



## Republican Requiem

### Democrats take House of Delegates and State Senate.

BY MICHAEL POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

It wasn't all that long ago that Northern Virginia had its own breed of Republicanism. People like U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11), U.S. Sen. John Warner and Del. Dave Albo (R-42). Now, after a series of stunning defeats since the election of Donald Trump to the White House, Northern Virginia Republicans are a dying breed, with moderates bowing out or being voted out.

"Donald Trump is the gift that keeps on giving," said Del. Mark

Keam (D-35) during a raucous victory rally in Richmond. "Virginians want Democrats to be in charge, and Donald Trump was the factor that led us to where we are."

Two years ago, Democrats picked up 15 seats in the House of Delegates and unseated longtime incumbents like Jim LeMunyon (R-67). Last year, Democrats took control of the U.S. House of Representatives and voted out U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10). This week, Democrats flipped two seats in the state Senate and six seats in the House of Delegates,

SEE REPUBLICAN, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY MICHAEL POPE

Republicans haven't won a statewide victory since 2009, and now that Democrats have seized control of the House of Delegates and state Senate, Gov. Ralph Northam declared Virginia "officially blue" at a raucous victory party in Richmond Tuesday night.

## Fight Finished Region celebrates World Series win.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Fans from around the region turned out by the thousands as the Washington Nationals celebrated the franchise's first World Series Championship Nov. 2 during the team victory parade through the streets of DC.

Nats second baseman Brian Dozier sported his signature shirtless look, capping off a season that saw the Alexandria resident donate \$5,000 for every play-off win to support schools in Haiti and Mississippi. Following the seven-game championship series, Dozier donated a total of \$60,000, making good on a pledge made prior to the postseason through the Big League Impact Foundation.

Dozier, whose wife Renee gave birth to their daughter Reese while the couple lived in Old Town during the season, is no stranger to the area. In 2006, the Tupelo, Mississippi-native got his start at the age of 19 with the Bethesda Big Train, the summer collegiate baseball team that is part of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League along with the Alexandria Aces.

Groups from around the region



PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria resident Brian Dozier celebrates the Washington Nationals' World Series championship with his signature shirtless look during the team's victory parade Nov. 2 in DC.

were well-represented during the victory celebration, including youth baseball players from Arlington and Herndon, volunteers and military families supported through T.A.P.S., and popular Springfield-based singer DC Washington, who sang the National Anthem at the rally capping the

parade. In addition to Dozier, parade highlights included Sean Doolittle and his lightsaber, Gerardo Parra and a herd of baby sharks, and the Bud Light guy on his own float, as the victory parade followed a route swelled with red, white and SEE FIGHT FINISHED, PAGE 13

## Pork Barrel BBQ: Free Food For Free Agents?

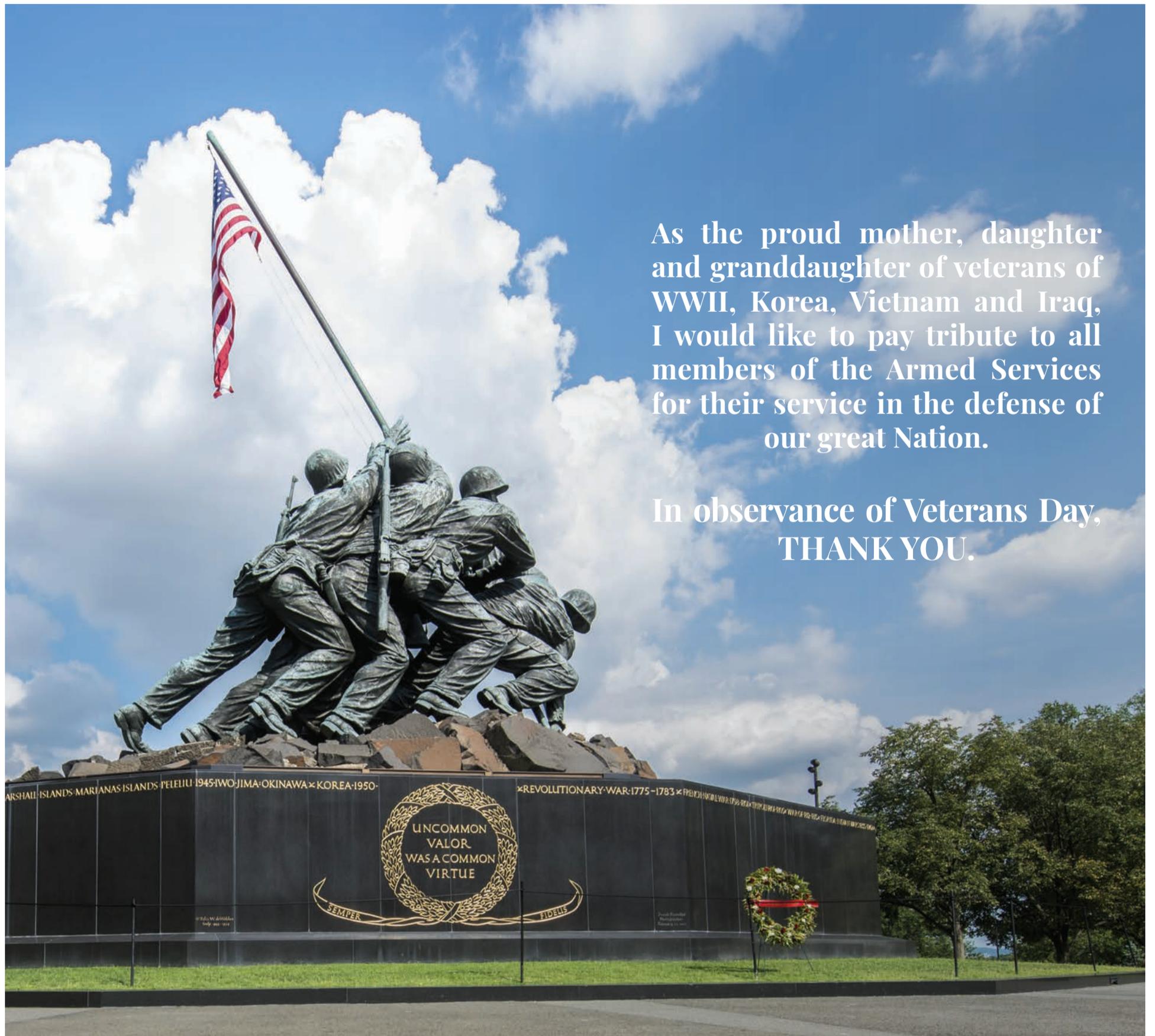
The owners of Del Ray's Pork Barrel BBQ is hoping to make an offer that Washington Nationals stars Stephen Strasburg, Anthony Rendon and Ryan Zimmerman can't refuse. The three free agents are in negotiations to sign with a MLB organization and Pork Barrel BBQ is hoping to "sweeten the pot" by offering free food for the duration of their contracts if they resign with the Washington Nationals.

"We've always been community minded," said owner Mike Anderson, "and we felt we needed to do something to help keep these guys here."

Anderson is hoping that Rendon, a Texas native, will be enticed by

SEE PORK BARREL, PAGE 13

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## Hanging Around

There's something to be said for longevity. That's especially true in the Virginia state Senate, an institution that has elevated the concept of longevity to a fetish.

Committee assignments are based on seniority. Leadership positions are given to people who have been there longest. Even the positioning of their seats on the Senate floor is based on who was elected first.

So perhaps it's no surprise that Democratic Leader **Dick Saslaw** is poised to become the next majority leader. First elected to the Senate in 1979 after serving two terms in the House of Delegates, Saslaw is the longest-serving senator in the chamber. (Next in line is state Sen. **Janet Howell** (D-32), who was first elected in 1991.) Unlike the leadership fight now unfolding among Democrats in the House of Delegates, Saslaw is unopposed and ready to seize the reins of power.

"**Thomas Jefferson** told me there'd be days like this if I hung around long enough," he joked after Democrats gained the majority Tuesday night.

## Leader from Alexandria?

Unlike the state Senate, Democrats in the House of Delegates are already spoiling for a leadership fight. House Democratic Leader **Eileen Filler-Corn** is considered by many to be the leading candidate, but first she'll have to beat back a challenge from Del. **Laschrecse Aird** (D-63).

Del. **Charniele Herring** says she'll seek the position of House Majority Leader, a key position in the chamber that controls much of the day-to-day grind of lawmaking.

Herring says she'll use the position to undo years of damage from Republicans on gun control and women's reproductive rights. She also plans to take a critical look at all the laws the GOP has instituted over the years restricting access to the polls.

"When you are talking about fundamental things like voting, and how much more difficult Republicans have made it, Virginians want a change," said Herring at a victory party in Richmond Tuesday night.

## Gay and Unopposed

Voters in the eastern half of Alexandria were greeted by a ballot that had a historic distinction, even though it may have escaped notice until they saw the candidates on the ballot. For much of the city, voters had three openly gay candidates who had no opposition: state Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30), Del. **Mark Levine** (D-45) and the Democratic candidate for clerk of court, **Greg Parks**.

All gay. All unopposed. "Someone posted a picture of all three of our signs and (former City Councilman and Delegate) **Rob Krupicka** noted it was historic," observed Ebbin. "I scratched my head and wondered why that was for a moment."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

### ALEXANDRIA ELECTION RETURNS

## Virginia State Senate

District 30

**Adam Ebbin** (D): 16,991 votes; 90 percent write-in; 1,820 votes, 10 percent

District 35

**George Barker** (D): 6,520 votes; 83 percent Dutch Hillenburg (R): 1,336 votes; 20 percent write-in; 17 votes; 0.22 percent

District 45

**Mark Levine** (D): 14,404 votes; 90 percent write-in; 1,529 votes; 10 percent

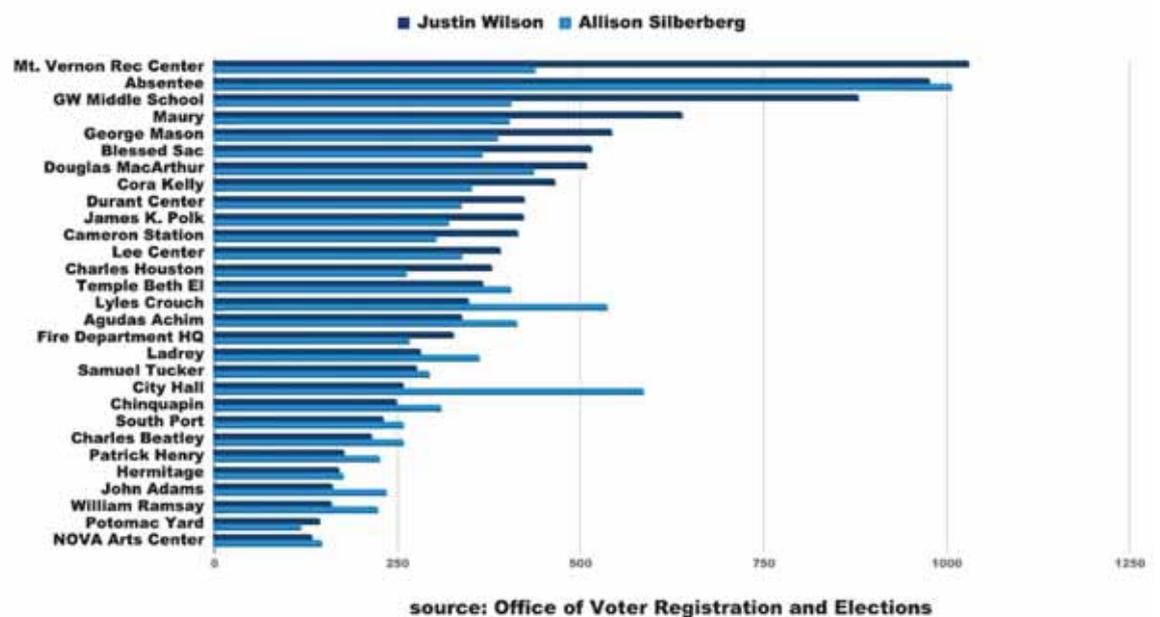
District 46

**Charniele Herring** (D): 12,270 votes; 92 percent write-in; 1,063 votes; 8 percent

## Alexandria Clerk of Court

**Greg Parks** (D): 26,466 votes; 94 percent write-in; 1,696

## Precinct Returns in Race for Alexandria Mayor



## A Tale of Two Neighborhoods

Del Ray has more voters than Old Town, and it carries more clout.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**D**el Ray can boast that it's the center of power in Alexandria, the home of both Mayor Justin Wilson and Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. Old Town, on the other hand, doesn't have as many voters or as much clout.

