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Alexandria Gazette Packet

SUMMER FUN

PAGE 15

25 CENTS

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 24, 2018

From Refugee to Restaurateur

Old House Cosmopolitan opens on Route 1.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

If you went back and told Ivica Svalina in 2000 that he'd own a restaurant in Old Town, he says he wouldn't have believed you. He'd had a cafe before, but that was a lifetime ago. That was in Yugoslavia, before the breakup of the country, and before the war that would ultimately drive the Svalina family out of the country. When he arrived in the United States in 2000, Svalina was starting again from scratch with limited English but a lot of determination.

"We were scared, but here you can do anything if you want it," said Svalina. "We are a hard working family. When we came here, we thanked God we were free."

Eighteen years later, Svalina was running around his restaurant making sure everything is ready before the mayor arrives and it officially

SEE RESTAURATEUR, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

From left: Almir Mahmutovic, Karmela Svalina, Miljana Midic, Ivica Svalina, Amela Svalina, and Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Greener, Please

Council considers city's outdated plan to address environment.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

On Tuesday, May 22, City Council heard draft recommendations about overhauling local environmental policies, which a local commission says haven't kept pace.

Since September, the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) has been working on updating the city's Environmental Action Plan (EAP). The update, deferred since 2014, comprises two phases over two years. On Tuesday, council previewed the first phase revamp in order to provide feedback before the EPC delivers final recom-

mendations in the fall.

"One pervasive policy theme" so far is "the fight against global climate change," said EPC Chair Jim Kapsis. "There is plenty we can do here in Alexandria, including ensuring the city is procuring 100 percent carbon-free energy; increasing tree canopy to reduce the 'heat island' effect within the city; and integrating carbon accounting into our budget process so we can actually quantify the climate impact of our investments."

Alexandria's stated goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 percent by 2050 requires more decisive action, says

SEE GREENER, PAGE 13

School Resource Officer Indicted

For discharging firearm at George Washington Middle School.

BY JAMES CULLUM
GAZETTE PACKET

An Alexandria City Police Department school resource officer has been indicted for the reckless handling of a firearm and destruction of property at George Washington Middle School after discharging his service firearm inside his office at the school on March 13. Carl Savoy, 27, a five-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department, turned himself in shortly after being charged on May 21, has been released on his own recognizance and is on administrative leave without pay.

"Sad situation, but I appreciate the Commonwealth Attorney and Police Department's prompt and thor-

ough investigation," said Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, whose son attends GW.

Savoy was in his office when the shot was fired at approximately 9:10 a.m. The bullet found its way into a seventh grade history classroom and struck a refrigerator. Savoy then checked classroom to see if any students were injured. No one was hurt, no alarms went off and classes resumed after all students were found safe. Parents were notified by email at 10:30 a.m. — an hour and 20 minutes after the shot was fired. Students were also sent home with notes from the principal.

After the incident, the City of Alexandria and Police Chief Mike Brown deemed it an accident. The Commonwealth's Attorney's office, while declining to discuss specifics over the incident by citing the Virginia State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct, said that Savoy "allegedly discharged his firearm accidentally," and faces a maximum penalty on both counts of a year in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500.

No trial date has been set.

Community Mourns Don Simpson Sr.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria is filled with landmarks such as the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gadsby's Tavern, City Hall, the George Washington Masonic Memorial and Inova Alexandria Hospital. One name links these iconic restoration and development projects: Donald Simpson Sr.

Simpson also served as a benefactor to many nonprofit organiza-

tions, particularly those focused on helping the youth of the city. On May 14, the lifelong Alexandria businessman and philanthropist died at his home at the age of 87.

"Don Simpson's involvement with the youth of Alexandria is sig-

SEE DON SIMPSON SR., PAGE 6



Donald Simpson Sr.

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OPEN SUN 5/27, 2-4

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thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/3970-fort-worth/
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www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



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OPEN SUN 5/27, 2-4

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Nada Seide 703.350-3803



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Paul Smedberg



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PHOTOS BY JAMES CULLUM/GAZETTE PACKET

Into Arlandria

Council candidates head to Arlandria to tackle immigration and affordable housing.

BY VERNON MILES
GAZETTE PACKET

Arlandria can sometimes feel entirely different from the rest of Alexandria. It's a neighborhood defined by its diversity, where Spanish is as common as English on the city streets. It's a tight knit community that's weathered economic and law enforcement troubles and emerged with a strong sense of values. On May 18, the residents of Arlandria came out to the Cora Kelly cafeteria to determine which City Council candidates will best represent those values in November.

With 15 candidates and one surrogate, there was very little time for long answers or back and forth debate. While earlier debates focused on traffic and developing businesses, the audience at the Arlandria debate was intently focused on how the City Council of 2019 would address the affordable housing crisis and immediate immigration concerns of Arlandria residents.

"I'm looking to see how the candidates can better serve our low income communities and our communities of color," said Ingris Moran, one of the debate moderators and lead organizer for Tenants and Workers United. "I'm looking at how they can support our undocumented communi-



Matt Feely

ties and what they bring to the table on affordable housing."

The two Republican candidates, Kevin Dunne and Michael Clinkscale, were the lone votes against increased DACA protections for Alexandria residents. The Democratic candidates called for the city to look into authorizing drivers licenses for undocumented residents, a process that would require state approval, and opening up more city services like libraries and legal counseling to undocumented residents. Clinkscale scoffed.

"That's not how it works in the real world," said Clinkscale. "If you're here unlawfully, then you have to follow the steps to become lawful."

Mark Shiffer, running as an Independent,

criticized the city's law enforcement for collaborating with federal authorities, an agreement he said was detrimental to public health.

Tenants and Workers United sponsored the debate alongside the NAACP and Grassroots Alexandria. Like Moran, Jonathan Krall from Grassroots Alexandria said he was concerned about the city's role in immigration policy.

"There are things we can be doing on immigration," said Krall. "The Sheriff's Office is in an agreement with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We could require judicial warrants instead."

Krall also said affordable housing had to play a role in any City Council discussion. Krall said he hoped to see the penny fund for affordable housing go back to one penny. Gender identity and discrimination was also an issue highlighted by Grassroots Alexandria. For Krall, it's a classification he'd like to see added to local rules about discrimination, and when candidates were asked about it during the debate only the two Republican candidates disagreed.

"I would like to see Alexandria maintain its diversity," said Tim Beaty. "Low income housing is particularly of interest."

Beaty also said he had concerns about the recent Potomac Yard Metro Station's changes. Beaty said he was concerned about

how the process was handled and the lack of transparency, and wondered why it was the southern entrance which benefited residents that was cut and not the northern one.

In the long run, Beaty also said he believed the city was making a mistake in not bringing firefighter and police pay up to the standard regional levels. By underfunding emergency services, Beaty repeated issues raised at City Council meetings by fire and police personnel that the city is paying to hire and train staff who turn around and leave for better departments.

"I have a basis of concern for candidates who are too close to developers," said Beaty. "At the mayoral level, I lean towards Allison [Silberberg]. I wish she was better at expressing her point, but I don't want a city run by developers."

While the School Board has separate elections, many residents also said they were looking to the City Council to see how they would fund the schools and shape school policies in years to come.

"Education, gun violence, elderly care and housing affordability are the most important issues for me," said Darrlynn Franklin, secretary for the Alexandria branch of the NAACP. "I'm looking at how they plan to move Alexandria forward."

SEE COUNCIL. PAGE 20

NEWS BRIEFS

Trainwreck

All things considered, for a train derailment, the May 19 crash of a freight train on Wheeler Avenue wasn't as big a nightmare as it could have been. More than 100 train cars spilled off the tracks, throwing garbage, sand and shingles across the rails.

"It's a mess," said City Manager Mark Jinks at the City Council's May 22 meeting, "but the good news is no one was injured."

A statement from rail operator CSX said there was no structural damage from the derailment. City Council members still expressed a fair amount of skepti-

cism and concern, but Jinks said early reports indicated that the cause of the derailment was that the weight of the train cars was off-centered.

Affordable Housing Cost Increases

Hot on the heels of the Potomac Yard facing structural changes, Alexandria's Affordable Housing renovation projects are also feeling the brunt of a region-wide increase in labor and resources costs. At the May 22 City Council meeting, the council approved a modification to the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation's (AHDC) plan to refinance Lacy Court Apartments and an

increased loan to the Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (ARHA) Ramsey Homes redevelopment.

Helen McIlvaine, director of the City's Office of Housing, said the AHDC modification would relieve the corporation of an earlier requirement to repay \$500,000 to the city as part of a loan on the property. In January 2017, AHDC requested the \$7.1 million loan on Lacy Court Apartments be reduced to \$3.8 million, which the organization would then try to finance with a tax credit application. In exchange for the loan forgiveness, AHDC agreed to repay \$500,000 in proceeds from the refinancing, but an unexpected increase in costs led AHDC back to the council to request to keep the additional funding as part of the project.

For Ramsey Homes, ARHA requested an increase of \$1.6 million to the project's existing \$2 million budget. According to a letter to the council from ARHA Executive Director and CEO Keith Pettigrew, the project was hit with both a decline in tax credit pricing after the enactment of tax reform decreased the corporate tax rate and an increase in cost. Since the initial cost estimates, the price of steel has increased 20 percent while lumber has increased 28 percent. The building designs were also altered to meet code and green building compliance.

The City Council unanimously approved both changes.

— VERNON MILES

PEOPLE

2018 Athletes of the Year Riggins to keynote 63rd annual gala.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

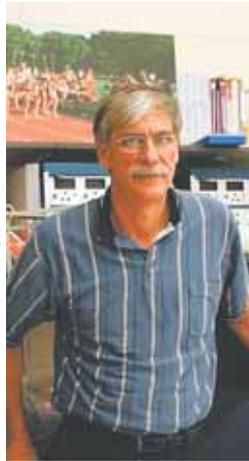
High school athletes from across the city will be honored by the Alexandria Sportsman's Club at the organization's 63rd annual Athletes of the Year gala May 29 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel.

Super Bowl MVP and NFL Hall of Famer John Riggins will be the keynote speaker at the event, which will also feature the induction of 1998 T.C. Williams High School graduate LaChina Robinson into the ASC Hall of Fame.

In addition to the high school students being honored, T.C. track coach Mike Hughes will be recognized as the Coach of the Year and Madesen Lynch, a fourth grader at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, will receive the Rec Center Athlete of the Year award.

Founded in 1947, the nonprofit Alexandria Sportsman's Club recognizes the athletic and scholastic achievements of students from across the city. This year's gala will award \$30,000 in scholarships to 15

T.C. Williams High School track coach Mike Hughes will be honored as Coach of the Year at the 2018 Alexandria Sportsman's Club Athletes of the Year dinner May 29 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel.



high school seniors, the largest scholarship presentation in the organization's history.

The annual ASC gala will be held May 29 at the Westin Hotel Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Registration and reception begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and awards beginning at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public and tickets can be purchased online through Friday, May 25, at www.alexandriavasports.org.



