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Alexandria Gazette Packet

Senior Living

PAGE 15

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APRIL 25, 2019



Crystal and Dave Nosal with Tucker at the Barks, Brews and Bites fundraiser for the Alexandria Police Foundation and the K-9 retirement program April 4 at The Alexandrian Hotel courtyard.



Terry Anderson with Lucy and Desi

PHOTO BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

Barks, Brews and Bites

Happy Hour raises funds for APD K-9s.

The courtyard of the Alexandrian Hotel in Old Town was filled with four-legged residents and their parents as more than 100 people turned out April 4 for the first canine Happy Hour of the year.

Sponsored by The Alexandrian, Jackson 20, Port City Brewing and Frolick Dogs, the event was held in support of the Alexandria Police Foundation and its K-9 retirement program. "Our event last night

was a huge success," said Police Foundation Executive Director Ginny Obranovich. "The crowd was much bigger than we thought and everyone had a great time. Preliminary results are we made over \$3,000 from the event."

See www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 14



APD Officer Tarik Helmy with K-9 Zeus



Carmen and Kevin Gilliam with Gus

TC Lights Lawsuit Will Go to Trial

Judge overrules city's request to dismiss residents' case.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

A judge decided last week that certain residents who've sued the local government for approving high school stadium lights, despite an alleged promise not to, will get their day in court.

Circuit Court Judge Thomas Horne has been considering whether a purported agreement between the government and property owners in the 1960s not to install permanent stadium lights at T.C. Williams High School re-

mains binding today. Several property owners, though most not the original owners with whom the agreement would've been made, think it does. They said the agreement — what they call the "no lights promise" — constituted an enforceable contract and wanted their case to go to trial.

The City Council and School Board disagreed, saying the agreement was a legislative decision, subject to change by a future government, and didn't contain the necessary elements of a contract. Namely, no written document

SEE TC LIGHTS, PAGE 7

Cut-Through Traffic Called Dangerous

Petitioners oppose narrowing of Seminary Road.

BY DAN BRENDEN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds oppose the potential reduction of Seminary Road's vehicular lanes, ahead of city staff's final recommendation, set for next month, about how to reconfigure that traffic artery through central Alexandria.

Expressing their opposition, as the Gazette Packet goes to press, 721 people signed an electronic petition, which resident Jill Hoffman first launched on Saturday, April 20.

In 2016, the city government identified Seminary Road as having potential for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improve

SEE WHY NARROW, PAGE 4

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Eco-City Alexandria: Mixed Reviews

Panel weighs in on progress, ahead of Earth Day city plan release.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

Despite some progress towards ecological “sustainability,” as envisioned in the city’s 2008 Eco-City Charter and related Environmental Action Plan (EAP), many goals remain unmet.

A panel of four professionals from environmental organizations discussed the EAP’s shortcomings on Monday, April 22. Agenda: Alexandria, a nonpartisan non-profit, hosted the event.

The 2009 EAP aimed to address climate change concerns and reduce city per capita energy consumption, among other things, by 2030. Bill Skrabak, deputy director at Alexandria’s Transportation and Environmental Services, highlighted the city’s achievements: per capita greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 16 percent; more than 95 percent of privately developed square footage is LEED Silver certified; and the city has a developed stormwater management system comprising a regional pond draining over 67 acres.

However, missed deadlines impede further progress. City Council approved the EAP’s renewal after five years. That deadline has come and gone, and annual progress reports haven’t been released since 2016.

“It’s great to have the action plan, but how things get funded is through the budget



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER

Kenneth Warren, T.C. Williams High School senior and CURE co-founder, discusses the importance of youth environmental activism. Seated (from left) are Bill Skrabak, Andrew Macdonald, and Dean Naujoks.

process. We’re all competing for resources,” said Skrabak.

“I think Alexandria should get an A for effort. ... It has done a lot of great things. I think, though, that we have not done a good job of preserving the biodiversity of Alexandria,” said Andrew Macdonald, chairman of the Environmental Council of Alexandria.

Macdonald, a self-described “tough grader,” critiqued the city’s efforts — for example, with respect to increased density and commercial development around the

new Potomac Yard Metro Station.

“I don’t think anyone is against building a Metro [station] in Potomac Yard. The question: is it too near wetlands and should it be built somewhere else?” he said.

Water quality is another point of weakness, said panelist Dean Naujoks of the non-profit Potomac Riverkeeper Network.

“The city did dredge [a portion of the Potomac contaminated by byproducts from a gasworks]. They thought they were solving the problem of discharge, but they didn’t

fix it,” said Naujoks.

The Potomac Riverkeeper Network has been pushing the city to address the contamination. “We need to up our community education and outreach in our plan. The government’s a small part of the problem; the community is going to have to pitch in to help,” said Skrabak.

T.C. Williams senior Kenneth Warren co-founded an environmental organization — Community United for Renewable Energy (CURE) — to educate youth about sustainability and invest in greener schools. CURE partnered with the school system and is working on a new educational program

“... we have not done a good job of preserving the biodiversity of Alexandria.”

— Andrew Macdonald, chairman, Environmental Council of Alexandria

for elementary school students.

“You have the opportunity to make a choice and we can act now,” Warren told Monday’s audience. The updated EAP is under development and will be distributed at the city’s Alexandria Earth Day celebration. The event will take place Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Eco-City and www.agendaalexandria.com.

Family, Friends Remember Dr. Lawrence Singer

DC Smiles founder dies at 50.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Dr. Lawrence Singer, founder of the Old Town-based DC Smiles Holistic Cosmetic Dentistry practice, died suddenly April 10 at the age of 50.

A survivor of childhood cancer, Singer continued to battle medical complications throughout his life.

“He fought hard for most of his life to live another day,” said Singer’s wife Tonya in announcing Singer’s death. “Lawrence loved life more than anything. He often

would say, ‘Any day you open your eyes is a good day.’”

Born Oct. 31, 1968, Singer earned a bachelor of science in Human Development from Vanderbilt University and a doctor of medical dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He founded DC Smiles in 1995, which included locations on Cameron Street in Old Town and in Washington D.C.

At the time of his death, Singer held the title of Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery at the George Washington University Hospital. His work there included treating facial trauma patients, performing reconstruction surgery on cancer patients and



Dr. Lawrence Singer died April 10 at the age of 50.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

helping other medically compromised patients.

“My heart is broken for the loss of my boss,” posted Kathleen Delmore on social media. “Dr. Singer was a phenomenal clinician, mentor, friend and an amazing human being. I feel blessed to have been part of his practice.”

In addition to his practice, Singer was an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, instructing doctoral candidates in restorative and cosmetic dentistry. He prepared several articles on oral healthcare economics for the Swedish Government at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. Since 2000, Singer was the official cosmetic dentist for the Washington Redskins cheerlead-

ers. “Laz was such a brave man,” said Steven Olmos, referring to Singer by his nickname among friends. “Struggling with his health and dedicated to helping others with chronic pain. Such an intelligent person. The world has lost one of the great ones.”

Survivors include Singer’s wife Tonya, son Maximillian, 13, and daughter Chloe, 11.

A visitation will be held Saturday, April 27, from 1-2 p.m. at Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St., followed by a Celebration of Life funeral service at 2p.m. at the same location.

“The world has lost such a brilliant doctor, good friend, father and husband,” said Pam Washkewicz in a social media tribute. “He sure did love life and achieved so much while battling medical problems. Laz will be missed but never forgotten.”

Who Best Represents Public Housing Residents?

BY DAN BRENDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

The recent appointment of a new public housing resident to the housing authority’s governing board illustrated a selection process in which pub-

lic housing residents don’t have any binding say. The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority — ARHA — is one of about 3,800 local housing authorities nationwide, including 40 in Virginia. ARHA administers federal housing programs, including public housing and “Section 8”

vouchers, for some 2,700 Alexandria households.

Though it oversees federal resources, its chartered by the state and governed locally by a board of nine commissioners, serving staggered four-year terms, appointed by City Council. Federal law requires that coun-

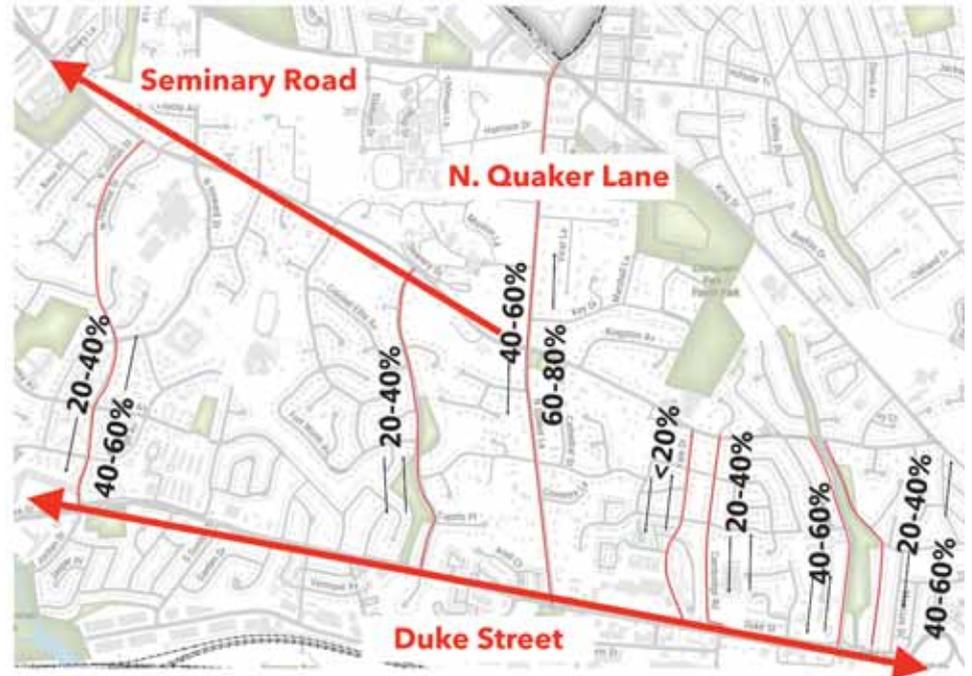
cil reserve at least one of those appointments for a resident who receives direct assistance from ARHA.

Council appointed Kevin Harris as the newest commissioner to fill that seat on Tuesday, April 9. Harris serves as president

SEE WHO BEST, PAGE 8

NEWS

Proportion of Traffic that is "Cut-Through"



MAP MODIFIED FROM CITY GOVERNMENT'S CENTRAL ALEXANDRIA TRAFFIC STUDY

Seminary Road, which the city classifies as an "arterial road," handles up to 33,800 vehicles per day. Janney's Lane, which continues Seminary Road east of North Quaker Lane, handles some 8,200 vehicles per day. In both cases, up to 40 percent constitutes cut-through traffic from Telegraph Road and the Capital Beltway. Six "local" or "residential collector" streets branching off Seminary Road or Janney's Lane (excluding North Quaker Lane) together handle up to 27,300 vehicles per day, up to 60 percent of which are cut-through.

Why Narrow Seminary Road?

FROM PAGE 1

ments. The city's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) developed three design alternatives, about which it's been gathering public input and will narrow to a final recommendation in early May. To save on costs, the city would make any approved overhauls in conjunction with scheduled repaving later in 2019.

