

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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JULY 16, 2020

## Protecting Paychecks

Restaurants, lawyers and consultants in Alexandria receive millions in forgivable loans.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

St. Patrick's Day was supposed to be a turning point for Chadwicks. After the traditionally slow months of January and February, the restaurant could finally start making money again and pay for all the renovations to the restaurant that happened over the winter. Instead St. Patrick's Day was when the restaurant shut its doors, converting to a takeout operation that no longer needed dozens of employees who worked in the front of the house. Within a few days, owner Trae Lamond was on the phone laying off busboys, food runners, hosts, servers and bartenders.

"Pretty much anyone who was not cooking food or delivering food or answering phones was furloughed," said Lamond. "It was my darkest moment."

Lamond started looking into declaring bankruptcy. Then Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, and Chadwicks was suddenly eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan. As long as the restaurant used 75 percent of the money for keeping employees on the payroll, he could apply to have the loan forgiven. So he worked with Burke and Herbert Bank to get a \$390,000 loan to preserve 46 jobs at his restaurant, an amount of money that took care of the payroll for eight weeks from March to June. Now that the loan is over, he's been able to reopen his restaurant at reduced capacity.

"I don't know how we would have gotten through it other than taking whatever money I have in the bank and close the place and just pay rent and whatever fixed expenses I had," said Lamond. "I'm fairly stubborn and plucky. I watched too many Disney movies as a kid and think a little hard work can overcome anything."

**PETER PAN** may not have arrived to save the Alexandria business community. But Uncle Sam did. Restaurants in Alexandria received the biggest chunk of federal cash from the Paycheck Protection Program, landing more than 200



Chadwicks was one of the 222 restaurants in Alexandria that received a Paycheck Protection Act forgivable loan.

forgivable loans and saving about 4,000 jobs, according to new data released from the Small Business Administration. Lawyers, consultants and home health care workers also scored big, landing hundreds of loans and saving thousands of jobs. Ultimately, businesses in Alexandria received more than 3,000 loans and preserved more than 35,000 jobs.

"The number of jobs retained tells you something, but it doesn't tell you the share of those jobs," said Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. "Is that 20 percent of your workforce or 70 percent of your workforce? We don't know, and you would think this is an important number considering the law is designed to retain the workforce."

The Small Business Administration resisted sharing data about the PPP loans for months, including ignoring a public records request from the Alexandria Gazette Packet. This month, officials at the SBA decided to release some data while obscuring important details. For example, the exact dollar amounts of the loans worth more than \$150,000 were not disclosed. Those amounts were expressed as somewhere between \$150,000 and



Burke and Herbert Bank issued about 400 Paycheck Protection Program loans in Alexandria, saving about 4,500 jobs in the city.

\$350,000 or somewhere between \$5 million and \$10 million. And for loans worth less than \$150,000, the exact dollar amounts were disclosed but the businesses that received them were kept secret.

The vast majority of the loans in Alexandria were less than \$150,000, helping small businesses keep their employees instead of laying them off. About 600 of the loans in Alexandria were worth more than \$150,000, and about 100 of those were for more than \$1

million. Top-dollar loans went to patent lawyers, information-technology professionals and commercial contractors. Only three of loans in Alexandria were in the coveted top bracket, which range from \$5 million to \$10 million. They went to the intellectual property law firm of Oblon, McClelland, Maier and Neustadt in Carlyle, the computer systems design corporation Pro-Sphere Tek in Old Town and the commercial general contractor Rand Construction Corporation in

Old Town.

"I'm not surprised that lawyers and consultants had a comparative advantage over small businesses," said de Rugy. "When you make the reporting really hard, those who have a comparative advantage in becoming eligible are the ones who have a better ability to go through the application process because they have either built in knowledge or they have departments that can do this."

**BURKE AND HERBERT BANK** gave more loans in Alexandria than any other institution, saving more jobs than any other lender. Across the region, the bank closed about 1,150 loans saving 10,000 jobs. Here in Alexandria, the bank closed on about 400 loans saving about 4,500 jobs. At one point, Burke and Herbert devoted about 20 percent of its workforce specifically to processing PPP loan applications, more than 80 people devoted full-time to helping small businesses survive the crisis. Burke and Herbert president and CEO David Boyle said it certainly wasn't bankers hours.

"We worked around the clock to get them all done," said Boyle. "When you're sitting here at 4 a.m. saying bad things to the computer screen because the SBA's portal is really slow, there are no such things as banker's hours."

Two dozen loans in Alexandria were between \$2 million and \$5 million, including some of the city's major nonprofit organizations and professional associations. This group includes the United Way, Islamic Relief USA and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Religious organizations received 39 loans, including one to Alfred Street Baptist Church between \$1 million and \$2 million. Elite private schools also benefited from the program, including a loan to Alexandria Country Day School between \$350,000 and \$1 million.

"At the end of the day, people here in America seem to figure out how to get things like this done," said Boyle. "It may not be pretty, and it may not be the most efficient way of getting it done. But we always seem to rally and get it done."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET



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# Goodbye, T.C. Majority of School Board members support ditching name of segregationist.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**ive out of nine School Board members say they are willing to ditch the name T.C. Williams, divorcing the name of a segregationist former superintendent with Alexandria's only high school. In a series of interviews with the Alexandria Gazette Packet and public statements made by board members, a majority of the board members are on the record saying they will vote in favor of changing the name. It's a change that's been decades in the making as advocates for dumping T.C. Williams have been unsuccessful for years.

"What really bugs me about this issue is that so many people knew about it," said T.C. Williams rising senior Leonora Rodriguez, who helped collect signatures for a petition to change the name. "Teachers were going on about how they knew who T.C. Williams was. What was the response?"

The issue about the name of the high school was originally raised by the Hopkins House in 1998 and then again in 2004 by the Alexandria NAACP. In both instances, the School Board did not take action. More recently, a petition with at least 100 signatures in June reignited the issue. It follows many



1968 AURORA, THE T.C. WILLIAMS  
HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

**Thomas Chambliss Williams,  
superintendent, segregationist.**

other petitions to change the name, including a school-wide petition from the T.C. Williams Black Student Union, which had hundreds of signatures, and one started by a fifth-grader at Samuel Tucker Elementary.

"This name is morally wrong," said School Board member Chris Suarez during the July 10 meeting.

Community engagement and public hearings will be introduced Aug. 27. After the board votes to officially change the name in spring 2021, new names will be presented. Since the petition was publicized, several new names have already been suggested, including Harriet Tubman, César Chávez, Blois Hundley, a Black female school cafeteria worker who



**T.C. Williams High School, first built in 1965, was integrated in 1971 after its namesake Thomas Chambliss Williams' 30-year tenure as superintendent.**

was fired by Superintendent Williams after asking that Alexandria schools be integrated, and Judge Nolan B. Dawkins, who was the city's first Black Circuit Court judge and was one of the first Black students to integrate George Washington High School during the civil rights era.