"People complain that Old Town has lost its influence," says Yvonne Weight Callahan, former president of the Old Town Civic Association. "It's caused some people to [want to] go back to a ward system."

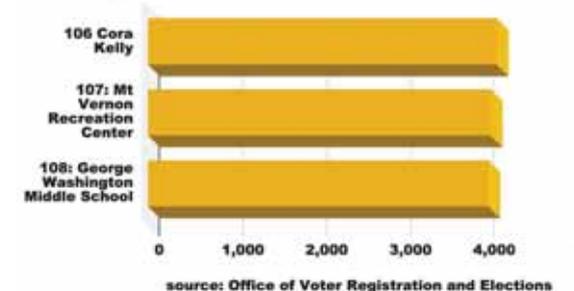
For many years, Old Town dominated city politics. Del Ray didn't even become part of the city until 1930. Now it seems the influence of the "little neighborhood that could" has become outsized. Del Ray has about 250 more active registered voters, and those precincts had a higher turnout last year. The Mount Vernon Recreation Center alone contributed more than 9 percent of the total number of votes for Justin Wilson. Allison Silberberg, on the other hand, had a strong showing at City Hall and Lyles Crouch. But it was swallowed up by the overwhelming numbers coming out of Del Ray.

"Del Ray is more active, and they're more politically involved," says Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "So they're exercising a greater impact on the direction of the city."

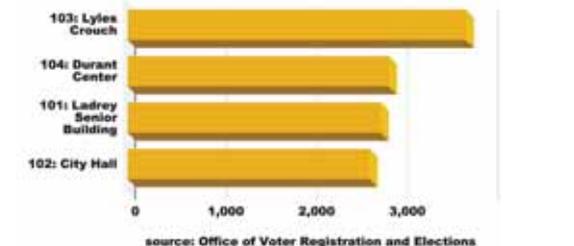
Nowhere is that impact more apparent than the waterfront, an issue that polarized politics in Alexandria for years and became a central point of distinction in the primary. Silberberg made a name for herself by opposing the small-area plan, which increased the size and scale of development at old industrial sites along the waterfront. Her campaign had support from many voters in Old Town who believed the zoning changes were too extreme.

"The rest of the city didn't buy what they were selling," says former City Councilman Lonnie Rich, a former president of the Del Ray Citizens Association. "They wanted to basically shut down development

### Del Ray Active Voters



### Old Town Active Voters



on the waterfront and keep it like it was, and the rest of the community supported the waterfront plan."

Recent years have seen a number of influential elected officials from Del Ray, including former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who got his start in politics at the Del Ray Citizens Association. Others include former Mayor Bill Euille, former Sheriff Jim Dunning and former City Council member Rob Krupicka. Old Town, on the other hand, has a limited number of luminaries in recent years: former Mayor Patsy Ticer and former City Councilwoman Lois Walker chief among them.

"Del Ray certainly has a lot of influence today," says Silberberg. "But the pendulum obviously can swing."

Wilson and Silberberg didn't agree on much during the campaign. But now that the race is a distant memory from June 2018, here's one thing they agree on — the city's mayor has a duty to represent all of the city rather than any of its neighborhoods, despite how many voters are there or how much clout they carry.

"I'm focused on serving the entire community," says Wilson.

# Healing from the Inside Out

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**L**assie Hurley came to Dr. Cynthia Durakis with The Healing Tree in April with pain in her neck and shoulders and her fingers tingling. “Now those are great.” She has returned recently with pain in her back.

Durakis asks, “were you on your feet a lot last week?” Hurley works events so she can be on her feet a lot and also sitting a lot at her desk. Durakis has Hurley lie on her stomach on the exam table. She starts the appointment with an evaluation. “Do you feel better?” Durakis places her hands in the small of Hurley’s back. She has Hurley lift each leg backward at the knee. “I am looking for misalignment that could be affecting function.”

Durakis tests to make sure Hurley’s muscles are nice and strong. “The good thing is we can prevent some things before they happen. The body will manage dysfunction for a long time without any full blown issues.”

Durakis is primarily a chiropractor whose uses chiropractic adjustment to help people restore normal function. Most people come to deal with pain. But she explains if the soft tissue, the internal visceral health isn’t working, she also does nutritional counseling. She says it can be tricky about nutrition. Things aren’t black and white. Individuals don’t necessarily react the same way to different foods.

“I’m helping heal people from the inside out.” But she adds that she is also a coach. “When I graduated, I thought I just go make an adjustment, but I learned there is a lot more to it than that.”

Hurley says, “it is a little tender here, but it’s really bad there.” Durakis asks, “Are you wearing the custom orthotics?” Hurley

says about half of her patients use them. “I wear them myself.” Ideally you should wear them most of the day.”

“Are you walking every day? In these boots? Can you wear your sneakers back and forth to the bus? I can tell your hip is better than last time.”

Hurley says, “I always feel better when I leave.”

Kristen Brasseaux is next. She has been coming for about three months for really severe tension headaches and shoulder and neck pain. Brasseaux explains she has had a sort of crazy week with the unexpected death of her husband’s co-worker in a crash. Everyone has been dealing with it.

“Go ahead and lay face down on your stomach.” Durakis says, “My job is to normalize the mechanics of the spine and help

the nervous system adjust. Less is more when you make an adjustment.”

“Take a deep breath. You are very tight in the neck.” But with all of the tension of this last week Brasseaux has not had one of her tension headaches. She says, “This is huge.”

Durakis says, “You are managing it better now. You are more equipped.”

Brasseaux is a graphic designer who sits at a computer all day. She has made adjustments in her posture and equipment. But she adds that she is studying nutrition and wants 100 percent to go that direction.

Durakis asks, “Have you stopped sleeping on your stomach?”

Brasseaux says, “Not sleeping on my stomach is so much better than I thought it would be.”

Durakis explains that your sleeping position is almost as important as your sitting position. When you sleep on your stomach you have to turn your neck to breathe.”

Durakis says she has patients of all ages



**This sign at The Healing Tree on Mt. Vernon Avenue says it all**

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE



**Full evaluation of patient before treatments begin.**



**Cassie Hurley with Dr. Cynthia Durakis.**

but, “you attract what you are.” She says there are a lot of women in her age group who are menopausal struggling with transition, gaining weight, hot flashes. She finds that most women around here in Del Ray want to age with energy and stay active.

She says it takes a commitment from the patient to work with her and not everyone has it. “Some people just want me to fix it, like giving an aspirin.” Durakis was headed

to be a lawyer. “But I talked to female attorneys. They were unhappy, working 80 hours a week.” Coincidentally her parents were seeing a chiropractor and “a light bulb went off. The patients were so pleased to be there.” Durakis had been part of a group practice on Prince Street in Alexandria since 1994 and has been a sole practitioner at the Healing Tree on Mount Vernon for four years.

## On the Move: Travel Near and Far

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA



**Mary Lee Anderson**

**T**he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated in their 2016 State of Aging and Health Report that the population of Americans age 65 and older will double in the next 25 years. There is no doubt that the men and women moving into this demographic want to continue living active, healthy and interesting lives.

For many older adults, travel is a top priority for a variety of reasons. It can improve your general mood and outlook about life, provide opportunities for social interaction, and broaden your horizons through learning about different cultures. We don’t even have to travel a great distance, just getting out for the afternoon with friends can brighten your mood and perspective on life.

Senior Services of Alexandria’s Nov. 14 Speaker Series, “On the Move: Travel Near and Far,” will cover exciting international and domestic trips, explore vari-

ous local travel options, and provide practical advice for getting around town. There will be speakers from AARP; DASH-Alexandria Transit Company; Potomac Riverboat; and an experienced Road Scholar expert.

Participants will learn all about the health benefits of travel for older adults; discover leisure travel and enrichment opportunities; hear about what DASH is doing to improve services for city residents - including seniors; and get details about the most relaxing way to see the sights along the Potomac River.

Thursday, Nov. 14 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road in Alexandria. Registration starts at 9:30 am and the official program runs from 10 am – 12 noon. It is free and open to the public. We ask that attendees register online at seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110



**Kristen Brasseaux with Dr. Cynthia Durakis.**

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## PEOPLE

# Alexandria Beautification Commission Honors 2019 Award Winners

**O**n Oct. 16, 2019, the Alexandria Beautification Commission held its annual Beautification Awards ceremony at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria. The event honored residents, businesses, and organizations for their exceptional contributions to the beautification of the city of Alexandria through landscaping, architecture and sustainable design.

Commission member, Joseph Crowell, served as the evening's emcee and announced the winners. Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council, Canek Aguirre, Del Pepper, and Amy Jackson presented the winners with their award certificates.

Joan Honeyman, ASLA, owner of Jordan Honeyman Landscape Design and adjunct professor of Sustainable Landscape Design at George Washington University, delivered the keynote address. Ms. Honeyman spoke about the recent renovation of the Ramsay House garden at the Alexandria Visitors Center, one of the oldest buildings in historic Old Town, "into a more useable and more beautiful civic



**Members of City Council and the Alexandria Beautification Commission (left to right): Kevin Dunne, Richard Dorrier, Councilwoman Del Pepper, Geoff Montross, Emily Freeland, Donald Kent, Mayor Justin Wilson, Councilwoman Amy Jackson, Christina Mazurkevich, Mary Enschede, Denise Tennant, Monica Murphy, Kathryn Chiasson, Joseph Crowell.**

amenity."

Ms. Honeyman also spoke about the power of village participation, which she defined as "people coming together in a mindful and supportive manner to get something done," as it related to the renovation project. She stated, "Thoughtfully designed urban green spaces have the capacity to establish a sense of community that's beauti-

ful, safe, social and connected," which ultimately results in community empowerment and ownership.

Awards were given in the categories of: Excellence in Architecture, Excellence in Sustainable Design, Green Practices in Beautification, Residential Beautification, Community Beautification, and Commercial Beautification. A



**Alexandria Beautification Commission Chair, Kathryn Chiasson.**

new award category, Excellence in Planning and Design, was added this year "for a large project that benefits the community as a whole by creating a more livable city." Commissioner Christina Mazurkevich, explained, "It was important for us to recognize the King Street Corridor Initiative for its tremendous impact on the city of Alexandria. We decided that the

beautiful transformation of the waterfront and the historic retail corridor was worthy of special merit."

A full list of the 2019 Alexandria Beautification Award winners can be found here <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/ABC AwardsWinners19.pdf>

## Veterans Day Ceremony Set for Nov. 11



**USN Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel (ret.), pays his respects at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Nov. 6 in Del Ray. McDaniel spent six years as a POW at the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War. A Veterans Day ceremony will be held Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Rocky Versace Plaza.**

### Friends of Rocky Versace to host 18<sup>th</sup> annual event in Del Ray.

**T**he Friends of Rocky Versace, in partnership with the City of Alexandria, will host the 18th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 11 from 1-2 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

The one-hour, indoor ceremony will honor the 68 Alexandrians who died during the Vietnam War and all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The ceremony will include the reading of the 68 names engraved in the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, recognition of Gold Star families in attendance, a tribute to Medal of Honor recipient Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace, the presentation of Vietnam Veteran lapel pins to Vietnam-period veterans, a wreath laying in honor of Captain Versace and the sounding of Taps.

Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., and was dedicated with support from Friends of Rocky Versace. Versace was an Alexandrian and POW/MIA posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, Ranger Hall of Fame inductee, Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment and Distinguished Member of The Old Guard Regiment.

The event is free and open to the public.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



**June Czekanski dressed as an umbrella woman.**

### Fountains Halloween

Residents and staff at The Fountains at Washington House, a Watermark Retirement Community, celebrated Halloween with a Spooktacular event. Each year they host an annual talent show highlighting the talents of the residents and the staff. Performers dazzled with song, line dancing, chair dancing and impersonations.

## Walk to Remember Road Traffic Victims

Vehicles crash into about 80 pedestrians and cyclists each year here and of those crashes, about 15 people are killed or seriously injured in the City of Alexandria. This is not just a number. These people are parents, grandparents, husbands, wives, children, friends, and neighbors.

International World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is an annual event to remember the millions of people killed and injured in traffic crashes around the world.