The city scored each alternative, on a scale of 1-5, in each of seven categories: pedestrian safety/comfort; filling in sidewalk discontinuities; controlling speed; preventing crashes; minimizing vehicle delay; adjacent resident livability; and bicyclist safety/comfort.

While the stretch currently comprises four vehicular lanes, two westbound and two eastbound, the three options under consideration would:

- ❖ ALTERNATIVE 1: maintain four lanes with minor changes (composite score: 14; lowest scoring categories: filling in sidewalk discontinuities, bicyclist safety/comfort);
- ❖ ALTERNATIVE 2: reduce to one eastbound and two westbound vehicular lanes, add bike lanes (composite score: 21; lowest scoring category: adjacent resident livability);
- ❖ ALTERNATIVE 3: reduce to one eastbound, one westbound and one shared turn lane for vehicles, add an offset bike lane (composite score: 30; lowest scoring category: minimizing vehicle delay, adjacent resident livability).

The petitioners reject the third option. They say a worsening traffic squeeze causes "dangerous cut-through traffic on secondary roads and neighborhood streets," as well

as "longer travel time and decreased mobility for residents."

Hoffman says she and others are "dumbfounded" that the city keeps making decisions — like reducing speed limits and vehicle lanes — that worsen traffic on arterial streets. She says she's unconvinced the "narrative" of resident opposition is getting through to City Council.

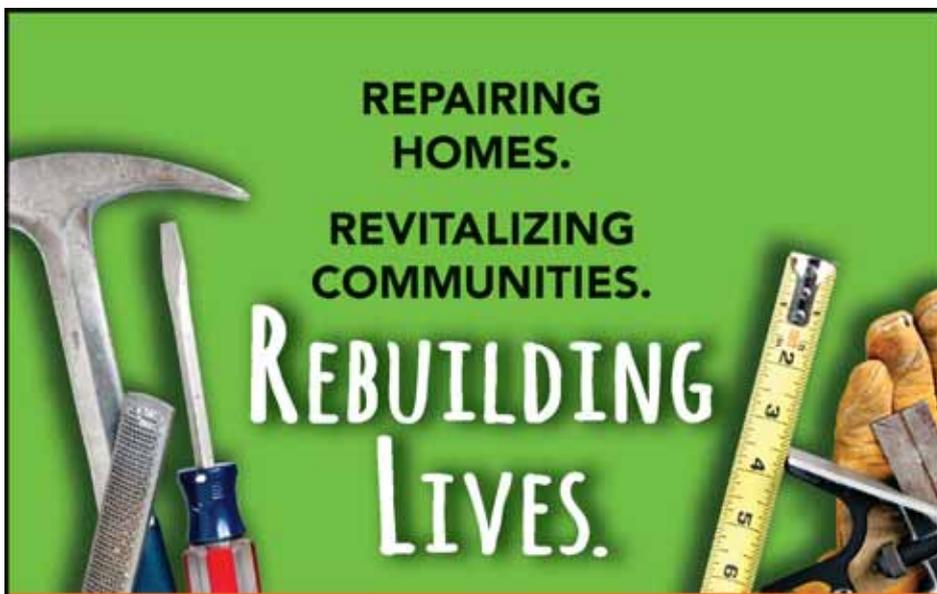
Petitioners ask that the Traffic and Parking Board reject Alternative 3, if that's the option T&ES staff ultimately put forward. The board, one of the city government's many advisory bodies, comprises seven council-appointed members, charged to "consider matters concerning substantial changes to traffic and on-street parking regulations."

Asked to comment on the petition, T&ES Director Yon Lambert said: "We understand this is a heavily traveled corridor, and that its design affects a number of residents. ... [A recent public feedback campaign] ... attracted approximately 1,200 responses, which staff are currently summarizing and analyzing."

The results should be available soon. This process has been and will continue to be informed by public input, technical analysis, and our efforts to improve traffic and mobility on city streets."

The Traffic and Parking Board is scheduled to hear staff's recommendation on Monday, June 24, starting at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers as City Hall. The public may speak at the meeting.

See www.ipetitions.com/petition/central-alexandria-citizens-petition and www.alexandriava.gov/CompleteStreets.



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At Core of Civil Rights: A Spiritual Movement

Local filmmaker chronicles Howard Thurman's life.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
GAZETTE PACKET

No one in the world can succeed alone — not even heroes like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One critical member of this legendary figure's team was Howard Thurman — a chaplain and “spiritual mentor not only to Dr. King, but to the entire Civil Rights Movement,” in the words of documentary filmmaker Martin Doblmeier.

This year, Doblmeier's Alexandria-based production company, Journey Films, released “Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story” — a documentary that chronicles Thurman's life. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) began airing the documentary in February, and currently Journey Films is hosting screenings in cities across the United States.

“Individual stations will continue to broadcast the film for the next two years, so, in the end, there will likely be several thousand broadcasts of the documentary nationwide,” said Doblmeier, who directed the film. “I'm also doing about two dozen special screening events nationwide where I show the film and engage the audience in conversation over the key themes. People are coming out to screenings in large numbers and we are really quite pleased about it all.”

He added that there were two different screenings in Alexandria, one at the end of



President Jimmy Carter and Martin Doblmeier interview.

March at the Historic Christ Church, and one earlier this month at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

No matter where audiences see “Backs Against the Wall,” it's likely that they come away with a new perspective of the Civil Rights Movement.

“Through Thurman's remarkable story, we see that while the Civil Rights Movement was a political and social movement, it was at its core a spiritual movement,” Doblmeier said. “Thurman was the first African American invited to India to consult with Gandhi. When he returned from India, he began to infuse the notion of non-violent resistance into what would become the Civil Rights Movement. Thurman was quietly behind the scenes of one of the greatest social transformations in history.”

However, with the help of some modern-day history makers, Journey Films has made sure that Thurman is no longer quite so hid-

Jesse Jackson and Martin Doblmeier



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

den behind the scenes of American history.

“We knew it was important to include some of the leading Civil Rights figures and we were fortunate to have in the film Jesse Jackson, Congressman John Lewis, Vernon Jordan, Otis Moss, Jr., and others,” Doblmeier said. “Interviewing them, it was clear how important Howard Thurman was to them personally. It is striking the critical role that Thurman played in the success of the overall Civil Rights Movement. But, if you read the history books about the Movement rarely is Thurman's name mentioned. That's because he was satisfied to play a more private role as the Movement's spiritual mentor.”

Production started in 2017, but Howard

Thurman has long been Journey Films's radar.

“I believe Walter Earl Fluker, theologian at Boston University who is in the film, suggested Thurman to Martin several years ago as a great, and as yet uncovered, film subject,” Journey Films producer Deryl Davis said. “I had encountered Thurman a few years earlier while teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary in D.C. I also had the chance to teach Thurman to students of religion at the University of Glasgow in Scotland several years ago.”

The more these documentarians learned about Thurman, the more important it became for them to capture his life in one of

SEE LOCAL FILMMAKER, PAGE 20

Jakarta Inducted as City's Poet Laureate

Becomes first African American named to three-year term.

KaNikki Jakarta was inducted as the new Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria in a reception held April 12 at the Durant Arts Center.

Jakarta is the first African American to be named to the position, which carries a three-year term. She officially began her duties April 1 and succeeds Wendi Kaplan, whose term ended March 31. Friends, family members and members of the Commission on the Arts joined city officials in celebrating the appointment of Jakarta, an award-winning performance poet with more than 26 years of writing experience and nearly two decades on the poetry scene. Jakarta has opened for vocalists Jill Scott, Raheem DaVaughn and Lyfe Jennings and authored three works of fiction, two poetry collections, a poetry CD and a memoir.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate program was reestablished by the Office of the Arts in 2007. Past incumbents have included Mary McElveen, Amy Young, Tori Lane Kovarik, Ryan Wojanowski and Wendi Kaplan.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Poet Laureate KaNikki Jakarta, center, with her husband Marquis and mother Antoinette Williams at Jakarta's induction ceremony as the first African American Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria April 12 at the Durant Arts Center.



City of Alexandria Poet Laureate KaNikki Jakarta, left, speaks with Paul Young and outgoing Poet Laureate Wendi Kaplan at a reception April 12 at the Durant Arts Center.

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

NEWS

TC Lights

FROM PAGE 1

from the 1960s outlines the original terms. Furthermore, the governing bodies asserted that, even if the original no lights promise did constitute a contract, the current owners wouldn't be party to it.

Horne overruled the City Council and School Board's arguments for dismissal in a ruling issued on Wednesday, April 17, after about a month of deliberation. The case, along with some others that are related, will go to trial at an as-of-yet undecided date, but probably no earlier than this fall.

In particular, the resident plaintiffs pointed to a 2003 Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for the construction of a new high school facility. They asserted the development approval reaffirmed the original agreement and created a new contractual commitment. According to the DSUP: "There is concern among neighbors that the new school will be built with increased lighting levels, and specifically about the potential for night athletic events at the stadium. 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 staff's recommendation reflecting that agreement."

Of the DSUP, Horne opined: "while the [City Council and School Board] correctly observe that the legislative decision to grant a special use permit and codify those restrictions in the permit does not give either party a property interest, the [residents'] pleadings establish a contract claim independent of the permitting process."

"The alleged lighting agreement is definite in its terms in that it unequivocally provides that the School Board and City will not build permanent lights at T.C. Williams," he added. As to the lack of a written contract from the 1960s, Horne cited Virginia's contract law, which says: "The consideration [of a promise, contract, agreement, etc.] need not be set forth or expressed in the writing, and it may be proved ... by extrinsic evidence." A "memorandum wholly untechnical in form may be sufficient," he said, citing 1948 precedent. As to whether current owners are party to an original contract, Horne concluded "they have standing either as members of third-party beneficiary class or direct beneficiaries."

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Who Best Represents Public Housing Residents?

FROM PAGE 3
of the ARHA Resident Association, an independent organization representing public housing tenants, recently reconstituted after years of inactivity. He lives in Old Town with his wife and children.

But the previous public housing resident commissioner's term ended two months earlier, in February. Council deferred its decision on a new appointment twice while it cleared up confusion about the degree to which the Resident Association has a say in the matter.

Harris and incumbent Chyrell Bucksell vied for the open seat, but with competing endorsements. Five sitting commissioners and nine public housing residents at large wrote to council favoring Bucksell, according to electronic correspondence obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. On the other hand, the Resident Association's "City-Wide" officers (its central leadership), elected representatives or other officers from five public housing sites and 32 public housing residents at large wrote favoring Harris. No board member endorsed Harris and no one identifying him/herself as a Resident Association affiliate endorsed Bucksell.

Alexandria's practice has changed over time. A 1995 city resolution said that the public housing resident commissioner would "be selected by the Resident Council [Association] and ap-



Kevin Harris, president of the ARHA Resident Association and recently appointed ARHA commissioner, addresses the ARHA board on Monday, April 22.

pointed by City Council." That echoes how council currently makes appointments to a handful of other commissions: "members who are a representative of an organization shall be nominated by [their] organization and confirmed by City Council," according to the City Code.

A 2010 city resolution, which passed unanimously, changed the process. Council now appoints the public housing resident commissioner "without regard to selection by the Resident Council."

Organized public housing residents could petition the council to appoint someone in particular, but no more or less than any other citizen or group.

At the time, the resident organization had fallen defunct. Additionally, "quality of candidates /

lack thereof" drove council's reasoning for the change, according to then-Councilman Rob Krupicka.

