‘Getting a Job Is Not Enough’

Local faith-and-community partnership urges higher wages from Alexandria businesses.

On Monday, July 16, a coalition launched the Alexandria Living Wage Certification Program, hoping to incentivize boosting employees’ ability to meet basic needs. The program, spearheaded by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), a Richmond-based advocacy group, and Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), asserts three goals: “Recognize employers who pay their workers a living wage and embrace ethical business practices;” “urge consumers to patronize those businesses;” and “encourage employers who don’t qualify to raise their employees’ pay.”

“Getting a job is not enough to get someone out of poverty. Workers need living wages if they’re to get out of poverty,” said VICPP’s Kim Bobo.

The program defines a living wage as “the minimum wage a full-time worker must earn to pay for basic necessities, including food and housing, without assistance from others.” Its certification levels include Gold, Silver and Aspirational, representing hourly wages of $15.70, $14.13 and $11.23 for a business’ lowest earning employee. The certification also considers benefits like health care, housing or a housing stipend, child care assistance, meals or

Inaugural certificate recipients of the Alexandria Living Wage Certification Program are (from left) LaJuanna Russell (Business Management Associates, Inc.); Danielle Romanetti (Fibre Space); the Rev. David Gortner (Virginia Theological Seminary); and Kim Bobo (Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, program convener).

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

‘A Caring, Loving Guy’

Friends remember local man murdered in King Street business.

By Vernon Miles
Gazette Packet

If Bradford Jackson was sure of anything, it was that Keith Moon was the greatest rock drummer of all time. Charles Bennett Moore, who runs Big Wheel Bikes in Old Town and was friends with Jackson for years, said this was the easiest way to get a rise out of Jackson. When Jackson would be walking in, Moore would mention how he thought Neil Peart from Rush was the greatest drummer ever and every single time Jackson would fall for the bait and launch into a passionate argument.

As soon as the police cars swarmed over King Street on Friday, July 13 and word began to filter out that someone had been murdered, Moore said he had an immediate sinking feeling it was Jackson. He called Jackson’s cell phone and there was no answer. Moore rushed over to Window Universe, where Jackson worked, and police had closed off the street. Seeing his bike, a beautiful old beach cruiser, set up in the window only confirmed these suspicions. At 11:49, police were dispatched to a call about a suspicious death. Jackson had been murdered inside Window Universe. A suspect, Pankaj Bhasin, was arrested at the scene and charged with the murder. A connection between Bhasin and Jackson has not been officially announced. Anyone with information about this investigation is asked to contact Detective Loren King with the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6689.

Jackson’s friends in the bike stores around town remembered his humility and generosity.

“[Jackson] was a caring, loving guy,” said Christian Myers, co-founder of VeloCity Bicycle Cooperative and a friend of Jackson’s who had been roommates. 

See ‘A Caring, Loving Guy’,
Page 3

Sheriff Deputy Joseph Runquist maintains a perimeter around the murder scene on King Street.
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‘Getting a Job Is Not Enough’

FROM PAGE 1

Food assistance, tuition assistance.

“This program is the only way this is going to get any leverage,” said the Rev. David Gortner of VTS. “I don’t think there’s going to be the will in the legislature to move the dial on the minimum wage”—$7.25 per hour in Virginia. “Where are some other pressure points and invitation points that we can offer in the community? This is by good will and example that we can lead.”

“We [small businesses] are the glue that holds and knits the United States together,” said LaJuanna Russell, a native Alexandrian, now president and CEO of Business Management Associates, Inc., an Alexandria-based firm. “Why is [the living wage] important to [me]? It’s just the right thing. … For me to grow up and have that dream of starting a small business, and then employing others, and then being able to provide some level of a living wage … is an amazing feeling. … Someone comes along, you give them the wage, you give them the training, you encourage them, you promote them, you support them, they move up in the organization. … And what happens to those individuals? They give back to their community.”

Russell’s company, which she started alone at her kitchen table with $500 in 2005, has grown to include 100 employees and $10 million in annual revenue. She participated in the certification program’s development. At Monday’s event, she received one of the program’s inaugural certificates, along with Danielle Romanetti of Fibre Space, a local knitting yarn shop, and Gortner on behalf of VTS.

Yet the program’s certification levels don’t represent wages that would truly enable someone to live in Alexandria. Take housing, which, alongside healthcare, is one of the “biggest drains on our income,” according to Gortner. The program’s lowest certification level, $11.23 per hour, works out to just over $23,400 per year, assuming year-round 40-hour workweeks. That’s below 30 percent of the area median income (AMI) for a single person — an economic stratum served almost exclusively by Alexandria’s public housing authority, for which demand already well exceeds capacity. The highest certification level, $15.70 per hour, falls short of 40 percent of AMI, which works out to $15.79 per hour. None of Alexandria’s apartments are affordable at that income, according to limited data from the city’s housing office. Only about 2,200 (7 percent) of 34,000 apartments in Alexandria are affordable up to 60 percent of AMI, which works out to $23.68 per hour. It would take a wage of $32.85 per hour to afford the average rent of a one-bedroom apartment.

Other methods of calculating a living wage indicated higher thresholds, said Bobo. But, at least to initiate the program, the coalition had to perform some “political calculus” in selecting realistic thresholds. The current levels may already prove “a stretch for a lot of businesses,” especially restaurants and retail, she said.

Gortner hopes the current thresholds will enable the program to gain footing, but will increase as the program gathers steam. Businesses would have to continue to meet rising wage standards in order to renew their certifications every 2-3 years, he said.

The business community hasn’t resisted, since the program is voluntary; although “a lot of questions” remain, said Joe Haggerty, president and CEO of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. He says the program’s viability will depend on types of business and their margins.

For example, businesses widely opposed a recent one-percent increase on the restaurant meals tax to subsidize affordable housing. The Del Ray Business Association voiced opposition from “both restaurant and retail” members, saying in an April letter: “in an industry with very thin margins, it’s the pennies that add up to keep the doors open.” In a March letter from the Chamber including a survey of its members, one respondent said: “Putting this on the backs of restaurant owners in the city who are already struggling and on restaurant work-

ers who are least able to afford reductions in pay/tips is just wrong.”

