



American Legion Department of Virginia Commander Bill Feasenmyer, center, is joined by Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton, left, as District 17 Commander Jim Glassman makes a Veterans Day presentation Nov. 11.



PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

American Legion Department of Virginia Commander Bill Feasenmyer, center back, celebrates the members of American Legion Post 24 who completed the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge in support of the Veterans & Children Foundation.

100 Miles for Hope American Legion marks Veterans Day, celebrates virtual challenge.

Members of American Legion Post 24 gathered Nov. 11 to mark Veterans Day and celebrate the completion of the 100 Miles for Hope challenge, a virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride that began Aug. 3 and ran through Veterans Day.

American Legion Department of Virginia Commander Bill Feasenmyer attended the ceremony and congratulated those who completed the challenge, which served to raise awareness and support for the Veterans & Children Foundation as well as encourage American Legion family members to be ac-

tive during a time of social distancing.

The foundation provides grants for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and supports service officers in their efforts to obtain care, benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families. The American Legion's 3,000 accredited

service officers provide free assistance for any veteran in need. To contact Post 24 Service Officer Kelly Niernberger, email vsoPost24@outlook.com or call 703-395-9660.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

'Honoring Those Who Have Served' Commonwealth Academy honors veterans.

Students at Commonwealth Academy paid tribute to veterans Nov. 11 by placing American flags outside the school in Del Ray. "Veterans Day to me means honoring all those who have served and who have not been recognized for their crucial roles in past military operations," said

Ethan Rostker, an 11th grade student at the school. "We do this to both recognize veterans and help direct people to thinking about how it affects them and what Veterans Day truly means to them."

www.commonwealthacademy.org

—JEANNE THEISMANN

Students at Commonwealth Academy place American flags outside the school Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Jen Walker Team

SPREAD KINDNESS **BUILD COMMUNITY**



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- Jen, Sue, & Micki

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325 E Mason Ave.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$739,900



2311 Main Line Blvd.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$1,049,900



1706 Crestwood Dr.
SOLD - \$875,000



507 E Alexandria Ave.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$1,099,000



1310 Roosevelt St.
UNDER CONTRACT - \$899,000

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Hometown Heroes

Veterans Day ceremony honors veterans, Gold Star families.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was the war to end all wars. After four years of fighting, hostilities formally ended between the Allies and Germany at the “11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month” in 1918. On Nov. 11, the Friends of Rocky Versace commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the armistice to end World War I with a Veterans Day ceremony at Blessed Sacrament School Hall, a change from its usual location at Mount Vernon Recreation Center due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“Because of the ongoing virus threat and the unavailability of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the ceremony was held at an alternate venue with a limited audience,” said Kevin Rue, a retired Army officer and 21-year member of the Friends of Rocky Versace who served as Master of Ceremonies.

The ceremony included a reading of the 68 names of Alexandrians who were killed or reported missing in action during the Vietnam War and recognized four Gold Star Family members in attendance.

“It was inspiring to see active duty servicemen and women in full uniform with their children honoring our nation’s veterans and teaching the next generation about service and sacrifice,” said 17-year-old Chiara Luepke, granddaughter of Lt. Col. Anthony C. Shine, an Air Force fighter pilot listed as Missing in Action on Dec. 2, 1972, on his second tour of duty in Vietnam. “I was proud to honor the stories of men like Rocky Versace and my grandfather, who stood for something greater than themselves, and hope that today’s active duty personnel know that their service will also be remembered.”

Clare Ericson Barkovic, Gold Star Widow of Army 1LT William Ericson, also attended the ceremony.

“Having my husband’s name announced and remembered is a tribute that I can’t thank the Alexandria community enough for,” said Barkovic, whose husband was killed in action July 15, 1969. “Veterans Day is my birthday and it’s a gift to share this day honoring the man, the soldier, that I was married to and shared hopes and dreams with as well remembering the many other men who sacrificed themselves so that others could live on in peace with their loved ones.”



Veterans line up in preparation of the recognition of Alexandria’s fallen service members and Gold Star families at the Friends of Rocky Versace Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall.



Saint Rita’s American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 opens the Veterans Day Ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance.



Kevin Rue, a 1977 West Point graduate, serves as emcee at the Friends of Rocky Versace Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall.



Col. Christie Walton and son Will attend the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall.

In his remarks, Rue noted that Capt. Rocky Versace, along with six of the 68 Fallen Heroes recognized on the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray, are still Missing in Action in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.

“The National League of POW/MIA Families is deeply grateful to the Friends of Rocky Versace and Kevin Rue for all they do throughout the year to honor our veterans and to encourage the fullest possible accounting for the 1,585 men still missing from the Vietnam War,” said Luepke’s mother Col-



Members of the Special Forces Association Chapter XI stand during the Friends of Rocky Versace Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall.



Veterans of the Army’s 1st Cavalry Division present a wreath during the Friends of Rocky Versace Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall.

leen Shine, daughter of Anthony Shine, whose remains were repatriated for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in October 1996. “These are our nation’s unreturned veterans and that flag is a powerful symbol of our nation’s commitment to the resolution of this important issue.”

Participating in the ceremony were the St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381, who opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Historical Trumpets and Flutes of the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performed musical interludes for the attendees of the private program.

Lilchy Huffman, Ms. Virginia Senior America, performed the National Anthem and Stephen Tracy of Bugles Across America offered

Taps as the ceremony concluded.

Following the formal portion of the ceremony, Rue presented a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to retired Navy Captain Fred Reese, recognizing his active-duty military service during the 1955-1975 Vietnam era.

“The ceremony was special in so many ways,” said Susan Lilly Harvey, Gold Star daughter of MIA 1LT Larry Lilly. “What a reverent, meaningful event.”

Added Barkovic: “To the Friends of Rocky Versace, thank you for the moments that 1LT Bill Ericson is respected and remembered for his great sacrifice.”

