

## EVERY NIGHT LIGHTS

*Supporters, opponents of illuminating T.C.'s stadium face off at hearing*

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Despite a lawsuit, years of neighborhood opposition and an alleged verbal contract that was upheld for half a century, the city moved forward with the Parker-Gray Stadium modernization project — which includes adding lights to the T.C. Williams field — at a planning commission meeting Tuesday night.

The 5-2 vote to recommend approval of the proposal to city council, was not taken lightly and required nearly seven hours of discussion.

During a public hearing period that lasted until the early morning, a relatively balanced number of supporters and opponents took to the microphone with emotional and often heated testimonies.

SEE **LIGHTS**

| 6



Stadium lights at Witter Recreational Fields off of Duke Street. PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

## Independent Mark Shiffer runs for council

**Former tech exec, professor to challenge Democrats and Republicans**

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Mark Shiffer, a nonprofit owner with a background in data and technology, is running for council as the only Independent against a crowded slate of six Democrats and two Republicans in November.

If elected, Shiffer said he plans to serve on council full-time and to focus on schools, affordable housing and transportation.

The candidate was raised by a single mother in New

SEE **SHIFFER**

| 11

## On the rebound

**T.C. boys' basketball to reset after another coach abruptly fired**

BY ALEXA EPITROPOULOS

Shortly after school started in September, players on the T.C. Williams High School boys' basketball team and their parents learned their third coach in three years would not return for the season.

The firing of Brett Sullivan as head basketball coach came after the appointment of James L. Parker as athletic director in August. Sullivan had only been on the job for one year. He had been hired in 2017 and his tenure followed the controversial, abrupt departure of Coach Bryan Hill in October 2016

SEE **COACH**

| 14



PHOTO/ALEXA EPITROPOULOS

Athletic Director James L. Parker at T.C. Williams High School.

### INSIDE

**Potomac Yard power**

Dominion Power plan to replace a power line under Route 1 and install a new line under Potomac Avenue has been scrapped.

Page 5

**Pets**

Are dogs or cats smarter? A scientific take on this age-old question.

Page 20

ART ON THE AVENUE

SAT. OCT. 6

SEE P. 7 FOR MORE



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WEEKLY BRIEFING

## Blessed Sacrament named a Blue Ribbon school

Blessed Sacrament School has been named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education for the second time, the department and the school announced on Monday.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos recognized 349 institutions as Blue Ribbon schools this year, a measure that's based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps in student subgroups.

This year, there were 300 public schools and 49 private schools recognized. Blessed Sacrament is one of eight

Blue Ribbon schools in Virginia.

The Blue Ribbon program has been in existence for 36 years. As part of the program, up to 420 schools can be nominated each year. Each school falls into one of two subgroups: exemplary high performing schools and exemplary achievement gap closing schools. Blessed Sacrament was an exemplary high performing school.

Each honoree will be celebrated at an awards ceremony in the District on Nov. 7 and 8.

- *aepitropoulos@alextimes.com*

## Governor to visit T.C. Williams for academy opening

Gov. Ralph Northam will visit T.C. Williams High School for the opening of the Governor's Health Science Academy on Friday afternoon.

The academy – the first public-private partnership of its kind in Virginia – allows students to begin a career in health care and earn college credit, while simultaneously filling a need in the health care workforce

shortage. Students in the program can earn a maximum of 22 college credits through the program.

The inaugural group of 108 students entered the academy in July through a summer bridge program.

The ribbon cutting isn't open to the public, but members of the media have been invited to attend.

- *aepitropoulos@alextimes.com*

## City to consider pilot program for dockless mobility devices

The city is hosting an open house regarding dockless mobility devices, such as e-bikes and scooters, this weekend.

The city will host the event on Saturday at Judy Lowe Neighborhood Park

at 7 E. Del Ray Ave. from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Representatives from companies that offer them for rent will be at the event, and attendees will be able to take

SEE DOCKLESS

## Portside festival moved as waterfront park opening postponed

The park at the foot of King Street won't be ready to open in time for the Portside in Old Town Festival planned for Oct. 12 to 14, Visit Alexandria announced Monday in a news release.

The event will still take place at a new location, Waterfront Park and the Alexandria City Marina, adjacent to the unfinished King Street Park at the Waterfront.

Visit Alexandria said in the release that the park won't open in time for the event due to "extraordinary weather circumstances" which caused flooding along the waterfront last month.

The festival, which is kicking off Visit Alexandria and the city's new waterfront programming series Portside in Old Town, will feature three days



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

A sign on the construction site for the new Waterfront Park, slated to open Fall 2018, at the base of King Street.

of free tours of tall ship Godspeed, a waterfront beer garden from Port City Brewing Co., a pop-up Pizzeria Paradiso, live music and more.

The park delay is also impacting events scheduled to take place during the rest of October, including Port City's water-

front beer garden, which has been reduced to Oct. 20 and Oct. 27. It was originally scheduled to span both weekends.

The release said the new park is expected to open later this fall, though no date was mentioned.

- *mschrott@alextimes.com*



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## WEEKLY BRIEFING

**DOCKLESS** FROM | 3

demonstration rides on the devices.

Dockless mobility devices are typically shared or rechargeable transportation devices. Several companies offer them in the District of Columbia, which started a pilot program to test the devices. Arlington and Montgomery counties have also started pilot programs.

Dockless vehicles have been making their way into Alexandria from Arlington and the District in recent months, but a city news release said the city doesn't allow the devices to be left on public property in Alexandria by rental companies or customers.

City staff will prepare



PHOTO/BIRD

City council will host an open house regarding dockless mobility devices on Saturday.

a recommendation for city council to consider this fall. The recommendation will take into consideration public feedback and the results of pilot programs in the region.

City council hasn't made a decision on how to regulate the devices during a proposed pilot period or beyond.

-[aepitropoulos@alextimes.com](mailto:aepitropoulos@alextimes.com)



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Druitt, a former heroin addict and parishioner of Church of the Nativity in Burke.

## Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington hosts Seeking Hope and Healing

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington hosted a day-long meeting Saturday to educate the community and brainstorm solutions to solving the opioid crisis in Northern Virginia.

The meeting, titled Seeking Hope and Healing in the

Midst of the Opioid Crisis, took place at Good Shepard Church in Alexandria and drew more than 120 attendees.

Speakers at the event shared their expertise and personal stories about opioid addiction. They included Dr. Michael Horne, director

for clinical services at Catholic Charities and an expert on opioid addiction; Dr. Paul Niemiec, director of counseling with the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania and a priest who talked about faith in the context of opioid addiction.

-[mschrott@alextimes.com](mailto:mschrott@alextimes.com)

# Dominion drops plan for new power line

## Project impacts Potomac Yard special tax district

BY ALEXA EPITROPOULOS

Alexandria faces a budget shortfall for the Potomac Yard Metro after Dominion Power announced last week it isn't moving forward with a planned 230 kV line in Potomac Yard.

Dominion Power's initial plan was to replace its aging power line underneath Route 1 in Alexandria and install a new line under Potomac Avenue. As part of the deal, Dominion was to give the city at least \$14.6 million, which was, in turn, to be incorporated into the Potomac Yard Metro budget.

The plan falling through means the Tier II special tax district facing Potomac Yard residents will still go into ef-



FILE PHOTO

Dominion Power announced it isn't moving forward with a planned new power line in Potomac Yard.

fect after the Potomac Yard Metro opens. The tax district isn't set in stone, though, as residents still plan to oppose the district. The concept of a special tax district has faced opposition since the start, especially as council approved an exemption from

the tax district for residents of Potomac Greens.

Mila Yochum, president of the Potomac Yard Civic Association, said the group had mixed emotions about the plan falling through.

"We're disappointed, but we're also slightly relieved

at the same time. The construction and the inconvenience of the construction on Potomac Avenue, we're relieved on that front. We're just disappointed because the special tax was tied to it," Yochum said.

Dave DePippo, who represented Dominion Power at a council legislative meeting last week, said that, while all the information the utility company had in 2017 and earlier in 2018 suggested that its lines in Alexandria were overloaded, a power flow study conducted in July of this year has altered its earlier conclusions.

DePippo said Dominion no longer considers the replacement option, which it estimated to cost \$340 million, as the best choice. Instead, the utility company intends to pursue an alterna-

tive approach, which involves relocating and undergrounding the North Potomac Yard Substation, rebuilding the Glebe substation and expanding Occoquan.

Dominion estimates that plan will cost \$170 million, or half the original amount. But the only work that would take place in Alexandria for now would be undergrounding the Potomac Yard substation.

"Because of that, PJM, Pepco and the company agreed that they can no longer put Potomac Avenue as an option given the \$170 million cost difference," DePippo said at the meeting. "It's not justifiable anymore."

Dominion now forecasts that the line under Route 1 in Alexandria won't need replacing for 20 to 25 years.

SEE **DOMINION**

| 29

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## LIGHTS

FROM | 1

The lights decision before the planning commission was divided into two separate docket items – the first, a text amendment proposal to increase the maximum height of light poles at city fields to 80 feet and the second, the stadium modernization proposal itself.

Sparks flew during the text amendment discussion when the stadium's opponents accused the city of fast tracking the installation of lights throughout Alexandria, since the change would apply to all congregate recreation facilities – recreational areas that require an expanse of unobstructed area – throughout the city.

“Why would the planning commission, the city council and the city attempt to vanquish the Alexandria community with the placement of 80-foot lights on all fields,

schools and, yes, dog parks?” Bill Goff, a resident who lives adjacent to T.C. Williams High School on Bishop Lane, asked.

City staff denied those claims when Commissioner David Brown directly asked whether the city was intending to “open the barn door to all kinds of new lighted facilities.”

Principal Planner Nathan Imm said that was not the intent, and that each project would still have to apply for a special use permit.

“One of the most logical areas this would be applied to would be in the improvement of existing facilities when they come up for either renovation or rehabilitation,” Imm said. “What this is looking at is trying to say that you can go higher if it provides an improvement.”

Staff argued that the motivation behind the amendment was to ease the bur-

den of lights on neighboring properties, not to harm them. According to the presentation, new lighting technology has proven that higher light poles can direct light more downward than shorter poles, resulting in less light spillage onto adjacent properties.

“It’s unfortunate that this text amendment has been associated with the T.C. Williams issue, where there are a number of other factors at stake,” Planning Commission Chair Mary Lyman said, “because really this is an amendment to protect the neighbors by using new technology that will allow less light to spill into them. ... I think it’s been clear that there’s no plan to run around the city lighting everything up.”

Commissioner Melissa McMahon pointed out that according to the language of the amendment, higher lights could only be installed if the increase in height was demonstrated to reduce the light impact on surrounding properties.

The commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the amendment.

The evening became even more heated when the commission transitioned to the next docket item, a site plan for the modernization of Parker-Gray Stadium.

Staff presented a proposal involving new restrooms, concessions, a press box, ticket vending, track improvements, sound system upgrades and, since the text amendment had been approved, 80-foot light poles. They also detailed the extensive community engagement process that had taken place.

During the presentation, staff dropped a new piece of information: that the hours of operation for the lights had been expanded from 8:30 p.m. on weekdays to 10 p.m., to comply with Title IX, a federal law that calls for equal treatment of genders in regard to education programs



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Those in favor of the Parker-Gray Stadium modernization proudly displayed “Stadium Supporter” stickers at the planning commission meeting Tuesday night.

“It’s unfortunate that this text amendment has been associated with the T.C. Williams issue, where there are a number of other factors at stake, because really this is an amendment to protect the neighbors by using new technology that will allow less light to spill into them. ... I think it’s been clear that there’s no plan to run around the city lighting everything up.”

