



Children from the Charles Houston Recreation Center gather for a photo to show off their new coats at the Nov. 9 coat drive distribution at the Departmental Progressive Club.



Coat drive organizer and former City Councilman Willie Bailey, back left, joins DPC members and community volunteers at the new coat distribution for children in need Nov. 9 at the Departmental Progressive Club.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

To the Rescue New coats for children in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

First responders from across the city gathered at the Departmental Progressive Club Nov. 9 to help distribute more than 200 new coats to children in need.

“We gave away over 200 new coats to deserving children in Alexandria,” said former City Councilman Willie Bailey, organizer of the coat drive. “We also gave away new books, and a clown was there to make the day fun for the kids.”

Bailey, Deputy Chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue department, founded Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue nearly 20 years ago. What began as a small toy drive during the holidays has grown to include a backpack drive in August and the October coat drive, all of which serve thousands of children and social service organizations throughout the Washington region.

“We are one of the richest continents on the earth but here there are 16 million children living in poverty,” Bailey said. “For families struggling to make ends meet, ne-

cessities like food, housing and healthcare take priority. Often there is simply not enough left over for warm winter clothing so we feel we can make a difference by doing our little part.”

This was the first time the Departmental Progressive Club hosted the coat drive distribution, which provided coats to children from the Charles Houston Recreation Center

“You will see the club getting more in-

SEE COAT DRIVE, PAGE 4



Former City Councilman Willie Bailey, organizer of the coat drive, and Deputy City Manager Debra Collins Nov. 9 at the Departmental Progressive Club.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Seaport Foundation apprentice Brian works on a table at the ASF workshop on the Old Town waterfront.

All Aboard

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Recent visitors to the Old Town waterfront may have noticed a new hub of activity at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Following a fire in April that did significant damage to the first floor of the building, apprentices, staff and volunteers are once again in full swing repairing and refinishing historical boats.

“New apprentices are building small and large wooden projects, and, if the weather is fair, apprentices are sailing and rowing traditional wooden boats on the Potomac,” said ASF Executive Director Kathy Seifert. “All of this activity reflects a thriving Appren-

tice Program, the Seaport Foundation’s intensive program to craft new futures for youth who need the most.”

The Seaport Foundation’s McIlhenny Seaport Center, a timber-framed building that floats on the Alexandria waterfront, is at capacity, serving 12 young people in need of a second chance. According to Seifert, this group of apprentices faces significant challenges:

- ❖ 40 percent need a GED or high school diploma,
- ❖ 38 percent have entered the program without safe/affordable housing,
- ❖ 7 percent need a driver’s license,
- ❖ 62 percent are court involved, and

❖ 31 percent are in need of health care coverage.

In addition, Seifert added that many apprentices have suffered abuse and neglect and have challenges with anxiety and depression.

“At the Seaport Foundation, apprentices work in a safe and caring environment to learn the work and life skills that will put them on a new path toward success,”

Seifert said. “Through the craft of woodworking and traditional boatbuilding, they learn technical skills and habits of mind that they need for success in employment and adulthood.”

The nationally recognized ASF Apprentice Program has impacted hundreds of young men and women in the metropolitan area

SEE SEAPORT, PAGE 4

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Sophisticated Fare

The menu of options at the redeveloped Robinson Landing reads like a directory of all your favorite restaurant options, a parade of Yelp attractions along the waterfront in South Old Town. According to a plan approved by the City Council last weekend, the historic building at 10 Duke Street will be a restaurant called “The Mill.” The pier will feature “American-Seafood Casual.” Building 2 of Robinson Landing will feature “Cafe/Sushi,” and Building 1 is slated to be the home of something called “Sophisticated Fare.”

“That’s where Mr. Chapman will be hanging out,” noted Mayor **Justin Wilson**, teasing Councilman **John Taylor Chapman**.

“I’m going to be at 10 Duke Street,” noted Councilwoman **Del Pepper**, a frequent promoter of the West End of Duke Street.

Equal Protection

Virginia is likely to be the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, putting it over the top to become the next amendment to the Constitution.

Maybe.

The ERA could become part of the Constitution if Congress removes the deadline or if judges declare the deadline doesn’t apply. Sens. **Mark Warner** and **Tim Kaine** are joining Sen. **Ben Cardin** (D-Md.) and **Lisa Murkowski** (R-Alaska) in sponsoring a resolution removing the ratification deadline.

“This year marks the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment, yet women are still not explicitly recognized as equal under our Constitution,” said Kaine. “This resolution would ensure there’s still time to ratify the ERA, which will finally guarantee equal protections to women and strengthen our ability to fight gender discrimination.”

Ratifying the ERA is a top priority for Democrats, who are assuming power in the Virginia House of Delegates this year after 20 years in the wilderness. The issue is supported by the Alexandria City Council, which identifies the ERA as a key priority of the upcoming General Assembly session.

Old School, New School

Patrick Henry and **Douglas MacArthur** don’t share all the much in common. One was a revolutionary war loudmouth; the other a Greatest Generation lone wolf. Now they’ll be working together as part of what the folks at Alexandria City Public Schools call a “swing school,” essentially the largest elementary school operation in Alexandria history.

Here’s the idea in a nutshell: First a new Patrick Henry Elementary School is constructed on a plot of land adjacent to the old school. That part has already happened. Now that the City Council and School Board have worked out a plan, students from MacArthur Elementary School will swing on over to the old Patrick Henry building for three years while their school is demolished and rebuilt. The swing-school shuffle involves a massive drop-off and pickup operation, one that has to be carefully merged along with bus routes and recreation center traffic. Councilwoman **Amy Jackson** says her main concern is people who are trying to get to the recreation center.

“Especially seniors because you want to have them be able to get to the door easily,” she said. “And they may not have a handicapped tag to do it.”

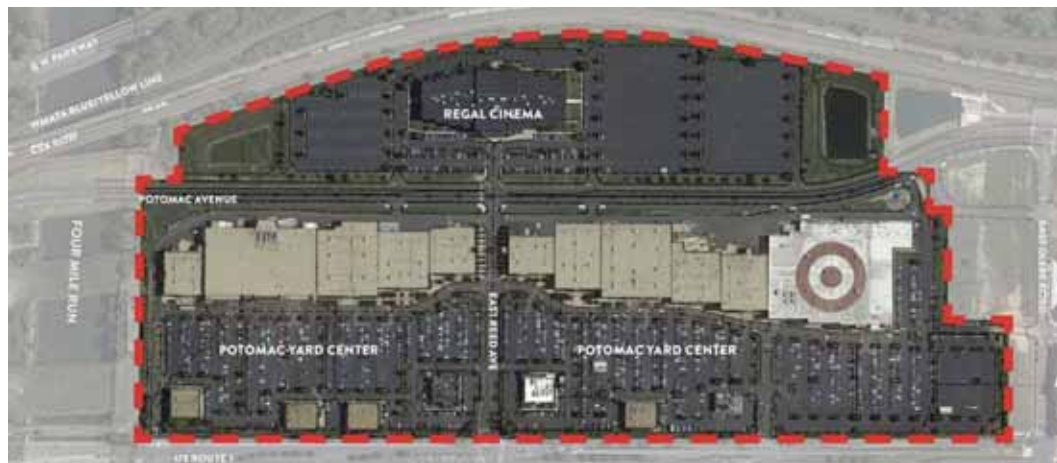
Call Click Delay

What happens to requests for service logged into the city’s Call Click Connect system? According to a new online dashboard, the percentage of calls that are closed by the project completion date is dropping like a stone. Five years ago, it was 75 percent now it’s 61 percent. Alexandria’s target is that 80 percent of the calls will be completed on time, goal that will be difficult to meet considering the recent trend.

