City Council members and other officials stand with the honorees at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception held June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club. Shown are (from left): DPC president Merrick Malone; Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority CEO and honoree Keith Pettigrew; Councilman Canek Aguirre; School board member Jacinta Greene; Acting Fire Chief and honoree Corey Smedley; Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter; Council member Amy Jackson; Assistant Police Chief and honoree Don Hayes; Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker; Councilman John Taylor Chapman; and Police Chief Michael Brown.

‘Celebrating Community Leaders’

DPC welcomes African American leaders.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The departmental Progressive Club honored several individuals for their contributions to the city at a Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the DPC headquarters in Old Town.

See Celebrating, Page 8

Chief Brown awarded PhD from GMU.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Alexandria Chief of Police Michael L. Brown can add the title of “Doctor” to his resume after receiving a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law and Society from George Mason University at the university’s 2019 spring commencement. His areas of interest were leadership and administration of policing as well as crime policy.

“I made a promise to my mother back in the ‘70s that I would one day get this degree,” Brown said. “It took me seven years but I was finally able to make it happen even though I think she had really hoped for me to become a medical doctor.”

Brown’s efforts in this program reflect his longstanding interest in evidence-based policing and led to his appointment as a member of the board of directors of the Na

See Chief, Page 8
Babs Beckwith
Specializing in Old Town Properties for 25+ Years

Summer Choices of Old Town Homes, All With Beautiful Patios and Gardens

Now is the time to buy in Old Town... Call Babs today to preview these wonderful homes!

- 218 South Royal Street | $2,300,000
- 209 South Saint Asaph Street | $3,450,000
- 208 South Lee Street | $798,000
- 700 South Lee Street | $1,235,000
- 317 South Saint Asaph Street | $2,595,000
- 52 Wolfe Street | $2,049,000
- 639 South Saint Asaph Street | $1,389,000
- 432 South Columbus Street | $1,665,000

703.627.5421
Babs@BabsBeckwith.com
www.BabsBeckwith.com
109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292
Know Your City: Civic Engagement

A look about patterns of civic participation and non-participation across the city.

By Dan Brendel and Bridgette Adu-Wadier

Gazette Packet

This is the fifth and last in an intermittent series to help citizens visualize relevant data, relationships, and trends in the city’s geographic context.

Alexandrians don’t participate at equal rates in local civic affairs. That’s true of local voting, contributing to local campaigns, testifying in local government public hearings, serving on local government advisory boards and commissions, and participating in local membership associations. While acknowledging other possible measures — voter registration, electronic communications with local government, PTA membership, civic and homeowners’ association memberships, etc. — limitations in data availability/quality and time have narrowed this investigation to these five.

These measures intend to capture a broad range of what “civic participation” might mean. Except for voting, few objective barriers prevent engaging via many other conduits. Anyone, including non-residents and non-citizens, may contribute to campaigns or speak in political forums. While local policy establishes different requirements for different local government advisory bodies, citizenship and non-felon status aren’t blanket prerequisites. Campaign donors and business association members participate from all over the metropolitan region, and in some cases from all over the Commonwealth and even the country.

Patterns in the Data

Geographic imbalances in civic participation might serve as a rough — perhaps the only — proxy for demographic and socioeconomic imbalances. The publicly available data compiled here don’t otherwise record demographic and socioeconomic characteristics.

Patterns vary by measure and applied parameters. But, in general, areas of higher participation tend to correspond roughly with whiter, wealthier and more native-born residents. In the city’s eastern half, Arlandria and East Braddock in some cases stand out as islands of relatively low participation. Arlandria comprises predominantly Hispanics; East Braddock has a relative concentration of public housing occupied overwhelmingly by African Americans. Conversely, in the city’s western half, Cameron Station in some cases stands out as an island of relatively high participation, and comprises whiter and higher-income residents than the West End as a whole.

Cameron Station is “not integrated with us [the West End] at all,” said Diana Saget, a Latina single mother who lost a bid last year for School Board District C (West End).

Local leaders know, at least in general, that these imbalances exist.

See Know Your City, Page 4

Campaign Finance

Between 2017 and 2018, individuals and organizations outside of Alexandria supplied 41 percent of campaign contributions to City Council and School Board candidates. That’s including “dark money” contributions and “in kind” contributions of products or services (e.g., a restaurant donates food to a campaign event), but excluding candidate self-financing and loans. Of 19 single contributions to any Council or School Board candidate of $5,000 or more, only eight came from within Alexandria. Though not pictured here, state politics showcases the influence of outside money even more. The five sitting state delegates and senators whose districts overlap Alexandria received anywhere between 54-98 percent of campaign contributions from outside their districts, and 13-22 percent from outside Virginia. That’s in aggregate since 2012 (or since the first year the candidate ran, if after 2012), excluding small cash contributions, for which campaign finance reports don’t record addresses. For 2018 local races, higher giving corresponded somewhat with higher income and homeownership, though not without exception.

Membership Organizations

This map stitches together certain associations’ members, totaling some 1,500. Members include mostly private sector businesses, but also some public sector officials and agencies, nonprofits, religious institutions, education institutions, etc. Such membership organizations might exert political influence directly (e.g., legislative agendas, candidate forums, etc.) and/or indirectly (e.g., in several cases City Council members and government agencies are formal members). All business associations listed on the Chamber of Commerce and Alexandria Economic Development Partnership web sites were contacted or attempted. As of spring 2019, 24 percent of members resided outside Alexandria. Not included are the Eisenhower Partnership and Carlyle Council, which declined to furnish directories; the Old Town Business and Professional Association, which said it lacks an up-to-date directory; and the Queen Street Area and Arlandria-Chirilagua Business Associations, both defunct, according to several sources. (Note: While normalizing the data is necessary, doing so as a percent of city-issued business licenses isn’t perfect, since not all members are businesses. The same member is shown multiple times if he belongs to multiple associations. But where multiple individuals from the same organization belong to the same association, that organization’s membership is shown only once.)
Boards and Commissions

The City Council and School Board maintain over 70 boards/commissions/committees, comprising some 700 appointed citizens. Mostly these groups advise departmental staff and elected bodies on an array of budget and policy subject areas (e.g., environment, urban design, housing, special education, etc.). Some exercise limited delegated authority (e.g., Planning Commission, Board of Architectural Review). A few exercise their own authority, including over tens of millions of dollars of public assets, with only sporadic or far removed elected oversight (e.g., Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Alexandria Transit Company (DASH), etc.). Seats are often reserved for persons with relevant professional expertise, and/or those “representing” (at least ostensibly) particular institutions, business sectors or demographic or interest groups. Appointees normally must be city residents, but that requirement can be waived (e.g., the schools’ Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee might include industry leaders from outside the city). As of spring 2019, about nine percent of members resided outside Alexandria.

Public Speakers

This map shows instances of public testimony in key local political forums (including multiple instances of the same person speaking in different forums and/or on different occasions). The city government and public schools administrations furnished lists, totaling 379 instances over CY 2018. Anecdotally, compare the April 23 public hearing on the modernization and replacement of Resolution 830 and the May 14 public hearing on remodeling the historic, multi-million-dollar Hugo Black home in Old Town. No one spoke at the former, though it will likely influence the redevelopment of public housing for hundreds or thousands of Alexandria’s lowest-income households (the majority black) over the next several decades. By contrast, over 30 people (none black) spoke at the latter, pushing the hearing past midnight.

Know Your City: Civic Engagement

“Individuals don’t want to be the face of anything. They don’t want to be … seen as someone that possibly is causing issues, or going against the powers that be.”

— Chris Harris, President, Alexandria NAACP

That gives somebody a competitive advantage, if they have that circle of wealth around them.” Herring, an African-American woman who’s now an attorney, was homeless as a teen after her mother’s job loss. Not knowing a higher-giving donor base presented a challenge during her debut in state politics, she said at a panel discussion on civic activism in March.

