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Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MARCH 21, 2019



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Police Officer Sean Gallagher and Alexandria Sheriff's Office Master Deputy Jeffrey Hunter, center, with Police Chief Michael Brown and Undersheriff Tim Gleeson following the presentation of the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards March 13 at the American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.

To Protect and Serve

Gallagher, Hunter named Law Enforcement Officers of the Year.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Police Officer Sean Gallagher and Alexandria Sheriff's Office Master Deputy Jeffrey Hunter were honored as the 2018 Law Enforcement Officers of

the Year March 13 by the American Legion Post 24 in Old Town. The public safety veterans were recognized for their service to the community as part of the American Legion's Homeland Security Support Program.

"These two outstanding public safety professionals represent very well the dedicated men and women serving within our city's law enforcement agencies," said Post 24 Commander Doug Gurka. "I cannot thank them enough for what they do to keep our city safe and secure and I appreciate the opportunity to honor and recognize two of law

SEE TO PROTECT, PAGE 20



American Legion Post 24 Commander Doug Gurka, left, with ASO Master Deputy Jeffrey Hunter and his wife Jacqueline at the March 13 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awards presentation.



APD Officer Sean Gallagher is congratulated on being named Law Enforcement Officer of the Year March 13 at the American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.

'Better Use For Right Now?'

Schools to investigate old Patrick Henry building as "swing space."

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

The public school division will consider accelerating the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School rebuild by utilizing the old Patrick Henry building as a temporary interim "swing space" for students.

The old Patrick Henry School became available after its replacement opened in January. The division had planned to tear the old building down to make room for parking and athletic fields. But

with \$4-5 million of retrofitting, the administration reckons the old building could become a swing space relatively quickly. This would allow advancing the reconstruction of Douglas MacArthur, currently not scheduled for completion until FY 2025.

This could save taxpayers "up to \$60 million," which then "could be reinvested in other school projects sooner and help mitigate rising costs," according to the division administration. Some savings would come from taking ail

SEE USE OLD, PAGE 20

'Broken Systems?'

Council, School Board meeting reviews budget process challenges.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City Council and School Board's only meeting together during the budget season, held March 6, addressed overarching process questions, though little in the way of specific planned spending.

The elected officials spent most of their time together discussing the schools' planned privatization of custodians, which would shave about \$1 million off the schools' budget.

Dr. Gregory Hutchings, the schools superintendent, wants to outsource about 30 custodial jobs to a private contractor. He says the plan means to improve cleanli

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 20

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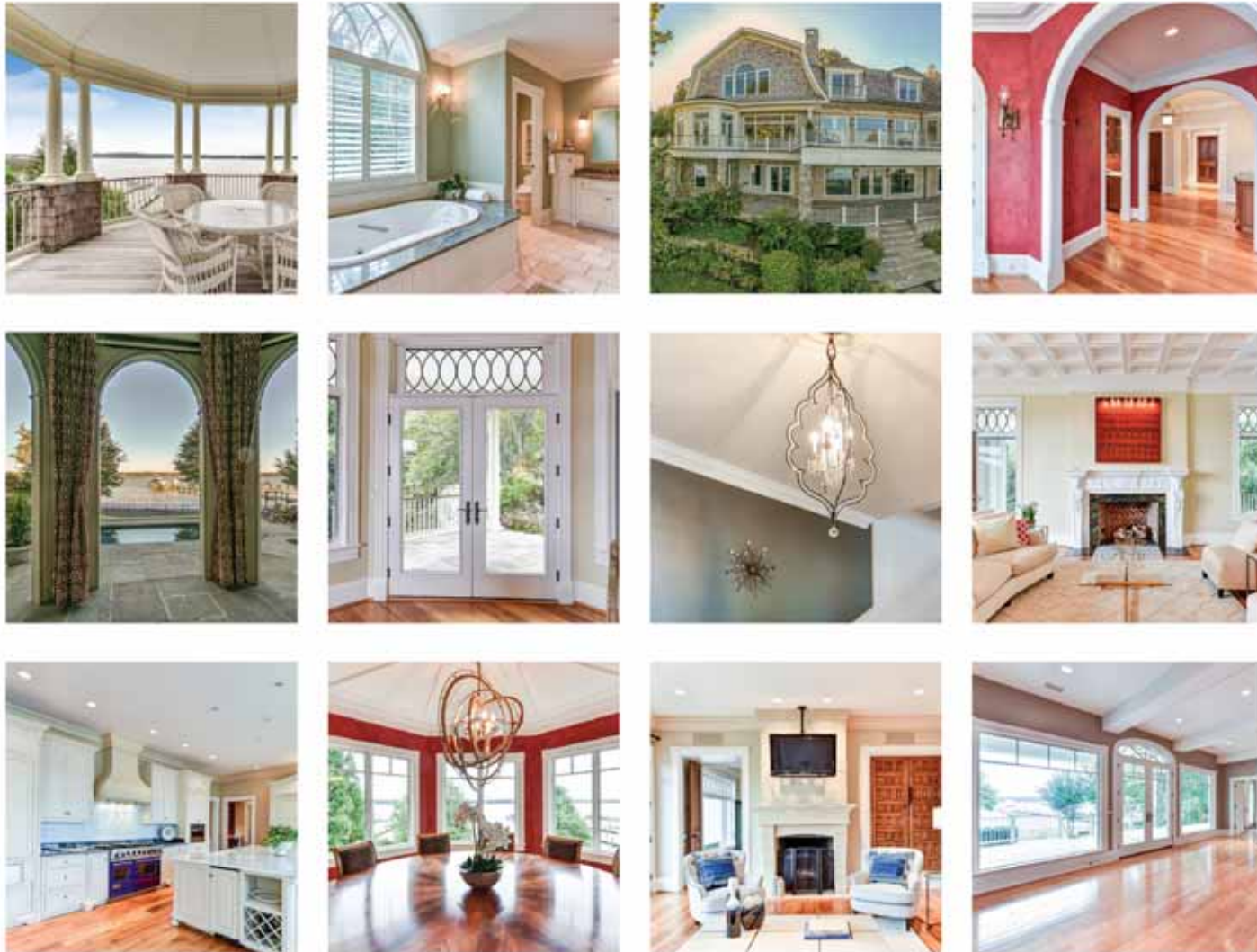
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Celebrating Service to Seniors

Gala honors Walker, Campbell, Beyer and Kirby.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Senior Services of Alexandria Gala drew a sellout crowd March 16 to celebrate 51 years of the organization's service to the community and to honor four of Alexandria's most dedicated volunteers.

Held at the Westin Alexandria, more than 350 people turned out to honor the community service of McEneaney Associates Realtor Jen Walker, retired Department of Treasury director and past SSA board chair Lynnwood Campbell, and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and his daughter Stephanie Beyer Kirby, vice president of the Beyer Automotive Group.

"The response to SSA's Gala this year was really fantastic," said executive director Mary Lee Anderson. "This is the only time we have closed out ticket sales due to overwhelming demand since our first Gala in 2007."

The evening, sponsored by McEneaney Associates, celebrated the decades of service provided by SSA to Alexandria seniors and recognized the continued dedication of Walker, Campbell, Beyer and Kirby to giving back to the community.

"My grandfather died before I was born but I learned growing up that his philosophy was 'are you going to look back on a lifetime of accumulations or a lifetime of contributions?'" Beyer said. "I have tried to follow that example and am proud to see my daughter do the same."

Walker added, "There is nothing greater



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Services of Alexandria executive director Mary Lee Anderson, left, and board chair Jack Fannon, right, are joined onstage by honorees Jen Walker, Lynnwood Campbell, Stephanie Beyer Kirby and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) at the Senior Services of Alexandria Gala March 16 at the Westin Alexandria.

than being able to help someone who doesn't have the means to do for themselves." Campbell, a lifelong resident of Alexandria and Army veteran, has served on and chaired numerous boards in service to his hometown. "We all struggle at some point with our own mortality," Campbell said. "Our immortality lies in our community and what we leave behind."

Entertainment was provided by Bruthers Plus One as attendees and honorees took to the dance floor to enjoy the success of the evening.

"Alexandria is such a special community and it was terrific to see how many people came out to celebrate the tremendous work of the honorees," added Anderson. "They have each helped make Alexandria a caring community for everyone who is lucky enough to live here."

See www.seniorservicesalex.org.



Dave Hawkins of presenting sponsor McEneaney Associates, right, draws a winning raffle ticket as SSA board chair Jack Fannon and executive director Mary Lee Anderson look on March 16 at the Westin Alexandria.

Meet the Legends 2019 Living Legends of Alexandria honored.

More than 300 attendees turned out as the Living Legends of Alexandria organization honored its newest members at the 12th annual Meet the Legends reception March 14 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The class of 2019 Legends includes Ronal Butler, Brooke Sydnor Curran, James Henson, Jane King, Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, Lawrence "Robbie" Robinson and Jason and Loren Yates.

The reception, sponsored by Jimi Page and Page Global, Inc., featured entertainment by members of the George Washington Middle School orchestra and catering by "Mango" Mike Anderson's Home Grown Restaurant Group and Alexandria Cupcake. NBC4's Julie Carey served as Master of Ceremonies.

The nonprofit organization, founded in 2007 by Nina Tisara, honors individuals who have significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria. See www.AlexandriaLegends.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2019 Living Legends of Alexandria pose for a photo prior to the start of the Meet the Legends reception March 14 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Shown in front: James Henson, Brooke Sydnor Curran, Jane King, Loren Yates, and Lawrence "Robbie" Robinson. In back: Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel, Ronal Butler, and Jason Yates.

TC Lights

Permanent contract or changeable legislation?

By DAN BRENDL
GAZETTE PACKET

A Circuit Court judge is currently considering four lawsuits against the city government and School Board regarding their recent approval of lights at the T.C. Williams High School stadium.

The first case asks whether an alleged promise to residents in the 1960s never to install lights is binding and enforceable today. The residents who are suing think it is and want a jury to consider their case. The city and schools don't and want the case dismissed.

