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# Alexandria Gazette Packet

## WELLBEING

PAGE, 17

25 CENTS

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JUNE 7, 2018



PHOTOS BY JAMES CULLUM/GAZETTE PACKET

The Wear Orange Weekend event at Market Square on June 2, 2018.

## Orange for Gun Safety

Hundreds of gun violence prevention supporters gathered at Alexandria's Market Square on Sunday, June 3, to recognize Wear Orange Weekend and push for greater gun violence prevention. The speakers included Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, an Alexandria elementary school student and Carmen Lodato, the daughter of Ruthann Lodato — one of three Alexandrians who was gunned down by convicted killer Charles Severance.

Residents, local Democratic politicians and candidates donned orange shirts and outfits to commemorate 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton, who was shot and killed in Chicago a week after performing at President Barack Obama's second inaugural parade in 2013. The event was coordinated by the Alexandria chapter of Moms Demand Action and Everytown For Gun Safety.

— JAMES CULLUM



Todd and Kate Morrison with their 20-month-old son Quinn.



Carmen Lodato's mother, Ruthann Lodato, was one of three Alexandrians shot and killed by serial killer Charles Severance. Here Carmen Lodato speaks at the Wear Orange rally at Market Square on June 2.

## Showdown

Mayoral election gets heated as Silberberg and Wilson head into final stretch.

BY VERNON MILES  
AND JAMES CULLUM  
GAZETTE PACKET

A month ago, when the first mayoral debate took place in Del Ray, it was mild. The candidates focused on their policies, with a couple light jabs at the other's record. The audience was respectfully quiet, only showing a collective groan when the meal's tax was mentioned.

But two weeks before the end of the election, at the George

Washington Middle School just down the road from where the debate season started, the kid gloves came off. The audience booed and hissed as both candidates hammered each other on everything from broad policy differences to specific questioning of the other's qualifications for the position.

The June 1 debate was a rehash of the usual rhetoric between Mayor Allison Silberberg and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson. Throughout

SEE SILBERBERG, PAGE 6

## 12 Shades of Blue

City Council debate factionalizes Democratic primary.

BY VERNON MILES  
AND JAMES CULLUM  
GAZETTE PACKET

They may all be Democrats, but don't think the 12 candidates for City Council are on the same page. At the June 5 City Council debate at Hammond Middle School, bitter divisions emerged between candidates. The debate saw incumbent candidates and a few establishment-supporting newcomers set against a group of challengers taking a more hardline stance — that the current City Council had lost

the trust of Alexandrians.

There were policy topics nearly everyone agreed on. Nearly every candidate supported the idea of two-year budgets. Most candidates focused parking policies around minimum spaces rather than maximums. Every candidate hated the Mark Center Building as a paragon of bad city design.

But when it came to the vote on enforcing the limit on public speaking at public hearings to 30 minutes at the start of the meeting, a controversial topic during the mayoral debates, the cracks

SEE CITY COUNCIL, PAGE 6

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# Cutting Back

## School Board considers reducing numbers and staggering elections.

BY VERNON MILES  
GAZETTE PACKET

The end of the school year marks a time for change for a lot of families. Children are headed off to college or going to new schools, and many parents take inventory of things they may no longer need — like old textbooks, notebooks, and three to four School Board members.

The Alexandria School Board has started looking at thinning its numbers, shifting from a nine-member board to a more manageable five or six. During a May 31 work session, the School Board reviewed the numbers change and other potential election changes, such as having staggered elections instead of concurrent terms, and including at-large members who don't represent specific districts.

Any change to the School Board elections would require a approval from City Council. School staff said a voter referendum wouldn't be required but would likely be involved. The last major change to School Board elections were in 1994, when it shifted from an appointed board to an elected one.

School Board member Christopher Lewis said he was interested in gathering more community feedback on a smaller School Board. Others expressed strong support for a reduced board size.

"I'm very much interested in this, particularly size of the School Board," said School Board member Veronica Nolan. "Data shows this School Board is too large for this size of district. Only 10 school boards have nine members. There's significantly larger school boards that have five, like neighboring Arlington. Size is something to be looked at. It prevents us from being as efficient as we could be."

One of the topics of discussion was how

School Board	Arlington County	Fairfax County	Falls Church City	ACPS
Composition	5 (At-large)	12 (1/District plus 3 At-large)	7 (At-large)	9 (3/District)
Student Enrollment	Approx. 25,700	Approx. 189,000	Approx. 2,700	Approx. 15,500
City/County Population	Approx. 234,000	Approx. 1.138 million	Approx. 14,000	Approx. 160,000
Board Member: Student Ratio	1 : 5,000	1 : 15,500	1 : 385	1 : 1,700
Voting Districts	-	9	-	3

School Board compositions in Alexandria and surrounding localities.

CONTRIBUTED

School Board	Arlington County	Fairfax County	Falls Church City	ACPS
Term	4	4	4	3
Staggered/ Concurrent	Staggered	Concurrent	Staggered	Concurrent
Election Cycle:	1 <sup>st</sup> Year : 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year: 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year: 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Year: 1	Odd years preceding presidential elections	1 <sup>st</sup> Year: 4 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year: 3 (Every 2 years in odd years)	Every 3 years, beginning in Nov. 2012

School Board elections in Alexandria and surrounding localities.

CONTRIBUTED

many members would comprise the new board. Traditional logic would say an odd number, like five, to avoid tie votes. There was even some laughter at the description of an elected non-board member who existed solely as a tiebreaker. However, members of the board still expressed curiosity, if not interest, in an even number board.

"[Years ago] I would have said an even number board was ridiculous," said School Board Chair Ramee Gentry. "There's no way I could even remotely think that would work. But I find myself thinking of a version of six, with two in each district. [Votes would be] going for four. [They would] need at least a four-two vote. That would send a strong message: nothing would pass without a two-thirds vote. If something only

makes three-three, that means it needs further consensus."

Gentry also said the board would be stronger and more consistent with staggered elections.

"For any governing body to have possibility every single election of significant, more than half turnover, can have a sizable impact on effectiveness and continuity," said Gentry. "From a voting perspective, considering the ability to focus down and consider on smaller number of candidates would allow me as a voter to focus more intently on a smaller number of people. When I think of some of the candidate forums some of us attended when we were candidates: I'm not sure how substantive that is and how informed that is. I think I could make a lot

of really good cases for staggered elections."

School Board Member Ronnie Campbell said this had happened in her first election, where eight of the nine School Board members were completely new.

"I look at all the people coming on now, like for School Board or City Council, a lot of people coming in new," said Campbell. "As far as knowledge goes; do you really want an almost entirely new board? That won't happen with staggered terms."

While many on the board agreed with the central premise, that a smaller board could work more effectively, there were questions about whether it was a policy worth pursuing without a consensus of clear vision for what the board wanted.

"Should we even pursue this?" said School Board Member Karen Graf. "I think this is very complex and deals with more politics ... It strikes me as a lot more involved and complex when I can't get a read on what we think as a body. If we were all to wave our wand and have a wish we'd want staggered elections, but we would have to go through this governance body. I'm just wondering if we even have enough of a fully baked idea or theory about why now and whether or not the timing works for sending a resolution. As much as I love exploring this, I'm not sure this is a hill to climb right now unless one of you can make a really compelling case for it. If someone were to pull me aside on the street, don't think I have enough confidence in a design or a plan to take to City Council."

But the consensus on the board was that there was enough interest in the item to move it forward, though with a narrowed down version that focused on staggered elections and reducing the number of board members.

## Vigil Follows Killing

Dozens gathered to remember Claudia Patricia Gómez González at Tenants and Workers United on May 30. González, who traveled from Guatemala to live with her boyfriend in Alexandria, was shot and killed on May 23 by a U.S. Border Patrol Agent in Rio Bravo, Texas. The attendees demanded justice for her death and raised money for González' family in Guatemala.

— JAMES CULLUM



Yosimar Morales, the boyfriend of Claudia Patricia Gómez González, hugs a woman at a candlelight vigil held at Tenants and Workers United in Alexandria, May 30. González, who traveled from Guatemala to live with Morales, was shot and killed on May 23 by a U.S. Border Patrol Agent in Rio Bravo, Texas.



Dozens gathered at a vigil for Claudia Patricia Gómez González at Tenants and Workers United in Alexandria, May 30.

PHOTOS BY JAMES CULLUM/GAZETTE PACKET



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## NEWS

### Portner's Brewhouse Closed

Portner's Brewhouse announced its immediate closure on Friday in an email to patrons, little more than a year after its opening.

The cause of the West End brewpub's closure appeared to be a breakdown in rent negotiations, per the email.

"In realizing the changes to the surrounding landscape, we pushed for appropriate changes to our lease agreement, which were temporarily provided by the landlord.

However, permanent change could not be achieved," read the letter, signed by owners Catherine and Margaret Portner. "We did everything in our power to sustain the company it for as long as possible, which is why we are sharing the conclusion to this chapter with you today."

Calls to management have not been returned as of press time.

— HOPE NELSON

### 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.*

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 8-9

**Contemporary Architecture Symposium.** The City of Alexandria will host its third community Contemporary Architecture Symposium to promote public discussion about architecture and design in Alexandria. The event will explore how the development process can identify and foster compatible contemporary design for large new development projects in a city with 270 years of evolving architectural heritage. Registration for the symposium is not required, but is/strongly encouraged./Bus transportation to the Saturday tour sites will be available on a/first-

come, first-served basis./Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Planning](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Planning).

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 9

**"We Love Old Town" Clean-Up Day.** 9-11 a.m. at King Street Gardens, 1806 King St. The group was formed to partner with local business owners and City Hall staff to help keep Old Town clean, attractive and well maintained. Activities focus on identifying crumbling, loose or missing bricks, identifying tree wells in need of mulch or sprucing up, picking up trash and litter and other identified clean-up tasks. Visit [www.weloveoldtown.com](http://www.weloveoldtown.com) or call Marjorie Scott at 703 625-2428.

#### TUESDAY/JUNE 12

**Transgender 101.** 7-8:15 at Barrett  
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 27



"CALL, CLICK, NEGLECT"

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The Status Quo Will Not Change Itself

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Alexandrians For Better City Government  
Democratic Primary, June 12  
All can vote, regardless of party



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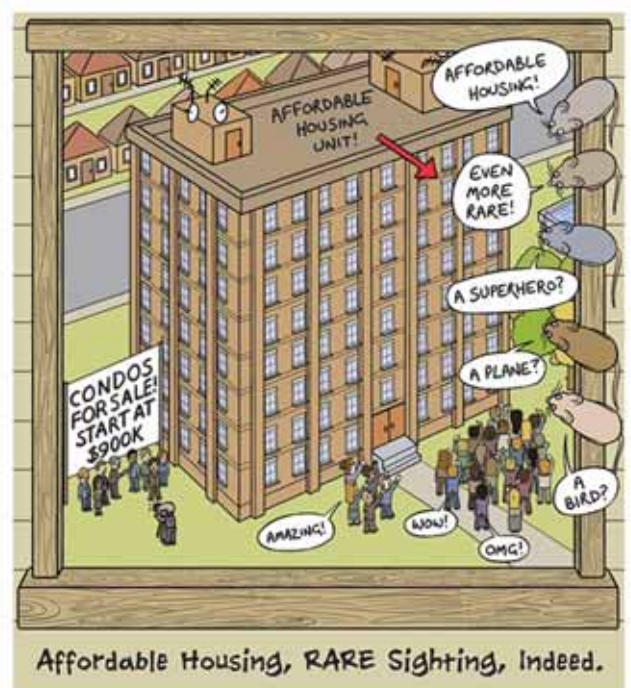
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**One for the citizens and affordability for the taxpayer**  
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NO tax increase upon the citizenry by this Council seems to have been too steep to bear.  
NO special request by a developer has seemed unreasonable.  
This Council seems to want to support everything **EXCEPT** the people who pay the City's bills:  
the **shopkeepers** and the **homeowners**. But, they do seem to want to vote themselves a pay raise!!

**Do not reward a single incumbent of the City Council with your vote! NOT ONE!**  
**They do not deserve it!**  
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**Do IT!**

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# Silberberg and Wilson Head into Final Stretch

FROM PAGE 1

the campaign, and the last three years of City Council debates, Wilson has repeatedly attacked Silberberg's record of lone votes against various development projects, including affordable housing and infrastructure projects. Silberberg, in turn, has defended her votes and accused Wilson of being overly favorable to developers to the detriment of local citizens.

While in earlier debates it was Wilson that drew first blood, at the June 1 debate Silberberg came out swinging: attacking Wilson for his support of developments at Karig Estates and Potomac Yard, along with the approval of a transportation plan that reduced the amount of parking spots new developments were required to provide.

Wilson and Silberberg repeatedly traded blows throughout the campaign over the parking development standards approved earlier this year, where Silberberg had been the lone dissenting vote. The legislation reduced the commercial parking requirement in parts of the city where a task force found that there was excess parking coverage. A study of 60 commercial sites found that nearly 40 percent of the lots were unused during peak hours. Part of the legislation would also allow businesses with differing peak hours to share the same parking spaces. Wilson championed updating the parking standards as a step towards making Alexandria more business friendly. However, Silberberg said the reality of Alexandrians struggling to find parking spaces in the city doesn't match the data.

"I want to encourage transit, but car registration is up," said Silberberg. "Developers should have to provide sufficient parking."

Silberberg continued to push against Wilson early in the debate, following up the parking comment with another controversial vote that pitted Silberberg against Wilson. The City Council's longstanding rule



**Mayor Allison Silberberg (left) and Vice Mayor Justin Wilson.**

has limited public comment at the beginning of meetings to 30 minutes, however the rule has been very tenuously enforced. In January 2017, Wilson proposed enforcing the rule and having those signed up to speak after the 30-minute mark begin at the end of the meeting.

"I firmly believe this is a government of the people, by the people, for the people," said Silberberg. "I have been trying to make the city more transparent. The open mic vote was critical. I was the only one to support it; [my] opponent pushed it forward quickly without public engagement to limit the public comment. I think that is a difference: I put a huge value on listening to people."

After holding off on attacking earlier, here Wilson began to fire back at Silberberg. Wilson said that citizens who had arrived to speak on docketed items had been leaving meetings because the initial public comment had doubled in length since Silberberg had taken over.

"The change was so residents could get a word in," said Wilson. "It was poor management that led to the long open mic [sessions]."

The most tense moment of the night came

when Wilson repeated an attack he'd used against Silberberg in earlier debates: listing a series of affordable housing projects all of which Silberberg had expressed opposition towards. However, on the St. James Plaza project which Silberberg had opposed initially, Silberberg turned that back against Wilson. The project had been controversial for initially including a pool which would have been off-limits to affordable housing residents. Silberberg called the project discrimination, then doubled down and attacked Wilson over his proposal to merge the two Board of Architectural Review committees.

Earlier this year Wilson had supported a proposal backed by members of the Parker-Gray Board of Architectural Review to merge the board with the similar Old Town group.

But Silberberg accused Wilson of moving forward on the plan without consulting the historic African-American community leaders and said he had acted insensitively. Wilson, whose father is African-American, clarified that his motion had been to discuss the idea of merging them, not a motion to actually do so.

As the campaigns wind towards a close, Wilson raised the issue of endorsements. Silberberg faces an uphill battle against a local Democratic establishment that has largely rallied around Wilson. Silberberg won her primary election as mayor three years ago against then incumbent Bill Euille and the preceding mayor Kerry Donley, who split the vote. Both Euille and Donley have endorsed Wilson. Wilson was also endorsed by fellow City Council members John Chapman, Willie Bailey, and Tim Lovain, a majority of the School Board, and a host of other current and former local politicians. Silberberg, in contrast, has three endorsements from local organizations.

"My thinking behind that was really looking at who is going to be a policy leader,

because the real issues of school capacity infrastructure, transit, growing deficits are going to be accomplished by making good policy and having someone that is a leader of a bunch of folks on council to help them with that," said Chapman. "I don't want to wake up when I'm old and I have kids and they're looking at me like, 'Hey, how come you didn't make sure that we have the best Alexandria possible?' That means that I need to understand good policy and promote it. So, to reach out and endorse him even though I have a tight race was essential in signaling where I want our city to go."

The issue became a flashpoint when Wilson responded to Silberberg's pride in environmental efforts undergone in the last few years that he was the one who had been endorsed by the Sierra Club.

"It's a free country," Silberberg said. "This water bottle could endorse someone."

After the debates, both candidates said they believed the debates went well but wished they had more time.

"I wish we had more [debates]," Wilson said. "She was the first one to send a mailer out that incorrectly attacked my record as well as incorrectly characterized her record. And that was weeks ago, and I think during the debates we saw a continuation of that."

"I think they went well," said Silberberg. "I appreciated those who organized them and those who attended. It was a good way to share my vision for our city and I hope people will vote for me... I tend to speak from the heart and share my thoughts about the issues. It's hard to do, to always answer a question in 45 seconds, but that's what you have to do in these cases."

