BID proposal is back to the drawing board

BY ALEXA EPITROPOULOS

After months of heated debate, plans for a business improvement district in Old Town are being put on hold for the summer, though a proposal put forward by four council members and approved at the meeting sets the stage for a new BID plan to form during the months council is on recess.

A vote on a BID, originally slated for the June 24 public hearing and pushed to a discussion at Tuesday’s legislative meeting, couldn’t proceed due to the city’s failure to advertise it three times beforehand, City Manager Mark Jinks announced before the discussion began.

City council members, however, took the opportunity to discuss how they’d like to see a new proposal formed by the city manager over the summer. An agreement signed by Vice Mayor Justin Wilson and Councilmen Paul Smedberg, John Chapman and Willie Bailey, and agreed to by the other two council members, outlined how a new and improved BID proposal should look. Smedberg said the proposal formed after the public hearing on June 24 and in response to the numerous emails that SEE BID

ACE IN THE HOLE

Alexandrian Hughes Page charts a journey from Little League stardom to U-Va. and Aces

BY EVAN BERKOWITZ

With one out left in the 2008 District 4 Little League championship game, Hughes Page, playing catcher, watched as a breaking ball whizzed by him toward the backstop.

“I thought it was a live ball and I turned around to get it,” Hughes said, warming up in his Alexandria Aces uniform nearly a decade later. The underdog 9/10 Alexandria All-Stars were only up by two, with the potential winning run for regional powerhouse Vienna at the plate.

As Page scrambled for the would-be wild pitch, the umpire called strike three. The Vienna batter had swung and missed, and Alexandria was headed for states. Page said the proposal formed after the public hearing on June 24 and in response to the numerous emails that

They went on to make the semifinals

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John Adams pre-K names first principal

The pre-K center slated to open at John Adams Elementary School in fall 2018 has found its principal, Alexandria City Public Schools announced in a news release.

Outgoing Superintendent Alvin Crawley named Rachael R.B. Dischner head of the new 360-student pre-K center, according to the release.

“We are very excited to have Ms. Dischner on board to work with us to plan the new pre-K center,” Crawley said in the release. “We firmly believe that children do better in the long term when they have been set up for success at school through pre-K.”

An assistant principal at Arlington’s Randolph Elementary School since 2013, Dischner previously served for two years as a pre-K special education coordinator in Arlington.

Dischner holds a master’s degree from George Mason University and a special education certificate from California Lutheran University, among other qualifications.

When Dischner starts July 17, she’ll be the first dedicated principal for the city’s number of early childhood programs.

“I believe that every child is capable of learning and achieving when given the proper tools to meet individual needs and utilize strengths,” Dischner said in the release. “I look forward to leading the new pre-K center.”

-Alexa Epitropoulos

Carluccio’s unceremoniously closes its Old Town location

Carluccio’s has closed its Old Town restaurant at 100 King St. that opened with much fanfare just over two years ago.

The Italian market concept restaurant, which is based in the U.K. and has a number of locations there and in Ireland, opened its first U.S. eatery in Old Town and, shortly after in early 2016, opened a second U.S. location in Bethesda. On June 20, hours after it was scheduled to open at 7 a.m., the restaurant remained closed, with a sign attached the door reading, “We will be closed today. Sorry for the inconvenience!”

The Bethesda location of Carluccio’s has closed as well. Calls to the Old Town and Bethesda stores were not answered. In addition, the Carluccio’s U.S. website is down.

The departure of Carluccio’s from 100 King St. leaves a sizable vacancy along Old Town’s prime commercial corridor. The 150-seat restaurant was occupying a 6,500-square-foot space.

The building has long been known for its “curse,” due to numerous businesses shuttering in its century and a half of existence. It’s housed a number of restaurants since the 1970s, including an Italian restaurant, a German restaurant, a southwest-themed restaurant called Alamo, American restaurant 100 King and Thai restaurant Red Curry. The latter two restaurants were both short-lived.

-Alexa Epitropoulos

T.C. teacher gets $4K science grant

A T.C. Williams High School science teacher will receive a $4,000 research grant for robotics equipment, computers and laboratory equipment from a D.C.-based nonprofit, according to a recent news release.

The Society for Science & the Public, which supports scientific literacy, STEM education and research, named Shawn Lowe of T.C. Williams one of the recipients of the more than $100,000 in grants it doled out nationwide, the release read.

Lowe tweeted her excitement with a link to information on the organization, which also publishes magazine Science News.

“I’m thrilled that the Society … is able to provide exemplary teachers with the tools they need to engage their students in scientific research,” the society’s president and CEO, Maya Ajmera, said in the release.

-Avery Berkowitz
**CRIME**

**Accident on I-495 results in death, injury**

An accident early Monday morning on the inner loop of I-495 near an Alexandria exit resulted in one fatality and an injury.

The accident, which took place near Exit 173 to Van Dorn Street in Alexandria, occurred early in the morning, and Virginia State Police responded at 4:56 a.m., according to a police statement.

The incident occurred when a Chevrolet pickup truck attempted to avoid a stopped Nissan Maxima in the road, but was unable to.

After the collision, the female driver of the Maxima exited her vehicle and walked into another travel lane. At that point, she was struck by a Chevrolet Malibu.

The driver of the Maxima died on the scene. Police reported that another person was transported to Fairfax Inova Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The identity of the victim hasn’t been released to the public.

- aepitropoulos@alextimes.com

**Suspects apprehended in robbery**

Suspects have been apprehended in a robbery that occurred near Potomac Yard.

The Alexandria Police Department reported a robbery at the 3400 block of Jefferson Davis Highway on June 22. Three women assaulted and robbed a victim that they knew. The victim received minor injuries.

The suspects were apprehended. The names of the suspects and victim have not been released to the public.

- aepitropoulos@alextimes.com

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**THE WEEKLY BRIEFING**

**OCA to review use of deadly force at Simpson Field**

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney announced Wednesday that it would review the actions of officers during the Simpson Field shooting on June 14.

The review is procedural, with the OCA tasked with reviewing any officer-involved shooting that takes place in Alexandria. OCA will review whether the force used by officers on that day was "justified and reasonable" according to Virginia law.

The shooting took place when James T. Hodgkinson opened fire on Republican members of Congress, as well as aides and lobbyists, who were gathered for a practice ahead of the Congressional Baseball Game on June 15. U.S. Capitol Police and the Alexandria Police Department both responded to the shooting. Five were injured in the incident, including two Capitol police officers. Hodgkinson sustained fatal injuries and died upon arriving to the hospital.

Alexandria Police Department officers Kevin Jobe, Alexander Jensen and Nicole Battaglia were among the first responders to the shooting.

The review will take approximately 90 days and the OCA plans to release the results of its review after that period of time.

