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# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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25 CENTS

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FEBRUARY 28, 2019



## Just Watching

Sweetie observes her domain. Pet Gazette inside, pages 12-15.

PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

## ‘On Backs of Lowest Paid Employees’?

School Board approves budget, despite concerns about privatizing school custodians.

BY DAN BRENDL  
GAZETTE PACKET

In a 6-3 split vote, the School Board approved an \$311 million FY 2020 Combined Funds budget on Thursday, Feb. 21, over concerns about outsourcing custodial positions.

The budget comprises a \$286 million operating budget; a \$15 million Grants and Special Projects budget; and an \$11 million School Nutrition Services. School Board members Michelle Rief, Heather Thornton and Jacinta Greene cast dissenting votes.

A particular point of contention

was Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings’ proposed outsourcing of custodial jobs to a private contractor. Some of the division’s schools have already outsourced their positions, other haven’t yet. Hutchings thinks the move will improve cleanliness consistency across the division. It’ll also save about \$1 million in operating expenses, according to earlier estimates from the schools administration.

“The bottom line is that it’s wrong to balance the budget on the backs of some of our lowest paid employees. And so, for these

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 20

## Remembering Fay Slotnick

PLTI co-founder dies at 71.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Fay Slotnick, co-founder of the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria and later the organization’s executive director and board chair, died Feb. 20 at her home following a battle with liver cancer. She

was 71.

“Fay not only had a big heart and cared deeply about the community, she also made things happen for the sake of others,” said former Mayor Allison Silberberg. “Her work with PLTI, where she changed lives, is an example of that dedication.”

SEE FAY SLOTNICK, PAGE 4

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# Big Changes, Turmoil for DASH

City's bus system looks ahead to route and technology overhauls, labor unrest.

BY DAN BRENDEL  
GAZETTE PACKET

The month of February showcased a host of initiatives and challenges for DASH, Alexandria's publicly funded bus system, as it rolls into 2019 and beyond.

DASH, which moves 4 million riders over 1.7 million road-miles per year, plans to overhaul its routes and fleet, aiming to transition entirely from diesel to electric buses. DASH's owners — the City Council — received updates on these and other undertakings at an annual shareholder meeting on Feb. 12. At the same time, DASH's bus drivers, among the region's lowest paid, are focused on enhancing pay and benefits. The Amalgamated Transit Union, which drivers elected as their representative in November, began collective bargaining with DASH on Feb. 19.

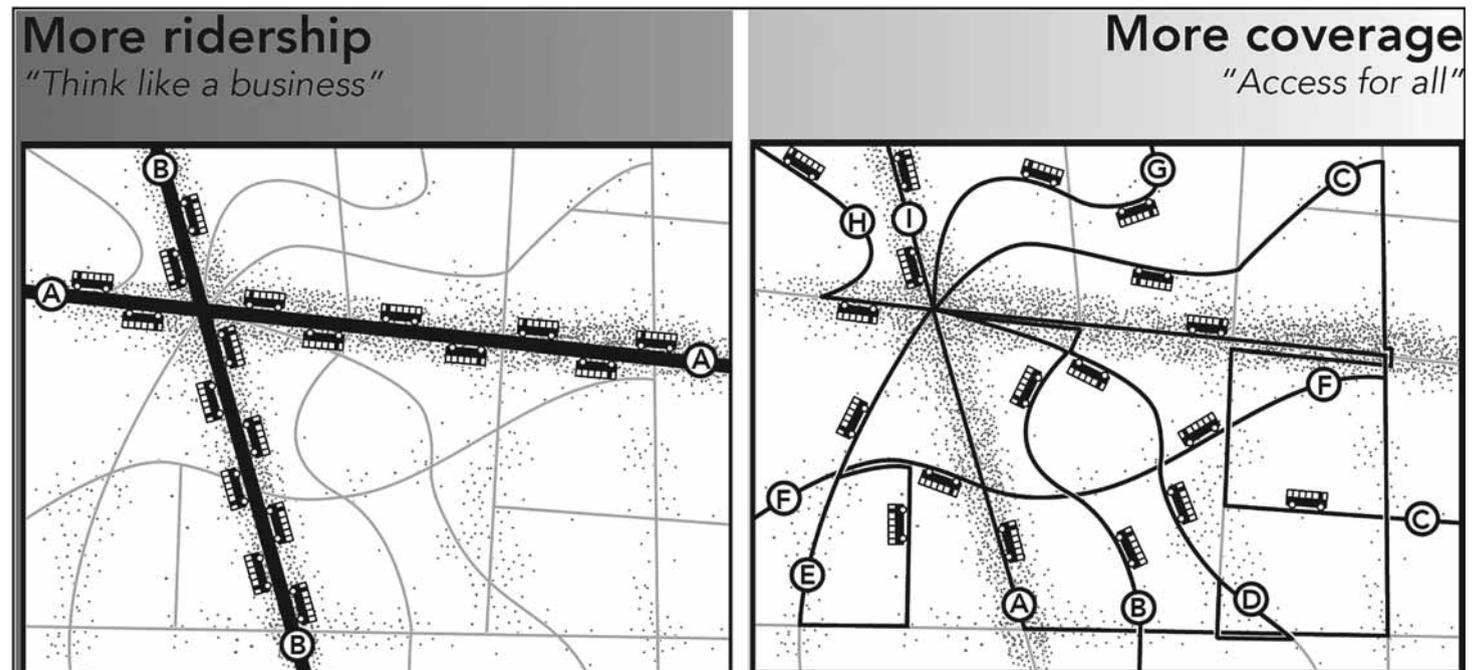
## REIMAGINED ROUTE NETWORK

DASH is deep into the community engagement portion of a two-year comprehensive redesign of its services, dubbed the Alexandria Transit Vision.

"It's essentially wiping the slate clean," DASH General Manager Josh Baker told council at the stockholders meeting. "If we were to decide what transit needed to look like today, what would it look like?" The question boils down to: "Would you prefer to walk farther [to a stop, but] have a bus come more often [the 'ridership model']? Or would you prefer to have a bus come closer to you less frequently [the 'coverage model']?" He says community input so far leans toward the former."

Council voiced no definite preference. Amy Jackson expressed concern that students and senior citizens might not be able to walk long distances to bus stop. Mayor Justin Wilson said the summer Metrorail maintenance shutdown — which DASH plans to mitigate by reinstating mothballed buses — presents an "opportunity" to try new methods "as experiments."

DASH hopes to retain a new base of customers from the surge of Metro orphans.



SOURCE: EXTRACTED FROM ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY'S FEB. 12 ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING PRESENTATION

**Will the future of DASH include more frequent bus service but along fewer routes, or more geographically distributed bus stops but with less frequent service?**

## GREENER AND SMARTER TECH

Going green comprises a major pillar of DASH's future plans. DASH began purchasing "clean" diesel (lower emissions, eco-friendlier) buses in FY 2018. DASH is still spending down \$18 million previously allocated for bus replacement, with another \$21 million earmarked over the next decade, according to City Manager Marks Jinks' recent FY 2020 budget proposal.

Clean diesels are a stepping-stone to total electrification of the fleet and supporting infrastructure. This second transition aims to take place over the next 5-10 years, beginning as early as FY 2020, pending grant funding.

While electrification accords with the city's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

**DASH bus drivers, part of ATY Local 689's collective bargaining negotiating committee. From left are Didier Balagizi, Tyler Boos, and Alphonza "Big Al" Clements.**

emissions, the cost is considerable and sources of funding remain uncertain.

"The cost of electric buses is double the cost of a clean diesel bus," said Jinks. Moreover, other municipal systems that have gone electric find "they can't use one elec-

tric bus and run the whole day. So they might need two buses ... to cover a whole day, whereas they before had one. So you have a \$2 million cost versus a half-million dollar cost."

DASH is currently proceeding on the "assumption" that electricity will be cheaper than diesel, pending a cost comparison study, said Baker.

Funding for electric buses is "to be determined" in Jinks' proposed budget. The state could provide much of the money. Baker thinks the state "very likely" will soon pay to replace six of DASH's oldest, dirtiest diesels with new electric busses, "as well as the infrastructure."

DASH will continue installing Pedestrian Collision Avoidance Systems, which alert drivers to pedestrians in blind spots. With  
SEE DASH, PAGE 22

## State Approves Funding for City's Sewer Overhaul

The Commonwealth of Virginia plans to provide \$25 million to ward the "RiverRenew" project to remediate Alexandria's combined sewer system. The General Assembly adopted the allocation as part of the state budget amendments for Fiscal Year 2020, which will be sent to the Governor for signature next month.

The budget appropriation will authorize \$25 million for the Virginia Resources Authority and the State Water Control Board to make a grant to the city to pay a portion of the capital costs of

the remediation effort.

During 2018, the city transferred ownership of Alexandria's four combined sewer outfalls to AlexRenew, Alexandria's independent wastewater authority. The city will continue to work with AlexRenew to incorporate state funding in compliance with the 2017 state law requiring that work on the outfalls be completed by July 1, 2025. The project is expected to cost between \$370 million and \$555 million, and will be primarily funded through increased sewer fees paid by Alexandria residents and businesses. While 95 percent of Alexandria is

served by separate sewer systems for stormwater and sewage, the remaining 5 percent is served by a combined sewer system, dating back to the early 1800s. When too much rain flows into the combined collection system, it overflows into local waterways at four permitted outfalls. Remediation projects require the planning, design, and construction of massive infrastructure projects to significantly reduce sewer overflows. These projects include construction of a tunnel and other improvements that would transport sewage and stormwater flows from all four combined

sewer outfalls to AlexRenew's Water Resources Recovery Facility. Combined sewer flows would be fully treated at the facility until it reaches capacity, at which point the excess flow would receive initial treatment and disinfection and the remaining flows would be stored until they can be treated. Combined sewer overflows into local waterways would be reduced and occur a few times a year during extreme storm events when flows exceed the combined capacity of the entire system. For more, visit alexandriava.gov/CleanWaterways.

# Fay Slotnick, PLTI Co-Founder, Dies at 71

FROM PAGE 1  
Slotnick brought PLTI, a national leadership skills-building program focusing on the advocacy of children, to Alexandria in the fall of 2006. The intensive, 20-week civic engagement program graduated its first class in May of 2007 with a ceremony at City Hall.

"The Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria affects lives in so many ways," said Slotnick in testifying at a city budget hearing in 2012. "PLTI is exclusively concerned with the welfare of children and families. It provides a safety net by expanding the network of those who will work for the welfare of Alexandrians."

Slotnick also served as a former vice chair for Finance and Administration for the Alexandria Democratic Committee, who released a statement saying, "Fay was the kind of person whose life calls for the most meaningful and

celebratory type of remembrance. Her dedication, can-do mentality and ability to deal with people, and understand their capabilities, led to many, many ADC successes."

Added Marianne Anderson: "[Fay] was a stalwart defender of so many who needed uplifting and support. She was a persistent, persuasive advocate for justice." Fay Dutkin Slotnick was born Sept. 8, 1947. Originally from Philadelphia, she attended Temple University and Rutgers Law School. She raised

her family in New Jersey and relocated with her husband to Alexandria in 1996. In addition to her work with PLTI and the ADC, Slotnick served as a CASA volunteer, a mentor, a council member's aide, and on the board for the Friends of the Torpedo Factory. She also served on the board of the ACLU of Virginia, dedicating her time to fighting for civil liberties. She was known as a fierce advo-

**"Fay believed in the power of the individual to affect change for the better."**

— Former Mayor Allison Silberberg



Bill Euille with PLTI co-founders Joyce Woodson and Fay Slotnick at the 2011 PLTI appreciation dinner.