"As with most boards, getting good candidates for narrowly defined spots is tricky," he told Mayor Justin Wilson.

In the present case, council appointed the Resident Association's endorsee, but they didn't have to. Its April 9 decision reaffirmed that it was made "without regard to selection by the Resident Council."

Though under the same federal parameters, not all municipalities and housing authorities do things the same way.

In 1994, under then-Mayor Marc Morial, the Housing Authority of New Orleans' board comprised a majority of seats — four of seven — reserved for public housing residents. While the num-

ber has since been reduced to two, New Orleans' residents exercise a binding say in who fills those positions. According to Louisiana state law: "The two tenant commissioners shall be chosen from a list of names [three for each seat, six total] submitted to the mayor by the Citywide Tenants Council, Inc., of the housing authority."

Resident leaders from 10 public housing sites nominate and vote for the list of six, according to Cynthia Wiggins, former president of the Citywide Tenant Association of New Orleans. She thinks this practice guards against city officials appointing public housing residents with whom they have rapport, but who may not be well enough informed to represent residents adequately.

No state or local housing authority policy delineates the residents' internal selection process, according to Gregg Fortner, New Orleans' housing authority director, though he recommends such policy's development. He also thinks the process should include not only public housing residents, but also "Section 8" voucher holders.

Fulfilling a campaign promise to appoint a majority board of public housing resident commissioners, Morial says he picked "established leaders," though not through a formal process. Commenting on New Orleans' current method of the mayor choosing from a resident-vetted list, he said:

"Those changes are good because it ensures that these positions are not going to be just given out to someone's favorite person, who happens to be a [public housing] resident, but that there's going to be resident empowerment. ... It's a balance between the mayor's appointing ability and the residents' recommending ability."

As in Alexandria, other Virginia jurisdictions leave commissioner appointment decisions entirely to the mayor or other elected officials, according to HUD regional spokesperson Lisa Wolfe.

But, like New Orleans, two reserve more than one commissioner seat for public housing residents. Charlottesville reserves two such seats, plus a third for a current or former resident of the city's "Section 8" voucher program. Richmond also reserves two seats for housing authority tenants.

"The HUD regulations require a resident to be on the board. They don't specify, necessarily, how that resident should be selected. The HUD regulations [as of 1998] do allow the housing authority to hold some form of election — if they would like — to choose this member," said Wilson.

He plans to consult ARHA's board about "different ways to select this position going forward, because I think there's probably some better practices than having the council choose who should represent residents on the board."

Council To Vote on Funding for Green Building Financing

BY DAN BRENDDEL
GAZETTE PACKET

City Council will decide on Wednesday, May 1 whether to reserve funds for a "green" building program, which would enable private lenders to collect debts via the city government's taxing power.

Proponents say the program — dubbed Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) — would enable building owners to invest in eco-friendlier building upgrades, like HVAC systems and roofs. They think such upgrades could yield a relatively big positive environmental impact, since buildings are major greenhouse gas emitters. With C-PACE, eligible debt attaches to the building, which passes to the new owner if the building is sold. It's repaid through a special assessment on the property, as a tax bill addition.

"This can address a key disincentive to investing in energy improvements because many property owners are hesitant ... if they think they may not stay in the property long enough for the resulting savings to cover the upfront costs," according to the

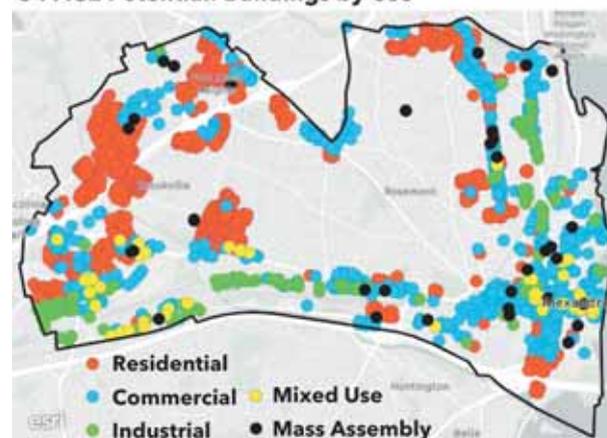
Department of Energy.

With zero-down and long repayment terms, C-PACE may enable owners to finance upgrades for which they might otherwise lack sufficient cash. "The annual energy savings for a PACE project usually exceeds the annual assessment payment, so property owners are cash flow positive immediately," according to the C-PACE Alliance, a coalition of firms. "[Net new revenue] can be spent on other capital projects, budgetary expenses, or business expansion." Ivy Knoll Caring Senior Community in Covington, Ky. illustrates the benefits, says Jessica Greene of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council. With a \$750,000 C-PACE loan, Ivy Knoll installed, among other things, heating and cooling controls that reduce energy costs by some 20 percent.

Greene says C-PACE reduces risk all around. The city government could realize environmental and economic benefits by enabling C-PACE legislatively, but otherwise would act only as a "pass-through," its credit not backing the loans. It could also charge a nominal fee on closing costs.

Positive cash flow increases the borrower's ability to repay and, conversely,

C-PACE Potential: Buildings by Use



SOURCES: VIRGINIA ENERGY EFFICIENCY COUNCIL; CITY OF ALEXANDRIA; ESRI

Some 2,000 of Alexandria's buildings, comprising a combined 24 million square feet of floor space, could utilize C-PACE financing, according to the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council.

also make lenders more "willing to lend as much money as the person asks for," and in turn "reduce the discipline from the people who are asking for loans."

Sharing Seifeldein's concerns, City Manager Mark Jinks didn't include C-PACE funding in his initial budget proposal.

"It is reasonable to question whether or not a government's tax collection authority via special assessment lien should be used for such private purposes," Jinks said in a recent budget memo. Other council members want to carve out \$125,000 to initiate a C-PACE program, pending further research and planning by departmental staff.

the lender's assurance of getting paid. Unlike with some conventional loans, missed C-PACE payments may not incur late fees or trigger a due-in-full penalty. If the loan forecloses, the lender acquires a property made more valuable by the green capital improvements, she said.

Others express more skepticism. Using the tax system to collect debts could amount to the government "serving as a barrier against default for private lenders," said Councilman Mohamed "Mo" Seifeldein. It could



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*Chief Nursing Officer
Inova Alexandria Hospital*

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inova.org/iah



OPINION

Investing in Clean Waterways

And public health.

BY JUSTIN WILSON
MAYOR, CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
AND JOHN HILL
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES

Alexandria's health and prosperity depend on clean waterways, and clean waterways depend on a well-functioning wastewater system. The Potomac River and its tributaries receive the cleaned water treated to the highest standards at our wastewater treatment plant. Our goal is to protect public and environmental health and keep our waterways clean.

Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew), a public authority serving about 300,000 residents and businesses in Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County, cleans our community's used water daily. For 67 years,

AlexRenew has invested almost \$1 billion in upgrades to improve water quality, treatment capacity, and processing efficiency. In the past year, AlexRenew has been charged with the new treatment responsibility of mitigating the outdated combined sewer system that serves five percent of Alexandria, and addressing the extra flows entering our separated sewers in the west end. As a result, in the coming months, we will all see a rate increase in our sewer bills.

Rates are rising for several reasons. First, AlexRenew's wastewater facilities require on-

going improvements to meet the increased federal requirements for treating wastewater. Second, AlexRenew is working with the City and Fairfax County to address the extra flows that enter the plant when it rains or area soil is saturated from leaking wastewater laterals and utility holes. Our Fairfax County partners will fund their share of the remediation work for the management of their extra flows at AlexRenew.

Lastly, AlexRenew is working with the City to tackle a legacy problem — the remediation of a combined sewer system in older parts of Alexandria, where millions of gallons of sewage mixed with rainwater discharge into the Potomac during wet weather events.

The solution to the combined sewer overflow and the extra flows that enter the separate sanitary sewers is a program called "RiverRenew," which is being managed by AlexRenew in partnership the City. RiverRenew involves the construction of a tunnel system that will capture the flows from the combined sewers and upgrades at the wastewater plant to accommodate these flows.

RiverRenew is currently estimated to cost \$370-\$555 million.

Its design and construction will be funded largely by rate increases for the Alexandria residents and businesses who are daily users of the system. Rates are expected to increase approximately 13 percent in the next year and 11 percent in the year after.

We have been fortunate to receive a grant of \$25 million from the Commonwealth of Virginia in acknowledgement of the needed state and local partnership to complete this massive

infrastructure program. We are thankful to Governor Northam for proposing the funding and to our local delegation for securing the critical support necessary to obtain this grant for RiverRenew in this year's state budget, including Sen. Richard Saslaw, Sen. George Barker, Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charniele Herring, and Del. Mark Levine. We will work to secure additional state funding in the future as the progress of this major infrastructure project continues.

Rate policy is determined by AlexRenew's City Council-appointed Board of Directors, five community members who live in Alexandria and pay the same bills we all do. The Board calculates rate increases on a four-point philosophy: 1) fiscal responsibility to cover AlexRenew's costs of service; 2) transparency and appropriate public notice and input; 3) compassion through payment flexibility options; and 4) diligent planning and projections to avoid drastic increases year after year.

The Potomac River and its tributaries are natural assets that promote Alexandria's commercial viability, protect public health, encourage recreation, and enhance our quality of life. Investing in our wastewater system ensures the preservation of these vital natural resources. Our water sources and services are another way we are all connected and are systems we all share and invest in together.

We invite you to attend an Open House on Sunday, April 28, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the AlexRenew Environmental Center (1800 Limerick St.), to learn more about the need for your investment in the health of our waterways.

LETTERS

Examining City Budget

To the Editor:

If you ever wondered why our city government costs so much, then read Dan Brendel's article in the April 18, 2019 edition of the Gazette Packet. It's short on words but revealing thanks to an excellent, nearly full page chart.

The chart nicely depicts the complicated process whereby 15 adjustments were made to two budgets: a one-year and a 10-year budget which combined exceed two billion dollars.

Now savor this: Mr. Brendel's chart shows our elected officials could only find, to date, among these billions of your tax dollars just two savings totaling roughly \$500,000. I'm sure you'll agree this is a statistically insignificant sum when compared to the billions the city manager insists is necessary to provide the services and facilities presumably demanded by we, the taxpayers.

Based on the city's appeal to anyone with Internet access to submit add/subtract budget suggestions, it is not expecting much advice from our elected officials. And, given the complexity of the few budget items in Brendel's chart, I empathize with them. Critiquing not one, but two budgets consisting of millions upon millions of dollars requires a level of expertise our part-time citizen council members don't have.



PHOTO BY C. J. HEATLEY III

On the Waterfront

Koko investigates the Mirror Mirror exhibit in Waterfront Park.

However, what they do have is a proclivity to spend. Case in point: council member Chapman, who by day works for Fairfax County school system, gratuitously gave \$100,000 of our tax dollars to our school system. But when

asked what the money is for, neither he nor the ACPS could answer the question.

As they scrub the proposed city budget, our council members should remind themselves of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10
the core services all cities provide: public safety, road maintenance, parks and schools. Everything else is an example of the tax-taking public sector crowding out the tax-generating private sector. The former will not tolerate competition; the latter needs competition to be ever-efficient.