In their formal complaint to the court, the residents' attorneys recount how the T.C. Williams campus came to be in 1965 on land that had historically belonged to African-American families. They say the residents and government at the time negotiated a deal: the school division got part of the land for the high school; displaced residents got first right to purchase homes in a carved-out new subdivision adjacent to the school; and, "because the school would be built on a lot size significantly smaller than that required by state law, and because of the school's close proximity to the new homes, Alexandria agreed that it would not install any permanent lighting on athletic fields, including the stadium."

In the plaintiffs' view, this agreement constitutes a binding contract, which the city and schools breached last fall in approving a stadium upgrade, including light poles as tall as 80 feet.

Over the years, "two Alexandria mayors, two Alexandria Superintendents, the Alexandria City Manager, the Department of Planning and Zoning, and the Alexandria Director of Parks and Recreation have affirmed in writing and at public hearings that this agreement exists," according to their complaint.

For example, they cite a 2004 city staff recommendation to City Council about a related Development Special Use Permit: "The schools have agreed that there will be no permanent lighting installed at the stadium behind the schools, or on any of the athletic fields on the site, and a condition is included in the staff's recommendation reflecting that agreement."

The city and schools see things differently. First, the residents' complaint "fails to allege facts from which the

SEE TC LIGHTS, PAGE 22

Local Clergy Pushes Back

Worldwide Methodist discord felt locally.

By Dan Brendel
Gazette Packet

Some Alexandria United Methodist congregations are doubling down on a tolerant stance toward gay marriage and clergy ordination, following the global denomination's vote last month to bolster traditionalist policies.

The United Methodist Church, a Protestant Christian denomination with roots in 18th century England and America, now claims nearly 13 million adherents worldwide. Methodists have faced, and sometimes divided over, contentious questions — for example, on church governance, slavery, ordaining women. Now questions of sexuality rock the denomination, causing talk of schism.

The 2019 General Conference, a legislative body of global delegates that speaks officially for the denomination, met in late February and voted 438-384 to adopt the "Traditional Plan." The policy "retains [pre-existing] restrictions against 'self-avowed practicing homosexual' clergy and officiating at or hosting same-sex marriage ceremonies and requires stricter enforcement for violations of church law," according to the denomination. "The delegates also ap-

proved an exit plan for churches that want to leave the denomination with their property."

The Rev. Thomas James of Alexandria's Washington Street United Methodist Church says his congregation strives that "all persons, regardless of sexual or gender identity, are welcome to engage, share, participate, and lead in the life of the church." But Alexandria's United Methodist congregations "have members and participants who both lament and support the passage of this plan."

Other local pastors indicated less variety in local views.


The Rev. Tom Berlin, who led eastern Virginia's delegation, to which Alexandria belongs, supported the alternative "One Church Plan." So did about two-thirds of the United Methodist Church's American bishops, he said. This plan would have delegated questions of same-sex marriage and ordination to lower conferences overseen by regional bishops, or to local churches and clergy.

Berlin says many of his congregants identifying as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning), or with family identifying that way, feel the

SEE LOCAL CLERGY, PAGE 7

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The Hidden History of Del Ray

Uncovering the secret past in the Town of Potomac.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
AGENDA ALEXANDRIA

Recents years have seen Del Ray emerge into the political and cultural center of Alexandria. The “little neighborhood that could,” as some are fond of calling it, is home to the mayor and the sheriff. Its voting precincts turn elections, and the Mount Vernon Avenue thoroughfare is home to some of the city’s best know restaurants and shops.

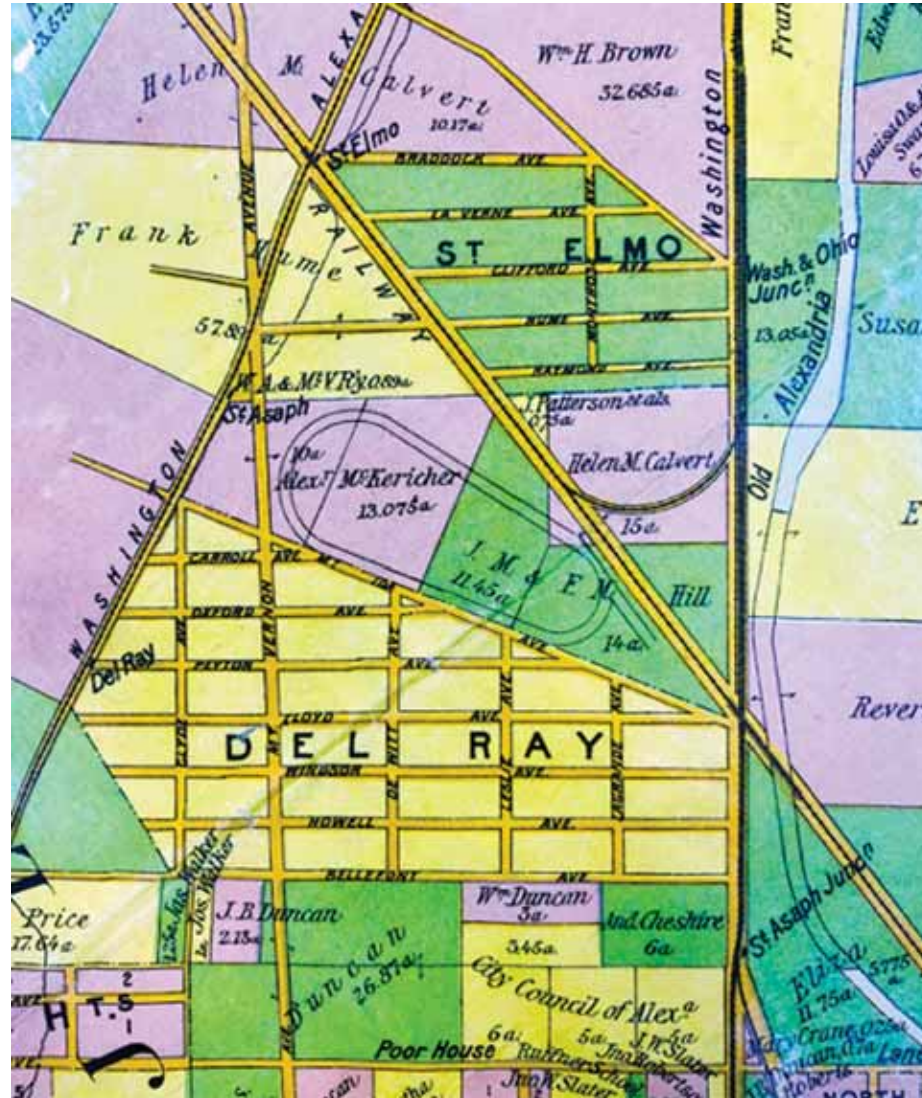
But Del Ray has a secret history.

Gambling. Corruption. Racism. Greed. These are all part of a little known narrative from the neighborhood’s long-ago past, a time when progressive leaders closed a corrupt racetrack and formed the Town of Potomac, only to see an unwanted attempt by Alexandria City Hall to steal the land in a controversial annexation. But this brand of progressivism was also racist, excluding anyone who wasn’t white from living in the newly created town.

“They apparently saw no irony in being progressive and racist,” said Del Ray historian Leland Ness during the 100 year anniversary of the town’s creation in 2008.

THE STORY STARTS in the bad old days of institutionalized corruption. Former Alexandria City Councilman George Mushback used his seat in the Virginia state Senate to introduce a bill that benefited himself personally and politically: the “Mushback Anti-Gambling Bill.” It was a win-win for Mushback, who got the political benefit from being seen as a hard-line opponent to gambling while also lining his pockets.

Unbeknownst to his colleagues in the state Senate, Mushback was also president of the Alexandria Driving Club, a racetrack that would later be known as the Gentleman’s Driving Park at the St. Asaph Junction and ultimately the St. Asaph Race-track. He didn’t let that stop him from crafting an anti-gambling bill with an ingenious loophole allowing gambling at driving clubs, giving him a secret competitive advantage over the competition.



This insurance map from 1900 shows the location of the infamous St. Asaph Racetrack in proximity to the St. Elmo neighborhood and the Del Ray neighborhood.

“As a lawyer, he was eminently successful,” gushed the Richmond Times.

Successful to a point. He certainly had opposition. There was the crusading Commonwealth’s Attorney Crandal Mackey, who was elected on the platform of closing down all the illegal gambling operations in what was then known as Alexandria County. But Mackey did not act alone. He had the help of a 28-year-old printer from Maryland who had just moved to Howell Avenue a

few years before in 1895: Joseph Edward Supplee was quoted in the Alexandria Gazette as “defying anyone to prove the race-track had brought any dollars to the community.”

“It kept away good, law-abiding citizens,” he said.

The racetrack was so popular that the railroad brought 1,800 people a day. In 1905, it employed 37 people — one for every house in Del Ray. It attracted violence

Agenda Alexandria: The Forgotten Town Of Potomac

On Monday March 24, Agenda Alexandria will host a panel discussion about the hidden history of the Town of Potomac. Panelists will include Del Ray historian Leland Ness and Alexandria historian Ted Pullium.

Where: The Salvation Army, 1804 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA 220301

When: Monday, March. 25, 2019

Time: Reception starts at 6:30 pm, program starts at 7:15 pm

Cost: \$5 at the door, optional dinner for \$32

Details: agendaalexandria.org

and destruction, desperate people who attacked farmers and schoolchildren for quick cash. Shutting it down, Supplee said, would “bring a more actual pecuniary benefit than the race tracks could ever accomplish.”

It took a while, but prolonged pressure from Mackey and Supplee eventually paid off. The racetrack closed in 1904. Three years later, Supplee presided over a meeting bringing together residents from the village of Del Ray with the village of St. Elmo — two different communities, both constructed by developer Wood, Harmon and Company, which billed itself as “a suburban real estate company.”