She thinks Virginia needs some kind of campaign finance reform, such as state legislation to limit contributions or to provide public campaign financing. But bills on the subject to come forward in the General Assembly have died in committee, she said. “Alexandria is really about whom you know. If you’re not in that [PTA] circle, you won’t get funding, you won’t get the support,” said Saget. She says she learned “how the city works, … how to be a voice in your community” from the Parent Leadership Training Institute of Alexandria, a nonprofit.

In addition to high campaign costs, low public office salaries may discourage lower-income candidates from running. Alexandria’s local offices pay part-time salaries, ranging from $15,000 (School Board members) to $42,000 (Mayor). For comparison, Alexandria’s median annual household income was over $93,000 over the period 2013-2017, according to the American Community Survey. The median cost of housing alone — excluding healthcare, childcare, transportation, etc. — was nearly $22,000. Of nine regional jurisdictions, only Fairfax, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties paid municipal elected officials six-figure full-time salaries, according to a city government report last year.

A given council has the authority to set whatever pay it deems appropriate for the subsequently elected council, though Wilson thinks the General Assembly, which grants city/county/town charters, should adjudicate the question of part-time versus full-time city councilors in Alexandria.

Busyness plays a role. Low-income families may “have more important things to deal with” than voting, said former School Board member Bill Campbell. “They are more focused on, ‘am I able to get job, can I feed my kids,’” he said. “They are not the people who sit in coffee shops and talk about politics.” They may lack the “luxury” of a spouse who’s high-earning job enables deeper engagement in time-consuming local affairs. He recalls that his own mother, who, busy raising six children, never voted until in her 40s.

Chris Harris, president of the Alexandria NAACP, thinks the disaggregation of communities takes a toll.

“We don’t have a ‘black community’ in this city, unless it’s low-income public housing.”

Source: City of Alexandria, Alexandria City Public Schools, American Community Survey (205001, 2013-2017), Esri

Sources: City of Alexandria, Alexandria City Public Schools, Esri
Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the Democratic primary on June 12, 2018 serves to approximate strictly local electoral participation, since only the mayor and council appeared on the ballot. By contrast, voters during general elections may turn out mainly for state and federal races, voting only incidentally in local races. And because of Alexandria’s overwhelmingly blue partisan majority, the Democratic primary effectively chose the current mayor and city council, ahead of the November general election. The map shows calculated geographic centers of concentration, weighted by voter turnout and select demographic characteristics of the voting precincts then in effect. These centers are analogous to where a waiter would have to place her hand in order to balance a tray, depending on the evenness (or unevenness) of the weight distribution of items set on the tray. The city’s political “center of gravity” coincides most with its centers of income, non-Hispanic white resident population and homeownership. Centers of renters, poverty and racial/ethnic minorities skew farther west.
Eight Deputies Graduate from Academy

Eight Alexandria deputy sheriffs graduated from Session 140 of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy on Wednesday, June 19. The new deputies completed nearly six months of training including emergency vehicle operations, firearms training, defensive and control tactics, crash investigation, basic legal training, jail and courthouse procedures, and other areas.

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne joined his command and training staff at the graduation ceremony which was held at George Mason University. Sheriff Lawhorne congratulated Deputy James Biddy, Deputy Bryce Gentry, Deputy Steven Hand, Deputy Omar Herrring, Deputy Thomas Li, Deputy Nicole Ruggiero, Deputy Jamie Victor, and Deputy Joseph Walker on their graduation.

The program included the keynote address from G. Zachary Terwilliger, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, remarks from the class president, Loudoun Deputy John Paul Griffin, and the presentation of achievement awards. Walker received the top award in emergency vehicle operations, an honor he shared with a Leesburg police officer, for having the highest score. Victor also distinguished himself in emergency vehicle operations and was recognized for finishing third.

The academy serves 17 participating law enforcement agencies: the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, Arlington County Police Department, Alexandria Police Department, Manassas Park City Police Department, Middleburg Police Department, Northern Virginia Community College Police, Purcellville Police Department, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Police and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Those interested in joining the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office may take the examination for Deputy Sheriff applicants on July 18. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff for additional details.

Yeung Completes Basic Training


The airman completed an eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Yeung is the son of Edward Yeung of Alexandria, Va., and nephew of John Yeung of River Edge, N.J.

He is a 2016 graduate of River Dell High School, River Edge, N.J.

Dubé to Retire; Smedley Appointed

With the retirement of Alexandria Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé effective July 3, City Manager Mark B. Jinks has appointed Assistant Fire Chief of Administration Corey A. Smedley as acting fire chief.

“I thank Chief Dubé for his many contributions at the helm of the Alexandria Fire Department,” said Jinks. “His accomplishments have provided critical support for Alexandria’s firefighters and EMS providers, helping them protect our community and its excellent quality of life. We wish him all the best for a well-earned retirement.”

“It has been one of the honors of my professional career to lead this great department and its dedicated members,” said Dubé. “I thank them for the amazing work they do every day to help keep our community safe, and I am confident that our current leadership and passionate team of firefighters and EMS providers will continue this department’s proud 153-year tradition of service.”

Dubé, a 40-year veteran of the fire service, joined the city in 1995 as a firefighter.

“Chief Smedley’s extensive experience and dedication to the fire service, emergency management, and working with our regional partners has been an asset to the City,” said Jinks. “His expertise makes him well suited to lead the Fire Department as acting chief during this interim period.”

Smedley holds a bachelor’s degree in mass media from the University of the District of Columbia and a master’s degree in management from Johns Hopkins University. He is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a fire inspector, instructor and investigator. He has also earned the Certified Public Manager credential from The George Washington University.
Fire House Project Underway

Leaders from the fire department, city government and the North Ridge Citizens’ Association broke ground on Saturday, June 22 on a project to expand and renovate Fire House 203 on Cameron Mills Road. The $12 million initiative will replace the old station, built in 1948, with a state-of-the-art facility to serve residents in nearby Beverley Hills, Del Ray and Rosemont neighborhoods.

The expansion will increase the square footage of Fire Station 203 to more than twice the size of its current footprint. The renovated facility will have additional bays for equipment, modern bunk rooms and updated fire and EMS technologies. The new station is slated for completion in summer 2020.

Councilwoman Amy Jackson and Mayor Justin Wilson are assisted by James Fitzgerald, son of a North Ridge Citizens’ Association board member.
Honored at the event were: ACPS Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings; Keith Pettigrew, CEO of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Assistant Police Chief Don Hayes; and Acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley.

Due to a family emergency, Hutchings was unable to attend the event but Pettigrew, Hayes and Smedley each addressed the crowd and spoke of their own personal and professional journeys to their current positions.

DPC Sergeant-at-Arms Tavares Floyd served as master of ceremonies and welcomed attendees to the historic club, which was founded in 1927 and serves as the city’s oldest social club.


‘Celebrating Community Leaders’

City’s Investment in Full Bloom

On the waterfront, the Windmill Hill Park Shoreline Project flowers are in full bloom.

Union Street and thinks the project was “very well done.” Sophia Farino comes in from her home in the Fairfax County portion of Alexandria, and likes the river views from South Union Street. “It gives a really nice view of the water and the bridge,” she said.

The northern part of the shoreline is Shipyard Park, and maintained by the Harborside Condominium Homeowners Association with permanent public access to the riverside park and public wharf, according to city information. Then there’s Windmill Park on the east and west side of Union Street, and a new dog park just south of that, and then Ford’s Landing City Park. It all seems like one continuous piece of land. “This area’s very complicated,” said Browand.

The city planted aquatic plants close to the water and along the shore, and pollinator flowers on the dryer parts of the park. Currently there are strings and stakes “to keep the geese out” who eat the new plants before they have a chance to root.