For more information or to become a member of the Capt. Versace Memorial Association, contact the Friends of Rocky Versace at FoRV59@gmail.com



The front page of the Alexandria Gazette from Nov. 29, 1911.

Thanks giving Through the Years

From war and pandemic to claptrap and taffeta, the evolution of the holiday in Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The pandemic had been a long and depressing nightmare, depleting spirits and supplies. Nevertheless, the Alexandria Hospital Board of Managers was urging readers of the Alexandria Gazette to “make this Thanksgiving Day a Memorial Day in the history of the Alexandria Hospital.” The year was 1919, and the city was still clawing its way through the last pandemic by asking readers to support the city’s hospital.

“After two years of the most severe trials with the constant arduous calls for service, with the trying days of the scourge of the Flu,” wrote Elizabeth Reid, president of the Alexandria Hospital Board of Managers in the Gazette, “the hospital has borne the burden with most encouraging ability.”

The woodwork on the exterior of the building needed painting. The

laundry needed new machines to handle the crush of patients. The doctors needed X-ray machines. Perhaps the most pressing need was for a new ambulance, “one of which her citizens will be proud and one which their loved sick will not be ashamed to use in their helplessness.” The appeal from the board of managers was front-page news for the Gazette’s Thanksgiving issue, 1919.

“Help little or much as you and your friends have benefited by having this institution in your midst,” she concluded. “Our usual Thanksgiving appeal has been distributed through the churches and city for groceries, vegetables and anything you can contribute to help the work.”

THE STORY OF THANKSGIVING is fake news riddled with misinformation and fraud. Contrary to popular opinion, it did not originate with the Pilgrims in Plymouth. Historian Michael Gannon

argued that the first Thanksgiving happened in St. Augustine in 1565. Virginia also has claim to an earlier Thanksgiving than the Pilgrims, celebrating Thanksgiving in 1619. In an interview shortly before his death in 2017, Gannon said the reason people think of Massachusetts as synonymous with Thanksgiving is because of a successful marketing campaign.

“It was a matter of ignorance and self-promotion, but the people of New England seized on everything that they wanted to to say that they were the first,” said Gannon. “Of course, they weren’t. But they gathered all the publicity and promoted themselves from that day down to this.”

Virginia also has a claim to celebrating Thanksgiving before Massachusetts. More than a year before the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, a group of English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation near Richmond and celebrated Thanksgiving, 1619. Many Virgin-

ia purists like to overlook the Florida Thanksgiving and argue that Virginia is the rightful heir to the Thanksgiving bounty. Descendants of Captain John Woodlief, who led the mission along the James River, say the modern idea of Thanksgiving is a skillful bit of public relations.

“I think that basically new New Englanders had the upper hand when it came to publicizing the Thanksgivings, and I mean that seriously,” said Graham Woodlief, a descendant of Captain John Woodlief, in a 2016 interview. “They had better PR than we did.”

THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY has its roots in the Civil War, when President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring the the final Thursday of November 1863 a day of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” The Alexandria Gazette published the text of the president’s official proclama-

tion, along with a notification that King Street would be repaved and an announcement from the clerk of the market that Market Square would be closed for Thanksgiving.

“Large preparations are making at the North for ‘Thanksgiving Day,’ 26th of November,” the Gazette reported on Nov. 13, 1863. “Raisons, lemons and grapes, &c., are arriving, opportunely, in vessels from Malaga, &c.”

Unsurprisingly, the idea that the federal government could order people to stop and reflect on their lot in life encountered resistance in Virginia. Even before Lincoln issued the proclamation, Virginia Gov. Henry Wise described the idea as a “theatrical national claptrap.” The president who was overseeing the military occupation of Alexandria didn’t make things any better by making it a national holiday. Well into the 20th century, the idea was looked at scornfully by people who clung to the Lost Cause.

SEE THANKSGIVING, PAGE 12

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 2020 Alexandria Turkey Trot will take virtually from Nov.21-29.

Turkey Trot Goes Virtual

Race continues to support ALIVE!

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The 45th annual Alexandria Turkey Trot, a Thanksgiving Day tradition that draws more than 6,000 runners to the streets of Del Ray, is moving to a virtual format for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association and DC Road Runners, the virtual race encourages participants to complete a 5-mile run or walk at the place of their choice any time between Nov. 21-29 and log their times online.

"The Alexandria community is known for its tremendous community spirit and deep generosity," said DRBA president Sue Kovalsky. "With so many of our small businesses and so many of our neighbors struggling, this year's Trot is more important than ever."

The event is a major fundraiser and food drive for ALIVE!, a nonprofit organization that serves those most in need in the City of Alexandria. In 2019, the event raised over \$6,000 for ALIVE!, with runners donating over 2,000 pounds of food.

The Alexandria Turkey Trot is also the primary fundraiser for the Del Ray Business Association, which hosts a wide range of community events year-round and represents the independently owned restaurants, retailers and businesses in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria.

Runners and others are encouraged to donate nonperishable food items for ALIVE! from Nov. 21-29. Needed items include one-pound bags of rice; one-pound bags of dried beans; macaroni and cheese boxes; canned vegetables, soup and fruit (14-15 oz.); canned tuna; canned chicken; baking mixes (such as Bisquick, 5-7 oz.); and peanut butter. Donations can be dropped off in bins outside The Dog Store (2301 Mount Vernon Ave.), Waxing the City (2727 Mount Vernon Ave.), Del Ray Psych & Wellness (1900 Mount Vernon Ave.), Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap (401 E. Braddock Road), and the front porches of 403 E. Custis Ave. and 110 E. Del Ray Ave. Donation bins will also be outside The Del Ray Farmers' Market on Nov. 21 and Nov. 28 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"We look forward to seeing neighbors, dogs, and generations of families running together throughout Thanksgiving week," Kovalsky said.

For more information or to register and reserve your commemorative 2020 t-shirt, visit www.alexandriaturkeytrot.com.