AT THE TIME, folks living in Del Ray and St. Elmo had no electricity, water or sewer system. They were still using outhouses and kerosene lamps. Supplee persuaded his neighbors that incorporating into a town would allow them to negotiate for street lighting and road repair. Instead of being a backwater part of the Jefferson Magisterial District of Arlington County, the argument went, they would oversee their own future and attract new residents.

The idea was a hit, and Del. James Caton and state Sen. Richard Thornton began pursuing legislation in the General Assembly. Caton eventually introduced House Bill 150, which sailed through the legislature without debate. It received final approval on March 13, 1908, and Gov. Claude Swanson signed it into law a few days later.

But the Town of Potomac was not welcoming to everyone. In fact, the town charter restricted property owners to people of the “Caucasian Race.”

“The Town of Potomac is probably the most progressive, aggressive and bustling community within the State of Virginia,” boasts a 1924 yearbook published by the Town of Potomac. “It is perhaps the only municipality in the United States in which ownership of real estate is limited to persons of the Caucasian race, and it is also the only municipality so far as known, that does not number among its residents persons of African descent.”

From 1980 to 1930, the Town of Potomac developed into a thriving if insular commu-



A 1928 photo showing the Bank of Del Ray on Mount Vernon Avenue.



In the 1926, the Town of Potomac built this combination Town Hall and fire station. It’s currently in use by the Alexandria Fire Department.

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRIA LOCAL HISTORY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Local Clergy Pushes Back

FROM PAGE 4

denomination's decision is unwelcoming. It's "a desire to reach more people with the love of Christ that motivates the [One Church] Plan," he said.

The Rev. Grace Han of Alexandria's Trinity United Methodist Church says her congregation is "open" and "inclusive," despite any contrary "perception" about the denomination.

She worries "damage control" on this issue might detract from her congregation's other "missional" pursuits.

The Rev. Deborah Porras of Beverley Hills Community United Methodist Church says hers was Virginia's first "reconciling" congregation.

"Reconciling" means we are actively fully inclusive and affirming of all, particularly related to LGBTQIA [LGBTQ, plus intersex and asexual] persons," she said.

The Rev. Mary Beth Blinn of Alexandria's Fairlington United Methodist Church says 95 percent of her congregation voted in favor of its "reconciling" stance.

"The [denominational] decision surprised me," she said.

Her congregation holds a "deep commitment to full inclusion of all people" and held a service for "hope and healing" following the General Conference.

These local views diverge from those of

the more conservative U.S. minority, joined especially by Africans, who don't necessarily see tradition and inclusivity as mutually exclusive.

While United Methodist adherence has declined in the U.S. and Europe, it's growing in Africa and Asia, according to the denomination.

"We do not support any legislation that calls for the dissolution of The United Methodist Church," said Bishop John Yambasu for the Africa College of Bishops in September.

But "we reaffirm our position as traditionalists and view marriage as union between man and woman as clearly defined in scripture."

"We Africans are not afraid of our sisters and brothers who identify as [LGBTQ]," said the Rev. Jerry Kulah, a Liberian delegate, according to the United Methodist News Service. "We love and hope the best for them. But we know of no compelling arguments for forsaking our church's understanding of scripture and the teachings of the church universal [Christianity broadly]. ... We are not children in need of Western enlightenment when it comes to our sexual ethics."

For more, visit www.umc.org/what-we-believe/ask-the-umc-what-happened-at-general-conference.

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Hidden History of Del Ray

FROM PAGE 6

nity — traces of which are still around today. There was the first high school in Arlington County, George Mason High School — now the older part of Mount Vernon Community School. Then there was the building that served as a town hall and fire station, which is currently in use by the Alexandria Fire Department. Plus there was the Palm movie theater, a building that's currently used by a yoga studio next to Taqueria Poblano.

UNFORTUNATELY for the Town of Potomac, it happened to be right next to some of the most valuable property in the region — Potomac Yard. As early as 1911, the folks at Alexandria City Hall were licking their chops over the potential tax revenues they could pull in from the largest rail yard in America. So they started making moves toward annexing it — essentially stealing Arlington County's most valuable property out from under it.

The judge of a special annexation court initially dismissed the petition in 1913, but the Supreme Court of Appeals overruled the decision and granted Alexandria part of the land it was seeking — part of the neighborhood now known as Rosemont. That did not satisfy the folks in Alexandria, who still wanted all that tax revenue associated with Potomac Yards. A few years later, in 1927, they were back at it again with yet another annexation petition. The folks leading the Arlington County government were dead set against the idea.

"It will practically destroy the smallest magisterial district in the county, taking 65 percent of its

territory, its population, its revenues," lawyers for Arlington told the court. "This in turn will throw the entire county system of government out of equilibrium."

The value of the land Alexandria wanted to take in Potomac Yards was assessed at \$1.4 million. Tax revenue from the yards was \$30,000 a year — a considerable chunk of revenue considering Arlington's total combined revenue in those days was about \$900,000. And then there were all those employees who lived near the yards in the Town of Potomac.

"This was, in fact, the prize that was being sought for so vigorously by both sides to the controversy," wrote Arlington historian C.B. Rose.

The Potomac Town Council vacillated on the issue of annexation. Initially, council members adopted a resolution in favor of being annexed by Alexandria. But public sentiment was solidly against the idea, and all the council members who approved that resolution were kicked out of office in the next election. The new town council approved a resolution opposing annexation. But the case dragged on for so long that the pendulum swung the other way, and that resolution was rescinded.

In the end, the annexation court sided with Alexandria. But not without a cost. Alexandria was forced to pay Arlington \$500,000 for public improvements to the annexed area. They were also forced to assume the debt of the Town of Potomac, which was about \$120,000. The residents of Potomac retaliated by throwing all the town records into a giant bonfire instead of handing them over to city officials.



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LETTERS

The Best Of the Best

To the Editor:

Our family would like extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to several wonderful organizations in Alexandria who came together to celebrate my grandmother's life of 104 years and 10 months.

My grandmother — Marion Roland Conrad — died on Feb. 12, 2019. She was born on March 30, 1914 at 224 N. Royal St. in Old Town Alexandria. She lived 92 of her 104 years in Alexandria, having moved to Virginia Beach at the age of 92. She remained faithful to her beloved city her entire life and to the wonderful organizations she belonged too.

She had so many stories that she loved to share with family, friends and even strangers about growing up in Old Town. She would often talk about her girlhood home at 505 S. Lee St., including as a child when her mother bricked up the underground passage in the cellar to the waterfront for smuggling, when President Wilson would visit their home for Sunday dinners, and her experiences as the first Girl Scouts in the city. She talked of experiencing life during the depression, or the many times her mother cooked for soldiers or families during World War I and World War II. She was very proud, as the Grand Regent of Court Kavanaugh #54, of being given the honor to be the first woman to lay a wreath on John F. Kennedy's gravesite in 1963.

It was very apparent during the planning of her funeral how very important she was to this city. The Alexandria Fire Department acted as honor guards during funeral services, and with lights and sirens blazing, they led the funeral procession to the cemetery, later falling behind to be the last to the burial site in Falls Church. The cemetery said they had never seen a fire truck enter their cemetery as part of a procession. Thank you Alexandria City Fire Department for being such a huge part of my grandmother's life for all these years, from the 20 years as Assistant to the Fire Marshal and later as a member of the Retired Fire & Police Association.

We are very grateful to the Basilica of St. Mary's



Marion Roland Conrad with former Mayor Allison Silberberg.

who worked with my family to have her funeral services at this beautiful church she loved and grew up in. The women of Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Kavanaugh #54 — you are a special group of woman and our family was so moved to have so many of you participate in her services. Following the gravesite services, our family was truly honored to be part of the Daughters of the Confederacy graveside ritual presented by the Mary Custis Lee 17th VA Regiment Chapter 7.

In the end, the support of her dear friends stayed with her not only during the happy times, but during illnesses and at death and now during her new journey. This is part of what makes the City of Alexandria the best of the best.

Therese DeSanto
Virginia Beach
Formerly of Alexandria

School Projects Out of Control

To the Editor:

Citizens, the City Council has approved a budget of \$761.1 million to manage our city's financial needs for fiscal 2020. The School Board will receive \$311 million — a 41 percent share of this budget in order to manage our school system. Under the existing charter the school board can spend this money in any way it chooses — with absolutely no supervision and no accountability. In fact, City Manager Mark B. Jinks has stated that it is "illegal" to change the allocation of funds, as the School Board has the right to allocate the funds in any manner it sees fit — a rather scary scenario. The point of this letter is to show how intimidating and restrictive this charter is, as it has no checks and balances and to demonstrate how poorly the School Board has been in managing these funds.

The School Board's past projects reveal a grim reality that many public projects in Alexandria are nowhere near their proposed budget amount. Concerning the school projects T.C. Williams High school — budgeted at \$90 million was finalized at \$125 million — 38 percent over budget — the Charles Houston Rec Center renovation initially budgeted at \$4 million — the final price was \$15 million when the center reopened — a 375 percent increase over budget. Jefferson Houston, another cost overrun budgeted at \$36 million, the final cost was \$44 million — a 23 percent miss. Finally, our new Patrick Henry School budgeted at \$38 million for the school and \$6 million for the recreation center — a total of \$44 million budgeted — is now a \$62.8 million school — 30 percent over budget — \$52 million for the school and \$10.8 million for the recreation center.

We have eight other schools to renovate and rebuild. This budget-busting modus operandi needs to be fixed. The reality is that the School Board, City Council and Mr. Jinks have no idea how to bring a project under budget. We do not need a Taj Mahal — just a school brick and block — no exquisite finishes. If the city and School Board are so inept that they cannot provide a school under budget — look to a public private partnership — give them a dollar number and they will meet it. Years of deferred capital improvements and increases in school enrollment as well as a mismanagement of funds has left the city in a desperate situation. It is absolutely beyond belief that the City of Alexandria can

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY HAL HARDWAY

In the Water, in March
Denizens of Founders Park

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
not land a school project on budget and on time.