Fay Slotnick, Joyce King and LaVon Curtis at the 2017 PLTI Alumni picnic.

cate for fairness, diversity, equality and inclusion.

"Fay was a larger than life person with the warmth and sincerity of an angel," said friends Tony and Lou Dixon in an online post. "She was a soft spoken but fierce leader and advocate for PLTI-Alexandria for many years. She gave her time, resources and opened

her home countless times to colleagues and friends in service to her community. To say she will be missed is an understatement."

Slotnick is survived by her husband, Jack Slotnick; daughters Phyllis and Jennifer Slotnick; son Steven Lynn (Rebecca); and grandchildren Aaron, Sean and Sydney Lynn and Jacob Slotnick. Memorial

services are being planned for Alexandria and New Jersey. Details are pending. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ACLU of Virginia, [www.acluva.org](http://www.acluva.org), or ALIVE!, [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org). "Fay believed in the power of the individual to affect change for the better," added Silberberg. "This is a huge loss for the community."

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## From Slavery to Principal

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

**J**ohn F. Parker was the second principal of Snowden School for Boys in Alexandria. He became principal in 1875 after the first principal, William F. Powell, resigned his post on Aug. 27, 1875.

Mr. Parker was a man who had beaten the odds of surviving slavery. He also survived an illness during slavery, but it would later take his life.

**THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA**



**John F. Parker (1842-1922)**



**Parker headstone**

He was born a slave on William B. Scare's property which covered two counties: Alexandria and Fairfax. Mr. Parker was listed on the 1861 probate file of Mr. Scare as diseased. At the time of William B. Scare's death, the Union Army had taken over Alexandria. Under the Union, John F. Parker and the other slaves in Alexandria were considered contrabands of war. They were free to move about in Alexandria under Union control, but they faced the risk of capture outside the Union occupied areas.

In 1866, he appeared in the Alexandria Freedmen Bureau office contracting himself out to an Arkansas plantation for 8 and a half months as a field hand. On his contract, it stated that he was literate.

On July 25, 1870, it was noted in a newspaper article that John F. Parker had accepted a position as an assistant keeper of the lighthouse at Lower Cedar Point in the Potomac River. By 1872, he had secured a substitute teacher's po-

sition at Snowden School for boys in Alexandria. In less than a year, he secured a permanent position in the school system as the assistant principal to William F. Powell.

On the resignation of Principal William F. Powell in August 1875, Mr. Parker was offered the position of principal. The Snowden School needed a principal and a pianist, and he was more than qualified for both positions. He was principal at Snowden School from 1875 until he became ill in 1915 from a disease he had as a young child in slavery.

Mr. Parker was also a devout Catholic, and a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria. He was one of the people who was instrumental in advocating and raising money for the building fund for Saint Joseph's Catholic Church.

He was born in 1842 to Shadrach and Martha Parker on the property of his owner, William F. Scarce. On July 20, 1875, he married Julia A.

Nokes, a widow, who was a freed person prior to the Civil War. They were married by Father D.O. Kane of Saint Mary's Catholic Church. They had one child named, John, who died young. John and Martha acquired several properties in Alexandria. Their houses were at 148 Queen St., 712 Wolfe St., 176 South Fairfax St. and 810 North Columbus St. Mr. Parker's last residence before he received medical treatment in Petersburg, Va. was on Columbus Street.

On Nov. 21, 1922 in Petersburg, Mr. John F. Parker died. He never had an opportunity to teach at Parker-Gray School which was partially named after him. His funeral was at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church and he was buried at Saint Mary's Cemetery. Many of his family members from the Parker, Taylor and Dogan's families and his beloved students mourned his death. His headstone erected by his friends and students is a testimony to his service as a principal and teacher.

He was born a slave but made great progress by becoming a well-respected principal, teacher, landowner and an outstanding citizen. In 1919, his students, family and friends advocated for the School Board to include his name as part of the name for the new school Parker-Gray. It brought great pride to those who supported him.

*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."*

## Work Continues After Session Ends

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



**T**he 2019 Session adjourned "sine die" on Feb. 24. With its end, single- and double-digit license plates flooded onto I-64 and I-95 leaving Richmond. My staff and I stayed behind for several days, re-reading and responding to over 1,000 constituent emails and letters received throughout the session. Many of these letters helped me make decisions on bills; others provided ideas for next year's legislative agenda.

**COMMENTARY**

Seven bills I introduced have passed both chambers and await the Governor's signature. SB1231, which I put in at the request of Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter, will ensure that individuals accused of capital murder, but found to be permanently mentally incompetent and unable to participate in their own defense, cannot be released without a court order. SB1233 will ban state agencies like the Department of Elections from using software banned for federal use by the Department of Homeland Security, safeguarding Virginians' personal data

and our state elections from foreign interference. Working with Del. Marcus Simon (D-Fairfax), I introduced SB1736, which bans the distribution of revenge pornography videos known as "Deepfakes." These are convincingly-edited videos that falsely portray individuals in sexual acts in order to humiliate them.

But all successes don't occur on the legislative floor. I am pursuing alternative solutions in the interim for several bills which failed this session. This year I introduced SB1498 to address concerns over abuse at the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center (SVJC), a youth detention center which contracts with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to hold undocumented youth until their immigration hearings. Last summer, pro-bono attorneys chronicled a number of disturbing allegations, including physical abuse, lack of mental health care, and the use of extended solitary confinement at the facility. In response, the Virginia Department of Public Safety conducted a study of the facility and suggested changes to SVJC protocols. However, since it is not a state-owned center, SVJC was not required to comply. These recommendations failed to address all of the issues at the facility and were unenforceable. My legislation would have required the promulgation of enforceable regulations including hiring additional mental health counselors

and bilingual staff, as well as providing training for trauma-informed care. While this bill failed in committee on a tie vote, I am now engaging with stakeholders and the Department of Juvenile Justice, which oversees this facility. I will work to ensure we are providing these youth with adequate mental health services, protecting them from abuse, and giving them language-appropriate education.

I will also be working in the interim with the Board of Housing and Community Development to create safety regulations for trampoline parks. A burgeoning and unregulated industry in Virginia, trampoline parks pose a high risk of injury. Without regulation, those who suffer debilitating injuries are often left without any legal recourse — even if the park was in violation of basic, nationally recognized safety standards. My bill passed the Senate with bipartisan support but died in a House subcommittee. I have taken my concerns directly to the board that will consider this idea during this year's regulatory cycle.

Now that the session has ended, legislators will begin putting a great deal of effort into Virginia's 2019 campaigns. The stakes are especially high this year since all 100 House of Delegates seats and all 40 Senate seats are up for re-election. The razor thin Republican ad

SEE MORE TO DO, PAGE 21

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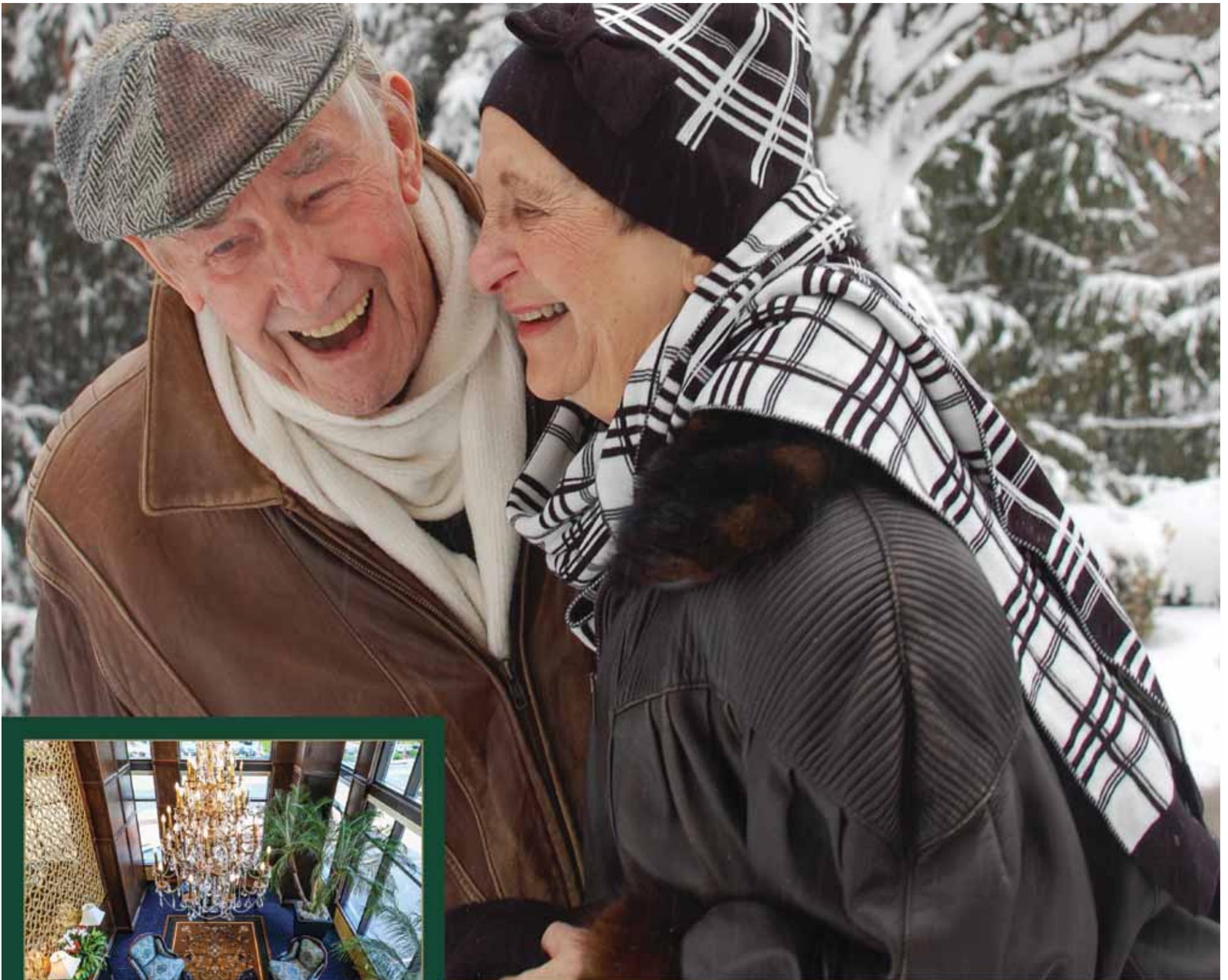
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Environmental Action Plan 2030 Update



**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019**  
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Francis C. Hammond Middle School Cafeteria, 4646 Seminary Road

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9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**KEYNOTE**

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

“7 Secrets to Living Your Most Sustainable Life”

Diane MacEachern, founder and CEO of Big Green Purse

*For information on watching the keynote online, please visit alexandriava.gov/Eco-City*

Alexandria is seeking feedback on draft recommendations for an update of the Environmental Action Plan, the City’s roadmap for creating a thriving, sustainable community. Join us for an open house overview of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) update. Community members will be able to give feedback on the recommendations for all 10 topics of the EAP. Don’t miss this opportunity to help update the City’s sustainability goals and actions.