For more information about the Alexandria Living Wage Certification Program, or to request an application, email alexandriallivingwage@gmail.com.

Friends Remember Local Man Murdered in King Street Business

FROM PAGE 1

mates with him on and off for years. “He had a heart of gold. He would do anything for you.”

Myers said Jackson loved the cool 1960’s aesthetic, with an extensive knowledge of vintage race cars and love of the TV show “The Avengers.” Jackson once took Moore’s son out to a Formula One race. Part of that love carried over into his choice of bicycle, a distinctive cruiser for which Jackson was known around town. Jackson biked to work every day, and Myers said he loved to visit all of the hottest spots around town: getting coffee at St. Elmo’s or Misha’s and then going to O’Shaughnessy’s on King Street for a drink in the evenings. Moore rarely drinks, but he says one of his best memories with Jackson was sharing a beer after the shop had closed for the day and listening to obscure ‘60’s and ‘70’s rock bands. Jackson knew every one of them.

“[Jackson] wasn’t into spending a lot of money if he was going out,” said Myers, “So some nights he would just hang out at home with a glass of wine.”

Walking into Big Wheel Bikes, there’s a large pig originally from the restaurant King Street Blues. Moore remembered getting a phone call from Jackson one day who was distraught to see the sign being haphazardly thrown away. He asked Moore if he wanted the sign, and the two of them travelled to the restaurant to wrest it away from the kitchen workers who were intent on destroying it.

“She was a happy, good dude who lived a simple life,” said Moore. “He rode his bike to work every single day and used to ride through Old Town. He was like a second dad to my son. He was a brother to me.”
News

Flexibility vs. Funding

City, ARHA continue grappling with cost constraints of preserving low-income housing.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

Last week’s initial hearing of an advisory group’s recommendations by public officials indicated little progress on determining how to revamp local policy to conserve public housing. Resolution 830, a 1981 agreement between the city and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), requires the “substantially equivalent” one-for-one replacement of demolished public housing units. The parties have diverged in their understandings of what specifically that means, or should mean. The city has expressed a preference for replacing units at comparable rents, serving the city’s lowest-income residents. Without vouchers or other rental assistance, these residents have no options in the private rental market. ARHA wants to keep Resolution 830’s language vague, allowing maximum flexibility to offset ever-shrinking federal subsidies. Without alternative funding, ARHA has to continue finding ways to self-subsidize — namely, by tapping into land value for capital, and redeveloping higher rent units for sufficient operating revenue.

City Council established a group of 27 stakeholders to advise regarding the resolution’s “modernization and potential expansion.” At last Thursday’s meeting of the ARHA Redevelopment Work Group, public officials formally heard those stakeholders’ feedback for the first time. The ARHA Redevelopment Work Group comprises policymakers from both bodies. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilman John Chapman represent the city, while Chairman Daniel Bauman and Vice-Chair Salena Zellers represent ARHA’s Board of Commissioners.

But the haziness coming out of the working group was little changed from the haziness going into it, in terms of how to deal the underlying problem of cost.

At a joint council-ARHA work session a year ago, Wilson said: “The amount of affordability is depleting. … There’s either a subsidy that’s kicked in to make that not happen, or these projects don’t happen to begin with. … Someone — us [or another party] — needs to show up with a lot of money … or another way of doing this. So I think that’s the fundamental question.”

At Thursday’s briefing, Rhae Parkes, a consultant hired to assist the advisory working group, echoed that the decisive underlying issue remains “money, money, money.”“It’s not just a housing authority question. How can you [the city] grow the pie of funding to support affordable housing? … It boils down to this question about resources. … This is a different conversation if you have dedicated resources for affordable housing,” she said.

In the recent budget cycle, city councilors debated a one-percent increase in the restaurant meals tax to generate an additional $4.75 million dedicated for affordable housing. That’s about half the shortfall to meet the city’s strategic housing goals by 2025. The measure passed by a 4-3 margin. Wilson, the only official who voted in opposition remaining after the June primary, alternatively proposed to fund housing in the city’s 10-year capital improvement program (CIP). His proposal included $2.35 million in FY 2019 and “TBD [to be determined]” amounts thereafter.

ARHA hasn’t wavered in its desire to maintain City, ARHA continue grappling with cost constraints of preserving low-income housing.
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Christopher Dwyer has sent someone out to buy a cooler to fill with cold bottled water for the 14 Palestinian youth musicians in the rented bus. He will head to Dulles Airport at 10 p.m. to pick up the students for their week in the Washington area where they will present five concerts. This is part of an effort to bring Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli students to the U.S. to show that “while they may have been taught to hate, they can learn peace.”

Alexandria-resident Dwyer is executive director of Humanitas International, Inc., a non-profit organization created in August 2017 to address refugee problems. He says, “We go in and identify specific problems or people bring them to us.” This project to bring students from the Magnificat Institute in old city Jerusalem to Bethlehem and Magnificat Institute in Palestinian and Israeli students to the U.S. is one of the organization’s current projects.

“My primary responsibilities are problem-solving and relationship building.” He works to identify funding from individuals, corporations and government for the organization’s projects.

Another of the three current major projects being undertaken by Humanitas International is a boys’ home in Bethlehem. This live-in school takes boys up to about 20 and provides elementary, high school and vocational training. The school has a capacity of 18 but is packed with 22 boys and needs even more capacity in a land torn by conflict. He says, “We are working with one of the big local organizations, Custody of the Holy Land, a Franciscan order in Jerusalem. They came to us and said they needed some additional funding.”

“A lot of organizations out there won’t fund religious-based projects but we are lucky to be in transition.” Dwyer explains that the Trump Administration has made a policy decision that they aren’t satisfied with projects going through the U.N. and have changed the guidelines to allow Federal funds for international projects.” He said the Administration wanted more local control. Now Dwyer is seeking $150,000 to help make enough room in the boy’s home for additional individuals.

