete. Membreno joined him, the two of them hacking at least 21 times until Ferman was nearly decapitated. Gutierrez was sentenced to the Department of Juvenile Justice and given a suspended adult sentence for her role. Castro pled guilty to the murder but a sentencing date has not been selected.

STATE OF MS-13

The murder of Ferman was one of two homicides in 2015 connected to members of MS-13. In the other, several members of the gang hacked Eduardo David Chandias Almendarez to death with machetes behind the Cora Kelly School to keep him from testifying as a witness in a malicious wounding case related to the gang.

Since 2015's two homicides, however, the gang seems to have been relatively quiet in Alexandria. The gang has been as active in surrounding localities, with several ongo-

ing MS-13 related murder cases in Fairfax and Montgomery counties. But there have been no homicides related to MS-13 in Alexandria since that time.

According to Deputy Joseph Runquist, the Gang Unit coordinator for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, MS-13 gang activity seems to be down from previous years in Alexandria.

“It comes in spurts,” Runquist said, “but the year is still young.”

As for the reason for a decrease in levels of activity, the deputy said that there is no clear answer, and that each case is precipitated by its own factors.

MS-13 stands for Mara Salvatrucha, and has roots in El Salvador. The gang's more entrenched members have tattoos that signify their allegiance to the gang. Recently, members have steered away from tattoos and indicators such as Nike “Cortez” shoes. Many of the younger members don't have tattoos, and recently they've started wear-

ing Adidas shoes.

Recruitment can involve youths as young as elementary school age. Unaccompanied minors immigrating to the area are especially vulnerable.

Ingris Moran, lead organizer of Tenants and Workers United, seconds this sentiment about susceptible youths. Tenants and Workers United organizes and supports low income communities of color in their efforts to seek justice for pertinent issues they face.

Moran said that many of the younger arrivals that have immigrated from other countries are used to very different communities in their home countries. The complexities of education and city government in a bustling metropolitan area like Alexandria can be jarring for these youths. “They feel out of the loop,” she said.

Tenants and Workers United works with younger arrivals to help them understand mechanisms like City Council and the School Board. Youths also learn leadership

development skills so that they feel comfortable getting involved with the community. During the school year the organization offers homework and English language help.

“Our goal for our youth is to integrate them into the community so that they can be successful wherever they go,” Moran said, “Many of them struggle a lot, but still manage to graduate high school and go to college.” In this way, Workers and Tenants United gives these vulnerable teens courage to pursue successful and worthwhile careers.

According to Moran, Tenants and Workers United has not seen much activity from MS-13 recently, and the community the organization serves has not voiced concern about the gang in recent years. “For the Alexandria community, nationwide immigration policy is more of a concern,” Moran said.

Antonella Nicholas also contributed to this story.

Former Alexandria Principal Returns as Interim Superintendent

FROM PAGE 1

said she is continuing to work alongside Crawley to get everything organized and get to know the school community. “It's been 13 years, I need to get to know everyone,” said Berlin. “One of the key changes is going to be meetings for everyone. The key is going to get nearly everyone involved.”

While Berlin promised to advocate for every child in ACPS, several of the schools that were Berlin's alma mater face critical

and academic situations. At Jefferson-Houston, a school still struggling with grades and currently unaccredited, Berlin said the school system needs to look at the data available on the school and reassess which programs are and are not benefiting the students.

Berlin's contract lasts until Jan. 31. School Board chair Ramey Gentry said the search is currently underway for a new superintendent. According to the contract, Berlin will be making \$20,000 per month, with

an additional \$2,000 transferred to Berlin's retirement account. Crawley started in 2014 with a yearly salary of \$215,000, increased each year with other instructional employees by a market scale adjustment, as well as \$25,400 each year to a retirement fund.

In the meantime, Berlin said she doesn't see her job as superintendent any differently for being an interim position.

“Facilities are a major focus of the 2020 plan,” said Berlin. “We have a good process for planning in place.”

Berlin also said that she and others in ACPS leadership are looking cautiously at the national level discussion about Medicaid. Funding for schools for special education programs comes largely from Medicaid funding. “We are watching this with great concern,” said Gentry.

“[If we do face a Medicaid cut,] we will have to look at the data and the priorities,” said Berlin. “We will all be watching the signs closely.”

Heavy Lifting Begins

Joint city-schools task force digs into competing capital projects.

BY DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

The new Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force started zeroing in on specific capital projects at its second meeting, held July 13.

The Task Force's "mission is to oversee the development of a Joint City-Schools Facility Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the city and schools and provide recommendations related to further capital project implementation," according to the resolution that established it. City Manager Mark Jinks selected nine citizen-volunteers with relevant professional expertise and management acumen. The initiative emerged as a way out of the City Council and School Board's capital planning gridlock.

The Task Force received a run down at the meeting of 33 facility projects, including 16 city projects and 17 schools projects, targeted within the FY 2019-2027 timeframe. These are forecasted to cost \$645.2 million. That leaves a funding gap of \$106.2 million, of which \$70.4 million (66 percent) are "frontloaded" in the first three years, according to Morgan Routt, the city's budget director.

The Task Force again deliberated project prioritization criteria in relation to the scope of its mandate.

Potential criteria discussed so far include: consistency with adopted policies and plans, including strategic plans; cost, including evaluation of alternatives and potential for coming in under-budget; demonstration of timing and need, including school enrollment forecasts, facility conditions, design standards, other legal requirements; extent of benefit; systemic relationship to other community plans and goals; relationship to other projects, including relative necessity, trade-offs, and practicability of co-location; readiness for construction; impact of building or not building on the operating budget; consequence of delaying; flexibility/adaptability for future repurposing; and the city and school system's rationale and biases for current proposed prioritizations.

Some criteria are objective — for example, education specifications or environ-

mental regulations. The city has also dictated certain financing constraints — "the Task Force can get ahead of the existing funding availability by no more than 10 [percent] in any given year," said Routt.

Other criteria may be subjective — what Task Force member Mignon Anthony described as "adjectival" or "value-based." In this vein, the Task Force currently has substantial latitude in how it applies the city and schools' top-level plans. The city's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan consists of 10 "thematic areas." And the city's corpus of master plans consists of numerous elements, which may conflict in any given context. Independently, the school systems' 2015-2020 Strategic Plan consists of six "goals." Neither the council nor School Board has explicitly delineated their relative priorities within these frameworks.

The school system has purposely not ranked its strategic goals in order of precedence, says School Board Chair Ramee Gentry.

"Certainly the facilities and learning environment [goal] is the most germane one" in this moment, she said. But "these are all essential elements to a successful school division. ... It's a strength of all of these bodies that are deliberating that we don't all have an exact uniform idea. The strength comes out of all of the different people that might come to the table with different things that hold a particular place in their heart or a particular passion."

In any case, she says the School Board's strategic priorities are clearly embedded in its budgets over the years and, the 2015 Long Range Educational Facilities Plan, and the 2017 redistricting plan. The school system also tracks objective indicators, giving some clue about its relative strength and weakness in relation to each of its strategic goals. For instance, in the 2015-2016 school year the school system performed best (100 percent of indicators met) with respect to staff and operations; it performed worst with respect to family and community engagement (33 percent of indicators met).

The city also uses objective indicators. But, since the city only recently adopted its strategic plan, it cannot yet tell where there has been progress or regression. The city is



The Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force at its July 13 meeting.

currently developing an online tool for publicizing data, says Chief Performance Officer Greg Useem.

