Alexandria has seen much success over the last decade in implementing its Transportation Master Plan (TMP), aimed at integrating and improving access to transportation options and reducing reliance on automobiles. But population growth, an enduring preference for the automobile, decreasing transit ridership, and changing technologies pose new challenges in adapting the plan for the future.

The TMP, adopted in 2008 with a 10-year horizon, envisioned “a transportation system that encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation, reducing dependence on the private automobile.” The plan calls streets the city’s “largest public resource.” It “rejects the notion that traffic congestion be considered a necessary evil” and “strives to return the city streets to the citizens.”

Driving alone remains Alexandrians’ most common mode of commuting, accounting for half of all commutes, according to a 2017 survey. Nevertheless, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) decreased by nearly 13 percent between 2010 and 2016, according to the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), a metropolitan planning organization. That’s more than any other jurisdiction in the region. VMT in Fairfax and Arlington fell by less than 2 percent. In addition, between 2005 and 2016, based on a preliminary analysis by the Alexandria Department of Transportation, 25 percent of all trips were made by bike, foot, or public transportation, compared to 20 percent in 2005.

“How do we provide more frequent service in the places that really need it without cannibalizing the system itself?”

— Yon Lambert, city’s transportation and environmental services director

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

Alexandria’s Transportation Master Plan after 10 years.

Fun at National Night Out

Residents turned out all over the city for National Night Out, Aug. 7, the annual campaign that brings police closer to communities. City leaders were spread out at over three dozen locations to hang out, eat hotdogs and participate in games and raffles. At the Conservatory at Four Mile Run, for instance, Alexandria Police gave away free bicycles, backpacks and gift certificates from community partners.

— James Cullum

City Manager Mark Jinks and Police Chief Mike Brown at National Night Out at the Conservatory at Four Mile Run, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave.

A girl rides a water slide at National Night Out at the Conservatory at Four Mile Run.

Children look at their raffle tickets to see if they won a free bike at National Night Out.

Children hang out at National Night Out at the Conservatory at Four Mile Run, Aug. 7.
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City Celebrates 244 Years of Firefighting

At Friendship Firehouse Festival.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association held its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival Aug. 4, celebrating the 244th anniversary of the founding of Alexandria's first fire company.

"The weather ended up being nicer than we expected," said Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association President Joe Shumard. "We had more fire trucks on display this year and a great turnout of people interested in fire vehicles."

The festival featured antique fire apparatus, craft booths and free tours of the Friendship Firehouse Museum, originally built as a fire station in 1855. Children received free fire helmets and were treated to an inside look at the city's fire trucks.

"It was a fun day for everyone who attended," Shumard said. "We had good food, with Rockland’s BBQ, and of course some birthday cake."

Alexandria Fire Chief Robert Dube was on hand and displayed a commemorative coin that is being sold to help fund the preservation of the city’s historic fire apparatus. Two vehicles on exhibit at the Friendship Firehouse Museum are in need of extensive conservation: the Rodgers Suction Engine (built in 1851) and the Prettyman Hose Carriage (built in 1858).

The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association now serves as a philanthropic organization focusing on firefighting history and fire safety. It assists in the preservation of the historic fire engine house on Alfred Street, supports the Alexandria Fire Department and provides scholarships and philanthropic services to the community. See www.friendshipfireco.org.
Launching #WeAreAlexandria
McEnearney Associates marks 38th anniversary.

With community business leaders, governance, and non-profits, McEnearney Associates gathered to celebrate the company’s 38th anniversary at Hummingbird restaurant on Wednesday, July 11, and launch its #WeAreAlexandria campaign.

McEnearney Associates have created strategic alliances with several hundred organizations to help build and strengthen the Alexandria community for almost four decades. The #WeAreAlexandria campaign celebrates McEnearney’s continued commitment to improving Alexandria through relationships in the communities that McEnearney Associates live and work in.

Betsy Micklem of ACT for Alexandria said, “McEnearney Associates is a long standing, respected business leader in Alexandria and their support for the work we do as our community foundation is vital. Their network of agents care deeply about our community and they understand that when the community thrives, business thrives and that supporting local nonprofits is good business. We could not do the work we do without the support of partners like McEnearney.”

Many key stakeholders attended the event to celebrate McEnearney’s commitment to Alexandria. Not only has McEnearney become an integral part of building the Alexandria community over the years, many of the 150-plus Alexandria Associates of McEnearney, such as Jen Walker (Legend of Alexandria) and Babs Beckwith (ACT of Alexandria Board member), have also made commitments to continue supporting the organizations that make a difference in Alexandria communities.

At the Hummingbird event, Dave Hawkins, executive vice president and managing broker of the Alexandria office addressed the crowd: “We are very proud to be engaged in Alexandria, to participate in many events, and organizations that do great work .. all of you were invited because you do the same thing. Whether through governance, business, philanthropy or volunteer work, we contribute to the city in one form or another. We share the same goal to make Alexandria the best possible place to live and work. And, it takes people who are committed to make that happen.”

To meet the team of Alexandria Associates and to learn more about their commitment to Alexandria communities, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com.
Alisha Saine walks into the pump room. She raises her voice: “It is noisy in here.” The walls are lined with pipes and gauges with bags of chemicals interspersed with buckets and oxygen tanks on the floor.

Saine is the pool manager at Charles Houston Memorial Pool on Wythe Street, and she handles pool operations. Every two hours she monitors the water for Ph and chlorine levels. “If the Ph is high, I add muriatic acid to lower it. If it is too low, I add soda ash.” She pulls out a large gray plastic cup. “I add up to the 6 level.” She says she waits until the required hourly 15-minute break to add any necessary chemicals and then double checks before she lets the children back in to swim.

She peers over the rail. “Down there are the pumps and inside are the filters. She picks up a messy filter. “These have to be clean. I brush them every two weeks.” Before she leaves the pumps room. She says this was just a natural job for her. She was on her middle school swim team in Charlotte, North Carolina and she already knew how to swim. “I just had to learn how to save kid’s lives.”

Her normal day starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. On weekends Saine teaches swimming lessons to 5-6 year-old children. “Some are brand new; some are returning. Some are scared of the water. That’s normal.” In addition to her daylong class in post op, she teaches children. “What to do if they are running or not following the rules. There have been no accidents or injuries this summer. That is good.”

