

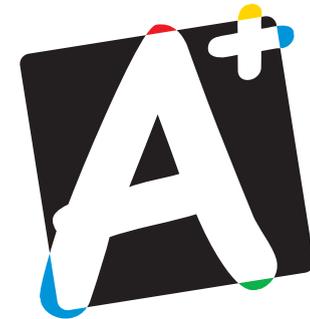
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Alexandria Gazette Packet



PAGE 15

25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 22, 2018



Reenactors of the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line participate in the Feb. 19 parade.

By George! City celebrates Washington's 286th birthday.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Deary skies couldn't dampen the spirits of the thousands of attendees who turned out to celebrate the 286th birthday of Alexandria's hometown hero and Founding Father George Washington.

"It was a great day today," said Joe Shumard, the organizer and driving force behind the parade. "And we are proud to be the nation's oldest and

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 3



Alexandria Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker leads the parade celebrating the 286th anniversary of the birth of George Washington.



Gen. George Washington, portrayed by Brian Hilton, waves to the crowd.

PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET



Members of the Ebony Dough Boys portray World War I African American soldiers.

Slow Growth

City manager's proposal fully funds schools budget.

By VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

It's not a great year for the budget, but it's not the worst either. It's the second slowest year of growth for the city's economy in the last eight years, leaving the city with few options to expand services or promote new initiatives. But with some trimming back in city departments and prioritization of city

goals, City Manager Mark Jinks' budget proposed on Feb. 20 managed to fully fund the superintendent's proposed budget and push forward a handful of new initiatives.

The main savings in the budget come from \$4.3 million in operating budget reductions across city departments. According to Jinks, these reductions are mostly not ing

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 3

The Long View

FY19 budget proposal shows insufficient long-term revenues.

By DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

City Manager Mark Jinks' proposed budget, unveiled Tuesday, Feb. 20, indicates modest revenue growth for FY19, though steadily mounting projected deficits over the next five years.

"Last year at this time, I wrote to you that the city was at a crossroads in the face of flat revenues and unexpected new costs," said Jinks in his opening remarks. "The regional economy has been stable

but growing slowly. And that means our revenues have been growing very slowly as well."

By law, the city must adopt a balanced budget, so the FY19 proposal includes no deficit of expenditures over revenues. However, given current data and assumptions, the city's 5-year financial planning model, projects that shortfalls will open in subsequent years, increasing by \$19 million per year on average to \$77 million in FY23.

SEE THE LONG VIEW, PAGE 4

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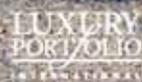
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PHOTOS BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

Drum Major Konstantin Gojnycz leads the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums along the parade route.

Celebrating Washington's Birthday

FROM PAGE 1

largest parade celebrating Washington's birth."

Participants marched a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town that ended at a reviewing stand in Market Square. Former ACT for Alexandria CEO John Porter and recently retired director of the Office of Historic Alexandria Lance Mallamo served as co-emcees. First responders to the June 2017 shooting at Simpson Field served as the parade's grand marshals.

Gen. George Washington, as portrayed by Brian Hilton, surveyed the troops and Fairfax County District Supervisor Dan Storck made an appearance as Abe Lincoln.

New this year was an appearance of the Spirit of Liberty flag carried by dozens of volunteers and two bands from

Woodbridge and Port Chester, N.Y.

"This is a team effort," Shumard said. "I am always so grateful to the many organizations who participate in this parade and the thousands who turn out to celebrate the birth of George Washington."



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

Volunteers fold the Spirit of Liberty Flag. Mitch Mendler, in white hat at right, was a first responder on 9/11 in New York and for three days was buried under the rubble and presumed dead. He is president of World Memorial 9/11 Memorial and Tribute.



The Kena Shriners Car Club entertains the crowd.



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Police Chief Michael Brown and Fire Chief Robert Dube represent the first responders to the 2017 shooting at Simpson Field who served as Grand Marshals of the Feb. 19 parade.

\$223.8 Million for Schools

FROM PAGE 1

reductions in services, but cutting overhead and finding efficiencies.

The total general fund operating budget is \$742.3 million, a 1.9 percent increase over the current year. It's modest growth, and 69 percent of the revenue growth is devoted to Alexandria City Public Schools, 22 percent to transit programs, and 7 percent to city operations. For the Capital Improvement Program budget, the FY 2019-2028 CIP budget is \$2.14 billion, an increase of \$26 million or 1 percent over the current CIP.

The budget proposes to keep the real estate tax rate at its current rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. This would increase the average homeowner's tax bill by 3.3 percent, or \$199 per year, the lowest average dollar increase in six years. There are no other tax rate or reserve funding being used for ongoing operating expenses.

One of the few areas where there is moderate increase, however, is for the DASH Bus fare; from \$1.60 to \$1.75. The price of a monthly pass would increase from \$40 to \$45. This change would generate \$212,000 in new revenue, while DASH would still remain cheaper than the bus systems in Arlington and Fairfax. New DASH programs initiatives in the budget include a discount for senior citizens riding DASH at off-peak hours and an expansion of the free ride program implemented this past year for T.C. Williams High School students to include private high school students. The King Street Trolley hours are also adjusting from opening at 10:30 a.m. on weekdays to 11 a.m.

The largest share of the city's operating costs is employee salaries and benefits. A few changes are coming this year; including a \$5 million merit increase for eligible

employees, a \$186,000 increase to the living wage paid to city employees from a minimum of \$14.13 per hour to \$15.

The single largest new cost in the budget is a \$1.5 million set aside to address recruitment and retention capabilities for police, fire, and sheriff's personnel in Alexandria. Jinks said this was a result of difficulties in the city attracting and retaining first responders, who have been leaving the city for more lucrative positions in neighboring jurisdictions.

The proposed budget also makes other improvements to the city's emergency services. An additional computer forensics position is added to the Police Department to provide more timely analysis of electronic evidence, and \$1.4 million is included in the CIP for the capital cost of the new Cameron Mills fire station. The budget also includes financing for the city's first standalone Emergency Operations Center, a year-round facility designed to support interagency management in the event of large-scale emergencies. When not in use for emergencies, the space can be used for employee training.

The budget also outlined some of what is in store for Alexandria for the upcoming year. The budget includes funding for development site planning at the former Landmark Mall area, as well as redevelopment planning for Eisenhower East and plans to implement the Old Town North Small Area Plan.

The budget also puts forward funding towards the city's goals of inclusivity. To improve job readiness, the budget includes \$110,000 to fund training for adults for whom English is a second language.

Included in the budget is a \$5 million investment in the CIP plan to continue build-

SEE HOMEOWNER TAX BILL. PAGE 8

Addressing King Street Retail Corridor

In the wake of the discussion throughout 2017 surrounding the proposed Business Improvement District, the proposed budget includes extensive improvements along King Street and the waterfront. According to Jinks, \$175,000 is set aside in the budget for targeted marketing and special events in the King Street retail corridor, to be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by private sector funding. Patricia Washington, president and CEO of Visit Alexandria, said her organization is currently at work on securing private sector funding to support the expanded programming. The budget also includes \$75,000 to support programming and related maintenance costs. Two additional city staff positions are funded to improve street and sidewalk cleaning, one of the main criticisms brought up during the BID discussions.

Though Fitzgerald Square Park is an interim holdover until a more permanent plan is put together for the site, Washington said plans are still in the works to make maximum use of the park.

"Fitzgerald Square combines two of the

city's biggest assets: King Street and the Waterfront," said Washington.

Among the potential uses for the park, Washington said there was consideration of a temporary beer garden or, confirming a long running joke among Old Town residents about plans for the waterfront; a temporary ice skating rink.

The FY 2019 budget also begins preparations for a new tall ship to make its permanent home along Alexandria's waterfront. The tall ship Providence, a 100-foot tall replica of the Continental Navy's first ship captained by nautical legend John Paul Jones, will make its permanent home in Alexandria in summer, 2019. According to Washington, \$400,000 is set aside for dredging and new pylons to be built on the waterfront, which is currently too small to accommodate the ship. Temporary visits from tall ships over the last few years, from Coast Guard cutters to Spanish galleons, have drawn tourists to Old Town. Washington said she expects the permanent residency of Alexandria's own tall ship will provide a boon to the city tourism.

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NEWS

The Long View

FROM PAGE 1

The city projects \$742 million in General Fund revenues in FY19, with the lion's share (60 percent) coming from residential and commercial real property taxes. These revenues reflect a \$14 million (2 percent) increase over the approved FY18 budget.

Of that increase, 69 percent will go to Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), 22 percent to transit services, 7 percent to city government operation and 2 percent to cash capital and debt service.

An increase in real property assessments accounts for \$11 million (78 percent) of revenue growth, said Morgan Routt, the city's budget director, at council's work session on revenues, also held Tuesday. In 2018, residential assessments increased by about 3 percent, the second lowest increasing in the last 8 years, said Jinks. Commercial assessments increased by about one percent. Commercial multi-family housing saw the largest increase (8 percent), while commercial office space saw the largest decrease (4 percent). Over-

all, the average residential assessment increased by about \$18,000, from \$530,000 to \$548,000. Household tax bills will increase by \$112 per year for condos, \$279 per year for single-family homes and \$199 per year on average.

Following council's budget guidance, issued in November, Jinks proposed maintaining the residential and commercial property tax rates at \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed values. Of five regional jurisdictions, that's the second lowest commercial rate; Loudoun County comes in lowest with \$1.09 and Fairfax County highest with \$1.28. It's middle of the pack for residential rates; Arlington comes in lowest with \$1.006 and Fairfax County highest, again, with \$1.28.

Except for a \$25 per household increase of the sanitary sewer fee, no other significant tax or fee increases are proposed.

Despite previously voiced fears of reduced federal spending, the city's budget proposal does not assume any decreases in revenues from federal or state sources through FY23. General Fund rev-

SEE THE LONG VIEW, PAGE 8

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PEOPLE

'U-Street' Invites Audience Into Homeless Struggles

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Wigs clutter the backroom at Richard Kauffman Auditorium in the Lee Center. A large tray of salad sits on a side table, costumes litter the floor. A radio plays in the background and Robert Hamilton playing Richard, a returned veteran in "U-Street, the musical," is singing "what a difference a day makes." Sheron Nelson is putting highlighter around her eyes "so people in the auditorium can see our features." She smooths True-Match on her face. "It keeps down the sweat. Sometimes I put it on between scenes." Then Pro-touch which sets the make up. Finally she sprays on a "nice little mist. It is refreshing. It makes me feel awesome."