- aepitropoulos@alextimes.com

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**CRIME**

**Felonious assault in west Alexandria**

Alexandria police are still investigating a felonious assault that took place in west Alexandria over the weekend.

Police reported that at around 1:02 a.m. on Saturday morning, a victim was struck in the face with an item near the Unit Block of South Whiting Street. The injuries were non-life threatening.

- aepitropoulos@alextimes.com

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City council approves updated Old Town North plan

BY EVAN BERKOWITZ

The Alexandria City Council voted unanimously June 24 to approve an updated small area plan for Old Town North, with one change to keep a major thoroughfare one-way for the time being.

Residents and business owners expressed widespread support for the plan, though whether Montgomery Street should remain one-way or be opened to both directions of traffic remained a sticking point.

Attorney Cathy Puskar, representing three area developers, argued a two-way street would calm traffic and encourage pedestrian activity, which she said would enhance retail.

Residents and business owners expressed widespread support for the plan, though whether Montgomery Street should remain one-way or be opened to both directions of traffic remained a sticking point.

Resident Teresa Ann Yonkers, however, said a two-way Montgomery Street would have the opposite effect.

“It is bad enough on Montgomery Street, and now a contemplation of making Montgomery Street two ways, which will increase traffic density and congestion, is going to be unbelievable,” she said. “We all pay taxes. Therefore, we are all entitled to peace and tranquility.”

Homeowners’ associations from the Rivergate and Alexandria House communities expressed support for the plan writ large, but objected to the Montgomery Street plan.

Resident Christa Watters noted that not all residents opposed two-way traffic and hoped the council would take time to study the issue as they implemented the plan.

Councilman John Chapman said he supported the current street system, where

BID FROM 1 were sent, mostly by BID opponents.

“It was done in the spirit of taking advantage of the work and conversation that has taken place,” Smedberg said at the legislative meeting. “After the debate on Saturday, the emails we received, what I particularly found interesting were the comments coming in from opponents.”

Smedberg described suggestions coming in from opponents of the BID proposal to be constructive and said that same spirit hadn’t come from proponents of the BID. He said that the BID proposal can’t be “all or nothing,” and that the improved proposal would provide a way forward that works for businesses, residents and city stakeholders.

The plan, approved 7-0, directs the city manager to prepare a proposal with three specific criteria: the BID’s boundaries, a specific list of services a BID would provide and a framework budget for a BID. All three of those criteria were absent from the proposal put forward by the BID exploratory committee, though the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership described the initial proposal as a “straw man” and planned to leave those decisions to a board that would have been formed after a BID was approved by council.

Once the revised BID plan is completed, both commercial property owners and business owners within the BID boundaries would be polled by a third party voting administrator, and, if the proposal is approved by more than 55 percent of the vote, the city manager would dock it for a city council vote no later than October 2017.

City council members were in agreement that sending the BID back to the drawing board was the right way forward, though Mayor Allison Silberberg still had concerns over plans for a revised BID plan. She expressed support for a survey that would be sent out to commercial property owners and business owners over the summer.

“Going forward, I think we should have others in the community weigh in and be of help,” Silberberg said.

City council members, however, said that a survey wouldn’t help move a BID proposal forward and that the proposal put forward by four council members would at least create a starting point and a way for those who would be affected by a BID to make their voices heard.

“This either needs to live or die with businesses,” Chapman said. “We’ve heard input from both sides. The idea, to me, of moving back to a survey is taking a couple steps back.”

Bailey agreed with

See BID

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Weichert Old Town
Council approves new hotel

BY ALEXA EPITROPOULOS

The Alexandria City Council voted 6-0 to approve a modified permit allowing a 64-room boutique hotel with a 115-seat restaurant with 20 outdoor seats at 115 S. Union St. at its public hearing on Saturday.

Building owner CMB-GME LLC went before the council asking for the special use permit, which allows for a parking reduction of one space for every two rooms, which would mean a total of 32 hotel spaces — down from the 45 required hotel spaces — and 65 garage spaces for public use.

The vote did not include a speaker.

Mayor Allison Silberberg, who departed the public hearing early for a flight to the U.S. Council of Mayors conference, at which she expressed concern about the parking reduction.

Cathy Puskar, the attorney representing building owner CMB-GME LLC, said her client had sent proper notice and refuted claims about dumpster quantity published in the letter to the editor, which was written by Brandon Hensley.

Puskar said the hotel would contribute to the “thriving mixed-use community in Old Town.”

“What we have here is a great opportunity to convert an obsolete building to a new 64-room hotel that will create jobs and revenue for the city to help our commercial tax base and to help provide many of the things we were discussing earlier in the day in the context of the business improvement district,” Puskar said.

“We need to support businesses, we need to allow them to thrive.”

The as-yet unnamed hotel is one of two new boutique hotels proposed for Old Town. The Hyatt Center King Street, which will be built on the 1600 and 1700 blocks of King Street, would bring 124 new rooms to the west end of Old Town. Plans for that development include 10,000 square feet of office space and 2,500 square feet of retail.

Both of these planned developments come on the heels of the 120-room Hotel Indigo, which opened last month on the 200 block of South Union Street. According to recent statistics from Visit Alexandria, the city’s hotel occupancy rate between July 2016 and April 2017 was 71.1 percent. The organization projected that fiscal year 2017, which ends June 30, would finish at 73 percent occupancy.

Alexandria resident Phil Mattis, who lives across the street from the development on Wales Alley, expressed discontent about the parking reduction. He also said he had not received notice about the project and noted his concern about the quantity of dumpsters the hotel may require, citing a claim made in a letter to the editor published in the Alexandria Times on June 15 titled “Deluge of hotels endangering Old Town’s appeal.”

“It’s only parking on one side. I have very intimate knowledge of daily and morning activities. I have seen 18-wheelers pull pass the Ice House. The dump trucks barely make it through,” Mattis said.

Evan Berkowitz contributed to this report.

- aepritropoulos@alextimes.com
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Del Ray institution to change hands, retain flavor

BY ALEXA EPITROPULOS

Liz Davis can remember the past lives of the building that now houses The Dairy Godmother at 2310 Mt. Vernon Ave.

As a child, she and her sisters would often go into The Scotch House, a retailer that sold women’s clothing. Later, in 2000, she returned to the space, which had been vacant for about nine months, with a business idea.

Davis opened her custard shop, initially called the Del Ray Dreamery, in June 2001. Though her establishment has changed names since opening, Davis has remained committed to the Wisconsin frozen treat and, over time, has added baked goods and sorbets to its list of offerings. It has also hosted famous visitors, from former President Barack Obama to former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.

Through all of that, though, Davis said her favorite part of the experience has been watching Del Ray’s youngest residents from year to year.

“My favorite memories are watching the kids grow up,” Davis said. “I’ve watched them marry each other and have kids.”

