

Drawing a Crowd

King Street Art Festival returns to Old Town.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The handcrafted creations of more than 200 artists were on display Sept. 21 and 22 as the King Street Art Festival made its 17th appearance in Old Town.

Festival booths lined King Street from Union to Washington with more than \$15 million of art showcasing artists from around the world.

"This is my favorite show of the year," said Chicago artist Carol Ryan, who works in acrylics. "People in Alexandria are very interested in art, very knowledgeable about art and support us as artists so it's always a great experience to exhibit here."

Traditional paintings and photography were joined by life-size sculptures, hand crafted pottery and jewelry and less traditional works such as the kiln-fired colored glass of Gainesville, Fla., artist Lindi Miller.

"I create my pieces with hand-cut sheets of glass, frits, powders and stringers," said Miller, whose studio is called Funky Fusions. "It's fun working with glass and everything is fired in kilns, which allows me to create as I go."

Sponsored by Howard Alan Events of Jupiter, Fla., the festival annually draws thousands of visitors to the streets of Old Town.

"Alexandria has a great downtown vibe," said Atlanta artist Su Abbott of Su Su Studio. "This is my third time participating in this show. I have some family here and this gives me a chance to visit with them and at the same time enjoy the nightlife and restaurants. I love Alexandria. It really is a special place."



Alexandria resident David Wilkes, left, strolls among the artist tents Sept. 22 during the 17th annual King Street Art Festival in Old Town.



Eileen Merton, left, and Liz Lipari admire a colorful turtle sculpture at the King Street Art Festival.



Artist Lindi Miller discusses the process behind her artwork made of hand-cut sheets of glass.



Seana Gallagher sells ceramic bowls to raise funds for the Art League School of Ceramics during the King Street Art Festival Sept. 22 in Old Town.



An attendee at the King Street Art Festival looks at assemblages made from repurposed materials by artist Cheri Kudja at the Bitti Bots tent.

Wrestling the Amazon Effect, Joint Project

The Arlington County Board and Alexandria City Council will consider ways they can cooperate to manage the growth expected from Amazon's HQ2, Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus and George Mason's School of Computing, during a joint work session on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019.

The elected bodies of the two jurisdictions will meet from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang Street, in Arlington.

The meeting is open to the public, but no public comment will be taken.

"Amazon's HQ2, coupled with the Commonwealth's significant new

investments in transportation and affordable housing, represent unprecedented opportunities and challenges for both Arlington and Alexandria," Arlington County Board Chair Christian Dorsey said. "It requires unprecedented cooperation between our two communities to ensure that the benefits do not accrue only to a few, while the many cope with the challenges."

Among issues the two elected bodies will consider are whether to consider a joint entity focused on creating and preserving affordable housing, moving transit plans forward and ensuring the availability of workforce training.

The unusual joint approach is meant to address concerns in both

communities about the impacts on rents, housing prices, schools, streets, the environment and more in the wake of Amazon's arrival and expected expansion over the next 15 years to 25,000 employees.

Dorsey noted that some 5,000 people attended an informational Career Day that Amazon hosted in Crystal City of Sept. 17.

Arlington and Alexandria's exploration of new areas to cooperate and collaborate on issues affecting both community builds upon a long history of collaboration in putting together this new partnership. The two collaborated on the Crystal-City Potomac Yard Transitway, and each developed an

Affordable Housing Master Plan to improve housing affordability. Mixed use development in the Crystal-City-Potomac Yard corridor has been guided by Arlington's Crystal City Sector Plan and Alexandria's North and South Potomac Yard Plans. Arlington's Transit Development Plan and

Alexandria's efforts to add a Metrorail station to Potomac Yard have helped create a transportation infrastructure to support future development. The two jurisdictions also have cooperated on the Four Mile Run Restoration Project to restore and improve natural spaces in the area.

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Cursing Clerk?

Alexandria Clerk of Court **Ed Semonian** is a kind of institution at the courthouse and in the city. He's the longest-serving elected official currently in office, and he holds the record for longest serving elected official in the history of Alexandria.

First elected in 1979 after the death of Clerk of Court **Frederick Jackson**, Semonian defeated Democrat **Ed Dadurka** in a firehouse caucus and then faced no opposition that fall. He's been reelected four times to the position, which has a term of eight years. This year, he'll be packing up his office and retiring after four decades of overseeing an office that has outsized influence even if it often operates in the shadows.

"When I was asked to serve, I had never served in an elected office, although I had worked in some campaigns over the years," said Semonian after the City Council presented him with a key to the city Tuesday night. "I made a commitment that if I was successful I would serve for two terms."

He ended up more than doubling that commitment, serving an unprecedented five terms. Presenting him with a commemorative resolution at City Hall this week, council members and Circuit Court judges celebrated a man known for his quiet determination — an unflappably organized clerk who also had a quick wit and a warm heart. When a retired judge said he never heard Semonian lose his temper or utter a curse word, a current judge stepped in offer contradictory testimony.

"I'm a little embarrassed to say I have heard Ed use a curse word," said Judge **Jim Clark**. "Maybe it was just me."

Selling Public Land

The city government owns land all over the city, from Market Square in Old Town to city parks and facilities all over Alexandria. But what happens when a developer wants to buy some of that land? That's a question now up for debate at City Hall.

At issue is a surface parking lot in the 900 block of King Street, currently the home of a BikeShare station and 85 parking spaces. That's until Galena Capital Partners is able to purchase the city-owned property and develop 50 new residential units and several street level retail bays plus a "trophy retail tenant" with 6,700 square feet. It would also have an automated parking garage with 142 parking spaces. Galena wants to purchase the property for \$5.3 million.

"I am not for the sale of any city property for private use," said Councilman **Mo Seifeldein**, who cast the lone vote against the sale. "There could be much better public use for it either now or down the road."

The Planning Commission will have to approve the sale, which is contingent on the City Council approving a development special-use permit to Galena.

Bring the Noise

Noise violations don't keep banker's hours.

That's why city officials were considering a plan to hire a new nighttime zoning inspector, a roving city official who would work weekends and respond to noise complaints in real time instead of waiting for Monday morning. Zoning officials described the new nocturnal inspector as more proactive than reactive.

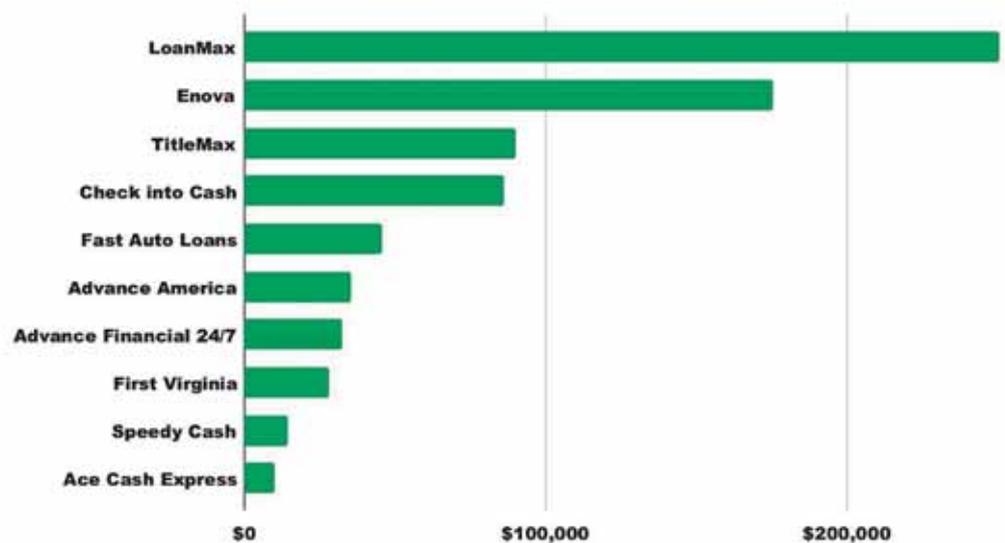
"So he's looking for trouble," observed Councilwoman **Del Pepper**.

Does the city really want zoning officials out at night looking for problems rather than manning their desks during the day to help businesses get permits so they can open? Probably not. The idea was quietly tabled Tuesday night.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Campaign Cash from Predatory Lenders



source: VPAP 2018-2019 donations from consumer credit/payday loans

High Interest, Big Money

Lenders of last resort in Alexandria try to buy influence in Richmond.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

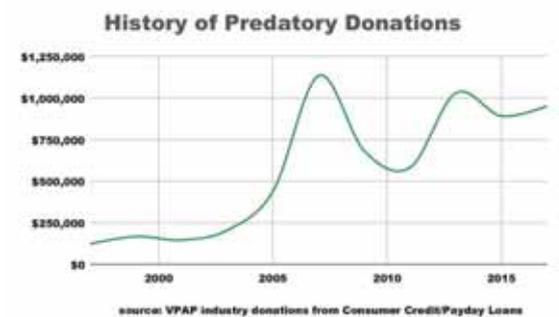
Alexandria has eight car-title lending locations and two payday lenders, plus a growing number of companies offering online loans at nose-bleed interest rates. It's an industry that's been under fire in recent years, and now campaign-finance disclosures show these companies are spreading their money around to Democrats and Republicans in an effort to influence the next General Assembly. So far this election cycle, the industry has given about \$840,000, and the biggest donations may still be to come.