“I think the transition to the 311 system and making some concrete business process decisions about how we respond back to residents through 311 and through the call center staff,” explained **Yon Lambert**, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, “You’re going to see these numbers begin trending in the other direction.”

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS



Current configuration: The strip mall was constructed in the early 1990s after an intense debate about overdevelopment.



Future: City officials say the Innovation District will mix office space and residential units with required retail and a Virginia Tech graduate campus.

Potomac Yard: Before and After

Transforming a suburban strip mall into an Innovation District.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The strip mall at Potomac Yard is a placeholder, a temporary solution to a thorny question about the relationship between density and traffic. Back in the early 1990s, candidates for Alexandria City Council were on the campaign trail railing against overdevelopment. Lonnie Rich’s 1991 newspaper ad in the Gazette Packet warned of “massive commercial development” he compared to two-and-a-half Pentagons. Now he says that was a mistake, adding that low-density development does little more than contribute to urban sprawl.

“I think we screwed it up. Badly,” admits Rich, who was the lone vote against the zoning change allowing the strip mall in 1992.

The old industrial zoning would have allowed for 18 million square feet of development. On the campaign trail in 1991, candidates for City Council said they would fight to limit development to 6 million square feet. They ended up

approving 9 million square feet to fight off a proposal to build a football stadium on the site. The end result was a compromise that made nobody happy at the time. But people came around.

“After a while it became obvious this was a gold mine,” says former Mayor Bill Euille. “The scale of it wasn’t really in the original plan, but it really worked out well.”

Now the placemaker is being replaced by an Innovation District, a plan city officials say will mix office space and residential units with required retail and and Virginia Tech graduate campus. Building 7W will be the first construction, and the academic campus is expected to open in the fall of 2024. That will be followed by the other buildings in Phase One, which is on land currently

occupied by a movie theater and parking lot on the east of Potomac Avenue. Redeveloping the strip mall west of Potomac Avenue won’t happen for some time, although city officials are feeling a

crunch to get this thing up and ready for the new Metro station.

“So there’s a there there when people get off the Metro, so that we’re creating ridership for people to get on the Metro,” explains Cathy Puskar, land-use attorney representing developer JBG Smith. “And, most importantly, probably for you all (City Council members), creating revenue to pay for the Metro.”

“I think we screwed it up. Badly.”
— former Councilman Lonnie Rich

Salute to Veterans

POW details
time in captivity.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Captain Eugene “Red” McDaniel, a Vietnam veteran who survived six years as a POW in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison camp, was the keynote speaker at the annual Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans event Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.

Presented by the National Industries for the Blind, the event recognized businesses that support veterans in the community.

Recognized as Small Veteran Owned Business of the Year was The Garden by Building Momentum, a service-disabled veteran owned business. Large Veteran Owned Business of the Year was ProSphere and The Code of Support Foundation was recognized with the Empowering and Supporting Veterans Award.

Col. Kim Ching (ret), a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, was recognized as the 2019 Distinguished Patriot recipient but was unable to attend the event.

McDaniel, who was once described by Time Magazine as one of the most brutalized prisoners of war in Vietnam, spoke of the struggle to survive when “all but the breath of life has been taken from you.”

“For three years my family never knew if I was dead or alive,” said McDaniel, who described the unimaginable conditions that he and other POWs endured.

Following his release in 1973, McDaniel returned to Virginia, where he was awarded the Navy’s highest award for bravery, the Navy Cross. McDaniel settled with his family in the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria and authored a book, “Scars and Stripes,” recounting his time in captivity.

“People think courage is the absence of fear” said McDaniel, who received a prolonged standing ovation following his remarks. “But courage is the presence of faith.”



Members of American Legion Post 24 gather at the Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.



Santo LaTores and Eric Hughes of Prospere, accepting the Large Veteran Owned Business of the Year Award alongside Brandywine Living Executive Director Ray Dennison and Alexandria Chamber of Commerce’s CEO Joe Haggerty.



Captain Eugene “Red” McDaniel, a Vietnam veteran and POW survivor, addresses the crowd at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.



Council member Amy Jackson with Vietnam veteran and keynote speaker Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel at the Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel, third from left, following his keynote address at the Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club. With McDaniel are: RADM Vince Griffith (ret); event chair and National Industries of the Blind executive vice president Angela Hartley; Michael McDaniel; Chamber board president Charlotte Hall; and Jim Lindsay of ACCfamily, an organization founded by McDaniel to provide homecare for seniors in Alexandria.

Coat Drive Organizer Willie Bailey

FROM PAGE 1

involved in the community,” said Bailey, a member of the 92-year-old organization. “The DPC was founded on community engagement so we will be more focused on outreach and keeping it in the forefront.”

Earlier in the day, Bailey and a group of volunteers distributed more than 100 coats to families at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

“It was really nice to see our public safety folks escort the kids to the tables and help them pick out a new coat,” Bailey said. “We had volunteers from the Alexandria Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, Fire Department and De-

partment of Emergency Communications.”

Sponsors of the coat drive included: Operation Warm; Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue; Alexandria City Parks and Recreation Department; and the Debra Deneise Smith Foundation.

“A new coat provides self-confidence in a way that second-hand clothing cannot,” Bailey added. “It also provides physical warmth and emotional warmth. And a new coat provides the opportunity to get to school and gain an education regardless of the weather conditions.”

For Bailey and the volunteers, it was a long but fun day.

“From the looks on the faces of the kids and the volunteers, it’s



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Children show off their new coats with officer Ryan Klein Nov. 9 at the Departmental Progressive Club.

difficult to say who was having more fun,” Bailey said. “Our sponsors and volunteers came out in full force to help so many children this year.”

Seaport Foundation

FROM PAGE 1

since 1993 and recently lowered its minimum age to 16 years old in order to reach more struggling youth.

This change resulted from an extensive Community Needs Assessment completed last year by Seifert and the Apprentice Program founder (and a 2008 Living Legend), Joe Youcha.

“Input from city leaders suggested a void in programs for young people ages 16-18, a population whom the courts are desperately trying to keep out of prison but who are not succeeding in traditional school settings,” Seifert added.

Working with local web design

and marketing companies, Ironistic and Hudson Studios, the ASF has both a new logo and website which better reflect its focus on work with young people.

“The Seaport Foundation is looking to build a second boat shop on the waterfront to facilitate the growing need for workforce development programs and hands-on learning for young adults,” Seifert said.

The Seaport Center is open weekdays from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. for visitors to learn about the Foundation’s work and to meet some of the apprentices. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

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PEOPLE

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Each year, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) recognizes members for their outstanding contributions to the community and to the real estate industry. At the NVAR 2019 Convention and Trade Show on Oct. 15, 2019, the recipients of this year's inaugural Broker Spirit Award were announced.

NEW THIS YEAR, the Broker Spirit Award honors a brokerage that gives back to the community in a significant way.

The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office is the first ever recipient of the NVAR Broker Spirit Award.

The award is based not on funds raised, but by the brokerage's efforts in charitable outreach.

Rachel Carter, managing broker of the Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office, co-chairs the company's charitable foundation – CB Cares. The foundation is completely funded by agent and employee contributions and has donated over \$1 million to local charities.



Realtors from the Coldwell Banker Alexandria Office are honored as the first-ever recipient of the NVAR Broker Spirit Award. From left: Sara Hanni, Lynn Walsh, Nora Partlow, NVAR 2019 President Christine Richardson, Coldwell Banker Alexandria Managing Broker Rachel Carter, Virginia Amos, Prince Raassi, Cathy D'Antuono, Kathy Kratovil and Jennifer Molden.

"NVAR created the Broker Spirit Award because we wanted to recognize offices that, through their exemplary leadership, encourage Realtors to give back to their communities. The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office fully embodies what this award represents, and we couldn't be prouder to recognize their give-back efforts," NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad said.