The Task Force could also affect how top-level plans change.

"To me it's a two-way street. You don't develop a strategic plan in a vacuum. You actually have your financial situation in mind as you're doing it, and it becomes an iterative process. ... I think one of the values that could come is that there's that feedback loop," said Task Force member Eric Wagner. "We may have to adjust what our vision is to accommodate what our pocket-book is."

Overall, council doesn't want to be "overly prescriptive about what we're expecting," said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson.

"We'll have time to react in the fall when they get back with recommendations," said Gentry. "They would need to explain why project X is coming before project Q and project B."

Potentially more efficient alternatives were a recurring theme at the meeting.

Developing "swing space" is a lynchpin for subsequent projects and a top priority for the school system, said Richard Jackson, the schools' interim chief operating officer. Swing space is a temporary facility where students would attend classes while

their permanent schools, starting with Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, undergo renovation. The school system foresees using the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center in southeast Alexandria. But Task Force member Dwight Dunton suggested, and Jackson agreed, that it would be better to locate swing space on the West End, where it could eventually become a new permanent school.

Dunton also inquired about possibly combining new elementary and middle school capacity in K-8 sites, and acquiring a more modern building for city hall rather than renovating the existing facility.

He asked supporting staff to provide a full list of previously considered but rejected project alternatives. The Task Force ought not to be "limited to this very curated list of solutions," he said. "We may, as a group, decide that we really recommend that an alternative that's been passed over needs to be put back on the table."

The Task Force also discussed the potentially improving efficiency through regional collaboration.

"To what extent do we try to work with the neighboring jurisdictions on things like fire stations?" asked Wagner. The Task Force's list of projects includes building three new fire stations, forecasted to cost \$41 million. The fire department already collaborates operationally with adjacent departments. But Wagner suggested that crosstalk might also extend to capital planning. The Task Force will also consider a new indoor firing range for law enforcement training, forecasted to cost \$25 million. Task Force Chair Lynn Hampton suggested that this project might provide another opportunity for inter-jurisdictional partnership. Though paying officers overtime to commute to a regional facility would strain the operating budget, said Jeremy McPike, the city's general services director.

The Task Force will meet again Sept. 7, 9-11 a.m. at City Hall, Room 1101. Residents wishing to give public testimony should contact planning and zoning's Katherine Carraway at katherine.carraway@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3855. For more information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=97580.

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But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are

poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax.

Each eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

affordable housing units and, depending on the availability of HUD funds, possibly renting the remaining 55 units at market rate when the lease expires in 2019. The second article, "Chicken and Egg" "concerns

the proposed affordable housing at the Fairlington Presbyterian Church site". The Wesley Housing Development Corporation project would include 75-81 new affordable housing units. The articles gave the impression that the city is more concerned with parking and traffic than in gaining affordable housing from the Wesley Housing Development Corporation and doesn't seem to be concerned with loss of affordable units or traffic and parking issues generated by the ASBC project.

As a resident of the neighborhood surrounding the Old Town ASBC block, which is bound by Patrick Street, Duke Street, Alfred Street and Wolfe Street, and having attended several city and church meetings, I can attest to the concern of residents over parking and traffic in the area now, much less with the anticipated increase to a sanctuary seating capacity of 2,000 seats (total building seating capacity will be about 5,000). The Patrick

Street-Duke Street intersection is currently a challenge, and more so on Sundays, and with the addition of traffic entering and exiting from a new church parking garage on Patrick Street gridlock will be mind boggling.

Wolfe Street and Alfred Street are virtually inaccessible to residents for parking now. With parking on both sides of Alfred Street on Sundays that is almost impassable as well. An unbiased traffic study has not been done

by a city hired consultant for this project and

Where To Give in Alexandria

Alexandria City Public Schools holds an annual Back to School Supply Drive for students across Alexandria City. The goal is to provide supply-filled backpacks to 2,000 ACPS students who would not otherwise be able to start the first day of school with these essential items. For more information, contact Taneika Tukan at 703-619-8055 or taneika.tukan@acps.k12.va.us

Three ways to help right now:

- ❖ Sign up today to become a public collection site where members of the community can drop off donations of backpacks and supplies;
- ❖ Organize an internal drive among your staff and supporters; and/or
- ❖ Mail a check payable to Alexandria City Public Schools and mail to the ACPS FACE Center at 1340 Braddock Place, 7th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314 by Aug. 12.

A list of drop off sites will be available soon. What is FACE? "The ACPS Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center creates opportunities and resources for families to work with schools to ensure every child succeeds. It collaborates with experts in school buildings and community to strengthen family-school partnerships that increase two-way communication, cultural understanding, and academic achievement.

no assurance has been given that one will be done.

Hopefully, the city will take into consideration the impact on our neighborhood, and traffic and parking concerns in the area as well as the loss of affordable housing units generated by the ASBC project.

Jill Crispino
Alexandria

Trying To Save a Tree

To the Editor:

We are losing so much of what is old in Olde Towne Alexandria, it's truly a shame. Even my grandchildren are starting to call the city New Town. Our history is being torn down, and everything new is coming up.

We worked really hard to save an 89-year-old building that is still in very good shape. It could have been renovated and made into something the city could use, but no, development won, we will lose an almost historical building for another new 124-room hotel. With the new construction coming, the developer plans to remove the four or five trees on the corner of Harvard and King Streets so the developer can widen Harvard. My neighbor planted one of the trees, the one closest to the alley. We believe it's a sycamore and it has been there now for more than 10 years. This tree is established, it's beautiful as are all the trees

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unbiased Traffic Study Needed

To the Editor:

The July 6 edition of your paper contains two articles of interest focused primarily on affordable housing. "Blessed Are the Poor" speaks of the Alfred Street Baptist Church expansion project removing 22 of 77



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MANSFIELD

GoALEX

The GoALEX van is a city initiative to encourage residents to use trails and rails, buses and bikes to commute to work or just for fun. On the city's Facebook page, they are going to post photos in the coming weeks: Where in the city is the GoALEX van. Winners who can name the correct spot (this is the Atheneum) can win a \$25 SmartCard.

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The 2016 Senior Academy Graduating Class

Senior Academy Accepting Applications

Applications due Aug. 11.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



Have you just retired and are looking for ways to get involved in the community? Perhaps you would like to know about all the programs and services available to seniors in the city of Alexandria. The Senior Academy is the perfect way to explore your options and discover why Alexandria is such a great place to be a senior. This Fall Senior Services of Alexandria is partnering with the City of Alexandria for the 3rd Annual Senior Academy beginning Wednesday, Sept. 6 at City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon.

The course will continue every Wednesday through Sept. 27. The Academy is designed to provide Alexandria's seniors with an opportunity to gain exposure to the city's various government functions and to learn about local organizations that provide services and programs for our senior community. It is a great way for Alexandria residents who are 60-plus to learn what's available in the community and how they can get involved and make a difference. "The Senior Academy is a great program geared to seniors that is both informative and enlightening," said Anne Marie Bradford, a former graduate of the Academy. "I learned so much about how the city works and what is available to seniors and how I could get involved and engaged in my community."