"Nolan B. Dawkins is someone who has done tremendous change," said Tichara Robertson, a T.C. Williams Class of 2020 graduate. "He has done so much for this community. At the end of the day, we just want someone to represent our school and represent Alexandria."

The petitioners, mainly adults, proposed Tubman-Chávez High School as a placeholder. Students

campaigning for the name change prefer naming the school after Dawkins.

**THE NAME** of the school commemorates Thomas Chambliss Williams, superintendent from the 1930s to 1963. Williams was a segregationist, refusing to integrate Alexandria schools until the courts ordered him to do so in 1962. He promoted massive resistance.

Now, more than 70 percent of T.C. Williams students identify as non-white, meaning that they would not be able to attend the high school had Superintendent Williams succeeded at segregation. Many who argue for the name change feel it's ironic to honor a segregationist's name despite the

school division valuing diversity and equity.

"Where this name comes from is counter to our values as a school division today," said board member Michelle Rief, who supports the name change. "I would like to find a name that reflects the values that we have today and I support a community engagement process to find nominations for a new name."

This decision to change the name in Alexandria would follow several other school districts in Northern Virginia that have made decisions to strike Confederate leaders' names from its school buildings. Prince William County is changing the names of Stonewall Jackson High School. Fairfax County is changing the name of Robert E. Lee High School. The day before the Alexandria School Board vote, Shenandoah County voted to remove Stonewall Jackson and Turner Ashby from their school buildings.

"We're way behind the eight ball," said Marc Solomon, who ran for School Board in 2018 and is currently one of the leaders behind the effort to rename T.C. "We'll probably be the last school district to change our names."

**CHANGING THE NAME** of the high school is estimated to cost  
SEE GOODBYE, T.C., PAGE 14

## Ron Umbeck dies at 78 Taught mathematics at Bishop Ireton for over 50 years.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**R**on Umbeck, a beloved and dedicated educator at Bishop Ireton High school for more than 50 years, died July 13 at Inova Alexandria Hospital after suffering a fall at his home earlier this month. He was 78 years old.

"Ron was arguably the smartest man I have ever met," said close friend and colleague Pete Davey. "I am having a hard time wrapping my head around the fact that he is gone."

Umbeck was a fixture at Bishop Ireton since 1967 following his first full-time teaching job in 1964 at Roosevelt High School in Washington, DC. Prior to that, he was a teaching assistant at Georgetown University. He taught full time at Bishop Ireton until his retirement in 2019.

"Throughout this past year, I witnessed firsthand Ron Umbeck's dedication to Catholic education and to Bishop Ireton," said Kathleen McNutt, Bishop Ireton Head of School and St. Mary's Academy Class of 1987. "Even though he had re-



**Ron Umbeck, right, with former student Bob McDonnell at the governor-elect's inauguration on Jan. 16, 2010.**

tired, he came almost every morning to sit by the math support center and assist students and staff as needed. Ron had a particular sparkle in his eye when he talked about St. Louis, Missouri, which was his hometown, but his biggest smiles came when he talked about his home at 201 Cambridge Road in Alexandria. Bishop Ireton has been so much more than a place to him — this institution and diocese has truly been his family."

Umbeck was born Aug. 14, 1941, in San

Diego, Calif. He grew up in Missouri and graduated from the University of San Diego before relocating to the Washington DC area. He earned a master's degree from Catholic University before embarking on a career that would span nearly six decades.

Although he retired from full time teaching last year, he remained the moderator of the Bishop Ireton It's Academic Team that he had led for decades. In addition to teaching math at Bishop Ireton, Umbeck also had a passion for playing the trumpet, which he began playing in the third grade in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

"Ron was very musically talented," Davey said. "He was a member of the Washington Redskins marching band and played in the Georgetown Hoyas pep band and the Northern Virginia Community College jazz band. He also spent his weekends teaching music to Catholic elementary and middle school students since those schools did not have music programs. He was just a very quiet, humble and faithful man."

Umbeck taught Jon Carroll, a vocalist for the Starland Vocal Band, who went on to win a Grammy Award for Best New Artist in 1977. He taught calculus to future Virgin-

ia governor Bob McDonnell, who hosted Umbeck as a VIP guest at his inauguration in January of 2010. "I wouldn't be a math teacher without Ron's influence," said Thomas Cogliano, current faculty member and BI class of 2002. "He was beyond a shadow of a doubt the best math teacher I ever had, surpassing the multitude of math professors I had in college. He was a man with a most brilliant mathematical mind and a most gentle soul. He was active in the church community and was so dedicated to the mission of Catholic education."

Umbeck is survived by three brothers: John Umbeck of Cape Girardeau Missouri; Mark Redmond of Layfayette, Calif.; and Greg Redmond of Oakland, Calif. A memorial service at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church will be held at a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Umbeck's memory to Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.

"Ron was universally loved," Davey said. "He was a very good friend and a legend at Bishop Ireton. It will be a very different place without him."

# ASC Awards \$16k to Student Athletes

**TC, Bishop Ireton among honorees.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club has awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to eight high school student athletes for exemplary performance in athletics and academics.

"ASC is proud to give each of the talented and hard-working recipients the scholarships," said ASC president Eva Shea. "They represent some of the most gifted student athletes in the City of Alexandria and were chosen from among an impressive list of deserving candidates." The organization normally honors its scholarship winners at an annual spring banquet. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that event was canceled. The awarding of scholarships moved forward with Sportsman's Club and school representatives making a visit to the home of each of the honorees to present them with a plaque and yard sign of congratulations.

Forty-seven high school seniors submitted applications for the scholarships. This year's winners represent Bishop Ireton and T.C. Williams high schools. Scholarship funds are raised each year through a fundraising drive, with local resident Marion Moon providing matching funds in memory of her son, Rick Moon, who was a long-time supporter of youth athletics.

"The youth of our city were important to Rick," said Moon, who provided matching funds for the fifth consecutive year. "These



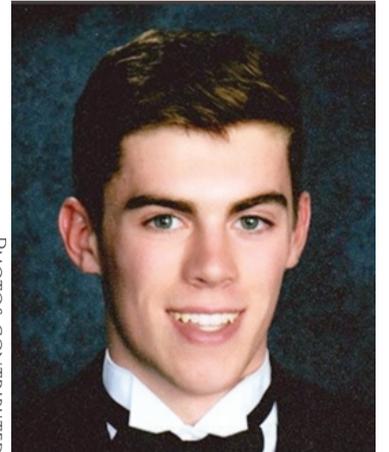
**William Anaya**  
T.C. Williams - Golf



**Kaleigh Ballagh**  
Bishop Ireton - Cheerleading



**Duncan Beauch**  
Bishop Ireton - Tennis



**James Grimes**  
T.C. Williams - Lacrosse



**Sara Rider**  
T.C. Williams - Field Hockey



**Charlotte Russell**  
T.C. Williams - Field Hockey



**Ethan Sample**  
T.C. Williams - Swim & Dive



**Isra Shuster**  
T.C. Williams - Lacrosse

young people are the ones we need to invest in. They're the ones taking care of our world when we are gone." Those receiving \$2,000 scholarships include: Charlotte Russell, T.C. Williams High School - Field Hockey; Kaleigh Ballagh, Bishop Ireton - Cheerleading; Isra Shuster, T.C. Williams High School - Lacrosse; Sara Rider, T.C. Williams High School - Field Hockey; Duncan Beauch, Bishop Ire-

ton - Tennis; James Grimes, T.C. Williams High School - Lacrosse; William Anaya, T.C. Williams High School - Golf; and Ethan Sample, T.C. Williams High School - Swim & Dive.