The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office participates in an annual food drive with the company's entire Mid-Atlantic region. Coldwell Banker has provided tens of thousands of pounds of food and donated well over \$300,000 in the past five years to area food banks. With more than 80 percent participation from office agents and some clients, the Alexandria office has collected nearly \$10,000 in the past five years – all of which has gone to local organizations such as Carpenter's Shelter and ALIVE! (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically).

Gracias!

Athenaeum holds Day of the Dead celebration.

The Athenaeum held a "Dead of the Dead" celebration Nov. 2 as a way to thank members and supporters at its annual Membership Appreciation Night.

The event coincided with the last day of the multi-day, traditional Mexican holiday where families and friends gather to celebrate, rather than mourn, those who have died. The evening featured Day of the Dead memorial displays as well as interactive art projects and traditional Mexican cuisine.

Located at 201 Prince Street, the Athenaeum was built between 1851 and 1852. It is part of the Virginia Trust and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 1964, it has been owned and operated by the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association and serves as an arts center for local artists.

For more information on programs and membership, visit www.nvfaa.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Brian Kelley, center, with Allison Nance and Lisa Schmaier celebrate at the Athenaeum's Day of the Dead Membership Appreciation Night Nov. 2 at the Athenaeum.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Christopher Stauffer, C. Thomas, Dana Sasse and Leanne Fortney enjoy the Day of the Dead celebration Nov. 2 at the Athenaeum.



Posing in their Day of the Dead costume best are Athenaeum director Veronica Szalus and Havin Baucom at the Athenaeum Member Appreciation celebration Nov. 2.



Masked woman Mary Ray celebrates with Carlos and Lisa Cecchi at the Day of the Dead Member Appreciation celebration Nov. 2 at the Athenaeum.

PEOPLE

PHOTOS BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTO



Mosaic Birthday Celebration for Nina Tisara

Nick Marin, left, plays Happy Birthday on the harmonica at the reception celebrating Nina Tisara's mosaic art and her 81st birthday. Also pictured (l-r) are Barbara and Dick Kitchen, Lynn Alsmeyer-Johnson, Lynn Mills, Julie Halperson, Carol Supplee and Nina Tisara. The exhibit may be seen weekdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon through December 29 in the Fireplace Alcove at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The centerpiece of the exhibit is



"Mountain Embrace," a new work, 36x20, using a combination of glass and unglazed porcelain tiles.

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Cooking with Children this Thanksgiving

Holiday meal prep can help create life-long memories.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



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GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
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Mashing sweet potatoes for a soufflé and drizzling spoonfuls of olive oil over carrots for roasting are Sarah Pardo's earliest memories of cooking with her mother and younger sister during the holidays.

"Some of the things I made then became a family tradition," said Pardo, who is now a nutritionist in Falls Church. "I still make sweet potato soufflé every Thanksgiving."

From establishing tradition and making memories to building confidence and expanding one's palate, the holidays are a perfect time to include children in holiday meal preparation, says Pardo and other culinary aficionados. Bringing children into the kitchen using kid-friendly tools and recipes gets little ones excited about the feast, creates a sense of independence and offers an opportunity to learn about nutrition.

"Thanksgiving is all about tradition and family," said culinary instructor Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac. "I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies and give them to friends. We created a lot of special memories."

Allowing children to help with meal planning helps them to feel invested, especially if their favorite fare is included. Enticing children into trying new dishes that they claim to dislike might be made easier if they had a hand in the preparation. "You can also encourage them to try something new or introduce the food groups that make up a balanced meal," said Pardo. "Take them shopping with you and let them help you find the ingredients."

Advanced planning might be necessary for parents who tend to find preparing for a holiday meal stressful. "When you're in a frenzy to get the meal cooked before guests arrive, it might seem easier to do it yourself than have your kids



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI'S TABLE

Baking holiday cookies with her son when he was four, became a family tradition that continues today.

"I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies ... we created a lot of special memories."

—Terri Carr, Terri's Table

trying to help," said Jessica Bernard, a personal chef in Alexandria. "You can include them in the prep work, even the day before. They can wash vegetables or measure ingredients"

"Kids particularly would love making mashed potatoes," added Carr. "When parents do the prep work, kids can put the dish together."

Cooking is not the only task involved in a holiday meal. Creating a centerpiece or the table or choosing decorative items to display will help them to feel included in the festivities. "Kids can set the table so that they realize that it's a special day," said Carr. "Get

them involved in decorating. You can set the table a day or two in advance and kids can make crafts to incorporate in the table setting. Decorating the house ahead of time gets everyone in the mood for the holiday."



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SENIOR SERVICES Caring Connection Partners

BY NATHAN TOEWS
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

The City of Alexandria's senior population has grown to over 22,000 individuals — and more than 5,000 of these older adults live alone. Stories from Senior Services of Alexandria's (SSA) Meals on Wheels volunteers often detail arriving at a client's home to find them ill, injured or in need of urgent medical attention. It is fortunate that these volunteers can be the "eyes and ears" of the community coming to the senior's aid, but all involved are left to ask what more could have been done to prevent these serious problems.

In 2018, SSA launched a bold initiative called Caring Connection — a proactive program designed to bridge the gap between vulnerable older adults and health care professionals who can address issues before they develop into something more serious. Older adults with chronic health conditions or who have been recently discharged from a medical facility are at a high risk of being readmitted because of health and medication issues, falls, or inadequate nutrition. Caring Connection provides daily meal delivery along with personalized health and safety checks managed by dedicated staff.

The goal of Caring Connection is to provide nutrition and monitoring to this vulnerable population while sharing critical information to health care professionals in order to reduce the likelihood of hospital readmissions. Older adults will be able to maintain their independence while receiving check-ins, healthy meals, and guidance in the comfort of their own home.

Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center saw the importance of this service and in early January of this 2019 partnered with SSA to offer Caring Connection to its clients when they return home from rehab.

"As the healthcare landscape continues to change, we need to adapt to that change.

Transitional Care Management from one level of healthcare to another has become more vital. Woodbine cares about our patients

