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Alexandria Gazette Packet



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OCTOBER 22, 2020



Bernard 'Bernie' Cohen

Trailblazing attorney dies at 86.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In 1963, Bernie Cohen was barely out of law school, practicing on King Street in Alexandria and doing pro bono work for the American Civil Liberties Union. A letter from Mildred Loving to then-U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy seeking help in allowing her and her husband to return to their home state of Virginia was passed on to

OBITUARY Cohen, who took up the challenge that would ultimately change the course of history across the country.

The Lovings had been banished from the state for the "crime" of being married. Mildred Loving was black and her husband Richard was white. The young couple had been arrested and jailed in Caroline County shortly after their 1958 marriage for violating the state's anti-miscegenation statute known as the Racial Integrity Act of 1924.

Cohen and partner Phil Hirschkop represented the couple in the 1967 landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*, where the Court held in a unanimous decision written by Chief Justice Earl Warren that state bans on interracial marriage were unconstitutional, declaring that the "freedom to marry" belongs to all Americans.

On Oct. 12, the trailblazing Alexandria trial attorney died of complications from Parkinson's Disease at an assisted living facility in Fredericksburg. He was 86 years old.

"The historic work performed by Bernie and Phil extended beyond the heterosexual interracial marriages that at the time were



Bernard Cohen, center, with his wife Rae and law partner with Tom Curcio at the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association convention in 2014.

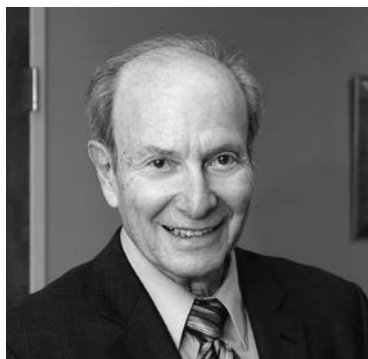


PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON
TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Bernard Cohen, the Alexandria attorney who successfully argued the landmark U.S. Supreme Court interracial marriage case *Loving v. Virginia*, died Oct. 12 at the age of 86.

banned in 16 states," said Tom Curcio, a partner and friend of Cohen for 20 years. "Loving was precedent for the U.S. Supreme Court's 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision in which the Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry extends to same-sex couples. Not bad work for a couple of young lawyers working pro bono from a small office on King Street."

Bernard S. Cohen was born Jan. 17, 1934, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He received his undergraduate degree in economics from City College of New York in 1956 followed by a

law degree from Georgetown University in 1960.

Cohen put himself through law school working as a labor economist at the U.S. Department of Labor from 1956-1961. He began practicing law in Northern Virginia in 1962.

"Bernie had a very successful and varied law practice for more than 40 years," Curcio said. "He had a burning passion for representing people needing help and for righting wrongs."

Cohen represented Alexandria in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1980 to 1995. He championed legislation to allow death with dignity for the terminally ill, protect tenants' rights, and grant child visitation rights to grandparents, step-grandparents and other family members.

"Bernie represented small local mom-and pop businesses, was a nationally recognized trial lawyer in the areas of personal injury and product liability and was an early advocate in the area of environmental law," Curcio said.

Cohen taught environmental litigation at George Washington University and was also a faculty member at the National College of Advocacy at the Harvard School of Law. Locally, he was counsel to en-

SEE BERNARD COHEN, PAGE 3

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY MICHAEL POPE

The Alexandria Police Department may soon have a new civilian oversight board, which could have the ability to subpoena witnesses and documents as well as make binding disciplinary determinations.

Civilian Oversight

City Council members to consider creating citizen board to investigate police.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Black people are a minority in Alexandria, and they're often a majority of those who are policed in the city. Documents from the Alexandria Police Department show most arrests are of Black people. Most times force is used, it's against a Black person. Most drug arrests are of Black people, particularly Black men. Almost half of the inmates in the Alexandria jail are Black people.

Last spring these kinds of disparities across the country cre-

ated a groundswell of support for a new civilian review board in Alexandria, a group that could investigate excessive use of force and abuse of authority. Since that time, the General Assembly passed a new law giving these kinds of bodies authority to subpoena documents and witnesses as well as make binding disciplinary determinations. Now members of the City Council are about to consider several options for what kind of civilian review board they want to create.

"This is not anti-policing at
SEE CIVILIAN, PAGE 14

Online Panel Discussion

Agenda Alexandria will be hosting an online discussion of civilian review of law enforcement in Alexandria at noon on Monday, Oct. 26, 2020. Panelists include:

- ❖ Michael Brown, chief of the Alexandria Police Department
 - ❖ Sarah Graham Taylor, legislative director for the city of Alexandria
 - ❖ Ingris Moran, organizer for Tenants and Workers United
 - ❖ Jon Liss, co-executive director of New Virginia Majority
- See <https://agendaalexandria.com/> to sign up.

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Joe Shumard “Mr. Parade,” volunteer organizer dies at 67.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

No name is more synonymous with Alexandria’s signature events than Joe Shumard. While known primarily for his decades-long leadership of the city’s George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, Shumard was a behind-the-scenes workhorse with the Scottish Walk Parade, First Night Alexandria, Senior Services and the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. On Oct. 17, the man known affectionately as “Mr. Parade” died from complications of heart surgery. He was 67.

OBITUARY

“Joe had an amazing ability to draw people together to volunteer for causes,” said Shumard’s wife Ann. “There were some pretty incredible undertakings but Joe was able to manage them all.”

Born Nov. 11, 1952, in Seattle, Shumard was raised in San Mateo, Calif., where his high school sweetheart would go on to become his wife.

“I was 16 and Joe was 17 and the class president when we met,” said Ann Shumard. “We both had parts in a very bad high school play, spending more time in the Green Room waiting to go on than we did on stage. That gave us a chance to get to know each other.”

Following his 1971 graduation from Hillsdale High School, Shumard studied at San Jose State before transferring to the University of Southern California where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Public administration.

In 1976, he packed his worldly belongings into his VW Beetle and headed east to join his future wife in Washington DC. The couple often recalled Shumard’s arrival on July 3, 1976, just in time to view the bicentennial fireworks in the nation’s capital the following day.

The two were married May 12, 1979 and



Joe Shumard, shown working behind the scenes at the 2017 Scottish Walk Parade, died Oct. 17 at the age of 67.

moved to Oronoco Street in Old Town in 1983.

“We both shared a love for history,” Ann Shumard said. “Alexandria was a place we felt we could put down roots and really be part of a community.”

Shumard joined the staff of Alexandria National Bank and spent the next 30 years in the banking profession. He subsequently joined the staff of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce as membership director and later as president.

In 1994, Shumard joined the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee, becoming its chairman in 1999.

“I worked with Joe on the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee and other city-sponsored events from 2013 until early 2020 when the national health pandemic stopped almost everything,” said American Legion Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton.

“Although most people think only of the Parade each February, it is largely because of Joe that the Birthday Celebration expanded to over a dozen George Washington-related activities during the month of February and throughout the year.”

Shumard’s passion for history extended to the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, where he served for many years as president and a member of the board of trustees. He served on the board of Living Legends of Alexandria and was himself named a Living Legend in 2012. Additionally, Shumard was actively engaged with American Legion Post 24, Volunteer Alexandria, First Night Alexandria, the Campagna Center, the Alexandria Regional Council of the United Way National Capital Area, and the Rotary Club of Alexandria Central.

Among his many honors are the Volunteer Alexandria David Speck Award, the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Jeff Todd



High school sweethearts Joe and Ann Shumard in their 1971 high school prom photo.