"There's a lot more contributions from internet lenders that I've never seen before," said Jay Speer, executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "That's probably because there's pressure being put on them from lawsuits from the attorney general and also there's been a push in the last couple of General Assembly sessions to do something about the internet loan loopholes."

Georgia-based LoanMax is the most generous, forking over a quarter of a million dollars this campaign cycle. The company's car-title loans can have interest rates as high as 264 percent under Virginia law. Critics have long charged that LoanMax and other car title lenders like TitleMax and Fast Auto Loans take advantage of people in financial crisis by trapping them in a cycle of debt. Defenders say these companies offer loans to high-risk borrowers, which is why they say the high interest rates are justified. Alexandria has five TitleMax locations, two LoanMax locations and one Fast Auto Loans.

"You're talking about a relatively vulnerable population that may not be able to get conventional loans," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "If the Democrats control all the levers of power come January, these so-called lenders of last resort will miss the Republican majorities that have let them operate the way they have over these last several years."

Although the industry gives mostly to Republicans,



source: VPAP industry donations from Consumer Credit/Payday Loans

A LOOK AT THE TOP GIVERS

- ◆ \$250,000 from Georgia-based **LoanMax**, which offers car-title loans
- ◆ \$175,000 from Chicago-based **Enova**, which offers internet loans
- ◆ \$90,000 from Georgia-based **TitleMax**, which offers car-title loans
- ◆ \$86,000 from Tennessee-based **Check-Into-Cash**, which offers open-end lines of credit
- ◆ \$46,000 from Georgia-based **Fast Auto Loans**, which offers car-title loans
- ◆ \$36,000 from South Carolina-based **Advance America**, which offers payday loans
- ◆ \$33,000 from Tennessee-based **Advance Financial 24/7**, which offers internet loans
- ◆ \$28,000 from Ohio-based Community Choice Financial, which offers open-end lines of credit as **First Virginia**
- ◆ \$15,000 from Kansas-based **Speedy Cash**, which offers internet loans
- ◆ \$10,000 from Texas-based **Ace Cash Express**, which offers payday loans

the campaign cash extends to prominent Democrats in key positions. LoanMax, for example, gives mostly to Republicans. But its two largest donations this campaign cycle went to Democrats: \$30,000 to the Virginia Senate Democratic Caucus and \$25,000 to Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw, who represents Alexandria in the state Senate. Chicago-based Enova gave \$30,000 to the joint fundraising committee of House and Senate Democrats plus another \$30,000 to the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus.

"There's no question that special interest money is given to people not so much to bribe them in terms of their vote, but they are certainly going to support candidates who have been sympathetic," said Bob Denton, professor at Virginia Tech. "When it comes to car-title lenders, Republicans have protected that industry."

The political donations come at a time when Attorney General Mark Herring is suing Enova in Fairfax County.

Serving Up Success

Food Festival returns to North Old Town.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Taste of Old Town North returned to Montgomery Park Sept. 19 in a celebration of one of Alexandria's newest arts and cultural districts.

Sponsored by the Old Town North Community Partnership, the festival featured food from several neighborhood restaurants, mini yoga and wellness demos, art in the park and a three-hour live music jam with Dave Lang Band, Three Man Soul Machine and Sally and the Mander.

The family and dog-friendly event also continued the park's weekly Thursday Farmers' and Artisans' Market, promoted healthy living and highlighted the diverse neighborhood.

Participating restaurants included A la Lucia, Lost Dog Caf, Grateful Kitchen, T.J. Stone's, Extra Perks, Thanida Thai, Yunnan on Potomac, Trader Joe's, Caf 44, Perfect Pita and Sugar Shack.

The Art League School, a longtime presence in North Old Town, sponsored an Art in the Park demonstration.

www.oldtownnorth.org



Shelbie Koch holds a specialty cookie with Politics to Pastries' Amy Duval at the second annual Taste of Old Town North Sept. 19 at Montgomery Park.



Bill Reagan, executive director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, with Barbara Staples at the Taste of Old Town North Sept. 19 at Montgomery Park.



Thu Vu tastes Shakespeare beef at the Taste of Old Town North Sept. 19 at Montgomery Park.



Ally Banbaro, Shane Donerty, Grant Smith and Armand Jhala are ready to taste some food samples at the Taste of Old Town North in Montgomery Park Sept. 19.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Nicole Maher and Brett Ruffing, right, are ready to sample some Shakespeare beef prepared by Idd Junqachetsphun from Extra Perks Coffee Shop and Caf at the Taste of Old Town North Sept. 19 in Montgomery Park.

Jury Convicts Daniel Kankam of Murder

On Sept. 23, 2019, a jury convicted Daniel Kankam, a 44-year old City resident, of first-degree murder with regards to the death of an intimate partner, Somaya Hussein Ahmed. According to the City of Alexandria Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, the crime occurred in January 2019 at the victim's apartment in the unit block of South Van Dorn Street.

Kankam was convicted of two counts: Murder in the First Degree and Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Murder. The matter was prosecuted by Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan L. Porter and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Audra J. O'Brien.

The evidence cited at trial established that on Jan. 11, 2019, Alexandria 911 received a call from a woman reporting she had discovered her roommate, Somaya Hussein Ahmed, dead. Alexandria Police responded to the apartment, where they confirmed the victim was dead and had suffered significant upper body trauma.

Detectives were not immediately able to tell what had caused the victim's injuries. After obtaining a search warrant, detectives conducted a thorough search of the apartment for any weapons. No firearms or cartridge casings were found. The medical examiner concluded that the victim died of an intraoral gunshot wound and that the firearm had been deep inside the victim's

mouth when it was fired. At trial, the medical examiner opined that the wound path was atypical of suicide.

The roommate mentioned that the victim was dating the defendant, Daniel Kankam. Kankam owned a security company named K-1 Tactical Security. Initially, Kankam had been the victim's employer, but the relationship soon turned romantic. Friends of the victim revealed that her relationship with the married Kankam was extremely volatile. A cell phone belonging to the victim was seized from the nightstand inside the bedroom where her body was found.

The cell phone contained two video clips relevant to the case. One of the video clips was made on Jan. 11, 2019, at approximately 4 a.m., inside the victim's bedroom and just minutes before her death. The video shows the victim and Kankam involved in a dispute over their relationship. Kankam, clad in security gear and armed with a holstered firearm, can be seen doing pushups on his knuckles. At one point on the video he says: "you're pissing me off" to the victim. At another juncture, he tells her: "you should be scared." At the end of



Daniel Kankam

the video, Kankam looks up and realizes he is being filmed. He appears angry and makes a movement toward the camera. The video then ends abruptly. Within 12 minutes of the end of the video clip, Kankam began sending text messages to the victim's phone. Evidence at trial established that he sent these texts from the victim's bedroom after her death in an effort to establish a false alibi. Additional evidence established that Kankam rearranged the crime scene to make it look like a robbery gone bad, moved the victim's body, and removed important evidence from the scene like his firearm and a fired cartridge case. The second video clip was filmed on Sept. 30, 2018. It

shows Kankam sitting on the ground in a parking lot, visibly intoxicated. As the victim argues with him about his intoxication, Kankam angrily says, "I'm about to (expletive deleted) kill you." He then draws a firearm and brandishes it at the victim before slowly dropping the gun and re-holstering. Kankam was interviewed by Alexandria police on Jan. 12, 2019. During the interview, Kankam denied having killed Ms. Hussein Ahmed. He gave a detailed state-

ment that was filled with inconsistencies and blatant untruths. Many of his factual statements were contradicted by the videos and other electronic evidence such as text messages and audio files.

After Kankam was arrested, he called a family member from jail and instructed her to get rid of a bag. Police, alerted to the attempt, recovered the bag and determined that it contained evidence such as the security vest worn by Kankam in the video taken inside the victim's bedroom, the victim's wallet, Kankam's Glock pistol, a fired cartridge case and two watches. Forensic analysis of these items established that Kankam's vest was covered in the victim's blood and that his Glock pistol was the weapon used to kill her.

At trial, the defendant testified in his own defense. He admitted that he had removed items from the scene, although he denied trying to conceal evidence. He agreed that his vest was covered in the victim's blood and that his Glock caused her death. He also admitted he repeatedly lied to police during his interview. However, he maintained he had not killed the victim.

In his version of events, he was in the victim's bathroom with the door closed, drinking alcoholic cider at the time of her

SEE MURDER, PAGE 6

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It's a Wild Day in the Neighborhood

Forming lasting relationships with all our wild Alexandria neighbors

BY ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Few people complain that they don't have enough mosquitoes, mice, rats, ticks or lice in their backyards. Fewer still complain about not enough dead fish on the shorelines. But local animal protection officials often receive complaints about the very beings who help to keep these populations under control.

