



Reforming the Police

Lawmakers consider sweeping set of proposals to change policing in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Only a few hours into a special session of the General Assembly earlier this week, members of a Senate panel passed a sweeping bill on policing reform that does everything from banning no-knock warrants and limiting chokeholds to creating use-of-force standards and requiring de-escalation training.

The special session was called partially in reaction to the killing of an unarmed Black man by a white police officer in Minnesota, which set off protests across the country against police brutality. Now lawmakers in Richmond are poised to pass landmark legislation that has the support of associations representing police chiefs and sheriff's offices across Virginia.

"It raises the bar for professionalism in the state," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who is leading the criminal-justice reform effort in the Senate. "And I think that's why they supported all this."

The way Virginia law currently works, officers can resign in the middle of a decertification process as a way to terminate the proceeding. Not only does that undermine accountability for bad cops, it also opens the door for them to get new jobs at other police departments that don't have access to disciplinary records outlining their actions. Police agencies in Virginia say launching a decertification process is difficult, and the rules for how they work allow bad cops to slip through the cracks.

"If they couldn't perform up to standards in my agency, they shouldn't be allowed to work at another agency doing the same job," said Herndon Police Chief Maggie DeBoard, a vice president of the Virginia Chiefs of Police Association who worked with senators to craft the legislation. "We would conduct the investigation to sustain a finding, which would then allow the state to decertify that officer so that they could not work anywhere in the state as a sworn law-enforcement officer."

THE POLICING REFORM BILL



Police agencies in Virginia want to make it more difficult for bad cops to move from department to department without facing consequences for bad behavior.

now heads to the Senate Finance Committee, where lawmakers will determine if they can find the money to pay for the new hearing officers that will be needed at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to handle the increase in decertification proceedings. The Senate bill also requires the department to create a new code of conduct for police, and the department will need to dedicate staffers to develop the code over the next two years.

"We understand it's a lot, but we also believe that this is what's necessary in order to get the transformational change that we've all been seeking," said Kofi Annan, former president of the Fairfax NAACP and founder of an advocacy group known as The Activated People. "People have been marching through the streets for months literally risking their lives, and they didn't do it in order to just get one piecemeal kind of bill."

House members are taking a different approach to policing reform, splitting the issue into its component parts that can be debated individually rather than as part of an omnibus package.

One of the advantages of the Senate's approach is that the omnibus bill has the support of law enforcement agencies because it has several provisions that they've



Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is overseeing the Senate's package of criminal justice reform bills.

been asking for on decertification, among other things. But if the prohibition on no-knock warrants is separated from the rest of the bill, as the House plans to do next week, it might be opposed by police agencies who feel no-knock warrants are required in some circumstances.

"You don't throw 100 bills into one omnibus bill. We're not going to do that. I think that's ridiculous," said Del. Mark Levine (D-45). "We're going to have many of the same reforms, but we're going to have it in 25 bills or maybe 30 bills."

IN THE WEEKS leading up to the special session, senators have been working with law enforcement agencies for peace in the valley. Language banning chokeholds was softened to allow them in certain life-threatening situations. Provisions requiring judges to sign off on nighttime search warrants allows magistrates to approve them if judges aren't available. And a ban on military equipment was softened to allow for police agencies to receive some items through the Pentagon's 1033 Program. Law enforcement agencies say they should be able to receive some of

the military surplus items available through the program, including camouflage uniforms.

"Sheriffs do use that for rescue and protection," said John Jones, executive director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. "As far as we're concerned, you fixed the concerns we had about military equipment."

Senators also worked with law enforcement agencies to address their concerns on data collection. The compromise language requires the collection of information about the race and ethnicity of drivers who are stopped and searched. But it also provides some flexibility for departments to avoid detailing a list of everyone they questioned at a checkpoint.

The bill that got out of the Senate Judiciary Committee also includes a way for officers to shield statements they make during some internal investigations from prosecutors.

"We should always work well with our commonwealth's attorneys in the best interest in criminal justice," said Ashland Police Chief Douglas Goodman, who worked with senators to craft the legislation. "But we're just concerned about statements officers may provide that are compelled."

QUALIFIED IMMUNITY may end up being a sticking point between the House and the Senate as the special session moves forward. House members say they want to move forward with finding a way for police officers to be sued individually, which is currently prohibited under a legal doctrine that has its roots in English common law.

Senators did not include the issue of qualified immunity in their policing reform bill, and Gov. Ralph Northam did not include the issue in his agenda for the special session.

"You're less likely to misbehave if you know there's going to be adverse consequences to you if you misbehave," said Victor Glasberg, attorney in Alexandria. "If there's all the reason in the world to believe that if somebody hauls you into court you're going to get off on qualified immunity, it just makes it easier for you to misbehave."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

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For (Some) Women, Right to Vote Came 100 Years Ago

City marks centennial of 19th amendment.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Harry Burn was a staunch anti-suffragist. But then the 24-year-old legislator unexpectedly uttered “aye” to break a deadlocked vote at the Tennessee statehouse, leaving his colleagues in stunned silence. The date was Aug. 18, 1920, and with that single syllable a half century of tireless and sometimes violent campaigning had ended. The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had passed: Women were granted the right to vote.

Alexandria marked the centennial anniversary of the historic date with an outdoor gathering at the Kate Waller Barrett Library, where Mayor Justin Wilson issued a proclamation in recognition of the ratification. The location also recognized the efforts of Kate Waller Barrett, an Alexandrian and leading social and voting rights activist of her time.

“Alexandria Celebrates Women was founded to recognize the historic achievements of women in Alexandria while celebrating and empowering the modern Alexandria woman,” said Gayle Converse, co-founder of the organization that sponsored the event. “Going forward we will be looking at becoming a resource for women’s history while doing what we can to empower women.”

Converse and co-founder Pat Miller have coordinated a series of events to mark the ratification of the 19th Amendment, including a special exhibit at the Torpedo Factory Arts Center featuring women’s suffrage-inspired art, voting rights history, and voter registration information. The exhibit runs Aug. 19 through Sept. 27.

The group is also spearheading an effort to establish a historical plaque at the site of the old Customs House and Federal Courthouse at the corner of St. Asaph and Prince streets in Old Town. In 1917, the courthouse was the site of a hearing that freed women suffragists being held and tortured at the Occoquan Workhouse prison in Lorton.