The Democratic Primary will be held on June 12. Registered voters can vote in one party's primary or the other, but not both. The winner of the primary will move on to the general election in November.

## City Council Debate Factionalizes Democratic Primary

FROM PAGE 1

between the groups started to emerge.

Incumbent City Councilmen Paul Smedberg, John Chapman, and Willie Bailey all stood by their votes supporting Vice Mayor Justin Wilson's proposal to enforce the City Council's 30-minute rule for the opening public comment section. Comments after that period were held until the end of the meeting.

"It's simply following the rules," said Smedberg. "There were instances of people taking advantage and bypassing regular community and city processes."

Incumbent Redella "Del" Pepper was more hesitant on the topic, saying she didn't like the idea of squeezing the comment into a set time period. The proposal found support from some of the new candidates — Dak Hardwick, Elizabeth Bennet-Parker and Amy Jackson.

"I agree with the change," said Hardwick. "On the published agenda there is business



**Incumbent Councilmembers Willie Bailey (left) and Del Pepper with challenger Mo Seifeldin.**

that needs to be conducted to have an efficient and transparent [government]."

But among the other challengers, even those who supported the change overall, it was that something was wrong with the city's public engagement process.

"I agree with the change," said Canek Aguirre, "but it wouldn't have been needed if the city as a government was properly engaging with residents and listening."

"Transparency is critical, and is close

cousin to inclusiveness" said Matthew Feely, "which means more participation; not less. [Council] should liberalize the amount of opportunity [for public engagement]."

The stratification of the council candidates became more crystallized when it came to the prospect of new lights on the T.C. Williams sports field, a divisive proposal to use stadium lighting at the sporting field behind the school. The new lights would allow the field to be used at nights for games



**City Councilman Paul Smedberg (on right), Dak Hardwick and Canek Aguirre at the ADC City.**

and practices, but would also go against a promise made years ago to the historic neighboring African-American community that was forcibly displaced to make room for the school.

SEE COUNCIL DEBATE, PAGE 9





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## BUSINESS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Chop Shop Taco will offer tacos, tortas and more once it opens in the Madison Collective this summer.**

## Congratulations, Class of 2018!

We're so proud of our incredible  
Burgundy graduates, including many  
Alexandria and Mount Vernon residents!



This fall, Burgundy's Class of 2018 will attend high school at:  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Bishop O'Connell, Collège du Léman (Switzerland),  
Burke, Edison, Episcopal, Flint Hill, Georgetown Day, Gonzaga, Justice,  
Madeira, Maret, McDonough (Maryland), National Cathedral, Rock Ridge,  
St. Andrew's School (Delaware), St. George's Independent School (Georgia),  
St. Paul's (New Hampshire), St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, Sidwell, T.C. Williams

Your child could be a Burgundy graduate too – space is available  
in some of this fall's classes! Call 703.329.6968 to schedule a tour of  
our 26-acre Alexandria campus or learn more at [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org).



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## Eclectic Collective

**Madison Collective to bring  
tacos, tattoos to Parker Grey.**

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**lock by block, the Parker Grey neighborhood continues to receive new residents. The latest result of recent growth within the thriving community: The Madison Collective, a development playing host to several businesses within one block.

The development, created by Avanti Holdings, is slated to open this summer at 1008 Madison St., adjacent to the corner of North Henry Street. And its offerings will be as diverse as the neighborhood it calls home: A taco shop, a juice bar, a fitness gym and a tattoo parlor will all be opening within the coming months.

"What we've been trying to do for a long time is to keep Alexandria current, to keep it in line with other options in the DC area," said Madison Collective principal owner Teddy Kim. "... Alexandria is quickly becoming more known as something that's a little different than the other pockets (such as Georgetown or the D.C. Wharf)."

Kim, a resident of Parker Grey, is not new to the area's business scene: He and his business partners are the founders of nearby Mason Social. And between Mason Social, Lost Dog Café, the Solidcore gym and Sugar Shack,

the new Madison Collective won't be alone in its quest to draw neighbors in — but its offerings are different from what's currently available, as well.

Chop Shop Taco, its name an homage to the automotive chop shop that sat on the development's land for so long, will offer tacos, tortas and other Latin-American-inspired food for lunch and dinner. Zweet Sport will help diners work off their meals with a cycling studio and fitness space. Grateful Kitchen will offer an array of juice and coffee via a walk-up window, and James Marlowe of Marlowe Ink is bringing his tattoo artistry to Parker Grey in a new studio.

"It's an interesting mix," said Judy Noritake, president of the nearby Braddock Metro Citizens' Coalition. "I think that Avanti and Teddy Kim ... has a real understanding of who lives in the neighborhood and where the neighborhood should be going from a retail standpoint."

Madison Collective's storefronts will open this summer, some perhaps ahead of others. And Kim says he's looking forward to the impact the development will make within the neighborhood and the city.

"I'm most excited about (Madison Collective's) diversity," Kim said. "I think that's representative of the diversity of Alexandria."

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# Council Debate

FROM PAGE 6

Each of the incumbents expressed support for the lights. Newcomers Jackson, Hardwick, Parker and Cannek again found themselves agreeing with the incumbents in favor of lights. Meanwhile, Mo Seifeldein, Feely, Robert Ray and Chris Hubbard were firmly opposed.

"Governments are run on trust," said Seifeldein. "We made promises and now we're trying to take that back. No."

During the debate, Seifeldein, Feely, Ray and Hubbard formed an impromptu coalition of heavy criticism aimed at the city's transparency and what they attacked as poor planning over several years. Finally, the tension erupted into a heated shouting match between the headline opposition and incumbents.

"I know there are frustrations, but some of the comments show a lack of understanding for how city operates," said Smedberg. "We have staff that spends hours meeting with neighborhoods. I know it's hard, but we do our best to listen to folks, to understand concerns and so does staff."

Smedberg's comment sparked debate. Seifeldein said the frustration is less with staff than with the transparency on the council, even arguing that staff's underfunding of various departments was part of why staff was operating at a diminished capacity. This drew the normally laconic Bailey into a shouting match with Seifeldein.

"You say facts matter," said Bailey. "The fact is we're doing everything we can with the budget we have. It's easy to sit back and say you're going to do this and do that when you're not sitting on the dais."

"Acknowledge facts and tell the truth," Seifeldein shouted back. "I'm not talking about whether you have the money."

For several minutes there was unintelligible shouting between the groups, with things like turn order and time limits all but forgotten. When the final question asked candidates what they'd learned from the evening, the mounting tension and eruption between the candidates was the elephant in the room.

"I learned the frustration and passion I've seen is similar frustration and passion that has spilled onto this table tonight," said Feely. "I've been able to confirm need for civility when interacting with each other. It is that passion that makes me all the more passionate about serving this community."

Hardwick said that Alexandria is a community of passionate people.

"If we want to change the world, we have to start in our neighborhoods," Hardwick said. "I am very proud of the campaign that we have run, from the outside validation and endorsements we've received to the issues that we've learned about in the community."

As the primary looms closer, voters remain undecided on the City Council race.

"Many of my friends probably have a solid four and are still thinking how they are going to make those last two votes," said Sandy Marks, secretary for the Alexandria Democratic Committee (ADC).

Louise Black, a voter attending the debate, said the debate further set her against some of the candidates.

"One of the things I learned this evening is how much the candidates don't know about the city's processes," said Black. "All of the non-incumbents, with the exception of Dak and Canek, the rest don't seem to know how the city works."

ADC Chair Clarence Tong expects higher turnout that the 2012 and 2015 primaries, and said that civic engagement has increased since the 2016 presidential election. There are six City Council positions in play on June 12, with winners moving on against Republican and Independent challengers in the November election.

"The fact that we have a very competitive mayoral and council races will add to the turnout," Tong said.

"Last year was the highest turnout for a statewide election, and from our membership perspective we had to raise the cap because there was so much interest in joining our committee. We filled 490 of the 500 spots, so it's a great thing to see that level of engagement."

## CORRECTION

In the campaign issues chart [Gazette Packet, May 31, page 11], Canek Aguirre's priority rating for public safety should have been above average or high relative priority. All of Canek's priorities were either 4s or 3s.

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# OPINION

## Medicaid Expansion Will Save Lives

Almost too many benefits to count that will help all Virginians, including economic stimulus.

The benefits are huge. The Virginia General Assembly, finally motivated by the huge change in the House of Delegates wrought by energized voters last November, passed a budget that included expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that finally accepting the available federal money to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act could stimulate the creation of 30,000 jobs.

Just including the expansion in the budget made hundreds of millions of extra dollars available for other priorities.

It will make all of us who live and work in Virginia healthier via “herd immunity.” Ensuring that our fellow residents have access to healthcare, to medications to treat contagious illnesses, to vaccinations, to preventive and acute care protects all of us. We don’t want the people who shop with us, ride with us on the Metro or wait in line at motor vehicles to be sick without a reasonable way to be treated. We want the people around us to be healthy. It makes everyone healthier.

In Northern Virginia, tens of thousands of people who are living without health insurance will be eligible. Hundreds of thousands of people across the state will gain access.

Virginia has bypassed about \$10 billion by not having expanded Medicaid since it was possible. It’s not perfect, but now it is done.

“Health care is not a privilege: It is a right,” said state Sen. Dick Saslaw, highlighting the importance. “A lot of us here have had a lot of

breaks in our lives, but there are many others out there who do not get these breaks. They work hard, but for one reason or another things don’t turn out right for them. These people need our help, and we have done that.”

Other perspectives on the benefits: “As a mother of an Autistic child, I know just how important Medicaid is for many things here in Virginia. Medicaid helps fund not just our schools but also our Special Education programs here in Virginia,” said Monica Hutchinson, organizer for New Virginia Majority. “This expansion will have a ripple effect. Not only will hundreds of thousands of Virginians receive the care they deserve, but our schools will also receive extra money in their annual budgets.”

“Now, nearly 400,000 Virginians can see a doctor without fear of financial ruin,” Del. Kathy Tran said. “Last election, voters made it clear that increasing access to healthcare is the top issue for our Commonwealth.”

“As fewer and fewer people have employer-paid health coverage for themselves, much less their families, elections have consequences that can mean the difference between life and death,” said Jaime Contreras, a vice president at 32BJ SEIU.

“The budget’s inclusion of a bipartisan compromise plan to drawdown available federal funds to help hundreds of thousands of hard-working, uninsured Virginians gain health care coverage will promote public health improvements, job growth, economic vitality, and strengthen our health delivery system,” said Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association President and CEO Sean T. Connaughton.

“We are especially thrilled that some 7,000

dressings affordable housing. Public housing, administered by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), manages 1,150 units, typically servicing households at or below 40 percent AMI. Another 2,586 units serving up to 80 percent AMI are supported through a combination of Federal, State and Local funding; additionally, there are 273 affordable rental set-asides in market-rate buildings and 67 supportive units. The city employs a variety of financing tools, operating fund programs and rental subsidy sources with 52 units currently at different stages of development specifically for households earning up to 40 percent of AMI. HUD funded project-based voucher (PBV) contracts provide units at or below 30-40 percent of AMI — there are 10,406 privately-owned PBV units and 1,637 ARHA owned units. Even with this expansive inventory the waiting list for eligible households below 50 percent AMI exceeds 9,000. The point of this tutorial is the Councilmember behind and driving the meal tax legislation defined affordable housing in different terms, targeting public service professionals — teachers, police, firefighters — those more likely in the 60-80 percent AMI range. This places the neediest behind those with the highest AMI rates.

Second and third order effects result as Metrorail announced it will suspend service to all Alexandria stations next summer. This will negatively impact tourism, hotel occupancy and dining. Business revenue and therefore tax revenue will decline. Declining income, combined with the new meal tax, might force some restaurants to close. Of course, council couldn’t see any of this coming, despite having membership on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

On June 12, council incumbents will ask to be reinstated for another term, believing the electorate will not judge them too harshly; after all, their intentions

Arlingtonians now will have healthcare coverage — this legislative action will improve outcomes for their health and welfare, strengthen our workforce, and help our community and the Commonwealth,” said Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board chair.

AARP Virginia State Director Jim Dau said the bipartisan effort increases access to health care for 400,000 Virginians, including 95,000 people over 50 who are not yet eligible for Medicare. “We have been fighting to expand Medicaid for years and I’m so proud to have been a part of the team that finally got it done. This achievement will dramatically improve the lives of real people in communities across the Commonwealth, including over 5,600 people in the 49th district,” said Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49)

## Send Father’s Day Photos

Father’s Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father’s Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 11.

You can submit your photos online at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday). You can also email photos to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com).

were good.

Roy Byrd  
Alexandria

## Vision for City’s Future

To the Editor:

This is the first time in 30-plus years of living in Alexandria that I have written a letter to the editor for one of our local newspapers. But after watching and carefully listening to the candidates for mayor I felt compelled to reach out to my fellow Alexandrians.

I am writing in support of Justin Wilson for mayor and the reasons are pretty simple. He knows our city inside and out; he has a vision for our future that is grounded in his support for the success of all our children; he understands the importance of making sure our city infrastructure is capable of moving us quickly and safely and that our facilities provide a healthy and productive environment for our students and employees; and he is ever mindful that a diverse economic base is an imperative for a community that expects full value for every tax dollar we spend.

One might argue that there is nothing in the above that truly distinguishes Mr. Wilson from our current mayor. So, let me explain what I think differentiates Mr. Wilson from Ms Silberberg.

❖ He genuinely listens to our interests, needs, wants and complaints, but he does not placate. Contrary to the opinions of some, when you listen to “many” you can not always satisfy “one” or a “few.”

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

Alexandria  
**Gazette Packet**

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

❖ He is laser focused on creating the policies that will move us forward with an appropriate respect for our history. He is not held captive by loud and vociferous NIMBYs who use our past as a justification for thwarting reasonable change. This, also, means that unless we want to have our residential taxes continue to soar we have to “develop” land for commercial use (commercial enterprise uses much less of every tax dollar collected than does residential use ... that’s a good thing!).

❖ He has the ability to engage council in healthy debate while building a consensus to act. I would posit that action informed by healthy debate is preferable to talking an issue to death.

❖ And, perhaps most importantly his attention to the details helps him translate the big picture of governing into the minutiae of government ... the actions and tasks necessary to provide all the services that make Alexandria a great place to live and work.

In other words he is a leader and as much as I like Ms Silberberg (and I genuinely do) we need Mr. Wilson’s leadership to move us forward. That’s why I hope you will join me in voting for him on June 12.

**Sean McEneaney**  
Alexandria

## Are These Democrats?

To the Editor:

Tim Lovain recently wrote a letter to the Gazette in which he endorsed Justin Wilson as a mayoral candidate and as a student of public policy. He seemed to base his conclusions regarding Wilson on the belief that Wilson shares his theory of democracy, which is that elected officials should use their own opinions regarding issues that the citizens feel strongly about and to use care not to be overly influenced about what the citizens of the community think on these issues and what they want for the city. He also seems to rely heavily on others that share his “theory” of democracy and he quotes Edmund Burke as support for his belief. This is an interesting choice. Edmund Burke lived in the 1700s and was an elitist politician who was unconcerned about the masses. He considered a well-ordered society as one in which the ruling elite was a “natural aristocracy” that should rule the masses and he considered democracy as the “most shameless thing in the world.”

It is troublesome that Mr. Lovain and Mr. Wilson (and perhaps other members of the council) embrace this flawed and self-serving concept of democracy and Lovain makes a thinly veiled assertion that he and Wilson are superior to the citizens of the city in their abilities to analyze and reach proper conclusions regarding the issues affecting the city. No facts were offered to support this position, undoubtedly because there are none.

During the last mayoral election there were strong feelings and open discussions regarding integrity and honesty leading up to the vote. Both Kerry Donley and Bill Euille, who I had supported and voted for earlier in their political careers, refused to honor a pledge that they had made to support the winners of the Democratic primary election. A pledge is a solemn promise and scores of true Democrats who honored the long-standing values and beliefs of the Democratic Party were deeply disappointed and angry. Allison Silberberg won the election and has served as mayor continuing her focus on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Alexandria. It did not go unnoticed at the time that other members of the council, all identifying themselves as Democrats, went invisible and remained silent on the unacceptable behavior of these two former mayors.

We need new people on our City Council with new innovative ideas, a high level of integrity and honesty, who embrace, without exception, the values and beliefs of the Democratic Party. We are approaching an election that will allow us to make it happen. Please vote.

**Thomas Greene**  
Alexandria

## Civil Discourse

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, incivility has been around American politics for much of our history. A saving grace has been local politics which has been more civil

because it is close to home. I fear Alexandria is in danger of losing this aspect of our civic culture.

