

Public Art Installation Opens in Waterfront Park

New exhibit frames 300 years of African American history.

Following delays of several months due to COVID-19 restrictions, the city has formally opened its newest public art installation at the Alexandria waterfront.

Located in Waterfront Park at 1 Prince Street, the exhibit titled “Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies,” is a temporary installation by Olalekan Jeyifous and the second in the Site See: New Views in Old Town annual public art series. It will be on display through November 2020 and follows SOFTlab’s 2019 Mirror Mirror installation.

Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies frames Alexandria’s African American history through the lens of the city’s merchant and manufacturing industries of the 17th to 20th centuries. Once a prosperous port city that was home to one of the largest domestic slave-trading firms in the country, Alexandria was a major center for shipping and manufacturing with an economy inextricably tied to the labor of enslaved and free African Americans.

A ground mural echoes African American quilting and textile traditions using icons that represent some of Alexandria’s historic industries: fishing, flour, tobacco and railways. From this colorful



Artist Olalekan Jeyifous standing with Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies, a new public art exhibit at the Alexandria waterfront.

surface, four large, ornate metal profiles face the water, wrapped in sculptural seating and illuminated in low light.

In the fall, a series of commissioned performances inspired by

Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies will complement the art installation at Waterfront Park. The series will feature poets and spoken-word artists curated by Alexandria’s Poet Laureate KaNikki Ja-

karta, as well as movement-based performances by Tariq O’Meally. The performances will follow applicable physical distancing and health guidance.

Jeyifous was commissioned

in 2019 to create this original site-specific work and was selected by a community task force with the Alexandria Commission for the Arts’ approval.

Based in Brooklyn, Jeyifous along with Amanda Williams, are co-creating the monument for Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in Brooklyn. The Architectural League recently honored him as one of 2020’s Emerging Voices.

Jeyifous received a bachelor’s of architecture degree from Cornell University. His work has been exhibited at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the MoMA, the Vitra Design Museum and the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain. He received grants and fellowships from the New York Foundation of the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Brooklyn Arts Council.

In 2021, the Site See series will feature work by Mark Reigelman.

Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies was installed in mid-March, but due to COVID-19 health guidelines, it remained closed to the public until Alexandria entered Phase Three of the “Forward Virginia” blueprint.

- JEANNE THEISMANN



All Aboard!

The Tall Ship Providence, a 110-foot, 12-gun sloop of war, is a replica of the first ship authorized to serve in the Continental Navy and John Paul Jones’ first American command. It arrived in Alexandria in 2019 and is now open for private tours Wednesday through Sunday. Private rentals are also available for group meetings or happy hour events. Due to COVID-19 concerns, general public cruises are not available at this time. For more information, visit www.tallshipprovidence.org

Alexandria Officer Charged For Unjustified Use of Force

An Alexandria Police was arrested on the evening of June 30 and charged with misdemeanor assault and battery, for the unjustified use of force while on duty.

On Jan. 27, the officer took an individual into protective custody for a health evaluation. While escorting the individual in handcuffs, the officer used force to take the individual to the ground. The individual sustained multiple injuries on the front of his body as a result of the action. A subsequent investigation found that no force was necessary or justified. No weapons were involved in the incident.

The officer was placed on administrative leave on June 3, with his police powers suspended. On June 26, he was notified that the

process had been initiated to terminate his employment and the use of force had been referred to the Commonwealth’s Attorney. The employment termination process is expected to be finalized by mid-July. Three supervisors who failed to investigate the use of force promptly enough have also been disciplined.

Following his arrest, the officer was booked at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria and released pending arraignment in Alexandria General District Court on August 4. This is the standard protocol for most misdemeanor bookings during the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce the risk of exposure to inmates and staff.

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 14

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More for Enforcement, Less for Assistance

Since the recession, funding has increased for public safety but decreased for social services.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Since the recession, spending on public safety in Alexandria has increased year after year. According to documents from the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, that category of government spending has increased 38 percent since 2010 as city leaders increased salaries for police officials and funded new positions at the city's emergency communications center.

But during that same time, spending on health and welfare programs has increased only 12 percent. Spending on social services has actually gone down since 2010.

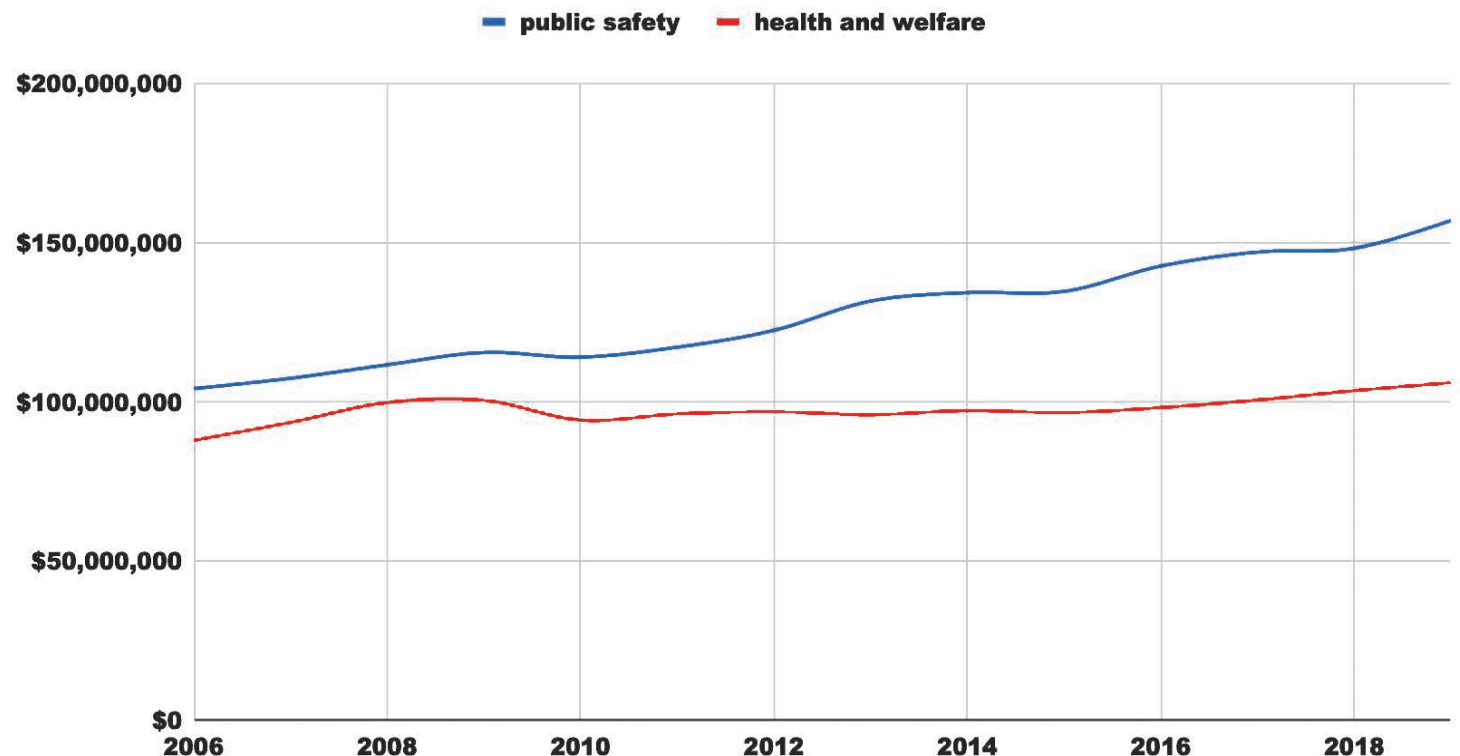
"Every year I would show up at the budget hearing to yell at them that they were cutting the health and human services budget," said Mary Anne Weber, former chairwoman of the Alexandria Community Services Board. "They have some excellent people working in health and human services, and they're very committed and dedicated. But there's not enough of them, and some of them are doing double duty."