After 17 years of ownership, however, Davis felt she had done all she could with the custard shop. That’s when she first advertised in January 2017 that the Dairy Godmother would not resume operations after her annual one-month vacation — or at least she herself would not be reopening it.

She made the announcement on social media — news that was quickly picked up by media outlets — that she would look for a buyer and interested parties should contact her.

Longtime customer and experienced chef Russell Gravatt saw the media reports and reached out to her in February. Then a chef for Design Cuisine in D.C., Gravatt was looking for a new solo venture at the time. His wife and two daughters were immediately on board.

“I sat down and talked with them about it. It was a family vote,” Gravatt said.

Although Davis had about 300 inquiries regarding the business, Gravatt was the applicant who stood out. It also helped that Davis had known him and his family for years before he approached her about buying the business.

“You have to have the heart and the experience. I had a lot of people approach me with a lot of heart, but I wanted someone with both, and he has it,” Davis said.

Gravatt also has Alexandria ties. Though he now lives in Bethesda, he initially moved up from his native Texas in the mid-1980s to start the original Austin Grill on King Street. The Southwestern eatery closed last year and has since been replaced by Hen Quarter, but Gravatt was a frequent visitor to Del Ray during that time.

“You see the same faces almost on a daily basis,” Gravatt said. “It’s so unique. Del Ray feels like a small neighborhood.”

For the past month, Gravatt has been working in the Dairy Godmother every day, beginning in the morning with taking inventory and getting the custard and baked goods started.

He said he enjoys the creativity that the sweets shop affords, particularly when it comes to sorbet flavors. So far, he’s experimented with a number of tastes, from black vinegar to hibiscus mint.

Gravatt and Davis say she will be staying around for the

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next few months to make the transition as seamless as possible.

“She’ll always be a part of it,” Gravatt said. “She is the dairy godmother.”

Gravatt said Dairy Godmother customers should expect very few changes, and that he doesn’t plan to fix what isn’t broken. There will be a few new faces around the store, though. His wife and two daughters will be helping him run the business.

“We’re all in it,” Gravatt said. “My daughters are so excited.”

And for Davis, the sale of her business is just one of several big changes in her life: She’s getting married in the fall and looks forward to creating something new. Davis expressed gratitude that she played a role in the building’s history, but is also happy to be passing it on.

“I’m glad I got to be its caretaker,” Davis said.
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Hughes

Page had shown an interest in baseball early, around age 5, his father, Peter Page said.

“We went out in the back yard and I looked up some ways of teaching little kids how to pitch,” he said. Until Hughes reached college, Peter Page was his son’s bullpen catcher.

“When he was little, I just caught him with a catcher’s glove,” Peter recalled before settling into a familiar refrain.

“Then he started throwing harder and I put on a catcher’s mask.

“Then he started throwing harder and actually broke my toe throwing a fastball,” he said.

“So now I wear full catcher’s gear.”

Hughes

A Lifelong Dream

Page had shown an interest in baseball early, around age 5, his father, Peter Page said.

“There were a few tears rolling down his cheek,” Peter Page said. “Not so much because of the pain, but because of disappointment.”

At this stage, Valerie Page said, baseball started to count, and Hughes was “devastated” to miss the rest of his freshman season.

As summer club play — the go-to place for prospects looking to catch college recruiters’ eyes — revived, so did the still-recovering Hughes.

“He came back a little too fast and was throwing too hard,” Valerie Page said. A stress fracture in his elbow sidelined Hughes for the rest of summer play, another 10 or 11 weeks, Peter Page said.

The experience was a turning point, Hughes’s father said. The injury taught Hughes to understand his body and make recovery a part of his regimen.

He’d faced adversity before, as one of the smallest guys on his teams, but Valerie Page said that always pushed him harder.

“Above his bed since he was little, he had a poster that said, ‘I’m a big game pitcher,’” she said. “It had like 20 things on it saying all these inspirational things about what pitchers think about.”

Hughes has a “fierce deter-
mination,” she said. “To work out harder, do it longer, stay at it until he experiences success.”

“He just willed it to happen,” she said. “He believed that if he worked out hard enough, he could get to play at Virginia.”

A Look of Pure Amazement

Some time around sophomore year, Peter Page recalled, he managed to arrange a tour for Hughes with U-Va. baseball coach Brian O’Connor. In 2015, the Cavaliers won their first College World Series, the culmination of a long, steady march to the upper echelon of NCAA ball.

“We thought it was going to be shake hands and let him wander around for five minutes,” Peter Page said. Instead, O’Connor spent an hour showing Hughes around and giving him advice about baseball and the recruiting process.

“The impact that it had on Hughes was just huge,” he said. Hughes sent U-Va. coaches regular updates on his diamond accomplishments, and, through senior year, watched other recruiting offers go by like balls just outside the strike zone, waiting on the offer from Charlottesville he’d dreamed of.

That summer, U-Va. pitching coach Karl Kuhn went to Atlanta to see Hughes play in a travel team tournament, and Kuhn asked Hughes to call him on the long drive home.

“He said, ‘Hughes, we really like what we see, and we’d love for you to come play at Virginia,’” Peter Page recalled.

“Literally he dropped the phone,” Valerie Page said. “The look on his face is just pure amazement.”

“And of course,” Peter Page added, “that was, I would venture to say, the best day of his life.”

That fall, Hughes said, it all came together.

“When it finally happened, when I stepped on that field, I really got some goosebumps,” he said. “I put the work in, I made it here.”

Hughes redshirted his freshman year, pitching in intra-squad contests. When he learned he’d be coming home to Alexandria for summer play, Hughes’s parents were ecstatic.

“I was born and raised, played baseball here all my life,” he said. “I just have a blessed opportunity to come back here [and] play for the home fans.”

Aces Coach David DeSilva said local players add to the atmosphere. The Aces are ranked No. 8 among collegiate summer teams nationwide, and while DeSilva said he appreciates the recognition, he’s ignoring the hype and stressing the lessons he always does.

“I want to send all of these guys back to their college...”

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Hughes Page reacts with a look of “pure amazement,” per his mother, after learning he would play baseball for Virginia by phone during a long car ride from a travel game in Atlanta.
Tips to ensure summer heat isn’t harmful

BY DR. VIVEK SINHA

Summer is finally here. The smell of barbecues, swimming pools and sunscreen are all around us. Kids are smiling and looking forward to summer vacation, parents are preparing to send their children to summer camp and ice cream seems to be on everyone’s mind. However, in the midst of summer fun one underlying feature is always present — the hot weather. While enjoyable for the most part, hot weather can cause significant medical problems if not handled carefully.

Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are three of the more common emergencies that we see during this season. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heat emergencies are the leading cause of injury and death among high school athletes. Quick recognition of signs and symptoms as well as appropriate first aid are critical in preventing serious injury. In order to recognize and treat appropriately, we must first understand how our body works under normal conditions.