2020 State of Business: Annual Meeting

Dec. 8 is the date for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 2020 State of Business: Annual Meeting. Chair Dave Millard, will provide an end of year recap, which will highlight Chamber happenings over the past 12 months.

Jeannette Chapman, Director of the Stephen S. Fuller Institute in the Schar School of Public Policy and Government at George Mason University will discuss the state of the economy.

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Chair Dave Millard will provide an end of year recap, which will highlight Chamber happenings over the past 12 months.

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, 9 a.m.

Virtual via Zoom

\$20 for Members, \$40 for Non-Members

Register here

<https://alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com/events/The-Chamber-ALXs-2020-State-of-Business-Annual-Meeting-presented-by-Truist-2730/details>



ALEXANDRIA SHOP SMALL WEEK

NOV 27 - DEC 6

NOV 27	NOV 28	NOV 29	NOV 30
PLAID FRIDAY Alexandria's Small Business Black Friday	SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY Free parking, prizes & discounts	MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY Save 20% at participating museum stores	CYBER MONDAY Online offers & free shipping from participating stores
DEC 1	DEC 4-6	NOV 9-DEC 20	
GIVING TUESDAY A percentage of your purchases will be donated	INSTAGRAM GIFT CARD GIVEAWAYS Follow @VisitAlexVA for a chance to win	ALEXANDRIA SANTA-GRAM GIVEAWAY Win a personalized video greeting from the region's most beloved Santa.	

Shop in person or from home during the biggest week of the year in the region's top Shop Small destination! Learn more about deals, promotions and giveaways at nearly 50 Alexandria boutiques at

AlexandriaShopSmallWeek.com



America Voted in Favor of Refugees and Immigrants

ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

America has decidedly voted in favor of refugees and immigrants in this 2020 election, showing their support with the victory of President-Elect Joe Biden, and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, who ran on campaign promises to restore the asylum system, increase the annual cap of refugee arrivals to 125,000, and end the discriminatory travel bans.

Ethiopian Community Development Council applauds American voters for their nominations of refugees, immigrants and second-generation Americans throughout the country. This demonstrates the unwavering belief and confidence U.S. citizens have in welcoming refugees and providing extraordinary opportunities for them to start their lives anew, and to lead. ECDC has been empowering refugees and immigrants to start new lives in the United States because

we believe in the promise of the American dream for all its people, no matter where they come from.

ECDC congratulates and recognizes just a few of the Ethiopians who have been appointed to positions as judges, city council members, assembly members, and senators. Samra Brouk was recently elected to the New York State Senate, winning a seat in the 55th district. She will be the first black woman to represent the Rochester area in the State Senate. Samra worked her way through Williams College before joining the Peace Corps. As the daughter of Ethiopian immigrants, Samra credits her parents' example of hard work, education, and resourcefulness, having witnessed her father overcome major cultural and financial barriers to earn degrees in math and engineering in Western New York.

Assemblyman Alexandre Assefa is the first Ethiopian-American elected to a statewide office in the United States and the first African immigrant to serve in the

State of Nevada. Alex was born in Ethiopia and spent time as a refugee in Nairobi, Kenya, where he faced persecution and intolerance. In 2000, Alex immigrated to the United States where he was able to complete high school and earn a degree in political science.

In 2019, Girmay Zahilay was elected Councilman in District 2 of King County in Seattle, Washington. He was born in the Sudan to Ethiopian refugees, before moving to Seattle at a young age with his family, where they spent some time in a homeless shelter and a public housing project. Girmay, a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, worked for several anti-hunger organizations and big law firms before founding his own non-profit, Rising Leaders.

The first Black Council member elected in Austin, Minnesota, Oballa Oballa, fled Gambella, Ethiopia with his family in 2003 after a genocidal attack on his community. They arrived in the United

States in 2013 after spending 10 years in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp. In 2015 he settled in Austin, becoming a naturalized citizen less than a year ago.

ECDC, a national organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, works locally through its branch offices and nationally through a network of 10 agencies to resettle refugees in communities across the country. ECDC has resettled over 58,000 refugees since 1991. Through local and national programs, ECDC helps refugees and immigrants lead lives of dignity, attain self-sufficiency, and integrate successfully into their new communities.

ECDC's mission is to resettle refugees, promote cultural, educational, and socio-economic development in the refugee and immigrant community in the United States, and to conduct humanitarian and development programs in the Horn of Africa. For more information about ECDC, please visit us at ecdcus.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's Pardon All Turkeys

Dear Editor:

Next week, President Trump will take a break from brooding over his election loss to pardon two turkeys. Every one of us has that same awesome power to pardon an innocent, sentient bird by choosing a plant-based roast for our Thanksgiving dinner.

The 222 million turkeys killed in the U.S. this year are raised in crowded sheds filled with toxic fumes. Their beaks and toes are clipped to prevent stress-induced aggression. At the tender age of 16 weeks, workers cut their throats and dump them into boiling water to remove their feathers.

Consumers pay a heavy price too. Turkey flesh is laced with cholesterol and saturated fats that elevate risk of chronic killer diseases.

Prolonged cooking is required to destroy deadly pathogens lurking inside.

Now, for the good news. With growing popularity of Tofurky and other plant-based holiday roasts, U.S. turkey production has dropped a whopping 25 percent from its 1995 high of 293 million.

This Thanksgiving, let's give thanks for our good fortune, health, and happiness with a cruelty-free plant-based holiday roast

available in convenient sizes. An internet search on "vegetarian Thanksgiving" offers more options and recipes than we could possibly use.

Ashton Gunter
Alexandria

"Forest-in-a-Can?"

Regarding post-construction stream project plantings, boasting "2,300 new trees and thousands of new shrubs" along post-construction Taylor Run, of various species that collectively bear no fidelity to a known natural community let alone the habitat it is replacing, does not constitute a functional natural forest community. Moreover, plantings of "late successional" species outside their appropriate natural habitats typically result in a high mortality of the plantings. (College of William and Mary environmental science professor Doug DeBerry and others have well documented this general failure of post-construction plantings in the scientific literature.)