Audrey Androus
Girls Cross Country
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Claire Constant
Girls Soccer
T.C. Williams



Lena Cromley
Girls Cross Country
T.C. Williams



Annie Dyson
Girls Lacrosse
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Katherine Euceda
Cheerleading
T.C. Williams



Claire Farrell
Volleyball
Bishop Ireton



Claire Fergusson
Diving
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Shannon Foster
Girls Swimming
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Sean Gibbons
Boys Crew
Bishop Ireton



Madeline Gyllenhoff
Softball
T.C. Williams



Taylor Henriksen
Field Hockey
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



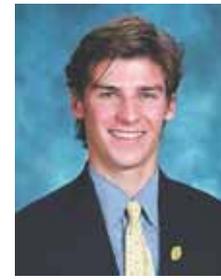
Peyton Hensley
Girls Tennis
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Xavier Johnson
Boys Basketball
Episcopal HS



Akunna Konkwo
Girls Basketball
Bishop Ireton



Jack Lambeth
Ice Hockey
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Zion Lee
Wrestling
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Madesen Lynch
Rec Sports
T.C. Williams



Ricky Miezán
Boys Lacrosse
Episcopal HS



Madison Mote
Girls Lacrosse
Bishop Ireton



William Murphy
Rugby
T.C. Williams



Trinity Palacio
Girls Basketball
T.C. Williams



Chris Rainey
Boys Tennis
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Keil Reedich
Squash
Episcopal HS



Andrew Revers
Boys Swimming
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Deion Sanchez-Viafara
Golf
T.C. Williams



Tyler Smith
Boys Soccer
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



Myles Stone-Dowdy
Football
T.C. Williams



Grace Vannatta
Girls Crew
T.C. Williams



Jordan Walker
Boys Track & Field
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes



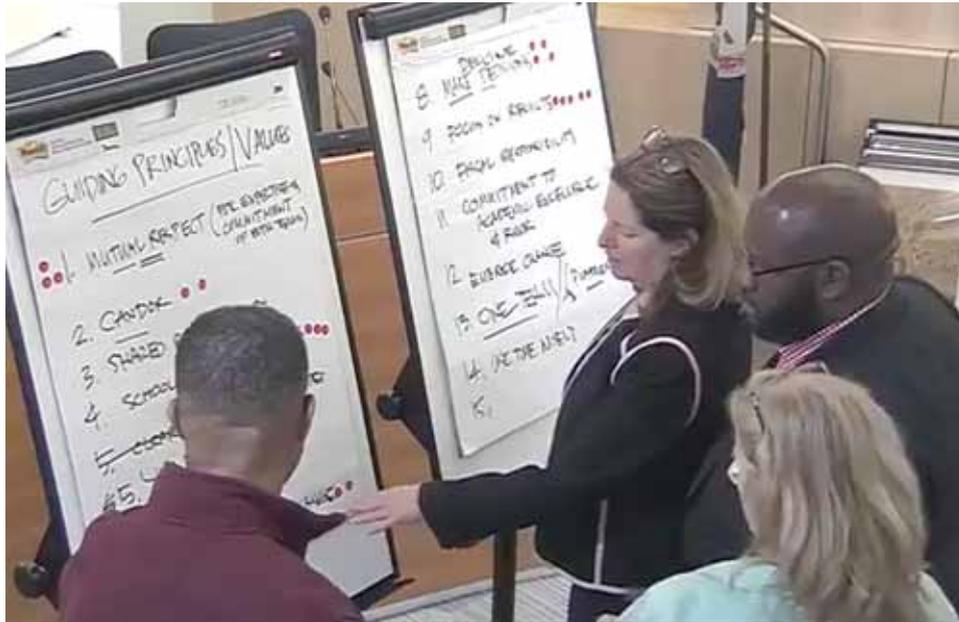
Nyla Ward
Girls Track & Field
T.C. Williams



Ben Wilson
Baseball
T.C. Williams



Eleanor Winants
Field Hockey
Episcopal HS



At a joint “visioning” session last Saturday, City Council and School Board members honed the core values that they want to guide a new season of collaboration.

‘Unified and Distilled Vision’

Council and School Board consider joint planning values, criteria.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

In a joint “visioning” session on Saturday, May 19, the City Council and School Board began laying out common values and criteria for decision-making.

The effort follows from the Ad Hoc Joint City-Schools Facility Investment Task Force’s recommendations. Council established the advisory task force, comprising citizen-volunteers with relevant professional backgrounds, last May, following a particularly contentious FY 2018 budget. Council and the School Board are statutorily separated, sharing the power of the purse with respect to public education. But drastically misaligned outlooks created what the city budget document called a “funding dilemma.” Council charged the task force, as a “disinterested” third party, to help prioritize city

and schools’ projects within funding constraints and to streamline the overall inter-governmental capital budgeting process.

The task force delivered its recommendations last winter, paving the way for greater agreement in the FY 2019 budget. Regarding overall process, the task force’s principal diagnosis was that “Alexandria lacks a unified and distilled vision for the future,” according to its final report. “Each entity has its own strategic plans and vision but not a document that distills them together and that would support understanding priorities and tradeoffs.” A common vision would help to “clarify priorities for decision making.”

In this vein, Saturday’s meeting focused on “establishing some new rules by which decisions can be made,” said Mignon Anthony, the schools’ new chief operating officer.

SEE ‘VISION,’ PAGE 8

Activist Found Guilty of Vandalizing

Dr. Patricia Wonch Hill of Lincoln, Neb., was found guilty on May 21 of vandalizing the Old Town home of Chris Cox, the longtime chief lobbyist for the National Rifle Association. Hill sprayed fake blood on Cox’s home on Jan. 11, and was charged with a \$500 fine, was ordered to stay 500 feet from the home and also an interior design business owned by his wife Courtney Cox. Hill was also ordered to keep the same distance from NRA headquarters in Fairfax or face an additional \$500 fine.

Hill, who appealed the decision to the Alexandria Circuit Court, has another hearing on May 30 for allegedly vandalizing the Cox’s home last October with stickers and fake blood.

Hill, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is a member of the group Nebraskans Against Gun Violence, which had a representative and another gun control advocate protest outside the Cox home and Courtney Cox’s business on April 10. The protestors, Amanda Gailey of Lincoln, Neb., and Catherine Koebel Stromberg of Roanoke, Va., later filed a police report after Courtney Cox allegedly scratched Stromberg’s hand by taking away her cell phone when Stromberg tried to film a brief encounter.

Hill’s appeal is on June 6, and a civil case on the restraining order will be heard in August.

— JAMES CULLUM

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**Burial includes basic services of the funeral director and staff, transfer of remains to funeral establishment, and transportation of remains to cemetery. Price quoted does not include any merchandise, such as casket, or cemetery property or services. Prices may vary based on selections.



Jennifer Kazanciyan helps honors chemistry students at T.C. Williams solve a mystery through chromatography, the separation of black into different colors.

At TC, Chemistry Lesson Solves a Crime

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

“I need to talk to you about something,” Jennifer Kazanciyan tells her honors chemistry students at the beginning of Wednesday’s lab at T.C. Williams High School. Their faces turn somber.

“As you know, we have a lot of sensitive equipment and expensive chemicals in our lab. One of the bottles of silver nitrate, which is very expensive at \$1,000 a bottle, went missing. A ransom note was left behind. But the halls are full of cameras so we could tell which two students were in the room when it went missing. She continued, “We searched their lockers. But all we found were two black pens that could have been used to write the note.”

Kazanciyan shows them a chromatogram of the ink from the ransom note. “You can

figure out which of the black pens was used to write the note through chromatography which is the separation of black into different colors.”

One of the students surmises, “so this is our lab today, right?”

Another pipes up, “did this really happen?”

“Not that I know of,” she replies with a smile.

Kazanciyan hands each student two 10 cm strips of chromatography paper. “After you have your paper, move back to the lab.” Twenty five students sort themselves into four lab groups.

The first step is to draw a line in pencil approximately 1 cm from the bottom of both strips. They read the directions. “Using the marker, place a small dot in the center of the line and repeat with the second strip and the second marker.”

“Now we pour 10 ml of water into each beaker. How do we know how much water when there isn’t a measure?” One enterpris-

ing student says, “Wait a minute we have a 10 ml measure over here.” They turn on the water to a trickle and quickly fill the narrow cylinder to the top. “There you go,” A group “yeah” as the water reaches the top without spilling over.

“Who volunteers the first strip? We’re supposed to put it in the beaker without touching the bottom.”

“Just a minute, which is which? Make your dot bigger.”

The first strip starts to turn a blue, “I think it’s teal color. Look at the other one. It is green and blue and look, it is yellowish at the bottom. We’re supposed to measure the distance of the different colors as the water is absorbed up the strip.”

“This looks more like the pen of the person who took the silver nitrate,” a student conjectures, pointing to the second beaker. “Look. This has a lot more colors. In the sample Ms. Kazanciyan posted, the marker he used has a lot more colors.”

This was the fun part. Their worksheet got harder with questions like: what is the molarity of this solution (include significant figures and units)? Is the ink in the markers a homogeneous mixture, a heterogeneous mixture or a pure substance? Do you think your solute is ionic, polar covalent or non polar covalent?

Kazanciyan says she never thought she would be a teacher. She always liked math and science but got a degree in chemical engineering. “Then I went to law school and I did that for a while.”

But she said she had always felt strongly about science and that people should know. So she enrolled in Virginia’s career switcher program designed to fill shortages in critical areas.

Now she teaches chemistry and physics while dreaming up interesting and challenging problems such as today’s decrypting exercise using special ink and paper. One student says to the other, “I mean I really believed her story.”

PEOPLE
AT WORK

Don Simpson Sr., Business Leader, Philanthropist Dies at 87

FROM PAGE 1

nificant,” said Alexandria Sportsman’s Club President Tom McHugh. “From the Simpson baseball field to his involvement in founding the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria to help send T.C. Williams students to college, he certainly gave back to our community.”

Donald Fletcher Simpson Sr. was a second generation Alexandrian. The son of Clarence and Dorothy Simpson, he graduated from George Washington High School and went on to attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Following his time in Blacksburg, Simpson served two years as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. Upon returning home from duty, he began a development career that would span 65 years, leading the construction of more than 300 projects throughout Northern Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan region.

Simpson began his career working with his father and uncle in the family business: Eugene Simpson & Brother, Inc. After the firm’s acquisition, Simpson left the contracting business to start Simpson Development Co., Inc., a full service real estate develop-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Donald Simpson Sr., right, shown with Dan Lehman and Donald Simpson Jr. at the 60th anniversary of Simpson Field baseball in 2013, died May 14 at the age of 87.

ment firm. Since its inception, he served as chairman of the firm’s development and leasing activities.

Notable development projects led by Simpson include Quantico Marine Base, Historic Christ Church, the Tysons Sheraton Hotel and the Mark Plaza Hotel. More recently was the construction of the Lexus of Alexandria and Lindsay Chevrolet car dealerships.

Additionally, Simpson’s company installed the girls softball team’s batting cages at

Witter Fields, the scoreboard at Eugene Simpson Field, the locker rooms at Hammond Middle School, and the scoreboard, goal posts and press box at T.C.’s Parker Gray Stadium.

“Donald Simpson and his family essentially built a stadium for the establishment of the Alexandria Little League baseball program in 1952,” said former Little League player and coach Jerry File. “The following year he built Simpson Stadium for the establishment of the Junior Major League, both of which continue today. Prior to that the only organized baseball for youngsters was provided by the Recreation Department which did not have sufficient funding to provide uniforms, more than one coach, and was played on unattended playground baseball fields. What dramatic change Don Simpson and his family brought to baseball in Alexandria. As a participant and later a coach, I truly appreciated his generosity.”

Simpson’s commitment to the community was also evidenced by his involvement in an array of civic organizations. He served as a member, director or president for organizations including the Rotary Club of Alexandria, SunTrust Bank, Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, Goodwin House, Inc., Alexandria Salvation Army and

the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership.

In 2008, the Simpson Family was awarded the First Annual Legacy of Giving Award by the ACT for Alexandria community trust. In addition to spending time with his family, Simpson enjoyed playing tennis with friends and visiting his Bay house in the Northern Neck. His quest for adventure brought him on cycling treks throughout the country and overseas and skiing trips in Colorado.