"ASC is an Alexandria institution trying to continue to support and honor student athletes in the City during the most challenging time in its history," Shea said.  
[www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org)

**"ASC is proud to give each of the talented and hard-working recipients these scholarships. They represent some of the most gifted student athletes in the City of Alexandria."**

— ASC president Eva Shea

## Eva Shea to Lead ASC **First female president Sportsman's Club history.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Eva Shea, a two-time All American and two-time All New England Lacrosse player, has been elected as the 2020-2021 president of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club. She is the first woman to be elected to that position in the organization's 74-year history.

"It's a real honor to follow in the footsteps of people who have led the organization so consistently and impressively over these last decades," Shea said. "I hope to bring a fresh

perspective to the club while continuing to sustain its important traditions."

Shea most recently was the Executive Director of Capital Lacrosse, one of the most competitive high school girls lacrosse clubs in the country, comprised primarily of players interested in competing in women's lacrosse at the college level. She currently coaches Varsity Soccer and Lacrosse at Maret School in Washington. Prior to her move to



**Eva Shea has been elected the first female president of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.**

Maret, Shea coached JV Girls Lacrosse at St. Stephens & St. Agnes School, served as head varsity girls lacrosse coach at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, and coached JV lacrosse at TC Williams High School.

"My mission is to coach young women to play lacrosse and learn the lessons it can teach you about life and leadership," Shea said.

Shea's experience with women's sports spans 30 years with much

of her life dedicated to playing and coaching. She is a member of the Athletic Halls of Fame at both Wilton High School in Connecticut and Connecticut College, where she played varsity soccer and lacrosse. Shea also served for more than a decade as a coach and board member of the Alexandria Lacrosse Club and was a coach for a DC Metro team at the US National Tournament in 2014.

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club, founded in 1947, is a non-profit and civic organization. Its mission is to support local high school athletics and to recognize the achievements of young ath-

letes on the field and in the classroom.

The organization honors Athletes of the Year chosen from the city's four high schools as well as the city Recreational Sports program. Scholarship awards are presented to outstanding seniors for athletic and academic accomplishments. "The organization has been dedicated to excellence in sports and education for over 74 years," Shea said. "We look forward to the challenge of serving our diverse sports community in the future."

[www.alexandriavasports.org](http://www.alexandriavasports.org)

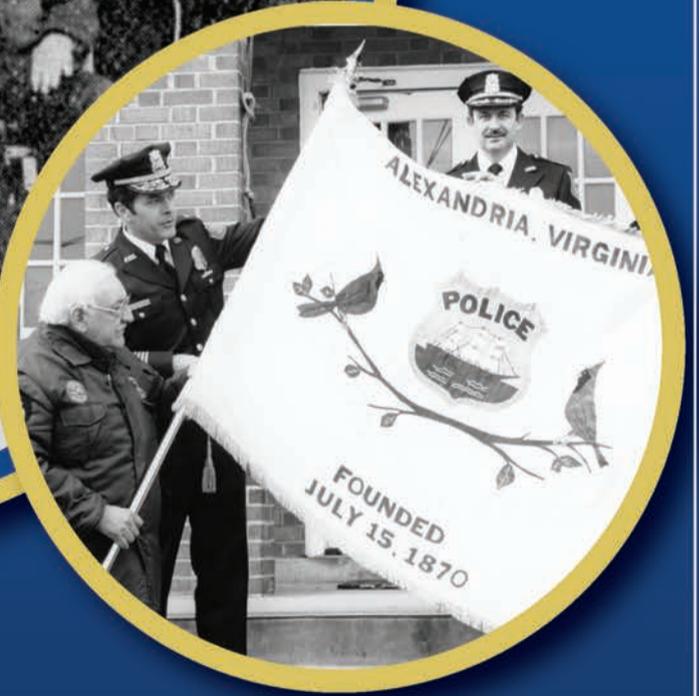


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**The Alexandria Police Department was founded on July 15, 1870**

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**With gratitude,  
The Alexandria Police Foundation**



## Commonwealth's Attorneys Voicing Support for Criminal Justice Reform

Dear Senator Surovell, Leader Herring, and Chair Bagby:

We are a group of Commonwealth's Attorneys who represent and are responsible for the safety of over 40 percent of the population of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As the national dialogue and push for meaningful systemic change within criminal justice and policing continues, we submit this letter to you as a statement of our commitment to these changes and meaningful reforms and of our willingness to be partners by offering our assistance to you and to your colleagues as you propose and implement these criti-

**LETTERS TO  
THE EDITOR**

cally needed reforms.

We have seen the Senate Democratic Caucus' and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus' list of priorities for the upcoming Special Session, and beyond, and truly appreciate the agenda's commitment to meaningful measures.

We would like to offer our support and advocate our strong commitment to the advancement of these proposals, including, but certainly not limited to:

❖ All measures related to police officer accountability for use of force misconduct and other behavior-related complaints, to include

the requirement to allow prosecutors unrestricted access to all police reports, information, and disciplinary records of officers involved in a matter before the court;

❖ A requirement that all warrants be served during the daytime and include a knock-and-announce provision with additional showing to a judge, not a magistrate, for (i) nighttime service and (ii) no-knock service;

**Hon. Amy Ashworth,**  
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and City of Manassas  
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## Call for Independent Police Auditor; More Data on Police Actions

The Alexandria Human Rights Ordinance established the Alexandria Human Rights Commission (AHRC) in 1975. The Commission comprises 14 members appointed by city council for three-year terms. The AHRC works to ensure, among other things, that Alexandrians are treated fairly and in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations.

Between the two of us, we served 11 years on the AHRC as a liaison to the economic opportunities commission, the commission for women, as well as executive committee member, first vice-chair, and chair.

Annually, the AHRC meets with the Alexandria Police Department (APD) to discuss progress in addressing discrimination within the department, goals to support diversity and inclusion, and to review data provided to analyze statistical disparities with minority groups or specific segments of the community, which may exist.