Nelson is in charge of all the wigs and already has on the long dark wig tinged with pink that she wears for the first character she plays. "I also sing in the show and I have to climb ladders. I meant to tell Jason to get me a stunt double." Jason Ellis is the writer and director of "U-Street," focused on five homeless individuals living on the streets in D.C. and trying to figure out life. Nelson will wear a second wig, pinker and curlier, for her second role as Esther, a "goofy, quirky and a bit motherly figure who gives out food baskets to the homeless."

Beside Nelson, Bianca Moore is peering into a mirror giving her eyes a deep, sultry look with glitter for extra oomph. She smooths a red base on her lips with a shimmer on top. More glitter. She explains that after the first scene where everyone wears a red, white and blue T-shirt she will have about 60 seconds to exchange her T-shirt



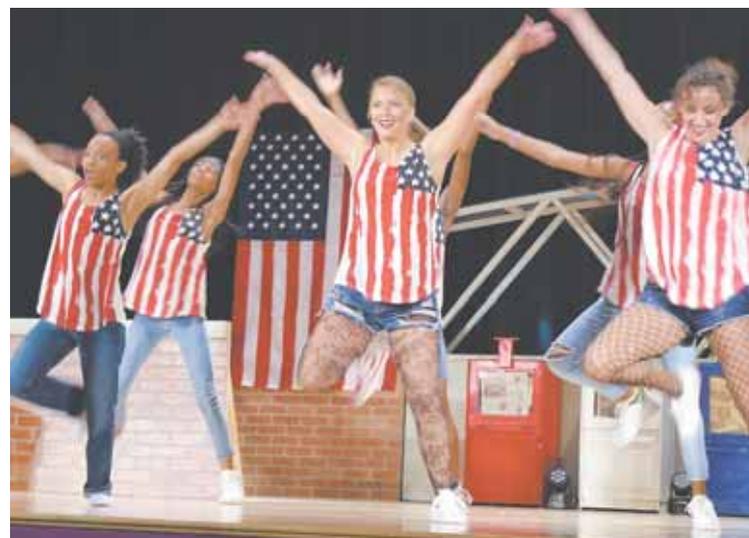
Sheron Nelson applies highlighter to emphasize facial features for the audience.

for a gold sequined top. It gets matched with a gold feather boa — "lots of gold" — and tall leopard skin shoes to top it off. "I play a hooker that finds her way back to what she should be doing."

Moore says, "The wig makes me feel different; it's not a look I'm used to." Nelson injects, "Let's name your wig. Every wig should have a name." Moore comments, "It's easy to get into a role when you have a wig." Nelson asks, "Are you ready," and flips the long gold tresses over Moore's dark hair and then combs out the snarls. Then she pins the bangs back "because Bianca has to sing."

Meanwhile, in the corner, Kenneth Waters Jr. flips on his long dreads and steps into his overalls. He is playing Booker T, a former prisoner released to the streets. Waters has threaded gray color through his small goatee. Booker T will later angrily tell TJ, whose LGBT lifestyle led to his homelessness, that "prison is a business and if by chance you get out you are so messed up, you go back in."

"U-Street" covers a week in the lives of



Opening scene of U-Street celebrates Fourth of July in contrast to the struggle on the streets.

PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE/
GAZETTE PACKET



Bianca Moore applies heavy make up to look sultry and dons wig.



Kenneth Waters Jr., as Booker T, flips on a long dreads wig.

the homeless. Ellis explains it underscores the reality that given the right conditions anyone can rise or fall and beckons the audience to undergo some introspection before rendering judgment. Ellis produces his theatre under Momentum Collective, which he incorporated with a mission to educate, enrich and empower the lives of low-income youth. His productions always focus on social commentary and seek to look deeper into issues, which are of particular interest to those served through the organization.

The 3 p.m. matinee is about to begin. Voices work their way up the aisles from the back of the auditorium and soon the stage is covered with swirls of stars and

stripes. Arms go up in synchronized fashion while feet jump in the air. Dancers celebrate the Fourth of July in red, white and blue to "Let's Live It Up." Nelson climbs the ladder and belts out her joyful tune. She says, "The opening scene is just a happy time." But then the plot unfolds — "U-Street the Musical — the struggle is real."

"U-Street" is playing in the Lee Center's Robert Kauffman Auditorium at 1108 Jefferson St. on Thursday-Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. now through March 3.

People at Work is a weekly column focusing on people in the community doing their jobs. Suggestions may be sent to slrbc@aol.com.

City's Little League State Champions Visit Capitol Hill

The Alexandria Little League 13 U All-Star Team was practicing on Little Simpson Field and the batting cages at Simpson Park the night before the shooting occurred there on June 14, 2017. The 13U team was practicing in expectation of the District 4 Little League's Tournament, scheduled for the following weekend. With an over-sized American Flag at the center field fence, Alexandria's All-Stars took first place in the district with a 3-0 record that weekend.

The Intermediate All-Star Team managed by Mike Engelberg, coached by Pete Mensinger and John Kelly, was comprised of some of the top performing 13-year-old players from different teams which played during the regular season. The team went on to participate two weeks later for the State Championship in South Boston, Va. They finished with a 4-0 record and brought back the first State Championship victory to Alexandria.

Following the season, the team and families met for a team banquet at Los Tios Res-

taurant in Del Ray. Planners for the event reached out to Donny Simpson with Simpson Development to sponsor the 22-inch State Championship trophies that were to be presented by House Majority Whip, U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise from Louisiana who had been wounded in the June 14, 2017 shooting at Simpson Park. Unfortunately, Scalise was unable to make the event due to a scheduling conflict and went on to convey his appreciation of how the team "persevered in the face of adversity" to claim the Virginia State Championship. Unable to award trophies to the boys that evening, Scalise extended his appreciation by inviting the whole team and their families to Capitol Hill on Feb. 16 for a visit and a private tour. Scalise received the team in the Lincoln Room where he explained the responsibilities of his position along with his passion for baseball and how he plans on regaining his coveted second baseman position on the Congressional Team in the coming year. He encouraged the boys to never give up in the face of adversity. He



PHOTO BY CAPITOL HILL STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER ANDREW SHULT

From left: Cooper MacKay, Evan Devereux, Kyle Miller, Robbie Engelberg, Ryan Osinski, Gavin Brunson, U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, Kevin Dols, Jakob Mensinger, Jack Kelly, Will Keough, and Joshua Ayala (not pictured: Abe Wingfield).

spoke about the importance of relationships and teamwork. Scalise encouraged the boys to get involved with politics at an early age

through Student Council at school and to register to vote as soon as they were able, regardless of party interest.

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ FEBRUARY 22-28, 2018 ❖ 7

NEWS

Homeowner Tax Bill: Up 3.3%

FROM PAGE 3

ing a citywide 40 gigabit-per-second fiber network. The project supports city and school technology needs while offering potential for broadband access in the future. According to Jinks, this is the second and final payment for a fiber network for the foreseeable future.

There are a few additions to the city's parks and recreation in the budget, the largest being \$432,000 for 2.75 full time positions and related programs and costs for the new Patrick Henry Recreation Center opening to the north of the redeveloped Patrick Henry school. With the planned demolition of the old Boat Club building, the budget also includes \$25,000 for programming and \$14,900 for maintenance at the interim Fitzgerald Square Park.

One of the most notable aspects of the budget is its full approval of the superintendent's proposed budget, a first in recent history for Alexandria. The proposed budget includes a direct transfer to Alexandria City Public Schools [ACPS] of 30.2 percent of the General Fund budget, or \$223.8 million; 69 percent of all new city revenue. The proposal includes funding for ACPS priorities related to increased enrollment, the new West End elementary school, employee compensation and textbook adoption.

Jinks credited the agreement to the work done in joint city-school work sessions, an initiative started this year out of heated arguments between city and schools over budget issues in previous years. Even with this new joint effort, the school budget wasn't

without its share of controversies. During School Board discussions surrounding the superintendent's proposed budget, members of the board expressed reservations that the budget didn't go far enough to address the school's ongoing enrollment needs.

One of the final major topics in the city manager's proposed budget discussion was city funding to back up its vow to implement Vision Zero. Vision Zero is a program aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries. In the FY 2019 budget, \$639,000 is set aside towards Vision Zero initiatives.

The budget was presented to City Council at a special meeting on Feb. 20 to praise by the city councilors.

"It's a miraculous budget," said Councilman Timothy Lovain. "It's almost hard to believe. It's clearly hard work and competence from city manager on down, and all of the department heads and senior staff from each department willing to scrub their budget. It's a great proposal, makes our work a lot easier."

One question raised by the council was the lack of mention to Affordable Housing initiatives. Last year's tax increase put forward by the City Council dedicated \$3.6 million to affordable housing projects, including funding for the Church of the Resurrection project. Councilman Willie Bailey put forward the idea of a potential one-cent meal tax to fund affordable housing projects.

A public hearing for the budget will be held on March 12, with a work session and setting the maximum tax rate on March 14. Budget adoption is scheduled for May 3.

The Long View on Revenue

FROM PAGE 4

enues from federal or state sources are projected to remain at \$56 million in FY19, the same as in the approved FY18 budget.

Local taxes other than property taxes are expected to increase by about one percent in FY19. The largest increase (\$1.3 million, or 4 percent) will come from business licenses. The largest decrease (\$0.9 million, or 7 percent) will come from utility taxes.

Councilman Paul Smedberg suggested that the city consider raising parking fees for third and subsequent vehicles. Rountt said that no increase over the current tiered structure was considered for the present proposal. Currently "the residential parking

permit is \$30 for the first vehicle, \$40 for the second vehicle, and \$100 for each additional vehicle," according to the city's web site.

Last year, council outsourced the collection of over \$5 million in delinquent car taxes to Nationwide Credit Corporation, a third party agency. City staff reported that this program has been successful so far, collections are expected to increase, and in future the program could expand to include delinquent taxes other than car taxes.

Residents can access all budget materials at www.alexandriava.gov/budget. Another budget work session, which will be a joint session between council and the School Board, will occur at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, at the ACPS boardroom at 1340 Braddock Road.

