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Alexandria Gazette Packet

**City Elections
2018 Guide**
Pages 11-14

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May 31, 2018

Honoring the Fallen

Captain "Rocky" Versace remembered on Memorial Day.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

The announcement came only once, over the radio. In 1965, over North Vietnam's Liberation Radio, came a report that Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace had been executed. It was two years after Versace, an army officer who grew up in Alexandria, had been captured by the Viet Cong after providing covering fire for his allies to escape. On Memorial Day, Versace was one of the 67 veterans killed or missing in action honored at the Mount Vernon Community Center, where the outdoor plaza bears his name.

The gymnasium was standing room only, packed with everyone from elderly veterans to Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. All were gathered in silence as the list of Alexandrians killed in action was read aloud. Occasionally the list was paused as someone from the audience, a friend or family member, would recite the name of their fallen loved one.

"We're here to honor those who have fallen," said Kevin Knapp, a former Green Beret. "We see a lot of sales and stuff around this holiday, but that's distorting what this holiday is about. We've spent the last two days up at Arlington visiting fallen Green Berets. Later this afternoon we're headed up to the National Mall to march in the Memorial Day Parade."



Andy Winfree (left), Kevin Knapp (center) and Frank Levesque at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans' Memorial outside the Mount Vernon Community Center.



Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts salute fallen soldiers.

"I come to this ceremony and then head up to Arlington Cemetery," said Andy Winfree, a 35-year veteran. "Too many people I knew didn't make it back. Today it really makes you think."

Photos by Vernon Miles/Gazette Packet

The Little School That Could

Jefferson-Houston on track for accreditation.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Officially, the Jefferson-Houston School's accreditation status won't be known until July or August. But unofficially, looking at the testing data, school officials say the school is on track to return to its long-awaited accreditation status. Over the last four years, testing scores have continually increased between 19 and 31 points.

It's a long way for the school



Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni (left) and Interim Superintendent Lois Berlin.

that, in 2012, lost its accreditation status after students scored only 65 percent and 35 percent on the See Jefferson, Page 6

By Vernon Miles/Gazette Packet

Reach and Rise

After-school program at Hammond Middle School celebrates graduates.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

Underneath the celebration at the party after school in Hammond Middle School, there is a concern. Dozens of students gathered with their parents and a few teachers in the library at Hammond Middle School to celebrate their graduation from the Reach and Rise (RARE) program. But beneath the festivities is the worry among par See Celebrating, Page 6



Abdullah Amin (left) and his son Kalimullah Amin.

By Vernon Miles/Gazette Packet

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Public housing residents host their first forum to ask City Council candidates about their interests.

Public Housing Tenants Organize Tenant association hosts its first City Council candidate forum.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

A growing public housing tenant association, hosting its debut City Council candidate forum last Thursday, May 24, generally received support for its interests.

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) administers federal housing programs locally. In April, the ARHA Resident Association (ARA) held elections for tenant representatives of some 20 housing sites across the city, ultimately seeking to represent some 1,100 households.

Kevin Harris, ARA's president, said in an email: "The purpose was to establish an infrastructure that would foster better communication from the ground level of each community. ... Now, we have a resident council for every housing community that ARHA manages. The establishment of the local resident councils made it easier for us to initiate our 'Get Out to Vote' campaign [currently underway] and increase resident participation in our efforts."

Fourteen of 17 council candidates at-

tended the forum at Alfred Street Baptist Church. Mayor Allison Silberberg (D) and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson (D) will answer questions at a separate mayoral candidate forum. Mark Shiffer (I) was out of town.

Michelle Millben, a minister at Alfred Street Baptist and the forum's moderator, asked candidates: "[Public housing] residents for years have not been given any input into who [council-appointed ARHA board members] are, and usually residents learn about these individuals by surprise. What plans do you have to ensure that residents can be more involved in the selection process?"

Candidates generally supported greater transparency of council activities, but also encouraged tenants to engage the existing political process.

Candidate Dak Hardwick (D) suggested that tenants might interview potential commissioners and provide formal, documented recommendations to council.

Candidate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D) suggested "field hearings across the city." She thinks work and parenting responsibilities prevent some citizens from attending public meetings at city hall.

Candidate Kevin Dunne (R) suggested finding "better ways to integrate technology, the phones that people use in their everyday life."

Incumbent Paul Smedberg (D) called the ARA "a huge first step in engaging in the process and making your voice heard, and coming forward with actual candidates or recommendations, like anyone else can."

Millben asked: "It is permissible for a citizen to serve on the ARHA board and have access to city and ARHA development information, and still engage in development [business activities]. What plans do you have to conduct meaningful oversight of the ARHA board of commissioners to make sure that no board member profits from development that either runs counter to or diminishes affordable housing in the City of Alexandria?"

The ARHA board includes "five executive-level real estate professionals," said Daniel Bauman, chair of ARHA's board, in January. The ARA presented no specific instances of commissioners improperly using insider information.

Many candidates said it's the commissioners' responsibility to recuse themselves if

necessary.

Incumbent John Chapman (D) wants to establish a city ombudsman — a go-between on city staff to investigate complaints. Arlington County has such a position.

Candidate Michael Clinkscale (R) said: "This is not a simple matter of, 'I don't like it, I'm going to eliminate it.' ... On the one hand, you have people [developers] who are experts in what they do. ... On the other hand, you have these potential conflicts."

Millben asked: "School rezoning [redistricting] is something that occurs periodically within the city. However, in some areas it seems to residents that all of the kids of ARHA are zoned to particular schools, regardless of how close they might reside to another school. Do you see this as an issue and, if so, would you offer any plans to change it?"

Several candidates said redistricting is the School Board's responsibility.

Echoing Hardwick, Smedberg said: "One thing we can do is redistrict more often. ... We are one of the few communities in this region that, when you have a major school renovation or you're adding a new school

See Public Housing, Page 5

More Transit Development Delays?

NVTA staff recommends slashing funding for planned West End bus rapid transit.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

May has been a rough month for transit in Alexandria. First, the new Potomac Yard Metro station was scaled back. And then, last week, the staff of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), a regional body, recommended slashing Alexandria's funding request for bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes in the West End — a significant element of the city's transportation and economic development plans.

Local jurisdictions submit funding requests for transportation infrastructure projects to NVTA, which then doles out monies — largely from regional taxes and bonds — on a competitive basis. NVTA is currently considering how to whittle down 60 candidate projects, requesting a total of \$2.5 billion, to match the \$1.3 billion avail-

www.ConnectionNews.com

able. Alexandria's flagship request was \$61 million for the first phase of the West End Transitway — BRT lanes between Landmark Mall and the Pentagon. In a later phase, these lanes would also extend to the Van Dorn Metrorail station. But after the public comment period ended on May 20, NVTA staff recommended cutting the requested sum by 96 percent to only \$2.2 million. The NVTA board, comprising elected officials from regional jurisdictions, will make a final decision on June 14.

NVTA staff didn't think Alexandria had brought the project to a sufficient state of planning readiness.

"Staff was concerned that design wasn't advancing based on information received from the city, thereby making it difficult to recommend additional funding at this time," said Monica Backmon, NVTA's executive director.

She says NVTA already allotted \$2.4 mil-

lion, as part of its FY 2015 - FY 2016 program, for project design, but that Alexandria has drawn down relatively little of that money. A May 4 NVTA report says: "[Alexandria is] in the process of resuming the design portion of Phase I of the project" — "resuming" implying that planning had stalled. NVTA staff thinks it's a good project, but would want to see further advancement through design monies before justifying the full ask.

Yon Lambert, the city's transportation and environmental services director, said in an email: "The city is disappointed the NVTA staff recommendation for West End Transitway does not reflect the funding requested It was especially surprising to us since it scored in the top 30 of projects for both NVTA TransAction and CRRC (Congestion Reduction Related to Cost)." On these two indexes for project comparison, the West End Transitway ranked 27 and 25,

out of 60 candidate projects.

Lambert characterized NVTA's perception of the project's lack of readiness as resulting from miscommunication. He says that the project is more or less advancing as planned and that he wasn't aware NVTA had any concerns until after they released their staff recommendations last week.

"The city has made progress on the design phase of the project and is actively working with key stakeholders along the corridor. Also, the city is working closely with NVTA to resolve technical issues related to outstanding reimbursement requests," he said. Reimbursement is how the city taps into its prior allocated funding from NVTA. No reimbursements have yet been completed, according to the May 4 report. But the city has spent close to \$1 million to make surveys of the transit corridor — "a pretty significant move forward,"

See Transit, Page 4

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Due to perceived lack of project readiness, NVTA staff recommended last week to cut back Alexandria's requested funding for dedicated bus rapid transit (BRT) lanes in the West End. These lanes would connect the Landmark Mall with the Pentagon and eventually extend south to the Van Dorn Metrorail station.

Transit Development Delays?

From Page 3

said Allan Fye, Lambert's division chief of transit.

"As with any large infrastructure project, staff is actively pursuing several funding opportunities to advance the project, including: the U.S. DOT's BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Discretionary Grant Program; the Commonwealth's SMART SCALE program; and future rounds of NVTA [competitive regional] funding.

The city is committed to this vital transit project that will connect the West End to the Metrorail system and support walkable, livable redevelopment along the corridor," said Lambert.

Backmon says the NVTA staff recommendation won't change at this point, but that the NVTA board could decide to allocate funding differently. If the city doesn't get funding approval in this round, it'll apply again for FY 2020. Funding approved in this round might not become available until that later timeframe, anyway.

The West End Transitway would be one of "three primary transit corridors within secure rights-of-way [property for additional lanes acquired through redevelopment] dedicated exclusively to transit use." Together, these corridors comprise the backbone of the city's long-range Transportation Master Plan (TMP). With fewer stops and no competing traffic, these would feed Metro and other major transit arteries, providing an alternative to private vehicles.

The West End Transitway would also serve to bolster economic development.

"Because they basically don't have good transit connections," West End office buildings are "empty," said City Manager Mark Jinks at a March 7 budget work session. "If we want Landmark to succeed, and we want the commercial parts of the West End to do better, our future is really based on BRT [bus rapid transit] being successful."

"The planned BRT" comprises one element of the city's "pitch to [office building tenant] prospects looking at space in the West End," said Stephanie Landrum, executive director of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP), in an email.

Mayor Allison Silberberg, Alexandria's representative on the NVTA board, said: "Clearly money is tight at NVTA, given the changes to our funding at the Authority. There are many projects at NVTA with a high priority and it's my understanding that some are more ready to go. But we are still pushing for the West End Transitway, and it still needs help."

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said in an email: "This is a very disappointing development. This is an important project for our city's future and I will push to ensure we keep it on track." He'll push by "fighting for regional/state dollars, working with private landowners for rights-of-way, and phasing in the project over time."

Other elected officials didn't respond to a request for comment.

Public Housing Perspective

From Page 3

facility, doesn't do a 'spot rezoning.'"

Candidate Canek Aguirre (D) said: "I actually attended 90 percent of the [recent] redistricting committee meetings. And 90 percent of that time, I was the only person from the public there. ... We need to be more engaged, and the schools need to be held accountable as well."

Clinkscale said: "I think we ought to open this up to a competitive market." He suggests looking further into homeschooling and charter and magnet schools.

Public housing residents from the audience posed a series of yes/no questions.

Barbara Edwards, a 16-year resident of Pendleton Park in Old Town, asked: "[While campaigning,] did you knock on doors at any of the ARHA properties?"

Dunne, Hardwick and Clinkscale said no. Pepper said: "I will be doing that." Ray said: "I'm not sure I'd know." Feely said: "If you voted before, yes. I knock on doors where people vote." The others said yes.