Her normal day starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. On weekends Saine teaches swimming lessons to 5-6 year-old children. “Some are brand new; some are returning. Some are scared of the water. That’s normal.” In addition to her daylong class in post op, she had some instruction on how to teach children. “What to do if they are crying. You don’t want to force them so you ease them in with a friendly face.” She says she throws them in rings or plays games to help them to adjust. “I am very patient.”

Saine started at Charles Houston Memorial Pool this year but had worked for the City of Alexandria as a life-guard at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility for the previous two years. Saine says this was just a natural job for her. She was on her middle school swim team in Charlotte, North Carolina and she already knew how to swim. “I just had to learn how to save kid’s lives.”

Saine records levels in the Pool Water Chemistry notebook every two hours. In addition to the chlorine and Ph levels, she records the air and pool temperatures, the backwash and the influent and effluent. If these levels are off, she will backwash for five minutes. “Right now everything is smooth. There are no biohazards.”

It is a sunny day with children’s shrieks relaying a good time. The pool is full with a capacity of 45. When someone else arrives, they have to wait until a place opens up. “It is a small pool.” On one end is 1-foot water for the toddlers with a water spray splashing into the air. Across the float division is three feet, “and just in front of us is the deep end.” In addition to assuring the hygiene of the pool, the job of supervision includes ensuring the safety of everyone. “For instance, if kids are running or not following the rules. There have been no accidents or injuries this summer. That is good.”

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People

Philanthropy with a Laser Focus

By Ashley Claire Simpson
Gazette Packet

On Sept. 11, 2001, Al Qaeda's attacks on America rocked the country — and much of the world. As the world reeled, the Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) established the PenFed Foundation, a nonprofit organization through which they could provide financial support to members of the military community — for the people protecting America from future horrors.

The original mission was to support the wounded warriors coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and their family members while they were recovering at Walter Reed and Bethesda military hospitals,” said James Schenck, PenFed president and CEO. “The goal was to ensure that a medical emergency won’t become a financial emergency. This also involved providing financial education to set them up for a more secure financial future. The Foundation programs are designed to help individual veterans, active duty service members, military caregivers and veteran entrepreneurs whether or not they are PenFed Credit Union members.”

THANKS IN LARGE PART to Schenck himself, the PenFed Foundation has gone above and beyond its mission. The Foundation, which relies heavily on the credit union for funding, has provided more than $30 million in financial support to the military community. And, earlier this year, Volunteer Alexandria’s 2018 Large Business Philanthropist of the Year.

“I became president and CEO in April 2003,” Schenck said. “I had just come from the executive VP position at the United States Army Access Online educational institution as a member of a difference in Alexandria through volunteering and to build a stronger community by inspiring and mobilizing people to volunteer in Alexandria. “The Summit brings together business leaders and nonprofits to discuss community needs and celebrate local philanthropy,” Anderson said. “For 20 years, this break-out event has provided an opportunity for approximately 250 Alexandria business and nonprofit leaders to exchange ideas and information and to keep abreast of current trends in business philanthropy. This event celebrates philanthropists in our community and the awards are given to outstanding businesses for their philanthropic giving, nonprofit board members as well as to outstanding nonprofit administrators.”

Schenck is an example of the Volunteer Alexandria vision in both a personal and a professional capacity. Not only did he help oversee the establishment of the PenFed Foundation as a nonprofit, he also serves on the PenFed Board, but he also devotes much of his free time to service.

“James himself is no stranger to volunteering,” Anderson said. “He donates his time to service. Serving on a credit union board is an example by selflessly serving others.”

Schenck’s service mindset is innate, having served in the United States Army for 13 years before joining the PenFed Executive team in 2001.

“When I was three years old, I remember patrolling the perimeter of my house wearing a military uniform and holding a toy rifle,” Schenck recalled. “Then in eighth grade, I saw eight Americans killed in a failed rescue attempt in Iran. I pledged to do everything in my power to make sure this military tragedy would never happen again. I vowed that day to become a helicopter pilot.”

Although a highly competitive process, becoming an Army pilot proved far more than a lofty goal for Schenck.

“After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, I flew Black Hawk helicopters in Korea and trained other Army aviators as a night vision goggle instructor pilot,” he said.

It turns out that managing a national credit union was not a huge leap from military service, either. After flying in combat missions overseas, Schenck served at the Pentagon, ultimately as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

“I was honored to receive the Legion of Merit for my contribution to the Army by overseeing the creation of the $453 million Army University Access Online educational initiative,” he said. “Prior to my assignment to the Pentagon, I taught economics and finance at the United States Military Academy. This marked my transition to financial services. I found a passion for credit unions and their unique mission and commitment to service. Serving on a credit union board imbued in me the credit union philosophy of ‘people helping people.’”

As I learned more about credit unions' cooperative principles, I became attracted to work in the credit union community versus Wall Street after my military career.”

Schenck brought his laser focus with him on his journey with PenFed, and it has benefited millions of fellow veterans and active duty service members.

“I became president and CEO in April 2014, and I’m very proud of the results that PenFed has achieved since then,” he said. “Our assets have grown from $116 billion to $23.5 billion, growing annual net income from $116 million to $179 million, and growing membership from 1.3 million to 1.7 million. PenFed Credit Union is also very active in contributing to our communities. Each year, our credit union contributes at least 2 percent of earnings to charitable organizations. Last year, we donated more than $5 million, most of which was in the Greater Washington DC area.”

WITH THE PENFED FOUNDATION, Schenck is able to assist the national military community on a whole new level.

“One hundred percent of the money raised by the PenFed Foundation goes directly to programs helping active duty military, veterans, caregivers, and their families,” he said. “And, over the 17 years the PenFed Foundation has been operating, we have raised more than $30 million. Over time, the PenFed Foundation launched new programs to protect active-duty service members from predatory lending and help to low-to-moderate income veterans purchase their first home.”