Simpson is survived by his wife of 50 years, Lynne, his sister, Sarah Fortney (Melvin), his three children, Gayle, Dorothy Ellen and Don Jr. (Stacey), and his seven grandsons: Eric and Matt Funkhouser, Chris, Austin and Davis Beveridge, and Cole and Max Simpson. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jean, and son, David.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Thursday, May 24, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road, followed by a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club at 6023 Fort Hunt Road. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Capital Caring, 5845 Richmond Highway, Suite 150, Alexandria, VA 22303, or Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NEW STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

Property owners in the City of Alexandria will see the new Stormwater Utility Fee included as a line item on their real estate bills for the first time. The annual fee will be distributed equally among the annual May and October bills, with the average homeowner billed \$140 per year. Properties who do not pay real estate tax will receive a bill for only the stormwater utility fee. For more information or to provide your input on the Phase 2 credit policy, please contact the Stormwater Management Division at stormwater@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-6499 or visit alexandriava.gov/Stormwater to learn more about how residents and businesses can help protect water quality.

ONGOING

Film Festival Call for Entries. The Alexandria Film Festival kicks off its 12th year with its annual Call for Entries now open. Filmmakers can enter short and feature-length films of any genre on two digital platforms: Filmfreeway.com and Withoutabox.com. Festival judges will evaluate films before selecting the best to bring to the city, for the three-day event Nov. 9-11. The program will feature more than 50 free and ticketed films — including many premieres — to delight, entertain, and inform area film enthusiasts. AMC Hoffman 22

Theater and Beatley Central Library will serve as venues for the festival.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 23-27

173d Airborne Brigade Reunion.

The Army's famed 173d Airborne Brigade Association will hold its 32nd Annual Reunion at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel. Visit www.skysoldier.net/2018-Reunion.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Dedication Ceremony and Open House.

6-8 p.m. at the Warwick Pool, 3301 Landover St. The Alexandria City Council invites the public to a dedication ceremony and community open house to celebrate the reopening of Warwick Pool. The ceremony will occur rain or shine. The open house will feature family-friendly activities from the Mobile Art Lab and Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center; child and family summer program offerings; and a "meet and greet" with pool staff. Light refreshments will be available. The Warwick Pool will open for full service on Saturday, May 26. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Aquatics.

MONDAY/MAY 28

City Offices. Closed for Memorial Day. Annual Memorial Day Ceremony.

11 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The "Friends of Captain Rocky Versace" invite the public to the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. The event will honor the 67 Alexandrians who made the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

RE-ELECT

MAYOR ALLISON SILBERBERG

"The People's Mayor"

Fighting for a Livable Alexandria



PHOTO BY KAREN ELLIOTT GRESBURE

ENDORSED BY:

- Democrats for a Better Alexandria
- Alexandrians for Better City Government



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Toward a 'Unified and Distilled Vision'

FROM PAGE 5

ficer and a former task force member. "What are the core values that we want to develop for this new collaboration?" asked facilitator Steve Polo of OPX, a consulting firm. The two bodies landed on a handful, including:

❖ **Decisiveness & focusing on results:** "We will make decisions," as opposed to analysis paralysis and a "smaller and more incremental" approach, said School

Board Chair Ramee Gentry.

❖ **Mutual respect:** Councilman Willie Bailey noted a historic lack of "trust;" Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said the two bodies face "the past" and "parochialism" as obstacles.

❖ **Prioritization of public education:** A "shared belief in schools as a key resource for a thriving city," said Gentry. This isn't a given. Many residents "don't have children that are attending the [public] schools, and É they resent having to pay

taxes that go to improvements to the schools, and then pay a [private school] tuition for their children," said Councilwoman Redella Pepper.

❖ **Actionable Communication:** "Communication between our bodies and how we communicate with the public" has been an obstacle, said Councilman John Chapman. There should be an "accurate and timely exchange of information," said School Board member Veronica Nolan. Shared information should form "the basis for decisions," said School Board member Hal Cardwell.

Officials also brainstormed criteria, according to Polo's brief, for "assessing and selecting between the competing or coincident opportunities or concepts."

"Often a decision É gets made [through] an internal lens that nobody else can see," said Polo. "If it's external, it's usually something like, 'How much does it cost?' which is valuable but not very strategic. [Or] worse: 'I like it,' or, 'I don't like it' — really not strategic. É We're going to try to build a set of criteria that we can use É to decide almost anything."

Top agreed-upon criteria include:

❖ **Mission alignment:** "Things should be tied back to our respective strategic plans," said School Board Vice Chair Cindy Anderson. "When we're doing these joint things É we'd have to see how it aligned with the city's [strategic plan]. There would be areas of more overlap, and not. But if something we're doing was just totally somehow contrary to the city's, then we'd have to discuss that." And vice versa.

❖ **Complete analysis:** "How well it has been thought out. É Have we compared it with other jurisdictions to see what they're doing? Is there a better way?" said Pepper, echoing a major theme of the task force that alternatives to capital projects be considered fully and transparently.

❖ **Urgency and priority:** Officials generally agreed these aren't synonymous. A need isn't of high overall importance just because it's imminent. Conversely, a solution shouldn't be rushed just because the need it's addressing is important. But they agreed to leave the concepts linked and to allow other criteria to tease out the proper balance case-by-case. The risk "of doing something or not doing it" informs urgency and priority, said Anderson.

❖ **Cost and return on investment**

(ROI): Cost is the front-end resource requirement, "irrespective of what it's going to do for us," said Polo. ROI weighs back-end "impact," said School Board member Chris Lewis.

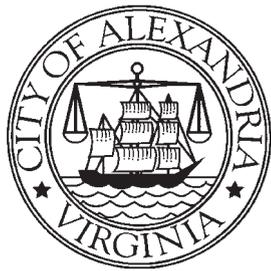
Other jurisdictions have also taken steps to bridge their municipal governments and school divisions. For example, nearby Fauquier County and its schools consolidated three areas: human resources (including compensation and benefit programs), finance (including procurement) and general services (buildings and maintenance).

In a 1997 issue of "Government Finance Review," John Doane, the ad hoc administrator who oversaw the consolidation, and John Tuohy, then county finance director, wrote about the resultant "improvement of the process of developing the capital improvement program (CIP). With a single department responsible for all buildings and grounds, priority setting lost much of the contentious schools versus general government infighting É."

The consolidation resulted in an initial annual savings/avoidances of \$765,000 (nearly \$1.2 million in current dollars), according to a 1998 report. The report also noted: "Any savings resulting from staffing changes increase over time as annual step and cost of living increases are avoided."

Asked if Alexandria has considered consolidation to the extent possible, City Manager Mark Jinks said: "In general, the sharing of services has evolved to either the City or ACPS [Alexandria City Public Schools] based on who has the greater expertise, or if an economy of scale can be obtained by combining services (as was the case with mowing). I would make a distinction between the City/ACPS and Fauquier and its school system. Fauquier has a much smaller government than does the City. [Alexandria has 3.5 times the staffing level, 4 times the non-school portion of the operating budget, and 10 times the FY 2019 CIP] There is also an issue of accountability, as there are some services such as building maintenance that as a building user one wants to be able to direct. That said there are potential areas for combining operations such as fleet maintenance, more sharing of business operations software, and joint procurement which are all currently under study."

Interim ACPS Superintendent Lois Berlin said she agrees with Jinks. Elected officials didn't respond to a request for comment.



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FIRST HALF 2018 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE JUNE 15, 2018

The first half 2018 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by June 15, 2018, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay in person at City Hall or at any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City, or by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, Option 8, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410. For stormwater utility fee questions, please email stormwater@alexandriava.gov.

The Finance Department is open, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on June 15, 2018 to be considered on time.)

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Community Open House. 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services will host a community open house to share information, summarize public comments to date, and help gather input that will inform potential improvements to make Seminary Road safer for all users. There will be a brief presentation at 6 p.m. followed by a 15-minute question and answer session. Email darren.buck@alexandriava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

New to Medicare. 2-5 p.m. at DCHS/Cyphers, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Learn the basics of Medicare coverage and choices. This class is presented by Medicare Counselors from the Division of Aging and Adult Services, and the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program. There is no cost. Registration is not required. Call 703-746-5999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

Alexandria Democratic Committee Mayoral Primary Debate. 7 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.alexdem.org.

From Refugee to Restaurateur

FROM PAGE 1

opens. Old House Cosmopolitan, at the corner of N. Henry Street and Cameron Street is Svalina's second restaurant in the area. The first is the Cosmopolitan across the street from the Huntington Metro Station in Fairfax. Old House Cosmopolitan was an effort on an entirely different scale. Svalina bought the location two years ago. At the time it was an old home badly in need of repair, but Svalina said he saw it for what it could be. It took a year and a half, but Svalina and his contractors worked to replace everything in the building except the bricks.

"It's a dream," said Svalina. "To own a restaurant right on Route 1. The other restaurant is a mix-match of food types, here the focus is on German food."

Svalina said he was nervous at first about the idea of opening a restaurant in Old Town, saying he heard from other people about how difficult it could be to open a location in Alexandria, but Svalina said he was surprised by how much the city had helped out. Svalina said everyone he talked to and worked with in the city had been friendly and did a great job of getting him through the process.

After years of preparation for what was supposed to be just a ribbon cutting and gathering of a few colleagues, one of Svalina's friends asked off hand if they should open, and Svalina agreed.

"We've been waiting 15 months to open, so why not?" Svalina said. "It feels so happy to be here, you have no idea. It's exhausting but we had a lot of help from the city. It's an old house and it took a long time for construction. Today is a soft opening. We



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Ivisa Svalina inside Old House Cosmopolitan.

didn't plan to open today, but why not? We're ready."

While the focus of the restaurant is German cuisine, the new Cosmopolitan hasn't lost the Bosnian touch of the old one. Svalina points to a guitar hung up in the corner of one of the rooms and says it was a gift from the man who rebuilt the interior, and adds at the end that the man was Bosnian. In addition to the German food, Svalina says Old House Cosmopolitan will have Bosnian foods with salads and soups from Croatia and Bosnia. Svalina says he highly rec

SEE RESTAURATEUR, PAGE 13

NEW PUBLIC ART COMING SOON

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Simpson Park • Alexandria's Trails & Paths

alexandriava.gov/publicart

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Celebrating Family Traditions

On Memorial (Decoration) Day.

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

One of the earliest Decoration (Memorial) Day commemoration celebrations was at the end of the Civil War. Many freed slaves, United States Colored Troops and Union soldiers came together to properly bury their dead by establishing Union cemeteries. These individuals sang hymns, had public readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

In 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic declared May 30 as a nationwide day to commemorate soldiers killed in the Civil War. Logan believed that Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead. During the World Wars, Decoration Day Celebrations were broadened to include all veterans who have died.

For about a century, May 30 was known as Decoration Day until the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 went into effect declaring the traditional observance celebration as Memorial Day, moving the time from May 30 to the last Monday of May. By 1971, the Federal Government made Memorial Day a National Holiday.

A former Alexandrian, Perry Winslow remembered, "Memorial Day was called Decoration Day when I was young. That's the way it was written on the calendar. The 'funeral home calendars' of the day which had a wreath

icon for May 30 with the words 'Decoration Day' written under it."

A non-African American shared her Memorial Day tradition, Linda Bolton stated, "Every holiday and in between we would walk to Bethel Cemetery and place flowers on many relatives' graves. Then visit the cemetery and beyond to visit my great-grandparents." Her great-grandmother came from Germany in 1854.

Mrs. Carolyn Phillips-McCrae's family has been in Alexandria for over 200 years, she said, "On Memorial Day going to Bethel and Douglass cemeteries, it was an outing for older folks. Family and friends would meet and talk about old times. Children would come along and hear older folks discussing who were related to whom. My mother would discuss areas where she thought certain folks were buried but did not know for sure, especially if the site did not have a marker."

For many of us, Memorial Day is a special day. My own family was similar to Mrs. McCrae, my great-grandmother's cousin celebrated Memorial Day with her siblings by visiting the cemetery where her mother was buried. In my great cousin's late 80s, I remembered her and her siblings going to the cemetery with their quilts, picnic lunches, and their brown bag drinks. They would have their grandchildren clean the graves and place flowers on our relatives' graves. Then their grandchildren would leave them there for the rest of the day. My great-cousin, Sygnora, and her siblings would eat, reminisce, laugh and make a toast to their mother and every relative buried at the cemetery. They would reminisce about their childhood and cry over the ones that died too young. Somehow, I believe it was more toasting instead of eating. By the end of the day, neither of the old women could walk back to the car.