If in doubt where to begin paring the city manager's proposed short and long term budgets, then our councilors should start by selling its money losing businesses to the tax-paying private sector (e. g., Dash, bike share, rental properties, inspection services of all types, passport photos, etc.). Result: a more affordable city for young and old, and for everyone between.

Jimm Roberts
Alexandria

Disposable Art?

To the Editor:

SOFTlab's Mike Szivos' Mirror Mirror public art project at Waterfront Park is quite remarkable, but what happens to it after November? This is too substantial an art project to simply throw away after its run at Waterfront Park. If Szivos isn't going to install it somewhere else as a "traveling exhibit," Alexandria should find a permanent home for it. Otherwise, we're spending a lot of tax money for what amounts to "disposable art."

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Change: Not For the Better

To the Editor:

We've lived in Alexandria since 1993 and the city has changed dramatically – and not necessarily for the better. We've seen increased residential density construction that has overloaded road infrastructure because no mitigation action was required of developers – they've been allowed to build out to the maximum limits. Just look at Potomac Yards and South Pickett Street as examples where no additional road improvements were made other than repaving. The drive times down Route 1 and Duke Street have increased fairly dramatically in just the past 5 years.

In the case of Safe Streets and traffic management, the effort to cater to the small but very vocal group of bikers at the expense of drivers (who are the majority in the city) has made commuting and everyday life a chore. Driving times have increased as lanes have been narrowed or restricted and speed limits reduced, all in the name of those who are determined to make Alexandria more of a bike-friendly city, which it was never designed to be. To make matters more frustrating, bikers are falsely insinuating auto accident deaths are occurring on neighborhood streets – they're not.

Retroactive engineering applied to our

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

Your Investment in Healthier Waterways for Alexandria
Proposed AlexRenew Rate Increases

In April 2017, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law that requires Alexandria to remediate all four of its combined sewer outfalls by July 1, 2025. In response, Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) is implementing the RiverRenew program, a deep underground tunnel system to prevent sewage mixed with rainwater from entering our waterways in Alexandria.

To pay for this significant investment in the health of our community's waterways and ongoing wastewater operations and maintenance, AlexRenew has proposed rate increases starting on July 1, 2019, and July 1, 2020, respectively. Our residential customers will see an increase of approximately \$55 each year in their bills, or about \$5 per month.

INCREASES WILL PAY FOR:

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- Updated and new infrastructure to create and continue healthier waterways for our community

ALEXANDRIA renew ENTERPRISES

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Learn about the need for more investment in the health of our waterways through increased rates.

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SATURDAY
APRIL 27, 2019
10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

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3600 Wheeler Avenue
- First Baptist Church
2923 King St
- Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mt Vernon Avenue

CAN'T MAKE IT TO DRUG TAKE BACK DAY?

The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray and Inova Alexandria Hospital both house permanent prescription drug drop-off boxes. These drug drop boxes provide year-round access to safe drug disposal for all Alexandria residents.

PRESCRIPTION FOR DANGER

DID YOU KNOW?

- Many people believe prescription drugs are safer than illegal drugs because a doctor prescribed them—they're not.
- More people die accidentally from prescription drugs each year than all types of illegal drugs combined.
- Combining pain killers or anti-anxiety drugs with alcohol multiplies the effect—your heart or your breathing can stop.
- Drug-induced deaths now exceed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in more than 17 states.
- Most kids who abuse prescription drugs report they get them from their home medicine cabinets or from friends.
- Proper disposal of unwanted medication prevents environmental contamination of our waterways and soils.

SYMPTOMS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

- Abnormal pupil size
- Agitation
- Convulsions
- Paranoid behavior
- Difficulty breathing
- Drowsiness
- Hallucinations
- Nausea and vomiting
- Non-reactive pupils
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- Sweating or extremely dry, hot skin
- Tremors
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TC Robotics Team Advances to World Championship

The T.C. Williams FIRST Robotics Team, Titan Robotics (FRC 5587), competed in the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship April 11-13 at the EagleBank Arena at George Mason University. The team advanced from district competition, qualifying for the FIRST Championship in Detroit by winning the Chesapeake District Engineering Inspiration Award.

The FIRST Championship is the world's largest celebration of STEM for students. The 2019 event brings together tens of thousands of students from around the world who participate in FIRST K-12 robotics programs – along with educators, industry professionals, sponsors, organizations, and colleges/universities who support them – for a celebration of STEM inspiration.

At the District Championship, Titan Robotics competed with their robot, qualifying for the semifinals, but was edged out of the elimination tournament in a tie breaking match. Out of the 126 teams in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region, only the top



T.C. Williams FIRST Robotics Team, Titan Robotics, wins District Engineering Inspiration Award.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

58 advance to the District Championship and only the top 21 advance to the FIRST Championship.

Due to both Titan Robotics' robot performance and awards, they finished 16th in the district, qualifying to the FIRST Championship both through their district ranking and the Engineering Inspiration award,

which is an automatic invite.

Titan Robotics' FIRST Chesapeake District Engineering Inspiration award "celebrates outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering within a team's school or organization and community." The criteria include the extent and inventiveness of the team's efforts to recruit

students to engineering; the extent and effectiveness of the team's community outreach efforts, and a commitment to science and technology education among the team, school, and community over the course of a year, not just during build season.

Titan Robotics developed an outreach strategy that includes starting and mentoring FIRST teams at ACPS middle and elementary schools and developing five summer camps. In addition, students run robot demos and STEM activities at community events and engage local businesses to help sponsor their activities.

The team charges no fees to its participants, so it applies to grants from local and national corporations to fund their

team's operating costs. Most recently, Titan Robotics helped six Title 1 schools in ACPS apply for robotics and computer science grants through Amazon's Future Engineer Robotics Grant program.

All six schools received funding and will be starting FIRST Lego League teams in the fall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

already existing infrastructure can't do this. It only angers the vast majority of citizens while placating a few. The council and city staff and their initiatives are driving commuters into residential neighborhoods and creating safety issues where none existed before. Whenever the city government holds public meetings about accommodating bikers, of course they'll turn out in larger numbers as they're pressing to get something changed to their position. Drivers on the other hand aren't trying to change the system so tend not to show up. That leaves a skewed perception that drivers don't care — not true! Listen to the neighborhood associations. Instead of the fig leaf of public meetings — which have been pretty

much ignored in every situation — I would suggest that our City Council engage the entire citizenry by putting such proposals (which affect far more people than the biking community) to a referendum where a broader cross-section of people can consider the issue when voting. This would at least widen/deepen the pool of perspectives and force council and city staff to stop driving solutions that are in search of a problem.

Jay Farrar
Alexandria

Unfair to Widowed Military Spouses

To the Editor:

I have recently become aware of an extremely heartbreaking situation that is happening to our nation's widowed military spouses.

These widowed families have had their spouses give the ultimate price to this nation: their lives. Dealing with the tragic loss of a loved one who has perished in the line of duty or while in service to this country is difficult enough; it is the aftermath and lack of common-sense rules that astonish me and break my heart.

I'm talking about a spouse retaining all benefits as a single widower until the age of 57, when only after that milestone birthday can they marry and retain all benefits of their deceased military spouse. This is atrocious and I'll tell you why: those who

perish in the line of duty are young and leave behind young spouses and young children.

Why should a draconian regulation require a widowed spouse to put their life on hold to retain benefits earned and paid for with a life? Furthermore, should a spouse have the second chance at rounding out their family and decline the benefits, their children now owe taxes on benefits received.

I do not believe this is what our active duty service members and veterans would agree is sound, nor what they put their lives on the line to defend.

Heather Batson
Alexandria

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OPINION

The Start of a Forever Bond

FROM STUDENT, STHEFANY

Each week Ms. Anna and I meet at Beatley Library in Alexandria. We always read for approximately 30 minutes. We read animal books to chapter and series books like "Wonder." We also practice writing words and turning them into sentences. When Ms. Anna travels I read to her on the phone. My favorite part is when Ms. Anna brings me snacks. I have been working with Ms. Anna for almost 2 and a half years. Every year we go Christmas shopping for me and my family, which is a lot of fun. This makes Ms. Anna the best Mentor. I hope I have her forever!

MENTOR OF THE MONTH

her on the phone. My favorite part is when Ms. Anna brings me snacks. I have been working with Ms. Anna for almost 2 and a half years. Every year we go Christmas shopping for me and my family, which is a lot of fun. This makes Ms. Anna the best Mentor. I hope I have her forever!



Sthefany with Annette Gomes.

bounds over the last two years. She's like a sponge and soaks up everything you tell her.

Her choices in books range from animals to biographies to mysteries. Her vocabulary is growing and we spend time incorporating these new words into sentences from time to time. She keeps me abreast of what she's working on in the classroom as well.

From bowling to creating our 2019 vision boards to attending the museums in DC, these have been some of the most enjoyable activities thus far that Wright to Read plans for its students and tutor/mentors.

With each yearly assessment

Sthefany has grown and I think that's what I'm most proud of.

I was definitely placed with the right student. She recently said she hopes I was with her forever — if only that could happen. I'm beyond proud of Sthefany.

Wright to Read, a program of The Campagna Center, is a member of the Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP). AMP was created in 2006 to ensure that quality mentors and mentor programs are available for Alexandria's youth and young adults in need. To learn more about Wright to Read, visit: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/programs/elementary-level> or to learn more about AMP, visit: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Mentoring>.

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Retired APD Lt. Mark Bergin with his wife Ruth, daughter Anna, son John and family friend Jaymee Copenhaver with Dublin.



Kim Paul and Buddy



Robert Rowe with Apollo and Archer Harman with Mateo.

Barks, Brews And Bites

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Scott Sanderford with Duke



Jamie Yamaha and Adam Van Wagner with Vanellope.



Angela Cosentino and Lilly.



Donna Baez and Monica Lisle with Duke.



Don Levinson and Stormy.



Barbara Scott and Sunny.



Sachie and Brian Fazzone with Cha-Cha and Tako.

Redirecting Recycling Stream for Glass

The City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County, and Prince William County have announced a new strategic partnership to improve glass recovery and recycling. These jurisdictions have committed to collecting glass via purple glass-only drop-off containers. The glass will then be transported to a Fairfax County processing plant, where it will be recycled into a variety of products.

In Northern Virginia, glass collected in curbside recycling bins is sent to recycling facilities where it eventually ends up in landfills. During transporta-

tion to the facility, glass is broken and becomes mixed with recycling residue (such as small bits of plastic and paper) during the sorting process. This recycling contamination, along with rising recycling costs and lack of a market for single-stream processed glass has made glass unrecoverable across the area.

The new glass-only drop-off containers address this issue by diverting glass recyclables to a specialized plant for responsible recycling. In Alexandria, glass-only purple drop-off bins have been placed at the city's four recycling drop-off centers, which are open 24 hours a day. The city continues to accept glass as part of its curbside collection.



Separate recycling container for glass.

The Emotional Side of Leaving the Workforce

Getting ready for retirement requires more than financial preparation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Ann Corbett worked for more than 20 years as the principal of a Catholic school. Her days were filled with leading children in morning prayer and other faith-based activities. After she retired, Corbett, who lives in Bethesda and worked in Washington, D.C., had difficulty maintaining the daily connection to her faith.

“My job was the way that I stayed connected to my faith and people who shared my faith,” she said. “I think I took it for granted because when I retired, I lost all of that. I was no longer leading prayers and teaching children about their faith. When I retired, I really struggled to regain my footing and feel grounded in my spirituality.”