He added, “I believe true philanthropy is about bringing people together — from all walks of life — from all backgrounds, for the greater good of the community. A community's success and its collective wisdom come from many concerned individuals working tirelessly for days — sometimes weeks, years and even decades — to accomplish shared goals, vision and dreams. I honestly believe one's life should be remembered not by one's duration, but by one's donation. I hope all of us will be remembered by our donations to mankind, to those in need and to those who make the world a better place for all of us.”
H as your organization been featured in the Connection Newspapers, or the Alexandria Gazette Packet or the Mount Vernon Gazette or the Centre View or the Potomac Almanac? Have any of our papers taken note of your business when you and/or your employees pitch in to help the community? Or when you opened your doors or celebrated a milestone? Are you an elected official whose messages are enhanced by coverage of issues in the Connection? Do you work for a part of local government that has asked for help getting the word out about a need or a new initiative or accomplishments? I have a special favor to ask: Buy an ad in our 2018 Newcomers and Community Guide. Please.

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From Page 10

Letters

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Collaborating With ICE

To the Editor:

I write in response to Sheriff Lawhorne’s Letter to the Editor (“Sheriff’s Office and Due Process”). We have met with Sheriff Lawhorne twice to discuss his office’s collaboration with ICE immigration enforcement. We do not doubt his commitment to due process and making the right decision. And we commend him for ending the practice of holding immigrants who have finished serving their criminal sentences, and reducing the time his jail will hold immigrants who have been ordered released on bond. Sheriff Lawhorne has described these meaningful changes as a “first step.”

So what should the next steps be? Given ICE’s current overaggressive enforcement and rampant constitutional violations, it is important to distinguish between those things the law actually requires of the Sheriff’s office in regards to collaboration with ICE, and those things the law merely allows the Sheriff to do or not do, at his discretion. The jail-to-deportation pipeline in Alexandria consists of five steps:

Step one: When arrestees are booked into the Alexandria jail, their citizenship status is entered into a statewide database, to which ICE has access. This is the only step in the entire pipeline that is mandatory under state law.

Step two: Because the database only tells ICE whether arrestees are foreign citizens, not whether they have legal status, ICE generally interviews them over the phone to get them to confess that they are undocumented. Of course, ICE has no special power to require anyone to participate in these interviews.

In many jails across the country, including at least one in Virginia, inmates are given a form in their native language advising them that they may accept or decline ICE’s request for an interview, that they have the right to speak with a lawyer prior to any ICE interview, and allowing them to check a box indicating whether or not they wish to speak with ICE.

In the Alexandria jail, however, inmates are not advised of their right to decline an ICE interview and are simply made available to ICE officers over the phone. Inevitably, most undocumented immigrants confess their lack of legal status, giving the ICE officer all he needs to begin a deportation case. Sheriff Lawhorne can and should inform immigrants in writing that they may decline to speak with ICE officers, or decline to speak with them until after first consulting with a lawyer.

Step three: Once the ICE officer has elicited a confession of undocumented status, the ICE officer — not a judge, just an ordinary ICE officer — will generally send the jail an ICE Form I-200, a copy of which is available at https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2017/I-200_SAMPLE.PDF. Because this form is entitled “Warrant for Arrest of Alien,” this (perhaps by design) creates substantial confusion and leads many sheriffs to believe that they are required to obey it. Title notwithstanding, the legal definition of an arrest warrant is “A warrant issued by a disinterested magistrate after a showing of probable cause.” In other words, proper arrest warrants must be issued by judges, not ICE officers. In addition, the I-200 is not a warrant.

Step four: When ICE has the information of an arrest warrant, it can ask the jail for the inmate’s lockup number. The jail can then lock up the inmate for five hours, after which ICE must sign a form to extend the lockup. If ICE does not sign the form within five hours, the inmate is released without any deportation consequences.

Step five: Once an inmate has been locked up for five hours, ICE can begin the process of filing an ICE form for an immigration arrest. This puts the inmate under ICE’s authority.

Correction

In “Remembering Parker-Grey School from 1920-1965,” [Gazette Packet, Aug. 2], the article stated that the school never went to the 12th grade. The 12th grade was added to the school in the 1950s.
Before Changes to Roads, Committed to Communication

As part of Alexandria’s Vision Zero commitment to eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2028, the city uses the opportunity of routine maintenance to consider changes to our roads.

Due to its pending re-paving status, Seminary Road is one of the corridors we are currently examining, but contrary to rumor, the city has not yet proposed any changes, nor have any conclusions been drawn.

In the intense public process that accompanies these efforts, in order to have the right decisions made, we need to ask questions that sometimes involve trade-offs. The answers and outcomes of these processes sometimes result in major changes to the roadway, while in other times the street is simply repaved, with no changes.

This objective, data-driven process is routine in Alexandria and includes extensive public input in advance of any decision. On Seminary Road, city staff has been getting feedback from the community since May by meeting with civic associations and residents, conducting community walks and hosting an open house. We summarized input from these efforts in a 52-page report on the project website (alexandriava.gov/103393). At the same time, staff has also been reviewing data and travel patterns along the roadway.

Once all this information is compiled, staff will develop multiple concepts for Seminary Road and bring the ideas back to the community this fall for more input. That process will involve many opportunities to provide feedback, both in person and online, before any recommendations are made.

And, indeed, if a recommendation is proposed that includes significant changes to Seminary Road, it would first be reviewed during a public forum at the city’s Traffic and Parking Board. However, after considering options that sometimes involve trade-offs, the city eliminated the south entrance in Simony in Alexandria and includes extensive public input in advance of any decision.

When Hijacked City Government?

To the Editor:

At every turn it seems, malfeasance and abuse of public trust is shown to be commonplace in Alexandria’s staff and council. How long is this to be tolerated?

Regarding the shameful current state of the Potomac Yard Metro Station (PYMS) project, we find that the Deputy Director of DPI signed the federal wetland permit application in February 2018, which included the south entrance, certifying all information as accurate and true, but knowing that the city eliminated the south entrance in July 2017.

If this isn’t enough, a FOIA revealed that Deputy City Manager Emily Baker similarly misled the public in April 2018 by removing and replacing a rendering that depicted one mezzanine – thus showing the south mezzanine had been removed – from a WMATA presentation released on April 9 (2018). “We have to pull it,” Baker said in an email to [Potomac Yard Metro Manager Jason] Kacamburas at 1:31 p.m. on April 9.