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OPINION

Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

You can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

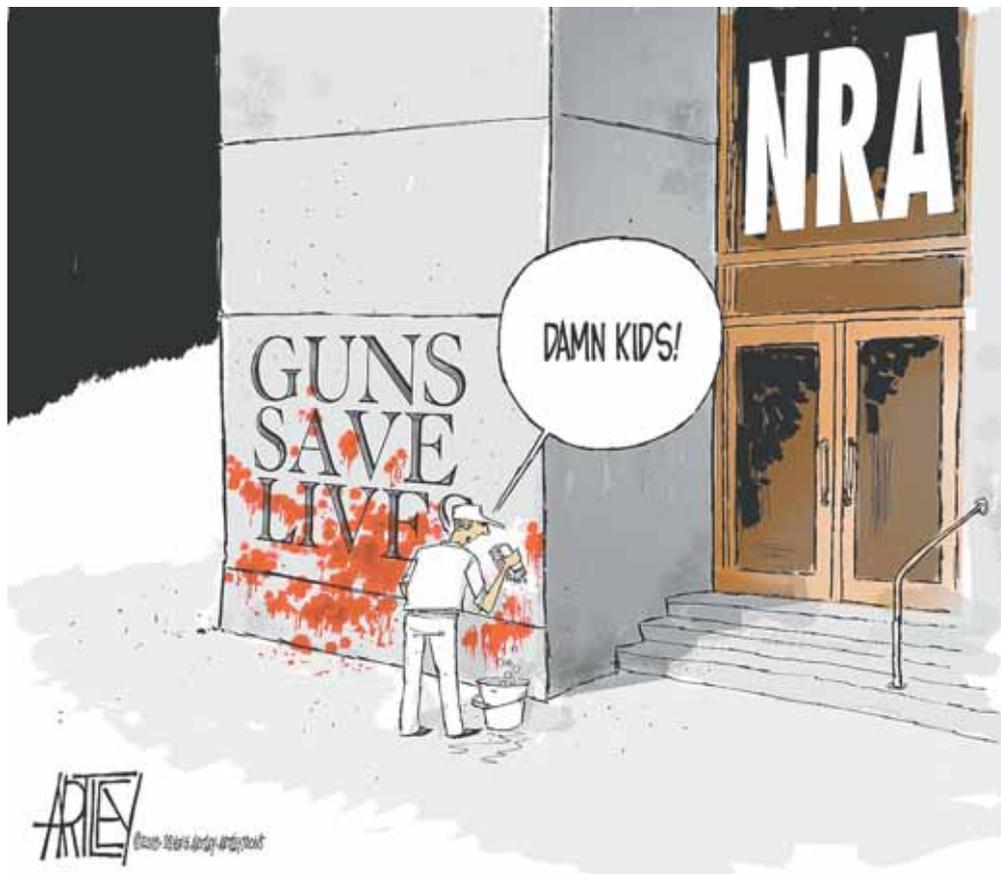
Students Have Had Enough

To the Editor:

As a high school senior living in Alexandria, I've always tried to stay in the know about current events. I've never gone as far as to write a letter to anyone, but that ends today.

As you know, last Wednesday, Feb. 14, another fatal school shooting occurred in Parkland, Fla. I have become too familiar with news like this: I remember going out to lower the flag to half staff after the Virginia Tech shooting when I was in elementary school. This issue is getting closer to all of us and becoming less preventable at the same time. There was an armed officer at the school in Florida; there was a lock down procedure in place; the FBI was even tipped multiple times about the shooter.

We cannot go by the book anymore; this example has proven it doesn't do enough. What we must do is take at least a small step in the right direction and pass gun control legislation, something we haven't seen as children



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I'm with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

have been gunned down.

What you might not understand is that these events have a weight on all of us: every student has to wonder what they would do if this happened to them. Our generation's educational experience has changed forever because of the failure of the U.S. government to protect us. I want you to prove me wrong; I know you know the right thing to do here. The voices of survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School are loud, because they echo the voices of millions of students, who, like me, have had enough.

Brendan Long
Alexandria

Respond to Possible Rabid Animal

To the Editor:

Geri Baldwin's letter in last week's Gazette Packet about the roaming red fox reminded me of a similar incident that occurred about six months ago. I was driving down Common-

wealth Avenue near the Grape and Bean at about 8:30 a.m. when a raccoon, moving very slowly and unsteadily, meandered across the street in front of my car. I stopped to let it pass and was able to get a pretty good look at it. Something was definitely not right with it. Given the possibility that it might be a rabid raccoon, I pulled over and called Animal Control to report the sighting. The person manning the phone at Animal Control asked me where I had seen the raccoon and then told me that by the time they sent an Animal Control officer out, the raccoon would be long gone. And that was that.

I have no idea how many people work in our city's Animal Control Department, but I would guess that there are very few, and their ability to respond to calls may be very limited. But it seems to me that the possibility of rabid raccoons and foxes roaming our densely-populated neighborhoods should not be dismissed so nonchalantly.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I'm with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America's young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don't let anyone tell you that there isn't hope, that we can't fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

Eleanor Shea
Alexandria

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Disturbing The Peace

To the Editor:

The noise starts before dawn. For the next 16 to 18 hours, well past dark, it continues, loud and invasive. It is the sound of airplanes landing or taking off over residential areas of Alexandria. Decibel levels recorded for flights over Old Town regularly exceed 75, which, according to the city noise code, could be illegal at street level.

This is a fairly recent development in our city, within the last year or so, ever since the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), without public comment, switched from radar to satellite-based GPS for its navigation

system. The result has been to create a rigid conveyor belt of flights, hundreds a day, flying over Alexandria from Reagan-National airport, as frequently as every 30 seconds at peak times.

The piercing drone is impossible to ignore, whether one is sitting outside, walking on the streets, studying in a classroom, eating at a restaurant, or having a conver-

sation inside a house. Studies reveal that regular exposure to the noise of low-flying airplanes affects physical and psychological health. It's happening here. Not to mention impacting property values. Try marketing a house if it's known that you live pinned under a flight path.

Living near an airport obviously requires a certain tolerance for flight noise. But the new flight path has amplified the effect to distressing levels. I have lived in Old Town for more than a decade and never before has flight noise been so incessant and loud. People say, get used to it.

No.

An area-wide working group (<http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/dca-reagan-national-community-working-group>) has proposed flight path changes that would keep ascending planes over the river longer. That is encouraging. But public pressure is needed to speed up changes. File complaints with the airport (<http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/dca-reagan-national-submit-noise-complaint>). Write your state and national legislators, your City Council members, and ask that this issue receive attention on the public agenda. See

what other communities are doing (in Phoenix and Minneapolis, lawsuits against the FAA have brought relief to neighborhoods).

Alexandria admirably wants to become a certified eco-city. But that's a pipedream unless something is done about noise pollution from above.

Tom O'Neill
Alexandria

Beware 'Know Your Place'

To the Editor:

Laura Ingraham's utterly ignorant directive to LeBron James (shut up and dribble) brought to mind a City of Alexandria manager saying something similar to me about a year ago — although I was “dribbling” at the time! The memory of the depth of angst I endured as a result of that admonition is still fresh. Point of fact, that incident was one of two that made me decide it was time to retire. But the concern of John Chapman and Will Bailey made my suffering easier to bear.

“Know your place” has been

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



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Next Goal: No More Child Gun-Related Deaths

BY RICHARD E. MERRITT
MEMBER, PUBLIC HEALTH
ADVISORY COMMISSION

Call me naïve, call me idealistic but there is something in the anger, the rage, but most importantly the clarity of commitment among the students in Parkland, Fla. to ensuring as one leader said “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School would be the site of the nation’s last mass shooting” that has me believing that their efforts may prove to be a “tipping point” for a grassroots

COMMENTARY movement to bring about some common sense gun legislation in the U.S.

While the tragic and heartbreaking mass shootings that seem to be occurring with greater frequency understandably grab the undivided attention of the media and the public, it is important to understand that mass shootings (in schools or anywhere else) are not the source of even a majority of the gun-related deaths that occur in the U.S. In fact, of the 30,000-plus gun deaths that occur each year, approximately two-thirds are attributed to suicide.

In the wake of the 17 deaths and multiple injuries at the Douglas High School by

a clearly troubled young man with a lethal weapon, it is entirely appropriate that school officials in Alexandria revisit safety measures and security protocols to ensure that nothing has been overlooked and to examine what, if anything, they can learn from the shooting in Florida. With all the attention on school safety, however, we must not overlook the fact that many school (and pre-school) age children will remain at greater risk of gun violence in their home rather than at school. That is because of the risk an estimated several thousand firearms, especially those that are unsecured, in the homes present to many of our children.

Gunshots are now the second leading cause of injury-related deaths in children, next only to car accidents. A recent study, based on 2012-2014 data, shows that, on average, 5,790 children in the U.S. receive treatment in hospital ERs each year for a gun-related injury, and almost 1,300 children die every year from gunfire. Estimates show that about 21 percent of the injuries and deaths are unintentional; of the remaining 79 percent intentional shootings, most were the result of suicides, homicides or domestic violence disputes, and not the consequence of a mass shooting.

National data points to almost one-third of children (1 to 17 years) in the U.S. live

in homes with at least one firearm, and of those households, about 43 percent contain one unlocked firearm. All in all, more than 2 million children live in homes with unsecured guns. Most children who died of unintentional gun injuries were shot by another child, most often while playing with a gun or showing it to a friend.

Suicides accounted for almost 40 percent of all intentional gun-related fatalities among children. Researchers, using Centers for Disease Control data, reported an alarming 60 percent increase in gun-related suicides among children from 2007-2014.

Mental health professionals point to suicide as an impulsive act. Many of those who attempt suicide, including teenagers, spend 10 minutes or less deliberating before the actual attempt. Interestingly, research shows that across all suicide attempts not involving a firearm, e.g. a drug overdose, less than 10 percent result in death. For gun suicides, however, about 90 percent end in death. It’s estimated that access to a household gun triples the risk of death by suicide.

Evidence is clear that the best way to lower the risk of unintentional injury or death to a child by a firearm or the risk of child suicide is by responsible storage of the firearm. And this means storing a gun

locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition.

Studies show that parents who are counseled by their pediatricians are more likely to adopt responsible gun storage practices. A nationwide controlled trial found that patients who were counseled by their pediatricians about gun safety — and who were offered free firearm cable locks — were 22 percent more likely to report following the recommended gun storage practices six months later.

Unfortunately, I could find no data on the number of children and residents of Alexandria who are killed or seriously injured each year as a result of gun violence, self-inflicted or otherwise. National data would suggest, however, that it’s not too far above or below the Vision Zero estimate of 37 killed or seriously injured annually in the city due to traffic-related injuries.