- Senior Academy topics include:
- ❖ Getting to Know Your City
 - ❖ How You Can Make a Difference

- ❖ City Services for Seniors
 - ❖ Community Resources and Leisure, Cultural and Educational Opportunities.
- Participants will meet at four different locations around the city: City Hall, Police Department Headquarters, Charles Houston Recreation Center and Beatley Central Library. They will meet with local government officials and nonprofit executives and talk about the many different programs and services offered for Alexandria's older residents. The Academy is free with light refreshments. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be recognized during a City Council meeting in October.

If you are interested in being part of this year's Senior Academy class, you can find more details and download the application on SSA's website at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA at 703-836-4414, ext. 110. Enrollment is limited to 25 people and applications must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

lining Harvard Street. We have asked the city arborist to save this tree, he claims he cannot because there are wires from the pole next to the tree that are staked into the mulch around the tree. We checked, they are just stakes to help stabilize the pole. The pole will have to be moved to put in underground wires and the trees will have to be destroyed, or moved. We have proposed the one tree be uprooted and moved to the open space in the alley near the swimming pole. We have spoken with Dominion Power, they want to preserve the tree also. They have given us a work order number and they will be out on July 22 to evaluate the work that needs to be done, including moving the tree. We need the city, the arborist to coordinate a move for this tree. Why does everything have to be destroyed? We are Olde Towne Alexandria, we have a lot of history, we need to preserve what we can.

Bea Porter
Alexandria

Supporting Police Youth Camp

To the Editor:
This year, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp (APYC) celebrates its 70th year of existence. Over the last seven decades, Alexandria Police Officers have worked tirelessly to reach the children in the city by creating and maintaining the APYC. Our camp is a non-profit organization consisting of Alexandria Police Officers, who are committed to making sure that each child has an opportunity to build character, learn team work, and develop self-confidence. Providing a summer getaway for Alexandria's children comes at a cost. Officers hold several fundraisers throughout the year, including a Christmas tree sale and golf tournament, to make sure that no child misses the opportunity to attend camp due to financial restrictions. Each child deserves this chance and Alexandria officers give their time to make sure it happens.

We are blessed to have leaders in the com-

munity who recognize this need for our youth and provide us the support to keep reaching the children. I would like to take a moment to thank them:

- ❖ IVAKOTA Association
- ❖ Virginia Probation and Parole Association
- ❖ Optimist Club of Alexandria
- ❖ Grace Episcopal Church
- ❖ Saint Rita Parish
- ❖ St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- ❖ Alexandria Sheriffs Association
- ❖ Alexandria Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff Association
- ❖ Edward Kengla Foundation
- ❖ Alexandria Police Foundation
- ❖ Alexandria Toyota
- ❖ ACPS Transportation Division.

In 2007, the APYC partnered with the YMCA. Their decades of experience of managing overnight summer camps was a perfect partnership with the Alexandria Officers mission to reach young people. We are excited about our past, but even more about our future.

If you have any questions about this great

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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The Challenge of Sustaining Public Housing

To the Editor:

On Monday, July 10, an affordable housing advocacy coalition sent a letter to City Council protesting current plans for the redevelopment of Andrew Adkins, a public housing site in Old Town. On Thursday, July 13, Roy Priest, CEO of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), sent a response (edited below) addressed to City Council and the citizens of Alexandria.

[W]e would like to reaffirm and emphasize that our motivations are aligned with those of the affordable housing advocates throughout the community and we are and remain committed to working with the City Council and staff to continue to achieve our goals of providing affordable housing to those families most in need. ...

Ratio of Market Units to Lower Income Housing.

The 2014 ... [Request for Proposals (RFP)] noted that proposals which could result in an overall increase in ARHA-owned units by creating additional housing for people of all income levels in order to effectively subsidize affordable units would be given preference. However, it was not the intention of the RFP to be prescriptive regarding the mix of incomes, uses, or housing types within any of the communities to be redeveloped. The intention of the RFP Process was to select partners that would engage with ARHA in an open community-facing process to successfully execute the redevelopment of ARHA owned properties by creating viable, sustainable communities. In past ARHA redevelopment efforts, this same process concluded with the following results: [23 percent of units replaced onsite and 77 percent offsite for Cameron Valley; 52 percent of units replaced onsite and 48 percent offsite for Chatham Square; 69 percent of units replaced onsite and 31 percent offsite for Old Town Commons.]

... [T]he Andrew Adkins redevelopment effort will achieve replacement of affordable units on-site and offsite via land sale proceeds generated by the creation of mar-

ket-rate rental units. ... Maximizing land proceeds on our most valuable property allows us to build or acquire more units for less money in other parts of the city. ...

... [T]he Braddock East Master Plan (BEMP), adopted in 2008, expresses the necessity to replace some of the existing public housing units in Braddock East at other locations in the city because of the number of low income housing units in this neighborhood. ... [T]he BEMP is clear that the estimates for financing of a mixed-income development and the replacement units is only an approximate measure, as changes in market conditions and funding options will affect the underlying assumptions of any analysis. This is the very analysis that is going on now and that is informing the decisions relating to where replacement units will be located, the total number of replacement units and what the affordability levels are for those units can be. As the city clearly knows, it has always been ARHA's intention to replace one-for-one any of the units removed either back on-site or within the city limits of Alexandria.

... All redevelopment efforts have followed the recommendations of the BEMP, including the goals in the BEMP to disperse the public housing throughout the city...

... At this time, the affordability levels of the 60 units proposed to return to the Andrew Adkins site have not been determined. ARHA intends to use the value of the land sold ... for the market-rate units along with Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity to pay for the one-for-one replacement of the current units without taking on debt which would require on-going interest payments. ... [O]ther operating expenses cannot be offset by contributing additional equity to the project because they are on-going and will require an on-going revenue source to be sustainable. ...

[D]evelopment with all units at 30 [percent] of [area median income (AMI)] is not sustainable ... unless ARHA is able to secure Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) for the project. ... A voucher subsidy allows a lower income family to live in the community by

paying the difference in the amount that is 30 [percent] of the household's adjusted income (tenant portion of the rent) and the contract rent (higher market-based rent). ... In the Old Town Commons effort, ARHA received the [Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs)] but in the last phase we project-based the TPVs to assure that the subsidy was tied to the unit and not lost if the resident left the area with their TPV. Because of the timing of the process, our initial concept is modeled with TPVs, however, if changes in the current law allow us to convert these TPVs which are portable, to PBVs, we will do so. ARHA has started the discussions with its HUD Field Office but will not have a firm answer until we work through that disposition application process.

Transition Plan for Residents.

As with every redevelopment project ARHA has done, no unit will be demolished until such time that there is a replacement unit identified. The Relocation Plan is being devised methodically with the development concept plan for the site; these items necessarily need to be completed concurrently because one informs the other. ...

Housing Affordability as a Citywide Priority.

... ARHA has not reversed its course and remains committed to providing housing for the most vulnerable. ... What ARHA cannot do is to create a community that is not sustainable. If the operating proforma does not indicate a healthy fiscal situation, even if ARHA is able to secure the very competitive tax credits to build the community, we will not be able to sell the credits to investors to raise equity.

"Currently, [Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)] are only receiving about 70 percent of the amount HUD has determined they need to operate. ... This is not specific to ARHA and Alexandria, it is the case for the entire country ...

Roy Priest

CEO, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

work, please visit www.AlexPYC.org for more information or contact me personally at 571-221-4828.