Mayor Allison Silberberg is very careful and measured with her words. She has the right temperament to listen and lead in a respectful way. She cares about people’s views, as seen by the attention she pays to those speaking before Council. She listens carefully to each person and is not posting on social media or answering email during Council meetings, as Mr. Wilson recently said he is doing because he can “multitask.” Citizens before Council do not appreciate that he is on his phone instead of respecting citizens’ hard work to bring prepared testimony to Council on issues that concern them.

Mr. Wilson shows little respect to those who disagree with him. Being a leader requires patience, concern for people and a compass to guide one’s action. Mayor Silberberg has those attributes and displays them as she approaches each issue and each resident’s concern. The Statement on Inclusiveness she initiated and drafted in 2016 speaks to our city’s strong values and her belief that words do matter, especially when representing an entire city.

Mayor Silberberg is running a positive campaign. The same cannot be said of her opponent. We are very fortunate to have Mayor Silberberg leading our city. She is committed to our city and will continue to be a full-time mayor. She will move it forward, as she has done addressing unacceptable pollution from our sewers and other issues deferred for years.

She will continue listening to citizens’ differing views, seeking compromise on divisive issues, protecting our neighborhoods, valuing our rich history, and being a leader in the great tradition of civility of Mayor Patsy Ticer displayed as our first female mayor. Let’s continue that level of civility by re-electing Mayor Silberberg on June 12.

**Michael Campilongo**  
Alexandria

## Credibility Gap?

To the Editor:

Like many neighbors, I was stunned by the emails obtained in the FOIA request, which contradict what was recently in the papers about the Potomac Yard Metro changes. Some of the revelations are published here: <https://pycr.blog/>. WMATA told city staff in April 2018 that the plans to remove the southern entrance weren’t confidential; yet, staff wanted to suppress an image of the modified plan and said, “Even city council has not seen that image.”

It was recently reported that the mayor, vice mayor, and Councilman Smedberg stated that they didn’t learn until this spring that the southern entrance had been removed in July 2017. However, an email from the city manager to Vice Mayor Wilson in July 2017 shows that Mr. Wilson was told “one less ped bridge and mezzanine” would be built. Yet, he continued to vote for increased density.

It is clear that we need leadership to rebuild trust between City Hall and the residents. Based upon the FOIA, Mr. Wilson’s credibility seems to be in doubt.

Mayor Silberberg has consistently pushed for ethics reform and transparency despite Mr. Wilson watering down her ethics initiative. Mayor Silberberg alone has the credibility to right this ship.

**Elizabeth Clark West**  
Alexandria

## Shades Of Blue

To the Editor:

The June 12 vote for Alexandria’s next mayor is tough one for many lifelong Democrats. It’s not a choice of black or white, but rather shades of blue. After much consideration, I’ve decided to strongly support Allison Silberberg. Why? For me, it’s her commitment to expanding green space and protecting the environment.

Lately, some media have mocked Allison for being all about “trees, trees, trees.” But what’s the alternative, “cement, cement, cement”? A recent Justin Wilson flyer had a prominent photo of a road

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

# Re-elect Councilwoman Del Pepper



Experience, leadership, vision, and the courage to make tough, balanced policy decisions.

**Vote Tuesday**  
**Democratic Primary**  
**June 12th**

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

Authorized by Redella S. “Del” Pepper. Paid for by Pepper for Council.

# Democrats for a Better Alexandria

We **SUPPORT** the following candidates for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Primary:

**FOR MAYOR:** **Allison Silberberg**

Mayor Silberberg has served her office during the past three years with extraordinary dedication and tangible accomplishments in restoring citizen faith in local government, preserving a livable Alexandria, and reflecting the values of the **DBA**. As “The People’s Mayor,” she richly deserves to be re-elected for another term.



**FOR CITY COUNCIL:** **They are...**

After an elaborate vetting process, one that included interviews with the ten candidates who made themselves available, the **DBA** has chosen a slate of six persons. We believe these individuals not only represent the values of our organization but also demonstrate strong legislative capabilities and reflect the diversity of Alexandria.

- Canek Aguirre
- John Chapman
- Matthew Feely
- Mo Seifeldin
- Redella “Del” Pepper
- Robert Ray

The **DBA** was formed in 2012 as an organization of committed Alexandria Democrats to screen candidates for local offices and, based on our shared values, make recommendations to voters.

Those values include development that preserves neighborhoods, transparency and ethics in government, workforce affordable housing, and environmental responsibility.



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

roller smoothing asphalt. Conspicuously absent in Justin's list of priorities was any mention of the environment or green space. Allison, on the other hand, has made this a central part of her campaign.

This difference was evident at the mayoral debate in Del Ray a few weeks back. Allison said that if she had been mayor during the development of Potomac Yards, she would have fought for a large central park that could have been a jewel of Alexandria for future generations. Maybe she would have failed in that effort, but at least she would have tried.

That's what I want! Justin said nothing on the matter. The open space that we got out of the mega Potomac Yard development was a thin linear park next to the railroad tracks, land too small or undesirable to actually build on. This is a perfect example of the widespread impression that developers run our city.

One pernicious argument against Allison is that she's a stealth Republican! This is totally bogus. Allison fights for inclusiveness, against racism and bigotry, and basically supports all of the good things that progressives stand for. For these reasons and more, I'm going to cast my ballot for Allison.

**Neal Learner**  
Del Ray, Alexandria

## Listens To Residents

To the Editor:

Alexandria is a trendy little southern city, an "in" place to live, with a growing population, a brisk business community, a smart social scene, and a place where public officials are seen everywhere and make an effort to know the residents.

Into this we have Mayor Allison Silberberg who listens to the residents. Then she translates what she hears into action. Her efforts on City Council to make Alexandria the place where people continue to want to live have been valiant. Her push

for quality education, fiscal growth and responsibility, and even the details that others want to omit, are more than worthy of re-electing her as our mayor for another term. I am happy to endorse her.

**Lillian Stanton Patterson**  
Alexandria

## Mission Compromised?

To the Editor:

I was angered and disappointed to learn this week that the local chapter of the Sierra Club endorsed Justin Wilson as Mayor, but not too surprised, as the Sierra Club had sold out years ago.

In 2008, the National Sierra Club cut an endorsement deal with Clorox to place the club's name and logo on the company's new, "greener" cleaning products in exchange for pay based on product sales. Then, in the 2007-2010 timeframe, the club took \$26 million in donations from the CEO and others associated with Chesapeake Energy, a natural gas fracking company.

And now a local chapter has endorsed a candidate who voted to approve a development that would destroy an intact natural area, a wooded ravine with a protected wetland in violation of state and local water quality ordinances. When rightfully concerned citizens repeatedly reached out to Mr. Wilson about the planned development on the Karig Property, they were rewarded with evasive, glib responses and a vote to destroy a vital environmental resource. Ironically, a zoning variance to allow reduced setback from the street would have allowed for reconfigured placement of the development's houses that would have saved the wooded wetland.

In contrast Mayor Allison Silberberg has been fighting for the health of our air, land, and water ever since being elected to office. She has fought tirelessly to restore the city's tree canopy, to stop the dumping off raw sewage into the Potomac, and to reduce the city's carbon footprint (and its energy bill) through the adoption of LED street lights. Most

recently she stood with citizens to protect the important "nearby nature" on the Karig Property.

As such, I urge you to take the time to learn more about the Sierra Club's tarnished and troubling departures from founder John Muir's vision of protecting nature. The club's stated mission includes a call "To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;" and "To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment." Clearly sending bulldozers, fill dirt, and a sewer line into a sensitive, protected wetland that represents the little bit of "nearby nature" we have left is incongruent with John Muir's vision.

**Bonnie Petry**  
Alexandria

## Politics and Parking

To the Editor:

Alexandrians who do not reside in the city's designated historic district zone of Old Town (Oronoco Street south to Duke Street - 6 blocks - and from Saint Asaph Street to the river - 6 blocks) likely do not appreciate the difficulties and frustrations residents in this zone experience when trying to park near their homes. On page 123 of Alexandria's Waterfront Plan the city states, "New residential parking controls, such as restricting parking to permit holders after 6:00 p.m., should be considered an implementation priority."

If you're from Del Ray or the west end or the north end of Alexandria, you might say to yourself, "those OT folks need to stop being NIMBYs and stop complaining about how tough it is to park near their homes." That is until you discover that just in this small historic zone, since 2010 and within one and one-half blocks of King Street:

- ❖ At least 17 retail shops/spaces have been converted to restaurants or food-service establishments due to the city's benevolent CD zoning without 1 new public parking space being created (think Virtue Restaurant vice Olsen's Book Store, Sonoma Cellars vice Winterthur, Khalsa Jewelers vice Hi-Tide Lounge and the list goes on).

- ❖ Over 400 individual public parking parking spaces have been eliminated from King Street, the side streets within two blocks of King Street and along the riverfront in this zone. That equates to more than 20 blocks of on-street residential parking being removed.

These lost 400-plus spaces include:

- ❖ 4 public pay parking lots (3 across from Chadwick's) and 2 city parking lots of 106 spaces (one is now Brightleaf & Cooper townhomes and, the other, a 24-hour pay lot at Cameron/St Asaph streets).

- ❖ Over 100 spaces have been replaced by bike stands, trolley stops, "no parking from here to corner," expanded loading zones, expanded bus zones, taxi, valet, Sheriff's Department reserved spaces, tour bus only loading/unloading in front of city hall and increased Saturday's Market Square hours.

- ❖ The city's Planning and Zoning staff/City Council's rubber-stamping approval to developer's requests for reductions-in-parking to develop a project with less than the required number of parking spaces required by code (think Hotel Indigo and Robinson Terminal South).

- ❖ This year City Council approved converting a retail space located on the 100 block of King Street to a 163-seat Mexican restaurant while refusing to address the additional 75 standing patrons and 350-person person capacity of the restaurant during the public discussion. City staffers stated there were no significant impacts to residential parking or to nearby residents located only 120 feet away.

- ❖ Not one new public parking space has been created to offset the torrent of parking reductions or restaurant explosions since 2010.

- ❖ Over 3 million tourists visited Alexandria last year. The vast majority come to Old Town and dramatically impact the residents' quality of life and their right to some quiet enjoyment.

- ❖ The city states that people come by bike, Metro and trolley and, thus, parking is no issue for residents. If 50 percent of such statements were true there would still be 1.5 million visitors looking for a public parking space during the year within this small 6-block by 6-block historic zone.

If you are a true and visionary Alexandria political candidate, you take care of your residents and

insist city staff implements resident-only parking on residential streets from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. in this historic zone. Such a policy benefits patrons of small businesses during the day while requiring evening entertainment goers to park in nearby parking garages which are 75 percent vacant after 6 p.m. as noted in the city's own parking studies!

It's time for new faces to be elected to City Council later this year. Go vote in new blood.

**Philip G. Matyas**

*Philip G. Matyas is a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer, an associate real estate broker in Historic Old Town, Member of the Old Town Civic Association board and two-decade long resident/property owner in Historic Old Town Alexandria.*

## Best for Environment?

To the Editor:

Why is our local Sierra Club endorsing Justin Wilson for mayor? His vote (and those of his fellow council members) to allow the protected wetland on the Karig property to be razed is bad for the environment. Something is terribly amiss within this once respected organization.

Strangely enough, the local Mount Vernon Chapter of the Sierra Club itself sent a letter to the mayor and members of City Council on Jan. 4, 2018 urging them to, in its words, "reduce the negative environmental consequences of the proposed development" by reducing "required setbacks from Seminary Road" to keep the development up on the stable gravelly terrace and off of the fragile Marine Clay slope with the forested wetland.

In that same letter, they urged the mayor and council to ensure it enforced "its Chesapeake Bay protection ordinance" by "protecting the headwaters of Strawberry Run." Lastly, the Sierra Club urged that the city consult with state officials and have them do a wetland determination/delineation on the area slated for development.

Only one elected official out of the seven – Allison Silberberg – voted to remand the development back to Planning and Zoning for adjustments that would protect that wetland.

Because of the feckless votes of Justin Wilson, Del Pepper, John Taylor Chapman, Willie Bailey, Paul Smedberg, and Tim Lovain, our city is now using residents' tax dollars to hire an attorney to defend its illegal actions. What kind of insanity is this? Since when does the Sierra Club, which was founded to protect natural lands, excuse the taking of the little bit of nature we have left – nature that helps clean our air and water. Why is this organization not endorsing the one elected official who heard their plea and worked to protect our environment?

We urge Alexandrians to take the time to learn more about these candidates' records and vote for Allison Silberberg on June 12 and for non-incumbent council candidates who are willing to do what Democrats are supposed to do — protect the environment!

**Lynn Gas**  
**Jane Seward**

## Valuing History

To the Editor:

A vital quality we look for in the Mayor of Alexandria is an abiding support for Historic Preservation in Old Town, a unique American Historic District that invites tourists from all over the world to stroll past our 18th and 19th century homes. And tourism is a major component of our tax base. When protection of Old Town was put to the test last year regarding a historic home at 319 Queen St., Mayor Allison Silberberg passed with flying colors. Her opponent in the June primary, Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, failed. The owner's developer proposed extending this historic home 20 feet to the north, eight feet to the east, raise the roof two feet, and add an elevator — thus destroying its historic integrity forever. Queen and Royal Street neighbors, the Historic Alexandria Foundation, and the Old Town Civic Association challenged the BAR's approval of this partial demolition. We gathered the signatures of 75 homeowners and asked for a City Council vote. Our

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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## OPINION

# 'Getting Ready for Summer'

SSA offers free program, part of Speaker Series.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



Summer is right around the corner! It is a time for fun and trying something new — perhaps being a tourist in your own town. Senior Services of Alexandria's June 20 Speaker Series "Getting Ready for Summer" program can give you some ideas to get started. There will be a little something for everyone.

Visit Alexandria will share details about what's happening around town including the celebration of Alexandria's 269th birthday along the Potomac River at Oronoco Bay Park. There will be music by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, birthday cake, food vendors and a dazzling fireworks display. Come hear about the many neighborhoods events including outdoor movies and the Del Ray Music Festival, as well as art programs at the Torpedo Factory and lots of concerts around town.

For those who like to cook and are looking for some new summer recipe ideas, Madison Reeder from INOVA's PACE program will give participants ideas about how to use local produce, and share samples

of her delicious recipes. Madison's healthy food demos at the Beatley Central Library have been very popular, and will continue throughout the summer. Madison has a wealth of knowledge about healthy and scrumptious food that will inspire you to liven up your summer menus.

Summer is a great time to get moving, and the Alexandria neighborhood YMCA will be on hand to tell everyone about their summer programs that are fun and affordable. Participants will also get information about summer library programs for seniors including the private and free tours of local historic properties. Everyone who attends the event on June 20 will get a Silver Service discount card and learn about all the businesses around town that offer special discounts for Alexandria's seniors. Summer months are the perfect time to try out a new restaurant.

The program will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road in Alexandria starting at 10 a.m. (registration at 9:30 a.m.) to noon. It is free with light refreshments and plenty of parking.

To RSVP go to [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org) or call the office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110. This program concludes SSA's 2017-2018 Speaker Series. We are beginning plans for next year's schedule so if you have any topics that you think are important to seniors just let us know.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 14

case was solid and clear, but we could not overcome Mr. Wilson's predisposition to side with the developer. Eventually, the owner decided against this investment. One of our neighbors bought 319 Queen St. to restore — not demolish it — and move in. Mayor Silberberg stood up for preserving Historic Old Town, and we stand up for her.

**Francois Duret**  
**Michael Maibach**  
**Gebe Martinez**  
**Joan Roland**  
Queen & Royal streets

## Frustrated With Decisions

To the Editor:

The Democratic primary for mayor is not so much about Athens versus Burke as Tim Lovain [Letter, "Well-Informed

Judgment," May 31] would have us believe; rather it is about the centuries-old idea of the people versus the political elite.

Silberberg stands with the people, Wilson presides over the elite.

Lovain's rosy picture of internationally renowned experts wisely guiding little ol' Alexandria through the thorny thickets of public policy is a bit too rosy for reality. In reality, the system is set up to elect one party, at-large, which simply serves to nurture the closed minded group-think that plagues public discourse here. When one party rule is threatened, as it was in 2009 when Wilson lost his seat on council, the elite simply changed the dates of city elections to cement their advantage. Was it legal? Yes. Was it politically savvy? Sure. Was it guided by principal or sound public policy "expertise"? No. It was a power grab. Nothing more.

If Lovain would take off the rose-colored lenses for just a second, he would

see that so many of the decisions in this city which impact residents are made by appointed (read unelected), unaccountable commissions and boards. Members are appointed by the elite, claim expertise, and make decisions that the people must abide by (many times at some significant cost to residents or at some restriction of their liberties and property rights). Aside from being a thorn in the side of taxpayers, these entities offer little more to the city than giving the elite plausible deniability for unpopular decisions. The scary thing is, they wield real power.