And in common with Vision Zero, gun-related injuries and fatalities also “pose a serious public health risk” and a “grave situation” that will require “an intensive collaborative effort” to resolve. Vision Zero is an excellent model for the establishment of Vision Zero II — the elimination of all child gun-related deaths and serious injuries in the city by 2028. It should go without saying, our children deserve no less.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

used since the advent of slavery to reinforce the notion that black folk are lesser beings with the capacity for nothing more than lesser roles ... especially so if you are a black woman. Ingraham’s focus on grammar is what one does when unable to deny the truth of what is being said.

Jacqueline Coachman
Alexandria

Ratchet Up School Security

To the Editor:

The shootings in Parkland, Fla. this past week should have told us rather vividly that we need to ensure that our school children are provided the best “fool proof” security system available.

Therefore, the basic litmus test for those on City Council and those running for a seat on the next City Council should be that they agree to adopt a new set of rules designed to deter those mentally deranged individuals attempting to terminate the lives of our children.

Council candidates must answer the following statements in the affirmative or you won’t vote for them.

❖ Do you agree to a 100 percent lockdown of every school once school starts in the morning?

❖ Do you agree that no one will enter

Working on Strategy To Fund Metro

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

Tuesday, Feb. 13 marked “Crossover” in the Virginia General Assembly, the point at which all Senate and House bills must be considered by the body in which they originated. During a six-hour marathon floor session, the Senate passed legislation that would provide critical funding for our Metro system.

COMMENTARY First opened in 1976, Metro today has 91 stations and 117 miles of track. This essential resource provides enhanced mobility, traffic congestion relief, and improved air quality, serving as a lynchpin for regional economic development for the entire National Capital Region.

In Virginia, Metro’s presence is estimated to generate more than \$600 million per year in sales and income tax revenues that benefit the entire Commonwealth. Without Metro, Virginians would be subjected to 56,500 more lane miles of traffic congestion on arterial roadways and an 80 percent decrease in transit-accessible jobs. Together with the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), Metro moves more than 290,000 people on an average weekday. Now, more than 40 years after its first trains went into operation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) customers are experiencing the effects of an aging system compounded by years of deferred maintenance.



The 30th District is home to seven Metro stations along the yellow and blue lines from Huntington to Pentagon City. As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and a former commissioner of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I have long supported transit and understand the important connection between the Virginia General Assembly and Metro. Eight years ago, I passed legislation to secure a commitment of \$50 million per year in Virginia state funds for Metro matched by Maryland and the District of Columbia. That \$150 million was in turn matched by the federal government — yielding \$3 billion over 10 years. However, this vital funding runs out in 2019. Members of our Congressional delegation have introduced legislation to continue this important federal match.

Following a 12-month restoration effort, during which WMATA replaced more than 50,000 railroad ties, fasteners, and insulators, in an effort to make rides smoother, safer and quieter, then-Governor Terry McAuliffe, working with former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and NVTC, initiated a detailed review of Metro. Secretary LaHood recommended that the region come together to create dedicated funding, institute cost control measures, address repair backlogs, and institute structural improvements to the WMATA board and governance structure.

WMATA’s general manager, Paul

Wiedefeld, has made great strides in addressing major repairs and building upon recent improvements to reliability, safety, and reduced operating costs through his “Back2Good” Initiative. Mr. Wiedefeld also identified \$25 billion in unfunded capital needs required for the system to remain safe and reliable. Dedicated funding of \$500 million per year, shared between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, will allow WMATA to meet these needs and restore the system to a much-improved and reliable operation.

Recognizing the importance of Metro and the urgency of the moment, the General Assembly has embarked on the difficult task of establishing a dedicated \$154 million funding source — Virginia’s share of the \$500 million required to right the ship. While Maryland uses state funds to fulfill their obligation, the Virginia Senate proposal allocates just \$30 million in state funding, with the majority of the additional funding on Virginia’s side coming from regional taxes imposed on transactions occurring within the Metro jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church and Loudoun. The pressures of rising populations, increased demands on schools, and the need to make major infrastructure improvements leads to cities and counties having little choice but to disproportionately rely on property taxes to generate additional revenue. Localities have extremely limited taxing authority because of the “Dillon

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

OPINION

Expanding Medicaid

BY CHARNIELE HERRING
DELEGATE (D-46)



The 2018 legislative session has just passed its halfway mark. Cross-over: where bills that have passed the House of Delegates go to the Senate for consideration and those from the Senate go to the House of Delegates for consideration. There are many areas that are still under heavy debate — grid modernization, refunds to Dominion customers, and, of course, the perennial issue of Medicaid Expansion. I have been an advocate of expanding Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act since the beginning. It brings much needed money back to the Commonwealth, spurs the growth of health sector jobs, and the most important component is of course providing nearly 400,000 Virginians with much needed health coverage.

COMMENTARY

The House of Delegates has been pushing back against enacting Medicaid expansion since McDonnell the administration. However, after much negotiation and compromise, House Republicans have agreed to include the language to expand Medicaid in the House version of the budget. This infusion frees significant money to be put into other areas such as education, targeted cybersecurity initiatives, and our state's rainy day cash reserve. It also means potential raises for teachers, law-enforcement officials, and state workers. This is in addition to the over 300,000 Virginians who would receive access to healthcare coverage. Medicaid expansion will also help stabilize at-risk hospitals and health centers in some vulnerable parts of the Commonwealth.

While I have long advocated for the expansion of Medicaid without reservation, this proposal is a compromise measure. In order for Republican members of the House

of Delegates to support this version of Medicaid expansion, they required programs similar to Indiana and Kentucky, or, to be plain, work requirements for Medicaid recipients. Under the proposal passed by the House of Delegates, Medicaid recipients would be required to spend at least 20 hours per week working or seeking employment. Participation in job-training, education programs, or public service would also count. There are exceptions for the elderly, children, pregnant women and others who are not deemed able-bodied built into the legislation, to give vulnerable groups some protection.

I am concerned about imposing work requirements to access healthcare. I believe it goes against our moral imperative as a country. It also adds additional work and significant cost to our state government agencies. It is money that could be used for our roads, schools, and public health. Instead, the money will be used to track some of the most vulnerable people in our society. It is my hope that even through this costly measure we can reach out to people to offer job training and other resources to help them make a better future for themselves and their families. Perhaps some good can come. The fact that more people will have health coverage coupled with the dollars that will come to our state, I plan to vote for even this version of Medicaid expansion with the hope that the exceptions to the work requirement are enough to protect our most vulnerable populations.

Charniele Herring represents Alexandria City's 46th District in the Virginia General Assembly where she serves as House Minority Caucus Chair and on the Courts of Justice, Counties, Cities, & Towns, and Agriculture, Chesapeake & Natural Resources Committees. Visit www.charnieleherring.com.

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

School Naming Suggestions. 7 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 1340 Braddock Place. The West End School Naming Committee has selected four possible names for the new school to present to the School Board, who will make the final decision on Feb. 22. The committee

has selected the names Katherine Johnson Elementary School, Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School, Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School, and Day-Ochoa Elementary School from the 355 recommendations it received in the fall. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/2083.

FY 2019 Budget Presentation. 7-9 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. City Manager Mark Jinks will present his proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program. This will be

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 21

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HISTORY

Herbert P. Tancil – The Mayors’ Colored Barber

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Herbert P. Tancil was the colored barber for 10 mayors in Alexandria from 1876-1908. His barber shop was first located at Princess Street, next door to the Alexandria Gazette. The business moved several times until it finally ended at 427 King St. Herbert’s King Street location was a testimony to how far he had come in the barber business. He was now located near his white clientele which included the mayor and local businessmen on King Street.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

A famous incident took place at Herbert’s barber shop on King Street in 1895. It was an altercation between John Underwood and the ex-mayor, Henry Strauss. John hit the 60-year-old ex-Mayor Strauss inside the barber shop. Then the ex-mayor knocked John down on the floor. The patrons of the barber shop and Mr. Tancil all rooted for the ex-mayor.

Herbert Pike Tancil was born in Georgia in 1853. He lived with his relative, Isaac Tancil in Alexandria in 1870. He started his barber apprenticeship under a colored barber named Thomas E. Dulaney in 1872 when he was 19 years old. Mr. Dulaney had

been in the barber business since the 1860s studying under a well-known white barber named, Harrison Jacobs.

In 1874, Herbert married Mollie H. Buster in Washington, D.C. They built their home at 1012 Oronoco St. in Alexandria. The couple had eight children. Their son, Herbert P. Tancil II went into the barber business and Herbert’s other sons, Park and Granville Tancil attended Howard University and became medical doctors.

The northern Virginia area experienced heavy snowfall on Dec. 22, 1908. Herbert P. Tancil closed his business for the last time and walked home from King Street to Oronoco Street in the heavy snow. He made it home but he suffered from a heart attack and died. The newspapers reported his death by saying, “Herbert P. Tancil, one of the best known colored residents of Alexandria ... death is supposed to have been hastened by overexertion in walking from his place of business to his home in the face of heavy snow.” He was 54-years old.

Mr. Tancil’s funeral was at Alfred Street Baptist Church. The service was conducted by Reverend Alexander Truatt and three other ministers. Many people attended his funeral including his clientele. The Virginia State Delegate James R. Caton was called on to make remarks on the exemplary life



Herbert P. Tancil

he lived at 1316 Prince St. His son, Herbert P. Tancil III did not go into the barber business; he went into the Federal government. He moved to Washington, D.C. After he retired from the Federal government, he worked for the D.C. government as a counselor for an orphanage. Herbert P. Tancil III was a devout Episcopalian and a member of Savior Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. On Aug. 20, 1989, Herbert III died at the age of 68.

Today, Herbert P. Tancil III has a son, Herbert P. Tancil IV. Herbert IV was the first Hartford Life Insurance Company’s African American group sales manager in Detroit, Mich. in 1985. He retired from the insurance company in 2004 with 26 years of service. In retirement, he continues his Hartford relationship as a contract benefits counselor representing the company during open enrollments, benefit fairs and meetings. He lives in Buckeye, Ariz. with his wife, Marcia, sons, Hebert P. Tancil V and Chad L. Tancil and their grandchildren including grandson, Herbert P. Tancil VI.

Indeed Herbert P. Tancil I, left his mark on Alexandria as the barber for 10 mayors.

Char McCargo Bah is a freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. Visit her blog at <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> for more about “The Other Alexandria.”

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Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Throughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

“For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important,” said Intondi, who is the author of “African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement.”