Please join the members of Alexandria Families for Safe Streets for a walk of silence on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019, at 1 p.m. starting at W. Glebe Road and Mt. Vernon Avenue, walking to Casa Chirilagua Center to honor those who have been impacted by traffic crashes.

The walk will be followed by a brief ceremony to call attention to the issue of traffic fatalities and injuries inflicted on pedestrians and other vulnerable road users; el-

evate the voices of those who have been most impacted by traffic crashes; advocate for traffic regulations that will lead to safer streets on our roads, and promote the Vision Zero goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries in Alexandria and Arlington.

AFSS members who have been personally impacted by traffic violence will be joined at the event by the Mayor of Alexandria, Chair of Arlington County's Board, members of Alexandria's City Council, State Legislators, Alexandria's Chief of Police, Alexandria's T&ES Department, BPAC members and other concerned residents of both Alexandria and Arlington.

For more information about this event, please contact Mike Doyle at (703) 946-8401 or [mike@alxffss.org](mailto:mike@alxffss.org).

To learn more about Alexandria Families for Safe Streets or to get involved, please visit [www.alxffss.org](http://www.alxffss.org).

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, civility, libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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# Republican Requiem

FROM PAGE 1  
including Democratic challenger Dan Helmer unseating longtime incumbent Del. Tim Hugo (R-40).

“Dan Helmer won because voters in Fairfax and Prince William want a representative that doesn’t stand in the way of progress,” said Jessica Post, president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. “With his long record of standing up for his community, not his party, Dan will make an excellent delegate and will work to keep Virginia moving forward.”

After the defeat of Hugo, who served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus, the Fairfax County delegation in the General Assembly will have zero Republicans. Voters in Fairfax also rejected Republican-backed candidates for the School Board.

Alexandria and Arlington haven’t had any elected Republicans for years. The last foothold the GOP has in Northern Virginia is the Springfield District, where longtime incumbent Republican Supervisor Pat Herryty was able to eke out a narrow victory against Democratic challenger Linda Sperling.

“We have a clear message that the residents of the Springfield District want someone who shares their common sense conservative values to have a seat at the table,” said Herryty. “The Springfield District wants Fairfax County to be a place where everyone can become successful.”

**DEMOCRATS HAVEN’T** controlled the House of Delegates since the late 1990s, a time when Republicans have been able to use their majority to push back efforts on gun control, the minimum wage and the Equal Rights Amendment. Now voters have expelled Republicans from power in a high-turnout election with almost 40 percent of registered voters showing up to cast a ballot compared to 29 percent in 2015. House Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn says that’s a mandate

for change.

“Without a doubt, the House candidates have offered Virginia a progressive and inclusive future,” said House Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn, who is a leading candidate to be the next speaker. “And guess what? You, the voters, said yes.”

At the top of that agenda is what Democrats call common-sense gun control. When asked which issues motivated voters this year, Democrats almost universally cited the lack of reaction to mass shootings across Virginia and the country. Democrats are poised to institute universal background checks, ban assault-style weapons and give judges authority to confiscate weapons from people who raise red flags.

“Tomorrow the work begins, and the people want to see results,” said Democratic Senate Leader Dick Saslaw, who is expected to lead the caucus next year. “They want to see gun violence curtailed, and Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, you’re going to get action.”

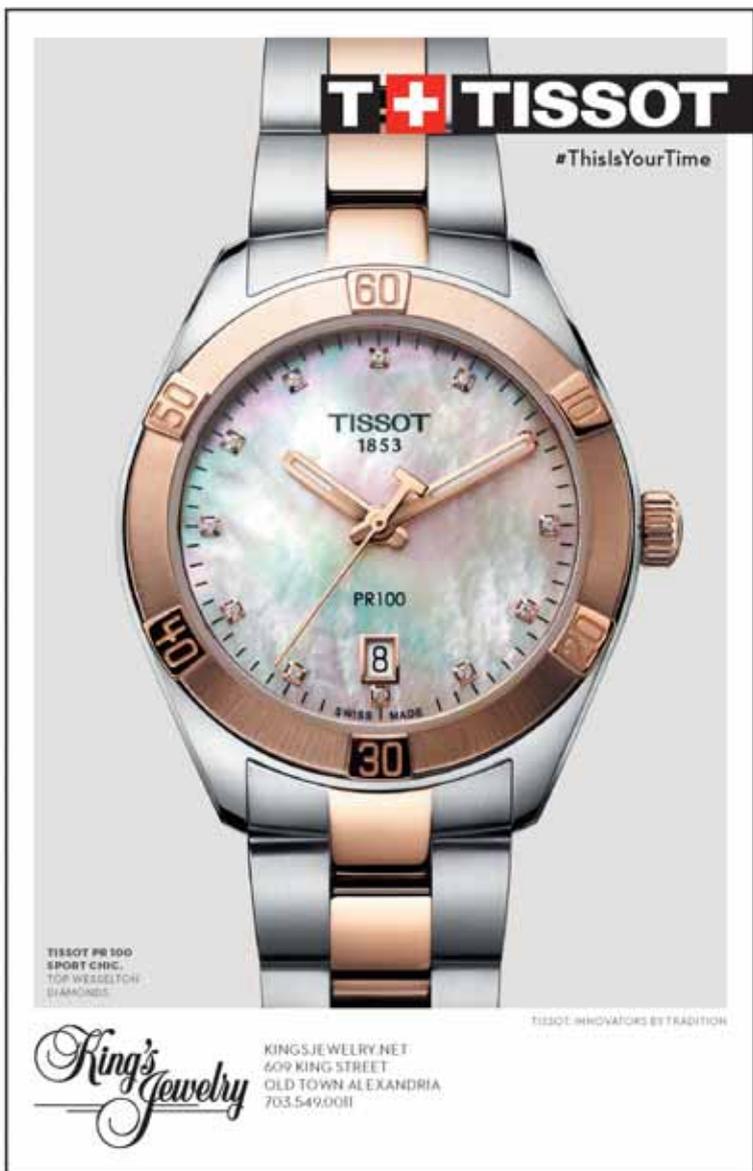
**ONE OF THE REASONS** why Northern Virginia no longer has its own brand of Republicanism is its changing demographics. Over the last decade, the region has become more urban and more diverse. That’s led to a changing sense of what its voters want from elected officials in the General Assembly, and Democrats say that’s why Republicans have been expelled from power.

“When you get out of touch with constituents, that’s what happens,” said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), who serves as chairwoman of the House Democratic Caucus. “It’s guns. It’s the years of trying to make it harder to vote. It’s restrictions on women’s health care and their privacy.”

Democrats may have seized power, but that doesn’t mean the fighting is over yet. They’ll still have to vote on who leads the party when they gavel into session this year, and that could mean a fight to become Speaker of the House when Democrats take control for the first time in 20 years. Filler-Corn might be the obvious choice, but she already has opposing from Del. Lashrecse Aird (D-63).

**“It’s guns. It’s the years of trying to make it harder to vote. It’s restrictions on women’s health care and their privacy.”**

**— Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) on why Republicans lost control of the General Assembly**



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Pat Herryty (R-Springfield) with his wife Nancy after voting on Tuesday. Herryty is the lone remaining Republican in elected office in Fairfax County.

PHOTO @PATHERRYTY VIA TWITTER

PEOPLE

# Some Like It Haute Annual Fashion Show benefits Inova Hospital.

**V**olunteer models took to the catwalk at the Mark Center Hilton as the Board of Lady Managers held its annual fashion show, luncheon and silent auction Oct. 25 to benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Strutting the latest fall fashions provided by Lord & Taylor, the annual event raises funds in support of the hospital, providing significant resources to improve medical technology and patient care.

The Board of Lady Managers

was formed in 1872, under the vision and leadership of Julia Johns, to help establish and manage a “hospital for the sick,” known today as Inova Alexandria Hospital. For over 140 years, the Board has raised millions of dollars in support of the hospital. A current pledge of \$640,000 will fund two Leica OH-5 Neurology Microscopes to support the Hospital’s goal of achieving accreditation as the first Comprehensive Stroke Center in the region.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Wearing clothing provided by Lord & Taylor, models take to the runway at the annual Board of Lady Managers fashion show and luncheon Oct. 25 at the Mark Center Hilton. The organization raises funds to provide support to Inova Alexandria Hospital.



Councilmember Amy Jackson, right, with her mother Marty Bickford at the Oct. 25 Board of Lady Managers fashion show and luncheon.

PHOTOS BY  
JANET BARNETT  
GAZETTE PACKET



Inova Alexandria President and CEO Rina Basal, right, with (l-r) Chief Nursing Officer Fadia Feghali, Nurse Anesthetist Karen Wastler, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church’s Rev. Jeanette Leisk at the Board of Lady Managers annual fashion show and luncheon Oct. 25 at the Mark Center Hilton.



Rosa Byrd and Harlene Clayton at the Board of Lady Managers annual fashion show and luncheon Oct. 25 at the Mark Center Hilton.


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## The Military Made My Life Better: Sergeant Donald L. Taylor

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Donald said, “Sometimes we do not know what the outcome will be from the decisions we made in our youth, but for me I made a good choice in going into the Air Force.” His decision to go into the Air Force brought him more security in his later years. After graduating from Parker-Gray School in 1949, Donald Lee Taylor worked for a short time at Banner Laundry in the 900 block of Oronoco Street until he obtained a job with the American Red Cross at 615 North St. Asaph Street as a stock clerk and truck driver. In the winter of 1952, Donald received a letter from the draft board instructing him to contact them. Before he contacted the draft board, he immediately volunteered for the United States Air Force. If he was going to serve his country he thought, it would be his choice of service.

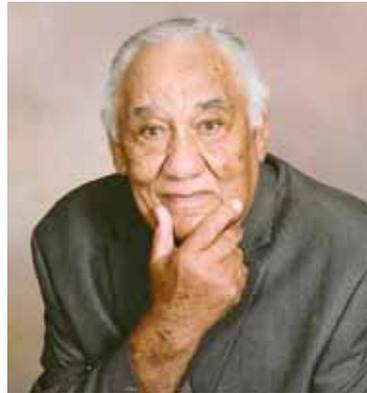
For his basic training, he was sent in on February 1952 to Sampson Air Force Base in Geneva, New York. In his division, there were 50 recruits only, two were African Americans. This was



**Sgt. Donald L. Taylor in 1952.**

the first time Donald had been away from his close knit family. After his two months of basic training, Donald did not come home. He was sent to the Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, Louisiana for four months. Then after four months, he went home on leave for one month. While he was on leave, he married Jean Frances Jackson on Aug. 11, 1952 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. After his leave, he was sent to a technical school in Cheyenne, Wyoming at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base.

Throughout Donald's remaining years in the Air Force, he was stationed in Puerto Rico, Columbus, Ohio, Morocco and Alaska. He never thought he would travel



**Donald L. Taylor, current photo.**

beyond Alexandria but the military exposed him to parts of the world he never imagined he would see.

After four years of service, Sergeant Donald L. Taylor was discharged. He returned home to his wife, child, siblings and parents. For a short time, he went back to his old job at the American Red Cross which had moved to Maryland while he was in the military. He also enlisted in the Air Force reserves. Donald used the skills that he obtained in the military to get a Federal government job at Fort Belvoir. Once his career was secured, Donald used his GI Bill to buy his current home on South Payne Street. In that home, he and his wife, Jean raised their two

daughters, Yvette and Charlene. Prior to his retirement with the Air Force reserve, Donald was selected to march in the funeral procession of President John F. Kennedy. He continued to work at Fort Belvoir until he had 30-years of service.

Donald L. Taylor was born on July 31, 1931. He is the oldest child of Charles Taylor and Dorothy Knapper. In Donald's retirement, he and his wife have faced health issues, but he is grateful to his military service for providing him a stable career, and benefits that helped his family ease the financial challenges brought on by health issues. Unfortunately his wife passed away. Today, Donald is devoted to his church, Third Baptist, where he is a life-time member and a twenty-year trustee. He is very close to his children and his siblings whom he talks to everyday and visits them throughout the week. When he was 20-years old, he made a decision to volunteer into the Air Force. That decision afforded him a better life. He now knows that he made the right choice.