Bill Goff
Alexandria

Apply Proven Solutions

To the Editor:

Traffic violence claimed more lives in Alexandria than gun violence in 2018, and reached an all-time high of five people killed last year, and hundreds more injured. Five lives may have been saved and hundreds of tragic injuries avoided by simply improving the poor design of Alexandria streets.

However, recent letters have suggested that we risk our mobility, if we prioritize safety. Those assertions are false and create fear and reluctance to change the status quo. We can have both, safety and mobility. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has already identified street types that are dangerous by design and provided transportation officials with design measures that improve safety without undue impact on mobility. Seminary Road, east of N. Howard Street, is exactly the type of street that can and should be redesigned.

Alternatives being considered propose that eastbound Seminary Road be reduced to a single lane east of N. Howard Street. Some people fear this will create congestion. But this fear is wrong since eastbound Seminary Road is already reduced to a single lane west of N. Howard, between N. Jordan Street and N. Howard Street. The merge to one lane already occurs today; continuing a one lane design further east will not cause more congestion. On the other hand, continuing a one-lane design further east enables safety features such as center turn lanes and pedestrian refuge medians.

We can point to the recent rede-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A pedestrian refuge median.

sign of King Street between Janneys Lane and Radford Street as an example of designing to improve safety without measurable traffic diversion or undue additional delays. There was an annual average of seven crashes during the 10 years prior to this project; since the redesign in 2016, very few traffic crashes have occurred.

Both safety and mobility can be achieved. It is a question of balance, based on fact-based analysis. FHWA guidelines and fact-based decision-making suggest that proven solutions can improve safety without undue impact on our mobility.

James Durham
Alexandria

Manage Growth

To the Editor:

Without some creative solutions, Alexandria is destined to be evermore congested and costly. And, based on the manner in which our new City Council addressed the proposed city budget, it doesn't appear any solutions will emanate from them either.

Case in point: when confronted recently with whether to increase property taxes, they had a polite discussion about their historic pro-

clivity to spend. True to form, soon after stating the obvious, they agreed to give themselves the authority to raise property taxes. Although the new vice mayor dissented, not a single council member mentioned spending less

Nor has any council member — whether running for office or since being elected — made the connection between ever-increasing property taxes, affordable housing, traffic congestion and school crowding. Affordable housing is probably the single most intense heart-tugging concern that everyone residing in Alexandria can quickly understand.

But few seem to appreciate that our pro-development mayor and our single political-party council are causing this problem and its related ones: traffic congestion, evermore taxes and school crowding.

Think about it for a minute: Luring more people into the finite amount of space that constitutes Alexandria which contains a fixed number of roads and classroom capacity for a set number of students is a recipe for human and vehicular congestion.

And, as we have already observed, these demands perforce trigger increased taxes to pay for more city services and classrooms the cost for which never decreases.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15



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Explaining Death to Children

Breaking down a difficult topic and helping children grieve.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Rosalie Ward, recalls a hot and sticky summer evening in 1975. She was watching reruns of the television show “Bewitched” with her twin sister in the living room while her mother cooked dinner in the kitchen. Ward remembers hearing the ring of the family’s rotary telephone. The next sound she heard was a shriek and then violent sobs from her mother.

“My mom had gotten a call that her brother, my uncle, had been killed in a car crash,” remembers Ward. “I was six at the time, but most of my memories of that evening are of my mother crying uncontrollably for the hour or so until my dad came home from work. The two of them disappeared behind closed doors. I just remember being terrified and feeling alone.”

Whether prolonged or sudden, unforeseen or expected, experiencing the death of a loved one is never easy. While grief can weigh heavy on adults, it can overwhelm and confuse young children. And although death is an inevitable part of life, finding the words to discuss or explain it to young children can challenge many parents.

“Whether you’re talking about a family pet or a grandparent, it’s important that parents or caregivers understand that children grieve too and that death has to be discussed,” said Ward, who is a family therapist in Reston.

One of the most significant mistakes a parent or caregiver can make is not being honest with a child about death, said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. “My biggest worry is when people hide the fact that a loved one died by saying that they went on a trip, and then the child sees the adult crying or being sad,” she said. “That doesn’t give the child a chance to process it, but by including them in a developmentally appropriate way, we are teaching that we can feel big feelings, and with the support of friends and family, we can still thrive.”

Helping a child to understand they didn’t cause the death could be an important part of the conversation, suggests Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, a therapist in Bethesda. “Children often see the world as revolving around them,” she said. “Reassure them that their loved one dying was not their fault and that the death didn’t happen because they had a mean thought, misbehaved, or didn’t visit enough.”

“Death often brings anxiety in children and they wonder if they will die too,” added Barnaby. “Explaining that although the loved one has just died, death is not contagious and that the child will likely live a very long life.”

Clear, concise word usage is also important because young children might not have the language skills to discuss their feelings and emotions, adds Lorente. “Let the child engage in talking about fond memories of the deceased using pictures, making favorite recipes, or visiting a favorite place,” she said.

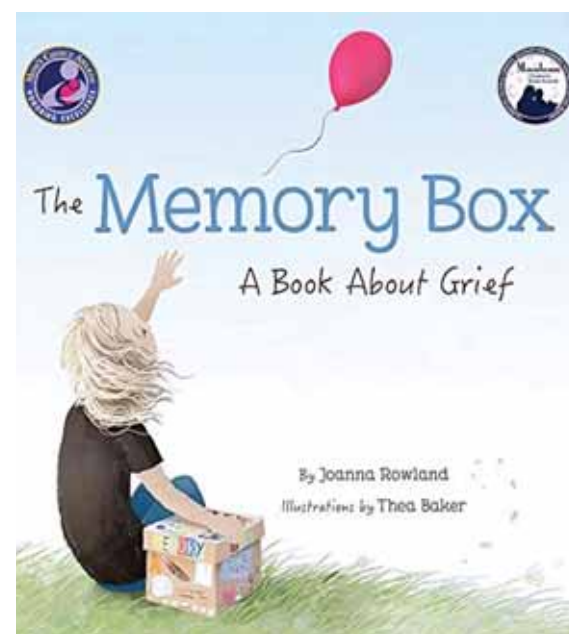
“Death often brings anxiety in children and they wonder if they will die too.”

— Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

“The Invisible String” by Patrice Karst is a book that could help parents explain death to their children.



Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C suggests “The Memory Box” by Joanna Rowland as a tool to help children understand the concept of dying.

Use concrete and authentic terms when discussing it, continued Barnaby. “Avoid euphemisms like ‘Grandma is resting’ or ‘has gone away,’” she said. “These sayings confuse children and may cause them anxiety over [the notion] that they could die if they fall asleep; or that other loved ones may not come back.” Use clear language like ‘Grandma has died.’”

Young children often believe death is reversible, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University. “You could describe how a body stops working and the person who died isn’t coming back.”

Be open to having an honest conversation about it, continued Short.

“Encourage children to ask questions and tell them you will help them handle any bad feelings or problems that happen,” he said.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

The resulting ever-increasing tax burden makes everything more expensive, including rents which makes housing less affordable. What to do?

If attracting more and more residents and their vehicles are the causing traffic congestion, demand for costly city services, the affordable housing crisis and the annual tax increases, then these diminishing quality of life consequences can be ameliorated by thoughtfully restraining the number of full time residents.

Zoning restraints, including restricting building heights, strikes me as the simplest and fastest way our city can avoid becoming ever more costly and congested. If there are no restrictions in place when the Amazonians invade, then you can also say goodbye to a hefty chunk of Alexandria's remaining charm and ambiance.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Faustian Bargain?

To the Editor:

There are several SUPs for new restaurants and a general paid street parking motion coming to Old Town. This is a trend that indicates a strong reversal of the policies and intent of the 1992 Old Town Small Area Plan, which attempts to balance the

competing interests of residents, retail and restaurants.

This raises concerns about the assumption that paid street parking (with free residential parking) solves the parking problem for Old Town. This is actually to the contrary, since restaurants will be given a free pass to proliferate at will, to the detriment of all other retail, especially independent retailers. Bribing the residents with free parking will just encourage them to get more cars, and to tie up more spaces. In the long run, the Old Town scene will be just residents and all the restaurants/bars, while every other group is effectively squeezed out and the problem is even worse, but at the cost of everyone else, especially independent retail and visitors who came for the historic ambiance.

Many who see Alexandria Old Town assume that it was always this beautiful, historic town. Actually, this is not the case. As a matter of fact, it was once so run down and dilapidated that in 1960, Alexandria planned to demolish 24 city blocks. Fortunately, wiser heads prevailed and instead, the city preserved and restored what was left of the historic heritage. The growing importance of tourism helped to spur this along, since the tourists came to enjoy the historic ambiance and charm. This symbiotic relationship was not only recognized by the city who spent a lot of money to support it, but was also validated by visitor studies indicating that the prime reason for visiting Alexandria was to enjoy the historic

ambiance. In 1992 the City of Alexandria undertook and adopted the Master Plan that is predicate for all development; it was designed to provide tourist access to historic areas of the city in order to "enhance the historic areas." As such, this original document (which is often cited) carried the spirit and ideals of the movement that helped form the Old Town Alexandria that is known the world over for its history and charm.

With the issuance of this Master Plan, there was also a recognition of the need for a strategy to accommodate the subsequent changes. The solution had two parts; the first part being the creation of a balance between the needs of residences, retail businesses, and restaurants, to ensure a truly mixed use community. (This had already been adopted on the waterfront area in 1982, where in order to minimize the number of cars, the plan could only be developed if the developers put in mixed uses in a significant way). The second part was an outright ban on any future restaurants due to concerns about over proliferation of restaurants. This ban was later seen to be a bit drastic, so it was changed to require that the City Council must attest that there are no parking problems in Old Town before approving new Special Use Permits for new or expanding restaurants.