If you're looking for someone to thank for the lack of mosquitoes, mice, dead fish, rats, ticks and lice, you can start by appreciating the work of opossums, bats, raccoons, fox, skunks, owls, snakes and even coyotes. All of these animals co-exist with the human residents of the City of Alexandria and, for the most part, make it a more comfortable and cleaner city in which to live and play.

Yet every week the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) receives phone calls and emails from concerned Alexandrians who spot a fox or an opossum in their backyard or trotting down the sidewalk.

"We probably get dozens of wildlife calls a week," says Officer Megan Boyd of the AWLA. "Most of these are from residents concerned that a raccoon or a fox seen during the day is a warning sign. It isn't. All kinds of wildlife in the City of Alexandria may be seen at all hours."

Unless the wild animal is injured or behaving erratically, the response of the AWLA is to assure callers that these animals are just doing their job in helping to maintain a balance in our urban landscape.

"These animals are an important part of the ecosystem," says Boyd. "They eat insects, mosquitoes, ticks and even the bodies of other deceased wildlife; they clean up our environment in tangible ways."

For example, one opossum may eat as many as 5,000 ticks during one season. This helps to diminish the population of these Lyme disease-spreading insects to humans and other mammals. These opossums present no threat to humans, are extremely unlikely to carry the rabies virus and are not destructive to property; in many ways, they are the perfect neighbor.

If a wild animal is injured or clearly unhealthy, the AWLA can dispatch an Animal Services officer to look into it. Per Virginia law, Animal Services officers cannot move



A baby fox, assisted by AWLA Animal Services. Wildlife are a key part of the ecosystem of Alexandria.

healthy wildlife from its natural habitat, but if the animal is in need of help — no matter the species — one of AWLA's officers may be able to intervene.

If the animal is located in an inaccessible part of a person's house, the recommendation will be to contact a local humane wildlife removal service. It's important to be sure that a company offers humane removal services, meaning that they try to relocate the animal in the same neighborhood in which it was found. They can also help the homeowner keep animals from re-entering the home by patching holes or barricading entrance points. Removal specialists not certified as humane may simply remove and destroy the animal and not address entry points or whether other animals are still trapped in the home.

In the meantime, the wildlife that co-exists with us in the City of Alexandria pose little threat. "We get hundreds of dog and cat bite complaints a year," says Officer Boyd, "but we have not received a complaint about a wild animal attacking a human in years."

Yet these wild animals are all around us. "Alexandria residents can hike, jog and bike through our green areas and never see the wildlife all around them," says Stella Hanly, Chief Operating Officer of the AWLA. "And they stay out of our way. They are happy



A baby raccoon takes shelter at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Citizens should call the shelter for assistance with wildlife that may be in trouble.

living among us, but they don't want to be in contact with us. They don't want to disturb your dog or interrupt your picnic. But in a day and age when so many wild animals have been pushed out of their habitat, isn't it wonderful that we can still see deer and raccoons in the green spaces of Alexandria? We should realize what a privilege it is to live harmoniously among these animals."

Here are some tips for helping to keep the peace between humans and local wildlife:

1. DO NOT approach, and don't let your pets approach, wild animals. Your dog may not recognize the behavior of a wild animal and could be badly injured if they come too close. Always keep your dog on a leash when outside. Close contact with a wild animal could result in your pet being legally quarantined for rabies observation.

2. DO call the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, (703) 746-4774, if you spot an injured wild animal.

3. DO enjoy your sighting of the urban wildlife in our community. Take a photo but give the animal space.

In the meantime, given the incidence of disease from ticks and mosquitoes and the need to manage rodent populations, it's good to know that our wild neighbors help keep Alexandria a city that is both clean and



A lucky duckling, rescued by an Animal Services Officer after falling into a storm drain. Animal Services Officers are trained to rescue wildlife in trouble.

safe. "The wildlife in Alexandria provide a real service," says Hanly. "They don't need to be paid, and they work on our behalf 24 hours a day. Let's appreciate their work and leave them alone to do it."

Jury Convicts Daniel Kankam of Murder

FROM PAGE 4

death. The defendant indicated that he was not sure whether the victim had committed suicide or if an unknown assailant had entered the apartment, picked up his unsecured firearm, murdered the victim and then exited.

After returning the convictions, the jury reconvened and recommended that the defendant serve the following sentences: On Count One, Murder in the First Degree: 23 years in prison; and On Count Two, Use of a Firearm in the Commission of Murder, 3 years in prison. By operation of law, these sentences run consecutively to one another

for a total sentence of 26 years in prison.

Virginia abolished parole in 1995. Under Virginia law, a jury is allowed to recommend a sentence to the presiding judge. However, the judge maintains the ultimate responsibility for sentencing the defendant. The judge will formally pronounce sentence at a hearing that is currently scheduled for Nov.

21, 2019. At this hearing, the judge will hear evidence and argument from the parties and may either accept or reduce the jury's recommended sentence. The judge is not empowered to increase the sentence. The defendant is incarcerated in the William G. Truesdale Alexandria Adult Detention Center pending the sentencing hearing.

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Sorensen Oldest Mexican Train Competitor at 96

She already competed this year in the 60-meter track, bowling and cribbage.

Five women sit around a table at Goodwin House at Bailey's Cross roads on Thursday, Sept. 19 concentrating on their pile of white domino tiles. Four other competitors sit at a nearby table.

Eva Sorensen from Alexandria says, "I have been playing in Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) since 2011. I've got a box this big of medals." At 96-years-old she is oldest competitor in this year's Mexican train dominoes competition. Sorensen has already competed this year in the 60-meter track event, bowling and cribbage.

Meredith Raine from Springfield says this is her first year competing. "I didn't even know it existed." But she plays with her old college friends a couple of times a year. "We didn't use these rules at all. We played that everyone could start a Mexican train."

"No," Ruth Krulfeld who lives at The Jefferson in Arlington, assures her. "Just one Mexican train." She says the rules really sound a little complicated at first but you get used to it. Sorensen asks to see a copy of the rules to refresh her memory.

Virginia Biafore, who also lives in Arlington at The Jefferson, says she plays in a weekly group there, "and I really enjoy it."

Riley Geary, the events coordinator, tells



Events coordinator Riley Geary explains the rules of the game to the table of five competitors.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

the group to draw 14 dominoes each instead of the usual 15 since there are five players at the table. "Otherwise there are not enough dominoes left for the bone pile. Who is going to be the scorekeeper?"

Julia Jeffries who also lives in Arlington says, "I guess I'll do it. I do it a lot." Jeffries is in her second year of competing at Mexi-

can train dominoes. "It's fun. There's always someone better than you." Raine replies, "That's what I'm afraid of."

Each lady draws 14 dominoes and sets them up in a row so none of the other players can see them. Krulfeld says, "it's partly

SEE MEXICAN TRAIN, PAGE 9



Ninety six-year-old Eva Sorensen from Alexandria is the oldest competitor in Mexican train dominoes in this year's Northern Virginia Senior Olympics held at Goodwin House.

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lostdogandcatrescue.org



Julia Jeffries from Arlington says playing is fun because there's always someone better than you.

Mexican Train Dominoes

FROM PAGE 8

a game of strategy but a lot is the luck of the draw. O.K. we go clockwise." She says she plays Mexican dominoes for fun. "I say it has to be fun or don't do it."

Each woman has drawn a double twelve and begins her own domino train in the center of the table. The game has begun.

"We need a bone yard we can reach over here. Could someone move the dominoes closer so we can all reach them on this side of the table?" Krulfeld announces, "I'm going to start a Mexican train. That gives

people two options."

Geary says it will take about an hour and the winners will go to the final round which will also take about an hour.

Geary is the event coordinator for five of the NVSO events this year.

"Yesterday we had 30 competitors in the jigsaw puzzle event, a new game this year. "Each person got a picture of their puzzle and the pieces to complete it."

They had two hours to complete as much of the puzzle as they could. "Seven completed their whole puzzle."



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Alexandria, VA



The Other Alexandria A Life Well Lived: Dr. Charles Fremont West

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Charles Fremont West was known to friends and family as “Pruner” West. He was an exceptional person who had many opportunities to excel in sports and in academics, but instead chose the fields of academics and medicine.

African Americans in Alexandria will remember Dr. Charles Fremont West who served their community for 50 years. He served them well. Prior to him becoming a doctor, his community did not know the contributions he made in college. He attended Washington & Jefferson (W&J) College in Pennsylvania in the early 1920s. He did well in College and in sports. He played football, baseball and track and field while attending W&J College.

In 1922 he was the only African American on his College team that played in the Rose Bowl game. His life was threatened when a lynch mob met his team on the bus and threatened to hang him. Fortunately for Charles, the mob could not identify who he was because he was just as fair in complexion as they were.

Charles was chosen to compete in track-and-field events in the 1924 Olympics that was held in Paris, France. He obtained his passport on June 1, 1924 to travel to Paris for the Olympics. He was a formidable track man who threw the javelin, competed in broad jump and ran the 100 yard dash and the 440. W&J paid for his travel and expenses to France.



Dr. West in his football outfit at Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in the early 1920s.

While in Paris, he qualified to compete with the team, but France officials refused to admit him.