There will be an optional tour of Hammond’s composting facility after the event. For additional information, please visit alexandriava.gov/Eco-City or call 703.746.4065.

*To request reasonable disability accommodation, contact geraldyn.taylor@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5418, Virginia Relay 711.*



OPINION

Calling All Seniors 60+

Register now for the Senior Academy Spring Session.

BY MARYANNE BEATTY  
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



and Finance, and Voter Registration.

The second week will focus on city services for seniors. We will visit Police Headquarters and hear presentations by the Police, Fire and Sheriff Departments.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services and the Workforce Development Center will highlight their work on behalf of older adults in the community.

The Community Resources session will feature important services offered by several local non-profits, including Rebuilding Together, At Home in Alexandria and Senior Services of Alexandria. We will also hear the latest news about current programs and future plans for Alexandria from the Offices of Planning, Transportation, and Housing.

The final week will provide great information about the many opportunities to learn and stay active as we discuss Leisure, Cultural and Educational Opportunities. The Alexandria Library and Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will be joined by the Office of Historic Alexandria and Northern Virginia Community College.

The Senior Academy is a free program with light refreshments each week. A special graduation ceremony will take place during a City Council Meeting at City Hall in May. To download an application go to seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110. Class size is limited to 25 Alexandria residents aged 60+. The application deadline is March 15.

For more information about the various city academies, visit alexandriava.gov/Academies.

Looking forward to Spring? Thinking about getting involved in something new? The Senior Academy might be a good first step. Senior Services of Alexandria, in partnership with the City of Alexandria’s Office of Communications and Public Information, is conducting the next session of the Senior Academy starting on Wednesday, April 3.

The Academy is a four-week course designed to provide Alexandria’s seniors 60 and over with an opportunity to hear from leaders of local government departments, as well as Alexandria non-profits that provide services and programs for older adults.

The Academy will be held each Wednesday morning in April from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at various locations. Different topics will be covered each week, starting with: Getting to Know Your City and How You Can Make a Difference. Participants will be greeted by Mayor Justin Wilson and hear from City Manager Mark Jinks about how the city’s government operates. They will also learn about the work of the city’s many boards and commissions, including the significant impact of the Commission on Aging. The morning will wrap up with presentations by the city’s Offices of Communications and Public Information, Budget

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Review City’s Senior Discounts

To the Editor:

I am a longtime City of Alexandria resident who is a senior citizen, has a disability and my only income is SSDI. I live in the West End of the city and had been awaiting the opening of the new Patrick Henry Rec Center.

As I live in Foxchase it’s very convenient and had been advertised to offer classes for those of us 55-plus.

I’m bothered by the city seemingly being focused on offering financial assistance to families with children — 40-70 percent; yet offer a very small discount to seniors who may have a financial need — 20-30 percent.

There are many, many senior citizens who are falling through the cracks in this city. We might get slightly too much from Social Security to qualify for Medicaid or SNAP yet with today’s cost of living

barely make ends meet with basic living expenses. We are being let down by our city once again, being given the message that seniors and those who have a disability are not as important as our youth.

I’m in no way saying I want to deny our youth opportunities. What I am saying is I believe you are in need of taking a second look at the qualifications for assistance you adopted in 2012 in order to also give our senior residents opportunities as well.

I don’t believe I’m alone in recognizing this lost opportunity you have to meet the needs of my age group. It’s my hope you will consider making much needed changes as the new budget is currently being looked at.

**Toni Popkin**  
Alexandria

# Giving Up the Car Keys? Recognizing warning signs that it might be time to stop driving.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**T**racy Palmer didn't see the accident, but she received a frantic call that every parent dreads: her 11-year-old son had been hit by a car.

"We were on vacation visiting my brother and I'd gone to get coffee and my phone rang," she said. "My brother told that an 82-year old woman hit my son while he and a few of his cousins were sitting just off the driveway drawing with chalk. She never saw the kids and when she hit my son she thought she'd hit a ball, so she kept going. Thank God one of the neighbors saw it and stopped her."

After eight days in the intensive care unit, Palmer's son is on the mend, but Palmer who works as an attorney in Arlington, however, is furious that the elderly driver was allowed behind the wheel of a car in the first place.

Monitoring one's driving abilities is an essential part of our overall healthcare, especially as one ages. "There's no cutoff age for when a person should stop driving. But as we age, our joints can become stiff, our reflexes slow down and our ability to make split-second judgement calls or stop on a dime can become impaired," said Dana Kilgore, MSPT. "Our bodies also become more frail as we age, so the impact of a car accident would probably do more harm to a 85-year old than a 25-year old."

It is important for seniors and their families to pay close attention to the warning signs that it's time to reduce one's driving or stop it all together, says psychologist Donna Goldstein, Psy.D. "If you notice an increased number scratches or dents on that mom or dad's car, especially if they've always been a good driver, that could be an indicator," she said. "Getting traffic tickets, getting lost frequently, running stop signs

or traffic lights, those are all signs that it might be time to leave the driving to someone else."

Accepting the fact that it's time to stop driving can be difficult. "A driver's license isn't just a plastic card with a bad picture that you keep in your wallet," said Lisa Dombo, LPC, Ed.D, a marriage and family therapist in McLean. "It means freedom and independence. It's hard for anyone to want to give that up. That's one of the reasons why it can be so hard for people to convince someone that they need to stop driving."

That is a lesson that Naomi O'Conner learned one weekend this winter when she made plans with friends to take in a designer sample sale that was happening about two-miles from her house. Her 86-year old mother had agreed to babysit her 7 and 9-year old children. But the weather took a frosty turn and threw her plans into a tailspin.

"My mom lives a mile away from me and has always been my most dependable back-up babysitter for weeknights, but when the snow started falling, I knew that I could not let her get on the road in that weather," said O'Conner who lives in Bethesda. "It was for her safety and everybody else who'd be on road. Unfortunately, she kept insisting that

she would be fine and even became a little peeved that I was suggesting that she was too old. To keep her off the road, I had to concoct a story about one of my friends getting sick and canceling the plans."

The thought of suggesting to a loved one that it's time to give up their car keys can be daunting. Dombo says that there are steps that one can take to make such a conversation less intimidating. "This is a very sensitive issue for many people because it means dramatic change in lifestyle and having less control over ourselves," she said. "It's important to be respectful and not talk to them like they are a child. Give specific examples instead of making general statements and try not to have the conversation alone. It's usually more effective to have the conversation with a group of family members."

Demonstrating an understand of the what reduced driving means is also important, suggests Goldstein. "You must show empathy," she said. "This type of transition can lead to depression for some seniors. Offering alternatives like gift certificates for cab rides or Uber or Lyft can be good. Coming up with a plan to remain socially active and to run errands and get to doctor's appointments. But this type of life transition is not easy, but it is possible to live a rich, full life without a car."

**"... a very sensitive issue for many people because it means dramatic change in lifestyle and having less control over ourselves."**

— Lisa Dombo, LPC, Ed.D

## Burst of Spring Open House

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# Structural Deficits and More

Combing through the city manager's FY 2020 budget proposal.

BY DAN BRENDDEL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**ere's a closer look at selected aspects of last week's FY 2020 city budget proposal from City Manager Mark Jinks, now in City Council's hands for review and tweaking.

## DEFICIT WHACK-A-MOLE

In November, the Jinks' administration said it faced an initial budget shortfall of \$28 million. This continued a trend of expenditures outpacing revenues, with the city each year having to "solve for the gap," as Morgan Routt, the city's budget director, said. Jinks and his staff subsequently did just that, solving for the FY 2020 gap to propose a balanced budget, as is statutorily required. They did so through a combination of a revised funding request from the public school system, boosted property tax assessments, departmental savings, increased cost recovery/collections and other revised forecasts. But the underlying problem hasn't gone away.

"The city's revenue and expenditure growth rates are projected to be structurally out of balance starting in FY 2021," according to Jinks' budget document. At current tax rates, a \$27 million imbalance in FY 2021 would grow to an estimated \$75 million by FY 2024, driven especially by school debt service.

Jinks says some combination of the following would comprise a structural fix to the structural problem:

- ❖ Increase the tax base through economic growth (although the current forecast already "includes assessment growth of existing properties and new development" at the recent historical rate, said Routt, so tax base growth would have to exceed what's already assumed);

- ❖ Increase existing local tax rates;

- ❖ Continued identification and creation of efficiencies within the city government, public-private partnerships, intergovernmental collaboration, etc.;

- ❖ Reductions in city services and programs;

- ❖ Further review of services where fees could be created, and/or increase user fees if they do not cover 100 percent of costs;

- ❖ Seek alternative funding sources from the General Assembly (expanded taxing authority, appropriations, etc.);

- ❖ Consider alternative funding sources (such as establishing a school debt service / cash capital real estate tax rate).

Aside from real estate and personal property tax rates, many other tax rates for major revenue sources already sit at state-imposed maximum limits. Exceptions include tax rates on electric and natural gas utility consumption, renting of residential and commercial property, and gross receipts financial services businesses, which are below state caps.

## Upcoming Budget Public Events

- ❖ Budget Work Session #3, ACPS Operating & CIP: Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m. at City Hall

- ❖ Budget Public Hearing: Monday, March 11, 4 p.m. at City Hall

- ❖ Set the Maximum Property Tax Rates: Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m. at City Hall

Council members didn't respond to a request for comment about what they think might comprise a structural fix, and what obstacles they think primarily stand in the way.

## CONSERVATIVE DEBT

Alexandria's city government and public school system face a ballooning list of capital infrastructure investments, often attributed to deferred maintenance. This year's FY 2020-2029 proposed 10-year capital budget weighs in at \$1.6 billion — more than double the \$707 million FY 2011-2020 capital budget adopted in 2010.

Jinks proposes an overall mix of 46 percent cash and 54 percent bonds over the next decade to pay for it all. That represents a relatively conservative approach to debt financing, by which the city government aims especially to maintain its top-level credit ratings, preserving its ability to borrow on favorable terms.

"The city's ... cash capital level of 46 percent greatly exceeds the very healthy level of 25 percent," which is the city's general rule of thumb, according to the budget document.

