



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Immanuel-Church-On-the-Hill's pumpkin patch is scheduled to open Oct. 1 and run through the end of October.**

## Foliage, Festivals and Fun

**Art On the Avenue kicks off fall season.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

As Indian Summer lingers in the region, October is just around the corner and along with it the sweater weather that will usher in a canvas of colorful leaves to blanket the city. From foliage to festivals, Alexandria plays host to numerous events designed for everything from fitness to fun to fundraising.

The traditional kick-off to the city's fall season is the Del Ray signature event Art On the Avenue, now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year and set for Oct. 7.

"This is just amazing," said Art On the Avenue founder Pat Miller. "I never anticipated that this would become such a signature event for the city. But this is truly a home-grown event, put together by volunteers and run by volunteers. Everyone en

SEE FOLIAGE, PAGE 29



PHOTO BY WAYNE HULEHAN

**The 42nd Del Ray Turkey Trot 5-miler will take place Nov. 23.**

## More Scrutiny

**Budget task force wants greater clarity and oversight of staff decisions.**

BY DAN BRENDEN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Staff decisions embedded in capital projects — and translating potentially to tens of millions of dollars of public expense — require more scrutiny, say some city advisors.

City Council charged the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force to streamline city and public schools capital projects to close a \$106 million funding gap. The Task Force also aims to recommend improvements to the capital planning process generally.

"I think all the decisions are being made without the benefit of council really weighing the pros and cons across the city. And they're not really given an option" to weigh alternatives, said Task Force member Dwight Dunton at the group's most recent meeting last Thursday, Sept. 21. He thinks "one of the things that has gotten us to this point is that [governmental departments are] working really hard in their silos" to come up with the "perfect solution," rather than a likely less expensive "good-

SEE HOW, PAGE 30

## Under the Surface

**Residents say barriers to recreational activities contribute to North Old Town violence.**

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

Violence has become a fact of life in North Old Town. For the last three years, the area west of the Braddock Metro station has seen at least one murder. Last year there were three. Established after a series of revenge killings shocked the neighborhood in 2016, the North End Quality of Life Work Group is nearing the end of a year-long process to develop a plan to help pull the local community out of violence.

Many in the surrounding communities say the draft plan ignores some of the biggest factors leading to local violence.

The Work Group had three main objectives: to develop a work plan to address quality of life issues in North Old Town neighborhoods, examine the causes of violence in these neighborhoods and potential solutions, and to identify public and private resources that can be utilized to improve resident life.

Much of the draft plan involves

SEE FEES, PAGE 32

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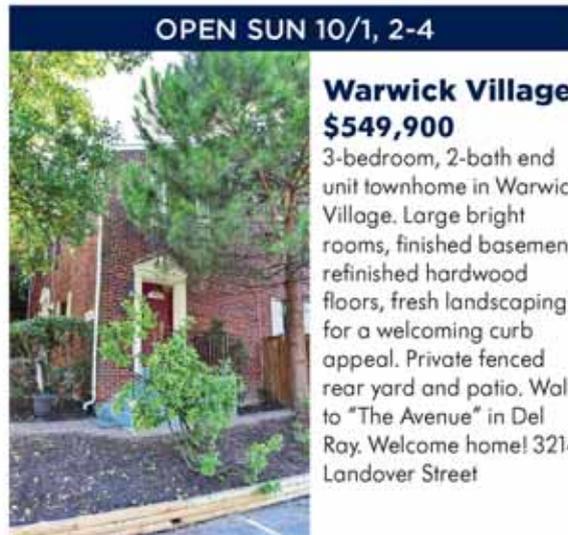
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# GenOff

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

## Future of the GenOn Power Plant five years after closure.

Things have been quiet at the GenOn power plant. In the five years since the power plant closed, the building has sat empty and untouched on Alexandria's waterfront. There's movement behind closed doors, though, as the city prepares to start negotiations over the site's future by the end of the year.

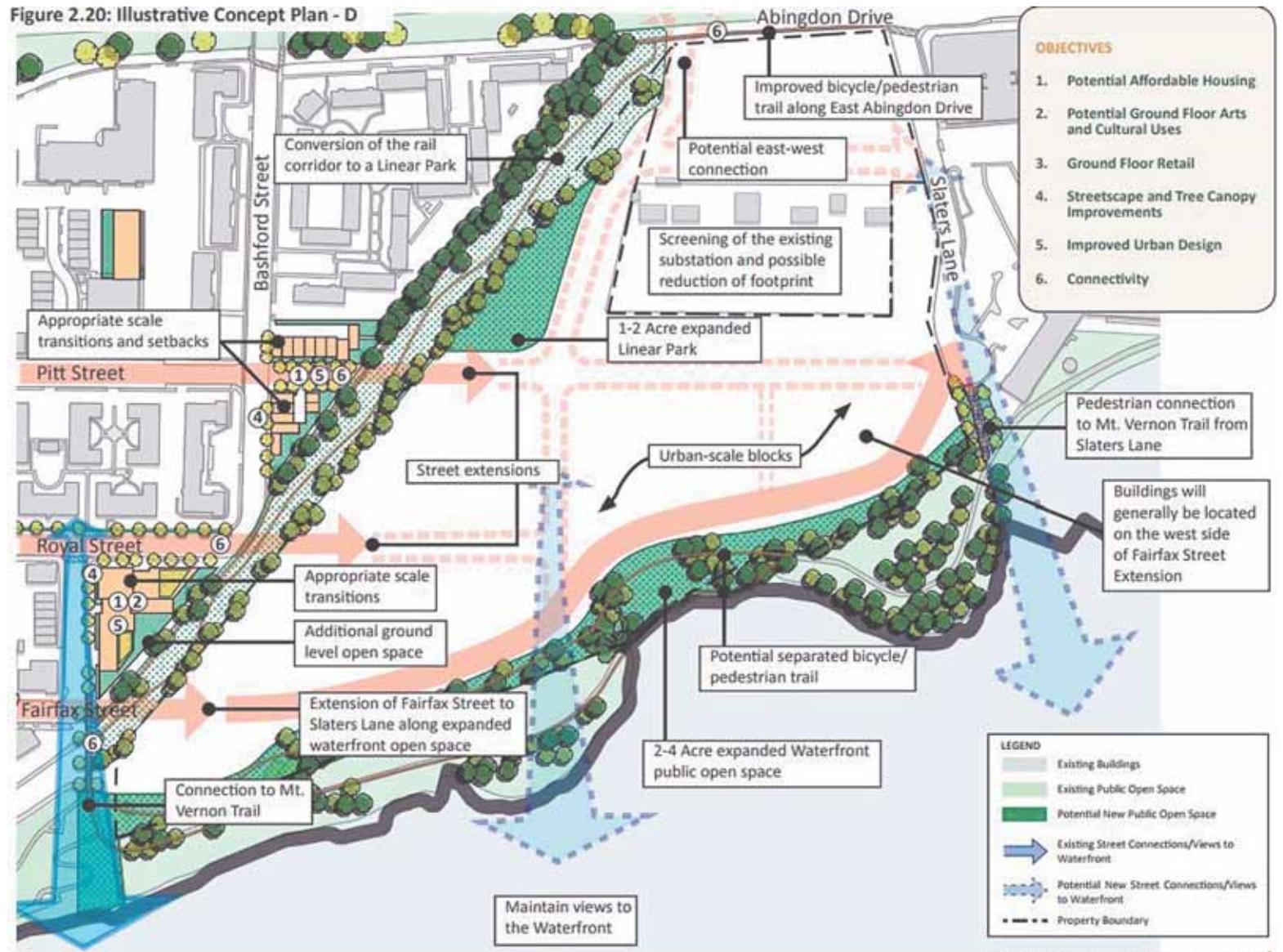
There's a vision for the site that involves transforming the concrete structure into an open park and office high rises. The Old Town North Small Area Plan outlines the city's goals to transform the two to four acres of space at the east end of the site into open waterfront space. The rest of the 20-acre site has been identified as potential for new office spaces. But the plan also calls for innovation in the approach to the GenOn plant's redevelopment, using academic institutions, business incubators, culinary institutes and museums as examples of other uses that can help transform the space into more than just another office park.

But that vision for GenOn is still far from reality. Like Landmark Mall, the GenOn site is divided between two property owners. GenOn holds an 88-year lease on the site from the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), which owns the land. GenOn, a subunit of NRG Energy Inc, filed for bankruptcy in June. Jeffrey Farner, deputy director of Planning and Zoning, said the company is anticipated to come out of bankruptcy by the end of the year.

"Once they do that, they will continue to proceed on resolving the ownership issues and acquiring a development partner for the site," said Farner. "NRG would acquire the site from an ownership perspective. They would essentially go through a process to bring on a developer to redevelop the site."

The smaller portion of the site to the west of the main power plant is a closed substation owned

Figure 2.20: Illustrative Concept Plan - D



2 LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by Pepco. Farner said Pepco and Dominion Power are planning on filing an application with the state for re-utilization of the site. After the application is filed, Farner said the city will be working with Pepco and the community to determine the future of the substation. Farner said that any redevelopment of the site would require city approvals, so there will be opportunities for the community to be engaged with the project.

The Small Area Plan also notes that the site will require extensive demolition and remediation.

"That's a fairly common process," said Farner. "Being a power plant, it will be a process that will probably be more involved."

### Plans for the redevelopment of the GenOn Power Plant

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Concept rendering for redeveloped GenOn Power Plant property

# Staying Strong

## Optimism and caution at annual Visit Alexandria meeting.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been a pretty good year for tourism in Alexandria. A 2016 Economic Impact study by the Virginia Tourism Corporation showed that visitor spending in Alexandria has reached a record high of \$790 million, contributing \$26.6 million in tax

receipts. So the mood at Visit Alexandria's annual meeting on Sept. 25 in the Patent and Trademark Office was one of celebration and optimism, though twinged with a note of caution about threats facing the city.

Visit Alexandria, a 501c organization, works to promote tourism in the city. This involves advertising, research, social media outreach, and other ways of building a

brand for Alexandria. The organization is funded primarily through a city allocation of \$3.2 million, though \$397,219 is raised through earned income. Of the organization's expenses, 89 percent (\$3.2 million) is spent on marketing and programs while 11 percent (\$373,951) is spent on general expenses and administration.

But the specter of the recently killed busi-

ness improvement district (BID) haunted the meeting, with notable tension between City Council members and business leaders who had supported the BID. Patricia Washington, president and CEO of Visit Alexandria, said that the city is going to have to find a way to deal with looming compe-

SEE OPTIMISM, PAGE 31

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PHOTO BY DAN BRENDEL/GAZETTE PACKET

The Rev. Jo Belser of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection addressed a Beaugard Design Advisory Committee (BDAC) meeting on Monday evening at Northern Virginia Community College. The church is in the latter stages of designing an all-affordable apartment building for construction on its property. BDAC met to evaluate the proposal's adherence to the city's design requirements and to hear public comment.

## Living 'Peaceably with All'

Church's affordable housing plan moves through community approval process.

BY DAN BRENDEL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** local church's slated affordable housing project faces design opposition from neighbors. The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is leasing a portion of its land on the West End for a 5-story all-affordable apartment complex. The congregation be-

lieves part of its social "mission" is to help meet the city's mounting need for affordable housing.

"It became clear that we should put our property where our mouth was, where our prayer was," said the Rev. Jo Belser, Resurrection's pastor, at a Beaugard Design Advisory Committee (BDAC) meeting

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 32

# THE SILVER RESTORATION EVENT

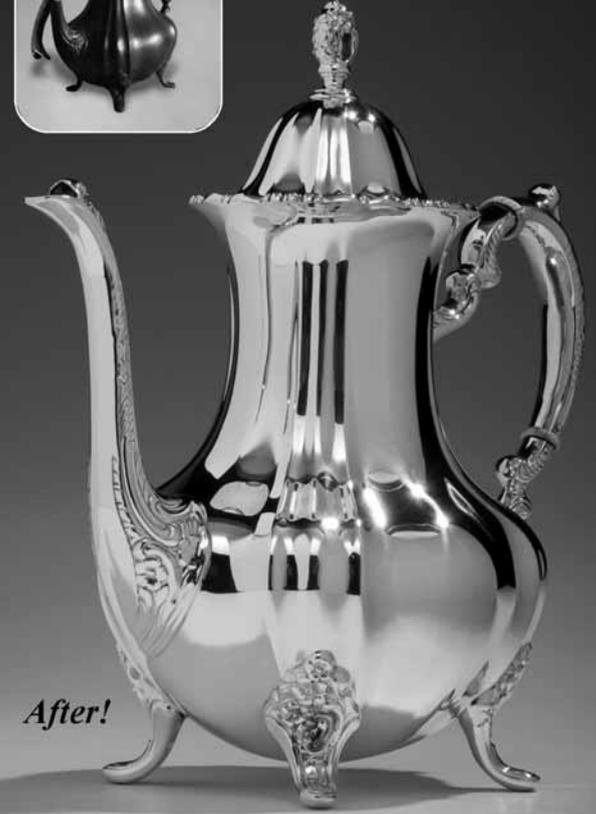
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Republican Ed Gillespie speaks at the Sept. 19 debate.



Democrat Ralph Northam (right) speaks at the Sept. 19 debate.

# Rorschach Politics

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he campaign for governor is a bit like a Rorschach test as the candidates close in on the final stretch toward Election Day. Democrat Ralph Northam and Republican Ed Gillespie are presenting a series of inkblots to voters about everything from the health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

How voters feel about President Donald Trump and the Affordable Care Act may end up playing more of a role deciding the fate of the election than all the carefully crafted policy proposals and press releases.

“The critiques that one is leveling at the other that aren’t policy oriented are designed to undermine the opponent’s base but also energize their own base,” said Quentin Kidd, professor at Christopher Newport University. “But while they do have to play politics and critique each other, they’ve got to talk about policy, and they’ve got to talk about the things they would do to solve problems and make life better for Virginians.”

Polls show Northam holding a steady but slight lead since March, the last time Gillespie was leading in a statewide poll of voters. One of the most recent polls was conducted by the University of Mary Washington earlier this month, which shows Northam edging out a 5 percent win over his rival — a lead that’s so slight it was within the margin of error. Polls have Northam crushing Gillespie in vote-rich Northern Virginia. But they also show Gillespie leading among independent voters and holding strong in conservative parts of the state.

“You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November,” said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. “When you



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

At the end of Tuesday’s debate Gillespie and Northam share a handshake. The debate was notable for its civility on all sides.

take out the portions of the electorate who will reflexively vote for a Democrat or a Republican, you are left with people who are going to be motivated by community-level issues.”

**THE DEBATE** in Northern Virginia on Sept. 19 illustrated the fickle nature of Rorschach politics in the age of Trump as both candidates tried to shape the narrative. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce and moderated by Chuck Todd of NBC’s “Meet the Press,” the televised debate was held at Capital One headquarters in McLean on Sept. 19. Panelists included Julie Carey of NBC4, Aaron Gilchrist of NBC4 and Mark Rozell of George Mason University.

Several times during the debate, Gillespie rattled off a series of data points about sluggish job growth and stories of people leav-

Candidates for governor present inkblots on issues from health of the economy to the value of Confederate statues.

phasizing lowering the unemployment rate and a series of corporations that have moved their headquarters to the commonwealth. During one point in the debate, Northam turned to Gillespie and said all his trash-talking about the Virginia economy could prevent Amazon from setting up shop

**“You see a lot of undecided voters, which means both campaigns have a lot of work to do between now and November.”**

— Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington

in Virginia.