When Charles returned to the United States, he was offered a spot on a professional football team, the Akron Pros. He chose to attend medical school instead at Howard University. With little or no money, he worked his way through school by coaching Howard's football team. He graduated from Howard University Medical School in 1928.

The 1932 Alexandria City Directory listed Dr. Charles F. West as a medical doctor living at 405 North Alfred Street. In 1936, Dr. West married La Verne Gregory who was a Latin teacher at Dunbar High School. Throughout his medical practice in Alexandria, he and his wife lived at several addresses in Alexandria including 1006 Cameron Street.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MRS. LINDA WEST NICKENS

Dr. West's Wedding Day — Oct. 31, 1936. He married La Verne Gregory who was a Latin teacher at Dunbar High School.

West continued his practice in Alexandria and served as the athletics team physician for Parker-Gray High School. He was also known for his specialized care for patients who had tuberculosis. Due to the care of his patients and research in tuberculosis, Dr. West was the first doctor to own and operate an X-ray machine in Alexandria.

With failing health, Dr. West retired in 1979 and died later that year on Nov. 24, at the age of 80. He and his wife were living in Washington, DC at the time of his death. His wife, La Verne had a career as a University professor. She died in Fairfax, Virginia at the age of 80 on March 15, 1987.

They had two children, Charles N. West and Linda West-Nickens. His daughter Linda and her son live in the Northern Virginia area.

Charles Fremont West was born in Washington, Pennsylvania in 1899 to William B. and Hannah Thomas West in a farming community. His sister, Ethel reminisced about her brother's childhood when he used to outrun the family horse.

Charles was an exceptional man. He received numerous awards that included a 1978 Howard University Medical Alumni Association citation for his years of practice, and a 1973 award for community service from the Alexandria Urban League. He lived his life to the fullest.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

Adopting a list in advance will give the Board guidance as to city council's expectations regarding “road diets” ahead of time, so that the Board's decisions are less likely to be haphazardly overturned.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Largest Traffic and Parking Disaster

Dear Editor:

A perfect example of overstretching our infrastructure occurred over the weekend when the annual Arts Festival invaded our

turf. Anyone who came into Old Town on Saturday saw the largest traffic and parking disaster in years, or least since last years Arts Festival. If the festival were just for local artists it might be manageable. In fact the event should be only for our local artists. However, by closing down King Street from Union to Washington and blocking traffic on all the intervening cross streets, major traffic jams occurred on Washington and Union Streets. At one time during the day it took twenty-five minutes to drive on Union Street from Pendleton to Wolfe, a total of eight blocks. So much for vigilant traffic control.

SEE TRAFFIC, PAGE 11

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Local Republicans Meet Candidates, Discuss Seminary Road

The Alexandria Republican City Committee's (ARCC's) September meeting highlighted guest speakers D.J. Jordan, candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates in the 2019 election, and Daniel Gade, 2020 Virginia candidate for US Senate.

D.J. Jordan said the stakes are high in this fall's election, adding "My name is on the ballot, but it's our values on the line." He believes abortion, Right to Work laws, protecting small businesses by holding the line on the minimum wage, and legislative maps are at stake. Jeff Dove, a candidate for Congress in 2020, also attended the meeting and spoke of his strong support for Jordan.

Daniel Gade, a veteran and Ph.D., focused on the need to come together as Americans.

The audience also received a briefing from Pete Benavage on the status of city-proposed changes to Seminary Road, a major traffic artery in Alexandria. Benavage, an ARCC member and a representative of local neighborhood civic associations, expressed frustration with city officials for seeming to ignore the will of the vast majority of local residents who have voiced their opinion on the issue.

ARCC (at www.alexgop.org) is the local branch of the national Republican Party



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Alexandria Republican City Committee (ARCC) hosted several candidates at its September meeting: (L-R) Jeff Dove (candidate for Congress in 2020), D.J. Jordan (2019 Republican nominee for Virginia House of Delegates, District 31), Daniel Gade (candidate for US Senate in 2020), and Sean Lenehan (ARCC Chairman).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Traffic and Parking

FROM PAGE 10

In addition, the ability to park was almost non-existent as every space including all those in the residential housing areas were occupied by tourists. That's right; residents could not even park in their own neighborhoods. Essentially, Old Town's infrastructure is just not conducive to sponsoring large events like the Arts Festival. Why not move it to Del Ray or the West End where there is less community density.

Until all the parking and traffic issues, flooding issues, bulkhead repairs, under grounding of overhead wires and a number of other critical infrastructure issues are completely resolved; no new programs resulting in any further taxing of our decaying infrastructure should be approved. Let's spend our dollars wisely. Every member of the Council should sign up for this initiative.

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Senior Living

Exploring Art in Retirement

Seniors get a chance to pursue their passion.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It was in third grade when Barb Cram first discovered her artistic talent. Her teacher asked to use one of her drawings as an example to teach a technique to other students.

Though she was lauded for her artistic talent from elementary school through high school, upon graduation, she says she put that interest on hold and engaged in educational pursuits that she was told were practical.

"When my generation as growing up it was all about getting skills like typing, bookkeeping and stenography so that you could get a job after you graduate said Cram, now 72.

After a long career, which included a stint in the White House, Cram has reengaged with her creative side. Now as President of Falls Church Arts, she is helping other retirees live out their passion, discover their talent or simply learn to appreciate art.

"Art can do so much for seniors. It's like a vacation for the mind," she said. "Whether as an artist, a teacher, a docent or an art student, there's place for everyone."

Retired clinical psychologist, Carolyn Jackson Sahni, spent her career practicing in settings ranging from state universities to non-profit organizations. Retirement has offered her the opportunity to explore her creative interests.

"I have never been employed as an artist or in a specific art related field, [but] art has always been my first love, said Jackson Sahni, who lives in Vienna. "I see art as our ultimate means of personal expression. I have an overwhelming preference for beauty and nature. Art has been my way of indulging this preference."

Sahni says that art has given her the gift of living out her dedication to life-long learning. "I believe in ... growing, expressing and discovering, she said. "While I am not quite ready to accept the definition of senior that I am, I cherish every day of my seventy-one years."

Though she spent 32 years as a government employee working in a variety of agencies including the National Institutes of Health and The Department of Homeland Security, Cynthia Miller had always wanted to explore visual arts. A few discouraging childhood experiences left her afraid to try.

"I have been interested in art my whole life, but my hands were frozen until I found my courage" she said. "I decided at age 70 that it was my time to learn and explore my desires as an artist."

Not only is Miller an artist, but she volunteers her time as a docent, sharing her passion with others. "I often speak with others who are seniors with few outside interests," she said. "They think I am brave in approaching my art as another career. I have a love of life, and feel I have a gift yet to develop and offer to others."

McLean resident Sallie Evans once worked as a recreation therapist, in retirement she works as an art instructor at Falls Church Arts teaching. "I love



Sallie Evans of McLean loves teaching art and helping students experience the job of creating art.



Cynthia Miller, who says that she enjoys experimenting with angles and shades, describes her art as abstract explosion.

teaching because it allows me to be an active participant when students experience the joy and absolute empowerment of making art. Teaching not only children, but she leads art projects for Fall Church Art's Memory Café, a social and recreational gathering of individuals with memory loss and their caregivers, friends, and family.

Deborah Conn, 70, retired from a career in marketing and began taking lessons in watercolor at the Art League in Alexandria. These days she's an active and prolific artist. Her medium is watercolor, frequently on textured paper that she makes by crinkling tissue paper and gluing it on the painting surface. Humans are the subjects of most of her work, but as one of the resident artists at Palette2 restaurant in Shirlington, she sketches dogs for patrons while they eat.

"I've been experimenting with making parts of my paintings less defined so viewers can fill in with their own mind," said Conn, who teaches art out of her home studio and works as an art curator. "In the last ten years or so, painting and art have become enmeshed in nearly every area of my life. Many of my closest friends are artists."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FALLS CHURCH ARTS

OBITUARY

Erin Marie McPherson, 30

Erin Marie McPherson (Garner), age 30, passed away on Sept. 13, 2019, from complications related to her heart. She was a newlywed, having met her soulmate, Fairfax County police officer Andrew James McPherson. They were married Jan. 12 of this year. She was proud to be a police officer's wife. Their only source of conflict was that Andrew, being a Canadian, was a Winnipeg Jets fan, while Erin was a diehard Washington Capitals fan. Excited parents to be, Erin and Andrew were expecting a child on March 17, 2020.

Erin was born and raised in Alexandria by Jim and Christine Garner. The oldest of three girls, she had two loving sisters, Taylor and Morgan. The water was her happy place! Her endless days in the family pool propelled her into competitive swimming. She would often say it was fitting that she was born under the sign of Aquarius (water sign) and her chosen confirmation name was Adjutor, the patron saint of swimmers. She loved animals and was practically a one person pet adoption agency, having brought many dogs and cats into her and her family's homes. She had an infectious laugh, an adventurous streak a mile wide, and was enthusiastically nonjudgmental. Erin was very creative and loved arts & crafts especially if GLITTER was involved! Her mantra was to "make every day count."