“It’s a big project,” Browand said. “I’m glad to be a part of it. We worked hard to make sure it was done right.”

Assistant Police Chief Don Hayes, ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew and acting Fire Chief Corey Smedley pose for a photo after being honored at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club.

DPC Ladies Auxiliary members pose for a photo at the Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception June 24 at the Departmental Progressive Club. Shown clockwise from top left: Barbara Wilkes, Ann Allen, Rosa Byrd and Evangeline Robinson.

DPC members Jack Byrd, Traverse Gray, Daniel Selby, George Wilkes and Charles Allen join club president Merrick Malone, seated, at the June 24 Celebrating Our Community Leaders reception.

Alexandria Chief of Police Michael Brown, right, is awarded a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law and Society at the George Mason University 2019 spring commencement ceremony at Eagle Bank Arena.

Chief Brown

From the 2019 Spring Commencement Ceremony at George Mason University, where Brown received a doctorate degree in Criminology, Law and Society.

Brown holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration from California State University, Sacramento, a master’s degree in criminal justice administration from California State University, Los Angeles, and a master’s degree in management from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Brown is also a graduate of the California Peace Officers Standards and Training Command College and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Academy and National Executive Institute.

Brown admitted it was a long journey to get the degree and credited his accomplishment to the help and encouragement of his wife Kirsten, who is a deputy sheriff with the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, and the faculty members at GMU.

“I was blessed with all the support I got as I worked my way through the degree program,” Brown added.

When asked by several attendees at a recent community event how he prefers to be addressed in light of his recent accomplishment – “Doctor” or “Chief,” Brown replied: “Just call me Mike.”
Rainy skies couldn’t dampen the spirits of attendees as the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra held its annual Garden Party fundraiser June 18 at the Athenaeum. Originally slated to be held at the Old Town home and gardens of Major Jonathan Wilbor, severe weather conditions forced the ASO to move the event indoors to the Athenaeum.

The event also served as an opportunity for the community to meet George Hanson, the new executive director of the ASO. Hanson, an experienced musician and manager, formally joined the organization in April. He has directed the Tucson Desert Song Festival since 2015 and was also the Director of the Sunriver Music Festival in Bend, Oregon.

Hanson’s career includes 20 years with the Tucson Symphony; work with such U.S. orchestras as Atlanta, Charlotte, Indianapolis and Phoenix; and six seasons at the Wuppertal Opera and Orchestra in Germany. An attendee of the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona Graduate School, he received his Master of Music from Indiana University.

Now in its 76th season, the ASO will perform a patriotic pops concert at the upcoming City of Alexandria 270th Birthday Celebration July 13 at Oronoco Bay Park. See www.alexsym.org.
A ladder of citizen participation...
Letters

from page 10

the hearing was that three of the seven Parking Board members are all actively involved in BPAC. Local resident Frank Putzu noted that the City Attorney’s office had been questioned about potential “conflicts of interest” for those affiliated with the city’s boards and commissions who are publicly affiliated with a group involved on an issue on which they may have to vote. Should they be required to recuse themselves from such votes?

Putzu said the City Attorney’s office said its interpretation of the guidelines were that they only applied to financial conflicts, not ethical ones. Putzu disputed that. He cited Alexandria’s 2016 Ethical Guidelines for Council, staff and board and commission appointees.

Another disclosure was that the city’s deputy fire chief on June 3 had voiced serious reservations on the proposed elimination by TES of the four lanes. He questioned the department’s ability to handle emergencies in a timely fashion. But an email made public for the first time at the hearing, dated June 24, from the fire chief, offered a conflicting viewpoint.

Board members asked that this correspondence be made available to the board and to the public. It also requested relevant discussions with Alexandria INOVA Hospital officials and the police department about future configurations on Seminary Road. Similarly, some of the speakers at the June 24 hearing said that cutting down the lanes would reduce speed. Owen Curtis, an expert in transportation, said the opposite was true. Several speakers noted that better police enforcement was the way to deal with speeding, not cutting lanes, especially in the wake of increased density coming from proposed Trans Urban exits off I-395 to Seminary Road as well as an increased density from residential and commercial future projects. Attached to the Docket Item #9 was the TES Report on Seminary Road, and it offered a selective inclusion on limited outreach efforts to residents on Seminary Road’s future. No mention is made in this report of the standing-room-only meeting on May 30 at St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School. There was overwhelming opposition to the TES Plan in this two-hour session.

Nor did the report include the overwhelming support from more than 1,200 signatories to an online petition for retention of four lanes on Seminary Road. Meeting participants criticized the city for not requiring signatories to list a local address. Thus, some non-Alexandria residents signed the petition.

At the end of the lengthy session, Parking Board members William Schuyler, Ann Tucker and James Lewis voted to recommend to the City Council for its consideration the retention of four lanes on Seminary Road. Meeting participants criticized the city for not requiring signatories to list a local address. Thus, some non-Alexandria residents signed the petition.

Arrogant Artists?

To the Editor:

My compliments on the excellent article on the status of the Torpedo Factory by Gerald Fill. After reading it I was outraged at the arrogance of the artists who appear to think that they are the owners of the Torpedo Factory. They need to recognize that they are tenants in a building which is owned by the city. The fact of the matter is that as tenants they have absolutely no right to provide input on management issues.

Kathleen M. Burns

Alexandria

Arrogant Artists?

To the Editor:

My compliments on the excellent article on the status of the Torpedo Factory by Gerald Fill. After reading it I was outraged at the arrogance of the artists who appear to think that they are the owners of the Torpedo Factory. They need to recognize that they are tenants in a building which is owned by the city. The fact of the matter is that as tenants they have absolutely no right to provide input on management issues.

Kathleen M. Burns

Alexandria

Correction

The wrong student was identified in a photo at T.C. Williams’ graduation ceremony [Gazette Packet, June 20]. Above is graduate Ariana Frazier.
Displacing Sense of Place

To the Editor:

Few things in Alexandria come across with such clarity as the unfortunate demise of the Old and Historic District last Wednesday (June 19) at the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) Public Hearing. In one final swoop, the BAR jettisoned the entire concept of the Historic District by approving a structure that ran as fast as it could from the historic precepts that have guided the district since its inception. In his usual style, Bob Brasswell warned the City Council many years ago, instead of a Preservation Board, the city has ended up with an arts commission. Unfortunately, the BAR and staff

the building for its many deliberate incongruences, using the numerous previously approved design variations to justify a de facto complete repudiation of the Historic District ordinance. This is a very sad moment indeed, but it has occurred because the city and some residents desire this, or at least allowed it to happen by their silence. However, it is important to understand exactly what was lost.

While most residents can be forgiven for thinking that Old Town has always been so iconic, it wasn’t always the case. The Old Town area had fallen into such disrepair that in 1960, the city came up with a proposal to raze nearly 100 percent of Old Town via urban renewal; to be precise, 24 city blocks.

This proposal was fought vociferously, but it took over 10 years and a lawsuit to limit the damage to six city blocks.

During all this, the Conference of Mayors had sponsored a report on Historic Preservation that indicated that a feeling of restlessness experienced by the country was associated with the postwar building boom and a high mobility rate. The report indicated that the Preservation Movement could assure that restless feeling and could provide American society with “a sense of orientation” by using structures and objects of the past to establish values of time and place. This report proved to be influential, since the National History Act of 1966 incorporated many of its ideas, including the specific charge to create a sense of orientation for Americans through the Preservation Movement, “in the Federal government.” In essence, placing the emphasis of Historic Preservation in the Federal law rested in the importance of creating a sense of place.