Award, and recognition from the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. Shumard also founded the John C. Evans Medal on behalf of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Shumard is survived by his wife of 41 years, Ann Shumard, and sister Nancy Bea Shumard Conte (Stan) of Scottsdale. A memorial service will be planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, P.O. Box 22505, Alexandria, VA 22304 or online at www.friendshipfireco.org.

“Joe is deserving of all the recognition and accolades he gets and his selection as a Living Legend of Alexandria was most appropriate,” Dorton added.

“It will be impossible for me and many others to think about the George Washington Birthday Parade without always thinking of Joe Shumard.”



Bernard Cohen successfully represented Mildred and Richard Loving, shown in a 1965 file photo, in challenging a Virginia law banning interracial marriage.

Bernard ‘Bernie’ Cohen

FROM PAGE 1

vironmental groups in a lawsuit to prevent a 36-acre landfill in the Potomac River at Hunting Creek. He retired from practicing law in 2006.

Cohen was a former chairman of the Alexandria Democratic Committee and Alternate Delegate to the National Democratic Convention.

He was recognized by the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association in 1994 with the Distinguished Service Award for his long tenure of public service and the interests of justice.

Cohen was a longtime member of Agudus Achim Congre-

gation prior to his relocation to Spotsylvania. He is survived by his wife Rae Cohen, daughter Karen Cohen of Haymarket, son Bennett Cohen of Centreville, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ACLU, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, or The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

A funeral service was held Oct. 15 with a memorial tribute to be planned at a later



Bernard Cohen represented Alexandria in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1980 to 1996.

date. A virtual Shiva was held Oct. 21. Video of the funeral service can be viewed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s29Vp-Jz9xg-uJuJCrixZSIcK-tM2UWLic/view?usp=sharing>

“Bernie was a true legal lion,” Curcio said. “While I will miss him, I take comfort knowing that Bernie had a happy and loving family, outstanding legal and political careers, and that he and RBG [Ruth Bader Ginsburg] are kibitzing in Heaven right now.”

Aw Shucks

Fish Market takes oyster shucking title.

The competition was fierce but in the end it was Gerson Baten of the Fish Market who took top honors at the first annual Oyster Week Oyster Shucking contest Oct. 17 at the City Marina.

"I don't have any secret," said Baten, who has been shucking oysters for 8 years. "I just like shuck-

ing oysters fast."

Sponsored by the Old Town Business Association, the contest was the culmination of Oyster Week, which ran Oct. 12-17, with restaurants featuring oyster specials. Due to COVID, the planned Oyster Festival was downgraded to an Oyster Week.

Representatives from local restaurants were judged on shucking speed as well as the quality of presentation. The event was sponsored by Guinness Beer and held behind Torpedo Factory Art Center.

- JEANNE THEISMANN



Gerson Baten of the Fish Market took top honors in the first annual oyster shucking contest Oct. 17 at the City Marina.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Page Moon gives instructions to the competitors at the start of the first annual Oyster shucking Contest Oct. 17 at the City Marina. The contest was the culmination of Oyster Week and sponsored by the Old Town Business Association.



A competitor selects oysters prior to shucking during the oyster shucking contest Oct. 17 at the City Marina.



A representative from Guinness Beer demonstrates the proper way to pour a beer at the oyster shucking contest Oct. 17 at the City Marina.



BACK TO BUSINESS – Mayor Justin Wilson, right, gives C.J. Wesby of Foundation Fitness a congratulatory elbow bump following the reopening ribbon cutting celebration Oct. 10 in Del Ray. Foundation Fitness has reopened in a new and expanded location at 1901-B Mount Vernon Ave. www.foundationfitpt.com/del-ray-va/

PHOTO BY
JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S – City Councilwoman Del Pepper, right, joins members of the Sunrise of Alexandria team for the Oct. 16 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Old Town. The Walk began at the Sunrise sales office parking lot on Princess Street then proceeded to the waterfront raising funds to support the Alzheimer's Association. Sunrise of Alexandria is a memory care provider located at 3520 Duke Street. www.sunriseseniorliving.com

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OPINION

Why the Arts in Alexandria Deserve Your Support on Saturday and Beyond

A friend recently told me she wasn't supporting local arts organizations because there were so many life and death situations out there that needed her dollars. Make no mistake, I assured her, this is life or death for the arts –

and for artists. Organizations are folding. Individual artists – the bands who play at your favorite bar, the musicians who sit on the symphony stage, actors, dance companies and ballroom teachers -- are now without any income.

Many are non-salaried, complicating unemployment. Stage hands, the costume makers, the production teams, the writers, sound and lighting technicians, movie theaters, regional theaters, venues like the Birchmere and Carlyle Club all are hanging on by a thread if they are even still here.

Why should Alexandrians care? Our symphonies, theaters, dance, music groups, and art galleries, as well as restaurants and history, are what make Alexandria a great place for families, a desirable place for businesses to locate, and the hometown we Alexandrians love and take pride in. As winter approaches and the window of opportunity for outside performances narrows, the future of the arts in Alexandria is indeed a life and death matter.

When Andrew Mellon proposed building an art gallery for the nation, he asked Congress to agree to take on the operations and maintenance. Congress, like my friend, understandably balked at supporting "art" when people were in bread lines and homeless. Fortunately for us all, Congress ultimately voted to accept the gift of the National Gallery.

Saturday night Oct. 25 you will have a chance to support 23 Alexandria arts organizations by tuning in to an hour-long arts gala. The fundraising event will stream on the Alexandria Arts Alliance Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ArtsALXAlliance/. Viewers will be invited to donate through text-to-give, and the gala will be viewable after the event. Donations are welcome at any time at <https://alexandria-arts-alliance.snwbll.com/act4-artsalx> or can be sent to

ACT for Alexandria, 201 N Union Street, Suite 110, Alexandria VA 22314. Please designate donations as ACT4#ArtsALX. For more information, visit www.alexandriaartsalliance.org/act-4-artsalx.html.

Homegrown Restaurant Group will donate 10% from all take-out orders mentioning ACT4#ArtsALX on the evening of the event. Thank you to Holy Cow, Pork Barrel BBQ, The Sushi Bar, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila & Taco, and Whiskey & Oyster. Grab dinner and head home to watch the show!

Joan Singer
Alexandria

Seriously, Don't Bulldoze Taylor Run

It is said that the definition of a hypocrite is one who cuts down a magnificent tree and then uses the stump to stand on to make a speech about conservation. When it comes to environmental issues, the "Eco City" of Alexandria stands out as a prominent practitioner of hypocrisy at its worst. The City is currently pushing for a "restoration" of Taylor Run which will result in disruption or destruction of native plants and unique wetlands. They also plan to destroy more than 200 trees in the process. While the City pushes for this destructive plan, Alexandria for many years has been dumping 11.3 million gallons of raw sewage each year into the Potomac River every

time it rains. Obviously, this sewage pollutes not only the river but also the Chesapeake Bay into which the Potomac flows.

Ironically the City claims it needs to restore Taylor Run in order to comply with Chesapeake Bay regulations. If it is truly concerned about the health of the Bay, it should make an urgent effort to address the raw sewage problem rather than to engage in the Taylor Run project

which will destroy a precious ecological jewel in Alexandria. Perhaps City officials need to be reminded that trees put oxygen into the air, thus playing an important role in fighting climate change. With each tree that is cut down, the effects of climate change are exacerbated.

The City must choose whether it prefers to remain on a tree stump mouthing platitudes about the environment (perhaps the TC Williams tree stump) or to go out on a limb and become a true Eco City. It is up to you – elected of-

ficials. We voters are tired of your hypocrisy.