Holly Johnson, a resident of Old Town Commons, asked: "Would you commit to changing parking [regulations] to ensure that [public housing] residents are able to secure parking within a block distance of their homes?"

Dunne and Clinkscale answered no; the other candidates said yes.

Tanya Matthews, a resident of Princess Square in Old Town,

asked: "Do you support the city requiring transparency and disclosure in all police stops [and] acquiring body cameras for all officers?"

All candidates answered yes. Tasha Moses, a resident of Old Dominion in Arlandria, asked: "Do you have any plans to expand the home ownership program within the city that [assists] residents to buy an affordable home — beyond a 2-bedroom condo?"

Dunne and Clinkscale answered no; the other candidates said yes.

Darold Kerns, a resident of Andrew Adkins in Old Town, asked: "Will you use the power of your office to uphold and protect Resolution 830?" Resolution 830 is a bilateral agreement between the city and ARHA to replace demolished public housing units on a one-for-one basis.

Clinkscale answered no; the other candidates said yes.

Harriett Greene, a resident of Alexandria Crossing in Arlandria, asked: "Will you ensure that ARHA and other agencies in the city are Section 3 compliant?" This law requires entities receiving HUD money to "provide training, employment, contracting and other economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons," according to the HUD web site.

Dunne answered no; the other candidates said yes.

The ARA's mayoral candidate forum will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, at Third Baptist Church, 917 Princess St.

Seifert To Lead Seaport Foundation

Kathleen Seifert has been named as the executive director of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. In this role, she will lead ASF's efforts to change lives through the art and science of wooden boatbuilding in its 20-year Apprentice Program and help boost math scores in Al-

exandria schools and beyond through its middle school education program.

She assumes the executive director role after more than a decade of service as its chief development officer.

See Seifert, Page 22

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Celebrating Graduation from Reach and Rise Program

From Page 1

ents and administrators that without after-school programs like this one sponsored by the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria (CCNA), for some of the students this graduation might be their last from public schools in Alexandria.

Retired Col. Jim Paige said the program started in 2009 after T.C. Williams High School was ranked with one of the highest dropout rates, and corresponding lowest graduation rates, in the state. Even today, Alexandria's graduation rate is 86 percent, below the state average of 91 percent. Paige said the program's focus is starting young and working with students to get them invested in education before they even attend high school. Paige also said the program's focus is on "the whole child," a popular term in education communities that means working to improve the student's life and activities outside the classroom as a piece of improving their academic achievement.

"It's really taken on a life of its own," said Paige. "The magic was the people who helped; people like Ferdinand Day."

RARE is a program exclusive to Hammond Middle School at the moment, though those running the program hope to see it expand in the future. Herve Aitken, co-chair of CCNA, joined four years ago as a math tutor.

"I was very impressed with the eagerness I saw kids putting into their efforts," said Aitken. "I love the group, and I love the goals; helping our minority students do well in a system set p to discriminate ... Their success is our future."

"They throw all of the disadvantaged children into one building," said Gwendolyn



Fatima Doumbouya (left) with her daughters Fatou (center) and Nansira Doumbouya.

Day-Fuller, chair of CCNA. "We're here working with them trying to make sure they're successful."

Parents and teachers in attendance at the graduation, a small ceremony held in the upstairs library, said the after-school assistance has really benefited many of the students.

"The students I work with during the day get an extended lesson into what we learned during class," said Felicia Tolliver Johnson, a language arts teacher at Hammond. "It's really helped with reading comprehension. For a large percent, they begin to enjoy reading."

Nilcrea Bentley, a parent of a Hammond student, said for parents who work it's comforting to know their students can stay after school.



Students compete to answer trivia questions.

"I'm less worried about when she gets home," said Bentley. "It's helpful to know she can stay after school to catch up on assignments. Working in school and getting that extra support, I think it will be good to see in her growth."

Abdullah Amin attended the graduation with his son, Kalimullah Amin, whose quick answers to math trivia questions during one portion of the graduation netted him \$30. The Amins have recently moved to the United States, and Abdullah said the after-school program has helped his son acclimate.

"Kalimullah (Amin) is going into computer science as a result of this program," said Abdullah Amin. "He was in the international academy but was moved to the regular program because his English has improved so much."

The graduation was attended by Mayor Allison Silberberg, former Mayor William "Bill" Euille, and Councilman John

Chapman.

"This is a great moment," said Silberberg. "You've all been working hard, and we're here for you."

During the informal ceremony, RARE students showed off their mandalas, a circular reflection of their life experiences and passions, and read bio-poems, poems written by students about their own hopes and fears.

The mandalas were a kaleidoscope of different nationalities, with varying interests from sports to the popular online game Fortnite. Nansira Doumbouya, wearing a "MISS RARE" sash, showed the two mandalas she created. One was a collage of images from her home in Africa. The other was a painting of a Muslim woman gazing up at the moon, associated with the holiday Ramadan.

Doumbouya said both images are reflecting of her heritage and where she came from.

Jefferson-Houston School on Track for Accreditation

From Page 1

state reading and math exams. New school leadership, and new testing standards that tracked progress as well as scores, have helped push the school back towards accreditation.

"Looking at the data, we continue to be excited," said Christopher Phillips, principal of Jefferson-Houston. "We won't know for sure until July or August, but we're excited for that growth."

Celebrating Jefferson-Houston's progress, Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni visited the school on May 25 to speak with school administrators and tour the building. Qarni spoke with teachers about challenges at the local and statewide level. One of the largest issues facing the state, Qarni said, is teacher shortages.

"It doesn't help with recruitment, but for retention, we're taking the five-year Master's Degree plan to a four-year plan," said Qarni. "Some universities have embraced it, others are struggling."

But for recruitment and retention, Qarni ultimately agreed the state will have to focus on fair pay for teachers.

"We have to consider teacher compensation," said Qarni. "Virginia is near the bottom. Medicaid expansion would also help with teacher salaries."

Phillips said the success at the school has come from a focus on individual students and their individual growth rather than being worried about schoolwide progress.

"As they're working on reading or science, you can see them at the start and the ending; you can see the positive impact," said Phillips. "Overall performance, not just on standardized tests, has grown."

During the conversation with administrators, Qarni said the state is working to shift away from a focus on standardized testing.

"This puts a lot of pressure on [our teachers]," said Qarni. "We need to get information to everyone that there is a shift occurring. Starting next year, we're shifting the way we do SOL assessments. I'm not against assessments, but it's a toxic testing environment."

Phillips says the positive growth at the school has had an impact on the students.

"Kids are excited," said Phillips. "Kids come up to up to us and say 'look at this assignment!' They know what this means."

Phillips said having the parents onboard and having a close relationship with the surrounding community has been vital.

"Connecting the pieces, it's like an orchestra," said Phillips. "Everything has to work together to sound good. One year we had disconnected pieces, but by year two we added more pieces and kept them all aligned and working together. They all have an impact on the others."

For Phillips, it is also his last year at the school.

"I'm going to miss this community," said Phillips. "I claim every kid as mine, academically and socially."

On May 24, Interim Superintendent Lois Berlin announced M Scott Berkowitz would take over as Principal next year. Berkowitz currently co-leads C.W. Harris Elementary School in Washington D.C. Berkowitz worked as a math and science teacher in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) between 2004 and 2013, including one year at Jefferson Houston.

"The next principal is going to see more growth," said Phillips. "The school is on a positive trajectory. The school needs a new vision. It's time for the next step forwards."

DURING THE DISCUSSION with Qarni, Berlin officially announced plans for a partnership with the Northern Virginia Community College to allow local high school students to graduate with an associate's degree from NVCC.

The Tyler Building was sold to NVCC by ACPS in 1999 for \$1 as the school was facing dropping enrollment. Now the property will be converted into a satellite program, taking 100 students in its first year and gradually working up to 400 students.

"It's going to be great," said Berlin. "It's another option for high school students ... preparing students for the future."

Berlin said early discussions have centered on giving the school an information technology and cyber technology focus. Students enrolled in the new partnership will be taking college level courses alongside their high school classes, and will be able to graduate with an associate's degree or a professional certificate, offering pathways into four-year institutions.

While it's not the goal of the partnership, Berlin said a positive windfall from the arrangement is a new 400-seat facility to help with the school system's overcrowding.

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Letters

Unacceptable Metro Closures

To the Editor:

The Metrorail system has been neglecting its aging infrastructure for decades – and unfortunately, Alexandria residents will pay the consequences when all of its stations are closed for four months in the summer of 2019. There's no doubt that this decision was made by people who don't think twice about having a car to drive to work, a parking space and money for gas, but the ones who will suffer will be the Alexandrians who rely on Metro to get to work. To have no proposed alternative yet – and no community dialogue – is a blow to the working people we should be championing. City officials, both those who are elected and those who are not, should explain to Alexandrians why this development, which will affect commuters, businesses and summer tourism, has been accepted as a fait accompli.

Amanda Wilcox
Alexandria

City Needs New Slogan

To the Editor:

Although Alexandria may be “the fun side of the Potomac,” recent coverage of the approaching Democratic primary suggests a more fitting city slogan: “We Want More!”

Local special interests are in full overdrive, providing spending wish lists to candidates eager to trade their support for votes. Among the more recent demands are more affordable housing; more pay for certain city workers; more environmental programs; more spending on opioid treatment; more school spending; and more programs for the “undocumented community” and low income residents.

While I have no hope that the individuals involved in this triennial spectacle will consider the taxpayers who fund it, at least the city leaders could change our slogan to something more accurate.

Larry Ruggiero
Alexandria

Well-informed Judgment

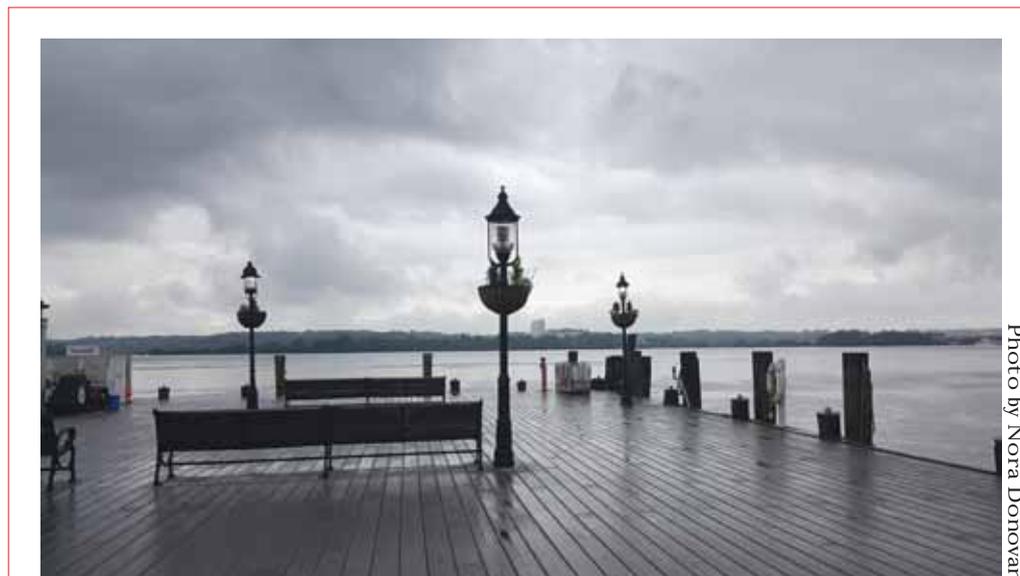
To the Editor:

The race for the Democratic nomination for mayor can be viewed as the latest iteration of a centuries-old debate about democracy.