Clearing mature stream valley forests and replacing them with artificial plantings - both in species makeup and numbers of plants - is an obvious adverse environmental impact that negates any net increase in function or added ecosystem services (improvement)

required by the terms and conditions of the Nationwide Permit 27 (NWP).

For these reasons, and others, the "2,300 new trees and thousands of new shrubs" cited for the Taylor Run project will amount to little more than a glitzy "plant dump" and is not an ecological restoration best practice. The stark reality is that anyone over the age of 35 will not see a mature canopy tree along the Taylor Run project footprint again in their lifetime, and certainly nothing like the old-age giants growing there today (estimated to be 180-220 years of age).

It is also unlikely that the stream valley's existing natural features

will return - naturally or otherwise - because the living foundation of the habitat, the result of millennia of evolution and complex interactions of organisms and geologic conditions, cannot be replicated - and certainly not by a "forest-in-a-can" method. One cannot plant a forest community, such as the globally and state rare Acidic Seepage Swamp, one can only plant individual trees and other vegetation. Only nature and very long periods of time can produce diverse, ecologically functioning natural communities.

Rod Simmons

environmental scientist and ecological restoration specialist

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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.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY CHRIS CRUZ/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Alexandria Shop Small Week runs Nov. 27-Dec. 6.

Shop Small Week Nov. 27-Dec. 6

Holiday promotion supports local businesses.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Small Business Saturday, a movement that began 10 years ago in an effort to drive holiday shoppers to small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, has expanded into the first Alexandria Shop Small Week.

The Shop Small Week promotion runs Nov. 27 through Dec. 6 beginning with Plaid Friday (Nov. 27), followed by Small Business Saturday (Nov. 28), Museum Store Sunday (Nov. 29), Cyber Monday (Nov. 30), and Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1).

Shop Small Week is an initiative by Visit Alexandria to support Alexandria's locally owned boutiques and retailers.

"Alexandria's boutiques are going above and beyond to keep visitors safe with the ALX Promise shield and are ready to welcome masked customers," said the Visit Alexandria press release. "Many

are offering special shopping options like online stores, curbside pick-up, private appointments and more. When you shop with an independent Alexandria store, you get personalized service and curated gifts you won't find just anywhere, along with the knowledge you are supporting a local Alexandria family and their employees."

Visit Alexandria also launched a digital Guide to Alexandria Holiday Shopping that features 50 independent retailers and information about in-person and online store offerings. The guide includes a list of Black-owned businesses and where to purchase made-in-Alexandria gifts. Participating shops and restaurants will donate a percentage of purchases to Alexandria nonprofits through a partnership with the Old Town Business Association.

For details on Shop Small Week promotion, including a Santa-gram Giveaway, visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com/ShopSmall.

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.

NOW THRU DEC. 15

Annual Membership Drive. The Port City Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL), a premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, invites women with daughters currently in 7th-12th grade, to join its chapter of 200-plus active mothers and daughters who reside in or attend school in Arlington, Alexandria, Springfield, Crystal City, or Washington, D.C. Visit the website: www.nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/portcity/

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE),

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



Black Friday & Small Business Saturday SALE

King's Jewelry



Nov. 27th & 28th
ALL DAY!
10 am to 6 pm

20%-40% Off Fine Jewelry, Select
Watches & Giftware.*

KingsJewelry.NET
609 King Street, Old Town Alexandria
703-549-0011

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

DRPT
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Public Meetings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will consider your comments as it develops the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian, and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds. Meeting materials were made available on Nov. 13, 2020 and continue to be at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>. The public is able to provide feedback on the FY2021-2026 Six-Year Improvement Program Update at the virtual fall meeting on Nov. 24, 2020, which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and will be conducted using electronic communications in accordance with Item 4-0.01.g. of Chapter 1289 (2020 Acts of Assembly), as the COVID-19 emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble in a single location. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation of the CTB and the discharge of its

lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities. All board members will be participating remotely. The public may view the meeting via live stream by clicking the "View stream" button at the following link: http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/public_meetings/live_stream/default.asp. There will be opportunity for public comment. When announced, public comment can be made by calling 470-285-4495, followed by PIN 392 182 855#. Callers will be placed on hold until others in queue ahead of them have had the opportunity to speak. In the event there is an interruption in the meeting broadcast, call 804-729-6495.

The public is invited to share feedback on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding through participation in this virtual public meeting or by submitting comments through the online form, by email, or by posted mail by Dec. 3, 2020.

For information on roads and highways projects: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or online form found at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/default.asp>.

For information on rail and public transportation projects: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Giving Thanks

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Thanksgiving will look different this year from years past. Family gatherings, Turkey Trots and dinner table conversation will give way to scaled back, intimate or virtual events. Despite the disruption to daily routines, economic hardships and other challenges, Alexandrians still find much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving of 2020

—JEANNE THEISMANN



Tommy Carroll, with mom Cherie
“I am super thankful in this wild and crazy time to have family and friends to lean on and to hopefully use our wealth of stories to bring joy and to carry us through the last of these dark times since I believe light is on the way.”



Josh and Tobi Dannemiller, with Joey, Piper and Bijou

Josh: I am thankful for our health, our family, our community and our dogs.”



Rabbi Jack Moline

“I am very grateful that we live a life of privilege that enables us to make the best of these difficult circumstances. It only reminds me what my responsibilities are to make sure that other people who are not as fortunate have the resources to survive the pandemic and to thrive in what is coming next.”