Mary Zoeter
Alexandria

Project Community Connect Supports Those Struggling to Afford Basic Needs

The impact of COVID-19 has deepened the economic hardship for residents in the DMV area. Prior to the pandemic, many residents were living paycheck-to-paycheck but were not eligible for assistance because their household income did not fall below Federal Poverty Guidelines. In fact, our recent ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) reports show that 39 percent of the total population in Virginia and Maryland are unable to afford basic household essentials in their communities.

In Alexandria specifically, 28 percent are ALICE households. We know that after several months of business closures, layoffs, furloughs or reduced work hours, these numbers have increased with more residents finding it harder to afford the basic household necessities including housing, food, childcare, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan.

In October of each year, your United Way of the National Capital Area is usually preparing for its flagship event, Project Homeless Connect. However, given this unprecedented time, it was imperative for us to pivot our flagship event to be accessible to more communities and include not only those at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, but anyone impacted by COVID-19.

With our new charge in mind, we have renamed Project Homeless Connect to Project Community Connect. Instead of one day of programs and services at one location, Project Community Connect is a weeklong series being held this week, October 19 – 23, 2020. During this time, United Way NCA is working with partners across the region in delivering hundreds of basic needs items throughout the week to the people they serve including food, winter clothing and hygiene kits. Additionally, virtual workshops will cover budget-friendly meals, eviction and rental assistance, education re-

sources, opportunities to save and manage bills or start a new career, and health.

We know that the issues of inequity in our systems for employment, education, health and food access, financial stability and opportunities for all to grow to the best of their abilities are not going to change unless WE do the work. We are looking to partner with community members who are ready to join our efforts as we mobilize and make bold strides until we achieve equity for all of our community members, regardless of race, gender, income and ability.

Please join us for Project Community Connect if you are in need of resources or services, or if you would like to give back to the community. For more information, please visit: UnitedWayNCA.org/PCC.

Rosie Allen-Herring,
President and CEO,
United Way of the National
Capital Area

Don't Bulldoze Taylor Run

To reduce sediment and nutrient loads in the Chesapeake Bay, the City of Alexandria is proposing an ambitious \$4.5 million plan to re-engineer 2,000 feet of Taylor Run, which courses through the woods in Chinquapin Park. The City's bulldozers would raise the channel, cut down the flanks of the stream, and install boulders to create a cascade of low ledges. This "stream restoration" would be major surgery, scraping off all of the plants, seeds, and topsoil around the creek. To recontour the creek and allow access to the bulldozers, the City plans to kill 270 trees. Bulldozer traffic running over tree roots will also unintentionally kill more trees. After the regrading, the City will plant small trees and shrubs to replace the bulldozed plants and trees.

Taylor Run is nestled in Chinquapin Hollow, flowing through an old growth forest and past Alexandria's largest acidic seep bog, a world-rare ecosystem covered in diverse ferns. The popular Chinquapin Nature Trail parallels the creek.

Over the decade, the City and volunteers like me have cleared most invasive plants from the valley, leaving a rare urban woodland rich in native plant diversity and beauty. (By way of contrast, most "stream restorations" start with a stream area choked by invasive plants). The City has identified dozens of species of native trees,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

shrubs, and flowers in the valley, including 13 species of ferns and 28 species that are rare or exist nowhere else in Alexandria.

Like many urban streams, in places, Taylor Run has carved a relatively deep channel over the decades since it was surrounded by a city. The root cause of this is the phalanx of hard surfaces, like streets, parking lots, and roofs in the upstream watershed. Since the 1920s, surging runoff from big storms has carved down to layers of impervious marine clay, in some places more than 10 feet below the surrounding stream bank. Over the years, the City has inserted boulders and hunks of cement in the creek to protect King Street, sewer crossings, and some of the banks.

The City claims that its “restoration” will prevent the erosion of a pound of potassium for every \$16,000 of taxpayer money expended on the project. (While the City seems to consider this a bargain, I would note that \$16,000 a pound far exceeds the cost of silver.)

We doubt whether the City’s plan will yield much in the way of nutrient or sediment savings, for several reasons: First, the plan does not attempt to prevent or forestall the volume of storm water flushing into Taylor Run. Second, much of the channel is already well protected by boulders and cement. Third, the ancient dense clay and cobble around the base of most of the creek is rather impervious and contains virtually no phosphorus. Fourth, the construction and early life of the project will cause a lot of muddy runoff. And for decades, after the 270 trees come down, there will no longer be a tree canopy to absorb rain and slow down its impact on the newly open area and the living roots of these trees will no longer anchor the soil and support the banks.

These “stream restoration” projects frequently do not work out well. Whether it takes 10 years or 100 years, design elements of the

newly contoured stream will ultimately fail under the force of repeated storm surges.

In Arlington, most of the “restoration” project of Cameron Run (about ten years old) has violently washed out, creating quite a canyon. The intact area at the bottom of the project is hard packed, without topsoil, and virtually devoid of plants. As for Alexandria’s ten year old Strawberry Run restoration project, just north of Duke Street, the tree canopy has never returned. In the bright sunlight, the soil disturbed by the bulldozers is compacted and largely dominated by invasives.

Bulldozing the area around Taylor Run and eliminating large areas of the tree canopy will create a perfect environment for invasive plants like porcelain berry, honeysuckle, and mile a minute to retake the valley. Without the tree canopy, this wet area of disturbed soil will be energized by direct sunlight. While the City proposes to defend its plantings against invasives, that will take years. Typically, “stream restoration” contractors do not monitor the health of plantings after projects after construction is complete.

Planting saplings and shrubs in the newly bulldozed areas won’t restore the diverse biota that nature has placed there. Many of the seedlings planted will die or be browsed by deer. Without a huge effort, with an extensive and repeated use of herbicides, energized

invasives will wrap up and shade out planted trees and shrubs within a year or two.

During the COVID pandemic, when the City’s tax revenues are down 34% and a record number of our citizens are unemployed and in financial extremis, spending \$4.5 million to recontour a stream is an odd priority. In this emergency, isn’t there something better to spend \$4.5 million on, like public health, a food bank, or even paying off debt service?

There is no doubt that improving the Bay’s health requires reducing sediment and nutrient pollution. But can’t we find cheaper, more environmentally sensitive ways to accomplish that goal? If people just quit overfertilizing their yards, we could prevent massive amounts of nutrient runoff. So would using lower potassium detergents. The City could build more rain gardens or retention ponds to get at the root problem of erosion. Or we could purchase buffer zones along problem streams that drain into the Chesapeake.

Alexandria’s natural resources plan adopts the wise anchor of the Hippocratic Oath: “First, do no harm.” The City is proposing an operation akin to a total skin transplant for poor Taylor Run, confident that it can “restore” or even improve on nature. It won’t. Don’t let it happen.