While financial planning is often associated with retirement preparation, emotional preparedness is equally as important, but often overlooked, say mental health professionals. Like other significant life transitions, retirement can require an emotional adjustment, and even those who feel ready

to leave the workforce can feel caught off guard by the adjustment to it.

“Most people are thinking that they need to save, save, save and have a comfortable nest egg before retire and that’s important, but they don’t realize that they’re going to experience social and structural voids after they retire,” said Alexandria psychotherapist Monica Kleinman, Psy.D. “If you think about it, most of our interpersonal connections and social opportunities revolve around our jobs. Going to work every day give us structure and a predictable routine.”

Kleinman adds, “Those who are thinking about retirement or know that retirement is in their near future should ask themselves, ‘How will I spend my time?’ ‘What will my daily routine look like?’”

A person’s identity and sense of self-worth is often connected to their job, says Kleinman. “That might not be healthy, but it’s a reality for a lot of people,” she said. “Our jobs give us a sense of purpose, and for some people, their job is a status symbol. When you go to a party, think about the number of time times you’re asking what you do for a living.”

Volunteer work is one way that marriage

and family counselor Tiffany Grimm suggests retirees maintain a sense of purpose. “If you were an attorney, you can volunteer with an organization that allows you to offer legal services to people who can’t afford an attorney. If you’re a teacher, you could volunteer with a learn-to read type program or teach English-as-a-second language type classes,” she said.

Retirees often experience loneliness, says Kleinman who suggests developing a strong social network before retiring. “Loneliness and isolation can be a killer,” she said. “Before you retire, reconnect with old friends and develop new friendships outside of work. Go out and socialize in ways that are not connected to your job. Invitations to events that are tied to your job tend to dry up when you leave, so it’s very important to socialize frequently outside of work and to keep doing that after you retire.”

Kleinman also recommends building and maintain strong relationships with family

members “One way to combat loneliness and the shock of retirement is having a connection with family members, especially your adult children and your grandchildren,” she said. “Think about taking your grandchildren to the park or a museum or on a vacation with you and spending uninterrupted quality time with them. Have lunch or dinner with your adult children.”

Engaging in activities with groups, like social or religious clubs help retirees avoid feelings of isolation, says Grimm. “Whether it’s a stamp club or weekly Bible study group, you have to be connected to groups of

people in a regular, consistent and predictable way, just like you were when you worked,” she said. “It’s important to our overall wellbeing to be connected to a wide variety of people and personalities in a positive way. Think about things you enjoy doing or any hobbies that you have or would like to have, and join groups with people who share your interests.”

“When I retired, I really struggled to regain my footing and feel grounded.”

— Ann Corbett

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Delivers 'The Savannah Disputation'

Evangelist comes knocking to save souls in this Southern comedy.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Savannah Disputation" from April 27 to May 18. Written by Evan Smith, the subject is damnation, but the show is as light and sweet as the iced tea served by the odd-couple sisters in their proper Southern home. But the sisters quickly lose their Southern charm when a young door-to-door evangelist comes knocking to save their souls. This theological comedy with a twist blends the sharpness of wit with the depth of character while telling a story of a crisis of faith.

As a director, Will Jarred said he found the subject matter compelling. "I have always been intrigued by the ways in which various denominations 'weaponize' the Bible toward their agenda and points of view. I like the way in which the subject matter was treated with humor and humanity. I also appreciated the opportunity to direct a show that featured strong senior women — not too many roles out there for that demographic," he said.

He said the biggest challenge is hopping into a creative project with a relatively unknown play and a new production team. "Will people come out to see a show they may not be familiar with? Will the subject matter be a turnoff? What can I expect in terms of talent and expertise to pull it all off? The staff and volunteers at LTA have been terrific partners in bringing this show to life, and I've been thrilled to work with such talented cast, crew and production team," he added.

Added co-producer Lynn O'Connell: "I find this short, sweet comedy a perfect evening's escape from today's real world of government shutdowns, political sex (and other) scandals, and computer glitches such as the one that 'likely' started the fire at



PHOTO BY KYLE REARDON

Patricia Smith, Mary Jo Morgan and Ashley Amidon star in LTA's production of "The Savannah Disputation."

Notre Dame.

While the theme of the play seems to be religion, it really isn't. The theme is community and the importance of belonging and not being alone. And, at the end of this show, audience members will feel warmth and empathy for all four of the show's characters — Mary, Margaret, Melissa and Father Murphy. Besides, who doesn't love a show that is only 90 minutes long — and set in the beauty of Savannah, Georgia?" she said. The other co-producer is Kevin O'Dowd.

O'Connell said what she was trying to accomplish was: "Really an evening of relaxation and laughter with a subtle message, demonstrating that all of us are valued members of our community regardless of our religion, our marital status, or our individual personality quirks."

Patricia Smith plays the role of Margaret,

a sweet, friendly older woman who is facing some challenges in her life. "She spends most of her time at home and is eager to make new friends. She is also curious about what lies ahead. She has had difficulties in her life that she carries within her. She doesn't share her troubles with others, but tries to manage them by herself. She is mainly easy going, but can be stubborn when something is important to her," she said.

She added: "The main challenges were keeping Margaret 'real,' and showing her many facets.

This character is very reactive to the others. It is even more important than usual to always be in the moment."

Mary Jo Morgan plays the role of Mary, whose life has been hard and who does not fail to make sure everyone experiences her pain. "Mary knows a little kindness goes a

long way but a little meanness goes a lot further — and she is determined to make it go as far as she can. With the freedom that elderly Southern women demand, Mary does not hold back her feelings but her rigidity gets questioned and her vulnerability exposed," she said.

"We see the essence of Mary is loneliness. But then that is also the essence of Margaret, Melissa and Father Murphy and maybe everyone. Funny, maybe everyone is trying to connect in some way — through religion, theatre, sports, literature, art, science, education, business; maybe everything is really just about connection," she said.

Ashley Amidon is playing the role of Melissa, a young (ish) evangelical who goes door to door. "She's not perfect, but she truly believes what she says; it's her rare sort of earnestness that initially attracted me to the character honestly. She is so passionate and so grounded in her belief of what is right and wrong that even when I disagree with what she says, I recognize the place it comes from," she said.

She added: "It is very much a show about belief: what we believe, how we hold on to it or don't, and how we react when others challenge what we think. It's fascinating, but I will admit I struggled with some of the dialogue initially because my character is so very rooted in what she thinks, and finds it hard to see any other side. I'm a lobbyist by day, and I am literally paid to see all sides to an issue and try to find a compromise, so this very right or wrong with no middle ground dichotomy Melissa employs was hard for me."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Savannah Disputation" from April 27 to May 18. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$21 to \$24. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "(No) Comfort Zone."

Through April 28, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "(No) Comfort Zone" exhibit reflects people, places and things that are in and/or out of their comfort zone. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Architecture Week.

Through April 28, enjoy exclusive tours of recently completed buildings, participate in sketching and virtual reality workshops, visit an architecture school, see an exhibit of award-winning buildings designed by local architects, tour architecturally significant historic churches with expert architects, and build a 'Scrap City' or participate in an architectural scavenger hunt. Visit www.aianova.org for more.

Photography Exhibit: "Ranch Life."

Through May 5, 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.

Art Exhibit: "Bugs. Or Kafka on Prozac."

Through May 5, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 North Union St., Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Megan Partridge's "Bugs. Or Kafka on Prozac" takes a closer look at these tiny creatures that are often overlooked. The artist imparts each arthropod with a personality as distinct as their biology, from the bedraggled bug aptly named Hangover Cricket to the speeding blur in Super Bee. Exhibitions are free and open to the

public. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Juried Show: "East Meets West."

Through May 19, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Ikat weaving, Batik, Sashiko embroidery, Shibori dyeing, hand stamping, and other Eastern techniques and clothing styles are integrated with Western designs and techniques. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Free admission. Call 703-548-0935 or visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

Kathryn Coneway Exhibit.

Through May 31, at Huntley Meadows Visitor's Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Coneway's mixed-media art combines collage and photographic transfers, and it expresses her observations of nature. She uses mulberry paper to create a ground of color and texture. A reception will be held Sunday, March

10 from 2-4 p.m. Students from Kathryn Coneway's winter class at Huntley Meadows will also display work. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Living Legends of Alexandria:

African American Activists. Through July, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chinquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring John Adams and Patrick Henry Schools schools. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments,

music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

Play: "Yet I Stand."

7 p.m., at the Lee Center, Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. The City's Sexual Assault Center (SAC) is sponsoring displays, exhibits, workshops and events around the community to raise awareness of sexual assault and support survivors. "Yet I Stand," is a presented in partnership with Friends of Guest House, the City of Alexandria Domestic Violence Program, and SAC. For more information and a full list of events and activities, visit alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence.

Poetry Slam.

7 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The City of Alexandria appointed KaNikki Jakarta as the City's new Poet Laureate. As one of her first official duties, Jakarta will lead a free poetry slam, A Friendly Game of Slam. She

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Places for Packing a Picnic

BY HOPE NELSON

Finally, winter's cold weather seems to be in the rearview mirror. And with the likes of new public art along Old Town's waterfront, outdoor movie nights and plenty of lazy Saturdays just waiting to be enjoyed, there's no better way to celebrate than a picnic. But sometimes life gets in the way of making a homemade feast from scratch. Count on these eateries to pick up your slack.

Noodle Box, 602 King St.

The fast-casual purveyor of Asian fare on King Street is the perfect place to go for picnic supplies.

Pick your entree, pick your protein, choose a side or two and you're in business. Noodle Box has an extensive menu of, yes, noodle dishes — ranging from pad Thai to kung pao to drunken noodles and more — but the restaurant also offers up a hearty supply of rice-based meals, as well. The green curry rice box, the fried rice, the garden stir fry — all of these and more can be customized with the protein of your choice. Add on an order of gyoza or spring rolls and head out to the park — you'll have one of the best picnic baskets around.

Lori's Table, 1028 King St.

This little café in the heart of Old Town has the first two meals of your day covered. Pick up a breakfast sandwich atop an English muffin with egg,

cheese, and ham or bacon if you like, order a coffee to go alongside, and head out to the Saturday soccer game. Or choose from an extensive array of more lunch-friendly sandwiches to pep up your afternoon. Choose from among nearly a dozen meats and cheeses to put together a sandwich that will make all your picnic dreams come true. Or order up a grilled sandwich, ranging from a three-cheese Panini to a grilled PBJ to a Cajun chicken sandwich.

Zento, 693 N. Washington St.

When it comes right down to it, sushi is the perfect picnic food. Think about it: It comes in a form that is easy to eat with chopsticks or one hand; it packs a nutritional punch; and it's portable. And Zento offers a vast menu of sushi options for nearly every palate.

Want to go spicy? The Fire Dragon Roll, with crunchy spicy tuna with avocado, eel and a spicy sauce, is a safe bet. Or keep it local with the Old Town Roll, filled with salmon, tuna, masago and avocado wrapped in cucumber. Vegetarians won't be left out, either; the tempura-battered sweet potato and avocado roll, a mix of crispy and soft, makes for a great complement to a shiitake mushroom roll. Order some edamame to accompany the main meal and you've got finger food that can't be beat.