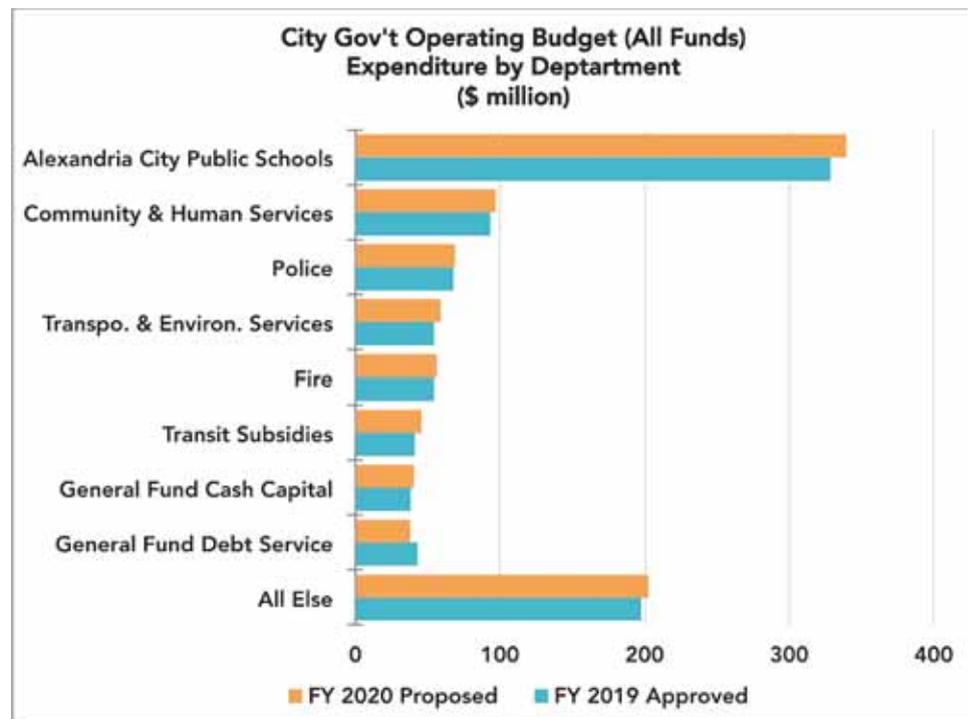
Additionally, while paying off 50 percent of debt after 10 years "is typically viewed favorably and as best practice for municipal debt management," the city forecasts a 10-year payout ratio of 75 percent.

"We are a city that has almost a phobia about debt," said Elliot Branch while part of a budget advisory task force in 2017. But debt can be a "philosophical" choice. By sharing in debt service payments, "taxpayers who live here 10 years from now, who are going to reap the benefits of what we decide to build, will share the burden," he said.

Asked why the city doesn't take on more debt, Routt said: "For next year we see the possibility of significant [cost] increases due to construction labor and materials cost inflation and more specifics related to the high school [capacity expansion] project. For that reason, and the fact that we will be looking at the issue of creating a separate tax rate for school capital, we left the financing plan largely unchanged for this year recognizing that we may need to look at more bonding of projects in the next [10-year capital budget]."

## NEW FEATURES

This year, the city government has incor-



SOURCE: CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FY 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET, TOTAL SOURCES & USES SUMMARY TABLES

**The city manager's proposed FY 2020 operating budget, including all funds, weighs in at \$947 million (3.2 percent over FY 2019). Of that, the discretionary General Fund budget accounts for \$761 million (1.7 percent over FY 2019). Of the FY 2020 all-funds proposal, the public school system accounts for 36 percent of expenditures; the next 7 largest departments/categories combined account for 43 percent; the remaining 35 departments/categories combined account for 21 percent.**

porated a new method — called Priority Based Budgeting — of representing and comparing costs more consistently across departments and services. The method aims to identify areas from which the city might reallocate existing funds, before resorting to new taxes as a last resort.

Inter-departmental staff teams assigned numerical composite scores and rankings to over 500 city services.

Higher scores went to services that are mandated by the state or feds; serve many residents; offset their costs through, for example, user fees; and rely on city government for their provision. Lower scores went to services that are locally self-imposed; serve fewer residents; generate little or no cost-recovery revenue; and could come from institutions other than local government.

For community services, staff also scored the degree to which they think each service advances relevant objectives set out in the city's Strategic Plan.

Finally, scores were organized into quartiles, the first representing highest overall strategic alignment, the fourth representing the lowest.

For example, under the General Services department, the Farmer's Market ranks in the first quartile; animal shelter, adoption and control in the second; fleet maintenance and repair in the third; city staff mail services in the fourth.

The new method lends greater standardization and systemization, but its numeri-

cal representations shouldn't necessarily give the impression of objectivity. The process incorporates subjective staff judgments. Raw scoring components are not included for public review.

Following the 2017 task force's advice, first implemented last year, Jinks proposes this year to hold \$139 million in contingency reserved cash and borrowing capacity for nimbler application as planning evolves.

These reserve funds would go toward "to-be-determined expenditures or projects, ... planning and feasibility studies, joint planning efforts, land acquisition, and contingency funding for project cost increases. ... This funding can then be moved to projects as better project information and business intelligence comes available."

The majority — \$62 million — would serve as a cushion against such unknowns as rising construction costs.

Another \$20 million would be available to acquire property, borrowed only once "a clear land acquisition opportunity comes available," according to the budget document.

Another \$36 million is reserved for plans to streamline the "Witter/Wheeler Campus," a cluster of 15 city and school division properties along Duke Street. However, "until a master plan is developed, it would be premature to allocate funding for an individual project."

For more, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Budget](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget).

## Pastor Sentenced to Prison

An Alexandria pastor was sentenced Tuesday, Feb. 26, to 8 years in prison for a \$2 million fraud scheme that victimized members of his congregation, clergymen, and prospective investors in a Nigerian oil scheme.

According to court documents and trial testimony, Terry Wayne Millender, 54, the former senior pastor of Victorious Life Church in Alexandria, operated Micro-Enterprise Management Group (MEMG), a Virginia company that alleged to help poor people in developing countries by providing small, short-term loans to start or expand existing businesses by working with a network of established micro-finance institutions. Millender served as chief executive officer of MEMG.

According to a release from G. Zachary Terwilliger, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, Millender and his co-conspirators recruited investors, many of whom invested their retirement funds in a shell company called Equity Trust that investors were falsely led to believe was a third party entity. To recruit investors, Millender emphasized MEMG's Christian mission and use of the funds to help the poor, promising guaranteed rates of return, assuring investors that the loans' principal was safe and backed by the assets of MEMG. Instead, the money Millender obtained from investors was used to conduct

risky trading on the foreign exchange currency market and options trading, to make payments towards the purchase of a \$1.75 million residence for Millender and his wife, to purchase furnishings for their home, and on other personal expenses. To conceal how they had actually used the money, Millender falsely assured investors that they would get their money back and blamed delays in repaying investors on the 2008 financial crisis, among other things.

After MEMG failed, Millender created another entity called Kingdom Commodities Unlimited (KCU), which purportedly specialized in the brokering of Nigerian oil deals. Multiple victims entered into loan agreements with Millender, totaling over \$450,000. Like MEMG, the KCU agreements lured prospective investors into giving the Millenders money by promising high rates of return and short term loans. The Millenders used the KCU lenders' money to pay for their rent and golf trips, as well as a birthday party and other personal expenses. Millender also failed to disclose any of the income he received from the MEMG and KCU fraud schemes on his income taxes. He was ordered to pay more than \$2 million in restitution. This investigation was initiated after a victim of the MEMG scheme contacted authorities, including the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

**Practices.** 6:30-8 p.m. At Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick Street, 6th Floor, Alexandria. In association with the City of Alexandria Green Building Policy Update, the city is holding a forum to promote public discussion

**THURSDAY/FEB. 28**  
Forum on Green Building

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 21



### ALEXANDRIA, VA, AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER FEMA'S EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER NATIONAL PROGRAM (EFSP)

The city of Alexandria has been awarded \$33,305 through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Emergency Food and Shelter Board Program (EFSP). Under the terms of the grant from the National EFSP Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. To apply for EFSP funds, public or private voluntary agencies must contact Major James Shiels, Alexandria Salvation Army, 1804 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22301 or [James.Shiels@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:James.Shiels@uss.salvationarmy.org) to apply for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Friday, March 15, 2019, at 3:00 pm.

For EFSP applications contact:

**James Shiels Jr., Major**  
The Salvation Army  
Alexandria Citadel Corps  
1804 Mount Vernon Ave  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
[James.Shiels@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:James.Shiels@uss.salvationarmy.org)  
703-836-2427  
<http://salvationarmynca.org/alexandria-va/>

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# 'Foster Parents' Make All the Difference

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF  
ALEXANDRIA

**T** Tyler the bulldog mix was going downtown. Down to Old Town, to be specific. He had donned an "Adopt Me" vest, was fitted for a harness and leash and was setting off with an Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) volunteer for a "foster field trip."

**AWLA** The day out included stops at Union Street and Market Square, where Tyler made a quick stop to check out the fountain. He met plenty of people, many of whom paused to remark on his good looks, and the volunteer took the opportunity to promote him as a pet.

The romp through Old Town was a key stop on Tyler's road to adoption. Along with meet-and-greet time, field trips provide animals with a change from the shelter environment and a chance to practice their social skills and also allow volunteers to gather information to pass along to potential adopters, said Maddie Bernstein, AWLA community programs coordinator. The energy expended on these adventures means that these pups will return to their kennels refreshed after a mentally and physically enriching day. Some of them even learn new skills. A Doberman mix called Emma balked at getting into the car to head out on her field trip, and she had to be coaxed up a ramp to the car with hotdogs. But when it came time to head back to the shelter, she hopped right into the car, Bernstein said, as if she'd been doing that her whole life.

Field trips are just one way the shelter's 201 volunteers help Alexandria's animals find new homes. Many pets at the shelter



**A boxer mix named Tyler lets the breeze flow through his fur during a foster field trip.**



**Kittens enjoy foster caregiver Jodi Horton's Springfield home before returning to the AWLA shelter for adoption.**



**A dog named Dutch slumbers on his foster sleepover.**

need the special care and enrichment fosters can provide, said Foster Manager Arielle Wait, who has fostered more than 300 animals herself. Neonatal duty, for example, requires a specially trained corps of fosters, who take care of orphaned puppies and kittens too young to be adopted. These young animals need bottle-feeding as often as every two hours, along with assistance eliminating waste and maintaining body temperature.

Animals with significant veterinary needs may also benefit from extra TLC from fosters. Dogs undergoing treatment for heartworm may require months of recovery, and animals recovering from surgeries heal most successfully in a home environment. Animals with behavioral issues, especially cats overwhelmed by the bustle of the adoption floor, often benefit from a stay in a home, where they can learn to coexist with people and perhaps other pets — and be observed to collect valuable information for the shelter's adoption staff.

"An animal's behavior in the kennel is not always a good indicator of what kind of pet they might be," Wait said.

Fostering animals at the AWLA requires orientation and training

sessions, Wait said. A foster's interest should be in helping an animal, she said, which often means letting animals move on to their new families after weeks or months together. All food and supplies for the foster animals are provided by the AWLA.

Some shelter animals enjoy a shorter-term foster experience in the form of foster "sleepovers" — overnight or multi-night stays at the homes of volunteers. Recent research on dogs at several shelters in the United States found that the animals' cortisol levels — which can reflect stress — dropped significantly after only one night in a foster home. The research indicates that these sleepovers acted much like weekends do for people, allowing for rest and recharging.

One of AWLA's fosters, commercial airline pilot Dave Fawcett, often shows up at the shelter on his days off to pick up a dog for the weekend or even a week. He's been making great progress with a boxer mix named Steele, an affectionate dog who can get over excited around other dogs and children.

Instead of touring the city, Fawcett runs Steele around a high-school field for exercise before the

two of them crash at his Old Town home. "When I turn the lights out, he knows it's bedtime and heads up the stairs," Fawcett said. "He's very quiet and calm and likes to curl up with me to sleep."