“One could argue that there wouldn’t

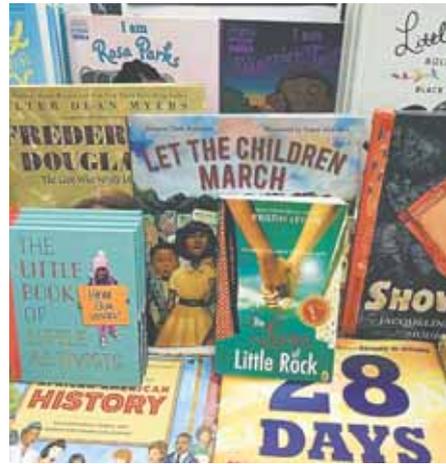


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don’t learn about him because he was gay,” continued Intondi. “So part of what’s important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on.”

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. “I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors,” she said. “I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold.”

“Books that I made students memorize [include] ‘I, Too, Am American’ and ‘My People,’ both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; ‘I Have a Dream,’ [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; ‘Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address,’ [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], ‘Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.’ ‘Tar Beach’ and ‘Aunt Harriet’s Underground Railroad in the Sky,’ [both by Faith Ringgold] and ‘If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks’ are book that my youngest students can dramatize,” said Lado.

“Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom” by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. “This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad,” she said. “I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners.”

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, “We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years.”

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: “Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird” by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is “The John Carlos Story” by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. “There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin,” he said. “The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book.”

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America’s past and puts current happenings into perspective. “Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality,” said Intondi. “Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world.”

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'Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret'

ONGOING

"Form and Void." Various times through Feb. 25 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellyn Weiss's work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss's creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

"Winter Respite." Through Feb. 25, Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. NOVA Plein Air Artists debuts its exhibit "Winter Respite." NOVA Plein Air Artists is a group of Northern Virginia artists who regularly paint together in outdoor settings; in local public and private gardens, parks, farms, wineries, and at other local sites. This show features their recent oil paintings showcasing floral still lifes, landscapes and florals, painted en plein air. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Poster Exhibit. Through Feb. 28, artwork from the winners of the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest will be on exhibit at City Hall, 301 King St. The annual contest, sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, is for Alexandria City Public School students in grades 2-5. This year's contest theme is "Serving the People, Serving America, Serving Alexandria." Visit alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory or call 703-746-4356.

New Project Studio. Through Feb. 28, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 8. Over the course of three months, Korean painter and sculptor Suh Yongsun will transform the New Project Studio into a workshop and community space for discussions and creativity. He will explore public, social, and political issues in present-day Korea while developing a visual discourse of his time creating in Alexandria. Visit torpedofactory.org.

1939 Library Sit-In Display. Through Feb. 28, at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Beatley Central Library will host the 16-panel display on the 1939 Library Sit-In — one of America's first civil rights sit-ins that took place on Aug. 21, 1939. Stop by any library location and get a free commemorative Library Sit-In pin. February Tours of the Freedom House Museum. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

U-Street the Musical. Through March 3, various times at the Richard Kauffman Auditorium (Lee Center), 1108 Jefferson St. U-Street, the musical is an exploration of homelessness in America brought to life with 12 musical numbers, and a 30-member cast from around the D.C. metro area. The production is also a fundraiser to support programs for low-income youth in Alexandria. \$20. Call 703-640-4980 or visit www.momentumcinc.org.

FEB. 22-MARCH 25

Photo-documentary Study. Various times at Theatre Two, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Select photos from artist/photographer Nina Tisara's photo-documentary study of worship in Alexandria's predominantly African American churches for Avant Bard's production of the "Gospel at

Singer Roz White to perform at MetroStage in Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

MetroStage in Alexandria is presenting "Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret," conceived and performed by Roz White, on Saturday and Sunday, Feb 24-25. The show is the first in its Spring Solo Series celebrating work by women, about women, and starring women.

Actor and MetroStage favorite Roz White pays tribute to Alberta Hunter, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Abbey Lincoln, Roberta Flack, and Nina Simone, depicting their hardships and challenges, and their revolutionary influence on music and pop culture. Empowered by their determination, talent and artistry, each has a story to tell and music to be celebrated. The music director and piano accompanist is Michael Hill.

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director at MetroStage, "'Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret' is the inspiration of Roz White, one of MetroStage's favorite artists. She has performed in so many of our productions playing singers like Billie Holliday, Pearl Bailey, Alberta Hunter and so many more that it only seems right that Roz would devise a show featuring five influential revolutionary female performing artists. From Sister Rosetta Tharpe to Alberta Hunter to Nina Simone and so many others, these women have contributed so much and influenced so many artists that followed."

Griffin added that MetroStage has always been committed to diversity in the stories it tells — from the stage as well as diversity in casting — and has always offered a production in February especially appropriate for Black History Month. "So, a musical presentation celebrating the influence and power of these African American vocal artists seems like it is a perfect fit," she said. "We are proud to showcase Roz White and her incredible range of talent on our stage and give her an opportunity to pay tribute to these African American musical icons."

According to White, "I have been crafting solo performance pieces since my senior year at Howard University as a musical theatre major. My mentor, Mike Malone, co-founder of The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, was the coordinator of the musical theatre program



Roz White will perform in her solo show, "Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret" at MetroStage, in Alexandria.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

at Howard, and assigned a project of creating a one-person show to the seniors in my graduating class. It was then, that I discovered my love and admiration for strong women in the entertainment industry," she said.

"Fast forward 24 years, and I have performed cabaret pieces all over the country featuring the stories of powerful and influential female artists. 'Resist' is a piece I recently created in tribute to five women I have admired and studied for years — particularly because their voices don't fit the cookie-cutter sex symbol mold of the music industry," she said.

"Alberta Hunter inspires me because she was a self-made, outspoken trailblazer, who called her own shots as a songwriter, and was able to revive her career when she was well into her 80s. Abbey Lincoln fought against being objectified for her svelte figure and made the industry recognize her powerful message of self-awareness. Sister Rosetta Tharpe took her gospel guitar and vocals into places that were taboo for a gospel singer, and put her signature stamp on what we know as rock-n-roll. Roberta Flack (also a Howard Alum) was a voice of calm, and a soothing presence during the tumultuous '60s, and established herself as a prolific songstress, penning classic tunes that are still in radio rotation today. And Nina Simone was a self-proclaimed protest singer ... admonishing the responsible artist to reflect the times in which she lives, with dignity and

excellence," she said.

White has been seen in many of MetroStage's productions and world premieres over the past 15 years beginning with "Three Sistahs" in 2002, and including "Blackberry Daze," "Gin Game," "Black Pearl Sings," "Shake Loose," "Uprising," "Bessie's Blues," "Cool Papa's Party," and others.

The other two shows in the Spring Solo Series include "George ... Don't Do That," the music and magic of British comedienne Joyce Grenfell, which is devised and performed by British actor Catherine Flye, on March 8-25. Flye starred in the holiday show, "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush." Next up is "I Did It My Way in Yiddish" (In English), written and performed by Canadian/New Zealand Jewish comic actor, musician and writer Deb Filler, on April 13-29.

And in addition to the Spring Solo Series, there will be a series of free play readings by a group of women playwrights, the Pipeline Playwrights, on Mondays, March 26, April 16 and April 30. This is their second annual visit to MetroStage.

Performances for "Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret" are Saturday, Feb 24 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. All tickets are \$45. The MetroStage venue is located at 1201 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Colonus." An afterchat is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

"The Audience." 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) presents "The Audience," as the club's fundraiser for local candidates. For 60 years, from 1952 on, every Tuesday afternoon, Queen Elizabeth II met in Buckingham Palace in a private audience with her prime

ministers. What did they discuss? How candid were they? Before the performance, from 7-8 p.m. attendees will be treated to a buffet with champagne. \$35. Visit www.alexandriacrwc.org/.

Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its third and most exciting year so far. This year's expanded event features over 90 Alexandria high school students and will welcome

two additional schools to its juried exhibition; Commonwealth Academy and The Howard Gardner School. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

Late Shift at the Factory. 7-11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria's past comes to life with help from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Artists and innovators team up for a night of unearthed secrets, music, and trivia celebrating the region's rich history. Presented in collaboration with the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Free. No

registration required. Call 703-746-4399.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Veteran's Meet and Greet. 10-11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. All veterans are invited to join the Office of Historic Alexandria for a meet and greet reception at the Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum. Enjoy coffee, tea, and pastries while catching up with old and new friends. Browse the exhibits for free, including the

ENTERTAINMENT

recently opened World War I exhibit and hear about plans to honor all veterans during the World War I 100th anniversary commemoration. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

"Kepi to Cartridge Box." 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the clothing and equipment used by Union soldiers during the Civil War in "Kepi to Cartridge Box: Outfitting Billy Yank." Free. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

Inventors of Color. 11 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This free program from the National Park Service describes crucial inventions developed by enslaved people and others which helped cultivate the United States. From a slave named Ned, who invented the cotton scrapper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Keeping Heritage Alive: African Story Telling. 11 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sheila Arnold Jones, a local storyteller, will be a program featuring stories and songs written, told, or passed down through the African-American culture. For adults and kids of all ages. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

90th Anniversary Luncheon. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Celebrating with a luncheon and a period fashion show spanning our 90 years of service to the National Society of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) of the Nelly Custis Chapter will be held. \$45. Call 703-909-1605 or visit nellycustisdar.org.

Brides for Haiti. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Brides For Haiti, a fundraising effort of St Mary's Church, will host a discount bridal sale event at the Sheraton in Alexandria. Brides for Haiti will have hundreds of wedding dresses - many that are designer gowns - costing \$199 each, and veils costing from \$15 to \$50. Brides should wear fitting clothes under their normal clothes; changing space is limited during the event. Pre-register for the event on the Brides for Haiti Facebook page or by emailing Brides4Haiti@gmail.com.

Live Owl Prowl. Noon-1 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Come meet live owls up close. Soar into the night time world of Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls. \$10 per person for Fairfax County residents and \$12 for out-of-county participants. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Freedom House Museum Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria, the public is invited to visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check at the door. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/.

Under the Same Roof. 2-3:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. This tour will include parts of the house not normally open to the public. Space is limited. \$8 in advance, \$12 at the door, members of Lee-Fendall House free. Visit



PHOTO BY JIM TURNER

Complete Dogness

Complete Dogness is a new family friendly performance about a delightful little doggy with bad habits. She can eat a delicious wool sweater or steal a whole block of cheese in no time. But there is hope as Barky learns new tricks and as the whole family adjusts. The performance incorporates spoken word, movement, and music. \$15 adults, \$10 children under age 10. Sunday, March 11, 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Call 703-933-1111 and www.nvfaa.org.

www.leefendallhouse.org.