In a groundbreaking article on preservation and a sense of orientation for American cities, Robin Elisabeth Danel points out the following: “The sense of orientation inspiring present-day efforts at historic preservation differs from the motivations of earlier preservationists, whose main lessons were patriotism and a respect for the accomplishments of their forebears. In pursuit of goals of stability, identity, and environmental control, current preservationists follow four imperatives: to retain diverse elements of the past, to perpetuate the distinctive identities of places, to involve amateurs in landscape care, and to promote a conservative approach to environmental change.”

Rather than creating a historic Building Code, the establishment of an Old Town Historic District not only created a strong sense of place, but it did so by conforming the entire district to certain standards, as opposed to just one building at a time. What is needed in this situation is architectural design that relates to its context and region.

Nine years ago, I warned that this policy was very much up in the air because of a significant push to create a far greater distinction between historic buildings and those that are deemed not historic. This begs several questions; first, what is historic? second, why did we create districts in the first place; and third, what will happen to the sense of place?

The answer to these questions is related to a larger question of what constitutes an evolutionary road map that successful citiesought to follow. Here, there is general consensus as to the answer, which is this: If you can’t live where in the world you are by the architecture, it works.

However, what is historic is at the discretion of the interpretive authorities, which ultimately means the City Council. If you recall, in the urban renewal push where the city wanted to destroy 24 city blocks, apparently no buildings were “historic enough” to be saved in the face of short-term “opportunities.” Although that particular tear-down time is viewed today as a major mistake by the city, it is too late.

Why did Old Town want to protect the district instead of individual “historic houses”? First, the report from the conference of Mayors and the Federal law itself, both strongly urged the creation of a sense of place, and they recommended the formation of districts to accomplish that. The other reason is that it is a lot easier to maintain a historic district. Historic preservation and the creation of sense of place worked extremely well in Old Town, but it is only as viable as the willingness of everyone to partake in preservation, and there have been powerful forces working very hard to undermine that effort.

Ultimately, it is up to the residents, who will decide by the actions they take. The structure in question is by the waterfront, which (aside from the Carr Hotel) has been approved by the city for ubiquitous structures that evoke a connection to anywhere (and consequently nowhere). Through these decisions, the BAR and the city staff is well on its way to eliminating the Old Town Alexandria’s sense of place and Historic connection.

Micheline Eyraud
Alexandria

Marketing Gloss?

To the Editor:

Our Declaration of Independence started out as a pragmatic alliance to facilitate the Colonies’ break from distant Great Britain. Its high-minded platitudes, though, were but marketing gloss directed at other countries’ governments whose support might prove helpful, e.g., France, or neutrality would keep them from being British force-multipliers.

Really, though, our Declaration of Independence was a fundamentally racist document designed to (1) erase King George III’s Royal Proclamation line which prohibited white settlement west of the Appalachians to protect the Americans so they would continue to have safe, ample habitats and resources such as fur to trade with Great Britain (2) preserve the Colonists’ “property rights” in slaves (even Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey had slavery in 1776) from Lord Chief Justice Mansfield’s judicial activist declaration in Somerset v. Stewart https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somerset_v._Stewart that slavery is so “odious that nothing can be suffered to support it but positive law.” The June 13 letter [Gazette Packet, “Celebrate Army and Flag”] points to our Pledge of Allegiance’s characterization of our country as a republic, which it attributes to our Constitution. Our Constitution, while it requires states to have governments which are “republican in form” (which is why our state governments usually work so much better than our federal government), nowhere explicitly states that the United States is a republic. Never does it use any cognizable term to specify what kind of governing system we are to have. More egregious, it never even defines the term “People” from which it derives its authority, which is why even today we are debating who has a right to be here. If, arguably, it began as a republic (or mimicking one), like the Roman Empire much of whose symbolism it appropriated, the United States soon be
The Green New Deal is an investment in the health and prosperity of all Americans, and it is an answer to an urgent challenge that threatens the very foundation of our society. A national dialogue about modern climate policy is long overdue.

Any serious Green New Deal legislation will involve doing the following jobs at a national scale over the next twenty years: installing new heating/AC systems that use electric pumps in large buildings; installing electric furnaces in factories; repurposing old heat systems; massively expanding capacity for renewable energy, installing solar grids, wind turbines (etc.) and constructing a renewable energy infrastructure; expanding water transportation capacity; installing new permeable pavement on large roads near rivers and bays; building new drainage systems in areas with high flood risk; detoxifying polluted water sources; and technical training programs for workers on all these projects.

Some of these jobs are not high paying in today’s economy, but surely we all agree that they are extremely valuable to society at large. That’s why Green New Deal legislation will provide sufficient funding to ensure that everyone who works on it is paid more than a living wage.

How would all this be paid for? To start, tax experts concluded that a 1% wealth tax above $10 million on the wealthiest 1% of Americans would generate $2 trillion over 10 years. Also, preventing corporations from storing their money in tax havens would raise about $900 billion over 10 years. These funds would be more than enough for a green infrastructure program.

The Green New Deal will allow millions to live healthy lives, and it is affordable. Without responsible climate policy, all Americans will be hurt by climate change.

Aidan Fielding
Alexandria

A Different Independence

To the Editor:

What ever happened to the good old days when the worst things we had to fear on the 4th of July were traffic jams and wayward fireworks? According to USDA’s Meat & Poultry Hotline, this year’s top threat is food poisoning by nasty E. coli and Salmonella bugs lurking in hamburgers and hot dogs at backyard barbecues. The Hotline’s advice is to grill them longer and hotter. They don’t bother to mention that high-temperature grilling of meat products also forms lots of cancer-causing compounds.

Luckily, a bunch of enterprising U.S. food manufacturers and processors have met this challenge head-on by developing a great variety of healthful, delicious, and convenient, veggie burgers and soy dogs. These plant-based foods don’t harbor nasty pathogens or cancer-causing compounds. They don’t even carry cholesterol, saturated fats, drugs, or pesticides. And, they are waiting for us in the frozen food section of our supermarket.

This 4th of July offers a great opportunity to declare our independence from the meat industry and to share wholesome veggie burgers and soy dogs with our family and friends.

Ashton Gunter
Alexandria

For Health And Prosperity

To the Editor:

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4
Free Sober Rides. Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code to the app’s “Promos” section to receive a no-cost (up to $15) safe ride home. WORAP’s Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 8 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

SUMMER 2019
Free Meals Available for All Children. Free breakfast, lunch and snacks are available to all Alexandria City residents 18 years old and younger at multiple ACPS sites, City recreation centers/programs and other sites over the summer. All meals will be served free of charge regardless of what a child’s meal benefit was during the regular school year. A parent or guardian should accompany children on the first visit to provide permission to receive meals and identify any food allergies. At a site, children will go through the cafeteria line and pick up the meal. There is space at each site for community members 18 years old and younger to enjoy their meal. Times of service are posted on each school door. Program sites, dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please contact sites directly to confirm. Visit www.acps12.org/news/?p=13816 for more.

THROUGH SEPT. 30
Senior Cool Care Program. Through Sept. 30, eligible Alexandria seniors who need cooling in their homes can benefit from the City of Alexandria Senior Cool Care Program. Contact the Division of Aging and Adult Services to find out if you are eligible. For more information, call 703-746-5999 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

C’MON, BE HONEST. WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER BE DOING THIS SUMMER?