The 2012 Waterfront Plan eliminated the mixed use criteria, which shifted the precarious balance. Instead of dealing with the proliferation of restaurants and expansion of restaurant seatings, the city has chosen

to gloss over the parking problem based on the recommendations of a flawed parking study that were incorporated in the 2012 Waterfront Plan. While the policy in 1992 was to ensure a precarious balance and control over restaurant proliferation it is today turning away from it by giving the restaurants access to street parking and charging for it instead of limiting the SUPs. The resident buy-in has been encouraged by allowing them to park for free. And the precarious balance goes to the wind. While the original intent of the Old Town effort was historic ambiance, it now seems to be focused on the desire for restaurants to open.

We are already seeing the effects of this imbalance, since there are weakened retail sales on King Street, and a lowered civic interest in historic preservation, as those who might be interested in it cannot see it. There are numerous examples of significant historic buildings being compromised, which would have been unheard of in 1992. The waterfront development is significantly altering the entire idea and spirit of the Historic District. In 1999, citizens from across Alexandria filled the City Council Chambers for eight months in a row concerning developments that would impact the historic character of Old Town. Today there is no such fervor, and the chambers are mostly silent.

Poul Hertel
And **Connie Graham**
Alexandria

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“Beep Beep” at Arts on the Horizon. Through March 23, 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 or at the door.

Beginner Square Dance Lessons. Through March 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Keep up with New Year’s resolutions and enjoy both mental and physical exercise with Square Dance Lessons. \$30 for each four-week session. Open to couples, singles and groups. Email boomerangs@wascaclubs.com or call 571-210-5480.

“Daddy Long Legs.” Through March 30, at the Ainslie Arts Center, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. The play tells the story of Jerusha Abbott, her mysterious young benefactor and the affection that grows between them by way of handwritten letters. John Caird’s Drama Desk Award-winning book for this stage musical combines the love story derived from the 1912 novel by Jean Webster with contemporary music and lyrics by Paul Gordon. Monumental Theatre Company will be partnering with the English Department at Episcopal High School in Alexandria to give students a “behind-the-scenes” look at “Daddy Long Legs.” Tickets can be purchased online at www.monumentaltheatre.org/daddy-long-legs.html.

Art Exhibition: High School Students. Through March 30, at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fourth year. This year’s experience features more than 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent. Returning for 2019’s collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit ourconvergence.org.

Art Exhibit: For The Artist. Through March 31, 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/exhibits.

Still Life Alive. Through April 2, 9-5 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Patricia Uchello One Woman Art Show, featuring 100 original oil paintings of flowers, fruit, landscapes and seascapes. Uchello’s work has been collected by IBM, the International Monetary Fund and more. Email pmuchello@aol.com or visit



Emi DeLia



Durham County Poets

www.patriciauchello.com.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 19-24

Spring Book Sale. At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will hold their Spring Book Sale. Members’ preview on Tuesday, March 19, 4 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door); Wednesday, March 20, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Thursday, March 21, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Friday, March 22, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 24, 1-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children’s books and media items. All genres. Discount Day on Sunday, March 24. Call 703-746-1702; or visit www.beatleyfriends.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Scandinavian Hardangersom - As Soothing as an Old Folk Song. 4 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Hardangersom (or Hardangersaum), is Norwegian for ‘embroidery from Hardanger’, and refers to the style of needlework that many of us know as Hardanger embroidery. Lucy Lyons Willis is a needlework designer/teacher specializing in Hardangersom. She will share her secrets to making the perfect pieces, answer questions, and

even provide small kits to get participant started. RSVP required, free w/show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. **Confluence: Two Rivers One City.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Phil Hutinet, guest speaker and publisher, will highlight some prominent visual artists from the anthology and why their contributions are significant to the DMV art community and contemporary art today. Audience members will have the opportunity to participate in Q&A. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

Get Ready for Spring. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Spring garden maintenance in Northern Virginia begins in winter and is a terrific way to shake the winter blahs. It’s time to prune, transplant, fertilize, mulch and prevent weeds. Extension Master Gardeners give tips for selecting plants and starting seedlings. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code B58.6FDE or call 703-642-5173.

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chinquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring Mount Vernon Community School. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools

Durham County Poets plus Emi DeLia

The Durham County Poets are a lively and soulful group, who write and perform an eclectic blend of blues, folk and rock, with tinges of country, gospel and swing tossed in for good measure. With an almost 4 octave vocal range and electronic pedals on her harp, Emi DeLia creates a unique sound that blends pop, soul, R&B, jazz, blues, and world music. Sunday, March 31, 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for FocusMusic members; \$20 at the door.

experiences through reading. Everyone is invited to read the featured title, It’s All Relative: Adventures Up and Down the World’s Family Tree by A.J. Jacobs. Beginning Saturday, March 23 and throughout the months of April and May, events and discussions related to the themes of It’s All Relative will be happening at various branches. Visit alexlibraryva.org/aar.

The Mixed Border. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Join horticulturalist Karen Rexrode in a discussion on creating beautiful mixed shrub and perennial borders. Learn techniques that designers use to make glorious plant combinations and ideas for keeping them maintained and interesting through the seasons. \$18/person. Code Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code F45.0C7C or call 703-642-5173.

Civil War Women’s Day. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. In recognition of Women’s History Month, civilian reenactors will interpret the clothing, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War period. On-going displays and activities feature soldiers aid societies and relief efforts; women’s roles on the home front, in camp and on the battlefield; and women in the workforce. Children can make a lady’s fan or a patriotic ribbon cockade. Call 703-746-4848.

Made in Virginia Goodies. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Sampling of made in Virginia products, featuring: Gunther’s Gourmet Salsa tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

19 – The Musical. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) 19 is a musical about women winning the right to vote – the 19th amendment. Celebrate Women’s History Month with the dramatic story of suffragist Alice Paul and her fellow crusaders. The cast of the Alexandria-based theater company Through the 4th Wall brings her stirring story to life through modern song, spoken word, and dance. \$45 (program + tea); \$18 (program only). Programs are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner. 6-8 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a traditional St Patrick’s Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner in the Parish Hall Common Room at Historic Pohick Church. This is a fund-raising event to support the many Christian outreach programs sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men’s Group of Pohick Episcopal Church. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$40 for a family, and children 12 and under are free. Call 703-339-6572 or www.pohick.org.

Discover Romance in the Meadows. 7 p.m. at 3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria. Love is in the air – and on the ground – at Huntley Meadows Park as male woodcocks perform their amazing courtship dance. Try to spot these feathered romantics on an “Evening Woodcock Walk.” Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his elaborate courtship dance and flight. Prime courtship time is early evening, so bring a flashlight along. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Ides of Bark. 1-4 p.m. At Grist Mill

ENTERTAINMENT

Bagel Uprising Rises Again With New Del Ray Location

BY HOPE NELSON

The word started leaking out late last year: Bagel Uprising, the cult classic carbohydrate purveyor, was zeroing in on a new, permanent location. Finally, early last month owner Chad Breckinridge offered up some specifics: The shop would be moving into the recently vacated Happy Tart location at 2307A Mount Vernon Ave. in Del Ray.

"I'm very excited to see my bagel people again. It's been too long," Breckinridge said. "I truly look forward to saying hello to the bagel-eaters."

Bagel Uprising's most recent outpost was in the former SnackBar on Mount Vernon Avenue. Once SnackBar closed and was replaced with Catch on the Ave., Breckinridge started looking at other sites. And along the way, he teamed up with another well-known Del Ray businessperson – Nicole Jones, owner of Stomping Ground.

"She knows what she's doing, which is a great improvement over how I've been operating myself," he laughed.

Breckinridge and Jones met in January 2017, when Bagel Uprising and pickle purveyor No. 1 Sons hosted a pop-up shop inside the Dairy Godmother space just down the street from Stomping Ground. Once SnackBar closed, the two reconnected and it quickly became clear that they had the same vision and ideas, Breckinridge said.

When Happy Tart closed its Del Ray doors earlier this year, Jones and Breckinridge pounced. The new space will be adjacent to Stomping Ground, making the business partners neighbors, as well – and allowing for some possible overlap between the spaces in the future.

Location aside, it's the bagels themselves that have

kept customers coming back – and continuing to multiply via word of mouth – over the years.

"Everybody believes they have their own genuine bagel. The bagels we make are made the classic old-school way," Breckinridge said. "We make the dough in advance, we make sure that it rests in a refrigerator for at least a day before we start cooking it. We boil every one by hand."

And don't expect a passel of untraditional bagel choices. Bagel Uprising adheres to the canon of savory flavors – with an outlier here or there.

"We only have traditional flavors with one exception," Breckinridge said. Along with the plain, salt, poppy, sesame and everything, "The one exception is cinnamon – the sad truth is it tastes really good, even though it doesn't meet the test of a classic bagel."

Breckinridge and Jones are aiming for a spring-time opening of the new Bagel Uprising. The Happy Tart space will undergo a bit of a facelift, and new equipment – an oven, kettle and mixer, just to name a few – will be installed. And though the launch phase always takes longer than expected, already Breckinridge is anticipating the opening – and the rekindling of neighborhood friendships.

"What I really have enjoyed about the last few years of bageling is there's an absolute community connection to it all," Breckinridge said, highlighting his time at the Four-Mile Run Farmer's Market as a cornerstone of community. "I had a similar experience at the Dairy Godmother spot, and also at SnackBar."

As a Del Ray resident himself, "I really enjoy the feeling of being part of the community in a deeper way," he said.

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

CALENDAR

Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. This family and pet friendly Dog Festival features an agility course, Police K-9 Unit demonstrations, dog park play time and a vendor area. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ides-bark-dog-festival.

Floral Design Workshop: Spring Flower Basket. 2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Making flower arrangements in handle baskets can be challenging. Floral designer Chuck Mason helps participants expand their skill set by showing how to design an arrangement in and around the basket handle for a beautiful spring floral piece. Later, reuse the basket to practice. Register for program and \$30 supply fee. Program cost is \$39/person. To register, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers and use code E14.F107 or call 703-642-5173.