Anthony Wilson, Everly-Wheatley funeral director

“This Thanksgiving I am thankful for God, my family, our health, our strength and our faith in God and with each other.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Josie and Ellie Lawson, with parents Marian and Peter Lawson, McArthur Myers and dog Willie

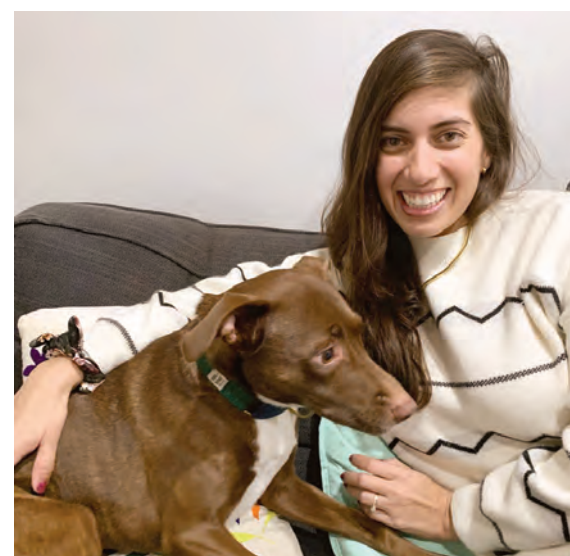
Josie: “I am thankful for my good health and my family.”

Ellie: “I am also thankful for my family.”

Marion: “Willie is thankful that he has a lot of home time with family these days.”

Yancey, Semone and Julious Byrd, Jordan Byrd and dog Mocha

“2020 has been the most challenging year as we still grieve over the loss of 11 family members. Yet we stand here united knowing we are so blessed and grateful to have a strong faith in God, the fortitude of our ancestors, and the powerful example that 59 years of Black love represents with our 77-year-old parents and grandparents, Jack and Rosa Byrd.”



Claudia Cardenas

“I am thankful for my new husband Dillion! We just got married last month and after having to change plans due to COVID, our wedding still turned out to be the happiest day ever. I am also thankful for the health and love of our amazing family and friends.”



Mitch Opalski, CEO Synergy Home Care

“I am so thankful that my family and I remain COVID free because we've been smart to follow guidance provided by the Health Department. We can still spend Thanksgiving together because the precautions work.”



Katherine Cook

“I am thankful for my family and their health and well-being during this crazy crisis right now. I am also thankful that we will hopefully see some changes enacted and our nation united under our new presidency.”



Pepe Vasquez, manager of The Warehouse Restaurant

“On behalf of Hussein and all the staff at The Warehouse, we are thankful to the City for extending restaurant seating on the street, and to Taylor Burke for allowing us to use space in front of his bank. Most of all we are thankful to our customers who have supported us and continue to do so during this pandemic.”

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Norma Safren, 90, with grandson-in-law Emmanuel Medina and great grandson Elan Medina

“I am very thankful for my wonderful children and grandchildren and now my two beautiful great grandchildren. And I am thankful for all my wonderful and devoted friends.”



Carol Supplee, owner Imagine Artwear

“I am thankful for my long-term customers. They are the best. They come in faithfully and they want me to succeed and survive. I am also thankful for my fellow business owners. We are in this together and all want to succeed.”



Margaret and Laurent Janowsky, owners Del Ray Café

Margaret: “I am thankful for my friends and family during my year of treatment for breast cancer, which on top of COVID has been very difficult. But it was made much easier by the love and support of friends and family, my work family at Del Ray Café and extended family all across the country.”

Laurent: “I am very thankful for the community that surrounds us, my neighbors and my staff.”

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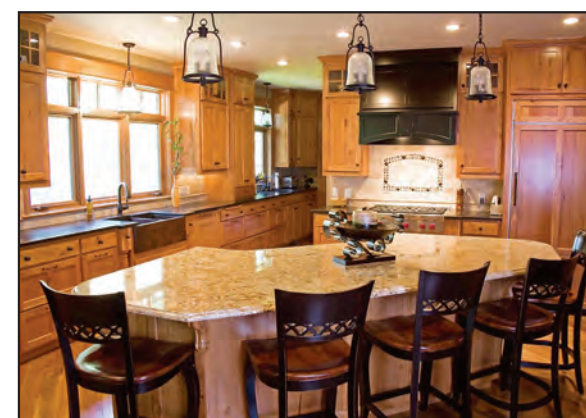
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4 Restaurant Options for a Socially Distant Thanksgiving

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

It's been an oft-repeated refrain this autumn: Thanksgiving is going to look a little different this year. One of the great understatements of 2020? Maybe. But it's true, as well. While large holiday gatherings may not be on the docket for many Alexandrians this time around, the city's restaurants are pitching in to make the day a little more delicious.

To be sure, many restaurants (including the ones listed below) continue to offer dine-in options for Thanksgiving, but in this era of social distancing and curbside pickup, eateries are offering a wider variety of options for takeout and delivery. Here are four options from across the city to help spice up your holiday plans.

Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road

Lena's is straying from their usual Italian-American fare to serve up a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings. While the restaurant is offering a dine-in option as well, their to-go Thanksgiving meal is teeming with delights, from oven-roasted turkey and turkey gravy to garlic sauteed green beans, focaccia stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin cheesecake with caramel sauce. The cherry on top? The restaurant is donating \$9 to ALIVE for every meal purchased. Reserve by Nov. 22. \$69.

City Kitchen, 330 S. Pickett St.

No cooking AND no washing the pots and pans? City Kitchen's got you covered.



Choose a three-course dinner for \$35 or order your meal a la carte for carry-out either before Thursday or with limited time slots on the holiday itself. Start off with some honey herb goat cheese with crostini, move to a crab and wild mushroom bisque, go traditional with roasted turkey or more veg-heavy with a pumpkin, spinach and wild mushroom risotto, and by all means don't forget the sides. Or, for that matter, the dessert – pumpkin and pecan pies come in full or half sizes. Order by Nov. 23.

Bastille, 606 N. Fayette St.