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE:
703-684-7702
www.techpainting.com
A Ladder of Citizen Participation

2. Therapy: … What makes this form of “participation” so invidious is that citizens are engaged in extensive activity, but the focus of it is on curing them of their “pathology” rather than changing the racism and victimization that create their “pathologies.” …

3. Informing: … [T]oo frequently the emphasis is placed on one-way flow of information—from officials to citizens—with no channel provided for feedback and no power for negotiation. Under these conditions, particularly when information is provided at a late stage in planning, people have little opportunity to influence the program designed for “their benefit.” …

4. Consultation: Inviting citizens’ opinions, like informing them, can be a legitimate step toward their full participation. But if consulting them is not combined with other modes of participation, they are not accountable to a constituency in the community and if the traditional power elite hold the majority of seats, the have-nots can be easily outvoted and outfought. …

6. Partnership: At this rung of the ladder, power is in fact redistributed through negotiation between citizens and powerholders. They agree to share planning and decision-making responsibilities through such structures as joint policy boards, planning committees, and mechanisms for resolving impasses. After the groundrules have been established through some form of give-and-take, they are not subject to unilateral change. Partnership can work most effectively when there is an organized power-base in the community to which the citizen leaders are accountable; when the citizens group has the financial resources to pay its leaders reasonable honoraria for their time-consuming efforts; and when the group has the resources to hire (and fire) its own technicians, lawyers, and community organizers. …

7. Delegated Power: Negotiations between citizens and public officials can also result in citizens achieving dominant decisionmaking authority over a particular plan or program. [Boards and agencies] on which citizens have a clear majority of seats and genuine specified powers are typical examples. … To resolve differences, powerholders need to start the bargaining process rather than respond to pressure from the other end. …

8. Citizen Control: … [T]his can mean making a specific knowledge or an institution, be in full charge of policy and managerial aspects, and be able to negotiate the conditions under which “outsiders” can influence them. A neighborhood corporation with no interme diaries between it and the source of funds is the model most frequently advocated. …

Opinion

FROM PAGE 10

2. Therapy: … What makes this form of “participation” so invidious is that citizens are engaged in extensive activity, but the focus of it is on curing them of their “pathology” rather than changing the racism and victimization that create their “pathologies.” …

3. Informing: … [T]oo frequently the emphasis is placed on one-way flow of information—from officials to citizens—with no channel provided for feedback and no power for negotiation. Under these conditions, particularly when information is provided at a late stage in planning, people have little opportunity to influence the program designed for “their benefit.” …

4. Consultation: Inviting citizens’ opinions, like informing them, can be a legitimate step toward their full participation. But if consulting them is not combined with other modes of participation, they are not accountable to a constituency in the community and if the traditional power elite hold the majority of seats, the have-nots can be easily outvoted and outfought. …

6. Partnership: At this rung of the ladder, power is in fact redistributed through negotiation between citizens and powerholders. They agree to share planning and decision-making responsibilities through such structures as joint policy boards, planning committees, and mechanisms for resolving impasses. After the groundrules have been established through some form of give-and-take, they are not subject to unilateral change. Partnership can work most effectively when there is an organized power-base in the community to which the citizen leaders are accountable; when the citizens group has the financial resources to pay its leaders reasonable honoraria for their time-consuming efforts; and when the group has the resources to hire (and fire) its own technicians, lawyers, and community organizers. …

7. Delegated Power: Negotiations between citizens and public officials can also result in citizens achieving dominant decisionmaking authority over a particular plan or program. [Boards and agencies] on which citizens have a clear majority of seats and genuine specified powers are typical examples. … To resolve differences, powerholders need to start the bargaining process rather than respond to pressure from the other end. …

8. Citizen Control: … [T]his can mean making a specific knowledge or an institution, be in full charge of policy and managerial aspects, and be able to negotiate the conditions under which “outsiders” can influence them. A neighborhood corporation with no interme diaries between it and the source of funds is the model most frequently advocated. …
A Difficult Conversation
Talking to loved ones about Alzheimer’s Disease

By Marilyn Campbell

After witnessing the slow decline of family members with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, Ana Nelson knows the importance of early recognition of signs of the disease and enacting a plan as early as possible. During the month of June, Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, Nelson who is vice president of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer’s Association National Capital Area Chapter, is working to encourage family members who notice signs of cognitive decline in a loved one, to have an open dialogue, no matter how difficult.

“You’re always thinking that your parents or loved ones are going to be around for a long time, but we’re talking about a disease where there’s no way to stop it or cure it,” said Nelson. “Alzheimer’s is a progressive and incurable disease. You need to have the conversation as soon as you notice symptoms so that you can plan for it. Families sometimes wait too.”

A new survey released by the Alzheimer’s Association reveals that nearly 9 in 10 Americans say that if there were experiencing signs of cognitive decline they would want their loved ones to share their concerns. However, nearly three out of four Americans say talking to a close family member about such a decline would be challenging for them.

To offer ideas for closing that communication gap, Nelson points to a recently launched national campaign and partnership between the Alzheimer’s Association and the Ad Council. The project, called “Our Stories” uses stories from people who’ve noticed cognitive changes in a family member and initiated a conversation.

An early diagnosis allows families to plan both financially and legally for the future. Recognizing the signs of mental decline allows for a timely diagnosis. “The most common early symptom of Alzheimer’s is difficulty in remembering recent events,” said Jerome Short, Ph.D., licensed clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. “Later symptoms are getting lost, problems with language, mood swings, lack of self-care, impulsivity, or lack of motivation.”

Before initiating a conversation, plan the way in which it might begin. “You can share what you have observed,” said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C “For example, ‘It seems you are having trouble with remembering some things’ and give examples. You can ask, ‘Is this frustrating for you? Have you noticed or spoken to your doctor?’”

“I recommend being direct, yet warm and caring,” added Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

Offering comfort and support can make the conversation less daunting, “You might say, ‘I’m beginning to feel concerned about your health because I’ve noticed that you are having some trouble with your memory lately’” said Bagshaw. “Have you noticed that as well? How can I support you?”

Even with advanced preparation the conversation might not go as planned, says Nelson. “This is a delicate issue that might require multiple conversations,” she said. “I am wondering if you have noticed anything.”

The Alzheimer’s Association offers resources and assistance to those living with Alzheimer’s and their families, says Nelson. “We are just a phone call away,” said Nelson. “We offer help 24 hours a day, seven days in week and in more than 200 languages. It doesn’t have to be a crisis situation. You can call even if you just need help.”

REACH YOUR ONLINE AUDIENCE

CALL 703.778.9431 TO GET STARTED

The Connection you know and trust now offers advertising online with Google. Our display ads can help you promote your business when people are browsing online, watching YouTube videos, checking Gmail, or using mobile devices and apps.

Choose the number of times your ad will be shown to your demographically targeted audience. Each time your ad appears on news websites, sport sites, blogs, YouTube, etc., it’s counted as one impression.

$35,000 impressions: $350
$50,000 impressions: $500
$75,000 impressions: $750
$100,000 impressions: $950

Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more info

ONE VISIT AND KINGSTOWNE LIVING STARTS NOW.

WALHAVEN AT KINGSTOWNE ELEVATOR TOWNHOMES FOR 55+ LIVING.
FINAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Don’t miss your chance to experience easy, elegant townhome living in Kingstowne’s best selling 55+ community:

- Up To 2,826 Square Feet
- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 2-Car Garage
- Walking Distance To Shopping & Dining
- 2 Miles To Van Dorn Metro
- Access To Kingstowne Pool & Fitness Amenities

Now Selling From The Mid $600s.
Open Daily • 11am - 8pm • 703.287.6231
Kowens@millersmith.com
MillerandSmith.com

Senior Living

Senior Living
Band Members Needed. As a tradition that spans over 50 years, the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), organizes an Independence Day Commemoration at Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, with over 40 members of the SAR participating. The 2018 parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion was led by the Frederick Town File and Drum Corps 1745-1817 and the VASSAR Color Guard. Independence Day will be celebrated at Mount Vernon Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30 and Thursday, July 4 with festivities including daytime and evening fireworks. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

As a tradition that spans over 50 years, the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), organizes an Independence Day Commemoration at Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, with over 40 members of the SAR participating. The 2018 parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion was led by the Frederick Town File and Drum Corps 1745-1817 and the VASSAR Color Guard. Independence Day will be celebrated at Mount Vernon Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30 and Thursday, July 4 with festivities including daytime and evening fireworks. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