Marcus Downey

Board President
Alexandria Police Youth Camp

Dubious Choice For Pilot Program

To the Editor:

The Alexandria City Council has approved a pilot parking program for the 100 block of Prince Street (between Union and Lee Streets), which is a historic cobblestone street. Cars with the Alexandria One Sticker displayed on their rear bumpers will be able

to park at any time on this street, but visitors will now be able to use the Pango system to pay for two hours of parking.

I am a strong advocate of increasing visitor parking opportunities while also respecting the rights of the residents. However, since this site is one of only two cobblestone streets in Alexandria, any potential traffic increases should be discouraged. Sixty-five percent of the residents on this street signed a petition to the Traffic and Parking Board agreeing to the pilot program and hopefully they will see a decrease rather than increase in traffic as a result. Needless to say the residents on this street take great pride in this historic street and wish to retain its residential streetscape while also desirous of parking reasonably close to their homes, especially after dark.

In my opinion, the choice of Prince Street

as a Pango pilot is at best a dubious one. The City Council's stewardship of historic resources somehow was allowed to be abrogated in this instance. They should have found a more suitable location.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette Packet welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Send to:

Letters to the Editor ♦ The Gazette Packet
1606 King St. ♦ Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444 or email
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

Old Glory at Heritage At Old Town

It's a honor to support Saturday, July 15, as Neighborhood Flag Day throughout our City of Alexandria.

— ACTIVIST GERI BALDWIN

LETTER

Voting Reform Effort Praised

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer's proposed Fair Representation Act would move U.S. House elections from single-member to multimember districts. It's an essential step to help more voters feel represented by their member of Congress.

The problem is the mandate for states to adopt ranked-choice voting. If that's the only option, the effort is certain to bog down in technical complications and cost and transparency concerns.

Ranked choice voting has proved its utility in local elections. But serious implementation challenges arise when extending it across multiple autonomous jurisdictions with different voting equipment. Other fair representation methods accomplish the same objectives but are simple, easy to understand, and require no changes to voting equipment. Those include "open-ticket" voting, similar to what's used in Finland; and "mixed-member" district and at-large elections, as used in Germany, New Zealand and the regional parliaments of Scotland and Wales.

I was a founding member of FairVote, the organization that originated the fair representation proposal. I applaud Rep. Beyer's initiative but urge him to consider other options from FairVote that advance reform and fit seamlessly into existing election machinery.

Lee Mortimer
Durham, N.C.

OPINION

A Different Kind of Grantmaker

BY BRANDI YEE
ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA



When I joined ACT for Alexandria in 2006, one of the things I was most excited about was awarding grants. I had always been in the position of being a grantee seeking funding and I thought it would be much easier and more fun to “give away” money than to ask for it. I soon learned it was much more thoughtful and strategic.

ACT Traditional grantmaking focuses on awarding grants to worthy causes, often providing much-needed general operating or program support. At ACT, we have a different take on grantmaking, one that focuses on strategic philanthropy and catalyzing change for the nonprofit sector through capacity building grants.

What is capacity building?

ACT’s grantmaking focuses on strengthening the nonprofit sector through building the capacity of local nonprofits. Our goal is to ensure nonprofits have a solid foundation in place so they can better carry out their mission. But our support does not end there. In addition to giving grant dollars, we also serve as a convener and connector — encouraging collaboration among key stakeholders and connecting individuals with causes they care about.

This year ACT will award \$75,000 in grants, but we typically receive close to \$300,000 in requests. Our grant committee members consistently let us know that participating in the review process helps them better understand our community and its needs and the grant discussion gives them great insight into what the nonprofits do and how donors can best support them. This year we are piloting a new Side-by-Side Investment Program and inviting our donors to participate in the grant review process. I am pleased to share that ACT, in partnership with our donor advised fund side-by-side investors, has awarded \$60,400 for our Spring 2017 Capacity Building Grants to support projects related to board development, fund development planning, and strategic planning. Grantees include:

- ❖ Alexandria Seaport Foundation, funded by the Mark & Cindy Anderson Fund

- ❖ Arts on the Horizon, funded by ACT, the Neuhaus-Speck Family Foundation Fund, and the Martha and Scott Harris Fund (first-time grantee)

- ❖ Carpenter’s Shelter, funded by the Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation Fund

- ❖ Casa Chirilagua, funded by ACT

- ❖ Center for Alexandria’s Children, funded by ACT

- ❖ Friends of Guest House, funded by ACT, the Ross Family Fund, the Martha and Scott Harris Fund and the Neuhaus-Speck Family Foundation Fund

- ❖ Nueva Vida, funded by ACT (first-time grantee)

- ❖ The Child & Family Network Centers, funded by ACT

But why is capacity building so important?

In 2015, ACT awarded a \$7,500 grant to the Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC) for a consultant to work with the organization on strategic board governance. CFNC had recent changes in board and staff leadership and they saw this as an opportunity to make much-needed changes to the board structure and composition. As a result, CFNC was able to create a board that is better able to make policy and strategy decisions, monitor the organization’s performance, ensure overall accountability and set direction for the organization moving forward.

I recently spoke with CFNC executive director Lisa Carter and she was excited to share that the organization is a finalist for the Center for Nonprofit Advancement’s Board Leadership Award. This is a very prestigious award in the nonprofit sector and ACT is honored to have played a role in helping the organization in the process. ACT has always believed strong boards are a vital component of building strong and effective organizations. It is very exciting to see CFNC being recognized for their efforts.

This is just one of the many stories of ACT’s impact on the nonprofit sector. Alexandria nonprofits interested in applying for capacity building grants are encouraged to visit <https://www.actforalexandria.org/grants>. Applications for the fall grant cycle will be available beginning Oct. 2.

Brandi Yee is the chief program officer at ACT for Alexandria (ACT). Launched in 2004, ACT is a community foundation that seeks to turn ideas into actions and resources into results. Since ACT’s founding, 10,000 plus donors have leveraged more than \$12 million to benefit important charitable causes in Alexandria and beyond.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY COLDWELL BANKER

\$2,000 Donation

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage CARES, the charitable arm of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, presented a \$2,000 donation to Generation Hope, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization that helps teen parents achieve college degrees by connecting them with individualized support through things like mentoring, tuition support and case management. From left are Carolyn Upton Saenz, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage sales associate and Rachel Carter, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage branch vice president, Alexandria, present check to Jesseca Myers, Generation Hope development and events manager.

PATINA
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Warehouse Sale

Saturday, July 22 & Sunday, July 23
10 am to 4 pm

4940C Eisenhower Avenue
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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

By the Seashore. Various morning hours through July 29 at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Produced by Arts on the Horizon. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times through July 30 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 29. Show is called "Under the Big Top," highlighting the work of three featured artists: Janet Barnard, Paige Garber, and Anne-Sanderoff Walker. Call 703-548-0935, or visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Ceramics Show. Various times through July 30 at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. The "Rough around the Edges" Kiln Club show. Call 703-548-6288 or visit scopegallery.org.

Light and Depth Exhibit. Various times through July 31 in the The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Artwork of Marine Weiss and Jennifer Brewer Stone is featured. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Adult Woodworking Class. 5-8 p.m. through August 5 at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Union St. Woodworking 101, hosted by ASF's Middle School Math Program Manager, woodworker, and furniture designer Nicole Reiding of Habitat Woodworks. \$250. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org or call 703-778-0977.

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times through Aug. 31 at Huntley Meadows Park Nature Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Local artist-photographer Nina Tisara will share some of her mosaic work in an exhibit entitled "Inspired by Nature." Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Oil Paintings by Patricia Uchello. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 31 at the River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Free. Call 703-768-6983 or visit www.patriciauchello.com.