On one side is the theory that democracy should be as “direct” and “pure” as possible, that government should be “by the people.” Ancient Athens approached this ideal, at least for free male native Athenians.

On the other side is the theory that, in a democratic republic, we elect leaders who are expected to consider public opinion but to ultimately use their judgment. Edmund Burke said over 200 years ago that “your representatives betray you rather than serve you when they sacrifice their judgment to your opinion.”

In practice, democracies and elected officials have arrayed themselves along a spectrum between these two theories.



Snapshot

A photo from the Alexandria dock on one of many, very rainy days. I felt like I was in Venice for a moment ... with high water, lampposts ... Alexandria is special, even in the rain!

— Nora Donovan

In Alexandria, elected officials ignore public opinion at their peril. We are blessed (for the most part) by the presence here of internationally-renowned experts on every issue imaginable. Our citizens are often very well-informed, articulate and politically savvy.

We have also, however, been blessed (for the most part) by many elected officials who were real students of public policy, deeply immersed in the details of policy considerations, and devoted to “doing the right thing”.

Allison Silberberg clearly leans hard towards the direct democracy side of the debate. She cares deeply about the number of communications from citizens for and against the issue of the day. Her views often seem to shift as expressed public opinion seems to shift.

Justin Wilson is one of those real students of public policy. He listens to the public — he is famous for his responsiveness to calls and emails and for reaching out to thousands of Alexandrians for dialogue. In the end, however, after studying an issue in great depth, he tries to do the right thing, using his best judgment, even at political risk.

I think Alexandria has benefited greatly from a series of mayors who were also students of public policy, like Jim Moran, Patsy Ticer, Kerry Donley and Bill Euille. I'm supporting Justin because I think he is from that tradition and it's a great tradition. Elected officials should strike a balance between considering public opinion and using their well-informed judgment. I think Justin strikes that balance.

Tim Lovain
Councilmember

Environmental Record

To the Editor:

When I learned of the local chapter of the Sierra Club's endorsement of Justin Wilson, I thought it was a hoax. In their statement, the chapter writes, “We highly value your dedication to the protection of the natural resources of Alexandria, and we are confident that you will safeguard the quality of the land, water,

and air.”

Given Wilson's voting record on environmental matters, it is impossible to imagine why the chapter would think that he would safeguard Alexandria's environment. He led the charge to eliminate the dedicated funding for the Open Space Fund in 2013. His vote on the Karig Estates is an affront to environmentalists, including the Sierra Club, which lobbied Council against the project so that the wetland, stream, and fragile woodland on the property would be protected. Wilson voted for the development, ignoring the Sierra Club and the environmental regulations.

In contrast, Mayor Silberberg was the only vote to keep the dedicated funding for the Open Space Fund in 2013, and, if re-elected, she will work to reinstate it. Wilson is against reinstating it. She was the lone vote in supporting the position of the Sierra Club and voted against the Karig Estates proposal. She fought for our city to protect our waterways, finally addressing the flow of sewage into the Potomac, an issue that was neglected for over 20 years. Others sat on this problem; she worked toward a resolution of this unacceptable water pollution. Dean Naujoks of The Potomac Riverkeeper Network has thanked Mayor Silberberg for her critical leadership on this issue. As a Climate Mayor, Mayor Silberberg has pushed our city to commit to work toward 100 percent renewable energy. No mayor in my memory has done more for our environment than Mayor Allison Silberberg. The differences between her and her opponent regarding the environment are enormous and clear as day.^o

Like me, you might wonder why a group of local “environmentalists” representing the Sierra Club would endorse the anti-environment candidate over the pro-environment mayor. The answer may lie in recent campaign finance disclosures that are a matter of public record. These disclosures show contributions to Wilson by members of the local Sierra Club chapter's board leadership, Pat Soriano, the political co-chair, and Seth Heald, the legislative chair, who played major roles in the endorsement process. Both had given to Wilson's
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Letters

campaign long before they sent out the candidates' questionnaires and interviewed them. That should have precluded the local Sierra Club from endorsing any candidate.

I wonder if the general membership of the local chapter is aware of this obvious conflict of interest. I would think its members would be very troubled by the fact that their leadership has undermined the credibility of the brand of one of the country's most influential environmental groups by tainting a process that should have been based solely upon environmental records.

Those of us who really care about the environment in Alexandria — and who have been paying attention — should vote to re-elect Mayor Silberberg on June 12.

Ernest J. Lehmann
Sustaining Member
of the Sierra Club

Understands Alexandria

To the Editor:

As a longtime Alexandrian, I feel compelled to speak out about the upcoming mayoral election on

June 12. Mayor Allison Silberberg has been outstanding and is the only candidate with a sensible approach to balance the needs of citizens and businesses to meet the future.

After watching her in action for the past three years, it is clear that she is citizen-focused, an advocate for smart and thoughtful development, an advocate for our quality of life, and is dedicated to preserving the rich history and character of our city. She understands what makes Alexandria such a special community, and doesn't want to sacrifice its character to transform it into another faceless urban city.

I applaud her for her priorities, her vision and courage she has shown repeatedly. She pushed the city to finally address all four of our sewer outfalls to protect our waterways and the Potomac, a priority that languished under previous mayors. She asks tough questions about development projects at Council meetings (at least someone is). She listens to citizen concerns. She has been pushing an aggressive tree-planting program to increase our tree canopy, and will work to restore the dedicated funding for the Open Space Fund, which her opponent led the way to eliminate. She advocated to

maintain sufficient parking in Old Town and Del Ray (as opposed to reducing the amount of parking for residents and small businesses). She is fiscally responsible, which is necessary to keep taxes in check and to maintain our AAA bond rating. Mayor Silberberg cares deeply about the people of our city and wants to protect our wonderful city while moving us forward. I'm with her.

Elizabeth Clark West
Alexandria

What's Best For City?

To the Editor:

Now that we have made it through the Olympics, the Super Bowl, the start of the baseball season, and the Kentucky Derby, our next sporting challenge is the upcoming Alexandria City elections on June 12. Like the ancient Greeks and Romans in their stadiums, we are about to witness the hand-to-hand combat as the many contenders seek to cross the finish line.

And, like any good competition, we need to keep score cards to see

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Letters

From Page 9

who deserves our support. This has been a challenging three years for the city, on all fronts. So, one has plenty of issues to help evaluate the players. Pay close attention to the incumbents who have lengthy voting records (some stretching back 15 to 33 years) that need to be examined in detail.

If you live in Old Town along the waterfront, you can review which contestants supported a realistic plan for the higher density forced on narrow streets, the waived parking requirements that hurt the neighbors and local small businesses vying for parking spaces. Who listened to input from the community and who didn't? And what about the battles for the future of the Torpedo Factory, for historic preservation, for the sewage outfalls?

Throughout the city, who supported a sensible environmental plan that encompassed all neighborhoods, including the tree canopy, Open Space, maintenance of our parks? For those near the Karig Estates, did the Council listen only to the city attorney or to the residents? Further west, what was the Council response to the 500 trees that suddenly disappeared when JBG sold its holdings to Morgan Properties?

If you live near I-395, do you remember the City Council incumbents succumbing to the Army's plan for BRAC, which took a revenue-generating property off the tax rolls, waived the environmental assessments, radically altered traffic routes and parking requirements, and created poor traffic patterns? And further down the highway, what about the white elephant of Landmark Mall, which has made minimal progress in the last 20 years, compared to shopping centers in Ballston, the Pentagon, Springfield or Tysons Corner? And what about the poorly named Victory Center, which still remains empty after years of discussion. Wouldn't that have been a better place to house the National Science Foundation, complete with a Metro stop, parking and easy access to both I-395 and I-495.

This election is a referendum on the six Council incumbents, the Gang of Six, who almost universally voted against any initiative by Mayor Allison Silberberg. They further thwarted any attempts at debate or discussion by refusing to second the majority of motions she offered.

So, stop supporting incumbents who have not listened to what you have to say. Break the Bloc that votes against things instead of for things with widespread public benefit. We urge you to follow the lead of the non-partisan Alexandrians for a Better City Government (A4BCG).

Alexandria voters can no longer accept the status quo on a Council that is one of constant discord and disrespect, on the dais and toward the citizenry.

We fully support the re-election of Mayor Allison Silberberg, for her principled, collaborative, responsible and inclusive leadership. And we encourage our fellow residents to support new candidates that include: Mo Seifeldein, Matt Feely and Robert Ray, who bring the goals of better fiscal management to the city's budget process, proven small business experience, integrity and a willingness to listen to all. (See the A4BCG website at WWW.Alex4BCG for de-

tails on their backgrounds.)

Since this is a crossover primary, all can vote, regardless of their party, and it does not inhibit your voting choices in the November election for statewide offices.

I encourage you to vote for Silberberg for Mayor of all Alexandria, and not just for technocrats, and for Seifeldein, Feely and Ray. Break the bloc and vote for 4, and no more. It takes 4 of 7 votes to pass any motion of the Council. The constant 6-1 vote is not leadership by the Gang of Six, but the failure to find responsible compromises that benefit the city and not just a few.

Kathleen M. Burns
Alexandria

Lone Vote Of Opposition

To the Editor:

As an interested voter in Alexandria, I attended the Chamber of Commerce debate and heard Vice Mayor Justin Wilson tout his ability to build coalitions on the City Council. He also criticized Mayor Allison Silberberg for being the lone vote of opposition in several 6 to 1 Council decisions.

What Mr. Wilson failed to point out is that Mayor Silberberg, in those votes, has not been afraid to buck the majority when she feels that it is in the best interests of Alexandrians. A case in point is the Karig Estates development, approved by the Council on a 6-1 vote. Mayor Silberberg was the only member who listened to the environmentalists and the neighboring community and paid attention to their quality of life concerns. Mr. Wilson and the other Council members instead sided with the developer, and against the neighborhood, as well as against geological experts and the Sierra Club who warned of environmental consequences.

Mr. Wilson also initiated and then led the charge for a record tax hike in 2017 that more than doubled the amount proposed by the City Manager in another 6-1 vote. Mayor Silberberg was the lone voice opposing the record tax hike. She instead urged the Council to support the City Manager's proposed budget with a 2.7-cent tax rate increase, which would have met the City's financial needs and the School Superintendent's request for education. People want to see their tax dollars go to specific, well-defined needs. However, the additional money generated by Mr. Wilson's historic tax rate increase was not dedicated or set aside for any specific project, but will be used for unspecified needs to be determined at a later time.

I fully support Mayor Silberberg for re-election on June 12, because I want a mayor who cares deeply about the people and who supports smart growth. Mayor Silberberg is a leader who never forgets that it is the citizens of this town who make this growth possible and that Alexandria's government must be for the people. I am voting for Mayor Silberberg because I want a mayor who will have my back, reflects my values and hears my concerns.

Mary Shine
Alexandria

City Elections 2018

In the Race for Mayor and City Council

Democrats face off for June 12 primary; Republicans and Independent look to November.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

1 = Low Relative Priority 2 = Below Average 3 = Above Average 4 = High Relative Priority

Every three years, Alexandria's front yards become a sea of brightly colored banners and catchy slogans. It's a crowded campaign season in Alexandria. After three years of frequent clashes on the dais, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson has launched a campaign to unseat incumbent Mayor Allison Silberberg, who herself — three years ago as vice mayor — overthrew Mayor William "Bill" Euille. Four incumbent City Councilors are seeking reelection, and with Councilman Tim Lovain not running for reelection and Wilson running for Mayor, two additional seats on the council are up for grabs.