There are four main mechanisms that our body uses to dissipate heat: radiation, convection, conduction and evaporation. While the first three methods are somewhat utilized by the body, evaporation is the body’s main method of reducing core temperature. Evaporation occurs when sweat glands release sweat onto the skin so that moisture can then be vaporized off via the skin and respiratory tract. This process cools down the body’s temperature.

So what happens when it’s hot outside? When the outside temperature is higher than our core body temperature (usually 98.6°F) our body can no longer utilize radiation, convection or conduction and must rely solely on evaporation. However, if the relative humidity outside is greater than 75 percent, then the process of evaporation becomes much less effective. In other words, on a 99°F day with 80 percent humidity, three of our body’s four methods for cooling down are ineffective and our one method that still works is significantly decreased. This is one way heat emergencies can sneak up on us.

It is also important to recognize who is at risk for heat emergencies. One common misconception is that heat emergencies only affect younger children or senior citizens. Generally speaking, the very young or the very old can have decreased regulation of body temperature, and therefore children and senior citizens must take protection against extreme heat. However, it is important to note that anyone can experience a heat emergency.

Several common factors increase the risk of having a heat-related emergency, regardless of age: any strenuous activity being performed in high temperature, anyone with a decreased level of physical fitness, anyone in an obese weight-range or anyone on any kind of drugs, medications or alcohol. Prescription drugs like blood pressure or anti-seizure medications, among others, as well as over the counter medications like antihistamines and decongestants can both speed up dehydration and cause a person to become overheated before they even have a chance to recognize the symptoms.

People with heat exhaustion can present with similar symptoms as above, but their symptoms are usually more severe. In addition to heat cramp symptoms, people can have nausea, vomiting, headaches and body aches. Often their blood pressure is low and they usually have not urinated in some time. A more ominous sign is mental status changes. They can be irritable, confused or even pass out.

These people need to seek medical attention. The treatment is to move the person to a cooler, shaded area and lay them on their back, preferably with their feet raised in order to increase blood flow to the heart and brain. They should be given fluids to drink, preferably with electrolytes, such as Gatorade or other sports drinks. They should stretch and massage their muscles and be carefully observed for signs of worsening. If the symptoms do not rapidly improve after the above treatments, the person should seek medical attention.

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EXPIRES 07/3/17

SAVE BIG ON SAXOPHONES, CLARINETS, FLUTES, TRUMPETS, TROMBONES, VIOLINS, KEYBOARDS, GUITARS, DRUMS AND MORE!

$100 OFF
PURCHASE OF $500 OR MORE

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Talented cast makes ‘Maudie’ an uplifting biopic

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Life was cruel to Maud Lewis from the start.

She was born in poverty in the rough and unforgiving Nova Scotia of the 1930s and suffered from the effects of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis throughout her days. Her hands were bent at an odd angle, she was permanently hunched over, and she walked with a pronounced limp.

After Maud’s parents passed away, her greedy, selfish brother sold the family house and pawned Maud off to their mean-spirited spinster aunt, who barely tolerated Maud’s presence in her house.

Even after Maud found work as a live-in housekeeper for a misanthrope fisherman and eventually married him, she often felt unwelcome, unwanted and abused in her own home.

This might sound like the blueprint for a bleak and depressing movie of the year, capable of moving us to tears of appreciation for getting to know the title subject.

Inspired by true-life events and directed with grace and style by Aisling Walsh, “Maudie” features a nomination-worthy performance from the versatile British actress Sally Hawkins (“Blue Jasmine,” “Happy-Go-Lucky”) as Maud, who is shunned by the community (local kids throw rocks at her just for the fun of it) and treated as something of a freak because of her physical condition and her eccentric ways. Yet Maud maintains an indomitable spirit.

If Maud is the beneficiary of simple human kindness, or looks up and marvels at a cloud of simple human kindness, or seeks beauty in the simplest things.

Eventually Maud’s paintings — and her unique story — draw the attention of magazines and television crews, turning her into something of a celebrity. Some of this might seem far-fetched, were it not for the fact it actually happened.

As is the case with virtually every biopic ever made, there are some discrepancies between this fictional work and what is known about the real life and times of Maud Lewis. That’s why they call it poetic license.

Sally Hawkins is an immensely talented actress, but at times I’ve found her work to be a little too self-consciously demonstrative. With “Maudie,” however, even though Hawkins is given the kind of role (a challenged character in a historical biopic) the Academy loves, the kind of role that practically begs for histrionics, Hawkins never overplays it. She’s simply great.

Hawkins disappears into the depths of Everett’s narrow-minded thought process and granite heart, he knows he needs her far more than she needs him.

Maud’s simple but striking images catch the eye of an upscale New York woman named Sandra (Kari Matchett), who summers in Nova Scotia. Sandra offers $5 for one of Maud’s paintings. Everett nearly chokes on his soup.

Eventually Maud’s paintings — her gift for seeing the greatest beauty in the simplest things. — and her unique story — draw the attention of magazines and television crews, turning her into something of a celebrity. Some of this might seem far-fetched, were it not for the fact it actually happened.

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Hawkins disappears into the performance, capturing Maud’s physical limitations but also the light in her eyes, the sly humor in her observations about life and her gift for seeing the greatest beauty in the simplest things.
Green walls, healthy inhabitants

**BY RAY GREENSTREET**


You may have heard of these dynamic interior green walls, or perhaps seen one in your travels. The concept is not new. Even in early civilization, gardens and plantings were used on interior walls, both for aesthetics and as additional garden space for growing crops. Today, the use of plantings on vertical spaces not only provides a striking design feature on a stark, blank wall, but has proven economic value and positive health benefits for the building’s occupants.

In the 1970s, NASA conducted studies in the use of plants to clean air in the International Space Station. The science was based on the premise that as the plant transpires, it would take in carbon dioxide ($\text{CO}_2$) and other airborne, volatile compounds and respire oxygen ($\text{O}_2$) thus "re-mediating" dirty air. The studies gave birth to the "plants for clean air" campaign, promoting the use of indoor plants to help clean air in old, tight buildings with little air flow and air exchange. Today, the term phytoremediation is used to describe the process. The development of phytoremediation systems as a process to reduce volatile organic compounds and $\text{CO}_2$ in the air of enclosed buildings has been an exciting new frontier for architects and horticulturalists.

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**Comfortable and Luxurious Living**

This remarkable home, which has recently undergone a high-end renovation with sophisticated updates, is available in the historic and prestigious Belle Haven community tucked between Old Town Alexandria and George Washington’s historic Mount Vernon.

The luxurious four-bedroom, four full bath home at 2200 Windsor Road features numerous skylights and an array of oversized windows, offering an abundance of natural light and comfortable living. Custom built-ins and premium wall coverings are found throughout this 4,000-plus square-foot abode.