– Mary Lyman, chair, planning commission

and activities.

“In crafting the time limits, staff was really focused on the Friday and potentially Saturday games that are regularly scheduled for the boys or men’s athletic events, and we failed to take into account that many of the women or female events are routinely scheduled during the week,” Planning Director Karl Moritz said. “Title IX requires that we have equal accommodation for both genders in terms of athletic facilities and programs.”

During a public hearing period that took place from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., 32 speakers spelled out their cases, dividing into pools of supporters and opponents.

The opposition was composed almost entirely of residents living adjacent to T.C. Williams High School, some of whom are involved in the lawsuit that was filed against the city and the school board in August.

Several of the speakers are multigenerational residents of the Seminary Hill area. Their testimonies relied on the history of their neighborhood, the unjust treatment they claim they’ve received from the city, the negative impact lights would have on their quality of life and the binds of a promise to never light the field they said dated back to the 1960s.

SEE LIGHTS

| 8

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## LIGHTS

FROM | 6

"I'm tired, I'm exhausted, I'm flabbergasted and I'm upset that we still have to have this conversation when there is a promise in place," Andrea Mackey, a resident whose home abuts the T.C. Williams property, said. "I feel like this city is completely bullying my neighborhood, my family."

Regarding quality of life, several neighbors expressed concern about the amount of time the field would be lit, especially now that the hours have been expanded to 10 p.m. Those neighbors said they wouldn't have a problem with the proposal if there were only going to be Friday night lights at six home football games a season, but because the proposal involves lighting seven days a week, they get no relief.

On the other side of the argument, Alexandria City Public Schools parents, students and staff spoke about

the necessity of lights. Their comments revolved around athletic teams being at a disadvantage in comparison to competing jurisdictions, the sense of community a new stadium would bring to ACPS and the fact that times have changed.

"These students need more space to engage in positive, competitive activities that have the power to change their lives," said Sydney Martinez, a parent of two T.C. Williams athletes.

Martinez said her 10th grader was so passionate about the topic that she had done two science fair projects about sky glare and light spillage and learned that the new technology would reduce impacts on neighbors.

Once the public speakers had presented their cases, the planning commissioners weighed their options.

Commissioners McMahon and Stephen Koenig agreed that there was a need for an

upgraded facility, but said the impact on the neighbors was too great.

"The additional light and sound into the evening hours on a regular basis will have a substantial adverse impact on the adjacent residents' properties and the character of the neighborhood, and I will not be supporting it," Koenig said.

McMahon said there were several land use considerations with the project that are not being met, including the fact that the project would dominate the character of the neighborhood.

"When I'm thinking of a neighborhood made up of a school and small, detached single family homes, when you make improvements to a sporting facility that's going to allow it to be used every day until 10 o'clock at night, this to me is going to make it dominate, greatly dominate the neighborhood that already exists there," McMahon said.



PHOTO/MISSYSCHROTT

Lights at Witter Recreational Fields.

Following Koenig and McMahon's comments, Commissioner Nathan Macek expressed his support for the project.

"We don't have a plan B here and we can't keep punishing our students at the expense of the situation," Macek said. "I'm persuaded by the need for this facility both through the application

as well as those who spoke in support of it. I do think that there's been a lot of work to mitigate the impacts, and the technology helps."

Commissioners Lyman, David Brown, Melinda Lyle and Maria Wasowski expressed hesitant support for the project under the condition that ACPS take certain steps to be a better neighbor.

"There are things that are not always easy to do, they're not always simple to do, but they can be done to make ACPS a better neighbor, to make this school a better neighbor to the community, and then hopefully find ways for the two to coexist," Wasowski said. "I really want to vote in favor of this because I think it's important for the community as a whole, but I would feel more comfortable if some of these things were part of what we're voting on."

Before the vote, the

SEE **LIGHTS**

| 13



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SHIFFER FROM | 1

Orleans, Louisiana and New Jersey. He went on to earn an undergraduate degree in math from Cornell University and a master's degree in computer science from California State University, Long Beach. He was also a Ph.D. candidate in computational neuroscience at Boston University.

Before moving to Alexandria in September 2017, he taught computer science at alma mater Cal State, Long Beach, and worked as director of engineering at MediaMath in Boston, where he specialized in data science and artificial intelligence. Now, he researches climate science as president of the Cambridge Climate Institute, a nonprofit he co-founded with his wife.

Though his background is unconventional for a council candidate, Shiffer said his understanding of science would help him grasp city issues.

"I don't think people realize what science is really about," he said. "People think it's about expertise, but really what you learn when you get a degree in science is how to become an expert in something. If you look at my career, it's spanned industries, and that's the case because I sort of have a talent for coming into an industry, coming up to speed quickly and then being able to address the problems that I see."

Shiffer said he decided to run for council after getting involved with the Clover College Park Civic Association.

"I started sort of talking to more people and looking what was going on throughout the city, and basically it was the lack of transparency and accountability and truly working with the citizens that galvanized me to get into it," he said. "I'm for a strong partnership between



Mark Shiffer with his son, Andrei, daughter, Kira, and wife, Nadya.

COURTESY PHOTO

city government and citizens, and the fact that we didn't have that, that sort of just drove me into it."

Shiffer specifically wants to work with Alexandria City Public Schools to find solutions to capacity, maintenance and accreditation issues. He said he is especially interested in addressing these issues because of his two children – an 11-year-old who just started school at George Washington Middle School and a 4-year-old who will enter the ACPS system next year.

Regarding transportation, Shiffer said he didn't think the city was approaching alternate transportation like Metro, buses and biking in a reasonable way.

"It would appear from the policies and the way things are done that we're trying to force people into those modes of transportation, which is never a good idea," he said. "You want to improve those modes of transportation and make them convenient and then people will move to them."

Shiffer also wants to pursue creative solutions to affordable housing that are

neighborhood-approved.

"I've talked to some people who have suggested there's this new trend of micro-houses, ... building these on existing properties," he said. "In places where the residents are willing to experiment with that kind of stuff, I think we totally should. We

can change zoning laws to increase density in different ways, without destroying the character in the city."

While he has ideas, Shiffer said he doesn't have all the answers.

"No leader is going to come in with all the solutions to all our problems and

... we don't have that large of a staff. They're not going to have all of the solutions either," he said. "We have a city of 160,000 people. A lot with advanced degrees, a lot of professionals, a lot of smart, civically engaged people, and I think part of the thing that got us to where we are is that the city doesn't tap into that reservoir enough."

Ming Tung, an engineering manager who worked with Shiffer at MediaMath, said his collaborative attitude would translate well to a position on city council.

"Modern politics is a bit like herding cats," Tung said, "and that's a very hard thing to do, but ... there's two types of politicians: there's the kinds of people who just want to engage their interested constituents, and there's the people who want to engage everybody, who want to ... remind people we're all in it together, and he's definitely the latter kind."

SEE SHIFFER

| 13

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# 2017 Year in Review



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## ACT Is a Grantmaker

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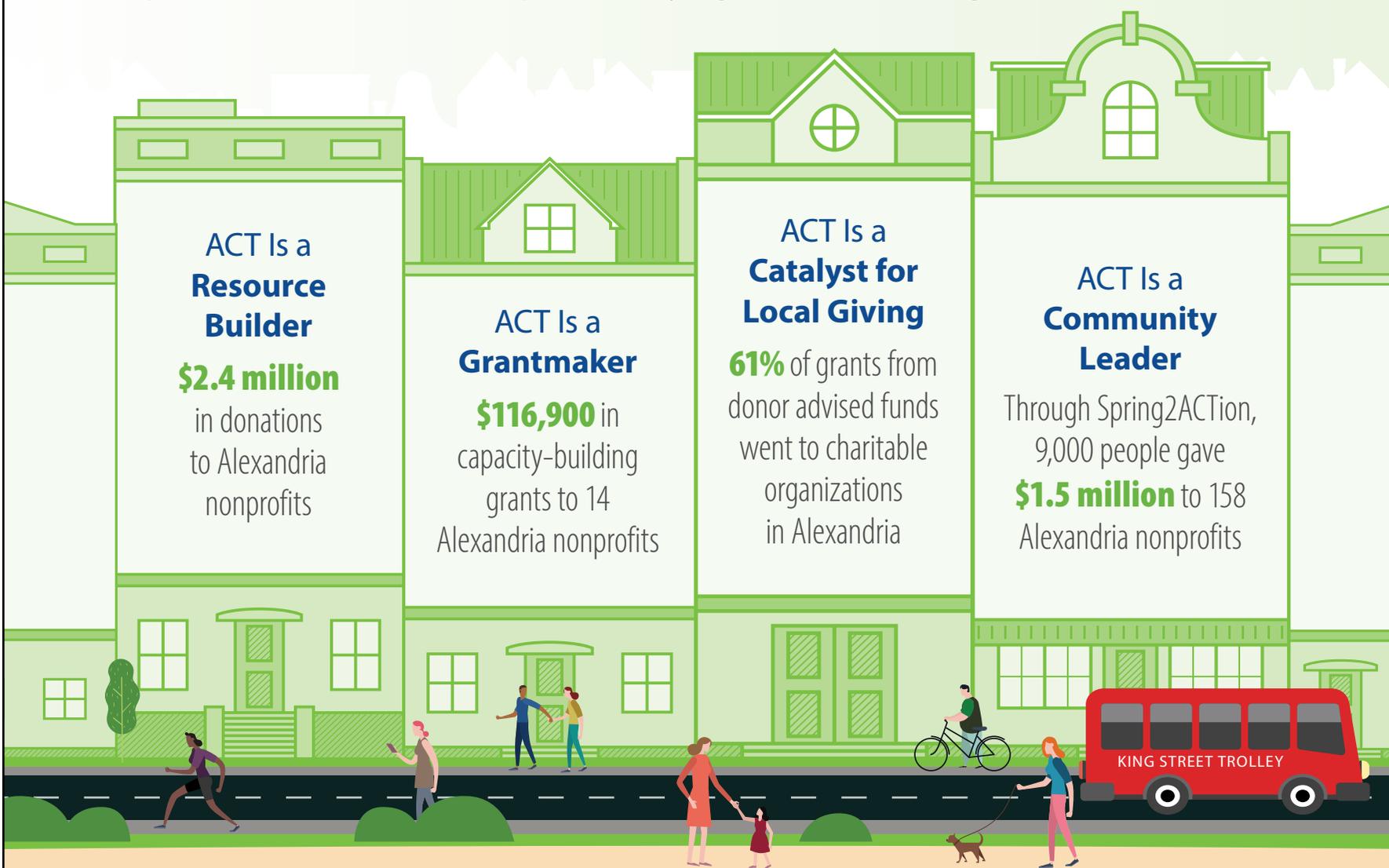
in capacity-building grants to 14 Alexandria nonprofits

## ACT Is a Catalyst for Local Giving

**61%** of grants from donor advised funds went to charitable organizations in Alexandria

## ACT Is a Community Leader

Through Spring2ACTion, 9,000 people gave **\$1.5 million** to 158 Alexandria nonprofits



ACT makes a clear impact in Alexandria. ACT provides capacity-building grants, which are vital to nonprofit organizations. It takes capacity for nonprofits to grow, develop and innovate.

– Tammy Mann, Ph.D., CEO, The Campagna Center

ACT for Alexandria's donor-advised fund (DAF) program was the perfect solution for our family to help those who need help and leave a positive impact as part of our legacy.

– Jane Hess Collins, public relations and communications consultant, founder of Heard, a nonprofit arts program serving underserved populations



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**SHIFFER** FROM | 11

Roy Byrd, a 20-year Alexandria resident who met Shiffer through the Clover College Park Civic Association, said one of Shiffer's greatest strengths is his ability to engage.