Finally, Lovain's picture is a rosy one because, while "world-renowned" experts in the metro area and our city may be well versed in the academics of public policy, they can't manage a budget or implement spending in any responsible manner. If they could, I submit to you Metro wouldn't be shutting down our stations next summer (for that matter,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 16

## DEMOCRAT JUSTIN WILSON FOR MAYOR

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Local leaders and people who care about Alexandria's future are standing with Justin Wilson for Mayor. Why? Because Justin is a proven leader who will get results to make our City a better place to live, work and raise a family.



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- Bill Euille,  
Former Mayor of Alexandria



"Justin has the intellect, energy, and values that make for a true leader."

- Jim Moran,  
Former Congressman



"Justin stands for progress and what's right for our children and families."

- Julie Jakopic  
Chair, Hopkins House,



"He'll improve our schools, strengthen infrastructure, and increase affordable housing."

- PJ Palmer Johnson, Commissioner,  
Alexandria Commission for Women



"Justin listens, builds consensus, and takes action. He's earned my support."

- John Chapman,  
Alexandria City Councilman

### JUSTIN IS ALSO PROUD TO BE SUPPORTED BY:

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Tim Lovain, Councilman  
Bryan Porter, Commonwealth's Attorney  
Ramee Gentry, School Board Chair  
Bill Campbell, School Board Member  
Hal Cardwell, School Board Member  
Chris Lewis, School Board Member  
Kerry Donley, Former Mayor  
Rob Krupicka, Former Delegate and Councilman  
David Speck, Former Delegate and Councilman  
Randy Sengel, Former Commonwealth's Attorney  
Lonnie Rich, Former Councilman  
Karen Graf, Former School Board Chair  
Stephanie Kapsis, Former School Board Member  
Firefighters Union (Local 2141 IAFF)

For a full list visit [Justin.net](http://Justin.net)

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- Having a Schools-First Mentality
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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 15

Amtrak would be much better managed, too); our public safety personnel would be better paid; council would not feel the need to conduct the city's business behind closed doors, and they would have voted for Silberberg's ethics reform measures versus Wilson's watered down "Sense of the Council;" Wilson would have been amortizing his massive tax hike for infrastructure improvements over the 10 years he's been on council rather than in one non-election year budget cycle; there would have been some discussion of what to cut in order to accept the city manager's reasonable recommendation on tax rates; we'd have a parking policy that would protect residents and encourage visitors to spend money in our shops and restaurants (Arlington does it); and a bunch of residents on King Street would not have been forced to give up street parking in front of their homes so that six people could ride their bikes to work each day.

It is folly to claim that Wilson or any long-standing member of the City Council, Lovain included, strikes a balance between self-proclaimed expertise and listening to the people. Why would they? They've never had to.

This city is not just a budget document or a case study; people live here. Allison, for all of her quirks, gets that. She's the dissenting vote on so many critical issues because she understands that someone has to represent those of us who foot the bill. I'm with her and I encourage all Independents, Republicans and frustrated Democrats to join her as well.

**George G. Demetriades, Jr.**  
Alexandria

## Populist Hooey

To the Editor:

Some dear friends and beloved neighbors will vote for Allison Silberberg in the Democratic Mayoral Primary on June 12.

I will not.

Alexandria is poorly served by Silberberg's brand

of populism. She knows better than the "experts", and she — and she alone! — listens to our citizens. Even her slogan, "The People's Mayor," is pure populist hooley.

I will vote for Justin Wilson, a competent, intelligent and diligent candidate, on June 12.

Whatever the outcome on June 12, it is not our mayor that makes Alexandria great — it is dear friends and beloved neighbors!

**Eileen Wallace**  
Alexandria

## Muir or Pruitt?

To the Editor:

Would you rather have John Muir or Scott Pruitt as mayor of Alexandria? What were the leaders of the Mt. Vernon Chapter possibly thinking when they endorsed the Scott Pruitt candidate? There clearly needs to be a leadership change and a reversal of this endorsement.

Mayor Allison Silberberg has been an amazing supporter of environmental, a champion of the tree canopy, and a strong watchdog over environmentally damaging development.

Justin Wilson has demonstrated zero environmental concern to me. Through many hours of testimony and subsequent email exchange on the Karig Estate, he only asked softball questions and voiced no concern over damage to a wetland, damage to the headwaters of Strawberry Run, clear cutting of many trees, (some of them old growth species) increased runoff, and threat of mudslides on the steep marine clay hillside that one of the houses would occupy. He has hid behind the Dillon Rule as an excuse that the City of Alexandria has no power to do anything to restrict development, even if the development did not comply with federal clean water regulations. Residents of Alexandria should be embarrassed by Mr. Wilson and other city council members who sat by and accepted inaccurate information from misleading staff members who discounted and suppressed expert opinion that was contrary to their views. They also did not question the staff's truly bizarre set back requirement that was only concocted to

prevent a more environmental acceptable alternative to the proposed development.

**Stuart Davis**  
Alexandria

## Consider Taxpayers

To the Editor:

As we approach the election in June, I have many concerns, but the one that seems to evade public and political comment is real estate/property taxes.

Where are the voices about the increase in either assessment or property tax year after year after year? I for one, who has responsibly paid taxes for over 35 years, find myself in the situation where I have paid down my mortgage in order to continue to live in my beloved Old Town, only to find that the property taxes will prevent me from staying long term in my home. My home, where I have built my life.

It seems unfortunate that you contribute for a lifetime and when in the twilight of your life you are forced to move because of unforeseen and unsustainable increases in either assessments or tax rates. To be clear when I moved to this house in 2012 taxes were \$11,744.50 now, only 5 year later, they are \$16,098.38, an increase of 37 percent in 5 years. This is during a period of time when there has been essentially no inflation and wage stagnation.

What is even stranger is that no one is complaining? Can I be the only one that will be forced out of there home because they cannot afford 16K+ and rising dollars a year in property taxes?

Someone needs to support the property owners and help preserve a community that you can live in, by choice, for your life. To be pushed out after doing your civic duty without comment for generations ... to have saved and conserved in order to pay down your mortgage, only to be unable to afford the annual taxes seems punitive and unjust. Where is the uproar? Is there no voice to those of us who

have played by the rules? Most often silent, I can no longer stay so.

Notably, Trump's tax "cuts" "not only cost me more, but every human being who has a mortgage with interest above 10K plus property taxes finds themselves paying triple taxes. Am I the only one aware and feeling this pain?"

Enough I say. Those who set the policies, who manage, control or mismanage the budget must start to acknowledge that you cannot continue to spend and assign that burden on the backs of your residents.

Enough!

It is time that local government respond and hear what is real in the lives of their constituents.

I appreciate your ear, but, more so, I would appreciate your actions to control spending and prevent increased taxes by assessment or increase. I have a budget to live within. Why can you not be required to do the same?

**Brenda Doherty**  
Alexandria

## First Duty of Mayor: Lead

To the Editor:

In the toxic political climate that seems to be so pervasive these days, binary elections are often framed by supporters and opponents of candidates and issues as choices between good and evil. Thank goodness that in Alexandria the campaign for mayor is anything but that. When it comes to commitment to public service and a passion for this community, there is not an inch of daylight between Justin Wilson and Allison Silberberg and all voters, regardless of whom they intend to vote for, are the beneficiaries.

My decision to support Vice Mayor Justin Wilson is, in part, a recognition of the actual, legal role of mayor. The mayor is a member of the council with one of seven votes.

The mayor is not the CEO of the city; that's the  
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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## WELLBEING

# Families Meditating Together

Family mindfulness practices can boost overall wellbeing.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL

Sitting on cushions in a dimly lit corner of the living room, a family of five struggles to relax. But when a lithe woman in flowing yoga pants and a pale grey ballet-wrap top brings her hands together and the gentle sound of Tibetan meditation cymbals fills the air, their eyes close, their shoulders relax and they begin to breathe deeply.

"This is how I like to begin all of my family sessions," said meditation teacher Pleasance Baechli of Transcendental Meditation and Mindfulness Center in Bethesda, Md. "It allows people to calm their minds and bring their attention to the breath and what's going on in their bodies. For a moment, there's nowhere else they need to be and nothing that they need to do."

This is the nature of a family mindfulness session, a chance for families to unplug and disconnect from a world of tablets, smart phones, long commutes, sports practices, homework and errands. Such sessions, says Baechli, offer opportunities for families to reconnect with one another and strengthen their bonds, and are not as difficult to establish as one might think.

"Mindfulness can sound complicated and confusing, especially for children," she said. "But it's simply a state of awareness, and that just means noticing what we're feeling and what we're sensing at the present moment. And it's noticing those thoughts and feelings without judgement or criticism. It's accepting them and letting them pass through our bodies."

Carving out time to meditate in a overloaded schedule can be tall order, but simplicity can help overcome that roadblock. "Unfortunately, the older the kids get and the more activities they have, the harder it gets to make time for quiet and meditation, even though we need it more, of course," said Elizabeth Rees, a mother of three and the associate rector and leader of meditation practices at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. "I try to teach my kids breathing techniques and we have a few favorite meditations that we practice periodically before bed. There are also some great [smartphone] apps [like] Insight Timer, Calm and Headspace."

Understanding what mindfulness is and what it is not can help avoid frustration from unmet expectations. "Grasping the concept of mindfulness is tough for some kids and sitting still for long periods of time to practice can be torture," said Baechli. "Mindfulness is simply focusing on your thoughts and feelings as they are right in this moment. That's it. Mindfulness is not a cure-all. Don't expect it to turn your high-energy son into a quiet child or your daughter



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Cymbals and meditation cushions are tools that mindfulness teacher Pleasance Baechli uses in her family mediation sessions.**

who has trouble paying attention and is struggling in school into a straight-A student. That's probably not going to happen."

What it can do however, when practiced over time, is help regulate emotions and strengthen one's ability to concentrate and focus, advises Anne Navolio, Ph.D., a child psychologist based in McLean. She points to a 2012 study by researchers at the University of Washington which credits weekly mindfulness sessions with an improved ability to concentrate. She also references a 2016 study by the University of Wisconsin which showed that even a five minute meditation session each day can increase one's ability to deal with stressful situations. "For beginning a daily practice, start with shorts sessions, especially for young children. Even one-minute of sitting can be beneficial," she said. "And if your kids aren't even interested in that, don't force it."

Incorporating meditation music and concepts that children can understand can make the process easier, advises Baechli. "I like to use cymbals at the beginning of a practice or sound a bell," she said. "Those sounds usually last about 30-45 seconds and sometimes I tell kids to sit quietly and focus on what they're hearing until they can no longer hear it. I also tell kids, especially boys, to use their superhero senses to determine what they can hear and smell all around them."

Spending time outside, either on a hike, nature walk or a trek through the park, can be an opportunity to practice mindfulness as a family, says Navolio. "Simply walking in silence for even a few short minutes and noticing birds, squirrels and cars that are passing or even the scents of freshly mowed grass or food cooking in a restaurant you pass can be a mindfulness practice."

Leading by example can get children engaged in mindfulness practices. "I encourage and model gratitude and attention to small things in the world around us," said Rees. "I definitely think the more mindful and present we can be, the less angst we will have about the past and the future, neither of which we have much control over."

**"Unfortunately, the older the kids get and the more activities they have, the harder it gets to make time for quiet and meditation, even though we need it more, of course."**

**— Elizabeth Rees, Associate Rector, Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church**

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 16

city manager's job. The mayor presides over the council, is viewed as the nominal representative of the city, and becomes the first among equals when sitting on the dais. The mayor has no other constitutional duties or unilateral authority, so as nice as it may be to attend all the openings and events, the "just showing up" part of the job has little to do with the actual work of the council, and the first duty of mayor is to be a leader, not by virtue of title, but as a consequence of knowledge, skill, and rectitude.

The beauty and occasional curse of local government are the smaller, neighborhood issues that can inflame or energize the citizenry. It is tempting to try to find solutions and make decisions that feel expedient and responsive at that moment. But leadership is not always telling people what they want to hear, it is trying to listen to the arguments, getting the facts and making decisions that follow the law. So, here is something I learned over the years: Not agreeing is not the same thing as not listening. I have not always agreed with votes that Justin has cast, but my respect for him comes from knowing that his approach to making a decision is driven by facts, common sense judgment, and a willingness to strive for compromise when possible.

So, here is something else that I have noticed over the past 3 years with this council: 6-1 (or 1-6) votes have become something of a Rorschach. Some see Allison's dissenting votes as a badge of courage, and admire her for that. I see the opposite. There is nothing wrong with anyone on council being an occasional dissenter, but as a routine practice I find it lacking. Legislative bodies that are effective are always looking for common ground, for compromise and tradeoffs to reach a resolution — not necessarily one that everyone likes completely, but one that tries to recognize different goals and conclusions. If one feels strongly about an issue, you lobby, persuade, cajole, and compromise to get consensus. In other words, you lead.

I see Justin Wilson doing that, because he always has.

A criticism of this council, though, is that the "6"

of 6-1 votes are just voting in lockstep. I think that is a disservice to the council and reflects a lack of understanding about the process. When a vote ends up 6-1, it doesn't mean it was wired, but it does mean that a lot of work went on behind the scenes to reach consensus — not in secret (that's illegal), but conversations, debate and dialogue between members to find common ground. In my book, that is good politics.

My final distinction in our binary choice may be a little "inside baseball," but it is about the budget. Every year, when the council convenes for its final adoption of the budget, there are two votes: the tax rate, and the actual budget — the thick document that details what and where our tax dollars are to be spent. A vote against the tax rate is unusual, but not unheard of. A vote against the budget is so unusual I cannot recall the last time it happened. Budget adoption always has disagreements — amendments are offered, additions and deletions are argued, but in the end, you vote for the budget, and when Allison voted no last year, it was, in my opinion, an abdication of one of the singularly most important functions of a City Council. It became a recorded vote against everything that we, as a city, expect — public safety, public health, public education, public works, culture and beauty — all the things that make this city special. So to be blunt, you cannot campaign that you're for it if you voted against it.

If you have read this far, I want to close with a very old quote that speaks to what I always hope from those who take on the responsibility of serving and governing: "There is only one way to avoid criticism: Do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." Aristotle.

David G. Speck  
Alexandria

## Change Is Required

To the Editor:

On June 12, make your vote count by putting

new members on City Council who will respect residents and their neighborhoods, revere and protect our historic ambience and uniqueness citywide: Old Town, Del Ray, Rosemont, Arlandria, Beverly Hills, Parker Gray, etc.

Elect new council members who will really bring residents to the table and respect promises; e.g., no lights at T.C. Williams.

Elect new council who will prioritize citywide needs and wants so that taxes can be held in check preventing further gentrification and loss of affordable homes for working class men and women and seniors on fixed incomes.

Elect new council members who will put qualified citizens on boards and commission and make sure they are balanced between business and residential members. Most of all, elect City Council members who will demand that our planning department adds creativity to its process and deny developers who bring forth tired cookie-cutter, dense tall buildings. And be sure to vote for council who will actually want to know the "real" results of projects, such as residential paid parking. Has this resulted in less business for our retail and restaurants and has it really encouraged people to park in garages. Where are the valid data?

Same for the BikeShare program: Are we only subsidizing the District's thriving program providing free storage via our racks or do our eyes deceive us and the racks always filled with red bikes are actually paying their way so we can stop subsidizing them for half a million dollars a year?

And please elect new council members who will work closely with our schools to make sure they are providing a quality education for all our children, so parents won't have to use private schools.

Finally, on a positive note, please elect new council members who will commend as I do our police and fire departments for giving us a safe city in which to live. And to commend residents who work hard for our many non-profits and help to keep our city beautiful by adopting parks. We need new council members who understand that health and safety and educating our youth are their primary roles and who are able therefore to prioritize spending, questioning major projects (Metro sta-

tions, bus rapid-transit) to make sure taxpayers' money is well spent and benefits everyone in one way or another.

Most of all, vote on June 12. We need new council members at this critical juncture. Alexandria is a wonderful, unique historic waterfront city — we need to maintain this legacy for generations to come.

Linda Couture  
Alexandria

## Effective Governance

To the Editor:

Last week the Sierra Club announced its endorsement of Justin Wilson for mayor in Alexandria's June 12 Democratic Party primary election. These are challenging environmental times. President Trump and EPA administrator Scott Pruitt are working all too successfully to unravel federal climate and other environmental protections implemented during President Obama's two terms and in previous decades. Effective action to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in the U.S. now hinges in large part on the actions of cities like Alexandria.