*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>.*

## ASO Presents: Dvorak, Elgar and Boulanger

BY MELINDA KERNC

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro James Ross continues the 2019-2020 Season on Saturday, November 16, 2019 and Sunday, November 17, 2019 presenting music by Dvorak, Elgar and Boulanger. In his second year as ASO's Music Director, Ross is revitalizing the symphonic music canon for an unexpected and unconventional concert experience.

“Although the ASO is dead serious about orchestral music and its much-needed humanizing impact in today's world, we're not afraid

of surprises and presenting concerts that are both fun and moving,” says Ross. One way Ross is changing the traditional symphonic narrative is by re-introducing to the concert hall forgotten and underrepresented voices, like Lili Boulanger.

Opening the November performances, singers from the Alexandria Choral Society and Fairfax Choral Society will join the ASO for Boulanger's Old Buddhist Prayer. Lili was sister to the more famous Nadia Boulanger, known for her influential pedagogy instruction. Lili composed prolifically to great acclaim in her short life, and she was the first woman

to win the Prix de Rome for composition in 1913.

Following the choral opening, cellist Wolfgang Schmidt headlines with Elgar's melancholy, soulful Concerto Cello in E minor. Schmidt is internationally sought-after as a touring and recording artist as well as conductor. “Wolfgang exudes joy and musical sensitivity,” says Maestro Ross. “He is deeply attracted to nostalgic pieces that require inward reflection. The audience will be drawn in by his intensity.

The program culminates with Dvorak's sunny Symphony No. 8 in G major. Composed before his epic move to the new world, the

Eighth Symphony is fearlessly optimistic. “Dvorak's Eighth is full of sunshine, parables, folk dance, forest and perfectly-orchestrated storytelling, observes Ross.

All patrons attending Saturday's performance are encouraged to arrive early for a pre-concert chat with Maestro Ross and Wolfgang Schmidt at 7 p.m. in the main auditorium. The ASO will also be collecting food donations from attendees at both performances to contribute to the ALIVE! food bank, benefiting those in need for the approaching holidays.

For tickets and more information, visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call (703) 548-0885.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### Workshops on Special Event Application Process

The City of Alexandria invites the public to learn about the special event application, permit and review process at a series of free workshops beginning in October. A special event is a short-term

activity that requires City services to ensure compliance with regulations, such as closing streets, using amplified sound, or providing exclusive access. Common examples include parades, festivals and races. Staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; the Department of Code Administration; and the Alexandria Health Department will explain how to apply for a special event permit, other types of permits required for an event, when to apply for permits, and event fees. Visit [alexandriava.gov/](http://alexandriava.gov/)

Recreation. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- ❖ Nov. 7, 7-9 p.m., Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.);
- ❖ Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m., Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics; Facility (3210 King St.)

#### MONDAY/NOV. 11

**Veterans Day Ceremony.** 1-2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. The ceremony will honor the 68 Alexandrians who died during the Vietnam War and all veterans of

the U.S. Armed Forces. The ceremony will include the reading of the 68 names engraved in the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial, recognition of Gold Star families in attendance, a tribute to Medal of Honor recipient Captain Humbert Roque “Rocky” Versace, the presentation of Vietnam Veteran lapel pins to Vietnam-period veterans, a wreath-laying in honor of Captain Versace and the sounding of Taps. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation).

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## Emptied for the Winter?

As I drove up King Street in Old Town Friday I noticed that the light post flower baskets have been emptied for the winter. I just want to take a minute to thank whomever is responsible for the magnificent display we all enjoyed throughout the warm months. The idea, execution, planting and maintenance were all top notch and added greatly to the visual appeal of our lovely city. Well done!

**John Harley**  
Alexandria



Flowers along King Street.

## Alexandria's 'Designated Deplorable'?

A thousand Alexandria voters supported Trump in the March 2016 Republican Presidential Primary. Are they all blue-collar folks too tired after a trying day of physical labor to write a letter-to-the-editor defending or explaining the current White House's policy decisions, so instead I have to? Just because my initials are "D.D." shouldn't mean that I'm Alexandria's "designated deplorable," sort of like baseball's "designated hitter."

An electorate profile of Virginia versus the U.S.A. as a whole graces your front cover. Relying on Census data, it shows percentages of the voting-age population. But age is not the only electoral requirement, so is U.S. citizenship, which is why Pres. Trump was right to want to restore the 1950 citizenship question to the census form. Groups like 18-44 year olds, Asians, and Hispanics have high numbers of non-citizens, so an

electorate profile based on voting age citizens would be more appropriate.

Similarly, Del. Paul Krizek's call for "common-sense gun violence prevention" covers for what amounts to something verging on a broad gun ban. Let me put the pieces of his op-ed together: "The simple presence of a gun in the home increases the likelihood that a woman will be shot and killed. Women who were killed by a spouse, intimate partner, or close relative were 7 times more likely to have lived in homes with guns." What is this but a call for a broad gun ban for a large segment of the population? "American women...are 16 times more likely to be killed...by a gun than...in other high-income countries." Most of these countries have strict forms of gun control. How far will the new Democrat legislative majority go toward restricting Virginians' constitutional right of self-protection and gun ownership under the guise of "common-sense gun violence prevention"?

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

# AWLA Alumni Leading Lives of Adventure and Service

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

**W**hen the 2020 Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's photo calendar comes out this fall, the adorable face of a cattle dog named Abby will adorn the cover. She was the top vote-getter in this year's calendar contest and will be Alexandria's Animal of the Year for 2020.

But Abby might as well have a second title: Therapy dog of the year. Adopted as a puppy five years ago by Diana and Nick Gritti of Alexandria, Abby had arrived at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter through a special relationship with Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue, based in West Virginia.

Abby, then known as Ladybug, was the last of her litter of puppies to be adopted from the shelter. "She was a bitty puppy, sitting there in a huge kennel, looking at us with her dark eyes," recalls Diana Gritti. "We just fell in love with her."

The Grittis soon realized they had brought home a very smart, very sensitive dog, one that seemed to understand exactly what people were saying, even full sentences. Abby was also open to learning from the Grittis' other dog, an older miniature pinscher named Fitch, and became quite protective of him. "If I scold Fitch, Abby steps between the two of us," Gritti says.

Abby's greatest talent emerged at around age one, when Gritti's daughter needed consolation after breaking off her engagement to be married. "My daughter just lay on the couch for three days, distraught, and Abby lay beside her with her head on her chest and would not leave her. My daughter sug-



PHOTO BY PAUL TAYLOR

**Ranger's window on the world, his favorite spot in the Taylors' camper**

gested she might have a talent for therapy."

Abby has now become an official therapy dog through the People Animals Love program earning her American Kennel Club therapy dog badge after more than 80 visits to local nursing homes. Her niche, Gritti says, is engaging residents of the facilities' memory units, where people receive care for dementia. For residents who express interest in her visits, Abby stands on her hind legs and places her front paws on the arm of their wheelchairs, allowing the residents to pet her. "It's amazing — some of the people don't talk or move until they see a dog and then they reach out and become verbal," Gritti said.

"At first when we would go to the homes, I think Abby was doing it to please me. She would often look up at me for approval," Gritti said. "But now, when I get her bandana out before a therapy session, she gets very excited and she is a whole different



PHOTO BY PAUL TAYLOR

**Ranger relaxing at a stop in Durango, Colo.**

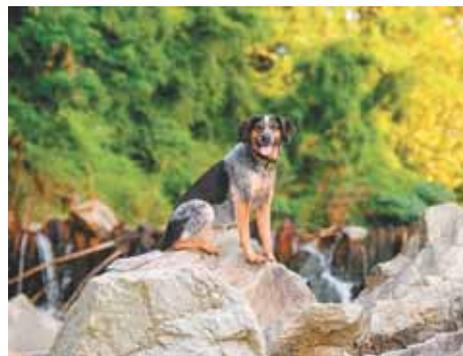


PHOTO BY SHELLEY CASTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Abby, Alexandria's 2020 Animal of the Year**

Abby. She seems to really enjoy it."

Abby is just one of several AWLA alumni to find adventure after their time at the shelter. A Belgian Malinois name Zara joined the Alexandria Police Department six years ago, and a Belgian shepherd called Kahn went to work for the D.C. Central



PHOTO BY PATTY BRAGG

**Katie enjoys a greeting from a Sunrise resident.**

Detention Facility. Another AWLA canine alumna named Katie is now the official animal-in-residence of Sunrise at Mount Vernon senior living community.

Katie, thought to be an Australian shepherd/border collie mix, was introduced to Hannah Drexler of Sunrise when she stopped at the shelter about a year ago, looking for a new pet who could visit with

SEE AWLA ALUMNI, PAGE 22

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WELLBEING

# Diffusing Holiday Drama

Sanity-saving strategies to get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Later this month, Thanksgiving will usher in the holiday season, family gatherings and expectations of celebrations that are reminiscent of Currier and Ives-type scenes. For those who deal with difficult family members be they cousins, siblings, in-laws or outlaws, the most wonderful time of year can be met with dread. Having a few sanity-saving strategies can help get us through the not-so-silent holiday nights.

"Often, those closest to us can unfortunately spark the most amount of stress" said Nathan Leslie, Professor of Creative Writing at Northern Virginia Community College and author of the book "Hurry Up and Relax."

Focusing on one's own behaviors and responses rather than those we find difficult can offer a sense of empowerment "That's because in the end you cannot control how anyone else acts during this time, or ever," said Lorente. "The only thing that you really can control is how you react and respond to different people and situations. Being aware of your behavior and changing your mindset might be the best — and only way to survive the holiday drama this season." Whether it's a feeling of obligation or hope for holiday cheer, before you head over the river and through the woods, know the reason for your trip. "First know why you are choosing to be around family members who might be difficult," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "This helps you to take ownership and control of the situation. I think that a lot of the negative feelings stem from feeling out of control, obligated, and frustrated."



COURTESY OF NATHAN LESLIE

**Nathan Leslie, author of the book, "Hurry Up and Relax," says journaling can help relieve stress during the holidays.**

Setting boundaries and having an exit strategy can be sanity-saving. "[For example,] "when we start talking about topics such as my parenting style, or my politics, or my hair, I will leave the room," said Lorente. "Not with anger but with a sense that I am control of me not of my family member."

A family ally can offer support or an exit strategy if family gatherings turn sour. "You can even develop a code word or phrase you can say to prompt your ally to intervene, politely interrupt, or help you get out of the situation promptly," said Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College. "A family ally is also a good person to have for support." For those who know that difficult family situations are unavoidable, set time limits. "Plan ahead to organize your time spent in this situation, and avoid staying at family members' homes if your relationship is challenging," said Bagshaw. "Also, structure your time, make sure there's not a lot of downtime that can lead to awkward conversations."

Choosing to give attention to the positive aspects of one's familial relationships can help diffuse tension, suggests Lorente. "Focus on gratitude, fun, and the good things that this time may bring," she said. "You and your Mom may not agree on certain adult issues but look at what a great grandmother she is to your children." Putting pen to paper can help relieve stress. "Journaling is an excellent way to relieve stress and make sense out of chaos," said Leslie. "Writing...can be useful in giving mental order to the disorientation that the holidays might bring." Visualize family events going well. Positive thoughts lead to positive feelings, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "Be curious instead of critical," he said. "Wonder how others are thinking and feeling, and why," said Short. "Give others the benefit of the doubt." "Wait before speaking if you have negative thoughts," continued Short. "Take a deep breath, visualize a favorite place, or walk away if you might regret what you say in the moment."

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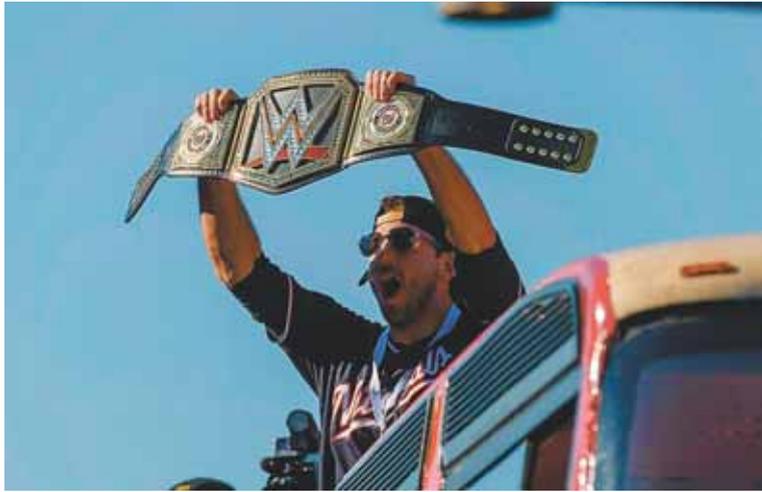
# N-A-T-S! NATS NATS NATS! Woo!