Eight Democrats have come forward in the City Council primary, from teachers to local business owners. On June 12, the Democratic primary will be held to select which six candidates will be the official democratic nominees in the general election. So far, one Independent and two Republicans have announced campaigns to challenge them in the fall.

Registered voters can vote in either primary election but not both. The voter registration deadline for the primary was May 21, and the registration deadline for the general election is Oct. 15. Citizens can register to vote online at the Virginia Department of Elections website, where they can also check their voter registration status. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day.

The candidates responses to the following two questions are compiled here for ease of comparison: (1) "Assign relative priorities to the following issue areas, in terms of where you intend to budget finite dollars, political capital, personal time, staff time. (While it's understood that these issues aren't always mutually exclusive, in general they can't all have equal priority.)" And (2) "How did you vote or how would you have voted in these recent council decisions?"

Candidate	Affiliation	Relative Priority?									How Voted / Would Have Voted?		
		Education	Public Transit	Housing Affordability	Ecological Sustainability	Fiscal Discipline	Public Safety	Recreation & Open Space	Economy & Jobs	Historic Preservation & Arts	Creating Old Town Business Improvement District	Increasing taxes in FY 2018 budget process	Reducing off-street parking requirements for new developments
Canek Aguirre	D	4	4	4	4	3	1	3	3	3	N	Y	N
Willie Bailey	D	4	3	4	3	3	4	2	4	2	Y	Y	Y
E. Bennett-Parker	D	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	4	2	N	Y	Y
John Chapman	D	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	Y	Y	Y
Michael Clinkscale	R	4	3	1	3	4	4	4	4	4	N	N	N
Kevin Dunne	R	3	3	2	2	4	4	1	4	3	N	N	N
Matt Faaly	D	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	2	3	N	N	N
Dak Hardwick	D	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	Y	Y	Y
Chris Hubbard	D	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	N	N	N
Amy Jackson	D	4	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	N	N	N
Del Pepper	D	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	N	Y	Y
Robert Ray	D	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	N	N	N
Mo Seifeldin	D	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	N	N	N
Mark Shiffar	I	4	3	4	2	4	3	3	4	3	N	N	N
Allison Silberberg	D	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	N	N	N
Paul Smedberg	D	4	4	3	2	3	4	2	3	4	Y	Y	Y
Justin Wilson	D	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	3	Y	Y	Y

Chart compiled by Dan Brendel/Gazette Packet

For Mayor

Allison Silberberg

Democrat, Incumbent Mayor

Mayor Allison Silberberg was sworn into office in January 2016 and previously served as Vice Mayor. A published author and lifelong advocate for social justice issues, she has over 25 years of experience in community leadership and public service.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Public safety is always the highest priority for any city official. Because our public safety team does such an excellent job keeping us safe, I believe Council can continue to make fiscal discipline and economic development our top priority.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why

you think it's lowest.

All of these are very high priorities, and they are not mutually exclusive. We are now moving forward significantly with regard to all of these issues. But if forced to choose recreation or public safety, then public safety of course comes first.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

I support thoughtful, appropriate development that fits in, is to scale, and protects our neighborhoods. Increasing density is appropriate near our transit hubs, including Metro and bus rapid transit.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

I am fully committed to dedicated funding for the Affordable Housing Fund and for WMATA. I am committed to reinstating the dedicated funding for the Open Space Fund. Having dedicated funding protects these strong priorities.

Justin Wilson

Democrat, Incumbent Vice Mayor

I have served 7 years on the Council with a focus on children, infrastructure and our economy. My wife and I live with our two children in Del Ray and I have been with Amtrak professionally for over 11 years.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

The success of our children is my most important priority. I will continue my work to address growing student enrollment by expanding school capacity around our City. I will help close the preparedness gap by expanding preschool and

after-school.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I look forward to continuing to tackle the many issues before our community, large and small! When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

My approach has been to ensure that the density that we do approve is adjacent to existing and contemplated transportation infrastructure, particularly along our existing Metro Rail corridor. This protects our neighborhoods and our quality of life.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

I do not support the use of advance revenue dedication. I feel as though it distorts our budget process and protects one budgetary priority at the expense of others. It's a shortcut.

City Elections 2018

For Council

Canek Aguirre

Democrat

Canek Aguirre is a community advocate and progressive leader with a track record of building coalitions to amplify the voices that aren't always heard. A former ACPS employee, he currently works to improve health outcomes across Northern Virginia.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Over 90% of affordable housing has been lost since 2000. Whether through zoning ordinances and awarding density bonuses or through proposed dedicated funding such as the 1% meals tax and restoring the full penny set aside, we must take action now.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

There are many issues that impact every Alexandrian and require us all working together to identify solutions. Every decision Council makes should be informed by bringing all stakeholders to the table so that all voices are heard.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Density belongs around transit hubs and Metro stations with infrastructure that can mitigate the impact. When development opportunities arise in other areas, we need to ensure that appropriate infrastructure exists to support the proposed density.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Significant issues arise that require immediate solutions otherwise we face long-term, debilitating problems. Affordable housing, sewer outfalls, and open space are areas that require a sustained effort to address and may necessitate dedicated funds.

Willie F. Bailey

Democrat, Incumbent

I'm a lifelong Alexandrian, 21-year Army veteran, 27-year firefighter, and I created a nonprofit focused on children who need school supplies, coats, and gifts for the holidays. Alexandria Living Legend in 2013 for my work in the community.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I proposed a 1% local restaurant meals tax increase within the FY2019 budget to create \$4.75 million in dedicated workforce housing funding. But we need to do more. So, I'll keep fighting for dedicated funding to sustain workforce housing.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Once we've made considerable progress meeting the basic needs of our most vulnerable residents (i.e., housing, education and jobs), I'll focus on supporting areas like Historic Preservation & Arts — as City Council did this year with Freedom House.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Now is the time to add density on the West End near underutilized assets like Van Dorn Metro Station. This will help us grow economically and remain a vibrant city. I also support mixed-use development that includes green spaces and community areas.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

The shortage of workforce housing is making it harder for the average Alexandrian to live comfortably. Dedicated funding allows us to bring back more workforce housing units and make our city a place for everyone to live, work, and play.

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Democrat

I help lead TWB, a nonprofit job training program for women in need. I founded a small business that reduced food waste by transforming "ugly" fruit into healthy snacks. I am a Fulbright Fellow and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I will work to address our school capacity and facility issues, expand early education, make sure our teachers have the resources they need, strengthen Council's partnership with ACPS, and close the achievement gap.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I have a bachelor's in history and support historic preservation, but voters across the City are more concerned about our schools, affordable housing, the environment, transportation & development. These are critical challenges we must address.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

We have to balance increasing density with preserving the character of our neighborhoods and making sure we have the right infrastructure in place. We need to pursue higher-density options near metros and other public transportation.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

It may be appropriate when dire needs arise. We've lost 90% of our market-rate affordable units, which threatens our inclusivity and makes it difficult to recruit public and private sector workers because they cannot afford to live here.

John Taylor Chapman

Democrat, Incumbent

I am an educator, business owner and fourth generation Alexandrian who is devoted to improving my hometown. I believe that we need to be a place to raise a family, afford housing, have access to quality education, start a business, and thrive.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

My highest priority issue is protecting housing affordability. I have advocated for a dedicated funding in order to fund the city's Housing Master Plan and I continue to push ARHA in its efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

For our historic preservation and the arts, I plan to work on forming stronger community partnerships and public-private partnerships to enhance and support our historic assets and our arts and culture programming.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Decisions to add density must be done in partnership with the community especially with limited land to build. Fully realizing Potomac Yards and Eisenhower Valley should be the first, and then look toward the Mark Center and Beaugard areas.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Given the scale of region's growing housing crisis, it is appropriate for Council to consider dedicated funding to create and preserve affordability. I feel that it is reasonable to have certainty around the various plans that the city adopts.

Michael Clinkscale

Republican Adventurist

For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Our children, particularly the bottom half, are being underserved by the public school system. I intend to promote a competitive framework that includes charter schools, magnet schools, and homeschooling.



For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

We define affordable housing in a partial manner. We should lower taxes so that our retirees can afford to continue living in the city.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

The West End is a good place to add density and we can start doing so in a measured way in the very near future.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

It is appropriate in the funding of our safety of officers, our schools and our infrastructure.

Kevin Dunne

Republican

I am a passionate resident of Alexandria, involved in local efforts to promote healthy, sustainable, and equitable outdoors initiatives, both in my role as board member of a local bike non-profit and on the city beautification commission.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I want to restore Alexandria's competitiveness, specifically for our small business community and with our tourism, and to do so in part by overhauled use of our data and mapping technologies.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Recreation, independent of a broader connection to strengthening our economy is laudable, but unfortunately more pressing issues have a more direct impact on the city's future.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

In circumstances where intent to develop has been clearly communicated to surrounding residents, fits with the character of our "brand" in architecture and history, and promotes job and economic growth.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

To meet needs, broadly defined as things without which the city and residents would be financially or physically harmed.

Matthew "Matt" Feely

Democrat

34-year navy vet, published author, professor of leadership decision-making, and lifelong public servant. Fell in love with Alexandria in 1978 prior to joining the service and finally - in 2006 - was able to buy a home & find community in Alexandria.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Compensate first responders fairly; never allow budgets to limit method/degree of protection; use state/federal resources. EDUCATION: partner with and fully fund school board needs; expand before/after school/weekend/summer programs.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Economy & jobs ARE VERY important ... BUT ... SAFE & EDUCATED Alexandrians make good decisions re: all priorities - transit, affordable housing, ecological sustainability, historic preservation, etc., which ensure a STRONG ECONOMY and GOOD JOBS.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Some increased density is inevitable given our geography/attractiveness. Key is to locate density to protect/enhance quality of life. Density surrounding public transport stations creates vibrant communities w/ minimal pressure on resources.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Dedicated funding helps, temporarily, when Alexandria's financial/budgeting process fails to prioritize the city's competing needs. Dedicated funding ought to be used very sparingly.

Dak Hardwick

Democrat

Dak Hardwick is a community leader focused on investing education, upgrading our infrastructure, and revitalizing our economy. A civic-innovator, he achieves results with practical solutions to make Alexandria the best place to live, work & prosper.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Nothing is more pressing than education, specifically in our school infrastructure. I'm prepared to make significant investments via the city's bonding capacity and through outside partners to make more progress on our school capacity challenges.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

As a Councilmember, I will defer to our professional design experts and the committed architectural design community on issues pertaining to architectural review and design. Their expertise should lead the way, removing the need for high focus.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

It's appropriate to add density along our major transit lines where the existing transportation infrastructure can support growth, notably in Potomac Yard and at the Eisenhower East and Van Dorn Street Metro stations.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Dedicated funding would be appropriate when we can leverage outside funding to meet the needs of our community. If outside funding is available, but requires a "local match," then dedicated funding can and should be considered.

City Elections 2018

J. Chris Hubbard

Democrat

- Born in DC • BS Biochemistry, MS Architecture, VA Tech • Owner Architecture & Planning firm 27 yrs
- Planned walkable, mixed use/income community • Charter/Accredited member CNU • Designed TODs • Married with 3 girls in ACPS • MS CAM Georgetown University



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Developers to pay for school, transit (with parking fees), open space, burdens. Market rate affordable integrated income housing at net 0 taxes. Walkable, ECO Mixed use development done correctly the first time: more tax revenue.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Currently 100% of residents within 1/2 mi of a park in Alexandria City.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Landmark and Potomac Yards with regional transportation/transit connections, density includes complete walkable mix of uses/incomes: Live, work, play, eat, sleep and learn. Developer pays for burdens on Community, project done right = net 0 taxes.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

To support a particular project on a critical path toward completion. Dedicated funding can be tricky as it can interfere with budget flexibility for new funding issues which can arise suddenly — better to be flexible.