Christopher Dwyer points to location of two Humanitas International projects, a boys’ home in Bethlehem and Magnificat Institute in old city Jerusalem.

Kamilah McAfee has been named vice president for Real Estate Development at Wesley Housing Development Corporation of Northern Virginia. McAfee is responsible for all of the company’s development activities, from project conception to construction and lease-up.

Having joined Wesley Housing in 2008, McAfee most recently served the company’s director of Real Estate Development. During her decade-long tenure, she has been instrumental in driving a variety of construction and renovation projects to completion as well as managing property acquisitions, including Wesley’s first deal in the District of Columbia, Brookland Place Apartments. Previous to joining Wesley Housing, McAfee served as a development associate for Forest City Washington, the director of Public Finance for the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency, and a consultant with BearingPoint (then known as KPMG Consulting).

McAfee holds a Master of Business Administration from the Kogod School of Business at American University and a B.S. in Finance and New and Small Business Management from Georgetown University.

Wesley Housing Development Corporation has been working to provide affordable rental housing for families for more than 44 years. Wesley Housing supplements housing with supportive services for residents, including low- and moderate-income families, seniors, and the disabled. For more information, visit www.wesleyhousing.org.
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Senior Services Highlights New Programs

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Senior Services of Alexandria held its annual meeting June 27 to honor retiring board members and welcome Jack Fannon as the new board chair. The occasion also highlighted the organization’s growing programs for seniors in the community.

During a luncheon at Brandywine Living at Alexandria, outgoing SSA board chair Gerry Cooper talked about the growth of existing SSA programs and the creation of the new Caring Connection program.

“We accomplished some major milestones and have plans to move forward with more support to seniors in Alexandria,” Cooper said. “Caring Connection is a new program that goes beyond our Meals on Wheels program to provide short-term personalized health and safety monitoring of medically vulnerable seniors.”

Cooper, along with former mayor Kerry Donley, chaired a major gifts campaign to fund the new program, which will provide a link between seniors and their healthcare entities. Jay Hoffman was recognized for providing the initial funds to purchase the software and tools necessary to launch the Caring Connection program.

“So far we have raised $250,000 for Caring Connection,” Cooper noted. Other SSA programs were celebrated, including Meals on Wheels, which currently serves 100 seniors, and Groceries to Go, with 57 volunteers shopping for and delivering groceries to 68 seniors.

SSA’s newest program, Senior Ambassadors, began last fall and has 36 volunteers providing information about programs and services available to seniors. A Silver Service card has expanded to partner with more than 40 local businesses providing discounts to Alexandria seniors over the age of 60.

“It is exciting to see how SSA continues to develop new programs to serve seniors in the City of Alexandria,” Cooper said. “We especially thank our supporters because we could not do it without their generosity.”

Now in its 51st year, SSA’s mission is to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the city of Alexandria to age with dignity.

See www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Photos by Jeanne Theismann/Gazette Packet
Senior Services board member Gregg Murphy, left, with SSA transportation supervisor Anderson Corbin and Meals On Wheels coordinator Nathan Toews at the annual SSA meeting June 27.

Senior Services of Alexandria Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson, right, poses with retiring SSA board members Gerry Cooper, Lynnwood Campbell, Warner Moore, Alice Rogalski and Donna Shaw at the organization’s annual meeting June 27 at Brandywine Living at Alexandria.

Drop-off your unwanted medications
SUNDAY JULY 28, 2018 10:00AM-2:00PM

PROPER DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:
Alexandria Police Headquarters
100 Wheeler Street
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The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
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CAN’T MAKE IT TO DRUG TAKE BACK DAY?
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Sweetie is a 2-year-old, long-haired brown tabby cat with extra-soft fur who found his way to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) shelter in March as a stray. Friendly is a 3-year-old black cat who was surrendered to the shelter last November because his owner’s other pets did not appreciate him. Sweetie and Friendly have something significant in common: They both are FIV positive.

FIV is an immune deficiency condition that is contagious to other cats, but not to other animals or humans. Most common among cats who have lived outdoors, the infection is detected in about 20 cats taken in by the AWLA each year. Every cat who comes to the shelter is tested for the disease.

While FIV can affect the health of some cats after the initial infection, many go on to lead long lives, only periodically experiencing illness such as respiratory infections and dental disease because of their immune-suppressed state.

FIV is not as frightening as it sounds, says Jessica Almond, the AWLA’s director of operations. “FIV cats can live a healthy and happy life and can safely live in homes with FIV-negative cats,” she said. “FIV can only be transmitted to another cat through a deep bite or from an FIV-positive mother to her kittens. We house FIV positive cats separately at the shelter only because we don’t have the capacity to slowly introduce cats to each other to see if they can live together without fighting.”

As with all new additions to a household, the AWLA recommends that FIV cats be slowly introduced to any existing pets to set everyone up for success as happy companions.

Almond says that cats with FIV available for adoption at the shelter are designated as such, and adopters are provided with detailed information about taking care of a cat with FIV. The AWLA recommends that these cats remain indoor-only pets, which is their recommendation for all pets for health and safety reasons. It is advised that FIV positive cats be examined by a veterinarian twice a year. Otherwise, cats with FIV simply require the same care as other feline companions.

Sweetie and Friendly are the perfect example of how FIV cats can make wonderful playmates for others: they are now best friends. When Friendly first arrived he was anything but; the name chosen for him was more a wish than an accurate description of his personality. “But a lot of time with AWLA staff and volunteers, plus Sweetie’s positive influence, have transformed Friendly into the truly amiable cat that he is now,” said Laurette Crum, who has adopted several volunteer shifts to petting and playing with the two. “Friendly greets Sweetie, and Sweetie cuddles Friendly. They have grown a lot together, and we can’t wait to hear their stories once they find their new homes, whether individually or together.”