There’s more. Another recent and very much related issue in Alexandria featured yet another misrepresentation. The Deputy Director of TES is on record as telling the public, City Council, and staff at the Jan. 20, 2018 Kariq Estates appeal hearing that “no intermittent stream exists on the Kariq property” and that TES staff and contractors have verified this several times since 2004 “by performing rigorous, multi-step North Carolina and Fairfax County Stream Identification protocols” for the site. Yet, only after another FOIA in February 2018 and follow-up with TES Stormwater Management Chief was it revealed (and admitted) that no such analyses were performed by TES or its contractor. Scientific studies of the Kariq ravine and watershed with verifiable findings of an intermittent stream spanning the property were, however, performed by the city’s geologic consultant and other highly credible environmental scientists, including other city staff. The (intermittent stream issue is key here because if it were to be upheld, development of the ravine and stream could not legally occur.)

Obviously, the individuals sharing incorrect information, whether staff or council, have not served the public or their office properly. All of this is substantiated, on record, and in the hands of interested parties. It will be interesting to see in upcoming months whether civic justice prevails.

Jimm Roberts
C. Dara
Hal Hardaway
Alexandria

Support

Science

To the Editor:

An Open Letter to Governor Northam

I just don’t get it. I voted and canvassed for you last year because you stated that you would let science decide on whether Virginia should approve two massive 42-inch fracked gas pipelines to cross Virginia. But since you have been office, you have supported these pipelines despite overwhelming evidence against them.

First, they are not needed and thus the Virginia ratepayers (yes, that you Alexandria residents) will be paying a lifetime of charges for a pipeline which cannot be used for its 30-year lifetime if we are to abide by

See Letters, Page 13
the original commitments to the Paris agreement. It will become a stranded as-
set.
Second, we know they aren’t needed because our current major gas pipelines are
only operating at less than 60 percent ca-
pacity and that is not forecasted to rise any
time soon. The only reason Dominion wants
to build the pipelines is that they can re-
ceive their federally guaranteed 14 percent return which they can’t get from solar, wind
or other renewables.
Third, private property is being taken via
eminent domain because the only thing re-
quired to get approval on need from the
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
(FERC) is a contract between the pipeline
company
(partially owned by Dominion) and their
fellow insider (Dominion). Even our Sena-
tor Kaine thinks this process is flawed and
asked for a rehearing from FERC — which
they denied.
Fourth, it’s not safe. No pipeline of this
size has ever been built, but a “best in class”
which comes closest recently exploded in
West Virginia (luckily no one was killed)
due to erosion from heavy rains. (It was 36
inches and built quite recently and included
all the latest safety features.) But the ex-
plosion location was nowhere near the steep
slopes which the Virginia pipelines will have
to cross. Does anyone think erosion like this
won’t happen in Virginia? Especially when
these pipelines are slated to cross miles of
“Swiss cheese-like” karst which is prone to
sinkholes and landslides.
Over the last year more and more Virginia
delegates and senators have publically an-
nounced their opposition to these pipelines — in fact even “Dominion” Dick Saslaw has
called for stream-by-stream environmental
review to protect the drinking water of
Roanoke and hundreds of other residents
of Virginia. You Governor, have the unique
ability to cancel the 401 water permit as
not compliant with Virginia’s clean water
requirements and turn all those opposed
to the pipelines into supporters of the next
Blue Wave in 2019. You can support the
science and support the party. When will
you evolve and decide we should be spend-
ing money securing jobs by making our
homes and business more energy efficient
than on pipelines which will only help con-
demn our world to more extreme weather
events?

Kathie Hoekstra
Alexandria
Lori Morris: Influencing the Lives of Children

By Jeanne Theissmann

“Find the ringleader.”

That was but one bit of advice Lori Morris learned from her mother as she embarked on a career in education.

“Before I finished college I would spend my vacation time substitute teaching,” Morris recalled. “My first day was a total disaster. At the tender age of 19, I was in charge of a raucous group of 12-year-olds who were very happy to see a newbie sub in charge. I was devastated by my apparent inability to be effective in my new career.”

Morris remembers driving straight to her mother’s classroom for instruction.

“She was great and gave me several tips, which gave me the confidence and tricks I needed to get a grip and keep going,” Morris said.

For Morris, the importance of education was instilled in her at an early age. For 40 years, her mother taught children of all ages after becoming the first in her family to go onto college on route to completing a Master’s degree.

So it was natural for Morris herself to follow in her mother’s footsteps. She received her Master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education from the George Washington University then taught in the Alexandria City Public Schools system.

Morris is the co-author of the book “Inclusive Early Childhood Education: A Model Classroom,” and the article “3 Keys to a Successful Circle Time.” She also worked on federally funded education projects focused on developing and then disseminating a model inclusion program for the public schools.

Morris currently serves on the board at the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation and as a board member of the NOVA Health System. Morris and her husband Nigel have been married for 33 years and the couple have four children.

When asked if she realizes the impact she has made on the lives of Alexandria’s children, Morris replied: “I am ever hopeful that the projects I work on positively and directly influence the lives of children. When I was teaching special education, I had a direct relationship with children and families and found that very rewarding. I am now working more at a system level because that is where I believe I can have the most impact, but as a result I have less of the direct personal connection I once had. It is important to me to have a project or two going that is direct work in helping a family, child or classroom. Constantly remembering the people behind the data is super important to me.”

Repairing Homes and Rebuilding Lives One Step at a Time

By Breanne Driscoll

Outreach Manager

Rebuilding Together DC • Alexandria

As we move into our new fiscal year, our staff marvels at the great work done in homes of our in-need neighbors throughout Alexandria by our dedicated corps of volunteers and contractors. This past year, our organization was able to assist 106 homeowners, 11 non-profit facilities and community spaces, and rehab and sell 4 properties to low-income homebuyers.

With those numbers in mind, we are looking to do more this year. The application cycle for our Safe & Healthy Homes program began July 1, and it is easy to apply. If you are a limited income home-owner, simply fill out a short application found on our website or at a City of Alexandria library or recreation center. Once you apply, a staff member will set up a home visit to review all potential safe and healthy repairs.

Our volunteers are at the core of our work and help us find new ways of making repairs. Many of our homeowners realize the necessity of front handrails as they grow older and their mobility declines. Our volunteers become our solution-making experts. For example, a longtime volunteer, Dwaine, used an off-the-shelf handrail kit and a work-around to make hard-to-climb front steps, easier and safer to use. The relationship with the homeowner, Mrs. P., was also challenging as she was weary of letting others into her home and suffered from some health issues. This year allowed Dwaine, and the volunteers that work with him, to accomplish two wonderful projects and have a tremendous homeowner transformational experience.