Amy Jackson

Democrat

My roots are in Alexandria since 1981. West End raised, I am an ACPS graduate (proud Titan), as my two children will be. As a civic leader & educator, I have been engaged in the community & I serve on several non-profit boards & city commissions.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

We need to allocate funds necessary for School Board to increase capacity for over-enrollment, provide resources for more universally available pre-k programs, and repair our existing schools and build new ones for a safe, modernized environment.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Although all of these concerns should take priority, we need to look at what needs the greatest assistance in funding right now. Priorities that should be established include education, smart growth, public safety, transportation/traffic.

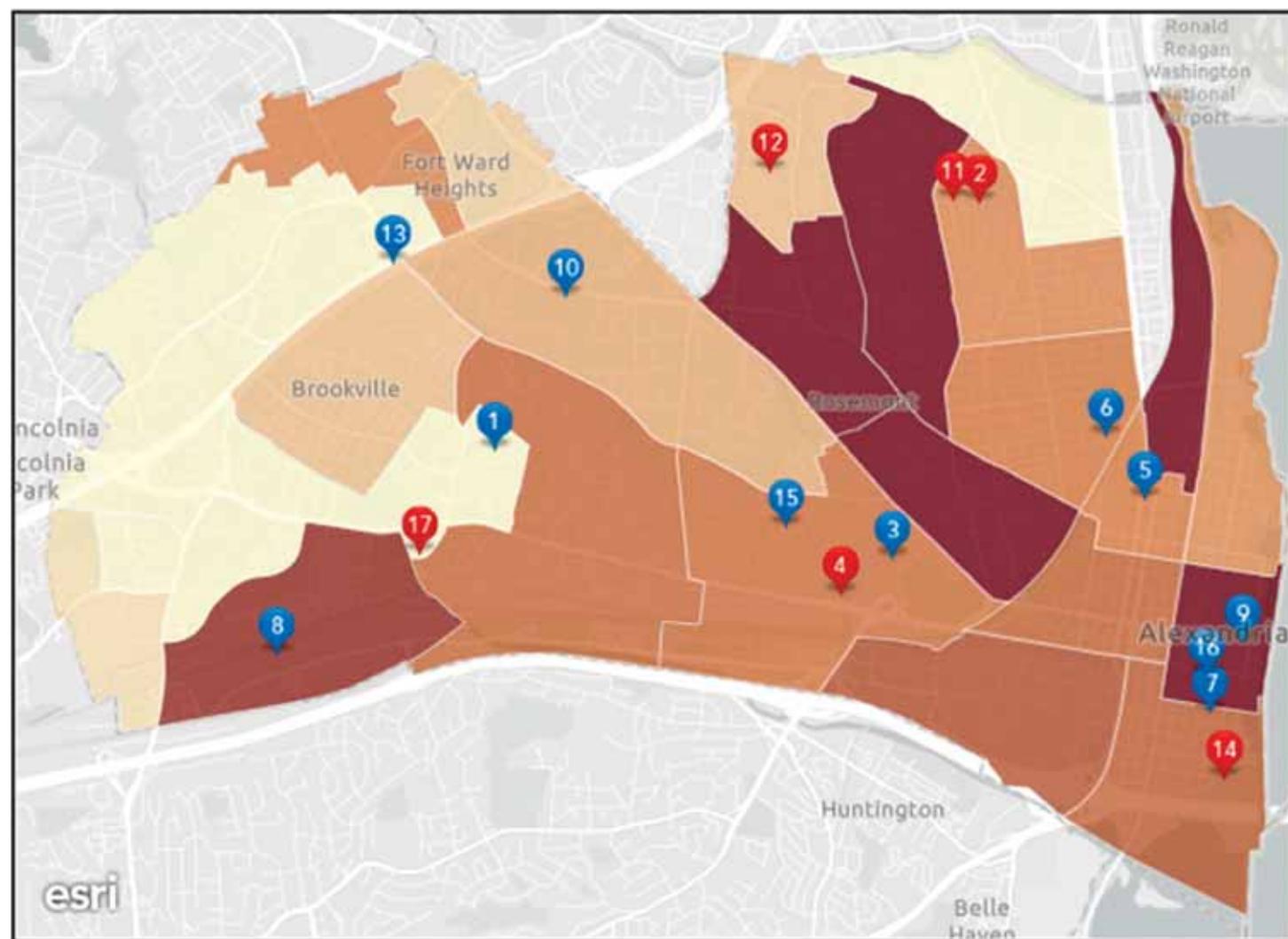
When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

West End smart growth needs to be encouraged for a more robust economy. Revitalization projects have taken far too long, and we have missed opportunities for growth and revenue. We need to follow through on small area plans & Eisenhower Corridor.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

We need dedicated funding for affordable/workforce housing, education, possibly transportation. It is irresponsible to have dedicated funding for all our City's concerns, since emergencies arise. We need to be able to allocate funding appropriately.

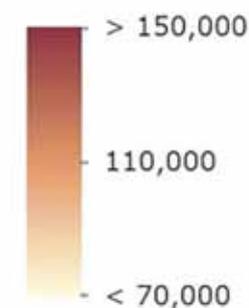
Candidates: Where They Live



Candidates: Where They Live (red = incumbents)

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 Aguirre | 7 Feely | 13 Seifeldein |
| 2 Bailey | 8 Hardwick | 14 Smedberg |
| 3 Bennett-Parker | 9 Hubbard | 15 Shiffer |
| 4 Chapman | 10 Jackson | 16 Ray |
| 5 Clinkscale | 11 Wilson | 17 Pepper |
| 6 Dunne | 12 Silberberg | |

2017 Median Household Income



Underlying map and data courtesy of Esri Demographics (<https://doc.arcgis.com/en/esri-demographics/>). Candidate addresses acquired from latest Statements of Organization available online from the Office of Voter Registration and Elections (www.alexandriava.gov/Elections).

Redella S. "Del" Pepper

Democrat, Incumbent

Born in Nebraska-received my BA degree from Grinnell College - did graduate work at the U. of Wisconsin - worked 5 years as a case worker in Chicago - married Dr. F. J. Pepper - moved to Alexandria - son Murphy - aide to Chuck Beatley-elected to City Council.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Support for the schools and increasing our affordable housing stock are my very top priorities and I have argued and voted for funding for both because of their potential for positive life-changing impacts. I will ensure that funds are spent wisely.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Historic Preservation & Arts is my lowest priority area. Only by comparison to the other priorities listed would historic preservation and the arts be given an "above average", but lower priority.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

The most appropriate locations for higher density in Alexandria are at Metro stations. Higher density allows us to broaden our tax base, provide housing and new jobs near transit hubs, and create support for new retail and restaurants.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Dedicated funding is appropriate when there is urgent need for funds for high priority projects such as affordable housing.

The funding stream is earmarked for a specific purpose, and can be discontinued when the need is met.

City Elections 2018

Robert Ray

Democrat

Hometown Alexandrian, second generation small business owner, conservationist, civic activist, studied architecture at UVA, served on boards of civic and charitable organizations for the last 30 years, taught high school for ESL and inmates.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

By July, Alexandria police officers will be receiving 10% less in salary than all surrounding jurisdictions. Let's make it at least possible for them to live and work in our City by increasing their salaries and offering affordable workforce housing.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I want to give all civic associations, unions and organizations of goodwill in the City the tools to have a stronger voice, more connection with each other, and more influence in city government. Their collective lowest priority will be mine also.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

Increased density brings an increased load on city services and on our transportation network. A necessary condition for allowing increased density is ensuring that a development's external costs are offset by the projected economic benefits.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

Dedicated funding is a necessary budgeting tool. Households set aside money for retirement and long term goals all the time. Long term concerns like land for future parks and care for the environment require long term thinking and set asides.

Mo Seifeldein

Democrat

I'm an immigrant, lawyer, small business owner, and a mentor. I represented vulnerable members of the community pro bono and now I work with small business owners. Before becoming a lawyer, I worked as a mental health counselor.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

Improving the quality of life is a top priority, which includes a funded school system, reducing congestion, quality services, public safety, economic development, historic preservation, open space, and workforce housing.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

I'm running to bring meaningful change and to represent all Alexandrians. There are competing interests in the City. I will balance those competing interests. I will do what is in the best interest of the Alexandria.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

A city that has resources problems and is unable to accommodate human services, transportation needs, and schools should not think about adding density. The city should look to enhancing the quality of life.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

When over the course of time important issues are not tackled, it is appropriate to act and remedy the city's failure to act. The city has failed with respect to the issue of affordable housing as it has failed with the sewer system problem.

Mark Shiffer

Independent

Father of 11 and 4 y/o. Tech exec w degrees in Math, Computer Science and Neuroscience. Worked in defense, finance, startups, tech. Biz owner/founder. Love hard problems. Strongly believe city govt should be functional, accountable and transparent.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I propose rolling up my sleeves and digging into the enormous budgets we fund that are not adequately addressing our problems. I will work with the school board and with various affordable housing advocates in the city to make sure our spending is effective.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Our major problems are the basics. We are critically failing in education, affordable housing, traffic, over development, accountability and transparency. These must be solved before going after less pressing issues that are not in as dire a state.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

When we are at the point where our basic public services (schools, transit, etc.) can support the additional people. We should only be adding density where local residents are in favor and where the impact can be absorbed and/or mitigated.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

I'm not sure this is ever a good idea. The city needs the flexibility to move funds around as needed. If there isn't political will on the council to address a need residents care about, shorten the term to 2 years and vote them out.

Paul Smedberg

Democrat, Incumbent

Paul plays a key role representing Alexandria on a number of regional & city bodies—Director, WMATA; Chair, NoVA Transportation Comm; Board, VRE, 2017 chair; Pension & Audit Subcommittee; Waterfront Commission, and the Legislative Subcommittee.



For your highest priority issue area, sum up what you propose to do about it.

I believe city & school core infrastructure projects are a high priority. Furthermore, I support implementation of the City-School Ad-Hoc Task Force recommendations that will have a lasting economic and societal benefit for Alexandria taxpayers.

For your lowest priority issue area, sum up why you think it's lowest.

Ecological sustainability is a low priority for me because I believe the Environmental Policy Commission & city staff are doing great job implementing the Eco-City Plan. I will leave this work to the professionals.

When and where do you think it is appropriate to add density in the city?

I believe the northern part of Potomac Yard, Eisenhower Valley, Landmark Mall and our Metro stations are all areas where we should add density to achieve commercial & business development, transit and affordable housing goals.

In what situations would dedicated funding be appropriate?

I do not support dedicating funds because I believe set asides are a bad budgeting practice. If a particular issue is a high community priority then it should be part of the base budget. Council should have the ability to manage changing priorities.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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



Photo Contributed

Thank You, Nurses

In celebration of National Nurses Week The Twig, Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital presented 19 bouquets of flowers to every Nurses Station at Inova Alexandria Hospital on May 9. Carol Skiba, Twig hospital liaison, coordinated the effort to show gratitude to the nurses and honoring their dedication to excellent nursing care. Kathleen Kelleher, a Sustaining Twig member, with a floral team designed and created each arrangement. Pamela Rinn, Twig president, led the team of 22 Twigs to present the bouquets to the nursing staff.