The AHRC executive committee is the only civilian group that re-

ceives brief summaries prepared by APD of closed internal investigations involving past civilian complaints of unnecessary force, harassment, demanding language, hate crimes/biased policing and the use of excessive force. The brief summaries the executive committee members receive, are not comprehensive investigative reports nor are they publicly available. In fact, these reports are given at the beginning of a meeting and collected at the end. This prevents committee members from conducting thoughtful analysis, obtaining input from the entire commission or community, and conducting trend analysis to make informed recommendations.

In order to engage in sufficient civilian police oversight, we urge city council to hire a professional independent police auditor who works with the Community Police Review Board established by Resolution 2950 on June 9. An independent police auditor, and collaborating review board, must be independent of law enforcement,

have sufficient resources and funding to support its operations, and access to police files and data to make informed recommendations to law enforcement, city council, and the Alexandria community.

Additionally, as commissioners, we advocated for more data transparency with APD and the public, specifically, for the passage of an ordinance that would require APD to collect and report all interactions between police officers and civilians (to include referrals to the police within the Alexandria City Public School system). The ordinance has not been included on the city council docket; however, we believe there is a continued need for the collection and report of disaggregated data based on race for traffic stops, use of force, civilian complaints, and stop-and-frisk searches. We believe it is necessary to have this data to advocate for policy, assess policing practices in Alexandria, and to address any trends that reveal biased policing practices.

### -The Human Rights Commission-

The AHRC is able to "[c]onduct studies and hold hearings on social conditions that may cause discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or disability." The AHRC also "[g]ather[s] and disseminate[s] reliable information by issuing publications and reports of studies and research relating to such discrimination."1 Code also provides the AHRC with the responsibilities to "[b]ring to the attention of the city manager items that require city manager or city council notice or action to resolve" and to "[c]onduct studies and hold public hearings on policies or practices that cause or may be caused by a pattern or practice of discrimination."1

**Monika Jones Chapman  
and LaDonna Sanders**

1Alexandria Code of Ordinances, Section 12-4-15(a)

## Rename T.C. Williams NOW

To the editor:

There has been a chorus of support for renaming T.C. Williams High School to remove the moniker of an arch-segregationist who does not represent our values. Nevertheless, the frustrating claim that removal of these vestiges of praise for discriminatory beliefs "erases history" is a vacuous assertion impeding progress. As Oscar Wilde said: "The one duty we owe to history is to rewrite it." And the dramatist Jean Cocteau forewarned: "History is a combination of reality and lies. The reality of History becomes a lie." Any monument to one who oppresses another

human being creates an aura of dignity around someone who does not share our cultural values and insults the most essential truth that all persons are created equal, endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness upon which the foundation of this country's principles are built.

Making a contribution to society in one realm does not forgive reprehensibly espousing in another sphere of thought subjugating anyone to servitude and denial of basic human rights. The suffering our forefathers inflicted upon Africans, brought to this country in bondage, and Native Americans, whose

home was ripped away from them and their people massacred when not enslaved as well, will never be erased for our museums ensure that we are not destined to relive what James Joyce wrote was a "(h)istory ... (that) is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." Yet, having derisive monuments foment division and not community. Even Robert E. Lee warned against constructing "monuments as it keeps open the wounds," while the respected historian Ken Burns, speaking to the Black Lives Matter protest, allowed that "monuments too often celebrate false narratives rather than preserve

heritage," addressing especially the danger in those who "represent the reimposition of white supremacy," and existentially warning that "the torments of centuries of injustice are bubbling to the surface." Inevitably, a memorial of any sort that is erected or endowed as a testimonial to one's duplicitous sense of virtue obscures the truth; consequently, the reality and sins of history must be eviscerated and not revered.

The moniker honoring an entrenched bigot who maintained segregation and, in the process, flouted the law of the land, can-

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## NEWS

# Virtual Library Meets Need for Escape

Hannah Risley, reference librarian, and Katie Whitman, children's librarian, were quick to start executing their programming in the digital sphere.

By ASHLEY SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Every week, hundreds of Alexandrians have counted on being able to walk through the doors of James M. Duncan Branch Library, a place that has proven to be much more than thousands of books. Before the onset of COVID-19, young children (and their caretakers) looked forward to trips to Duncan Library for story time programs, and every day, students relied on its technology to tackle assignments. For locals of all ages, the Duncan Library has been a go-to place for a mind-opening escape from everyday life.

"Last year our average statistics for building occupancy was 385 people per day," said Brack Stovall, Branch Manager for the James M. Duncan Branch Library. "On average we checked out 735 items – including books, DVDs, and CDs – per day. Each month, an average of 260 people attended adult programs hosted by the branch. We also had an average of 62 programs for children, attended by 1,965 people each month."

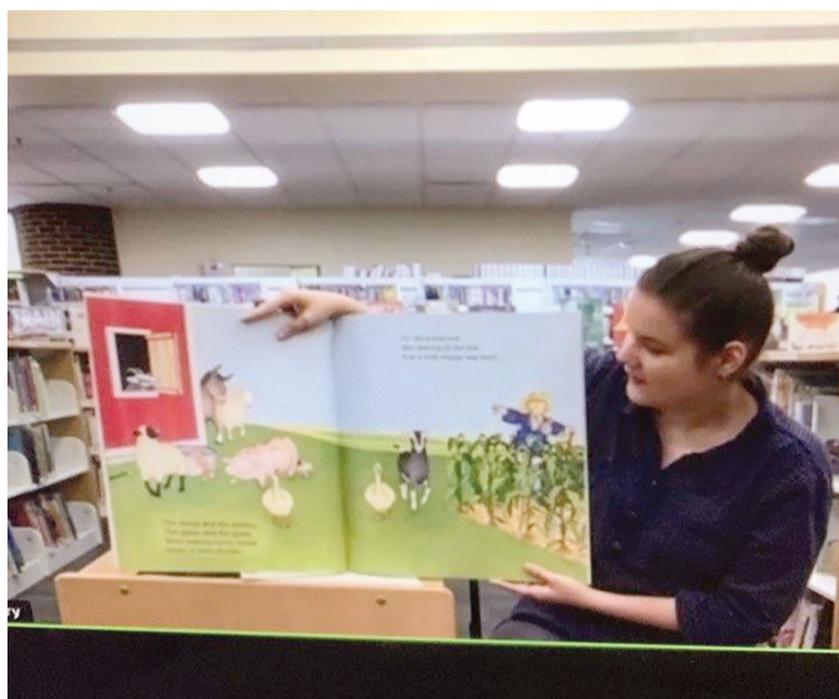
When COVID-19 pushed the whole country into emergency mode and libraries were forced to close, Alexandrians lost access to so many resources at a time when they probably could have used them the most.

"We serve a lot of families with young children, a lot of seniors, and a large ESL population," said Hannah Risley, the reference librarian for the Duncan Library. "Every day after school, we would be flooded with kids needing to use our computers. In the mornings, our story times are so popular with the young families and nannies in the area that we have to hold three in a row just to accommodate the crowds without breaking fire code. Then in the evenings, we get a lot of people using our WiFi for studying, teleworking, or even gaming. I probably spend at least five hours of my day interacting directly with walk-in patrons and handling their information needs."