The category of spending the auditor calls "health and welfare" includes things like children's services, energy assistance and hospitalizations for the indigent. In some cases spending in this category has increased. For example, funding for the Department of Health increased 46 percent since the recession. And spending on services for mental health and substance abuse has gone up 35 percent. But city records show social services and income support benefits have declined by more than \$2 million since 2010.

"We feel that the city hasn't been bold enough," said Ingris Moran, lead organizer at Tenants and Workers United. "Our elected officials haven't been bold enough to create systematic change, and I think Alexandria, being so progressive, our policies don't practice that."

SPENDING ON PUBLIC SAFETY isn't necessarily correlated to crime statistics. In the last decade, violent crime has gone down about 30 percent across Virginia according to the FBI. And yet spending on local law enforcement has not gone down at all in Virginia. Here in Alexandria, budget documents show the city now spends about \$10

Alexandria Spending Priorities Diverge After Recession



source: Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts

million more for law enforcement and traffic control, an 18 percent increase. Some say the drop in crime should have led to a reduction in funding for police.

"We haven't seen a corresponding drop in the amount of money that our state and local governments spend on law enforcement," said Laura Goren, research director at the Commonwealth Institute. "That means we're still spending large shares of our budgets on law enforcement despite having much lower crime rates than in the past."

"If somebody is causing antisocial behavior or acting out criminally and the underlying root cause for that is mental health issues, then the right response is not to just threaten jail, it is to address the underlying root causes."

— Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter.

In the last decade, crime in Alexandria has gone down in every category. The most serious crimes like murders, rapes and assaults are down. Nuisance crimes are lower than they were a decade ago. Overall the number of arrests are down. And yet spending on public safety has increased. Although the Commonwealth Institute says that shows an imbalance between spending priorities and demonstrated need, others say the lower crime stats are an indication that the investments are working.

"I think that spending has had some positive effect," said Frank Shafroth, director of State and Local Government at George

Mason University. "So I think there would be reluctance on the part of any elected officials to say we need to cut it back."

BUDGET OFFICIALS say a number of forces are at work in Alexandria that are reflected in spending trends since the recession. The rise in money toward public safety has been driven by three developments: the creation of a new emergency communications system, the opening of two new fire stations, and increased salaries.

The new communications system is staffed by employees that were moved into the public safety from a different department, and new fire-fighters were hired to work at the new fire stations.

Salaries have gone up across the board for people who work in public

safety.

"We've made annual market rate pay adjustments in both police and fire to remain competitive with the marketplace," said Morgan Routt, director of the Office of Management and Budget. "The same thing has been occurring in other jurisdictions too where another jurisdiction will increase their rate of pay and make themselves more attractive to potential recruits, and then the other jurisdictions will have to raise their pay to remain competitive."

One of the chief differences in spending between public safety and health and welfare programs is where the money comes

from. The vast majority of money for police departments and fire departments comes from local governments in Virginia. But most of the funding for health and welfare programs, on the other hand, comes from state and federal sources. One reason funding for social services is down in Alexandria is reduced federal spending in Washington for programs like food stamps and welfare.

"There's a more significant portion of that funding that comes from state and federal sources in the health and human services area than in the public safety arena," said Routt.

SPENDING CATEGORIES are standardized for every local government in Virginia in a way that state and local leaders can easily compare spending across the commonwealth. But sometimes spending within categories might be counterintuitive, revealing spending on social services that might be embedded in public safety. During a Black Lives Matter forum last week, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson was asked if he had a plan to move away from funding police and toward more money for social services.

"A portion of the police and sheriff's budget include a variety of different social services," said Wilson. "Certainly in the sheriff's department, there are a variety of different mental-health services and substance-abuse services as well as other things I think most people would deem social services."

Critics of that approach say it's a mistake for Virginia jails to act as institutions to handle people coping with mental health or substance abuse issues.

Perhaps the most notable example of this

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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 9-15, 2020 ♦ 3

Food for Everyone During Pandemic

ALIVE! serves as the City's basic food resource for people in need through many programs targeting specific populations.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Third in a series on food insecurity in Alexandria during the coronavirus

Ann Patterson, Food Program Director for ALIVE! says the first week after the pandemic was announced they packed for 400 in their regular food distribution but 1,100 families showed up. "We ran out of food. We didn't know what to expect." The next delivery on April 4 they packed for 1,300 and didn't run out.

"It has been going in waves. We don't know what to expect."

She says in March it was a little bewildering with the ebb and flow. "We had to always be nimble enough to evaluate the data and

pivot when necessary."

ALIVE! serves as the City's basic food resource for people in need through a variety of programs targeting specific populations. On the last Saturday of the month ALIVE! distributes groceries in a Trunk to Truck program for those needing assistance during the pandemic. This program replaces their Last Saturday Food Distribution designed to bridge the gap at the end of the month when many households run out of food.

This Trunk to Truck program allows contactless distribution through drive through or walk-up options at Cora Kelly or John Adams Elementary Schools. People drive up and the veggies, eggs, dry products are loaded directly into their car trunk without the driver getting out of the delivery truck.



Thaddeus Smith, Rashid Oki, Ruth Jarrett and Harold Robinson are the regular delivery team for food distribution at mobile pop up sites around the city. They have just come from Ruby Tucker Family Center on Monday morning to Old Towne West Apartments parking lot.

The bags are placed on a table for only one family at a time so no one can touch another's person's delivery. Tables are washed down between families.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

A woman drives up to pick up food for her three kids plus for her cousin's three kids. "His car broke down today." She leaves with two grocery bags full of lunches and breakfasts.