Beatley Central Library will serve as venues for the festival.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Virginia's representatives to the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will meet the public in a forum sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The event

will include a presentation focused on funding, governance and safety, followed by a question-and-answer session. The facility is within walking distance of the Vienna Metro station. Visit www.novatransit.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Nomination Deadline. The Alexandria Beautification Commission is seeking nominations for their annual Beautification Awards. Nominees should demonstrate exceptional efforts in contributing to the beautification of their communities,

neighborhoods and residences through architecture, landscaping or sustainable practices. Nominees may be residents, businesses or community groups, provided that they have not received a Beautification Award within the previous five years. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/beautification.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 1-2

Youth Mental Health. Friday, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at New Day Help Center, 6000 Stevenson Ave., Suite 304. This 8 hour course certifies adults to provide mental health first aid to YOUTH. \$20. Visit www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/course-types/youth/ for more course info. Visit newdayhelp.org/events/ and click on the "Registration" button. Call 571-406-5902 or visit www.newdayhelp.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

2018 Northern Virginia Wear Orange Rally. 7 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Join Moms Demand Action, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, faith leaders, survivors, community organizations, and business partners for our 2018 Northern Virginia Wear Orange Rally. RSVP for the rally at bit.ly/NOVAwearsorange.

MONDAY/JUNE 4

Community Meeting. 7 p.m. in the Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St. The Route 1 South Housing Affordability Strategy community meeting was rescheduled. The meeting will include a presentation and discussion on the draft Strategy, which will be released to the public for review at this meeting and is anticipated to go to Planning Commission and City Council for adoption in September after further community input and refinement. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/100785 for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

Alexandria Democratic Committee City Council Primary Debate. 7 p.m. at Francis C. Hammond Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia, is located at 4646 Seminary Road. Visit www.alexdem.com.

Sports



The Bronze Medalist Women's First 8 boat and Coach Rubini.

Photos courtesy of Paul Filios

TC: Silver and Bronze at Nationals

Women's First 8 secures Bronze, Frosh 8s win Silver.

In their second visit to the Cooper River in Camden, N.J. in as many weeks, seven boats from the T.C. Williams Crew Team competed against the top high school boats in the nation on May 25-26 in the National Championship Regatta sponsored by the Scholastic Rowing Association of

America. (The SRAA "Nationals" is unofficial because high school athletics do not allow sporting events to be held that decide national champions.)

The top one or two boats in each category from seven state and regional qualifying championship

See TC Crew, Page 20



The Women's Frosh 8 Silver Medalists and Coach Marquardt.

DEMOCRAT
DAK ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
HARDWICK empoweralx.com

VOTE
JUNE 12



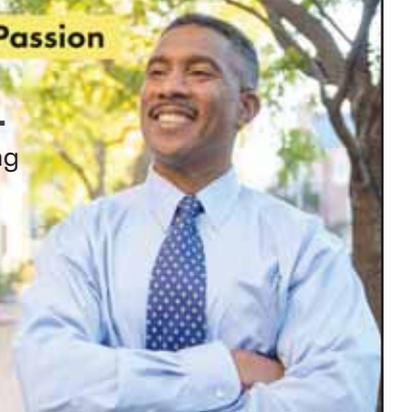
PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF DAK HARDWICK

WILLIE BAILEY
for Alexandria City Council

Leadership ♣ Loyalty ♣ Passion

Priorities:

Affordable Workforce Housing
Schools and Youth Programs
Strategic Development &
Growing the Commercial
tax base
Public Safety



Paid for by friends of Willie Bailey
for Alexandria City Council



CHRIS HUBBARD

Licensed Architect
and Planner, for a Healthier
Pedestrian-Friendly Alexandria

PRIORITIES:

- Living a Healthier Lifestyle
- Having a Schools-First Mentality
- Offering integrated income housing

PAID FOR BY CHRIS FOR CITY COUNCIL

Home of the \$6,850 Bathroom Remodel

From Now to WOW in 5 Days Guarantee

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

10% down
nothing until the job
is complete for the
past 17 years



Select your
products from
our Mobile
Showroom
and Design
Center

Fully Insured &
Class A Licensed
Since 1999



Free Estimates
703-214-8384

Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Entertainment

'The Nance' Takes Center Stage at LTA

Set in 1930s, show presents backstage story of performers in world of burlesque.

By Steve Hibbard

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Nance" from June 2-23. The play is set in 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 comedy, Chauncey Miles not only plays a gay man but is a homosexual himself. The Nance will take the audience into the world of burlesque and tell the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers.

Written by Douglas Carter Beane, the play is about the waning days of vaudeville and burlesque and how the decline of the two bring about social change in 1937, said Director Frank Shutts. At the time, Fiorello LaGuardia was running for re-election for mayor of New York, and as his campaign promise he was going to clean up the city and that meant closing them down. "They were getting ready for the World's Fair so they were trying to get rid of burlesque, the lewd vaudeville sketches, anything that wasn't family-friendly," he said.

He said there's plenty of humor in the show and it will touch your heart if you allow your heart to be open. "There's music; it's a play with music but it is not a musical," he said, including a live five-piece orchestra.

He said the cast watched the DVD of the story, "Behind the Burley Q," which interviewed the burlesque performers at the

time. "They've done their research for this show and realized these girls weren't pushed around. They were protected. If they were found prostituting themselves, they were fired. It's set during the era of Prohibition. No one could afford \$20 to see a Broadway show but they could afford 10 cents to see the burlesque show. These girls were making \$1,500 a month, which was a killing during the depression," he said.

Chuck Dluhy plays the main character, the Nance, but his name is Chauncey. "Off stage he's a semi-closeted gay man in the 1930s. He's never been good at relationships. He goes from man to man for his sexual conquests. But he has this persona on stage called the Nance," he said. "In that time, a straight man played gay on stage. But he's a gay man playing gay man on stage. He meets Ned; he picks him up in an automat one night and it ends up not being a one-night thing. They develop this more formal relationship; he's used to having one-night stands. The play juxtaposes his life on stage and off stage and the relationship he has with Ned."

Jack Stein plays the role of Ephraim, the classic New York burlesque theater stage manager who to keep costs low, he also does a lot of comedy sketch work opposite his cast members. "That's the glue behind the burlesque show because the audiences are primarily there to see the strippers," he said.

He said it's a challenging play because it's combining a poignant back-stage story that takes place in the 1930s in a critical time of censorship. "So, balancing the poignancy with the story line and the joy of burlesque



The cast of LTA's "The Nance" rehearses a scene from the show.

theater. The show is constructed in a way that we do a back-stage storyline but to emphasize the themes, we're performing burlesque and comedic numbers. So, it's a fun and interesting."

He hopes the audience takes away a respect for the level for creativity and challenge that this era of theatre had and, perhaps even more importantly, the stigma still faced today with segments of our population, via one's sexual identity or cultural background, and the challenge of being accepted in a very diverse society.

John Paul Odle plays the role of Ned, a less-sophisticated cross between a city boy and country bumpkin who comes to New York City after having left his wife in Buffalo. "Mainly because he has come to the realization that he's gay and knows a marriage to his wife will not work out, so he has the goal in mind to go with the flow and roll with the punches," he said.

"I meet Chauncey at the automat and in

Chauncey I see a chance at something nice, something more domesticated, something more my speed. And at the same time Chauncey introduces me to the world of theater, which for me is a safe haven for the outcasts of society, at least at the time," he said.

He said the biggest challenge was a straight man playing a gay man. "I had gone into this thinking it would be a straight man playing a gay man and that is the be-all-end-all. But it's a lot more layered because I have this back story. For a long time, I was closeted. I played the part to fit in. When I blend in to NYC, I let the freak flag fly," he said.

Charlene Sloan plays the role of Sylvie, a passionate and streetwise burlesque-talking woman as opposed to a chorus girl. "As a talking woman, she sets up the jokes. She's obviously a stripper. In the show itself, in

See 'The Nance,' Page 19

Calendar

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

www.artsonthehorizon.org/ www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or at the door on the day of the performance.

ONGOING

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. 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."

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. Tickets are \$6 for children and adults and can be purchased online at

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Garden Talk. 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn how to make a garden both beautiful and tasty with the addition of edible plants. Discover the many ways to incorporate edibles such as veggies, berries and roots into an ornamental landscape. \$10 Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

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.

Artist Reception: "Haven." 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. G.C. Myers is returning for a solo

exhibition with a new grouping of artwork. Myers is a self-taught artist, who found his passion for painting during his recovery from a serious accident. Food and drink will be provided. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

Sunset Movie Night. 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. This week's show is "Guardians of the Galaxy." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies will start at sunset. Free. Visit www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com.

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/performance 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.

Archaeology Open House. 11 a.m. at Shuter's Hill site at the Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Get the first look at this year's excavations at Shuter's Hill, an 18th-century urban plantation located on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Free. Call 703-746-4399 or email archaeology@alexandriava.gov.

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. Contact Marilyn O'Leary, 703-887-4133 or Marilyn@StudentsLovePianoLab.com.

Taste of Del Ray Food Festival. 1-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria. Sample menu favorites from award-winning restaurants at the 10th Annual Taste of Del Ray. t Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue. \$15/adults; \$5/children. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Sounds of Pohick Music Concert. 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The St. Cecelia and St. Alban Children's

Entertainment

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.

Country-Western Dance. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.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. Email mj.jarrar@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexandriava.gov/NatureCenter.

Dog Adoption Event. 1-4 p.m. at



Tango Night

QuinTango shares the stage with four world-class artists from South America, the G.W. StringTango Orchestra and the Tucker Tiger Tango Dance Team. This event teams artists at the top of their game with young musicians and dancers in an evening of tango favorites such as Carlos Gardel's "Por una Cabeza" (theme from "Scent of a Woman") and Piazzolla's "Oblivion" and "Libertango." Argentine tango dancers Analia Centurion and Jeremias Fors, Grammy-nominated musician Emmanuel Trifilio, and the Guatemalan conductor Igor Sarmientos, and QuinTango are all international touring artists who take time to teach in QuinTango's ACPS programs. Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m. at G.W. Middle School in Alexandria. Visit www.quintango.com.

PetSmart, Potomac Yards, 3351 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Alexandria. Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation will have dogs for adoption at Potomac Yards PetsMart in Alexandria every other Sunday. Adopt, foster, donate or volunteer. Visit www.ldcf.org.

Crazy Hair Day - Art Workshop.

1:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum. Free.

Join artist Sophie Blondeau, amid her

exhibition of paintings featuring fanciful interpretations of classic French culture, for a hands-on workshop. Students will be given a poster board with a face already positioned near the bottom-then Blondeau will encourage them to let their imagination run wild. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org.

Pride Beer Garden. At Jackson 20, located at 480 King St., Alexandria.

Jackson 20 will have its Beer Garden in its courtyard, with Port City Brewing Company in-house offering a sampling of their local brews. Call 703-549-6080 or visit www.jackson20restaurant.com.