SEE CARING, PAGE 21

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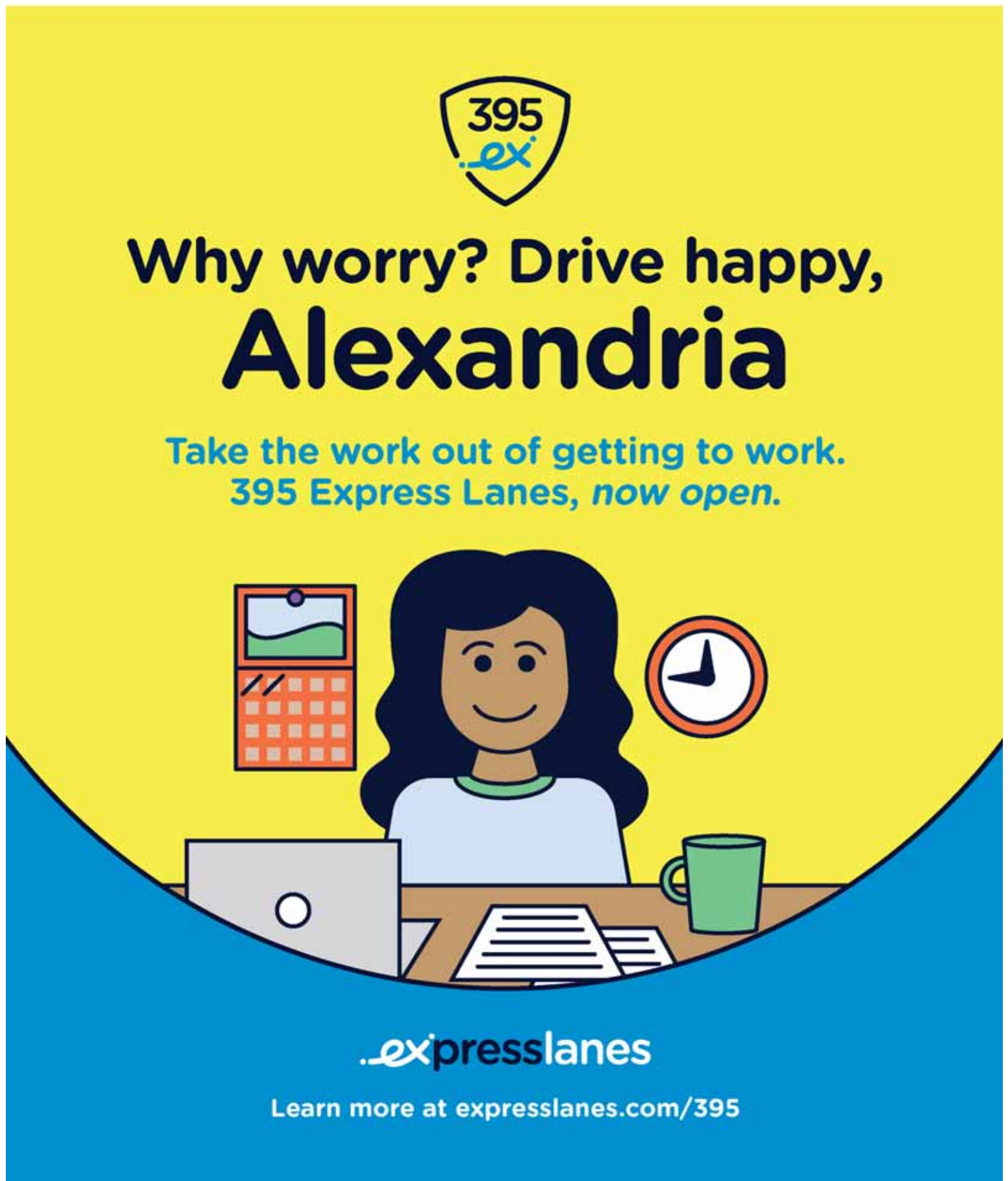


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OPINION

Beating The Odds: Patrick H. Lumpkins

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Patrick H. Lumpkins was born a slave but did not let his circumstance stop him from making an enormous impact on the African Americans in Alexandria, Virginia, through education and music. His first career choice was medicine but due to lack of funds, he pursued education. He attended Howard University but was unable to complete the program. In August 1882, he was selected to teach at Snowden School for boys to fill the vacancy of William F. Burke who had resigned.

Patrick was also gifted in music. He was a member of Roberts Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church and a contributor to the church music programs for more than forty-years. He helped to increase membership in the church through his music. He sang in the church choir in the late 1870s, directed the church music programs and organized the Epworth League Choir and the Brotherhood Choir. He served as superintendent



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**Patrick H. Lumpkins
(1856-1919).**

of Sunday school.

In 1897, Patrick gave a musical performance that was the talk of the town, and the famous Booker T. Washington attended Roberts Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church during that performance on a visit to Alexandria. Patrick also was the musical director for the Alexandria Choral Society. He performed in 1905 at the Alexandria Opera House with seventy

voices to raise money for the Colored Old Folks' Home, a large turnout from the community attended. Late that same year, he and the choir gave another concert to raise money for the Colored Ward of the Alexandria Hospital. Mr. Lumpkins was also active in his community affairs. He connected to the young and the old.

Patrick H. Lumpkin was born in 1856 to Gustavus (Gus) Lumpkins and Catherine Buckner in Loudoun County, Virginia. As a young child in slavery, his mother had to work in the fields. She strapped Patrick to her back while she worked the fields. Young Patrick experienced poor circulation in his hand that caused him paralysis for the rest of his life. The disability did not stop him from excelling in school and in music.

During the civil war, Patrick's parents made their way to Alexandria in 1863. Gus and Catherine had their second son, James Lumpkins who was born in Alexandria as a freed person in 1868. Patrick's father was a skilled shoemaker. He also invested in property in 1875 and purchased a house at 179 King Street, and turned the house into a boarding house called the Fountain House.

After College, Patrick married Lucy A. Webb in 1902. They had a daughter named Helen Lumpkins in 1905 who also pursued a career as a teacher. Helen's life mirrored her dad. She became a well-known teacher, an organist and a junior choir director for Roberts Chapel Methodist Church for twenty-nine years. Patrick's granddaughter, Bernice Robinson Lee became the third generation of school teachers in her family by teaching in the Chicago School system. Patrick Sr., also had a son, Patrick Lumpkins II. Today, Patrick Sr., has two granddaughters who pursued medical careers. One of his granddaughters is a medical doctor and the other is a dentist.

On September 15, 1919, Patrick Sr., died at home at 615 South Columbus Street. He left behind his wife, Lucy, his two children, Helen and Patrick II. His descendants continue to achieve success because Patrick paved the way for them. He never let his circumstance define him.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

Give Locally in Alexandria

For thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Alexandria City Public Schools, most (more than 60 percent) of students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals. Among Alexandria's families with children, more than 10 percent have incomes below the poverty line.

Many are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be

sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

Many nonprofits in the city need your help to provide a holiday meal for Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally in Alexandria

- ❖ ALIVE! Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; ALIVE! serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org
- ❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders enabling them to

- age with dignity.
- ❖ Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 703-746-4774, www.alexandriainimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach.
- ❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.
- ❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.
- ❖ ACT for Alexandria, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services.
- ❖ Carpenter's Shelter, 703-548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.
- ❖ The Campaign Center, 703-549-0111, www.campaigncenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.
- ❖ Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.
- ❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families

- in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life
 - ❖ Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, 703-549-6670 ext. 119 <https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Donate now to fund its mission of making sure that every child in Alexandria can read and succeed.
 - ❖ Community Lodgings, Inc., 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.
 - ❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development.
 - ❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.
 - ❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500
 - ❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteerallexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.
 - ❖ Bethany House, 6121 Lincoln Rd
- SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 20



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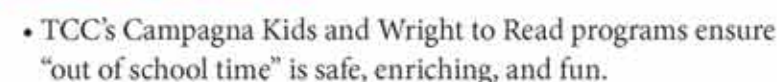
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- **91%** of students receiving tutoring support obtained a B or better or improved by one letter grade in a core curriculum course.

- **43** week-long career exploration placements, called Externships, enabled Building Better Futures students to explore career fields of interest while our corporate externship partners had some additional helping hands.

ADULTS

- TCC's New Neighbors program helps immigrants become self-sufficient members of the community. With ten levels of English instruction, access to city services, and on-site child care, New Neighbors provides a safe place where people from many cultures build skills and friendships while learning English.

- **96%** of New Neighbors students report that the program has helped them develop a greater sense of self confidence, independence, and self-sufficiency.

This year, you can give the gift of a great education.



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Special thanks to the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and to the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C. Cover art by Patricia Palermino. Graphic design by Marie Chambers.

LETTERS

Loan for 52 Units

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my concern regarding several points raised in Michael Lee Pope's article "Larger Loan" published on Oct. 31, 2019.

As the CEO of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, I was proud to submit a request to the City Council for additional funds to complete the Ramsey Homes construction. These additional funds allow for the replacement of the 15 public housing units that were demolished on the site, and add 37 new rental units affordable to working families in Alexandria.

At a time when Congress has dramatically reduced the capital funds public housing authorities traditionally rely on to replace aging public housing units, and when the City is struggling to increase the amount of rental units affordable to working residents, the 52 units at Ramsey represent a step towards addressing a critical need within our community. The development has been "challenging" since its inception for a number of reasons that are too numerous to list here.