James Clark
Alexandria, 22305

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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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/OCT. 22

Virtual Oktoberfest. 7-8 p.m. Show your support for the work of The Campagna Center by becoming a Virtual Oktoberfest sponsor. This in-your-own-home event will be an hour of the best fun you can have while making a difference in the lives of young people, adult immigrants, and refugees in our community. Come learn about the programs, engage in a round

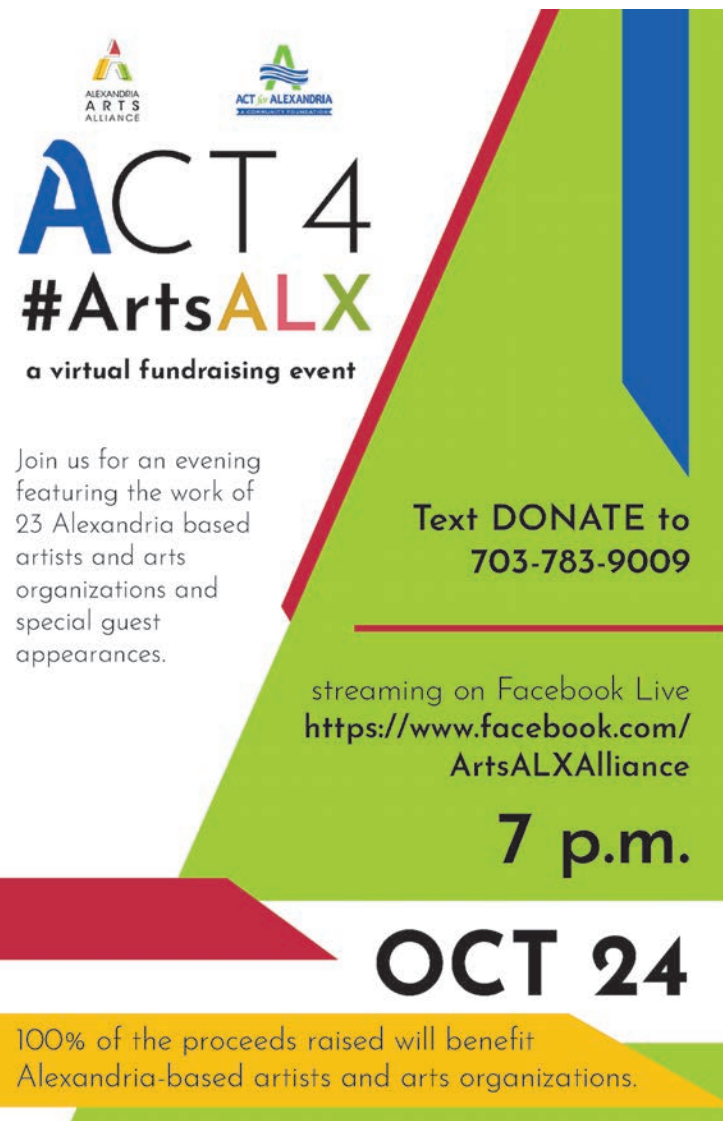
of competitive trivia, meet new people, and skip cooking dinner for the night as we will have brews and brats delivered to your house! Sponsors will receive swag bag opportunities, video welcome to all virtual guests, social media recognition, and an opportunity to send an Oktoberfest meal to your closest friends. Levels range from \$250 - \$5,000. Free food and beer delivery is available to the follow zip codes: 22204, 22206, 22207, 22301, 22302, 22304, 22305, 22307, 22308, 22309, 22311, 22312, and 22314. If you live outside of these zip codes you will be able to pick up your food from Village Brauhaus on event day.

ABSENTEE VOTING AVAILABLE

In-person absentee voting for the Nov.

3 Presidential Election is available at Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library from Friday, Oct. 23 through Saturday, Oct. 31. No Appointment is needed. Absentee voting is available during these dates and times:

Friday, Oct. 23 from Noon – 6 pm
Saturday, Oct. 24 from 8 am – 5 pm
Monday, Oct. 26 from Noon – 8 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 27 from Noon – 8 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 28 from Noon – 8 pm
Thursday, Oct. 29 from Noon – 8 pm
Friday, Oct. 30 from Noon – 6 pm
Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8 am – 5 pm
For more information on other voting locations, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/elections>.



ACT 4
#ArtsALX
a virtual fundraising event

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<https://www.facebook.com/ArtsALXAlliance>

7 p.m.

OCT 24

100% of the proceeds raised will benefit Alexandria-based artists and arts organizations.

Absentee Voting for November 3 Election

As of July 1, 2020, every registered voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, no reason is required.

★ Voting – In Person ★

The deadline for in-person absentee voting is Saturday, October 31 at 5 pm. Registered voters in the City of Alexandria may vote in-person at any of the below locations.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections 132 N. Royal St., #100

Monday – Friday	8 am – 5 pm
Weekend and Evening Hours	
October 23	8 am – 6 pm
October 24	8 am – 5 pm
October 26, 27, 28 & 29	8 am – 8 pm
October 30	8 am – 6 pm
October 31	8 am – 5 pm

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library 5005 Duke St. (beginning Friday, October 23)

Date	Hours
October 23	Noon – 6 pm
October 24	8 am – 5 pm
October 26, 27, 28, 29	Noon – 8 pm
October 30	Noon – 6 pm
October 31	8 am – 5 pm

Minnie Howard School 3801 W Braddock Rd. (Saturdays Only)

Date	Hours
October 24 & 31	8 am – 5 pm

George Washington School 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Date	Hours
October 24 & 31	8 am – 5 pm

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/elections or call 703.746.4050

Spooky Science

Mad Science Expo inspires STEAM learning.



Attendees repurpose scraps to build a sustainable city at the Spooky Mad Science Expo Oct. 17 at The Watergate at Landmark.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

With social distancing measures in place, hundreds of future astronauts, scientists, mathematicians and engineers turned out Oct. 17 at The Watergate at Landmark for the fourth annual Spooky Mad Science Expo, an event to combine Halloween and science learning projects.

The Expo is the brainchild of Watergate resident Zohreh Khoshnamak, who founded the community's



Spooky Mad Science Expo founder Zohreh Khoshnamak, left, poses for a photo with participants Oct. 17 at The Watergate at Landmark.

Science Club. The event was held with the participation of volunteers from organizations including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, National Science Foundation, National Society of Black Engineers, American Chemical Society, American Statistical Association, and the American Institute of Architects.

"My group is working on building a city," said Ravine Kassam of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. "The idea is to build a sustainable city out of recycled scraps."

The Expo is a volunteer-based event and serves the
SEE SPOOKY SCIENCE, PAGE 9



Seychelle Shamir, in back, is joined by sisters Allie and Gigi Iannucci at the Spooky Mad Science Expo Oct. 17 at The Watergate at Landmark.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN and Dia de los Muertos WITH LOWER RISK ACTIVITIES

The City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Health Department strongly urge residents to choose celebration activities identified as lower risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Follow these tips to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Wear a themed cloth face mask because a costume mask is not a substitute.
2. Participate in outdoor gatherings as safer alternatives to indoor events.
3. Keep 6 feet of distance from people of other households.

LOWER RISK

- Carve a pumpkin
- Decorate your home
- Virtual costume contest
- Family movie night at home
- Decorate masks for loved ones
- Make traditional family recipes
- Treat scavenger hunt in your home

MODERATE RISK

- Physically distanced outdoor parade
- Physically distant apple or pumpkin patch
- Grab-and-go self-serve premade goodie bags
- Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones

HIGHER RISK

- Traditional trick-or-treating or trunk-or-treat events
- Dinner parties with people from other households
- Indoor haunted houses or costume parties

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CELEBRATING SAFELY, VISIT

ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS

NEWS



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

Janet Barnett, left, holds a sign celebrating the Oct. 15 Senior Services of Alexandria Oktoberfest. Barnett hosted an in-home gathering for the virtual event. She is joined by Mitch Opalski of Synergy Home Care, Cecile Garrett of At Home in Alexandria and Pam Phillips of Sunrise of Alexandria.

Oktoberfest Goes Virtual SSA holds 9th annual fundraiser.

Senior Services of Alexandria went virtual as it held its 9th annual Oktoberfest on Oct. 15 with supporters across the city hosting small in-home gatherings in support of SSA programs.