JUNE 4-JULY 1

Art Exhibit: "Selfie: Not for Sharing." Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;



Jeremias Fors and Analia Centurion

QuinTango

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 scopegallery.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

Birth of a Wetland. 10 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn how geology, human land use and wildlife created this special place. Learn about the park's history and enjoy a naturalist-led walk to the wetland following the talk. Bring binoculars to enhance your experience. \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

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 bethesda.org.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

The Sanctuary Opens. 6 p.m. at 2213

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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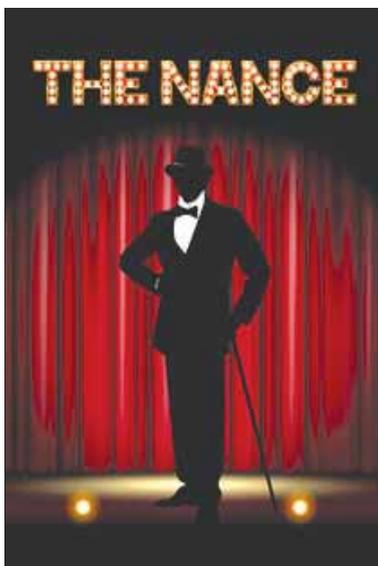
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Entertainment

4 Dates to Circle in June

By Hope Nelson

109 S. St. Asaph St. 7-10 p.m. \$98 per person; reservations recommended.



THE NANCE

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SHOW DATES:
June 2 - 23, 2018



Little Theatre of Alexandria
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www.thelittletheatre.com

Specialty beer releases, multicourse wine pairings with dinner, a veritable buffet of Del Ray specialties: June is shaping up to be a busy one for festive-food-and-drink fans. Here are some of the month's top picks.

Taste of Del Ray, June 3

The 10th annual rendition of one of Del Ray's signature events kicks June off in style. More than a dozen restaurants are joining in the proceedings, allowing attendees to sample the wares of such varied kitchens as Southern-themed Live Oak Restaurant and the Mexican roots of Los Tios. When you're done perusing the menus and enjoying unlimited samples, do your civic duty and vote for the People's Choice award. Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at the corner of East Oxford Avenue and Mount Vernon Avenue. 1-3 p.m. Advance tickets \$15 for adults, \$5 for children; day-of tickets available only if the event isn't sold out.

Paradise Springs Wine Dinner at Columbia Firehouse, June 14

One of the closest wineries to Alexandria, Paradise Springs is bringing its wares even closer still to the heart of Old Town for one night. The winery is pairing with Columbia Firehouse to offer diners a multicourse meal with a selection of wines for each course. Start the evening with battle creek oysters paired with a cabernet franc/merlot rose, proceed through your entrée and dessert, and taste the likes of beef tenderloin and meritage wine along the way.

Easy Cooking Creations Class at Spice and Tea Exchange, June 19

Throughout the spring and summer, the Spice and Exchange in Old Town is hosting monthly courses to help would-be chefs harness their power. This month, Chef Jill Siena will walk participants through "easy entertaining" recipes with an aim of creating a menu perfect for a summertime party (and using ingredients from the host spice purveyor). 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$35. Register by calling the store at 571-312-8505 or emailing alexandria@spiceandtea.com.

"It's Raining Cats and Dogs" Derecho Party at Port City Brewing, June 23

If it's summer, it's time for Port City Brewing to release its annual Derecho Common beer, a California common style first brewed — by virtue of circumstance — in 2012 once the brewery lost power following the storied summertime derecho. This year, Port City is putting a spin on its typical release party and turning it into a fundraiser of sorts. From 2 to 4 p.m., volunteers from Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation will be on site for a pet adoption event, and all day 10 percent the proceeds from both the Rocklands and DC Slices food trucks will benefit the Friends of Puerto Rico. There will also be a "Dunk the Brewer" booth, the proceeds of which will also go to Friends of Puerto Rico. 3950 Wheeler Ave. Noon-10 p.m.

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



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Calendar

Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Artist Nancy Belmont, the woman behind The Courage Wall, Unity, Be the Light, and Soar, launches a new experiential public art project called The Sanctuary. The public will be invited to think about their self-talk and how well their inner voice is serving them. Then, they'll give them a "seed" (treated paint can lid) upon which they can write a positive affirmation that they want to believe about themselves. They will hang these expansive mantras along a labyrinth that will eventually hold 5,000 people's affirmations.

First Thursday Del Ray. 6-9 p.m. Along Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Free. Every first Thursday of the month the Del Ray Business Association features businesses along Mount Vernon Avenue, special events, food and music. Each month has a different theme with activities for children, live music and a festive atmosphere. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

D-Day Commemoration. 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Dr. Aaron George of the Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense will give a lecture titled, "D-Day: The Decision to Go." The lecture will describe the enormous effort of planning for the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the days and moments leading up to one of the greatest decisions in military history. Dessert and wine reception to follow. \$10 per person. Purchase tickets at www.shop.alexandriava.gov. Call 703-746-4994.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

Pope-Leighey Picnic and Party. 6 p.m. at 9000 Richmond Highway,

8th Annual D-Day Commemoration

Almost 74 years ago the largest air, land, and sea invasion in history took place on the beaches of Normandy. Launched by General Dwight D. Eisenhower and including American, British, Canadian, and Free French forces, it was D-Day, June 6, 1944, the beginning of the liberation of western Europe. To honor the veterans and commemorate their heroic acts, the City of Alexandria has proclaimed the month of June as "D-Day Commemoration Month." The City will hold its 8th Annual D-Day Commemoration events:

❖ Thursday, June 7, 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, Dr. Aaron George of the Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense will give a lecture titled, "D-Day: The Decision to Go." Dessert and wine reception to follow. \$10 per person. Purchase tickets at www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

❖ Saturday, June 9, 2:30-5 p.m., an official D-Day commemoration ceremony and community event will take place on Market Square (301 King St.). This event includes WWII reenactors, period vehicles, '40s swing music from the band "Blue Jazz" along with exhibition swing dancing and an expected performance by the U.S. Fife and Drums Corps. There will be community booths and a "French Market" with refreshments and crafts for sale. An official remembrance ceremony with Alexandria elected officials will take place at 3:30. Children are encouraged to attend. All activities are free.

Visit www.alexandriacaen.wordpress.com.

Alexandria. Celebrate architect Frank Lloyd Wright's birthday at the Pope-Leighey House. Bring your own picnic and party with cocktails, desserts, jazz, and more. Cost is \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/new-events-1/ or visit woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Alexandria After Work Concert Series. 6-8 p.m. at the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, 517 Prince St. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria sponsor a concert on the second Friday of the month with locations rotating between the

Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, Lloyd House, and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. Concert features Cigar Box String Band — old-time string band music on banjo, fiddle, harmonica, bass, bones, washboard, and suitcase. \$15 suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Visit www.fsgw.org.

Opening: Bethesda Painting Award Finalists. 6-8 p.m. 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



Dr. Aaron George

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

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.

Celebrating Pride and Diversity. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Poetry reading celebrating the LGBT community and its diversity. Visit the Office of the Arts' website at www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, email the Poet Laureate at poet@alexandriava.gov, or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

Fostering the Future Gala. 7-10 p.m. at Sheraton Suites in Old Town Alexandria. The theme, 'Up, Up and Away', highlights the possibilities for youth in Alexandria. This event features entertainment, a silent and live auction, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, dancing, and more. All proceeds benefit children in foster care or at-risk of abuse and neglect. Call 703-746-5663 or visit alexandriava.gov/DCHS.

Sunset Movie Night. 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. This week's show is "Captain America: Civil War." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies will start at sunset. Free. Visit www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

SATURDAY/JUNE 9

ALIVE! Yard Sale. 8 a.m. at the Ice House, 120 South Payne St., Alexandria. Yard sale for ALIVE!

House, a women's shelter. Donations of gently used items and volunteers are needed. Donation drop-off directions on the website www.alive-inc.org. To volunteer, email margaret.dhillon@gmail.com.

Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Camp life activities include infantry, artillery drills and firing demonstrations and more. Suggested donation: \$2 adults; \$5 families. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.forward.org.

The General's Tour. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. This guided walking tour of Robert E. Lee sites in Alexandria's Historic Old Town will address the complicated legacy of the Confederate general's life in Alexandria. \$10 in advance; \$15 at door. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Fort Hunt Fun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. History fun day at Fort Hunt Park. Come see blacksmiths, living history, antique cars, and farm animals. Play traditional games or climb a climbing wall. Sandwiches and drinks will be sold. Keep pets on a leash at all times. Free; open to all. Call 703-235-1530 or visit nps.gov/gwmp.

Arts Fair. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. More than 80 arts and crafts vendors, food, beer and children entertainment. Thousands of residents and visitors of all ages stroll King Street and the Waterfront Park. They offer beer, cider and food and everyone will have a chance to leave their mark on a boat with paint. Visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org.

D-Day Commemoration. 2:30-5 p.m.; official remembrance ceremony at 3:30 on Market Square, 301 King St. Official D-Day commemoration ceremony and community event includes WWII reenactors, period vehicles, '40s swing music from the band "Blue Jazz" along with exhibition swing dancing and an expected performance by the U.S. Fife and Drums Corps. There will be community booths and a "French

Market" with refreshments and crafts for sale. An official remembrance ceremony at 3:30. Children are encouraged to attend. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. between Founder's Park and Blackwall Hitch in Old Town Alexandria, 211 N. Union St. (behind building). Wines provided by Unwined, charcuterie by Society Fair, a silent auction and the sound of steel drums along Old Town's waterfront. \$85 at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3399930; \$100 at the door. Call 703-778-0977 or visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

"Justice on Trial: The Play." 7-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School Auditorium, 3330 King St. This production is about two civil rights attorneys suing the U.S. Justice Dept. for reparations for African Americans and damages due for racial injustice in America, while bringing back expert time traveler witness such as Harriett Tubman, Medger Evers and Emmet Till to tell their stories. A blend of comedy, history and information with singing. Visit ticketbud.com, and search "Justice."

SUNDAY/JUNE 10

Visit with James Madison. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. President James Madison will be at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Included in the regular museum admission of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child under 12. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Author Appearance. 2 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Former CIA officer turned author Duane Evans will be presenting and signing copies of his book, "Foxtrot in Kandahar." Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. at G.W. Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents an afternoon of music by Debussy, Bolcom, and Dvorak, featuring the Washington Saxophone Quartet. \$20, general admission; children are free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

'The Nance' Takes the Stage

From Page 16

the backstage scenes and regular life scenes, she's very passionate and keeps up on politics and has a viewpoint. She's not the ditzy character that people stereotype a stripper as," she said.

"Being a very realistic character, my personal challenge is trying to find a way to exude the physical confidence you need to have to be a burlesque stripper. You have to be confident to strut your stuff. You have to exude confidence and display a comfortable way with your body. This is a stripper — you have to show that confidence and ballsy attitude because that's what our audience was looking for," she said.

Danielle Comer plays the role of Joan, who is also one of the strippers. "She's the youngest of the strippers so she's there to draw the young men in. She's not the brightest tool in the shed; I don't know if I'd call her ditzy but she's not as street savvy as the other characters but she doesn't let that stop her," she said.

She adds: "She knows how to have a good time. So being confident in your body, especially women nowadays are told that a certain body is beautiful, so it's very hard to be confident in showing your body on stage when you don't look like the ones you see in the magazines. So that is a challenge for me," she said. "I think I'm smarter than Joan in real life so I think it's giving her the just performance she de-

serves. She's not all dumb but it's finding that balance of being confident and not being the smartest of the group but finding her place in the group."

Janice Rivera plays the role of Carmen, one of the burlesque women. "They play up her Hispanic background. It's stereotypically portrayed in the show. Her numbers are 'La Cucaracha' and 'Mexican Hat Dance.' It's an interesting contrast to see where we've come. Her character plays up on that. She embraces that as part of her performances. She's a little different, a little spice on stage, and that's her gimmick and she doesn't have any problem using that as her performance."

She adds: "As a character I'm finding that she does have a lot of street smarts and she's happy to be one persona on stage but very true to herself and her friends and colleagues off stage. There is a relationship and a bond between the performers off stage, which is one of the things I hope people take away from this show."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Nance" from June 2-23. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com or call the box office at 703-683-0496.