Each family receives four grocery bags with rice, beans, pasta, one dozen eggs, a family pack of frozen chicken, 20 pounds in a box. Patterson said their programs are people-based and they try to develop a relationship with clients to provide culturally appropriate food. "We provide low sugar and carbs if we get referrals with spe-

cial dietary needs. And," she adds, "We noticed that Muslims wouldn't take the meat we offered so we started offering Halal chicken when possible."

Patterson said when they had an inkling that schools were going to close they did a "double double"

SEE FOOD FOR, PAGE 5

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Food for Everyone

FROM PAGE 4

distribution two weeks in succession to replace the weekend care bags of groceries that would have normally been handed out at school to low-income families. Then most of the church pantries closed when it became unsafe for their mostly over-65 volunteers to continue to work there. So until the school system got their plan up and running it was just ALIVE! filling in the holes.

WEEKLY EVALUATION of data while monitoring the economic situation as well as the eviction landscape helps to determine food insecurity, Patterson said. Are unemployment checks starting to arrive? How have additional SNAP benefits affected need?

Ally Barbaro, who is a VISTA volunteer for Hunger Free Alexandria, keeps an up-to-date list of resources indicating who is open and who is closed for the City of Alexandria.

Barbaro explains Hunger Free Alexandria was formed in 2014 after the release of a report that examined access and utilization of food resources. The report determined that 1-in-5 Alexandrians, disproportionately children, face food hardship in the City. "It is a community-based coalition with partners from all different organizations."

Patterson said ALIVE! meets once a week with the core planning team to track what other organizations are doing and plan so they don't duplicate services and don't miss anyone. Wherever there are pockets of unmet need ALIVE! steps in. Barbaro says, "There are very few organizations who aren't involved with ALIVE!"

ALIVE!'s mission is to "help people faced with emergency situations or long-term needs become capable of assuming self-reliant roles in the community" through a series of initiatives including their food program as well as furniture and housewares program and child development center.

In addition to the Truck to Trunk program, ALIVE! has a home delivery program on Monday-Friday afternoons for those who can't attend the truck to trunk distributions including seniors, disabled people and parents with very young children who can't leave their homes. ALIVE! also reaches out to homeless people and other pockets of highly vulnerable populations.

THE SITUATION for homeless people has changed since they are no longer in shelters due to the coronavirus, and numerous families are in hotels with no way to get food. ALIVE! steps in to assist.

"We do have a unique situation with one superwoman who does much of the food distribution herself. Phyllis Johnson has unlimited energy. She is out in parks and a lot of churches. She makes thousands of bags a week."

**—Ann Patterson,
Food Program Director for ALIVE!**

**DURING THE PAN-
DEMIC,** ALIVE! has extended its services to pop up mobile sites where every

week they provide food in a high need neighborhood where they serve 150-200 families. On Monday morning Thaddeus Smith, the school bus driver, pulls up in the parking lot at Old Towne West Apartments on S. Albert

SEE FOOD FOR, PAGE 8



Today's lunch includes peanut butter and jelly, a piece of cheese, milk, an apple and chips.



The first person to stop by the site picks up breakfast and lunch for two days for three kids. "See you next time!"

ALIVE! also provides wrap around programs where other non-profits or the City have stepped up. ALIVE! will provide groceries in conjunction with somebody else where they aren't the lead but supplement other programs.

For instance, ALIVE! supplements the World Central Kitchen dinners served every Thursday night to about 400 families. Patterson says each family receives four meals from World Central Kitchen but they get dinner for only that Thursday night so ALIVE! passes out ten-pound bags of groceries plus 20 pounds of produce. The last Central World Kitchen dinner was June 25, "but we have talked about what to do and will continue to pass out groceries as needed."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



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OPINION

Twenty-two years ago, in 1998, Hopkins House asked the School Board to change the high school's name but the board declined. Today, we ask again.

To The Honorable Cindy M. Anderson, Chair & Members of the Alexandria City Public Schools Board, shared with the Gazette Packet:

Hopkins House joins with the many students and alumni, parents, and community organizations calling upon the Alexandria City Public Schools Board to change the name of the City's only publicly funded high school. This coming Friday, July 10, the School Board is scheduled to meet virtually and we ask School Board members to vote to change the name at that meeting. The City's children will be watching, as will voters.

Twenty-two years ago, in 1998, Hopkins House asked the School Board to change the high school's name but the board declined. Today, we ask again and we hope, this time, the board will do the right thing for the City's children

— all of them, Black, White, and Brown.

T.C. Williams High School is named in honor of a racist. Thomas Chambliss (T.C.) Williams was superintendent of the Alexandria City Public Schools from the 1930s until 1963. He was a proud and committed segregationist who, despite the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, held off integrating public schools for an additional five years until it was ordered by the courts. He fired African American school employees who dared so much as ask that their children be admitted to a whites-only school, among other hateful and racist acts.

As the City's longest serving public school superintendent, the School Board named the newly built high school in his honor — despite his protestations. We urge that today's School Board grant his request, albeit nearly 60 years late, and rename our public high school

in memory of a more honorable public figure.

Hopkins House is not now proposing a particular name or deserving individual to be honored. Rather, we call upon School Board members to vote on July 10 simply to change the name of the City's only public high school. This will start the renaming process.

There will be ample time in coming weeks to debate what the new name should be. This debate will be a wonderful opportunity for the entire City, and particularly our young people, to learn about the many deserving individuals that have earned the right, through their service to the community, appreciation for cultural diversity, and travel on higher moral ground, to be memorialized on a public building. The discourse will help to strengthen our sense of community.

The July 10 meeting of the School Board is a special meeting,

called for the purpose of dealing with reopening of schools during this health pandemic. This issue rightly deserves the School Board's full attention. However, voting simply to change the name of the City's public high school from that of a racist to a more deserving and honorable public figure, is an easy lift for the School Board and should require very little time on the Board's July 10 agenda. This issue is not at all complicated; it's simply a matter of doing what's right. We urge the members of the Alexandria City Public Schools Board to vote on July 10 to change the name of the City's public high school, and then move on to more weighty issues such as how to safely reopen our public schools this fall.

J. Glenn Hopkins,
President & CEO

James L. Banks, Jr.,
Board Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Racial Justice Applied to Traffic Enforcement

An open letter to Alexandria's City Council Members, the

City's Manager and Alexandria's Chief of Police:

Subject: AFSS statement on racial justice applied to traffic enforcement

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) has many members who are concerned about safety on our streets. Unfortunately, some of our members have buried their siblings, parents and spouses or suffered serious injuries in traffic crashes across the City of Alexandria. We pour our pain into purpose and confront the epidemic of traffic violence to prevent others from suffering.