Give your all-American holiday a French twist over at Bastille. The restaurant's carry-out menu offers a three-course affair beginning with a starter – choose a Caesar salad or pumpkin-maple bisque followed by a main course option of turkey or beef rib roast. (All entrees come with mashed potato and roasted vegetable.) Finally, choose between pumpkin pie with crème Chantilly or apple pie with browned butter streusel. Reserve by Nov. 22. \$89 for two; \$169 for four.



Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St.

Herb-roasted turkey breast is the star of the show over at Union Street, but the main course is only the beginning. Butternut squash soup, a seasonal salad, a duo of casseroles, apple-sage dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy and more are also on the menu,

followed by a choice of fresh-baked pies – apple, pumpkin or pecan. Order by Nov. 22. \$89 for two.

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.

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 hand-made 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. 27

"Gratitude" Art Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive/Crystal City Shops, Arlington.

Gallery Underground in November presents **Gratitude: Representing Thankfulness in Artwork**, an all-member all-media show. The year 2020 has presented us with multiple physical, moral, spiritual and emotional challenges. Member artists have created work in the season's spirit of giving thanks, representing images of those things for which they are still grateful, despite the current world we face. In our Main Gallery are new works by our members on all themes, in media including oil, acrylic, pastel, watermedia, sculpture, glass, ceramics, wood and metalwork. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

NOW THRU NOV. 28

"Women's Right to Vote: 100 Years Since the 19th Amendment" exhibit (November 6-28) features artwork by Del Ray Artisans, local high school students and 2020 graduates; and celebrates the achievements of women over the past 100 years. The movement towards equality in America continues today. Lift your voice and vote. Opening Day Appointments: Friday, November 6, 12-8 p.m.

View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOW THRU DEC. 9

Forty+ Project II. 3-4 p.m. Via Zoom. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Fall Project 2 is directed by choreographer Kelsey Rohr through weekly sessions on Zoom (with outdoor or in-person meetings as conditions allow). The project is open to people of all physical facilities. Cost is \$100. Visit the website: <https://www.janefranklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS,

NOW THRU DEC. 5

Alexandria Drive-In Movie Encore Series. At the Alexandria Drive-In Theatre, 5001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Holiday Spirit." This is the annual holiday show, and the artists go all out to create gifts that will get you into the holiday mood. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

NOV. 18 AND 19

Tab Benoit Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Renowned Louisiana blues guitarist Tab Benoit is on tour, with socially-distanced, in-concert performances on two upcoming nights at The Birchmere. Tickets: \$39.50. All ages event. Info: (703) 549-7500 or visit <https://www.birchmere.com>.

NOV. 20 TO JAN. 3

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run. At Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Opens nightly 5 to 10 p.m. Ice and Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run will return this year, featuring an ice rink, more than a dozen holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, retail area, food, music and more. The Ice and Lights Village is a short drive from Old Town. Masks are required in all areas of Ice & Lights except when eating or drinking in the concession areas. Admission: \$8.16 for general admission to Village; \$20.68 for admission with skating; starting January 9, 2021, \$12.19 for skating. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Ken & Brad Kolodner Trio. 2 p.m. Featuring Ken Kolodner, hammered dulcimer | Brad Kolodner, banjo | Alex Lacquement, upright bass. Welcome Thanksgiving with a uniquely American program that celebrates the traditions of American music and crosses the boundaries of Old-Time, Bluegrass and American Roots music. At The Rectory on Princess St, 711 Princess St, Alexandria. Visit <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts-2/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Enchanted Forest. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Virtual event. Presented by the Junior League of Northern Virginia. The Enchanted Forest is a one-day holiday festival featuring whimsical holiday trees available for silent auction, live entertainment, visits with Santa, activities for children, and much more. Additional premium virtual events are also available. Visit the website: <https://www.jlrv.org/tef/>

Addressing the Demands of Virtual University Classrooms

Marymount psychology professor offers solution to distance learning obstacles.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

For some students and professors, the loss of in-person contact has disrupted higher education and the experiences that often accompany it.

"I have found that distance learning is riddled with challenges," said senior Sophia Jaimes, a psychology major at Marymount University. "Personally, I am very much a student who learns best when I am in a learning environment with a teacher who I can ask immediate questions to. When I have to use Zoom I find myself often being distracted or, at times, feeling awkward to talk on Zoom since I may not know my peers."

As Marymount and other universities and colleges prepare for all-remote learning after Thanksgiving, students and professors are pondering the ways in which academics will be affected. Linda McKenna Guly, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount, has written a paper that addresses some of the problems that her colleagues and students might be experiencing in the uncharted territory of virtual campuses.

"Colleges and universities are faced with the need to adapt and evolve without a script," said Linda Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Hundreds of experienced and highly regarded professors feel like clunky beginners as they redesign and deliver their courses online."

Some professors put undue expectations on students, says Jaimes. "An issue that I have seen recently is where professors and teachers voiced their demands that students have their cameras on during class," she said. "However many students have voiced that they may be uncomfortable doing so and that having cameras on during class is violating their privacy. Professors have said that if students don't respond to their questions, in addition to not having their cameras on, they will kick the student out of the Zoom call."

Dealing with such an obstacle requires mutual trust and awareness, suggests Guly. "It's easy to feel suspicious of our students, and I'm pretty sure they can feel the same way," she said. "Pay attention to such messages, because we want our students to feel welcome, accepted and appreciated."

The sudden expectation that one be technologically savvy can cause instructional challenges, particularly in classes where visuals are essential, says Alice E. Petillo, Ph.D., professor of mathematics and Marymount University. "For one session my students could hear me but not see the visuals," she said. "I was not able to hear them as they tried to let me know. Once I realized there was an issue, I apologized and let them know I would post a video recap after class."

Accepting that the current level of distance learning requires an unprecedented set of skills can help quell angst around new expectations, Guly advises. "Model poise, problem-solving and self-regulation skills for students to succeed in the workplace," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Marymount University will suspend all in-person classes after the Thanksgiving break, says University spokesman Nick Munson.

"When I goofed-up my class technology for the 20th time, I gratefully received a solution from one of my freshmen."