The two cats are available for adoption, either separately or as a pair, and their fees have already been paid through the AWLA’s Adopt It Forward program. They can be found in the cat adoptions area, likely napping together in a cozy bed. More information about them is available by calling 703-746-4774 or at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, which operates the Yola Lawson Animal Shelter on contract with the City of Alexandria, is an independent, local, 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation. The AWLA is committed to ending animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare, and serving as an educational resource for the City of Alexandria community.

More information is at AlexandriaAnimals.org.
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Mary Taylor 703.785.3619 or Pat Tierney 703.856.5030
ALEX / Porto Vecchio $ 840,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
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Leah Chapla 703.626.4875
ALEX / Stratford Landing $ 635,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4

Mike Manuel 703.815.8317
ALEXANDRIA / Canal Place $ 412,000
Charming and refreshing renovation of sunny 2BR / 1BA top floor unit. Features include granite, cherry cabinets, hardwoods, & updated bath. Cozy fireplace insert. Private, extra storage and parking, block to bike trail and river. Metro bus. Near 2 groceries, Starbucks, and restaurants.

Elyse & Bette Gorman 703.861.4825
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town $ 399,500 OPEN SUN 1 - 3
861 S. PITT ST. #328 Light and bright unit on the 3rd floor right across street from Metro. Fresh paint and modern updates throughout. Furniture and appliances negotiable. On-site staff. 1 parking space. Block to restaurants and shopping.

Ann Logadon 703.568.8433
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282
ALEXANDRIA
Condos at Cameron Station $ 479,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4
315 CAMERON STATION BLVD Charms 2BR / 2.5BA / 2-level condo townhouse boasts fresh paint, hardwoods, stylish kitchen, and Master BR with full bath and walk-in closet. Patio, balcony and garage complete the package. Enjoy all the amenities that Cameron Station has to offer.

Mary Taylor 703.785.3619 or Pat Tierney 703.856.5030
ALEX / Porto Vecchio $ 399,000 OPEN SUN 2 - 4
1250 S WASHINGTON ST #300 Huge 1BR / 1BA open floor plan with beautiful morning sunsets and river view. Eat-in kitchen, formal living and dining room (can easily convert to den). Unique sleeping space in living room. One garage space conveys. Alexandria’s premier waterfront building with amenities.
CW Gray: Alexandria’s Early 20th Century Funeral Director

By Char McCargo Bah

Charles William (CW) Gray was a well-known mortician in the Alexandria African American community. He was listed as an undertaker and sometimes as a mortician in the Alexandria City Directories as well as on the United States Censuses in the early 1900s. He began his undertaker business around 1909. In 1910, he was listed in the City Directory as a funeral director, his house address was at 1321 Cameron St. and his funeral business was 205 North West St. A year later, Mr. Gray’s business moved to 412 North Patrick St. As his business grew rapidly, CW Gray moved to 1019 Oronoco St. There were two other African American’s funeral directors and embalmers listed in the City Directory with Mr. Gray in 1912. Mr. Thomas H. Brown lived at 200 North Payne St. and Mr. Richard Gray lived at 412 North Patrick St., both of them were in the funeral and embalmer business.

From 1913 to 1927 CW Gray’s funeral business relocated to 1019 Oronoco St. In 1928, the Gray family purchased a home and converted part of it into a funeral business and the other part into a private home. That building had three entrances with two different addresses, its business address was 1021 Oronoco St. and the home address was 501 North Henry St. Some of Mr. Gray’s earlier clients were a 10-year-old, William Henry McKinley Carter of 425 Oronoco St., who died on Dec. 27, 1912; a 65-year-old, John C. Fox of 213 South Peyton St., who died on Aug. 5, 1914; and a 44-year-old, Daniel Corbin of 524 North Alfred St., who died on Feb. 26, 1914. Daniel was a barber in Alexandria; he was the great-uncle of the famous Alexandria Lawyer, Samuel W. Tucker, who worked on Civil Rights cases in the State of Virginia.

In 1930, CW Gray, his wife, Lillian Curry-Gray, his daughter, Esther Gray-Stanton and her husband and their children still lived at 1021 Oronoco St. CW Gray’s house/business was valued at $2,000 and his occupation was listed as undertaker. Mr. Gray’s business survived during most of the Great Depression until the late 1930s, when his funeral business took a severe financial hit. After 1938, Mr. Gray lost his business and his home. On the 1940 census, CW Gray and his family rented their home and his occupation was listed as a mortician.

Mr. Charles William Gray was born in Leesburg, Va. in 1875. On Sept. 22, 1898, Charles married Lillian M.S. Curray (Curry) in Alexandria, Va. Prior to Gray’s mortuary business, he was a porter on the railroad. CW was a trustee and a member of Shiloh Baptist Church; he was an Elks and Mason member. On Oct. 13, 1942, CW Gray died. His wife, Lillian, joined him five years later. Their survivors were their only child, Esther Gray-Stanton, her husband, Reverend N. Howard Stanton, Sr., and their children. Today, the surviving children of Esther Gray-Stanton are Lillian Stanton-Patterson, LeEtta Stanton-Nowlin, Milton Stanton and James W. Stanton. Mrs. Patterson is a retired curator of the Alexandria Black History Museum. She has fond memories of her grandfather, Charles W. Gray. Lillian and her siblings grew up in their grandparents’ home. Mrs. Patterson and her siblings have deep roots in Alexandria, going back to the Civil War on their grandmother, Lillian Curry’s side.

Charles W. Gray provided the African Americans in Alexandria a service that they needed, and he passed strong work ethics to his grandchildren. He left a great legacy that will follow his descendants for many generations to come.

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

Letters to the Editor

From Page 10

Significant traffic safety problems elsewhere that should be addressed with greater urgency. Regrettably, a number are in less fortunate neighborhoods that might not get as much of “a voice” in how limited resources are spent, nor be provided a series of public meetings that elicit their safety concerns. However, in government policy, facts should matter, as should equal accountability to all citizens.