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

ON GOING

Art Exhibit: Landscape X3. Through June 30, gallery hours at Gallery 311 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Studio 311. In a new exhibit at the Torpedo Factory, painters Ellen Delaney and Gale Wallar and photographer Jo Ann Tookey take on the traditional subject of landscapes. Delaney’s paintings consist of larger-than-life abstracts while Wallar’s work emphasizes a majestic topography with defined shapes and edges. Tookey’s bold & black photographs strip nature of its color. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/gallery-311/. Art Exhibit: “Art in Meditation – the Chakras.” Through June 30, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Art in Meditation – the Chakras” features art artists interpreting the chakra energies. The exhibit, juried by contemporary artist Jeff Erickson, will have an associated Art-To-Go marketplace and Well Ray June 22. Summer solstice reception Friday, June 21, 7-9 pm. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits. 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. Art Exhibit: More Than A Body. Through Aug. 4, gallery hours at Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents their competitive annual solo exhibition featuring Northern Virginia-based artist Julia Kwon. Kwon uses traditional Korean inspired textiles to create a dialogue on othering and objectification she experiences as a Korean-American woman. Julia Kwon: More Than A Body will be on view June 14-Aug. 4. Visit torpedofactory.org/target. Creative Summer Programs. Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans’ Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone); painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry-making, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/. Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McLean/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee). Local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; mean; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarket.

EVENING EVENTS

- FRIDAY, JUNE 28
Sunset Movie Night: Captain Marvel. 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Sunset Movie Nights at Mt. Vernon RECenter are back every Friday in June. Free. Visit ZelinskyPowerGroup.com for details.
Mount Vernon Nights: Empty Bottle String Band (Old-time, String Band). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County’s summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

- SATURDAY, JUNE 29-30
Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Start the celebration early with a patriotic evening filled with fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington’s Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this

- JULY 4TH
PERFORMANCE

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-30**

**Waterfront Beer Garden.** Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit PortsideInOldTown.com for more.

**SATURDAY/JUNE 29**

**Workshop-Terra Cotta Succulent Container.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Pot up a tabletop terracotta container with eye-catching succulents. A Green Spring horticulturalist demonstrates how to mix balance, scale, proportion, contrast and rhythm to make dynamic container designs for these fascinating plants. $39/person for the program and $25/person for the supply fee. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code D46.BA22 or call 703-642-5173.

**Young Writer’s Workshop.** Noon-3 p.m. at Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org. The “Siestaware” Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Drift dreamlike into endless combinations of color as lacy glazing encourages hues in dreamy greens and soothing blues on vases, bowls and plates. The show runs July 1-Aug. 4, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

**Sunday, noon-3 p.m. at Salon deZEN, 118 North Fayette St.** At deZEN people in transition can find a safe and sacred space where they are encouraged to explore how to visually represent themselves in the most authentic way. Meet others in the Trans community in a safe and supportive environment. Visit www.salondezen.com for more.

**Ceramics Go Casual.** Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The “Siestaware” Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

**SUNDAY/JUNE 30**

**Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation’s capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle’s nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

**In Transition Class.** Noon-3 p.m. at Salon deZEN, 118 North Fayette St. At deZEN people in transition can find a safe and sacred space where they are encouraged to explore how to visually represent themselves in the most authentic way. Meet others in the Trans community in a safe and supportive environment. Visit www.salondezen.com for more.

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week’s performance features the US Army Band Chamber Players and String Quartet. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

**Fort Hunt Park Concerts.** Through Aug. 25, Sundays, 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. All are welcome for free community concerts held at Fort Hunt Park every Sunday. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm for performer.

**July 1-4, 2019**

**Ceramics Go Casual.** Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The “Siestaware” Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

**THURSDAY/JULY 4**

**An American Celebration At Mount Vernon.**

Entertainment area is open in the evening—and learn how 18th-century ice cream was made in the days before freezers. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required. $20-$36. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000.
Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon:

Discovery of Independence
9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon.

FRIDAY/SUNDAY/JULY 5
Waterfront Beer Garden:

Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekend. Weekend admission is $9. Food and drink available for purchase. Visit PortsideInOldTown.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 6
Story Time for Little Historians

11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is $3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-734-4356 or RSVP at shop.axelrodviera.gov/Events.aspx.

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Salute the first commander in chief during Mount Vernon’s annual Independence Day event. Celebrate Independence Day with daytime fireworks, military reenactments, and a wreath-laying ceremony. Enjoy birthday cake (while supplies last) and visit with General and Mrs. Washington. Listen to a performance by the National Concert Band during its “Red, White and Blue” concert and observe a ceremony to honor new citizens. Rain or shine. Included with general admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/an-american-celebration or call 703-780-2000.

Mount Vernon Nights: The Tom Cunningham Orchestra (Big Band), 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9148 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County’s summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/traditions/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SUMMER/YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

Mount Vernon Nights: Ellis Dyson & The Shambles (Gypsy Swing), 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County’s summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 7
Chamber Concert Series:

3:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sep. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week’s performance features composer and pianist Haskell Small. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

MONDAY/JULY 8
Yoga for Gardener’s I 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary
4 Dates to Circle in July

By Hope Nelson

With summer’s official dawn comes a treasure trove of activities to surprise and delight a multitude of diverse palates. From ice cream to watermelon, tequila to tea, Alexandrians can taste a wide array of experiences throughout July. Here are some of the most interesting bets.

Ice Cream Hands-On History Day at Lee-Fendall House, July 13

Tis the season for ice cream, and the Lee-Fendall House is scooping it up with a side of history. Kids and adults of all ages can learn the backstory of how ice cream came into being, as well as get a hands-on lesson in making it the old-fashioned way from scratch. And what good would all this learning be without a taste test at the end? Take a tour of the house to finish out the proceedings (and maybe burn a couple of those calories back off). 614 Oronoco St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $4 for adults, $2 for children 2-12, free for infants under 2.

Watermelon Day at Nalls Produce, July 20

What good is summertime without a hearty watermelon or two? Nalls Produce has you covered. Sample a slice of watermelon, and if you like what you taste, purchase a chilled whole fruit to take home. Nalls has activities for the whole family — and a plethora of plants and produce to pick up, too. 7310 Telegraph Rd. Noon-3 p.m. $85 early-bird; $100 general admission. Register online at www.greenstarfarmersmarket.com/events/6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl for more.

Taste of Tequila at Trademark, July 24

Summer’s not complete without a tequila or two to wash things down. The Trademark is hosting a “Taste of Tequila Reception” to celebrate the drink. The restaurant will sport four stations set up with different tequila cocktails, each paired with one of the Trademark’s food items to go alongside. Lift a glass and toast to the warm weather. 2080 Jamieson Ave. 6:30-8:30 p.m. $48.

The Bougie Girlfriend Tea at the Lorien, July 27

Looking for an opportunity to bust out your favorite fascinator? The Bougie Gals are hosting a posh bash at the Kimpton Lorien Hotel and Spa that will give you the chance to dress up, meet new people and nibble on an assortment of tea-party goodies. Dress in your garden-party finest to enjoy scones, smoked salmon and dill cream on pumpernickel, ham and Brie sandwiches, mimosa and more. 1600 King St. Noon-3 p.m. $85 early-bird; $100 general admission. Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

for gardening. Class held indoors. $91/ person for eight hour-long classes. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes/ using code F8D.F5EB or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Garden Sprouts Summer - Nature Playgroup. 10-11 a.m. 3.5 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature as they explore outdoor spaces and learn about the natural world. $85/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes/ using code FRD.F5EB or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Simpson Garden Strolls. 10-11 a.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens’ variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics. Water lilies, herbs, flowers and shrubs. Call the rain date before class. The cost is $93/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes/ using code HSA.5596 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

July 11-29

Musical: “Be More Chill.” At the Assemble Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School, 3900 Beulah St. Noon-3 p.m. $12 for adults, $8 for children. Call 703-530-9220 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/behere-to-a-healthier-you-ticket-6211502381.