Erin's passion in life was caring for and helping people. She graduated from Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington in 2007 and from Radford Univer-



Erin Marie McPherson

sity in 2011, where she majored in Criminal Justice and minored in Forensic Anthropology. Her interest in forensics took her abroad to archeological digs in Israel and Egypt and back home to internships at the DC Office of the Medical Examiner and Greene's Funeral Home in Alexandria. Erin completed the VCU Medical Program in 2013 and became a paramedic and began working at Southside VA Emergency Crew in Petersburg VA and Lifecare Medical Transport.

A mass celebrating Erin's life will be held on Saturday, September 28th at 1:30 pm at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 South Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. Erin will be interred in a private ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Animal Welfare League at AlexandriaAnimals.org or to Heroes.org, which is an organization dedicated to aid families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

From the musical director of Riverdance

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Alexandria Chamber Legislative Agenda

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Reception, presented by Transurban, was held Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Alexandrian.

The Chamber's Legislative Agenda was formally released at the event. Find it at <https://www.alexchamber.com/uploads/2/8/6/0/28600525/2020legislativeagenda.pdf>

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Alexandria Chamber President & CEO Joe Haggerty addresses the crowd at the Legislative Reception.



Alexandria Chamber 2019 Chair Charlotte Hall speaking on the importance of business advocacy.



Board Members Patti Turner of United Way Worldwide, Gin Kinneman of Kinneman Insurance, and Dak Hardwick of Aerospace Industries Association mingle at the 2019 Legislative Reception.

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ENTERTAINMENT



From left: paintings by Akemi Ohira, Jamaliah Morais and Marian Van Landingham.

Anniversary Event: Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery

In celebration of Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's 45th anniversary, member artists have contributed 45 works of art. Ticket holders' names are randomly called and that person chooses from one of the available pieces of original art. Sunday, Sept. 29, 3-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic 105 District Ave., Fairfax. Preview artwork Sept. 18-29; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Ticket holders may bring a guest for free. \$200. Art Lovers Sweepstake: a \$45 ticket gives buyers an opportunity to take home one of three works of art, valued at \$1,500 or more. Purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/tfaacc19.

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

ONGOING

Senior Olympics. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics features more than 60 events that challenge the mind as well as the body. New games this year: jigsaw puzzle and line-dancing. The public is invited, free of charge, to all NVSO events. The games run through Sept. 28. There will be no on-site registration for participants. Visit www.nvso.us.

Art Exhibit: "Patterns & Prints." Through Sept. 27, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, Studio 19, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Ceramic Guild potters turn to hot togs as artistry en vogue, showing embossed patterns, aggressive elaborate exteriors and groovy grooving. Colors are confident with saturated statements and contrasts of black and white. Hand-painted touches are the headline talk of the season, with abstracts, urban touches and industrial adornment paving the way. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Art Exhibit: "It's a Jungle Out There." Through Sept. 29 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 29, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, "It's a Jungle Out There." Cheetahs, lions, rhinos, monkeys, hippos, and the lands that they inhabit serve as inspiration for the pieces in this show. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit: High Note. Through Sept. 29, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Experience "High Note," exploring the connection between music and the mind. Music can unleash powerful memories, transporting listeners in space and time. Musical performance benefiting the nonprofit Friends of ROAM Friday, Sept. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/high-note for more.

Solo Painting Exhibition: Draftsman 2019. Through Sept. 30, gallery hours at Gallery

Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Suite 2120-A. Draftsman 2019 is the solo painting exhibition for the month of September of Arlington Artists Alliance member and T.C. Williams graduate Barry Barnett Keith. Free. Visit galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

Art Exhibit: Revival. Through Sept. 30 in the Van Landingham Gallery, Studio 311 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. While looking at the darkened doorway of the ruins of Ephesus, a Greek city in what is now Turkey, Marian Van Landingham suddenly envisioned a window to the sky and an innate sense of hope and revival. In her studio in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, founded by her as an art center in 1974, Van Landingham refines the images that first piqued her interest. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

Art Exhibit: Silo City. Through Oct. 13 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 312, 105 N. Union St. An exhibition of photographs by Eric Johnson made in a complex of historic grain elevators and processing facilities in Buffalo, New York. An opening reception is planned for Sunday, Sept. 22, 2-4 p.m. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

"Board | out of our minds!" Through Nov. 10, gallery hours at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Board | out of our minds!" relates to the games we play. The included works exhibit the creative means in which people developed board games to reflect their thoughts and reflections on the role of chance in life. While some are actual games, some refer to the role of games in life. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs

and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Fort Hunt Meetup, Walk with a Ranger. 10:30-noon at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Join a national park ranger on a 1.5 mile walk through historic Fort Hunt Park, be prepared to learn about some World War II secrets. Meet at Area E parking. Free. Call 703-235-1530 for more.

New Neighbors Oktoberfest. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Each year, The Campagna Center reaches out to the community to help support the New Neighbors program through their Oktoberfest fundraiser. Enjoy local brews, authentic bratwurst and German fare, and an evening of oompah-POW, all for a great cause. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Tickets will be sold online until they are at capacity. \$60+. visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/new-neighbors-oktoberfest.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 27

WayneWood 60th Anniversary. 6-7:30 p.m. at WayneWood Elementary, 1205 WayneWood Blvd. Welcome to all members of the community. Come see the completely renovated facility and grounds. The celebration will include a 60th anniversary ceremony, music, food trucks, and cake. This event is free and open to the public. Email wwpta1@gmail.com or call 703-704-7100.

Global Hip-Hop Excursion. 7-8:15 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Springfield. Join Dumiright, Hip Hop pioneer and cultural ambassador, as he and other musical guests present an evening of rhymes, beats and cultural infusions. Free.

ASO's Imaginary Symphony

The "Imaginary Symphony" depicts visions of idyllic beauty against the realities of war.

BY MELINDA KERNC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra opens its 2019-2020 season on Oct. 5 and 6 with a re-imagining of the symphony. Maestro James Ross, known for his innovative formats and approaches to classical music, has arranged an "Imaginary Symphony," constructed from four different works across centuries and continents, commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

"Conductors are rarely composers, but we are certainly the most personal advocates for other composers' works," explains Ross. "By excerpting the strongest movements from these existing works, it creates a musical grab bag and new symphonic narrative. I hope to shed deserved light on composers and pieces that have lain unfairly absent from our concert halls."

The "Imaginary Symphony" depicts visions of idyllic beauty against the realities of war. The first movement is borrowed from William Walton's Symphony No. 1 (mvt. I), composed prior to WWII and foreshadowing the impending war with dark and intense agitation. Next, Amy Beach's Gaelic Symphony (mvt. II) paints a pastoral, tranquil landscape — reminiscent and nostalgic. "On the Cliffs of Cornwall" from Ethel Smyth's opera *The Wreckers* furthers the comfort of peaceful times. (Incidentally, Beach and Smyth were pioneers of their times — one the first American woman to publish a symphonic work and the other a fierce suffragist.) The final excerpt is Honegger's Symphony No. 3 (mvt. III), conjur-

ing marching armies and evaporating into a call for peace.

In addition to the "Imaginary Symphony," the ASO will present *Tidbit #1* by Lionel Semiatin. The composer fought on the battlefield at Normandy, writing this piece shortly after as a love letter to America. Semiatin's daughter, Gene Pohl, frequently plays in the ASO's viola section and will perform her father's piece for the first time; Pohl joins Maestro Ross for a pre-concert chat prior to Saturday's performance.

The program also features Beethoven's Triple Concerto with soloists Rita Sloan (piano), Nicholas Tavani (violin) and Alan Richardson (cello). Tavani and Richardson perform frequently as members of the famed Aeolus Quartet, and Sloan is internationally recognized as a leading teacher of collaborative piano and chamber music, performing through the United States and abroad.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturday evenings (8:00 p.m.) at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees (3:00 p.m.) at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Single tickets are \$20-\$85 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$10 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior and group rates and a special discount for military employees and veterans for this performance. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5516705 or call 703-324-8428.

Alexandria Citizens Band. 8-10 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. Join the Alexandria Citizens Band, one of the oldest community bands in America, at their first rehearsals of the season. No auditions, they welcome all who want to have fun, find new friends, and play free concerts. Recruiting volunteer members in all sections — drum, tuba, baritone, trumpet,

French horn, trombone, saxophone, flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon players. Free. Call 703-920-8675 or go to come-play-with-us.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Symposium with Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Emerging Revolutionary War. 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. In preparation for the 250th anniversary of 1776, public

CALENDAR

Can't Have Too Much Coffee

Work continues on the new site of For Five Coffee, a New York-based chain that is eyeing sites in DC, Arlington and Alexandria to open this fall. For Five also has locations in Los Angeles and Chicago. The Alexandria location is at 1600 Diagonal Road — offering a hearty boost of caffeine to Metro travelers.

PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON



historians share their research into this turbulent time during a one-day symposium in partnership with Emerging Revolutionary War. The symposium will be held at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. \$60 per person, \$50 OHA members and students at AlexandriaVa.gov/Shop. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org or emergingrevolutionarywar.org.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the parking lot at Saint Clement, 1701 Quaker Lane. Native plant sale hosts 12 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.