This picture was taken at the Methodist Protestant Cemetery on Wilkes Street. The headstone is of Laura A. Gray - 1827-1876.

Their grandchildren were used to these Memorial Day ceremonies, so they would bring a wheelchair to get them back to the car. This Memorial Day tradition was a practice that they had been doing all their lives, a tradition that has been passed down from one generation to the next. They all are gone now, but the memories of my family Memorial Day celebration make me smile.

I am sure on Memorial Day you too will have fond memories of your family traditions. Happy Memorial Day.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Best Name For Highway?

To the Editor:

As an early supporter of big changes with respect to the city's confederate memorials and street names, I was extremely disappointed to learn that at its May 8 legislative session City

Council voted unanimously to receive the recommendation of an advisory body to change the name of Jeff Davis Highway to Richmond Highway. (The item was docketed for a public hearing on June 23.)

This was disheartening given that way back when (September 2016) City Council established the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Confederate Memorials and Street Names to develop

recommendations on actions with respect to the Appomattox statue and the name of Jeff Davis Highway, it directed the Advisory Group to "bring community values, knowledge and ideas into its discussions and considerations."

Unfortunately, Council provided no instruction as to what "community values" should be considered. One can only presume, however, they didn't mean to repeat those norms that existed in the late 19th century when the statue was erected or early 20th century when the Jeff Davis Highway signs were first posted. But I'm suggesting that's what indeed will happen if they proceed with the Richmond Highway recommendation.

For guidance on contemporary community values, the Advisory Group and subsequent bodies needed to look no further than to those expressed in council's previous Strategic Plan and in its updated (FY 2017-FY 2022) version. Values such as "caring and inclusiveness," "diversity," "kindness," "just and equitable" permeate throughout both plans. Such values were given added weight by council's bold November 2016 resolution that the City of Alexandria is a "Hate-Free Community." In it council's "core value" is clearly spelled out: "We are an accepting and embracing community where we

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11



Snapshot Tuesday afternoon, May 22: A working river, as George Washington intended.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

treat each other with human dignity and respect. There is no place for intolerance in our community.”

It was reported that Richmond became the consensus choice of the joint Arlington/Alexandria Task Force principally because “that’s what the road is called in Fairfax County.” First of all, it bears asking, how does changing the name of the highway from Jeff Davis (the president of the Confederacy) to Richmond (the capital of the Confederacy and therefore location of Jefferson Davis’s headquarters, from which he presided over a regime of white supremacy and preservation of slavery) advance houncil’s declaration that “Alexandria is a city of kindness and compassion and is committed to diversity and to fostering an atmosphere of inclusiveness that respects the dignity and worth of every person.”?

And, secondly, are we seriously going to squander the opportunity to honor a current or former Alexandrian or a great American, past or present, whose life exemplified the values of “diversity, inclusiveness, human dignity and respect” just because Richmond is “what the road is called in Fairfax County?” There are so many better names that come to mind such as Frederick Douglass, Emily Edmondson, Patrick Henry, John Porter, Martha Napper-Miller, Otto Tucker, Dovey Johnson Roundtree, and Audrey P. Davis, just to name a few.

I am aware that many are simply weary of the process and want to move on, and therefore are willing to accept almost “any change.” But once “we’ve moved on” can we really look back with pride on Richmond Highway? I believe not.

Richard E. Merritt
Alexandria

Crucial Election

To the Editor:

This is a critical election in

Alexandria’s history with very important decisions at stake. As long-term residents of Alexandria who have served on many commissions and organization serving our city, we believe that Alexandrians are very lucky to have Mayor Allison Silberberg as our mayor. For her ability, competence, leadership and achievements in the last two and a half years, she received the endorsements of both Democrats for a Better Alexandria and Alexandrians for Better City Government.

Mayor Silberberg has been a tireless champion of ethics reform, affordable housing, excellence in city schools, historic preservation, and rational development; and has tackled a range of complicated policy and infrastructure issues that have plagued the city for decades including:

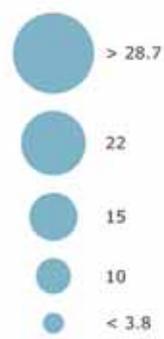
- ❖ Taxes: Mayor Silberberg has followed the policy that challenges must be addressed in a measured, deliberate fashion that does not overload residents and businesses with oppressive tax burdens. This past year she supported a moderate tax increase as proposed by the city manager and cast the lone vote against the tax rate of 5.7 cents per \$100 of assessed value proposed by Justin Wilson, almost twice as great, and passed by the City Council. This tax added approximately \$356 a year extra to the average household’s bill.

- ❖ Opposed the Business Improvement District: listening to the majority of the local business community who were against this tax.

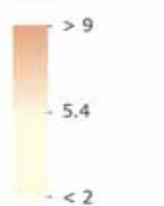
- ❖ Citizen Input: Mayor Silberberg goes out of her way to listen and meet with people hosting frequent Mayor on Your Corner meetings and instituting one day a month for citizens to meet with her unscheduled. She was the only vote against limitation of the open mic at City Council meetings which allowed all citizens a time honored tradition to express their opinions at City Council meetings.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

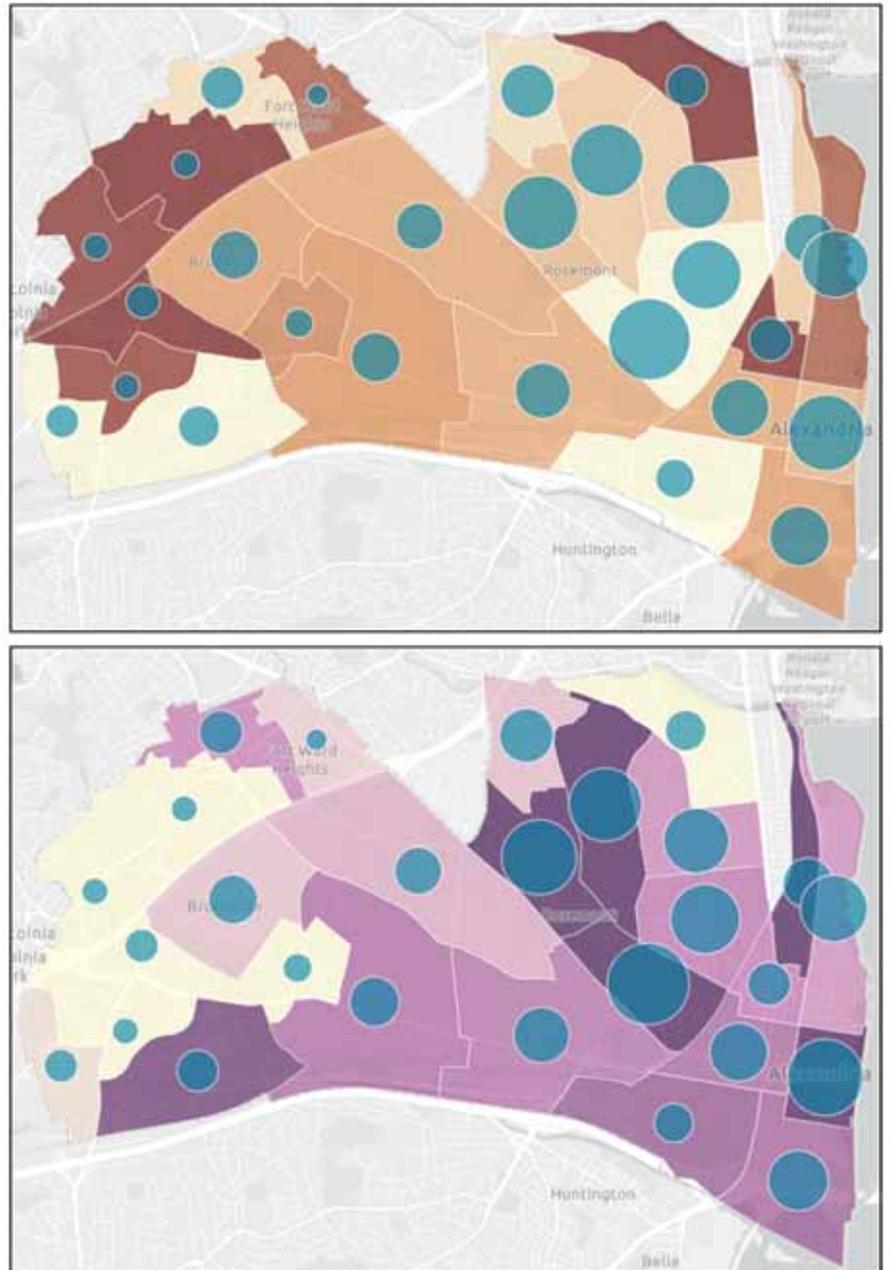
Percent Voter Turnout (2015 Primary)



Percent Households in Poverty



Median Household Income (2017)



GRAPHIC BY DAN BRENDDEL

Who Votes in a City Primary?

Because Alexandria leans so heavily Democrat, the primary in June more often than not decides the next City Council, ahead of the general election in November. But in 2015, only 16 percent of Alexandrians voted in that election. Of Alexandria’s 27 precincts, the highest turnout (29 percent) occurred in the Maury precinct (adjacent to Del Ray), which has the second lowest rate of households in poverty (less than one percent) and the fourth highest median household income (\$161,000). The lowest turnout (4 percent) occurred in the NOVA Arts Center precinct (Alexandria West), which has the seventh highest rate of households in poverty (7 percent) and the eighth lowest median household income (\$84,000). The five precincts with voter turnout of 24 percent or more had rates of households in poverty of 4 percent or less and median household incomes of \$111,000 or more. The five precincts with voter turnout of 7 percent or less had rates of households in poverty of 6 percent or more and median household incomes of \$84,000 or less. Data and images courtesy of Esri Demographics (<https://doc.arcgis.com/en/esri-demographics/>).

— DAN BRENDDEL

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

❖ Thoughtful and Appropriate Development: Mayor Silberberg has pursued policies that support development that fits in and is to scale in protection of Alexandria neighborhoods and quality of life whether it be for Old Town, Del Ray, Parker Gray, Potomac Yard, Northridge, West End and the Eisenhower corridor.

❖ Historic Preservation: She has emphasized that support of preservation of Alexandria's important historic heritage is both good for business and good for stewardship of our history. The success of her policy is demonstrated by Alexandria's being named by Money magazine the #1 Best U.S. Travel Destination 2018 because Alexandria's "quality, cost, and value come together to provide a terrific travel experience."

If you believe in a mayor who listens and pursues thoughtful and intelligent policies, we ask that you stand by her and cast your vote in the June 12 primary for Mayor Allison Silberberg — a vote for the good of Alexandria.

Nancy and Danny Smith
Alexandria

Independent Campaign

To the Editor:

My name is Mark Shiffer, and I'm running for City Council because, like many new candidates running and virtually all the residents I've spoken to, I'm completely dissatisfied with how our city is being run. We will talk about a number of issues between now and November — such as lack of transparency and accountability — but I'd like to highlight one problem that in my opinion needs to be fixed immediately. The job we're all hoping to get in November is not a part-time job. The City Council should acknowledge this fact by voting a full-time salary for all council members, and they should do this before the June 12 primaries.

Alexandria needs full-time leadership because every major issue is already in a crisis state, with no concrete plans to adequately address them. Crises that, as a result of mindless development, will only worsen with time.

For example, the current council passed an education budget and signed off on a 10-year plan that does not address the problems our schools are facing now or in the future. I hear from people every day who are forced to choose between sending their children to private school or moving out of Alexandria entirely. They want to live in a city that has adequately invested in school infrastructure so that their children aren't forced to stay home due to leaky pipes and mold. They want to live in a city where there are enough schools to serve all of the city's children.