“On Nov. 17, Judge Edmund Waddill Jr., in the United States District Court at Richmond, Va., or



National Women’s Party activist Dora Lewis (wrapped in blanket) after her release from the Occoquan Workhouse in 1917.



Suffragists Helena Hill Weed and Vida Mullholand in the Occoquan prison in 1917. Weed’s crime was carrying a banner that read “Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

dered a writ of habeas corpus seeking the release of the suffragists undergoing the rigid disciplinary treatment at Occoquan,” said Converse in detailing the series of events. “Judge Waddill set the hearing for Nov. 27 in Alexandria, nine days after the prison’s ‘Night of Terror’ against the women.”

The suffragists were transported from Occoquan for the hearing, where their appearance shocked spectators. They were malnourished and had been tortured. Many were over the age of 60.

“Many were so weak they had to lie on the courtroom benches,” said Converse.

News of the Night of Terror sparked protests across the country and the hearing in Alexandria made national news. The Lucy Burns Museum at the site of the former prison in Lorton details the historic events.

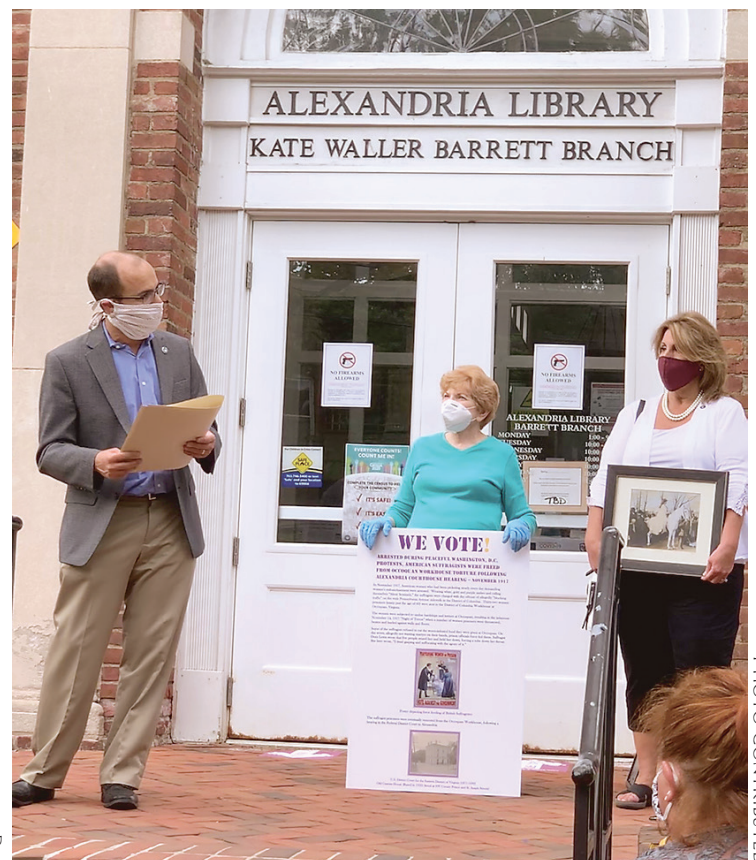
The ordeal began on Nov. 14, 1917, when 32 suffragists were arrested in Washington, D.C. for blocking traffic on a Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk. They were sent

to the workhouse in Lorton, where the women were subjected to undue hardships and torture, resulting in the infamous Night of Terror.

A number of women prisoners were threatened, beaten and hurled against walls and floors. A few days later, force feedings began. The suffragist prisoners were eventually freed from the Occoquan workhouse following their hearing in Alexandria’s federal courthouse.

“We are working with The Office of Historic Alexandria to install a historic marker to commemorate the location of this important suffrage movement court case,” said Miller. “We need to raise \$4,750 in order to fund this monument in recognition of the women who bravely endured imprisonment and brutality in their efforts to gain the vote for all women.”

Added Converse: “To this day no one knows why the women were sent to Occoquan. And while women in Alexandria gained the right to vote in August of 1920 after the 19th Amendment became law, it



Mayor Justin Wilson, left, prepares to read a proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment Aug. 18 at the Kate Waller Barrett Library. Council members Del Pepper and Amy Jackson joined the ceremony that celebrated the amendment granting women the right to vote.



On Nov. 27, 1917, the Alexandria Customs House and U.S. Federal Courthouse at the corner of St. Asaph and Prince streets was the site of a hearing that freed women suffragists being held and tortured at the Occoquan prison.

would be another 32-years before the Virginia General Assembly ratified the amendment on Feb. 21, 1952. And it took the Voting rights act of 1965 for African American women to receive unhindered access to the ballot box.” But why exactly did the young Tennessee legislator change his vote at the

last minute 100 years ago? Because that morning he received a note from his mother asking him to vote “aye.”

Alexandria Celebrates Women is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For more information or to donate to the memorial, visit www.alexandriacelebrateswomen.com.

Bargain Shoppers United

Rainy skies don't dampen enthusiasm for sidewalk sale.

Rainy skies were no match for bargain hunters, who turned out to support more than 50 locally owned businesses during the annual Old Town and Del Ray Sidewalk Sale held Aug. 15 and 16.

The event was sponsored by Visit Alexandria in partnership with the Old Town Boutique District, Old Town Business Association and the Del Ray Business Association. The city provided free metered parking in Old Town during the weekend sale and the 1100 block of King Street was closed to vehicles to encourage pedestrian shopping.

Items ranging from fashion and jewelry to home decor, culinary goods and seasonal gift items tempted

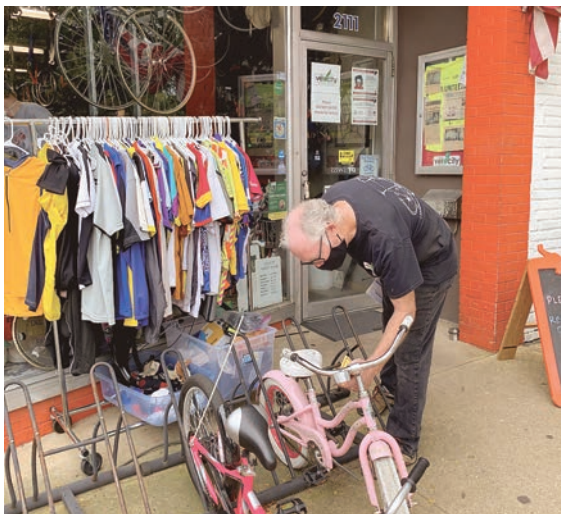
bargain hunters from around the region. Participating stores in Old Town included women's clothing stores donna lewis, TSALT, Twist Boutique and Imagine Artwear; Italian leather goods from Serafino; jewelry from She's Unique and Silver Parrot; home décor and gifts from Boxwood and Patina Polished Living; and wine and gifts from Wine Gallery 108 and Sonoma Cellar.