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

CALENDAR

will be joined by her predecessor, Wendy Kaplan, and the winning poets of the 2019 DASHing Words in Motion who will have their poems displayed inside the DASH buses and Trolleys in April and May. Call 703-746-5565 or poet@alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Garden Day Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Stop by historic Carlyle House during Alexandria Garden Day to tour the museum and purchase crafts by local artisans. Visit www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-549-2997.

Project Discovery Walkathon. 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Come join the fun at the 23rd annual Project Discovery Walkathon. Based at T.C. Williams High School and the Minnie Howard 9th Grade Center, Project Discovery prepares and motivates low-income and first generation college-eligible students to access opportunities in higher education. This Walkathon is the spring fundraiser and all proceeds go to the program. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/ProjectDiscovery.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot at 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Plant sale hosts 10 vendors from three states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free admission. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Watercolor Workshop – Color Theory. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Understanding color is essential to creating work that captivates the eye and evokes certain moods or emotions. Through a series of exercises lead by artist Dawn Flores, learn to understand tints, shades and tones, the color wheel, complementary colors, warm and cool colors and color schemes. Make useful charts

and swatches that can be used for future reference. \$93/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code F91.8B8F or call 703-642-5173.

Hamilton's BFF & Frenemies

Specialty Tour. 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Inspired by the musical Hamilton, hear about Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison, and Burr, who all came to the tavern, and delve into the issues they faced and how their choices impacted local citizens. This specialty tour is offered every Saturday in April. \$15 per person, \$12 for museum members. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/shop for tickets.

Becoming American. 10 a.m.-noon Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Carefully curated, *Becoming American* is a selection of documentaries representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the sessions is moderated followed by discussion after the viewing. Light refreshments will be available. This program is designed for adults, high school students may attend with an adult. Free, pre-registration is required at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Community Pet Fair. 10 a.m.-noon in front of the Ruby Tucker Family Center at 322 Tancil Court. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) will hold a free Pet Care Fair, offering rabies and other vaccinations and other services at no cost for pets in Alexandria's underserved communities. Residents can also take advantage of basic grooming and nail trims, pet food, behavioral advice and more. Dogs must be on leash, and cats must be transported in carriers. Visit alexandrianimals.org for more.

Earth Day Celebration. 10 a.m.-2

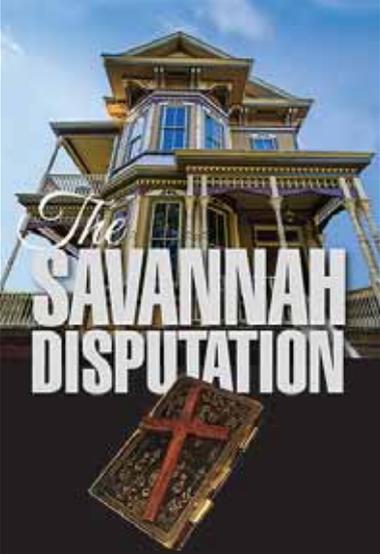
p.m. at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. The City of Alexandria will host the 26th Annual Alexandria Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration. This family-friendly event includes the ninth annual Upcycling Showcase, where students from Alexandria City Public Schools will present unique fashion items and other upcycling creations based on the event theme, "Climate Change – Take Action." Admission is free, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay or call 703-746-5592.

Bus Tour: "From Slavery to Freedom."

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon. This special bus tour begins at Mount Vernon with an exclusive viewing of Mount Vernon's Lives Bound Together exhibition, on slavery at George Washington's plantation. Afterward, visitors will walk to Mount Vernon's Slave Cemetery for a site talk by archeologists, followed by a lunchtime lecture (box lunch provided). Guests will board a bus to Alexandria and visit Freedom House Museum, then on to Alexandria's Contraband and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial. The tour will conclude at Mount Vernon at 4 p.m. The tour will go rain or shine and has extended periods of walking over uneven terrain. \$40. Get tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov/.

Celebrate Historic Garden Week.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Five of Old Town Alexandria's finest private homes and gardens will open to the public, as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, the oldest and largest house and garden tour in the nation. This walking tour features private townhomes and secluded gardens located along the tree lined streets of Alexandria's historic district, refreshments and a marketplace at the Athenaeum, and is just steps away from Old Town's fine dining and boutique shopping. \$45 in



This theological comedy with a twist blends the sharpness of wit with the depth of character while telling a story of a crisis of faith.

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Pipeline Playwrights Holds New Reading

“The Whole is Greater” play reading on Monday, April 29 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The next play reading of Pipeline Playwrights’ Winter/Spring 2019 Reading Series will be “The Whole Is Greater” by Ann Timmons. The staged reading will be held on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.

According to Timmons: “The Whole is Greater” is a comedy about what happens among a group of disparate characters when their lives unexpectedly intertwine.”

It stars Carmen, the motivational superstar; Marguerite, the cynical, recently unemployed professor; Shelly, the wily Dollar Store cashier; and Frances, the corrupt City Council chair; who all come together in Carlyle, Va.

“They all try desperately (and somewhat hilariously) to hold onto their carefully crafted identities. The play shatters many of their illusions, and illustrates what can happen when the lies we tell ourselves — and others — catch up to us,” said Timmons.

As far as challenges, she said it has a fairly complicated plot structure, so she didn’t want to overwrite, but also didn’t want the



Ann Timmons

audience to get confused. “And I wanted to leave some room for my director and actors to make some creative choices, so I kept finding myself editing, cutting, re-editing, and so on.

I had written an earlier version of this play that was read at Page to Stage at The Kennedy Center in 2015, and after that I eliminated a major character and one whole plot arc. Which was hard! They call it ‘killing your little darlings,’ and it sure felt like

I had stamped out something very precious to me,” she said.

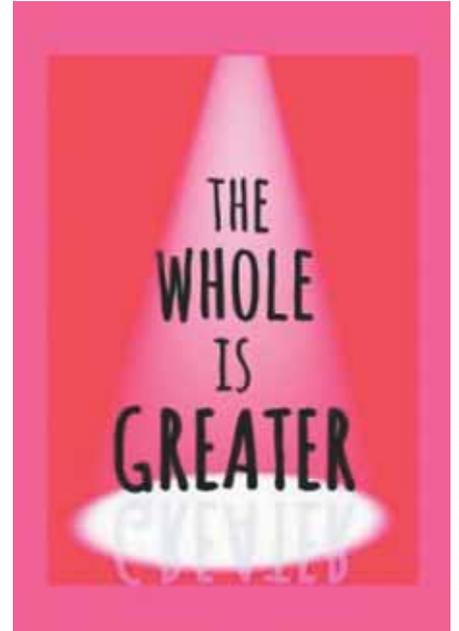
She added: “If people are encouraged by this play to take risks, or look a bit more closely at how they move through life, I would be happy. Oh, and if they remember a funny line or moment from the play that made them laugh, that’d be great too.”

Directed by Catherine Tripp, the play stars Barbara Pinolini as Marguerite Navarre; Caren Anton as Shelly Lauerman; Diane Coope Gould as Carmen; Marni Penning as Frances Furst; and Stephen Strosnider as Kevin McSweeney.

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia who have decided to work together to support each other’s work and get women’s voices into theatre.

The group’s other members are Jean Koppen, Crystal Adaway, Patricia Connelly, and Nicole Burton.

Pipeline Playwrights will present a reading of “The Whole is Greater” on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. The show is free, with a suggested \$10 donation. Stay for the post-performance dis-



CONTRIBUTED GRAPHIC

“The Whole is Greater” at MetroStage.

cussion and reception with the cast, Ann Timmons, and all the Pipeline Playwrights. Visit them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/>.

CALENDAR

advance at www.vagardenweek.org or at the Alexandria Visitor Center at Ramsay House (221 King St.). On the date of the tour, \$55 at the Athenaeum (201 Prince St.) and at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House (323 South Fairfax St.). Tickets will not be sold at individual tour homes.

Spring Open House. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at EMMAvet Veterinary Urgent Care, 1628A Belle View Blvd. EMMAvet and the Belle View Shopping Center welcome the community to their Spring Open House for a clinic tour, raffle prizes, food from Primo, and exclusive deals from many of Belle View Shopping Center neighbors. Well-behaved and leashed dogs are welcome. Free. Call 703-373-3774 or visit emmavet.com for more.

City Nature Challenge 2019. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. An Extension Master Gardener will lead an event for the City Nature Challenge taking place April 26-29. In the challenge cities around the globe compete to see who can find the most species of plants, animals, reptiles, and fungi, and who can engage the most people. Download the iNaturalist app (www.inaturalist.org/) and join the fun. Arlington Regional Master Naturalists will also lead events during the four-day challenge at a number of area parks. For those event times, check armn.org/volunteer-opportunities/. Look for the City Nature Challenge 2019 signs. Open to all ages. Free. Questions? Contact Extension Master Gardeners at telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Spring Benefit Concert: “Kindred Spirits.” 3 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate connections, including friendship, kinship, sisterhood, and even frenemies. This event will feature Sopranessence’s arrangements of music from popular operas & operettas such as Hansel and Gretel, The Mikado and Mozart’s Così fan

Tutte; audience-favorite musicals like Miss Saigon, Cinderella, Wicked, and more. Proceeds support St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Through Friday, April 26: \$20; \$10, ages 12 & under. All tickets \$25 at the door. Visit ourconvergence.org for more.

Live Music: Cleve Francis. 7:30-10:15 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. A blend of many musical styles, from country, to blues and jazz. Enjoy Cleve Francis for an evening of musical storytelling. \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Britain on the Green. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. The 22nd Britain on the Green show will feature two hundred British cars and motorcycles, music, food trucks, youth activities, and admission to Gunston Hall and grounds. \$10 adult; \$5 children 6-18. Visit www.capitaltriumphregister.com/bog/ or call 703-522-6571.

Love Your Pet Day Block Party. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Local businesses will host a block party on Roth & Colvin streets in the West End with proceeds benefiting the Animal Welfare

League of Alexandria. The kick-off will be held mid-way along Colvin Street at 11am, hosted by Dr. Katy Nelson. Children and leashed pets welcomed. Free admission. Visit www.alexandrialoveyourpetday.com.

Carpenter’s Cook-Off 2019. Noon-3 p.m. at The Birchmere. During the event, 20 top-rated local restaurants serve samples of their best dishes to guests and compete to win awards. A panel of celebrity judges grants the Best Savory and Best Sweet Awards while attendees of all ages determine the People’s and Kids’ Choice Awards. In addition to sampling dishes, guests can bid on hot ticket items during the live and silent auctions, try their luck at raffles, and listen to live music by the Alpha Dog Blues Band. Visit www.CarpentersShelter.org.

Spring Ballet: Coppelia. 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. Coppelia is a charming, humorous ballet of infatuation, deception, and finally a love that prevails. Dance along with Swanhilda and Franz as they find their way to love and “happily ever after.” \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

Film Screening: “Just Eat It.” 2:30 p.m. at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, 1108 Jefferson St. In honor of Stop Food Waste Day, the City of Alexandria’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Resource Recovery Division, will screen “Just Eat It,” about a couple who dives into the issue of food waste from farm and retail, right to the back of their own fridge, as they pledge to eat only discarded food for six months. Before and after the film, enjoy light refreshments and engage with City staff and community leaders on efforts to fight food waste and create a greener Alexandria for the next generation. RSVP on Facebook at www.facebook.com/events/2169281946459574/permalink/

2169281949792907/.