SSA board members Kerry Donley, Karen Skeens and Maribeth Bersani spearheaded the event, which featured a virtual tastings tour of Port City Brewery, the location of past SSA Oktoberfest events, along with a trivia contest and prizes for best authentic German outfits and beer steins.

Earlier that afternoon, ticket holders picked up four-packs of Port City beer, soft pretzels and cheese dip at the Port City parking lot to consume that evening as part of the virtual fundraiser.

"Everyone at SSA would like to give a big thank you to all who joined us for our first virtual Oktoberfest," said SSA Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson. "The night would not have been possible without the support and generosity of everyone in attendance."

—JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Children participate in a bubble-making experiment as part of the fourth annual Spooky Mad Science Expo Oct. 17 at The Watergate at Landmark.

Spooky Science

FROM PAGE 8

families at The Watergate at Landmark, which has around 4,000 residents.

"The event is an opportunity to

spark the interest in science and technology in kids," Khoshnamak said. To learn more about the club, contact Zohreh Khoshnamak at khoshnamak@gmail.com.

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Healthier waterways are on the horizon.

Represent your community on the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group.

RiverRenew is a major infrastructure project to achieve cleaner, healthier waterways in Alexandria. RiverRenew is owned and implemented by AlexRenew, Alexandria's wastewater authority.

AlexRenew is seeking nine committed Alexandrians to serve on the 2021-2022 RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The SAG will monitor RiverRenew tunnel construction progress and share input on the City's largest-ever infrastructure project.

Learn more and apply at RiverRenew.com/sag

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Graphic novels and audiobooks on topics students enjoy can help engage those who don't enjoy reading or find it difficult.

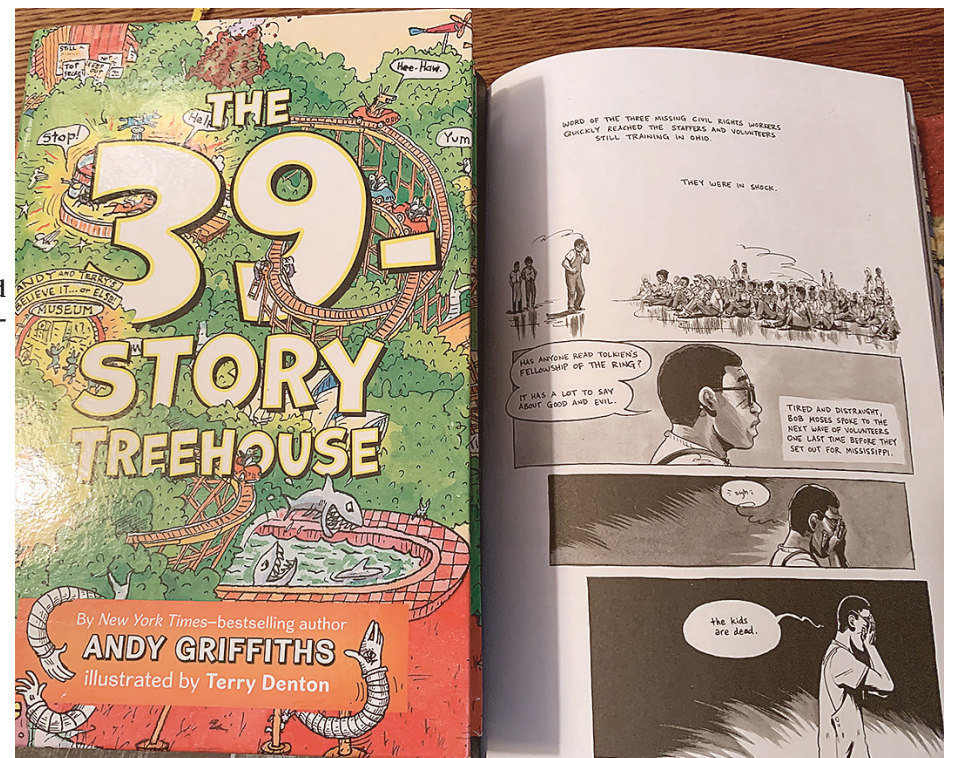


PHOTO BY
MARILYN CAMPBELL

National Book Month

Month-long celebration focuses on engaging families in reading, writing and literature.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a line from the Pulitzer Prize winning classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* that is at the heart of the literary philosophy of Anne Briggs, web services and communications librarian at Montgomery College Library.

"The character Scout Finch says, 'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing,'" said Briggs. "This National Book Month, help make reading as natural as breathing for your children."

Established by the National Book Foundation in 2003 and held each October, National Book Month was created to celebrate the importance of reading, writing and literature. Educators and librarians such as Briggs, are encouraging families to celebrate the month together.

"Use [this] month as an opportunity to refocus on the importance of reading in your family," she said. "Take time to read or listen to audiobooks with your children, working with your child to pick the books that interest them."

In fact, some educators encourage parents to focus on helping children choose books that spark curiosity. "Just because a book is award-winning and highly recommended by your friends doesn't necessarily mean your child will latch onto it," said education consultant Arash Fayz, co-founder and executive director of LATutors123. "Encourage your child to identify topics that they enjoy learning about or would like to learn about and let them pick out a book themselves. This will empower them to feel a sense of ownership over the book choice."

National Book Month is also a time to underscore the connection between avid reading and the quality of one's writing skills. "While we don't have a lot of empirical data, we do see that people who are prolific or creative writers are also voracious readers," said Michelle LeFrance, an associate professor in the Department of English at George Mason University. "People with an exposure to a wide variety of books also have a great sense of curiosity."

For students who have difficulty reading or simply don't enjoy it, Le France says, "Let them read what they are interested in and worry less about the quality. Audiobooks and graphic novels, which don't get enough credit, can share stories in deep ways. I would suggest them for kids who tend to be reluctant readers."

"Reading allows readers to learn and to grow and to imagine and to use their creativity and to be moved," added education consultant Karen Gross. "It's key is to increasing vocabulary and a love of words and a sense of the power of words."

While a family trip to the library might not be an option during the pandemic, local public libraries are offering virtual access. From an All American Girl Club event in Alexandria and a parent-child book clubs in Fairfax County to a family story time in Montgomery County, and middle school science fiction and fantasy book clubs in Arlington, families can enjoy literature without leaving home.

"Most public libraries are offering free virtual events to help families remain engaged with reading during the pandemic," said Briggs. "Making time for reading and storytelling in your family can help you raise life-long readers and learners, and enjoy the educational and emotional benefits that come with reading."

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Additional Locations for Absentee Voting

The City of Alexandria will open additional voting locations to facilitate in-person absentee voting for the Nov. 3 general and special elections. Absentee voting will be available at the Charles Beatley Library (5005 Duke St.) from Oct. 23 through Oct. 31, except Sundays. Absentee voting will also be available at Minnie Howard School (3801 W. Braddock Rd.) and George Washington Middle School (1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.), on Saturdays, Oct. 24 and 31, only. All three locations will have ballot drop boxes available during voting hours, which vary according to the list below.

All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote absentee. In Virginia, absentee voting refers to any ballot cast prior to Election Day, whether by mail, drop box, or in person. Voters are encouraged to become familiar with ballot questions and voting procedures in advance to reduce wait times at voting locations. Voters should consider all available options in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Detailed information about COVID-19 safety practices is listed below.

ABSENTEE VOTING IN PERSON

The deadline to cast an absentee ballot in person is Saturday, Oct. 31, at 5 p.m. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and in accordance with local and state requirements, each person at a voting location must wear a mask over their nose and mouth, and maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from others.

In-person absentee voting hours and locations are as follows.

Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St.
Friday, Oct. 23, Noon-6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 26, Noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, Noon-8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, Noon-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29, Noon-8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30, Noon-6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road
Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Office of Voter Registrations & Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Additional Hours:
Friday, Oct. 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 26, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is Friday, Oct. 23. Applications must be received in the Voter Registration Office on that day by 5 p.m.

Voters may also submit absentee ballot applications online at vote.elections.virginia.gov. They may also get paper applications at alexandriava.gov/Elections, or by contacting the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at 703-746-4050.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Office of Elections by 7 p.m. on Nov. 3, or postmarked by November 3 and received in the office by noon on Friday, Nov. 6.

Voters who believe they cannot safely have a witness present while completing the ballot for the Nov. 3 election may disregard the witness signature requirements.

BALLOT DROP BOXES

Ballot drop boxes will be available at the same dates, times and locations listed above for in-person absentee voting. In addition, drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, which is under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, through Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.

COVID-19 SAFETY

The Office of Voter Registration and Elections is implementing guidance for in-person voting locations from the Virginia Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Best practices include training for elec-

tion officers; limiting the number of people inside each polling place at one time; providing hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies at each polling place; using extensive signage and floor markers; and providing plexiglass shields between voters and staff where needed. Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps volunteers will serve as ambassadors to encourage proper mask use and physical distancing in outdoor lines and indoor polling places.

Curbside voting is available at all in-person voting locations, from now through Nov. 3, including at each polling place on Election Day. Curbside voting is available for voters who are at least 65 years old, or have a physical disability. Follow signs at each location to request curbside assistance.

The process of voting does not require the voter to touch anything except the pen, ballot, and privacy folder. This year, voters are encouraged to keep the pens and privacy folders so they will not be reused. Recycling trays will be available for voters who do not wish to keep the pens or folders.

Voters who are sick or close contacts of individuals with COVID-19

should vote absentee by mail if they are likely to be under isolation or quarantine on Nov. 3. Voters who are ill or under quarantine and miss an applicable absentee voting deadline should call the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 703-746-4050 to learn about potential emergency absentee voting options.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

The ballot includes contests for President and Vice President of the United States, one member of the U.S. Senate, one member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the 8th Congressional District, and two amendments to the Constitution of Virginia.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Elections for complete information on this election, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements.

For more information or for reasonable disability accommodation, contact Angela Maniglia Turner, General Registrar and Director of Elections, at voters@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4050, Virginia Relay 711.

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.
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1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314

Off the Menu: Restaurant Notes From Around Town

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Though the covid-19 pandemic marches on, there are signs of life across the city's restaurants as new enterprises launch and old favorites re-emerge. Here are three of the top openings (and reopenings) in Alexandria this month.

Brewski's Barkhaus opens to humans, dogs

Dog lovers and their allies, rejoice: Last weekend served as the official opening for Brewski's Barkhaus, Alexandria's latest dog-friendly dining establishment. Located at 529 E. Howell Ave., (where Flat Top Burger had been most recently), Barkhaus offers a bar and restaurant, as well as indoor and outdoor off-leash play areas for customers' pups. The pub is taking reservations on its website at brewskis-barkhaus.com. Looking to bring your dog along for the ride? Mem-

berships are required, check the restaurant's website for details.

Krunch & Noodles offers hot ramen and more on the West End

The West End of town just got a little spicier. Newcomer Krunch & Noodles opened its doors at 277 S. Van Dorn St. on Oct. 2 with a full slate of Asian delicacies, ranging from nearly a dozen ramen options to a half-dozen Korean barbecue selections (including the likes of bulgogi and teriyaki chicken). Vegetarians won't leave empty-handed, either; the restaurant is also dishing up yakisoba and fried rice, among other choices.

The Majestic reopens after eight-month hiatus

Old Town's Majestic restaurant at 911 King St. reopened on Oct. 7 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, bringing with it revised menus and new hours. The restaurant will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays but open for lunch and dinner (and weekend



Old Town's Majestic restaurant at 911 King St. reopened on Oct. 7 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

brunch) the rest of the week. Look for brand-new "Majestic Meals for Two" to go, as well as dine-in favorites like the restaurant's famous

monkey bread and more.

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.

Alexandria Arts Alliance Hosts Joint Virtual Fundraiser

The Alexandria Arts Alliance in partnership with ACT for Alexandria and in collaboration with Alexandria's vibrant artists and arts organizations announces and invites you to its first virtual fundraising event, streaming on Facebook Live on Oct. 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

ACT 4 #ArtsALX will include inspiring video vignettes from 23 Alexandria-based artists and arts organizations representing the disciplines of music, dance, visual arts, theater, film and artisans as well as special appearances (including Mayor Justin Wilson and a cast member from Saturday Night Live). One hundred percent of the proceeds raised will benefit the following participants:

Alexandria Choral Society, Alexandria Citizens Band, Alexandria Film Festival, Alexandria Harmonizers, Alexandria Singers,

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Art on the Avenue, Arts on the Horizon, ArtSpire VA, Brave Spirits Theatre, Del Ray Artisans, Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, Fantastical Glass, Karen Fitzgerald Art, Lisa Schumaier, Local Motion Project, Metropolitan School of the Arts, MetroStage, Quintango, The Art League, UpCycle Creative Reuse Center, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, and Yellow Door Concert Series.

ACT 4 #ArtsALX was inspired by the need for artists to share their work given the difficulty of performing, teaching and holding exhibits in the time of COVID-19. The lack of revenue from performances, classes and exhibitions has led to critical financial problems for the arts. Most artists and organizations have had to cancel seasons and indoor events for the foreseeable future, transition-

ing to smaller, outdoor events and virtual presentations.

"We knew as the weather gets colder, gathering will become more challenging," says Alexandria Arts Alliance Board President Melinda Kernc. "There is amazing and inspirational art happening all around us, and we want Alexandria residents to experience it, even if they are staying home. These artists and arts organizations desperately need support from the community they serve so well. This entertaining, collaborative showcase provides a way to ensure the arts will emerge strong when the pandemic subsides."

Homegrown Restaurant Group will donate 10% from all take-out orders mentioning ACT 4 #ArtsALX on the evening of the event. The Alexandria Arts Alliance thanks

event collaborators and contributors ACT for Alexandria, the Alexandria Office of the Arts, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and the Garden by Building Momentum.

The fundraising event will stream on the Alexandria Arts Alliance Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtsALXAlliance>. Viewers will be invited to donate through text-to-give, and the video will be viewable after the event. Donations are welcome at any time at <https://alexandria-arts-alliance.snwbll.com/act4-artsalx> or can be sent to ACT for Alexandria: 201 N Union Street, Suite 110, Alexandria VA 22314. Please designate donations as ACT4 #ArtsALX. For more information, visit <http://www.alexandriaartsalliance.org/act4-artsalx.html>.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that

strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Art by Mail II. The "Art by Mail II" The exhibit features the artwork of Del Ray Artisans members. You'll find one-of-a-kind, small format, original paintings in watercolor, oil, and acrylic; mixed media art and artful cards; plus, small 3D works. Enjoy browsing the collection. Artwork will be mailed directly from the artist within 10 days of purchase. Purchases are mailed directly to you. Enjoy the exhibit at www.DelRayArtisans.org/artbymail.