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.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Relics. Various times through Labor Day at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn the history of the museum, the purchase and see the original woodwork. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.

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.

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

3 Shake Shops to Beat the Heat

BY HOPE NELSON

On days when the mercury surpasses 100 degrees, thoughts can turn to frozen treats quicker than a cracked egg can cook on the sidewalk. Here are three top spots — all burger joints, as the two seem to go hand in hand — to grab a milkshake to fulfill your cravings.

Flat Top Burger, 529 E. Howell Ave.

As you near the Monroe Avenue Bridge coming southbound on Route 1, Flat Top Burger waits to welcome you with its collection of grilled burgers (both meat and veggie), hot dogs, salads, and onion rings. But nobody would blame you if you bypassed all of the above to get to the sweet treat: Flat Top's milkshakes.

Created with house-made custard, these milkshakes come in a variety of flavors, from old-fashioned vanilla or chocolate to mocha coffee and banana caramel. A hot (or perhaps cold) commodity year-round, they are the perfect antidote to a summer afternoon at the nearby soccer field or just a pick-me-up on the commute home from work.

Holy Cow, 2312 Mount Vernon Ave.

Sure, Holy Cow may sport one of the best burgers in the D.C. area, but their milkshakes aren't anything to scoff at. The restaurant on Del Ray's main drag sees a great deal of foot traffic

throughout the day, but the result is worth the crowd. (In a hurry? You can also order your shake — and any other menu item — online for pickup.)

Their made-to-order varieties range from table stakes — chocolate and vanilla — to more far-flung options. The chocolate Heath Bar Crunch and classic Oreo add some substance to the milkshake, while the salted caramel brings the sweet-salty blend that tempts so many taste buds.

Triple Craft, 1 Marina Drive

This newcomer to Daingerfield Island, taking the place of the recently departed Indigo Landing, sports a far more casual edge than its predecessor but packs a solid punch on the menu. Triple Craft offers a plethora of hearty options that could be easily washed down by a milkshake, but frankly are perfectly formidable on their own.

Adherents to the newly popular "Freakshake" movement, Triple Craft does not skimp when it comes to toppings. Cookies, candy, cake frosting, and whipped cream all do their duty as part of the shake, helping diners meet all their caloric needs at one time. (Feeling extra decadent? Ask for a splash of Kahlua, bourbon, or white rum to top things off.) Classic-style shakes are also on the menu if you're looking for a more pared-down approach.

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

St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith 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.

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.

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.forward.org.

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.

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.

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

"Anne and Emmett" on stage July 28-30 at Metrostage, 1201 North Royal St. Janet Langhart Cohen's play based on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, both teenage victims of racial intolerance and hatred. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org for more.



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.monacoalexandria.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

Summer Theatre Camps. Through Aug. 25, various times at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Preschool-8th graders can learn acting, musical theatre, dancing, improv, Shakespeare, film making. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

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 for a schedule.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

JULY 24-28

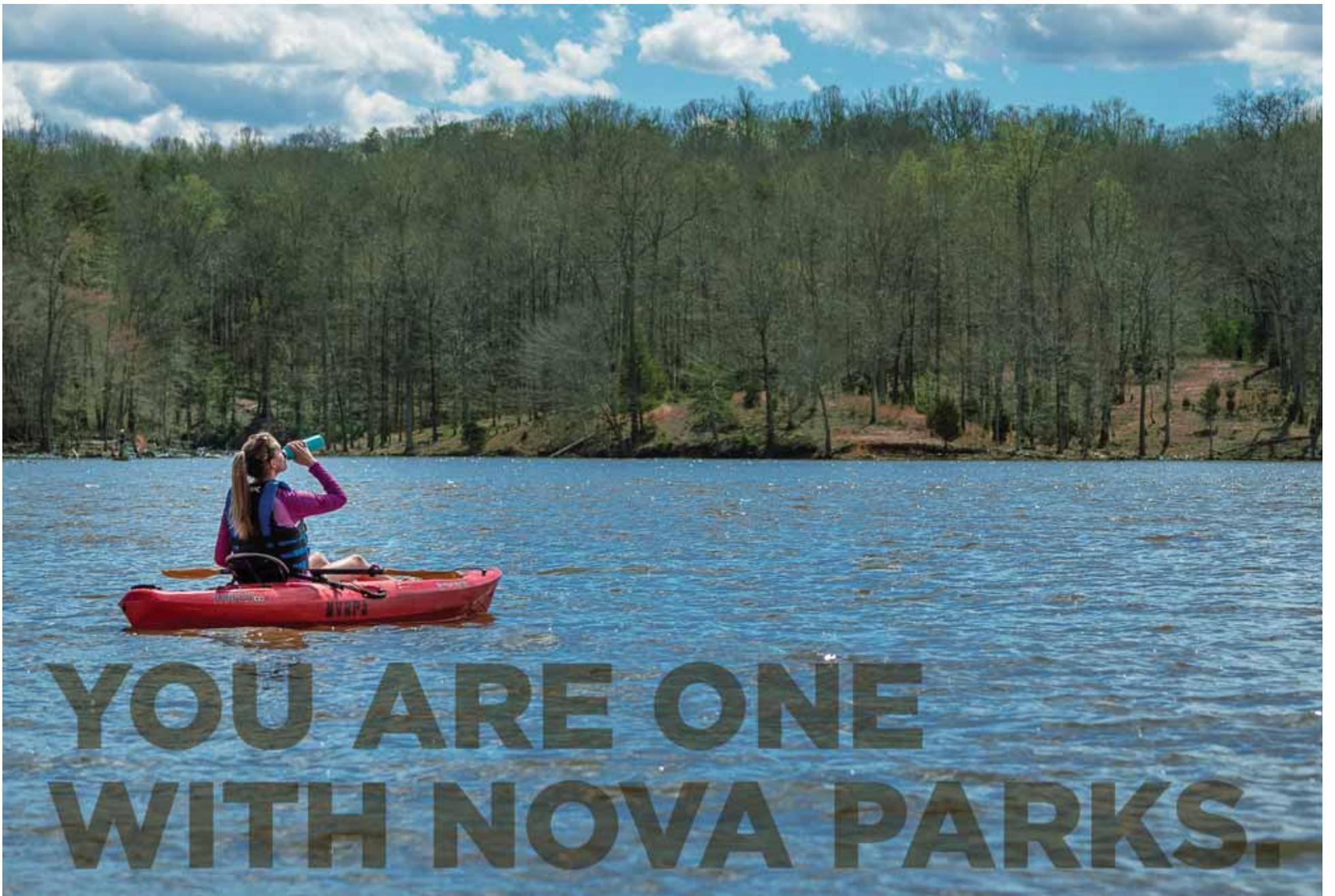
Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the demonstration gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will narrate with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery,



YOU ARE ONE WITH NOVA PARKS.

More than half of your body consists of water. The water we drink in Alexandria comes from the Occoquan Reservoir, and NOVA Parks has over 4,000 acres of forests around this body of water providing a natural buffer. NOVA Parks has an additional 4,000+ acres of parkland adjacent to the Potomac River. These lands offer opportunities for people to reconnect with nature while hiking, camping and boating. They also protect our natural resources. These same lands provide sanctuary for endangered species like the Eastern Wood Turtle, and the Small Whorled Pogonia, as well as habitat for Bald Eagles, Great Blue Heron and many other species.