Genealogy Research in D.C. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Claire Kluskens of the National Archives gives keynote; participants choose any three of nine additional presentations about researching in the many genealogical repositories in and near Washington, D.C. \$30 for MVGS members; \$35 for nonmembers. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org for more.

War of 1812 in Alexandria. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Guided walking tour of people and places in Old Town associated with the War of 1812 and the British occupation of Alexandria in 1814. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Annual Community Country Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Enjoy a day of outdoor fun and learning with historic colonial church tours, organ concerts, children's games, barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade apple butter, live music, and much more. All are welcome. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. The Twig's 78th Historic Alexandria Homes Tour provides the opportunity to tour 18th and early 19th-century homes in Old Town and learn of their historic pasts. Tickets can be purchased in advance at thetwig.org/homes-tour, the Alexandria Visitor Center at 221 King St. or The Twig Thrift Shop at 106 N. Columbus St. The tour will also feature a raffle and prizes. All proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. \$40 in advance; \$45 day of tour. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour or call 703-683-5544.

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.

Downton Abbey Movie Party. 1-4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Celebrate the release of "Downton Abbey: The Movie" at an ancestral home of the current Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle. Uncover the real-world connections between Downton Abbey and the Lee-Fendall House. Enjoy refreshments, trivia, scavenger hunt, and more. \$25 adult, \$15 youth. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

18th Century Games. 6-8 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn how to play 18th century games such as Shut the Box, Whist, and more. Light hors d'oeuvres and two drinks per visitor are included in the price of the ticket. The event includes a tour of the first floor of the house. \$40 per person. Open to anyone 21 or older. Purchase tickets at apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/3187. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park for more.

Live Music: Lesson Zero. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at The Greene Turtle, 7879 Heneska Loop. Admission is free. Visit www.youtube.com/lessonzero or www.reverbNation.com/lessonzero for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Classic Car Show. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. Enjoy classic cars competing for trophies, guided garden tours, a 50/50 raffle, and refreshments. The event benefits American Horticultural Society and River Farm. Rain date: Oct. 6. \$10 per car for spectators; \$20 for show cars (pre-registration encouraged); \$5 for walk-ins/bikes; free for children 12 and under. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/carshow for more.

Simpson Park Gardens Fall Open House. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Join Extension Master Gardeners at the Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens and visit the colorful, newly renovated gardens. Learn techniques for deadheading plants, and interesting container gardening ideas. Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the

surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Anniversary Event: Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery. 3-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic 105 District Ave., Fairfax. In celebration of Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's 45th anniversary, member artists have contributed 45 works of art. Ticket holders' names are randomly called and that person chooses from one of the available pieces of original art. Preview artwork Sept. 18-29; Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Ticket holders may bring a guest for free. \$200. Art Lovers Sweepstake: a \$45 ticket gives buyers an opportunity to take home one of three works of art, valued at \$1,500 or more. Purchase tickets at tinyurl.com/tfaacc19.

SEPT. 30-OCT. 27

Art Exhibit: "Emotional Support: Animals." Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Kiln Club artists wax poetic on "Emotional Support: Animals" in the wholehearted exhibition of the exotic and domestic. Visit www.scopegallery.org or call 703-548-6288.

OCT. 1-NOV. 3

Art Exhibit: Day of the Dead. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, Day of the Dead. Neighbors in Mexico and Central America celebrate Day of the Dead. It is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory. The colors and vibrancy of this holiday inspire artists of the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

OCT. 4-27

Art Exhibit: Twilight Zone. Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Art Inspired by The Twilight Zone" is a collection of work inspired by the classic television series. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

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APPETITE

Cider, Canine Costumes to Take Center Stage at Shelter Fundraiser

BY HOPE NELSON

Craft hard cider is taking the beverage world by storm. Sharing a pint of cider while hanging out with your furry Fido friends? Heaven.

That's just what the Animal Welfare League of Arlington has in mind with a new fundraiser, hosted by Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider. Taking place on Oct. 29 "Sit, Stay, Cider" is the first pairing between the shelter and the cidery and one of the shelter's newest ticket-limited events. Both dogs and humans are welcome at the cidery for a tasting, costume contest, tours and more.

"This is a new fundraiser for AWLA; we're trying to host some more medium-sized events in lots of different venues," said AWLA communications specialist Chelsea Jones.

And unlike some of AWLA's other more "free-for-all" events, the ticket quantity to this event is capped. Only 65 regular tickets and 16 VIP tickets are available for the event, ensuring a more intimate crowd (and more space for the pups). Regular tickets include a pass for a pint of Lost Boy's flagship cider; VIP tickets include a tour, early admission and a pint of one of the cidery's specialty drinks.

"We're super-excited to work with (Lost



Dress up your pup and enjoy a taste of craft cider at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's fundraiser at Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider.

Boy)," Jones said. "Their space is dog-friendly, so people can bring their dogs to the event, which is great."

While guests sip on cider, they (or their pooches) can also participate in a doggy costume contest. Once solely the domain of the pups in question, many humans have begun to coordinate costumes with their pets to create a more "dynamic duo" affect. Both dog-only and pairs entries are accepted, Jones said.

"A lot of our supporters are really into this

and they dress up with them," she said.

The funds raised from the Lost Boy event will go into AWLA's general fund, Jones said: "That means the money can be used to wherever it's needed the most."

Such needs include caring for animals who enter shelter care with extensive medical needs, including heartworm treatment and emergency surgeries. Spay-neuter surgeries and adoption services are also funded from the general account.

"It enables us to do those above-and-be-

IF YOU GO

Sit, Stay, Cider event at Lost Boy Cider, 317 Hooffs Run Drive, Alexandria
When: Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:30-9 p.m.
Tickets: \$45 for "Cider Sipper" ticket; \$75 for "Cider VIP" ticket.
How to register: Visit the AWLA's event website at <https://www.awla.org/event/sit-stay-cider/>

yond things we do here," Jones said.

One hundred percent of ticket sales go to AWLA, and Lost Boy is also earmarking 10% of to-go sales that evening for the shelter.

Along with the costume contest, cider tasting and tours, food trucks will be on hand to offer up meals and a live musician will take the stage to round out the event. All of the above, paired with the AWLA's mission at hand, is sure to yield a fun night, Jones said.

"Just hanging out and knowing that by coming to this fun party, you are helping us to save more animals!" she laughed. "What could be better?"

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

CALENDAR

Saturday/Oct. 5

"Le Tour d'Alexandria" Bicycle

Tour. 10 a.m. Start and end at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Library invites the community to participate in Le Tour d'Alexandria Library, the Library's annual bicycle tour of all library locations. In recognition of the Library's 225th Anniversary, this year's tour will highlight some of the Library's history dating back to 1794. Space is limited, registration is required. Riders must be over the age of 13 to participate. Children and teens under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit alexlibraryva.org/alexandria-bike-tour to register.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

Civil War Artillery Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the role and equipment of Civil War artillerymen in the Defenses of Washington. This living history program will appeal to Civil War enthusiasts of all ages. The event is weather dependent. Free. Call 703-746-4848.

24th Annual Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating Alexandria's diversity held the first Saturday in October, rain or shine. Discover more than 300 artists, from jewelers to glass makers to painters, while enjoying a variety of musicians

and food vendors.

Activities for children include scarecrow-stuffing, pumpkin-painting and more. Free admission. Visit artontheavenue.org/ for more.

Mirror Mirror: David Shulman with Sarah Marie Hughes.

8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. Leave pets at home. Visit alexandriava.gov/publicart for details.

Performance: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The ASO's season opens with music by Wagner, Beethoven and more under the direction of Maestro James Ross featuring soloists Rita Sloan, Nicholas Tavani and Alan Richardson. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885. ASO musician Gene Pohl's father, Lionel Semiatin, composed Tidbit #1 while fighting on the battlefield at Normandy. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Campagna Oktoberfest

Enjoy all of your favorites with beer from Port City brews, bratwurst from Logans, sauerkraut, baked pretzels and, of course, German chocolate cake. The Campagna Center's annual Oktoberfest will be held Thursday, September 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company at 3950 Wheeler Avenue. The evening's proceeds will benefit Campagna Center's New Neighbors English Language Learner (ELL) and Family Literacy Program which helps immigrants and refugees on their way to self-sufficiency. The EEL program offers English language programs to immigrants and refugees from around the world who have settled in in Alexandria and the Northern Virginia area.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Breast Cancer Walk. 8 a.m.-11 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, George Washington Parkway. Support the National Breast Center Foundation's