“Our first contact with Mrs. P. was cautious. We went by the house the day we were assigned the project. Day 1 of our build (of 3 days) was restrained, but we chose not to do any inside work, just work on the porch steps. By Day 2 we were over the hump! Early on Mrs. P. came out just to talk to us and a short time later she came out to show us how difficult it is for her to climb the front steps. Later on Day 2 she sat on her front deck to watch us work and to talk a little. At the end of Day 3 she asked me to help her open a blister package. Not an easy task for me, really tough for her. I believe the key to our success was in overcoming Mrs. P.’s reserve by a patient, incremental approach to the work. Plus of course lots of smiles. An exceptional year.”

Since 1986, Rebuilding Together Alexandria, now Rebuilding Together DC • Alexandria, has recruited more than 28,000 trust-worthy volunteers that have worked on 2,200 projects of 8.8 million worth of in-kind value to Alexandria. Rebuilding Together’s work contributes to helping Alexandria, and in 2019 also DC, remain economically, socially and culturally diverse. Rebuilding homes revitalizes communities, rebuilding lives.
Preparing for New School Year

Home organizing saves space and time.

By Marilyn Campbell

The sight of store shelves overflowing with school glue sticks and crayons signals that the beginning of school is just around the corner. While squeezing in one last vacation, the thought of turning an eye to getting one’s home in order before the school bell rings might be met with dread.

“It can feel like a daunting task to organize when artwork overflows from school or small trinkets come home from birthday parties, the end of summer is a great time to purge a lot of unnecessary items to make way for new school year ahead,” said Allie Mann, designer-senior interiors specialist, Case Design/Remodeling. “And it’s always a great time to donate gently used items as well.”

“Especially now as families are preparing to get back to school, it’s so important to get organized,” added Anne M. Walker, Esq., Allied ASID, Owner + Principal Anne Walker Design LLC. “Nothing is more stressful than searching for something when you’re already five minutes late, it’s pouring down rain, it’s picture day at school, and you have a big work meeting in 45 minutes.”

Now that organization is often considered a part of interior design, the tools and hacks available are more stylish and innovative than ever, say local designers. “In a kitchen in Old Town, Alexandria I installed four shallow drawers underneath the countertop at the island — one for each family member,” said Sarah Glenn, interior designer and project manager, Braswell Design+Build, Alexandria. “I designed the drawers to be just large enough to store school papers and a laptop so that each family member would have a dedicated temporary storage space without creating four individual junk drawers.”

A Potomac, Md. family recently enlisted Walker’s help in redesigning and reorganizing their home from top to bottom with an eye toward all things chic and stylish. She began in the bedrooms of the family’s teenage daughter, creating custom closets.

“After the new closet was installed, I spent the better part of two days helping this teen fill the closet with all of her belongings, putting things where they were visible and readily accessible,” she said. “Organization is important primarily because of the time it saves. If you can find what you need to get out the door right away, you can sleep 20 minutes later.”

A similar closet was created for the family’s middle school aged son. “Amazing how even young children can keep their rooms tidy as long as there’s a system in place that they can understand and is practical enough for them to use,” said Walker. “If you know exactly where all of your clothes are, and exactly where to put them back after laundering them, it will seem like you just won the lottery. You won’t believe how many things you have, many of which have been long forgotten, stuffed in the back of some drawer or under the bed.”

One of the most important tasks on Walker’s agenda was organizing a large basement space with abundant shelving to create a home office. “In an office this size, children could easily use it for homework while the parent was working there, also,” she said. “Sometimes it’s calming and comforting just to be in the same space, even if you aren’t actually helping the child with their work.”

A home’s mudroom is supposed to serve as a gateway into the main house, creating order and keeping clutter from overflowing into the home’s interior, but often that isn’t the case as clutter overtakes the space. In a recent mudroom project, Mann incorporated elements into the design that addressed the family’s lifestyle. “Cubbies and bench storage for sports and after-school activities for older children are a must,” she said. “If space allows, allocating a designated cubbie for each child is best to keep things separated and from getting lost.”

“With organization, you are constantly trying to strike a balance between carving out enough space for a specific function without over-organizing to the point that you lose flexibility to change what you store as your life evolves,” added Glenn.

Hooks for backpacks and jackets, like this one by Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, are a must for an organized mudroom.

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On view through Sept. 2 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 21. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1790.

New Works by Ken Strong, Through Aug. 9, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B Old Dominion Drive. Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong’s new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Call 703-354-2005 or visit broadwaygalleries.net.

Life Under the Sea, Through Aug. 26 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. Real or imagined, the world beneath the waves calls to the artists for this show: Enchanted mermaids, coral, shells, sunken ships, fish, and glorious colors. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartgallery.com or call 703-548-0635.

Art Exhibit: “Off the Grid.” Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 22. Artist Ito Briones’ whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight: the murderer’s portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Through Sept. 2, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1790.

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Participants in the Swim for Engie Against Breast Cancer Swimathon in 2016.

Swim for Engie

Lap-swimmers of all ages welcome to participate in swimathon in honor of Engie Mokhtar to raise money for breast cancer research. Sponsored by Alexandria Masters Swimming and Alexandria West Rotary. $10 suggested donation. Sunday, Aug. 26, 8 a.m. at Waynewood Pool, 1027 Dalebrook Drive, Alexandria. Contact Madeline Muravchik at swimforengie@gmail.com or call 202-262-0184. Visit secure.metavivor.org/page/contribute/swimforengie for more.

from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie: This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer’s portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Exhibit runs Aug. 8-Sept. 2. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

An Evening with KaNikki Jakarta. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. KaNikki, an award winning poet, offers a performance poetry, storytelling, an author read, and Q&A. KaNikki will read from her memoir, A Peace of Mine. How to be the Wife of an Epileptic, Honor Your Vows, and Honor Yourself. RSVP to the Wife of an Epileptic, Honor Your

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Q&A. KaNikki will read from her poetry, storytelling, an author read, winning poet, offers a performance

to eat and flavored frozen treats. Participants equipped with headphones, solar charging stations, listening stations to learn different composting
time when you mention this ad. On second dinner entree Save 50% Offer expires 8/31/18.