The \$1.4M loan that Mr. Pope

implies is a "hand out" to the development is far from it. The loan will be repaid, as have other loans from the City, from the cash flow generated from the operations of Ramsey.

It is important to note that the loan comes from a fund established by the City to finance affordable housing projects sponsored by ARHA. So as the loan is repaid, ARHA will reinvest the funds in future housing developments that will benefit all residents of the City of Alexandria. The loan is an investment by the City to address the shortage of affordable housing options which very low and moderate income working families face daily in Alexandria.

To me, the historical significance of Ramsey will rest in its future as a source of quality housing for working and low income families challenged by the increasingly high rents in our community. I am proud of this loan. I look forward to the ribbon cutting celebration when 52 households, which hopefully will include some of the prior residents, will call the new Ramsey their home.

Keith Pettigrew

ARHA Chief Executive Officer

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20



Calm in the Storm

Have you ever been tossed around by a wave, completely at its mercy?

Often times we don't even see it coming. It may be a relationship ending, debt, or even a health issue. Suddenly, the ground we thought was solid beneath our feet is gone, and we are swept along at the whims of an external event. Whatever stage of life you're in, we can all use a little help navigating the Waves of Life. Visit Community Church of Christ this Sunday as we explore how to get back on our feet and regain our balance in turbulent times.

About Community Church of Christ
Community Church of Christ is a small loving congregation that is serious about doing God's work, we are right around the corner. We invite you to come as you are and enjoy a biblically based sermon and fellowship with others in your community.

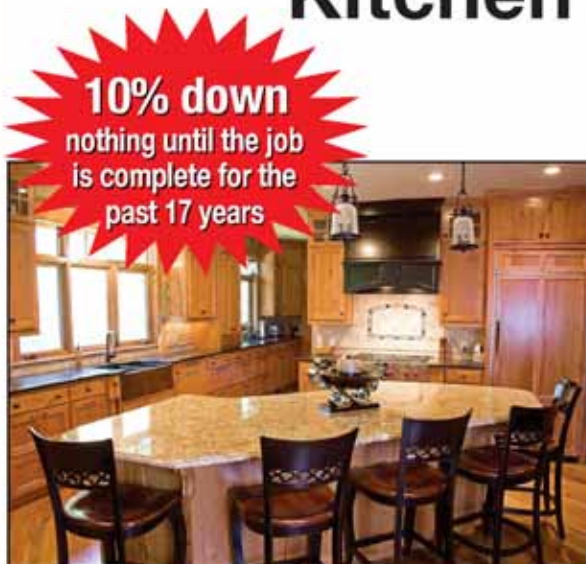
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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Joseph Conrad at Oak Steakhouse

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Executive Chef Joseph Conrad at Oak Steakhouse on N. St. Asaph pulls out two eight-pound pork racks from the cooler. “I got these from a farm in Maryland. We cut everything in house. I have a band saw in the back.” Today he is making Langenfelder Farms 16-ounce pork chops with chantrelle mushrooms, baby turnips with green chartreuse and pistachio puree. “It is one of our featured items, not on the regular menu.”

Conrad got the idea for the puree from one of his buddies who liked to drink green chartreuse, which is an unusual drink. “I smelled it. I liked it because it is herbaceous and grassy. I thought of pistachios, rich and savory. I cook them and puree them with the chartreuse, simple syrup and salt. “It has a slight little sweetness when you marry them together. It is pretty delightful.”

Conrad has removed the chime on the back of the pork loin for easier parting into chops. In 7-8 minutes he has taken the sinew off the back, scraped the excess meat off the ribbons, sharpened his

Japanese knife and started on the large end of the loin, going closer to the bone as he proceeds, so the slices will come out a consistent size.

In the middle of cutting up the pork, he texts the mushroom man to order his mushroom mix from Pennsylvania. He says it is used mostly for their popular mushroom side dish made with black- soy sauce pepper butter and thyme. Conrad orders 20 cases of 5 pounds each of mushrooms once a week.

Conrad sprinkles Kosher salt and then toasted ground Tellicherry pepper and places the chop on the grill.

“I estimate it is about 600 degrees at this spot.”

Conrad will grill it about 8 minutes for medium rare. “Since it is high quality meat, we’re not afraid to grill pork medium rare.” Conrad remembers with some humor that he worked at a pig farm in Iowa when he was in high school. “I’m surprised I can eat pork today.”

Conrad inserts a razor thin cake thermometer into the chop and then presses it against his face. He doesn’t use a meat thermometer because it pokes large holes in the meat and lets the juices run out. “Since your skin is 98.6 degrees, if the cake thermometer feels completely cold, you know the meat isn’t done. If it’s just getting a little warm, you know it is medium rare.” He says, “It’s not just something you just learn overnight.”

Conrad bastes the chop with butter compound which is house made butter mixed with Dijon mustard, white wine, salt and pepper. He cuts two mission figs in half, and turns to flip over the chops and baste them once again.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

Executive Chef Joseph Conrad cuts the pork loin to prepare the 1-1/2 inch chops, bastes the chop with composed mustard butter, checks the temperature against his skin with a cake thermometer, adds the pistachio green chartreuse puree, and arranges the final presentation with baby turnips.



Conrad pulls out two baby turnips each about the size of a large pea with long feathery leaves to use as garnish. He explains, “I ordered baby turnips but when the sous chef showed them to me I asked ‘is he still here.’ But they turned out to a nice garnish.” He turns to the chops and bastes them once again. “Pork is a lean meat without a lot of marbling.”

Conrad has made a wine jus, which is one of the two basic house sauces, used in the restaurant. “You roast beef bones an hour and twenty minutes until they are crispy and have a nice flavor. Mix bone broth with tomato paste and reduce until sticky.” Separately he

has reduced red wine, port and shallots and mixes the two sauces together.

“I’ll take the chop off and let it rest for a minute.” With a swipe of a brush, Conrad creates a green swath across the white serving plate.

Then a swirl of the red wine reduction. He places the chop on a cutting board. “Here I’ll cut off the end.” He places it at an angle on the side of the plate and then spirals open the other slices in a curve.” The baby turnips are nestled with the pork along with a few thinly sliced radishes on the edge.

Conrad went to Culinary Acad-

emy in San Francisco and then did an externship at Charlie Trotter’s in Chicago before going back to San Francisco for six years. He has been at Oak Steakhouse since January 2019 when he came to supervise the opening of the restaurant in July.

He credits his love of cooking to his grandmother and her amazing lemon poppyseed bread. “Very simple but the same every time—the structure of the loaf, just the right amount of icing.” And it was more the camaraderie, everyone hanging out in the kitchen, the heart of the house.

Oak Steakhouse is at 901 N St Asaph St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh

brewed coffee). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

Creature Comforts Art Exhibit.

Now thru Jan. 26, 2020. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The “Creature Comforts” art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww

HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Black Friday Alexandria. Held in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. Alexandria’s alternative Black Friday experience features more than 40 independent boutiques kicking off the holiday shopping season with one-of-a-kind deals on designer and coveted merchandise, including home decor, chic fashions, gourmet food, classic toys and gifts for dogs. Store offers vary, with special discounts

throughout the day and more than 10 boutiques opening by 7 a.m., including fibre space, Pacers, The Shoe Hive, Red Barn Mercantile and Bloomers. Visit the website: visitallexandria.com/blackfriday or visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays.

NOV. 29 TO DEC. 31

Winter Wonderland at The Alexandrian. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. At The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. New this year, the SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Lift a Glass at Cider Festival This Weekend

BY HOPE NELSON

Once an innocent bystander in the craft-beer wars, hard cider has become a mainstay on the popularity circuit in its own right. And for the fifth year in a row, Historic Alexandria is toasting the beverage with the Alexandria Cider Festival, celebrating both the history and the future of cider. The festivities will take place in a weather-protected tent outside the Lloyd House on Nov. 23 from 1-5 p.m.