## Fight Finished

FROM PAGE 1  
blue-clad fans along Constitution Avenue and the National Mall.

Some fans sported homemade posters reading “19-31” reflecting the team’s dismal record earlier in

the regular season. But as Parra’s trademark “Baby Shark” and adopted team rallying cry played in the background, the “Fight Finished” theme of the parade prevailed.



Max Scherzer holds aloft the championship belt.



Arlington-based T.A.P.S. families and volunteers participate in the Washington Nationals World Series victory parade Nov. 2 in DC.

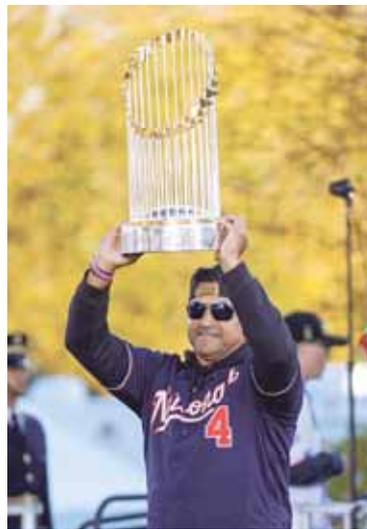
PHOTOS BY MARK MOGUE/GAZETTE PACKET



Gerardo Parra and his signature baby shark.



Juan Soto rides in the Nationals victory parade.



Team manager David Martinez with the World Series trophy.



Racing President Abe Lincoln cycles along the parade route.



Washington Nationals players ride in the World Series victory parade Nov. 2 in DC.

## Pork Barrel BBQ: Free Food for Free Agents?

FROM PAGE 1  
a taste of home BBQ. For Strasburg and Zimmerman, Anderson cited studies that show that a high protein diet helps during the five-day recovery period for starting pitchers and is also great in battling inflammation of the foot.

“We hope this offer adds an incentive for the players to stay right here in our nation’s capital,” Anderson added.

As part of the HomeGrown

Restaurant Group, Pork Barrel BBQ owner Bill Blackburn said that he and Anderson are willing to negotiate with player representatives.

“We have other restaurants, too, and are willing to fine tune this deal with Mr. Boras” said Blackburn referring to the players’ agent Scott Boras. “Scott, give us a call, let’s work this out, we want these guys to stay right here and eat well for the rest of their careers.”



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PHOTO FROM IAF LOCAL 2141 @IAFFLOCAL2141 VIA TWITTER

### Alexandria Police Investigate Fatal Crash

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a traffic crash that occurred on Saturday, Nov. 2, in the 2000 block of North Van Dorn Street.

At approximately 8:19 p.m., police responded to the area for a crash involving two vehicles. Initial investigation indicates a head-on crash occurred, which resulted in the death of Mr. Armando Aguirre Membreno, a 64-year-old Alexandria resident, at the

scene. Three adults and one juvenile were transported to a local hospital and are listed in stable condition.

Members of the Crash Reconstruction Team and Criminal Investigations Section are investigating the crash. The investigation is ongoing. Alexandria Police ask that witnesses with information regarding this incident contact Officer Nancy Gordon at 571.289.6794.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Super Soup Spots When the Weather Gets Cold

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

Over the past week, furnaces around the region have kicked on (or conked out) with Mother Nature's plunge into colder weather. And while homes may be cozy and warm, stomachs ought to follow suit. Enter: Soup. Lots and lots of soup.

There are a multitude of spots around down to pick up a good bowl of soup, but several eateries stand out as reliable go-tos. Whether brothy or thick, meaty or veggie-centric, these restaurants offer up a plethora of options for every palate.

### Caphe Banh Mi, 407 Cameron St.

The throngs of people waiting outside the tiny café on Cameron Street out to tell you something: First, the dining room is full, and second, it's full for good reason. For years now, Caphe Banh Mi has been ladling out bowls of pho in nearly every variety, from the meatiest flank steak to a light – but hearty – vegetarian version.

Now, pho isn't the only menu item Caphe Banh Mi offers – for instance, its banh mi sandwiches are right there in the eatery's name

– but gaze around the restaurant at any given time and it's clear that the pho is a runaway favorite. The broth is plentiful, the vegetables are crisp, the noodles light and airy, and the bowls are popping with protein. It's sure to warm up a cold day.

### Hard Times Café, 1404 King St.

OK, so Hard Times' chili isn't really a soup, per se. But as it lives in the same general family, it's worth a resounding recommendation. Any Alexandrian who's been around town for any length of time knows Hard Times. Its four styles of chili – Texas, Cincinnati, Terlingua and vegetarian – are hallmarks of the Old Town restaurant, and as the temperatures dip lower and lower, the desire for a thick bowl of the stuff goes higher and higher.

Looking for more than just a bowl of chili? Dress it up with spaghetti, Fritos, Tater Tots or – gasp – lettuce for a salad. Piled high with all the fixins, it's a bowl (or plate) of comfort right at the table.

### Zento, 693 N. Washington St.

More than just a sushi bar, Zento offers a wide array of dishes from the kitchen, and the restaurant's



The ramen and udon offerings at Zento always heat up a cold night.

ramen and udon selection is extensive and delicious. Sure, you could order up a cup of miso soup instead – or perhaps to accompany a main course of sushi – but why would you stop there when so many other great options await?

The ramen selections run the gamut from Japanese fried

chicken to steamed tofu, and the noodles that accompany the dish are pleasantly thin and pliable, with just a touch of bite to them. The udon, meanwhile, offers up thick, chewy noodles that easily hold their own in the broth, as well as pair nicely with the protein options available. Choose either one

and await satisfaction. A hot sake accompanying the soup will warm you further – a bonus on a cold winter night.

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

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

#### "The Haunting of Hill House."

Through Nov. 9 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Get spooked by "The Haunting of Hill House," based on Shirley Jackson's 1959 gothic horror novel. Considered one of the best ghost stories of our time, this tale is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. Show times: Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Admission: \$21-24. Visit [thelittletheatre.com](http://thelittletheatre.com).

#### "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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.mvbands.com/join-us/).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 7

#### Shine Together: Alexandria's

**Lantern Night.** 5 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For the fifth year, The Alexandria Kinderchor will host "Shine Together: Alexandria's Lantern Night," a family event dedicated to sharing light and hope with our community. Children and adults are invited to come with handmade lanterns, enjoy songs of hope and light by the Kinderchor, and then convene outside for a



House of Hamill will take place Saturday, Nov. 9 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

### House of Hamill

Saturday/Nov. 9, 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. House of Hamill is on the bleeding edge of a new generation of traditional musicians. Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan are accomplished traditional fiddle players and classical violinists, with over 25 years of writing and performance experience between them. Accomplished local players Chris Lindsay and Andrew Dodds will open the evening. Tickets are \$18 in advance at <https://www.focusmusic.org/event-3485183> and for members, \$20 at the door.

community sing-a-long and circle dancing under the stars. Cookies will be provided. The Alexandria Kinderchor is Alexandria's only children's community choir, with

choristers spanning Grades K-7. Visit [www.alexandriakinderchor.org](http://www.alexandriakinderchor.org).  
**Rock the Block — A Culinary Tour of Old Town Restaurants.** The National Center for Missing &

Exploited Children will host its 2nd Annual Rock the Block event throughout Old Town Alexandria. Several of Old Town's hottest restaurants will close their doors to the public for this event, serving up some delectable dishes and specialty cocktails. Individuals will receive a wristband and a map in which they can choose their own culinary tour by selecting their starting restaurant from the participating restaurants. This year, 12 restaurants will be participating in the event and will include Augie's Mussel House, Urbano116, The Majestic, Vermilion, Whiskey & Oyster, Columbia Firehouse, Joe Theismann's Restaurant and Bar, Mia's Italian Kitchen, Pizzeria Paradiso, Tequila & Taco and a culinary pop-up at the Charles Schwab headquarters with Sweet Fire Donna's Barbecue and Alexandria's own cidery Lost Boy Cider. New this year is special guest appearances by celebrity chefs and restaurant owners Spike Mendelson (Good Stuff Eatery, Vim & Victor, We The Pizza, PLNT Burger, The Morris, Santa Rosa Taqueria) and Victor Albus (Taco Bamba and Poca Madre). To purchase tickets, visit [www.RockTheBlocks.org](http://www.RockTheBlocks.org).

### NOV. 7-10

#### Alexandria Film Festival.

Celebrating 13 years, the four-day

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

13th Annual



# Alexandria Film Festival

## This Weekend!

*Celebrating Independent Film  
for 13 Years!*

### November 7-10

AlexFilmFest.com

#AlexFilmFest

@AlexFilmFest

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15  
Alexandria Film Festival brings high-quality short and feature length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels, and arts presentations to Alexandria. It highlights the talents of local, national, and international filmmakers. Free film screenings will be held at the Beatley Central Library on Nov. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Ticketed programming at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22 will feature special guests and Q&A panels. Purchase a \$50 All-Festival pass for admittance to all screenings and the Closing Awards' Reception on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. Tickets to individual showcases are \$12.50 online/\$15 at the door, space permitting. Visit [www.filmfreeway.com](http://www.filmfreeway.com).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 8

**Great Del Ray Poetry Reading.** 7-9 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The Great Del Ray Poetry Reading will feature award-winning poet and author William Heath to read poems from his new book, *Night Moves in Ohio*. Among praise: "In this remarkable collection, William Heath mourns and celebrates an almost vanished way of life: sometimes brutal, yet (in his sharply focused minutely particular, unsentimental, often humorous verses) intensely human." Event includes open-mic portion. Free. Visit the website: [www.facebook.com/DelRayPlayers/](http://www.facebook.com/DelRayPlayers/)

### SATURDAY/NOV. 9

**Craft Fair.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King Street, Alexandria. Leisurely explore the goods of the vendors, speak to them about their crafts, and snap up distinctive gifts that will be treasured by you and your loved ones. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.fcalexandria.com/>

**Civil War Tours.** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Free in honor of Veteran's Day. The 90-minute tours will be conducted by an interpreter who will portray a Union army veteran reminiscing about his military service at Fort Ward during the Civil War. Participants will learn about Civil War veterans' organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the design and construction of Civil War forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers' Hut and ceremonial entrance gate, and the fort's fully restored Northwest bastion. Call Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

**Succulents for Small Places.** 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Do you live in a small space? Succulents are a perfect choice if you live in an apartment or condo and want to incorporate plants into your small space. They'll explore what makes a plant a succulent, their geographic origins, and why they are great options for small spaces. You'll learn all about the light, water, and soil requirements for successfully growing succulents. This event is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

**American Girl Dolls.** 11 a.m. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Join Valerie Tripp, author of the *American Girl: Felicity Series*, and welcome American Girl doll, Felicity Merriman. Tickets are available the day of the event beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will start at 11 a.m. On Nov. 11, both the Felicity and Melody dolls will be available for



**Autumn Cello and Dvorak features Wolfgang Schmidt, cellist, on Nov. 16-17.**

## Autumn Cello and Dvorak

**Saturday/Nov. 16, 8 p.m.** At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Featuring James Ross, Music Director; Wolfgang Schmidt, cellist. They will perform Boulanger: *Old Buddhist Prayer*; Elgar: *Cello Concerto*; and Dvorak: *Symphony No. 8*. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

**Sunday/Nov. 17, 3 p.m.** At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Featuring James Ross, Music Director; Wolfgang Schmidt, cellist. They will perform Boulanger: *Old Buddhist Prayer*; Elgar: *Cello Concerto*; and Dvorak: *Symphony No. 8*. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

checkout at the Barrett Branch Library located at 717 Queen Street. The dolls have been funded by the Friends of Barrett Library in honor of the Library's 225th Anniversary and the 80th Anniversary of the Alexandria Library Sit-In.

**Whiskey Festival.** 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon. Take in beautiful views of the Mansion and enjoy distilled spirits. At this event, sample George Washington's Rye Whiskey and spirits from more than 11 Virginia distilleries before voting for your favorite beverage. Curated food will accompany the spirits and complements the pour. Hear from Steve Bashore, Mount Vernon's director of historic trades, and other spirits industry titans as they discuss their distilled products. Enjoy music and entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets are \$125 per person.