FREEBIE: Visit Green Spring’s composting

and sandbox light table. Participants presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer’s portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Exhibit runs Aug. 8-Sept. 2. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

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Purple Heart Day. 10:30 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River. Members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will commemorate National Purple Heart Day. Purple Heart recipients receive free daytime admission to Mount Vernon every day of the year. For more information, visit www.mountvernon.org/purpleheart.

Rocknoceros. 11:11-45 a.m. at Beardley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Children will enjoy bopping along to Coach, Williebob, and Boogers Bicenture’s catchy tunes. All ages with an adult. Free.

Floral Design Demonstration: Color Confidence. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Join floral designer Betty Ann Galway in this demonstration on color theory in floral design, including different combinations that demonstrate the monochromatic, analogous, complementary and triadic color combinations. Participants will create their own flower arrangements, along with the whens and why’s of choosing these combinations. Program ends 4 p.m. $43/person. Adults. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkreservation code 290 301 5801 or call 703-554-1771.

Lawn on the Potomac. 6 p.m. at 2000 George Washington Parkway, tun in at Lunabautom. Authentic Pelorian entertainment and food. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Community. Bring salad, chopped fruit or ethnic side dishes. Free to attend, no alcohol beverage permitted. For information, contact natalierossa@khoa.nafalia@gmail.com, 571-217-7663, or 703-520-2023. melbhhopoconnell@gmail.com, 540-604-3318.

Kate Campbell Live. 7 p.m. at Focus Mount Vernon at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Appearing with Lynn Hollyfield. Kate Campbell’s vocal delivery and her gift for storytelling have drawn comparisons to Flannery O’Connor, Eudora Welty, and William Faulkner. Tickets are $18/advance, $20/door. For tickets, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ ticket/orchard.

Boardwalk Astronomy. 8-10 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockeland Rd, Alexandria. Want to know what’s new in the night sky? Join park naturalists for “Boardwalk Astronomy,” an hour-long exploration of the night sky, comets and other current happenings in the heavens. The program is designed for participants ages 12 to adult. $9 per person. The sky tour will be canceled in the event of rain or other severe weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/AUG. 12
Meet the Junior Docents. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families who connect with the building through their peer tour guide age. Cost is $4 per adult looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: $5 adults ($4 with AYA), $3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadstvbay.org.

Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Soprano Nancy Simone sings music from Spain, Italy, France and USA. Sponsored by Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Summer Series (Ulysses James, Director) in historic Old Town. Donations accepted. For more information, visit www.wmpsummer.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 13
Send a Kid to Camp Golf Classic. 9 a.m. at The Piedmont Club, 14675 Village Center Dr., Aldie. Proceeds will provide opportunities for Alexandria City Youth Program to host a summer camp. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp offers a unique opportunity for the children of Alexandria to experience the joys of the outdoors, the comradery of friendship, and the fulfillment of learning new skills. Living just minutes from one of the largest urban areas in America, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp provides youth with the chance to visit a more rural setting. $95/player. Call Ed Dougherty at 703-746-6697.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 15
Summer Reading Puppet Show. 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Young story lovers will be entertained by a story-time puppet show presented by a professional puppeteer. Children and their accompanying adult(s) must register. Ages 3-Adult. $4/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkreservations code 290 351 5901 or call 703-554-1771.

Cool Yoga 2018. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Del Ray Psych & Wellness Lot, 1900 North Royal St., Alexandria. Lynn Hollyfield and Kate Campbell’s teams will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer questions as guests journey through the museum. Great for families who connect with the building through their peer tour guide age. Cost is $4 per adult looking for some inspiration. Included in regular admission: $5 adults ($4 with AYA), $3 children ages 5-12, and 4 and under are free. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadstvbay.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 16
Summer Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Reservations required. Tour the glorious demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterward, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Programs are by reservation only, $32/person. Adults. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Zine Share. 5-6 p.m. at the Kate Waller Barrett Library Branch 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Zines (zeens) are self-published booklets that can be grown without pesticides, fruiting. Participants will receive a rooted cutting from a fig tree to get your personal orchard started. Cost is $22. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Walking with Washington Tour. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Town covers significant people and events in George Washington’s life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise’s Tavern, Dovall House/Tavern, Gadsby’s Tavern, Washington’s townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, “Light-Horse” Harry Lee’s neighborhood. Free. Call 703-797-7460 or visit www.washingtonb.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 18
Clear the Shelters Pet Adoption. At 4105 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria partners with SBCS and Telemundo44 for a pet adoption event at the Vola Larson Animal Shelter. On this day, the AYLW will waive adoption fees for dogs, cats, rabbits, mice and other animals. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Clear2Forward, and a live record of the ADM Shelter. On this day, the AYLW will waive adoption fees for dogs, cats, rabbits, mice and other animals. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

How to Help Fruit Trees Thrive. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Fruit trees make a wonderful addition to any landscape, small or large, flat or hilly. Horticulturist Nancy Oley will showcase unusual fruits like figs, dates, persimmons, and blueberries that can be grown without pesticides, and will teach you how to care for these plants while optimizing fruiting. Participants will receive a rooted cutting from a fig tree to get your personal orchard started. Cost is $22. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria’s Office of the Arts has collaborated with the National Capital Puppetry Guild for a series of monthly family-friendly shows. Tickets are $5. Visit alexandriava.gov/websearch and search keyword “puppets.”

SUNDAY/AUG. 19
Heart on Your Sleeve. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Fruit trees make a wonderful addition to any landscape, small or large, flat or hilly. Horticulturist Nancy Oley will showcase unusual fruits like figs, dates, persimmons, and blueberries that can be grown without pesticides, and will teach you how to care for these plants while optimizing fruiting. Participants will receive a rooted cutting from a fig tree to get your personal orchard started. Cost is $22. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Cinema Del Ray Outdoor Movies. 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Free. All ages. Bring a blanket and enjoy these open-air movies including The Lion King, The Lego Batman Movie, Toy Story 3, Cars 3 and Coco. Sponsored by The Jen Walker Team. Visit www.thesmarthome.com/cinemadelay.

MONDAY/AUG. 20
Send a Kid to Camp Golf Classic. 9 a.m. at The Piedmont Club, 14675 Village Center Dr., Aldie. Proceeds will provide opportunities for Alexandria City Youth Program to host a summer camp. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp offers a unique opportunity for the children of Alexandria to experience the joys of the outdoors, the comradery of friendship, and the fulfillment of learning new skills. Living just minutes from one of the largest urban areas in America, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp provides youth with the chance to visit a more rural setting. $95/player. Call Ed Dougherty at 703-746-6697.