Joe Sestak/Alexandria

Environmental Irony?

To the Editor:

How ironic that it is Congressman Don Beyer who wrote the commentary on the departure of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. Beyer berates Pruitt for “... his antipathy to environmental protection” while at the same time Beyer himself has refused to stop the destruction of valuable Federal wetlands, wildlife and many mature trees along the George Washington Parkway since his hometown demands to place the Potomac Yard Metro station there when in fact there is another location that would cause minimal harm.

In addition, it is Beyer who refused to help protect vulnerable elderly and low-income Old Town residents in the neighborhood bordering the Robinson Terminal North. A developer planned to haul toxic waste by truck from this site through this neighborhood rather than safely barge it away because that would cost more. Therefore, civic activists met with the congressman to ask him to intercede. He refused to do anything. Well, well, well.

Linda Couture

Andrea Stowers

Alexandria

Pratt as Hero

To the Editor:

Secretary Pruitt was a hero to me because he dispelled the unfounded basis for many of the last president’s environmental policies. He cleaned the swamp. He instituted new, environmental-friendly and realistic initiatives and asked his staff to follow EPA’s mandates, not their personal political preferences. He was a courageous man doing battle with an entrenched bureaucracy, for which I give him high praise.

I was saddened to read that Representative Beyer, my representative in Congress, is so misinformed about Secretary Pruitt.

Linda Greenberg/Alexandria

Heartfelt or Heartless?

To the Editor:

It would appear that the good folks of Del Ray have “No Room for Hate nor The Homeless.” The comments [“Mother of Light,” Gazette Packet, June 28] that were made by citizens of Del Ray, I am sure, are ones of valid concern. Except the various self-congratulating signs in yards and businesses that scream “Look at me, aren’t I a good person” presents the irony of the two. “As long as it isn’t in my backyard I can ride the high road” is what comes across.

As one person said … we don’t have a homeless problem. The same people are upset with U.S. border controls and the like but when it comes to the homeless there is a bias that homeless people equate to criminals and drug addiction. I am sure the good folks of Munich, Germany in the 1930s and ‘40s said the same of the gypsies, tramps and thieves the good folks wanted relocated elsewhere …

Sandie Sanor/Alexandria

Tourists

Visiting ducks on the waterfront last month.

Photo by Diana Banat

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Visiting ducks on the waterfront last month.

Photo by Diana Banat
THURSDAY/JULY 19
Community Living and the Transformation of Healthcare.
Noon-2 p.m. at the Sheraton, 801 N. Saint Asaph St. Lance Robertson was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Aging and ACL’s Administrator on Aug. 11, 2017. His vision for ACL focuses on five pillars: supporting families and caregivers, protecting rights and preventing abuse, connecting people to resources, expanding employment opportunities and strengthening the aging and disability networks. Lunch will be served and there is no cost to attend, but RSVPs are required. Visit www.novahealthpolicy.org/.

MONDAY/JULY 23
Ad Hoc Waterfront Construction Monitoring Group 5 p.m. at City Hall, Sister Cities Room 1101, 301 King St. Contact Jack Browand at jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5504.
ARHA Board of Commissioners Meeting 7 p.m. at Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 401 Wythe St. Contact Cynthia Dickerson at cdickerson@ARHA.US or 703-549-7115.
Volunteer Info Session. 8-9 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road.

Grand Opening Celebration
Please join us for our grand opening event including community tours, presentations and live entertainment. Gourmet hors d’oeuvres prepared by our culinary team, along with a fine selection of beverages will be offered.

Wednesday, July 25
4:00pm – 7:00pm
program begins at 5:30pm

To RSVP
Call (703) 215-9110

2807 King Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22302 | silverado.com/alexandria
Best for Family Road Trips

Top audiobook picks for long drives with children.

By Marilyn Campbell

With summer comes road trips. In fact, a study by New York University’s School of Professional studies showed that 63 percent of American families will take a vacation by car this summer. Long stretches of interstate and backseat time call for loading up on audio books before hitting the road.

“Audio books are great for long car rides and they’re much better than video games,” said Barbara Marshall, department chair for Education and Social Sciences at Montgomery College. “They don’t take the place of actually reading a book, but there is a time and place for them.”

One of those times, says Marshall, is long drives without scenic views. She and others who are familiar with children’s literature suggest some of the best books for family vacations by car.

“Ghost” by Jason Reynolds and narrated by Guy Lockard is a recommendation by Jennifer Rothschild, Youth Services Collection Development Librarian for Arlington Public Libraries. This 3.5 hour audio books about a gifted runner named Ghost who has a chance to run for a prestigious middle school track team, but is challenged to stay on track both literally and figuratively in order to reach his full potential.

Fantasy buffs might appreciate “Each chapter has a specific song and story followed by Patricia C. Wrede, while fans of dystopian novels might enjoy “Leviathan,” written by Scott Westerfeld and narrated by Guy Lockard. The story takes off when the two cross paths.

Historical lovers might appreciate another Rothschild pick: “Notorious Benedict Arnold” which was written by Steve Sheinkin and narrated by Mark Bramhall. Running at 6.5 hours, this is a true story of an American war hero who loses his career and freedom for greater recognition.

“Music lovers might enjoy “Solo” by Kwame Alexander, says Yvonne Iqbal of Scrawl Books in Montgomery. “It’s from the perspective of a seventh-grade black boy who is shot and killed by the police, and his ghost is telling the story of seeing the world after his death, where he meets the ghost of Emmett Till. It’s a heartbreaking book, but beautifully written, well performed on the audiobook.”

Despite the mature sounding premise, Nebeker says it’s intended for readers ages 9 and up.

“Avalon High by Meg Cabot” is a fun contemporary take on the King Arthur myth by the prolific Meg Cabot,” advised Nebeker. “This one does take place in a high school setting, but it’s appropriate for ages 10 and up and for sure. So cute and funny.”

“Howl’s Moving Castle” and “James and the Giant Peach,” both by Roald Dahl, are also fail-safe choices for family road trips, says Iqbal.