In Del Ray, participating boutiques including new sidewalk sale participant La Brocante, offering vintage and unusual home goods; Top it Off, featuring deals on clothing and accessories; Velocity; The Clay Queen Pottery; The Dog Store; and Kiskadee.

—JEANNE THEISMANN



Sales associate Annabelle Bivens, left, looks on as Aniya Witherspoon holds Cocoa Love outside the Dog Store during the Aug. 16 sidewalk sale in Del Ray.



Steve Walz looks at bicycle at Velocity during the Aug. 16 sidewalk sale in Del Ray.



The 1100 block of King Street is closed to vehicles during the sidewalk sale Aug. 16 in Old Town



Despite the rain, shoppers browse the display at Wear Ever Custom Jewelry during the Aug. 16 sidewalk sale in Old Town.



Imagine Artwear owner Carole Suplee stands with "Nellie," a mannequin dressed in rain gear during the Aug. 16 sidewalk sale.



The Tehrani family, owners of Serafino in Old Town, prepare for the Aug. 16 sidewalk sale.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria arrange flowers at the headquarters of the Alexandria Police Department Aug. 5 as part of a "Flower Flashing" to thank the members of the department for their service.

'Flower Flashing'

Garden Clubs unite to spread beauty of nature.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Hunting Creek Garden Club and Garden Club of Alexandria joined forces to provide a "flower flash" at the Alexandria Police Department Headquarters Aug. 5 to culminate a month-long effort to share the beauty of nature with the community.

"This is one of our flower flashes that we've done for the community," said Laura Francis of the Hunting Creek Garden Club. "We wanted to say thank you to those who are completely devoted in their service to us. Flowers are the way we say it so here we are." The two clubs first flashed Fire Station 201 on Prince Street in Old Town fol-

lowed by the Charles Houston Recreation Center, where floral boxing gloves and an orange basketball were fashioned by the members.

Fire Chief Corey Smedley made a surprise stop at the rec center to thank the garden club members for their efforts at the fire station, saying that the flower flash had brightened the spirits of the firefighters.

Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria are sister clubs that are members of the Garden Club of Virginia. The two clubs orchestrate the annual Old Town Alexandria Historic Home and Garden tour every Spring and additionally are provided civic grants for conservation and restoration projects.



Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley, third from right, holds a flower basketball from Hunting Creek Garden Club and Garden Club of Alexandria members Jackie Locke, Amy Bertles, Lynn Gas, Margaret Gardner, Starlet Zarek and Laura Francis during a "flower flashing" at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



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First Hand View of Racism: Change the Name

Dear Elected Officials and ACPS Board Members, Nelson Greene Jr.'s letter to The Honorable Cindy M. Anderson, Chairperson; Members of the Alexandria City Public School Board; and Alexandria City Council Members is shared with the Gazette Packet

Let me add my 65 cents. I have been a citizen of Alexandria, Virginia for 65 years. I attended Lyles-Crouch Elementary School in the seventh grade and then went on to Parker-Gray High School. I have been active in this city for all of my years here, even while on active Duty with the U.S. Army and College before that.

Here is my 65 cents about the T.C. Williams name change. In the seventh grade my father The Honorable Nelson E. Greene Sr was the President of the Lyles-Crouch PTA. Late in the first semester it was realized that Lyles-Crouch did not have the supplies we needed as students. In those days the school provided pencils, paper, chalk, erasers. We were out of everything. Our teachers, parents and even the Principal were bringing supplies that they paid for so we could do our work. My father and the Vice-President Mrs. Helen Miller, asked to meet with the Superintendent, T.C. Williams. He refused, but after some diligence, he finally agreed. Upon arriving at the School Board office, they were made to stand in the hall, not invited into the office until he decided to meet with them, even though they had an appointment. When they were finally shown into his office, he did not offer them a seat. He proceeded to let them know that they were disturbing his day and hurry and get it over. They proceeded to inform him of the need for supplies for Lyles-Crouch and let him know that it would only get worse, because this was the first semester and the second semester was still coming. After some talk to (not with) them, in which he stated, he did not understand why the "N"s had used the supplies up that had been given. He finally agreed to provide some help. He got on the intercom and told his Secretary to go get the "N"s some supplies. She came in a few minutes later, with one box (ten sticks) of chalk, one ream of the three lined paper used to teacher writing, two blackboard erasers and a pack of #2 pencils. This for a school of almost 300 children. He then dismissed them because he had better things to do.

Several years later, still under his watch, the population at Lyles-Crouch exceeded the capacity of the building. So several classes were sent to the old Alexandria Academy on Wolfe Street. This was a school building that dated back to just after colonial days. The ceilings were so low, that some of the teachers had to bend over



In December 1785, within the recently built Alexandria Academy, George Washington financed a school "for the purpose of educating orphan children." In 1812, a "free colored school" was founded by a group of free African Americans in the space vacated by white students. Young Robert E. Lee attended another school in the Academy from 1818 to 1823. During the Civil War, the academy served as a freedman's hospital. Some Black adults in Alexandria attended school in the outdated and overcrowded building on Wolfe Street when Lyles-Crouch was overflowing.

to move around the classroom. The classrooms were small and crowded such that some students had to share desks. During the winter everybody had to keep their coats and gloves on in order to survive. The one toilet bathrooms were in no way adequate for the needs of the students, so several times a day the students were walked three blocks to the main building to use the bathrooms. Rain or shine, snow or sunshine, our children had to tramp through the streets to go to the bathroom. In the spring and early summer (schools were usually in session until late June), all windows were kept open and some teachers brought electric fans to school, but could not always use them because the electrical system could not support the load. Many times the teacher took the children outside into the yard to teach because they could teach in such an environment.

At the same time, just North of this school there was a white school that had empty classrooms, but would not allow our students to utilize them. I know about this because my brother was one of those students sentenced to the Academy.