“Right now, Ed, we are having negotiations with Amazon — 50,000 jobs,” Northam said to Gillespie. “Amazon doesn’t want to hear from people like you, especially if you want to be the next governor, that we are doing poorly in Virginia.”

**CONFEDERATE STATUES** are creating an emotional flashpoint in the campaign, a disagreement between the candidates highlighted by the violent clashes that erupted in Charlottesville after white supremacists marched across the campus of the University of Virginia chanting Nazi slogans and holding tiki torches. Gillespie said the statues should stay in place with some added context, and he called for adding a statue of Virginia’s first black governor to the state Capitol. Northam said local communities

SEE DEBATE, PAGE 34

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## NEWS



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An antique steam engine that once served the Alexandria Fire Department was on display Sept. 16 during the Alexandria West Rotary Club's Crabs-N-Suds fundraiser at Hensley Park.

## Claws for a Cause

AWRC holds inaugural crab fest.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria West Rotary Club held its first annual Crabs-N-Suds fundraiser at Hensley Park with proceeds from the Sept. 16 event benefiting social service programs in the city's West End.

More than 30 local businesses served as sponsors of the event, which featured a display of state-of-the-art firefighting equipment and vehicles by the Alexandria Fire Department as well as the Friendship Firehouse Museum's antique steam engine.

The organization partnered with Captain Dan's Crabhouse, Portner Brewhouse, Pork

Barrel BBQ and the Sugar Shack in providing a meal of steamed Maryland Blue Crabs, craft beer, corn on the cob, BBQ and sides and baked goods.

Event sponsors included the YMCA of Alexandria, the Red Cross and INOVA Alexandria with entertainment provided by Universal DJs.

Funds raised from the event will support community efforts and investment and will be distributed by the Alexandria West Rotary Club, which focuses on helping youth in the area.

Proceeds will also benefit the Alexandria Fire Department and the YMCA.

For more information on the Alexandria West Rotary Club, visit [www.awrotary.org](http://www.awrotary.org).



The Alexandria West Rotary Club held its inaugural Crabs-N-Suds fundraiser Sept. 16 at Hensley Park to benefit social service programs in the city's West End.

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# OPINION

## Dire and Urgent

## Does current repeal effort set the stage for billions in tax cuts for the wealthiest?

“Dire and urgent.” Those are the words used by U.S. Sen. Mark Warner to describe the need to turn back the most recent attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act with a plan that would result in chaos, the Graham-Cassidy bill also repeals Medicaid as we know it, Virginia’s senators said in a call with reporters last week.

“Why are they going after Medicaid?” asked U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. Per capita caps on Medicaid have “nothing to do with the Affordable Care Act.”

The proposed cuts include \$243 billion less between 2020 and 2026 for the ACA’s expan-

sion of Medicaid, and cuts to the rest of Medicaid of \$175 billion during the same period, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis. The cuts would grow dramatically in 2027, with nearly \$300 billion more in cuts that year alone.

“Why go after Medicaid? Why?” Kaine asked again. Kaine is pretty sure he knows the answer: To generate money for billions in tax cuts for the wealthy.

“Senators who support this [repeal], who think that the Federal government should not be paying for health care for the poor, for the aged, for the disabled, are planning to give this money to the wealthiest Americans in tax cuts.

“We must resist that at all costs.”

While the Graham-Cassidy bill appears to

lack the votes to pass right now, and many people predict that the Senate will move on from trying to repeal and replace the affordable care act, vigilance is still required.

These ongoing efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act also threaten the quality of coverage for everyone by shredding protection on pre-existing conditions, by stripping funding for addiction and mental health treatment in the midst of a nationwide opioid epidemic, by allowing lifetime caps on coverage that would leave the most seriously ill patients without coverage, by undermining what constitutes “essential benefits,” the very definition of what one expects to be covered by insurance.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

## Improving Youth Sports Participation

### Alexandria Soccer’s commitment to access and quality.

BY TOMMY PARK  
ALEXANDRIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

A recent study by the Sports & Fitness Industry Association and The Aspen Institute found that kids from households which make \$25,000 or less participate in youth sports half as much (just 19 percent) as kids from households which earn \$100,000 or more. Additionally, participation in youth sports is down overall and those that are involved are experiencing more and more “professionalized” experiences with expensive and demanding training schedules.

At Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) we’re developing a model that provides an alternative to the growing inaccessibility of youth soccer and we’d love to see other organizations do the same. We started with a simple mission — offer the highest quality soccer programming experience at every level to any kid that wanted to play.

Since founding our scholarship fund in 2011, we’ve provided over \$500,000 of support to more than 5,000 scholarship registrants. In the

past six years we’ve seen a 177 percent increase in overall participation from 1,800 kids annually before the creation of the scholarship program to nearly 5,000 annual participants in 2017. Individuals and small businesses in the greater Alexandria community have contributed generously to sustain the scholarship fund which now supports over 25 percent of our participants. In addition, the ASA board of directors recently approved a long-term commitment to resourcing access to the game in our community through a long-term sustainability fund.

Our program partnership with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Alexandria City Parks Recreation & Department (RPCA) offers after school leagues and clinics at no cost to participants. These school programs remove cost and transportation barriers and introduce kids to soccer (and in turn, an active healthier lifestyle). Additionally, we support and invest in the city’s facilities in partnership with the RPCA to ensure our community has safe places to play. Thus far, we have invested in improvements by funding goals, buying training equipment and sponsoring the creation of multiple new neighborhood futsal courts set to open later this fall.

By working alongside our Alexandria city partners and schools we are able to provide a more inclusive and accessible soccer opportunity for all kids. Our current participants include 50-plus nationalities, represented from all corners of our city.

We’ve invested in bilingual staff members and provide Spanish literature to help communicate with our diverse community. Coaches for every program are trained and certified internally and/or externally by ASA technical staff and US Soccer educators to ensure a quality experience for every kid.

As some organizations have turned their focuses exclusively to higher level development academies and travel teams (as such, eliminating recreational options), we’re committed to providing equal access and quality experiences to all our programs regardless of a child’s interest or ability. We’re as committed to providing a scholarship to a 3 year old in our “Tots” program as we are to providing a 16-year old player, on a pathway to a professional soccer career, a scholarship on one of our nationally recognized travel/academy teams.

We believe that focusing on developing healthy and active kids at the recreational level is as important to our community (if not more so) than developing national team players in our competitive futsal and soccer programming.

Studies like the one mentioned above reaffirm our mission of providing a quality soccer experience to every kid who is interested, from toddler to national team player. With so much focus on the drop in participation in youth sports we wanted to tell our story with the hopes that others share our commitment to quality and access.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### City’s Failings

To the Editor:

As two of the many vocal opponents of the Old Town BID, we applaud the recommendation to not press forward with a Business Improvement District (BID) in Old Town. While it is tempting to celebrate that we “successfully fought City Hall,” there are serious issues

still facing the city. The BID process demonstrates a failure to listen to its citizens and stakeholders.

While there was real tension between advocates and opponents of the BID, both sides held important critiques of the city. In fact, the BID advocates (not us) said city staff was unable to support businesses, unable to adapt policies in a timely manner, unable to maintain existing city services, and

insufficiently capable to managing the waterfront. We were puzzled that this significant indictment of city management was not viewed as controversial.

The city should look at the BID failure to honestly re-examine its world view. Nearly every business and resident in Old Town cites parking as a concern that affects them negatively. Yet the city repeatedly dismisses these concerns. By listening to its stakeholders, the

city can improve the residential and business climate in our city. The previous top down instructions are never a good approach. While businesses have many

views on solutions, the reality is that the city didn’t bother to engage them. In fact, the Council BID vote was in June. Despite Council’s acknowledgement that they had received more constructive com-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

ments from opponents than proponents, not once, not ever did city staff reach out during the entire summer to garner our suggestions. It speaks volumes to the fact that they were not interested in engaging with businesses with a different viewpoint. Even more troubling is that we read that Vice Mayor Justin Wilson still wants to push forward with an Old Town BID tax.

**Kim Putens**, Owner Bloomers  
**Dan Hazelwood**, Owner Targeted Creative Communications

## Healthy Land Use Process

To the Editor:

Speaking as an individual member of the Alexandria Planning Commission, I would like to respond to the Gazette Packet's recent coverage of land use approvals to renovate and enlarge Bishop Ireton High School. Rather than symbolizing a chasm between the Planning Commission and the Alexandria City Council, it highlights an advisory process for land use approvals that works as intended.

For development special use permit (DSUP) cases like Bishop Ireton, the Planning Commission is tasked with holding a hearing, reviewing the application, and advising City Council to approve, dis-

prove, or approve with conditions. City Council then considers the recommendation of the Planning Commission in reaching a final approval decision.

In this case, the commission voted to recommend approval with conditions, but omitted three specific conditions recommended by city staff. These conditions were based on an agreement between Bishop Ireton and the adjacent neighborhood association, and would have limited non-school exterior events to no more than two non-profit artistic-centered events open to the public for free; prohibited non-school use of the auditorium and gymnasiums; and forbidden shared use of the school's parking lot.

I commend the school and its neighbors for negotiating an agreement in advance of public hearings, but could not support these particular conditions for three specific reasons:

- ❖ The conditions not only limit, but legally prohibit, certain uses of school facilities by non-school users. In a city where meeting space, gymnasiums, athletic fields, performance venues, and parking is at a premium, the city should actively encourage rather than prevent shared uses. These conditions also inhibit the school's ability to fulfil its core mission.
- ❖ The conditions more stringently restrict Bishop Ireton's operations than other high schools in the city. The federal Religious

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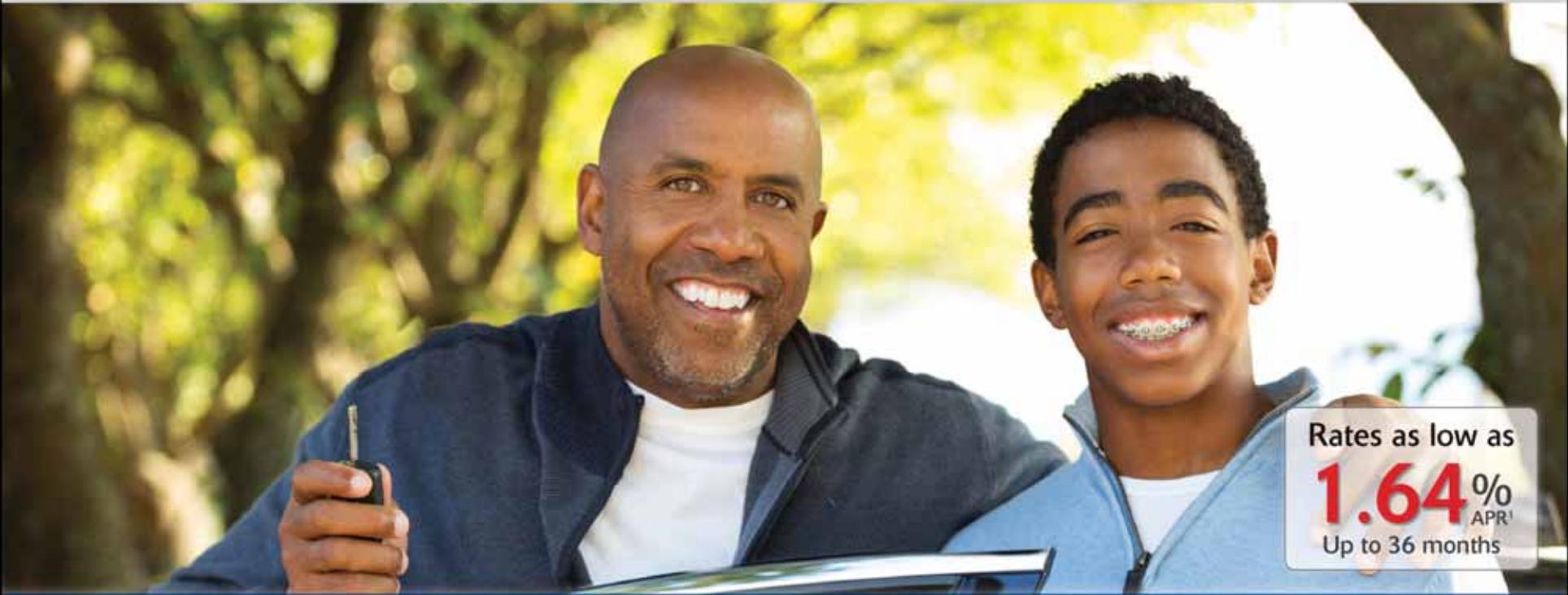
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## OPINION

# An Alexandria Treasure

## Inside the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

BY PETE OSMAN  
MEMBER OF THE MEETING HOUSE

Old Town Alexandria is blessed with many historical treasures that help make Alexandria the very special city that it is. One of these special treasures is the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The Meeting House, as it is known, was founded in 1772 when the Colonies were still under British rule. Only congregations of the Church of England were allowed to use the term "church" prior to America gaining independence. The places of worship of non-conforming denominations had to use another term, hence the term "meeting house."

### COMMENTARY

There are a number of interesting historical facts about the Meeting House to include having its bell toll for four days and hosting Alexandria's memorial services for George Washington following his death in 1799. It also is the site of the tomb of the unknown soldier of the American Revolution. The Meeting House's historical significance makes it a popular tourist attraction.

Today, the Meeting House's role in the Alexandria community goes well beyond its historical past. It has a very large, active congregation of over 1,000 members that not only bring life to its historical campus, but do much to enrich and support Alexandria and the surrounding communities. Its campus and members are active well beyond Sunday mornings. For example:

Each Thursday morning, volunteers welcome anywhere from 30 to 60 guests to Meeting House Open Table, a breakfast for Alexandria's homeless and underserved population. Guests not only appreciate the hearty breakfast but also the camaraderie with other guests and church members. Good food is served; birthdays are celebrated; sorrows and challenges, as well as successes and joys are shared. A similar breakfast is hosted by Washington Street Methodist Church on Monday mornings, and Downtown Baptist on Wednesdays.

On Saturday mornings, the Meeting House serves as a host site for the video visitation program of Assisting Families of Inmates. This program enables family members of inmates serving time in Virginia prisons to regularly connect with their loved ones via a video connection. Statistics prove that this family connection significantly increases a prisoner's successful return to society, and Meeting House volunteers can attest to the importance of the connections they have witnessed.

Weekday mornings, the courtyard, playground, and education building are filled with the sound of children's laughter. The Meeting House Cooperative Preschool provides a strong educational and social foundation for both children of Meeting House mem-

bers and other families in the Alexandria community.

Across the courtyard, the Meeting House's historic Flounder House houses the office of the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. The Meeting House was central to the establishment of the Tutoring Consortium, and in addition to providing office space and funding, many of its members also volunteer. ATC tutors are all community volunteers who work one-on-one with primary students in the Alexandria City Public Schools to develop the skills to read at or above grade level.

In the evening, the Meeting House facilities are often used for weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, providing sanctuary and support for those struggling with addiction.

The Meeting House reaches out in support of the community in other ways as well. Since 1970, the church's Family to Family program has provided emergency financial assistance to the working poor. This program annually provides tens of thousands of dollars to help cover rent, utility bills, medical bills, and other essentials of northern Virginia households in need of short term financial assistance.

The Meeting House is also an active member of VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement). Through this non-partisan coalition, members work together to take action on key issues in our community including, but not limited to, affordable housing, access to health and dental care, and immigrant rights.

Most recently, the Meeting House is partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and First Christian Church to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. Meeting House members will work with this family of seven to enable them to begin a fresh start.