"What's kind of a little bit different about him is that he's a listener. He has opinions just like we all have opinions, but he actually takes in what other people have to say," Byrd said. "The best way to put it, he kind of refines his position based on input. He seems to be really sensitive to the fact that other people have sensitivities, and he may not have all the answers, so he really takes into account other peoples' perspective."

As an Independent candidate, Shiffer faces the challenge of convincing Alexandrians to stray from their respective parties to vote for him.

He said he chose to run as an Independent because local politicians don't deal with partisan issues. That being said, he was a registered Democrat before moving to Virginia, and he said he sees himself as more progressive.

Byrd, who also identifies as an Independent, said Shiffer's decision to run as an Independent would present challenges, but also freedom from party associations.

"I think what he really has to do is emphasize the

**“What’s kind of a little bit different about him is that he’s a listener. He has opinions just like we all have opinions, but he actually takes in what other people have to say. The best way to put it, he kind of refines his position based on input. He seems to be really sensitive to the fact that other people have sensitivities, and he may not have all the answers, so he really takes into account other peoples’ perspective.”**

– Roy Byrd

fact that as an Independent, ... he's not beholden to a party or a party dictums," Byrd said. "As an Independent and given his personality, he's really in a strong position to listen to and represent the citizens of Alexandria, as opposed to what's right or wrong as we find in these days of polarization where party comes first."

Shiffer, who announced he was running in the spring, also differs from his opponents because he's only been a city resident for a year.

Jim Sholly, a resident of Janneys Lane who met Shiffer while he was canvassing, said he asked Shiffer early on why he should elect a newcomer who had only lived in Alexandria a short amount of time.

"I said, 'Why would I want to vote for you Mark? You've only been here a year or so. I want someone who knows

the city, knows it backwards and forwards,'" Sholly said. "His answer was a very good one. [He said,] 'I think if you have the ability to understand problems and to analyze the situation, that combination, plus your being new, allows you do look at the situation with fresh eyes. And maybe even suggest something that would allow the discussion to go forward just by putting it in a slightly different context.'"

During the general election on Nov. 6, Shiffer will be listed on the ballot alongside Democrats Canek Aguirre, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, John Chapman, Amy Jackson, Del Pepper and Mo Seifeldin, as well as Republicans Michael Clinkscale and Kevin Dunne. For more information about voting in the city, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections).

– mschrott@alextimes.com

**LIGHTS** FROM | 8

commission detailed some of those steps, including requiring landscape improvements, a program to maintain those improvements, a designated contact person for the neighbors, a mailed athletic schedule to neighbors and enhanced security at the perimeter of the property. They also request-

ed to restrict field use from Monday to Thursday to ACPS interscholastic groups – in other words, to not rent the field to adult leagues or other organizations.

The planning commission voted 5-2, with Koenig and McMahon dissenting, to recommend approval of the site plan. The language of their recommended conditions for ACPS will be clarified at a

continued planning commission meeting on Thursday. The planning commission will also discuss later docket items they did not have time to discuss on Tuesday.

Now that the proposal has the planning commission's stamp of approval, part two of the battle over lights will take place on Oct. 13 at the city council public hearing.

– mschrott@alextimes.com



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## SPORTS

## COACH

FROM | 1

and the interim, one-year tenure of Walt Coleman, who coached the 2016-17 team.

After firing Sullivan, Parker hired Darryl Prue – a former D.C. basketball star who played collegiately at West Virginia University, then professionally overseas – as coach. Prue was officially introduced to parents and players on Sept. 24 by famed Georgetown University coach John Thompson.

Though many parents expressed excitement about Prue, some are also frustrated about the turnover of the last several years.

Jeff Harold, a parent with one son who graduated from T.C. in 2017 and two others trying out for the team this year, said the turnover has created a lack of consistency.

“I have two kids that are freshmen there now, so I would just like to have some kind of stability,” Harold said ahead of the coach an-



PHOTO/ACPS

Darryl Prue, a former D.C. basketball star who played for West Virginia University and then professionally overseas, was hired to coach the T.C. boys' basketball team. The hiring of high-profile coaches represents an initiative of T.C. Williams athletic director James Parker.

nouncement. “... You want your kids to have someone that they can go to, a constant person outside the home that reinforces things that they [learn] at home, which a lot of coaches do.

You want to have that person and every year it changes, so you have to [re]build the relationship.”

Alexandria City Public Schools declined to discuss the reason for removing

Sullivan, citing its policy of not commenting on personnel issues.

Parker said, however, that hiring Prue is part of ACPS' strategy of recruiting high-profile talent to lead teams. Parker, a former player himself who has long worked in the sport, has a particular focus on basketball. He previously worked as director of sports for the Amateur Athletic Union.

Parker said it's important to attract high-profile coaches to make sure teams recruit and retain the best players. Well-known coaches also appeal to parents.

“When you're publicly funded over a private school that may have more discretionary income to do more things with, there's other things we have to do to attract kids and keep parents here,” Parker said. “Part of it is hiring high-profile and high-quality coaches, part of that is making sure we have great partnerships with organizations like Nike or Adidas, where kids feel like ‘Wow, I'm part of

something big.”

When it comes to the amount of coaching turnover the team has had, Parker said it's time to look forward and not back. He said his goal is to build a foundation for the team moving forward.

“We told the players we can't change the past – whatever happened in the past happened. I wasn't here in the past, so I can't speak about what happened in the past, but what I can speak about is where we want to go and what we want to do,” Parker said.

“What we want to do is have a basketball coach that has a lot of contacts, not only in this area, but nationally, that can help them better themselves as basketball players and as young men, and can also bring some clout, so we'll be able to raise more money for the program so we can do things,” he continued.

Because ACPS won't comment on Sullivan's departure, the circumstances remain cloudy. Sullivan was informed that Parker was doing an assessment of his performance in the position shortly before Labor Day and was told the first week of school that he wouldn't return to the role, according to a former member of the coaching staff.

Sullivan's removal from the position echoes the dismissal of Hill two years ago on Oct. 31, 2016. Parents, at the time of Hill's dismissal, told the Washington Post that Bill Campbell, a member of the Alexandria School Board, was behind Hill's departure. Campbell denied those claims at the time.

One parent, who spoke to the Times on the condition of anonymity, said they weren't surprised by

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# SPORTS

COACH FROM | 14

Sullivan's departure, especially with the appointment of a new athletic director. The parent said they believed Campbell had orchestrated Hill's firing and that Hill's departure had, in turn, led to more turnover.

The parent said if Hill had not been fired in 2016, they believed the discussion about turmoil would not be taking place and that the team would have been more successful over the past few years.

Campbell's older son played on the basketball team at T.C. before graduating in 2017 and his younger son, who is a senior, is trying out for this year's varsity team. Campbell said his sons have also been impacted by the instability.

"I'm almost positive when it comes to the varsity team, no one's been impacted more than our family. I have a son that's started on varsity since his freshman year. He has had as many coaches as possible. This will be his fourth coach in four years," Campbell said. "Certainly, as a player and as a parent, you prefer stability first and foremost. You want positive interactions that's going to make your high school experience

“  
Change is necessary to move a program forward and I certainly understand [James Parker] hiring someone he feels comfortable with, someone he's worked with.”

– Mary Fluharty, parent, T.C. Williams boys' basketball

something to remember.”

Campbell described Sullivan positively. He said he found out about Sullivan's dismissal at a parent-and-coach event early in September.

"I liked Brett. I certainly thought he treated the boys well and I did have two boys play for him. ... They went through the season. It was a tough season, but I thought they enjoyed playing, which is the most important thing," Campbell said. "I didn't interact a lot with Coach Sullivan, and then I thought he was absolutely professional and a

gentleman in terms of how he handled the announcement [of his dismissal from the team]."

Despite the turnover, many parents expressed excitement about Parker's appointment of Prue.

"I think change is hard, but one of the things we felt last night is that it was a really good step in making sure everyone feels confident in the decision," Mary Fluharty, a parent of a T.C. sophomore who played on the freshman team last year, said.

Fluharty, a former employee at T.C. Williams, said she supported the process.

"The role of athletic director has also changed a fair amount. Change is necessary to move a program forward and I certainly understand [Parker] hiring someone he feels comfortable with, someone he's worked with," Fluharty said.

Prue, who coaches for Team Takeover at the Amateur Athletic Union, the same organization Parker used to work for, was a basketball star at Laurence Dunbar High School in D.C. in the 1980s.

He was recruited by Thompson to play at

SEE COACH | 18

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# SPORTS

## ALEXANDRIA SPORTS ROUNDUP

The Alexandria Times sports roundup includes records and game results for the prior week in two sports per season for Alexandria’s four local high schools: Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, St. Stephens and St. Agnes and T.C. Williams. Records will be presented alphabetically, while results will be listed by date

This fall, the sports included are football and field hockey. We will also be running photos with captions from games and encourage readers to send timely photos for submission to [newstips@alextimes.com](mailto:newstips@alextimes.com). We will continue covering games from various sports, as well as running sports features about Alexandria athletes.

### BOYS' FOOTBALL

School	Record
Bishop Ireton	1-4
Episcopal	3-0
SSSAS	4-1
T.C. Williams	2-3

**Scores this week:**

**Sept. 28**  
Episcopal W 34-17 @ Collegiate

**Sept. 29**  
B.I. L 34-6 @ SSSAS

### GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY

School	Record
Bishop Ireton	3-2
Episcopal	3-6
SSSAS	6-4
T.C. Williams	6-1

**Scores this week:**

**Sept. 26**  
B.I. W 6-0 vs. Paul VI

**Sept. 27**  
Episcopal W 1-0 @ Holton-Arms  
SSSAS W 3-0 vs. Connelly School of the Holy Child

**Sept. 29**  
Episcopal L 6-0 @ St. Catherine’s  
SSSAS L 2-1 vs. James Madison

**Oct. 2**  
Episcopal L 2-1 vs. Georgetown Visitation

**COACH** FROM | 17

Georgetown, but opted to go to West Virginia University instead. After playing professionally overseas, he became a coach.

Parker said Prue would be a good role model for players and would be able to coach them and prepare them for the future, whether it’s in the NBA, in a sports-related career or something else entirely.

“We’re trying to push them to be great. They can’t just be average – they have to be great, because, at the end of the day, even if you play basketball, that’s going to end at some point of time and you’re going to be relatively young,” Parker said. “Even if you make \$30 to \$40 million, you’re going to be 31 or 32 years old and you’ll still have a lot of living to do, so what’s next?”

Parker said the goal is to make players into leaders on and off the court, and to help them plan for what’s ahead.



PHOTO/ACPS

Lisa Willis, a Team USA gold medalist and former WNBA player, will coach T.C. girls' basketball.

“It’s very important, when you have a coach, that it’s not about the wins and losses, but about the development of the player and making sure they’re doing what’s right, because it’s using basketball, not letting it use you,” Parker said.

Parker said the hiring of Prue and the hiring of girls’ basketball coach Lisa Willis is part of a movement by the

athletic department to hire high-profile individuals in each sport. He said the athletic department’s next step is appointing a lacrosse coach.

He said high-profile means different things in every sport.

“Being high-profile is really about being high-profile in your world – that everybody looks at you as a high-quality coach and a high character individual,” Parker said. “... It’s not about being popular, it’s about credibility.”

Open gym has started for T.C. boys’ basketball players and tryouts will be held in November. The first game of the season is Nov. 14 against Potomac High School.

- [aepitropoulos@alextimes.com](mailto:aepitropoulos@alextimes.com)

“Being high-profile is really about being high-profile in your world – that everybody looks at you as a high-quality coach and a high character individual ... It’s not about being popular, it’s about credibility.”