Like other fosters, Fawcett keeps a "report card" to be used by shelter staff, answering such questions as: How did he react to receiving a treat to chew on? Did he growl if others approached his food bowl? How did he do on a walk? Fawcett says Steele's consistent training and lower stress levels upon returning to the shelter are enhancing his chances for adoption. At one point, foster volunteer Jodi Horton was caring for a mother cat and her five newborn kittens in her spare bathroom. All six eventually found new homes once they were ready for adoption. They were some of the more than 20 cats and kittens that Horton has fostered on behalf of the AWLA, often because they were too young for adoption. Her permanent family now consists of four cats, three of them former fosters. "Fostering just brings me so much joy," Horton said. "I can't say that I've quite figured it out though — sometimes I just have to keep them."

## Foster Love Goes Both Ways

Over the time she lived in Northern Virginia, foster "parent" M. Davis took home a series of five dogs for weekend "sleepovers," but it was a frightened, three-legged dog named Skye who really captured her heart. Davis missed her own dogs back at home in Texas — she was on temporary work assignment in the Washington area — so fostering dogs from the AWLA for a short-term window when her work allowed it provided much-needed comfort and companionship.

Skye, whom Davis called Bear because she thought he resembled a small black bear, had been staying in the AWLA administrative staff's office, where he was able to get some specialized attention. Besides his missing leg, for which he compen-

sated well, Skye seemed to have undergone psychological trauma before coming to the shelter; he would not allow anyone to touch him, and if they tried, he would let out a chilling scream.

Despite his fears, Skye seemed to tolerate and even enjoy the sleepovers with Davis and soon became familiar with her apartment. They developed a routine together. "He loved walking in a nearby wooded area and sitting next to me on a blanket while we had a picnic," Davis recalls. He also would sit contentedly for long periods of time on her balcony, watching squirrels and birds in the trees. All along the journey, Davis kept detailed notes about Skye's behavior for use by the AWLA adoption staff.

Soon Skye had spent 10 separate weekends at home with Davis. Early in the mornings, she often would find him

sitting patiently next to the bed, looking up at her, waiting for her to take him outside.

That's when she realized that when it came time to permanently return to her home in Texas, she wanted Skye to come with her. She told the AWLA staff she would adopt him.

Under foster care, Skye's fears continued to fade, though he's still skittish and occasionally will let out a cry when startled. "Over the last year he has transformed from a skinny, matted, scared dog into a healthy and trusting companion with lots of love to give," Davis said. With her love and support, Davis's little Bear had become ready to set forth on his biggest adventure yet.

— BARBARA S. MOFFET



**George**

Meet George, my foster kitty dreaming of his forever home. George was rescued by Homeward Trails Animal Rescue Inc. just before New Year's Day this year. Now he's looking to start a new life in a loving and caring forever home. He's such a sweet, cuddly, affectionate and easy going cat. If you're looking for the perfect companion to snuggle up to, this is George! His favorite past time, only second to being close to you, is watching the birds and squirrels outside and telling you all about it, he's very chatty! It's so endearing. I've been so blessed in helping George in this transitional period of his life.

— Roseann Mangano



**Bailey**

My wife Judie Jolly and our (then, two years ago) with our new puppy, Bailey (named after the Irish Cream) when she (ha ha — the puppy!) first came home!

— Thomas R. Jolly



**Felicity Brock And Beekman**

An avid participant in her community and long-time dog lover, Felicity Brock strives to give back any way she can. So, when she found the Guide Dog Foundation, a company committed to providing guide dogs and training — free of charge — to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, she was beyond ready. From "gotcha day" to when they both go off to college in a year, Felicity and Beekman are unstoppable. For Beekman, this means further training with the Guide Dog Foundation. Beekman is now 5 months old and loving his old town neighborhood. Felicity is a junior and varsity rower at T.C. Williams High School. Check out <https://www.guidedog.org> for more information on how to get involved.

— Deidre Brock



**Tina**

PHOTO BY  
NATASHA  
EDWARDS



**Skye on his journey to his new home in Texas.**

# PET GAZETTE



## Meet Charlie and Gus McCrea

Gus – 4 year old yellow Labrador. Gus may be 4 years old but he still acts like a little puppy. He loves to go for car rides, play with sticks, and playing tug of war with this baby brother Charlie. Gus was adopted from a co-worker when he was just 8 weeks old and has been such a important part of the McCrea family. Gus is the sweetest dog you will ever meet.

— Tina and Mike McCrea



Charlie – 5 month old black Labrador mix, recently adopted from the Alexandria Animal Welfare League. Charlie is a sweet, cuddle-bug of a puppy. He loves to chew on anything he can get his mouth on and loves picking on his older brother Gus! Aside from being a little trouble maker, Charlie loves to be snuggled while watching TV with his mom and dad.

— Tina and Mike McCrea



## Gizmo

Serena and Claire Sharman with their Maltichon, Gizmo. Gizmo loves walking Serena to Lyles Crouch school every morning and receiving a treat and big smile from principal Dr. Zissios.



## Molly

My beloved dog Molly enjoying her 15th birthday a few weeks before she went “over the rainbow bridge.” She is held by her dear friend Rosie Walters. Molly is missed by all her many dog and human friends, especially me, Carol Siegel.



## Cocoa

Cocoa photo by Diana Luka Hopson



PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

## Mandy

Look into my eyes ... you are getting sleepy ... sleepy ... now give me a Milkbone. Miranda, also known as “Mandy,” belongs to Diana Banat.

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# PET GAZETTE



## Nunky

Nunky, "son" of Susan D. Dawson, a resident of Alexandria, came from the animal shelter to live here when he was 2 months old and weighed 1.1 pound. He is a 6-month old Siamese kitty who is very feisty and curious, and who explores everything. This picture includes but a few locations for his adventures.



## Sherlock

Just me on my canopy sunning my day away.

PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER



## Kota and Bella

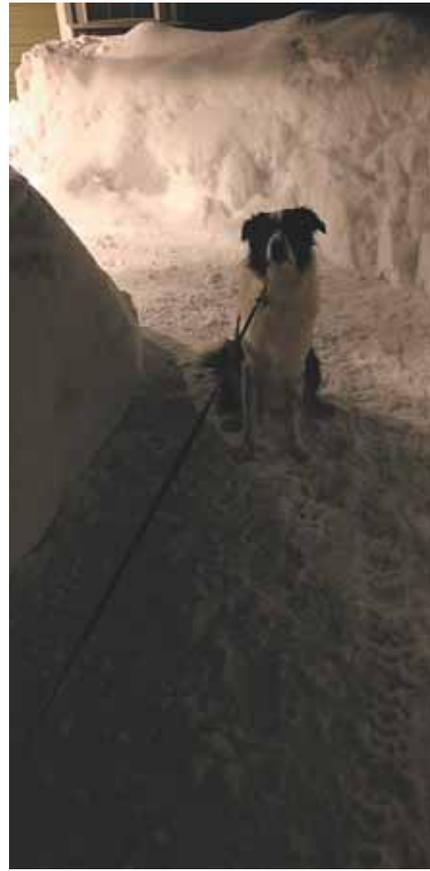
Peace pups Kota and Bella enjoying spring in February!

— Jo Echard



Opossum and BellyCat

PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER



## Echo

Echo in the snow

PHOTO BY LAUREN WOODMAN

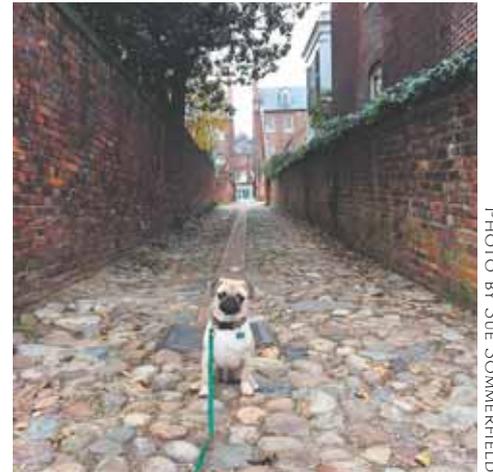


PHOTO BY SUE SOMMERFIELD

## Finn

Finn the Pug learning to do a sit-stay with Alexandria Dog Training Company, owned by Dr. Brandon Torrance and Ruth Braden.



PHOTO BY LAURA MAE SUDDER

## GoodBoy

GoodBoy aka "HandsomeCat" dressed for holiday travel

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## When Karen Met Rosie

In January of 2017, I took a test at the American Kennel Club website called 'What Kind of Puppy is Right For Me?' and was informed my next pet should be a Dandie Dinmont Terrier. I googled the breed and saw this intriguing looking creature that resembled a Yorkie Terrier and Dachshund. Having grown up with Dachshunds, I was smitten and immediately decided I had to have a Dandie!

Bred on the border lands between England and Scotland to hunt badgers and foxes, Dandie Dinmont Terriers are named for a character in the 19th century Scottish novel, "Guy Mannering," by Sir Walter Scott. The breed itself is more than 300 years old and is considered a 'desperately endangered' with less than 87 puppies born in the UK in 2017. I learned quickly how rare this breed truly was as I searched for puppies here in the USA. I was deep in planning my first trip to Scotland that May and realized a major Dandie event was taking place during my visit there, Hainings 2017 the celebrated birthplace of the breed. Thinking I might be able to find a pup during my visit, I began searched high and low for local breeders, to no avail. Returning empty handed, I abandoned my Dandie search in June and concentrated on other breeds, Corgi's, Frenchie's and King Charles spaniels.

In late October, I was planning a drive to Pennsylvania to inspect a litter of Corgi's and did one final google search 'Dandie Dinmont Puppies.' To my shock and delight, a single facebook page pops up in Iowa where one puppy remained from a litter



Photo of Karen Byers and Rosie the Dandie Dinmont Terrier at Alexandria's Scottish Walk Parade 2018.

born the last week of June, precisely the time I abandoned my Dandie search. Her name was Rosie.

Less than one week later, I was picking up my scared little girl from Dulles Airport. Having a love of all things Scottish and moreover, Outlander, I finally landed on a name that honored my little girl and things I love, as well; 'Claire's Rose My Yankee Doodle Dandie.' Claire for the main character in my favorite Outlander novels by Diana Gabaldon; Rose for 'Rosie;' and My Yankee Doodle Dandie.

Rosie is a graduate of the Old Town School for Dogs, and she even convinced the Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America to join in Alexandria's famous Scottish Walk Parade! I can't walk her down King Street without people stopping to ask about this intriguing little pup. Rosie is helping to bring much needed attention to this rare breed of terrier and more than a few smiles to Old Town.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# PET GAZETTE



## Cowboy

This is Cowboy after having a rough day of eating and eating and more eating. He is 5 years old and rules our home.

— LEE GUTWALD



## Derby

Derby is a poodle-mix (age-8) adopted July 2013 by Alberta White from Caring Hearts Rescue in Springfield. He loves receiving gifts.



Raya and Kaden

## Raya 'Being of Service'

The story begins 12 years ago in Chicago with Kaden (meaning companion) our first standard poodle. What a companion he was! Three years later along came his puppy Raya (meaning friend). When Kaden passed in November 2017, we were brokenhearted. Raya was lost without her daddy so we decided to get into service in our community. Raya took her AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen) test with Brad at Olde Towne School for Dogs and she sprung into action. Her journey began with the kids "Reading to Raya" at Hooray for Books. She regularly visits her friends at Silverado Memory Care Community. Thanks to everyone there her fun, loving spirit is back! We now have the next generation of standard poodles in Jax (meaning God has been gracious). He is 9 months old and being well trained by Raya to be of service.