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VIRGINIA:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS
Case No.: CA1 700036M-03

**IN RE: The Adoption of Eva Nicole Gilbertson
A minor, by Mary Ann Orzechowski**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

After review of the Affidavit and Petition for Order of Publication filed by counsel for Petitioner, Mary Ann Orzechowski, which object of such Affidavit and Petition is to effectuate an adoption and terminate the birth mother's parental rights, and pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-316, the Court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service of process by publication.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that the birth mother, Brittany Nichole Davis also known as Brittany Nichole Davis, also known as Brittany Nichole Fields, also known as Brittany Nichole Hamel, appear at the above-named Court to protect her interests at 9:00am on July 12, 2018. Should the birth mother not appear or otherwise make known her position, then she is hereby notified that any and all of her parental rights will be terminated.

It is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Alexandria Gazette in Alexandria, Virginia, and in the Mt. Vernon Gazette in Fairfax, Virginia, and a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

Enter: 5/21/2018

[Signature]
Judge

We ask for this:

[Signature]

Colleen Marea Quinn, Esq. (VSB # 29282)
Locke & Quinn
4928 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 11708, Richmond, VA 23230
Telephone: (804) 285-6253 Fax: (804) 545-9400
Email: quinn@lockequinn.com
Counsel for Petitioners

Sports

TC Crew

From Page 15

regattas receive an invitation to Nationals. The seven TC boats in this elite group got their tickets to Nationals at the two-day Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association State Championships.

Compared to the inclement weather the previous weekend at the abbreviated and relocated Stotesbury Cup Regatta, Nationals featured warm but otherwise favorable conditions for rowers. Following qualifying heats, four TC boats – the Women's First 8, Men's First Four, Women's Second 8, and Women's Frosh 8 – claimed a lane in the Saturday morning semi-final races featuring the top 12 or 18 boats in their categories.

The Stotesbury Champion TC Women's Frosh 8 snagged a second-place finish in their semi-final with a time of 5:20.942, behind Stotesbury Silver Medalist Mount St. Joseph's 5:17.216 time and ahead of Upper Arlington, Ohio's time of 5:23.353. In the other Frosh Women's semi-final, Virginia State Champion McLean led the field with a blazing time of 5:10.926, followed by Chicago's New Trier (5:11.972) and Bethesda's Whitman (5:22.589) to set the six-boat field for the final.

The Virginia State Champion TC Men's First 4 placed fifth in their semi-final with a time of 5:12.051, and the Women's Second 8, also a Virginia State Champion, placed fourth in their semi-final with a time of 5:21.530, ending both boats' runs for a spot in the finals.

The Titan Women's First 8, Virginia State Champions and a finalist a week earlier at Stotesbury, placed second in their semi-final dash with a time of 5:03.186 behind Florida State Champion Winter Park's 4:57.856 to gain a spot in the final. Other Women's First 8 finalists included Saratoga (New York State Scholastic Champion), Moorestown (N.J., Garden State Scholastic Champion), Loyola Academy (Ill., Midwest Scholastic Rowing Association Champion), and New Trier (MSRA Silver Medalist).

As temperatures pushed towards the upper 80s, the TC Women's Frosh 8 lined up at high noon for their final with three boats they had faced earlier in the season and the fifth fastest time in morning semi-finals. The six boats all remained in a tight pack in the first 500 meters, but the middle third of the race saw New Trier push to a lead that it never relinquished. At the 1000-meter mark, TC, Whitman, and Mount

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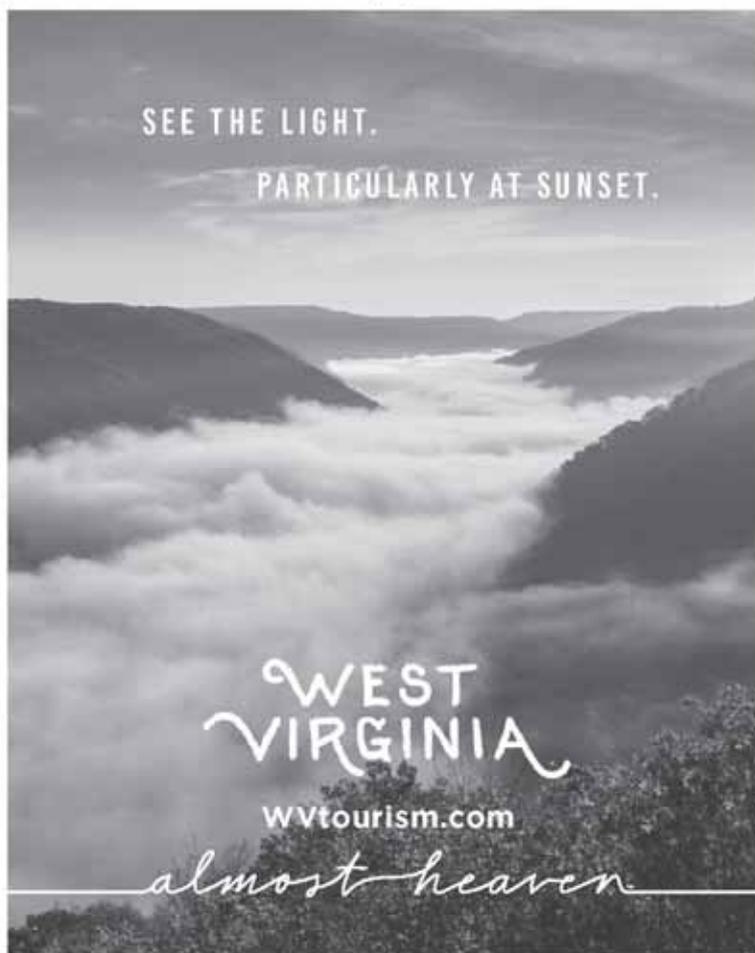
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Let us know about an upcoming event

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TC Crew

From Page 20

St. Joseph's moved slightly ahead of McLean and Upper Arlington as the final sprints began.

With a screaming crowd and a flurry of oars, the Frosh 8s reached for the finish with a pitched battle for second that ended in a photo finish and exhausted rowers on the water wondering about the results. When the announcers finally called the race, it was New Trier in first at 5:12.198, the jubilant TC Women's Frosh 8 at 5:18.105, and the Whitman squad only inches behind at 5:18.125. Mount St. Joseph's finished out of the medal count with an aching close 5:18.761.

With their Silver Medal at Nationals, the TC Women's Frosh 8 - rowers Riley Bucholz, Libby Padilla, Mackenzie Allen, Kaitie Dennis, Wellesley Snyder, Grace Yokitis, Adrienne Carter, and Halle Reinholtz, and coxswain Caroline Miles - added hard-earned hardware to their Stotesbury Gold and Virginia State Silver medals.

Over three hours later, the TC Women's First 8 rowed to the start of their Nationals run with a burning sun overhead, air practically dripping with humidity, and only occasional puffs of a breeze to provide momentary relief. Unlike their TC Frosh teammates, none of their fellow Stotesbury finalists earned a berth in the final at Nationals. And like the Frosh, the TC First 8's had the fifth fastest time in their semi-finals.

With a drone hovering over the race and providing live video, Saratoga and Winter Park battled for the top spot almost from the beginning as the TC 1-V-8s started behind the pack but battled their way to third at the halfway point, with Loyola and Moorestown closing fast. Over the next few hundred meters, TC, Loyola, and Moorestown traded positions, each finding themselves in third place at one point before TC began its sprint at the 300-meter mark. The Titan Women stroked to a Bronze Medal finish in 4:55.661, 3.5 seconds behind Winter Park and 2.5 seconds ahead of Loyola. Saratoga took the Gold.

TC Women's 1-V-8 seniors Rachel Knapp, Grace Asch, Grace Vannatta, Grace Hogan and Charlotte Carey, juniors Grace Fluharty and Blythe Markel, sophomore Madeline Toaso, and junior coxswain Paula Filios claimed a Women's First 8 medal at Nationals for TC for the first time in a decade.

Next weekend the Titans travel to Saint Catharines in Ontario for their last regatta of the 2018 spring season, the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Association Championships on June 1-3.

Seifert

From Page 5

ASF wishes to thank outgoing leader Stephen Mutty who served the Seaport Foundation for two and a half years. "Steve brought a great passion to his role," said Joe Bondi, chair of ASF's board of directors. "We are grateful to him for his clear vision of what the Seaport Foundation could become as the waterfront develops."

View to a Shril



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I watch a little bit of television. Okay, maybe I watch a lot of television (probably too much if truth be told). And in the curse of watching that television, like it or not, fast-forwarding or not, commercials will be seen and unfortunately heard. Sometimes, what I see and hear causes me to interact with my television, verbally. And even though this verbalization is rarely responded to (other than by my wife, Dina), these outbursts (again if truth be accurately characterized) make me feel so much better.

What irritated me today - which led to this column being written, was a television commercial for a cellular phone company, an ("Approved AARP provider since 2008") providing "exclusive benefits for AARP members" which, as I consider my age, and associations which have value, I would have to say, to quote my late father: "The idea has merit." The commercial featured - among other facts and figures - endorsements from a half a dozen or so satisfied customers.

The praise was typical of what you might expect/hear; all good about everything: price, service, reliability, value, etc. One woman's comments however caught my attention. I believe I heard her correctly when she said: "Wild horses couldn't drag me away from" And then off I went.

Really? Are you kidding me? Rather than change your cellular service, you'd consent to being dragged behind a team of wild horses? Do you actually mean to say that if you had your hands and feet bound and you risked being ripped to shreds, you still wouldn't change carriers? You can't be serious? As Minnie Driver asked Matt Damon in a scene from the 1997 movie "Good Will Hunting" discussing his having studied organic chemistry "a bit": "Are you mad? Have you completely lost your mind?" This customer appeared to be of sound mind but, her comments were so ridiculous that it diminished her value as a "spokes-customer."

I suppose however, if one were to analyze this amazingly, incredibly loyal comment (and take it at face value), one would have to be impressed. Who wouldn't want the kind of service whose reliability, service, value, cost, etc. was worth dying for? For me, if the choice was between being dragged behind a team of wild horses - and being torn to pieces/possibly even dying in the process, or changing cellular service companies, I'd change in a minute or as quickly as I could (given the phone calls required) to avoid this Western-era torture. This woman can't be telling the truth, can she? I mean, it is television where hyperbole and coercion go hand and hand with the remote, and I imagine there was a script involved. Nevertheless, her comments started at the top and went up from there. Apparently, being reasonable isn't part of this commercial's equation. Their "spokes-customers" haven't just drunk the Kool-Aid, they've invited the Kool-Aid Man, pitcher and all, into their homes and offered us viewers a drink.

The problem for me, other than I spend too much time watching television, is that when what I'm watching tests the bounds of believability, be it content or especially commercials/advertisements, it inevitably turns a positive message into a negative one. Subsequently, my take-away: don't bother me with nonsense; I'm not interested. The exact opposite of the intended effect. If truth be told (yet again), I'm likely over-reacting (really?) but, when a line is crossed, sometimes I can't go back, like Burt Lancaster/"Moonlight Graham" couldn't in the 1989 movie, "Field of Dreams."

To invoke/extrapolate Capt. Woodrow F. Call from the epic, 1989 mini-series, "Lonesome Dove": "I hate rude behavior in a man. Won't tolerate it." Well, neither can I tolerate commercials which take me for a dope. Can't handle it.

I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I do have a little intellect and substance to draw upon even when I'm sitting on the couch watching television. I haven't completely lost my mind, yet.

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

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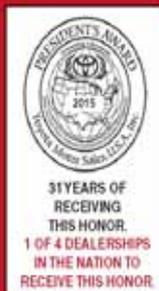
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