As we advocate for change on our Virginia roadways, we also recognize that institutional racism all too often frequents our streets. Racial injustice impacts which communities receive traffic safety improvements and which drivers police choose to stop.

To address these inequities and improve safety on our streets, we advocate for:

- ❖ Making engineering changes in the roadways the first line of defense against speeding and traffic violations, as they are the most effective.

- ❖ Using automated enforce-

ment technology such as speeding, failure to yield, red light, and stop sign cameras as the second line of defense.

When employed properly, cameras are less likely to discriminate based on what a driver looks like, and these tools are typically more cost efficient than officer hours on traffic duty. Cameras must be placed in locations with historically frequent crashes and engineering confirmed high crash risk areas.

- ❖ Equitably enforcing the new Virginia State traffic laws effective July 1, 2020 regarding drivers required to stop at crosswalks if pedestrians are in the crosswalk, place automatic speed cameras around schools and construction sites, implement the new vulnerable road user law and apply indiscriminately without bias the new hands free law when it becomes effective Jan 1, 2021.

- ❖ Shifting resources for responding to behavioral health and drug overdose emergencies from the police to trained healthcare professionals.

- ❖ It is essential that these programs and laws be fairly administered with modest fees, sliding scale fees, and/or driver safety programming in lieu of fees.

Speed Management:

- ❖ We urge Alexandria to prioritize speed management as the key tenet to Vision Zero and a safe systems approach because it is more

effective at deterring dangerous driving than enforcement and less likely to be a tool for racial injustice.

- ❖ Allocate a larger portion of the City's funds to be redirected to lowering speed limits and redesigning roadways, with a particular focus on and in partnership with communities of color which may not have received these life-saving measures.

Silence could be interpreted as acquiescing to vehicle violence and racial inequities.

We are speaking out and advocating for action.

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) confronts the epidemic of traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those who have been impacted by crashes. Comprised of individuals who have been injured or lost loved ones to vehicle violence as well as many citizens who are concerned about their own safety on our streets as we walk or bike the roads of our community, AFSS was founded in 2017 and is part of a regional movement with other FSS chapters forming in the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax plus the city of Alexandria (NOVA FSS) and nationally, with other FSS chapters across the country.

Mike Doyle, on behalf of
the Board of Directors
Alexandria Families
for Safe Streets

Let's Have an Ombudsman

Dear Editor:

Former Alexandria Mayor Alison Silberberg tried during her one term in office to establish a permanent ethics commission. However her "cohorts" on the City Council, refused to support her initiative. It is highly unlikely that the current Mayor will entertain a Citizen's Ethics Commission, or (even better) an Ombudsman, so how will Alexandria provide ethics oversight?

Other jurisdictions have faced up to this challenge, yet Alexandria remains mired in timidity, indifference and hesitation concerning oversight of ethics.

It is unfathomable that the City Council, City Staff and various Boards and Commissions have never encountered ethics dilemmas, especially concerning the management of new developments. As an example, although there are zoning laws that have been in existence for years, a developer need only make a quid-pro-quo "proffer" of \$100,000 or so to Bikeshare in order to build a structure that is at variance from the originally enacted zoning layout of the community. This "pay to play" brings up a number of potential ethics concerns, yet no one seems to curb this business practice that has been tolerated over the years. As the

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Health Care Heroes

#CAREavanChallenge visits assisted living facilities.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The gauntlet was thrown. ElderTree Care Management Services challenged care providers to get creative and show appreciation for health care aides at local assisted living facilities. On June 30, Synergy Home Care of Northern Virginia did just that, bringing entertainment and smiles to residents and workers at four Alexandria facilities as part of the #CAREavanChallenge.

"We wanted to do something fun," said Synergy Home Care CEO Mitch Opalski. "At the same time, we wanted to let these tireless workers know how much they are appreciated for their commitment during this challenging COVID-19 situation."

Opalski enlisted the services of flame throwing jugglers and other entertainment as part of a Synergy Home Care caravan that visited six different facilities in Northern Virginia. Gift baskets and signs scrawled with words of thanks and appreciation were presented to



With a comic entertainer in the foreground, Synergy Home Care CEO Mitch Opalski, right, and Sheriff Dana Lawhore, second from right, stand with Silverado Memory care staff after presenting them with gift baskets and posters of appreciation for a job well done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

staff and residents.

"Now more than ever, the most valuable people in our lives require special attention and compassionate care," Opalski said. "The dedicated staff at these facil-

ities have been true heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The #CAREavanChallenge gave us an opportunity to show them just how much they are appreciated."

www.synergyhomecare.com



Brandywine Living staff hold signs presented to them June 30 from Synergy Home Care in appreciation for their commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic.




Stilt walkers juggle flaming batons for staff at Brandywine Living during a June 30 visit by Synergy Home Care in a show of appreciation for the dedication of health care aides during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The pool house has a kitchen to make entertaining convenient.

A Summer Oasis

Pool house evolved into a space that incorporates the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design.

MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The combination of sunny, warm weather and the current pandemic can make staying home a wise, but stifling choice. However, one Bethesda, Maryland, builder made that a pleasurable decision for one Great Falls, Virginia family.

Jim Rill of Rill Architects transformed their expansive, but empty and unused, backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.

The end-goal was to combine functionality, style and comfort, says Rill. "The furniture and fabrics are easy to maintain and care for, while also being functional and pretty," he said.

Originally tasked with building a screened-in porch, Rill's design process evolved into a space that incorporated the beauty of the outdoors into the interior design. "The owners became more and more inspired to use the building year round," he said.

Both flooring of the pool deck and pool house are flagstone. The furniture is by luxury design company Janus et Cie and a chandelier by the same company hangs from the ceiling.

Rill and his team added a powder room and changing room. There is a kitchen with an island made of maple and topped with a waterfall countertop of quartz by Caesarstone.

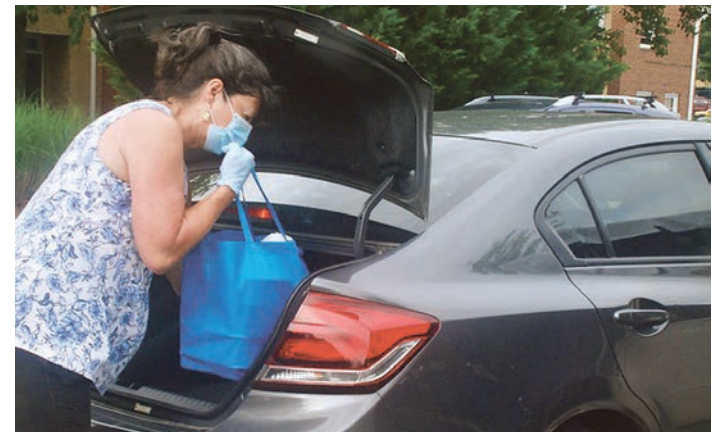
Three walls of the pool house are glass and can be covered with retractable screens.