Introduction to Palestinian Embroidery. 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Wafa Ghnaim, author of *Tatreez & Tea: Embroidery and Storytelling in the Palestinian Diaspora*, will teach participants how to embroider traditional Palestinian motifs. Palestinian tatreez embroidery is a centuries-old folk art, traditionally passed from mother to daughter over a cup of tea. Students will learn traditional embroidery techniques used by Palestinian



Pianist Cecilia Cho will be joined by Eclipse musicians Eric deWaardt (viola) and Paul Cigan (clarinet).

women for centuries. All supplies are included. Ticket required, includes show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. **Chamber Musical Celebration.** 7:30-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Join musicians from the orchestra at the historic Alexandria Lyceum as they celebrate 25 years of beautiful music. The program will include small ensembles performing selection by Mozart, Handel, Debussy, Poulenc, and more. Free, but donations are encouraged. Call 703-569-0973 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/a-chamber-music-celebration-tickets-58384474535.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra

Cecilia Cho, piano; Paul Cigan, clarinet; and Eric deWaardt, viola; will perform Schumann: Fairy Tales; Bruch: Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano; and Mozart: "Kegelstatt" Trio. Sunday, March 31, 3-5 p.m. at Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. \$25 suggested donation, students and children free. Email contact@eclipseco.org or visit www.eclipseco.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 25

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. \$125 for 11 sessions. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakers/ using code 6E6.6440 or call 703-642-5173.

Civic Activism - Women Leading the Way. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. program at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Focused on

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ENTERTAINMENT

women's leadership, the event will feature keynote speaker Del. Eileen Filler-Corn and a panel of elected officials and community leaders. Learn more about the Commission for Women and see their 2018 Report of the Status of Women in Alexandria. Tickets: \$45 advance sales/\$50 at the door. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

Del Ray: The Forgotten Town of Potomac. 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with \$35 membership, payable on-line at www.AgendaAlexandria.org/sign-up page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit www.Agenda:Alexandria.com.

MARCH 25-MAY 5

Photography Exhibit: "Ranch Life." Daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Sandy LeBrun-Evans visited Eaton's Ranch in Wyoming last year and was enamored with the lifestyle and how easy it was to forget the troubles of the world and to get lost in the past. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

English Precious Metal Embroidery – "The Gold Standard." 4 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Join award-winning precious-metal embroiderer, instructor at the Smithsonian Associates and the Folger, Deborah Merrick-Wilson, for a dynamic talk on the history and influence of this embroidery discipline on the politics and global economic system of medieval through Elizabethan England. The talk will include display examples and a mini-demonstration of several techniques. RSVP required, free w/show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Lecture-Alexandria Historical Society. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Thinking Big: Lessons from the Washington Metro – put Metro frustrations in context as Zachary M. Schrag, history professor from George Mason University, shares insights into the history and future of the Washington Metro system. Free-members of AHS, \$5 non members.



PHOTO BY CINDY GRISDELA



PHOTO BY BONNIE MCCAFFERY

The March "On the Edge" exhibit at Fiberworks Studio 14 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center features the work of award-winning fiber artist Cindy Grisdela.

'On the Edge'

The March exhibit, "On the Edge," at Fiberworks Studio 14 features the work of Cindy Grisdela, an award-winning fiber artist, through April 1. Aquarius and Kaleidoscope, the two large scale art quilts in the March exhibit, are part of a series Grisdela has been working on over the last year that focuses on curves. Meet the artist Sunday, March 31, noon-4 p.m. at Fiberworks (Studio 14) at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit cindygrisdela.com for more.

Cindy Grisdela

Email franwbromberg@gmail.com or visit alexandriahistorical.org/events.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Reception: "The New Woman." 6-8 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. The Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden will host an opening reception celebrating the opening of its newest exhibit, "The New Woman: Life in Progressive Era Alexandria, 1890-1920." The reception is free and open to the public, but those planning to attend are requested to make reservations in advance through the museum's website at www.leefendallhouse.org.

Archaeology After Dark: "Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery." 6:30 p.m. at The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Char McCargo Bah presents her new book, Alexandria's Freedmen's Cemetery: A

Legacy of Freedom and recounts the stories of men and women who poured into Alexandria to obtain protection at the beginning of the Civil War, as well as the search for their descendants. Retired City Archaeologist, Fran Bromberg, will complement the discussion by highlighting the archaeological investigations at the cemetery. A book signing will follow. \$12/person; \$10 FOAA/OHA members. Visit www.foaa.info/events.

Film Screening: "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story." 7-10 p.m. Historic Christ Church will be hosting a screening of "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story," a documentary produced by Journey Films, an Alexandria-based film production company. \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.facebook.com/events/573821233085652/.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 28-30

Used Book & Art Sale. Thursday, 1-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Three-day used book and art sale fills two buildings at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Gently used art, children's books, record albums, rare/old books and individually priced books in the church building. Books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs in the Old Mansion. Priced at \$2 for hard backs, \$1 for large paperbacks, and 50 cents for small paperbacks. Puzzles, CDs, and DVDs are \$1 each. Saturday is half price in the Church and \$5 a bag in the Mansion. Proceeds support church activities. Visit www.mvuc.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

The March150 Art Party. 7-10 p.m.

at The Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory. The March150 Art Party, presented by the Factory Society, is the closing reception for Target Gallery's March150 Special Exhibition and Art Sale. All remaining artwork is priced at \$100. Tickets are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-march150-art-party-tickets-56460314320 for tickets.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 29-30

"Curtains." Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m. in Garwood Whaley Auditorium at Bishop Ireton. Bishop Ireton Theater Arts presents the musical comedy whodunit "Curtains." \$10 adults, \$8 students, \$8 seniors. Visit www.bishopireton.org/tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Multiply Your Plants. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Multiply plants through the simple, money-saving techniques of stem cuttings and plant division. Horticulturalist Peggy Riccio will walk participants through this hands-on workshop where they will learn to propagate house and garden plants. Take the starter plants home to grow or share with a friend. \$22/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 586.37E6 or call 703-642-5173.

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; tickets and a full schedule are available at novateenbookfestival.com.

Documentary Film and Discussion Series.

10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Office of Historic Alexandria will host a six-week program series called "Becoming American: A Documentary Film and Discussion Series on Our Immigration Experience." This series is a six-week public program featuring documentary film screenings and scholar-led discussions designed to encourage an informed discussion of immigration issues against the backdrop of our immigration history. The series is open and free to all members of the community, but pre-registration is requested through alexandriava.gov/Shop.

Guided Tour of Friendship

Firehouse Museum. 11 a.m.-noon at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred St. Learn about the Friendship Fire Company's Prettyman hose carriage, one of Virginia's Top Endangered Artifacts. The ornate 1858 hose-reel carriage that was made in Alexandria in the North Pitt Street shop of coachmaker and Friendship member Robert F. Prettyman. The docent-led tour is for ages 10 and older. \$5 for adults and \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, space is limited. Purchase tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov or by calling 703-746-4994.

Made in Virginia Goodies. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Sampling of made in Virginia products, featuring: Byrd Mill Baking Mix tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

The Marital Misadventures of Henry VIII. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Divorced, beheaded, died, beheaded, divorced, survived. Smithsonian scholar and popular speaker Carol Ann Lloyd Stanger traces Henry VIII's wild matrimonial

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Chili Cookoff. 1 p.m. at Hopsfrog Grille, 6030 Burke Commons Road, Burke. Hopsfrog Grille's annual Chili Cookoff benefiting the Fort Belvoir Fisher House (www.fisherhouse.org) features chili tasting and raffle. Contestant pre-registration by March 17; \$10 per chili entry. Chili tasters: \$10 and a vote for best chili. Call 703-239-9324.

Introduction to Punch Needle Embroidery Workshop. 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Join "The Comptoir" herself for this super fun punch needle embroidery workshop. Learn the basics of the tool and technique as well as the ins and outs of selecting the best fabric and yarns for a beautiful piece every time. Create a design with guidance, and gain the skills to make beautiful pieces again and again. All supplies included. Ticket required, includes show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

GenOUT Ensemble. 5 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. GenOUT is a youth ensemble of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. It operates under the two-fold mission to give LGBTQ+ and allied youth a voice, and to connect that voice to the community. Featuring music from their Spring Tour to Nashville. Free-will offering collected. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events or call 703-765-4342.

Concert: Anders Lundegård. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Conversation Piece concert featuring Swedish Saxophonist Anders Lundegård. Visit classicalsaxophonist.com/concert.

Love Avian-Style. 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring a flashlight and come for an evening walk through the woods to one of the park's large meadows. Hopefully participants will spy the woodcock's famous courting ritual. This family program is designed for participants age 6-adult. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The program includes an approximately 1.5 mile-walk on uneven terrain. Meet at the South Kings Highway entrance to the park. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Artist Reception: "On the Edge." Noon-4 p.m. at Fiberworks (Studio 14) at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The March exhibit, "On the Edge," at Fiberworks Studio 14 features the work of Cindy Grisdela, an award-winning fiber artist, through April 1. Visit cindygrisdela.com.

Walking with Washington. 2-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This two-hour guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history. No reservations required. Free. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

The Awesome Women of

Alexandria. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Join Ivy Hill's historian for a walking cemetery tour of the famous Women of Alexandria that are buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery. Learn about the saving of Mount Vernon; the maker of a battle flag; the local librarian; and more. Wear comfortable shoes, and dress in layers, as some areas of the cemetery are shaded. Admission is \$10. Reserve and pay in advance online at PayPal.me/IHCHPS, or cash is accepted at the event or RSVP to info@ihchps.org.

Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. 3-5 p.m. at Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Cecilia Cho, piano; Paul Cigan, clarinet; and Eric deWaardt, viola; will perform Schumann: Fairy Tales; Bruch: Eight Pieces for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano; and Mozart: "Kegelstatt" Trio. \$25 suggested donation, students and children free. Email contact@eclipseco.org or visit www.eclipseco.org.