The home’s kitchen is a chef’s dream, complete with a 60-inch Viking range and hood, dual full-size refrigerators, a custom granite sink and a separate butler’s pantry with second dishwasher, locking beverage center and custom cabinetry. Additionally, for entertaining guests, a wet bar can be found right off the Pebble Tec saltwater, heated pool with automatic cover for ease in its utility. The fenced, private outdoor space with prolific landscaping is truly an outdoor oasis in which to relax after a long day.

This charming property located nearby the Mount Vernon Trail, Belle Haven Country Club and Belle Haven Marina is uniquely designed and offers easy living for the family that likes to entertain or just wants to escape the city’s hubbub for a while.

**HOME OF THE WEEK**

**Left:** This full-service kitchen is fit for a chef, with a 60-inch Viking range and hood, dual full-size refrigerators, a custom granite sink, a butler’s pantry, two dishwashers and custom cabinetry.

**Right:** Outside, this home boasts a Pebble Tec saltwater heated pool with automatic cover for ease in its utility. The fenced, private outdoor space with prolific landscaping is truly an outdoor oasis in which to relax after a long day.

**At a Glance**

**Location:** 2200 Windsor Road, 22307  
**Neighborhood:** Belle Haven  
**Price:** $1,850,000  
**Style:** Transitional, top of the hill, flat lot  
**Built:** 1952  
**Exterior:** Stucco  
**Bedrooms:** 4  
**Contact:** Janet Caterson Price, McEneaney Associates, 703-622-5984, janet@janetpricehomes.com
WALLS

FROM | 16

cooled based on the season. Filtering and recirculating already heated or cooled interior air has significant cost savings on building operations.

An Aerogation green wall can easily tie into an existing HVAC system, which gently and silently forces air into the plants’ root zones. Studies have shown that dirty air, or sick building syndrome, is detrimental to the health and mental well-being of the building occupants. Green walls using the Aerogation system result in fewer sick days and an increase in productivity, both from the clean air health benefits and the intrinsic comfort of having plant material in the work space.

An Aerogation green wall will transform the look, feel, and health of an interior space. Although the sheer volume of living plants on a wall is impressive, an Aerogation green wall is made of many modular pots, which are easy to replace or change. The entire structure is completely self-contained, so there is absolutely no mess or chance of water leakage, and it is nearly maintenance-free. There is an incredible amount of flexibility when it comes to both the actual green wall structure, as well as the kinds of plants that are used. In fact, plants can be switched out seasonally without much effort. A green wall can be made as a portable unit, easily wheeled from room to room, which is perfect for meetings and conferences.

Easy to set up and versatile enough to use in any room, Aerogation provides the best of all worlds in a green wall system — an active bio-filter that breaks down air-borne contaminants — not like expensive mechanical HVAC filters, and not like masking products that cover up problems rather than solve them.

Greenstreet GreenWalls Designs and installs state-of-the art air-purifying, living green walls using Aerogation. The latest project was completed at The Towers at 1000 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington. It is the second-largest active green wall in the country and cleans 1,278,240 cubic feet of air per day. For more information, visit www.greenstreetgreenwalls.com.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL!

Start your weekend off right.

Friday Happy Hours ‘til 9pm

Welcome to

Chadwicks

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Local Favorite

203 The Strand
Alexandria, VA (703) 836-4442
www.chadwicksrestaurants.com

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

Abner and all the pets-in-waiting at the Shelter wish you a happy holiday, and extend an invitation to visit them this summer.

We have cats & dogs of many varieties, truly an American mix!

TO VISIT ONLINE, PLEASE GO TO
www.alexandriaanimals.org

THANK YOU

The Alexandria Animal Shelter’s Pet of the Week is sponsored by Diann Hicks Carlson, finding homes for pets and humans, alike.

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**JUNE 30**

**EXHIBIT OPENING: ALEXANDRIANS FIGHT THE GREAT WAR** This exhibit explores the experiences of local people during World War I and includes photos of the homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria during that era. The exhibit includes rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants and original objects including weapons, period music and scale models. The exhibit is open until November 1. There is a $5 suggested donation.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Location:** Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

**Information:** 703-746-4994

**JULY 1**

**CARLYLE SATURDAY CINEMA** Join the Carlyle Community Council, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership for the first of a series of free movies in the John Carlyle Square Park. The movie series will kick off with a showing of “Top Gun,” the 1980s Tom Cruise classic. Nicecream will serve up ice cold treats on the scene.

**Time:** 8 to 10 p.m.

**Location:** John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St.

**Information:** www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun

**JULY 6**

**LECTURE: THE BATTLE OF THE MEUSE** Historian Dr. Mitchell Yockelson will tell the story of a cast of remarkable individuals who fought in the 47-day Meuse-Argonne battle to commemorate the 100th anniversary of America’s entrance into WWI.

**Time:** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Lyceum, 301 S. Washington St.

**Information:** 703-746-4994

**JULY 8**

**USA/ALEXANDRIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** Come celebrate the 241st birthday of the U.S. and the 268th birthday of the City of Alexandria, featuring entertainment, cannon salute during the 1812 Overture, food and beverages for sale and grand finale fireworks at 9:30. Come celebrate at the biggest party in the city.

**Time:** 8 to 10 p.m.

**Location:** Gronocon Bay Park, 100 Madison St.

**Information:** 703-746-5592

**ARCHAEOLOGY DIG DAYS** Assist Alexandria Archaeology at a public dig. The dig day includes an introduction to the history and archaeology of the Shuter’s Hill site, a site tour and the opportunity to sift through excavated soil and assist with artifact processing. Pre-registration and a $5 donation is required.

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

**Location:** Shuter’s Hill site at the Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

**Information:** https://www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology

**JULY 9**

**PICNIC THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS** Just in time for the Woodlawn and Pope-Leighy House’s 150th birthday picnic series, The Picnic Theatre Company is back with a brand-new production of “Hay Fever,” a Noel Coward play. For the first time ever, this is to be performed at the Pope-Leighy House location. Event will be held rain or shine. If inclement weather prevents an outside performance, the event will move to the venue’s brand new tent space. Tickets available now, dinner options available to all ticket buyers after June 21.

**Time:** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Woodlawn and Pope-Leighy House, 9000 Richmond Highway

**Information:** 703-570-6906 or https://www.woodlawnpopeleighy.org/new-events-1/

**JULY 12**

**CANAL CENTER CONCERT SERIES** Performance by Wes Tucker and Arch Alexandria, featuring contemporary rock. Come enjoy a lunchtime concert in a beautiful amphitheater setting along the waterfront. Offered in partnership with Alexandria Real Estate Partners.