APRIL 29-MAY 26

The “Weekends” Kiln Club Show. Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Artisan creations are as unique as that match made in heaven, ideal as an anniversary gift, engagement congratulations or to commemorate the hoopla of getting hitched. Capture a moment in clay, recall a scene with ceramics and upgrade important goings-on with Scope Gallery. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Rare 1792 Gold Coin on Display. In the Donald W. Reynolds Education Center, at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. On the 230th anniversary of George Washington’s first inauguration, visitors will have the opportunity to view the 1792 Washington President gold eagle pattern coin, the earliest gold pattern proposed for U.S. coinage and the only gold coin with this design. This unique piece, on loan indefinitely from a private owner, will remain on view as part of Mount Vernon’s educational experience for its more than 1 million annual visitors. Visit mountvernon.org/1792coin.

Twilight & Tipple Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare chance to see one of Wright’s houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/ for more.

Science, Pseudoscience, Magic,



PHOTO BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Attendees at the 2018 block party celebrating their love for their pets.

Love Your Pet Day Block Party

Local businesses will host a block party on Roth & Colvin streets in the West End with proceeds benefiting the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. The kick-off will be held mid-way along Colvin Street at 11am, hosted by Dr. Katy Nelson. Children and leashed pets welcomed. Sunday, April 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. Visit www.alexandrialoveyourpetday.com.

ENTERTAINMENT



(No) Comfort Zone image, Scribble Scrabble by Kelli Sinco

Art Exhibit: '(No) Comfort Zone'

The "(No) Comfort Zone" exhibit reflects people, places and things that are in and/or out of their comfort zone. Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. An opening reception takes place April 5, 7-9 p.m. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

CALENDAR

and Humbug. 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Learn about some of the fascinating programs and performances from The Lyceum's first 20 years. Science was a popular topic for lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits at Lyceum Hall, as it was known in the 1840s and 50s – some of them featuring legitimate academic programs and others featuring the latest pseudoscience crazes of the day. Jim Holloway, facilities coordinator at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum shares his research on the wide variety of science-based entertainments enjoyed by Alexandrians in the two decades

before the Civil War. \$10. Tickets at shop.alexandriava.gov.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 2-4

Sailing on String. Thursday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families. Follow two curious explorers on a voyage into a world made of string. This gentle, engaging performance features object transformation, movement, live string music, and captivating design. Best for children ages 0-2 and their families. Sign interpreted performance May 11, 10 a.m. \$7.

Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 571-549-1270.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. 10 a.m. Old Town Safeway, 500 S. Royal St. Safeway will unveil renovations to its Old Town store. The celebration will include live music from the New Line Brass Band, refreshments and free gifts. As part of the ribbon-cutting celebration, Safeway will present donations to two local community organizations: The Campagna Center and ALIVE!

UCM Give From the Heart Gala. 6 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Hosted by The Friends of UCM, the 2019 Gala is also part of UCM's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The theme for the yearlong celebration is "50 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors." Honorary Co-Chairs are U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Mrs. Addy Krizek, both former UCM Board members. \$200. RSVP at www.ucmagency.org.

MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni Night. 6:15 p.m. (reception); 7 p.m. performance. The MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni night will feature the MVHS Theatre scrapbook and honor all Mount Vernon alumni in their first annual MVHS Theatre Arts Alumni Night during the spring musical production of Cinderella. \$5-\$10. Purchase tickets online (www.itickets.com/events/402293.html) or at the door.

Symphony of Frogs. 7:30-9 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join a naturalist for an indoor discussion and a guided walk to listen for serenading frogs and toads. Learn the calls of a bullfrog, southern leopard frog, green frog, tree frog, American toad and more. The weather and time of season will affect what frogs will be calling. Adults. \$8. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.



Focus Music

Acoustic Eidolon is Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire. Their music is a combination of Celtic, classical and contemporary folk. This show will be a benefit for Holly's Hands Southern Animal Charity (www.hollyshandscharity.org). Saturday, May 4, 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Tickets are \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.

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Local Filmmaker Chronicles Howard Thurman's Life

FROM PAGE 6
their films.

"When these remaining Civil Rights icons are no longer with us to testify to the importance of Thurman's role, his name could well be lost to history," Doblmeier said. "That is why we hope through the film to help highlight Thurman's role in the American imagination for this generation."

Ever since Doblmeier established Journey Films in the mid-1980s, the company has produced 33 films that focus on topics of faith and spirituality.

"People often identify me first as a filmmaker, but I prefer to think of myself as someone who is endlessly curious about religion and how people respond to their understanding of God," Doblmeier

said. "I have degrees in religious studies, and the vehicle that I use to explore those questions is through filmmaking. When I began Journey Films I remember people telling me that if I limited myself to only making films on topics of religion, faith and spirituality I would run out of ideas in six months. Here we are more, more than 30 years and 30 films

late, and there's still no shortage of ideas."

The Journey Films team creates every film from start to finish — from the brainstorming to the business side of movie making.

"We come up with the ideas for most of the films, and fundraise in order to get them into production," Doblmeier said. "Then we do the research — which is always extensive. We do the on-location filming, followed by scripting and editing and final mastering. We not only handle the full production, but we then work to get the film widely seen. If it sounds exhausting, it's because it is. These kinds of films have a longer arc. For each one, I'll do about 30 events around the country to spread greater awareness for what's going on. It's my life, and going out and sharing it is what we do."

Their efforts don't go unnoticed. "It's rewarding," Doblmeier said. "We are fortunate enough to have won two regional Emmy Awards, and more than a dozen other awards."

This team of filmmakers is careful to present subject matter in a compelling, respectful way. "Religion can be an incredibly challenging field because people are very passionate about their beliefs," Doblmeier said. "Every sentence you write needs to be carefully considered and thoughtfully expressed. But, hopefully because of our experience and background, we can delve into difficult material in a way so that it satisfies the appetite and imagination of an educated public television audience."

The brains behind Journey Films understand the responsibility they have with the type of cinematography they produce.

"We think of the work we do as exploration," Doblmeier said.

"That is the root of why we call ourselves Journey Films. I think telling stories about how people view God, or the divine, and how that inspires them to act is endlessly fascinating. It is fascinating in large part because with each film we find ourselves confronting the great — almost unanswerable — questions of life."

It's fitting that a large part of Howard Thurman's life was also exploring answers to these questions.

"Thurman was a gifted writer but the eloquence of his prose should not distract from how he could be brutally honest when it came to identifying the failures of churches to live up to their own creeds," Doblmeier said. "Thurman was critical of the Christian churches for not doing their part to create congregations where people of all races could feel at home. My hope is that people will see the film and take those challenges seriously."

Despite that Thurman lived and thrived in a different era, Davis also insists that the Civil Rights Movement visionary and his life's work remain relevant.

"The best part of this documentary for me was the opportunity to introduce Thurman in all his fullness to a new audience and, hopefully, expand his legacy," Davis said. "He's an important figure whom more people need to know, and he's a figure who really speaks to where we are now as a nation. He wants to call everyone together, to recognize our common humanity as a starting place. Community was the most important thing to Thurman, and it's something we need to recapture today." To learn more about "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story" and about Journey Films, visit www.journeyfilms.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Code Administration Technical Training. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at City Hall, Room 1101, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria Department of Code Administration is sponsoring a free technical training on the Significant Changes to the ICC A117.1 Accessibility Standard – 2009 Edition. This training will be presented by the International Code Council and will provide 6 hours of AIA, ICC, and DHCD continuing education units. Lunch and light refreshments will be served. To register, email pete.mensinger@alexandriava.gov.

Building Safety Month

Celebration. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Join the City of Alexandria for the 7th Annual Building Safety Month Kick-Off Event. This year's theme is "No Code. No Confidence." Visit alexandriava.gov/Code for more.

In-Person Absentee Voting Begins.

8 a.m. Voter Registration Office, 132 N. Royal St. Contact Anna Leider, anna.leider@alexandriava.gov, 703-746-4050.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

2019 Project Discovery Walkathon. 8:30 a.m. Fort Ward Park Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road.

Alexandria Earth Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mt. Vernon

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

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RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ADOPT AND CHANGE CERTAIN RATES, FEES AND CHARGES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises, Inc., hereby signifies its intent to change certain rates, fees and charges to become effective **July 1, 2019** and hereby sets the date of **Saturday, May 11, at 9:30 a.m.**, at the Authority's administration office, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 for a public hearing to receive comment regarding same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer is hereby directed to have published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Alexandria, for two consecutive weeks, notice of the proposed change in the schedule of rates, fees and charges and the day and time of the public hearing.

The proposed rates, fees and charges are:

Description	Meter Size	Effective Oct 1, 2017	Effective July 1, 2019	Effective July 1, 2020
		Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Gallons
Individually Metered Residential Service - Wastewater Treatment Charge	All Meters	\$6.77	\$7.63	\$8.50
Commercial Service - Wastewater Treatment Charge	All Meters	\$6.77	\$7.63	\$8.50
Description	Meter Size	Current Effective Oct. 1, 2017	Proposed Effective July 1, 2019	Proposed Effective July 1, 2020
Residential Base Charge	All Meters	\$9.61	\$10.83	\$12.05
Commercial Base Charge	5/8"	\$28.83	\$32.49	\$36.14
	3/4"	\$28.83	\$64.97	\$72.29
	1"	\$72.07	\$81.22	\$90.36
	1-1/2"	\$144.16	\$162.43	\$180.71
	2"	\$230.65	\$259.88	\$289.14
	3"	\$432.47	\$487.28	\$542.14
	4"	\$720.77	\$812.13	\$903.56
	6"	\$1,441.56	\$1,624.26	\$1,807.13
	8"	\$2,306.50	\$2,598.81	\$2,981.40
Minimum Deposit Based on Meter Size		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Residential Customer Activation Fee		\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

Revised on July 1, 2019 and shall remain in effect thereafter until further revised.

SPORTS



The women's second varsity eight placed took silver in the Darrell Winslow Regatta.

Six Medals in Winslow Regatta

T.C. Williams women's frosh eight took gold in the Darrell Winslow Regatta, and a bevy of varsity boats won medals, including the men's third and fourth varsity eights, and women's second and third varsity eights, and the women's lightweight eight.

The crew team is coming off a strong year last year and strong performances in the first regatta's of this spring season, but faced stiff competition on a balmy spring day at the Occoquan Reserve before crowds cheering with megaphones and ringing the traditional regatta noisemakers, cowbells.

With a time of 5:30:72, the frosh women's eight

topped West Springfield (5:46.75) and Lake Braddock (5:47.61).

The women's second varsity eight placed first in its heat and then took silver with a time of 5:31.58. Bethesda-Chevy Chase Crew had a time of 5:25.30 and the boat winning bronze, Oakton, had a time of 5:37.45.

Second eight coxswain Caroline Miles, a sophomore, said she hadn't met the BCC team last year. "We saw new teams going into the finals ... BCC were nice competitors and good rowers," she said.

The women's third varsity eight took second in its

SEE REGATTA, PAGE 22

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Legals

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance use dependency, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Performance Contract), available at alexandriava.gov/DCHS. The hearing will be Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call Erica Vasquez at 703.746.3523 or email erica.vasquez@alexandriava.gov. Sign up is not required. For reasonable disability accommodation, email or call 571.384.5244, Virginia Relay 711.