Raya and Jax



Raya with glasses and her AKC CGC Ribbon

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## A Comedy that Stands the Test of Time

“You Can’t Take It With You” at Little Theatre of Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting “You Can’t Take It With You” from now through March 16. Over 80 years old, this off-beat, quirky, Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, written by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, follows two families whose lives are thrown together when their children become engaged. This take on life, family and love reinforces the idea that you can only live life to the fullest by doing whatever makes you happy.

Director Stephen Jarrett said his “first job was to give audiences a chance to laugh at one of the warmest, funniest plays of the American theater. The second job was to transport the viewers to mid-1930s Manhattan and an extended family of cheerful, other-directed misfits living a childlike communal existence, utterly free from the constraints of the workaday world of that surrounds them,” he said. “Today we might say they are following their bliss. They are all passionate hobbyists, and their goal is self-expression, fulfilled through playwriting, painting, ballet, playing the xylophone and the little fireworks manufactory in the basement. The plays will never be produced, the ballet will never be performed and that matters not. The end is in simply the joy of doing of it. It’s a metaphor. We’re in an urban Garden of Eden.”

He continued: “But, of course, there’s a serpent in the form of the staid, posh, joyless parents of the boy the younger daughter has fallen for. Their presence forces the family to see themselves through unsympathetic eyes. What we have is a classic di-



Jonathan Gruich (Ed), Jerry Hoffman (Mr. Henderson), Ted Culler (Paul Sycamore), Amy Griffin (Penny Sycamore) and Raeanna Nicole Larson (Essie) star in LTA’s production of “You Can’t Take It With You.”

chotomy: loose vs. strict; joy vs. duty; Dionysian vs. Apollonian. One more illustration of the aphorism that drama is the conflict of two truths.”

He said it’s a big play with 19 characters and lots of moving parts; some of the challenges were the three acts, multiple costumes for at least half the cast, and its extensive prop list.

“Another very specific challenge is an outdated cultural attitude about race,” he said. “This attitude could be seen as completely affectionate in 1936, but today it seems

paternalistic and patronizing. Working closely with our African-American actors, and with the assistance of the entire acting company, we have worked hard to ameliorate the problem. A handful of lines have been dropped, and we have adjusted a few dramatic acting and directing choices.”

Jamie Blake, who is a co-producer along with Eileen Doherty, said: “As producer of any LTA show, we bring the director’s vision to life with the best designers in the area. This show is no different. We have talent behind the scenes that equals what

you see on stage from sound, lights, costumes, props, the set, the set decorations, the set builders, the set painter, the special effects and least but not least our stage managers and assistant stage managers. It takes a village and our audiences only see what is on stage. We all do it for the love of theatre and the creativity each of us brings to the show.”

Ted Culler is playing the role of Paul Sycamore, the loving husband and devoted father of two daughters. “He was educated to be an architect, but left that behind when he married into the quirky Vanderhof family. He is fascinated with and creates with his sidekick, Mr. DePinna, his own fireworks for sale and for fabulous Fourth of July displays. He has a live-and-let live personality with the belief that people should do whatever brings them joy,” he said.

Steven Rosenthal is playing the role of Mr. DePinna, who was delivering ice to the Vanderhof home years ago and just decided to stay. “He is a craftsman who helps Paul Sycamore in the fireworks that they manufacture in his cellar. He is also an amateur historian who revels in impersonating Roman soldiers and in fawning over the Russian aristocracy. Although he is often overlooked by the rest of the family, he is trustworthy and loyal and always there to help his adopted family members whenever he can,” he said.

Melissa Dunlap is playing the roles of Gay Wellington/Grand Duchess Olga. “Gay Wellington is an actress that Penny asks to come read plays. Gay enjoys giggling, gin and singing. She has an interesting visit with Penny and her family,” she said. “The Grand

SEE COMEDY AT LTA. PAGE 19

### CALENDAR



### Fun Dog Show & St. Patrick’s Day Parade

More than 2,000 participants will march in the parade, including dog rescue groups, pipe and drum bands, the Notre Dame Alumni Band, historical re-enactors, Shriners and Kena cars, and Irish dancers. Parade-goers come early for the Fun Dog Show on Market Square, which benefits the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. More than 30 costumed dogs will compete in a range of categories, including Best Human/Canine Look-Alike, Most Talented and Most St. Paddy’s Spirit. The dogs will then kick off the parade. The parade starts at King and Alfred streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region’s St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Saturday, March 2, Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Visit [www.ballyshanners.org](http://www.ballyshanners.org) for more.

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

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Ritualisms.** Through March 3, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New Target Gallery Exhibition contemplates the universality of rituals. The exhibition juxtaposes different artists’ interpretations of rituals through their work, daily routines, habits, or personal quirks. It also brings in broader cultural formalities and religious ceremonies. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**“Opposites Attract.”** Through March 10, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Show featuring everything Quiet and Loud, Large and Small, Smooth and Rough, Bright and Dull, Stiff and Flowing, Smiles and Frowns – the list goes on and the artists had a great time incorporating this theme into their work. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**THURSDAY/FEB. 28**  
**Ties that Bind Two Historic**

**Homes.** 10 a.m. At Huntley Meadows, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Discover the connections between two of Northern Virginia’s historic properties. See the letter from Historic Huntley that’s on exhibit at Mount Vernon, and discover how slavery links the two homes. The program includes tours of the slave quarters at Mount Vernon and Huntley, as well as the mansion houses.

This tour for adults begins at 10 a.m. at Historic Huntley and departs for Mount Vernon at 11 a.m. The van returns to Historic Huntley at 3 p.m. The cost is \$64 per person, which includes van transportation and admission. The trip cancellation deadline is Feb. 13. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Preschool Storytime Class: Black History Month.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. At the Story Room at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join in a storytime featuring picture books based on real people and events in African American history. Ages 3-5 with adult Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1702.

**STEM Extravaganza.** 6-8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal School, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Scientists, young and old, are invited to create, learn

# ENTERTAINMENT

and innovate with Grace Episcopal at their first ever STEM Extravaganza designed for children ages 3-13. This family-friendly evening will feature hands-on activities selected by Grace Episcopal School's fourth and fifth graders. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit [graceschoolalex.org](http://graceschoolalex.org) for more information and to RSVP, or email [admissions@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:admissions@graceschoolalex.org) with questions.

**Film Screening: "Thicker Than Blood."** 6 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. In recognition of Black History Month and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and to increase awareness about the "Getting to Zero Alexandria" campaign, the City of Alexandria will host a free screening of "Thicker Than Blood." Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the 80-minute film will start promptly at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to register online. To register for the film screening or to learn more about Getting to Zero Alexandria or free HIV/STI testing services, visit [alexandriava.gov/Health](http://alexandriava.gov/Health).

**"Soil Tilled by Free Men."** 7-9 p.m. At Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents "Soil Tilled by Free Men: The Formation of a Free Black Community in Fairfax County." Historians Susan Hellman and Maddy McCoy will discuss their study published by the Virginia Historical Society about the free black community on lands close to the Mount Estate, prior, during and after the Civil War. Hellman is director of the Carlyle House in Alexandria and McCoy is founder of the Slavery Inventory Database, LLC. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/)



**William Connery**

March 14, 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$15 per lecture or attend all three events for \$30. NVFAA Members can attend all three events for \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

[mountvernon/soil-tilled-free-men-information-free-black-community-fairfax-county-for-more](http://mountvernon/soil-tilled-free-men-information-free-black-community-fairfax-county-for-more).

**Tom Teasley and Chao Tian Performance.** 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two local music icons, world percussionist Tom Teasley and Chinese dulcimer specialist Chao Tian join forces to showcase tunes from their recent collaboration, Dong Xi. Cost is \$15/person. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**Metro Red Release Party.** 3-10 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. Port City Brewing Company welcomes back Metro Red, a Double Red Ale, as one

## Civil War Authors Series

In Mosby's Raids in Civil War Northern Virginia, William Connery chronicles the successes of Commander John Mosby. Also known as the Gray Ghost, he is celebrated most for his raids that captured Union General Edwin Stoughton in Fairfax and Colonel Daniel French Dulany in Rose Hill. By 1864, he was a feared partisan guerrilla in the North and a nightmare for Union troops protecting Washington City. After the war, his support for presidential candidate Ulysses S. Grant forced Mosby to leave his native Virginia for Hong Kong as a U.S. consul. A mentor to young George S. Patton, Mosby's military legacy extended to World War II. Thursday,

of its limited release brands. This crimson colored hop-forward red ale was first brewed by Port City for DC Beer Week in 2015 and has become a fan favorite of its beer lineup. Visit <https://www.portcitybrewing.com/events/metro-red-release-party-4/>  
**Mardi Gras in Alexandria.** 6-9 p.m. At the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Wear purple, green and gold while enjoying the "The Not So Modern Jazz Band Quartet (and Friends)" by attending the First Friday: "Mardi Gras in Alexandria. Make a Mardi Gras mask or bring your own and plan to participate in the evening's Mardi Gras parade. A "meet and greet" begins at 6 p.m. with light refreshments complements of the Office of the Arts. Tickets are \$9 per

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# 4 Dates to Circle in March

BY HOPE NELSON 6-9 p.m. \$25; advance purchase recommended.

**K**ids and sushi, lifting a glass to Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day two ways — it's all here this month. Get out your calendar and make some plans for a March filled with foodie events for all palates.

### St. Patrick's Day Celebration at Murphy's, March 17

Looking for a more "traditional" way to commemorate the holiday? Murphy's opens its doors at 9 a.m. to kick off the revelry bright and early.

Live music launches at 10 a.m. and goes till closing time; dancers from the Boyle School of Irish Dance will make their way through intermittently during the day to keep everyone in a festive spirit. 713 King St., 9 a.m.-2 a.m. No cover charge.

### Celebrate Women in Wine at Sonoma Cellar, March 12

In honor of Women's History Month, Sonoma Cellar is showcasing the best in California wines owned, influenced or made by women. The tasting price gets you a flight of half a dozen wines to try, compare and contrast. All that tasting make you hungry? Stick around and have a bite to eat from Sonoma Cellar's food menu too. 207 King St. 6:30-9 p.m. \$25.

### APPETITE

### Kids' Sushi Class at Bon Vivant Café, March 23

Just in time for Washington's Cherry Blossom Festival, help the whole family get into Japanese cuisine. Make it easy for your kids develop a taste for sushi early by teaching them to make it themselves. Together We Cook is teaming up with Bon Vivant Café and Farm Market to help children learn how to make miso soup, sushi rice, maki and California rolls. 2016 Mount Vernon Ave. 4-6 p.m. \$45. Preregistration at [www.togetherwecookva.com](http://www.togetherwecookva.com).

### St. Patrick's Day Bingo at Stomping Ground, March 17

The biscuit purveyor's popular Bingo night is back for another round — and this time, the restaurant is ready to get into the Irish spirit. Corned beef and charred cabbage with soda bread are the watchwords of the night (drinks are available a la carte). Pick up some Bingo cards, sit down to dinner and hope you get a little luck of the Irish on your side. 2309 Mount Vernon Ave.

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



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# ENTERTAINMENT

person, children under 5 years old are free. To purchase your ticket, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) and click on Durant Arts Center.

