

NEWS

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Taking Office

At an induction ceremony on Jan. 7, over half of the 2016-2019 Alexandria School Board swore their first oaths of office. Newcomers Hal Cardwell, Cindy Anderson, Margaret Lorber, Veronica Nolan, and Ramee Gentry were welcomed to the board by incumbents Bill Campbell, Karen Graf, Chris Lewis, and Ronnie Campbell. Also at the ceremony, the new board voted unanimously to retain Karen Graf and Chris Lewis as School Board chair and vice-chair.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / GAZETTE PACKET

Environmental Recognition

At the Alexandria City Council's Jan. 12 meeting, its first of 2016, the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department was recognized for its E-3 certification from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. An E-3 ranking recognizes facilities with fully-implemented environmental management system, pollution prevention programs and demonstrated environmental performance. "The city and this department do a phenomenal job, and we want the city to be recognized as an environmental leader," said Thomas Faha, regional director for the Department of Environmental Quality. "[This department] is a leading example of going well above and beyond the minimum requirements." Faha singled out the department's native plant-tree sale for the community and ecological restoration efforts.

International Competition

Alexandria's Torpedo Factory artist Tatyana Schremko and her team partner, Suzanne Firstenberg, with their ice sculpture in Harbin, China. Schremko is one of 60 artists competing in the International Ice Sculpting Competition in northeast China, where their sculptures will be displayed in the Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival until Feb. 5.



ASC To Host Nats' Scialabba

Director of Player Development to preview upcoming season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Mark Scialabba, director of Player Development for Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals, will be the featured speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

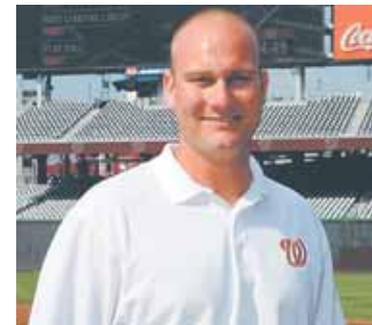


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"We are excited to have Mark speak at our annual Washington Nationals Night meeting," said ASC president John Duke. "This is the perfect opportunity for all our area baseball players and athletes to hear from a veteran on player development, what it takes to succeed in the major leagues and get a preview of the Nationals' upcoming season prior to the team heading to Florida for Spring Training."

Scialabba has risen through the ranks of the Nationals' front office beginning in 2006. He was promoted to director of Minor League Operations in 2009 before assuming his current role beginning in 2013. He works on all aspects of Washington's player development operations, including contracts, roster management, budgets and player personnel decisions.

The ASC meeting will be held Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat

Mark Scialabba, director of player development for the Washington Nationals, will be the featured speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free and open to all.

Club located at 1 King St. in Old Town. A complimentary reception sponsored by Sean Johnson of Movement Mortgage begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by the recognition of outstanding winter sport performances at 7:15 p.m.

Scialabba's preview of the Nationals' season will be followed by a light dinner courtesy of the Primo Family Restaurant. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

Ready for Snow's Return



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As the first flurries of snow began to fall outside City Council chambers at its Jan. 12 meeting, the city prepared for the worst. With weather forecasts predicting a chance of snow on Sunday, Jeremy Hassan, Public Works Services division chief at Transportation and Environmental Services, briefed the council on the city's winter weather contingency. While the 2015-2016 winter has

been a notably mild one, Hassan noted that the city usually sees 15 inches of precipitation with a mean temperature of 42.4 degrees. The snow and ice control teams are mobilized an average of eight times each season, with a total budget of \$836,000. New this year are GPS trackers in the contractor vehicles to ensure operational efficiency.