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Canal Center Plaza, 44 Canal Center Plaza

**Information:** 703-746-5592

**JULY 14 & 15**

**ALEXANDRIA COMCAST OUTDOOR FILM FESTIVAL** Comcast and the City of Alexandria welcome you back to scenic Waterfront Park for the 14th Annual Comcast Outdoor Film Festival. Located just one block from King Street on the Potomac River, this film festival includes two nights of free outdoor films on our four-story movie screen. Bring your lawn chairs, blanket, family and friends to this fun annual event and to watch family favorite “Moana” and the blockbuster “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” with the stars above and the backdrop of the Potomac River as the backdrop.

**Time:** All day event

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

**Information:** 240-838-9112

**JULY 16 – 23**

**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL** The Balalaika and Domra Association of America’s 39th annual convention will take place at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Old Town from July 16 to 23. Musicians from Russia, Ukraine, Europe, Canada, and the U.S. will meet for a week of rehearsals, performances and master classes in Russian folk music, song and dance. A July 22 Russian Festive Concert at Schlesinger Hall will conclude this event, and will feature a 100-piece Russian folk instrumental orchestra, the largest such group in the world. Admission is $30 for adults, $25 for seniors, $20 for students and $5 for children.

**Time:** 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**Location:** Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 Beauregard St.

**Information:** http://www.bdaas.com/

**JULY 17 – 21**

**ARCHAEOLOGY SUMMER CAMP** Help Alexandria’s city archaeologists excavate a real archaeological site. Learn professional excavating, recording and artifact processing methods. Uncover Alexandria’s buried past while protecting the city’s valuable historic resources. Appropriate for ages 12 to 15. Camp is every day from July 17 to 21. Admission costs $400 per student.

**Time:** 9 to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St.

**Information:** https://www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology

**JULY 18 – 20**

**HISTORY MINI-CAMP** Come join in on the fun! Clio’s Kids introduces children to American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing and crafts, “old-fashioned” games and visits to nearby historic places. Our theme this year is “Time Travelers.” We’ll go back in time, exploring aspects of daily life in 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century Alexandria each day of camp. Campers should come prepared for outdoor activities each day, including sturdy walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Camp is every day from July 18 to 20. Appropriate ages are 5 to 7. Advanced registration is $105 per student.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to noon

**Location:** Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

**Information:** https://shop.alexandriava.gov

**AUGUST 3**

**MARKET SQUARE CONCERT** Performance by the Twelfth Army Band Concert Band. Feel free to bring a picnic supper and folding chairs or sit around the fountain seating and enjoy one of the military band concerts.

**Time:** 7 to 8 p.m.

**Location:** Market Square, 301 King St.

**Information:** 703-746-5592

**AUGUST 5**

**FRIENDSHIP FIREHOUSE FESTIVAL** Enjoy the annual Friendship Firehouse Festival in the 100 block of South Alfred Street. Visit historic Friendship Firehouse and get a free fire hat. Be sure to see the old hose reel, as well as the suction pump fire engine, both pulled by hand. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the City of Alexandria Fire Department. Festival includes community booth, firefighting activities, fire vehicles and more.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Location:** Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.

**Information:** http://historicallex.org

**CARLYLE SATURDAY CINEMA** Join the Carlyle Community Council, the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership for the second of a series of free movies in the John Carlyle Square Park. This time, “Caddyshack,” the 1980 movie featuring Rodney Dangerfield and Chevy Chase, will be the featured film. Nicecream will serve up ice cold treats on the scene.

**Time:** 8 to 10 p.m.

**Location:** John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St.

**Information:** www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun
Celebrate Independence

JUNE 30 & JULY 1
INDEPENDENCE FIREWORKS

JULY 4
AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION

Start your Independence Day festivities with a bang! Enjoy family fun and fireworks as we celebrate our nation’s founding at the home of George and Martha Washington.

Tickets on sale now at mountvernon.org
Our View

Revamped BID sounds good, but issues remain

Traffic and Parking. Parking and traffic.

These two interchangeable issues are the unstated crux of the problem with business prosperity in Old Town. A BID won’t resolve them and each new development project city council approves only exacerbates the problem.

A case in point is the redevelopment of 115 S. Union St. into a 64-room hotel and 115-seat restaurant, approved unanimously at Saturday’s public hearing. Regardless of the wisdom of another enterprise of this size in the most congested part of Old Town, it’s the parking reduction and this project’s impact on traffic congestion that are destructive.

This comes on top of the Hotel Indigo, which just opened at 220 S. Union St. and received a parking reduction to 69 parking spaces for its 120-room hotel and 120-seat Hummingbird Restaurant. And this, of course, also comes on top of the 96-unit EYA development at the Robinson Terminal South site, which received a parking reduction to 242 on-site parking spaces.

The goal of all this building, and a BID, is apparently to make Old Town competitive with Georgetown, the Southwest D.C. waterfront redevelopment, Ballston and trendy, newly redeveloped parts of D.C.

But Old Town differs greatly from these areas in its essential character. To Georgetown-ize Old Town or make it like Ballston is to destroy it.

The Southwest waterfront, Ballston and other newer mixed-use developments in the D.C. metro area were built to have residences, dense business developments, hotels and restaurants in compact areas. Most are served by a Metro stop right in their midst. That very compactness is the draw for the mostly Millennial population that flocks to areas like these.

This is not Old Town. Our economic twin engines are tourism based on our history and small businesses. Our history is not enhanced by modern overbuilding right on top of our treasured historic neighborhood. And our small businesses are definitely harmed by the lack of parking and increased traffic congestion that overdevelopment brings.

Somehow, studies on the traffic and parking impact of Old Town redevelopment projects are either conducted after the fact or their conclusions are laughable. Parking reduction requirements are justified by “studies” showing ample garage parking availability in Old Town.

Here’s the problem: Busy local residents don’t want to park in a garage to grab a quick lunch or run into a boutique shop, so they increasingly go to malls or shop online, or go someplace else where it’s easier to park and get around.

Old Town residents, particularly those who have been here the longest — many who were drawn to the Port City by the colonial, federal and Victorian architecture of its buildings — certainly didn’t sign up for the modernization, overbuilding and lack of parking that increasingly define the waterfront area.

Residents of historic homes, most of whom lack off-street parking, should be able to park near their homes without fighting for spaces with patrons from the new restaurants and hotels that received reductions in their parking requirement.

Old Town residents within a few block radius of these new developments deserve to have their streets turned into resident-only parking. If the parking reductions were legitimate, i.e. if there really aren’t more patrons than provided spaces, then these businesses won’t be negatively impacted by resident-only parking districts.

And if the businesses are impacted, it would mean the parking reductions weren’t justified. Either way, this is long overdue.

As for the BID, council’s decision to let affected businesses and property owners vote on whether to authorize a BID, with concrete to-do items in front of them as they vote, was the right decision.