OCT. 23-24

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) in Alexandria is hosting two free, October performing arts virtual events, Fri., Oct. 23 and Sat., Oct. 24. On Fri., Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m., MSA Academy students will perform a live, outdoor cabaret at the Lee District RECenter Amphitheatre in Alexandria that can be viewed by the public virtually on the MSA Facebook page the following week. MSA Academy students will also present their pre-recorded One-Act Play, 4 A.M.—Stay-At-Home Edition by Jonathon Dorf on Sat., Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. streamed on Broadway On Demand at <https://www.broadwayondemand.com/not-live/XgRAV1QxoJcU-4am-the-stay-at-home-edition--metropolitan-school-of-the-arts?channel=live-productions>. Go to metropolitanarts.org/support on how to donate to these free performances.

home-edition--metropolitan-school-of-the-arts?channel=live-productions. Go to metropolitanarts.org/support on how to donate to these free performances.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

Nature Trivet Workshop. 2-4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The colors in your garden may have faded, but its beauty can live on. Preserve a piece of your garden (or River Farm's) by creating a pair of ceramic trivets with impressions of flowers, leaves, stems, or seed pods. Heather Lezla of Persimmon Street Ceramics will demonstrate the process of hand-cut tile making from start to finish. Texturize

and personalize your trivets with impressions of natural materials. Finally, choose from a selection of fall-inspired food safe glazes for finishing. Heather will finish the process of firing and glazing your pieces in her home studio. Pieces will be returned to AHS two weeks later for pick up (or can be wrapped and shipped for a \$10 fee). Your pair of 5 1/2 inch trivets will be ready for use as hot pads or decorative tiles. Cost: AHS members \$80; non-members \$90. Visit the website: <https://connect.ahsgardening.org/river-farm-events/2020/nature-trivet-workshop---non-member>.

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Obituary

Frank F. Everest, Jr.



Frank F. Everest, Jr., roamed the Alaskan wilderness when he was a young boy, soared through the air when he was a fighter pilot, and left this earth on his final journey October 11, 2020, when he passed away peacefully at home, with family by his side.

Frank was born in Galveston, Texas on December 31, 1931, the only son of General Frank F. Everest, Sr., and Edith Everest. He grew up in a military family and lived on bases around the country and in Charleston, West Virginia when his father was deployed during World War II.

Frank loved to tell his children and his grandchildren stories about living off the land in Alaska, his journey down the Al-Can Highway, and extended time with family in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where he grew close to his Uncle Charlie.

Frank returned to Iowa for college and played football at Iowa State. He left school early to join the Air Force. During flight school and early in his military career, Frank met the love of his life on a blind date. The night they met Frank told Jean that he was going to marry her one day. Jean's father, Carlyle Boguess, approved and their life together began on November 24, 1954. Their love for each other lasted 65 years and only ended when Jean passed away in 2019.

Their lives were filled with passion and family. Each new duty assignment seemed to bring another child, first when Hank was born in Victoria, Texas, and when the next son, Michael, was born in Bitburg, Germany. Frank told many stories about that post in Germany, including mock dog fights in training and how the cockpit in his fighter suddenly lost pressure at 40,000 feet, puncturing his eardrum.

Frank wanted Jean to see the family farm as soon as possible, so they went to Iowa on their honeymoon. Jean learned that farm life starts before dawn and that slopping the pigs is just one of the chores. Frank planned to return and start farming when he was discharged from the Air Force.

Uncle Charlie had some other ideas for the young couple after he met Jean's father at their wedding. Carlyle started a steel fabrication company, Southern Iron Works, and told Frank he had a job waiting for him. Uncle Charlie gave Frank the best advice of his business career when he said "Rube, if I were you, I would go to Virginia and go to work for Carlyle." And so he did.

Frank and Jean moved to Alexandria, Virginia when he was discharged from the Air Force and remained there for the rest of their lives. Frank went to work in the business and eventually became Carlyle's right-hand man, both in real estate development and as a top executive at Southern Iron Works.

Frank did not give up farming. He planted bigger and bigger gardens, finally with rows and rows of corn in a large vacant lot. When Frank finished his day at the office he went to work at home in his garden and in his workshop.

What started out in the garden ended up on the table for their five children, Chuck, Hank, Mike, Jenny, and Marty. Frank often said that Jean cooked for all seven family members for years so then he cooked for Jean until the end of her life.

Frank loved to be outside in the garden and in the wilderness. He fished the Frying Pan River as a boy and later fished in Alaska with friends and family. Frank also loved to hunt birds in North America and big game in Africa. He was hard of hearing and always said it was his punctured ear drum, never the thousands of rifle shots and shotgun blasts from hunting.

Frank took his family camping in the Virginia mountains and then to the Colorado mountains. He taught his children to ski by leading them down the slopes like a line of ducklings. Later he took his extended family on more ski trips, but he sent his grandchildren to ski school.

Frank was welcoming to all, even the teenagers that dated his daughters and married into the family. He cherished his grandchildren and each visit. He was genuinely interested in other people, often direct, and always honest. He had many friends from all walks of life.

Frank is survived by Hank Everest and his wife, Natalie; Jenny Purcell and her husband, Dave; Marty Irvine and her husband, Chris; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Frank's family is especially grateful to Josie Velasquez, who cared for him through his last days and also grateful to the caregivers from Goodwin House.

Please make a donation to a charity of your choice instead of sending flowers. The family is having a private service and hopes to later gather and celebrate Frank F. Everest, Jr., may God rest his soul.

Obituary

Obituary

Obituary

KENT MARSHALL WELLS



Kent Wells, 66, of Alexandria, Virginia passed away in his home on Friday, October 9, after a 13-year battle with Multiple Myeloma.

Kent was born on June 10, 1954, in Garden City, Kansas, and attended primary and secondary schools in Garden City and Falls Church, Virginia. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1976 and the George Washington University School of Law in 1979.

Kent was married in 1981 to Deborah "Debbie" Owen, and they raised their family in Alexandria. Kent was Vice President of Federal Relations of AT&T in Washington, D.C.

His interest in communications began during high school when he worked at the radio station in his home town of Garden City, Kansas.

After his Multiple Myeloma diagnosis in 2007, he and Debbie co-founded the Multiple Myeloma Charity Classic, an annual golf and tennis event that has raised over \$1.5 million for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

Kent was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Kay Wells, and his infant son, Emerson. He is survived by his wife Debbie Owen Wells, two sons - Trevor Wells and wife Allyson Wells, of Long Beach, California, two granddaughters Elena and Madelyn Wells, Bryan Wells and wife Laura Schlapp of Alexandria, Virginia- and his brother Kim Wells and wife Bonnie of Lawrence, Kansas.

A private family memorial service is planned for a Tuesday, October 13, in Alexandria, Virginia with burial in Alexandria on Wednesday, October 14.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the charity Kent and Debbie co-founded - the Multiple Myeloma Charity Classic - at the link <https://myelomacharityclassic.org/donation/>

Obituary

Obituary

Nelson David Conner

January 11, 1939 – October 17, 2020



"I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had not feet"-Persian Proverb

In a small 6" x 8" frame this quote adorned our living room for years and is the legacy he would leave his family, friends, and acquaintances. Nelson had more reasons to complain than most but he was more interested in living life than dwelling on the past.

He was proud to be an Annandale Atom, graduating in 1957. An all-around athlete with plans to attend college after school, he was hit by a drunk driver and his life was changed forever. His right arm was am-

putated but he went on to live life to its fullest. He attended college at Potomac State and Concord College, in West Virginia.

In 2019 he was diagnosed with melanoma and began immunotherapy treatments. He suffered a severe reaction to the treatment in December of 2019. In April 2020, Lynn Care Center became his new home. He battled through many setbacks but couldn't overcome his final diagnosis, COVID-19.