Embroidering with Buttercream: Mexican Motif Cake Decorating. 3:30 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Learn how to "embroider" a small cake. In this class Mayra Garcia from CelebrateMe! will teach participants how pipe beautiful Mexican embroidery designs, with buttercream icing. The workshop will begin with a demo on how to build, fill and ice a cake properly, then move on to teaching participants how to create beautiful embroidery-inspired traditional Mexican patterns. All supplies included. Ticket required, includes show admission. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.



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Council, School Board Review Budget Process Challenges

FROM PAGE 1

ness- and management-related efficiency. Though others see cost savings as a driver.

In any case, the plan raised doubts about the integrity of the process behind it.

Hutchings' plan would accelerate a 2007 School Board decision to privatize custodial jobs through "attrition" (retirement, etc.) of existing employees. But implementation of that decision over the years has been haphazard

"On reflection, there really hasn't been a real attrition effort," said School Board member Chris Suarez. "We actually hired more custodians" after the 2007 decision to dwindle their numbers.

"There really was no plan" specified in 2007, said School Board Chair Cindy Anderson. "I don't think anyone presented to the ... [School] Board at the time how long this [attrition] would take and what the pros and cons were. ... Which is why it didn't translate well over time."

"ACPS [Alexandria City Public Schools] has not had processes and procedures in place for a lot of things for a long time," said School Board member Meagan Alderton. "This organization has been very dysfunctional. ... We can't keep having these broken systems at ACPS, it's our M.O."

"If there was no plan, and it's not a good plan, why go forward with it?" said Councilman Canek Aguirre. He thinks the city

and schools "have a problem with continuity" given personnel turnover, resulting in loss of institutional knowledge and memory. He wants "structure in place so that this isn't occurring."

"We've had four superintendents in the last five years. The instability of ACPS is an institutional failure. I really think that this board needs to step in and stabilize this organization," said Suarez.

FUNDING/SPENDING PARAMETERS?

Aguirre asked whether, if the city gave extra money to "match the gap," the schools might retain the custodians. But council only transfers a lump sum, which the School Board can spend however it wants. So nothing guarantees the schools would spend any extra money from the city on custodians, said Councilman John Chapman.

Hutchings confirmed this. Even if council provided more funding, he said he'd still recommend custodial outsourcing and that extra money go instead toward accelerating textbook replacement.

Though council could impose more structure if it wanted to. Rather than one lump sum, state law would allow the city to appropriate money to the schools under nine separate "major classifications:" instruction; administration, attendance and health; pupil transportation; operation and maintenance;

school food services and other non-instructional operations; facilities; debt and fund transfers; technology; contingency reserves. Mayor Justin Wilson doesn't want to move to funding by major categories. He says council lacks the time adequately to scrutinize both the city and schools' budgetary needs to that level of detail.

Conversely, Chapman said: "We could give it in pots. The past council did not want to, and city staff in the past has not been supportive of this method. I plan to try again to push it, but not until after the budget season, so that new members on both City Council and School Board can see the limitations of our current method."

POOR CITY-SCHOOLS STREAMLINING?

The School Board's adopted budgets in the winter serve as funding requests to council, ideally via the city manager. City Manager Mark Jinks proposed his budget on Feb. 19, including "full funding for the Superintendent's request for the [ACPS] operating budget." Technically, only the School Board, through legislative action, makes funding requests. But the School Board didn't adopt its operating budget until Feb. 21.

"When the city manager's budget is rolled out in that way, ... it kind of interferes with our deliberative process as a School Board,"

said Rief. She asked that the manager not say he's fully funded the schools' ask before the School Board has officially made its ask.

Mayor Justin Wilson responded: "Literally every single year I have made the ask that the School Board adopt their operating budget in advance of the presentation of the city manager's proposed budget. ... The [current sequencing] makes the [School] Board, if not irrelevant, less relevant certainly, during the budget process. I would continue to urge the board to come up with a scheduling ... to allow the manager to take into account the deliberations of the board."

Moreover, "This manager proposed a budget that increased the operating transfer to the Alexandria City Public Schools by 3.8 percent. The remainder of the city budget is growing by 0.6 percent. That is a dramatic disparity, and quite frankly without precedent in recent years," he said. "A good chunk of [funding growth for schools] also came at the expense of some very critical priorities on [the council's] side, including many priorities that serve the same kids that the Alexandria City Public Schools serve."

Rief later said she'd "like to see the schools and city align the roll-out of our proposed budgets next year."

Use Old Patrick Henry Building as 'Swing Space?'

FROM PAGE 1

ing Douglas MacArthur systems off expen-

sive life support sooner. The bulk of savings would come from eliminating a project

dubbed "swing capacity and new school" in the School Board's current adopted 10-year capital improvement budget. As currently slated, this project would receive funding in FY 2021-22 and become ready to receive students in FY 2023 — a necessary precondition before razing Douglas MacArthur.

A couple years ago, the plan for swing space was to convert the city's Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center into a temporary school, at a cost of \$42 million. An advisory task force at the time pooh-pooed the idea. Since the schools need additional capacity to handle swelling enrollment anyway, why spend money twice on both temporary conversion and permanent new construction? Instead, the task force recommended that "wherever possible, permanent structures should be built for swing space that can be later transitioned to a permanent school." Hence the division's presently slated swing-capacity-and-new-school project. Though the prior School Board never specified what kind of permanent school the project would eventually become, a new middle school was a likely option. At least that's partly how they reconciled not including a new middle school specifically in their budgets, despite present overcrowding. For two years running, they lamented in their adoption legislation that their budgets included "no solution for middle school capacity needs."

Mignon Anthony, the division's COO, believes Cora Kelly and George Mason, which

also require rebuilding, won't need swing space. She says those sites are big enough perhaps to construct new buildings alongside the old, averting the need to move students off-site. If that's the case, the swing-capacity-and-new-school as slated could conceivably convert to a new middle school in FY 2026, after Douglas MacArthur's completion.

Asked why the division would remove this potential middle school capacity from the current budget timeframe when the School Board has wrung its hands precisely about new middle school capacity, Anthony said: "we're basically trying to use the asset we have [old Patrick Henry], take a pause on building a new school, because we don't have a location" for it settled. Also, she thinks the money will need to be redirected toward rising costs elsewhere — namely, to expand high school capacity and address the results of pending system-wide facility condition assessments.

By eliminating the swing-capacity-and-new-school project, "we don't want the community to think we're just trying to do a bait-and-switch. ... Yes, we still need space," she said. "We're all concerned with how we deal with the middle school issue. That's something that we're studying at the same time. ... [But the funds are] going to be put to better use for right now, as we figure out what the answers are." Track the study and decision making process by following the "Swing Space Study," bottom left at www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/1026.

To Protect and Serve

FROM PAGE 1

enforcement's finest."

Gallagher and Hunter were recognized for exceptional service to the community with HSSP program chairman Michael Mixon citing several instances of heroism for each officer. Gallagher is a three-year APD veteran and Hunter, the first Sheriff's Deputy on the scene of the 2017 Congressional baseball shooting at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, is a 25-year law enforcement veteran. "The Post 24 HSSP was established in 2014 to raise awareness of and promote volunteer service to our local homeland security affiliated organizations," Mixon said. "Those programs include the Community Emergency Response Team, Medical Reserve Corps, Volunteer Alexandria's Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Program, the American Red Cross and others. On an annual basis, the Post 24 HSSP also recognizes outstanding public safety officers who serve our community."

Police Chief Michael Brown and ASO Undersheriff Tim Gleeson joined family and friends in congratulating Gallagher and Hunter.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Post 24 veteran service officer Kelly Nierenberger cuts a cake celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion following the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year presentation March 13.

"It is truly a pleasure to recognize and honor two of Alexandria's outstanding law enforcement officers," added Mixon. "We salute you and thank you for your superb service to our community. You represent the very best in our city."

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Obituary



Karen Anne Kelly, 62 and forty-year resident of Alexandria, VA., passed away into eternal life on Saturday evening of March 16th in the Easton, MD home and wonderful loving care of her brother, Dr. John Foley and his wife, Dr. Lakshmi Vaidyanathan. Joined also in her peaceful transition was her devoted mother, Eileen Foley, her beloved husband, Michael S. Kelly and her cherished children, Michael Kelly Jr, Mary Kelly and Thomas Kelly.

Daughter of John and Eileen Foley, Karen was born on March 30, 1956 in Rochester, New York. Following her graduation from Georgetown University in 1978, Karen worked as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch in Old Town, where she met Michael Kelly. Their 37 year joyful marriage and love for one another served as the rock from which they built their lives, raised their family and gracefully managed the adversity of Karen's illness.

Blessed with a Mary Poppins like skill-set, Karen started volunteering at St. Mary's School Library as a parent volunteer, eventually becoming the Head Librarian in 2005. She loved her job and had a passion for nurturing children's love of reading and discovery. Karen worked tirelessly in forming the St. Mary's Library into its finest version of organization, tidiness, and quality of resources. Karen earned her Masters Degree in Library Science at Catholic University, while working full time at St. Mary's.

Like a beautiful early spring day from which Karen both entered and departed this world, Karen radiated sunshine and warmth and joy and laughter. Her smile reflected her kindness and generosity. Karen was a loyal and caring friend, a loving and devoted wife and mother, an uplifting co-worker, and a wonderful daughter and sister. Karen lived her daily life as God intended, grounded in love and strength and faith, which sustained and emboldened her final battle with cancer. Karen died in peace knowing she will be joined with God in everlasting life.

Karen was preceded in death by her father, John P. Foley. Survived by her mother, Eileen Foley, by her best friend and husband, Michael Kelly, and three wonderful children, Michael, Mary and Thomas; by her siblings: John (and Lakshmi) Foley, Thomas (and Marie) Foley, Jeanne (and Ted) Papenthien, and her beloved nieces and nephews.