Evening of Music: Tom Teasley and Charles Williams. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This concert will focus on the works of Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, and other important African American figures. In addition to the February concert, a video compilation created by the duo will play in the Parker-Gray gallery during Black History Month. Call 703-746-4356.

Family Bingo Night. 5-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Join Good Shepherd Housing for their second Family Bingo Night. Tickets include a pasta dinner, refreshments (beer and wine available for purchase separately), plenty of prizes and a fun silent auction. Get tickets at 501auctions.com/gshbingo?blm_aid=27934; \$25 (includes dinner and six bingo cards); \$10 children 5-10 years old (includes dinner and six bingo cards); children under 5 can free. Call 703-768-9404 or visit www.goodhousing.org.

Spy a Woodcock Courtship. 5:30-7 p.m. at Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. As spring approaches, a woodcock's fancy turns to love. Don't miss the chance to hopefully witness the woodcock's amazing courtship ritual during a stroll through Huntley Meadows Park. Plan for a walk of approximately 1.5 miles on uneven terrain, and bring a flashlight. This event will be canceled if it rains. \$7. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Gallery Workout. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane Franklin Dance presents Gallery Workout - movement and sound, a performance in cooperation with Form and Void, visual art show by Ellyn Weiss. \$15. Call 703-933-1111 or visit www.nvfaa.org/events-upcoming.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 24-25

Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret. Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Roz White pays tribute to Alberta Hunter, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Abbey Lincoln, Roberta Flack, and Nina Simone, depicting their hardships and challenges, and their revolutionary influence on music and pop culture. Empowered by their determination, talent and artistry, each has a story to tell and music to be celebrated. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Focuses on some of the most important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. An exhibition of new photographs by E. E. McCollum. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/.

"The Finishers." 4 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Beth El Hebrew Congregation is presenting the acclaimed film "The Finishers" in a sneak-peek preview event for the 2018 ReelAbilities Film Festival, which is powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern VA. Free, but RSVP for seats and refreshments at tinyurl.com/BethEl-TheFinishers-2-25-18.

Choral Lenten Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. St. Paul's Episcopal Church will present a Choral Lenten Evensong in memory of the late Raymond F. Glover, a parishioner and international icon in the field of church music, directed by Grant

Peer behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace into the woman behind the crown and the moments that have formed the modern monarchy. Written by Peter Morgan, the creator of "The Crown" Netflix series.

SHOW DATES:
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'The Audience'

Story of Queen Elizabeth's behind-the-scenes meetings with her prime ministers.

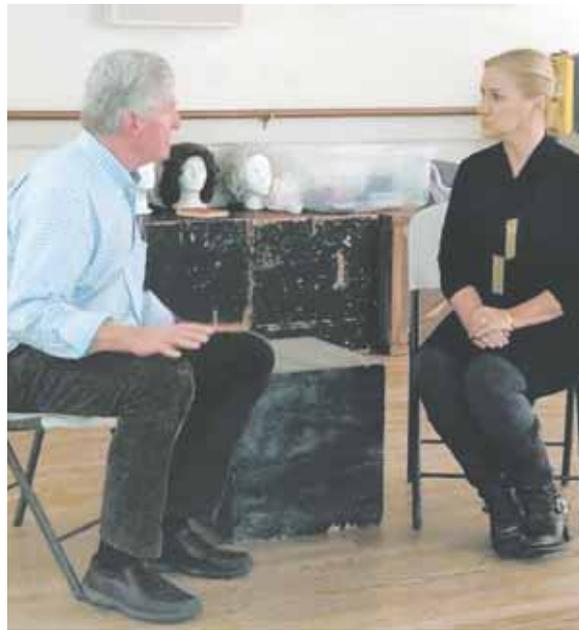
BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Audience" from Feb. 24 to March 17. From the writer of the Netflix drama, "The Crown," playwright Peter Morgan takes audiences behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace. For the past 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II has met with each of her 12 prime ministers in private, weekly meetings at Buckingham Palace. Both parties agree to never repeat what is said in these private "audiences." From Churchill to Margaret Thatcher, Morgan imagines what these meetings would be like as they span decades of the Queen's reign.

Co-producer and LTA President Russell Wyland has produced more than 20 shows at LTA and has been active at the theatre for 28 years. "The longer I am around LTA, the more choosy I become about shows and the more I want to work with people who are bringing new energy to our troupe. I won't produce just any show anymore. It has to either connect to my personal interests or it has to have some unique technical challenge. 'The Audience' has both. My education background (BA, MA, and PhD) is in British literature, and 'The Audience' has been high on my list of shows to produce since I first read about it when it was running in London's West End," he said. His co-producer on this show is Rebecca Sheehy.

He added: "Author Peter Morgan didn't really know what went on behind the closed doors of the Queen's Buckingham Palace drawing room when he wrote the play, but anyone interested in English literature or history has wondered about the famous interactions between queen and prime minister. I am no different and as a sort of Anglophile who visits England once or twice a year, the show feels very real to me."

Nicky McDonnell is playing the lead role of Queen Elizabeth. She said what strikes her about Elizabeth is her broad worldly view of humanity and her compassion and understanding of the Commonwealth — not just the UK. "Over the years I have watched and read many pieces on the monarchy. The images of hats and pearls and carriages and all the pomp and circumstance seem to take



Will Cooke (Prime Minister Harold Wilson) talks with Nicky McDonnell (Queen Elizabeth II) in LTA's production of "The Audience."

PHOTO BY
CHRISTINE FARRELL

his war heroics, his stubborn and often obstinate manner, but most significantly his devout, undying and indefatigable love for his country," he said.

"Eden, who apprenticed for 15 years under Churchill, was a good man most likely better suited for apprenticeship. Thrust into leadership, his tenure shortened by addiction and scandal, he bore a striking image and earned popularity among the Commonwealth, but soon wilted badly under the weight of conflict," he said.

Richard Isaacs is playing two roles as Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron. "The main challenge I've found in playing both Tony Blair and David Cameron is finding any distinction between the two. I've watched Robert Heiny (as Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden) and Janette Moman (Margaret Thatcher and young Elizabeth's nanny) do this beautifully. They really bring their characters to life ... you would never think it was the same actor playing both roles. But Blair and Cameron are contemporaries, same age, same school, similar demographics, they dress the same, and are possibly fans of each other. There's not much to differentiate the two personality-wise," he said.

Director Ruben Vellekoop said his biggest challenge in directing was staying true to Peter Morgan's characters. "While it is a piece about legends, in this room in Buckingham Palace, they can be just people: people who lived and breathed, but who are still characters in a play. It was never my goal to make this a documentary; instead I wanted to embrace those hints of magic in 'The Audience.' And just like you and me, their lives go up and down, with only history deciding how they are remem-

bered," he said.

Brian Lyons-Burke is playing the role of Prime Minister John Major. "From a bare reading of the script, it would be easy to present John Major as a caricature, and in fact, to play the role a bit 'over the top' for laughs," he said. "Instead, I have been led by my director and my fellow actors to reach for an understanding of the person, of their challenges, and of their role in the management of the British Government in support of the Queen," he said.

Will Cooke is playing the role of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, a Labor Prime Minister who served two terms: 1964-1970 and 1974-1976. "He came from a very humble background in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, but was gifted with a brilliant mind, a photographic memory, a commitment to serve the least fortunate of society, and an exemplary education, earning two Firsts from Jesus College, Oxford. He was a Civil Servant all his life," he said.

Evie Graham Jewett is playing the role of young Elizabeth. "Young Elizabeth is processing the fact that her uncle has abdicated the throne, making her the heir apparent. She has to move to the palace, trade her schoolwork for courtly training and most markedly, give up a piece of herself. She desperately wants to be a child, but the crown comes with a very adult costume. Her conversations with The Queen, are like those of a little girl with her imaginary friend. She shows spunk, curiosity and a hint of vulnerability," she said.

Paul Donahue plays the role of the Equerry, the right-hand man to the Queen. "He manages her day-to-day appointments and affairs and therefore is always an open ear to anything that may be on her mind. In this production, he is a kind of timeless narrator painting a picture of the setting and time stamping the scenes with each of her Majesty's prime ministers," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Audience" from Feb. 24 to March 17. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Hellmers. A reception will follow. This service is free to the public, with optional donations going to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry, serving those in need. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

Movement and Sound. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A performance by Jane Franklin Dance in cooperation with Form and Void, visual art show by Elyn Weiss A "Gallery Workout" heightens the perception of visual art with movement and sound that leads to a greater understanding of the art itself. \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

Freedom Riders. 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Based on Raymond Arsenault's

book "Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice," this two-hour documentary tells the story of the summer of 1961 when more than 400 Black and white Americans risked their lives traveling together in the segregated South to protest segregation. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

Black History Month Movie Series. 6 p.m. in the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. Celebrate Black History Month with a movie highlighting African American contributions and their impact on the nation: The Great Debaters (PG-13). Enjoy free popcorn while supplies last. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/black-history-month-movie-series-tickets-42260523363.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

"Border." 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visual art, movement, audio interviews by community members focus on borders. Hear of chance happenings told through movement and spoken word. Learn about people who have inspired a redirection of action, aided others in crossing boundaries or made barriers insignificant. Find threads of bias, isolation and loneliness residing alongside the urge for belonging. \$15 at www.nvfaa.org.

World War I Lecture Series. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "The Hello Girls" (with a book signing) by

Elizabeth Cobbs. On the eve of American involvement in World War I, the Selective Service Act drafted 2.8 million American men to do their part for home and country. Three hundred remarkable women known as "The Hello Girls" were selected to operate the vital communications network that helped the Allies win. \$10 per person; all three lectures \$25 (March 1, 15, 22). Reservations recommended. Tickets at shop.alexandria.gov.

MARCH 1-31

Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Tuesdays) at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The 55th annual Needlework show and sale at Woodlawn Estate, the historic home

of Nelly Custis, America's foremost needleworker. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, house tours, and more for the whole family. Adults \$15, k-12 \$6, 5 and under free. Call 703-570-6903 or visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/.