We're fortunate in Alexandria to have City Council members and a mayor who generally voice support for climate and environmental action at the local level. But we need someone at the city's helm who will translate positive rhetoric into real action. When it comes to delivering results when it matters, Justin Wilson is the clear choice for mayor. Wilson has a track record of building coalitions, working effectively with others in the city and surrounding region, and mastering arcane budget and policy details that are essential to effective governance. He was instrumental in securing City Council support to establish Alexandria's first sustainability coordinator position, he led the coalition that approved new parking rules that will help lower transportation carbon emissions in our

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# LETTERS

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city, and he has been a longtime supporter of establishing Alexandria's new stormwater utility to clean up our waterways. Wilson is also willing to push back constructively when local advocates ask for things that are not within the city's authority. And he seeks to find creative alternatives when Virginia laws restrict our city government from providing what local residents want. We respect Justin Wilson for this honesty, and for not just telling us what we want to hear. This is the art of effective governance and representation, and

these are the qualities Alexandrians need in our mayor during these trying environmental times.

**Seth Heald, Alexandria**  
**Pat Soriano, Alexandria**  
**Dean Amel, Arlington**  
*The writers are members of the Sierra Club Mt. Vernon Group executive committee.*

## Listener And a Doer

To the Editor:

I write this letter as a longtime volunteer for and supporter of the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club. We serve 80 to 120 kids after school every day. This club has been a proud part of our community since 1936. We make a tremendous difference in the lives of these children.

A couple of months ago, our local Boys & Girls Club was facing a fiscal challenge and reached out to Mayor Allison Silberberg. She quickly met with the club's branch director, the regional vice president, and the head of the Greater Washington Boys & Girls Club in her office and gave us an hour of her time. She listened so carefully and asked great questions. She is certainly an enthusiastic supporter of our work but was candid that it would be difficult to find funding but would try and solicit support from the community on our behalf.

The issue was that the club did not have the resources to hire additional part-time staff and had 42 kids on a waiting list who needed our after-school programs. So we were being forced to turn away these children.

To my pleasant surprise, a few weeks later, Mayor Silberberg advised us that she had found some donors to give significant funding, and that has allowed us to hire the necessary part-time staff so that we could adequately admit these children into our club until the end of the school year.

That is leadership. Mayor Silberberg listens. She is focused. She cares deeply, especially about children. And she went to bat for these kids. She is a doer and gets things done.

This is not politics. This is about doing the right thing. Mayor Silberberg is committed doing the right thing and not seeking attention for it. She really came through for us, and we are very grateful. I hope she is re-elected on June 12.

**Michael Menchel**  
Volunteer and former board member for the Dunbar Alexandria Boys & Girls Club

## Committed to Helping People

To the Editor:

Until I found Alexandria's Together We Bake, I was alone and lost. I was a single mother of three without a job or a safe place to call home. I was struggling to get by. My life had not been easy being a survivor of abuse.

Together We Bake is a non-profit, job training program for women and like

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they have for so many others — they gave me a second chance. The program is centered around a baking business where women in need learn food production, business administration, and life skills that help them move toward self-sufficiency. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, an Alexandria City Council candidate, helps lead Together We Bake and inspires women in our program to not let the trials and tribulations of the past define us. Elizabeth helps us realize that we are not victims or disadvantaged; we are conquerors, achievers, and survivors.

Elizabeth is running for City Council because there are so many others in Alexandria that are facing the same struggles Together We Bake women have experienced. Like women in our program, Alexandrians are struggling to find affordable housing, stable employment, and a high-quality education for their children. Elizabeth has knocked on thousands of doors in the city trying to give individuals in need of those services a voice.

Alexandrians need Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, and her commitment to helping people, on City Council. On June 12, we have an opportunity to elect her and ensure Alexandria has more conquerors, achievers, and survivors.

**Colida Johnson**  
Together We Bake graduate and employee

## Goal: To Benefit City Residents

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our support for re-electing Allison Silberberg as Alexandria's mayor. During her three years as mayor, as well as during her earlier service on council, Allison has shown an unrelenting willingness to tackle the tough issues facing the city in a manner that benefits all citizens and makes Alexandria a more livable city.

Across the city Allison has supported residents rather than developers who are pushing excessive development of our neighborhoods while opposing those who favor too much density, too little parking, and inadequate city facilities, such as schools and parks. Allison favors inclusivity and has demonstrated a willingness to listen to everyone rather than shutting the average citizen out of important city debates.

Allison has sought to resolve tough issues, such as ending the environmentally destructive dumping of untreated sewage into the Potomac, rather than kicking the proverbial can further into the future. Allison supports planting street trees at a faster pace to restore the city's dying tree canopy. Allison understands the importance of historic preservation to Alexandria's uniqueness to its residents as well as tourists. The list goes on and on, but common to everything on it is Allison's leadership to solve the tough issues facing Alexandria rather than avoiding them or pretending they do not exist.

**Carolyn Roehrenbeck**  
Bert Ely

## Overhaul City Council

To the Editor:

We need to reelect Mayor Allison Silberberg and elect six new council members who will bring with them fresh ideas on how to protect our natural environment, increase affordable housing, improve our public schools, and develop our city in a way that sustains its historic character and the environment.

The current crop of incumbents has

not shown adequate leadership to be reelected and some of them have been in office long enough. There should be a three-term limit. Long-term incumbency is a rot on the political system.

Justin Wilson, who is running against Silberberg for mayor, and his incumbent Democratic colleagues on council have done everything in their power to undermine Mayor Silberberg during her first term on council. She listens to citizens and better represents the interests of the city as a whole. In contrast, Wilson and his fellow incumbents have aligned themselves with the developers and business interests, as most Alexandria City Councils have done since before the Civil War.

This is problematic to say the least.

If their version of smart development were the answer, we would have more than enough parkland for our growing population, for instance. We don't. Their policies are clearly not providing adequate affordable housing or preserving what little natural habitat we have left in the city, either.

I urge you to pick six new candidates and re-elect Mayor Silberberg when you cast your vote on June 12. I personally endorse Robert Ray, whom I have known for decades. I think he will make a fine council member.

It's time for some real change.

**Andrew Macdonald**  
Former Vice Mayor

## Climate Change Greenwash

To the Editor:

Last spring, the City of Alexandria pledged to uphold the goals of the Paris Accord on Climate Change. The challenge in making this pledge a meaningful contribution is that Mayor Allison Silberberg, who is running for reelection, is the only city leader who understands that it is the millions of local actions that will make or break global efforts to curtail climate change.

Here, we have local Democrats voting symbolically on broad-brush policy issues while destroying the local natural environment through unchecked development.

Here, one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the world is behaving like a struggling Third World country by ignoring its own commitments. A recent 6-1 council decision approving the destruction of a 3-acre forested ravine — one of the last such parcels of its size in the city — is only the latest example of the doubletalk from city leaders. (Mayor Silberberg was the lone dissenter.)

Three acres of old forest may not seem like much, but it is part of the "death by 1,000 cuts" that has produced the increasingly intractable quandary humanity now finds itself in regarding the growing frequency and destructiveness of extreme weather events and other environmental changes experienced around the globe. Preserving old forests is scientifically recognized as one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions, improve water quality, and boost myriad other environmental indicators, but such facts are lost on the self-styled "Eco City" leaders of Alexandria.

Alexandria should be particularly concerned with sea level rise. As a recent article on melting glaciers noted, Antarctica's glaciers contain enough water to potentially raise the oceans by 200 feet, a rise that would drown all of Old Town and Del Ray, the hilltop the iconic George Washington Masonic National Memorial sits on, and bring the coast right to the edge of the very property — near the highest ground in the

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Water's Edge Exhibition.** Through June 13, at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. The solo exhibit by Christine Lashley, "Water's Edge," explores her fascination with water in more than 40 paintings of fragile watersheds, shorelines, and gardens. Visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net).

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

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

**New Photography By Fred Zafran.** Through June 17 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312, Alexandria. With "Along the Poet's Narrow Road," Zafran returned to Japan in 2016 to photograph along the pilgrimage of Japan's most famous poet Matsuo Basho. The journey unfolded along two paths: an external journey of things observed, and an internal journey of images that moved the traveler's heart and mind. It was this second path that Zafran traveled and photographed along the way. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

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

## THURSDAY/JUNE 7

**The Sanctuary Opens.** 6 p.m. at 2213 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

## Siblings Exhibit China Photos At Barrett Branch Library

**"B**uilding a bridge to China" has been the continuous motto of two Alexandria residents, siblings Alexander and Natascha Zelloe, who are participating in the recently opened "China In My Eyes" photography exhibition at the Barrett Library.

Viewers go on a journey through China via 70 photographs, captured by a myriad of photographers, including students, local residents, retired professionals and faculty members from George Mason University. The original idea for this exhibit goes back to Prof. Jing Wang, a former professor at the Confucius Institute at George Mason, with the goal to offer Americans a window into the world of China today.

Alexander and Natascha Zelloe had their eyes opened to China after participating in summer trips to China organized and funded by the Confucius Institute. Both took photographs during these journeys, which had life-changing impacts on the siblings, who both speak Mandarin now. Alexander Zelloe has returned to China six times since then, studied travel and tourism, and just graduated with an MBA in business analytics from Virginia Tech. I

Natascha Zelloe has studied fashion and business at Mary Washington and will move to Milan, Italy, later this year, for her Master's in business/brand management and focusing on variances in cultural consumer preferences.

At the opening ceremony on May 20, Natascha Zelloe explained that the photo exhibit creates an authentic image of daily life in China and offers great possibilities to learn more about the ancient



Alexander and Natascha Zelloe during their first trip to China together in 2011.

culture and the modern transformation of this diverse country. "Most pictures display scenes from the everyday life of ordinary Chinese citizens", she said, "captured through the eyes of the local photographers." The exhibit will be open through June 24. Complementary student guides are available.

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](http://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](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov). Call 703-746-4994.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 8

**Dr. Seuss Bus Tour.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. The bus is on the road in honor of the first-ever Dr. Seuss's Word Challenge created in an effort to prevent the summer reading slide. Events will feature a walk-through interactive exhibit starring Dr. Seuss's books and characters, child-friendly activities, photo-ops with the Cat in the Hat costume and more. Visit [Seussville.com](http://Seussville.com).

**Pope-Leighey Picnic and Party.** 6 p.m. at 9000 Richmond Highway, 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/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/new-events-1/) or visit [woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://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](http://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 competition and exhibition produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. Nearly 300 artists from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. submitted work to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual competition created to honor regional painters. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) for more.

**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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts), email the Poet Laureate at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov), or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at [cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cherylanne.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](http://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](http://www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com).

**Art Auction and Wine Tasting Party.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, Alexandria. Art on the Vine features online auction of artwork by The Art League's artists. Each \$55 ticket includes: event admission, the opportunity to see all of the artwork in person, access to the Silent Auction, a souvenir wine glass, eight redeemable wine tasting tags plus one full pour, and a light buffet provided by Chadwicks. Live music will be in full swing with the Foggy Bottom Whomp-Stompers. View auction items at

[www.32auctions.com/ArtOnTheVine2018](http://www.32auctions.com/ArtOnTheVine2018). Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**Chamber Concert Series.** 7:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Maestro Dokken will lecture and perform on the Great American Songbook, playing, singing, and speaking about the songs you all know love. Early 20th century American music helped shape the framework of not just American music, but American society itself. The evening will be part lecture, part concert, all entertainment. \$15. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) and click on Durant Arts Center to purchase tickets.

**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/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights).

## JUNE 8-SEPT. 14

**"Dredging The Lethe."** On view June 8-Sept. 14 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more. Wrapped around the interior wall of a smokestack of the former munitions factory, Kara Hammond's mural, "Dredging the Lethe," uses recycled book-pages, collage, charcoal, gesso and ink to create large-scale drawings of Greek goddesses amid contemporary human events. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

## 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](http://www.alive-inc.org). To volunteer, email [margaret.dhillon@gmail.com](mailto: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; Army surgeon and field hospital; U.S. Army Quartermaster; Civilian impressions; equipment displays and so much more. Suggested donation: \$2 adults; \$5 families. Program is weather dependent. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Health and Fitness Expo.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Matthew Maury Elementary School, 600 Russell Road, Alexandria. Pilates, yoga, basketball, football, crossfit, parkour, bike rodeo (at the Hooff's Run Dog Exercise Park parking lot at E. Chapman and Commonwealth) and more at the Maury Playground. Buy lunch from Rocklands and get a sweet treat from the cupcake wars. All proceeds go to H2O for Life for water sanitation systems for a high school in South Africa. Visit [maurypta.org/](http://maurypta.org/) for more.

**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](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Fort Hunt Fun.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road.



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Jackson 20, Port City Team Up for Beer Garden

Summer temperatures make for an excellent time to enjoy a cold beer on the patio, and two local businesses are joining forces to serve up frosty brews with a cause in mind.

To celebrate Pride Month, every Sunday in June from 4 to 7 p.m. the Alexandrian hotel's Jackson 20 and Port City Brewing Company are teaming up to offer a sampling of beers in the hotel's courtyard.

"We see it like a party outside where people can enjoy themselves," says Port City's Emma Quinn.

The brewery will offer a couple of beers on tap – the Optimal Wit wheat beer and

Downright Pilsner to start – as well as some specialty bottle selections, including the Integral IPA and the Ideaal Tripel Belgian-style ale.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit NOVA Pride, a nonprofit supporting education and advocacy for Northern Virginia's LGBTQ+ community.

The Sunday-afternoon event will also offer live music as well as patio games such as cornhole and Jenga, says Dan Tadros, director of operations at the Alexandrian.

"We're really excited to kick this off. I think it's going to be great," he said.

— HOPE NELSON

## CALENDAR



## Civil War Camp Day

Camp life activities include Infantry, artillery drills and firing demonstrations; Army Surgeon and Field Hospital; U.S. Army Quartermaster; Civilian impressions; equipment displays and more. Suggested donation: \$2 adults; \$5 families. Program is weather dependent. Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

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. There is something for everyone. Sandwiches and drinks will be sold. Keep pets on a leash at all times. Free admission; open to the public. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp).

**Arts Fair.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Str., 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 to enjoy jewelers, silversmith and bead makers, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, items for home and garden, clothing, glass makers, painters, sculptures, fabric artists, and more. 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](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org).

**Handmade Ice Cream.** 2-3 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Make and enjoy hand-cranked ice cream as Huntley's Harris family may have done years ago. Discover how the histories of ice cream and Huntley follow a similar path from elite luxury to family fare. The program includes a tour of the ice well and the Historic Huntley house. \$8. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**What Fatherhood Means.** 2 p.m. at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Keynote speaker Rev. Arthur will lead a panel of eight gentlemen who will talk about what fatherhood means to them. Al Muncey and the Renazance Gospel singers will perform. Lunch will also be served. Tickets are \$5 and two for \$7. Tickets available at Gum Springs Community Center or call Mattie Palmore 571-290-8019.

**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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Historic) for more.

**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](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3399930); \$100 at the door. Call 703-778-0977 or visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://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](http://ticketbud.com), and search "Justice."

### SUNDAY/JUNE 10

**Life Played Right Wellness Fair.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Thornton, 1199 S. Washington St., Alexandria. More than 20 wellness and sports-related vendors will be on site. There will be food, drinks, fitness demonstrations and giveaways. Visit [www.thethorntonapts.com](http://www.thethorntonapts.com) or call 703-751-1047.

**Visit with James Madison.** 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's



## SUMMER 2018

**JUN** Celebrate Pride Month in Alexandria  
Events & happenings throughout June

**JUN 23** Well Ray Festival in Del Ray

**JUL 7** USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration

**JUL 20 - SEP 2** "Illuminate" Exhibit at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

**AUG** Alexandria Restaurant Week & Alexandria Sidewalk Sale  
Dates to be announced later

**AUG 4** Friendship Firehouse Festival

**ALL SUMMER** "Hamilton"-inspired happenings  
Special events and tours all summer long

For more summer events and activities, check out:  
**Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/Summer](http://AlexandriaVA.com/Summer)**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. President James Madison will be at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Guests touring the museum will be able to have informal conversations with him, much like meeting an old friend, as the retired president reminisces about his career and discusses the new Virginia university. Included in the regular museum admission of \$5 per adult, \$3 per child under 12. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**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](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Philharmonic Orchestra Concert.** 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents an afternoon of music by Debussy, Bolcom, and Dvorak. The Washington Saxophone Quartet join the orchestra for Debussy's Rhapsodie and Bolcom's Concerto Grosso. Also on the program is Dvorak's Golden Spinning Wheel. \$20. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

**ASO 2018 Garden Party.** 6:30-9 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. ASO's annual spring fundraiser featuring a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and great food and drink. Sponsorships: Overture: \$500; Concerto: \$1,000; Symphony: \$1,500. Tickets: \$175 Individual. Call 703-548-0885 or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 14

**Artist's Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Oil painter Michael McSorley brings together the unexpected, the ordinary, and the unassuming through carefully constructed three-dimensional assemblages in "Collections of Perceptions" on view at The Art League gallery,

through July 1. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

**Film Screening.** 7:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The film by Zoya Baker, "Cranberry Lake," is a 17-minute documentary about forest ecology students taking immersive field courses in the Adirondacks. The film explores the connection between experiential learning and environmental stewardship. A Q&A will follow. Presented by the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Visit [vnps.org/potowmack/events/](http://vnps.org/potowmack/events/).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 15

**Sunset Movie Night.** 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. This week's show is "Spider-Man: Homecoming." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies will start at sunset. Free. Visit [www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

**Read for Fun.** Fairfax County Public Library helps make reading fun by providing tools, access and incentives during its Summer Reading Adventure. The Summer Reading Adventure runs June 15-Sept. 1 and invites all children and teens – birth through high school – to read for fun over the summer. The theme in 2018 is "Reading Takes You Everywhere." Visit [research.fairfaxcounty.gov/summer-reading](http://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/summer-reading) for more.