He was born in Brooklyn, NY and is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judy Conner of Front Royal, VA, daughter Chanda Palmer (Tim) of Winchester, VA., two granddaughters, Tess and Grace Palmer, step-grandson, Zach Palmer (Elizabeth) of Franklin, NC., sister, Anne Hall of Warrenton, VA, niece Charlotte Hall of Alexandria, VA, and nephew John Hall (Donna) and family of Fairfax, VA.

Predeceased by his mother and father, Oscar and Charlotte Conner and brother-in-law John Hall.

His sister has a quote as well, "You play the hand you're dealt." He did just that and he played his hand very well.

Thank you so much to Tim, the son dad never had, Dr. Grant and the staff at Stephens City Family Medicine, everyone at National Spine and Pain, and a special thank you to the staff and nurses at Lynn Care Center.

The family will host a celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to "Lynn Care Center Activity Fund 1000 N Shenandoah Avenue Front Royal, VA 22630."

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"I'll Think About That Tomorrow"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

What I'm thinking about - and being thankful for, today, is the disappearance of all the side effects I've been experiencing during the last four weeks or so since I began my pill regimen for my papillary thyroid cancer treatment. Too many to list but upwards of a dozen side effects which encompass all activities from those of daily living to others pertaining to just plain living. Let me reprint the warning that came with the pills: "People using this medication may have serious side effects. However, your doctor has prescribed this drug because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects." Put that in your pipe and smoke it. That's what I have to smoke every day, if you know figuratively what I mean?

The bigger question, the overriding concern/anxiety is what exactly the thyroid cancer is doing now having been left unmedicated for the last nine days? How irreparable is the damage being done when the cancer has been left unchecked? Moreover, to the extent there has been some damage, is restarting treatment even an option or have I already failed the tolerance test? Being a cancer patient is a never-ending series of questions and/or concerns for which there is hardly clarity. As I have been led to believe/educated since my initial lung cancer diagnosis, there will be no more guarantees coming.

But of course improvements in cancer treatment and ongoing research have improved survivability, and with many patients, myself included, turned the cancer treatment into a chronic disease type protocol, like diabetes. Nevertheless, cancer is in control, the doctors are not. There are no slam-dunks in cancer treatment. How would I ever be able to unwind myself from years of stress and fear just because? I couldn't. A cancer patient today sort of means, I'll likely be a cancer patient tomorrow. I don't see how I could shake that self-image.

Somehow, I must, as I'm trying to do now, exult in the joy of a semi uncomplicated, side-effect free existence because ..., it's not guaranteed. I must try even harder to compartmentalize the unknown while savoring this known, relatively easy time. It's not promised and it's not necessarily likely to occur again, certainly not after I return to treatment. But maybe, my new normal will be switching on and off treatment, sort of like I did while being infused with alimta. Though I still had my CT scans quarterly, so long as the scans showed stable, we kept extending the interval between infusions. The goal being to balance effect on the tumors with the quality of life (freedom from side effects and infusion appointments). Eventually, we stretched the interval to as much as seven weeks from the original three enabling me to live - occasionally, a semi cancer free life. Perhaps this on-again, off-again schedule might apply to this recent thyroid treatment. I have to hope because the side effects, as I alluded to initially, have been affecting my quality of life. And if there's one factor driving my better-than expected survival, it has been my attitude, which has derived directly from my management of side effects. Anecdotally speaking (or presuming) being in a good mood, being able to function with normal parameters (to quote Data from "Star Trek: Next Generation") has been a tremendous contributor to my life expectancy (my oncologist refers to me "as his third miracle").

But I can't know for sure. And of course, that's the crux of the problem for many of us cancer patients. One can never know for sure if you're hindering or helping; and since guarantees stopped being made on the ground-zero day you were diagnosed with a "terminal disease" it's often difficult to know which path to follow. Right now, it's easy to follow the path which is creating a more normal/pleasant quality of life. But at what cost? I can't know what the tumors are doing. Perhaps, in taking a break from treatment, I have unleashed the cancer once again. That's my dilemma: reconciling the present with the future, the fear with the familiar, the hope with the inevitable. And it's likely I'll never know if what I've done has been a help or a hindrance. Yet somehow, I have to make plans and decisions. "Tomorrow is another day." Lest, I be gone with the wind.

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

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News



PHOTO BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER

An Alexandria police car parked behind T.C. Williams High School.

Civilian Oversight

FROM PAGE 1

all. This is pro-community and pro-accountability," said Councilman Mo Seifeldein, who suggested the city create a civilian review board back in June. "The police review board should absolutely have investigate power with the option to subpoena if necessary."

When the City Council started considering the issue in June, Alexandria Police Chief Michael Brown responded that the proposal sent the wrong message about law enforcement. "A review board, as a phrase in our world of policing, has a very negative connotation," said Brown. "It's considered, in many cases, a threatening title."

MEMBERS OF THE Alexandria City Council will be considering three different models for whatever they decide to call the new board. One model would be concurrent investigations, having the new board conduct a separate review simultaneous to but apart from the police review. Another proposal would create a hybrid model where the members of the civilian review board would work with an auditor to be part of the official police investigation. A third model would place all investigations of excessive force or abuse of authority into the hands of the review board, an approach some advocates say would be the best way to restore confidence.

"Overall, we've truly lost trust in police enforcement," said Ingris Moran, an organizer for Tenants and Workers United. "So I think this would be a great opportunity to really change the structure of things."

In a letter to the editor of the Alexandria Gazette Packet published last month, Lt. Marcus Downey and Officer Oscar Olland outlined the concerns about the proposal from members of the Alexandria chapter of the International Union of Police Organizations. They said hundreds of Alexandria police officers were surprised by the City Council's decision in June to create a civilian review board, adding that the department is a "beacon of honor, respect and accountability to the residents and visitors of the city."

"We ask that City Council make reasonable, appropriate decisions based on facts specific to residents and employees of this city," they concluded, "not create a superfluous program in attempt to make an example of our department."

WHAT KIND OF investigative powers the

newly created board would have has been a sticking point since Councilman Seifeldein first suggested the idea last spring. The first proposal considered by City Council created a civilian review board that didn't have any investigatory powers. Council members rejected that proposal and sent city staff back to the drawing board to come up with a series of options for how members of the newly created board could scrutinize excessive force or abuse of authority. One issue that still needs to be resolved is whether the board needs subpoena power to compel witnesses and documents.

"Boards that use subpoena power are almost always subpoenaing complainants and civilians," said Sarah Graham Taylor, the city's legislative director. "Police officers are already compelled to respond to their employers inquiries about their job performance. They're legally required to do that."

Advocates for policing reform say subpoena power is crucial to making Alexandria's new civilian review board a success. They say police officers may be legally required to participate in investigations, but that's only part of any investigation into excessive force or abuse of authority.

"I don't think there's any other way to get the information you need and compel cooperation," said Jon Liss, co-executive director for Virginia New Majority. "If you're doing an investigation, and you have five witnesses and they all have a well-founded fear of the police then you have four of them that don't talk. That seems like a problem."

INVESTIGATIONS COULD be triggered in a number of situations. Any time a gun is fired, for example, that would trigger an investigation. Witnesses would be interviewed by the civilian review board, which could have the power to decide the discipline of officers who are determined to have engaged in wrongdoing. Investigations could also be triggered by allegations of excessive use of force or abuse of authority. Seifeldein says once officers are outfitted with body-worn cameras, making these kinds of determinations will be easier.

"We can easily look into whether there's a prima facie case to go investigate alleged misconduct or not," he said. "If you feel that the conduct was outside the bounds of regular policing, you could call it in and then the body would be able to do an initial inquiry to determine if the action should move forward."

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