- James Parker, athletic director, T.C. Williams



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# Times Living

## ARTS

### 'Love, Gilda' is short, but sweet tribute to comedienne

**Documentary details life of SNL, film star Gilda Radner**

BY RICHARD ROEPER

When "Saturday Night Live" creator Lorne Michaels assembled the original Not Ready for Prime Time Players in 1975, the first cast member he hired wasn't Chevy Chase or John Belushi or Dan Aykroyd.

It was Gilda Radner.

By that point, the 28-year-old Radner had made a name for herself in comedic circles via her work with the Second City troupe in Toronto and on the syndicated National Lampoon Radio Hour alongside the likes of Belushi, Chase and Bill Murray.

But in the early years of "SNL," when Radner gave us obnoxious TV news commentator Roseanne Roseannadanna, hard-of-hearing old lady Emily Litella and nerdy Lisa Loopner, she became rock-star famous and created a body of work that has influenced generations of comedic performers.

In Lisa D'Apolito's affectionate, well-crafted but maddeningly short "Love, Gilda," we are reminded of Radner's sunny brilliance as a performer. We see how



**Above:** Gilda Radner in "Love, Gilda" a Magnolia Pictures release.

**Below:** Gilda Radner in attendance at her 40th birthday party.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

easy it was for millions of fans (and a Who's Who of co-stars) to fall in love with her. We're blown away by her courage as she battles cancer - and we feel the loss

all over again when Radner dies in 1989 at just 42.

"Love, Gilda" was made with the cooperation of the Radner estate, giving D'Apolito unprecedented

access to a gold mine of Radner's written journals, her personal audio and videotapes and home movies of her childhood in then-booming Detroit.

In those early clips, we see an effervescent girl performing mini-routines for family and neighbors. Radner was a little overweight as a child, and apparently that was a cause of embarrassment to her mother, who put her on diet pills when Radner was just 10. (As an adult, Radner would battle bulimia.)

D'Apolito takes us through touchstones in Radner's career, from her work with the 1972 Toronto cast of "Godspell," which included Martin Short, Eugene Levy and Andrea Martin, and her time with the National Lampoon Radio Hour in New York in 1974, when John Belushi called Radner and told her she could be "the girl in the show."

In a nice touch, D'Apolito enlists Amy Poehler, Melissa McCarthy, Maya Rudolph, Cecily Strong and Bill Hader to read excerpts from Radner's journals. Chase, Short, writer-producer Alan Zweibel and Gilda's brother Michael share memories.

Alas, we don't hear from the mercurial Bill Murray, Radner's "SNL" partner in comedy and onetime romantic interest.

SEE **GILDA**

| 21

## PEIS

### Are dogs or cats smarter?

Science has the answer, based on raw brain power | Page 20

## HOMEIES

### Foliage season

Take time to appreciate the fall colors and plant more trees for the future | Page 22

## CALENDAR

### October events

Make smores at a firepit, celebrate Seaport Day and more | Page 24

PETS



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FILE PHOTO

Science has determined that in the case of raw brain power, dogs are smarter than cats.

# Are dogs or cats smarter? Science has the answer

**When it comes to raw brain power, one beloved pet pulls ahead**

BY KIM GILLIAM

Dog owners say their pets are smartest because they are loyal, joyful and trainable. Cat owners say their pets are smarter for completely different reasons; cats are independent, cunning hunters with boundless curiosity.

So, which pet has the edge over the other?

We now officially know the answer to this age-old question, and some of you aren't going to like the answer. A team of researchers counted the number of neurons in dog and cat brains

and found that one had twice as many as the other. The answer is ... dogs. At least when it comes to raw brain power.

A study published in the journal *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy* in December 2017 counted cortical neurons in



KIM GILLIAM

the brains of eight different carnivorous animals. The dogs studied included a golden retriever, which had 627 million neurons, and a smaller mixed breed dog with 429 million. The cat studied had 250 million neurons by comparison.

Dogs had the most neurons of any carnivore, even though they didn't have the biggest brains. They

were found to have about as many neurons as a raccoon and lion, while the cat's neuron count was similar to that of a brown bear. Previous studies indicating carnivores need greater brain capacity than prey appear to be unfounded. It now appears that there isn't much difference at all.

Neurons are where the brain processes information, so the more of them an animal has, the more cognitive ability it has, i.e. the more information it is able to process. Cortical neurons are thought to be responsible for decision-making and problem-solving. As you might expect, humans have a great many more, with an average of about 16 billion neurons, whereas orangutans and gorillas have about 8 to 9 billion.

"I believe the absolute number of neurons an

SEE PETS



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**GILDA** FROM | 19

And we often hear from Radner herself, via audio recordings she made while putting together her autobiography “It’s Always Something,” which was published two weeks after her death.

All too quickly, we arrive in the early 1980s, when Radner fell in love with Gene Wilder on the set of “Hanky Panky.” (Radner then appeared in Wilder’s “The Woman in Red” in 1984 and co-starred with Wilder



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES  
Gilda Radner with husband Gene Wilder in the 1980s.

in the 1986 bomb “Haunted Honeymoon,” which would be her last movie role.)

Radner was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 1986. We see video footage of Wilder visiting Radner in the hospital; Radner welcoming friends to her home, as she refuses to become the star of a pity party and (during a period of remission) a hilarious guest appearance on “It’s Garry Shandling’s Show,” where Radner milks the audience for applause while Shan-

dling scolds her for looking at the camera.

Those last years of Radner’s life could easily merit a full-length documentary. D’Apolito does a beautiful job of honoring Radner, but I found myself wishing “Love, Gilda” was a two-part, four-hour documentary, a la Judd Apatow’s “The Zen Diaries of Garry Shandling.”

There’s just too much Radner greatness – on and off camera – to be contained in an 86-minute box.



FILE PHOTO

Regardless of what science says, it’s likely that cats and dogs are both geniuses within their environments, no matter how many neurons they have.

**PETS** FROM | 20

animal has, especially in the cerebral cortex, determines the richness of their internal mental state and their ability to predict what is about to happen in their environment based on past experience,” neuroscientist Suzana Herculano-Houzel from Vanderbilt University said. “Our findings mean to me that dogs have the biological capability of doing much more complex and flexible things with their lives than cats can.”

Note that neurons are not the only one way of measuring intelligence – some consider brain size

and structural complexity for example. It’s also important to note that researchers suggest caution in pitting different species against each other in a study such as this, as different species are often intelligent in different ways, each shaped by evolution to solve the problems in their natural habitat.

The bottom line? Cats and dogs are likely “geniuses” within their environment, no matter how many neurons they have.

*Kim Gilliam co-owns Frolick Dogs, an indoor dog gym in Alexandria, with her husband, Kevin Gilliam.*





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## HOMES



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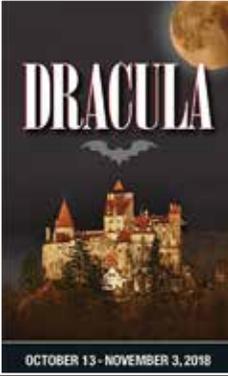
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PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

When fall days turn cool, keep an eye on neighborhood ginkgo trees. Their handsome leaves seem to turn from green to gold overnight. Before you know it, the leaves fall in golden pools under the trees.

## TREE SEASON

**Take time this October to plant trees and reap the benefits**

BY MARTY ROSS

It's the season of the trees. After all their hard work keeping things green and cool this summer, deciduous trees are putting on their final performance of the year.

Now, while they're flaunting their finest costumes, is an appropriate time to take stock of what trees do for us. It is also a good time to plant new trees for the generations to come.

We appreciate trees for their magnificence and beauty through the seasons, but it's easy to forget all the ways they contribute to our quality of life. A handsome tree in the front yard makes a house a much nicer place. Oaks, maples, lindens and other deciduous trees lining city streets shelter whole

neighborhoods and fill them with character. Trees mark ancient trails and punctuate contemporary landscapes, subtly defining our view of the world.

Trees are one of the most massive elements of our environment. In the process of photosynthesis, they remove carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with oxygen. Their extensive root systems filter the water in the soil. Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife, especially birds and the insects they need to survive. Without trees, the world would be dreary and inhospitable.

With increasing urgency, arborists and urban foresters are studying trees in cities, public gardens, parks and the countryside to try to determine which trees are the most adaptable to changing climate conditions, including extreme weather events

such as droughts and flooding.

The Chicago Botanic Garden started its Trees for 2050 project specifically to help the garden decide how to replace about 400 trees recently lost to infestations of the emerald ash borer. Of 50 different kinds of trees at the botanic garden, the study found that 40 of the native and well-adapted exotic species remain good choices until 2050, said Phil Douglas, curator of woody plants at the Garden. By 2080, as the climate continues to change, only 11 of the species in the initial study will continue to thrive in Chicago and the Upper Midwest, he said. The Garden's research resulted in an interactive online database to help residents of Chicago – and throughout the Midwest – make the best choices for their home gardens.

SEE TREES

# HOMES

**TREES** FROM | 22

Ginkgo, pecan, zelkova and parrotia trees are among the most adaptable and viable trees for the long term in the Midwest, Douglas says, but these trees are just a starting point. Much more work needs to be done to identify the best trees for the Midwest's changing climate, and for every area of the country.

Shawn Kingzette, an arborist with the Davey Tree Expert Company and a regional manager for the company in the Chicago area, recommends diversity, above all, to help ensure a future with healthy trees.

"It's not enough to plant

native trees that can resist bugs and blights," he said. "Natives are susceptible, too."

A diverse tree population provides resilience, Kingzette said – so if you love dogwoods or redbuds, plant one, by all means, or even three, but not a dozen of them in your home garden, or you risk losing your whole planting. Urban foresters learned this the hard way when elm blight drastically changed urban landscapes years ago. The emerald ash borer infestation has reminded them again, vividly, of the possible consequences of over-reliance on a single species.

Careful planting, such



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

The fiery autumn colors of maple leaves are fall's flashiest foliage show. If your neighbors have maple trees, appreciate them but plant something else. Diversity is the secret to a healthy urban forest.

as avoiding planting under houses, sidewalks or drive- utility lines and too close to ways, will also help ensure

that trees have a long and healthy life. It is important to choose trees that fit their spot, Kingzette said. A small tree, such as a fringe tree, is likely to be a more appropriate choice near a patio than a towering oak. Sweet gum trees, with their prickly fruits, are great habitat trees, but don't plant them near a sidewalk.

A warming climate will expand the choices in colder areas, allowing warm-zone trees, such as crape myrtles, to thrive farther north, but "don't just plant southern species – plant tougher species," Kingzette suggested. Turn to your local horticultural

SEE TREES | 29

## HOME OF THE WEEK

# New senior living community with wellness emphasis

Brandywine Living at Alexandria is a brand new 116-suite community located next to Cameron Station and just minutes from historic Old Town. It features amenities such as a movie theater, pub, therapy pool and a beautiful dining room with restaurant-style dining. Residents enjoy the best of both worlds: life in an elegant community with friends and supportive care and the convenience and variety of a vibrant residential and retail neighborhood.

As part of their "Escapades ... for Life!" program, Brandywine Living offers an array of educational, entertainment and health and wellness choices tailored to each resident's needs and desires, while their chefs make the fine dining experience

### AT A GLANCE

- Address:** 5550 Cardinal Place, 22304 (GPS Address is 450 South Pickett St. 22304)
- Neighborhood:** West End
- Parking:** Free Garage Parking
- Dining:** Restaurant and 24-hour options available
- Wellness Offerings:** Licensed nurse 24/7, house doctors, and on-site therapy
- Contact:** Samantha Tricoli at 703-940-3300 or Stricoli@brandycare.com

something to look forward to each day.