**Film Screening: "BESA: The Promise."** 7:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The film tells the story of a time during World War II when Albanian Muslims, invoking the ancient

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 24

## Art in Public Spaces

Wrapped around the interior wall of a smokestack of the former munitions factory, Kara Hammond's timely mural, "Dredging the Lethe", furthers the intent of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's original initiative to "beat swords into plowshares," using recycled book-pages, collage, charcoal, gesso and ink to create large-scale drawings of Greek goddesses amid contemporary human events. At twelve feet high and 26 feet in circumference, the mural's circular composition allows for an unique viewing experience. On view June 8-Sept. 14 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.



"Dredging The Lethe," a large-scale drawing installation, by Kara Hammond is part of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's "Art in Public Spaces" project will be on view through Sept. 14.



# ART

## music

## food

## bar

# PRIDE

## Thursday, June 7

## 7-9 pm

### Torpedo Factory Art Center

105 N. Union Street • Old Town Alexandria  
703.746.4570 • [torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov](mailto:torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov)

[torpedofactory.org/pride2018](http://torpedofactory.org/pride2018)  
#artsALX







### God's-eye view of you!

**Saturday, June 9 at 11 am**

**at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library**  
**5005 Duke Street, Alexandria VA 22304**

DISCOVER how to see yourself and others as God, divine Love, sees you, and how that insight heals.

### Love without limit, Life without fear.

**Sunday, June 10 at 3 pm**

**at Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**5510 16th St., NW, Washington DC 20011**

CONSIDER the relationship between prayer and healing, and the universal truth that unifies.

Fujiko Signs says, "In my own experience an understanding of God brings healing and goodness into my life."

Signs is an international speaker, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing, and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.



These talks are sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Alexandria VA, and Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist, Wash. DC.





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## ENTERTAINMENT

# People's Drug Blends Cool, Old-School

BY HOPE NELSON

## If You Go

**The People's Drug, 103 N. Alfred St.**

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-midnight daily.

**Try this:** "My personal favorite is the quinoa bowl," said co-owner Teddy Kim. "You can still feel light and enjoy it – (it has) a ton of flavor."

**W**alk toward the river on King Street and hang a left at Alfred Street, and you'll be greeted with a familiar-but-different sight. The People's Drug, the venerable chain of pharmacies that were prevalent across the D.C. area for so many years, is back – but it's not serving medicinals and soda this time around. It's serving cocktails, craft beer and food – and a prescription to get out of the house and hit up the latest neighborhood pub.

## APPETITE

The new concept is the brainchild of Teddy Kim and Seth McClelland, two native Alexandrians who were quite familiar with Peoples Drug the first time around, McClelland said.

"Teddy and I have been friends since high school and we are Alexandria guys and really love the community here. It's just been so great. And we both of course remember going into Peoples as kids and sitting at the lunch counter," he said.

Gone is the lunch counter; in the bar, a striking white marble affair that harkens back to the old drug-store days. Behind the bar sits a white neon sign spelling out "DRUGS" – a new sign aged to look like it would have come straight out of the old stores.

"We obviously wanted to give it the feel of the drug-store," Kim said. This meant marrying old with new, including a 1930s-era tin ceiling and plenty of accouterments.

And while the ambiance draws patrons in, it's the food and drink that will make them stay. McClelland says the team wanted to pull in the feeling of the old lunch counter for a more modern experience.

"That was part of the pairing with the old and the new. For us, the People's Drug really meant that lunch counter feel. Sandwiches and of course back then when Peoples integrated their sandwich shop in the '30s to the old drugstores it really created a meeting place. People would stop in for lunch and it was sort of like the old ice houses where you'd go in and end up hanging out because it was a cozy, cool feel," he

said.

Though the food and beverage have evolved from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the sandwiches served at People's will be something familiar along with the new twists. That's by design, McClelland said.

"So many of the sandwiches that we know of as the most popular are primarily immigrant food," he said, including hamburgers, chicken Parmesan from Little Italy in New York, the Cuban sandwiches from Miami. "We took these iconic sandwiches that we feel are intrinsically American and gave that vision to our chef."

Not in a sandwich mood? No problem. The menu is rounded out by bowls, bar snacks and side items to cater to varying appetites.

And any stop in to a cocktail bar wouldn't be complete without tasting one of the libations.

"We're really focusing on that theme of the craft cocktails," McClelland said, highlighting syrups and juices made in-house to add a certain newness to the drink. "You're really going to have the freshness in a cocktail that you don't really see too often in a lot of restaurants."

From whiskey-based drinks to tequila and beers hailing from Virginia to Mexico, the beverage options are plentiful and worth trying drink by drink.

One of Kim's current favorites is the Paloma, a tequila-based drink that blends the liquor with lime juice and grapefruit soda to create a summertime special.

"It's really refreshing, something you can enjoy while you're talking with some friends," Kim said.

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

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 22

moral code of besa (a vow to care for anyone facing danger), provided shelter for thousands of Jewish refugees. The free screening will be followed by a Q&A led by the film's creator Jason Williams. Light refreshments. Reservations requested at [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 16

#### Spring Mosby's Confederacy Bus

**Tour.** Sponsored by the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. The bus will be leaving the Truro Rectory, 10520 Main St., Fairfax City at 8:30 a.m. then going through Prince William County to site of the Ewell's Chapel fight, the Grapewood Farm fight, Lt. Bradford Smith Hoskins grave, Brentsville and more. Arriving back at Truro at 5:30 p.m. The tour leaders will be Don Hakenson and Eric Buckland and special guest Tom Evans. Price: \$65 members for the Stuart-Mosby Society; \$75 for non-members. Email: [dhakenson@cox.net](mailto:dhakenson@cox.net); send a check made payable to Don Hakenson to 4708 Lillian Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22310.

**Puppet Shows.** 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Alex and Olmsted perform their award-winning "Milo the Magnificent." The puppet show series is designed for all

ages and young children and toddlers are welcome. Reservations per show are \$5 for all ages. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. To purchase tickets online, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac).

#### Celebrate: Gum Springs Turns

**185.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Park, 8115 Fordson Road. Gum Springs will be celebrating 185 years of its founding as the oldest African American community in Fairfax County. A community parade will kick off the event at 11 a.m. with activities (music, food, games, etc.) beginning shortly after arrival of the parade park. Free. Call 703-360-6088 or visit [www.ngsca.org](http://www.ngsca.org).

#### Country-Western Dance.

Lessons, 6-7 p.m.; dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. 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](http://www.nvcwda.org).

### JUNE 16-JULY 28

#### Art Exhibit: "Peregrination."

Gallery hours at The Margaret W. and Joseph I. Fisher Gallery on the

second floor of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive (off Beauregard Street), Alexandria. Arlington-based fine artist Bryan Jernigan's solo show – "Peregrination" – will run June 16-July 28, with a meet-the-artist reception on Saturday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. Peregrination, also known as a long, meandering journey, encapsulates the artist's abstract take on real and envisioned landscapes. Visit [nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter](http://nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 17

#### Dog Adoption Event.

1-4 p.m. at 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.ldcrf.org](http://www.ldcrf.org) for more.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 19

#### Researching Southern Roots.

1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Board-certified genealogist and lawyer LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson will discuss researching African American families with roots in the South. Her

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# ENTERTAINMENT

talk is titled "Researching Ancestors Who Came out of Slavery." Free. Visit [www.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

**Artist's Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Featuring Michael Szivos of SOFTlab; learn about a new public art project at King Street Park at the Waterfront. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/publicart](http://www.alexandriava.gov/publicart).

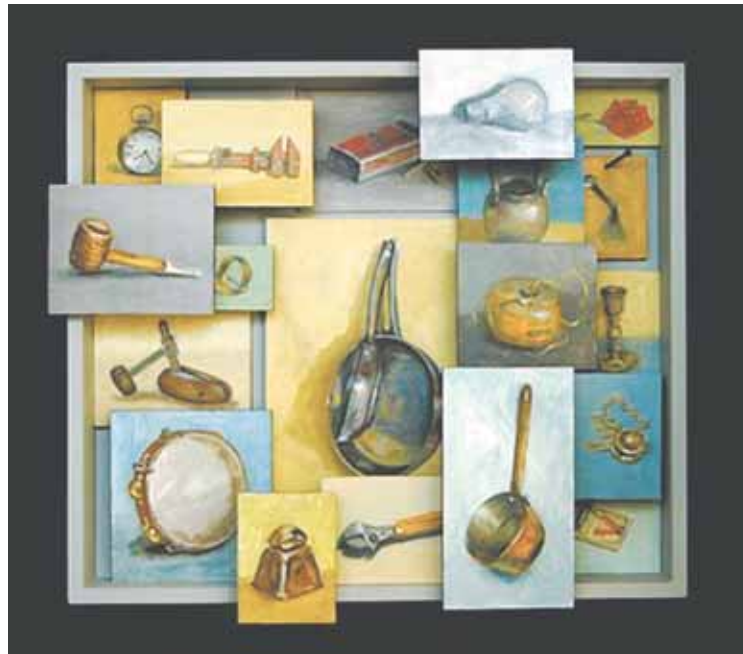
## THURSDAY/JUNE 21

**AHS Awards Ceremony.** 5:30-9 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Honoring the American Horticultural Society's 2018 Great American Gardeners and Book Award Honorees from across the country. Outdoor reception overlooking the Potomac before the banquet, awards dinner in the tented garden of the Estate House. Visit [www.ahsgardening.org/awards](http://www.ahsgardening.org/awards).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 22

**Opening Reception: New Works by Ken Strong.** 5-9 p.m. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong's new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Exhibit runs June 22-Aug. 9. Light refreshments will be served. Open to the public. Call 703-354-2905 or visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net) for more.

**Sunset Movie Night.** 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Outdoor movies every Friday night in June. This week's show is "Thor: Ragnarok." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies



**Possessions, front view, by Michael McSorley.**

## 'Collections of Perceptions'

Oil painter Michael McSorley brings together the unexpected, the ordinary, and the unassuming through carefully constructed three-dimensional assemblages in "Collections of Perceptions." On view through July 1 at The Art League Gallery, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

will start at sunset. Free. Visit [www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com](http://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 this summer tradition. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

# Le Refuge

## Restaurant

### Spring Specials

#### Fresh Soft Shell Crabs

- Cold Soup Trio
- Stuffed Avocado with Crabmeat
- Asparagus with Fresh Smoked Trout
- Cold Salmon Platter
- Beef Wellington
- Rack of Lamb
- Dover Sole



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## Honor An ACPS Teacher! Because you can do better than an apple!



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To purchase tickets or for more info about hosting, please visit:  
**[AlexScholarshipFund.org/Honor-A-Teacher](http://AlexScholarshipFund.org/Honor-A-Teacher)**

Special Thanks to our 2018 Honor-A-Teacher Party Hosts to date: Kay Arndorfer & Jared Bernstein; Susanna & Steve Carey; Laurel Conger; Alex & Caulley Deringer; Mark Eaton, Matt Zahn & Veronica Nolan; Beth & Jeffrey Resetco; and Rosie & Mark Wiedemer.

## Scholarship Fund of Alexandria CORPORATE PARTNERS



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Alexandria  
Gazette Packet



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 19

city — that decision makers in Alexandria allowed to be destroyed.

**Cynthia Evans**  
Alexandria

## Exceptional Candidate

To the Editor:

The exceptional Elizabeth Bennett-Parker: my vote for a young progressive Alexandrian revolution. I knew she was exceptional when I got that first Facebook message asking me (a high school student) if I wanted to chat about how she could help with an activism project over coffee. I knew she was exceptional when I searched her campaign website and found a list of concrete priorities with schools right at the top. I knew she was exceptional when she told me about how she managed to make empowering women at Fruitcycle and Together We Bake a full time job. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker is an exceptional City Council candidate. She has the astute and analytical mind, the service-minded values, and the young progressive passion we need serving on our council.

Serving in a local public office is hard. Meetings are long and boring — sometimes going into the wee hours of the morning to discuss city tree planting policy, or that one stop sign, or something equally as seemingly inconsequential. It takes a savvy City Council member who does their research to cut through the dithering, read through the exhaustive reports, and get to the hard work of making decisions that will genuinely help Alexandrians. There is no question that Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, with a Cornell degree and Fulbright fellowship behind her, has the research chops and common sense smarts to get things done our council. When Elizabeth Bennett-Parker talks, people (citizens and council members alike) listen. Whether she is weighing in with remarkable nuance about the challenge of implementing sustainable building practices, or reflecting on how we can work on innovative ways to improve community policing, she always speaks with thoughtful purpose and never speaks just to hear the sound of her own voice.

Elizabeth has shown a clear life-long commitment to community service, from founding Fruitcycle, a small business dedicated to fighting food waste and helping those who struggle with food insecurity, to helping merge and run Together We Bake, a job training and development program that helps women in need. She has small-business budgeting experience and knows what it means to make hard decisions to meet a bottom line. Ultimately Elizabeth Bennett-Parker is in this City Council race for the right reasons. She wants to help people. I will always vote for a candidate who truly considers the job to be public service and not politics.

I was first excited by Elizabeth Bennett-Parker for City Council because as a young female professional she looks a lot like what I hope to be in 10 or so years.

Forty percent of Alexandria's population is under 25 years old, and our median age is just 35 years old. Yet in an incredibly liberal, progressive city, a large majority of our City Council is male, and few, if any, of our current council members could qualify as millennials. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker will help us break this trend. We need a City Council that does not just fight for the future of Alexandria, but also represents that future, and brings a mindset of long-term investment, technological integration, and smart growth that is sorely needed in the citywide conversation.

It's time for a new young progressive voice on our city council. Vote Elizabeth Bennett-Parker on June 12 in the Democratic Primary.

**Jay Falk**  
*Student Representative to the Alexandria School Board, T.C. Williams Class of 2018*

## Vote 'Four' A Better City

To the Editor:

For seven years I've participated in many City of Alexandria development and policy initiatives. This began with the waterfront, and I was delighted to find myself sitting in a public session attended by

citizens who spoke both pro and con. Mayor Euille respectfully listened, and council was attentive. Early research among Alexandria's constituents overwhelmingly favored green space and a continuous riverside pathway. As expected, business wanted more retail and tourism.

Over two plus years, that healthy beginning took the course that nearly every other development in the city has taken, favoring developers' density demands in trade for "public amenities" with city officials failing to compromise with citizens for a creative middle ground. When neighbors have clearly spoken out and written to enjoy and right-fully save their neighborhoods, honor standing agreements and original zoning rules ... the city has stonewalled. No way to run a city.

The City of Alexandria's long record of block voting, a predictable result of single party dominance and an at-large voting system, has resulted in undue familiarity among council, staff, and developers. This frozen political apparatus maintains an "insider" control that diminishes neighbors' ability to achieve livable landscapes and worthwhile changes. It has left citizens with only legal action ... a course few want to take.

How many times has this happened? Repeatedly and with regularity. The waterfront, lights on T.C. Williams stadium, bike lanes on King Street, overturning a neighborhood agreements on traffic routing, the BID, developing Beauregard, building a Gateway, chopping down mature trees, etc. The pattern is identical: developers begin within zoning requirements, then soon announce there will be no "amenities" unless the

city agrees to increased density. The trouble is that "amenities" are often not really available to us. Proposed waterfront amenities included: rooftop gardens (not built) and lobbies and restaurants of hotels.

More? A tax hike that produced a double burden by simultaneously raising both property valuation and tax rates. Recently, and contrary to both the city manager and Mayor Silberberg's recommendation for a smaller,

less pounding, although viable tax increase, council led by Vice Mayor Wilson played a mean-spirited, political, nonnegotiable game. Time to change the bench to a council that acts equitably.

Give Mayor Allison Silberberg, who has fought for many neighborhood people, a council that supports her. Mayor Silberberg has made an exceptional effort to speak, face-to-face with neighbors throughout her tenure. Council on your Corner has been a refreshing change to long, sometimes unintelligible, email strings with certain city officials.

Also, I am proud that the City of Alexandria, through Alexandrians for Better City Government, is offering voters its first nonpartisan group of selected candidates for mayor and City Council: Allison Silberberg, Matt Feeley, Mo Seifeldein, and Robert Ray.