3rd annual Walk to Bust Cancer to increase awareness and celebrate survivorship. 7:30 a.m. check-in, 9 a.m. 1.2 mile walk. Entertainment and activities before and after the walk. Register ahead for planning. \$35. Visit www.walktobustcancer.org

or call 202-309-4026.
Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leeendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.
Performance: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The ASO's season opens with music by Wagner, Beethoven and more under the direction of Maestro James Ross featuring soloists Rita Sloan, Nicholas Tavani and Alan Richardson. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885. ASO musician Gene Pohl's father, Lionel Semiatin, composed Tidbit #1 while fighting on the battlefield at Normandy. \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.
Mirror Mirror: David Shulman with Bonnie Lander. 8 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. The City of Alexandria commissioned a series of

original site-specific performances for the sound-responsive, interactive installation Mirror Mirror. Composer and violinist David Schulman and Orange Grove Dance will perform on select dates between July and October. All performances are free and feature lawn seating. Lawn

CALENDAR

chairs and blankets are encouraged.
Leave pets at home. Visit
alexandriava.gov/publicart

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Luncheon: "Fashion in Bloom." 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Enjoy a fashion show, luncheon, silent auction and raffle. Yacht Haven Garden Club works to further education in horticulture, floral design and conservation among its members and the surrounding community. \$40. Reservation deadline, Sept. 27. Email yachthavengardenclubva@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 11

Highland Echoes Show. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Highland Echoes is a vocal, musical, and dance journey through Scottish history and culture from the Highlands to America. Featuring "Celtic Album of the Year" recipient Jennifer Licko - the show combines traditional and original music and dance. \$10-\$45. highlandechoesalexandria.eventbrite.com for tickets.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 11-13

Mount Vernon Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia at the home of George Washington. Bring a blanket, relax on the east lawn overlooking the scenic Potomac River and enjoy live music while sampling wine from Virginia's wineries. Admission: Friday, \$48; Saturday, \$52; Sunday, \$42. Call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org.

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Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the sale of real property owned by the City of Alexandria, located at 912, 916, 920 King Street and 116 South Henry Street in the City of Alexandria, Virginia 22314, to Galena Capital Partners, LLC. The proposed ordinance authorizes the City Manager, on behalf of the City of Alexandria, to take all necessary actions to carry out the sale of real property located at 912, 916, and 920 King Street and 116 South Henry Street, in Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. IF THE MAYOR FINDS AND DECLARES THAT WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS ARE SUCH THAT IT IS HAZARDOUS FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE MEETING, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONTINUED TO THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2019. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK



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19/20 Season



IMAGINARY SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, OCT 5, 2019 • 8 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCT 6, 2019 • 3 P.M.

The ASO's season opens with Beethoven's Triple Concerto featuring soloists Rita Sloan (piano), Nicholas Tavani (violin) and Alan Richardson (cello) under the direction of Maestro James Ross.




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ACCT Presents 'The Giver'

Delivers a message about choice and being able to give and receive love in a utopian world.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control and safe. There is no war or fear or pain. There are also no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the community. But when Jonas goes to the Ceremony of Twelves, he is chosen for special training from The Giver to receive and keep the memories of the community. The Giver is the only person who holds the memories of real pain and real joy. Now Jonas will learn the truth about life and the hypocrisy of his utopian world. Through this moving adaptation, discover what it means to grow up, to grow wise, and to take control of your own destiny. Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) will present "The Giver" from Sept. 27 – Oct. 13, 2019.

Director Jen Lyman said she likes to direct dramas that deal with important, complex issues. "The Giver" explores the importance of memory, individualism, connection, and strong emotion, and how barren existence is when you try to live without them. I was also intrigued by the complex sound and projection design necessary to portray the memories, shared by the Giver, which are the catalyst of change in this story," she said.

Producer Leslie Teitel added: "As a teacher, I love bringing the stories that students read in school to life. It can give them a perspective or message that they might have missed when reading it as an assignment, hearing it spoken and seeing it in dimension on the stage."

She continued: "So many kids in their preteen and teen years can become engulfed in the strong emotions that they are experiencing. 'The Giver' shows us that as challenging as these emotions can sometimes be, they help teach us and guide us to having more colorful, poignant lives overall. That with the sadness and pain comes im-



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS/THE GAZETTE

Paul Donahoe (The Giver) and Bret Medley (Jonas) rehearse a scene from ACCT's production of "The Giver," which will be produced from Sept. 27-Oct. 13, 2019.

mense joy and love."

Producer Marg Soroos added: "It is a wonderful story with such a good message about choice and being able to give and receive love. Many preteens and young people have read the story and to see it come to life may solidify the message of the story."

Brett Medley is playing the role of Jonas, a kid who has lived his entire life trying to be part of the group, much like everyone else in his society. "Jonas however, has always had a bit of a strange quality about him. Where his family and friends interact at a very basic level, Jonas has always felt emotions toward these interactions; as much as he's tried to suppress them. His journey with The Giver allows him to not only discover these emotions, as well as understand what they are; and express them in a whole new way."

Debbie Gray plays the mother of Jonas. "The Mother truly enjoys living in this ordered society. The Mother works in the area of Law and Justice. She follows the rules and appreciates the system that has been created to keep things orderly and functioning," she said. "The Mother has no hesitation in stifling natural feelings through medication and finds restraint in emotions to be quite natural. She takes pride in her family unit, but has no concept of what having love for her family would actually be. She recognizes the great honor of her son, Jonas, being selected as the Receiver, and feels this is a reflection of her success in raising her son in an orderly and appropriate fashion."

Jim Pearson plays the father — a nurturing soul, kind, empathetic to a fault, and committed to helping children grow and thrive. "He is also a very good citizen, fol-

lows the rules, and is well satisfied with his life and his place in the community," he said.

He continued: "I hope that the audience reflects on how they see the world, its colors and textures, and then considers that others may see the world and what is normal quite differently — different colors and textures, music, and views of the universal. Then, perhaps, think of how we may weave these different views and beliefs into a rich tapestry that supports and engages us all, sharing the delights and helping us through the traumas."

Katherine Watters plays the role of Lily, a 6-year-old girl who is very energetic. "She thinks outside of the proverbial 'box' although she can't think too far out of the box because she lives in such a reserved community," she said.

She added: "It is a deep show, and I had to spend some time with the script to understand it. It was hard memorizing my lines, and it was challenging learning the blocking. It was hard getting to know the other character's parts as well as my own character."

Paul Donahoe plays the role of The Giver, an old man who is the current Receiver of The Community. "He becomes The Giver when he transmits all his memories to Jonas who is to become The Community's new Receiver. In a world where no one feels pain and there are no emotions, The Giver is the only one who holds the memories of the whole world and is filled with emotion and pain that he passes on to Jonas. As the story is told The Giver becomes weaker and weaker as his memories leave him," he said.

Aldersgate Church Community Theater will present "The Giver" from Sept. 27 - Oct 13, 2019. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. (No performance on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019.) Tickets are \$15 and \$18. The theater is located at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. Visit the website at <http://acctonline.org>.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Portside In Old Town Fall Festival.

At Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Enjoy a day of live music, maritime history, nautical demonstrations and children's activities on the Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Savor local food, beer and wine while experiencing boat building demonstrations from Alexandria Seaport Foundation Apprentices and knot tying from tall ship Providence. Select activities benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's mission to improve the lives of young people through adult mentoring, project-based learning and the craft of wooden boat building. Free admission; food and drink for purchase; fees for some activities. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/event/portside-in-old-town-fall-festival/15351/ for more.

Celebration of Service. 6-9 p.m. at Ft. Belvoir Officers Club. Pastor Floyd C. Hawkins Sr. of Shiloh Church of

God in Christ is preparing to celebrate 31 years of leadership and service to his church and community by highlighting those giving back to Fairfax County. The inaugural Floyd C. Hawkins, Sr. Outstanding Leaders in Community Service Award will be presented to: Dr. Nardos King, Bob Diegelman, Velvet Abram, and Victoria Williams. Open to the public. To attend, visit hawkins31yearsofservice.eventbrite.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Downton Abbey Tours. 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the surprising connections between people and places of the world of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House through special "Downton Abbey" themed tours of the museum this fall. \$10. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Make and Take Lunch Break

Social. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at 2425 Eisenhower Ave (on the grassy knoll). Take a real lunch break outside to refuel and recharge with co-workers. Each month a DIY local business will pop-up and offer a themed craft (while supplies last). Email maurisapotts@gmail.com or visit www.FB.com/AlexandriaEcon.

TUESDAY/OCT. 22

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. \$4. Call 703-

765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

MORE ONGOING

Post-Grad Residency Program. At

BULLETIN

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

SAFETY

Free Medication and Firearm Locking Devices. The City of Alexandria is offering free locking medication boxes and firearm trigger or cable locks as part of Lock and Talk Northern Virginia. Alexandria residents and employees may call 703-746-3436 to obtain these free life-saving devices. Suicide can be prevented. Anyone at risk of suicide, or who knows someone at risk, should get help right away. Call PRS CrisisLink at 703-527-4077, text "CONNECT" to 85511 or call City of Alexandria Emergency Services at 703-746-3401. For life-threatening situations, call 911 immediately.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

REVIVE! Training. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at 2355 Mill Road, Room 140. Narcan saves lives – learn how to spot an opioid overdose and reverse it using Narcan (Naloxone). Participants receive a free medical kit that includes Narcan upon the completion of training. No registration or RSVP is required. Additional training dates are available. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/opioids.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 27-28

Fall Children's Consignment Sale. Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Many items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email CUMC.CCS@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Blessing of the Animals. 9 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Each pet will be individually blessed by Pastor Grace Han and will receive a Certificate of Blessing with the pet's name calligraphied by an artist. Stay for a photo with the pastor. Free parking on the street or in the parking lot. Blessing happens in the courtyard under the oaks on Cameron Mills Road. All are welcome. Questions call or text 703-408-4008.