**Murder Trial of the Century.** 7 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. The Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden will host an evening with author D.N. Wilson as he discusses his new book *Cluverius v. The Commonwealth: Virginia's Murder Trial of the Century* and the shocking crime that inspired it. Drawing on true historical events, Wilson brings to life the men and women who found themselves at the center of this murder trial that gripped Virginia in the late nineteenth century. Tickets are \$5, members of the Lee-Fendall House are free. Space is limited. A book signing and refreshments will follow. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**House of Hamill.** 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. House of Hamill is on the edge of a new generation of traditional musicians. Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan are accomplished traditional fiddle players and classical violinists, with over 25 years of writing and performance experience between them. Accomplished local players Chris Lindsay and Andrew Dodds will open the evening. Tickets are \$18 in advance at <https://www.focusmusic.org/event-3485183>

and for members, \$20 at the door.  
**At Home with Bach.** 7 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. This program, featuring the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 alongside other works by Bach, Telemann, and Stölzel, imagines one ephemeral evening of friends and family happily playing together. Cost is \$35 (General) / \$10 (18 & Under). Visit the website: [www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org)

**Fall Harvest Ball.** 8 to 11 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission: \$45 per person. As the leaves changed and planting time came to a close, the social season in 18th-century Alexandria commenced with a ball. Experience this 1770s-style ball with live music, English country dancing, cash bar and seasonal dessert collation. 1770s attire or cocktail attire welcome. Tickets are available online at [shop.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern). Or call 703-746-4242

**Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan Fete.** At Belle Haven Country Club, Fort Hunt Road, in Alexandria. The George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will host a formal gala event to present the SAR's highest national award for public service to General Gordon R. Sullivan. The SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal is awarded for outstanding and unusual patriotic achievement and service of national importance. Included among past recipients of the medal are former Presidents Truman, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 10

**Free Museum Tours.** 1-4 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. In honor of Veteran's Day, the museum will offer free tours. In 1929, American Legion Post #24 purchased the buildings that now make up Gadsby's Tavern Museum and restored them with help from other community organizations as a memorial to honor the soldiers who lost their lives in World War I.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



ALEXANDRIA  
*Symphony Orchestra*

19/20  
*Season*

**AUTUMN CELLO  
& DVOŘÁK**

**SATURDAY, NOV 16, 2019**  
8 P.M.

**SUNDAY, NOV 17, 2019**  
3 P.M.

The ASO welcomes the changing of the seasons with Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E minor* with cellist Wolfgang Schmidt and Dvořák's *Eighth Symphony* under the direction of Maestro James Ross.

Adult: \$20-\$85 Student: \$10 Youth: \$5  
**(703) 548-0885 • [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org)**

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

After decades of meticulous restoration and upkeep, they donated the buildings to the City of Alexandria in 1972 and continue to use the 1870s wing as a meeting space for their Post. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Powhatan Native Americans.** 2-4 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Discover how the Powhatan Native Americans used the plants and animals you see every day for their medicine, grocery store, clothing and fun. Grind corn, make a clay pot, master corn darts and go on a guided tour to see Huntley Meadows from the perspective of a Virginia Indian. Immerse yourself in a way of life from 400 years ago. Cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

**Virginia Whiskey Tasting.** 3-7 p.m. At Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union Street, Old Town Alexandria. Distillery participants include: A Smith Bowman, Belmont Farms, Boar Creek Distillery, Catoctin Creek, Copper Fox Distillery, Iron Clad Distillery, KO Distilling, Murlarkey Distilling, Reservoir Distillery, Reverend Spirits, River Hill, Tarnished Truth. Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout to complement the tasting. Cost is \$59 per person. Ticket price includes whiskey tastings, appetizers, tax and gratuity. Call 703-548-1785 / <https://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/>

**An Evening with Ray Bradbury.** 4-6:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Presented by the Picnic Theatre Company, which performs the short stories of science fiction master, Ray Bradbury. Wine and light snacks will be available for sale in advance of the performance, starting at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Theater performance begins promptly at 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/picnic-theatre-company-presents-an-evening-with-ray-bradbury-tickets-78176186077>

## TUESDAY/NOV. 12

**Microgreens.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Barrett Branch

Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Learn the benefits of microgreens and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts in your own home. Plus, they provide supplies for you to plant your own container. So come prepared to get a bit dirty while you make your own microgreen garden in class. This event is offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

### Wildlife Conservation in a Changing World.

7:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Dr. Sally Valdes will explore how climate change is affecting wildlife and offer some steps for addressing this threat. Climate change can adversely affect wildlife, for example, when the life cycles of interdependent species get out of sync and when rising coastal waters flood nesting sites. Too little or too much precipitation can stress whole ecosystems. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh and cosponsored by the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park. Visit Friends of Dyke Marsh website: [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org)

## THURSDAY/NOV. 14

**George Washington's Tomb.** 7:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$12. Join Matthew Costello, Senior Historian of the White House Historical Association, as he shares from his new book *The Property of the Nation: George Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon, and the Memory of the First President*. He will trace the shift of America's attention from the official days of commemoration around Washington's death to spontaneous visits by citizens through the story of his tomb. This history reflects the building of a memory of America's first president—of, by, and for the American people. Tickets can be

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9431

Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Campagna Center Presents  
49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

Thousands will join us for a full lineup of festivities that will celebrate the rich Scottish heritage of Old Town Alexandria and the community we create together, today!

Presenting sponsor and 2019 business partner of the year  
**PASSPORT AUTO**

[CAMPAGNACENTER.ORG/SCOTTISHWALKWEEKEND](http://CAMPAGNACENTER.ORG/SCOTTISHWALKWEEKEND)

Media Partner  
Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette



[Top] Mardi Gras Ball, circa 1984. [Bottom] Waterfront view, circa 1921.

**TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER**  
**Anniversary Ball**  
November 16, 2019  
7-10 pm  
@torpedofactory #artsALX

Tickets and full line-up at [torpedofactory.org/ball](http://torpedofactory.org/ball)

Torpedo Factory Art Center  
105 N. Union St. • Old Town Alexandria  
703.746.4570  
[torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov](mailto:torpedofactory@alexandriava.gov)

Generously sponsored in part by



Torpedo Factory Art Center is managed by Alexandria's Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Learn more at [alexandriava.gov/arts](http://alexandriava.gov/arts).

1986  
a whiskey bar

**VIRGINIA WHISKEY TASTING**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 | 3-7 PM

Sample flights of the Best in Virginia Distilled Spirits, featuring the finest in local Bourbons & Ryes

Participating distilleries include:

CATOCTIN CREEK Murlarkey BELMONT FARM DISTILLERY COPPERFOX KO DISTILLING

+ FIVE MORE!

Virginia distilleries, exclusively, are invited & you will get a vote for your favorite

Appetizers & hors d'oeuvres served throughout to complement the whiskeys

Tickets in advance \$59. Available at [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com)

**UNION STREET PUBLICHOUSE**  
121 S. Union St. Alexandria VA 22314 | 703-548-1785

# ENTERTAINMENT

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purchased either online at [alexandriava.gov/shop](http://alexandriava.gov/shop) or by calling 703-746-4242. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 14-16

**Evita with SONOVA.** 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. In today's modern musical theater world it is rare to find a pit orchestra of more than 10 to 15 musicians. In SONOVA's fully staged performances of Evita, you will have the opportunity to hear one of the best musical theater scores of all time performed by a full symphony orchestra. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia, along with a talented cast and crew, will bring Andrew Lloyd Webber's beloved historical musical to life. Cost: \$20 general admission, \$15 for students and seniors. Visit the website: [sonovamusic.org](http://sonovamusic.org).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 15

**Mount Vernon Swing Band.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Live music and dancing. Cost is \$4 at the door. Open to the community. Call 703-765-4573.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 16

**Christmas Marketplace.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Luncheon featuring soup, BBQ sandwiches, delicious pies, silent auction, casseroles, jewelry & accessories, white elephant, bake sale, fresh pecans, collectibles, and popular craft vendors. All net profits benefit missions.

**Puppet Show.** 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. At Oswald Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$6. Silly Goose and Val perform All Things Fall. Val's award-winning and participatory performance features 40 minutes of music, puppets, ventriloquism, dancing, singing to delight audiences of all ages. With bold voice talents and contagious dances, little ones get up, move, and laugh together. Visit [alexandriava.gov/WebTrac](http://alexandriava.gov/WebTrac).

**Birds & Birdies 6K.** 10:30 a.m. At Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Enjoy a crisp 6k run along the scenic path of Pinecrest Golf Course at the inaugural Birds & Birdies 6K walk/run. Pinecrest is home to a variety of native bird species as well as native plants and flowers, making this a one-of-a-kind, must do event. The race is professionally timed and includes a race T-shirt, goody bag and medals for all finishers. Call 703-941-1061 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

**One Day University.** 10:30-12 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. Free interactive lecture on The Changing Face of Politics: Approaching 2020. Addressing questions facing us in the next year's presidential primaries and elections. Visit the website: <https://www.onedayu.com/events/brandywine-changing-face-of-politics/>

**Splatter - Jane Franklin Dance.** 4-5 p.m. At Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Is a carelessness gesture that ruins the day? An upset spills everywhere and becomes the reason to examine feelings. Whose fault is it anyway? Angry, happy, sad, calm and mixed up emotions are sorted in this colorful story about an incidental accident. Splatter is certain to take you on a vibrant journey with spoken word, movement,



The Alexandria Kinderchoir will Once Again Host "Shine Together: Alexandria's Lantern Night" on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019.

## Shine Together: Alexandria's Lantern Night

Thursday/Nov. 7, 5 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For the fifth year, The Alexandria Kinderchoir will host "Shine Together: Alexandria's Lantern Night," a family event dedicated to sharing light and hope with our community. Children and adults are invited to come with handmade lanterns, enjoy songs of hope and light by the Kinderchoir, and then convene outside for a community sing-a-long and circle dancing under the stars. Cookies will be provided. The Alexandria Kinderchoir is Alexandria's only children's community choir, with choristers spanning Grades K-7. Visit [www.alexandriakinderchoir.org](http://www.alexandriakinderchoir.org).



At Home with Bach will be held Saturday, Nov. 9 at the Virginia Theological Seminary.

## At Home with Bach

Saturday/Nov. 9, 7 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. This program, featuring the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 alongside other works by Bach, Telemann, and Stölzel, imagines one ephemeral evening of friends and family happily playing together. Cost is \$35 (General) / \$10 (18 & Under). Visit the website: [www.bachconsort.org](http://www.bachconsort.org)

and music; inspired by the book "The Color Monster" by Anna Llenas. Cost: \$10-15. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/splatter>

**Torpedo Factory Art Center Anniversary Ball.** 7 to 10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Enjoy light fare and drinks, a retrospective showcase, guest presenters and live music. The night will feature the opening of 45: An Anniversary

Exhibition in Target Gallery, honoring the legacy of the founding artists of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The event will also premiere a new documentary on the history of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Admission: \$60 through October 31; \$75 beginning November 1. Visit the website [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).  
**ASO Presents Autumn Cello and Dvorak.** 8 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Featuring James Ross, Music Director; Wolfgang Schmidt, cellist. They will perform Boulanger: Old Buddhist Prayer; Elgar: Cello Concerto; and Dvorak: Symphony No. 8. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 17

**ASO Presents: Autumn Cello and Dvorak.** 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Featuring James Ross, Music Director; Wolfgang Schmidt, cellist. They will perform Boulanger: Old Buddhist Prayer; Elgar: Cello Concerto; and Dvorak: Symphony No. 8. Cost is \$20-\$85 adults, \$5 youth, \$10 students. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

**Reception for "Mosaic Meditations."** 3-5 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Since retiring from Tisara Photography and Living Legends of Alexandria, Nina Tisara has focused her attention on creating mosaic art. Her solo exhibition, "Mosaic Meditations," will be at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, now through Dec. 29. The work may be seen Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.  
**Focus Alexandria.** 7 p.m. At George

Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Featuring the Rev. Robert Jones plus Michael Kelly. Jones plays guitar, harmonica, mandolin, banjo and fiddle using folk, blues, spirituals and other American Roots music to champion the history, beauty and power of our shared culture. Kelly is a musician who draws on influences ranging from Lyle Lovett to Taj Mahal, Louis Armstrong to Doc Watson and a writer whose finely crafted stories are woven over foot tapping melodies. Tickets are \$18 in advance at [www.FocusMusic.org](http://www.FocusMusic.org) and \$20 at the door.