Risley also plans and implements all of Duncan Library's adult programs – book clubs, movie groups, discussions, and more – so she was probably one of the first people to understand the effects of quarantine on the Alexandria community. She and Katie Whitman, the children's librarian who runs all the youth programs, were quick to start executing their programming in the digital sphere.

Risley started by hosting March's Death Café – typically an in-person discussion program, over tea and cake, designed to "help people make the most of their finite lives" – online. From there, she went on to go digital with every Duncan Library adult program.

"By the end of the second week of April, we had a full calendar of adult programs happening on the Zoom platform," Risley said. "In April, we held 13 programs for adults, totaling more than 300 attend-



Virtual toddler time.

ees. In May, we held another 13 programs, with close to 300 attendees collectively."

On the children's side, the only programs that would translate over Zoom were the story times. So while the more interactive youth programs have been on hold, Whitman has been live streaming story times since early April – once-a-week sessions of Duncan Library's Toddler Story Time, Pre-K Story Time, and Pajama Story Time.

"We're doing three weekly story times virtually – down from the six per week that we'd have through regular programming," Whitman said. "Where they used to be 30 minutes long when we had them in the library, they are now just 20 minutes long because publishers restrict what you can read when it is online and open to a virtual audience."

Although both adult programs and children's story times have been running smoothly over Zoom, the start was not without complications.

"The book club meeting on April 2nd, turned out to be the first virtual program I held using Zoom ... and while we were discussing the book of the month, we actually got Zoom bombed, [when a meeting is interrupted by people who were not invited, and whose only intent is to wreak havoc] by a group of about ten young people who kept talking over everyone, cursing, and one tried to take over the screen. That was quite the learning experience, but luckily the book group was understanding."

Also luckily, both Risley and Whitman said it was good that the glitch happened during an adult program as opposed to interrupting one of the multiple children's story times.

"From that point on, to avoid this or something similar from happening again, we have been using a paid Zoom plan that prevents attendees from taking control of presentations," Risley said. Thanks to the Friends of Duncan Library – [a nonprofit organization that supports the operations of the Duncan Branch Library] – who are funding this subscription, we know our virtual programs are safe for all audiences."

The Duncan Library team has launched an impres-

SEE VIRTUAL LIBRARY, PAGE 13  
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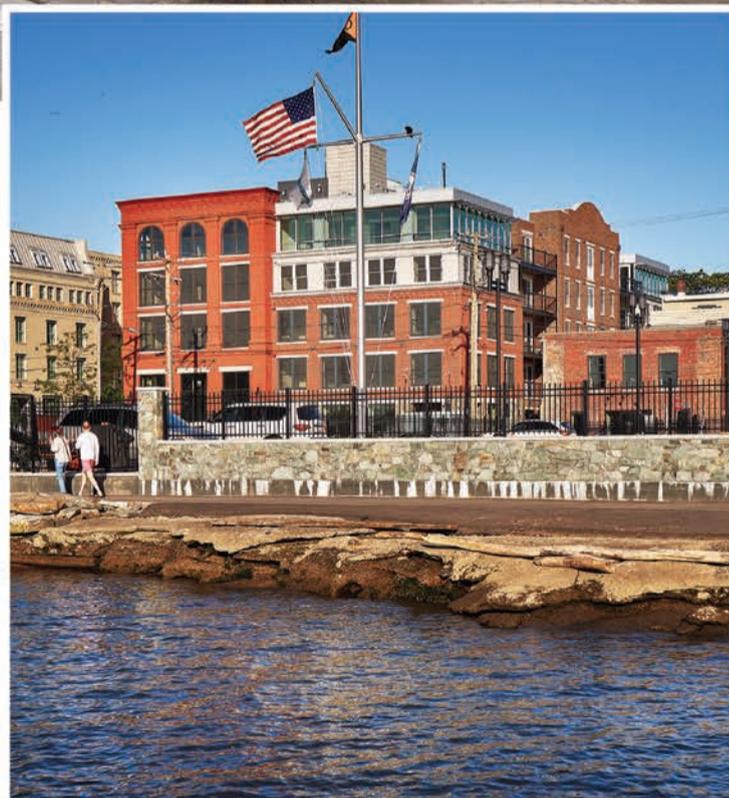
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## THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

# Betty Garrett Scott: 'Memories of My Grandfather'

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

**D**uring the Civil Rights movement unrest in the 1940s and 1950s, Betty Garrett-Scott witnessed many historical moments that shaped her life. Her endurance during those turbulent years came from the love and caring she received from her grandfather, Norman Roy, Sr.

Betty's mother, Lucille Roy-Garrett Morgan was born in 1910 to Norman Roy, Sr., and Elnora Lewis Roy in the West End of Alexandria in the Seminary and Quaker Lane neighborhoods. Norman and his wife had 14 children and Lucille was their oldest child. During Betty's youth, she spent a great deal of time at her grandfather's house, which was located about a mile from Oakland Baptist Church. Her grandfather's house was near the Virginia Theological Seminary.

Betty said, "My grandfather owned a large piece of land and he had a big house. The house looked like one of those old plantation homes. The house only had three bedrooms but each of the rooms was extremely large. All the boys slept in one room and all the girls slept in the other room. Her grandparents had their own bedroom." She says her grandfather was a handy man and a painter; he worked at the Virginia Theological Seminary and later at the Theological High School. Her grandfather told her stories about his children and about her grandmother, Elnora who died before Betty was born.



Norman Roy, Sr., second from the left, with his sons.

Norman told Betty that her mother Lucille was working in New York when her grandmother, Elnora, became sick and died. He told Betty that Lucille dropped everything and came home to raise her siblings. The other fond memory Betty had of her grandfather's house is that there was a piano in the house. When all the grandchildren met at their grandfather's house, they would make their way to the piano.

Betty's heart-felt remembrance of her grandfather is discerned by anyone who knows her. She describes her grandfather as a warm, patient, kind and generous man.

All that she knows about her Roy family comes from her grandfather. His home was where all of his children and grandchildren would come for family gatherings. The entire family was close and Norman was the glue that kept them together.

By the late 1950s, urban development came to Seminary Road and Quaker Lane. The City of Alexandria identified Norman's house and land as one of the locations slated for urban renewal. The City took his property under, "Eminent Domain." They paid Norman a small amount of money for his land and his house. Norman

by this time was an old man. He was forced to leave his home and his way of life. He moved to Alexandria and rented an apartment. Gone were the days when Norman enjoyed hosting his children and grandchildren at his own property for family meals and social gatherings.

Norman died in 1984 at the age of 95. He outlived several of his children including his daughter, Lucille. He had a profound impact on Betty. Her memories of her grandfather are so vivid that it seems time has not passed away.