"The owners wanted rustic with lots of glass," he said.



Three of the four walls of the pool house are made of glass and give the space a rustic feel.

Transforming the expansive backyard into a summer oasis by designing a pool and adjacent pool house.



PHOTOS BY ELAINE HALCHIN

Alexandrians line up for groceries provided by ALIVE! in their Truck to Trunk regularly distribution at the end of the month.

Food for Everyone During Pandemic

FROM PAGE 5

Street, one of the pop up sites. He and his team have just come from Ruby Tucker Family Center where they handed out 184 meals. A young boy is the first customer. "Good morning. How many kids today?" Harold Robinson pulls out enough lunches and breakfasts for three kids for two days. "Today they have an apple, milk, chips, a piece of cheese and a peanut butter sandwich. For breakfast there is a juice box and breakfast bar." He says in the summer people don't eat as much.

"See you next time." The school bus stops at Old Towne West Apartments parking lot on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:20-11:50 a.m.

Next a woman drives up. She needs food for three kids plus three more for her cousin's kids. "His car broke down today." She left with two bags of meals. "I come every time."

Robinson says, "We have our regulars."

Barbaro says, "Food insecurity is one of the things I am passionate about." She says she has learned so much about the community nearby. "It seems like this is one of the problems that has solutions but there is a lack of public will." She says, "Alexandria is motivated and a hard working community. There has to be a partnership. All hands on deck."

MANY OF THE places that would normally provide food to those in need are closed. "But," Patterson says, "We do have a unique situation with one superwoman who does much of the food distribution herself. Phyllis Johnson has unlimited energy. She is out in parks and a lot of churches. She makes thousands of bags a week."

Patterson says in this time of need donors are very generous with financial donations. "We no longer do food drives until we feel it is safe to have people come to the warehouse."

She says they get meat from grocers and produce from the generous community gardens as well as gleaning from the farmer's market. She said they have some donors who will have an entire pallet of pasta delivered to the warehouse eliminating the multiple layers of hands involved with stocking, buying and bagging supplies from the grocery store.

ALIVE! encourages virtual food drives. Instead of collecting food, they ask you to consider donating the amount you would have spent on purchasing food. Get you family, friends, neighbors together to provide a group donation. For information on the list of emergency food access points visit www.hungerfreealexandria.com or www.alive-inc.org

News

More for Enforcement, Less for Assistance

FROM PAGE 3

is Natasha McKenna, an African American woman who suffered from schizophrenia. A car rental store on Pickett Street called 911 when McKenna was causing a disruption.

She ended up assaulting several Alexandria officers, who took her to the mental health unit at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital. She was later released from the hospital, and then taken into custody at the Fairfax County jail. She died after Fairfax sheriff's deputies used a Taser on her multiple times when they were trying to transfer her to Alexandria, so she could face charges from a felony warrant for assaulting an Alexandria police officer. "The reason why the sheriff is spending on mental health and substance abuse services is that we've made the jails into Virginia's drug treatment and mental health institutions of choice instead of investing in community-based services designed to prevent and treat people with either a mental health problem or substance abuse disorder," said Claire Gastañaga executive director for the ACLU of Virginia. "I don't know what else is in the budget in Alexandria that the mayor would call social services. Police athletic leagues? Officer Friendly?"

ONE POTENTIAL SOLUTION might be the creation of a mobile crisis unit. Currently, Alexandria has crisis-intervention training for police officers. And several of the officers who responded to the Pickett Street call had that training, which is why they took her to the mental-health unit at Mount Vernon Inova instead of the Alexandria jail. But the creation of a mobile crisis incident unit in Alexandria would be a way for the city to use mental-health tools to respond to a mental health crisis rather than using law enforcement to respond.

"If somebody is causing antisocial behavior or acting out criminally and the underlying root cause for that is mental health issues, then the right response is not to just threaten jail, it is to address the underlying root causes," said Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter.

But, he added, the serial murder who killed three Alexandrians before being caught also suffered from mental illness.

"There are situations that are rare and few and far between where you have to take the situation seriously as well," he said.

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LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

‘Champions for Children’ Magaly and Tom Hirst

BY DOMINIQUE CLAYTON

Passionate. Dedicated supporters. Generous. Inspirational. Humble. These are just a few words to describe Tom and Magaly Hirst’s philanthropic efforts to give back to Alexandria through the Mason Hirst Foundation. The lovely couple met in 2007 at a Wolf Trap event. Soon afterwards, they married and moved to Alexandria. The Hirsts began contributing to nonprofit organizations whose missions support early childhood education, mental health, juvenile delinquency, family health, homelessness, rehabilitation, workforce skills development and related issues. So, who are Tom and Magaly Hirst?

The son of a real estate broker and political activists, Tom Hirst was destined to become a change agent in his community. Hirst was born and raised in still-rural Fairfax County. He worked on the family farm in Annandale, along Little River Turnpike. Hirst completed his secondary education at St. Stephen’s School in Alexandria then went on to college at Princeton and Harvard. He studied urban history and wrote his thesis on changing concepts of the ideal community. In graduate school, he studied urban and regional planning. Hirst started early in the real estate business, eventually in 1972 creating and running the Mason Hirst Company. In 2007, he started the Mason Hirst Foundation and began to dedicate his time and efforts to helping as many nonprofit organizations as possible in Alexandria and beyond.

Magaly Galdo-Hirst was born in Bolivia. She spent her youth observing and learning from her mother’s activism in a variety of causes supporting the less fortunate in their community. Shortly after her high school graduation, she moved to the United States for her college endeavors at American University and Catholic University in the DC area. In the 1960s, Galdo-Hirst relocated to the Mount Vernon area. With her passion for joining efforts dedicated to bringing equality care to communities, she pursued a rewarding career with the Pan American Health Organization, the American Office of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). Her 30-year exposure to people in need throughout the Americas further strengthened her desire to participate in missions that improve



Magaly and Tom Hirst are 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria.

the health and well-being of all. In 2010, Galdo-Hirst joined the board of ACT for Alexandria: A community foundation that strives to increase charitable investment and community engagement in Alexandria.

The Hirsts became familiar with the work, goals and effectiveness of many amazing non-profits serving the community through ACT. Their work began by supporting organizations that matched their philanthropic mission.

This included visits to facilities, studying the strategies and most important needs, becoming acquainted with the people served and learning about the successes. Organizations serving and advocating for disadvantaged, abused or at-risk youth received many of the foundation’s grants. Examples include: Campagna Center, Casa Chirilagua, the Center for Alexandria’s Children, Child

and Family Network Center, Community Lodgings, the Dream Project, Just Neighbors, RunningBrooke, SCAN and Space of Her Own, among others.