Brandywine's dedicated team is available to provide supportive care and maintain maximum independence. When someone calls Brandywine home, they and their family will have the se-

curity and peace of mind in knowing Brandywine's commitment to quality and customer service is at the heart of everything they do.

Licensed nurses are on site, not on call, 24/7. These compassionate, highly skilled, clinical experts focus on the well-being of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Brandywine's Wellness Team provides individual assessments, medication administration, health monitoring and health education. They also provide assistance in coordinating care with the family and the doctor.

Brandywine Living opened its doors in spring and is accepting new residents. Call today to schedule a visit. Brandywine is available seven days a week.



The brand new 116-suite community offers plenty of amenities and prime location, just minutes from Old Town.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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## CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 4

**BETHANY HOUSE GARDEN OF LIGHT GALA**

Bethany House of Northern Virginia is hosting its 7th Annual Garden of Light Gala at the Crowne Plaza Old Town Alexandria. Join them for a night of delicious cuisine, live entertainment and exciting auction prizes donated by local and national businesses. Bethany House of Northern Virginia provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and D.C. metro communities. At this event, you will not only enjoy food and fun, but you will also hear powerful stories about how your contributions to Bethany House help women and children escape from the darkness of abuse and into the light of safety, freedom and independence. You won't want to miss this year's Garden of Light. Help Fund the fight against domestic violence.

**Time:** 6 to 9 p.m.

**Location:** Crowne Plaza, 901 N. Fairfax St.

**Information:** [www.bhmv.org/garden-of-light](http://www.bhmv.org/garden-of-light)

**PASS THE PLATE POT LUCK**

Head to Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House for a cross-cultural, heritage-inspired dinner event. Share the food of your family at a casual potluck dinner that is open to guests of all heritages. Each guest, or group of guests, as part of their participation will be asked to bring a dish that highlights their own family story. The event features culinary foodways historian and cookbook author, Michael Twitty, as well as the artisans of the current art exhibit, Makers In The Mansion. Woodlawn will provide exhibit tours, beverages and bites, as Twitty leads a spirited conversation about how food can highlight identity and connect people.

**Time:** 6 to 9 p.m.

**Location:** Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway

**Information:** [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/woodlawnevents/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/woodlawnevents/)

**2018 COUTURE FOR A CURE FASHION SHOW**

On Thursday, Oct. 4, join the Association of Alexandria Radiologists as its models rip the runway to support the battle against breast cancer. The fashion show event will feature its brave team of breast cancer survivors modeling to raise funds for breast cancer awareness. Every dollar raised will directly impact the lives of those battling cancer, their families and those yet to be diagnosed. The Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Memorial Fund contributes to the cost of annual mammograms for women of low-income circumstances in Northern Virginia. The Vola Lawson Breast Cancer

Memorial Fund has helped over 8,000 uninsured and under-insured Alexandria women receive free mammograms and other diagnostic screenings.

**Time:** 7 to 9 p.m.

**Location:** Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall

**Information:** [alexandriaradiology.com](http://alexandriaradiology.com)

## OCTOBER 5

**CARPENTER'S SHELTER'S OCTOBERFEST ONLINE AUCTION**

Fall into the giving season with Carpenter's Shelter's OctoberFest Online Auction. Participants will have the chance to bid on a variety of items and experiences for every budget and all funds raised will go toward serving the more than 650 homeless and formerly homeless people who will connect with Carpenter's Shelter this year. The auction begins at midnight on Friday, Oct. 5 and ends at 11:59 pm on Friday, Oct. 19. You'll have two weeks to bid high, bid often and make a difference. Prepare to bid on week-long tropical vacations, diamond jewelry, skydiving adventures and date night tickets for museums, concerts and incredible local restaurants.

**Time:** All Day

**Location:** Online

**Information:** [goo.gl/cT9BKM](http://goo.gl/cT9BKM)

## OCTOBER 6

**23RD ANNUAL ART ON THE AVENUE**

Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating the community's diversity through the arts in the Del Ray neighborhood. Every year, more than 50,000 visitors stroll down Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray between Bellefonte and Hume Avenues. The event features more than 300 artists (jewelers, silversmiths, beadworkers, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptors, fabric artists and more), musicians (Irish, folk, rock n' roll, country and more) and food vendors (hot dogs, BBQ, Indian, crab cakes, chocolate bananas dipped on a stick and homemade cider donuts). Activities for children include stuff-your-own scarecrow, paint-a-pumpkin, lotus flower design and weave screen art.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Location:** Mt. Vernon Avenue

**Information:** [artontheavenue.org](http://artontheavenue.org)

**OLD DOMINION BOCCE TOURNAMENT**

Attend the inaugural Old Dominion Bocce Tournament to support the Prevent Cancer Foundation. Inspired by nine years of working with the Viglucci's World Beach Bocce Championship in Del Mar, California, the Old Dominion Bocce team invites friends, family and soon-to-be friends for a day of bocce, great food, beverages (courtesy of sponsor Stone Brewing Co.) and

music. The event is open to teams of all skill levels. Please register in advance.

**Time:** All day

**Location:** Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road

**Information:** 760-815-1977

**MAYOR ON YOUR CORNER**

Mayor Allison Silberberg will host her next monthly coffee, "Mayor on Your Corner," on Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Clyde's at Mark Center. There is no need to RSVP and no charge to attend. There is a \$5 flat fee for pastries and coffee.

**Time:** 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Clyde's at Mark Center, 1700 N. Beauregard St.

**Information:** visit [www.allisonsilberberg.com](http://www.allisonsilberberg.com) or contact [kyle.herman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:kyle.herman@alexandriava.gov)

## OCTOBER 10

**VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF ALEXANDRIA**

Volunteer Alexandria will hold its annual Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria event on Oct. 10. The celebratory event commends volunteers for their outstanding service to the city. A select few volunteers who have gone the extra mile to give back to the locality will receive an award during the event for their dedicated efforts. The recently announced winners are: James Durham, recipient of the Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award; Jane Powell, recipient of the Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Service Award; Odallis del Cid Reyes, recipient of the Youth Volunteer Service Award; Celia Boertlein, recipient of the RSVP Northern Virginia Award and Marjorie Windelberg, recipient of the Emergency Preparedness Award.

**Time:** 6 to 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St.

**Information:** [www.volunteerallexandria.org/volunteers-are-the-heart](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org/volunteers-are-the-heart)

**BODIES AND VOICES: TOOLS FOR CREATIVITY**

Attend a workshop for artists who want to deepen their own creative process. Using elements of dance and theatre, participants form a shared experience that explores the intersection of art, individuality and community. The event is open to adults of all abilities. Tickets are \$40. Presented as a collaboration between Local Motion Project and Torpedo Factory Art Center.

**Time:** 7 to 9 p.m.

**Location:** Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.

**Information:** [www.localmotionproject.org](http://www.localmotionproject.org)

## OCTOBER 12

**FEMALE STRANGER BEER DINNER WITH PORT CITY**

Join

Port City Brewing Co. and Gadsby's Tavern Museum as they honor the anniversary of the Female Stranger's death with her specialty beer, the Long Black Veil. This special craft beer was inspired by the famous tale of the Female Stranger, who died at the tavern on Oct. 14, 1816. Enjoy great local beers on the anniversary weekend and learn the history surrounding her tragic story. The evening will include four courses. Tickets are \$85.

**Time:** 7 to 11 p.m.

**Location:** Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

**Information:** [alexandria.gov/shop](http://alexandria.gov/shop)

**FALL FIREPIT FRIDAY**

The weather is getting cooler and it is the perfect time of year to enjoy roasted marshmallows and hot dogs around a firepit. On Oct. 12, there will be two firepits on the playground behind Fairlington United Methodist Church. Drop by to make your own gourmet s'mores bar with different chocolates, cookies, graham crackers, marshmallows and toppings. There will also be hot dogs to roast for dinner, chips and drinks and baby pumpkins to decorate. The evening is free and all are welcome.

**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m.

**Location:** Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St.

**Information:** [www.fairlingtonumc.org](http://www.fairlingtonumc.org)

## OCTOBER 12 TO 14

**PORTSIDE IN OLD TOWN FESTIVAL**

In celebration of the launch of the Portside in Old Town waterfront programming series, the Portside in Old Town Festival kicks off the fun with activities along the Potomac River Oct. 12 to 14, 2018. Festival-goers will enjoy free tours of the tall ship Godspeed (Saturday and Sunday only), a waterfront beer garden from Port City Brewing Company, a pop-up Pizzeria Paradiso, plus live music and history, art and fitness activities. *Note: Due to construction delays because of weather, the King Street Park at the Waterfront will not be open in time for the festival.*

**Time:** Various throughout the weekend

**Location:** Waterfront Park and the Alexandria City Marina

**Information:** [www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/waterfront-activities/portside-in-old-town/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/things-to-do/waterfront-activities/portside-in-old-town/)

## OCTOBER 13

**23RD ANNUAL ART SAFARI** An Alexandria tradition for more than two decades, Art Safari returns for a day of hands-on activities for kids and families. Dozens of artists lead budding arts enthusiasts in hands-on projects throughout the building. The event is in partnership with American Geoscience Institute and American Institute of Architects

Northern Virginia.

**Time:** Noon to 4 p.m.

**Location:** Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.

**Information:** [torpedofactory.org/events](http://torpedofactory.org/events)

**FIFTH ANNUAL "WALK IT OUT!" WALK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

The Oakland Baptist Church is hosting its fifth annual "Walk it Out!" breast cancer awareness walk. The walk begins at the church and will proceed down King Street. Transportation will be provided back to the church for those not walking back. Registration is \$10, and all proceeds benefit the Vola Lawson fund. Attendees are encouraged to wear pink or their favorite breast cancer awareness apparel.

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King St.

**Information:** [www.eventbrite.com/e/obc-breast-cancer-awareness-walk-2018-tickets-50268645873](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/obc-breast-cancer-awareness-walk-2018-tickets-50268645873)

## OCTOBER 14

**AWARE!** Facilitator, poet and author KaNikki Jakarta, in partnership with the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, presents "AWARE!" an event that brings family and friends together in recognition of October Awareness Month. Eleven poets and spoken word artists will bring awareness through poetry and story-telling focusing on breast cancer, depression, LGBT history, Muslim heritage, bullying prevention and domestic violence. There will be a short open mic portion of the show. This event is family friendly, open to the public and free. RSVP by sending an email to: [greatpublishing@yahoo.com](mailto:greatpublishing@yahoo.com).

**Time:** 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association, 201 Prince St.

**Information:** [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org)

## OCTOBER 20

**SEAPORT DAY 2018** Seaport Day is an annual community festival celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and Alexandria's maritime heritage. The event will feature live music, musical activities, wooden boat display, children's activities, lawn games, beer, food and wine. Alexandria Seaport Foundation improves the lives of young people in need of direction through adult mentoring, project-based learning and the craft of wooden boat building.

**Time:** All Day

**Location:** Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St.

**Information:** [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org)

# Let's Eat



PHOTOS/UNION STREET PUBLIC HOUSE

**Top Left:** The cuisine at Union Street Public House is American, with cultural influences of the region.

**Top Right:** Union Street Public House Oysters. **Above:** Union Street Public House main bar.

## Union Street Public House

Union Street Public House, an Old Town fixture since it opened in 1986, welcomes the return of Jeremy Waybright as executive chef. Waybright helmed the Union Street kitchen in 2013 and 2014 before leaving to take on the opening of Boss Shepherd's in D.C. It was there that Washington Post critic Tom Sietsema first noticed Waybright, naming him one of the city's top chefs. Waybright worked extensively with Brian Voltaggio, refining his skills as a self-described "American chef, through and through" before returning to Union Street. Waybright defines American cuisine as a blend of the best locally sourced ingredients, with a touch of the cultural influences that make the regions of the country unique, each in their



**JEREMY WAYBRIGHT**

own way. He admits to a special connection to the low country and a southern style, and looks to the Chesapeake Bay for inspiration.