“Audiobooks are great for long car rides and much better than video games.”

— Barbara Marshall, Montgomery College

Nathaniel Parker could appeal to thrill-seekers. The main character, a 12-year-old named Artemis Fowl is the heir to a crime family who appears to be unusually skilled at masterminding crimes until greed threatens to ruin his most brilliant plan. This Rothschild suggestion runs 6.5 hours.

“Timeless classics like “Charles and the Chocolate Factory” and “James and the Giant Peach,” both by Roald Dahl, are also fail-safe choices for family road trips, says Iqbal.

“Howl’s Moving Castle” by Diana Wynne Jones and “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle are two additional suggestions from Nebeker.

For a wider selection of choices, Marshall suggests the American Library Association’s website which offers reviews of audio books: www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncr.
Summer Theatre To Perform Disney’s ‘Newsies’

MUSICAL BEING STAGED AT BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL

ST. BERNADETTE’S SUMMER THEATRE PROGRAM IS STAGING THE MUSICAL, ‘NEWSIES,’ FOR ONE WEEKEND, JULY 26-28, AT BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL IN ALEXANDRIA.

“The musical ‘Newsies’ is a very high level show and we’re doing it as a full scale, big and bold and for students from all over the area together. Some of the staff members on the program I’ve been friends with for decades now,” said Curtain.

Khyrin DeBose, 17, of Burke, plays the lead role of Jack Kelly. “Jack Kelly is the leader of the Manhattan Newsies. The newsies are the kids on the street who sell out the newspapers around New York City. Jack Kelly is the older brother/dad figure to the group of newsboys. He usually gives them advice on how to sell newspapers and he looks after them like his own family,” he said.

The antagonist in the show is Pulitzer, the owner of the World Newspaper who has decided to raise the price from 50 to 60 cents per paper. ‘Jack decides that this isn’t best for anybody and leads his newsboys on strike to lower the price of the newspapers. While he spearheads the strike, he learns what it takes to be a leader, what it takes to fight for what you believe in, and what it takes to look out for more than just yourself in this world.’

Elia Nash, 18, of Springfield is playing the role of Katherine Plummer. ‘Katherine is a very progressive character. She really wants women to have as much rights as men and that was very unique for the time the show was set in. She’s seen as sassy but I consider her to be witty and she has a lot of intelligence. The key fact about her is she wants to be a reporter and it’s important for her to be a famous female reporter but when he gets on the street and loses his family, he stops going to church and everything in life starts to become a joke to him. But he finds a niche with the Manhattan Newsies and starts to feel like he has a family again,” she said.

Christian Parrotte, 16, of Burke is playing the role of the Racketeer, who he describes as being sassy, bold, and outrageous. “He’s confident and he’s got a strong personality that really shines through in a lot of the scenes and he’s also pretty stubborn. He’s a mix of a comic relief, a bit of helping the audience understand what’s going on the story. He’s also important in furthering the strike; he’s very influential with some of the other newsies.”

St. Bernadette’s Summer Theatre Program is staging Disney’s ‘Newsies’ from July 26-28, at Bishop Ireton High School. Show times are July 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., and July 28 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Tickets are $10/adults; $8/students/seniors. Visit www.summertheatreporg."
### Restaurant

**Le Refuge Restaurant**

**Summer 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

**Since 1904**

Since 1904, The Royal has been Old Town’s Favorite neighborhood restaurant. Award-winning menu includes prime rib, fresh seafood, roast chicken best burgers hand-carved roast turkey and salad bar. Full Buffet with Sunday Brunch

### Calendar

- **July 22** At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St, Alexandria. Closing reception July 22, 2-4 p.m. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvaas.org for more.
- **July 29-9810 or visit www.alexandriacaffe.com:**

### Entertainment

- **Wrestle to the Ground, Katie Pumphrey.** acrylic on canvas, 84 x 72’, 2018, $17,500

### Summer Specials

- **Humdram, Katie Pumphrey.** acrylic on canvas, 66 x 72’, 2018, $14,000

### Artist Talk: Katie Pumphrey

“Five More Minutes, Part II” is a two-part exhibition that features work by Baltimore artist, Katie Pumphrey. Through large-scale paintings and installation, her work explores the tension between movement and stillness. The show runs through July 22nd at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St, Alexandria. Closing reception July 22, 2-4 p.m. Call 703-548-0035 for more.

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### Save 50%

On second dinner entree of equal or lesser value when you mention this ad. Offer expires 8/31/18.

### Fifties of Collecting

Tuesdays-Saturdays

### Evening at the Athenaeum

201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvaas.org for more.
By Hope Nelson

Washington Street, the north-south thoroughfare cutting through the heart of Old Town Alexandria, is a busi-
telling place. Shops, doctor’s offices, banks, restaurants, watering holes — it’s got it all. But tucked around the corner, nestled half a block off of the main drag, sits one of the neighborhood’s hidden gems: Abyssinia Mar-
et and Coffee House.

Located on Jefferson Street, around the corner from the likes of Ace Hardware and Southside 815, Abyssinia Market opens it doors first thing each morning to dole out coffee to sleepy neighbors on the way to work — and from all day long to offer those same neighbors groceries, pastries and craft beer and wine on their way home. “People describe us at the best coffee shop in Old Town,” said owner Lily Damtew. “We want everyone to feel like not a stranger when they walk in, but a friend. It’s a very intimate kind of shop.” Indeed a cozy — but not cramped — space, Abyssinia Market packs a wealth of fresh pastries to coffee to beer and wine, the shop certainly offers more than meets the eye.

One of the market’s crown jewels is its Ethiopian coffee selection. While Abyssinia Market has sold coffee from the start, it now roasts its own brand as well, which Damtew says is one of the store’s gems. “We recently started roasting our own coffee and packaging it. It’s called Queen of Sheba coffee,” she said. “…The roasting is perfectly done so they don’t have that soury aftertaste that you get from other coffee.”