NOW LET'S come forward into the 80s. I was a member of the Alexandria City Public School Board. I arrived at a school board meeting to find out that some group was there to make a presentation to TC's son in his father's honor. I was so incensed that I left my seat on the School Board and went to the public microphone and asked to speak to the public. I proceeded to tell people about this racist that they were going to honor. I then went back to my seat and made a motion that it not be allowed to occur. During discussion, we were informed that the group that was there had withdrawn their request to make the presentation. Later during the break I shared the water fountain with a white man, who did not speak when I spoke to him. I later found out it was the son. So be it. But that was not the end of it, for before I could get back home after the meeting, we had several calls, threatening to kill me, my family and burn down my home and our business. So I called the police and they only told me they could do nothing unless the threats were carried out. SO no help there. I then proceeded to load a 12 gauge shotgun and patrol our property, taking care to stay on my property. Did this for several hours, several days. No police even rode by.

Then for my protection, I began to exercise my right to arm myself and so went about my business as was my right. The threats continued for several months.

It is time this name be removed from our high school. It was a shame that our Black and other minority children have to go to school with this racist name on it. Now don't confuse the school with the name. We all know that this school is one of the top public high schools in the nation. Served by a staff dedicated to the students. Make no mistake about the school.

We now have placed on the community agenda, a proposal to change the name to Judge Dawkins. I can not think of any name more appropriate. An Alexandria, Native, product of this school system, highly educated and has served as an important part of the legal system of this community. We are always (Black, white, other) looking for models to be followed by our young people; here is a model to be followed, and imitated.

So let's do the right thing and change the name to Judge Nolan Dawkins High School, and really let him know what we think about him and his service, his life and have a model for all.

Nelson E. Greene, Jr.
Member of ACPS Board, 1982-1992
Member and Past President of the
Departmental Progressive Club
Alexandria

In the Interim

Coping with relentless issues: pandemic, eviction crisis, unemployment crisis, boosting tourism and more.

By SEN. ADAM EBBIN

Normally, the end of the legislative session allows time for legislators, staff,

and advocates alike to regroup and catch their breath. However, though the 2020 General Assembly session officially adjourned on March 7th, things are still

busy. After adjournment, cases of COVID-19 mounted rapidly, accompanied by tri-weekly calls with the Governor's office, Health Department briefings, and evenings

working to stay informed of the constantly-evolving virus and to share information with constituents.

SEE IN THE INTERIM, PAGE 7

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OPINION

In the Interim

FROM PAGE 6

After the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery reignited a call to action to reform our nation's policing practices, I listened to and stood with Black Lives Matter protestors, and worked with Senate colleagues to build a comprehensive framework to end these tragedies and the culture that has made them so devastatingly commonplace.

As so many are painfully aware, an eviction crisis is looming in Virginia. The statewide eviction moratorium ended in July and the weekly \$600 federal stipend for unemployment lapsed at the end of July, leaving many Virginians at risk of not being able to pay their rent. Although Governor Ralph Northam has implemented a statewide rent relief program, the initiative is not yet scaled up to prevent many Virginians from losing their housing during a public health crisis. I have been working closely with advocates and legislators to address this. To that end, over the last three weeks, I met with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Tenants and Workers United of Alexandria and faith leaders from Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) to hear issues and seek solutions. During a Special Session that Governor Northam has called to begin on Aug. 18, Del. Cia Price (D-Hampton) and I will be introducing legislation to require landlords who plan on evicting tenants to first enter into a payment plan for a missed rent payment, ensuring that one financial crisis will not push tenants out of their housing and ensure landlords do not lose income or go through the costly and unsettling process of evicting a family. I am also working with advocates to extend the eviction moratorium.

I serve on a number of interim Committees and Commissions between sessions which provide oversight of ongoing state programs, review potential legislation, and plan one-time special projects.

Two weeks ago I was elected the Vice-Chair of the Joint Commission on Technology & Science. Later that week the Alexandria General Assembly Delegation spent several hours interviewing and selecting a new Circuit Court Judge to replace retired Judge Nolan Dawkins. We chose Kathleen Uston from a pool of extremely distinguished candidates.

The next week I joined the newly-minted Commission on Unemployment Insurance, where we received reports on the Unemployment Trust Fund balance and pro-

SEE IN THE, PAGE 8

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Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Selects Dr. Tammy Mann as 2020 Business Leader of the Year

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has selected Dr. Tammy Mann, President & CEO of The Campagna Center, as the 2020 Business Leader of the Year. She will be honored at the annual Best in Business Awards, presented by Burke & Herbert Bank, on October 1, 2020.

Dr. Mann is an accomplished leader who has worked at the intersection of research, practice and policy at local, regional and national levels for nearly 30 years. She has devoted her career to improving life outcomes for children,



Dr. Tammy Mann

youth and families. For the past 9 years she has served as President and Chief Executive Office of The Campagna Center. During her tenure she helped provide leadership

in several critical areas of the organization including sharpening the organization's focus on outcomes, increasing The Campagna Center's reach, leveraging technology to improve services, and expanding strategic partnerships.

The Campagna Center is a leading nonprofit helping children and families who are seeking the education, resources, and community to thrive. For 75 years, the organization has partnered with organizations across our community to provide learning and enrichment experiences, childcare, and family support services that benefit every-

one from infants and children to teens and adults.

Dr. Mann is currently serving an appointment to the Virginia State of Board of Education. In addition, she has served in leadership roles on the City of Alexandria's Children Youth and Facilities Collaborative Commission, the Banium Family Foundation, the Foundation for Child Development, ZERO TO THREE, Goodwin House Inc, Crimson Foundation, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

She has testified before Congress and Committees of Virginia

Legislature on several occasions advocating for the needs of children and families and public investments in early education.

Dr. Mann's many accolades include Leadership Greater Washington, James Marshall Public Policy Fellowship Award from the American Psychological Association, Minority Doctoral Fellowship Award from Michigan State University, the American Psychological Association Minority Doctoral Fellowship Award, the Dorothy-Manley Fellowship Award from Spellman College, and numerous The Chamber ALX recognitions.

In the Interim

FROM PAGE 7

jections for the rest of the year. I also attended two meetings of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, which I serve on as the Vice-Chair, where we finalized the wording for a pamphlet for voters on a proposed Constitutional Amendment which would create a redistricting commission that will appear on the November ballot.

In addition to these scheduled duties, I regularly meet with constituents and work to solve day-to-day issues for those in the 30th District. Working with Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, I intervened with Dominion Energy to stop power from being cut from 158 customers in Old Town Alexandria overnight on one of the hottest days of the year and joined state and local staff from the Health Department and Alcoholic Beverage Control to help constituents who are seeking to open a "cat cafe" and wine bar in Old Town.