MARCH 1-APRIL 15

"Parallel Lives." Various times, March 1-April 15, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions embrace and explore their place in the world. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 2-APRIL 1

“Outdoors In.” Various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Outdoors In” showcases the ways artists see nature and depict it in paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew about nature came from artists and others who drew and painted what they saw and experienced. Artists include local students. Opening reception takes place Friday, March 2, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Songwriting Contest Finalists Perform. 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists (including Jarrett Nicolay of Alexandria) and one will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. Three songwriters from the Young Songwriter category (applicants who are under 18 years of age) will also perform live and compete for \$2,500. Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Historic Sites in Peril. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Meet leaders in Mid-Atlantic archaeology, and learn about their challenges and finds. Speakers from a variety of projects in Virginia and Maryland will discuss sites in peril. Refreshments and lunch included in registration. Registration is \$55; \$45 for Friends of Gunston

Hall and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology, \$25 students. Contact Lacey Villiva at lvilliva@gunstonhall.org, or 703-550-9220. To register online, visit bit.ly/2BcZskw.

Writer’s Workshop. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young adults (age 16 and older) and adults interested in writing for the young adult market. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. This workshop is limited to 14 people. A continental breakfast and snacks will be provided. Bring lunch. Reservations are required, and the \$100 registration fee must be paid online by March 1 at shop.alexandriava.gov. For more information, call 703-746-4356.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Classic car show is from 9:30-11 a.m. Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon. Parade starts at 12:15 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Don green and line King Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia to kick off the D.C. region’s St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at the 37th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit www.ballyshanners.org for schedule and locations.

Needle and Thread-Maker Market & Pop-Up Shop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A historically-hip shopping experience on the first Saturday of the Annual Needlework Show. Area makers sell their needle art and textile-based wares in the front entrance to the historic mansion. Call 703-570-6903



Above: Night Comes, Ellyn Weiss, 52" x 12', oil bar, charcoal, and acrylic, 2017
‘Form and Void’

Ellyn Weiss’s work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss’s creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Through Feb. 25, various times at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

or visit woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshop/.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade Open House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. John Carlyle’s son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Step back in time to see what life was like in the 19th century in Alexandria, and to learn more about this part of Carlyle’s family life. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com.

Locals’ Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Sweet Sophia local honey product tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Floral Design Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a beautiful, early spring flower arrangement using cut flowers and flowering branches with the help of designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn to harvest and force flowering branches and get ideas for ways to use them in floral designs at home. Register for program code and supply fee – \$38/person, with a \$25/person supply fee. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 112 6601 for program and 290 112 6602 for supply fee, or call 703-642-5173.

Concerts at St. Luke’s. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. Concerts at St. Luke’s presents Melissa Mino, soprano and Brad Clark, pianist, offering a program of American Art Songs, arias, and tunes from the Great

American Songbook. A reception will follow to meet the artists. \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

The Origin of Manners Tea Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Concepts of courtesy and good manners have defined cultures throughout history and made social interaction run smoothly. Learn how manners have changed from medieval times to the Victorian era to the present day, and consider the differences between “good manners” and “etiquette.” For adults. \$32/person (program and tea); \$12 (program only). By reservation only. Call 703-941-7987.

Winter Lecture Series. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. No southern garden would be complete without a beautiful azalea. Azalea expert Don Hyatt discusses the diversity of Asian evergreen azaleas, including old favorites, newer introductions and recent trends in hybridizing. For adults. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 186 0601 or call 703-642-5173.

“Parallel Lives” Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions embrace and explore their place in the world. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.



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LETTERS



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 8-1-111 (DEFINITIONS), 8-1-113 (RENTAL INSPECTION DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED), and 8-1-120 (RIGHT OF ENTRY) of Article G-1 (RESIDENTIAL RENTAL INSPECTION DISTRICTS), of Title 8 (BUILDING CODE REGULATIONS) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed City Code amendment clarifies that the areas of the City that are subject to the City's Residential Rental Inspection program are the year 2000 Alexandria census tracts 1.01, 1.03, 1.04, 1.05, 3.01, 3.02, 3.03, 4.01, 4.02, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.02, 12.02, 12.03, 12.04, 13.00, 14.00, 16.00, 18.01, 18.02, and 20.01. This clarification is needed because the City's census tract numbers have changed since time of the program's creation and City Code Section 8-1-113 does not specify which census year was controlling. The intent of this ordinance is not to change any of the boundaries of the program, nor is the intent to make any additional structures subject to the program. Additionally, this proposed City Code amendment makes a few non-substantive / stylistic changes to City Code Sections 8-1-111 and 8-1-120.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article A (Solicitation for Charitable Purposes) of Chapter 10 (Solicitations) of Title 9 (Licensing and Regulation) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Section 9-10-2 to Section 9-10-4 require charitable organizations to register with the City of Alexandria by providing certain required information, such as the name, location, purpose, IRS status, and other information. The provisions further provide that the City may publish notice that the charity is not properly registered as a means of enforcement.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs administers the Virginia Solicitation of Contributions law (Virginia Code § 57-48 et al) and has a thorough regulatory scheme regarding charitable organizations including a searchable data base, required forms, and enforcement mechanisms. Charitable organizations that are registered properly under Virginia state law are allowed to produce a copy of their registration with the state agency rather than comply with the any locality's registration requirement. The proposed ordinance repeals the portion of the Article that is redundant with the Virginia State Code. Additionally, this amendment deletes reference to repealed Virginia Code provisions. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 13 (Environmental Offenses) of Title 11 (Health, Environmental and Sanitary Regulations) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

Chapter 13 of the City Code enumerates penalties and enforcement mechanisms for illegal dumping, unlawful storage or accumulation of waste, and failure to keep property free from accumulation of waste. The current ordinance makes any violation of the Chapter a criminal violation.

The proposed amendment provides for civil enforcement of some environmental infractions in the Chapter and reserves criminal enforcement for egregious or repeated environmental infractions. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-2-227 (SAME—CREDIT FOR TAX PAID TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS) of Division 3 (TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND MACHINERY AND TOOLS) of Article M (LEVY AND COLLECTION OF PROPERTY TAXES) of Chapter 2 (TAXATION) of Title 3 (FINANCE, TAXATION AND PROCUREMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The Finance Department seeks to amend Section 3-2-227 to provide that citizens receive a credit for personal property taxes that were paid to another jurisdiction that were legally assessed. The ordinance currently states that citizens are entitled to a credit for any taxes paid to another jurisdiction. Accordingly, if an individual delays updating their records when moving from another jurisdiction, the current ordinance implies that the taxpayer would be erroneously absolved from paying their due taxes to the City. Individuals who move during a tax year will still be entitled to proration and credit, but this amendment would close a loophole for other instances. The proposed amendment brings the ordinance in line with the Virginia Code. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-5-11 (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT REQUIRED) of Article B (FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE) of Chapter 5 (OFFICERS AND EMPLOYERS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance updates the language of City Code Section 2-5-11 to reflect that the Alexandria Sanitation Authority is doing business as Alexandria Renew Enterprises. The ordinance will also remove the specific due date for the financial disclosure documents to be filed in the City Clerk's office and instead defer to the date designated by the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act in the Virginia State Code. This date has changed several times in recent years and this amendment would remove the need for constant updating of the City Code. This ordinance is part of the comprehensive effort to update the City Code.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-100 (Definitions) of Article II (Definitions); Section 6-600 (Mount Vernon Avenue Urban Overlay Zone) of Article VI (Special and Overlay Zones); Section 8-100 (Off-Street Parking Required), Section

8-200 (General Parking Regulations), Section 8-300 (Central Business District), and Section 8-400 (King Street Transit Parking District) all of Article VIII (Off-Street Parking and Loading); and Section 11-500 (Special Use Permits) of Article XI (Development Approvals and Procedures); all of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council on January 20, 2018 as Text Amendment No. 2017-0010 to revise the commercial parking requirements, including associated changes.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment 2017-0010, approved by the City Council on January 20, 2018, to revise the commercial parking requirements, including associated changes.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by City Council to amend Blocks 4 and 5 of the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0009 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0009, approved by the City Council on January 20, 2018, to amend Blocks 4 and 5 of the Eisenhower East Small Area plan.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment approved by city council on January 20, 2018 to the Beauregard chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0008 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2017-0008 to add residential uses to the Beauregard Small Area Plan, approved by the City Council on January 20, 2018.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section No. 5-602 (Coordinated development districts created, consistency with master plan, required approvals) of Article No. V (Mixed Use Zones) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2017-0009.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2017-0009 to adopt revised uses and associated regulations to Coordinated Development District #23 to amend the permitted uses.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 011.03 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 2280 North Beauregard Street from, RA/Multifamily to Coordinated Development District #23 in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2017-0005.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2017-0005, to rezone the property at 2280 North Beauregard Street from, RA/Multifamily to Coordinated Development District #23.

AN ORDINANCE to repeal Section 13-1-28 (PLACARDS, POSTERS, ETC.) of Chapter 1 (GENERAL OFFENSES) of Title 13 (MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance eliminates the criminal prohibition on placing placards or posters that are unsightly, detrimental to the neighborhood, or dangerous to traffic. This issue is adequately addressed with the civil penalties contained in the City's sign ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 061.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning a portion of the property at 201 Cambridge Road from RC/High Density Apartment to R-8/Single Family in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2017-0001.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2017-0001, to rezone the property at 201 Cambridge Road from RC/High Density Apartment to R-8/Single Family.

Public hearing for a two (2) year license agreement renewal with Fight for Children for the Alexandria Boxing Club at Charles Houston Recreation Center Located at 901 Wythe St.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday, FEBRUARY 24, 2018. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK.

FROM PAGE 12

any school without being previously cleared by the principal or their designated representative?

❖ Do you agree to have at least two Alexandria police officers present in every school during school hours?

❖ Do you agree to hire at least two off duty police officers to patrol the school grounds of every school during the non-school hours?

❖ Do you agree to have at least two teachers in every school approved to have concealed carry permits?

❖ Do you agree to add magnetometers to all schools in order that every student and their baggage are screened upon entry to the school premises.

In addition to agreeing to those six questions, each school must also have a detailed plan of action of how to respond to an attack. A GAO report of March 10, 2016 titled "Improved Federal Coordination Could Better Assist K-12 Schools Prepare for Emergencies" (GAO-16-144) indicates that many states and jurisdictions do not avail themselves of Federal resources.

I recommend that the City Council in conjunction with the Police Department and the School Board review the available resources as outlined in the GAO report, and recommend for adoption those programs still in force that can be utilized locally.