“Cider has been around for a long time in Virginia. This is part of a long tradition,” said Historic Alexandria’s Dan Lee.

Though apples aren’t native to Virginia, native crabapples were bred with apples from Europe through the 18th and 19th centuries. Naturally, once the fruit’s fermentation properties became known, drinkers lapped it up.

“For a while cider was a favorite alcoholic beverage, favorite fer-

mented drink, of Alexandria,” Lee said.

Though beer eventually subsumed cider’s popularity in America, now cider has had a resurgence. No longer do drinkers have just a sugary-sweet option for fruity alcoholic beverages; now, they’ve got a plethora of more savory options to round out the cider spectrum.

“There’s this Renaissance of using these apples that we don’t like to eat to make cider,” Lee chuckled.

At this weekend’s festival, 10 different cideries will be offering their wares for tasting. Alexandria’s Lost Boy Cider will have the shortest commute; Albemarle Cider Works from North Garden and Blue Bee in Richmond will celebrate their status as cideries that have been part of the festival since Year One. And don’t expect to leave the festivities peckish; Mount Vernon’s food truck, Executive Orders, will pull around to offer up some festive lunch fare for the occasion.

Festival-goers will bring home a



Cider from Lost Boy in Alexandria.

IF YOU GO

Alexandria Cider Festival
When: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23
Where: Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St.
Tickets: \$45 in advance; \$55 at the door.

tasting glass, listen to live music on site and taste the nearly dozen ciders from around the Commonwealth.

“They also have the option of having a cider talk in which they’re given more information about particular ciders and the history of cider as well,” Lee said.

And while reveling in the city’s history with cider, attendees can take comfort in the fact that they’re not alone. Alexandria’s sister city, Caen, France, has a robust cider tradition, too.

“It’s the capital of Normandy, and Normandy actually has a 40-kilometer route called La Route du Cidre,” Lee said. That’s a fact you can lift a glass to.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

Alexandrian and Jackson 20 will convert their central courtyard into a Winter Wonderland. The Winter Wonderland will be a destination for festive cocktails and small bites by a fire pit as well as holiday programming working with local community partners throughout the season. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Children’s National. Visit the website: thealexandrian.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Holiday programs and tours fill each day with delight at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Visitors of all ages can tour the Mansion, watch 18th-century demonstrations and hear stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. Admission: \$20 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit the website: mountvernon.org/christmas

DEC. 1-6

Holiday Market at Carlyle. Dec. 1 from 6-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Alexandria’s Holiday Market is an annual signature event that transforms John Carlyle Square into a lively open-air festival, perfect for children young and old. On Dec. 1, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the town crier will ring in the season with a live appearance. The holiday market and festivities are sponsored by The Carlyle Vitality Initiative. Visit the website: thecarlylecommunity.com

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend provides vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

DEC. 6-22

Holiday Market. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. The artists are presenting a variety of media, including botanical drawings, fiber/textiles, glass, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, paper crafting, photography, pottery/ceramics, sculpture, watercolor, wood turning, and more. Different artists each weekend. First three weekends in December. Market is Dec. 6-8, Dec. 13-15, Dec. 20-22. Fridays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/



Help kick off the holidays with the annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony, which will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

Tree-Lighting Ceremony

Saturday/Nov. 23, 6 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. The City invites the community to join Mayor Justin Wilson and a host of holiday friends at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bring the family to spark the season’s spirit a week earlier than usual. The Town Crier will call everyone to gather around the tree, where the Metropolitan School of the Arts will perform “Santa’s Spectacular,” and the T.C. Williams High School Advanced Choir will perform holiday music. Help count down to the lighting of the tree, then visit and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free, and the event will occur rain or shine. Call 703-746-5592 or visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford’s Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post

❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Sing-Along. 7:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free – Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. You’ll join in song with your neighbors as Conductor Mike Evans

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play your holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, we'll have the lyrics in brand new song books. Free tickets are available on eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandrias-annual-holiday-sing-along-free-tickets-79959949361>

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firstnightalexandria.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Thanksgiving Golf Tourney. 9 a.m. Shotgun Start. At Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Compete for



The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

Friday-Saturday/Dec. 6-7, At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

Thanksgiving turkey and pie at Greendale Golf Course's eighth annual Turkey Cup. Adults 18 and up compete in an 18-hole, two-person, captain's choice format. Prizes are awarded for first and second place per division and Closest to the Pin. Registration closes Nov. 14. The cost is \$100 per team and includes lunch, greens fee, power cart and prizes. Fees are due at the time of registration. Call 703-971-3788 to register. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/tournaments.

Juror Talk with Antonio McAfee. 7 p.m. At The Art League, 105 North

Union Street, Alexandria. Featuring mixed media artist and photographer Antonio McAfee. He will be discussing his work and career as well as his process for selecting member works for "Origins," one of three shows in the gallery this month. His recent works employ a technique of reworking photographic portraiture to offer a layered image and concept of the people depicted. website: www.theartleague.org

Designing for Stormwater. 7-8:30 p.m. At Sherwood Hall Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Big

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

NOVA Parks Debuts The Winter Village at Cameron Run

For the first time ever, *Ice & Lights, A Winter Village at Cameron Run*, debuts Friday, Nov. 15 in Alexandria, transforming the water park into a winter wonderland. The village will be illuminated with thousands of lights and feature a real ice rink, a Christmas shop, music, food and much more.

"Ice and lights is our newest winter event that transforms Cameron Run Regional Park into an ice rink and winter village, extending our operating season to year round," said Blythe Russian, park operations superintendent at NOVA Parks.

The wintry village includes a 20-foot walk-through tree, a lighted tunnel, giant stars and snowflakes, roasting marshmallows at fire pits, a playground and well-lit holiday photo ops. Innovative heated igloos allow visitors to warm up before once again tackling the cold.

"We felt like there was a real opportunity to take what was typically a summer space and transform it into a winter wonderland in order to provide the residents of Alexandria a fun new attraction," said Brian Bauer, communications administrator at NOVA Parks. Nov. 15 through Jan. 5, 2020. From Jan. 6 through Feb. 29, only the ice rink will be open. <https://www.novaparks.com/events/ice-lights>



Heated igloos so visitors can warm up from the cold.



Thousands of lights adorn the Ice & Lights Winter Village.



Lighted giant snowflakes illuminate the winter village.



Lighted tunnel at the Ice & Lights Winter Village.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

storms, big flooding: How can redevelopment help flooding and water quality along the Richmond Highway Corridor? Join county staff and advocates to discuss. Free. Visit the website: <https://anshome.org/events/designing-for-stormwater/>

Sortie of the Beaujolais Nouveau. 7:30-10 p.m. At The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee and the Office of Historic Alexandria, and participate in the world's largest wine party. On this year's Beaujolais Nouveau Day, celebrate the first taste of the 2019 harvest in the company of fellow French enthusiasts and Sister City supporters. The fresh and fruity Beaujolais Nouveau wine is made using a quick fermentation process that it is ready in time to celebrate the end of each harvest season. Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased by calling 703-746-4994 or through alexandriava.gov/Shop.