Instead of working with landlords and businesses in Old Town to create a sustainable environment for the kinds of small business and restaurants that draw visitors to our city, our council has approved a Taco Bell on King Street and increased the taxes on our restaurants — the former over the objection of residents, and the latter with no plan articulated on how to effectively use those funds to address the enormous

decline in affordable housing since 2000.

Too many residents in this city feel disaffected, unheard, and simply not represented. We have too many crisis-level problems that we need to solve, and full-time city council members could focus their full attention on that difficult job. Perhaps they would have time to hear some of the great suggestions their constituents are offering. Perhaps they would have time to be more responsive to what the residents of our city need and want. And perhaps, with a full-time council, we might see council members "lean in" to ensure actual progress instead of allowing our city fall further behind.

Whether or not the current council follows through, I am pledging to treat this position as the full-time job it is. I encourage the other candidates, incumbent and challenger, to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and do the same.

Mark Shiffer

Independent candidate for City Council

Leveraging Development

To the Editor:

I'm writing to explain why I support Amy Jackson for City Council and would encourage voters to cast their ballot for her on the June 12 Democratic primary. Amy, a graduate of T.C. Williams High School, is a passionate advocate for her hometown and seeks to give a voice to the least fortunate as she fights for a caring city that welcomes all.

One of the things that has impressed me the most in watching Amy campaign is her understanding that complex issues can't be reduced to simple solution. Similarly, Amy understands that leadership calls for rejecting false choices. Let me provide an example of this. As our city struggles to find income to invest in our priorities, it can be easy to fall into the trap of believing that budgeting comes down to a binary choice of either cutting spending or increasing taxes. Amy understands that the city has an additional option in growing its revenue base. When Amy talks about the importance of initiatives like the redeveloping Landmark Mall, you can hear in her passion both pride in our city, but a commitment to leveraging smart development opportunities to increase the city's budget. This type of strategic thinking could help shift the tax burden so that it falls more equitably between residents and businesses. At the same time, it can bring the city income that is needed to sustain the quality of life we presently enjoy. Amy also understands that development can be addressed in a smart way that is sensitive to resident's concerns.

I have also been ecstatic to see how strongly Amy has supported increasing first-responder pay. We lag behind all neighboring jurisdictions and it hurts both recruitment and retention. It is not good fiscal policy to spend thousands of dollars training these employees, only to lose them to other cities and counties that are willing to pay a competitive wage. While providing law enforcement, firefighters and medics with an income sufficient to enable them to live in the community in which they work is a principle of basic economic fairness,

Amy also understands the importance of this issue at a more fundamental level. Enabling city employees to live in the jurisdiction where they serve enhances their relationship with the community and creates a sense of partnership that can help in moments of crisis and need.

Lastly, as a former teacher, few can talk about education as forcefully and with as much passion as Amy. She understands that strong schools equal a strong community. All of us care deeply about the future of Alexandria and that future begins with investing in our children. Amy understands that we must address capacity issues and delayed infrastructure needs in our schools and will be ready from her first day on the job to partner with organizations ranging from the school board to PTAs to community groups to ensure that students continue to receive an exceptional education.

I hope that you will join me in supporting Amy Jackson for City Council in the June 12 Democratic primary.

David A. Lord
Alexandria

Easy Decision

To the Editor:

This election season in Alexandria, much attention has been focused on the race for mayor, pitting two Democrats against each other. To my mind the choice couldn't be clearer. I am supporting incumbent Mayor Allison Silberberg.

Her people-centered politics is much-needed in our city. During her time as mayor, Silberberg has actively sought and encouraged input from the people of Alexandria. And she understands the importance of accountability of elected officials. Early in her tenure, she pushed for a permanent standing committee on ethics to provide guidance to city officials and their appointees as well as field relevant complaints from residents. Sadly, the council pushed through a watered down version.

When it comes to affordable housing — an issue that is top of mind for many seeking to find an affordable place to live or retain their current homes in Alexandria — Silberberg supports dedicated funding for housing, including a 1 percent increase in the meals tax that will largely be paid by those outside of the city who dine at our restaurants.

These are just some of the reasons that I support the re-election of Mayor Allison Silberberg and urge others to join me.

Sammie Moshenber
Alexandria

Confederate Memorial Day

To the Editor:

Virginians observe May 24 as Confederate Memorial Day to honor our brave defenders' resistance to abuse of federal power.

Federal troops invaded Alexandria on May 24, 1861, following President Lincoln's unconstitutional call for 75,000 troops to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21



PHOTO BY GERI BALDWIN

In honor of Memorial Day, Old Glory's red, white and blue above Heritage At Old Town.

Faithful To Country

To the Editor:

The heart of Old Glory: Where there's liberty, there's freedom.

We celebrate this Memorial Day in honor of all our men and women in uniform who have stood in the line of duty and the sacrifice each has given for our country. It's truly a picture easily painted within one's own mind if one takes the time. Maybe that's the reason I write and share my concern for the wellbeing of our nation, in honor of those we lost who answered the call of duty, and their families, many of whom suffered the loss of a love one.

I think of my family and friends who have served our country, so much given and so many gone.

There's this little plaque on a rock at the Veteran's Memorial Walkway along the bike path of the 500 block of South Columbus and Wilkes Street. Often pedestrians would stop and read the plaque on this rock throughout the year and children would play nearby and there's a beauty of so many taking time to read it.

The plaque offers a meaning that speaks and touches the heart of those who just had a moment in time to read it: "Dedicated to the City of Alexandria and Alexandria's Veteran's Organizations On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 1979, in Honored Memory of the Deceased Alexandria Veterans of All the United States Wars. Their Service in War and Peace Contributed Greatly to the Welfare of Their Fellow Citizens ... Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Mayor ... Robert L. Calhoun, Vice Mayor ... Donald C. Casey, Councilman ... Margaret B. Inman, Councilwoman ... Nelson E. Greene, Sr., Councilman ... James P. Moran, Jr., Councilman ... Carlyle C. Ring, Jr., Councilman ..."

In honor of all our men and women in uniform who have stood and fought for our country; they are not forgotten.

Activist **Geri Baldwin**
Alexandria

Making Alexandria Greener

FROM PAGE 1

the EPC.

A chief recommendation is that the city needs to update its green building policy — its suite of regulations and incentives for developers to build more energy- and water-efficient buildings.

Nationwide, “buildings account for almost 40 percent of national [carbon dioxide] emissions and out-consume both the industrial and transportation sectors,” according to an earlier EPC draft report

“The [city’s current] green building policy applies only to commercial buildings and to multifamily buildings. We have no green building policy for single-family, for historic buildings, for major renovations that happen in the city, of which there are many. The ambition level of our green building policy for the private sector is well below É our neighbors,” said Kapsis. For example, Alexandria lags the metropolitan area in projects with higher LEED ratings. This “is largely É because our policies are not where they ought to be. We had a great policy that was very progressive when we first implemented it. We just haven’t updated it. And other jurisdictions have.”

One specific idea is to provide an incentive to developers to speed up the permit approval process in exchange for building at some higher standard.

Kapsis quoted a local single-family home builder: “Time is money in my business. É If a builder like me could make a commitment and have an avenue to an expedited permit approval, I think [other developers] would get onboard.”

New public buildings could also meet a higher standard. For example, the EPC pointed to Discovery Elementary School in Arlington, a net-zero energy facility. The school, the largest of its kind nationwide upon opening in 2015, uses solar and geothermal energy, solar thermal water heating, and a variety of other green technologies.

The EPC also recommends buying more Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset public facilities’ consumption of dirty electricity. Eventually,



GRAPHIC BY DAN BRENDEL

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is an international certification system for green buildings.

Alexandria could partner with other jurisdictions and a developer to build and buy directly from a solar or wind farm, under an arrangement called a power purchase agreement.

“Buyers like Amazon and Microsoft have achieved agreements exactly like this within Virginia. É We believe that [such deals] are at and approaching cost competitiveness with the energy we already buy,” said EPC Vice Chair Praveen Kathpal.

The EPC also recommends “that we orient all of our solid waste efforts towards reducing emissions from that waste,” said Kapsis.

Counterintuitively, that would mean removing glass from the city’s single-stream recycling program. Even though it goes in the blue bin, Alexandria’s glass still ends up in landfills. That means “additional emissions due to the

redundant transportation of this heavy material,” according to the earlier draft. Responding to some incredulity from Mayor Allison Silberberg, who called the city’s single-stream recycling “phenomenal,” Kapsis said: “We should be recycling glass, I totally agree. But the only way to do it economically and in an environmentally safe way is to separate it.”

Similarly, the city’s composting program results in net GHG production, since it involves trucking material to Prince George’s County.

Council members received the discussion mostly positively, but want to see more about budget impact.

“We are in an environment where the needs of the schools and even the city’s infrastructure, as well as affordable housing, kind of takes the air out of the room,” said Councilwoman Redella Pepper. “There’s going to have to be some prioritizing” in the EPC’s recommendations.

Information on fiscal impact will inform “how fast do we want to get there?” said Councilman John Chapman.

Find more information at www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission and www.alexandriava.gov/Eco-City.

From Refugee to Restaurateur

FROM PAGE 9

ommends the restaurant’s schnitzel and 10 draft beers, but there’s a certain pride when Svalina notes that the restaurant will soon be serving an award-winning beer from Croatia.

Mayor Allison Silberberg joined Svalina and his family for the official ribbon cutting.

“This is very exciting and a welcome addition to the city,” said Silberberg. “Alexandria is a town devoted to great food. I can’t wait for Cosmopolitan to take off. The story behind this restaurant is the story of a family that came here and is sharing their values and culture; and what better way than with food?”

Ivica Svalina’s family was just as busy at the open-

ing. Amela Svalina, Ivica’s wife, will continue running the Cosmopolitan location in Fairfax County. At the opening, while Ivica Svalina showed guests around the new location, Amela Svalina was making last minute adjustments to make sure everything would run smoothly.

“It is my dream come true,” said Amela Svalina. “When we came here in 2000, we were nervous and anxious. But we’re here.”

“It is so exciting,” said Karmela Svalina, Ivica’s daughter. “It’s surreal and it’s a long time coming. So much work went into this. It’s a dream come true. I walked around Old Town as a little girl when my family first came over. I never dreamed my family would have a place here to call our own.”



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SPORTS

**TC Williams
Women's
Lightweight 8
- 2018
Stotesbury
Silver
Medalists**



**TC Williams
Women's Frosh 8 -
Stotesbury
2018 Gold
Medalists**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
PAUL FILIOS

TC Crew Rows Through Gales to Medal at Stotesbury

Women's Frosh 8s win Gold, Light 8s take Silver.

For only the second time in its 92-year history, the Stotesbury Cup Regatta in Philadelphia had to leave town. The T.C. Williams Crew Team went with it, and returned to Alexandria with medals.

The Stotesbury Cup Regatta is open to all and typically features the best high school boats from the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada. The competition includes many private schools that recruit rowers to well-endowed rowing programs.

Heavy rains in the week prior to the May 18-19 event led the Schuylkill Navy of Philadelphia (a non-profit founded in 1858 that includes the 11 rowing clubs on the Schuylkill River) to recommend that race organizers move the event off the fast-moving Schuylkill 10 miles east, to the safer, more docile Cooper River in Camden, N.J. Less than 72 hours later, the largest high school rowing event in the world — featuring 5,589 athletes in 962 boats from 196 schools for 31 events — convened for a blustery, rain-soaked, modified regatta.

The T.C. Williams Crew Team travelled to Stotes with eight boats, fresh from a Virginia State Championship run that included four Gold medals, five Silvers, and a Bronze. The shortened Stotesbury race schedule meant that some of those boats faced much longer odds to survive heat and semi-final races to make the six-boat finals. Varying, punishing head winds during heats would make those odds even longer and skew results compared to race times only a week earlier.