## TUESDAY/NOV. 19

**DNA Testing Update.** 1-3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Award-winning author and DNA expert Shannon Combs-Bennett will speak about her latest book "DNA for Adoptees," as well as real-life examples of how to merge DNA and genealogical research. Free. Visit the website: [www.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org)

## THURSDAY/NOV. 21

**Sortie of the Beaujolais Nouveau.** 7:30-10 p.m. At The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee and the Office of Historic Alexandria, and participate in the world's largest wine party. On this year's Beaujolais Nouveau Day, celebrate the first taste of the 2019 harvest in the company of fellow French enthusiasts and Sister City supporters. The fresh and fruity Beaujolais Nouveau wine is made using a quick fermentation

process that it is ready in time to celebrate the end of each harvest season. Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased by calling 703-746-4994 or through [alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://alexandriava.gov/Shop).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 23

**Stories with Santa.** At Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union Street, Old Town Alexandria. There will be Christmas cookies, stories read by Santa, hot chocolate, juice, and milk. \$12 per ticket. Call 703-548-1785 or visit <https://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/HolidayShop>.  
**Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Holiday Shop is back again this year featuring all your favorite crafts, home-baked goods, vintage jewelry, and gently used household treasures. Additional highlights include door prizes, a handmade quilt raffle, locally grown orchids and plants for sale and live music by The Windmill Jazz Collective. The Crafter's Hall features unusual fiber arts, pottery, photography, wood, paper, metal, and glass crafts made by artisans from around the world. The Country Kitchen homemade specialties include our chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies, and more. The lines form early to buy these locally famous treats, many made from family recipes handed down through generations.

**Kids Crafts at Firehouse Museum.** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. Come to the Friendship Firehouse Museum and you can create and take home craft projects inspired by early firefighting history. This program is for ages 5-8 and their caregivers. Children and caregivers work on crafts and visit the historic firehouse together. It is not a drop-off event. As space is limited, pre-purchased timed tickets are required. Tickets: \$5 per child includes a craft kit and museum admission. \$2 for adults. Purchase tickets at [alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://alexandriava.gov/Shop), or telephone 703-746-4994. Tickets must be purchased for both adults and children.

**Alexandria Cider Festival.** 1-5 p.m. At Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Enjoy a selection of ciders from more than 10 Virginia cideries. Ticket includes tastings, a souvenir glass, live music, and fun fall activities. Food truck available. Dress for the weather - this event is outdoors. Cost is \$45 presale, \$55 at the door. Tickets available at [alexandriava.gov/shop](http://alexandriava.gov/shop).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 24

**Alexandria Makers Market.** 12-6 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. The inaugural Alexandria Makers Market will make its debut. This family-friendly event will showcase the creative community of Alexandria-based creators, makers, designers, & crafters, with vendors curated from highly talented artisans located in Alexandria. Visit the website: <https://www.alexandriamakersmarket.com/port-city-holiday-pop-up>

## 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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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# ENTERTAINMENT



**Alexandria's Rock the Block event — A Culinary Tour of Old Town Restaurants will take place on Thursday, Nov. 7.**

## Rock the Block

Thursday/NOV. 7, A Culinary Tour of Old Town Restaurants. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children will host its 2nd Annual Rock the Block event throughout Old Town Alexandria. Several of Old Town's hottest restaurants will again close their doors to the public for this signature event, serving up some delectable dishes and specialty cocktails. Individuals will receive a wristband and a map in which they can choose their own culinary tour by selecting their starting restaurant from the participating restaurants. This year, 12 restaurants will be participating in the event and will include Augie's Mussel House, Urbano116, The Majestic, Vermilion, Whiskey & Oyster, Columbia Firehouse, Joe Theismann's Restaurant and Bar, Mia's Italian Kitchen, Pizzeria Paradiso, Tequila & Taco and a culinary pop-up at the Charles Schwab headquarters with Sweet Fire Donna's Barbecue and Alexandria's own cidery Lost Boy Cider. New this year is special guest appearances by local celebrity chefs and restaurant owners Spike Mendelson (Good Stuff Eatery, Vim & Victor, We The Pizza, PLNT Burger, The Morris, Santa Rosa Taqueria) and Victor Albisu (Taco Bamba and Poca Madre). To purchase tickets, visit [www.RockTheBlocks.org](http://www.RockTheBlocks.org).

FROM PAGE 18

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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.HHSingers.org), or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

### MORE ONGOING

**Post-Grad Residency Program.** At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. For the fifth year, the Torpedo Factory Art Center welcomes four emerging artists to participate in the Post-Grad Residency Program: J Houston, Michaela Japoc, Nava Levenson, and Kim Sandara. The jurors were Nicole Dowd, program director at Halcyon Arts Lab, and Leslie Holt, artist and co-director of Red Dirt Studio. This competitive juried program provides three months of exclusive access to a studio in the Art Center. Therein, artists can create and sell work, interact with the public, and connect with other arts professionals. The residency is unique for addressing the critical post-graduation juncture in an emerging artist's career, offering an opportunity for professional development, networking, and a chance to define their practice outside of the academic context. The program culminates in a group exhibition in Target Gallery, the Torpedo Factory's contemporary exhibition space, Nov. 8-Dec. 8.

**Revolutionary War Medals.** Through March 2020 at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Now on view in Mount Vernon's Donald W. Reynolds Education Center is an exhibition featuring 30 rare medals from the American Revolution and the early republic. War and Peace in Miniature: Medals from the American Numismatic Society is an unparalleled collection that highlights the remarkable heroes and events from the

Revolutionary War and the new nation's diplomatic endeavors. Visit [mountvernon.org/warandpeace](http://mountvernon.org/warandpeace).

**Tours of the Freedom House Museum.** Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria. Visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Museums](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Museums) for more.

**"Alexandrians Fight the Great War."** Various times at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. This new exhibition traces the experiences of local people during the first World War. The homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria come back to life through the use of rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants, original objects including weapons, period music, and scale models. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

**"Before the Spirits are Swept Away."** Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria's African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria's "Sites of Conscience" series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free, but donations are appreciated. Call 703-746-4356.

**Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.** Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com)



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PHOTO BY JOSH GOLDMAN/THE GAZETTE

The cast of “Little Women” (kneeling in front L to R): Sofia Cruz (Annie), Melanie Becker (Amy), Sophie de Waal (Meg), and Allison Dunnegan (Sallie); (standing in back L to R): Maya Andersen (Aunt March), Owen Peters (Theodore Lawrence), Caroline Coffin (Hannah), Samantha Fisher (Beth), Kathleen McNerney (Marmee), Andrew Comlish (Mr. March), Dagny Scannell (Jo), Patrick Byrns (John Brooke), Janet Le (Mrs. Gardener), and Quinn Doyle (Belle).

## Bishop Ireton Stages “Little Women”

Story chronicles the March sisters in Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel from the 1860s.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

With a cast of 14 student actors, Bishop Ireton High School is staging “Little Women” from Nov. 15-23, 2019. The show is adapted from Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel from the 1860s and written by Scott Davidson. The story follows the lives of the four March sisters — Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy — and their passage from childhood to womanhood. Sony Pictures is releasing the movie of the same name, the eighth film adaptation, directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Meryl Streep, Saoirse Ronan and Emma Watson this Christmas.

“I really liked the message of ‘Little Women’ with strong family values, and I just thought it would be a good play for Bishop Ireton to do,” said Director Joanna Henry. “It’s centered around Jo March; it’s her story. Beth dies and Jo and Beth had a very close relationship it affects Jo and the whole family, and it’s about the strength of family ties.”

She added that last Spring, she asked her advanced theater classes which play they would like to see, and “Little Women” was the one they wanted to do. She said Carly Walbert, the Assistant Director of theater arts, thought it would be a good play for Bishop Ireton as well.

One of the biggest challenges in staging this production was the renovation the school is experiencing, she said. “The school is undergoing massive construction so all of our set pieces and props were put in an off-storage site, and we’re not able to get access to them. So, we’re not having walls. We’re going to have silhouettes, archways and windows,” she said.

Dagny Scannell, 16, of Alexandria is playing the role of Jo March, a tomboy growing up in the Civil War era who wants to be a writer. “She’s a very determined person. I thought it was cool to go into her shoes to be comfortable in her own skin. She is someone who will work for what she wants,” Dagny said.

“It’s very rewarding to be able to experience her focused outlook from an acting perspective and as a person. She’s someone who is so focused and vulnerable at times. Portraying that balance on stage has been a challenge but something that I’ve enjoyed.”

She added that as far as challenges go, “It progresses over a long period but the scenes are relatively short and we have to show a lot of development from a character’s standpoint. We have to show how the characters are changing and remember that’s how the show goes on.”

Owen Peters, 17, of the District plays the role of Laurie, the neighbor who ends up marrying Amy at the end of the show. “I’d say the most challenging thing is that when I proposed to Jo March and she turned me down. So, when I was acting, I was trying to find balance in that situation. Throughout the entire show it’s him trying to woo her and when he tries to put himself out there fully, she turns him down. And then he leaves and goes to Europe for a while and he grows closer to Amy and eventually marries her. The main challenge was trying to portray the inner feelings of Laurie in that situation.”

Melanie Becker, 15, of Springfield, plays the role of Amy March. “Amy is the self-centered youngest sister who wants the best for herself, and she wants to improve her painting; she’s an artist. She’s jealous of Jo because everyone loves Jo’s writing. But she’s very close to her sisters and dreams of having the finer things in life that she doesn’t have. She gets to travel to Europe for her art,” she said.

Samantha Fisher, 18, of Alexandria, plays the role of Beth. “She’s the third March daughter; she’s a shy and caring young girl who deals with poor health in the show. She dies at the end of the play,” she said.

She added: “We worked a lot on the physicality of walking and sitting and moving like a sick person. She has Scarlet fever and she’s weak and dying as the play goes on. We worked on how I would move and talk to show that I’m not a healthy person and to show that I’m struggling.”

Bishop Ireton High School is staging “Little Women” from Nov. 15-23, 2019. Show times are Nov. 15 and 16, at 7 p.m.; Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.; and Nov. 22 and Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/students and seniors. The venue is located at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. The link to purchase tickets is [www.bishopireton.org/tickets](http://www.bishopireton.org/tickets).

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### Legals

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot until December 2, 2019 to elect the President-Elect, four seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 1, 2020. Information about proxy ballots is available at [www.asco.org/election](http://www.asco.org/election). Completed proxy ballots received will be delivered to the Chair of the ASCO Board or her designee for casting at a meeting held on Thursday, December 5, 2019, 9:30-10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time, USA, at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22318. Members with questions can email [ASCOelection@asco.org](mailto:ASCOelection@asco.org) or call 571-483-1317. This notice is issued at the direction of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

### Legals

### Legals

### Legals

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-1903 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, that the Board of Directors of the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority, d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises ("AlexRenew") will hold a Public Hearing on November 19, 2019, to consider adoption of resolutions concerning the following public project:

The RiverRenew Tunnel System Combined Sewer Remediation Project ("RiverRenew"), which is for the purpose of construction and installation of new sewer infrastructure intended to reduce discharges of combined sewage to the Potomac River, Hooffs Run, and Hunting Creek. Completion of RiverRenew is critical to ensure the City of Alexandria meets discharge reductions as mandated by the General Assembly by July 1, 2025. As part of the RiverRenew project, AlexRenew shall construct a tunnel beginning at the AlexRenew Water Resource Recovery Facility and terminating in Outfall 001 at Oronoco Bay (the "Waterfront Tunnel").

The resolution shall affirm the critical nature of the RiverRenew project, and authorize and direct the acquisition, whether by purchase or via condemnation pursuant to Sections 15.2-5114(6), 25.1-200 et. seq., and 25.1-300 et. seq., of the Code of Virginia, as amended, of rights in lands of those easements determined to be required for the construction of the Waterfront Tunnel.

The real property affected by the proposed easements is identified as:

- Tax Map No. 080.04-08-00, owned by the Unit Owners of Bearings South Condominium located at 906 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA;
- Tax Map No. 080.04-07-04, owned by Diane P. Fiske located at 931 S. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA;
- Tax Map Nos. 083.02-01-01, 080.04-07-36, and 080.04-07-37, owned by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Welsh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia and His Successors in Office located at 1001 S. Royal Street, Alexandria VA, 400A Green Street, Alexandria, VA, and 400 Green Street, Alexandria, VA, and;
- Tax Map No. 080.04-07-35, owned by Christine B. Schlacter and Michael N. Schlacter located at 930 S. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA.