While college students might not need parental supervision in the way that an elementary or middle school student does, they can face challenges that are equally as daunting. "I think our students are finding it difficult because they are often juggling a lot of other concerns and commitments at the same time as our classes," said Brian P. Flanagan, Ph.D., professor of theology and religious study at Marymount. "Many of my students are watching other siblings or helping them learn while they themselves are in class."

As a result of distance learning, some students are facing new concerns about a lack of necessary resources. "[They] are struggling with access to technology and the internet," said Michael Mills, Ph.D., Vice President, E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence at Montgomery College. "While the college has done

an exceptional job meeting these needs in terms of financial and technological support, the issues are real for our students."

The quality of instruction delivered by video conferencing platforms is not always equal to that of in-person classes. "I, along with many other friends, have discussed this and feel as though the education we are receiving is below what we could be getting," said Jaimes. "I do want to emphasize, however, that this feeling isn't due to the professors ability to teach, but the stress from having to learn online only without any real connection to your professors or peers."

Such challenges can be addressed through collaboration, says Guly. "Pull groups of students together to brainstorm about staying satisfied at our colleges [and] listen to them," she said. "Along the way, they can initiate critical friendships and loving relationships all while taking care to stay healthy."

Instruction by video conference has had some unexpected advantages, notes Flanagan. "I've been really impressed by how committed many of my students have been this semester to their own learning in the

SEE ADDRESSING THE DEMANDS, PAGE 14



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Thanksgiving Through the Years

FROM PAGE 4

"In the days when the slavery issue played such a conspicuous part in the political issues of the country, it was thought no good thing could come from New England," explained the Alexandria Gazette in 1911. "Thanksgiving Day, that relic of the Pilgrim Fathers, while not regarded with contempt, was not entered into with the earnestness which characterizes it now."

A STROLL THROUGH the pages of the Alexandria Gazette shows that the holiday evolved over the years, especially in the

advertisements. In 1913, the Rammel Hotel opposite City Hall offered an "old-fashioned Turkey Thanksgiving Dinner." In 1919, the Old Dutch Market offered Thanksgiving Fruit Cake "with lots of fruit and nuts" for only 55 cents. In 1921, Bendheim's department store suggested Thanksgiving would be a great time to buy new window shades, a new rug or even a fashionable new outfit.

"Why not a new dress for Thanksgiving?" the 1921 advertisement asked. "Assembled here is a lot of 75 dresses representing our choicest styles, tricotines, sateens, canton, crepe, serges and taffeta dresses."

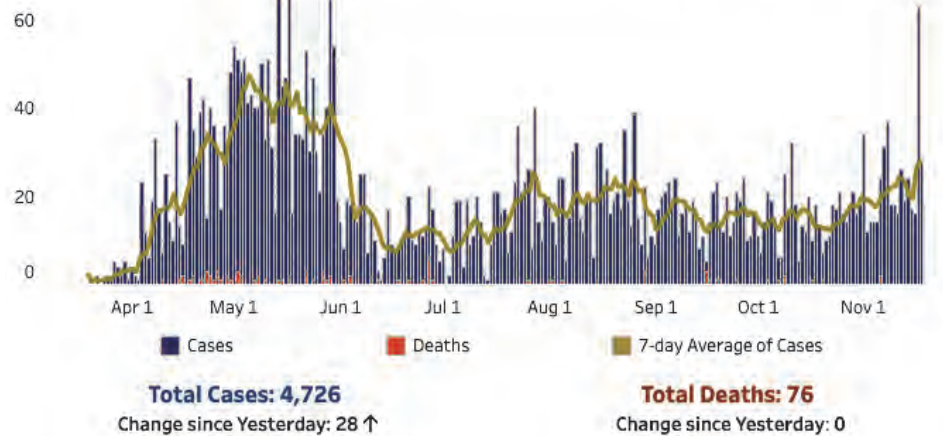
City of Alexandria COVID-19

Cases, Deaths and 7-Day Moving Average

7-Day Moving Average
COVID-19 Cases

27.6

Change since last Tuesday: 5.3 ↑



The case count includes laboratory-confirmed cases and probable cases (symptomatic patients diagnosed by a doctor but not tested) reported by the Virginia Department of Health on the date noted. Due to periodic data lags and corrections, cases and deaths reported on a certain date may have occurred at any point in the past.

Data was updated on November 17, 2020

Alexandria COVID-19 Data At-a-Glance

This chart contains the seven-day moving average number of COVID-19 cases and the daily and cumulative case and fatality counts, provides detailed information about how preventive measures are impacting Alexandria's response to the pandemic. An interactive version is available at alexandriava.gov/114883. Detailed data, including data on age, race and ethnicity, are available through links at alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus

Spike in Covid Cases Leads to New Restrictions

The City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) remind everyone that you are safest at home. Older adults and persons with underlying medical conditions are at greater risk for severe disease and are advised to minimize potential exposures as much as possible. To stop the spread of COVID-19, the state order and City ordinance require everyone to wear a mask over their noses and mouths in indoor public places and when at least 6 feet of physical distance cannot be maintained between those of different households in outdoor public places, with limited exceptions. Your neighbors and loved ones are counting on you.

activity to 75% of the normal occupancy limit, not to exceed 25 persons, including instructors and participants. All other existing guidance in section A, number 5 of Executive Order 67 remains required.

All other businesses must follow the Guidance for All Business Sectors of Executive Order 67. While the social gathering limit of 25 does not apply to individuals performing functions of their employment, assembled in an educational instructional setting, or participating in religious services, everyone must still observe applicable mask and distancing requirements.

The City strongly urges all businesses to follow these new measures, implement measures to help patrons maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others outside their household, and encourage everyone age 5 or older to wear masks in all public settings, as required by the City ordinance.