MORNINGWEEKEND/AUG. 22
Wildflower Hike and Sketch Class. 10 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockeland Rd., Alexandria. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp offers a unique opportunity for the children of Alexandria to experience the joys of the outdoors, the comradery of friendship, and the fulfillment of learning new skills. Living just minutes from one of the largest urban areas in America, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp provides youth with the chance to visit a more rural setting. $95/player. Call Ed Dougherty at 703-746-6697.

www.wmpmusic.org.

Fine Art Photography Exhibit
Show features 30 images juried by Mark L. Power. Exhibition hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. through Sept. 2, at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in Studio 312 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.


Teen Comic Book Club. FRIDAY/AUG. 24 from 3-4 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Rd., Falls Church. Learn inexpensive techniques to create the harvess and even how to enjoy crops in the dead of winter. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or Visit mypr.gov.

SUMMER KAYAK CLEANUPS. On FRIDAY/AUG. 31 and SATURDAY/AUG. 25-26 at Waynewood Pool, 1027 Dalebrook Rd., Alexandria. The Four Mile Run Association and the Four Mile Run League will join in with some of their volunteers to help clean up trash. Volunteers will have access to a fleet of kayaks to collect litter along the streambank of Four Mile Run. Volunteers will have access to a water refill station, snacks, gloves, trash-grabbers and bags, and a limited number of kayaks with life-vests, but are asked to bring their own reusable water bottle, sunscreen, bug spray, and water shoes. A limited number of boats may be reserved. Participants can use their own as well. Visit www.fourmilerun.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 21
Ellis Island History. 1-3 p.m. at Hollins Hall, 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Free. Sponsored by Mount Vernon-English District Genealogical Society. Dr. Alan Taus, American University history professor, will discuss Ellis Island and the Government’s effort to protect against the spread of infection by immigrants. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

LIBRARY SIT-IN. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Celebrating the 79th Anniversary of the 1939 Library Sit-In. Only the nation’s most little-known historical events involved leadership from native Alexandrian, attorney Samuel W. Tucker, and five young African American men who demonstrated an act of civil disobedience at the Barrett Branch after being denied library cards. Every year, Alexandria Library hosts events honoring the anniversary of the peaceful protest. Beginning Friday, Aug. 17, Local History/ Special Collections Branch and the Kate Waller Barrett Branch will host the ‘Annie & the 1939 Sit-In’ exhibit to honor Samuel W. Tucker and the five men. Visit alexlibrayva.org.

TWILIGHT & TIPPLE TUESDAY TOURS. 6-9 p.m. at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighy House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Visit www.walpl.org. Twilight Tipple Tours are guided tours of Wright houses illuminated against a night sky, bringing a new dimension and waning pest populations. Learn inexpensive techniques to extend the harvest and even how to enjoy crops in the dead of winter. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or Visit mypr.gov.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24


MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflective of Mount Vernon’s diverse culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25
MOUNT VERNON FLEA MARKET. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every Saturday of the month through September. Vendors will sell antiques, collectibles, home decor, books, CD’s, and DVDs, antiques, books, CD’s and DVDs, comic books and more. Refreshments will also be on sale. Hosted by the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219. Rain or shine. Visit www.fleamarketonline.com/mountvernonfleamarket.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26
Swim for Engie. 8 a.m. at Waynewood Pool, 3327 Dalebrook Drive, Alexandria. Lap-swimmers of all ages welcome to participate in our annual Lap Swim Fundraiser. Mokhtar to raise money for breast cancer research. Sponsored by Alexandria Masters Swimming and Alexandria West Rotary. 10% suggested donation. Contact Madeline Muravchik at swimforengie@gmail.com or call 202-262-0184. Visit swimforengie.org/page/contribute/swimforengie.

Meet the Junior Docents. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. These young historians, grades 4 and older, will be on hand to share highlights of the tavern and answer fun questions as guests journey through the museum. Included in regular admission. Free for ages under $5. Visit 703-740-4242 or Visit www.gadbystavern.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29

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Alexandria’s Transportation Master Plan after 10 Years

From Page 1

Analysis, the city claims an 8 percent decrease in commuters driving alone; a 43 percent increase in telework; and a 22 percent increase in transit ridership, despite more recent slippage for both Metro and DASH, the city’s bus service.

Over the years, Alexandria has undertaken a variety of TMP-related infrastructure and policy improvements.

Despite its recent controversy, the new Potomac Yard Metro station is expected to remove some 5,000 vehicles for the road per day, according to the city’s website.

In 2016, the City Council adopted the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, which amended the TMP. Of the plan’s 69 objectives and strategies, the city says it’s initiated all but two and completed or made “substantial progress” on about a third.

The Complete Streets policy and Vision Zero Action Plan, adopted in 2011 and 2017, improve safety comprehensively for all transportation modes. Complete Streets established design guidelines and reporting protocols for street safety improvements. The city is currently implementing recommendations from recent evaluations, called “walk audits,” toward improving safety conditions for students around elementary schools. Vision Zero established a program to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2028. Among other things, it identifies the city’s highest risk roadways and improves crash-related data collection and evaluation.

The city is improving its Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). This system, also dubbed “Smart Mobility,” involves installing infrastructure and sensors to improve communication and data collection. It also intends to pave the way for advanced autonomous vehicle and traffic management technologies. In June, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), a funding agency, approved $1.3 million for Alexandria ITS projects. And within the next several years, the city intends to update the TMP with a dedicated ITS chapter, said Hillary Orr, the city’s deputy director of transportation.

“Looking back on the last 10 years, we have made progress. … But we have real challenges.”

— Jim Kapsis, chair of the city’s Environmental Policy Commission

Encouraging bus transit has seen mixed success and poses a continuing challenge.

To address the problem that “transit is not viewed as a comparable alternative to the private automobile,” the TMP proposed “dedicated, congestion-free” bus lanes along three corridors: Route 1, north-to-south; Duke Street, east-to-west; and Van Dorn and Beauregard streets, north-to-south through the West End. The city has completed the first and received initial funding from NVTA for the second. NVTA denied nearly all of Alexandria’s request for the third. The city is now seeking alternative funding through Smart Scale, a state program.