For two of those TC boats going north, their second-place finishes at States left them unsatisfied. The Titan Women's Frosh 8 boat finished only .38 second behind McLean on Day 1 of States to capture the Silver — and a strong desire for redemp-

tion. The young TC Women's Lightweight 8 also left the State title chase at Occoquan with a Silver, but wanting more. A lot more.

The Light 8s began Stotes with a relatively smaller, but extremely formidable, set of 12 seasoned competitors vying for the top six spots in finals. Fighting persistent winds and rain during their Friday heat, they stroked their way to the finals in 6:44.27, the second fastest time for their event behind Mount Saint Joseph.

During a chilly final on Saturday afternoon, the Light 8s from MSJ held a determined lead throughout the race, leaving the pitched battle for Silver to the Titan Lightweights and boats from Edgewater High in Orlando, Fla., which two weeks earlier won the Florida State Championship, and New Jersey's Ocean City High School, which had won Garden State and county-wide championships in the weeks before Stotesbury and finished second to MSJ in the Philadelphia City Championships in early May. As these boats fought to the finish, the TC Women edged out Edgewater by a second to capture the Silver in 5:42.89.

"I'm incredibly proud of their accomplishments," said Titan Women's Lightweight 8 Coach Jobelle Cruz. "The girls put their whole heart out there and their dedication has paid off. They are very motivated to continue TC's lightweight legacy." The post-race, smiling TC Women's Lightweight 8 features rowers Ava Elkins, Chloe Marsh, Anna Jane Guynn, Felicity Brock, Alaina Browand, Lila Arnold, Anna Hill, and Caroline Surratt, and coxswain Candace Goodman.

For the TC Women's Frosh 8, the shortened Stotesbury race schedule left them with a tall order; finish in the top 6 out of 46 entrants in heat racing, since the Regatta eliminated the semi-final round for all Frosh boats. They had one shot to get to finals.

In heat races, boats leave the starting line one after another in 8-10 second intervals as race officials measure the 1500-meter time for each boat to determine who advances. So all the Frosh Women could do is row like there was no tomorrow and hope

for the best. After all the Frosh boats had raced and what seemed like an eternity, race officials finally announced the results, which had the Titans' 6:12.04 race time as the 6th fastest, besting Bethesda-Chevy Chase by .13 second and McLean by 1.37 seconds. The Frosh 8s had a spot in the biggest race of their young careers.

For even the most successful rowing programs, a lane in the Stotesbury finals is a big deal. For many boats, just getting to that race, let alone medaling, is the highlight of their season.

The Titan Women's Frosh 8, however, had more to prove.

The 2018 Stotesbury Cup Regatta Women's Frosh 8 final was a Who's Who of vaulted East Coast high school rowing programs, including MSJ, National Cathedral School, Whitman, St. Andrews, Ocean City, and T.C. Williams. Although MSJ finished heats with the top time, the range of times for the top 6 boats indicated that the final was anybody's race to win.

Except on Saturday, when the determined TC Women's Frosh 8 grabbed their oars.

The race started fast for the less than ideal weather conditions, and found the TC 8 with a solid lead and open water between them and the competition at the 1000-meter mark, but with boats from MSJ, Whitman, and St. Andrews making a move for the top spot. A frenzied sprint by MSJ in the final 200 meters closed the gap, but it wasn't enough as the Titan Women finished in 5:43.60, 2.5 seconds and half a boat length ahead. Whitman took the Bronze in 5:49.09.

Titan Women's Head Coach Pat Marquardt, who also guides the Frosh 8, noted that "after a disheartening second place finish at States, a Stotesbury medal seemed out of reach for this freshmen crew, but they persisted. For them, a sixth place finish in the time trial was only met with enthusiasm. With great fortitude and grit, this crew found themselves during their final, and it was a beautiful thing."

The victorious and vindicated T.C. Williams Women's Frosh 8 team includes row-

ers Riley Bucholz, Libby Padilla, Mackenzie Allen, Kaitie Dennis, Wellesley Snyder, Grace Yokitis, Adrienne Carter, and Halle Reinholtz, and coxswain Caroline Miles.

Winning the Women's Frosh 8 Gold medal at Stotesbury had extra meaning for them and the entire T.C. Williams Crew family. The Stotesbury Frosh 8 Women's Trophy is the "T.C. Williams Freshman Coach Award," and was donated by TC Crew alum and Coach Beth Yancey and the Alexandria Crew Boosters in honor of Philip Yeich, a TC physics teacher and men's crew coach who died suddenly in 1994. Yancey won gold medals at Stotesbury as a Junior 8 and Second 8 rower under then Titan Coach Dee Campbell (who also has a Stotesbury trophy named in his honor) before Stotesbury had a Frosh 8 event, and coached Women's Frosh 8 boats to Gold medals in 1992 and 1993. Yancey left coaching in 2003 to have a baby and returned last year to coach novice girls.

The last time the TC Women's Frosh 8 won the Gold medal at Stotesbury was in 2000. TC "winning gold at Stotesbury has a lot of sentimental significance for me," said Yancey. "Watching the girls charge to the finish line on Saturday and getting that award back [for TC] was beyond exciting." And there was another special bonus. "Presenting that award to that boat, which includes my daughter [Libby Padilla]," said Yancey, "was a once-in-a-lifetime honor."

The TC Women's First 8 — Virginia State Champion rowers Charlotte Carey, Grace Vannatta, Grace Asch, Madeline Toaso, Rachel Knapp, Grace Fluharty, Grace Hogan, and Blythe Markel, and coxswain Paula Filios — fought their way to the Stotesbury 1-V-8 final where they finished fifth with a time of 5:25.83. The TC Men's Junior 8, racing in heats in a driving rain that had car windshield wipers on "high," beat 38 competitors to land a spot in the semi-finals. Also making the semis at Stotesbury was the Titan Women's Second 8, which posted the third fastest time during heats in a 20-boat field.

SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



“Night Vision” by Pamela Underhill

‘Reinvention’

Del Ray Artisans presents “Reinvention,” a Gallery Without Walls exhibit, with artists reinventing old artwork or themselves in 2-dimensional pieces to celebrate the new renovations at the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. Through June 11. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Atomic Dog Exhibition. Through May 27 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit inspired by man’s best friend, “Atomic Dog,” is presented by Del Ray Artisans and The Dog Store. It features photography, painting, sculpture and mixed media. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Attics and Alleys Tours. Saturdays in May, tour begins promptly at 9 a.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street; tour ends at Carlyle House by the Market Square parking garage around 11:30 a.m. What mysteries lie in the attics of the city’s historic sites? Ever wonder what is behind that brick wall? In honor of National Preservation Month, explore spaces not normally open to the public at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall, and the Apothecary Museum. Tour highlights include historic graffiti, hidden architectural fragments, and alleys that connect the city. This tour includes walking over many city blocks, stairs, and access to confined spaces. Walking shoes required, bottled water suggested. Held rain or shine. Tickets must be purchased ahead at alexandriava.gov/Shop.

Art Exhibit. Through June 3 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams’ paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau’s canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Art Exhibit: “A Sense of Herself.” Through June 3, gallery hours at the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union

St., Studio 21 (located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center). Watercolorist Deborah Conn celebrates inner resilience and strength through luminous, large-scale portraits of women in “A Sense of Herself.” “A Sense of Herself” coincides with the recent swell in the women’s movement, a coincidence that Conn, a vocal supporter of women’s rights, finds serendipitous.

Water’s Edge Exhibition. Through June 13, at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. The solo exhibit by Christine Lashley, “Water’s Edge,” explores her fascination with water in more than 40 paintings of fragile watersheds, shorelines, and gardens. Visit broadwaygalleries.net.

Get herbs, garden plants, and flowers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through mid-June at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Volunteers grow dozens of tomatoes and vegetable varieties, herbs, and flowers from seeds and cuttings using organic practices. Visit www.Mvuc.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Getaway to River Farm and Mount Vernon. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Meets at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$98. Includes motor coach, admission and lunch. Visit the home and gardens of the American Horticultural Society at River Farm. Tour the gardens and enjoy a picnic lunch. Then visit George Washington’s Mount Vernon to tour the mansion and the gardens followed by a sightseeing cruise on the Potomac River. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tour the springtime demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards,

Alexandria Celebrates Pride Month

Throughout June, celebrate Pride Month in historic Alexandria, with more than 20 events, happenings, food and drink specials, and hotel packages. Take part in special events like *Friday Night at Port City Brewing Company*, LGBTQ-inspired art and theater programming, *Rainbow Doggy Yappy Hour at Jackson 20* and more events in the works from the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Several restaurants will present offerings like the *Pride Donut at Sugar Shack Donuts* and *Pride cocktails throughout town*. Many events and offerings will benefit LGBTQ organizations, including *NOVA Pride* (www.novaprider.org), *AGLA* (agla.org), *Safe Space NOVA* (safespacenova.org) and *The Trevor Project* (www.thetrevorproject.org). Find Alexandria’s Pride events and offerings at VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Pride.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

Friday Night at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. June 1, 3-11 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of Pride Month with Friday Night at Port City. Celebrate Alexandria’s diverse community with the Alexandria-Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance (AGLA), DJ Laura Lopez, outdoor games and activities. A portion of all sales from the night will be donated to support AGLA’s mission to improve the quality of life and meet the needs of the LGBTQ community and allies. Free admission. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/the-brewery/events.

“The Nance” at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. June 2-June 23. It’s 1930s New York, a time when it was easy to “play gay,” but dangerous to be gay. A headliner called “The Nance” was usually played by a straight man who would portray a campy homosexual in musical vaudeville parodies. However, in this drama, Chauncey Miles not only plays a gay man but is a homosexual himself. “The Nance” will take you into the world of burlesque and tell the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. See the winner of three Tony Awards. Admission: \$19 Wednesdays and Thursdays; \$22 Friday through Sunday. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Port City Brewing Company & Pride Beer Garden at Jackson 20, 480 King St. June 3. On June 3, Jackson 20 will have its Beer Garden in its courtyard, but this week it’s going to be even bigger with Port City Brewing Company in house offering a sampling of their delicious local brews. A portion of the proceeds will go to NOVA Pride whose mission is to cultivate and grow a coalition to educate, advocate and celebrate in service to the LGBTQ+ community of Northern Virginians and straight allies. Free admission. Call 703-549-6080 or visit www.jackson20restaurant.com.

Rainbow Doggy Yappy Hour at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Tuesdays in June, beginning June 5, 4-7 p.m. Through the month of June Jackson 20’s Yappy Hours will turn rainbow with pride. Bring four-legged best friends along for a special Yappy Hour featuring pup-tinis and doggie treats. While pooches mix and mingle to meet new furry friends in the outdoor courtyard, happy hour cocktail specials and dinner options are available for owners as well. Free admission. Call 703-549-6080 or visit www.jackson20restaurant.com.

“Feeling Proud” Night at MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails, 116 S. Alfred St. June 7. MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails’ mixologists craft cocktails based on customers’ mood and emotions. Throughout the month of June they will be featuring “Feeling Proud” cocktails, which will also be on happy hour seven days a week from 4 to 7 p.m. To kick off Pride weekend in D.C. come by for a special “Feeling Proud” night. Free admission. Call 703-894-6345 or visit www.morrisonhouse.com.

Sip and Sew With Pride, 300 N. Patrick St. June 7 and 11. Celebrate Pride Month at Sip and Sew by making a crisscross back tank top with a Pride logo on the front. Or, just stop by and pick up a sticker. Sip and Sew provides everything: sewing machines, supplies, materials and fabric. So grab a friend and join them for some sewing, music, laughs and fun. \$50. Visit www.sipandsewoldtown.com.