NOV. 21-23

"The Laramie Project." 7-9:30 p.m. At Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The play is a documentary-style drama focusing on the aftermath of a hate crime in Laramie, Wyoming, based on real events and people. Mature content. Cost is \$5 and \$10. Visit the website: www.edisontheatrecompany.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Stories with Santa. At Union Street
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Public House, 121 S. Union Street, Old Town Alexandria. There will be Christmas cookies, stories read by Santa, hot chocolate, juice, and milk. \$12 per ticket. Call 703-548-1785 or visit <https://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/>

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

Thanksgiving History Lesson. 11 a.m. to noon. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Gather around the campfire for a "Dutch Oven Brunch." Enjoy corn pancakes and freshly made butter as you learn about the history of Thanksgiving foodways. Discover why Thanksgiving might not have been celebrated by the Mason family that once called Huntley home. This program is designed for participants ages 6 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Old Town Cookie Crawl. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At various locations through Old Town Alexandria. Admission: \$20 registration fee. Kick-off the holidays early during Old Town Business's first annual Old Town Cookie Crawl. Receive a commemorative tin and stop by all 15 stores on the crawl to receive a



The Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

Boat Parade of Lights

Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade

Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
 - ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
 - ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
 - ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
 - ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
 - ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

2020 Virginia Legislature to Consider Many Reforms

Will sweeping change come to Virginia in 2020?

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL
(D-36)



Surovell

Election Day, Nov. 5, 2019, brought a political earthquake to Virginia. The Governor's office, House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia will be controlled by Democrats for the first time since 1991. Virginians voted for change and we are likely to see significant changes in Virginia policy after nearly 30 years of delayed and avoided actions. The 2020 Session is a welcomed opportunity to bring Virginia up to speed with the rest of the country. Your state legislators are now preparing for the 2020 General Assembly session which will begin on January 8 and end in March.

People should expect to see funding for education at all levels prioritized. Virginia's teacher salaries have dropped from the top

third in the country to the bottom third over the last three decades. This hurts teacher recruitment and retention and ultimately the quality of education. We will work for progress toward universal preschool. Virginia's state-supported colleges now have some of the highest tuition rates in the United States. I expect the legislature to work toward lowering tuition.

Voting reforms will be high on the agenda, including expanding early voting. I will work to move state and local elections to even years, but that may take time and requires a state constitutional change.

Virginia's criminal justice system is unnecessarily punitive, has significant racial disparities and falls short on rehabilitation. We will likely revisit Virginia's still low misdemeanor-felony threshold of \$500, along with measures to increase diversion, promote

expungement and second chances and reconsider mandatory minimum sentences.

We will move the long-overdue Equal Rights Act ratification early in the session. The legislature will also put Roe v. Wade into law to protect against the U.S. Supreme Court going backwards. We are also likely to revisit Virginia's mandatory ultrasound requirement for women exercising their constitutional reproductive rights.

Several groups have ranked Virginia as the worst state in which to be an employee. The General Assembly will consider raising the minimum wage to \$15 phased in over time. We will also address measures to strengthen workers' rights, including eliminating the ban on project labor agreements in public contracts, requiring a prevailing wage in public contracts and measures to provide real remedies to employees who experience wage theft.

Virginia has a recent history of hostility to people in our lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgendered (LGBT community). We will be considering measures to prohibit

discrimination in housing and employment against LGBT Virginians and prohibiting the misguided practice of conversion therapy.

Virginia's newest residents have also been unfairly demonized over the last two decades. My legislation to provide one-year driver's privilege cards to certain undocumented immigrants will finally receive serious consideration along with in-state tuition privileges for Virginia children brought to the United States as minors.

The legislature will give serious attention to investments in wind and solar energy, including incentives to make it easier and more affordable for Virginians to install solar panels on their own homes. We will also likely consider mandating renewable energy targets for the entire state.

These measures will help reduce polluting, carbon-based, greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet at unsustainable rates.

The General Assembly will finally truly take on predatory lending. Online lenders who charge 400% interest rates and hide be-

hind out-of-state Native American tribes will face regulation. Car title lenders who currently charge 267% interest rates authorized by Virginia law will likely face lower rates.

Many of these changes will require additional resources. Virginia should not have repealed its estate tax in 2008. The repeal only affected about 50-100 families per year and has cost taxpayers nearly \$2 billion since it was done. Virginia's income tax is effectively a flat tax given that our top bracket is a \$17,500.

Considering all of these changes will not be easy and will require significant time, focus and consideration. Public support is critical and feedback from constituents is important to make sure the General Assembly gets these proposals right.

As we work toward fulfilling our commitments to voters and prioritizing policies, I look forward to your comments and encourage you to reach out to me at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 15

Gun Violence Prevention

To the Editor:
This is a response to an Opinion piece by Dino Drundi entitled 'Alexandria's Designated Deplorable,' Alexandria Gazette 11/07-11/13.

In it he states, "Del. Paul Krizek's call for common-sense gun violence prevention covers for what amounts to something verging on a broad gun ban."

I am very hopeful that the incoming General Assembly will introduce a number of gun violence prevention bills because the voters demanded it.

I think universal background checks, one gun a month, extreme risk protection orders and a ban on high capacity magazines will be among them.

It is important to note that none of these bills would contribute to a "broad gun ban." Drundi's statement that "Women who were killed by a spouse, intimate partner, or close relative were 7 times more likely to have lived in homes with guns is a fact not part of a call for a broad gun ban."

Kevin Bergen
Alexandria

First Thanksgiving

Dear Editor:

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving held by the English speaking people in America. On Dec. 4, 1619, after a stormy 75 day trans-Atlantic trip, Capt. John Woodlief of the Margaret with its crew and 38 settlers reached their destination, Berkeley Hundred, 20 some miles upriver from Jamestown. His sealed orders received in London directed them first to have a service of thanksgiving for their safe arrival - and do so on that date in perpetuity.

According to the Williamsburg Foundation, the newly arrived colonists read "from the Book of Common Prayer. There was no grand meal...they likely fasted, a common practice during religious days. ..."

The annual celebration ended after a 1622 surprise Indian attack wiped out almost the entire settlement. Because of the massacre, the other colonists did not feel like celebrating.

Berkeley was unoccupied for many years, but eventually the Harrison family built a magnificent brick house which became the home of a signer of the Declaration of Independence (Benjamin

IV) and the ancestral home of two Presidents (William Henry and Benjamin). A public celebration of Thanksgiving is held there annually in early November.

Most Americans trace our annual celebration of Thanksgiving to the 1621 feast held in Plymouth, Massachusetts, when the Pilgrims invited the Wampanoag tribe to join them in thanking God for their survival and that year's harvest. However, their three-day celebration was a harvest festival only and not planned to be an annual event.

President George Washington issued the first proclamation under the Constitution on Oct. 3, 1789, designating Thursday, Nov. 26, as a national day of thanks. It stated "Whereas it is the duty of

all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor — and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer ... we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions."

Although the media emphasize great conflicts among us, as we celebrate this Thanksgiving, we can be thankful to be a self-governing people who live in the fre-

est, most prosperous nation in history. We are also thankful to our Creator for life, our families and friends and those who serve, often at great sacrifice.

Sincerely,
Ellen Latane Tabb
Alexandria

'We Cannot Do This Again'

To the editor:

Every now and then, a politician becomes forever known for one unfortunate statement. For George H.W. Bush, it was "Read my lips: No new taxes." For Bill Clinton, it was "It depends on what the

SEE NEVER AGAIN. PAGE 22

Give Locally in Alexandria

FROM PAGE 10

#303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhmv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.
❖ Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org. Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

❖ The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, www.cfnova.org. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.
❖ Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. Able to devote more than 98 percent of the

donations and grants to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC
❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout region. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

Caring Connection Partners

FROM PAGE 9

and once it's time for them to discharge to home after rehab, having the opportunity to activate the Caring Connection Program adds another level of safety for our patients beyond our walls," said Donna Shaw, Administrator of Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center. "Implementing this program has been just one of the steps we have taken to stay ahead of the curve with the growing needs of Transitional Care. We have been thrilled (and so have our patients) with the positive outcomes."