Come out this weekend and rent a kayak or hike a trail, explore your regional parks, and connect with nature. Pohick Bay and Fountainhead Regional Parks are both located less than 25 minutes from Alexandria.



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ENTERTAINMENT

books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties clothing & sewing, toys, jewelry, collectibles, and homemade items. Refreshments will also be on sale. Free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

The General's Tour. 10 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Highlight locations and stories associated with the Confederate general Robert E. Lee's life in Alexandria. \$10 through the museum's website, or for \$15 at the door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org, or by calling (703) 548-1789.

Handmade Ice Cream. 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream as Huntley's Harris family may have done. call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Del Ray Music Festival. 3-8 p.m. between Uhler and Custis avenues, Del Ray. Local musicians will perform on two stages in the heart of Del Ray, while seven of Del Ray's top restaurants will host pop-up beer gardens. Visit www.delraymusicfestival.com.

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free old-time musical performance by the Sheets Family. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance or call 703-780-7518.

Russian Folk Music. 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 625 First St. Festival concert of more than 100 musicians from all over the world marks the end of the International Music Convention of Russian Folk Instruments. Visit www.bdaa.com.

Washington Balalaika Society Concert. 7:30 p.m. in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher

Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. The Washington Balalaika Society Joins the Balalaika and Domra Association of America in a Special Festival Concert. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Huntley Meadows Lecture. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 6901 S. Kings Highway. Former intern Max Ferlauto will focus on identifying the grasses and sedges of wetlands and meadows. Email vnps.pot@gmail.com.

Children's Art Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists Joan Dreyer, Ginny Smith, and Lesly-Claire Greenberg for a hands-on art workshop recommended for children ages 5 to 12 who must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Patagonia Winds quintet present music by Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Wagner, and Joplin. Free. Visit www.wmpmusic.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

The Nighthawks Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater at Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road. Playing music from their new CD, "All You Gotta Do," on EllerSoul Records. Visit www.markpuccimedia.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Belvoir Square Grand Opening. 4-7 p.m. Belvoir Square Apartments,



Circle Vases by Klaudia Levin

Ceramics

Ceramics Exhibition July 31-Sept. 3 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyration." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

9142 Richmond Highway, Fort Belvoir. Tour the building and enjoy complimentary food and beverage. Presented by Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. Call 703-360-5008 or email info@sfdc.org.

40 Under 40 Celebration. 6-9 p.m. at United Way Worldwide, 701 N. Fairfax St. The 40 under 40 program was established in 2016 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to recognize top men and women, age 40 and under, engaged in a variety of fields including business, technology, nonprofit management, civic life, public service, education, and the

arts. \$89. Visit alexandriavacoc.com.

JULY 28-30

Bacon Brothers Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Kevin and Michael Bacon's band, find out if the six degrees of Kevin Bacon separation are true. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Anne and Emmett on stage. various times at Metrostage, 1201 North Royal St. Janet Langhart Cohen's play based on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, both teenage victims of racial

intolerance and hatred. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free musical performance by Jarekus Singleton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance or call 703-780-7518.

JULY 31-SEPTEMBER 3

Ceramics Exhibition. Various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyration." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

English Garden Floral Design Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create the look of a summer English garden for the home using an assortment of cut flowers, greens and garden materials. Ages 16+. \$38 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakesusing code 2903883301 or call 703-642-5173.

Meet the Artist. 3-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. New Photographs by Sarah Hood Salomon exhibition runs July 31-Sept. 3. Call 703-683-2205.

Meet the Artists. 5-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Foundry Gallery. The artists Fierce Sonia of the Torpedo Factory and Ric Garcia will be opening their

07.27.17
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40/
/40

40 under 40 is a region-wide awards program, with the aim of recognizing emerging leaders less than 40 years of age.



Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

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THE CONNECTION
 Newspapers & Online
Special Edition
PET Connection
 Publishes: July 26, 2017 • Ads close: July 19, 2017
 Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.
 The Pet Connection will publish on July 26, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.
 Find more information about submissions online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.
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ENTERTAINMENT

show Dynamic Duo. Exhibition will run Aug. 2-27. Visit torpedofactory.org.
Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 8:14 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Caddyshack is the second of this series. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SUNDAY/AUG. 6

Afternoon Teas with a Difference. 3-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Celebrate Britain's National Afternoon Tea Week with a "Royale Tea," offering your choice of a glass of champagne at the beginning or sherry at the end of afternoon tea. \$42. Adults 21 yrs. +. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

TUESDAY/AUG. 8

Simpson Gardens Stroll. 11 a.m. at 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 in bloom. Have all your gardening questions answered too! No registration necessary. Visit mgnv.org/events/mgnv-events/.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Summer Reading Puppet Show. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Young story lovers are entertained by a puppet show presented by Carousel Puppets. Ages 3+. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12



Sidewalk Sale

8th Annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale, Aug. 12-13, various times, participating stores throughout Old Town and Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexVA.com/SidewalkSale for more.

Garden Stroll and Ice Cream Social.

10 a.m.-11:30 at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd. Stroll the summer gardens with a Master Gardener docent, then cool down at an ice cream social in the 1784 Historic House. \$12. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Sidewalk Sale. Various times, participating stores throughout Old Town and Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexVA.com/SidewalkSale.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

An Outlandish Geek Tour. noon-1 p.m. at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. Tour recommended for adults only. \$15. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/Apothecary or call 703-746-3852.

Documentary Film Tour. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria. Hosted by Calek and SIR NOFACE Producer Justin Holstein, the "SIR NOFACE LIVES" tour offers attendees the chance to be among the first to see Calek's mind-bending SIR NOFACE documentary, which chronicles the Australian Government-sanctioned paranormal investigation of Cockatoo Island. Visit sirnoface.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the glorious gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will lecture about Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

AUG. 17-SEPT. 17

Wizard of Hip. Various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Featuring Thomas W Jones II as he journeys from adolescence to adulthood as Afro Jo with original music by William Knowles and two back-up singers. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

AUG. 18-27

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week. Area restaurants offer \$35 for a three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20/person. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or call 703-746-3301.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Casting Leaves in Concrete Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring staff demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in making one to take home. \$40 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

SUNDAY/AUG. 20

Tea and Princess Diana Lecture. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Explore the many faces of Diana: fairytale princess, style icon, humanitarian and mother. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

MONDAY/AUG. 21

Alexandria Chamber Golf Tournament. 1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Hot dogs and brats, beverages, reception, dinner, prizes. Sponsorships available, contact Maria Ciarrocchi at micarrocchi@alexchamber.com.

Great American Eclipse. All day at Historic Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn the science behind eclipses and how to view them safely, solar eclipse glasses will be provided to attendees at all the programs. \$7 to \$12 per person. Visit go.usa.gov/xNvnb.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Celebrate Honeybee Day. 10 a.m.-

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For more information and group registration call (202) 685-2888 or visit www.twilight.mdw.army.mil

Summer Book Clubs for Children

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.

humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages

penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out.”

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them

out. “Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment,” he said.

“The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project,” said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said. “Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.”

“Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, “Bill Nye, the Science Guy”] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].”

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

“If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought

they’d look.”

Offer an opportunity for children have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”

— Julie M. Esanu, Lower School Librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, was awarded the Mary Donnalley Award, given to the Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) student athlete with the

highest GPA. Sopko was also recognized for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher at its annual athletics banquet.