Legislative offices have also been helping the Virginia Unemployment Commission triage a previously-unfathomable deluge of unemployment cases. In 2019, 130,000 unemployment claims were made in Virginia. Since March of this year, there have been over one million. My Chief of Staff, Chris Leyen, personally fielded hundreds of the most complicated cases amid scores of other constituent concerns.

I also joined a number of constituents and interest groups to discuss pressing legislative matters. Along with some Delegates, I gave a report on crim-

inal justice reforms to Social Action Linking Together (SALT) including discussing my work to ban private prisons and the damaging practice of solitary confinement in Virginia.

I am working with a constituent and Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter to draft enabling legislation for a new nonprofit which would serve as an advocate for inmates within the prison system. The organization would increase oversight of issues from healthcare and safety to access to healthy food.

In late July, I joined Virginia First Lady Pam Northam at the Torpedo Factory for a news conference announcing \$860,000 in funding for Virginia Tourism projects, including the Duke Street Black History Trail.

The next day I joined the governor in Richmond as he signed The Virginia Values Act, my legislation to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and to expand protections for all protected classes in public accommodations. In addition to these projects, my office continues to prepare for the special session, keeping our nose to the grindstone reviewing edits to the biennial budget, drafting legislation, and reviewing bills as they are introduced. We are also here to take up your concerns, serve as a liaison with state agencies, and listen to your thoughts on upcoming legislation.

It is my continued honor to serve the citizens of the 30th District.

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out these volunteer opportunities, compiled by Volunteer Alexandria.

Register online: www.VolunteerAlexandria.org.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VolunteerAlexandriaVA/>

Follow us in Twitter twitter.com/volalex

Please consider donating to Volunteer Alexandria's COVID Emergency Response Fund. - <https://volunteer-alexandria.square.site/>

In-Person Volunteer Opportunities

ALIVE! Grocery Bag Packers

Volunteers are needed to bag groceries to help prepare for mass food distributions in their warehouse. To register visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

Casa Chirilagua – Food Distributors Needed

Volunteers are needed to help collect, sort, organize, and distribute donations on Monday's and Wednesday's. Casa Chirilagua needs volunteers to help at their fresh food distribution events as well as make deliveries. Summer virtual tutoring volunteers are needed to help their program on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3-4PM throughout July. To learn more visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

COVID-19 Care for the Community - Ongoing

Volunteer Alexandria is preparing to respond to help distribute essential services to those in need.

If you are healthy and ready to help our local nonprofits and schools provide essential services to the community, please register with our volunteer center to help with such tasks as delivering food and supporting nonprofits with certain duties/tasks to help organize these types of services.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 20

Local Authors' Lecture Series. 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Featuring Chuck Raasch, author of Imperfect Union: A Father's Search for His Son in the Aftermath of the Battle of Gettysburg. The lecture is sponsored by The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum and tickets are \$6. Once you purchase your ticket, you will receive an email with the

Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by close of business on August 18. (If you purchase tickets after August 18, the link will be sent by early afternoon August 20). Ticket sales will end on August 20 at noon to ensure time to email links to those that buy tickets on the day of the lecture. Tickets can be purchased at <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/>

AUG. 21-30

Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. For 10 days and two weekends, more than 60 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$49 takeout,

Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

Meade Memorial Episcopal Church

Volunteers are needed to help distribute meals during their Saturday Hot Meals, help bag lunches, provide donations, be computer lab instructors and volunteers to help with the computer classes. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org to learn more about each opportunity and sign up.

Senior Services – Shop and Deliver

Be paired with a senior to receive a grocery list and help them shop and deliver their groceries as part of the Senior Services' Groceries to Go Program. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

Senior Services – Meals on Wheels

The agency is seeking individuals and groups interested in delivering meals, providing friendly visits and wellness observations for our senior neighbors. Volunteers must be able available 2 to 3 times a week to make deliveries. Volunteers must have the ability to lift 10-20 lbs. A background check, valid driver's license and auto insurance will be required. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

Washington Street UMC, ALIVE!, ARHA, Royal Restaurant, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and Volunteer Alexandria have come together to offer meals/groceries for the residents in the area of the Charles Houston Recreation Center. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, meal/grocery distribution, clean up. Volunteers needed August 27th 3:30 - 5:30 PM. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org

delivery or curbside pick-up dinner for two during Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. This year, guests are encouraged to bring Alexandria Restaurant Week home and enjoy special menus from the comfort of their homes. The online menu book makes it easy to browse selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries. New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include Taqueria Picoso, Glory Days Grill, The Light Horse, Michael's Little Italy, Sweet Fire Donna's and Mount Vernon Inn. Restaurants offering delivery in addition to takeout or curbside

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Keeping children focused and away from distractions like video games can be challenging for parents of those with ADHD.



Distance Learning for Children with ADHD

Decreasing stress and increasing success in a virtual classroom.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Voncia Hartley and her 10-year old son Kelvin are dreading the first day of school this year. Remote learning means that this Alexandria mother of three will not only oversee the education of her children, she will also have to help Kelvin stay focused and organized. He has attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

"When we changed to online learning last spring, I almost felt like I needed to duct tape him to the chair so that he could stay still long enough to complete his assignments," said Hartley. "We both shed a lot of tears and did a lot of screaming."

While home-schooling or managing distance learning can be challenging for many parents, for those with children who have ADHD, it poses more complex demands. In addition to attending virtual classes and completing assignments, students with ADHD might need help locating lost pencils, notebooks or other supplies, keeping track of and completing homework or staying focused and away from video games during the school day.

"ADHD is a brain disorder that includes difficulty maintaining focus, hasty actions, and excessive body movements that interfere with daily functioning," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "It includes a pattern of inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity [and] affects about five to seven percent of children."

Students with ADHD often need latitude with regard to the pace and method at which they learn. For

example, children might need to sit in a rocking chair or on an exercise ball while doing schoolwork.

"Homeschooling kids with ADHD can actually have its benefits," said Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, a therapist in Bethesda, Md. "ADHD kids often do better with being able to have more freedom and flexibility in their schedules. They can have movement breaks when they need them and can modify their environments."