In the last several months, Senior Services has provided daily meal delivery and check-ins to 20 older adults with positive results. Caring Connection staff have been able to track progress and immediately report changes of condition to Woodbine social workers. In addition, SSA provides Woodbine monthly reports summarizing all client deliveries and condition reports.

The daughter of City of Alexandria resident who recently benefited from the Woodbine and Caring Connection program said,

"Caring Connection is a wonderful program that Woodbine Rehab and Healthcare has available to those that are discharged home from rehab.

The meals filled in the gap, and allowed my mother to have good nutrients during her transition back to home, and getting back into her routine."

The momentum for the program

is growing and SSA is looking forward to expanding the service with Woodbine as well as other health care facilities.

If you would like to learn more about Caring Connection, contact me at mealprograms@seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 115.

Nathan Toews is Director of Meal Programs, Senior Services of Alexandria.

Announcements

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Announcements

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Legals

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Silver Diner Alexandria, LLC trading as Silver Diner, 4610 King St Ste A3, Alexandria, VA 22302. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robert Gialino, owner/ The Veritas Law Firm. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at: 703 N WASHINGTON STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mount Vernon Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum related hydrocarbons at the Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder
1745 Dorsey Road, Suite J
Hanover, MD 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on November 15, 2019. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle at (703) 583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until December 16. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2018-3230.

Department of Environmental Quality Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at: KING STREET LIBERTY 4368 KING STREET ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22302

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Exxon Mobil Corporation to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum related hydrocarbons at the Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder
1745 Dorsey Road, Suite J
Hanover, MD 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on November 27, 2019. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle at (703) 583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until December 27. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2018-3059.

Department of Environmental Quality Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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Legals

LEGAL NOTICE

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

Announcements

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Announcements

An Idiot Servant No More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Given the extremely sad experience I shared with you all in last week's column: "Chino Lourie, Rest in Peace," this column will be an attempt to bounce back to my usual and customary reality, one oddly enough that has nothing to do with cancer (well, much, anyway). Instead it has to do with unexpected joy.

The joy to which I refer has to do with a subject which typically provides me little joy: I refer to our two automobiles, a 2000 Honda Accord and a 2018 Audi A4. The former inherited from my parents, payment-free but rarely hassle-free, the latter not free of payments, unfortunately, but free of hassle since its maintenance is covered by the warranty.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, off and mostly on, both cars have had an indication that all was not right. Each had illuminated dashboard warning lights (aka "idiot lights") constantly reminding the driver that attention to some detail was required. For the Honda, it was twofold, a "Main't Req" light and a "Brake" light "were dashing." For the Audi, it was "onefold," an icon which looks like an upside down horseshoe, sort of, which I learned, after thumbing through the owner's manual, meant low tire pressure, appeared directly under the speedometer. Since I felt no give or take with the Honda and saw no evidence of low tire anything with the Audi, I learned to take their reminders in stride and figured I'd wait until their respective next service calls to respond to them.

Those service calls have now occurred. And I am extremely glad - and relieved to say, that their necessary/underlying repairs have been made. Glad/relieved not so much because the repairs/obvious safety issues have been addressed. Rather, glad/relieved that in making those repairs, the dashboard warning lights are no longer illuminating their disdain with the idiot behind the wheel: me, neglecting them.

No more, after starting either car, will my initial focus be on the dashboard to see if miraculously the warning lights have disappeared and finally stopped their incessant, non-verbal badgering. No more will I be forced to ignore their illumination and attempt to compartmentalize their visual reminders that all is not well under the hood (so to speak). And finally, no more will I have to worry that one day - or night, the other mechanical shoe will drop and I or my wife, will be left stranded on the road somewhere waiting for a tow truck to drag us to our car-repair maker.

And though this dashboard-warning-light-turn-off is really a turn-on, I am still able to keep its effect in perspective. It's not a cure for cancer and neither is it a cure for my "stable" issue as written about multiple times recently ("Please Relief Me" and "Apparently, Not a Stable Genius"). However, as we say in sales: "I'll take a yes;" as they say on the high seas: "Any port in a storm;" and has been said for the last century: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." For the official record, I am not horsing around in the least when I say how thrilled I am now that everytime I start our cars, I see no lights reminding me what an idiot I've been. As a cancer patient I don't need that kind (or any other kind, quite frankly) of negativity in my life, or in my car either. Eliminating it from my activities of daily living adds a bounce to my step and a joie to my vivre.

I realize I may be over stating the significance of this momentous occasion, but when cancer takes over your life, it does so emotionally before it does so physically. As such, finding relief is HUGE. Moreover, solving a problem however insignificant in the scheme of things it appears to be, provides the building blocks of success that, as a cancer patient, help strengthen your foundation as you navigate your daily routine. A routine which is already filled with enough challenges. So yes, I am going to make a mountain out of a molehill. And I am going to fill myself up with as much positivity, nonsensical or otherwise, as possible.

I need to be pulled forward, not dragged backward.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 20

meaning of the word 'is' is." For Mayor Justin Wilson, it may end up being, "We cannot do this again."

Wilson had the very last word in the debate before City Council's fateful 4-3 Seminary Road vote on September 14th: "We cannot do this again. This kind of knock-down drag-out on each road in the City. We just cannot do this again." For him, it was too long, too hard on Council and City staff. And it was all the citizens' fault.

Yet, Wilson's own machinations led to both the protracted length and the contentious nature of the process. It started with his blind commitment to narrowing arterial roads through a Complete Streets program. Then, leading up to the mid-2018 announcement of the Seminary Road project, he repeatedly dismissed valid citizen concerns about congestion. He just thought Central Alexandria residents were being parochial.

Subsequent delays in project rollout were mainly due to overwhelming community opposition, playing out prominently in three well-attended meetings between T&ES and residents of Seminary Hill and other Central/West End neighborhoods. Neither the mayor nor T&ES expected such push back. Instead of scrapping the project, they kept delaying it.

Not long before the Council vote, Wilson met with a number of civic association presidents. When asked whether it mattered that 13 civic associations opposed the road diet, he remarked, "If 99 percent of people wanted me to do something stupid, I wouldn't do it." The leaders left feeling impressed only by the mayor's condescension and dismissiveness. Retaining four lanes certainly doesn't look stupid now.

Throughout, the mayor was not transparent or straight with the community. His messaging was all over the place: It's about 37 annual deaths (not factual). A missing sidewalk (not needed). Buffers for pedestrians (didn't happen where needed). Safety for all users (seems worse). Now, Wilson is saying that it was really about creating impediments to non-resident cut-through commuters so they would keep to the interstates. Those same impediments are now hindering residents' own mobility.

To many, it seems that the mayor was orchestrating the lengthy and contentious process all along. Case in point: At the final community meeting in May, T&ES Director Yon Lambert announced that the process would now include a City Council vote. This rendered the already delayed Traffic Board hearing meaningless and delayed the process again from June to September. Does anyone really believe that Yon Lambert made that decision without political intervention? We all now know what came next.

No, we cannot do this again. We cannot again elect leaders who think they are always right, ignore overwhelming community opposition, twist facts and spin public opinion, divide the community, and care more about burnishing their political credentials to outside parties than preserving the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Bill Rossello
Alexandria

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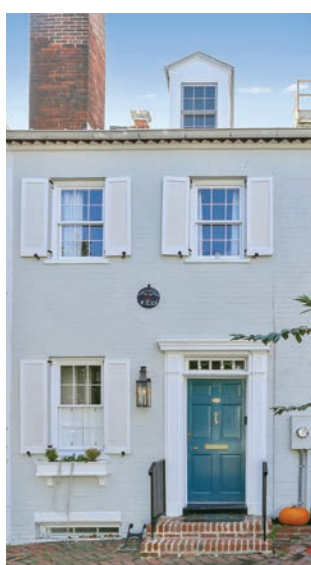


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