The Meeting House also contributes funds and/or volunteers to a number of community service programs in Alexandria, such as ALIVE!, Bag Lunch, Carpenter's Shelter, Christ House, Friends of Guest House, and Senior Services of Alexandria. These programs provide food for the hungry, low-cost childcare, and donated furniture and housewares for those in need. They assist women in returning to society following incarceration. They help seniors maintain their independence and self-sufficiency. All of these programs are examples of Alexandrians working together to make a better community, a goal to which the Meeting House has long been committed.

Alexandria is indeed blessed to have this historical treasure that not only has played such a key role in our city's past but is today impacting so many in our community. "Touching Lives through a Culture of Commitment" is the Meeting House mantra, and its membership demonstrates this on a daily basis with their time, their talents, and their treasure.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Volunteer Drivers Needed.** Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).

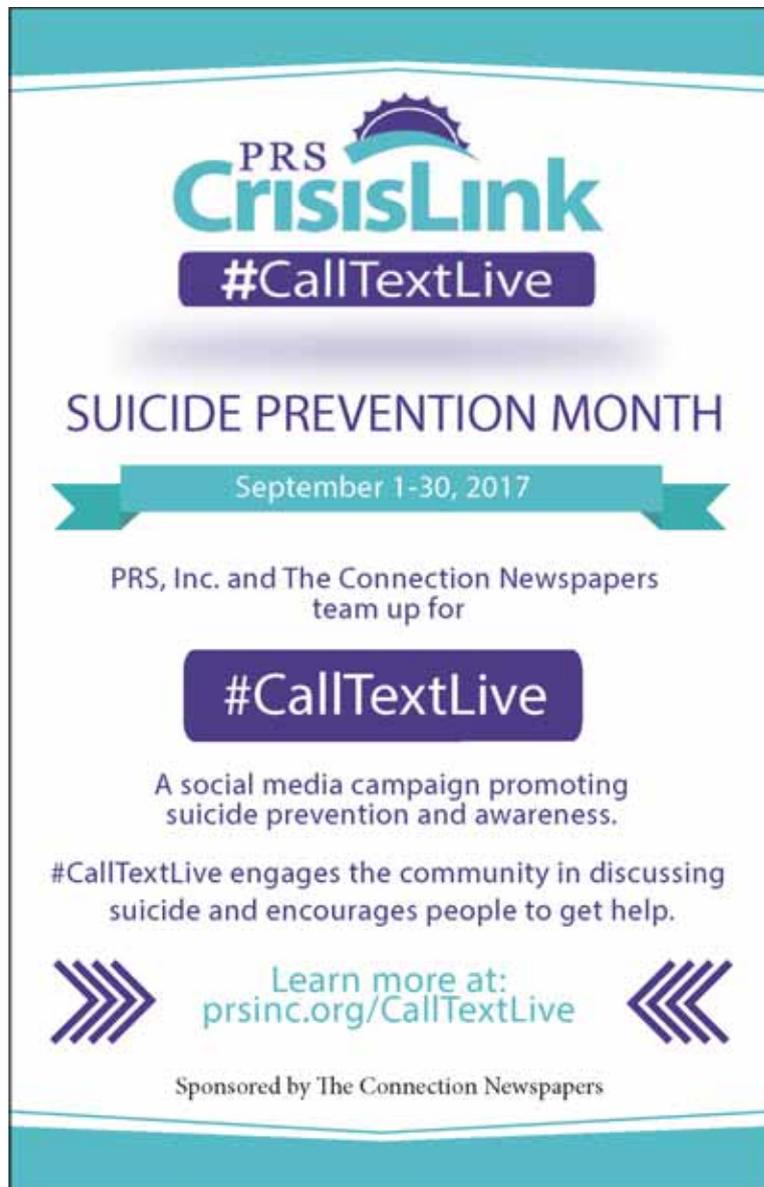
#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

**Silent Witness Alexandria Candlelight Vigil & Memorial Program.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Market Square, Old Town Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program for a public event designed to raise awareness of domestic violence and create a space of healing through a visual memorial of those lost through domestic violence. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS).  
**Community Conversation.** 7-8:45 p.m. at the Charles Houston

Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Alexandria VA branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. and Shop Talk Live DMV, Inc. will sponsor a community conversation to discuss the increasing numbers of black individuals who go missing each year. Visit [www.blackandmissinginc.com](http://www.blackandmissinginc.com).

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) prohibits land use regulations that impose a substantial burden on religious institutions, including Bishop Ireton, a Catholic high school.

❖ The conditions codify, through legislative action by City Council, issues best addressed through a private agreement between the school and neighborhood association. The city must be mindful the constitutional limits of police power that enable zoning restrictions and not regulate beyond the minimum necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. In addition, conditions should be fully enforceable by the city, and should not set an inappropriate precedent for future DSUP cases.

The commission's review of these conditions is wholly consistent with its role to advise City Council regarding land use actions. Since the conditions were entirely within the scope of the DSUP before the Planning Commission, the recommendation to reject them does not represent policymaking beyond the limits of the commission's charge.

Despite the recommendation of a unanimous Planning Commission, City Council reinstated the three conditions, as is its prerogative. Reasonable minds will differ on these issues, and council serves as the final arbiter.

The spirited debate over Bishop Ireton is not an aberration of the planning process, but instead signals a healthy mechanism within city government to debate and resolve land use matters. While not the outcome the Planning Commission recommended, I accept the council's decision, and look ahead to future cases.

**Nathan Macek**, Member  
Alexandria Planning Commission

## No Action, Talk Only

To the Editor:

City Council's unanimous vote to approve the proposed West End elementary school speaks to our local elected officials inability to say "No" to any requests made by ACPS. Perhaps what is most glaring about the DSUP and P&Z staff and its director's recommendation for this West End school was eliminating the legal issues involved when ACPS bought the two properties at 1701, 1702 and 1703 in 2017. The property at 1703 is part of a covenant and the owners have

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### Public Hearings Scheduled

#### Passenger rail improvement plans are ready for review.

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment. The Draft EIS details recommended infrastructure improvements to increase reliability and provide capacity to add nine daily passenger rail round trips between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. Public hearings are scheduled to receive comments. View the Draft EIS: [www.DC2RVArail.com/draft/](http://www.DC2RVArail.com/draft/)

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Public hearing: 6:30 p.m.  
Patrick Henry High School  
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**Alexandria**  
**October 17, 2017**  
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Public hearing: 7:30 p.m.  
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2300 Washington Avenue

**Quantico**  
**October 19, 2017**  
Open house: 7-10 p.m.  
Public hearing: 7:30 p.m.  
National Museum of the  
Marine Corps  
18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy

#### Provide your input for the record by November 7, 2017

- Complete the electronic form: [www.DC2RVArail.com/Contact-us/](http://www.DC2RVArail.com/Contact-us/)
- Provide verbal or written comments at the public hearing.
- Provide comments to the court reporter at the public hearing or leave comments on the toll-free project hotline: 888-832-0900 or TDD 711.
- Mail written comments to: Emily Stock, DRPT, 600 E. Main St, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

#### Need assistance?

Meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require assistance to participate. For special assistance, call the Title VI Compliance Officer, 804-786-6794 or TDD 711 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting date.

**En Español?** Si necesita servicios de traducción para participar, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: [español@DC2RVArail.com](mailto:español@DC2RVArail.com). También puede llamar a la línea directa del proyecto para dejar comentarios: 888-832-0900 or TDD 711.

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[www.DC2RVArail.com](http://www.DC2RVArail.com)

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

the right to refuse development which they feel is inappropriate. ACPS and our school board were aware of this issue when they found the \$15 million to buy these properties. So should ASCD, the current group that leases the property at 1703 decide to file a lawsuit, which I hope they will do, then this issue will go through the court system. Further, ACPS can decide to take the property at 1703 by eminent domain and I hope our elected officials in Alexandria will wake up and deny any property being taken by eminent domain.

It is important to point out and for all Alexandria taxpayers to remember that it was the mayor and council who instructed City Manager Jinks to set up an independent ad hoc task force to review and look at ACPS spending, especially as it relates to CIP spending and other issues related to ACPS. Doesn't that indicate the mayor and council's lack of trust with ACPS? Guess it doesn't matter to our elected officials who continue to speak NATO — No Action, Talk Only.

New schools do not mean a better education. The traffic/transportation, number of school buses who will be needed to transport 600-plus students to this "new school" through a very narrow driveway off of Beauregard Street, along with the fact that the children will be playing on a rooftop and should any child fall, ACPS would be facing a major lawsuit. The negative issues to have this school in the West End far outweigh the positives. John Adams Elementary could eliminate their pre-K as well as Ramsey, since ACPS is not mandated to provide pre-K and this would free up 200-plus slots. There are many non-profits and other groups who provide for pre-k.

No guts, no backbone by our mayor and council. And yes, I do support children and their educa-

tion. However, this latest "scam" by ACPS can't happen and hopefully ASCD and their board will file the much needed lawsuit related to the covenant.

**Annabelle Fisher**  
Alexandria

### Value Free Expression

To the Editor:

Several, mainly Democratic, members of our legislature took to task, in a Sept. 7 letter, Republican gubernatorial nominee Ed Gillespie's failure to condemn the "violence and hate" which they see in the Aug. 11-12 protests in Charlottesville.

Violence, indeed, took place, much as it is taking place in St. Louis against the workings of our judicial system. But of the many Charlottesville protesters, only a few engaged in violence — the others are not "collectively guilty" of the actions of those few. What I find appalling is the Charlottesville prosecutor's unwillingness to bring capital murder charges against the man whose automobile ran down one of the counter-protesters.

Whoever ends up being our governor must be governor of all the people — including those with whom we might disagree.

Insisting public officials condemn the expression of such views is a first step towards the kinds of "speech codes" some universities are trying to impose and the outright restrictions in some European Union countries.

This "basket of deplorables" mindset, into which the letter's signatories would dump the Charlottesville protesters' free expression is what assault the values upon which our country was founded.

**Dino Drudi**  
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. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette Packet  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314

Call 703-917-6444.  
Email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

OPINION

# Let's Be Ready, Alexandria

BY GLEN ROE  
ON BEHALF OF ALEXANDRIA  
CITIZENS CORPS COUNCIL

**A**s National Preparedness Month ends, we want to take a final opportunity to bring this important subject to your attention. Most of us don't think of Alexandria as a wild weather place. We don't live in tornado alley, we're not usually at risk for big hurricanes like Harvey and Irma, and until a few years ago we didn't think much about earthquakes. But, over the last few years, Alexandrians have seen it all — blizzards, earthquakes, derechos, and other storms that have uprooted trees, taken down power lines, and left thousands of us in the dark, sometimes for days.

COMMENTARY

It's important to make a plan for ourselves and our families. Make a plan to be ready; ensure you have the resources on hand that you and your family will need during the next unexpected emergency.

To start, ask yourself how prepared are you for the unexpected? If Alexandria was suddenly without power — including its homes, banks, grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations, and restaurants — do you have

a plan? Do you know how you will buy goods at stores that cannot accept debit or credit cards? Do you plan to always have extra gas in the car, so you won't have to wait in line at one of the few open gas stations?

Do you know how you will communicate with, or where you will meet, your family if there is no cell service?

We don't know when or where the next emergency will be, but we do know that it can happen, and can happen in Alexandria. During those emergencies, our first responders will work long hours, away from their

own families, helping those of us who need it the most.

We can help them by having a plan in place so their time can be spent helping others. September is National Preparedness Month, and a great time to take a few minutes to make sure that you're prepared. Here are three simple steps you can take to Be Ready:

- ❖ Be informed. The Alexandria eNews alert service lets you sign up to receive vital emergency alerts and information on more than 100 topics. Alerts and messages can be sent directly to your e-mail, cell phone, and

- other electronic devices. Don't miss out on important news and emergency alerts. Sign up today at [alexandriava.gov/eNews](http://alexandriava.gov/eNews).

- ❖ Make a plan. Visit the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- website for easy to use tools and suggestions to make a plan for you and your family. Keep important information and contact numbers handy. <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/makeaplan>.

- ❖ Build a kit. Use this checklist from ReadyVirginia.gov to make sure that you, your family, and your pets have what you need before the next emergency. <http://www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit>.

The Alexandria Citizen Corps Council was established under the City Code in 2005 to advise and support the City Council of Alexandria to help Alexandria minimize the impact of disaster through prevention, preparation, and effective response measures. The Council meets on the

4th Monday of every other month at 7 p.m. at the Alexandria Fire Department Headquarters, 900 Second St. Members of the public are invited to attend and encouraged to get involved, as well as visit our website <http://www.alexandriava.gov/CitizensCorps>.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

SEPT. 29-30

**Fall Children's Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Some items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email: [CUMC.CCS@gmail.com](mailto:CUMC.CCS@gmail.com), or visit [www.cameron-umc.org/](http://www.cameron-umc.org/).

SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**DASH Career Fair.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the DASH facility, 3000 Business Center Drive. DASH is looking to fill numerous positions for bus operators, mechanics, and technicians. Candidates attending the career fair will be able to speak with human resources representatives, complete job applications and interview on the spot. Candidates must have a CDL Learner's Permit and be 21 years of age. To view additional open positions at DASH, visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com).

**Build a Rain Barrel Workshop.** 9-11 a.m. at Alexandria Renew Environmental Center, 1800 Limerick St. Residents will learn about water quality issues and build a rain barrel to take home after the workshop. Register at [bit.ly/2f0NP4v](http://bit.ly/2f0NP4v).

**Boating Safety: Emergencies Onboard.** 9:30 am - Noon. at the Alexandria West Marine Store, 601 S. Patrick St. Classes will be taught by the Northern Virginia Sail and Power Squadron. Books about the topic each session will be available for purchase. Visit [www.nvsps.org](http://www.nvsps.org).

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 4

**Blood Drive.** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at APTA Headquarters, 1111 North Fairfax St. INOVA Blood Donor Services supplies lifesaving blood and blood products to 24 different hospitals in the Northern Virginia, Washington, DC metro area. One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives. To sign up for the drive, visit [inovabloodsaves.org](http://inovabloodsaves.org).

**FAFSA Completion Workshop.** 4-7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, Room C-206. All T.C. Williams High School seniors and

their families are invited to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's FAFSA Completion Workshop. Every senior should fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to qualify for money for college from the federal government, the state of Virginia, and colleges. Free pizza dinner and get FAFSA finished with the help of financial aid professionals. Contact the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Director of College Advising, Margaret Feldman, at [margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:margaret.feldman@acps.k12.va.us) or 703-824-6730.

11th Annual   
**Alexandria Film Festival**  
*Celebrating Independent Film for Eleven Years*  
**November 9-12**  
[AlexFilmFest.com](http://AlexFilmFest.com) | [#AlexFilmFest](https://twitter.com/AlexFilmFest) | [@AlexFilmFest](https://www.facebook.com/AlexFilmFest)

**Adoptions From The Heart** 

**Adoption is BOO-tiful**



**Fairfax, VA**  
Wednesday, October 18th at 6:30 pm  
Join us for a **FREE** info meeting  
Discover Infant Adoption

**Call or Visit Us Online to Register**  
[www.afth.org](http://www.afth.org) ♥ 757.447.4046



**Democracy**  
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Join us at our new Alexandria Branch for our **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!**  
**Saturday, Oct. 7th \* 11-2pm**  
**400 N. Columbus St., Alexandria, VA**

- ✦ Bounce House ✦
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- ✦ Music ✦
- ✦ Balloon Artist ✦
- ✦ Food ✦
- ✦ and More! ✦

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The T.C. Williams High School graduating class of 1967.

## Remember the First Titans: Starting a School, Ending an Era

BY JOHN KOMOROSKE

**A**lthough tens of thousands have graduated from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria since it opened in 1965, only the very earliest classes know what it was like to start up the new high school, and how fast its innocence was to come undone.