Parents can make distance learning less stressful by creating a schedule and helping their child to follow it each school day. Recreating classroom rituals like holding morning meetings with children to discuss the day ahead can create the structure that those with ADHD need. "Parents can help by putting out a consistent schedule for the kids to work around [and] helping kids make a plan for their day to complete work," said Barnaby. "Finding a distraction free working space; using a computer that doesn't have distracting apps to lure kids away from work. If that isn't possible using a website blocker during school hours."

Breaking down that schedule into manageable chunks and knowing how long a child can work on a particular task before needing a break can decrease anxiety and create a supportive environment. Once that is determined, Barnaby suggests "setting a kitchen timer so kids are aware of when break time happens. ... This helps them to work on beating the buzzer. If your child becomes stressed then take a break. They can come back to the work when they feel better."

For students with ADHD, sitting at a desk for long periods of time can be grueling, so Barnaby advises parents to build physical activity into the day and adjust their expectations about their child's learning for the coming school year.

"Mostly, remember that even if your child isn't performing great during virtual schooling, things will be okay," she said. "Kids are resilient. Many kids have missed school because of family crises in the past and have done fine catching up to their peers."

"Home schooling kids with ADHD can actually have its benefits. They can have movement breaks when they need them and can modify their environments."

— Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, therapist

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This Alexandria Restaurant Week Gives New Meaning to “In-House”

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

While indoor dining has been curtailed in many restaurants due to social distancing requirements, this summer’s festival of local food is moving to another exclusive locale: Your home.

Indeed, Alexandria’s Restaurant Week festivities haven’t let the covid-19 pandemic completely derail the proceedings. Whereas the normal weeklong summertime event would offer many in-house deals, this year’s rendition is indeed an in-house affair: In diners’ homes, after picking up curbside or takeout orders. From Aug. 21 through Aug. 30, dozens of the

ALEXANDRIA
RESTAURANT WEEK TO-GO
AUG 21-30
Bring Alexandria Restaurant Week home this year and enjoy special menus from 60+ restaurants.
\$49 takeout dinners for two
#ALXRestaurantWeek

city’s eateries are offering special \$49 dinners for two. Here are some of the best bets.

Taverna Cretekou, 818 King St.

The back patio at the venerable Greek restaurant on King Street has been a welcome respite for diners in the middle of the pandemic. But for Restaurant Week, Taverna Cretekou is going one further and offering its best delicacies for curbside pickup instead. The prix fixe menu offers a mixed-green salad, featuring Greek olives, feta, tomatoes, red onions, cucumbers and more, to start, and then a choice of entrée ranging from lamb lemonato (braised lamb shank in a white wine and lemon sauce) to imam baidi (baby eggplant stuffed

SEE RESTAURANT, PAGE 11

Sunny Day For Alexandria Chamber Golf Classic



The Chamber ALX staff members, Maria Ciarrocchi and Lovie Patish, checking attendees in for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic.

PHOTOS BY
JASON DIXON PHOTOGRAPHY

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic was held at Springfield Golf and Country Club on Monday, Aug. 17, presented by MGM National Harbor.

Winners:

Team Scores
Patterson Real Estate
Wiygul Automotive Clinic
East Coast Collision

Closest to the Pin –
Dave Millard of Avison Young

Straightest Drive –
Kay Tyler of Tyler Print
Longest Drive – Ken Patterson with the Patterson Real Estate Team.



Attendees taking their swing at Hole 11, sponsored by Kari Steinberg of Long & Foster.



Attendees at lunch, foursomes sitting separately at tables 6ft apart.



The Redmon Peyton Braswell Team enjoying lunch.



Damien Hillyer and Gelda Maule of Carr Workplaces at hole #3

APPETITE

Restaurant Week Gives New Meaning

FROM PAGE 10

with onions, tomatoes, pine nuts and raisins). Dessert serves up a choice of rice pudding or a light semolina custard. Feeling a little thirsty? Select bottles of wine can be added on for \$19.95.

Yunnan by Potomac, 814 N. Fairfax St.

The region's first Yunnan cuisine restaurant is ensuring that Restaurant Week diners get their money's worth in noodles and dumplings. Offered via takeout or curbside pickup, Yunnan by Potomac's deal is a cross-section of the restaurant's extensive selection: Two small plates (ranging from pork belly or tofu bun to Laonai potatoes), two Mixian noodles selections (including braised beef lu and muogu shiitake) and one order of dumplings (choose from hometown pork, chicken basil and garden party).

Glory Days Grill, 3141 Duke St.

Live sports are back! Flip your home television to the latest Nationals game and order a feast from Glory Days Grill to accompany it. Order an appetizer (including pretzels or fried pickles) to share, then select

two soups or salads, then choose two entrees from a list featuring the likes of braised short rib and garlic-cream grilled chicken pasta, and finally top things off with either funnel cake fries or bourbon pecan pie. Pour up a beer, kick back and take in the ballgame with a full stomach.

Taqueria Picoso, 1472 N. Beauregard St.

The West End taqueria is putting its best foot forward for Restaurant Week, offering a wide array of tacos for takeout or curbside service. Pick up to four protein bases, ranging from meaty al pastor to all-vegan oyster mushrooms, and pile them high on eight housemade tortillas or tostadas, accompanied by two salsas, pickled vegetables, onions, cilantro and limes. Before you dig into the tacos, though, give the guacamole and chips a try – and, of course, raise a toast with a 16-ounce bottle of classic or grapefruit margaritas.

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

pick-up, include Chadwicks, La-porta's Restaurant, Ramparts, RT's Restaurant, Ruz Uz – Alexandria and The Wharf, among others. Returning neighborhood favorites offering takeout include City Kitchen, a la lucia, Il Porto and Northside 10. View the menu flip-book and participating restaurant listings at AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

ALEXANDRIA LIBRARIES REOPEN

On Monday, August 17, most Alexandria Library branches reopened their doors with limited hours during Phase Three of its reopening plan. Measures have been implemented to ensure the safety of staff and customers. The Library will maintain a 25 percent occupancy

rate, which includes staff. Staff and customers are encouraged to maintain six feet apart while physical distancing. Curbside Service is still available for those who do not wish to come into the library. Curbside services will be offered on days which libraries are open, with curbside-only service every Friday. For more information, visit alexlibraryva.org/reopen.




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Black Interior Designers on Industry's Lack of Inclusion and Diversity

Local tastemakers speak honestly about racial barriers within the profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As recent racial injustice protests have brought issues of diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the nation's consciousness, local interior designers of color are voicing concerns about equity and underrepresentation within the industry. Four tastemakers from around the region share their experiences with systemic racism in the industry, the issues that make achieving success more difficult for black designers than their white counterparts and strategies for improvement.