Finally, the city's extreme, hard-ball, block voting, and aggressive legal maneuvers makes it clear that they care more about maintaining power than finding humane and economical solutions.

Vote on June 12 and choose the best four candidates for your neighborhood.

**Kathryn Papp**  
Alexandria

## Proven Record

To the Editor:

I have never been so proud of being apart of the City of Alexandria as I have been under the leadership of our Mayor Allison Silberberg. She does cares about the citizens of our city. She does not just show up — she has a proven record of accomplishing change in Alexandria for all residents. I am looking forward to seeing the great work that she can continue to do if we re-elect her. Mayor Silberberg has truly earn the title the People's Mayor. Every time I come into her presence she is warm, friendly and kind to all those that she meets, and welcome us all in her presence. he includes us in the process. She cares about our input, our voices and concerns are heard as she makes decisions for the citizens that will impact our lives and the culture of this great city that we call home.

Prior to voting for Mayor Silberberg when she initially ran for mayor I decided to do some research about her if I was to consider voting for her as our mayor.

I came across this video from an interview that she did with ESAT: Insight with Allison Silberberg(Ethiopia). (www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BqbJLiYTOc)

This interview speaks volumes of who Allison Silberberg really is and why our city should re-elect her as our mayor.

**Ethel Carol Talley**  
Alexandria

## City's Problems Rooted in Past Decisions

To the Editor:

Citizens of Alexandria, I view this upcoming election as a referendum on the future fiscal health of Alexandria. Do we continue to ignore our broken school and city infrastructure and our increasing debt obligations? Do we continue to raise taxes on the backs of our citizens to pay for the incompetent decisions of our representatives, do we continue to see the demise of businesses in Old Town, and do we continue to allow political attacks against our neighborhoods from an unfriendly political system.

The answer is no — there can be no status quo — we cannot exist in this doomsday approach of ignoring what is happening in our city, in our schools and in our neighborhoods and as such I cannot vote for Justin Wilson.

In 2007 Justin Wilson was elected to City Council — during this period he (and others) allowed the BRACC to be part of our city skyline — as a "transportation expert" Mr. Wilson was asleep at the wheel allowing this BRACC structure to be built not only in a congested part of the city but also in a place where there was no Metro (the other location for BRACC was Victory Center with Metro). Was he not aware of the VHDOT study warning not to build due to the extensive congestion the edifice would bring — was he not aware that government buildings are not taxable — a loss of \$60M dollars per year in tax money ad infinitum. Was he not aware of the 4,000 cars per day seeking parking spaces at the BRACC resulting in the massive cut-through traffic that infects our neighborhoods daily threatening their safety and solitude. There was never any development around the BRACC as promised, the BRACC stands as a symbol of total city ineptitude.

On another front Mr Wilson is a strong advocate for tax increases — his method of financing debt. In 2009, Mr Wilson motioned for a tax increase in the midst of a "Financial Armageddon." In 2016, Mr. Wilson issued a need for a .03 cent tax increase three times greater than the city manager sought. In 2017, Mr. Wilson proposed to double the real estate tax again from 2.7 cents as per Mr. Jinks to 5.4 cents to "fund the schools." Wait — Mr. Wilson is anything but a school advocate. There has been but one school built in the past 10 years, our schools are appalling — leaky roofs, mold, gas leaks and rodents.

Mr. Wilson is completing his ninth year on council. So where was his agenda for school infrastructure and academics? Is this just an epiphany on his part that this mess just happened?

Let me leave you this message from Donnie Wintermute a long time real estate agent and an "Alexandria Living Legend:" "In my 40 years of being a Realtor I have never had a client want to move to Alexandria because of the quality of the public schools. I have however, had a number of clients over the years move from Alexandria to McLean, Arlington, or Vienna because of their highly rated school system."

There has been no action on school infrastructure for decades.

City and school infrastructure and sewage issues (now ordered to be completed by 2025 instead of 2038 at increased costs and disruption) have been grossly neglected, developers have had the upper hand.

There is one candidate that truly supports neighborhood tranquility, tight budgets, measured development, political transparency and the need for excellence in schools. With a new council in place, Allison Silberberg, and a new vice mayor sitting to her immediate right representing a sign of solidarity and purpose, will help the citizens take back their city. Vote Allison Silberberg.

**Bill Goff**  
Alexandria

## Misleading Endorsement

To the Editor:

Councilman Tim Lovain's endorsement of Vice Mayor Justin Wilson in last week's paper misleads.

Weren't they the two councilmen who, as lame ducks, manipulated our election process to re-schedule the next council election concurrent with the presidential election of 2012, so they might have a better chance of getting elected at that time? They succeeded.

Lovain's assertion that Wilson's responsiveness to citizens is commendable is specious. Residents shouldn't automatically go to an elected official with complaints. That undermines city staff. Complaints should be worked from the lowest level, and go to the electeds only after all else fails. Anyone who has worked within an effective organization knows that. This is the reason for some of the dysfunction we're seeing at city hall.

But it's city hall culture, nurtured by the vice mayor and current council, less Mayor Silberberg, that is most disturbing. Witness the flood of letters you're seeing now and in past years about problems all over Alexandria.

Lovain's contention that Wilson listens to citizens but ultimately knows best is laughable. Akin to our puppet planning commission that indicated, as reported in the local press, that it doesn't really care for public input.

Case in point, in 2016 an Alexandria citizen spoke at the planning commission, factually and civilly, about poor planning and violation of city rules concerning a proposed development. Shortly a uniformed Alexandria police officer showed up at his home advising him to watch what he says at city hall. A couple days later, the victim of this police visit and I were invited for an audience with the then Police Chief. (Caveat: The home visit was not the Alexandria Police Department's fault.) If you're interested, please contact me for details.

What do you think of a city hall that attempts to suppress the First Amendment rights of its citizens, and is allergic to the truth and its people?

**Hal Hardaway**  
Alexandria

## Just More Same-Old

To the Editor:

Although the general election isn't until this fall, the selection of your next mayor and City Council will occur in the Democratic Primary. Here's why: Alexandria is composed of mostly Democrats. This means the candidates the Democrats select in their primary will become the council member-designates.

But take solace; there's some genuine democracy in this process. The Democratic Party primary is open to anyone, Indies, Greenies, Pinkies and Trumpies too. The primary takes place on June 12.

And if you like fresh flowers, clean sheets and new perspectives, then join the change-makers. The incumbents are spent. They have nothing new, clever or helpful up their sleeve. Just more same-old. Time to use your vote-broom. Be bold. Sweep 'em away. Start with:

❖ Justin Wilson. His tiresome go-to solution is evermore taxes. Opposes ward voting for city council seats.

❖ Paul Smedberg is a Justin Wilson clone. This duo has never seen a piece of open land that can't be improved with a layer of concrete. Nor have they figured out that the over-development they enable puts more cars on our streets; makes for less parking, more density, lost charm, higher taxes.

❖ Willie Bailey championed a meal tax, now the highest in the area, which will help make Alexandria housing less affordable and meals more expensive.

❖ John Chapman doesn't have the courage to tell T. C. Williams neighbors, who were promised no night lights in exchange for their property now the football field, whether he's with them.

❖ Del Pepper would be a better council-consultant than council member.

And here's what's common to all, challenger and incumbent alike: No one has explained how they will help the private sector produce more revenue. This is the elixir that keeps your property taxes

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 27

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 26  
constant while providing the city with more funds for better schools we demand and sewers we need. Spend your money they will. But none explain how they will help those who produce the revenue make more of it.

**Jimm Roberts**  
Alexandria

## Incumbents or Newcomers?

To the Editor:

The Democratic Party Primary Election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12. The ballot includes one present councilmember opposing the mayor, and 12 candidates for City Council. Four of those running for City Council are incumbents. So eight of those running for City Council are newcomers.

Should we be voting for the incumbents or the newcomers? To answer that, we need to review what the incumbents have done for us over the past couple of years. One thing they have done is raise our taxes. First they raised our real estate taxes, our hotel taxes and most recently our meals tax, the latter in an attempt to finally start dealing with the rapidly declining inventory of affordable housing for low income families. At the same time, they are continuing to destroy potential low income housing in favor of high priced residences and commercial property. They are destroying the charm of the city. They are driving away the diversity that makes a city resilient. And if we look at our streets and sidewalks, what has our City Council done for us? We see potholes, cracks, patchwork repairs, and uneven sidewalks.

I represent the old element of the city and when I look out my window what do I see? A vacant lot where an old but charming office building once sat that was originally designed as an apartment building. It now looks like a unkempt parking lot with weeds growing all over. An ideal place for affordable housing but what are we getting — a high priced hotel.

I have paid real estate taxes every year since 1975. I have seen very little for my taxes except an increase in them every year. My opinion is that the city needs a vast change. We need new blood and we need fresh ideas on how to make Alexandria vibrant again with a highly livable environment, and a new sense of community that fosters creativity and diversity by improving the business environment, improving the schools, and creating more open space for residents to enjoy.

I am going to vote for six brand new city council members: Amy Jackson, Mo Seifeldein, Matthew Feely, Canek Aguirre, Elizabeth Bennet-Parker and Robert Ray. They are young. They are educated. They are diverse — two women, one Hispanic, and one black. They are experienced in their fields; and they will have fresh ideas in changing our city for the better.

Please do your civic duty. Choose the candidates that best reflect your thoughts on the city and vote on June 12.

**James Melton**  
Alexandria

## Protect Schoolchildren

To the Editor:

Regardless of our political affiliation or ideology, we can all agree on one thing: our children are the future, and they must be protected at all costs. The

Parkland, Florida and Santa Fe, Texas shootings demonstrate that we need to have a “fool proof” comprehensive program in place now. First, the City Council should direct the Superintendent of Public Schools, the Health Department, the Fire Department, the Chief of Police, and the Office of the Sheriff to develop a three-part plan to ensure that every one of our 16 Alexandria school campuses are safe and secure 24 hours a day, and that everyone understands what to do, including first responders. The plans need to be vetted with the teachers and the PTA, so that everyone understands what to do.

First, a physical security program must be implemented. Entrance and egress should be controlled in a similar way, to include scans of backpacks and other items so that anyone wanting to enter a school complex should be cleared to do so. All students, teachers and visitors to every school should be cleared to enter by clearing themselves and any baggage through a magnetometer. In this manner no student or other visitor will be able to sneak a weapon or explosive onto the school grounds. Also, off-duty police officers should be hired to maintain security during the day, and to patrol the school grounds during the non-school hours. Additionally, retired police officers, retired military veterans or other individuals certified in the use of firearms should be hired to provide additional armed protection for our students during the school hours.

Next, a “see something, say something” program should be instilled in the schools. There have been numerous missed opportunities to identify someone who is intending to harm others, despite the individual leaving numerous clues. The PTA should be an integral part of the solution, in conjunction with mental health officials, since parents may be able to identify those likely to be shooters.

Finally, an emergency response program must include detailed plans of action on how to respond to an attack, tailored for each school’s needs.

In 2016, GAO issued a report entitled “Improved Federal Coordination Could Better Assist K-12 School Prepare for Emergencies” (GAO-16-144, March 10, 2016) noting that many states and jurisdictions do not avail themselves of Federal Resources. Recommend the City Council in conjunction with the Police and Sheriff’s Departments review the available resources as outlined in the GAO report and adopt those programs that can be utilized locally. We must be able to implement a system that is similar to what is currently in use in airports, federal buildings or numerous other venues. There is no higher priority than to protect our children, so let’s make it happen.

**Townsend A. “Van” Van Fleet**  
Alexandria

## Best Practices Not Followed

To the Editor:

The plan for a new Potomac Yard Metro Station has a few troubling characteristics.

The site for the construction of this Metro station called Site B is only accessible from a long, quiet and child friendly residential street. The construction project is planned to disrupt this neighborhood street for an estimated two years.

Site B is currently a large wetland abutting National Park that is full of turtles, snakes, diverse birds and, according to local residents, beavers.

The current Metro tracks which are associated with the planned station are located on one side of a cliff that is 20-25 feet above the Site B wetland. In order to build a station, the builders may have to dump 1000s of large truckloads of fill into the

wetland site and then grade the site to create a level road and staging area for the construction of the station.

There was a proposal for a Site A, which is level with the tracks already and does not require burying a large wetland in order to be built. Access to Site A does not include the same disruption to a neighborhood street.

The expense associated with the Site B plan will cause Alexandria to go from .2 to .4 billion dollars deeper into debt.

In July 2017, an agreement was made between the Alexandria city manager and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to modify the proposed Site B station design in order to remove one of the station’s access points. The public and the neighborhood that the access point was to serve were kept in the dark until recently.

While running for office, I have promoted bringing to Alexandria the best practices of our surrounding jurisdictions of citizen engagement, data transparency and accountability. If Alexandria had adopted these best practices, this nine month old agreement would have come to light much earlier. More Alexandrians would have time to process this and other aspects of this proposal.

Because implementing proposals like this station can be so complex, the more informed our citizens are, the more we can include their input, recruit their expertise and better shape Alexandria’s future together.

**Robert Ray**  
Alexandria

## Where Potomac Yard Metro Went Wrong

To the Editor:

The Potomac Yard Metro has been on the mind of Alexandria for 30 years, since Potomac Yard was first sold to Commonwealth Atlantic Properties and a small area plan for Potomac Greens was passed in 1992. Good things happened like when my mother, former Alexandria City Council member Lois Walker, convinced CAP Properties to give Union Station to the City of Alexandria. It seemed like a golden goose that could lay a golden nest egg. But the Metro Station has been more like an Achilles heel. The original proposal for 14 million feet of development that would have included a Metro was turned down, and a new plan for only 7 million Square feet and no Metro was passed. This was a missed opportunity to have a developer pay for the Metro. Now it is probably too late because of earlier councils’ decisions. But it is not too late to go back and get this right.

The density of the development has crept back up with a commitment to the Metro and some financing from one bay of the development only if the entrance, which is 800 ft. long, is a quarter mile from the proposed densest part of the Yard. What is proposed is a very large station connected to the development and over the CSX tracks by a very long walkway. And it is not the plan that was promised. At a planning commission hearing in 2010 “Commissioner (Stephen) Koenig confirmed with staff that the community and the city’s elected leadership would be provided an updated cost estimate prior to finalization of the project.” Clearly, notifying the public did not happen. Members of the current City Council, some of whom negotiated for the current development in 2010 re-planning effort, say the train is headed down the tracks and it is too late to turn back. Sometimes we have to admit mistakes.

First, if we go back to the drawing board and the much less expensive and less damaging to wetlands

proposal is chosen, the developer will have “no obligation for financial contributions or undertakings contemplated by this agreement.” Second, the city should have already issued bonds in order for project to move forward (city’s webpage on bonds has not been updated in 2018). I believe we need to find out what the return on this investment is and who benefits. “Commissioner (Maria) Wasowski emphasized that a long-term view needs to be considered with a significant public investment such as this one, further noting the economic benefits that will be realized by this investment.” They have taken away the entrance that serves residents, and kept the one that rewards commercial development. Shouldn’t residents have the priority? The benefit seems to go mainly to Land Bay F. Construction must start before the DSUP Expires June 28, 2021 or the project must be extended, so the clock is ticking.

In 2010 the number 1 priority was to have “walkable access to the regional heavy rail transportation system for neighborhoods in the northeast portion of the City.” Taking away one entrance diminishes this goal. The concept of the Metro is that it will spur development for “Future significant growth in tax revenues for the city’s General Fund from real estate development near the new station.” But this ignores the costs of development, including school capacity, and lack of affordable housing, and paying back the money borrowed to build the station. In fact, there will be no significant tax benefit till many years in the future.

Another goal, “restoration of a protected wetland,” fails to mention how much wetland is being lost. Last Saturday I visited the site where the Metro Station is supposed to be built. It is right in the middle of a wetland where we saw a beautiful painted turtle, redwing blackbirds on cattails, and there is a nature trail. This area will not only be the site of massive infill since the Metro tracks are at least 20 feet above the surrounding land but the construction site. My guess is that many of the people in Potomac Greens will not ride Metro as they have already gotten used to getting places by car, and each has a private garage space. In fact we saw a neighbor at the end of Potomac Greens taking an Uber, so transportation has changed significantly since this station was contemplated, and yet we are still willing to sacrifice a natural area to fuel development on the other side of the tracks.

I believe that is where I believe the transit investment should go, to the other side of the tracks, and converting the BRT to Streetcar which will serve more people for less money, and be on an already existing right of way. If there is to be a station, I propose we look at moving it back to option A, where it will best serve residents of Potomac Greens, apartments along the Parkway, North Old Town Residents, and buildings like Marina Towers. Those will all be in short walking distance. It will be millions of dollar less, as it can be built using the existing track alignment. It will be more environmentally sound, cost less up front and take less time to pay back, meaning a faster return on investment.