The first class, which graduated in 1967, is celebrating its 50th anniversary on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21 and 22, 2017 (details

**HISTORY**

at [www.tcwclassof1967.com](http://www.tcwclassof1967.com)).

That class wants to remind all of us what it was like in the earliest days of TC, as it started a trajectory that spans a half a century, thousands of graduates, worldwide fame — and a lightning rip in the social order.

When TC began operations in 1965, the spirit of the age included uptight dress codes, short male hair, hall passes, cafeteria lunches, censored school publications, go go dances, sneaked underage beer, cigarette smoking on school property with parent permission, a smoldering war in Vietnam, and generally strong support of the policies of the U.S. government, which had set us on a course of prosperity unequalled in American history. The British Invasion was just starting to open things up in 1965 — at least as far as music and hair was concerned — with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones in the vanguard, but much more than hair was changing on the minds its growing length covered.

This innocent, post '50s/early '60s age crept along until the month that the TCW

'67 class graduated. The old ways collapsed as if a switch had been thrown when the 1967 Summer of Love in San Francisco ignited the hippie era. Youth hair came down as fast as it could grow, the buttoned down dress codes unbuttoned, abused substances skipped from beer and tobacco to marijuana and LSD, bathing became optional for some and love — previously rationed — became free for almost all.

1967 was the year that the first Super Bowl was played, the Big Mac was cooked up, Aretha Franklin sought “Respect,” Elvis married Priscilla, “Hair” sprouted and John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas wrote “San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Some Flowers in Your Hair)” for his friend Scott McKenzie — who had attended George Washington High School in Alexandria with Phillips — who turned it into the Summer of Love anthem.

None were more amazed at the tectonic shifts than the TCW class of '67 who left for the novelty of college and jobs, trying to deal with the concurrent and much greater novelty of the social upheaval in the second half of the 20th century. Although that upheaval in the summer 1967 eclipsed the memory of the two first years of T.C. Williams High School for most, it is still important to remember that TC was a much different place when the class of '67 entered and when it left.

**T.C. WILLIAMS**, named for Alexandria School Superintendent Thomas Chambliss Williams, was designed from the beginning to be exceptional. The \$6 million building — a huge sum at the time — was state of

the art, the first air-conditioned high school in Alexandria, and constructed surrounding two cores.

The first core was a gym, and integrated physical fitness into the center of the school rather than relegate it more traditionally to an outbuilding. The second core, the auditorium, was designed with acoustics mirroring the Lincoln Center in N.Y., and boasted an orchestra pit and electronic stage management. Because of its capacity and up to date design, it served for many years as the largest venue for performances — both academic and otherwise — in Alexandria, and hosted thousands of civic events, from orchestras and ballets to government meetings.

The staffing of the school was to be exceptional as well. The Alexandria School Board searched the state of Virginia for a top principal to head their new endeavor. They hired Harold Secord, principal of Jefferson Senior High in Roanoke to get things underway. He remained a well liked and respected TC principal for many years and stayed in Alexandria for the rest of his life. He is commemorated by Harold Secord Lane in Alexandria near Cameron Station.

That first class started school in an often noisy construction site. The school plant, innovatively designed by local architect Joseph H. Saunders (whose son was a member of the class of '67), took much longer to build than anticipated. It was cheaper for the contractor to pay the late fees than add more staff to finish on time. When it opened for school in September 1965, there were still workers everywhere and wet cement in the halls and stairwells that stu-

dents had to cross on boards.

The student body was organized into three different halls, King, Braddock, and Quaker, each with its own dean, to create “schools within the school” and give a feeling of smaller size while keeping administrators closer to the students. Although their assigned hall gave students their guidance counselors and first line administrators, students took classes and moved freely throughout the school.

TC began without a senior class. No one wanted to move seniors from the other two Alexandria high schools, George Washington and Francis C. Hammond, for their last year in a new school. This arrangement gave the class of 1967 a gift rare and wonderful for any high schooler: they got to be the top class in their school two years in a row. For many of those in the class, this was the highlight of their academic careers, but one they gave up the next year to become the lowest rung of college or a workplace.

**STARTING AT A NEW SCHOOL** also meant that those first students got to launch many of the traditions of TC — such as naming the Titans, composing the student publications, penning the fight song, choreographing the prom at the Army-Navy Country Club, playing the Junior Senior Powder Puff football game, and gonging contestants at the Senior Talent Show — some of which survive to this day.

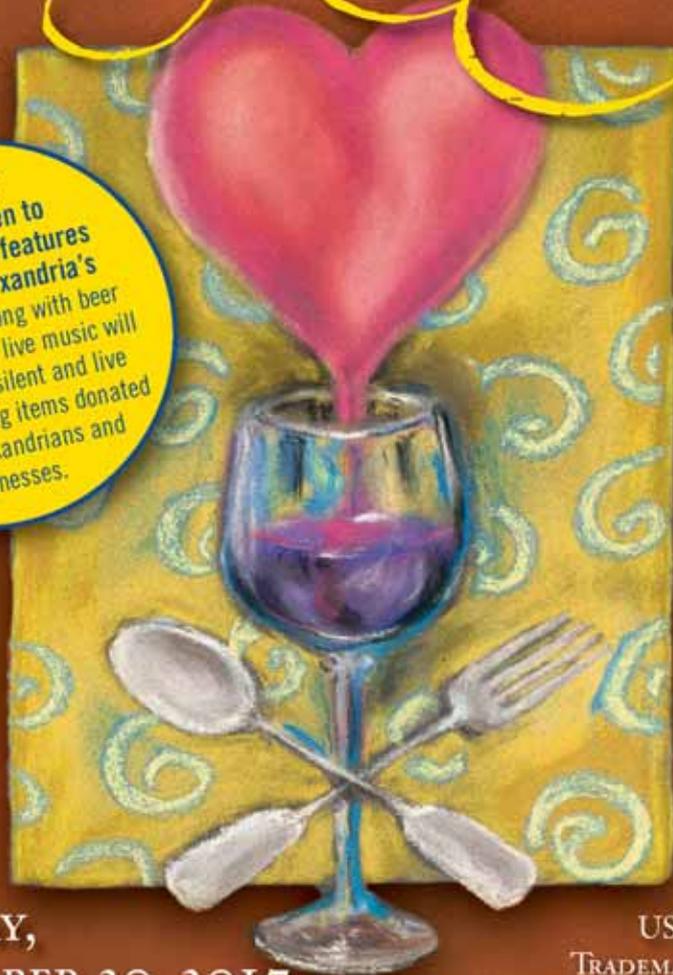
One planned tradition that never panned out was chronicled in a 2005 Washington Post article. In 1965 the students and the administration widely announced their in-

SEE REMEMBER, PAGE 21

# Taste for Giving

TO BENEFIT ALEXANDRIA CHARITIES

A festive evening open to the public that features the best of Alexandria's restaurants. Along with beer and wine tasting, live music will compliment a silent and live auction featuring items donated by local Alexandrians and businesses.



FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER 20, 2017  
7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

US PATENT &  
TRADEMARK OFFICE  
600 DULANY AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

## Taste for Giving 2017

Alexandria  
Rotary Foundation



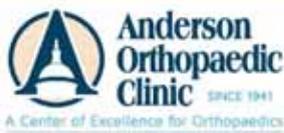
The Alexandria Rotary Foundation's 10th Annual "Taste for Giving" will be held on Friday, October 20, 2017, at the US Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria. A festive evening open to the public that features the best of Alexandria's restaurants. Along with beer and wine tasting, live music will compliment a silent and live auction featuring items donated by local Alexandrians and businesses. Alexandria Rotary Foundation President Mike Wicks said, "the 'Taste for Giving' is a highlight of each Rotary year and is a wonderful way for the community to support so many outstanding service organizations which help the underserved and disadvantaged citizens in our community – the evening exemplifies the Rotary mission of 'Service Above Self.'"

*"Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities. Taste for Giving is the vehicle that we utilize to raise significant funds to support local charitable and service organizations in our community,"* said Event Chair and Alexandria Rotary Club President Mike Wicks.

Tickets for "Taste for Giving" must be purchased in advance.

For more information and tickets go to: [rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017](http://rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017)

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A Generous Rotarian  
Alexandria Gazette Packet

### Restaurants



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Another **Alexandria Gazette Packet** Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partner

Throughout its existence, the **Rotary Club of Alexandria** has focused its interest on the welfare of the children of Alexandria. This past June, the Alexandria Rotary (Club) Foundation along with the “Alexandria Day Nursery & Children’s Home”, an affiliated Alexandria Rotary corporation, distributed over **\$108,000 to 45 local Alexandria nonprofits at our Annual Contributions Day**. Many of these local Alexandria nonprofits work to help the underserved and disadvantaged members of our local Alexandria community.

The money raised at the **Annual Taste For Giving** provides the Alexandria Rotary (Club) Foundation’s funding for Contributions Day.

**In addition to Contributions Day, The Rotary Club of Alexandria has a long history of service and commitment to other local Alexandria community projects, and international service efforts.**



*“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”*

— PAUL P. HARRIS, FOUNDER

## 2016-2017 Accomplishments

- Monthly Meals On Wheels, Alexandria Senior Services
- 2 College Vocation Career and Technical Scholarships totaling \$5000
- Salvation Army Holiday Bell Ringing Campaign raising over \$6,300
- The Alexandria Rotary “Cliff Dochterman Good Scout Service Award” was presented to Rotarian Donnie Simpson, raising \$9,000 for the Boy Scouts of America
- Monthly recognitions of local Alexandria high school students who demonstrate “Service above Self” in addition to their regular academic/athletic responsibilities
- Donated \$1,000 to support, and sponsor the Alexandria Little League
- Monthly service projects supporting the Mount Vernon Avenue Salvation Army, the Campagna Center, the Alexandria Recreation Center, and Rebuilding Together Alexandria
- Walked the Scottish Walk to support the Campagna Center
- The Rotary Club of Alexandria donated \$10,400 to Polio Plus to help eradicate polio worldwide
- Partnered with the Northern Virginia Strategic Water Alliance to provide funding for clean and accessible water sources in Zambia, Africa.
- Contribution of \$2000 for a water storage and purification project at the United Orphanage Academy, Moi’s Bridge, Kenya
- The Rotary Club of Alexandria Gordon Peyton, Jr. Community Caring Awards were presented to non-Rotarians Gerry Cooper, and Susan Grandy
- 8 Alexandria Rotarians attended the International Rotary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia and celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Rotary Foundation
- With the help of a Rotary District 7610 Designated Grant, Our own Rotary Club President, Dr. Tom Roberts, along with 8 other dentists from the US, Finland, South Africa, Swaziland and Switzerland participated in a children’s Rotary dental mission project in Dundee, South Africa
- The 9th Annual Taste For Giving (2016) netted over \$63,000. And along with the Alexandria Day Nursery donation, the Rotary Club of Alexandria was able to distribute over \$108,000 to 44 local Alexandria nonprofits at our Annual Contributions Day in June



THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA  
**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

For more information and tickets go to: [rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017](http://rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017)



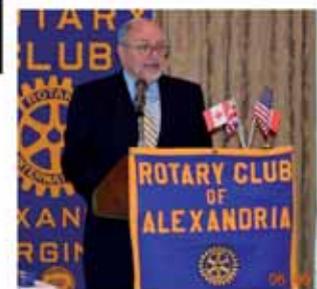
# ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA Contributes to the Community

The Alexandria Rotary (Club) Foundation together with its affiliate, the Alexandria Day Nursery & Children's Home, Inc., continued its decade-long tradition of awarding grants to local Alexandria nonprofit organizations at their Annual Contributions Day luncheon at Belle Haven Country Club this past June. On that occasion, checks were presented to 45 nonprofit organizations serving the Alexandria community for a total of \$108,000. The Rotary contributions proudly support programs such as the Alexandria Police Foundation which serves local law enforcement, Bridges to Independence which helps families secure affordable permanent Housing and Operation Warm, Inc. that provides winter coats to children in Alexandria.

The keynote speaker for this year's Annual Contributions Day program was CEO of Alexandria Community Trust (ACT), John Porter. John has dedicated his career to serving the citizens and charities of Alexandria. His

message to the not for profit organizations present and to the members of the Rotary Club of Alexandria emphasized the continued need in our community for the support we collectively provide. He encouraged all of the organizations present to continue to work together to improve the lives of our citizens. Together we can and do make a difference.

In addition to honoring the contributions that these nonprofits make to the local community, the annual Rotary luncheon provides a time for the leadership of these organizations meet, talk and find opportunities to collaborate



## ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA

# The 45 Alexandria Organizations Receiving Rotary Grants in 2017

- Alexandria Police Foundation
- Alexandria Seaport Foundation
- Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
- Alexandria Tutoring Consortium
- ALIVE
- ALIVE! Inc
- Beverly Hills Church Preschool
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington
- Bridges to Independence
- Bryce Project
- The Butterfly House at the Virginia Theological Seminary
- The Child and Family Network Centers
- The Campagna Center
- Carpenter's Shelter
- Casa Chirilagua
- Community Lodgings
- Emmanuel Preschool
- Fairlington Preschool
- First Night Alexandria
- Focus Music
- Friends of Guest House
- Grace Episcopal Preschool
- Literacy Council of Northern Virginia
- Neighborhood Health
- Next Step Pilates
- Northern Virginia Family Services
- Operation Warm, Inc.
- Ratcliff Thomas Foundation
- Rebuilding Together Alexandria
- RunningBrooke
- Saint Clement Episcopal Church
- SCAN(Stop Child Abuse Now)
- Senior Services of Alexandria
- Space of Her Own Incorporated
- The Arc of Northern Virginia
- The Reading Connection
- Together We Bake
- Upcycle Creative Reuse Center
- Urban Alliance
- Valley Drive Cooperative Preschool
- Volunteer Alexandria
- Washington Street United Methodist Church Preschool
- Westminster Weekday Preschool
- The Kathy Wilson Foundation
- Wright to Read

For more information and tickets go to: [rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017](http://rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017)

# WELCOME TO ROTARY

We are neighbors, community leaders, and global citizens uniting for the common good.

*With you, we can accomplish even more.*



Our organization started with the vision of one man – Paul P. Harris. The Chicago attorney formed one of the world’s first service organizations, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on 23 February 1905 as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

ROTARY is a grass roots worldwide organization of more than 1.2 million business, professional and community leaders that volunteer time, talent and resources in order to remedy vital community needs. Our motto is Service Above Self.

Members of rotary clubs provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and

peace throughout the world. Belonging to a Rotary club provides members with an opportunity to make a difference, to give back to the community and to connect with likeminded leaders and friends. As signified by the motto Service Above Self, Rotary’s main objective is service – in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world.

## Come and Join Us

The Rotary Club of Alexandria welcomes new members. If you are community minded, live or work in the Alexandria area, and have a soft spot for fellowship, charity and enlightenment, why not contact us and ask about joining? We are happy to have you drop in on a few meetings to find out more about what we do. There are no secret handshakes – we don’t need them. The secret is to give more than you receive. The secret is to participate. Rotary is an international network of influential, successful people. In this age of networking, what better place to call home than your local Rotary Club of Alexandria?



## YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE.



ROTARY.ORG

## Rotary Membership Provides the Opportunity to:

- Become connected to your community
- Work with others in addressing community needs
- Interact with other professionals in your community
- Assist with Rotary International’s global humanitarian service efforts
- Establish contacts with an international network of professionals
- Develop leadership skills
- Involve family in promoting service efforts

**Come and join us.** The Rotary Club of Alexandria meets every Tuesday at 12:15 pm at the Belle Haven Country Club on Fort Hunt Road. For more information, please visit our website at:

[www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net](http://www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net)

Or contact President Mike Wicks at [mike.wicks@kwccpa.com](mailto:mike.wicks@kwccpa.com)

## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

### OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

- 1 Is it the TRUTH?
- 2 Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- and 5 Is it FUN ?

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

For more information and tickets go to: [rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017](http://rotaryclubofalexandria.net/taste-for-giving-2017)

## OPINION

# Leading Social Change

... without burning out.

BY BRANDI N. YEE  
CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER  
ACT FOR ALEXANDRIA



a sprint, and we need to take care of ourselves so we can take care of others.

The conference also addressed the leadership challenge and the cost of burnout and employee turnover. It's more than just the financial cost of recruiting, onboarding and paying out leave

Alexandria's community foundation, ACT for Alexandria, is committed to strengthening the nonprofit sector through investing in building the capacity of nonprofit organizations, connecting donors to causes they care about, and sharing best practices and bright spots in philanthropy.

### COMMENTARY

This fall's IMPACT: Innovation + Philanthropy Forum will focus on leading social change without burning out.

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to attend the Nonprofit Management Institute hosted by the Stanford Social Innovation Review. The conference was applicable on so many levels, for ACT as an organization, for the early care and education systems building work ACT is convening, and on a personal one.

The theme of the conference was "Leading Social Change in Turbulent Times" and we heard from various leaders about how they operate and the challenges they face. One of the key takeaways for me was from Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League around, his commitment to observing Shabbat, taking a Sabbath, or just taking a break. Every Friday his office closes at 3 p.m. to observe Shabbat — for him this means no email, social media, phone calls, speaking engagements, travel, etc. and he encourages his staff to use this time for rest, reflection and rejuvenation. He stressed that the social change work we are all doing is a marathon, not

balances, but also the productivity costs of losing strategic momentum, key relationships and staff morale. This is a topic that Beth Kanter, author of "The Happy Healthy Nonprofit: Strategies for Impact without Burnout" and the keynote speaker for ACT's IMPACT: Innovation + Philanthropy Forum will be addressing on Oct. 26. Beth's keynote on linking well-being to impact is a timely and important conversation our community should be having. What she will be sharing is not only applicable to nonprofit and board leaders, but anyone who wants to lead and support social change. It is exciting for us at ACT to be able to bring important conversations happening on the national stage to the local level — we hope you will join us!

For more information about ACT's IMPACT: Innovation + Philanthropy Forum on Oct. 26 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, visit: <https://actimpact2017.eventbrite.com>. Alexandria Gazette Packet readers can use promotional code "AGP" for a discount on registration.

*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. For more information about ACT, visit: [www.actforalexandria.org](http://www.actforalexandria.org).*

## Remember the First Titans

FROM PAGE 16

attention to bury a time capsule to capture those beginning days for the future. However, the recollections of some students who witnessed the unresolved arguments about what music to include, coupled with the failure of the T.C. Williams original building demolition crews to find it in 2008, forced the conclusion that the capsule never made it past the discussion phase.

It is important to note that the 2000 Disney movie, "Remember the Titans," was not about the beginning

of T.C. Williams. That movie was "based on a true story" of TC six years later in 1971, when Alexandria addressed racial imbalance in the three Alexandria high schools by making TC the senior high school and George Washington and Francis C. Hammond into 9th and 10th grade feeder schools.

While it's not clear who said "If you remember the '60s, you really weren't there," the first graduating class of T.C. Williams remembers the '60s until 1967, before everyone started doing the things that made them forget.

### SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Emily L. Snyder**, of Alexandria, earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science from Oregon State University (Corvallis, Ore.).

**Genevieve C. Francis**, of Alexandria, earned a Master of Science in occupational therapy from The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.).

**Rosemary T. Nevin**, of Alexandria, earned a Master of Science in curriculum and instruction from The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.).

**Sara Meyer**, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2017 semester at the University of Vermont (Burlington, Vt.). Meyer is majoring in community entrepreneur-

ship in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences.

**Joseph M. Burke**, of Alexandria, earned a Master of Science in educational administration from The University of Scranton (Scranton, Pa.).

**Freddie Perez**, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of Hartford (West Hartford, Ct.). Perez, a mathematics major, received a Bachelor of Arts.

**Jacqueline Bouffard**, of Alexandria, graduated from the University of Hartford (West Hartford, Ct.). Bouffard, a music education major (vocal emphasis), received a Bachelor of Music.

**Mohammad Khalil**, from Alexandria, was named to the dean's list at Davenport University for the winter 2017 semester.

**Mary Carlton Murphy**, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list at the University of the South (Sewanee, Tenn.) for the spring 2017 term.

**Marianne Crawford Horan**, of Alexandria, was awarded a BA in international and global studies cum laude from the University of the South (Sewanee, Tenn.). Horan is the child of Marianne and James F. Horan, Jr.

**Mary Carlton Murphy**, of Alexandria, was awarded a B.A. in ecology and biodiversity magna cum laude from the University of the South (Sewanee, Tenn.). She is the child of Mary Claire and Robert D. Murphy.

**Paul Giesen**, of Alexandria, graduated from Emporia State University (Emporia, Kan.) with a Master of Science degree in health, physical education, and recreation.

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The Athenaeum is a wonderful venue for holiday parties, wedding receptions, and meetings. The elegant rooms have 24-foot high coved ceilings, enormous windows and beautiful woodwork. Standing events can accommodate as many as 150 guests. Contact Richard Webber ([rentals@nvfaa.org](mailto:rentals@nvfaa.org)) for more information or to schedule a site visit.

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# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

## ACCT's Trial of the 19th Century

Playwright Rich Amada's world premiere of "The Judicial Murder of Mrs. Surratt."

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**ldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is presenting "The Judicial Murder of Mrs. Surratt" from Sept. 29 to Oct. 15.

The play follows the aftermath of April 14, 1865, inside Ford's Theatre when actor John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Shocked by its first presidential murder, the U.S. government launched a dragnet to round up every suspect it could. Among those arrested was Mary Surratt, the widowed owner of a boardinghouse where Booth and others were alleged to have conspired. She was charged with conspiracy to commit murder and, along with seven male co-defendants, tried before a military tribunal convened by President Andrew Johnson especially for the occasion. The play is based on that trial.

Playwright Rich Amada said the Lincoln assassination trial was 19th century America's trial of the century. "Yet, most people today know little if anything about anyone implicated in the conspiracy other than John Wilkes Booth," he said. "I, myself, stumbled upon alleged conspirator Mary Surratt's story totally by accident. She holds the dubious distinction of being the first woman judicially executed by the United States government, so I thought to myself immediately that there must be a compelling drama behind that landmark moment in history."

He said that more than 150 years later, people still debate her guilt or innocence. "This play dramatizes the actual evidence the tribunal weighed, much of it in the exact words spoken by the people involved. That gives the audience the opportunity to be a surrogate jury, to sit in judgment of the play's main character, and decide for itself whether she got what she deserved or

was railroaded to the gallows," he said.

Director Eleanore Tapscott said although she does not believe Mrs. Surratt was intimately involved with the assassination plans, she believes she knew more than what she let on. "The focus for me is not so much about Mary's guilt or innocence, but what was actually done to her: her primary attorney, though ultimately diligent in his fight to have her sentence commuted, had no courtroom experience, and although a civilian, she was tried by a military tribunal rather than civil court. She was not allowed to speak in her own defense," she said.

She added: "Mary's experience shows how government can become tyrannical when given the opportunity, particularly when passions are at a fever pitch, as they were following Lincoln's assassination."

Producer Marg Soroos decided to produce the play because she knew the author and thought that the script was well written. "The chance to do a world premiere of a show was also an incentive to do this show. It is a part of our Civil War history that is not as well known," she said.

She said a challenge was trying to find a way to depict the many different locations on the stage. "The play needs to seamlessly move from flashback to trial and back to flashback with a minimum of distraction," she said.

Charlene Sloan plays the role of Mary Surratt, a compelling Southern Catholic, but above all a mother. "Her love for her children is the driving force in her decision-making and her fate," she said.

She said playing the role presented several challenges for her. "She was a real person but there aren't many clues as to what she sounded like or how she moved. So, I did a lot of research, which included reading news articles from the time period and visiting her house in Maryland and the original courtroom at Fort McNair," she said.



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

Actors rehearse for "The Judicial Murder of Mrs. Surratt" at Aldersgate Church Community Theater. From left are Mytheos Holt (Frederick Aiken), Charlene Sloan (Mary Surratt), Michael Schwartz (John Lloyd) and Jim Pearson (John Bingham).

She hopes audiences will learn more about the case and maybe change or enrich their understanding of Mary Surratt and her role in the Lincoln assassination plot. "Any time a play changes minds, strengthens beliefs or just stirs conversation it's a major win," she said.

Michael Schwartz is playing two characters: John Lloyd and John Surratt, who is Mary's son. "John Lloyd runs Mrs. Surratt's tavern. However, I think he'd rather be a patron than an employee since he is known to enjoy a drink or two. He is quite good with his hands and does work around the farm. While I believe he means well, he tends to put his foot in his mouth," he said.

He says that his other character, John Surratt is "very passionate about his political beliefs. John is somewhat of a lost soul and is very impressionable when he believes something can give his life meaning."

The most difficult challenge, he said was making sure he created two distinct characters. "I don't want the audience to think when they see John Surratt that is just John Lloyd regurgitating lines in a different costume. They talk, walk, and communicate in completely different ways. Their moti-

vations in life couldn't be more opposite. I want to audience to see that," he said.

Nicholas Barta also plays two different characters: John Wilkes Booth and Louis Weichman. "Louis is a good friend of the Surratts and is called testify during Mary's trial. Louis is an honest man who loves to spend time with Mary and her daughter Anna. So when he is called to testify he takes it pretty hard and is almost pushed to the breaking point," he said.

"John Wilkes Booth, as we all know, is the young assassin of President Lincoln. But this play delves a little bit deeper into what happened with Booth leading up to the assassination. We get to see a young, charismatic actor with a dark secret," he added.

Jim Pearson is playing the role of John Bingham, the Special Judge Advocate and Prosecutor. "John Bingham is a godly man, a politician, and a close associate of Abraham Lincoln's. His soul cries for justice in this unheard of event – the assassination of the President and Commander in Chief. He is focused, relentless, and will crawl through anyone to get to his chief

SEE TRIAL, PAGE 33

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### ONGOING

##### Cinderella, The New Musical.

Through Oct. 1, various times at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. An Infinity Stage production. \$15-35 online, \$20-\$40 at the door. Visit [www.InfinityStage.com](http://www.InfinityStage.com).

##### "Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia."

Various times through Oct. 1 at The Art League, 105 North Union St. Printmaker M. Alexander (Alex) Gray illuminates forgotten local history through the images in his exhibit, "Aqueduct: Stone Ruins in Maryland & Virginia." Gray, a lifelong

Virginian, wants to bring these lesser-known, historic sites back into the public eye. Call 703-683-1780 or visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

**Local Artists Exhibit.** Through Oct. 3, various times at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Patricia Miller Uchello, award-winning artist and Alexandria resident for over 30 years, is showing 86 floral paintings in oil on canvas. Call 703-768-5700.

##### Fall 2017 Native Plant Sale.

Through Oct. 15 at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is offering a native plant sale to help grow Alexandria's tree canopy and undergrowth. Call 703-746-5559 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**Artists Exhibit.** Various times through

Oct. 31 in the Fireplace Alcove, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Dolly Rowe's hooked artworks called "Painting in Wool and Silk" will be on display. Contact [dollyrowe73@yahoo.com](mailto:dollyrowe73@yahoo.com).

##### Alexandrians Fight The Great War.

Various times through Nov. 11 at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. This exhibit shares some of the stories of Alexandrians during the war and their more active participation in the American war effort after April 1917. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

##### 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](http://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](http://www.mountvernon.org).

##### Mercy in Alexandria Walking

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

are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more  
**The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.** Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Goldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).  
**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-

# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

## FALL FAVORITES

### FALL 2017 NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Through Oct. 15** at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is offering a native plant sale to help grow Alexandria's tree canopy and undergrowth. Call 703-746-5559 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 2

**OktoberFest.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Benefit for The Campagna Center and the New Neighbors Program. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com/](http://www.portcitybrewing.com/) for more.

### OCT. 6-8

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. Meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Guests experience an evening tour of the Washingtons' home and are invited to visit the basement where he stored his wine. Call 703-780-2000 or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. More than 300 artists such as jewelers to silversmith and beaders, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptures, and fabric artists, and musicians. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org) for more.

**Port City Oktoberfest Party.** noon-9 p.m. at Port City, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Call 703-778-0874 or visit [www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events](http://www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events) for more.

**Oktoberfest.** 3-7 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and Day School, 8531 Riverside Road. German food such as knockwurst, bratwurst, potato salad; sides, beer and cold drinks, live Oompa band, bake sale, children's games, petting zoo, moon bounce. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com) or call 703-360-4220 for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 14

**Burgundy Fall Fair.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Family fun for all ages: Zombie run, pumpkin painting,



**It's Oktoberfest at the brewery, Saturday, Oct. 7 at Port City, 3950 Wheeler Ave.**

moon bounce, live music, used book and kids' closet sale, food tent. Free admission. Proceeds from activity tickets and food and merchandise sale benefit student financial aid. Rain or shine. Visit [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org) or call 703-960-3431.

### OCT. 14-15

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Wine Festival.** noon-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Wine tasting from many Virginia wineries, festival access to the Virginia Oyster Pavilion, and all concessions and musical entertainment. \$35-65. Call 202-244-3700 or visit [www.virginiawinefest.com](http://www.virginiawinefest.com).

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

**WPHS Orchestra Spooktacular.** 5:30-7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac Orchestra's annual Spooktacular Carnival and Concert. Free. Call 703-718-2587 for more.

## CALENDAR

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/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224.

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

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum).

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.** Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools,

and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.** Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

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

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://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](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-

Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit [www.leeendallhouse.org](http://www.leeendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

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

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 11 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$7 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**Evenings at the Athenaeum.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nfaa.org](http://nfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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## FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

# Carlyle Canteen Sets Up Shop

BY HOPE NELSON

It's slow-going, but Alexandria's Carlyle neighborhood is continuing to grow its residential roots. From movie nights to art events, Carlyle is becoming more than its traditional workaday stereotype, filled with 9-to-5ers who skip town as soon as they clock out. And the city is hoping that a weekly happy hour might help grease the wheels of progress even further.

The Carlyle Canteen, which runs from 5 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday through Oct. 11, is taking up shop in the Courthouse Square Park at 400 Courthouse Square, nestled between the Westin hotel and the federal courthouse. The location makes it easy for neighbors — residential and business alike — to pop by on their way home for a cold beer, a sampling from one of the D.C. region's food trucks, and some

### APPETITE

live music.

"We thought that it would be nice to have guest breweries to come in and have a platform for them to showcase some of their beers," said Maurisa Potts of Spotted MP, who has partnered with the city to bring this series to life. Expect the likes of Port City Brewing, Mustang Sally Brewing, and Evolution Brewing to join in the fun, as well as food trucks such as the Big Cheese and Rocklands.

Summertime may have turned to autumn, but there's still plenty of good weather left this year, Potts says — and plenty of reasons to get outdoors after work.

"Summer's not done! People still want to have something to do before it starts getting cold," she said. "... We've got at least four more good weeks of good weather."