The Kelly family would like to express their gratitude to her physicians, oncology doctors, nurse caregivers, and Talbot Hospice of Easton, MD for their tremendous care during her battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to Talbot Hospice Foundation or American Cancer Society.

Visitation at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria, on Thursday, March 21, from 6-8 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am at the Basilica of St. Mary, 310 S. Royal Street, Old Town, Alexandria on Friday, March 22, at 10:30 am. Karen will be buried at Ivy Hill Cemetery Saturday, March 23 at 10am.

Online condolences and tributes may be found at everlywheatley.com

Obituary

Legals



A Legislative Meeting will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 045.03 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the properties at 1201 North Royal Street from, CD-X/Commercial downtown zone (Old Town North) to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, and the adjacent outparcel from, UT/Utilities and transportation to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2018-0006.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2018-0006, to rezone the properties at 1201 North Royal Street from, CD-X/Commercial downtown zone (Old Town North) to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone, and the adjacent outparcel from, UT/Utilities and transportation to CRMU-X/Commercial residential mixed use (Old Town North) zone.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Legislative Meeting APRIL 9, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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Eight Daze and Seven Sleepless Nights



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On Monday, I take one of our "Buff Boys" (beige-colored cats), "Chino," to the vet for his bi-weekly glucose-monitoring day. This is his new routine as "Chino" was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

In addition, since his diagnosis, I've been injecting him with insulin twice a day, subcutaneously ("sub-q") going on six weeks now. Though he's eating well, he's lost weight; apparently, it's related.

Without getting too sad, too soon, he looks frail and the stares and meows he gives me seem to be pleas for help which, other than providing food, water and touch, I am clueless as to what else I can do. I'm not anticipating the worst yet, but when I pick him up at the vet later in the day, I'm not expecting the best either.

On Wednesday, I go for my first CT scan in eight weeks. More significantly, it will be my first "CT" since I began immunotherapy. I don't quite know what to expect; although I know what I hope.

The fact is I've neglected to ask my oncologist what his expectations were: specifically relating to a time frame about the immunotherapy's effectiveness; and as we've moved on, we have a few other questions: Will the infusion have any effect after just eight weeks, generally? Is there a protocol/length of treatment which a patient is supposed to have before success or failure is determined? Are there any indications other than scan results which might contribute to an assessment of the drug's impact on my tumors? Is it possible that the tumors in my lungs might have a different reaction (shrink, stable, grow) than my "Adam's apple" tumor? If so, then what? Are there any side effects from my bi-weekly infusions which could cause my treatment to stop?

Beyond these types of questions, my oncologist prefers not to discuss scenarios. The short summary is: we're looking for some kind of clarity and/or guarantee. Unfortunately, for cancer patients, clarity and guarantees ended on the date of your diagnosis.

On Friday, I have my next scheduled infusion (with pre-infusion lab work on Wednesday). Door to door, depending on how busy the Infusion Center is, and depending how long it takes the pharmacy to mix/prepare my drug, it will be approximately three hours until I'm back home. The experience is not tedious nor is it torture.

Compared to the eight-hour days I had to endure in the early, heavy-duty days of chemotherapy, this time commitment is a breeze. And when one considers the relatively minor side effects – so far, the routine is quite bearable. (I just need the immunotherapy to be effective.)

On the following Monday, we see my oncologist. Typically, we don't see him until later in the week on Friday. In the 10-day interim, my oncologist will email results of the scan – with his assessment – and attach the radiologist's report so that when we see him, we're aware and prepared.

However, in this week's particular instance he had availability on Monday, five days post-scan, and not on Friday. As such, we are seeing him so soon after the scan occurs that he might not have any results to email us before our appointment.

This means that we'll be going into the appointment cold, so to speak. Which means we'll be extremely anxious as we sit in the examining room waiting for his knock asking if it's OKAY for him to come in. And then staring at his face as he enters looking for any kind of hopeful sign that the treatment has worked.

And that's what this week-plus-one-day will be: a struggle; about me, for my wife, about our life together and about one of our cats.

Each of the four days/four events itself would be stressful and thought-provoking enough. Having them occur one right after the other, simultaneously almost, is like adding insult to injury. It's bad enough to begin with and it's potentially even worse how it might end with – really bad news.

Through it all, somehow we must remain positive. There's no future in being negative.

To invoke the late Yogi Berra, who said in 1973 while managing the last-place New York Mets: "It ain't over 'till it's over." (And of course they went on to win the National League pennant.)

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

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News

TC Lights

FROM PAGE 3

court could conclude that any contract was made" in the first place, according to an objection filed by City Attorney Joanna Anderson in January.

"No facts are alleged supporting the necessary elements of a contract, such as an offer, acceptance, consideration, definiteness of terms, and a mutual intent to be bound." Echoing this, the School Board's attorneys say there's "no writing serving as the basis of any covenant encumbering the land upon which T.C. High School, including the Stadium."

Second, "neither the [present] School Board, nor these Plaintiffs, would be party to any contract alleged to have been created," according to an objection filed by the School Board's attorneys. Of the six plaintiffs, only one is an original homeowner. Three are descendants of original property owners, having purchased or inherited their homes in the 1990s or early 2000s. The remaining two bought their homes in 1986 and 1996.

Third, "land use approvals by the City Council, including the approvals of Development Special Use Permits (DSUPs), do not create contracts; they are legislative acts under the City governmental police power," according to the city attorney's objection. A legislative decision isn't binding forever, but rather is subject to change by new legislation duly passed by a future elected government.

The other three cases, brought by other neighborhood residents, allege violation or improper application of the city's zoning laws.

One complaint calls council's approval of stadium lights and nighttime sporting events and practices "arbitrary, capricious and contrary to law."

It cites zoning provisions saying "the proposed use or structure will be designed and operated so as to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse effects on the neighborhood as a whole or other properties in the vicinity;" and that a permit's approval "will not be ... injurious to the property or improvements in the neighborhood." It also cites an Oct. 13, 2018 question from then Mayor Allison Silberberg about whether city staff had investigated potential "impact to property value," to which staff responded: "we didn't do a real estate analysis, we focused on the land use impacts."

Plaintiffs in the other two cases allege that current and proposed stadium uses constitute a "nuisance" that deprive them "of the reasonable use and enjoyment of their property."

For example, their complaint alleges use of the adjacent neighborhood by sporting event attendees for parking; trespassing on residents' property; climbing of neighbors' fences; and noise from sporting events and band practice.

The City Attorney objected that the residents fail "to claim, or allege facts in support of, how the Council's action caused them particularized 'harm' different from that of the general public."

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5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$24⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$34⁹⁵

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

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.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

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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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES
BUY 1
GET 1 FREE**

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 3/31/19.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

\$45.00 OFF when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$400.00 or more

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AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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FREE

BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$129⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

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

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/19.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

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

#WeAreAlexandria



OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4

Old Town | \$2,495,000

Spectacular 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath property in the heart of Old Town with extraordinary views, lush and private grounds and a heated pool! Generously sized rooms, exquisite details throughout, abundant storage and deeded parking. 800 S. Lee St. **Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079** www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN 3/24, 1-4

Arlington North | \$1,799,000

Two lights to DC from nearly new 5/6-bedroom, 5.5-bath home with 2 car garage, nestled on private lot in Taylor, Dorothy Hamm, Yorktown district. 2923-24th Road, N.

Betsy Twigg 703.967.4391
www.BetsyTwigg.com



Alexandria | \$939,000

Turn-key 5-bedroom, 3-bath home in remarkable, scenic location on a cul-de-sac. Incredible master bedroom, plenty of open space and large rooms. Extra large lot, two decks and two patios for outdoor entertaining. 2123 Marlboro Dr.

Richard McGuire 703.627.1985
www.RichardMcGuire.net



North Alexandria | \$898,000

Three level, two car garage townhome in Old Town Greens. Features updated kitchen, large master suite, and spacious fenced in yard. Minutes to shops, restaurants, Metro and airport. 716 Hawkins Way.

Lynn Hoover 703.517.3570
www.LynnHoover.com



OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4

Del Ray | \$949,000

Located 1 block off The Avenue, this remodeled bungalow has a 2-story addition, king-size owner suite & 2 more bedrooms, 3 full baths, open main level with gourmet kitchen, rec room, hardwoods, deck, patio & 1-car garage. 107 E Windsor Ave.

Leslie Wilder 703.798.7226
www.3wilders.com



OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4

Mason Hill | \$815,000

Beautiful center hall Colonial in Mason Hill! Large eat-in kitchen with granite, stainless appliances & pantry. Deck overlooking private, wooded yard. Luxurious master bedroom suite, 4 upper level bedrooms & lower level in-law, au-pair or guest suite.

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN 3/24, 2-4

Porto Vecchio \$825,000

Luxurious one-level living at its best. Completely renovated 2 BR, 2 BA home (1439 sq. ft.) with high end upgrades and designer touches. Sparkling white

kitchen, spa-like marble baths, new sound barrier windows, balcony overlooking garden & river views. Garage parking, great building amenities. 1250 S. Washington St. #103.

Pat Crusenberry 703.980.8274
www.PatCrusenberry.com



OPEN SAT & SUN, 2-4

Del Ray \$560,000

2 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse. Traditional layout with living room, dining room and kitchen on main level. Two large bedrooms & bath upstairs. Finished

lower level offers additional space with a family room & full bath. Enjoy all Del Ray has to offer along "The Avenue" with shops, restaurants, library, and parks. 7 Clifford Ave.

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SAT & SUN, 2-4

Del Ray \$619,900

3 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse in the heart of sought-after Del Ray. Large living room with a wood burning fireplace leads to the dining room & updated

kitchen. Family room addition off the kitchen. Large fenced yard. 3 bedrooms upstairs and an unfinished basement. One block to "The Avenue." 317 E Mason Ave.

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

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If you are thinking of buying, selling or renting, call Sallie today at **703.798.4666**, or email her at sseiy@mceneaney.com.

www.SallieSeiy.com



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