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.

MONDAY/SEPT. 30

City Hall Visioning Study Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the City Hall Sister Cities Conference Room 1101, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria will host a second City Hall Visioning Study community meeting. Learn about the City Hall Visioning Study and potential approaches to the City Hall renovation; take a brief tour of City Hall and learn about its history; view City Hall initiatives through gallery displays; and ask questions and share ideas for future uses of City Hall. Visit www.alexandriava.gov and search City Hall Visioning Study.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 2

Real-World Medicare Costs of Alzheimer's Disease. Noon-2 p.m. at The Alexandrian, Autograph Collection, 480 King St. in the Rosemont Room. Learn more about

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

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Announcements

Obituary

Edith Marie Shepherdson, a life-long resident of Alexandria, Virginia, died on August 20, 2019, in her residence at Goodwin House. Born on September 3, 1922, she graduated George Washington High School in 1939. She married Charles J. Shepherdson on September 1, 1940, shortly before he launched Virginia Concrete Company, which poured the foundations for many of Northern Virginia's major construction projects during the 50s and 60s. Marie was active in the Ladies' Auxiliary Board at Alexandria Hospital, and a faithful congregant and generous supporter of Del Ray United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. She was predeceased by her husband Charles, her son Chuck, her daughter Patty, and her granddaughter Jessica. She is survived by her daughter Sharon (William) Schambra, five grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Contributions in her memory may be made to Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Avenue, Alexandria, VA, 22301.

Obituary

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Engineering a Solution



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though not exactly "The Continuing Story of Bungalow Bill," ("The Beatles," 1968) but for those of you regular readers still interested in the presumptive outcome - in my lifetime, of my 250 year-old home's "structural integrity" - as it relates to my pending refinance application, we may now have lift off, so to speak. (Hopefully Houston, we don't have a problem.) A structural engineer came by the house yesterday at my request and examined and measured the cracks in the concrete slab which "porches" the front of my house. After which he offered his professional opinion, a more detailed version of which will be emailed to me in a few days (copies of which I will forward to all the interested parties). According to this engineer, there is a concrete solution which, cost notwithstanding (or even known yet) will secure my home's structural foundation and assuage the appraiser.

The problem, as I understand it, concerns the possibility of my house falling down, from back to front. On my porch there are five wood pillars which stand floor to ceiling equidistant across the porch. They are not embedded in the concrete (nor are they cracked or rotting). They are supporting the weight of the house, but apparently are on shaky ground. What has happened is, due to the improper preparation of the soil onto which this concrete slab was originally poured (100 years ago - or whenever), the concrete has buckled under the pressure, and the house is tilting, sort of (and/or has the potential to slip further and fall). And if this happens, neither my wife nor I will be able to get up, whether we're owners of Life Alert medallions or not.

There is a solution however, which doesn't require "a pick and shovel and 20 men" (to invoke a Three Stooges reference). Nor will it require any heavy equipment and/or cabling of my house in some way to lift it off the ground in order to break up all the length, width and depth of approximately 150 square feet of concrete (I don't know about the cubic exactly). The plan seems to be for the house to be temporarily supported by wood beams as it is raised up a bit and then one foot square sections of the concrete surrounding each of the pillars will be broken up. According to the engineer, not a major undertaking. Then piers, which are structural engineering jargon for whatever I need to have supporting the pillars, will be placed on the ground/ foundation beneath each pillar and then back-filled with concrete and Bob's your uncle: structural integrity. At least that's as much as I can understand/explain, anyway. Orthotics for the house you might say.

Now whether my description of the repair is at all accurate, the engineer was clear. Though the repair is delicate, he agreed, nobody is reinventing the wheel here, and the solution as proposed is not that complicated. (As for the "structural integrity" of our 100 year-old stable, another concern of the appraiser, the engineer said "We don't certify the structural integrity of 100 year-old buildings." Now whether this out-building situation becomes a deal-breaker, I can only hope that reasonable minds prevail. Check back to this space for future updates.)

At present, I fear there will be fits (by me) and starts (by the various external parties lining up to solve my homes structural problems) to get me to the refinance finish line with some financial integrity still intact. I won't lie, there's a bit at stake here, and I can't afford (literally and figuratively) any slip ups. As I approach my 65th birthday, my goal is to simplify my life and secure my future, not complicate my life and "insecure" my future. I had hoped this refinance would accomplish the former. I had no idea that it would lead to the latter.

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

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 21

the Real-World Medicare Costs of Alzheimer's Disease. The discussion will feature discussion on lack of Medicare payments for Alzheimer's and the burden that falls on Medicaid - largely for custodial care. Doors for the luncheon forum will open at noon and the speakers remarks will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. Free, but RSVPs required at www.eventbrite.com (search Real-World Medicare Costs).

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Freedom Day USA. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the offices of Dr. Kathleen Mullaney DDS, 700 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 230. Free dental care for Veterans, one day only. Veterans in need may receive a free dental service to include, cleanings, exams, fillings or extraction. Pre-registration is required at 703-548-8584.

Solar Open House. 2-4 p.m. at 1310 N. Chambliss St. See solar up close, ask questions about how solar works, and learn why homeowners in your community have made the choice to go solar. Free and open to the public, all are welcome. Email x391deltacharlie@gmail.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 7

Board of Zoning Appeals. 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 301 King St. The City of Alexandria's Board of Zoning Appeals will hold its regular public hearing. The preliminary docket for this hearing can be viewed at legistar.granicus.com/alexandria/meetings/2019/10/ 1972_A_Board_of_Zoning_Appeals_19-10-07_Docket.pdf. Contact the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703-746-4666.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 16

Sharpen Networking-Interviewing Skills. 1:30-3 p.m. at City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center, 1800 N. Beauregard St. This 90-minute, interactive session is designed to help job-seekers refresh their image and put their best self forward. Discuss ways to effectively network, create a winning "elevator pitch" and ace your interview. This session is a good overview for anyone looking to sharpen their skills and get ready for what's next in their career. Email aaprva@aarp.org, call 877-926-8300 or visit tinyurl.com/y5hrmj56 to register.

VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

Resources Available to Support Sexual Assault Victims. The City of Alexandria reminds the community of resources available for survivors of sexual assault and those supporting survivors. It is important for survivors to know that it is not their fault and help is available.

- ❖ In case of an emergency, and for life-threatening situations, always call 911.
- ❖ The City's Sexual Assault Center offers services including a 24/7 hotline at 703-683-7273, individual counseling, support groups, family support and information and referral services. Call the hotline to access these and additional services, or visit the website at alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence.
- ❖ Free presentations are also available on topics including prevention, awareness, healthy relationships, sexual harassment and bystander intervention. To schedule a presentation for a school, youth group, civic organization or other Alexandria group, call 703-746-3118.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

The City of Alexandria is reminding the community about the importance of stopping domestic violence and highlighting available resources. Domestic violence is an instance or pattern of abusive or coercive behaviors that may include threats, harassment, controlling resources, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical assault, or other actions. These behaviors are exhibited by one individual to exert power or control over another in the context of a family, or in dating relationships, (including those of teen couples and adult couples who do not live together). To check whether you or someone you know might be a victim, take a quick online assessment at www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#AreYouaVictim to learn more. Those concerned about the safety of another can become active bystanders and help guide the victim to confidential support and assistance. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence#FriendsandFamilyofSurvivors.

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OPEN SUN 9/29, 1-4

Old Town | \$816,000

Live your hip, cool life in this Portner Brewery townhome with soaring ceilings, handsome walnut built-ins, fireplace, 2 terraces, 2 garage parking spaces, 2 bedrooms and extra storage. Convenient to all! 611 N Saint Asaph Street

Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com



Old Town \$1,499,000

Stunning historic 3/4-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse offers light-filled rooms, original hardwood floors, built-ins, new windows, renovated chef's

kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances, 2 fireplaces, and a lovely master suite. New French doors open to a spectacular wide garden with flagstone and brick patio.

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



OPEN SUN 9/29, 2-4

Alexandria \$515,000

Welcome to a life where the commute is short and life is simple. This gorgeous 3-bedroom home has been updated throughout and features a bath on

each level. The patio is ready for your fall festivities and the wonderful trails and green space of Brenman Park are steps away. 309 Cloude Mill Drive

Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673
www.McMasterRealEstate.com



OPEN SUN 9/29, 2-4

Warwick Village \$599,900

2-bedroom, 1.5-bath townhouse. Open & bright floor plan. Main level features large living/dining room leading to deck with steps to yard

and covered patio. Finished walkout lower level with family room & half bath. Walk to shops and restaurants along "The Ave" in Del Ray. 2929 Sycamore St.

Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



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