Union Street also offers 1986 The Whiskey Bar, a separate venue inside the restaurant that's named for the year Union Street opened. Step inside the cop-

**AT A GLANCE**

**Restaurant Name:** Union Street Public House  
**Location:** 121 S. Union St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
**Neighborhood:** Old Town  
**Owner:** John MacBrian  
**Chef:** Jeremy Waybright  
**Year Opened:** 1986  
**Type of cuisine:** American  
**Number:** 703-548-1785  
**Website:** www.unionstreetpublichouse.com  
**Contact for event info:** Cheryl Connors

per-topped Whiskey Bar and enjoy more than 250 whiskeys, including a number from Virginia distillers in a subdued and polished atmosphere. The Whiskey Bar is open Wednesday to Saturday evenings from 5 p.m. to close.

*This is an advertorial.*

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## Our View

# Good news from Alexandria schools

There are three encouraging reports about Alexandria schools in this and last weeks' Times, two involving Alexandria City Public Schools and one from Blessed Sacrament School.

First, ACPS received good marks from the state in its accreditation process, as 14 of 16 schools in the city received full, accreditation from the State Board of Education for the 2018-19 school year.

The best news of all is that Jefferson-Houston School, which had been denied accreditation for six years running, was accredited with conditions. While Jefferson-Houston still has significant work ahead to get to where everyone wants the school to be academically, receiving accreditation with conditions is still an enormous achievement.

Two other ACPS schools that had been partially accredited last year, William Ramsay and Francis C. Hammond, received full accreditation this year.

Excitement over these results must be somewhat tempered, however, because the results were boosted by the state's change in its approach to assessments, and this transition year benefitted ACPS.

The accreditation process is moving from one solely based on Standards of Learning results to one that is more comprehensive and uses SOLs as a component but not as the entirety of assessing performance. During this transition year, districts were assessed using both methods and were allowed to use the best results.

For instance, four ACPS schools that were fully accredited last year, and are again fully accredited under the old system, would have been accredited with conditions under the new system: Douglas MacArthur, Matthew Maury, Mount Vernon and George Washington. This means without improvement in the areas flagged by the new system, ACPS is likely to have more schools in the not fully accredited category next year.

Still, we celebrate the progress, particularly for Jefferson-Houston.

The second piece of news regarding ACPS that we consider overall good news is the approach being taken by new T.C. Williams High School athletic director James L. Parker toward new coaches. In this week's Times front page story about coaching turnover on the T.C. Williams boys' basketball team, "On the rebound," Parker describes his philosophy of bringing in high-profile coaches to Alexandria's only high school.

While the recent coaching switch in the near term does continue a several-year trend of turmoil at the helm of T.C. boys' basketball, in the longer run it's a great shift in philosophy.

Parker is right that hiring coaches with broader experience, a wider range of contacts and more renown in their respective areas is going to help T.C.'s student-athletes going forward. The hiring of former D.C. star Darryl Prue, who played professionally overseas, to coach the T.C. boys and former WNBA player Lisa Willis to coach the T.C. girls, are exciting first steps in this new direction.

Finally, this week, Alexandria's Blessed Sacrament School, affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, was one of just eight schools in Virginia and 49 nationwide to receive the 2018 National Blue Ribbon School Award. It was the only school in the Diocese to receive this designation.

Blue Ribbon schools are selected by the U.S. Department of Education for academic achievement. This is the second time in 10 years that Blessed Sacrament has been named a Blue Ribbon School.

Well done to ACPS and to Blessed Sacrament. Your achievements are encouraging and affirming.

# Opinion

"Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."

- Thomas Jefferson



## Your Views

# Don't forget about Dyke Marsh

To the editor:

We welcome your Sept. 27 article in the Alexandria Times, "Taking a Time-out in Alexandria," but in the discussion of recreational areas you missed a critical park. You included the Mount Vernon Bike Trail, Jones Point Park and Fort Hunt Park, but you omitted another important one in that corridor – the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

Dyke Marsh is a freshwater, tidal preserve on the Potomac River just south of Alexandria, a natural jewel which former U. S. Senator John Warner called "a magnificent little oasis."

The 485-acre preserve, managed by the National Park Service, is one of the last tidal wetlands on a river once lined with marshes. Tidal freshwater marshes are rare, says Dr. Elizabeth Wells, a retired botany professor. This wetland complex is one of the most significant temperate, tidal, freshwater, riverine marshes in the national park system. Thus, it is a national treasure as well.

Congress added Dyke Marsh to the national park system in 1959 "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount." Today, it has 300 known species of plants, 6,000 arthropods, 38 fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians and more than 230 birds. Like all wetlands, Dyke Marsh provides ecological services: flood control, water quality enhancement, habitat, fish nursery, shoreline stabilization and recreational opportunities.

It's been excavated, dumped in and invaded by non-native plants. Because dredging hauled away more than half the wetland from 1940 to 1972, the whole system is destabilized and Dyke Marsh will be completely gone by 2035 without action, concluded the U.S. Geological Survey. After many years of deliberation and fits and starts, NPS has finally started restoration.

SEE DYKE MARSH

## My View | Hal Hardaway

# Let's better celebrate our waterfront

Alexandria needs to do a better job of celebrating our waterfront. Many residents may not be aware of the many facets of our storied history. Here are a few highlights:

Alexandria's waterfront history spans more than 400 years, and that's just non-Native American – Alexandria Archaeology has dug up a 13,000 year old Clovis point. For starters, John Smith cruised by circa 1608, surveying the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Also in the 1600s, John West built a tobacco wharf at the foot of Oronoco Street for exporting tobacco to England. Trade there led to a tobacco inspection station circa 1730. Note that Alexandria's seal shows tobacco scales superimposed on a sailing ship. Such activity led to the Virginia House of Burgesses chartering the town of Alexandria in 1749, and George Washington surveying the original lots and naming the streets.

Hometown boy George Washington helped precipitate the French and Indian War when he tangled with the French in 1754 in the Ohio River Valley. As a result, in 1755, British General Braddock arrived at Oronoco Street with 23 ships and troops, to fight the French and Indian War, which triggered the Seven Years War in Europe, India and the West Indies. This in reality was the first world war, and it was rooted in Alexandria.

A suspected warehouse of Robert Hooe, the first mayor of Alexandria, was recently unearthed on the 300 block of

South Union. Hooe's privateers ran the Royal Navy blockade to run arms from the Caribbean to the colonies during the American Revolution.

It's fitting that General George Washington's aide and early Alexandria mayor, John Fitzgerald, built a warehouse that is still extant at the waterfront's epicenter – it's now the Starbucks at the foot of King Street. In 1790, the first marker for the District of Columbia, of which we were part until retrocession in 1847, was laid in Alexandria.

Moving to the 1800s, seven Royal Navy ships seized Alexandria in 1814, while the White House was burning. The mayor rowed out with a white flag and wisely surrendered, as Alexandria's fighting-age men were away defending Washington. Otherwise the Brits would likely have leveled Alexandria. These same ships sailed onward to Baltimore and attacked Fort McHenry, inspiring Frances Scott Key to write our national anthem.

In May 1861, Union troops landed on Alexandria's waterfront and marched to the Marshall House Hotel – now The Alexandrian – resulting in the first officer fatality of the war.

Battery Rodgers, a Union coastal artillery unit, was built in the vicinity of Franklin Street. It was constructed to prevent Confederate Navy ironclads from sailing up the Potomac and attacking Washington. The United States Military Railroad barge/

SEE MY VIEW

| 28



HAL HARDAWAY



## The Business Plan

with Bill Reagan

# Timely connections make a difference

Who you know is often more important than what you know.

Making good connections is crucial through all stages of business, but it's especially critical during the startup phase when prospective entrepreneurs struggle with many unknowns. They might not know how to calculate the cost of going into business, or how to effectively apply for a loan. They likely aren't familiar with real estate, how to find a business location, negotiate a favorable lease or gauge the qualities of potential landlords.

Too often, fledgling entrepreneurs don't adequately research regulatory requirements to understand zoning issues, permits required, how much time and money it will take to meet conditions for a certificate of occupancy and whether they will have to obtain special licenses or authorizations.

Existing businesses too can benefit from timely connections. It might be for fundamentals such as finding reputable professionals – attorneys, accountants or bookkeepers. Maybe they're looking for collaborative marketing opportunities or smart practices to improve operations. Perhaps they need strategic guidance to move into new markets such as government contracting or international trade. It could be for HR guidance for expansion hiring or to solve a thorny personnel issue.

Alexandria's unique business support network can step up to be helpful when owners encounter these or other similar questions. Economic development and business support organizations in Alexandria are particularly attuned to small business challenges because small businesses are such a vital part of our economy and character. Quickly responding to businesses when they need answers creates an environment where they make their necessary contacts and still keep their focus on core activities.

Alexandria's economic development,

business and city government organizations are more closely coordinated and integrated than in most localities. That coordination is not perfect, and Alexandria businesses still encounter frustrations, but our business support network meets at least monthly to identify problems and work toward improvements. Those engaged include the Economic Development Partnership, Visit Alexandria, the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, the Chamber of Commerce, city government staff and neighborhood business associations.

The ASBDC operates at the core of that small business support network. Through its staff and website – and the relationship with our economic development partners – we can help entrepreneurs find resources at each step of their life cycle. We see this as one of our most important functions for business productivity.

The Kauffman Foundation highlights the importance of communities fostering entrepreneurial connectivity to enhance economic vitality and create an environment in which entrepreneurship tends to thrive. Stakeholders include entrepreneurs, government, banks, investors, nonprofits, academia, veterans and the support organizations critical to business daily needs.

The ideal entrepreneurial ecosystem also encourages connectivity among businesses, whether it's clusters of interdependent businesses or affiliations of entrepreneurs who like to know and network with one another. Continuing to focus on how to best foster entrepreneurial connectivity is important as we look to the future of our city. As a community, we create the connections that make Alexandria great for businesses and citizens alike.

*The writer is the executive director of Alexandria's Small Business Development Center.*



BILL REAGAN

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.

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## OUT OF THE ATTIC

# October is archaeology month

Each October, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources sponsors archaeology month to raise awareness about the Commonwealth's rich archaeological sites and collections. During the month, Virginia celebrates local archaeology with public events at libraries, museums, historical societies, clubs and active archaeological sites. These events serve to enhance public appreciation for Virginia's diverse heritage on both land and water.

This year's statewide theme highlights "Shipwrecks and Archaeology in Virginia's Waterways" – fitting given the recent archaeological discoveries on Alexandria's historic waterfront. While not technically shipwrecks, in the past three years archaeologists on contract with developers have uncovered the remains of four ship hulls used as part of the land-making process



PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES  
 This year's archaeology month poster prominently features this photo from Alexandria. An archaeologist carefully maps the timbers of the second ship discovered at the Robinson Landing development site.

along the Potomac River during the late 18th- and 19th-century.

Think of the four ships like a foundation on which the city is built. Additionally, the remains of wharves, warehouses, dwellings, industries, privies and thousands of artifacts have emerged from the

waterlogged depths at the river's edge.