In 2011, ACT launched Spring2ACTION, a 24-hour day of giving to Alexandria nonprofits. The Hirsts saw an opportunity to grow the impact of their investments through matching grants. With matching grants, every dollar contributed to the same organization would be doubled by the Mason Hirst Foundation grant. The goal was to encourage more individuals to contribute some amount, no matter how big or small, to a cause important to him or her.

Initially, the Mason Hirst Foundation offered a few of these grants. Seeing the nonprofits’ impressive success in doubling or even tripling their gifts, the MHF matching grant program expanded to over 30 non-

profits by 2019. Perhaps inspired by this example, other foundations and individuals began to set up matching grants. It has led to an even greater impact throughout the city.

Countless volunteers and donors, led by the dedicated staff of ACT and board members, worked to make Spring2ACTION a success. The amount raised for Alexandria’s charitable organizations grew from \$105,000 in 2010 to over \$2.08 million in 2019 — when more than 9,000 donors supported 162 local nonprofits.

In 2019, the Center for Alexandria’s Children awarded the giving couple the Champion of Children award. This award is given to local citizens who advocate for the children and families of Alexandria. A quote from the Center for Alexandria’s Children:

“Tom and Magaly with their Mason Hirst Foundation have had a profound impact on Alexandria’s Children. With their thoughtful grant making, a passion for progressive causes, as well as a desire to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of their community, Tom and Magaly exemplify what we all appreciate about Alexandria. ... A deep sense of community and accountability to each other. They have profoundly changed the City and the quality of life of Alexandria’s Children.”

While Tom and Magaly are very glad to help in this way, they feel the real heroes are those who work in these organizations — staff, board members and especially the volunteers. They encourage everyone to get involved in

their community’s activities and recommend volunteering to understand the needs and provide in-kind contributions. Of course, they urge everyone to participate in making the community better by offering a small donation during Spring2ACTION.

Tom and Magaly reside in Old Town. When asked what Alexandria means to them, the response was “It is a community that has an open and welcoming feeling.” They are impressed with the leadership and generosity of so many individuals who work to make this a better place. They continue to work quietly through the foundation. As Living Legend honorees, they say “It is a privilege and honor to be included among this year’s honorees. It encourages us to do more. There is still so much to do.”

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

NEW PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION OPENS

The City of Alexandria presents its newest public art installation, Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies, in Alexandria’s Waterfront Park (1 Prince St.). This new temporary installation

is the second in the Site See: New Views in Old Town annual public art series, and will be on display through November 2020. It follows SOFTlab’s 2019 Mirror Mirror installation. Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies frames Alexandria’s African American history through the lens of the city’s merchant and manufacturing industries of the 17th to 20th centuries. Once a prosperous port city that was home to one of the largest domestic slave trading firms in the country, Alexandria was a major center for shipping and manufacturing

with an economy inextricably tied to the labor of enslaved and free African Americans. A ground mural echoes African American quilting and textile traditions using icons that represent some of Alexandria’s historic industries: fishing, flour, tobacco and railways.

NEEDLEWORK SHOW AT WOODLAWN

The 57th Annual Needlework Show at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House re-opens to the public on July 15- August 2, 2020. The Show

structure will be modified: Entry is by timed ticket, in smaller groups each half-hour, purchased online only. Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House is at 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON CITY PROPERTY

Following a public hearing June 20, the Alexandria City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance prohibiting firearms and ammunition in City facilities, parks and areas requiring special event

permits. Effective July 1, it will be a Class 1 misdemeanor to possess, carry or transport firearms or ammunition in any building, park or recreational or community facility owned or operated by the City for governmental purposes; or at any special event requiring a permit and being held on a City public street, road, alley, sidewalk or public right of way. The ordinance also applies to City employees, agents or volun-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Flower pots adorned with American flags are part of a patriotic display at the Old Town home of Bernadette Troy, who is continuing the tradition of her late husband Pat Troy.

Land of the Free

Homes across the city were adorned with displays of patriotism over a Fourth of July weekend that was more subdued than usual due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"This has always been a very important holiday to our family," said Bernadette Troy, widow of Pat Troy, an Irish immigrant and longtime Alexandria business- man. "No one was more patriotic than Pat."

Pat Troy died in 2018 just days after presiding over

the city's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, which he founded nearly 40 years ago. His widow has continued the tradition of putting on a patriotic display at their home during various holidays, such as July 4th, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

"Pat loved this country more than anyone I have ever known," said Bernadette Troy. "He was very, very proud to be an American."

- JEANNE THEISMANN

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Dining Out, Phase 3: Two Restaurateurs Discuss the Latest

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Now that Alexandria is solidly in Phase 3 of the Virginia Forward reopening plan, restaurants and cafes are wide open – with social distancing in place – both inside and out. But for restaurant owners and others in the business, the economic threat is far from over. Mix in customers' varied views on everything from mask-wearing to whether dine-in is comfortable for them just yet, and it's a rocky landscape to be sure.

Chadwick's Trae Lamond and Captain Gregory's/Elizabeth's Counter's Rob Krupicka share a snapshot of how their establishments are navigating Phase 3 – and all it entails.

Trae Lamond, Chadwick's

"Enforcing the mask policy has been a lot like herding cats. I believe most folks mean well, they just don't fully understand the rules. You must wear a mask to enter. As soon as you are seated, you may remove your mask.

If you get up for any reason (like going to the bathroom or leaving after your meal) you should be wearing a mask. Standing, mask. Sitting, no mask. If you don't want to wear a mask you should stay home, we deliver.

"We are still offering carryout/ curbside dining and delivery. We encourage anyone with health concerns to stay home and we will bring dinner to your door. Check our website (chadwicksoldtown.com) or call us (703.836.4442)."



Donuts at Elizabeth's Counter

Rob Krupicka, Elizabeth's Counter and Captain Gregory's

"Our customers are amazing. They are supportive and positive. They put smiles on our faces. We opened Captain Gregory's at half capacity (about 12 seats) so it really has that quiet, cool, speakeasy vibe now. We also partnered with a local engineering firm, Building Momentum, to add a first-of-its-kind air filter system to help us keep contagions out of the air. Staff spirits are strong and [they] are well aware of how lucky we are to serve this city. We are just crossing fingers that the virus doesn't come back to Virginia. That would be tough to overcome. We still need all those curbside and online order customers. They are life and death for us."

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



Dining is available inside at Chadwick's now. "Standing, mask. Sitting, no mask. If you don't want to wear a mask you should stay home, we deliver."

FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

ONLINE DANCE CLASSES

Jane Franklin Dance of Arlington is hosting online dance classes via Zoom from July 6 to Aug. 15, 2020. Classes are 40 – 60 min in length. The enrollment is by donation. For class, exercise at your own pace, omit or alter portions that don't feel quite right, and make adjustments to improve your experience. Registration is required.