## Opening Reception: For The Artist

**Artist.** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. The diversity of expression and creativity in this exhibit is inspiring to artists and art appreciators alike. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/) exhibits for more.

**Messiah Concert.** 7:30 p.m. At Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir and Orchestra will perform the complete Handel's Messiah. Featured soloists are Michelle Kunz and Joshua Hong, Washington National Opera, and Sally Mouzon and Philip Pickens, San Francisco Opera. Soloists are members of the Washington National Opera and San Francisco Opera. Free-will offering at the door. Contact parish music director John McCrary, 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

## MARCH 1-31

**Art Exhibit: For The Artist.** At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. The diversity of expression and creativity in this exhibit is inspiring to artists and art appreciators alike. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/) exhibits for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**Mt. Jefferson Park Traffic Garden Workshop.** 10:30-12:30 p.m. At James M. Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Fun, creative workshop where young participants will have the opportunity to design their own transportation network as well as think about the challenges of building at the future site. Budding engineers, planners, and designers will have the opportunity to lend their skills to the Mt. Jefferson Park Traffic Garden design by creating engineering drawings and getting public works approvals. With building permit in hand, children can go to construction and lay out their creations. Suitable for ages 4-11, but grown-up designers are invited to join, too.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade.** The Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends

at 2 p.m. Parade starts at King and Alfred Streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit [www.ballyshanners.org](http://www.ballyshanners.org) for more.

**Home with the Herberts.** Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. John Carlyle's son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Step back in time to see what life was like in the 19th century in Alexandria, and to learn more about this part of Carlyle's family life. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit [www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park) or call 703-549-2997.

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Crum's Hot Sauce tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**Sip Cocoa and Craft Snowflakes.** 3-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Snowflakes and hot cocoa are the perfect winter pairing. Let the kids enjoy these highlights of winter at the "Snowflakes & Cocoa" program at Huntley Meadows Park. Children age 3 to 12 are invited to float into a world of snowflakes. Through activities and stories, they will learn why snowflakes are special and make their own paper-and-borax snowflakes to take home. Hot cocoa rounds out the winter experience. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

**Lettera Amorosa: 17th-Century Italian Arias and Keyboard Solos.** 6 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Join 28 Chairs for an evening of Baroque chamber music. French star mezzo-soprano Anna Reinhold, twice-Grammy-nominated harpsichordist Jory Vinikour, and theorbo player Deborah Fox will perform a program of 17th-century Italian songs and keyboard solos, including works by Monteverdi, Cavalli, Frescobaldi, Strozzi, and others. Tickets \$35 at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Winter Lecture-Rose Care 101.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Lewis Ginter Botanic Garden horticulturalist Laurie McMinn will introduce participants to old family heirloom roses as well as many new roses that may become favorites. Adults. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 402.44A7 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Concert at St. Luke's.** 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a Flute, Viola and Harp Trio from the Washington, D.C., area dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire, spanning a variety of musical genres. Followed by a reception to meet the performers. Cost: \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net/events](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net/events).

## MARCH 3-MAY 31

**Kathryn Coneway Exhibit.** At Huntley Meadows Visitor's Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Coneway's mixed-media art combines collage and photographic transfers, and it expresses her observations of nature. A reception will be held Sunday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m. Students from Kathryn Coneway's winter class at Huntley Meadows will also display work. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 7

**Yacht Haven Garden Club Meeting.** 10 a.m. At Mount Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria. The program, Period Gardens and Landscapes of Historic Properties, will be presented by Ashley Brown, chief architect of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. New members are welcome. Email [pmuchello@aol.com](mailto:pmuchello@aol.com).

## MARCH 7-23

**"Beep Beep" at Arts on the Horizon.** At the Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Arts on the Horizon, an interactive theatre for children ages 0-6, will present "Beep Beep," written and directed by Solas Nua Artistic Director and frequent AOTH collaborator, Rex Daugherty. It was created specifically for an audience of children ages 2-5 and their families. Show times are March 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, at 10:30 a.m.; and March 9, 16, 23, at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for children and adults at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door.



PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK

Emmy Leaverton (Alice Sycamore) stars in LTA's production of "You Can't Take It With You."

## Comedy at LTA

FROM PAGE 16

Duchess Olga Katrina fled Russia at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution. For the past several years she has lived and worked in New York. She is good friends with Essie's dance instructor, Kolenkhov. She mostly socializes within her circle of Russian family and friends but is delighted to be invited to have dinner with Kolenkhov's friends."

Mary Elizabeth (Emmy) Leaverton is playing the role of Alice Sycamore. "Alice is a Sycamore through and through, whether she's willing to admit it or not. She is desperately in love with the boss's son and wants nothing more than to be accepted and acknowledged as worthy of his love in return. She never forgets for a moment how much she loves him, or how much he loves her. It's the battle between the stubbornness of her head, the passion of her heart, and the approval of the Kirby's that she must

overcome," she said.

Chris Halverson is playing the role of G-Man #3, whose ominous attention is caught by Ed's printing hobby. "I came into the production only two weeks before opening, so the biggest challenge was trying to play catch-up, both as a member of the cast as a whole, and in building up my performance to the same standard of quality as the rest of the actors, especially since rehearsal time that late in the process has to be dedicated much more to fixing the details of already well-established work," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "You Can't Take It With You" from now through March 16. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$21 and \$24. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com) or call the box office at 703-683-0496.





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# School Board Approves \$311 Million Combined Funds Budget

FROM PAGE 1  
 reasons, I can't support this budget," said Rief. "Having clean and well-maintained buildings is really essential to our core mission. [But] I'm not convinced that outsourcing this work to a third-party contractor is the best decision for our schools. ... We're being asked to speed up this process of outsourcing of our custodial services [originally intended to occur through natural attrition] by terminating 30 full time employed custodians at the end of the school

year. These are employees who have a combined 330 years of service to Alexandria City Public Schools." When the outsourcing-by-attrition process began years ago, "the school district made a commitment to retain custodians until such time as they retire or move on [of] their own accord," said Madeline Wingate-Alfonso on behalf of the Education Association of Alexandria, a local education employee organization. "We were not informed of this proposal until January. We were totally blindsided and

shocked to learn that this was being proposed. We feel like a change of this magnitude, which impacts a number of employees, should have warranted discussion before January. There was a lack of transparency and timely information was not forthcoming." School Board member Margaret Lorber also expressed qualms about the transition. But she voted "with a heavy heart" in favor of the proposal, "in part for financial reasons," she said. "I'm going to try to have faith" that the administration

can figure out how to "transition them, as many as possible, to other positions within the school system," or otherwise facilitate their "soft landing." Among other supports, terminated employees will receive severance pay in the amount of \$1,600 per year that they've worked. Lorber says she'd like the School Board to study the situation further and perhaps in coming years "reverse the trend" of outsourcing, going "back to in-house custodians." For more, visit [www.acps.k12.va.us/budget](http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budget).



## City of Alexandria

### FISCAL YEAR 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET



A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget is set out below. Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Persons wishing to speak on the proposed budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council. Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 838-5056) prior to March 11, 2019, if possible.

#### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2020

	General Fund FY 2020	All Funds FY 2020	Capital Improvements FY 2020
City Council	\$688,708	\$688,708	
City Manager	\$2,269,487	\$2,269,487	\$105,000
City Attorney	\$3,018,882	\$3,018,882	\$70,000
City Clerk and Clerk of Council	\$417,609	\$417,609	
18th Circuit Court	\$1,524,814	\$1,524,814	\$682,000
18th General District Court	\$152,086	\$152,086	
Clerk of the Circuit Court	\$1,655,023	\$1,720,023	
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$3,088,802	\$3,456,244	
Court Service Unit	\$1,656,569	\$1,782,558	
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	\$85,751	\$85,751	
Other Criminal and Justice Services	\$4,479,657	\$4,663,834	
Registrar of Voters	\$1,335,329	\$1,335,329	\$100,000
Sheriff	\$32,295,408	\$33,062,085	
Finance	\$12,970,079	\$13,860,587	\$1,602,500
General Services	\$14,118,850	\$15,032,350	\$14,789,000
Human Rights	\$905,798	\$952,689	
Information Technology Services	\$11,741,701	\$12,233,112	\$6,385,000
Internal Audit	\$442,002	\$442,002	
Management and Budget	\$1,288,729	\$1,288,729	\$907,808
General Fund Debt Service (City)	\$37,863,075	\$37,863,075	
Debt Services (ACPS)	\$28,112,251	\$28,112,251	
Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve	\$550,000	\$550,000	
Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other	\$9,285,153	\$10,285,153	
Human Resources	\$4,534,051	\$4,534,051	
Communications & Public Information	\$1,544,293	\$1,544,293	\$500,000
Performance and Accountability	\$524,182	\$524,182	
Fire	\$53,772,968	\$56,261,092	\$1,997,000
Code Administration	\$24,000	\$8,468,878	\$110,000
Emergency Communications	\$8,129,529	\$8,244,175	
Police	\$66,846,444	\$68,864,175	
Health	\$7,080,546	\$7,171,373	
Community and Human Services	\$53,854,151	\$96,908,545	\$25,000
Other Health Activities	\$1,704,816	\$1,704,816	
Housing	\$7,147,030	\$8,657,727	\$5,800,000
Economic Development Activities	\$6,382,158	\$6,382,158	
Project Implementation	\$0	\$1,631,478	\$5,068,113
Planning and Zoning	\$6,136,662	\$6,700,798	\$585,000
Historic Alexandria	\$3,338,064	\$4,135,343	\$390,000
Library	\$7,115,682	\$7,779,234	
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities	\$23,715,266	\$26,252,378	\$8,131,713
Transit Subsidies	\$34,920,671	\$45,550,073	
Transportation and Environmental Services	\$31,663,758	\$58,944,526	\$55,739,801
Other Educational Activities	\$16,128	\$16,128	
Schools	\$232,300,641	\$311,411,964	\$36,120,605
Capital Contingency Funds			
General Fund Cash Capital	\$40,353,393	\$40,353,393	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$761,050,196</b>	<b>\$946,838,138</b>	<b>\$139,108,540</b>

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website ([alexandriava.gov/budget](http://alexandriava.gov/budget)) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3400, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget includes no change in the real property tax rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 12, 2018, at 7:00 pm in City Hall, Council Chambers and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.00 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; Business tangible property, including office furniture, fixtures, computers and unlicensed vehicles are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value and machinery and tools are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value; Privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

## CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Alexandria Police Department.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 26

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a weapon violation in the 1800 block of Diagonal Road. Officers responded to a shots fired call and apprehended one suspect. There were no injuries.

### SATURDAY, FEB. 23

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating an attempted commercial robbery in the 2900 block of Duke Street. A man brandished a knife but fled before stealing anything.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 22

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a robbery in the 5900 block of Quantrell Avenue. The suspect stole a phone from a tow truck driver. There were no injuries.

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commercial robbery in

the 4600 block of Duke Street. A man brandished a knife and stole money from a gas station. There were no injuries.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 21

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a commercial robbery in the 4600 block of Duke Street. A man brandished a knife and stole money from a gas station. There were no injuries.

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a reported robbery in the 200 block of N Breckinridge Place. A man stole items from a woman in a hotel room. There were no injuries. APD Officers apprehended the suspect.