Betty Garrett Scott was born in 1939. She is the oldest daughter of

Lucille T. Roy Garrett Morgan. Betty has one daughter, Randy, two grandchildren, Garrett and Taylor, and two sisters, Carolyn and Linda. Her memories of her grandfather are just as clear today as they were over 70 years ago.

The Roy family came to Seminary Road and Quaker Lane during the Civil War. And Mrs. Betty Garrett Scott is proud that history.

*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>.*



Betty Garrett as a teenager.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RANDY SCOTT

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

not be ignored. Thomas Chambliss Williams was our school system's superintendent, administering to essentially three decades of denying African-Americans a quality education — and for that should we be commemorating him? We are better than this person whom we still blindly honor. Our City is recognized for its commendable historical civil rights' markers in society. Our own Samuel W. Tucker at age 14 in 1927 refused to be marginalized due to the color of his skin by having to surrender his seat on a streetcar to a white person. Later, he organized a "sit-down strike" in our City. Earl Lloyd was the first African-American player and coach in the NBA. President Clinton spoke to the nation from TC's steps after the Columbine shootings, praising our racial diversity. Barack Obama headed an educational forum at TC, and Michele Obama visited with the Sec-

retary of Education. Later, for TC's 50th anniversary, civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis spoke. And with much poetic license, Hollywood has eternally inscribed our high school as a beacon for integration.

At TC, 121 languages from 120 countries are spoken, and yet we disparage the majority of our students by continuing to embrace someone who spoke antithetically to the moral rectitude that others fought to sow into our City's fabric, accepting people of all colors, races, creeds, religion and sexual orientation. It is therefore gratifying that the School Board has taken this up and appears to be on a course to right this long-standing wrong.

Surely, we can come together in honoring those who truly represent us (of which many meritorious alternatives exist upon whom we can confidently reach a consensus, including even combining worthy names so the sobriquet "TC" or

"TCW" -and the "Titans"- can remain), and cease brandishing any symbol that is an affront to "equal justice under law." As the American poet Robert Lowell once said in a similar circumstance: "Their monument sticks like a fishbone in the city's throat." We cannot erase our history, but by reckoning with our past history and removing memorials that stigmatize us, we can rewrite our course. However, if we don't awaken now, we are doomed to repeat that which we abhor.

Gregory L. Murphy, Esq.  
Alexandria

### Boone-Yoast High?

I recently heard about the effort to re-name T.C. Williams High School. As a native Alexandrian and member of the Class of '84, may I suggest Boone-Yoast High

School, a name that honors a famous anti-racist moment in Virginia history, remembers those Titans, and is fit for an anti-racist future.

Jon Stier  
Seattle, WA

### New Name: Nolan Hawkins High School

Dear Editor:

I write today about the matter of renaming T. C. Williams High School.

Our high school should be renamed and the rationale for such a change should not be up for debate. Flatly, the name must be changed.

In searching for a new name, we should be focused on recognizing someone in our community who embodies both character and

integrity and someone who has served our community through years of dedicated commitment and humility. I believe such a person is Judge Nolan Dawkins who recently retired from the bench of the Alexandria Circuit Court.

I have known Judge Dawkins since our children were teammates on the youth soccer fields in Alexandria and later as classmates and teammates in high school. Like so many Alexandrians who have met through the activities of their youngsters, Nolan and I spent many hours discussing civic affairs while our girls toiled on the soccer pitch or on the basketball court.

Fortunately our friendship has lasted decades and I count myself lucky to have a friend such as Judge Dawkins. I can certainly attest to Judge Dawkins' high intellect and character throughout the years of our friendship. What I believe is most striking about Judge

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Dawkins is his sense of right and wrong together with his ability to appreciate the differing perspectives of others be they friends, colleagues or citizens who have come before the court. I suppose these qualities are what have truly made him such a fine jurist.

Judge Dawkins grew up in Alexandria and was among the first students to have integrated George Washington High School. He graduated from GW in 1965. Having grown up in Alexandria Judge Dawkins returned to his hometown to raise his family and to serve our community.

In these years of a mobile society it is truly refreshing to see a person return to his hometown which has been so important to his life and upbringing and select it as a home for his growing family. But the commitment to Alexandria displayed by Nolan and his wife Lorraine did not end there as they did not view their residence as a passive existence but rather one of service.

After serving in the military and in Vietnam as an officer and graduating for Seton Hall University Law School, Nolan came home to Alexandria. He joined the City Attorney's Office where he served with distinction until 1981 when

he entered private practice as an attorney serving the legal needs of his fellow citizens. In 1994 Judge Dawkins was appointed to the bench of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations court becoming the first full-time African American judge in the city's history. As a trailblazer, Judge Dawkins created one of Virginia's first family drug court programs which focused more on rehabilitation and treatment as opposed to incarceration.

After serving 14 years on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations bench, Judge Dawkins was appointed by the General Assembly to the Alexandria Circuit Court where he served from 2008 until his recent retirement in June of this year.

I firmly believe all citizens of Alexandria would be proud to have our high school named in honor of Judge Nolan Dawkins. Certainly he is a hometown Alexandrian who has achieved a great deal, but he is also a person who was committed to serving his hometown and its citizens through decades as a distinguished jurist. And perhaps the greatest testament of his commitment to the City is that he and Lorraine entrusted his hometown of Alexandria to be the spot where they raised their three daughters.

Without reservation I strongly

endorse and wholeheartedly recommend that our community re-name our high school after Judge Nolan Dawkins. His commitment to fairness, to equity, to service and to community are the very qualities that should embody the Alexandria experience and the American experience. Future generations of Alexandria students will surely walk the halls of Nolan B. Dawkins High School with pride.

**Kerry J. Donley**  
Former Mayor of Alexandria

## Relearning the Value of Private Charity

The cause behind the "More for Enforcement, Less for Assistance" phenomenon in Michael Lee Pope's feature about Alexandria spending more on policing but less on social services, ironically, is on the very next page. "Food for Everyone During Pandemic" reports how effectively non-profits such as ALIVE! have provided social service assistance. No government bureaucracy could have adapted as readily to the challenges the coronavirus pandemic suddenly

SEE LETTERS., PAGE 14



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# Off the Menu: Restaurant News Notes

BY HOPE NELSON

**F**rom more ways to get bagels to new restaurants opening their doors to welcoming back an old favorite, there are certainly signs of life amongst the city's eateries again.

## Bagel Uprising Launches Delivery

Del Ray's local bagel shop, a stalwart of the pandemic era, is expanding its reach – not to sit-down service, but for deliveries instead.

The company posted on social media this week:

"Big news in Bagel Land: We're finally set up for delivery directly from the BU website! When you're in the shopping cart, click "change" where you currently see "pick up," and select "delivery" instead.

"Please note you can't pre-order for delivery like you can for pick up. The wheels start turning as soon as you order; we've been finding that it usually takes about an hour for delivery orders to arrive."