"The prejudices in the design industry are very, very deep," said interior designer Sheryl McLean of McLean & Tircuit in Bethesda. "I don't let it hold me back, but I have to acknowledge that it's there. I often wonder if people think that I'm going to design a bedroom and use a dashiki bedspread."

The dearth of African American designers in the region often makes them an anomaly at trade shows and other professional events. "I've been in situations where I'm the only black person in a room or on site and no one wants to talk to me," said Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria, Va.

This unfamiliarity can lead to reactions that range from blank stares to awkward conversations with their white counterparts. "You can see how uncomfortable and standoffish some designers are," says McLean. "They don't know what to say because they're afraid they might say something wrong, but they automatically assume that you're not on their level."

In the hyper-competitive environment of interior design, relationships and social connections often supersede talent. Some designers of color find these relationships difficult to cultivate and consequently their work is overlooked.

"I think that this is definitely true in the Washington area. It's like a sorority girls club in a way," said Jeanne Griffin of Jeanne Griffin Interior Design in Alexandria.

"There's a network of designers who belong to the same country clubs and have parents who know influential people who can help grow their business. I didn't have anyone helping me."

"Many black designers didn't go to school with, don't worship with, or don't live in the same neighborhood as the decision makers," added Lorna Gross-Bryant of Lorna Gross Interior Design in Bethesda, Maryland. "For example, a show house board might say they didn't select a designer to participate because they 'don't know them.'"

Despite their attempts to assimilate and overcome barriers within the industry, designers of color are often received with wariness and misconceptions. When Griffin



JEANNE GRIFFIN INTERIOR DESIGN

Jeanne Griffin of Jeanne Griffin Interior Design in Alexandria created this airy kitchen.



MCLEAN & TIRCUIT

This master bathroom was designed by designer Sheryl McLean of McLean & Tircuit, who says that there are few African American interior designers in the Washington region.



STUDIO Q DESIGNS

This free-flowing living room and dining room was designed by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria.

casually inquired about the lack of diversity at a design event, her questions were met with perplexity. "I was told, 'I'm not a racist. I just don't know any black people.'"

The social dynamic in the Washington region, says Hill-Mattauszek feeds this systemic exclusion. "DC is defined by groups and if you're not in a certain group it's harder to be successful," she said. "For the longest time if you went to trade shows you'd hardly ever see any African American designers on a panel."

A lack of coverage by national design publications limits widespread visibility of their work, says McLean. "Mainstream magazines haven't felt the need to feature African American artists or our contributions," she said. "They're calling now and asking for quotes as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement, and that's great, but where have they been for the last 20 years? Not getting coverage hurts us."

Organizations like Black Artists + Designers Guild (BADG) and Black Interior Designers Network (BIDN), both of which McLean and Gross are members, have helped raise the profile of designers of color. "A lot of African American designers are also making their voices heard through social media," said Hill-Mattauszek. "There's been a change, but for a long time it was a struggle."

The industry's evaluation of its nearly homogenous make-up requires introspection and a shift in mindset, suggests Griffin. "Are majority white firms brave enough to put the work into diversifying their staff?" she asks. "Are people brave enough to be able to hire someone of a different race?"

As part of confronting obstacles, becoming game changers, and holding industry leaders accountable for diversity and inclusion, designers of color are turning to self-empowerment. "If we want to see more



LORNA GROSS INTERIOR DESIGN

Education can help level the playing field for designers of color, says interior designer Lorna Gross-Bryant, who used bold blue chairs and original art to create this airy room in a Potomac home.

"As black designers, we have to be 200% better to be seen as equal."

— Jeanne Griffin of
Jeanne Griffin Interior Design

diversity, it's our responsibility to reach out to younger designers to help them gain the experience," said Griffin.

Creating a new generation of up-and-coming interior designers who are driven and unafraid to push creative and social boundaries requires mentorship, education and confidence. "My advice to aspiring African American designers is to always strive for excellence," said Gross. "There is no substitute for hard work. This is what my parents instilled in me and I think the philosophy still holds true. And establishing a great network is critical."

While talent is essential to working in the industry, established Black designers say that the ability to create aesthetically appealing spaces is not enough. "As black designers, we always have to be better, being equal is not allowed," said Griffin. "For Blacks, being equally qualified is seen as being behind. We have to be 200% better to be seen as equal."

Established designers are paving the way for new talent and believe that education can offer that equanimity. Gross, Griffin, Hill-Mattauszek and McLean have graduate degrees and multiple certifications in design, and encourage those who want to join the industry to do the same.

"During my career, I've tried to balance the playing field by pursuing as many degrees and certifications as possible to alleviate any concern about my ability to execute a project at a high-level," said Gross. "I have been fortunate to have a healthy number of clientele who seek my work."

"The more education you have, the more opportunities you will have," added Griffin. "I also encourage students of color to take any opportunity to travel abroad. It builds so much self-confidence."



Additions To Secret Garden Concerts

Two new concerts have been added to the live, outdoor concert series in Alexandria.

This series of outdoor, socially distanced concerts will now feature two more concerts on Saturday, Aug. 29.

On the anniversary weekend of the March on Washington, this program of vibrant, meaningful and historic music pays tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. and that iconic demonstrations in the fight for civil rights in the 1960's – a struggle which continues to resonate with current conversations about justice.

These concerts will be presented in collaboration with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts, featuring rising opera stars Alexandria Crichlow, soprano and V. Savoy McIlwain, baritone, accompanied by Dr. Lester Green, piano and featuring narration by Pamela Simonson.

The concert series reflects a deliberate effort to highlight a diverse and representative roster of artists and composers. The Aug. 29 program is thematically significant in light of ongoing efforts to gain equality and justice, as well as related conversations about how the arts can and should engage these conversations and their communities.

This concert series also recognizes the importance of finding ways to present live music for in-person audiences, especially during such difficult times.