### TUESDAY, FEB. 19

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a report of a robbery in the 3000 block of Park Center Drive. A man stated that a group of known subjects stole items including his car. There were no injuries.



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# OPINION

## More To Do

FROM PAGE 6

vantage in both bodies means legislators will be working hard to hold their seats while supporting challengers in other districts, seeking to sway the partisan balance of both chambers.

Though session is the most intensive time for my team and me, this "part-time" position continues at full bore throughout the entire year. It sometimes feels like a never-ending cycle, but each year comes with new rewards and challenges, and an ever-growing appreciation at the privilege it is to represent my constituents in the Senate of Virginia.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

of green building practices. The forum, which will include a presentation and panel discussion, is intended to encourage local builders, developers, designers, and residents to explore the complexities and challenges of the green building development and design process and to engage in a constructive community dialogue about the ways that future public and private development and small-scale residential properties can incorporate the basic principles of green building design.

**Public Town Hall.** 7 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria. Featuring Jeff Clements and Hedrick Smith about the national movement to win an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to combat the influence of money in politics. The proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution would enable limits on election contributions and spending to combat corruption and secure the equal rights of Americans to representation in government.

### MONDAY/MARCH 4

**Foster Parent Orientation.** 6-7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The City of Alexandria will hold a free, no-obligation information session for prospective foster parents. An agency representative will be on hand to answer any questions and explain the requirements to foster and/or adopt. For questions or to RSVP, call 703-746-5858 or email Christine.Levine@alexandriava.gov.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 5

**New to Medicare Presentation.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. At Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Are you new to Medicare or a caregiver for a Medicare beneficiary? Learn the basics of Medicare coverage and choices. There is no cost for attendance. Registration is required. Space is limited. For more information or to register, call 703-746-5999 or email VICAP@alexandriava.gov.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

**Alexandria Transit Vision Plan Public Workshop.** 6:30 p.m. At Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center (formerly Cora Kelly Recreation Center), 25 W. Reed Ave., Alexandria. For more information, contact Steve Sindiong, Steve.Sindiong@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4047.

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**Legals**

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 780, Alexandria Transit Store  
Closing Date and Time: March 20, 2019, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time.  
There will be a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this solicitation on March 05, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. to be held at 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314. This project will be funded utilizing Federal Highway Administration Funds through the Regional Surface Transportation Program. The grant is administered by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.  
**THIS IS A LIVING WAGE CONTRACT.**

For general inquiries contact David Bakhshaei at david.bakhshaei@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. **THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.**

**Announcements**



**ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES  
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO 19-031**

Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) is seeking proposals from qualified entities to provide wastewater resident engineering and inspection services for its Capital Improvements Program projects. This solicitation is being conducted as a competitive negotiation for professional services, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-4302.2.

Proposals will be received by AlexRenew at 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Attn: Maryam N. Zahory, Purchasing Agent, on or before 4:00 pm, March 19, 2019. RFP 19-031 may be obtained from the AlexRenew website <https://alexrenew.com/business-opportunities> and the Commonwealth of Virginia website <http://www.eva.virginia.gov/pages/eva-i-buy-for-virginia.html>.

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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## The Following is a Test



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Although you can adjust your television set, it's probably wise to have juiced the battery in your cellular phone. Better still, use your landline – if you have one – thereby preventing a dropped call right in the middle of your interminable hold. Because the call you're about to make – to a government office – is likely not going to be made to the correct number or the correct person or at the correct time or even to the correct department.

And should you be lucky enough to reach an actual person with your call, the explanation for your call/the problem you're attempting to resolve, will no doubt result in a transfer which most likely will not be to the correct number, the correct person, at the correct time or even to the correct department.

Unfortunately, after perusing the government's website, you're just not smart enough to figure out exactly what number you're supposed to call. (Is anyone that smart?) And therefore you are likely going to experience this loop-de-loop – without the upset stomach.

And what makes your attempt even worse? Hanging up, since your call might be “answered in the order in which it was received.”

Now presuming/assuming that a less-than-immediate solution will not be at hand, there are a few steps one should take in preparation to not make a bad situation worse:

\* Allow for plenty of time. Do not make this call when you're in a hurry, on break/at lunch or have a limited window of opportunity to complete your task. You will need to be in for the long haul, so to speak.

\* Try to make this call when you're able to sit/stand comfortably – for long periods of time. Moreover, make sure you have the privacy you need so that anything you say will not be heard (or held against you in a court of law) and any movements your body makes will likewise not be seen.

There's something about being stuck on the phone for long periods of time waiting, waiting, waiting; talking, talking, talking; hoping (you'll note I didn't say expecting) to reach the right person and/or resolve the problem/get the answer which prompted the call in the first place, which rarely brings out the best in the person on hold. Quite frankly, it's been my personal experience that it brings out the worst.

In addition to having the time and the place, one must also have the patience. That patience comes from proper preparation. And by “proper preparation” I mean the creature comforts: food, water and access to a bathroom.

The order really should be reversed with bathroom access first and foremost. Being uncomfortable, shall we say, after finding the time and place, and then making the effort to navigate the government's website looking for the proper person, phone number, department and then in the midst of any success you might have accomplishing this Herculean feat, to have that very personal need interrupt the proceedings is the definition of poor planning.

Common sense has to prevail or the consequences may be dire; you might have to start your calling process all over again. I wouldn't wish that on any one.

There is no greater satisfaction than surviving making one of these calls, and having done so because you put all of your adult Boy Scout skills to work. There really should be badge of honor one can earn after completing this dreaded and arduous task.

In fact, there should be some kind of reward. Although I imagine reaching nirvana (not listening to Nirvana) is its own reward.

Nevertheless, having survived the ordeal and endured the suffering for as many minutes as I care not to remember, I can say with absolute certainty, it's a hell of a feeling. I wish you all well in your next pursuit of truth and justice despite the American Way.

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

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## NEWS

# DASH

FROM PAGE 3

the state picking up 96 percent of the price tag, DASH has already outfitted two buses, and plans to upgrade 17 more. Upgrading the whole fleet would occur through capital replacements, with the systems factory-installed.

### LABOR UNREST

Chris Townsend, a union organizer, called fleet electrification “transit jewelry.” He lamented that the shareholder meeting didn't address the “acrimony” leading to the drivers' unionization in the first place.

“DASH is second from the bottom [among six regional competitors] in starting pay rate, 20-year average rate, and 20-year earning potential,” according to an October report from Baker. The 20-year earning potential for Metrobus and Fairfax Connector drivers exceeds that of DASH drivers by 28-31 percent. About two-thirds of DASH drivers “work overtime to make ends meet” and about a third work a second job, according to a union survey.

“We have families we have to support,” said Didier Balagizi, a DASH driver and immigrant from Congo. He thinks DASH's priority should be to take care of its “family” first, before making heavy capital investments.

“We need to make ourselves a priority,” said Tyler Boos, another DASH driver.

In its opening bid, using its collective bargaining agreement with Metro as a model, the union proposed bringing DASH pay and benefits in line with Metrobus. That would include, among other things, raising DASH drivers' wages, shortening their climb up the pay ladder, and converting their retirement plan from defined-contribution to defined-benefit.

Neither Balagizi and Boos felt the Feb. 19 collective bargaining opener, which both attended, went very well. They both worried that negotiations could drag on too long for more than a year, after which time their federally certified vote to unionize in November would expire.

While not the tensest meeting he's been party to, Townsend said things got “pretty red hot” at moments.

Baker was more upbeat, saying: “We are very pleased to start this process and look forward to positive outcomes in our future meetings. ... It is too early in the process for any central points to become clear, however we remain fully committed to working together to establish a fair and balanced contract.”

Funding pre-union pay reforms, now nullified pending a collective bargaining agreement, “was the board's top budget priority for FY 2020,” said David Kaplan, DASH's board chair. “The [DASH] board is committed to doing all we can to ensure fair and equitable compensation for everyone who works to make DASH a vital part of our city and regional transit network.”

With no new applicants, council unanimously re-appointed all nine board members of the board.

For more, visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com) and [www.alexandriava.gov/TES](http://www.alexandriava.gov/TES).

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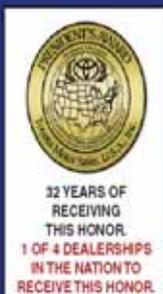
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*Jack Taylor's*  
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NON-SYNTHETIC

**\$34<sup>95</sup>**

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil\*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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**BRAKE SPECIAL**

**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only. MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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**SPECIAL OFFER**

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Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems. **INCLUDES:** Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

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Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **2/19, 3/19, or 4/19?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

**VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION**

**FREE**

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McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 39th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 3/3, 1-4

**Alexandria | \$1,775,000**

Coveted Jefferson Park stunner! 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 5,500+ SF on 4 finished levels. New master bath, high-end kitchen, 2 gas fireplaces, hardwood floors, screened porch, deck, and off-street parking on a beautifully landscaped lot. 304 Virginia Avenue  
**Melissa Shelby 703.627.0074**  
[www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com](http://www.MelissaSellsVirginia.com)



OPEN SAT 3/2 & SUN 3/3, 2-4

**Del Ray | \$1,129,000**

4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, renovated craftsman with porch, spacious living room, dining room, and gourmet kitchen. 3 bedrooms upstairs, master with en-suite. Finished basement and bedroom. Garage and large back yard. 312 E Monroe Avenue  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



OPEN SAT 3/2 & SUN 3/3, 1-4

**Fords Landing | \$1,249,000**

End unit in a courtyard setting with open concept living and dining room. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and 2-car garage. Have all of Old Town restaurants at your fingertips. Walkable lifestyle included with purchase! 723 Fords Landing Way  
**Kristen Jones 703.851.2556**  
[www.AlexandriaByKJ.com](http://www.AlexandriaByKJ.com)



OPEN SAT 3/2 & SUN 3/3, 1-4

**N. Arlington | \$1,100,000**

Charming on the outside...GORGEOUS on the inside! Exquisite kitchen with high-end appliances, quartz counters, island & breakfast bar. Spectacular master suite with high ceilings, gigantic walk-in closet & magnificent bath with heated floors! 6408 27th St. N  
**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.LisaGroover.com](http://www.LisaGroover.com)



OPEN SUN 3/3, 2-4

**Old Town | \$1,070,000**

Exceptionally bright and meticulously maintained corner townhouse in Yates Gardens. 4 bedrooms, en-suite master bath, attic storage, wood-burning fireplace, gorgeous private brick patio, hardwood floors and deeded parking for 4 cars. 202 Jefferson St.  
**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)



OPEN SUN 3/3, 2-4

**Liberty Row | \$865,000**

Sunny corner unit with designer details & upgrades. Hardwood floors, fireplace, huge kitchen, renovated master bath & powder, 2 master suites. French door to treetop terrace overlooking Gables Old Town. 2 parking spaces. 635 First Street #203  
**Susan Taylor 703.927.3000**  
[www.CallSusanTaylor.com](http://www.CallSusanTaylor.com)



**Pitt Mews  
 \$1,299,000**

Spacious 4-level, 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse in the heart of Old Town with private parking at the front doorstep and a private hardscaped and landscaped back patio. Beautifully renovated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors throughout, 2 wood burning fireplaces and bright, inviting rooms.

**Charlene Schaper 703.217.3666**  
[www.cschaper.com](http://www.cschaper.com)

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