Roasted every Monday, the Queen of Sheba coffee sells both in the store and at local farmer’s markets. And the Queen of Sheba is far from the only coffee variety on deck. Along with other coffees, Abyssinia Market offers a wide array of espresso drinks for a little extra get-up-and-go.

“We sell a lot of espresso drinks, like cappuccino, café latte; we do a lot of mo-
cha,” Damtew said. “People love those espresso drinks.”

The food, too, is plentiful — and perfectly suited to complement a cup of Joe. A vari-
cy of scones, croissants, bagels and mug- fins await, all ready to eat. Fresh Baguette and Metropolitan Bakery provide the ma-

If You Go


Hours: 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Try this: “Our beer and wine is very selective,” says owner Lily Damtew. “We have mostly Italian wine, South American wine. We have a few French wines and roses.”

Jority of the shop’s baked goods, ensuring fresh items without a lot of time in transit.

“We’ve come so far from the beginning to now. We only advertised once — everything else is word of mouth and bar and bar parted and we’re really grateful to be in this neighborhood and have the customers that we have.”

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.
Get Ready for Summer Restaurant Week

For 10 days and two weekends, 50 Alexandria restaurants offer a $35 three-course dinner or a $35 dinner for two during Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week, Aug. 17-26.

More than 25 restaurants will also offer lunch specials in addition to the dinner specials. New this year are $15 or $22 per person brunch specials at 15 restaurants. New to Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week are Mia’s Italian Kitchen and Café 44. Returning participants include Hank’s Pasta Bar, Evening Star Café, BRABO, Vermilion, Hummingbird, Del Ray Café and Virtue Feed & Grain.

Restaurants with lunch offerings include The Majestic, Voila’s Dockside Grill, Barlack Brasserie & Bar, Blackwall Hitch and Society Fair. Restauranrs with brunch specials include Chaddocks, Cheesetique, C Edward, Kendal Knoll and The Wharf and Vermilion.

Wahoos Finish Undefeated

The Chinquapin Wahoos defeated the Hayden Village Villagers – Boys 175-40; Girls 130-92 – for a combined score of 305-132 to go 5-0 for the season. Next week is the Divisional Championships and the presentation of trophies at Chantilly Highlands.

6&Unders: Logan Phillips (23.79) and Micaela Zuniga (20.81) won the freestyle and the backstroke (Logan 29.63; Micaela 36.45).

8&Unders: Amir Smith (23.36) and Eamonn Greiner (23.68) were 2-3 in the free; Alex Guevara (24.03) and Eamonn (31.06) were 1st and 2nd in back with Dominic Grajkowski just missing 3rd; Eamonn (28.70) and Amir Smith (28.95) were 1-2 and dominated the breaststroke; and Alex (23.65) and Logan Phillips (31.82) were 1-2 in the fly. The girls were dominant as Linda Jimenez (20.51) took 1st; Chloe Fox (21.34) 2nd, and Julia Davis (22.13) 3rd in the free; Chloe Fox (25.38) 1st and Madison Schang (26.51) 2nd in the back; Linda Jimenez (26.17), Madison (27.15), and Chance Maxwell (31.35) swept the breast; and in the butterfly, Linda (26.21), Chloe (28.99), and Julia (29.94) swept the event.

Both groups won the 100 Medley Relay event with Eamonn, Amir Smith, Alex, and Logan going 1:42.05; and Chance, Chloe, Linda, and Julia going 1:46.81.

9-10 Age Group: Yahia Omar (38.42), Chris Greene (40.43), and Eddy Paz (43.81) swept the free; Jack Scheifele (43.90) took 1st; Chris (34.13) 2nd in the back; Jack (51.48 2nd) with Yahia taking 3rd with a time of 53.33; and Jack (18.18) and Chris (22.39) 3rd in the butterfly.

Camila Zuniga took 1st (40.95) and Maggie Commans (46.27) 3rd in the free; Tennyson Fitzgerald (48.52) 1st and Camila (51.39) 2nd in the back; Halle Thomas (54.93) 1st and Tennyson (58.88) 2nd in the breast, and Camila (21.01) 1st and Tennyson (24.53) 3rd in the butterfly. Tennyson, Halle, Camila, and Maggie combined to take 1st in the medley relay with a time of 1:32.83.

11-12 Age Group: Bodie Lauring (31.50) swam his best time for 3rd in the free; Jolani Foronda (36.95) was 2nd in the back; Jolani (36.15) was 2nd the breaststroke; and in the butterfly, Jolani was 2nd again with a time of 34.97.

For the boys, Eve McLaury (32.79) and Cat Cox (35.18) started the 11-12 girls out with a 1-3 finish in the free; Catherine Salomons (38.66), and Abby (41.12) were 1-2 the breaststroke; Catherine (43.98) Sally Cox (45.35) were 1-2 in the breast; Eve (35.65) and Catherine (37.04) were 1st and 2nd in the butterfly.

13-14 Age Group: Emil LaSida (26.60) took 1st and Ronan Lauring (27.69) 2nd in the breast; and in the breaststroke. Jolani Foronda (36.44) took 2nd. In the breast, Ronan took 1st (34.77) was 1st and in the butterfly, the boys showed some depth by sweeping the butterfly event with Emil (28.83), Jack (34.93) and Diego Flores-Acosta (36.41) leading the field. The team of Emil, Ronan, Jack and Diego Flores-Acosta took 1st in the 200 MR with a time of 2:12.83.

For the girls, Maya Solis (31.14) was 2nd in the free and 1st in the 50 back with a time of 34.89 with Haley Haukedahl (39.57) taking 3rd in the back; Stephanie Rosario (43.15) was 2nd in the breast; and Maya (35.73) was 1st in the fly. Haley Haukedahl, Stephanie, Maya, and Joelyn Teran teamed up for 1st in the 200 medley relay with a time of 2:33.88.