Peyton Heyde, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Marist College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Kylie Bostick, of Alexandria, majoring in marine science, has made the president’s list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.) for the spring 2017 semester.

The Comcast Foundation recognizes **Rachel Price** of Bishop Ireton High

School and **Adele Reardon** of St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School as their 2017 recipients of the Leaders and Achievers Scholarship due to their involvement in community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. The recipients received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Khalila Karefa-Kargbo, of Alexandria, has received the Coaches’ award for the varsity cheerleading team for the 2016-17 winter sports season at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.). Khalila is the daughter of Karefa Kargbo and America Karefa-Kargbo, and is a sophomore at R-MA.

SPORTS

Alexandria Little League Team Wins State Tournament

Heading to the Southeast Regional in North Carolina.

The 2017 Alexandria Little League Intermediate 50/70 All-Star Team has punched its tickets to North Carolina and the South East Regional Finals. They are the first team from Alexandria to win a Virginia State Little League Championship in any division, and did so by defeating teams from Fort Hunt, Virginia Beach, Strasburg and Halifax in the finals. After winning the district tournament in June over Arlington, the Alexandria Little League Intermediate, a team of 12-13-year-old boys, went undefeated to win the state tournament, and is representing Virginia in the Southeast Regional Tournament in Kernersville, N.C. July 21-24.

“Intermediate 50/70” refers to the level of play, as the distance of the pitchers’ mound to home plate is 50 feet, and the distance between bases is 70 feet. Intermediate 50/70 is the Little League division between Majors, which plays on a 45/60 field, and Juniors and Seniors, which play on the 60/90 field.

“Competing in baseball at any level is thrilling for the players. As adults and parents, we can take particular pride when players display the sportsmanship and virtues that we hope to see on the field and off. While we are pleased with their victory, we are particularly proud of those players who put forth the extra effort on and off the field to represent our league



From left are (front row) Abe Wingfield, Will Keough, Josh Ayala, Cooper MacKay, Kyle Miller, Kevin Dols, Robbie Engelberg, Jack Kelly, Asst. Coach Pete Mensinger, (second row) Coach Mike Engelberg, William Keough, Gavin Brunzman, Jakob Mensinger, Ryan Osinski, Evan Devereux, and Assistant Coach John Kelly.

and city so well.” says Gus Chiarello, president of Alexandria Little League. “This is a great moment for our league and for our community.”

In the Southeast Region Alexandria’s Intermediate 50/70 team will represent Virginia, and will compete against the state champions from Alabama,

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia in hopes of moving on to the World Series in Livermore, Calif.

Freed Receives All-American Honors

By MICHAEL K. BOHN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandrian Liza Freed, a rising senior at Washington & Lee University, recently earned first-team All-American honors in NCAA Division III golf. The 2014 St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes graduate also was a first team All-East Region pick. She recorded five top-10 finishes in the 2016-2017 season and a 75.43 scoring average.

The Women’s Golf Coaches Association determines the D-III All-American players and announced last season’s selections during a banquet during the NCAA D-III championship tournament in May. “I wasn’t really expecting to make the first team,” Freed said. “I was ranked number seven at that time, and, since only six make the first team, I was totally surprised at the banquet when I was not included on the second team.” Her assumption that she had gained first-team honors was confirmed minutes later when the announcer called out “Liza Freed, Washington and Lee University.”

She later learned that her selection was based on her consistent top-10 finishes in the six tourna-



WASHINGTON & LEE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

St. Stephen’s graduate Liza Freed recently gained first-team All-American honors in NCAA Division III women’s golf. She will be a senior at Washington & Lee University this fall.

ments she played during the combined fall and spring season.

She is a Dean’s List scholar at Washington & Lee, with a math major and minors in computer science and philosophy. This summer she is enrolled at University of Colorado Denver studying biostatistics. She and her parents are Old Town residents.


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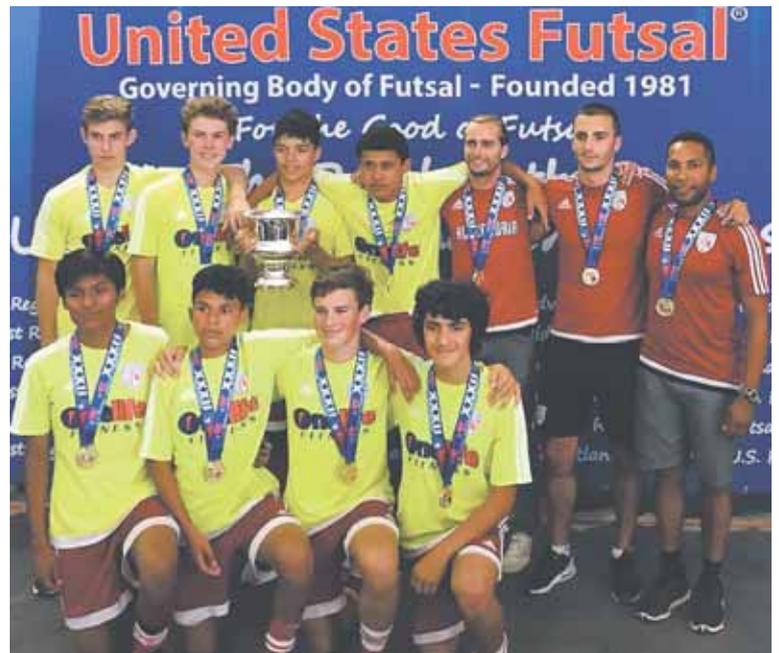
Obituary

OBITUARY



Martha Dell Desch Brumbaugh, passed away at home in Old Town Alexandria on 9 July. Beloved wife of 42 years to Bob, she is also survived by nieces Karen Thomson and Maggie Rodriguez in northern VA and Niki Lynn Burkham and Mandy Niblett in Texas. She was preceded in death by her brother Jon Desch in May. Born in Kansas City, MO in 1940, but moved to Texas as fast she could months later with her parents, the late Douglas Dell and Opal Gertrude (Erickson) Desch. She grew up in Dallas, went to SMU and on to UCLA for a PhD. In Dallas, she ran the Trade Mart Travel Agency and worked briefly at Scottish Rite hospital in field of childhood learning disabilities for which she was most proud. In California, she was manager of Tourism Development for Douglas Aircraft, Long Beach where she authored publications such as Airlines of Oceania and was consultant to the State of California Office of Tourism and the Pacific Area Travel Association. In the early 90s she directed the Arlington County (VA) Convention & Visitor Services, then became an artist doing art shows across the country, and in this decade co-owned an art gallery with Lelia Beall on King Street, Old Town Alexandria. She was known for her love of all things Geography, an appetite whetted on a summer-long trip to Europe in 1954 with family friends, and love of all things Greek as a result of many travels and graduate study research in Greece. In recent years, she found another focus, the prehistoric cave paintings of Southwest Europe, which inspired her art work and visits to many French and Spanish cave paintings. She also very much enjoyed living in Old Town Alexandria for the final third of her life and fellowship with friends at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to King Street Cats, Alexandria, VA, Tails High Cat Rescue, Alexandria, VA, and Doctors Without Borders. A memorial service will be scheduled at St Paul's in August. Arrangements by; **DEMAINE FUNERAL HOME**, Alexandria, VA.
www.demainefuneralhomes.com

SPORTS



Alexandria Soccer Association's U15 Boys Futsal ID team won the U.S. National Futsal Tournament Championship.