Schedule of Classes:

- ❖ Ballet with Brynna: Ballet Barre Monday at 1 p.m.;
- ❖ Making Connections: modern dance with Jane Tuesday at 3 p.m.;
- ❖ Afternoon Delight: improvisation with Kelsey Thursday at 3 p.m.;
- ❖ Happy Hour Fitness: fitness and hand/ankle weights Jane Friday at 5 p.m.;
- ❖ Abs with Amy: fitness exercise Saturday at 10 a.m.

Information and links to join: <https://www.janefranklin.com/online-classes>. Call 703-933-1111.

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CAMPS

Metropolitan School of the Arts in Alexandria is hosting its summer camps, but this year, camps are all virtual, live Zoom sessions, due to COVID restrictions. Camps are geared toward students interested in music, vocal training or dancing



Metropolitan School of the Arts Camps of Alexandria are geared towards students interested in music, vocal training or dancing from now through Aug. 21.

from now through Aug. 21. Mini-camps and CAMP MSA are offered for all age groups in one hour or two hour segments to help students avoid screen fatigue. Camps are themed, to include: Tropical Paradise, Dora and the Lost City, Toy Story, Frozen II, Color Me Crazy, Space is the Place, Barnyard

Palooza, Bugs Life, Mary Poppins, Neverland, Olympic, Aladdin Jr., Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and the Addams Family. Camps range in cost from \$40 per week to \$350 per week. To sign up for a camp, go to www.metropolitanarts.org for more information.

WORKHOUSE SUMMER CAMPS

Ready for in-person Summer Camps?

The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton will be offering July and August Summer Camps for kids in-person on campus. They've got half-day and full-day camps for kids of all ages starting the week of July 20 and August 3. Camps include the following:

- ❖ Game Design Camp where campers learning about computer technology, visual arts, storytelling and music with creative and critical thinking and problem-solving skills. And the Game Design camps integrate all of the STEM core competencies in a fun and engaging way.
- ❖ Young Writers Camp gives campers in grades 7-12 the chance to write creatively in a variety of genres, learn about new genres through mini-lessons and receive response to their work from writers.
- ❖ Performing Arts Summer Camp Challenge offers campers the opportunity to work collaboratively to create a new theatrical work in just two weeks' time! They will write a script, consider production design elements and ultimately perform their new, original work in front of an audience of family and friends!
- ❖ Visit the website: www.workhousearts.org.

MCC'S SUPER SUMMER SCAVENGER HUNT

Join your friends, family and community for McLean Community Center's Super Summer Scavenger Hunt. Beginning on July 1 and concluding on Aug. 17, this exciting and free virtual event allows you and a team of your choice to compete against other teams and win amazing prizes. The hunt is the perfect way to stay local and have fun with friends and family. The game is played on a smartphone and players must complete indoor and outdoor "missions" (or challenges). Missions include answering questions, taking specific photos or videos, finding a specific item, geocaching or completing specific tasks as given in a list provided by MCC. The scavenger hunt will take place in or around McLean. Participants work in teams up to 10 players. Team captains must be 16 years old or older. The hunt will have a maximum of 125 teams—so register early. The first 50 teams to sign up will receive a special gift bag to make the hunt even more fun. Registration is open now through Aug. 3. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. To register, go to www.mcleancenter.org. For more information, call the center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

late civic activist Tom Witte once said, "it is not that the City Council sells out, it is that they sell out so cheaply."

For many years, I have stated that Alexandria needs an Ombudsman to investigate potential fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement and corruption. This office would operate as an independent directorate. The head should be elected to this job in a non-partisan manner for at least a period of five years. The Ombudsman should demonstrate a high degree of integrity, and have professional credentials in accounting, auditing, investigations and public administration. I would envision that the Ombudsman would be performing auditing, inspecting and generally conducting in depth investigations of the City's programs. There is no doubt that millions of dollars of the taxpayers money could be saved annually.

The website of the Toronto, Canada ombudsman says it all: "We promote fairness in City services. We help the public resolve problems with the City. We help the City serve the public better. We investigate, we mediate, we find solutions and recommend system improvements. We help the City to hold itself accountable in its duty to provide services that work for people. Our work makes Toronto

a better place to live, work, play and do business." Now is there any reason why we deserve less?

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Racism Must Force Us as Individuals to Act

Over a century ago African-American educator and activist, W.E.B DuBois argued the dilemma, "Am I an American or am I a Negro ... does my black blood place upon me any more obligation to assert my nationality than German, Irish or Italian blood would."

Du Bois' simple question raises a complex reality when he examines his identity in relation to race. It speaks to the obstacles that people of color in America confront when trying to attain what others achieve in their education, work and housing because their status as an American is treated differently. While the struggle for the basic necessities in their lives continue, their mortality is also affected through their daily encounters with others in stores, while driving, and simply walking down the streets where racial profiling

persists.

While people of color have encountered violence and death repeatedly through the years, the recent atrocities have raised the ire of not only Americans but also the world to demand reform within many institutions. Unfortunately, it took the glare of media coverage to create a catalyst for communities to galvanize and take steps to show the need to create change.

Need for change can be triggered when a condition negatively impinges on lives where they feel personally threatened while others may feel the situation is so morally offensive that the community works to facilitate change. These sentiments create an urgency where the numbers of those affected will determine the level of involvement.

Racism task forces can be set up in neighborhoods where issues can be prioritized and raised with local agencies. Many social workers have followed the community organizing principles of Saul Alinsky and with today's varied social problems and unrest, social workers have a part to play with reform.

Racist events should also force us as individuals to raise our own awareness to act. When one witnesses a racist comment or action, enlighten the other person's

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ JULY 9-15, 2020 ♦ 13

Obituary

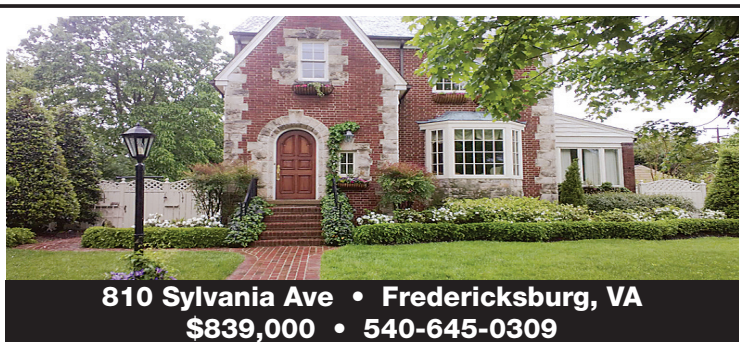
Obituary



Evert Raymond Durrett Jr., 68, passed away on June 5, 2020, in Alexandria Hospital. Affectionately known as "Red," he was a life-long Alexandrian, the son of E. R. Durrett and Katherine Ruth Lutes Durrett. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Darbie Gilmore Durrett, daughters Jessie Katherine Durrett and Ashley Rae Durrett, sister Sharon Hovda and husband Russell, brother-in-law Bart Gilmore and wife Crystal, 2 nieces and 3 nephews and their families. He was a graduate of George Washington High School in Alexandria. Ray retired from the Cameron Station Fort Myer Commissary after 36 years. He then worked for 10 years at Safeway and currently was employed by Target. Red loved to be of use to others, always quick to lend a hand. His kind and generous heart will be greatly missed by his family and friends. His memorial will be held on July 11 from 2-4pm at Everly Wheatly Funeral Home, Dress code is come as you are, blue jeans and cowboy boots, ball gowns and tiaras. (Feather Boa optional)