Old Town Pub Crawl. 1:30-6 p.m. Port City Brewing Company will host its sixth annual Old Town Pub Crawl in Alexandria. Over the course of the afternoon, more than 1,000 participants will visit bars and restaurants in Alexandria’s Old Town. Port City team members will be handing out pub crawl passes at all eight pub crawl stops from 1:30-2:30. Participants who have their passes stamped at all participating venues can pick up their commemorative pint glass from 5-6 p.m., while supplies last; no purchase required. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/events/6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl-for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

APPETITE

What good is summertime without a hearty wa-
Coast Guard Auxiliarists Clean Up Litter at Park Shoreline

Besides assisting the U.S. Coast Guard in encouraging Recreational Boating Safety, volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliarists support many other Coast Guard functions including environmental protection. On June 1, Auxiliarists from Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon), in cooperation with the non-profit Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, cleared litter from Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria. They removed nearly 75 pounds of trash, much of it plastic, from the park’s shorelines, natural areas and playing fields, preventing it from polluting Four Mile Run stream and eventually harming the Potomac River.

Coast Guard activities in support of maritime safety include protecting the marine environment and economic waterways. Learn more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary at http://join.cgaux.org/. Contact Flotilla 25-08’s Vice Flotilla Commander Tudorel “Ted” Caliga at johnbielli@gmail.com to discuss joining the Auxiliary.

New Theogony Editors Named

The editors for Theogony, the T.C. Williams High School student-managed media organization, have been named for the 2019-2020 school year.

There will be 10 editors: six juniors and four returning seniors. Collectively, they will lead publish- ing in various platforms including print, online, video, and social media. The online edition is view- able at tchtheogony.com, the Twitter feed is accessible @TCTheogony, and the Instagram handle is @tchtheogony.

Seniors Celeste Amron and Sadie Finn will continue their focus on the online edition. Finn said, “The online edition is essential reading for the T.C. community. Next year we plan to make it more comp-elling, and more interactive.”

Juniors Bridgette Adu-Wadler, Regina Allen, Kate Casper, Hunter Langley, Lauren Larsen, and Abigail St. Jean will join the editing staff and bring energy and experience.

Adu-Wadler and Lauren Larsen will lead opinion and editorial writing. Additionally, Adu-Wadler plans to continue to produce and moderate episodes of Behind the Headlines, a panel discussion television show with Alexandria journalists. To watch episodes of the show, go to https://bit.ly/2WbIHNt.

Allen and the existing online editors will lead the online edition. Casper will manage the style section of the print edition and Langley will continue to produce and moderate episodes of Theogony, which is designed to spark student interest,” said editors Casper.

Seniors Reagan Feld and Lexie Larsen will lead the style section and experience.

Theogony Editors Named

The editors for Theogony, the T.C. Williams High School student-managed media organization, have been named for the 2019-2020 school year.

There will be 10 editors: six juniors and four returning seniors. Collectively, they will lead publishing in various platforms including print, online, video, and social media. The online edition is viewable at tchtheogony.com, the Twitter feed is accessible @TCTheogony, and the Instagram handle is @tchtheogony.

Seniors Celeste Amron and Sadie Finn will continue their focus on the online edition. Finn said, “The online edition is essential reading for the T.C. community. Next year we plan to make it more compelling, and more interactive.”

Juniors Bridgette Adu-Wadler, Regina Allen, Kate Casper, Hunter Langley, Lauren Larsen, and Abigail St. Jean will join the editing staff and bring energy and experience.

Adu-Wadler and Lauren Larsen will lead opinion and editorial writing. Additionally, Adu-Wadler plans to continue to produce and moderate episodes of Behind the Headlines, a panel discussion television show with Alexandria journalists. To watch episodes of the show, go to https://bit.ly/2WbIHNt.

Allen and the existing online editors will lead the online edition. Casper will manage the style section of the print edition and Langley will continue to produce and moderate episodes of Theogony, which is designed to spark student interest,” said editors Casper.

Seniors Reagan Feld and Lexie Larsen will lead the style section and experience.
Wahoos Shock Stingrays

The Chinquapin Wahoos were victorious against the South Riding Stingrays to open up the season in the Colonial Swim League (CSL). The final score was 263-188 (girls 153-69, boys 103-119).

This season started with a new event, the 5-18 200 yard medley relay, and Jack McLaury, Ronan Lauinger, Eve McLaury, and Madison Schang blasted out of the gates with a winning time of 2:08.33.

8 & Under Age Group

In a very close race in the 25 free, Tyler Turner was 2nd (18.08). Sebastian Gamel, Dominic Grajkowski, and Logan Phillips were less than 2 seconds apart so the race is on in this age group! Luca Lorenzen-Schmidt (22.46), Gamel (23.64) and Turner (24.07) took 2nd and 3rd swept the backstroke. Luca (26.68) was 3rd in the breaststroke while Turner (26.08) and Phillips (27.96) took 2-3 in the butterfly. The boys team of Luca, Albert McCommons, Sebastian, and Tyler captured 1st (1:37.32) in the 100 Medley Relay.

Chloe Fox (17.15) and Grace Wittmer (20.26) took 1st and 3rd in the free and 1st (22.20) and 3rd (24.62) again the back. Chloe had her 3rd winning event in the breast (24.35) with Lindy Evans (26.04) taking 2nd. The girls relay team of Wittmer, Fox, Evans, and Micaela Zuniga won in a time of 1:40.90.

9-10 Age Group

The boys started out strong with Dylan Lim (32.33) and Alex Guevara (35.62) taking 1-3 in the free. Dylan (39.84) and Alex Wittmer (46.09) took 1-3 in the back. Amir Smith (48.60), Alex Guevara (49.25) and Eamonn Greiner (55.25) swept the breast and Dylan (17.64) and Alex G (18.81) took 1-2 in the fly. The team of Dylan, Amir, Alex G, and Eamonn took 1st in the 100 medley relay 1st with a time of 1:18.48.

The girls were quickly out of the gates with Camila Zuniga (34.00) and Madison Schang (35.46) taking 1-2 in the freestyle. Camila (41.71) and Laila Gaines (43.43) took 1-3 in the back while Halle Thomas (45.06) and Madison (45.96) took 1-3 in the breaststroke. Camila (17.32) and Madison (18.38) took 1-2 in the fly. The 100 MR team of Eleanor Robb, Thomas, Zuniga, and Schang won with a time of 1:14.39.

11-12 Age Group

Jack Scheifele (31.28) was 2nd in the 50 free and 1st (35.46) in the 50 back. Henry Mead (45.07) took 2nd in the breast while Jack (36.40) and Paris Johnson (41.45) took 2-3 in the 50 fly. The team of Scheifele, Mead, Johnson and Eddy Paz (2:32.58) narrowly missed in the 200 MR.

Eve McLaury (29.21) and Cate Cox (31.26) took 1-3 in the free. McLaury (34.13), Elisabeth Carroll (35.96) and Cox (36.03) swept the backstroke and Lucy Thomas (43.06) took 3rd in the breaststroke. Eve (32.13) and Cate (33.15) were 1-2 in the fly. The team of Eva Billups, Carroll, McLaury, and Cox (2:21.04) captured 1st in the 200 MR.

13-14 Age Group

Bodie Lauinger (26.40) and Jack McLaury (28.24) were 1-2 in the free and Jolan Foronda (30.59) and McLaury (31.89) were 2-3 in the backstroke. Jolan (31.80) and Bodie (36.38) took 1-3 in the breast and Jolan (28.76) and Jack (29.88) were 2-3 in the butterfly. Bodie, Jolan, Jack, and Mikal Helms showed some depth by capturing the 200 MR with a time of 1:59.90.