National Champions

U15 Boys Futsal ID team wins U.S. National Futsal Tournament.

Alexandria Soccer Association's (ASA) U15 Boys Futsal ID team were crowned U.S. Futsal National Champions on Sunday, July 16. The USFF National tournament, held in San Jose, Calif., began last Thursday with group stage games. ASA's team won all three of their tightly contested group stage games to advance to the semifinals on Sunday morning.

The team won their semifinal game 3-2 against a challenging Futsal Without Borders team from Silicon Valley, Calif. The semifinal win advanced the U15 Boys to the National Championship game against Knowens-Pearson. At the end of regulation time the game was tied 5-5, forcing overtime. Alexandria scored early in the extra period to take a 6-5 lead and hold on for the win.

ASA's journey to the National Championship began last November. The team secured their spot at the National Tournament after winning the Northeast Regional Finals, held in New Jersey, in February. "This has been an unbeliev-

able journey. Our boys worked so hard leading up to the tournament. They learned new concepts and became a disciplined team," said head coach Will Hanna.

The ASA family and the community at large provided fundraising support to make this trip possible for the boys. The team is sponsored by Onelife Fitness, who provided practice space as well as uniforms for the team.

The futsal team is coached by Will Hanna, assisted by Peja Radivojevic and managed by Drew Dietrich. ASA's Futsal program director is Chris Arnold. The roster of eight play in ASA's Academy program as well as the Futsal ID program. The players are Jairo Guevara (T.C. Williams High School), Andrew Dietrich (Yorktown High School), Sam Thompson (Shady Grove Middle School), Matthew Castillo (T.C. Williams High School), Thanos Androus (Episcopal High School), Jose Alvarado (TC Williams High School), Dylan Albarracin (Falls Church High School) and Alex Temoshok (Washington-Lee High School).

See alexandria-soccer.org

BULLETIN BOARD

TUESDAY/JULY 25

VOICE Public Action. 7:30-9 p.m., in the parish hall at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 711 N. Columbus St. Representatives from VOICE Alexandria, a coalition of local religious institutions, will communicate their social justice interests to members of city council, with particular focus on affordable/public housing and WMATA/transit. No cost, no R.S.V.P. required.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

Foster Parent Orientation. 6-7:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

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Waste Water

FROM PAGE 3

phosphorous and other pollutants. Next, water is disinfected by UV lamps in order to prevent the microorganisms from reproducing. The clean water is finally released into Hunting Creek, which flows into the Potomac River.

Alexandria Renew keeps an eye on the levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in the water that is returned to the Potomac River because the Chesapeake Bay, the body of water into which the Potomac flows, is sensitive to these elements. If levels become too high, algae invades the water, seizing the oxygen that the Bay's natural organisms need to survive.

Besides transforming wastewater into clean water, Alexandria Renew takes the solids found in the wastewater and removes dangerous pathogens through pasteurization and other procedures. The result is a "biosolid" rich in nutrients that serves as an organic fertilizer to farms across Virginia. Using this recycled material, farmers do not have to rely on chemical fertilizers.

Environmentally conscious citizens attended the lecture, some of them Arlington residents since it was held in Shirlington. Among them was Arlington resident Priscilla Lujan. Lujan's concern and skepticism about the status of the nation's environmental agenda, especially in view of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, spurred her attendance. "Since Flint, I worry about the water and non-scientists in the government," she said.

Irene John, also an Arlington resident, came because she has taken an interest in energy conservation efforts. John had seen a water treatment facility on Glebe Road and wondered what goes on there. "It's about getting a better understanding of the community," she said.

The Glebe Road facility is Arlington's Water Pollution Control Plant, and although it is not operated in the same way as the Alexandria Renew facility, the water undergoes similar treatment.

Arlington resident Ryan Weir also attended the lecture and believes that the cleanliness of water should be a priority, not only for city and county governments, but also for citizens. "It's important that we're not polluting it," he said.

Watkins agrees with these residents and admires the efforts of Alexandria Renew and the city to keep Alexandria's water treatment system up-to-date and effective. "Investing in water infrastructure keeps us healthy," she said.

There are items, however, that Alexandria Renew is not capable of processing, namely medicine, grease, and wipes. "Don't flush medication," Watkins said. She cited the city's handful of "Drug Take Back" events where residents can safely dispose of expired medication. As for grease and wipes, they should be discarded to go to a landfill.

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far - and it's not very far - so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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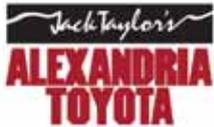
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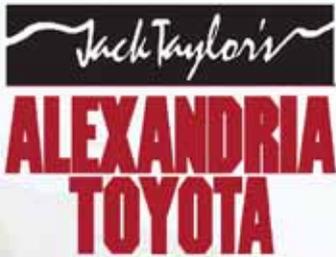
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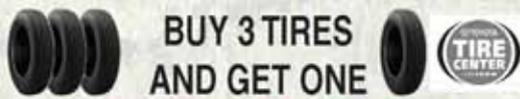
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LANGLEY OAKS, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA

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www.SueDickersonRealtor.com



Alexandria \$549,900

Spotless and professionally updated home! Quiet cul-de-sac location. 4 bedrooms upstairs! New roof, HVAC, appliances! Eat-in kitchen with Silestone counters. Amazing outdoor space with screened-in porch and double doors leading to brick patio and large private yard. No HOA.
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Rarely available detached home in convenient Governors Hill with 4,000 SF of living space. Featuring 5 bedrooms, 4 full & 1 half baths, gourmet kitchen, spacious master suite, and lower level rec room with walk-out to fenced yard. Walk to Huntington Metro. 5847 Governors Hill Dr.
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Old Town \$1,239,900

Largest model end unit Brandt townhome in the heart of Old Town with 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Only 1 block to waterfront & parks, a short distance to King Street, numerous updates throughout, enviable patio space with garden, 1-car garage and 1 mile to Braddock Road Metro. thegoodhartgroup.com/411-n-lee/

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www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Del Ray \$600,000

Great opportunity to transform this 3-bedroom duplex into your own! Off-street parking, fenced rear yard and deck. Upper level third bedroom is great for home office or nursery. Wood floors throughout the main and upper levels. Great for commuting as Braddock Metro is just steps away!

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www.BettyMallon.com



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Diane Sappenfield 703.401.9419
www.1004prince.mceneaney.com



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Arlington \$475,000

A don't miss Fairlington Meadows Clarendon model. 2 bedroom, 2 full bath, updated home with private patio and bonus room in basement. Located near the Bradlee Shopping Center and Shirlington neighborhood. Community amenities include pool and tennis courts. Assigned parking space. 4309 35th St S.

Jillian Keck 703.951.7655
www.JillianKeck.com



Alexandria \$689,900

Light-filled, fee simple, end townhouse in The Preston HOA. Wood floors on main, fireplace in living room. Kitchen with island, granite and stainless appliances. Versatile floor plan with space for breakfast nook or family room. Finished lower level with powder room and doors to patio/garden area.

Donna Cramer 703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com



Alexandria \$767,500

Elegant home with over 3,400 SF. Master suite spans entire level with sitting room/den and 2 walk-in closets with custom built-ins. Master bath with granite split vanities, jacuzzi & separate shower and water closet. True chef's kitchen with granite counters, upgraded cabinetry & open to family room with fireplace.

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