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**Alexandria Seaport Foundation Executive Director Kent Barnekov, center, and Apprentice Dearndrey Mobley, right, accept a \$50,000 grant from The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. during its 25th Anniversary celebration June 5 at the Marriott Wardman Park.**

## Setting Sail for Success

**Seaport Foundation receives \$50,000 grant.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**W**ith financial and philanthropic superstar Warren Buffet in attendance, the Alexandria Seaport Foundation was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Economic Club of Washington D.C. at its 25th anniversary celebration June 5 at the Marriott Wardman Park.

“We are thrilled to have been selected by the Economic Club of Washington as one of 10 area nonprofits to receive this generous award,” said ASF Executive Director Kent Barnekov. “The Economic Club’s recognition of the importance of programs serving this population is extremely gratifying.”

Barnekov was joined on stage by ASF apprentice Dearndrey Mobley, an Alexandria native whose brother graduated from the program years ago and now serves in the Coast Guard in Alaska. Also in attendance was ASF instructor Esteban “Steve” Hernandez, an apprentice graduate who went on to serve in the Marine Corps and is currently enrolled in college.

The Alexandria Seaport Foundation offers disadvantaged youth and young adults ages 18-22 a paid,

work-based apprentice program in boat building that prepares participants for careers in the building trades. Additionally, ASF provides apprentices the opportunity to earn a GED if needed.

“At a time when state and local funding for GED programs is at risk, this grant from The Economic Club will help ASF continue to include in its Apprentice Program this crucial ingredient for success in the workplace,” Barnekov added.

Economic Club member Andrew Blair, president and CEO of Colonial Parking, nominated ASF for the grant, which sought to recognize organizations that prepare underserved youth in the D.C. area for success in school, the workplace and life.

The highlight of the evening was the dialogue between Economic Club President David Rubenstein and Buffett, who discussed the economy and Buffett’s rise to billionaire status as well as his philanthropic efforts. “My surplus wealth has no utility to me,” Buffett said.

A total of 138 different nonprofits were considered as possible recipients of the prestigious awards. The nine additional organizations that received \$50,000 grants were: KIPP DC, Maya Angelou Schools, Brainfood, BUILD DC, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, Jubilee JumpStart/Jubilee Housing, Latin American Youth Center, Urban Alliance and Year Up National Capital Region.

For more information on the Alexandria Seaport Foundation or to volunteer, visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org).



**ASF apprentices and volunteers work on the William Henry and Monte Byers Dory boats that will be launched this summer.**



**Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, discusses the state of the economy with David Rubenstein, president of The Economic Club of Washington, D.C., June 5 at the Economic Club’s 25th anniversary dinner. The Alexandria Seaport Foundation was one of 10 nonprofits to receive a \$50,000 grant during the ceremony.**

### Burns Send Resident to Hospital

The Alexandria Fire Department responded to a residence in the 300 block of North Fayette Street on Saturday, June 16, 9:09 p.m. for a reported explosion and flames on a patio with possible injuries. Arriving personnel found a 53-year old female city resident with second and third degree burns over 80 percent of her body. Emergency personnel immediately began medical care and transported the patient to MedStar Burn Center in Washington D.C.

Although the investigation remains open, the preliminary report indicates that the resident was attempting to ignite a recreational outdoor fireplace constructed of metal. An accumulation of the vapors associated with the fuel source ignited causing a flash fire. The condition and status of the resident is unknown at this time.

### Gas Leak Forces Evacuation

The Alexandria Fire Department responded to 108 South Washington St. on Monday, June 18, 11:42 a.m. for a report of an odor of natural gas inside the building. Construction workers were working in the basement of the building when they noticed an odor of what they described as natural gas. Arriving firefighters detected an odor of something in addition to high levels of carbon monoxide in the basement.

Six businesses in the 600 block of King Street and the 100 block of South Washington Street were found to have elevated levels of carbon monoxide. All six buildings were evacuated.

The 600 block of King Street was closed to traffic in both directions. Northbound lanes of South Washington Street were reduced to one lane in the 100 block of South Washington Street while firefighters ventilated the buildings and the gas company attempted to locate the source of the odor and the carbon monoxide. Carbon Monoxide levels returned to normal by 2 pm and the building occupants were permitted to reoccupy the buildings shortly afterward. Fire Department equipment began clearing the scene at 2:15 pm. The area streets were reopened afterward.

There were no reported injuries during the incident. The cause of the odor and the carbon monoxide was not determined while the fire department was on the scene. Washington Gas Company is handling the investigation.

### Suspect Sought in Multiple Burglaries

Alexandria Police are asking for the public’s help in identifying the suspect in four different burglaries that have occurred this year at the same location. The most recent burglary occurred on Saturday, June 2. Sometime between 9 p.m. and 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect forced entry into Jack Taylor’s Alexandria Toyota, located at 3750 Jefferson Davis Highway. The suspect was able to remove cash from an office safe before fleeing.

The suspect is described as an unknown race male, wearing a baseball cap, a hooded sweatshirt, jeans, sneakers and gloves.

The three other burglaries occurred on the following dates and times:

- ❖ Monday, Feb. 27, between midnight and 1 a.m.
- ❖ Monday, March 12, between 1:30 a.m. and 2:45 a.m.
- ❖ Saturday March 31, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Anyone with additional information about these burglaries is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Section of the Alexandria Police Department at 703-746-6711.

### SoberRide Returns for July 4

In response to Independence Day being a U.S. holiday when nearly 40-percent (of all traffic deaths are alcohol-related, a nonprofit group will be offering free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers this Fourth of July. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Independence Day SoberRide program will be in operation beginning at 10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4 and continue until 4 a.m. During this six-hour period, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 30 fare), safe way home. For more information, [www.soberide.com](http://www.soberide.com).