The City of Alexandria is built upon its past. The ground beneath modern Alexandria is a record of this past and contains an array of archaeological sites, features and artifacts. Recognizing the importance and

uniqueness of these historic resources, the City of Alexandria passed an Archaeological Protection Code nearly 30 years ago. This has enabled the recovery of information about Alexandria's history and the preservation of sites that otherwise would have been lost, that span thousands of years of human occupation.

Alexandria Archaeology now manages more than 2,000,000 artifacts collected from more than 200 archaeological sites scattered across the city. Celebrate archaeology month with a stop by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory, to learn more about the city's maritime heritage and archaeology events taking place this month.

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.*

#### MY VIEW

FROM | 27

railcar transloading facility in the vicinity of Windmill Hill Park supplied the Army of the Potomac downriver. This incorporated a first for non "break of bulk" transmodal shipping, i.e., containerized shipping was invented on our waterfront.

WWI generated the U.S. Navy's Torpedo Factory on

our waterfront, which produced torpedoes until 1945. The the Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation was built during WWI at Jones Point; nine ships were built there.

That's just our waterfront's nation-building and military history. There is also significant commercial and shipbuilding history, such as the Alexandria Canal, factories along the waterfront, etc.

There were even two airplane factories, and earlier what some say was the largest flour mill in the United States. The port of Alexandria is one of the reasons the site for D.C. was chosen.

All of this and more is comprehensively and eloquently described in History Appendix 6 of Alexandria's Waterfront Plan. So where is the celebration of our mari-

time heritage? Granted, the Waterfront Plan spans 20 to 30 years, but Alexandria has been around officially for 269 years. Yet, the only historical interpretation on our waterfront seems to be that of the National Park Service.

We can do better than that, much better.

*The writer is a retired U.S. Navy Captain.*

## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

**What piece of the Alexandria City Public Schools accreditation news do you think is most significant?**

- 35%** - Jefferson-Houston's accreditation conditions
- 28%** - William Ramsay and Francis C. Hammond's full accreditation
- 28%** - The Virginia Department of Education's new accreditation system
- 8%** - Other

### This Week

**Should city council pass a text amendment that allows lights of up to 80 feet in city parks?**

- A) Yes**
- B) No**
- C) I don't know**

*Take the poll at alextimes.com*

## DOMINION

FROM | 5

While the majority of council members responded positively to the plan not moving forward due to the disruption it was anticipated to cause, some worried about how to explain the abrupt change to residents or if Dominion Power would reverse its decision again.

"I have to go back to residents, especially in Potomac Yard, as we've prepared them for all this digging, everything that's going to happen, to now say that's not going to happen, yes, people may be happy with that, but people are also going to be annoyed with me, because I've given them the message that the sky is falling and now it's not falling and they've gone out and prepared themselves for that," Councilor John Chapman said.

DePippo said power flow changed significantly as two generating units at Possum Point Power Station to the south in Dumfries were slated to go offline. The decision to decommission the units changed PJM's annual power flow model between 2017 and 2018 and this year's model showed no overloads in Alexandria and, therefore, no need to replace the line now or in the near future.

"The impact of that on the lines, in terms of the amount of load they can handle, has changed dramatically. So they now have a lot of headroom. ... In 2017, it had no headroom, it was over 100 percent," DePippo said.

DePippo said that in 2017 it was impossible to know

about Possum Point's potential closure. He said the transmission side of Dominion Energy didn't find out about Possum Point's closure until the rest of the public did due to state laws that prohibit communication between the distribution, transmission and generation sides of the utility business.

"The generation side cannot talk to the transmission side – we're functionally separate, on our computers, emails, in our meetings. We're not allowed to meet and talk about certain things," DePippo said.

Mayor Allison Silberberg and Councilor Del Pepper expressed concerns that Dominion Energy decision makers might change their minds once again.

"While I'm relieved [since] this has caused such a stir throughout the community – it was very upsetting to a number of people – and we will have to figure out this \$14.6 million shortfall, but in terms of relief, it still does beg the question, [Dominion's] basic argument was 'We must have more power. We must have more energy,'" Silberberg said.

DePippo said, while there has been growth in the area and an uptick in the amount of energy used, Possum Point's projected decommissioning is now expected to fix the overloading problem.

"We kept saying you needed more power to be reliable and certainly the load forecast shows you have growth, but the real point is it was because we had lines that were overloaded. ... It's

not that you needed more – you needed more ways to get it there. Your freeways were blocked," DePippo said. "... With this change, and having Possum Point resources moved away, it relieved the congestion for this area."

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson also expressed concern that the issue might crop up again. He asked, if Dominion proceeds with the rebuild option rather than the reconstruction option, would there be outstanding concerns that would need addressing in the future.

DePippo said there would be outstanding issues, but they would be neither in the purview of the City of Alexandria or Dominion Energy.

City Manager Mark Jinks said he plans to develop a recommendation on how to bridge the funding gap for the Potomac Yard Metro by the end of the year. The station's redesign is also slated to come in front of the planning commission and city council by the end of the year.

Yochum said Potomac Yard Civic Association members have a meeting with city staff at the end of the week to discuss other options to eliminate the special tax district. She said the group is working to see the removal of the district through.

"We will try our best to eliminate it. It's one of the reasons Potomac Yard Civic Association have mobilized because, as a city, it should be fair and the fact that there is a tax on a community, it's not fair," Yochum said.

- *aeptropoulos@alextimes.com*

## DYKE MARSH

FROM | 26

Dyke Marsh is "the nearest thing to primeval wilderness in the immediate vicinity of the city," wrote naturalist Louis Halle in 1947. Northern Virginians can enjoy a little slice of wil-

derness daily for free. Fall is an opportune time to observe many birds migrating through or arriving for the winter.

Because the federal government had the foresight to save it and locals tenaciously advocated for its

survival, Dyke Marsh, while injured, has not fallen prey to the bulldozer and asphalt spreader. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) and [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp) to learn more.

- *Glenda Booth, president, Friends of Dyke Marsh*

## TREES

FROM | 23

natural extension experts for their recommendations.

If you're planting a tree, consider planting on the south or west side of your house, where a deciduous tree will keep your home cooler in summer and allow the sun's warming rays through in the winter, to save on utility bills. Three trees placed strategically around a house can save up to 30 percent on energy bills, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Small trees that shade air-conditioning systems help the units cool more efficiently.

Fall is an excellent time to plant deciduous trees, which take advantage of the cooling season, even after their leaves have dropped, to establish healthy root systems. Trees planted in fall will get off to a good start in spring because their roots will already have reached down to moisture deep in the soil. Larger specimens may not show much top growth their first year or

two, but they are adapting to their new circumstances. Water the trees well after planting, once a week if necessary or until the soil freezes, if you're in a cold climate, while trees are becoming established.

Even small trees make a significant contribution to any landscape, with spring blooms, pretty summer canopies of leaves, rich fall color and lovely, sculptural shapes in the winter. Berries and nuts feed birds and squirrels through the winter. Trees also have economically tangible yields: Online tree-benefit calculators let you type in the kind of tree you have, its size and your location, to determine the monetary value of trees and remind you that curb appeal – and property values – go up when pretty trees are part of the picture.

Plant now, and when spring comes, you can give yourself plenty of credit for a wise investment, the returns on which are actually far greater than the cash calculators can project.

## Obituary

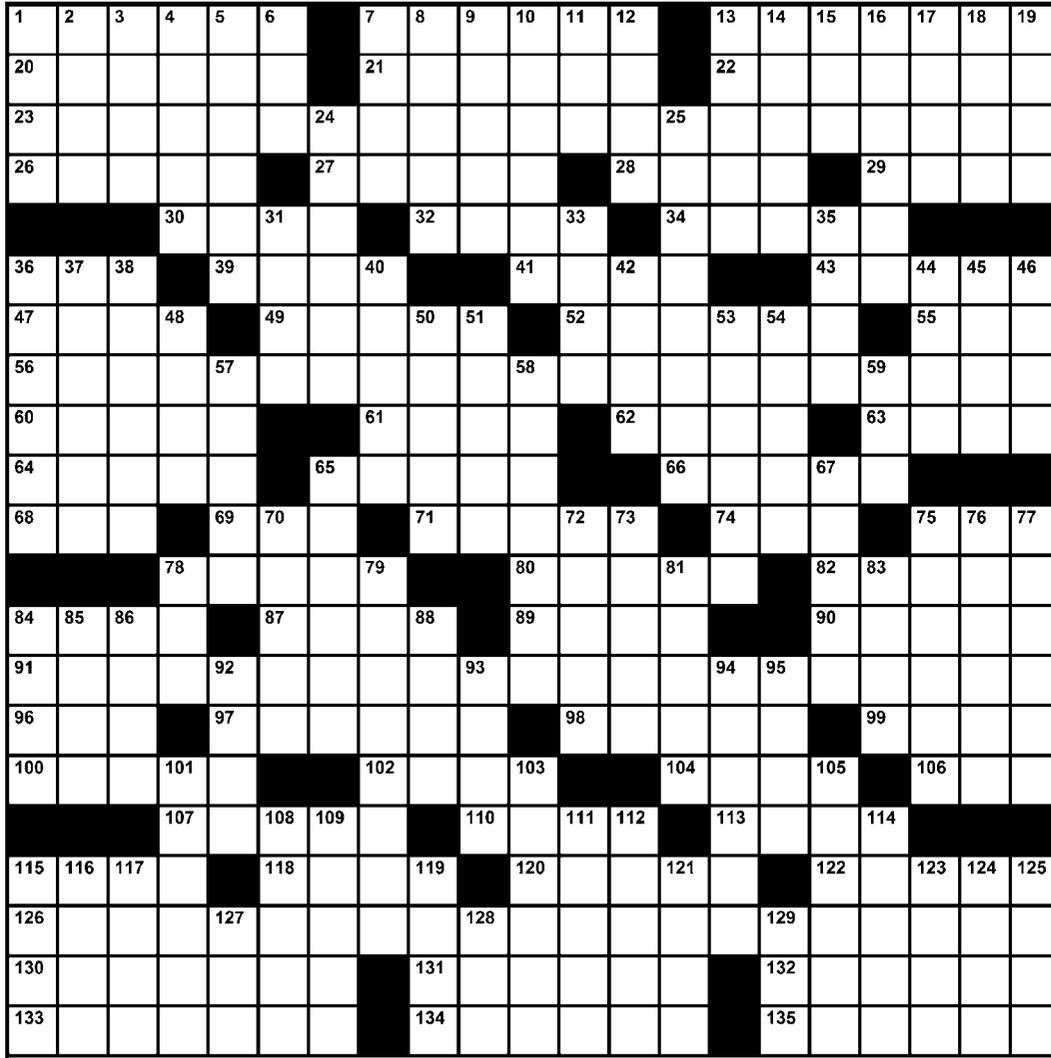
### Paul E. Gatza

Paul E. Gatza of Alexandria passed away Sept. 9, 2018 while traveling in Romania. Loving husband to the late Anne (Mellor) Gatza and uncle to beloved nieces and nephews. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends, traveling the world, playing the concertina and building miniature models. Paul was a material engineer for the U.S. Army's research laboratory at Ft. Belvoir, retiring in 1997. He worked with the American Society for Testing and Materials, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 1999. His positive spirit



and caring, compassionate nature will be missed by all who knew him. A service celebrating his life is planned for later this year in Alexandria. Memorial contributions can be made to one of his favorite charities, ALIVE Inc.