In the city’s 2017 survey, car commuters most frequently responded that driving is fastest and most convenient (57 percent); public transportation takes too long (36 percent); and they have other stops to make (22 percent).

“There’s not a lot you’re going to do to get them to walk with their baby for 10 minutes to take the bus to daycare to drop it off, to get on another bus to get to Metro. It comes down to the trade-offs that people are willing to take, and convenience and time are important,” said Orr.

From almost anywhere in the city, residents can already walk to a bus station within five minutes. But many stations lack an “urban” level of frequency, with passengers waiting 20 minutes between buses, said Yon Lambert, the city’s transportation and environmental services (T&ES) director.

In addition, he says Metro’s problems have a ripple effect, inasmuch as commuters entice bus-to-rail transfers. From FY 2015 to FY 2017, average monthly DASH ridership decreased 8 percent, paralleling a 22 percent decrease in monthly Metro ridership at Alexandria’s four stations. That’s according to data in the May board minutes, the latest available, of the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC), which operates DASH. ATC projected to close out FY 2018 with passenger revenue $365,000 (10 percent) below budget.

In part due to these challenges, the city and ATC will begin public outreach in September toward developing the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) plan. ATV represents an opportunity to fundamentally re-imagine the city’s bus network from scratch, according to the city’s website.

While city staff have no preconceived agenda, “11 routes … all operating at less than urban frequency is likely not how that system should best operate,” said Lambert.

“How do we provide more frequent service in the places that really need it without cannibalizing the system itself?” One possibility is to employ smaller but more frequent neighborhood “circulators shuttles,” whichTMP already describes.

In any case, though the city strives to make alternatives available, driving is hardly a thing of the past. Lambert said: “We’re definitely planning for cars, and we have to. … We are definitely incentivizing more transit. I don’t want to go so far as to say we are disincentivizing people from driving.”

Jim Kapsis, chair of the city’s Environmental Policy Commission, summed up: “Looking back on the last 10 years, we have made progress. … But we have real challenges with Metro ridership down, a growing population, and new technologies from Lyft and Uber to dockless bike-share that are putting pressure on traditional public transportation. All of these changes will require us to think differently and creatively about our mobility strategy for the next 10 years.”

For more information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/TransportationPlanning.
Alexandria City Public Schools principals, assistant principals and administrators built 40 bicycles for local children as part of a team building at their Leadership Institute held Monday, Aug. 6, at T.C. Williams High School.

What they did not know was that 40 children from Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) would be bursting through the doors to collect their new bikes. All 40 of the children aged between 6 and 10 chose their brand new Raleigh/Diamondback bicycles, complete with helmets and bike locks in person.

**Team Building Produces Bikes**

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**Joint Practice**

The T.C. Williams football team and the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Club (ATYFC) hosted a joint practice on Wednesday, Aug. 1, at George Washington Middle School. The joint practice was a part of the Alexandria Titans Pre-season Combine where players receive instruction on the fundamentals of football and prepare for the upcoming season. This joint practice gave the younger Titans an opportunity to be instructed by high school coaches and were able to participate with the TC Titans in drills and see what a high school practice feels like. It was also a homecoming feel for some of the high school players and coaches who once played and coached on the field as members of the Alexandria Titans. Registration for Alexandria Titans Youth Football (ages 7-14) remains open online at www.alexandriatitansfootball.org. The registration fee is $135, which includes the cost of the jersey, equipment rental, and Fairfax County Youth Football League fees. Financial assistance is also available. Practices will be Monday-Thursday until school starts and will move to three days a week for the rest of the season.
By KENNETH R. LOUIE

OKAY. It’s not exactly what I wanted to read in the email from my oncologist interpreting the results of my July 25 CT Scan. Since August 2013 when I was hospitalized for a week with fluid in my lungs, “CT stable” has been the recurring message. Now the message is different.

My question, which will be addressed Monday afternoon: can I live with “slow progression” I would imagine there are more aggressive characterizations of “progression.” Nevertheless, I have to wait three more days to find out.

What has been suggested so far by my oncologist is simple enough: reduce the interval of my infusions or change medications. Sounds reasonable and not particularly drastic. What’s distressing (but not all that drastic) however is the fear of the unknown.

Not having had a reason to change in five years, I’ve grown accustomed to comfortable and confident in the ebb and flow of my life vis-a-vis my cancer and metastases. I’ve known what to expect and when to expect it.

For a terminal cancer patient still undergoing treatment, this kind of regularity/normality is as good as it gets. Accordingly, I’ve been able to live a relatively manageable life. And by “manageable” I mean a life worth living and one not consumed by, if I may retrieve a phrase from last week’s column: “cancer centrality.” Not that I don’t have deficiencies or spiritual, emotional or psychological problems/complications, I do, but I have so much more than that. Not only have I a present, I have a future too.

No small caveat when one considers I was given a “13 month to two year” prognosis on Feb. 27, 2009. Over nine years ago — and counting. As Maurice Chevalier sang to Hermione Gingold in “Gigi” (1958): “I remember it well.”

So life has indeed gone on and I’d like to think that despite this most recent email from my oncologist, life will continue to go on. I have to think positive: I’m my father’s son, and deceased though he may be, he wouldn’t have it any other way.

Besides, as Dr. Mobley said to Augustus McCray in the epic mini series, “Lonesome Dove” (1989) when Gus refused to let him amputate his remaining leg: “I assure the alternative is ghastly.”

Well, Gus was rarely gloomy and considering my circumstances, neither have I been gloomy. There’s just no future in it.

Right now, it’s the present I’m concerned about. Specifically, Monday afternoon when my oncologist and I see, actually, my wife, Dinu will be on the phone as well to talk.

Having a three participator phone conversation is a little awkward. The questions and answers might not flow as easily as if the three of us were sitting together in an examining room. But that’s what’s happening these days, scheduled, we’ll endeavor to make the best of it.

What probably will help, oddly enough, is the three days Dinu and I have to think about what concerns we have, what questions we’ll ask and what answers from the oncologist we anticipate hearing.

Then, with the doctor’s encouragement, together we’ll be able to make an intelligent decision concerning a prudent course of action/treatment going forward. A discussion we’ve had many times before.

And given our respective history over the last nine plus years, there’s no reason to think we can’t achieve similar success living forward.

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Kenneth Louie is an Advertising Representative for the Potomac Almanac & the Connection Newspapers.

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