Here's how it will work on-site: Guests will pick up a wristband when they enter the park, which allows them to partake of the beverages. And happy-hour pricing will be in full effect, Potts says, making the event an affordable way to kick back midweek after work.

And though the courthouse has been under construction for months, the show must go on. Pay it no mind and come into the park, which remains in good shape despite the overhaul taking place around it.

In fact, the current construction is part of the park's charm, Potts says.

"It's a reason why we picked it — it's a quaint little courtyard, and one side of the courtyard is kind of fenced off," she said. "People still sit in the park and enjoy the park, so why don't we activate it with something fun?"

Along with the food and drink, the Free Flowing Musical Experience will be in residence to play a plethora of acoustical tunes each week.

"It's just something fun, a fun initiative for the residents and tenants in Carlyle to break up the week and have a hump-day happy hour," Potts said. "... It gives an opportunity for residents to meet their neighbors."

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

## CALENDAR

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

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

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

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

### CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session

and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.HHSingers.org), or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 28

**"Twisted Masterpieces."** 6-9pm at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Del Ray Artisans host silent auction of 2D and 3D artwork and live auction of furniture. \$25. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/twisted-masterpieces](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/twisted-masterpieces).

**Artists Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Nina Tisara will discuss her photo-documentary studies of worship in Alexandria. Email [KKincannon@aldersgate.net](mailto:KKincannon@aldersgate.net).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

**Georgetown Saxatones.** 7 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Proceeds, to benefit the Saxatones' preferred charity the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. \$15/\$10 members. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Mummies in Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Funk rock band "Here Come the Mummies," in concert. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 30

**Film and Discussion.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St, Alexandria. In the 23-minute film, Sam Ford, local television reporter, talks about being a descendant of Africans owned by Native Americans. \$5. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory](http://www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory).

**Alexandria Seaport Foundation Festival.** noon-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St. Community festival celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation featuring live music, wooden boat display, Anything that Floats race, children's activities, nautical activities, beer/wine and local food. Visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org).

**Write Like a Woman Workshop.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. in The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A networking workshop with KaNikki Jakarta for women writers that uplifts and inspires through writing. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Mansion House Whiskey Tasting.** 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Local historian, Rich Gillespie, will share stories of the Civil War in Virginia and guide the whiskey tasting journey. \$100. Call 703-549-2997 or visit [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 2

**Floral Workshop.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway, you learn tips and tricks of the trade to apply to your floral arrangements at home, and Halloween designs. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call 703-642-5173.

**OktoberFest.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950

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## FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

# Chart Course to Seaport Day

## Festival benefits Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

BY JAMES MIESSLER

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation will hold its annual Seaport Day festival this Saturday, Sept. 30, from noon to 6 p.m. Held at the foot of Prince Street in Waterfront Park, the event offers activities for people of all ages including a variety of children's activities, boat races and building, food and drink, and live music provided once again by D.C. band 50 Year Storm.

"Everybody loves seeing all the wooden boats," said Kathy Seifert, the Seaport Foundation's vice-president of development. "The young families love the children's activities because they're fun. The parents love being able to have a glass of wine and listen to live music while their kids are having fun."

Most importantly, the event offers festival goers the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Seaport Foundation, which is funded by individual donations. The revenue generated by Seaport Day will support the foundation; founded in 1982, the nonprofit is dedicated to helping at-risk youth between the ages of 17 and 22 build the skills and

self-confidence they need to transition into the workforce.

"It's basically a 6-to-8 month program where kids who are struggling with serious challenges ... whatever their struggles might be," said Seifert, "They come to us, and through adult mentoring and project-based learning, and particularly the craft of wooden boat building, they kind of get on the right path and redirect their lives so they can become productive and successful adults."

In addition to learning skills that are applicable to the workplace, the youths also learn their own intrinsic value and potential.

"The biggest thing they walk away with is a newfound sense of self, self-esteem and self-confidence," said Seifert. "They really see that they are capable of many things, and they leave here with a new lease on life."

Entry to Seaport Day is free; revenue is generated through attractions like local food vendors and the Rubber Duck Derby, which boasts prizes ranging from stand-up paddleboards, overnight trips and gift certificates to local restaurants. The festival has been held annually for over 15 years.

"As vice-president of development, my focus is funding these programs," said Seifert. "This is an event that gives us the opportunity to showcase our programs and missions which are supported by our community, so without the local support, we can't do what we do to help the community."

### CALENDAR

Wheeler Ave. Benefit for The Campagna Center and the New Neighbors Program. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com/](http://www.portcitybrewing.com/).

#### TUESDAY/OCT. 3

**Yoga on the Magnolia Terrace.** 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join yoga instructor Barbara Douglass for vinyasa flow yoga on Carlyle House's Magnolia Terrace, every Tuesday in October. Please bring water, a towel, and yoga mat. Classes are \$5 each or \$20 for 5 classes. Call 703-549-2997 or visit [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org).

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 5

**Essential Oil Workshop.** noon-1 p.m. at Caring Acupuncture, 2111 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 402. Free class — Essential Skin Care: How to Nourish and Maintain Healthy, Beautiful Skin with doTerra Essential Oils. Email [jennamdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:jennamdaniel@gmail.com) or call 479-426-2525.

**Swan Lake Ballet.** 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. The first time the Russian Grand Ballet has ever performed in Virginia. Visit [www.RussianGrandBallet.com](http://www.RussianGrandBallet.com).

#### OCT. 5-NOV. 5

**On the Stage.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street. "Are you Now or Have You Ever Been..." written and conceived by Carlyle Brown. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) or call 703-548-9044.

#### OCT. 6-8

**21st Annual Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. Meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Guests experience an evening tour of the Washingtons' home and are invited to visit the basement where he stored his wine. Call 703-780-2000 or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Mount Vernon's Blue Room Reopens.** 7-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. The Blue Room in the Mount Vernon Mansion will reopen marking the completion of a major seven-month restoration. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

#### OCT. 6-14

**Alexandria Live Music Week.** Various times at venues throughout the City of Alexandria. Over 50 venues and more than 175 artists are set to perform over the course of the nine days. Visit [www.alexandrialive.com](http://www.alexandrialive.com).

#### OCT. 6-21

**Drumming with Dishes on Stage.** Various times at Arts on the Horizon, The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. A children's story about a girl and her imaginary friend, who discover they can use ordinary kitchen objects to make extraordinary

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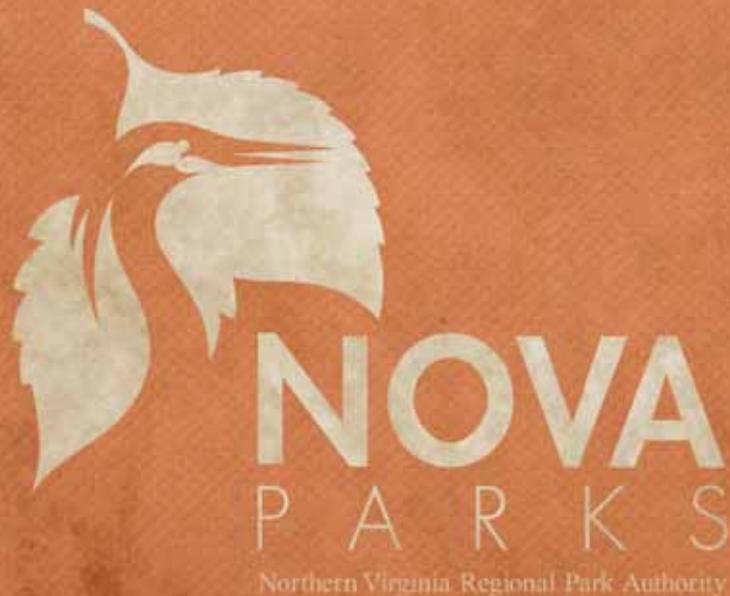
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# FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

music together. Visit [www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org](http://www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 7

**Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. More than 300 artists such as jewelers to silversmith and beaders, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptures, and fabric artists, and musicians. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

**Garden Experts Lecture.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Presenter Marianne Wilburn shares "Big Dreams, Small Garden" and Pam Beck imparts "Movement Through the Landscape." Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Port City Oktoberfest Party.** noon-9 p.m. at Port City, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Call 703-778-0874 or visit [www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events](http://www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events).

**'Rip the Runway' Benefit Fashion Show.** 4:30-7 p.m. at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St. Every dollar raised will directly support the Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Memorial Fund, a memorial fund established to raise money that contributes to the cost of annual mammograms for the women in Northern Virginia. Call 909-245-9661.

**Oktoberfest.** 3-7 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and Day School, 8531 Riverside Road. German food such as knockwurst, bratwurst, potato salad; sides, beer and cold drinks, live Oompa band, bake sale, children's games, petting zoo, moon bounce. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com) or call

703-360-4220.

**Saturday Cinema at Carlyle.** 6:41 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Featuring Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Free. Visit [www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun](http://www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 8

**Museum Geek Tour.** noon-1 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Basement tour. Call 703-746-3852 or visit [alexandriava.gov/apothecary](http://alexandriava.gov/apothecary).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 12

**Fashion Show and Luncheon.** 10 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting their 34th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Floral Fantasy." Proceeds will go to several agricultural projects. For further information and tickets contact: Kathy Ichter, [Ichter@verizon.net](mailto:Ichter@verizon.net) or call 703-780-8700

## OCT. 13-15

**2017 National Kids Yoga Conference.** 7 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Community Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Learn the art of successfully bringing yoga, mindfulness, and social emotional learning to the youth in your community. Visit [conference.yokid.org/](http://conference.yokid.org/).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 14

**Drawing Workshop.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and instructor Caroline Hottenstein shows how to



## Swan Lake

**Swan Lake Ballet, Thursday, Oct. 5 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, The first time the Russian Grand Ballet has ever performed in Virginia. Visit [RussianGrandBallet.com](http://RussianGrandBallet.com) for more.**

use pen and ink, watercolor, graphite and colored pencils to capture and highlight details in insect illustration. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call 703-642-5173.

**Watershed Cleanup Day.** 9-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from your local waterways. Visit [bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean](http://bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean).

**Burgundy Fall Fair.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Family fun for all ages: Zombie run, pumpkin painting, moon bounce, live music, used book and kids' closet sale, food tent. Free admission. Proceeds from activity tickets and food and merchandise sale benefit student financial aid. Rain or shine. Visit [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org) or call 703-960-3431.

**Touch-A-Truck.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. An interactive event that allows children to see, touch,

and explore their favorite big trucks and heavy machinery, as well as to meet the personnel who protect, serve, & build the Alexandria community. \$5, children under 2 are free. Visit

[www.FortHuntPreschool.com](http://www.FortHuntPreschool.com).  
**Scottish Heritage Day.** noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Scottish music, dancing, and fashion as well as tours of the Carlyle House. Call 703-549-2997 or visit [www.CarlyleHouse.org](http://www.CarlyleHouse.org).

**Painting in the Park.** noon-4 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria. 300 John Carlyle St. Free. Visit [www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun](http://www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun)

**Outlandish Event.** 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Tour the historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels from cascara to dauco seeds. \$18. Call 703-746-3852 or visit [alexandriava.gov/shop](http://alexandriava.gov/shop).

**Beer Tapping and Pet Adoption.** 2-5 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Port City Brewing Company and Lost Dog Café have partnered to support Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation by brewing a limited-edition IPA for National Adopt-a-Dog Month in October. Lost Dog Rescue Ale will be available for the first time in the Tasting Room that day. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com/](http://www.portcitybrewing.com/) or [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

**Long Black Veil Happy Hour.** 6-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy Port City beverages. \$25. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov/events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/events.aspx).

**Members Support Party.** 7-9 p.m., at

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 33

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# Foliage, Festivals and Fun

FROM PAGE 1

joys it.”  
According to Miller, this year’s event will feature several hands-on art demonstrations.  
“We have some wonderful demonstrations planned, including a mosaic artist working with furniture and a teacher and special needs student working together to create art,” Miller said. “This is a different way to see and appreciate art.”

More than 250 volunteers will begin setting up at 5:30 a.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue and not leave until 8 p.m.

“It hits me when the banner goes up and I think ‘Wow! It’s really happening,’” Miller said. “People will get to see wonderful local art again.”

Another local tradition for the past two decades is the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch. More than 20 nonprofit organizations benefit from the proceeds from the pumpkin sale, including local charities such as ALIVE!, Carpenter’s Shelter, Community Lodgings and Child and Family Network Centers. The sale runs throughout the month of October.

October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month. “We are excited to have a breast cancer walk back in Alexandria” said Dr. David Weintritt, founder of the National Breast Center and Foundation. “Our area has the highest rate of breast cancer and one of the highest incidences of late stage breast cancer in the country. The walk will raise awareness and funds needed to help turn the tide.”

The Walk to Bust Cancer will take place Oct. 15 at Fort Hunt Park at 8 a.m.

“The Walk to Bust Cancer will bring together breast cancer survivors and their families, those currently facing the disease and anyone who wishes to walk to show their support,” said Martha Carucci, execu-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Artist Jen Nicholson leads a demonstration outside the Del Ray Artisans during last year’s Art on the Avenue. This year’s festival will take place Oct. 7.**

tive director of the National Breast Center Foundation and walk organizer. For more information, visit [www.walktobustcancer.org](http://www.walktobustcancer.org).

New to Alexandria is the 42nd Annual Virginia Wine Festival. The event will be held Oct. 14-15 from noon-6 p.m. in Oronoco Bay Park and features Virginia wineries, craft exhibitors and seminars. [www.virginiawinefest.com](http://www.virginiawinefest.com)

Mount Vernon Estate will hold two of its signature events later in the month: The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour Oct. 6-8 and the Fall Family Harvest Days Oct. 21-22. [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

The Torpedo Factory Arts Center will host the 22nd Annual Art Safari Oct. 21 from noon to 4 p.m. On Nov. 3 is The Art League’s beer and art evening Art on Tap.

Celebrating its 11th anniversary is the Alexandria Film Festival Nov. 9-12. The festival highlights the talents of local, national and international filmmakers and provides opportunities for audiences to ask questions and interact. [www.AlexandriaFilm.org](http://www.AlexandriaFilm.org)

The Del Ray Halloween Parade is celebrating 20 years and is slated for Oct. 30 on Mount Vernon Ave. [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

For those looking to give back while enjoying a night of food and fun, the Taste For Giving will take place Oct. 20 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Alexandria, the event raises money for dozens of local charities. [www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net](http://www.rotaryclubofalexandria.net).

For more fall events visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/fall](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/fall).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Mount Vernon Estate will hold its Fall Family Harvest Days Oct. 22-22.**



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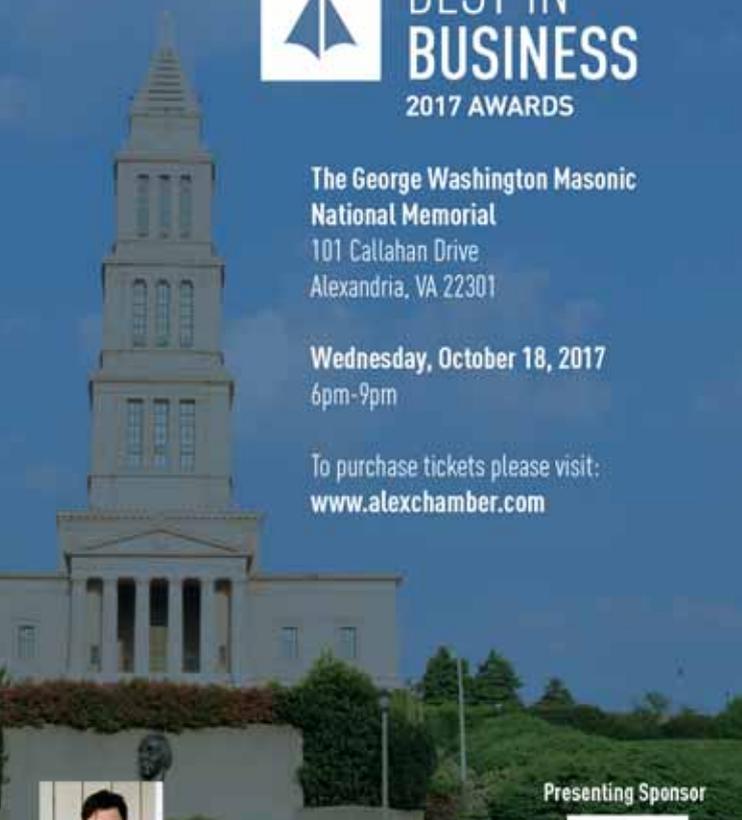
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# How To Improve Transparency and Accountability

FROM PAGE 1

enough solution.” He believes council makes largely binary, yes/no decisions about projects that staff has already mostly conceived in this manner, rather than an array of options that meet the same need. As a result, council can address fewer capital needs in the city-and-schools’ total “portfolio” with available resources.