There is no higher priority in government than to protect our children and every member of council must agree to this stringent set of rules or find another vocation.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

A Maligned First President

To the Editor:

Even in Virginia, George Washington's home state, and Alexandria, his chosen hometown, there have been attacks on statues and memorials honoring him, the man whose contributions did more than anyone else's to win our freedom and entice our fractious states into a united nation. His colleagues, recognizing he was the only man who could do so, named him commander-in-chief of our Revolutionary forces and later wrote the Constitution with him in mind as our first President. Unanimously elected President twice, even he found it difficult to maintain our tenuous unity. The benefits of attacking Washington are unclear, but attacks are mount-

ing. Mind-boggling, shameful and far-fetched, they reveal dangerous ignorance and/or callous disregard of our history.

Last August on the national TV show "Face the Nation," U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine called for the removal of George Washington's statue from the U.S. Capitol — to be replaced by one honoring another Virginian whom he declared "would better represent us." I was informed by another source that he later attempted to "walk that one back," but the senator never confirmed that change in response to my phone calls and emails that his staff had requested I submit.

Soon after, an unnamed Alexandria historian publicly cast a slur on the character and reputation of our greatest American hero by declaring that Pohick Church had refused to sell him a pew. This allegation suggested that he was unworthy to be a regular member of the congregation because the usual custom at that time was to fund a new church by income from the sale of pews for a family's use. In fact, Washington bought a pew at auction and served as a vestryman (re-elected member of the governing board) there for 22 years.

Although Washington attended our Christ Church regularly after his Presidency and had bought the largest and most expensive pew in the church, its new rector, supported by the vestry's unanimous vote, decided to remove his memorial plaque from the church wall where it has been for 148 years, because seeing it makes some people "feel unsafe and unwelcome." As a member of the parish for many years, I found the plaques to Washington and RE Lee inspirational; when I faced difficulties, I was reminded those men had prayed and persevered — and I should too. Church leaders also alleged it is "inappropriate to honor him and RE Lee in our sanctuary." Of course, many Episcopal churches have long honored people by stained glass windows and wall plaques. Worthy dignitaries were buried even under the chancel. A bronze replica of Houdon's statue of Washington has long stood in the National Cathedral's (Episcopal) nave.

It is especially distressing that even past recognitions of Washington in city facilities have been discontinued this year. The Duncan Library, which for the last two years sponsored a George Washington birthday party for children that included reenactors in 18th century attire telling information interesting to that age group — and birthday refreshments — declined to offer that event this year; the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

Inspiring Movement

By BROOKE SYDNOR CURRAN



RunningBrooke offers 5 Best Practices for how to implement effective physical activity into the school day and week. This is the first in a five-part series to explain these practices and show how to find small pockets of time to get Alexandria's youth moving to meet the CDC-recommended 60 minutes of daily activity.

Best Practice #1: Inspire more students to get involved in physical recreation programs, clubs, and sports, and remove the barriers that prevent them from participating.

Being active literally makes our brains work better. It prepares students to learn and perform at their best, increases their focus and on-task behavior, and builds stronger memory. Straight up, physically active kids academically outperform their less active peers. But despite all of these incredible benefits, many students do not get enough opportunities to be physically active. In fact, nationwide, only 55 percent of all schools offer opportunities for students to participate in physical activity clubs or intramural sports programs. (Source: School Health Policies and Practices Study 2014)

The National Institute for Out-of-School Time reports that students who regularly participate in these programs have: better school attendance and engagement in learning; reduced behavioral issues; improved test scores and grades; and less involvement in risky activities. In one study, after being physically active in an after-school program for 9 months, memory tasks improved by 16 percent.

There are many innovative programs and activities already available to students across Alexandria. One of these programs, Local Motion Project, focuses on dance integration. Dance integration is an approach to teaching that connects dance with another academic content area, mutually reinforcing objectives in both. In this approach, children are introduced to dance as an art form, which is often missing from our schools, and it energizes the classroom with physically active learning, elevating kids' heart rates and boosting brain power.

According to Sara Lavan, executive director, "Our dance program has a strong emphasis on the creative and collaborative processes, and these skills are what are needed in the 21st century. This is more than getting children up out of their seats — they are learning to work and share ideas with peers, express ideas through movement, and respect each other as they watch final dances performed."

RunningBrooke is honored to partner with Local Motion Project and other great programs throughout Alexandria. Together, and with the support of the greater community, we help make these programs available to all children across Alexandria. We remove some of the barriers, like cost, accessibility, and awareness that prevent some students from participating. This collaboration helps Alexandria's students meet the 60 minutes of recommended activity per day and develop the skills they need to succeed both in school and life.

Please look for next week's piece about Best Practice #2: Making our classrooms more physically active with short "brain" boosts of activity and outdoor learning. See www.runningbrooke.org

the City of Alexandria's combined sewer system. The meeting is open to the public. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/CleanWaterways.

TUESDAY/FEB. 27
Foster Parent Orientation. 6:30-8 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

one of several opportunities for members of the community to learn more about the proposed budget. The meeting will also be streamed live from alexandriava.gov, and Jinks will answer questions from in-person attendees and online viewers following his presentation. Proposed budget documents will be available at alexandriava.gov/Budget.

Stakeholder Group Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at City Hall, 301 King St., Sister Cities Room 1101. In June, Alexandria City Council approved a resolution to reconvene the Stakeholder Group to assist in monitoring the development of the Long Term Control Plan Update for

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Obituary

Kathryn Elizabeth Garst Mason, 96, of Bridgewater, VA, passed away Monday, February 19, 2018 at Bridgewater Home.

Kathryn was born on September 23, 1921, a daughter of the late Emma Florence (Webster) and Price Garst.

She retired with over 31 years of service as a school teacher for Roanoke and Alexandria Schools, and was a 1942 graduate of Bridgewater College. She was a member of Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, the National Education Association, Virginia Education Association, Alexandria Retired Teachers Association, Chairwoman of the Math Department at T. C. Williams High School, and was active in church all her life.

On June 16, 1943, she was united in marriage to Floyd Russell Mason, who preceded her in death on January 8, 2008.

Kathryn is survived by a daughter, Mary Kathryn Wright and husband, Bruce, of Pahala, HI; a son, Michael P. Mason, Sr., of Bridgewater, VA; four grandchildren, Russell D. Tilgner & wife Karla,



Tanya Moon & husband Eric, Michael P. Mason, Jr. & wife Ashley, and Elizabeth Mason Moses & husband Christopher; six great-grandchildren, Ryan Tilgner, Reece Tilgner, Ramsey Tilgner, Marissa Tilgner, Quinn Moses, and Levi Alexander Mason; three step-great-grandchildren, Eric Moon, Emanuel Moon, and Brianna Moon; two step-great-grandsons, Bryce Moon and Brandon Kill.

She is preceded in death by an infant son, Alan L. Mason; two brothers, Roy C. Garst and Fred H. Garst.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Burial will be private at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Roanoke, VA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heifer International, 1 World Ave., Little Rock, AR 72202 (www.heimer.org) or Habitat for Humanity, 121 Habitat St., Americus, GA 31709 (www.Habitat.org).

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.johnsonfunerals.com.

Obituary

Obituary



Alice Christine Holland
 On Saturday, February 17, 2018, Alice Christine Holland, a life-long resident of Alexandria, Virginia and a retired administrative assistant at Parker Gray High School, entered eternal life at the age of 94. She is survived by her son, Lloyd Alexander Lewis, Jr., and a loving family who cherish her memory.

A visitation for family and friends will be held at Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until the time of her funeral at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, her family requests that memorial donations be made in her name to the Virginia Theological Seminary's Bishop Payne Scholarship Fund. The committal will follow at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, Virginia. Arrangements by Phillip Bell, Sr. and Winona Morrisette-Johnson Funeral Service, P.A. www.bmjfuneralservice.com

Legals

ABC LICENSE

PT Ole, LLC trading as Tequila and Taco, 540 John Carlyle St., Alexandria, Va 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine on Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Anderson, Manager Partner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Legals

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

Title: Request for Proposal No. 00000743, Elevator Inspection Services.
 Closing Date and Time: March 22, 2018, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@alexandriava.gov.

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

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His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were “demanding,” or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn’t begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I’ve gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can’t help wondering if there’s a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure (“on demand” disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I’m being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can’t imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I’m accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can’t quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn’t know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I’m sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can’t help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don’t want; it’s a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don’t want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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

OPINION

Metro Funding

FROM PAGE 12

Rule” that requires jurisdictions to seek explicit approval from the General Assembly before they are permitted to enact most taxes and ordinances.

As this issue has come to a head, key players have been brought to the table. I co-sponsored SB856, introduced by Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax), which would augment the current funding mix beyond local property taxes. The bill accomplishes this by instituting a regional gas tax floor, re-allocating a portion of Northern Virginia’s existing regional transportation funding directly to Metro, redirecting \$30 million in state transit funding, increasing the real estate transaction tax (Grantor’s tax), and raising the region’s hotel tax (Transient Occupancy Tax). A contrasting bill (HB1539) emerged in the House of Delegates, introduced by Del. Tim Hugo (R-Fairfax). The legislation includes similar reform provisions to the Senate bill, but provides just \$105 million in funding. It is my hope that the final legislation that emerges from the General Assembly reflects the Senate language and we arrive at a sustainable solution for our vital transit infrastructure.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 20

new youth services manager said she “wanted to go in a different direction.”

Also, although three of the library branches (Burke always declined) have regularly displayed copies of our mayor’s proclamation of Alexandria’s George Washington Birthday Holiday Celebration during the month of February, this year the Director of Libraries, Rose Dawson, upon learning of the practice, immediately forbade it because she claims there is no space for the one-page document and the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee has not sought permission to have a library exhibit. As the committee member who initiated this practice, I note that three branch managers easily found space for it, and a one-page proclamation is hardly an “exhibit.” Displaying the Washington proclamation never interfered with any existing exhibit.

It is well-known that for many decades students, including ACPS students, have performed poorly on standardized tests of their knowledge of American history. Many high school classes have emphasized the mid-19th century to the present, especially wrongs done to various groups. Our earlier history has received short shrift, with little said about people and their deeds which have made America great. Not everyone attends college, and many colleges do not even require an American history course.

To ensure the continuity of our federal republic, Americans must be better educated about our admirable history, including especially George Washington’s exemplary character and remarkable deeds. Citizens and employees of Washington’s chosen hometown have a special obligation to honor him and inform our youth and visitors about his contributions to our city, state and country.

Ellen Latane Tabb

2

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