Tickets and additional details about this and all concerts in the series can be found on our website: www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/

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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

Narratively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After 11 years and almost exactly six months since being diagnosed with stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, the party is apparently over. Now we're on to the after-party: stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer, the more aggressive version, the one that doesn't respond to the radioiodine therapy/nuclear medicine treatment that yours truly recently completed. What seems to be semi clear, at least according to my endocrinologist, is that I never had non small lung cancer, but rather a very slow growing thyroid cancer. So slow in fact that it wasn't until approximately two years ago, nine years or so after my initial diagnosis, that the mass began to take shape in my neck; my "Adam's Apple tumor" as I called it, as some of you regular readers may recall. In effect, I was thyroid-cancer-treatment-free for nine years until it presented.

And it was during these years that I became my oncologist's "third miracle" a lung cancer patient who didn't succumb to his disease. Originally given a "13 month to two year" prognosis by my oncologist, I was not expected to live. I can still recall when my oncologist responded to Team Lourie's question about what percentage of lung cancer patients live beyond two years: Less than two percent. Could you be the one? Sure." I didn't realize then that his comments were to be taken literally. Yet here I am, a testament to modern medicine or perhaps an anomaly of random proportions. Throughout these years, my oncologist would often bring his students in to see the "amazing Mr. Lourie" ("Kreskin" has nothing on me.) I wasn't exactly the Energizer Bunny, but neither was I/am I chopped liver.

But today's phone call with my endocrinologist changes my story/narrative and puts an end to my previous stature. No longer will I be someone who survived lung cancer, rather I'll be someone who survived "the friendly cancer," as papillary thyroid cancer is anecdotally described. And not that I'll take any of it personally, but I will have to make it part of my resume, if you know what I mean? So I'm not special or lucky or blessed. It simply may be that I was misdiagnosed and survived in spite of my oncologist's efforts to do no harm, even if he was treating a non-existent cancer.

Though from what I heard today, I am hardly out of the woods. In fact, it appears as if I'm in real danger. The type of papillary thyroid cancer that is confirmed that I now have, the type that doesn't respond to radioiodine therapy has been characterized as "aggressive" and "incurable." Treatable of course, but with a list of potential side effects that is hardly endearing to me and doesn't exactly bring joie to my vivre. Quite the opposite if you'll allow me an honest expression of my apprehension treating forward. That being said, right now, those effects are on paper, they're not yet on my person. And until that happens, I will proceed with caution but remain cautiously optimistic. As my oncologist answered in reply to our general question about which cancer is better to have, non small cell lung or papillary thyroid? "Thyroid cancer is better," he said. That's something, I suppose. And even though I can't take it to the bank and invest it in my future, I'd like to think that I'll be able to take it - in pill form as it happens. After all, who has more experience living with the ups and downs and all-arounds - and the side effects that cancer treatment can produce, than yours truly? The patient who survived stage IV non small cell lung cancer for 11 and 1/2 years only to find out that it may have been untreated thyroid cancer all along.

On balance, I suppose it's a good thing that we finally got a more definitive diagnosis. I just hope we haven't totally missed the party because I'm not at all certain that I'll be able to attend next year.

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

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-Thomas Fuller

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Legals

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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 19, 2020
City of Alexandria
Office of Housing
421 King Street, Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: 703.746.4990
Hearing Impaired: 711
Website: alexandriava.gov/Housing

On or about August 31, 2020, the City of Alexandria will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for release of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383), as amended, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended, for program years July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, to undertake projects as described below.

The activities covered by this review are the Rental Accessibility Modification Program (RAMP), the Alexandria Neighborhood Stabilization Program (ANSP), and the Home Loan Rehabilitation Program (HRLP). RAMP uses CDBG funding to provide accessibility modifications to rental units occupied by low-and moderate-income tenants at no cost to the tenant or their landlord. These modifications may include the renovations of bathrooms and the installation of grab bars and comfort height toilets; altering or installing new sinks and vanities; replacing standard showers and baths with walk-in or roll-in showers and the installation of shower seats; altering shower heads and controls, and other necessary modifications to increase accessibility. Other renovations may include kitchen modifications such as lowering sinks, installing stoves with front mounted controls, replacing standard refrigerators with ADA compliant units, replacing drawer pull handles, and other necessary modifications to increase accessibility. Structural modifications to units may include the widening of doorframes to allow the passage of wheelchairs, the lowering of shelving and clothing rods, the replacement of door handles, the replacement of carpet with laminate or tile flooring, and other necessary modifications to increase accessibility. Exterior modifications may include the installation of ramps or low-rise steps, the addition of handrails, the restriping of parking spaces, and other necessary modifications to increase accessibility. Other items may be included as deemed necessary as the project scope is developed for each project. ANSP uses revolving HOME funds to purchase properties that are either in foreclosure or short sale and then renovate the interiors. The properties are then sold to qualifying first-time homebuyers. The interior renovations can range from the renovation and replacement of kitchens, bathrooms, and HVAC systems to carpet replacements, plumbing repairs, drywall replacement and painting. Other items may be included as deemed necessary as the project scope is developed for each project. HRLP uses CDBG funding to rehabilitate condominiums, row houses, townhouses and single-family homes occupied by low- and moderate-income homeowners. The aims of the HLRP are to bring properties up to code, increase accessibility, increase livability and extend the life of the property. To do this, a wide variety of rehabilitation activities may be undertaken on almost any building system or component of the home. Additional items may be included as deemed necessary as the project scope is developed before each project.

The total estimated HUD funding costs for these projects are \$1,726,735.00.

An environmental review strategy has been prepared and it has been determined that the only applicable site-specific 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6 requirements for the subject programs are floodplain management, contamination and toxic substances, historic preservation, and noise abatement. Each site shall be reviewed against these factors, with compliance fully documented, before approving any specific loans or grants. Site specific projects determined to exceed one or more of the environmental constraints established for the program will require a separate environmental review.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Kim Cadena, Office of Housing, 421 King St., Ste 215, Alexandria, VA 22314 or by email to kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov The ERR can be accessed online at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/housing/info/default.aspx?id=74632> or <https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/environmental-review-records>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERRs to Kim Cadena, Office of Housing, 421 King Street, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA 22314 or to kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov All comments received by 5pm August 28 will be considered by the City of Alexandria prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The city of Alexandria certifies to HUD that Mark Jinks in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the city of Alexandria to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the city of Alexandria's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the city of Alexandria; (b) the city of Alexandria has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared in writing and submitted through email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.76) and shall be addressed to the DCFO CPD Division Director, Mr. Michael Rose. Please submit Objections at the following email address CPD_COVID-19OEE-DC@hud.gov Potential objectors should contact the District of Columbia Field Office via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mark Jinks, City Manager

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