For example, Dunton previously noted the cost to renovate city hall — currently projected at \$35 million, not including the cost to relocate operations temporarily. That works out to “\$435 [per] foot. Ignoring the historical aspect — the geographic location of being in downtown Old Town — [that cost] for effectively an office building is at the extreme high end of what it would cost to acquire [and] renovate a more modern facility,” he said. The “critical city service” that city hall provides is space for officials, the administration and citizens to conduct the business of government. But that’s not the same thing as a specific building. “It’s easy to confuse the service with the currently identified alternative.”

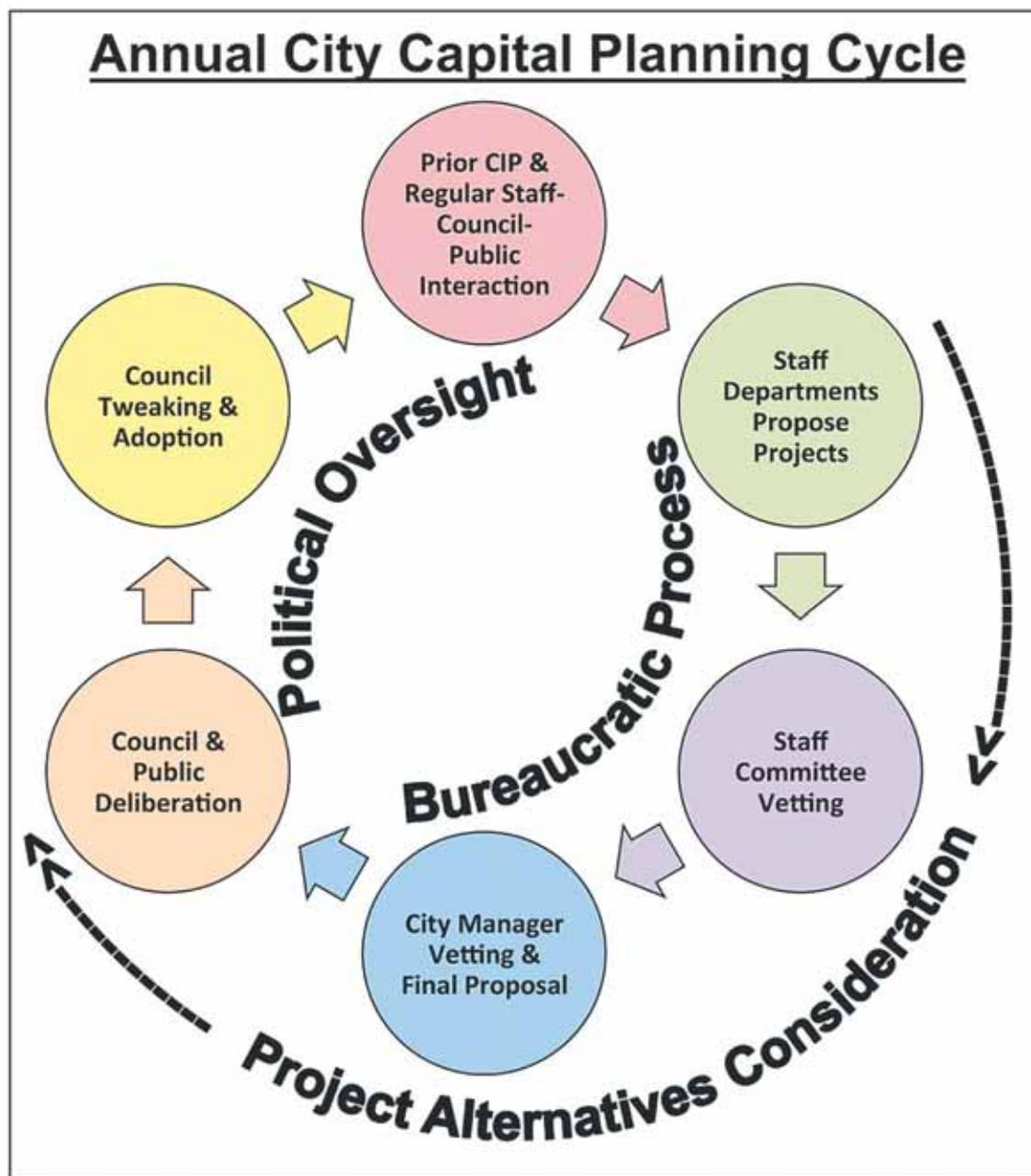
Others have expressed similar or related opinions.

Task Force chair Lynn Hampton wants a final result where “the School Board and the City Council ... [are] ‘not going to get, ‘Here’s the project.’ They’re going to get, ‘Here’s the project, here’s the consideration, here’s the alternatives.’ ... That’s what ... we want presented to the council in the future to make these decisions, so that they have this thinking to make these decisions.”

Task Force member Eric Wagner said: “Are we going for the BMW or are we going for the Cadillac or are we going for the Chevrolet? Because each of them has the effect of crowding out other things ... or making room for other priorities. And that’s a decision that needs to be reached at a level other than the department heads, who are advocating on behalf of individual projects.”

“Let’s separate ‘capability’ from ‘project,’ said Task Force member Elliot Branch. A given capability need doesn’t automatically demand one specific project or location; others may fit the bill. He wants a “crisp consideration” of all options. That should entail more than “a bunch of guys sitting around a table, saying, ‘Hey, we thought about some stuff, but we really like it here, so we’ll put that in a budget.’” Consideration should entail “a clear scope around the service to be delivered out of that particular capital project; the metrics used to judge whether that service is being delivered adequately or not, and the capability

## Annual City Capital Planning Cycle



**The annual process for building the city’s 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or long-range budget for major infrastructure projects. An ad hoc capital planning advisory task force, established by City Council to streamline existing city and public schools facility projects and processes, has raised concerns about the vetting of project alternatives. Task Force members have worried that capital projects take shape inside government department “silos.” As a result, they say, City Council does not have the full benefit of considering potentially cheaper options that would meet the same needs, as well as free up resources for additional, currently unmet needs. They want more systematic justification of departmental staff decision-making so that council can better optimize the total city-and-schools capital portfolio.**

that particular project provides to delivering that service; the alternative[s] — either places or means — of delivering that service; and why this was chosen as the best [option].”

Branch cited the plan to upgrade the city’s vehicle maintenance facility as the best-articulated need in a draft revision of project descriptions. The \$6.5 million plan’s justification reads: “Maintenance keeps the building functioning properly, decreases costly repairs, and promotes a healthy environment. ... Fleet operations could be heavily affected if building equipment fails. Services such as snow removal, trash removal, police response and many others will be affected if fleet operations are hindered.” Branch said, “I understand why they need that ....” As a negative example, he cited

the proposed \$6.8 million overhaul of Gadsby’s Tavern. The justification says that the building comprises a museum, restaurant and American Legion, and lists the building’s problems. “I understand it needs to be fixed. But I don’t understand why I need it to deliver city services. ... There’s merit there, but we have not made that merit explicit. And that needs to happen,” he said. The Task Force has suggested Gadsby’s Tavern, among other projects, as a possible candidate for some degree of privatization.

Task Force members have also expressed doubt about the thoroughness of the vetting of other slated projects, including a new high school at the Minnie Howard campus (\$118 million); school swing space at the Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center

(\$42 million); replacing George Mason Elementary School at its current location (\$41 million); a new centralized pre-k center (\$28 million); and renovation of the health department building, which “is more expensive than building a building from scratch,” said Dunton.

In the CIP development process, department heads put forward their capital project requests, which the staff-comprised Peer Technical Review Committee and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Steering Committee then flesh out and synthesize into a draft CIP. Those bodies report to the city manager, who finalizes a CIP proposal for council and the public’s consideration.

“Some [alternatives consideration] gets addressed through the management process and the management structure outside of the CIP ... and then inserts itself into the CIP at the appropriate time,” said Morgan Routt, the city’s budget director, at an earlier meeting.

But City Manager Mark Jinks does not believe the budget process is, in its fundamental ordering, driven primarily by the city bureaucracy rather than the council. He explained in a series of earlier emails: “We don’t start from a blank slate with the CIP, but we start with the 10-year plan that council had adopted the previous May, as well as with directions from many council actions and processes that are ongoing when council approves a plan, or direction or feedback given when staff gives an oral briefing.” Moreover, “The fact that the CIP is a 10-year plan (unusually long for a local government) means that most proposed projects are in the ‘out years’ for many years until their funding years arrive. [This] allows many years of visibility and transparency for not only council but the entire community, so that all stakeholders can understand what is proposed, and weigh in to staff and council on capital investment proposals many years before those proposals ever are funded and approved.”

Similarly, “The schools ... have [a Long Range Educational Facilities Plan] with a process that has looked into what actual alternatives could be and they’ve vetted that through their community,” said Task Force consultant Kayla Anthony. “That may not be the same of set of alternatives you want them to look at. But there has been some process followed for that.”

Still, “it actually doesn’t sound like alternatives were identified and fully vetted on some of these [slated projects],” said Wagner.

“We don’t know,” replied Hampton. Addressing that state of not-knowing has the Task Force’s full attention.

# The Last DACA Clinic

Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A sign outside Annandale United Methodist Church on Saturday, Sept. 23 read, "Welcome - Just Neighbors DACA Clinic." What the sign didn't say is that this would be the final DACA Clinic.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Donald Trump's Executive Order on Sept. 5 repealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Current DACA recipients with a work permit due to expire before March 5 can apply for a two-year renewal but no new first-time DACA applications can be filed.

DACA is a program that allows individuals meeting certain requirements, who either entered the country illegally as children or remained, to receive a renewable two-year deferred action from deportation and be eligible for a work permit. However, a DACA permit is only a temporary protection and not a path to legal citizenship.

Erin McKenney, director of Just Neighbors Ministry, says 12 people were preregistered for Saturday's clinic with some walk-ins. Immigration attorneys would review the required paperwork to minimize errors and the possibility of missing the deadline. McKinney observes there haven't been a lot of people at the clinics recently. She speculates that maybe they are filling out the paperwork themselves. "I hope so." She says when they had "know your rights" clinics early this year, a lot of the people who first came out for the clinics were later afraid they would be identified and people stopped coming. They were worried that their families were unprotected.

McKinney added, "In general the immigrants feel let down by the repeal. They feel they are as American as anyone and have never known any other country."

Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors and director of Legal Services for Northern Virginia Family Services, says about half of the applications are being processed by the United States



**Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors, says USCIS is processing about half of the DACA applications "super fast" and half are taking about six months.**

Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) "super fast and about half are taking about six months. I think there has been a serious effort to turn them around quickly."

The immigration lawyers stood outside a room of eight tables where applicants worked through a pile of papers. The lawyers will review the paperwork before it is sent to USCIS.

McKinney calls the lawyers her "bullpen." She said, "They are the saviors," and added, "we don't send anything forward that we think won't be approved. That just puts the applicant in jeopardy."

McKinney estimates there have been about 2,000 people with DACA permits in Northern Virginia since President Obama established the program by Executive Order on June 15, 2012. The Executive Order was issued after several failed attempts by Congress to pass permanent immigration legislation referred to as the DREAM Act bill. There were an estimated 800,000 in-



**A DACA applicant begins the process of a two-year renewal of her DACA status on Saturday, Sept. 23. Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5 to be considered.**

dividuals enrolled in the DACA program nation-wide as of September 2017.

**A MOTHER SITS** along the wall of the reception area with her 10-year old and 4-year-old daughters who translate for her. The mother is illegal, having come to the United States in 2005. Her two youngest daughters were born in the U.S. and therefore are U.S. citizens. They are waiting for the 17-year-old daughter to finish her DACA renewal application. The oldest daughter joins them in the lobby and said, "I'm kind of upset. I don't remember much about El Salvador, and my friends whose work permits expire after March 5 won't be able to get a renewal." They will be eligible for deportation.

To be eligible for DACA, a recipient must have come to the U.S. before their 16th birthday and prior to June 2007 and have been living continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. They must have been under



**Erin McKenney, executive director of Just Neighbors, says, since 2012, there have been around 2,000 people with DACA status in Northern Virginia. Over 50 percent of their clients are from Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Loudoun, Alexandria and Prince William.**

the age of 31 on June 15, 2012 and with no lawful status at that time. They must have completed high school or a GED, have been honorably discharged from the armed forces or be enrolled in school. They cannot have been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor.

Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income immigrants in Northern Virginia, focusing on humanitarian cases. Fifty-eight percent of their clients live in Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Alexandria, Prince William and Loudoun. Eighteen percent of their cases are for DACA. They have moved to a new location at 7630 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

*This is the first part of a series focusing on DACA.*

## Optimism and Caution at Annual Visit Alexandria Meeting

FROM PAGE 3

tion from the internet and other upcoming waterfront destinations in the area. The big threat discussed in City Hall and businesses across the city is The Wharf, a \$2 billion investment by Washington D.C. into waterfront properties in the southeast quarter of the city.

"The threats that led to talk of the BID are still out there: the internet and The Wharf in D.C." said Washington. "We need to move forward with new strategies."

Washington said part of this will involve using more web content to help draw people to Alexandria. Among the highlights of Visit Alexandria's annual meeting was new VR technology showcasing 20 different local

**Visitor Spending in Alexandria (millions)**



**Source: 2016 Economic Impact of Domestic Travel on Virginia and Localities, Virginia Tourism Corporation**

attractions. In the reception after the meeting, Visit Alexandria offered guests a chance to utilize the VR headsets to tour locations through Old Town.

Washington also said a push for Visit Al-

**Tourism Tax Receipts**



**Source: 2016 Economic Impact of Domestic Travel on Virginia and Localities, Virginia Tourism Corporation**

exandria in the coming year will be sending the organization's executive team to more community events and into local businesses more frequently.

"We get a sense that our members in the

tourism industry understand what we do," said Washington, "but we need to do more to make sure residents [and business owners] know what we do and how important tourism is to the city."

# Fees Cited as Barrier to Recreation Activities

FROM PAGE 1

trying to create a cohesive sense of community in the North End. Proposed actions include block parties and encouraging attendance to community events like movie nights through social media and promotion through Charles Houston and ARHA.

Other improvements focus on improving the safety of the local citizens. Some of that is building trust between the community and the police department with an emphasis on community policing and support for the residential police officer program, but the plan also includes tangible improvements like establishing better streetscape improvements through the Braddock Streetscape Plan.