15-18 Year Olds: Ian Do got the boys on the board with a 2nd place finish in the 50 back with a time of 29.16 with Dylan Garcia (29.38) taking 3rd. Ian (32.84) was 2nd in the breaststroke. Jacob Rosario (39.67) touched out a Hayden Village swimmer to take 3rd in the breaststroke.

In the butterfly, Ian (30.27) and Dylan (32.15) took 1st and 2nd place. The relay team of Ian, Jacob, Dylan and Angel Calisaya (2:13.88) were just beat out by a strong boys team in an exciting relay race.

For the girls, Lydia Greenwood (30.63) took 1st and Nicole Rosario (32.83) 3rd by .02 seconds in the free; Lydia (37.04) and Athena Salomons (38.81) took 1st and 2nd in the back; Athena (42.93) and Bella Obito (43.31) took 1st and 2nd in the breast; and Lydia (32.02) and Nicole were 1st and 3rd in the butterfly. Athena, Bella, Lydia, and Nicole teamed up for 1st in the 200-m MR with a time of 2:24.77.

In the 200-yard free relays, the boys’ team of Jack Schiefele, Jolan Foronda, Emil LaSida, and Ian Do (2:04.87) and the girls’ team of Camila Zuniga, Eve McLaury, Maya Solis, and Lydia Greenwood (2:18.09) both took 1st place.
The more constraining Resolution 830 is for ARHA, the more difficult that process will be.

"That's four more kitchens, probably eight more bathrooms. That makes it unaffordable, we are no longer able to provide affordable housing. ... HUD rules are changing and funding is changing, literally quarter by quarter. Without flexibility, we run the risk of not being able to provide housing, period. And that's what we are keenly aware of."

In an interview Tuesday, ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew reiterated his opposition to adding too much specificity to Resolution 830's language.

"I need that flexibility. ... I'm all for building as much affordability in this city as I can possibly build. I really am. But the question is, how do I get it done with limited resources?"

"I'd still want to try and do this, it would be hard for me to sit back and say: 'OK, I agree to this language as much as可行性 in this city as I can possibly build. I really am. But the question is, how do I get it done with limited resources?' ... I'd still want to try and do this, it would be hard for me to sit back and say: 'OK, I agree to this language as much as possible.'"

"I need that flexibility. ... I'm all for building as much affordability in this city as I can possibly build. I really am. But the question is, how do I get it done with limited resources?""
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- $30.00 OFF when you spend $200.00 - $299.99
- $45.00 OFF when you spend $300.00 - $399.99
- $50.00 OFF when you spend $400.00 or more

BRAKE SPECIAL: $79.95

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all taillights. Pads only.

MACHINE RUBBERS ADDITIONAL

SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday: 8:00am to 5:00pm

FREE BATTERY CHECK-UP
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES SPECIAL OFFER: $99.95
INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION: 84 month warranty. 24 month free replacement, 24 month free road side assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

FREE VA STATE INSPECTION
Check your windshield. Does your sticker say 2/19, 3/19, or 4/19? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due.
For more than 38 years our Associates have lived in and supported the Alexandria community.

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**Beverley Hills | $1,275,000**
4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home. Large open concept with sunlight flooding every room. Stunning kitchen with oversized island. Spacious master suite & bedrooms upstairs. Main level guest suite/office. Lower level rec room. Large yard & attached garage. 804 Chalfont Dr. Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

**Old Town | $1,175,000**
Fully restored 3-level, 18th century, semi-detached townhouse with 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Grand reception rooms with 4 wood fireplaces. Separate dining room with walk-out to walled garden. Large basement with wine cellar. Entertainer's dream. 226 Alfred St N Barbara Cousens 703.966.4180
Jud Burke 703.966.8343

**Mount Vernon | $889,000**
Boats, Boats & more Boats! Located in a waterfront community, this classically updated beauty has everything you'd desire! Gleaming hardwoods, quartz, lighted sinks, heated bathroom floor, screened porch, low HOA - all on .54 acres. 3980 Mt Vernon Circle Jane Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanePriceHomes.com

**Alexandria | $887,500**
A once in a blue moon opportunity to purchase this beautiful Colonial "at the top of the hill" with a year-round river view! A premium lot & location. 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Spacious sunroom overlooks garden pond & landscaped rear yard. 1111 Villamay Blvd. Joan Shannon 703.307.8635
www.joanhome.com

**Belle Haven | $799,000**
Magazine Worthy! Uber-charming, light-filled update with open floor plan on main levels, high-end marble white kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and a smaller garage for your sports car. Expansion plans convey. Move in and never leave! 8035 Woodmont Road Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
www.JanePriceHomes.com

**Alexandria South | $649,000**
Hunter's Station - former Trolley stop to Mount Vernon. Opportunity to own this custom-built home with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, gas fireplace, hardwood floors, luxurious master bath. Stunning woodwork throughout. Finished basement with full bath. No HOA. Pat Smith 703.728.4728
www.pat4pat.com

**Old Town**
**$1,599,900**
A rare gem on Captain's Row! Features random-width floors on 3 levels, high ceilings, beautiful moldings, elegant entertaining spaces, 4 fireplaces, brick-floored den, 3 bedrooms off their own baths. Garden includes two terraces & lovely lawn. Off-street parking has been approved by the City.
Julian Burke 703.867.4219
www.JulianBurke.com

**Old Town**
**$1,100,000**
This 4-bedroom plus den, 3.5-bath townhome features gleaming hardwoods, dazzling western exposure, and two fireplaces. Handsome kitchen adjoins a formal dining room featuring doors leading to a large private patio. Walk-up attic for storage or future studio. 335 N Pitt Street
Susan Taylor 703.927.3000
www.CallSusanTaylor.com

**Del Ray**
**$699,900**
Easy Living! At the entrance to both Del Ray and Old Town and minutes to the Braddock metro 3 bedroom suites, major system upgrades, stainless steel and granite in the kitchen and 2 off-street parking spaces!
Susan Bruce Anthony 703.795.9536
www.SusanBruceAnthony.com

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