## Hank & Mitzi's to Welcome Guests Again

The former location of Hank's Pasta Bar is almost ready to see new life, the owners of Hank & Mitzi's (as well as Hank's Oyster bar and the former pasta bar) have announced. Per their social media feeds, the restaurant aims to reopen by the end of July, with construction coming to an end. The Italian-infused pizza and pasta spot will release its



**Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen also does catering. In the pictures we have Tilapia, sweet and sour meatballs, and vegetable salad. 703-799-7572**

new menu soon, as well.

"Stay tuned for more details..." the restaurant staff said.

## Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen Opens

A taste of Jamaica is permeating the Route 1 corridor with the opening of Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen. Located at 2817 Schooley Drive, the eatery offers up all manner of Jamaican favorites, ranging from curry goat to Jamaican patties to a vast array of sides. The

restaurant is currently open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

## Piece Out, Del Ray Boccato Both Poised to Open

Del Ray is preparing to welcome two new cafes to the neighborhood – Piece Out, a pizzeria, and Del Ray Boccato, a spot for sweet treats such as gelato as well as savory empanadas. Piece Out will take up residence in

the space formerly inhabited by Catch on the Avenue at 2419 Mount Vernon Ave.; Del Ray Boccato will open up at 2400 Mount Vernon Ave. Both aim to be open within weeks; Piece Out has already released a soft-opening menu.

*Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

## FUN THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

### DRIVE-IN MOVIES

#### AT WORKHOUSE

Address: 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079. Film starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$80. Visit the website: [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org).

Call 703-584-2900.

#### Schedule:

- ❖ Saturday, July 17 -- "Clue."
- ❖ Saturday, July 18 -- "Trolls."
- ❖ Friday, July 24 -- "The Dark Crystal."
- ❖ Saturday, July 25 -- "Labyrinth."
- ❖ Friday, July 31 -- "Hot Fuzz."

### MOSAIC DEBUTS OUTDOOR

#### DRIVE-IN MOVIES

EDENS Mosaic has launched a new outdoor drive-in movie series this summer. Located on the top level (7) of Market Garage across from Mom's Organic Market and Hyatt House.

Check-in is on level 6. Address: 8295 Glass Alley, Fairfax. The films begin at 8 p.m. The lineup includes:

- Friday July 24: "Toy Story 4" at 5:15 p.m.; and "Jurassic Park" at 8:45 p.m.;
  - Friday Aug. 28: To Be Announced
- There is a \$28 fee to reserve a designated spot in accordance with the new social distancing guidelines. Tickets can be purchased at [https://mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/drive-in-at-mosaic/?event\\_id=8599](https://mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/drive-in-at-mosaic/?event_id=8599) Visit [www.mosaicdistrict.com](http://www.mosaicdistrict.com).

### COLUMBIA PIKE DRIVE-IN

Saturday Nights in July & August

Pull up to the new Columbia Pike

Drive-In Movie Nights at the Arlington Career Center for some free retro-style family fun. All movies start at sunset (between 8 and 8:30 p.m.) and are shown in English with Spanish subtitles. Space is limited and new protocols are in place to keep everyone safe. Registration is required and details will be sent in our weekly newsletter. Address: 816 S Walter Reed Dr, Arlington, VA 22204.

Visit the website: <https://www.columbia-pike.org/movienights/>

July 18 -- "The Secret Life of Bees"

July 25 -- "Twister"

Aug. 1 -- "Crazy Rich Asians"

Aug. 8 -- "Apollo 13"

Aug. 15 -- "Ready Player One"

Aug. 22 -- "Coco"

Aug. 29 -- "Mary Poppins Returns"

### JULY 18-19

Walking and Wagon Tour. 5:15 and 6:30 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon.

Enjoy a private, one-hour walking and wagon tour of the farm for you and your family. You'll be guided around this historic property for a behind-the-scenes look at how they operate this farm. Take a wagon ride out to the fields to see which crops are growing and what's being harvested. Bring a camera and water, and dress for this unique outdoor farm experience. Buy tickets

here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/>

### JULY 6 TO OCT. 24

The "Quarantine Creations" art exhibit at the Veterinary Clinics of America Alexandria Animal Hospital (VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke St, Alexandria). This exhibit features artwork by local artists depicting personal experiences lived through the current global quarantine. Artwork by Del Ray Artisans members through the Gallery Without Walls program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. Details: [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww)

### 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 Aug. 3. Camps include the following:

Game Design Camp where campers learn 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](http://www.workhousearts.org).

### THE BIRCHMERE REOPENS

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee.

There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing. Masks have to be worn when leaving your seat, including when you go to the bathroom or to the store to buy merchandise.

Schedule of Birchmere shows: Friday, July 17: Skinny Wallace; Saturday, July 18: Jumpin' Jupiter; Friday, July 24: The Nighthawks; Saturday, July 25: The Free Flowing Musical Experience;

Friday, July 31: The Roadducks.

The venue is located at 3701

Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Visit the Birchmere's website: <http://www.birchmere.com/>

### COMMUNITY MARKET

#### AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Arts Center announces a new Community Market initiative in partnership with the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce every Saturday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Community Market is designed to help businesses rebuild during Virginia's Phase II reopening in a unique setting all while keeping local arts alive. Surrounded by historic buildings, the Workhouse offers a unique venue for Fairfax and Prince William businesses and organizations to market and sell goods and services. The outdoor environment provides greater exposure to traditional brick and mortar businesses as well as a way for the community to shop in a safer way during Phase I and Phase II of re-opening the local economy.

Spaces and tents will adhere to social distancing guidelines and the Workhouse will monitor traffic and cleaning guidelines for optimal safety. Interested vendors should contact Elena Romanova at [elenaromanova@workhousearts.org](mailto:elenaromanova@workhousearts.org).

# Virtual Library Meets Need for Escape

FROM PAGE 8

sive lineup of virtual events, with some sessions attracting between 50 and 100 attendees. These digital meetups include the weekly children's story times, two monthly book clubs, the monthly Death Cafés, a monthly meditation led by Yoga in Daily Life, and the monthly meeting of the Friends of Duncan Library.

Some of the Zoom-based adult programs have drawn more people than they did when they were held within the physical walls of the library. Virtual attendance right away exceeded expectations so much that Duncan Library now offers even more programs – classes, discussions, and presentations that are intended for online audiences.

"Our single most popular program has been our 'Estate Planning During a Pandemic' presentation. We had over 75 attendees, and more than 100 – the attendee limit with our Zoom subscription – signed up," Risley said.

"In branch, many of these programs would be getting between five and 20 people, but online I am regularly seeing numbers over 50. Then I have also been hosting a wide range of one-time speakers including: an ornithologist, ... authors including Jim Johnston, who wrote Murder Inc.; Amber Sparks, who wrote And I Do Not Forgive You; and, The Washington Post reporter Lillian Cunningham, who is also host of the Moonrise podcast."