If a majority of businesses want the specific items presented to them, more power to them.

But surely, everyone realizes that pretty flowerpots, well-kept tree wells and better signage are not going to compensate for a dearth of parking and the excessive vehicle congestion that is choking Old Town.

It all, ultimately, boils down to traffic and parking.

Your Views

Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”
- Thomas Jefferson

Let’s transcend the liberal-conservative divide

To the editor:

A letter in the June 22 Times, “Shooting a result of progressive hate,” linked the attack on Republican congressmen at Simpson Field to the alleged failure of progressives to condemn incendiary videos and plays as well as attacks on Trump supporters by “thugs.” It exemplifies the political divide in our country where each side vilifies the other. I should not need to provide a litany of hate spewed from the right wing, from racial slurs, constant accusation of criminality by Democratic politicians, ridiculous conspiracy theories about what happened at Sandy Hook, Tea Party groups intimidatingly toting assault rifles, and, just as is the case with hatred from some on the left, the list can go on and on.

What we need is cordial dialogue together with the willingness to seriously consider other viewpoints. Robert Burns said it well: “O wad some Power the giftie gie us, To see oursels as ithers see us!” Insults, unsubstantiated accusations, acts of intimidation, purposeful misrepresentations and outright lies hammered over and over again into our consciousness can be harbingers to actual violence.

Indeed, fair-minded people need to speak out against falsehoods, nastiness and violence. I remember a time when being a Democrat or a Republican was a small measure of who we were. Sadly, I now avoid discussing politics with those I suspect hold radically different views because experience has shown me that no argument can penetrate petrified opinions. And confirmation of their beliefs only leads me to think less of them.

All of us need to reach out by words and acts that show what I know to be true: The worth of an individual transcends the liberal-conservative ideological divide.

-Philip Brinkman, Alexandria
Lights at T.C. Williams an unacceptable breach of faith

To the editor:

I am a homeowner in the Seminary Community, which is directly adjacent to T.C. Williams High School and athletic field. As a matter of fact, my backyard, as well as those of many of my neighbors, is separated by a fence from the field, the scoreboard being directly over the fence from my backyard.

It is particularly appalling to my neighbors and me that the City of Alexandria is attempting, once again, to disrupt our community and negatively impact our quality of life by installing lights on the athletic field, which they have now designated as an all-city stadium.

We are not opposed to night games for the students of the high school, but we are adamantly opposed to the noise pollution, traffic, and general disruption and inconvenience that would be caused by the ongoing nightly use of the field. Even without being told, we are not so dense as to imagine that the revenue outlay for this stadium renovation would not drive its use on any and all occasions to the fullest extent possible.

In a city known on its face for preservation of historical places, it is deeply disturbing that the determination has been made to once again intrude upon the lives of this very old, stable, mainly African-American community. Post Civil War, our great grandparents, grandparent and parents built residential communities in this area with schools and churches and maintained them until forced to move through the use of eminent domain. After the original TC Williams High School was built in the early 1960s, most residents returned to the newly structured neighborhood and continued to build a thriving community. Most recently, around 2005 when the old school was demolished and the new one built, we took the accompanying annoyances and inconvenience in stride.

Now, however, we are once again told to accept the determination of school board and city officials that our backyard is the only suitable site in the City of Alexandria for this stadium. This in spite of the Development Special Use Permit agreed upon between the city and community many years ago stating that there would be no lights on the field. We reject that determination on the grounds that we wish to be, deserve to be left in peace. As there are other areas just as conveniently located and away from direct contact with any established neighborhood, we question why there is this determination to ram this stadium down our throats.

As always, the members of our community are willing to work with all parties toward a viable alternative to the T.C. Williams all-city stadium.

The health and well-being of our families is at stake, and it is unacceptable that our concerns are being ignored.

-Phyliss A. Burks, Alexandria

Local officer an example of respect and kindness

To the editor:

On June 21, my family and I had to pull over to the side of Interstate 495 in Alexandria. We were experiencing car trouble after having driven more than 1,000 miles from our home in Miami. No fewer than five people pulled over to ask if my wife, two kids and I needed help.

I wanted to give special thanks to Officer Kyler Lewis for staying with us for more than an hour, ensuring our safety in the tough situation we were in. Officer Lewis showed respect, courtesy, professionalism, care for my children and care for our safety. My thanks know no bounds. At no time at all did I feel that Officer Lewis was trying to move on from helping us. He waited patiently with us for as long as it took for the help to arrive.

He insisted that we sit down comfortably in his air conditioned patrol vehicle and I had a very nice conversation with him as well as learned a lot about the daily lives of police officers and all that they do to protect and serve — even the small daily assistance they provide without the community being aware. Officer Lewis is the model officer that I can now point to when I teach my second and fourth grade students about respect and courtesy and how we must treat all people with the dignity they deserve.

I am greatly indebted to Officer Lewis as well as the other amazing people that stopped by to help. The only thing I can do is to try to pass on the kindness you showed to others when they are in need.

On behalf of me, my family and the Jewish community, thank you Officer Kyler Lewis for all the help you gave.

-Rabbi Eli Mann, Miami

The Business Plan

Why Small Businesses Fail

It's a widely held belief that small businesses often fail. The Small Business Administration’s metrics show two-thirds survive at least two years, but only half make it to five years and only one-third last a decade.

There are institutional deficiencies and flawed personal traits of entrepreneurs that contribute to small business decline, but recognizing and dealing with them can avert failures.

Institutional deficiencies include insufficient capital, inadequate planning and market identification and poor management structure.

Insufficient capital: Entrepreneurs routinely exceed forecasted startup costs and the start date when they can begin generating revenue. With shallow resources, owners have to skimp on startup essentials — infrastructure and personnel. Worse, the business is vulnerable to unforeseen events like market shifts, calamities or lawsuits.

Inadequate planning and market identification: When businesses open without pinpointing a target market or unique value, there's nothing to distinguish them from the competition. Failure is imminent.

Poor management structure: Sloppy recordkeeping, inattention to detail, incompetent personnel supervision and inadequate structure to deal with succession issues or power struggles are devastating.

Personal traits also foretell success or failure. Entrepreneurs often don't know what they don't know. The smart ones ask questions and look for ways to become more informed. Those who are headstrong, don't want to be bothered and plow ahead despite available sources of help, are dooming their businesses.

Some start their business for the wrong reason. It might be the idea of no longer having a boss. Some pick a business from a magazine list of great ones to start. Unless the entrepreneur has passion for and knowledge about their venture, it will quickly become demoralizing drudgery.

Entrepreneurs must be disciplined and resilient. Many management tasks are unpleasant, but must be done. Owners must also take disappointment and setbacks in stride.