# Weekly Words



## I CAUGHT 15 FISH By Timothy E. Parker

**ACROSS**

- 1. Be able to buy
- 7. Bested
- 13. Provider of finger foods
- 20. Ritzy evening affair
- 21. Melodic, in music
- 22. Go beyond worrying
- 23. Four fish
- 26. Singer Cara
- 27. Electric company measurement
- 28. Seating level with bleachers
- 29. "Unfortunately for me"
- 30. Long-nosed fishes
- 32. Run, as a committee
- 34. Chesapeake Bay yield
- 36. NBA rival, once
- 39. Unsympathetic sounds
- 41. Puerto \_\_\_\_
- 43. Likely to creep you out
- 47. Salsa quality
- 49. Radar screen travelers
- 52. Yearly ceremony, e.g.
- 55. Altar declaration
- 56. Three fish
- 60. Type of whiskey or coffee
- 61. Collette or Duggan
- 62. Word with "EXIT"
- 63. Wrigglers near reefs
- 64. Slowly, musically
- 65. Savory meat jelly

- 66. Make text corrections
- 68. Termite's kin
- 69. Badge of Courage color?
- 71. Synagogue (var.)
- 74. Successfully noshed
- 75. Dashboard meas.
- 78. Undo a new marriage
- 80. Bury ashes in a vase
- 82. Question of location
- 84. Worthless email
- 87. Seductive skirt feature
- 89. Shelled snack
- 90. Soother or facilitator
- 91. Three fish
- 96. Canton in security?
- 97. Recap of one's work history
- 98. Sri Lankan and Indian language
- 99. Two Declaration of Independence signers
- 100. Prefix meaning 2-Down
- 102. Horse controller
- 104. U-turn from neatnik
- 106. EPA-banned insecticide
- 107. Taking visual notice
- 110. Miss Piggies?
- 113. Look at with beady eyes
- 115. Unobtrusive attention-getter
- 118. Ms. Lane of comics
- 120. San \_\_\_\_, Calif.
- 122. Place to wheel a cart

- 126. Five fish
- 130. Make more balanced
- 131. Winter cap feature
- 132. Hold in high \_\_\_\_
- 133. Flushed in the face
- 134. Wily and tiptoeing
- 135. In for the moment

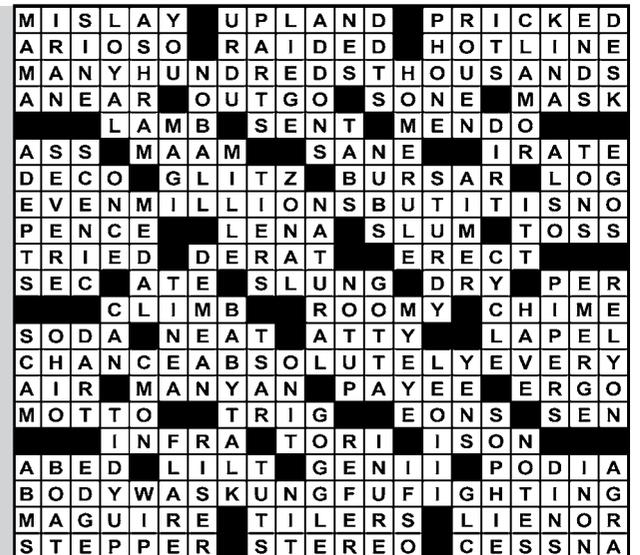
**DOWN**

- 1. Spot of wine?
- 2. Gettysburg Address starter
- 3. "I can't complain"
- 4. Type of great ape
- 5. Microwave job
- 6. Gordon of the major leagues
- 7. Regatta tools
- 8. Dickens character Heep
- 9. Wee bit of color
- 10. Impromptu bookmark
- 11. Suffix with organ
- 12. Terse command
- 13. Chair weaver
- 14. Old Greek meeting place
- 15. Help off the road?
- 16. Protect, as in glass
- 17. Iranian spendable
- 18. Pound or Cornell
- 19. Agents
- 24. Steal cattle off a ranch
- 25. Cigarette ingredient

# DEATH NOTICES

- BRIAN CALLAHAN** (67), of Alexandria, Sept. 16, 2018
- MICHAEL J. COUGHLAN**, of Alexandria, Sept. 24, 2018
- PAUL E. GATZA**, of Alexandria, Sept. 9, 2018
- DALE A. HUEBNER** (81), of Alexandria, Sept. 15, 2018
- SANDRA L. JOHNSON**, of Alexandria, Sept. 16, 2018
- WALLY E. KREIN**, of Alexandria, Sept. 27, 2018
- DENNIS J. PARKS** (59), of Alexandria, Sept. 26, 2018
- ROBERT "BOB" SHEA** (72), formerly of Alexandria, Sept. 27, 2018
- HERBERT L. TYSON** (66), of Alexandria, Sept. 15, 2018

**Last Week's Solution:**



- 31. Red gem
- 33. Soil
- 35. Caped Lugosi of horror
- 36. Historic Hun
- 37. Devoid of vegetation
- 38. Apply blessed oil to
- 40. They make muddy beds
- 42. "Bye" somewhere
- 44. Winter coat
- 45. Kelly Clarkson was the first
- 46. Many, many years on end
- 48. Sudden powerful wind
- 50. Heavy-hitting-soft sounds
- 51. Type of boom
- 53. Funny lady Tracey
- 54. Heretofore
- 57. Rose protector
- 58. It's in Kansas
- 59. Wasn't behind a leader?
- 65. They're all grown up
- 67. Part of a staircase
- 70. Come after
- 72. Not fitting a purpose
- 73. Saint \_\_\_\_ of the Caribbean
- 75. Chore to restart a lawn
- 76. Emulated a hungry cougar
- 77. Least possible
- 78. "Who \_\_\_\_ to judge?"
- 79. Relating to public worship
- 81. Travels all over the place
- 83. Room 204 and 205 separator?
- 84. Sealed tightly
- 85. Cut back, as staff
- 86. Landed on the ground
- 88. Sprinter's stat
- 92. Jenny's sound
- 93. Hawaiian tourist gifts
- 94. "Weeping" tree
- 95. Natural healing plant
- 101. Fix anew
- 103. "\_\_\_\_ Mr. Nice Guy!"
- 105. Bringer, as of good tidings
- 108. Intestinal obstruction
- 109. Way up in an atlas?
- 111. Said twice, a western U.S. city
- 112. Hearty meat entree
- 114. Mountain feature
- 115. Mimicking one
- 116. Place drones move about
- 117. \_\_\_\_ out a victory
- 119. All females
- 121. View through binoculars
- 123. Work a checkout
- 124. God Almighty's position
- 125. Whirling water
- 127. Hawaiian food staple
- 128. \_\_\_\_ Pedro
- 129. Food scrap

# Classifieds

## LEGAL NOTICES



The Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the request to name the College and Career Center at T.C. Williams High School as the Jack Taylor College and Career Center. The hearing will be held during the October 11, 2018 School Board Meeting at 7 p.m., in the School Board Meeting Room at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria. For more information or to register to speak at the public hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316 or boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us.



### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 190905

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids from qualified bidders for the provision of roof replacement at Mount Vernon Community School located at 2601 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. The work includes all labor, materials, and equipment for the roof replacement.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held on October 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at ACPS Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314. The pre-bid conference will take place in the 6th floor conference room 610-2, with a site visit following.

All questions must be submitted via email with the notation, "ITB NO. 190905 MV Roof GC", on or before 3:00 p.m. on October 10, 2018. If necessary,

an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS Vendor Self Service site.

Using the Internet Explorer browser, electronic bids will be submitted in ACPS' Vendor Self-Service (VSS) on or before 3:00 p.m. on October 15, 2018. The time of receipt shall be determined by the system time stamp in the Vendor Self-Service. Any bids received after that date and time shall not be considered. MAILED OR HAND-DELIVERED PAPER BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

**Offerors submitting electronic bids in Vendor Self-Service should also send (1) original response on a USB flash-drive, labeled as "ITB 190905, MV Roof GC" on or before 3:00 p.m. on October 15, 2018 to Financial Services Department/Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia.**

**ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. Registration on the Vendor Self Service system at <https://acps.munisselfservice.com/> is required.**

Meloni Hurley Acting Director of Procurement



### ALEXANDRIA PLANNING DEPARTMENT NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following request has been received for administrative review and approval. For information about this application or to comment, visit the City's website at [www.alexandriava.gov/planning](http://www.alexandriava.gov/planning) or

call (703) 746-4666.

**Special Use Permit #2018-0099**  
1320 Prince Street – Proposed Business: Restaurant  
Request for a new administrative Special Use Permit for a restaurant; zoned CL/ Commercial Low Zone  
APPLICANT: Whitney & Jason Langone  
PLANNER: Ann Horowitz-[ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov](mailto:ann.horowitz@alexandriava.gov)

In accordance with section 11-500 of the zoning ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning and Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning and Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than October 25, 2018



### Alexandria Board of Architectural Review Old & Historic Alexandria District LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, October 17, 2018 beginning at 7:30 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

**BAR #2018-00352**  
Request for new construction at 1101 North Washington Street  
Applicant: Toll Mid-Atlantic LP Company, INC

**BAR #2018-00420**  
Request for alterations at 325 Queen Street  
Applicant: Michael C. Maibach

**BAR #2018-00422**  
Request for alterations at 414

Duke Street (Parcel Address 412 Duke Street)  
Applicants: Tom Dabney & Laura Machanic

**BAR #2018-00425**  
Request for alterations at 731 Bernard Street  
Applicants: Daniel & Robin Troutman

An informational presentation by staff on the status of the Potomac Yard Metro station.

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, or at [www.alexandriava.gov/dockets](http://www.alexandriava.gov/dockets).

## MISCELLANEOUS

**SAWMILLS** from only \$4397.00 MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: [www.NorwoodSawmills.com](http://www.NorwoodSawmills.com) 800 567-0404 Ext.300N

## SERVICES

**DIVORCE**—Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one

days. Telephone inquiries welcome-no obligation. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook) 757-490-0126. Se Habla Español. BBB Member.

## WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE

**FREON R12 WANTED:**  
CERTIFIED BUYER will PAY CASH for R12 cylinders or cases of cans. (312) 291-9169; [www.refrigerantfinders.com](http://www.refrigerantfinders.com)

## LAND FOR SALE

**APPROX.15 ACRES** on the Maury river. Country location within Lexington,VA. city limits. Not available in separate parcels. \$1mm. [zeus@zeusrainmaker.com](mailto:zeus@zeusrainmaker.com)

## FOR SALE

**BANNISTERS FOR SALE,** \$300.00. Brenda R. Adams 703-622-3017



## POWER DESIGN NOW HIRING ELECTRICAL APPRENTICES OF ALL SKILL LEVELS!

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Do you love working with your hands? Are you interested in construction and in becoming an electrician? Then the electrical apprentice position could be perfect for you! Electrical apprentices are able to earn a paycheck and full benefits while learning the trade through firsthand experience.

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### a little bit about us...

Power Design is one of the top electrical contractors in the U.S., committed to our values, to training and to giving back to the communities in which we live and work.

### more details...

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# Opening doors, one closing at a time.

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**OPEN SUNDAY 10/7, 2-4 PM**

## 103 Franklin Street | \$1,119,000

Stunning renovation of this brick townhouse with garage and driveway parking! Features include stylish kitchen with separate wet/coffee bar, open concept main level with generous natural light, large bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, two wood-burning fireplaces, expertly finished garage space for parking/storage. Unbeatable location near parks, river, trails and shopping/dining on King Street.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

## 514 Tobacco Quay | \$672,500

This beautifully renovated 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse is located in a quaint, private community just a block and a half from the Potomac river and four blocks to shopping and dining on King Street. Lovely back patio, open floor plan, wood-burning fireplace, natural light, hardwood flooring throughout and assigned parking! Large attic with ample storage and potential for future expansion.

## Lauren Bishop

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