On June 28, 2017, two pavilions and entrances were promised just a month before it was discovered by WMATA board members and the city manager that it would not be possible within the approved \$320 million budget. Now this promise has been broken and the secret was held by the city manager and WMATA for nearly a year. Why is what we should all be asking. I look forward to the public hearings so we can hear the answers and what the alternatives are.

**Boyd Walker**  
Alexandria

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Roxanne Edwards of the Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington will speak on topics related to transgender individuals and the express concerns of the transgender community. Free. Call 703-746-1714 or visit alexlibraryva.org for more.

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

**Champions of Children Awards Reception.** At Vola Lawson Lobby in City Hall, 301 King St., Alexandria.

Individuals who have worked to improve the lives of children, youth and families in Alexandria will be honored at the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission’s (CYFCC) Champions of Children Awards reception. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://www.alexandriava.gov/DCHS) for details.

**City Council Legislative Meeting.** 7 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St. Contact City Clerk’s Office at [gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4550.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 14

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

### SATURDAY/JUNE 16

**Annual Waterfront Walk.** 9 a.m. Windmill Hill Park, 501 S. Union St. Contact Jack Browand at [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-5504.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 19

**Waterfront Commission Annual Boat Tour.** 7:30 a.m. City Marina, 0 Cameron St. Contact Jack Browand at [jack.browand@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jack.browand@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-5504.

**2018 ACPD and Chamber of Commerce Awards Winners Honored.** 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall, 301 King St. The Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities, in conjunction with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, have announced the winners of annual awards: Jayla Gaskins, student at T.C. Williams; Josh Baker, General Manager and CEO of the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH Bus); Alexandria Children’s Dentistry; and Inova Alexandria Hospital. Free.



# SPORTS

## TC Crew Closes Season at Canadian Nationals

### Women's First 8 brings home Silver Medal.

**T**he T.C. Williams Crew Team closed its 2018 Spring season on June 1-3 at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Championship Regatta, generally known as the Canadian Nationals, in St. Catharines, Ontario. The Canadian Nationals are open to any high school team from around the world, and typically draws the best boats in Canada, including strong teams from as far as Vancouver, and a few U.S. teams.

This premier regatta provides T.C. rowers with a taste of international and collegiate rowing. The course is a collegiate-level 2000 meters instead of the U.S. high school standard 1500 meters, the coxswains must weigh a minimum of 45 kilograms (99 pounds) or carry a deadweight in the boat to even the competition, and the use of metric weights means the maximum weights for rowers in lightweight boats differ from the U.S. standards.

Capping a powerful postseason run, the T.C. Women's First 8 won the Silver Medal in their Women's Senior 8 final with a time of 6:59.44, only 1.17 seconds behind Canadian rowing powerhouse E.L. Crossley and almost 8 seconds ahead of the squad from Branksome. The T.C. 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 – compiled an impressive postseason record, capturing the Virginia State Championship, placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Stotesbury Cup finals, landing the Bronze at the U.S. Nationals, and the Silver in Canada.

"TCW ladies had a good run through the season, gaining speed every race," said T.C. veteran First 8 Women's Coach Jaime Rubini. "The Canadian experience was awesome."

"We gave it all to the end," he continued. "Our boat jumped up at the start and was leading up to the [last] 500 meters, when E.L. Crossley took the lead and held it to the finish, withstanding the charges from the Titans by 1 second. I take my hat off to the Crossley rowers and coaches, and I am very proud of the T.C. Women's performance."

In addition to the Women's First 8, the Titans brought three men's and two other women's boats to Canada, and also deployed a few of the men to row in additional boats, entering a total of nine different categories. The Virginia State Champion T.C. Men's First 4 rowed their way from Friday heats to Saturday semi-finals, and two hours before that race, First 4 seniors



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA CREW BOOSTERS

#### Women's First 8 boat

Stefanos Psaltis-Ivanis and Connor McGivern also rowed for the first time as a pair – two rowers with one oar each – after only two days of practice. They finished 8<sup>th</sup>, just missing the finals against experienced pair boats that rowed all season and that were equipped with toe steering, an important feature for pairs racing.

Rowers from T.C.'s 2018 Men's Junior 8 and Frosh 8 boats, Silver Medalists at Virginia State Championships, rowed in the Canadian Nationals Senior 8 and Junior 8 semi-final categories, respectively, but did

not advance to finals. However, T.C. Junior 8 rowers Adam Elnahas, Townson Cocke, and Emmett Cocke, along with coxswain Clare Williams, teamed with T.C. Frosh Men's rowers Noah Schuerhoff, Matt Posson, Harris Babin, Anthony Castellano, and Stephen Ralis to form a Senior 72 kg (158.75 pounds) Mid-Weight boat that advanced from Saturday semi-finals to Sunday morning finals. Also competing after only a couple days of practice, T.C.'s Men's Mid-Weights placed 5<sup>th</sup> in their final with a time of 6:37.05.

## TC Girls' Soccer Falls to Woodson in Region Semifinals

### Standouts Constant, Ponzi play final game for Titans.

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he T.C. Williams girls' soccer team fell one win short of its goal of reaching the state tournament for the second time in three seasons, losing to Woodson 2-0 on May 30 in the Region 6C semifinals.

The Titans entered the match having lost just once during the regular season, scoring at least five goals on more than 10 occasions. But the Cavaliers focused on containing T.C. standouts Claire Constant and Bella Ponzi and held the Titans without a goal.

T.C. had plenty of opportunities, but some clutch saves by goalkeeper Jordan Silkowitz left the Titans on the losing end of a 2-0 score.

"We couldn't finish," head coach Ally Wagner said. "Their keeper is — I haven't seen another keeper like that since I've been at TC. We just couldn't finish. It was just really tough on us. We had some good opportunities, we just got very unlucky. ... They were just all over Claire Constant. They put a lot of pressure on our forwards."



T.C. Williams senior Claire Constant, right, will play at the University of Virginia.



T.C. Williams senior Bella Ponzi (20) will play at the University of Georgia.

We barely could touch the ball without someone just being right there on them."

Woodson went on to beat South County in the region championship game and defeat Chantilly in the state quarterfinals. The Cavaliers will play in the state semifinals on Friday.

"We wanted to make sure 9 (Constant) and 20 (Ponzi) didn't run around the field," Woodson head coach Warren Williams said. "You're not going to stop players like that, but they didn't score, so for us that's a pretty good night."

While the Titans fell short of states, Wagner said she was proud of the team's accomplishments.

T.C. Williams finished with a 16-2 record and won the Gunston District championship. Seniors Constant and Ponzi, junior forward Caroline Bates and freshman defender Megan Munson received first-team all-region honors. Constant (Virginia) and Ponzi (Georgia) will play Division I soccer.

"[Constant and Ponzi] meant so much to our program," Wagner said. "It's just so sad that they're going to be gone. They've re-

ally made a mark on TC soccer and ... they definitely brought our level of soccer to a higher level ... and really made a name for us."

Several talented Titans are expected back next season, including Bates, Munson and sophomore midfielder Caley Zack.

"I'm impressed," Wagner said. "We had a lot of young players this year who really rose to the occasion. Both of our center backs were freshmen. I have very high hopes for the future for us. I'm proud we made it this far."





CRWC members pose with guest speaker Amber Smith (fourth from left) and their signed copies of her book, "Danger Close: My Epic Journey as a Combat Helicopter Pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan."

## Helicopter Pilot Addresses CRWC

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) hosted guest speaker Amber Smith, U.S. Army combat veteran, author, TV commentator, and president of Beacon Rock Strategies, at the group's May meeting. She is the author of "Danger Close: My Epic Journey as a Combat Helicopter Pilot in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Smith spoke of her multi-generational military family, her challenges while breaking into the elite "boys club" of helicopter pilots, her combat team missions and narrow escapes, and her recent experience at the Department of Defense (DOD) Public Affairs' Outreach office.

Since CRWC is a political organization, Smith was

asked if she might ever consider running for political office. The audience was very pleased when she answered that she might consider it someday.

CRWC is Alexandria's local chapter of both the Virginia Federation of Republican Women (VFRW) and the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW). CRWC encourages local conservative women of all ages to become more politically involved by helping support and elect Republican candidates to public office at the local, state, and national levels. The club also has a conservative book club and organizes activities to support local community charitable organizations. More information on CRWC is available at <http://www.alexandriacrwc.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaCRWC>.

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### Legals

### Legals

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 / 01 / 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](mailto:quinn@lockequinn.com)  
Counsel for Petitioners

### Legals

**Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria** per specifications will be received in the Office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:  
Request for Qualification Number 00000742, Adaptive Control and Broadband Link  
Eisenhower Avenue  
Closing Date and Time: July 10, 2018, 4 p.m., prevailing local time  
For general inquiries contact Michael F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Deputy Purchasing Agent at [michael.hauer@alexandriava.gov](mailto:michael.hauer@alexandriava.gov)  
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

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**ABC LICENSE**  
PTO Seafood, LLC trading as Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria, Va. 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off and Mixed Beverages On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.  
Michael Anderson, Manager Partner.  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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## Creature Comforts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can you hear that? Of course you can't. You're there and I'm here. And exactly where am I? As usual on a Saturday morning, I'm sitting at my desk, staring out my window onto to "Belly Acres" (our two acres) waiting for creative lightning to strike.

What it is that you can't hear is the sound of Chino, one of my three male, domestic shorthair cats (there are two other females making for a total of five), purring. Purring so loudly, in fact, and positioned so strategically that I can't look across to my computer screen, grab a tissue from atop my printer or press any keys on my keyboard without seeing him, touching him and/or most definitely, hearing him.

Lying on his side with his back to the computer and his front facing me, I am semi-entranced by the heave-ho of his stomach, the alertness of his ears and the occasional stare and gradual closing of his eyes. Still the purring persists.

Knowing cat behavior, as I've come to after 40-plus years of ownership/cohabitation, I've learned to appreciate their sights and sounds and signs of affection (Chino has now rolled over with his back now facing and touching me, yet another sign of affection and trust, and dare I say, love and devotion). The purring has now stopped because Chino has fallen asleep in his "rocking chair, good buddy," to invoke some old-fashioned CB-Radio-type chatter. Perhaps in Chino's serenity will I find some creative juices to flow.

If you're a cat owner/cat "understander," this behavior is as good as it gets: proximity and tolerance. Cats may not exactly come when you call them, sit on command or fetch, but they most definitely can express love. And it's in these behavioral expressions of love that us cat owners find the greatest joy and the most comfort, so long as we interpret it as such. Nor should we get mad when they exhibit contrary behavior, like ignoring you or walking away when approached or occasionally biting/scratching/clawing the hands that feed, pet and play with them. That's par and it's their course we're playing.

As an experienced "feline," I am accustomed to and mostly amused by, this behavior. It is a behavior, among many that cats exhibit where you have zero (I was going to say minimal, but let's be honest) control. Accepting that may give you a greater sense of anticipation concerning their behavior. And it's when you can correctly anticipate that behavior where you can find some real satisfaction.

Not that correctly anticipating said behavior will become a reliable part of future interactions, nevertheless; it is understanding that being equal parts right and wrong concerning their behavior – and finding humor in it, is what will make you an enlightened cat owner. It's somewhere between expecting the unexpected and accepting that being wrong twice doesn't necessarily make you right once – and appreciating the difference. It's possible that this awareness may help clarify the cat's meow. Then again ... ?

But so what? Because of their frequently inexplicable shenanigans, I am continually bemused, and as an aside, with five cats in the house full time, never alone. And it's that never being alone that I find the most comforting.

Whether it's feeding time, litter time, petting/playing/sleeping time, shopping time or veterinarian time, I am regularly engaged. Now, whether they're happy about any of it or not, I can't say for sure. Still, it gives us all something to do, someone to see – and something to hear.

Chino has now awakened from his nap. He has positioned himself so that he is laying across my writing tablet, resting almost entirely on my non-writing left hand and purring as loudly as he was at the beginning of this column. But now that I'm nearly finished, I guess he figures he can get in my way, which doesn't bother me in the least. After all, he is a cat; I wouldn't expect anything less.

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

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## NEWS

# Guilty Plea In Oxycodone Conspiracy

A Maryland woman pleaded guilty June 5 for her role in leading a conspiracy to distribute oxycodone.

According to court documents, Louise S. Edwards, 38, was previously employed as a medical assistant at doctor's offices in Arlington and Alexandria.

From 2011 through December 2017, Edwards stole blank prescription pads and electronically-generated fraudulent prescriptions using a medical recordkeeping system to which she had access by virtue of her position as an employee. Edwards had others write or fill the fraudulent prescriptions and return the full bottles to her. Edwards then sold the full bottles for further distribution.

During the conspiracy, Edwards facilitated the fraudulent filling of at least 353 prescriptions, totaling 42,360 pills of 30 milligram oxycodone.

Edwards pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute oxycodone, and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison when sentenced on Sept. 7. Actual sentences for federal crimes are typically less than the maximum penalties.

A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after taking into account the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

# DASH Wins VTA Award

Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) is this year's recipient of the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Outstanding Community Program Award. Alexandria's DASH system was presented with the award during an awards ceremony held on May 23, in conjunction with VTA's annual statewide transit conference in Richmond. DASH was selected by the Association for its "Stuff the Bus" marketing campaign and outreach efforts.

The Stuff the Bus program was created to provide a means in which the Alexandria community could donate non-perishable food items and/or new or gently used clothing to the community via DASH. For the holiday season, DASH was on-site at various community locations in the DASH Celebration Bus collecting items.

The DASH Celebration Bus is a retired DASH bus that is primed white and painted by the community every October at the annual Del Ray Art on the Avenue event where thousands of citizens are invited to participate by leaving their handprints on the Celebration Bus.

Stuff the Bus drew in hundreds of donations from the community that were donated to the Carpenters Shelter and to Volunteer Alexandria.

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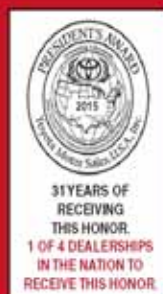
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## A team built on reputation.

When John McEneaney opened for business, he had one simple goal in mind...attract the best real estate agents in the business to his firm so that McEneaney Associates could provide the highest level of service to our clients. For the past 37 years we have had the good fortune to see that wish come true. They are the reason so many clients trust McEneaney Associates. They are responsible for our enviable reputation. To put it simply...they are McEneaney Associates.



OPEN SUN 6/10, 2-4 PM

### Alexandria | \$474,900

Beautifully renovated 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse close to Kingstowne & Metro. Open main level, new kitchen with quartz counters & breakfast bar. Updated baths, hardwoods & fenced garden with deck & patio. Two fireplaces & spacious master suite. 6008 Crocus Court  
Wendy Santantonio 703.286.1308  
www.WendySantantonio.com



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### Alexandria | \$538,500

3 level brick end unit, 3-bedroom + den, 3.5-bath, daylight basement & now with new hardwood floors in the living room & dining room, neutral master bedroom carpet, updated kitchen-come see what works. Seller flexible to assist with closing costs. 5033 Domain Place  
Julie Lineberry 703.489.2823  
www.McEneaney.com



OPEN SUN 6/10, 2-4 PM

### Alexandria | \$599,000

Gorgeous sun-filled 4 level split with large deck overlooking beautiful flat lot with mature landscaping. All major systems have been replaced in the last few years. Recently replaced carpet on lower levels. Plenty of living space and ample storage. 2310 Candlewood Drive  
Jennifer Halm 703.851.2255  
www.JenniferHalm.com



OPEN SUN 6/10, 2-4 PM

### Alexandria | \$925,000

Impeccable design, waterside and stunning. This lovely home lives like a retreat and displays five-star luxury. Two master suites, one on the main and one on the upper level. Oversized bedrooms, chef's kitchen, and outdoor living that rivals most. 2611 Childs Lane  
Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673  
www.McMasterRealEstate.com

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OPEN SUN 6/10, 2-4 PM

### Alexandria \$629,900

This 3-bedroom, 2 full and 2 half bath townhouse has it all! Large eat-in kitchen, bright and open floor plan, master suite, 3 levels of living, deck, yard, and attached garage. Walk to shops and restaurants along "The Avenue" in Del Ray. 16 W Glebe Road

Jen Walker 703.675.1566  
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 6/10, 2-4 PM

### Alexandria \$619,000

Classic update of a 3 level townhome with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths! Fenced rear patio and granite/stainless steel kitchen, 2 story foyer, 2 master suites! Extra bonus rooms too! 1812 Duffield Lane

Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984  
www.JanetPriceHomes.com



OPEN SUN 6/10, 1-4 PM

### Alexandria \$514,000

Charming townhouse 2.5 blocks from King Street! Updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters & glass tile back splash, new lighting & fixtures. Bathroom with new vanity, floor, fixtures, lights, vessel sink & glass tub enclosure. Wood floors, fireplace, 1 parking space & patio. 308 N St Asaph Street

Donna Cramer 703.627.9578  
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