Hilary Orr, staff liaison from the City Manager's Office, said that many of the plan's goals don't require funding from the city. Many of the plan's goals involve better advertising and awareness of existing programs. Other proposed programs, offered through the Charles Houston Rec Teen Center, had support from fraternities or corporate sponsorship.

But there remains some skepticism that the plan addresses one of the core problems many local residents say contributes to crime: fee increases and other prohibitive measures at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

"We have lost the way," said Kay Koroma, a coach at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. "I see kids on these streets pregnant or on drugs."

Koroma said one of the problems at the recreation center is the requirement for anyone using the facility carry mail showing they live in the community.

"When I was a kid, you could just show up," said Koroma. "People there would help you. Now, you can't fill up a gym. Kids don't come in here. It's empty on Friday and Saturday nights when the old Charles Houston used to be packed."

Mayor William Euille, who grew up in the Berg Neighborhood and serves on the work group, said Koroma may be looking at the city's past with rose-tinted nostalgia.

"Back then, there were still kids pregnant and on drugs," said Euille. "Things have changed. It's a Catch 22. As a kid, we used



Charles Houston Recreation Center

to be able to go anywhere. But now we need to know [who is in what facility] for accountability. We're accountable for the safety and security of these kids."

But Koroma wasn't alone in his assessment of Charles Houston. Several members of the committee cited unfriendly staff at the facility as a deterrent. Myra Matthews, a member of the group representing the Andrew Adkins Neighborhood, said her two teen children refuse to go to Charles Houston and instead take a bus over to William Ramsey Recreation Center because the staff is friendly and there are better activities. But across all of the recreation departments, Matthews and other members of the group pointed to fees for recreation departments as being one of the deterrents.

Dara Shen, a community member on the Work Group, said on summer nights the local pool is filled almost entirely with white youths even in a community center serving one of Alexandria's largest black communities.

According to the city's fee compendium, admission to the pool for teenagers is \$3 or \$53 for a season pass. Pool admission was increased for each age group \$1 as a resolution approved for the FY 2018 budget. The fees for the Power On Out of School program was increased from \$429 to \$445 during the school year. Enrollment in most youth sports costs \$85, a \$10 increase over previous years.

Admission to the recreation center is free. Pursuit of cost-recovery has led to the city's

Department of Parks and Recreation gradually increasing fees over the years for use of programs at the recreational facilities

"We do not set out to keep anyone from participating," said Jack Browand, division chief of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. "Yes, there have been fee increases. Is there potential for individuals not to participate because of fees? Yes. We do not preclude anyone from participation based on financial means. If there is a need, we have financial assistance programs available. But in response to the current fiscal crisis in the city, we have had to adjust our fees. But any fee increase we do is done through the City Council approval process."

A fee assistance application is available at the city's recreation department website. Browand said classes and programs offered through the recreation centers are offered at market price.

Some in city leadership say the costs for these programs are keeping local youths from joining.

"I think the issue of late is how do recreation departments cover costs and maintain facilities with localities tightening their budget," said Councilman John Chapman. "A practice over the last 10 years in recreation departments across the nation has been to have adjustable fees based on the needs of the facilities to balance the department's budget and pay for staff. I think Alexandria has taken that tactic as well by coming up with some of the policy that we have surrounding types of events and what levels



The Andrew Adkins Neighborhood

of fees."

But Chapman said the getting local youths into the recreation centers can already be a challenge, and adding fees just makes that harder.

"There does need to be an understanding; if these are community or rec centers, we want people in them," said Chapman. "We need to understand the balance between fees and cost recovery and competition. Getting people in a building, that's going to be competitive. People are going to want to have other things they want to do."

For Chapman, there's no question that the fees have been a large barrier to keeping youths from the local community away from the facilities.

"Yes, we're pushing people out with the number of fees increasing year after year," said Chapman. "What city needs to do is look at fee recovery schedule again. Use the opportunity to look at the last couple years of where we've had that in place and where it's been problematic, and where that's able to shift."

Euille acknowledged that there might need to be an examination of whether exceptions to the Parks Department's fee structure could be made for Charles Houston.

The next meeting for the group is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Oct. 16 in the Charles Houston Recreation Center, where a final draft report will be presented. In November/December, the plan will be presented to the City Council.

## Neighbors React to Church's Affordable Housing Plan

FROM PAGE 5

Monday evening.

The meeting's purpose was for BDAC, comprised of community representatives, to evaluate the project's adherence to the Beauregard Small Area Plan's design requirements. The committee must complete its task in time for the project's public hearing in January and federal tax credit application in the spring.

Residents from Goodwin House, an Episcopal-affiliated retirement community adjacent to Resurrection, also turned out at

the BDAC meeting. After nearly two hours of presentations from the project's architects and questions from BDAC members, the retirees voiced near unanimous discontentment.

Some of the residents' concerns had to do with safety: where children from the new apartments will board their school bus; children's safety in the U-shaped apartment building's central courtyard; whether congestion from the apartments' parking garage might impede ambulance access to the retirement community.

Many Goodwin residents' concerns had

to do with esthetics.

"Unfortunately all three of the speakers on behalf of the applicant talked a lot about the use and how that has ... impacted their design," said Catharine Puskar, Goodwin House's attorney. "We heard about the project needing to throw off enough money to build the [replacement] church. We've heard about how we can't change windows because of economics. We've heard about the use of materials because this is an affordable housing project. ... Goodwin House, Inc. has said that we accept an affordable housing

building here. But ... that doesn't give the right for the building to have any less quality of design than you would expect of a market-rate building."

Several speakers criticized the appearance of the building.

Two speakers approved of the design and the underlying purpose to provide affordable housing.

BDAC will schedule another meeting, tentatively Oct. 23, half of which will be reserved for additional public comment. Related materials are available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/BeauregardPlan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/BeauregardPlan).

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## FALL FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

# Trial of the Century

FROM PAGE 22

target, Jefferson Davis. Mary Surratt and her son John are in the way," he said.

He said the challenge was balancing Bingham's sense of morality — the treatment of women, his fellow man, his religious beliefs — with his burning desire to see justice. "These emotions are in constant conflict," he said.

Emily Golden is playing the role of Anna Surratt, who is Mary's 22-year-old daughter. "During the pre-assassination flashback scenes, Anna is portrayed as a happy young woman initially infatuated with John Wilkes Booth, the famous actor who comes to their boardinghouse. However, we also see Anna become increasingly distraught in the present time after the arrest of her mother, throughout the court proceedings, and just before her mother's ex-

ecution as the full magnitude of the situation hits her," she said.

She said the hardest part was trying to stay true to the historical truth of the character while finding a way to bring raw emotion to her portrayal on stage. "Some of the more emotional scenes in this play have pushed me further as an actress than I have had to previously explore. Feeling the weight of the energy needed to invest in these emotions while simultaneously remembering that Anna Surratt was a real person was extremely difficult," she said.

*Aldersgate Church Community Theater is presenting "The Judicial Murder of Mrs. Surratt" from Sept. 29 to Oct. 15. Tickets are \$12 to \$15. Or \$10 for group of 10 or more tickets. The venue is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org).*

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 28

The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association invites members and friends to join us for La Vie en Rose, a French evening in the Athenaeum Gallery. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

### OCT. 14-15

**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Virginia Wine Festival.** noon-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Wine tasting, festival access to the Virginia Oyster Pavilion, and all concessions and musical entertainment. \$35-65. Visit [www.virginiawinefest.com](http://www.virginiawinefest.com).

### Legals

### Legals



### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 170805

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public is seeking responses from qualified bidders for the provision of Air Cooled Condensing Unit (ACCU) replacement at George Washington Middle School located at 1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301. Specifically, the DX Cooling Coil of the existing Air Handling Unit (AHU) will be replaced.

**A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on September 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at ACPS Central Office located at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314.** The pre-bid conference will take place in the 6th Floor Conference Room 610-2, with a site visit following.

**All questions must be submitted via email, with the notation, "ITB No. 170805, GW ACCU Replacement" on or before 3:00 p.m. on September 29, 2017.** If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS Vendor Self Service site (registration with login is required).

**Sealed electronic bids** shall be received in **ACPS' Vendor Self-Service System on or before 3:00 p.m. October 6, 2017.** The time of receipt shall be determined by the system time stamp in the Vendor Self-Service System. Mailed paper bids shall not be accepted.

**Offerors submitting bids in the Vendor Self-Service System should also send (1) one original response on a USB flash-drive, labeled as "ITB 170805, GW ACCU Replacement" on or before 3:00 p.m. on October 6, 2017** to Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. The time of receipt for the mailed or hand-delivered USB shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement Office.

ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. **Registration on the Vendor Self Service system at <https://acps.munisselfservice.com/> is required.**

Meloni Hurley  
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# Ought To Ship



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to praise the Lord too much for providing me with such a trivial and mundane benefit but, I sure am grateful when my 112 pounds of cat litter arrives/is delivered to my front porch, mere feet away from our cats' litter boxes. "Auto Ship," baby. No more am I lugging 28 to 44 pound boxes of cat litter into our five-indoor-cat household from the local supermarket and/or pet superstore. I don't want to plagiarize a television "spokeshing" from my youth so I'll give "Speedy" from Alka Seltzer proper attribution when I write as enthusiastically as I can: "Oh, what a relief it is!"

The litter is my second auto-ship of substance; having made an earlier/similar commitment to 16 pound bags of dry cat food. I do get some fancy, multi-vitamins auto-delivered and my wife, Dina, as well receives special eye vitamins in the mail, but I thought that was the only way to purchase them, given that the manufacturers were out of town so I never considered them an auto-type ship. Previously, I had always resisted inquiring about getting products delivered from a national company when they are available locally. My thinking had been that since I'm home during the day, and regularly in and out doing errands at many of the stores that sell this merchandise, why ship it when I can shop it? It seemed redundant.

Now however, given the pleasure I felt when I saw that litter sitting on the porch without my having had to life one finger; well, a few fingers initially when I "keystroked" my way through this company's online registration, the light has come on. Moreover, given the neuropathy I have in my feet, I'm tired of walking around those giant warehouse stores. Sure, the local proximity and availability is helpful but the bigger the buyer, the more effort the unloading/restocking is required at home. Perhaps I've simply come to a realization, and not necessarily an accommodation to my age, that less effort equals more overall value. And if in addition to less effort, I can buy products at equal or even lower cost than doing so locally, than I am sittin' pretty in high cotton, if I may double-down on the benefit?

Not that I'm overworked and underpaid for the household duties I perform but, I'd rather be under worked and overpaid, if you catch my drift? And given certain realities to the many tasks now performed by hand, it's up to me to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. And so, I'm starting to consider very seriously, ordering more stuff this way, especially bulky/weighty stuff and to let my fingers do the clicking rather than my arms and legs doing the walking and carrying. Let commercial/corporate America do the driving and delivering. I don't have to prove my shopping mettle anymore. I'm ready to sit back and let the boxes do my talking.

I'm not quite ready to order food/perishable however. I feel a certain sense of calm and serenity wandering down supermarket aisles taking mental inventory of what's present and what's not — and what's new and what everything costs. Not that I try many things as anybody who knows me knows, but occasionally, Entenmann's or Hostess or Nabisco will surprise me with a new item and thus will have made the visit all the more sweeter. I wonder if I'll have the same sensation perusing and clicking my way through a site that so far has been unseen — by my eyes, anyway. I guess it can't hurt to explore a bit. I mean, it's not exactly the dark web. (Is it?) Nor do I expect to use bit coins or have to create an avatar for myself. Nevertheless, the process does seem a little daunting; changing habits that have become habitual, and routines which have become routine. Seems a bit like turning an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea. They don't turn on a dime and neither do I. Still, I'm intrigued by the possibilities, and besides, I'm nearly out of laundry detergent.

Perhaps a test is in the offing. I don't think I'm quite ready to join a club/pay a membership fee, but I am open to investigating. Time will tell I suppose, as will my first bill.

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

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# NEWS

# Debate

FROM PAGE 6

should be able to determine what they want to do with their statues, although he added he wants to see them in a museum.

"I think what is important is to talk about some of the statues that aren't built of bronze, the inequities that we still have in our society," said Northam during the debate. "Inequities in access to health care. Inequities in access to voting rights. Inequities that we have in education."

Views of the Affordable Care Act are also expected to play an important dividing line in the election. Northam has been consistent in his support for expanding Medicaid, criticizing Republicans for undermining a system that has expanded health insurance to millions of Americans who previously had no coverage. Gillespie has been consistently critical of the landmark achievement of former President Barack Obama, although he was noncommittal when asked about his view of the reform proposal currently working its way through Congress.

"I'm not endorsing or opposing any specific legislation that is being talked about right now. I haven't had a chance to read it," said Gillespie after the debate, adding that Virginia should not be punished for declining to expand Medicaid. "But as a principle I've been consistent in this regard, and that is where I am today."

**PERHAPS NOTHING** looms as large over this election as Donald Trump. The president has become a lightning rod of opposition and a rallying cry for people who feel marginalized. Virginia was the only Southern state Trump lost, and polls show that he remains unpopular here. Gillespie has been trying to distance himself from the president by opposing some of his budget proposals and declining to answer questions about whether he'll ask Trump to campaign for him in Virginia.

"Probably the biggest thing being hung around Ed's neck is the Trump administration," said Republican strategist Dan Scandling. "But depending where you are in the state determines how much of a weight that is. If you're downstate, that's not a problem. If you're up here in Northern Virginia, it's a potential problem."

Democrat Hillary Clinton won Virginia with 50 percent of the vote, with Trump at 44 percent. Many of those presidential year voters might not show up in an odd year-election, when the electorate tends to be older and whiter. For Democrats, the goal heading into Election Day is to run up the numbers in Northern Virginia and overwhelm Republicans in parts of the state that still support Trump. For Republicans, the challenge is find some kind of way of embracing Trump voters without alienating independents who might feel conflicted about the president.

"I think what's really going to drive the election is President Trump," said Democratic strategist Ben Tribbett. "A lot of voters are going to vote either for or against Ed Gillespie based on how they feel about Donald Trump."

11

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OPEN SUN 10/1, 1-3

## Alexandria \$739,900

Enjoy this home on more than a half-acre lot with circular drive near the Potomac River and Mount Vernon Estate. \$250K in renovations and an open floor plan including 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, sun room, 3 gas fireplaces, 2-car garage, and a pool. 9421 Old Mount Vernon Road

**Catherine Davidson 703.201.1998**  
[www.cmdrealty.net](http://www.cmdrealty.net)



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**Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165**  
[www.NoelK.com](http://www.NoelK.com)



## The Preston \$405,000

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**Donna Cramer 703.627.9578**  
[www.DonnaCramer.com](http://www.DonnaCramer.com)



## Olde Belhaven Towne \$619,000

This spacious townhome boasts 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths on 3 open levels. Hardwood floors throughout the main and upper levels. Private rear patio is accessed off the large family room with fireplace. Easy access to GW Bike Trail, Old Town, DC and Metro.

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OPEN SUN 10/1, 2-4

## Potomac Yard \$919,900

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### Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 7:00pm

Have you been dreaming about a remodeling project? Please join us for concepts, inspiration, and industry insight! Our talented design consultants will provide you with fun and educational information to guide you on your way. Understanding trends, terminology and material performance as well as the benefit of having a personal designer are just a few topics that will be covered in this seminar.

**Doors Open at 6:30pm - Seminar begins at 7:00pm**  
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### Big Impact, Small Space Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 9:30am

Confused about how to make the most of a small space? Just because it's small does not mean you have to compromise on style or function. Join our creative design team as they help you untap the potential of a smaller space. Using creative solutions, we will help you realize that there may be more than meets the eye!

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### Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 11:00am

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