“Read With Pride” at Hooray For Books! 1555 King St. June 10, at 2 p.m. Don’t miss “Read With Pride” picture book story time featuring “And Tango Makes Three,” “A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo,” and more. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Free admission. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Pride LGBT Sitewide Discount at Sand and Steel Fitness, 109 S. Alfred St. June 1-15. Enjoy a 15 percent discount on all purchases with Sand and Steel Fitness using the coupon code “LGBT Pride.” Visit www.sandandsteelfitness.com.

Pride Powerlifting Seminar at Sand and Steel Fitness, 109 S. Alfred St. June 16, 12-2 p.m. Sand and

Steel Fitness’ Powerlifting Seminar is an introductory course for athletes and coaches interested in learning the Westside and Starting Strength methods of powerlifting. Emphasis is placed on teaching and cueing the three major lifts: back squat, deadlift and bench press. Admission: \$20 (15 percent off for LGBTQ clients). Visit www.sandandsteelfitness.com/powerlifting-seminar.

Pride Happy Hour at Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St. June 19, time TBA. Join Alexandria Restaurant Partners and NOVA Pride for a special Pride Happy Hour on June 19, at Virtue Feed & Grain. Cocktails, drinks and food will be available to order. Free admission. Call 571-970-3669 or visit virtuefeedgrain.com.

Book Launch Party: Kristin Levine at Hooray For Books! 1555 King St. June 23, at 2 p.m. Join local author Kristin Levine at the launch party for her book “The Jigsaw Jungle,” a mystery that slowly unravels as 12-year-old Claudia learns more about her father’s life. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Free admission. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Pride Classes at Pilates ProWorks. 1103 Queen St. Various classes throughout June. Pilates ProWorks is offering five Pride-themed Pilates classes, including Pilates Pro on June 2 and 29, Bootcamp Pro on June 7, Tone, Flow and Sculpt on June 12, and Barre Pro on June 20. All proceeds from these five classes will be donated to NOVA Pride whose mission is to cultivate and grow a coalition to educate, advocate and celebrate in service to the LGBTQ+ community of Northern Virginians and straight allies. \$30 per class. Call 703-575-8206 or visit www.pilatesproworks.com/alexandria.

LGBTQ Pride at Kyo Gallery, 111 S. Patrick St. Throughout June. Alexandria’s newest art gallery, Kyo Gallery, will open its first exhibition on May 25. Throughout the month of June, visitors can explore the opening exhibit including LGBTQ-themed art. The gallery will also sell commemorative original artworks, some of which will be LGBTQ-themed. All gallery proceeds from the artwork will go toward local organizations NOVA Pride and Safe Space NOVA. Free admission. Visit www.kyogallery.com.

FOOD & DRINK OFFERINGS:

Alexandria Restaurant Partners’ Pride Cocktail.

Available throughout June at:

- ❖ Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza + Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road
- ❖ The Majestic, 911 King St.
- ❖ Mia’s Italian Kitchen, 100 King St.
- ❖ Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St.
- ❖ Vola’s Docksides Grill, 101 N. Union St.

Five restaurants from Alexandria Restaurant Partners will feature a Pride cocktail throughout June. During the week of the Capital Pride celebration in D.C. (June 6-11), \$1 from every cocktail sold will be donated to local nonprofit NOVA Pride. Participants include Virtue Feed & Grain, Mia’s Italian Kitchen, Vola’s Docksides Grill, The Majestic and Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza + Tap. Visit www.alexrestpart.com.

Pride “Cocktail du Jour” at BRABO, 1600 King St. Available throughout June. French brasserie BRABO, adjacent to Kimpton Lorient Hotel & Spa on King Street, is offering a special Pride “cocktail du jour” daily throughout the month of June, with 100 percent of the sales going toward The Trevor Project, a national organization serving as a crisis and suicide prevention lifeline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. Call 703-894-3440 or visit www.braborestaurant.com.

“Feeling Proud” Cocktail at MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails. 116 S. Alfred St., June 7, 2018. MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails’ mixologists craft cocktails based on your mood and emotions. Throughout the month of June they will be featuring “Feeling Proud” cocktails, which will also be on happy hour seven days a week from 4-7 p.m. To kick off Pride weekend in D.C. come by for a special “Feeling Proud” night. Free admission. Call 703-894-6345 or visit www.morrisonhouse.com.

Pride Donut at Sugar Shack Donuts Alexandria, 804 N. Henry St. Available throughout June. To celebrate Pride Month, Sugar Shack Donuts Alexandria is serving up strawberry glazed donuts with rainbow sprinkles and rainbow candy on top. Call 703-577-9023 or visit www.sugarshackdonuts.com.

“Baked This Way” Special Cupcake at Buzz Bakeshop, 901 Slaters Lane. Available throughout June 2018. To celebrate Pride Month, Buzz Bakeshop has created a special rainbow-frosted cupcake named “Baked This Way.” The cupcake will be available all month long. Call 703-600-2899 or visit www.buzzbakeshop.com.

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SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

3 Unconventional Picnic-Item Pickups

BY HOPE NELSON

A week's worth of springtime deluge may have left the ground soggy for the moment, but soon it will dry up and prove to be prime real estate for a picnic. Whether dining al fresco on a Wednesday-night date night or curling up under the stars to take in an outdoor movie at Cinema Del Ray, picnic season is certainly here — and not a moment too soon. And Alexandria is teeming with restaurants that are perfect for a takeaway meal.

District Taco, 701 S. Washington St.

Who says picnic fare has to focus on a traditional sandwich? Pick up a passel of tacos or burritos from this D.C.-area outpost and take the fiesta with you on the road. Heading just down the road to Belle Haven Park? The tortillas won't get too soggy en route (but chow down relatively quickly once you select a picnic table or put your blanket out). Venturing further afield? The burrito desnudo bowl will solve your soggy-taco problem by removing the tortilla entirely. To round out the District Taco experience, pick up a side of chips and guacamole to serve as a great complement to your meal. And why not grab a sampling of every salsa the restaurant has to offer? You may come away with a new favorite.

May Island, 1669 North Quaker Lane

Even further afield from the traditional potato salad and hoagie routine, May Island offers up an ocean of sushi options that are perfect finger (or chopstick)

food for a meal under the great blue sky. If you've got a cooler or ice chest, you're in good shape for a sushi date.

If you're feeding a crowd with diverse tastes, it's easy to make your sushi selections a la carte: Choices range from the more standard California, Philly, avocado or cucumber rolls to the more exotic lobster salad avocado, yellowtail jalapeno, sweet potato tempura and Kani tempura. Or go the bento box route: A half-dozen boxes are available with a wide range of selections.

Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

On the next outdoor movie night, show up your neighbors with something a little spicy in your basket. North Old Town's Thanida Thai stands ready to assist; with a booming takeout business in tandem with a full dining room, the restaurant can certainly come to the rescue.

You'll be tempted to eschew the familiar Pad Thai for something more exotic, but don't feel the need: The popular dish is worth sticking with what you know. That said, there are plenty of ways to stretch those culinary wings a bit. Thanida Sassy Shrimp, for instance, a dish featuring the prawns in a spicy garlic chili sauce, is certainly a far-flung take on picnic fare. Or order up a dish of green curry veggies; the sweet-spicy fusion of curry sauce with an array of crisp-tender vegetables would be at home atop any picnic blanket.

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

CALENDAR

enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Programs are by reservation only. \$32/person. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988. Visit www.greenspring.org.

Celebrate Mount Vernon At Home. 4:30-7 p.m. at George Washington's River Farm, American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Blvd. 10th annual gala celebration for Mount Vernon At Home honors Executive Director Barbara Sullivan who will be moving out of the area. Gala features food, entertainment, silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$75, available at www.mountvernonathome.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

24-Hour Yogathon. Beginning 8 a.m. on Friday, May 25 and ending at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 26. At Honest Soul Yoga, 6470 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Suggested donation: \$25. Featuring donation-based classes held every 90-minutes for a full 24-hour cycle. Proceeds will support the purchase of equipment for yoga and recreation programs for families served by the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore (USO-Metro). Visit www.honestsoulyoga.com/yogathon.

Reception: Small Sculptures. 6-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 7, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory. Visit torpedofactory.org or www.torycowles.com.

Four Mile Movies: Coco. 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Alexandria returns with a host of new and old favorites on the last Friday of the month this summer. Fun with friends and family, a picnic dinner,

and a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.fourmilemovieseries.com.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-28

Roy Rogers 50th Anniversary. At participating Roy Rogers Restaurants. From May 25-28, guests who purchase any size Double R Bar Burger Combo can purchase an additional regular Double R Bar Burger for \$.50. Celebrate National Hamburger Day, which falls on May 28.

MAY 25-JUNE 2

"Spring Awakening." 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Show times are May 25, 26 and 31; June 1 and 2. An angsty rock musical adaption of the seminal play about the trials and tribulations of growing up. \$12. Visit the website westpotomactheatre.org.

MAY 25-JULY 15

Caroline Hatfield: Unearthing. At Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Growing up in a Southern Appalachian coal mining community, the subjects involving environmentalism and land use have a lot of personal significance to Hatfield and she recalls the region's ironic juxtaposition of protected wilderness and mined land as a major influence on her work. Hatfield's work explores concepts of utopia and science fiction through the experience of sites, landscape, and materiality in her interdisciplinary practice. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road,

Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every fourth Saturday of the month (May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, and tentatively Oct. 27).

Hamilton-Fever. 12-2 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Sing a favorite Hamilton song during Hamiltunes: An American Sing-Along. During this time, singers from Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre and DC-area adult musicians will lead guests in a rousing rendition of the hit musical's songs. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Under The Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Servants at the Lee-Fendall House." 2-3 p.m. at 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. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, members of Lee-Fendall House are free. Visit www.lee-fendallhouse.org.

Outdoor Pool Season Begins. The City of Alexandria's three outdoor pool locations and the Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain open for the season

❖ **Old Town Pool,** 1609 Cameron St. This complex includes a 25-yard pool with a diving well. A separate training pool is available for children up to 42 inches tall. Easily accessible by ramp, the training pool has a depth of 1 to 3 feet. For added convenience, a parking lot, picnic area and tot playground are adjacent to the pool.

❖ **Memorial Pool** at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This small pool can accommodate a maximum of 45 guests at one time. Due to its smaller size, access is

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SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

limited to Alexandria residents 13 years of age and younger, and their parents or guardians. Operating hours are subject to change.

❖ **Warwick Pool**, 3301 Landover St. This newly constructed, 25-yard shallow pool features a sloped entry pool and five swimming lanes. The pool is accompanied by a new bathroom with restrooms and day lockers.

❖ **Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain**, 2501 Potomac Ave. Located between Potomac Yard Park's two playgrounds, the fountain features 36 water jets and lighting for nighttime effects. The fountain offers three programmable sequences, and sensors control the water jet height based on wind speed in the area, adjusting the jets accordingly. For added public safety, the fountain features a secondary ultraviolet water treatment system. Shoes are required.

Operating hours for all pools are subject to change. For a complete list of City pools, operating hours, fees and additional information, visit alexandriava.gov/Aquatics.

Under the Same Roof. 2-3:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 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. \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 26-27

Freedom House Museum Open. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. Experience a powerful exhibit in the basement of the building, which was once part of a

larger complex used by the slave trading firm Franklin and Armfield. Through first-person accounts of enslaved men and women and details from the business, encounter the harsh reality of the domestic slave trade and Alexandria's role. \$5 per person. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house-museum/4676/.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

Memorial Day Weekend Exhibit.

Museum hours at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. A Living Memorial: Honoring our Veterans. In 1929, the newly formed American Legion Post 24 purchased the buildings now known as Gadsby's Tavern Museum, restoring them in honor of World War I veterans. As part of the World War I Centennial Commemoration, learn more about the American Legion's history in Alexandria and how Post 24 and 129 contributed then and now to the City of Alexandria. \$5 per adult. Veterans and active duty military personnel free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Dragonflies and Damselflies. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Dragonfly season is here, and Huntley Meadows Park is the place to see them. Adults are invited brush up on their observational skills and learn to identify some common and rare dragonflies and damselflies that live in the park. \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.