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Questions and “Canswers”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

“Very interesting,” to quote Artie Johnson from “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In,” that “crazy-kooky” comedy show from the 70s. What’s interesting is what my oncologist will say concerning the July 6th CT scan of my upper torso (lungs), the first such scan I will have had in almost six months. That interval being twice the usual and customary three-month schedule I’ve been on for years. The reason for this abnormally long interval? As you regular readers know, I was being treated for my second cancer: stage II, papillary thyroid cancer. Now that the treatment and all is complete, we can return to the scene of the original crime, if you know what I mean, and begin assessing/treating my underlying cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, which presumably has not disappeared in the last six months. To say my life depends on these findings is a bit obvious. Nevertheless, keeping one’s eye on the ball is what is characterized-as-“terminal” patients have to do. (We’re in constant touch with our mortality.)

Losing sight of the obvious is the ultimate presumption, not unlike one being innocent until proven guilty. In the cancer world in which I live exists the exact opposite: your cancer is never in remission (innocent). Ergo, you are always guilty (of having cancer). Now whether it moves or grows, the results of one’s scan will confirm. It’s challenging to not expect the worst, even after 11+ years of experience often receiving good news; the inevitability of the eventual bad news is occasionally overwhelming. I mean, one is not characterized as “terminal” because they’re expected to live. The writing may not exactly be on the walls, but apparently it’s in the handbook that oncologists use to determine the proper protocol to treat their patient’s cancer.

Generally speaking, a serious/terminal diagnosis is rarely affected by the advances of modern medicine and/or a patient’s disparate hopes and prayers. For us cancer patients, we’re only as secure as the results of our most recent diagnostic scan says we are. So yes, July 6th is an important date for Team Lourie as will the follow-up telephone appointment with my oncologist on July 13th. That’s when we’ll learn if the road is hitting back at the rubber and whether or not I go forward in hope or backward in despair.

As much ado about something as I am making this situation to be, it’s not as if I haven’t been down this road before; many, many times since my original diagnosis in late February, 2009. This is just “another day in paradise” to quote Phil Collins. And though this road is the one most traveled, it still doesn’t minimize the stakes. It just means that I’ve been incredibly and amazingly lucky not to have succumbed to this killer disease (lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths) as so many hundreds of thousands already have. And though experience helps, it doesn’t really change the stakes; it sort of maintains them. All I can do in the interim is try not to consider the negative and recommit to the positive. That positive mantra for me has been, “it’s nothing until it’s something.” And if it is something, it will be bad enough to hear about it then so I don’t need to hear about it (presume) it’s bad now. For the moment, to quote Sergeant Schultz (John Banner) from Hogan’s Heroes: “I know nothing!”

For some reason though, and I may be reading more into it than is appropriate, this July 6th scan seems to be carrying some additional weight. Not that there’s anything different in and of itself with this scan compared to the previous one hundred or so that I’ve had - with or without symptoms, it just seems as if I’m spending more time trying to convince myself that it isn’t.

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

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NEWS

Alexandria Officer Charged

FROM PAGE 1

“Use of force is dehumanizing and should be avoided whenever possible, even when legally justified,” said Chief of Police Michael Brown. “Unjustified use of force is completely unacceptable, and we will continue to hold officers accountable in the rare cases when violations of this policy occur. Alexandria police officers do not typically use force at all, because they are required to de-escalate interactions and situations when possible by communicating effectively with subjects, maintaining distance, and employing other measures to protect themselves and those around them.”

Alexandria police officers have used force against 37 subjects in 2019 and 2020, out of more than 5,500 individuals taken into custody. Black subjects comprised 50% of individuals taken into custody, 51% of subjects of force and less than 25% of Alexandria’s population..

Any officer who uses force is required to report it immediately, and an investigation of each use of force is conducted to determine whether it was justified. No use of force since 2017 has been found to be unjustified, other than the case described above. Since 2006, the Police Department has met with the Alexandria Human Rights Commission to discuss any officer-involved shooting or use of a Taser conductive energy weapon, as well as any complaint of excessive use of force.

Since 2018, the Police Department has voluntarily used the Virginia State Police to conduct an independent investigation of any officer-involved shooting, in addition to required reviews by the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney.

To view the 2019 Use of Force Analysis and related frequently asked questions, visit alexandriava.gov/Police.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

thoughts through dialogue. Not taking risks leaves us complacent and comfortable with no hope for change.

I am a native New Yorker who practiced social work in Boston and retired in Virginia. Racism is not just endemic in major cities but thrives in all communities.

Robin Famighetti
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

teers in workplaces that are owned, operated or managed by the City.

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

Fairlington United Methodist Church. Sundays. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Via Zoom. Address: 3900 King Street, Alexandria. Are you looking for hope, healing, and community during this time? You are invited to online worship at 11am every Sunday morning. Pray, sing, read scripture, share a meditation, and respond.
 Follow this link: <https://fairlingtonumc.org/worship/watch-or-listen-to-a-service>

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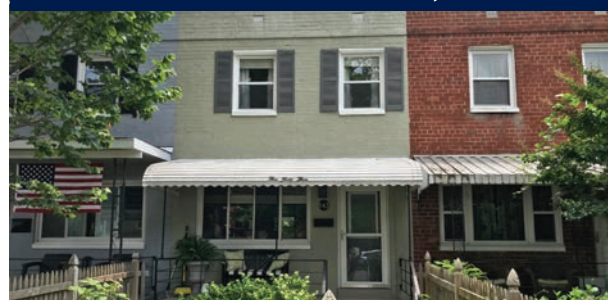
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Thoughtfully designed, this 2016 custom-built home is stunning inside and out. The gourmet kitchen is the heart of the home with island and peninsula counter seating. Screened porch overlooking yard leads to patio with outdoor kitchen. Main level bedroom/office.

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