It really helps if the entrepreneur is gregarious. They need to inspire employees and fascinate customers. They also need to personally engage with other business owners, community members and civic leaders.

Finally, entrepreneurs must be innovative. Business as usual is a death spiral. Savvy owners scan the horizon to try new approaches or seize opportunities that come with market shifts. Sedentary grumbling is deadly.

If these essential traits are not in their strengths or within their comfort zone, entrepreneurs must partner with or hire someone to complement their own skill set.

The Small Business Development Center is Alexandria’s economic development resource for small businesses. Its assistance is confidential and provided without cost to city businesses. Thoughtful and objective startup guidance strengthens fundamental planning, identifies potential pitfalls and establishes connections to professionals and resources.

The center’s feedback on market identification and business structure, and assistance with the process of raising capital strengthens the viability and resilience of a venture. Educational resources offer ongoing professional development opportunities.

Annual statewide surveys show that businesses that consistently use the center’s resources create more jobs and grow sales faster than Virginia businesses in general. Their longevity also surpasses SBA’s metrics.

Alexandrians can boost their entrepreneurial efforts by tapping the SBDC’s resources at www.alexandriasbdc.org
Janney’s invention saved lives of rail yard workers

Eli Hamilton Janney was an Alexandria dry goods clerk who rose to fame in 1873 as the inventor of the modern knuckle coupler that connects one train car to another. Although Janney had no previous experience with rail transportation other than as a passenger, his interest in the subject was apparently sparked by his military service in the Civil War and his settlement in Alexandria after the war, then the nerve center for rail traffic in Northern Virginia.

Janney was born on Nov. 12, 1831, in Loudoun County to David Janney and his wife, Elizabeth Avis Haines, prominent Quakers who had moved to Virginia from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The younger Janney worked as a small farmer in early years, briefly studying at the theological seminary before his marriage to Cornelia Hamilton. When the Civil War broke out, Janney enlisted in the Confederate forces where he attained the rank of major.

As a soldier in and around Alexandria, Janney would have witnessed firsthand the mighty, often uncontrollable power of trains, and the dangers and challenges associated with maintaining the fleet of huge railcars and changing their direction of travel. At that time, train cars were connected by a link and pin system which required a brakeman to physically place himself between the ends of both cars, vertically align their projecting iron links and place a large metal pin to join them.

To achieve this, cars were moved slowly by the train engineer, but once the brakeman was out of sight, any unexpected movement of the cars could result in death or the most horrific of injuries. Dozens of badly maimed survivors were commonplace during the coupling process. As a passenger, his concern for those rail workers injured by this circumstance never completely left his mind. One day, by happenstance, he linked his hands by bending the knuckles in his fingers and the idea for a new rail coupler was born.

With no formal education or drawing abilities, he spent his lunch hours endlessly whittling wooden models of potential couplers. Finally, in 1868, with the aid of a hired artist, he submitted the first patent application for his revolutionary design. Five years later, he was awarded a second patent, which refined the coupler with the addition of a drawhead and revolving hook, features that allowed it to automatically join and unjoin the cars without the presence of a rail worker.

In 1878, Janney sold his patent rights to the McClonkey and Torley Company of Pittsburgh for a modest sum, preventing him from ever reaping financial success for the idea. By the time of his death in 1912, only 4 percent of rail yard accidents occurred during the coupling process. Eli Janney was heralded as a beloved Alexandrian, and Janney’s Lane was named in his honor.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.
Montgomery and Madison streets act as complementary one-way roads traveling east to west. Mayor Allison Silberberg advocated for approving the plan sans street change, citing that step’s potential cost and the resident opposition heard at the public hearing.

The council voted to change wording on the two-way plan entry to instead “evaluate the feasibility of converting Montgomery Street,” adding that “there will be a good faith effort to work with the community on issues that were discussed during the public hearing,” according to the final action docket of the Saturday meeting.

Aside from the street proposal, the plan “lays out a plan framework that builds on the community’s many strengths while enabling new developments,” according to its vision statement. It “envisions a pedestrian-focused neighborhood, linked to the rest of the city through a diverse public realm network and a system of alternative transit options,” according to the statement.

The plan also provides a framework for the future of the 25-acre power plant site and calls for nine new acres of public space if fully realized.

Old Town North stretches along the Potomac waterfront, bounded by George Washington Memorial Parkway to the east, Oronoco Street to the south and the Mount Vernon Trail to the north.

The nearly 200-page plan includes proposals related to land use, development, housing, parks, transportation, infrastructure, sustainability and historic preservation.

Intended to guide phased improvements over the next 25 years, the plan provides suggestions for how the city might work independently and in tandem with redevelopment efforts to improve the area, with a more detailed plan establishing specific roles to be written following the June 24 approval.

- eberkwowitz@alextimes.com
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HUGHES  FROM | 12

programs better than they were when they came to me,” he said. With Hughes, that means working on secondary pitches and command of the fastball and strike zone.

“We’re working on … getting him some innings so that he feels confident going back … to a fantastic program that they have down there in Charlottesville,” DeSilva said.

Hughes takes DeSilva’s advice — that players use their time in the Ripken League as a chance for improvement — to heart. In 8.2 innings with the Aces as of Tuesday evening, Page had struck out 12 and notched a 5.19 earned run average.

“I’m looking forward to coming in there and knowing exactly what they expect of me” during his sophomore season at U-Va., he said. “I’m exited to take what I know going in and take my experience here at the Aces and just roll with it.”

-eberkowitz@alextimes.com

SINHA  FROM | 13

immediate medical attention.

They should be moved immediately to a cooler, shaded environment and their clothing should be removed. Often EMS is activated to provide IV fluids, monitor vital signs and transport to an emergency department. If heat exhaustion is left unrecognized or untreated, it can lead to heat stroke.

Heat stroke is a true life or death emergency. The body has essentially lost the ability to cool itself down and is usually unable to produce sweat — therefore it is usually dry to the touch and very hot. The person’s core body temperature is often 104°F or higher and they are often breathing very fast. They can start to have seizures and their blood pressure and pulse are often very abnormal. The best treatment for heat stroke is to recognize the condition as fast as possible and call 911. While they should also be moved to a cooler shaded area and laid on their back with their feet elevated and clothing loosened, they will also need advanced medical care and immediate transport to an emergency department.

Heat emergencies rarely present so distinctly in real life. Often the person may show just a few signs or symptoms, or they may show signs of one type of condition mixed with signs of another condition. It’s important to recognize that, like most emergencies, heat conditions can evolve and if left untreated may worsen. If you have specific medical conditions or are on prescription medications, talk to your doctor. He or she should discuss your specific risk factors and give you avoidance tips. The best way to protect yourself is to utilize shade, drink adequate liquids, avoid alcohol when outside and get help when needed.

Have a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

The writer is the chief medical officer of Bellevue Medical Partners
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