Small Sculptures

Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. A reception will be held Friday, May 25, 6-8:30 p.m. Visit torpedofactory.org or www.torycowles.com.

Small Sculptures by Tory Cowles.

An Afternoon with Good Queen

Bess. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Actress Mary Ann Jung gives a performance as Queen Elizabeth I, the monarch who presided over England's Golden Age from 1558 to 1603. Setting aside politics, Good Queen Bess demonstrates the lighthearted aspects of the Elizabethan court, including food, fashion, manners and dance. Programs are by reservation only. \$45/person. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.greenspring.org.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Memorial Day Jazz Festival. 1 p.m.

at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. The 41st Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival will feature a variety of musicians and diverse styles of jazz throughout the day. Attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Food will be available for purchase. Grilling and alcoholic beverages are prohibited, and pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation, or call the Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592.

Old Town Civil War Roundtable. 7 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St., Alexandria. Free. Local historian Bill Connery discusses

Alexandria during Virginia's secession decision in Spring 1861. Bring your friends. Contact Mark Tooley at marktooley2003@yahoo.com or call 703-409-4035.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

SCAN Hosts Croquet Day. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Croquet Day is a happy hour-style croquet tournament designed to offer fun team-building with coworkers for a cause. The tournament is played on 10-12 concurrent fields. Spectators are welcome to join in the fun (rain or shine). Spectator tickets are \$20 and include a Vola's After-Party coupon,



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Hundreds of volunteers from the business community, government and individuals, were out and about across the City to support our neighbors including elderly, physically challenged, veterans, and families with children.

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SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



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Over 70 paintings and numerous natural history prints from the estate of a private collector will be on display. Examples include views of Washington D.C., Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Through May 31 at Studio Antiques and Fine Art, 524 North Washington St., Alexandria. Free admission. Call 703-548-5188 or visit www.studioantiques.net.

“Along the Potomac” by Benson Bond Moore.

five food/beverage tickets, and a raffle ticket. Visit www.scanva.org/croquet.

MAY 31-JUNE 16

“To the Clouds.” At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Arts on the Horizon, a non-verbal interactive theatre for children ages 0-6 written by Natasha Mirny. Show times are May 31, and June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15 at 10:30 a.m. and June 2, 9, and 16 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$6 for children and adults and can be purchased online at www.artsonthehorizon.org/ www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or at the door on the day of the performance.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Family Art Night. 6-9 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Meet and Greet at 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of the Arts. Reservations include one art experience, art supplies, pizza and soda. Choose from two art experiences: Paint with Patrick Kirwin (ages 5 and up with adult) or Create a Clay Sculpture with Teresa Brunson (ages 5 and up with adult.) Reservations are \$9/person. Children under 5 are free. To pay online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac and select the activity number.

Folk Music by David Wilcox. 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Considered a “songwriter’s songwriter,” David Wilcox songs have been covered by artists such as k.d. lang and many others. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances or call 703-324-7469.

JUNE 1-24

Art Exhibit: “Wanderlust.” Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. “Wanderlust” is an art exhibit about adventure, travel and new experiences that celebrates the diversity and beauty found in every corner of this world, both near and far. The exhibit runs June 1-24, 2018 at Del Ray Artisans. Opening Reception: Friday, June 1, 7-9 p.m. Also join for the Resin Workshop (June 10) and “How to Make Art While Traveling” Workshop (June 16). Exhibit details and workshop registration can be found at www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/wanderlust.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

30th Annual Clean the Bay Day. 9-11 a.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Thousands of volunteers will join together across Virginia this June to clean up litter along waterways from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge Mountains in celebration of the 30th annual Clean the Bay Day. Early registration is advised. Visit www.cbf.org/clean to register.

Writer’s Workshop. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Led by author Sheila Moses. Learn to tell a good story, what publishers look for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. Continental breakfast and snacks provided; bring lunch. Cost is \$75 which must be paid online by May 31 at shop.alexandriava.gov. Call 703-746-4356.

Outdoor Concert. 12-4 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. About 80 of Fort Hunt’s youngest residents will be performing in an Outdoor Community Concert. The performers are students of Piano

Lab, a music school located in Sherwood Crossing that provides ensemble piano classes to ages 5 and up. The students will be performing songs arranged for up to eight pianos at a time with the added support of a full band, Chaise Lounge. Contact Marilyn O’Leary, Marilyn@StudentsLovePianoLab.com or 703-887-4133.

Sounds of Pohick Music Concert. 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The St. Cecelia and St. Alban Children’s Choirs will sing a spirited French Easter carol. The Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group, will sing and play a 19th century gospel hymn. The Pohick Bell Choir will ring handbells and hand chimes, and the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble will sing music from the 16th century. Call 703-339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

“Bagels and Bach.” 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music, while children become aware and learn how to appreciate classical music. Light brunch will be served. \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts and click the Durant Arts Center to reserve.

Film Screening. 12:30-3 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Rec Center, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home. Learn about the benefits of native plants through the stories of several hometown habitat heroes. This film will answer questions about how to start native plant gardens, how to maintain their beauty, and why these spaces are important for our native wildlife. Email mj.jarrar@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexandriava.gov/NatureCenter.

Crazy Hair Day - Art Workshop. 1:30 p.m. at The Atheneum. Free. Join artist Sophie Blondeau, amid her exhibition of paintings featuring fanciful interpretations of classic French culture, for a fun and fascinating hands-on workshop inspired by her new series titled “Tout le Poid du Monde.” Students will be given a poster board with a face already positioned near the bottom-then Blondeau will encourage them to use a variety of lines to let their imagination run wild. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org.

JUNE 4-JULY 1

Art Exhibit: “Selfie: Not for Sharing.” Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. In a celebration of a satisfying selfie, ceramics go self-centered and self-involved, placing individualism at the forefront, with the priority of plates for each personage, mugs for mavericks and clay for every character. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

JUNE 6-30

Bethesda Painting Award Finalists. Gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Eight painters, including Kim Abraham of Alexandria, have been selected as finalists for the Bethesda Painting Awards, a juried competition and exhibition produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. Nearly 300 artists from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. submitted work to the 14th annual competition created to honor regional painters. Visit www.bethesda.org.

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Obituary

Marian "April" Kennahan, 93, a longtime resident of Alexandria, VA, passed peacefully on May 15, 2018. Loving mother of Leslie Kennahan Mullany and Harry Kennahan. April was a promoter for arts and crafts shows. Visitation will be held Tuesday, May 29, from 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-8:00 pm at Money and King Funeral Home, 171 Maple Ave W, Vienna, VA. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, May 30, 2:00 pm at the funeral home. Share a memory with the family at MoneyAndKing.com

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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NEWS



Vice Mayor Justin Wilson



Mayor Allison Silberberg

Council Candidates in Arlandria

FROM PAGE 3

During the debate, candidates were asked whether they would want to add armed safety officers to Alexandria schools. The topic was more contentious locally after a school resource officer at George Washington Middle School accidentally fired his weapon inside the school. All of the candidates said they would oppose more armed personnel in schools except Democratic candidate Matt Feely, who after making sure the question didn't mean arming teachers, held out on his lone vote in favor of more armed security.

For some, education and housing affordability were two issues tied together.

"I'm looking at housing affordability," said Lindsay Stewart, a teacher who works in low income communities. "I can barely afford to live here. I'm also looking at candidates for ACPS, given that the council doesn't usually fully fund the school budget. Those are my big two."

While the School Board's budget was fully funded by the City Council for FY 2019, several School Board members during the approval process expressed dissatisfaction with the budget and said it didn't fully needs of the schools to handle the rising student population.

During the debate, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson championed his tax increase for the FY 2018 budget that exceeded the city manager's proposed budget to increase funding to the school's long term investments.

While going down the row of 15 candidates led to a lot of agreement and repetition across the candi-

dates, one of the more divisive questions of the evening asked candidates whether they supported dedicated funding for Affordable Housing. The dedication of a meals tax increase as committed funding to affordable housing was one of the more contentious items in the FY 2019 budget, with Wilson and City Council members Paul Smedberg and Tim Lovain voting against the dedication.

While every candidate said making Alexandria affordable was a priority, many said they believed dedicating funding in an operating budget was a fiscally unsound practice.

"The problem with dedicated funding is if you dedicate funding to one need you won't have the money for emergency needs or other priorities," said Democratic Candidate Amy Jackson.

"If we dedicate funding, there's no impetus to expand," said Democratic Candidate Dak Hardwick. "Dedicated funding is only a ceiling, what we need is a floor."

But other candidates stood by the dedication of funding, saying the city's affordable housing needs were dire enough to demand bold action.

"I do support the dedication of funding," said Democratic Candidate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker. "This is a crisis. We also have to look at our other tools, like the need for more micro-units."

"I'm generally not in favor of dedicated funding," said Democratic Candidate Canek Aguirre, "but we need it here."

The primary elections will be held on June 12. Registered voters can vote in either party primary, but not both. General elections will be held in November.

Legals

Annie B. Rose House

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Waiting List**

The waiting list for the Annie B. Rose House will reopen on Friday, June 1, 2018. Applications will be accepted Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Applications may be filed out in person or mailed to you. If your name is already on the waiting list, you do not need to take any action. The Annie B. Rose House Management will maintain your name, date and time you applied to the waiting list. You are responsible to keep your personal information up to date on the waiting list by calling (703) 548-4948.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

invade the seceded Southern states. He did so because the federal government depended on the tariffs imposed on those states' agricultural products to fund its expenditures used mainly for internal improvements in the North and West.

Our "Appomattox" statue stands where Alexandrians assembled at 6 a.m. on May 24 to march to our Union Station to join other Virginia forces resisting Lincoln's invasion. This funeral monument's base lists the names of Alexandrians who died in that cause. The idea for the statue came from Edward Warfield, one of the initiators of the VA 17th Regiment and its last survivor. Funded by an enthusiastic public, it was created by America's most outstanding sculptor of the day, New York's M. Caspar Buberl. Enthusiastic throngs coming from great distances crowded the city's streets at its 1889 dedication ceremony. The governor's speech celebrated those soldiers' bravery and faithfulness in defending their loved ones, homes, and freedom against a known overwhelmingly superior military force.

Secession was legal. Lincoln's invasion, which began in Alexandria in the early morning, made war inevitable. No one had been killed in the Fort Sumter engagement so there was still the possibility of settling differences without war. Lincoln had consistently publicly maintained he didn't want war although he had refused to meet with Southern emissaries at a February Peace Conference at the Willard Hotel — called by former President Tyler to try to resolve differences — nor would Lincoln allow any representatives to attend.

In the early morning of May 24, the Marshall House Hotel at the corner of Pitt and King Streets became the site where the first men died in the war. Proprietor James Jackson shot Col. Elmer Ellsworth as he descended the stairs, wrapped in the Confederate flag he had stolen from its flagpole, and then he was shot by Corporal Brownell.

Proponents of the President who instigated the war have enabled him to escape a deserved reputation for doing so and instead become acclaimed as an honest man and the man who freed the slaves. However, Lincoln repeatedly broke his promises to President Jefferson Davis not to resupply the Union forts in the South and allow the states to reclaim their territory. Nor was he "The Great Emancipator." If Lincoln's purpose for the war had been to free the slaves, he would have issued the proclamation freeing all of them at its beginning, not 18 months later. He carefully crafted it to free no slaves, even within the Union (four slave states remained) and Southern territory under his control. His goal was to keep Britain from recognizing and aiding the Confederate States and encourage slave rebellions throughout the South so CSA troops would have to rush home and become unable to fight Union troops. That didn't happen.

Appreciate its significance and celebrate Confederate Memorial Day.

Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen — too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation — and with no ring — I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it — in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married — twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

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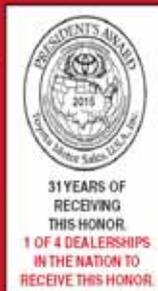
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