Maya Solis (28.47) and Abby Altenburg (29.88) were 1-3 in the free and also 1st (31.94) and 3rd (35.32) in the backstroke. Catherine Salomons (39.31) and Stephanie Rosario (39.66) took 1-2 in the breaststroke while Maya (32.82) and Catherine (33.18) were 1-2 in the butterfly. The team of Abby, Catherine, Maya and Haley Haukedahl took 1st in the 200 MR with a time of 2:14.49.

15-18 Age Group

Ronan Lauinger (30.69) took 3rd place in the breaststroke against a strong contingent from South Riding. For the girls, Lydia Greenwood (26.88) took 2nd in the free; Emily Andrews (31.06) took 2nd in the back; and Emily (28.95) and Lydia (29.12) teamed up for 2-3 in the 50 fly.

The last race of the meet came down to the wire with the Wahoos team of Laila Gaines, Eve McLaury, Maya Solis, and Lydia Greenwood (200.75) edging out the Stingrays to win by .24 seconds.
That of Which I’m Most Proud

BY KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not ending the title of this column with a preposition?
Not starting either of these sentences with a “so”?
Not beginning any of the first three sentences with an “especially” or an “and” (although I do begin many sentences with “And,” just neither of these so far!)
No, of what I’m most proud, at least in the context of the nonsense I’ve presented so far, is my ability, going on a few months now, to ignore the illuminated warning lights on the dashboard of both of our cars. “Wrong!” on one and the low tire pressure icon on the other.
Typically, these kinds of non-stop reminders were in the driveway. As far as I’m concerned, that’s the danger zone. Nothing good will ever come from there.
I see the key in the ignition. I turn on the car. I see the various dashboard lights illuminate. And after the engine has begun idling, I see the remaining lights.
No problem. I just place my foot on the accelerator and go.

Though I might give these “idiot” lights a first thought and a second look, I will not be giving them a third. Nor will I have any more thoughts or looks as I drive around. Nor will they bother me in alarms when I arrive at my destination. Out of sight and out of mind, “total-ly” to quote my late mother.
As you may have discerned from reading the two preceding paragraphs, as it involves car, I’m not exactly a hands-on person. More like, hands off.
Granted, this lack of interest and, dare I say, manslaughter, has no doubt cost me thousands of labor-rate dollars at the dealerships/mechanic.
But it’s just not me. It’s never been me. I’m a sports and chocolate person. The only thing I want yours truly entering is, well, nothing. Nothing. Nothing.
And tools? To quote your favorite Italian mobster: “Forget about it.”

Definitely hands off, literally, especially if there’s a car in the driveway. As far as I’m concerned, that’s the danger zone. Nothing good will ever come from there.
In fact, I’m almost positive the repair will end up costing me more if I do it myself (which I couldn’t do anyway). Throw in the frustration and perspiration and you have a match made nowhere near heaven.
Heaven will have to wait, I suppose.

Spending the repair dollars I have over the years doesn’t thrill me either. But I have no choice. I can’t do anything about my lack of abilities.
To quote your favorite philosopher, the Sailor Man: “I yam what I yam.” And I have to pay what I have to pay. I remember always dreading the repair cost when a dashboard warning light would appear.
I knew that light (like the wedding invitation George received in a long-ago Seinfeld episode) was going to cost me hundreds of dollars. Hundreds of dollars which I did not have. That warning light, to invoke George from the same episode was “a hill.” But as I’ve proved recently, that’s a “hill” I’ve been able to ignore.
I know, ignoring a warning light seems stupid. Where is the future in that?
The repair is unlikely to fix itself and unless the bulb illuminating the warning light burns out, my negligence/ignorance to ignore it, is likely making a bad situation worse. Unfortunately— or not, however, I don’t have a Polynesian response to seeing that light. Seeing it doesn’t make me instinctively react anymore.
It’s not like haging one’s knee with a “doctor’s hammer.” My wallet doesn’t just open when the dashboard warns me. I just drive on.

Now if the light starts flashing, that’s a different story, and one I haven’t written yet, and I hope I never do. Because if that light does start flashing, I won’t be able to ignore it, and likely, not be able to afford it, either.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA

WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE

OIL & FILTER CHANGE
$24.95
NON-SYNTHETIC
$34.95
SYNTHETIC
Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
$69.95
Your car’s alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: inspected suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!
Have Your Vehicle Checked for Open Campaigns/Recalls
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710
SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:
Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm
YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF. THAT’S EXACTLY WHY WE DON’T!

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

FREE TRUESTART™ BATTERIES
SPECIAL OFFER
$129.95
INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION
Includes: 48 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

FREE CLEAN AIR/A/C INSPECTION & VENTILATION SPECIAL
$129.95
Includes: Replace cabin air filter, and Toyota Evaporator Service using anti-bacterial foam cleaner and odor eliminator.

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

Del Ray | $999,900
Contemporary 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath renovated home. Open floor plan with upgraded kitchen. Main level bedroom. Sensational master suite addition wows with personal deck. Finished basement. Large private yard with stone patio. Garage and driveway.
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com

Milway Meadows | $675,000
Beautifully maintained and renovated four level split located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Open concept main level, hardwood floors throughout, new roof, gutters and siding. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, fireplace, fenced yard and garage parking. 2502 Toron Court
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com

Warwick Village | $639,500
New! Just listed in red hot, popular Warwick Village. Snap up this sunny 3-bedroom, 2-bath, end townhome wrapped with extra windows, generous front and rear gardens with patio on big fenced lot. Finished rec room. 2914 Sycamore Street
Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com

Windgate | $645,000
Don't wait! Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath 3-level condo with 2,300+ SF. New hardwoods, carpet, remodeled kitchen & master bath. HVAC new in 2018. Fireplace, fenced patio. Walk to Shirlington, short commute to HQ2. 2544F S Walter Reed Drive
Karisue Wyson 703.615.0876
www.KarisueWyson.com

The Plaza | $259,900
George Myers 703.585.8301
www.McEnearney.com

Bucknell Manor | $549,000
Spectacular Cape Cod! Renovated & expanded chef's kitchen with stainless appliances & granite counters. Updated baths, windows, hardwoods, LED recessed lighting, NEST, ADT Pulse. Huge deck with pergola, super garage, & heavy duty shed. 6923 Columbia Drive
Jud Burke 703.966.8343
www.JudBurke.com

Old Town | $824,900
Moments to Amazon HQ2 and National Landing this updated 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath flat is also located in a fantastic walkable Old Town location. Hardwoods and plantation shutters throughout and garage parking for 2 cars. 621 N Saint Asaph Street
Sissy Zimmerman 703.989.9779
www.BBZgroup.com

Alexandria | $1,090,000
Just Reduced! Beautiful, 5-bedroom home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to wooded parkland. Spectacular kitchen opens into family room with wood-burning fireplace. Finished lower level with rec room, bedroom, full bath, & storage. 2-car garage. 4201 Maple Tree Ct.
Susan McAteer 703.346.6007
www.SusanMcAteerHomes.com

Arlington/Barcroft Forest | $1,199,000
Small enclave of beautiful stone & brick homes built in 2005 on a cul-de-sac just one mile from Shirlington. Beautifully appointed with large, open floor plan, wood floors throughout the main level. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths upstairs. Finished lower level with bedroom and bath.
Donna Cramer 703.627.9578
www.DonnaCramer.com

OPEN SAT 6/29 & SUN 6/30, 2-4

OPEN SUN 6/30, 1-4

OPEN SUN 6/30, 2-4

OPEN SUN 6/30, 2-4

OPEN SUN 6/30, 2-4

OPEN SUN 6/30, 2-4

OPEN SAT 6/30, 2-4