A copy of the resolution and related materials is available at the AlexRenew offices, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, for public examination.

All interested parties are invited to attend to express their views with respect to the aforesaid resolution, and may appear before and be heard by said Board during the Public Hearing to be held in the Edward Semonian Board Room of the Alexandria Renew Enterprises building located at 1800 Limerick Street in Alexandria Virginia on November 19, 2019 beginning at 6:00PM. AlexRenew is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you require an accommodation or sign language interpreter to participate in the meeting, reasonable accommodations can be made upon request. Please make requests to AlexRenew at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting at (703) 549-3381.

All questions related to this hearing should be addressed to:  
Caitlin Feehan  
RiverRenew Program Manager  
(703) 549-3381

### Legals

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

Title: Request for Proposals No. 874, Operation of Senior Center Congregate Meal Programs

Closing Date and Time: December 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

There will be a non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting on November 18, 2019 at 9:00 am in the purchasing conference room located at 100 N. Pitt St., Suite 301 Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Michael F. Hauer, CPPPO, CPPB, Deputy Purchasing Agent at [michael.hauer@alexandriava.gov](mailto:michael.hauer@alexandriava.gov).

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

### Announcements

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### Announcements

### Legals

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

RFQU 862: Design of Interactive Fountain and Public Space

RFQU Close Date and Time: December 10th, 2019, 4 p.m., local time

Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference/site visits: November 18th, 2019 @ 11 a.m. local time:

Purchasing Conference Room, 100 N. Pitt St, Suite 301, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For general inquiries contact Jordan Howar, Contract Specialist, at 703.746.3997.

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

### Announcements

#### NOTICE OF OLD DOMINION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND ITS MEMBER DISTRIBUTION COOPERATIVES TO SEEK WAIVER OF CERTAIN PURPA OBLIGATIONS FROM THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Take notice that on or after December 2, 2019, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) intends to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) a Petition requesting waiver of certain obligations in FERC's rules implementing Section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA), on behalf of itself and the following ODEC member distribution cooperatives which are regulated by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (VSCC): A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative, and Southside Electric Cooperative (collectively, the "Members").

The Petition will request waiver of FERC's regulations to allow ODEC and the Members to jointly implement their respective obligations under Section 210 of PURPA and under Part 292 of the FERC's regulations, 18 C.F.R. Part 292, as set forth in the PURPA Implementation Plan between ODEC and its member distribution cooperatives. PURPA Section 210 was enacted to encourage production of electric energy by qualifying cogeneration and small power production facilities (QFs). Part 292 of FERC's Regulations sets forth the requirements regarding arrangements between electric utilities and QFs. Part 292 requires electric utilities to purchase and sell energy and capacity from and to QFs. The PURPA Implementation Plan provides that (1) any QF may interconnect with the electric distribution systems of ODEC's Members or to ODEC's transmission system to the extent such QF is entitled to interconnection under Part 292 of the Commission's Regulations; (2) ODEC will purchase capacity and energy from QFs with a net capacity in excess of 100 kW and up to 20 MW as made available by such QFs, at ODEC's avoided cost; (3) each of the Members will sell supplementary, back-up and maintenance power to QFs on a firm or interruptible basis, upon request, at rates that are non-discriminatory, just and reasonable, and in the public interest; and (4) no QF will be subject to duplicative charges for interconnection or wheeling as a result of selling to ODEC and buying from a Member. By Order issued on August 9, 2019, in its Case No. PUR-2019-0047, the VSCC granted ODEC's motion for authorization to state that the VSCC endorses the Petition with respect to the Members.

Copies of the PURPA Implementation Plan will be sent to interested parties upon request. FERC will publish notice of the Petition in the Federal Register following receipt of the filing. That notice will specify that any person desiring to be heard in this matter can make the appropriate filing with the FERC.

Inquiries or comments concerning this matter should be addressed to:  
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative • 4201 Dominion Boulevard •  
Glen Allen, VA 23060 • (804) 968-4021 • Attn: General Counsel

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

### Announcements

### Legals

### Legals

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ALEXANDRIA RENEW ENTERPRISES CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 15.2-2204 and 15.2-1903 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, that the Board of Directors of the City of Alexandria, Virginia Sanitation Authority, d/b/a Alexandria Renew Enterprises ("AlexRenew") will hold a Public Hearing on November 19, 2019, to consider adoption of resolutions concerning the following public project:

The RiverRenew Tunnel System Combined Sewer Remediation Project ("RiverRenew"), which is for the purpose of construction and installation of new sewer infrastructure intended to reduce discharges of combined sewage to the Potomac River, Hooffs Run, and Hunting Creek. Completion of RiverRenew is critical to ensure the City of Alexandria meets discharge reductions as mandated by the General Assembly by July 1, 2025. As part of the RiverRenew project, AlexRenew shall construct infrastructure designed to control discharges from Outfalls 003 and 004, and convey flows to the AlexRenew Water Resource Recovery Facility (the "Hooffs Run Diversion Sewer").

The resolution shall affirm the critical nature of the RiverRenew project, and authorize and direct the acquisition, whether by purchase or via condemnation pursuant to Sections 15.2-5114(6), 25.1-200 et. seq., and 25.1-300 et. seq., of the Code of Virginia, as amended, of rights in lands of those easements determined to be required for the construction of the Hooffs Run Diversion Sewer.

The real property affected by the proposed easements is identified as:

- Tax Map Nos. 073.04-02-04, 073.04-02-06, and 079.02-02-08, owned by The Trustees of the Presbyterian Cemetery located at 580 Holland Lane, Alexandria, VA, 700 Holland Lane, Alexandria, VA, and 600 Hamilton Lane, Alexandria, VA, and;
- Tax Map No. 073.02-08-06, owned by the Duke Street Square Association located at 310 Holland Lane, Alexandria, VA.

A copy of the resolution and related materials is available at the AlexRenew offices, 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, for public examination.

All interested parties are invited to attend to express their views with respect to the aforesaid resolution, and may appear before and be heard by said Board during the Public Hearing to be held in the Edward Semonian Board Room of the Alexandria Renew Enterprises building located at 1800 Limerick Street in Alexandria Virginia on November 19, 2019 beginning at 6:00PM. AlexRenew is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you require an accommodation or sign language interpreter to participate in the meeting, reasonable accommodations can be made upon request. Please make requests to AlexRenew at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting at (703) 549-3381.

All questions related to this hearing should be addressed to:  
Caitlin Feehan  
RiverRenew Program Manager  
(703) 549-3381

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## Please Relief Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or let me go. So sang Engelbert Humperdink way back in 1967 about having lost that loving feeling. His lost loving feeling was not about his mortgage. The lyrics: "I have found a new love dear" imply if not clearly state that there's a woman involved. My lost loving feeling is about my mortgage. And contrary to Engelbert, I can't leave it, and believe me, I've tried, though I've never sung about it, only droned on about it in print. To invoke the legendary Ricky Ricardo, aka Desi Arnaz, from "I Love Lucy," originally broadcast in the mid- to late-50s: Let me 'splain.

It's been over 15 years since my last successful refinance. Twice in the intervening years I've tried to refinance. In each case, I've been denied even though I've had upwards of 50 percent equity and an 800 or so credit rating.

Between multiple problems with the house (lead paint on the exterior, broken windows, etc.) and less than ideal income documentation, debt to income ratio, yada, yada, yada, we've regularly been kicked to the curb, which we also don't have, so I gave up; and have proceeded over the years to fix some of the problems mentioned which unfortunately has not led to an acceptable resolution.

Time has passed, and after years of television advertisements by Henry Winkler, Fred Thompson and most recently, Thomas Magnum himself: Tom Selleck, promoting reverse mortgages for those nearing retirement, I buckled under the pressure of these years of paid celebrity endorsements and made a few inquiries. It turns out that given my age — and circumstances semi-unique to us (no kids, lots of equity, need the money), we're perfect candidates. So we applied to company number one (denied) which led to company number two: denied. The second time the denial was not about income documentation and so forth as it was with the first "reverse-mortgager." No. It wasn't even about the house. This time it was about an out-building on our property, specifically the foundation of a "shed"/stable standing derelict in its duties and of no use to anyone. Not however of 'no use' to the appraiser, apparently, who mentioned its condition in his report to the mortgage underwriter who now has because of those findings, slam-dunked us (put our application on hold) pending the shed's disposition.

To summarize and recall another legendary figure from the 50s: author Joseph Heller, I'm in a bit of a "Catch-22." I can't refinance the house and get access to its equity because I can't meet the financial qualifications. And I can't reverse-mortgage the house — to gain access to the equity I need to live on, because the out-building on my property ("Belly Acres" as I call it) is a shell of its former self, so to speak, and needs upwards of \$100,000 of repairs (I've gotten an estimate), money that if I had/could even get to, I'd need to live on, not spend on a building I'll never use/don't need. And neither can I sell the house (nor do we want to quite frankly) because the "shed" would be part of any deal, which means its repair would still be required. And one more thing, because the house is registered with the Federal Government as "Historic," we can't demolish this out-building either. In effect, we are stuck between a rock — as in those missing and cracked in the 100 year-old shed's foundation — and a hard place: the underwriter's intransigence and the Historic Preservation's rules. Let's call it a Catch-22 "A."

At this point, I don't really know which way to turn. I'm not exactly damned if I do, I'm more damned because I can't. I don't think I'm asking for any kind of special dispensation. I'm not involving the Pope. I just want, to quote singer/songwriter Nick Lowe from his 1974 song, ("What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love and Understanding," some 'peace, love and understanding.' I'm not looking to make any trouble. In fact, I'm looking for the opposite: serenity, now and forever, with or without Seinfeld reruns. And I can afford it if the powers that be, won't be less omnipotent and help a fella out. I swear I won't bother them if they won't bother me. Make the approval a Festivus-type occasion except it won't be for the rest of us, it will be just for me and my wife. I promise I won't tell a soul.

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

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## OPINION

# AWLA Alumni

FROM PAGE 11

the residents of the senior living center. The AWLA staff suggested Katie. A mellow 13-year-old, Katie fit in with the residents right away, Drexler said, and now has free run of the building, sleeping in the memory care "neighborhood" at night. Drexler and her assistant, Patty Bragg, take turns feeding and walking Katie during the day.

Katie spends much of her days on the center's first floor but has learned how to take the elevator to the activity room on the second floor, said Drexler, who is Activities and Volunteer Coordinator. "When she wants to go back downstairs, she just waits for someone to come along and press the elevator button," she said. "She's really queen of this building."

Drexler says that Katie is drawn to the residents and that they feel just as strongly about her. "They'll ask, 'Where's my dog?' when they don't see her in their hall," Drexler recalls. "She's just the happiest dog. She always has a smile on her face."

A three-year-old long-haired, orange cat named Ranger is having his own kind of adventures as the ideal travel companion for his people, Paul and Carolyn Taylor of Woodbridge. Ranger had been returned to the shelter by previous owners who said he was mischievous and had a habit of chewing on wires. But the Taylors couldn't get him out of their minds after meeting him at the AWLA in May, even though they had been seeking a kitten. It was his relaxed, friendly demeanor that attracted them, Paul Taylor said, and the couple's two sons agreed. They adopted him.

They quickly trained Ranger to wear a harness and walk with a leash, and they were soon on the road with him in their RV camper — first short trips to Harpers Ferry and northern Pennsylvania and then a cross-country journey to San Diego. Ranger continued his mellow ways as they traveled those thousands of miles, lying quietly in his carrier until their evening stops, when he emerged to take in the sights out of the camper windows.

"We have absolutely loved Ranger," Taylor said. "He is a bit mischievous, but we haven't seen any destructive behavior. We're happy we were able to take this wonderful cat and give him a home. He's an important part of our lives."

###

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization. "Operating the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, which is Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter, the AWLA touches the lives of more than 6,000 animals every year, including strays, lost pets, local wildlife, rescued animals and animals surrendered by their owners. "The AWLA is committed to addressing animal homelessness, promoting animal welfare and serving as an educational resource for the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

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*Jack Taylor's*

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