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Obituary



Mary Joyce Tully Via Bernstine

Joyce, (aka Jiggs) age 85, formerly from Alexandria, Va and loving wife of the late Dr. Richard Bernstine of Boardman, Ohio, passed away on Friday April 5th while living in Lakewood, Ohio under the care of her daughter Torey Via Worrton (Jeff) and her granddaughter Tully Lee.

Joyce is preceded in death by her father, Ralph Tully, mom, Mary McCormick, sister, Jean Medford, son, Robert Deane Via & former husband Robert E Via. She is survived by her brother, Ralph H Tully (Ute) nephews, Marc Tully (Iwa) & Glenn Tully, grandson, James Deane Via, daughter n law, Christina Via, niece, Traci Medford-Rosow (Joel), nephew, Jeff Medford (Grace), as well as grand nieces, Kyra Rosow-Faircloth, Marci Medford, Kara Tully & grand nephews, Chad Rosow, Taylor & Collin Medford & Tim Tully. Joyce worked for the Federal Government her entire career with positions in the Dept of Defense at the Pentagon and Bureau of Medicine and Surgery at The Dept of Navy.

After moving to Boardman OH in 1976, Joyce devoted endless years to the Mahoning County Medical Society, AMA-ERF, Ohio State Medical Association Alliance, Angels of Easter Seals, Stambaugh Pillars Council, Youngstown Symphony Guild, Leadership St E's Program, Junior Guild, Youngstown Bicentennial Committee & NEOUCOM Faculty Wives Club.

In honor of Joyce's Irish heritage & her love of boating, a public celebration of life will be held in her honor at THE CLEVELAND YACHTING CLUB located at 200 YACHT CLUB DR, ROCKY RIVER, OHIO on SATURDAY, JUNE 1st from 4- 6pm followed by a private ceremony to scatter her ashes from the family boat. IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THE FAMILY PREPARE, PLEASE RSVP: Torey Worrton at 216-272-1678 or tlworrton@gmail.com

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Label Me Determined



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Like anyone with a name and an address, no doubt over the years, you readers have received unsolicited gifts/inducements in a kind of presumptive exchange for charitable contributions from many organizations with which you are probably familiar. And among the many good deeds they offer are the manufacture and subsequent mailing at no cost or obligation to the recipient, of self-adhesive, return-address labels.

I have, over the years, made a below-average level of contribution despite having maintained an above-average level of use. Still the labels arrive, regularly. And given their accumulation in my home office, I have become ever more determined to not die until I have used every one of those labels. In a manner of speaking/referencing, this pursuit has sort of become my white whale. I'm sure Captain Ahab could relate.

Years ago, around the time of my diagnosis, I was likewise determined, given where I live in Montgomery County, to not die until the Inter County Connector (a long-planned-for, cross-county highway connecting Interstate 270 in Montgomery County to Route 1 in Prince George's County) was completed. I never thought, given my "13 month to two-year" prognosis in 2009, that I'd live to see its completion and to attach its transponder and pay its tolls. But I have.

And though I am not a regular driver on this road, I am nonetheless emotionally connected to it. It's as if we both overcame something.

Which brings me back to the other emotional connection I've mentioned: the return-address labels.

It's not because of the specific charities or the design of the labels or anything in particular (they all tend to blend together after a while), it's that they all have my name and almost always have it spelled correctly, which is not always the case in mail addressed to Lourie. And below that correctly-spelled name, is an equally correct return address.

All combined on a label which doesn't require any licking or stamping or writing. All of which when combined creates a certain functionality which for a non-millennial, baby-boomer like myself who actually mails envelopes rather than types them online, provides an incredibly helpful asset.

And as a cancer patient, any asset that simplifies my life is an asset worth mentioning.

There are many mailers of a certain age who live, almost thrive in a non-paper-free environment. We still write our own checks, hand-address our own envelopes, buy and stick our own stamps and finally go to the Post Office to mail our correspondence.

I can't say whether many of us "balance our checkbooks," but as for myself, I do review the various entries in my check register with my paper statements to confirm their familiarity and accuracy. If this all sounds a bit antiquated to some of you younger readers, some of what you do sounds far-fetched and sort of redundant to me, which probably minimizes your appreciation for something as mundane as a correctly-spelled and properly-addressed return-address label.

I imagine there's a path down the middle somewhere, but it's not important that we all correspond.

But for those of you who do correspond with hard copies instead of computerized soft copies, these return address labels can be a vital cog in the mailing machine. Intended recipients are not always where you thought they were and mail that you thought you had properly addressed stands a better chance of being returned to sender.

A properly-affixed and accurate return address label might not save the sender time or money, but it might do so for the recipient; and let's be honest: who doesn't like to receive mail?

And what's the first thing you look at? The return address. If it were not for the return address, label or otherwise, the reason for its delivery might lose some of its appeal.

For me, living beyond the correspondence on which that final label will be affixed is very appealing. Because considering the number of labels I still have at home, I'm going to be living for a long time. Cancer be damned.

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

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SPORTS

Regatta

FROM PAGE 21

final also, with a time of 6:19.72. Oakton had a time of 5:55.30 and Walter Johnson had a time of 6:26.15.

The men's third varsity eight took first in its flight and then won bronze overall, with a time of 5:16.20, topped by boats from Bethesda Chevy Chase and Jefferson. The men's fourth varsity eight also took a bronze medal, with a time of 5:50.44. Two Jefferson boats took first and second, with times of 5:30.40 and 5:47.75, respectively.

T.C. Williams is fielding two novice men's boats this year, a sign of the increasing depth of the overall program. On April 20, the team travels to the Noxontown Regatta at St. Andrew's School. Miles said the TC boats are well-prepared. "I'm not worried about anything," she said with a smile.

The Charlie Butt Regatta will be held April 27 on the Georgetown waterfront.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 20

Ave. The theme is Local Action, Global Impact. The event will include educational exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages. Alexandria's Earth Day is planned to be a 'Zero Waste' event. Waste generated at the event will be either recycled or composted, nothing goes to a landfill or incinerator. Volunteers are needed to show people how to sort their disposables. Visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Mini-camp Open House. 2-3:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. MiniCamps are half-day camps designed exclusively for the youngest budding dancers, actors and singers. Visit metropolitanarts.org.

AlexRenew Open House. 3-5 p.m. at the AlexRenew Environmental Center, 1800 Limerick St. Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) is proposing rate increases for the next two fiscal years, starting July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2020. Visit alexrenew.com/know-your-rates.

Community Interfaith Forum on Hate & Bigotry. 4-6 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Free. Visit www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

MONDAY/APRIL 29

Northern Virginia Health Policy Forum Event. Noon-2 p.m. at The Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. Lunch with Dr. Jennifer Lee, Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia state Medicaid Agency. As the Director of the Department of Medical Assistance Services, Lee is responsible for overseeing a \$10 billion budget and providing health coverage for over 1 million Virginians. Lunch will be served. No cost to attend, but RSVPs are required at tinyurl.com/y69mmn3s.

Budget Work Session #10. 7 p.m. City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 King St.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Prevent and Recognize Child Abuse. Noon-2 p.m. at the Center for Alexandria's Children, 1900 N. Beauregard St. This April, in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (CAPCA) is offering free trainings to raise awareness of child abuse. The April 30 focus is: Darkness 2 Light's Stewards Of Children - learn to protect children from experiencing sexual abuse. Dinner provided and on-site childcare (as needed) with advanced notice. Learn more about each training and register (required) at alexandriava.gov/ChildAbuse.

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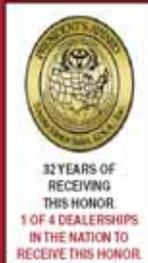
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Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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BRAKE SPECIAL \$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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FREE BATTERY CHECK-UP

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

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL \$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
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\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99
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CLEAN AIR A/C INSPECTION & VENTILATION SPECIAL \$129⁹⁵

Includes: Replace cabin air filter, and Toyota Evaporator Service using anti-bacterial foam cleanser and odor eliminator. Bring back that new car smell!

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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 4/28, 2-4

Del Ray | \$709,900

Large 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath end unit townhouse! Open and bright floor plan boasts hardwood flooring. Cozy family room with fireplace off of formal dining room. Large patio. Off-street parking. Walk to Metro and "The Avenue." 1600 Commonwealth Avenue
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 4/28, 2-4

Rosemont | \$852,500

This 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 1 car garage Colonial has a 6,600-SF lot and is on one of Rosemont's most desirable streets. Come see all of the updates - inside and out. Easy walk to Old Town and King St Metro and 1/2 block to Maury Elementary School. 9 W Oak Street
Kay Blemker 703.623.8563
www.KayBlemker.com



OPEN SAT 4/27 & SUN 4/28, 1-4

Alexandria | \$749,000

New on market! Room for a crowd! 4,000+ SF, 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Glorious all-weather sunroom, spacious living and dining rooms with refinished hardwoods! Garage, new roof, beautifully landscaped. Historic 1/3-acre! 9312 Maybrook Place
Esther Drourr 703.244.1539
www.EstherDrourr.com



OPEN SUN 4/28, 2-4

New Alexandria | \$1,149,000

Beautiful French Farmhouse built in 2001 in New Alexandria. This 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath with detached 2-car garage is minutes from Old Town! High ceilings, refinished antique pine floors. Huge master with gorgeous renovated bath. 1262 Olde Towne Road
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



Vauxcluse | \$879,000

Many recent updates in this 4-bedroom home including kitchen & 2 brand new bathrooms. Huge basement with new carpet & 2-car garage. Walking distance to Alexandria hospital and St. Stephen/St. Agnes School. Less than 6 miles to Crystal City. 4201 Peachtree Place
Ross Hunt 703.403.2959
www.RossHuntRealtor.com



OPEN SUN 4/28, 2-4

Lexington Park, MD | \$899,000

Spectacular waterfront property with 5-bedroom, 3-bath main house, separate 1-bedroom apartment, & a 500+ SF studio above 2-car garage. Perfect as a vacation rental, or for full-time living! 2.84 acres with a 100-ft private dock, pool & spa. 47575 S Snow Hill Manor Rd.
Michael Makris 703.402.0629
www.MikeMakris.com



OPEN SUN 4/28, 2-4

**Rivergate
\$1,149,000**

Elegantly appointed 3-bedroom, 4.5-bath townhouse offers an updated gourmet kitchen that opens up to an inviting family room with a wood-burning fireplace. It also features a divine master suite with a sitting area and fireplace, and a light-filled lower level 115 Montgomery Place

Pat Day 703.850.7934
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007



OPEN SUN 4/28, 2-4

**Del Ray
\$535,000**

2-bedroom, 1-bath townhouse In the heart of Del Ray offers so much potential. Charming front porch, new furnace, replacement windows, refinished hardwood floors, recently renovated basement with walk-out access. One block from The Avenue! 1738 Price St.

Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
www.JodieBurns.com



Join us at The Birchmere for
Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off

Sunday, April 28, 2019 | 12-3 PM

McEneaney Associates is a proud sponsor for this afternoon of food and fun to support Carpenter Shelter's goal of ending homelessness in Northern Virginia. Enjoy tastings from 20 area restaurants, bid on hot ticket items during the live and silent auctions, and listen to great live music.

For more information and tickets, visit: www.carpentersshelter.org/cook-off

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