Risley added that upcoming special programs include a two-part State Department series about the experience of retired diplomats with the U.S. State Department, and a presentation by Bryan Porter, Alexandria's elected prosecutor, about his book on Alexandria's serial killer.

The idea is that, if it's impossible to escape to Duncan Library these days for a mind-opening experience, then Duncan Library can bring the experience to you.

Whitman has found that it is a bit harder to entertain kids when they aren't right in front of you.

"I've found that Toddler Story Times are still the most popular, with 15 to 30 who attend each week," she said. "By contrast, we used to have Toddler Story Times twice a week and we'd get 74 people for each. Now it's just once a week."

"I think there is a lot of influence on the trip of going to the library and it's a lot easier on a virtual platform for kids in particular to get distracted or walk away," Whitman said. "We have a strong core of users who sign up for everything, so it is going well."

All Duncan Library programming will remain over Zoom at least through the end of August, but the staff is looking forward to when in-person programming resumes. "I imagine of everyone we serve, the Spanish and Immigrant communities of Arlandria and Chirilagua were most affected by Duncan Library's closing," Risley said. "Those are the people in our community least likely to have reliable internet, so they are also the least likely to be able to continue accessing library resources digitally."

"As we've been faced with COVID, we've shown that we have a great ability to grow and thrive under pressure," Whitman said. "Our immediate mission was to get our programs out to the community, and that's what we did, ... to provide a sense of normalcy in our community."

To stay current with Duncan Library and its virtual programming, visit <http://alexlibraryva.org/virtual>.

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## It's a Twofer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And not just Tuesday, either. All week in fact, I'll be waiting to hear the music. One day, I'll hear from my oncologist and on another day, I'll hear from my endocrinologist. What I'll hear first is the status of my underlying non small cell lung cancer, stage IV (diagnosed Feb., 2009) and later in the week, I'll get results concerning my most recent party crasher: papillary thyroid cancer, stage II, diagnosed Jan. 2020. This will be the first time I will have been waiting for results simultaneously, concerning TWO cancers that I now have. (What? One wasn't enough?) And B.B. King thought the thrill was gone. For those of us unlucky enough to have been diagnosed with two different and active cancers, this is the kind of week which tests your mettle and is as far away from thrilling as one could possibly imagine.

C'est la vie, or at least it is because I'm not ready to be morte. Who says taking five years of French between seventh and eleventh grades was a waste? Here I am 50+ years later and I'm still able to dip into that old bag of tricks. I fear however, that the longer I'm still living as an active, still-being-treated cancer patient, the more my health is at risk. Cancer is not exactly a friendly visitor. Rather it's the kind of uninvited guest that takes up residence in your home and never leaves, like dust mites, fleas and mold. In some instances, you know they're present; in other cases, you're told. And the longer they stay, the worse the situation becomes.

My cancer diagnosis was sort of like that, a surprise. A lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, I woke one day with a pain in my left rib cage. A few days later, after the pain had migrated to the other side, combined with difficulty I was having catching my breath, I decided to go to the Emergency Room. A brief examination followed but revealed very little to the doctor. He suggested I return in a week to see the pulmonologist. Which of course, I did.

By that time, the pain had totally subsided and I remained pain-free for the next eight weeks until I got "the call" from my internal medicine doctor advising me that the previous week's biopsy confirmed a malignancy. Then I was in pain, emotionally - and afraid, as you can probably imagine.

But here I sit, 11 and one half years later, living proof that a "terminal" diagnosis is not necessarily terminal. Somehow, through a combination of conventional wisdom/treatment, some non-Western alternatives in the form of pills and potions and a good attitude which has meant keeping my glass half full while trying to maintain a good sense of humor, I have been lucky enough to see my beloved Boston Red Sox win their third and fourth World Series Championships of the 21st century. (Their first two championships in 2004 and 2007 were pre-Kenny's cancer diagnosis.)

But looking backward, as gratifying and rewarding as it can sometimes be, has not been my modus operandi. My 'operandi' has been to walk quietly, laugh heartily and be positive (like our friend, Ray's blood type) and not presume any facts which are not yet in evidence. Moreover, try taking any and all news in stride and be a patient patient (which is not double talk) and put one foot in front of the other and see where it leads.

For me, it has led to a future that I wasn't supposed to have and a present for which I am eternally grateful, even during weeks such as these when I'm about to enter when my life, vis-a-vis what I am told by my oncologist and endocrinologist, is hanging in the balance not once, but twice. Really, twice is a bit much, don't you think? I mean, I think I'm doing my unhealthy bit by having one type of cancer. There's really no extra credit/extra benefit in having two types, especially at the same time. Nor is there any BO-GO-type discount on my health insurance costs. Quite the contrary, actually. But if I'm still alive to complain about it, then I'm still alive and that's nothing to complain about.

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

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

wrought as Shirley Ruhe's feature describes ALIVE! and other charitable groups accomplishing simply because the private sector is better suited to providing social services. Our society forgot this during the New Deal and Great Society, with the effect that governmental welfare programs grew up to have ugly unintended consequences of generational welfare dependency, but since Bill Clinton's Welfare Reform in the mid 1990s, our society is relearning the value of private charity. In the past two decades Alexandria's charitable sector has grown enormously in response not only to the need, but also the realization that private charities with motivated volunteers and entrepreneurial leadership can address social services more effectively than government bureaucracies. Fruitcycle/Together We Bake, in which Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, even before becoming vice mayor, played a leading role, is another example of private charity accomplishing social good which governmental bureaucracy could not.

Michael Pope's feature covers the full range of issues this budgetary phenomenon raises by noting that some social services are included in policing.

We do need to be vigilant, though, more so than our Commonwealth Attorney seems to realize when he insists that the right response to criminal behavior is not only jail, but "addressing the root causes."

But jail is the right answer for these perpetrators because, not only is it a place where social services can be administered, putting them there pronto prevents the kinds of harm past experience has shown they can do.

Dino Drudi  
Alexandria

## Goodbye, T.C.

FROM PAGE 3

between \$300,000 and \$1 million. The biggest expense would be changing sports uniforms. The board members who are on the record for saying they will vote in favor to change the name are: Ramee Gentry, Jacinta Greene, Michelle Rief, Christopher Suarez and Heather Thornton. Despite this recent stride, many Alexandrians feel that the School Board should have committed to removing the name instead of starting a months-long community engagement process.

"It's critical that we go through with the process articulated in the regulations," said Suarez. "I understand that the board historically has not taken action on this issue and there's been a substantial erosion of trust over the years. But it's important that the community trust its elected officials to follow the process faithfully."

Leaders at the Hopkins House wrote a letter to School Board Chair Cindy Anderson about their disappointment with the motion. The letter, written by Hopkins House CEO Glenn Hopkins, said the vote was "unacceptable and, quite frankly, a shameful response to an issue of such importance and timeliness."

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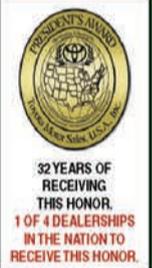
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