AHD estimates that approximately 1 in 13 Alexandrians who tested positive for COVID-19 have required hospitalization. An estimated 66% of Virginia adults who become infected never have symptoms. The best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19: wear a mask in public, maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others, and frequently wash your hands and carry and use hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol. Help your loved ones and neighbors by answering a call from AHD if identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19, and download the Virginia Department of Health's COVIDWISE app to be quickly and anonymously notified of likely exposure to the virus.

Impact of Restrictions on Restaurants and Businesses

The new statewide mitigation measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 are now in effect and will impact restaurant and fitness center operations, but will have limited impact on other businesses.

In restaurants, on-site sale and consumption of alcohol must end at 10 p.m., and the restaurants must close by midnight. Parties of more than 25 may not be seated or served, and customers must be served at tables 6 feet apart (and not at bar seating). Masks must be worn at all times when not drinking or eating. Delivery and take-out services may continue to serve alcohol after 10 p.m. as permitted by existing regulations by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority.

Fitness and exercise facilities must reduce their occupancy of indoor and outdoor ac-

New Window Shades For Thanksgiving

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Wonderful FUR-TRIMMED SUITS

Charming styles, splendid qualities in the favored materials of Diener do line, chifon, broadcloth, velours and all the seasons popular fabrics. These wonderful suits on sale tomorrow at the following prices:

\$29.50 SUITS	\$19.67
\$39.50 SUITS	\$26.00
\$49.50 SUITS	\$33.00
\$79.50 SUITS	\$53.00

(Bendheim's-2nd Floor)

HOSE

Van Raitie Silk Hose, slightly irregular, in brown and black, special for Saturday \$1.79

Ladies Glove Silk Hose in plain and fancy, regular \$2.49, special \$2.99

Ladies Merle-Like Hose, in brown and black, special at a box \$3.00

Children's Buster Brown Hose, in brown and black, special, pair \$2.50

Boys' heavy ribbed hose special, \$3.50

Men's good quality lister hose, special at \$2.50

Children's all wool sport hose, special at \$1.69 and \$2.25

Box Handkerchiefs For Xmas.

Ladies linen handkerchiefs with hand embroidered corner, 2 in box, special at a box \$1.00

Ladies Plain and Fancy Crepe de Chine Handkerchiefs in pretty colors, 3 in a box, special, a box 50c

WHY NOT A NEW DRESS

FOR THANKSGIVING

Assembled here is a special lot of 75 dresses representing our choicest styles, tricotines, sateens, canton crepe, serges and taffeta, dresses that originally sold up to \$49.50, on sale tomorrow

\$22.50

(Bendheim's-2nd Floor)

IN THE BASEMENT

At this season of the year we find a certain number of odds and ends accumulated in the Ready to Wear Section which we place on sale tomorrow at very substantial reductions.

Serge Dresses, slip over style, reduced to \$2.98

Satin, Tricotine Dresses up to \$15.00 reduced to \$9.98

Georgette Waists, values to \$7.00 reduced to \$3.98

Georgette Waists, values to \$4.00 reduced to \$2.49

House Dresses in solid color or striped chambray, special \$4.99

Women's, Misses, Children's underwears, values to \$1.50, special 95c

Children's White Sweaters, colors white and maroon, sizes 38 to 44, sold up to \$2.25 on sale tomorrow \$2.29

Children's white thread and V-neck dresses, sizes 6 to 10, sold up to \$1.50, special \$1.00

(Only two to a customer)

Baby Bonnets, in all styles, slightly soiled \$1.00

Direct lined Hose, sale \$1.00

Children's Sport Hose, pair \$1.00

"JUST LIKE SISTER'S"

So often we hear that remark when showing those cunning little styles of children's dresses. The variety is so large that we won't attempt to quote prices, but write you to look at our very pleasing line.

(Second Floor)

Long Suedene Gloves in brown, grey and heaver, special \$1.00

Suedene Gauntlets in brown, grey and white, special at \$1.00

Two Button Suedene Gloves in brown, grey, poncee and white, special at \$1.00

Bergain in UNDERWEAR

Women's and men's underwear in a choice lot of 200 cotton suits, socks and shoes, all sizes, values up to \$20.00 on sale tomorrow only

(Second Floor)

Gingham School Dresses

Beautiful little dresses for the little ones from 2 to 12 years. Well made and fine washable materials, solid colors and check, gingham \$2.49 Dresses \$2.49 \$1.99 Dresses \$1.99

A New Rug for Thanksgiving

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3125.00 9x12 Oriental Rug	362.50 8x10 1/2 Axminster
167.50 9x12 Axminster	125.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
155.00 9x12 Axminster	115.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
135.00 9x12 Axminster	105.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
125.00 9x12 Axminster	95.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
115.00 9x12 Axminster	85.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
105.00 9x12 Axminster	75.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
95.00 9x12 Axminster	65.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
85.00 9x12 Axminster	55.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
75.00 9x12 Axminster	45.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
65.00 9x12 Axminster	35.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
55.00 9x12 Axminster	25.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
45.00 9x12 Axminster	15.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster
35.00 9x12 Axminster	5.00 8x10 1/2 Axminster

(See our Window Display)

An advertisement in the Alexandria Gazette from Nov. 18, 1921.

Virtual PLUS+ Helpline Now Remains Open Through January 2021

When the ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Helpline began in August 2020 to help families transition into an unconventional school year, it was expected to be a short term endeavor, over in a matter of weeks.

More than 12,500 calls later, the multilingual, friendly and knowledgeable voice on the end of a line will now continue to operate through January 2021.

In December 2020, the Alexandria PTA Council will be designating a portion of the money raised by their Giving Tuesday fundraiser to help support this vital work which provides real time answers to questions about Virtual PLUS+ and the 2020-21 academic year.

"Staying on top of the many changes to the school year due to COVID-19 is a heavy lift for families, especially when English is not your first language," said Taneika L. Taylor Tukan, ACPS community outreach manager.

"Just being able to connect to and actually speak with a staff member who can patiently walk you through how to create a PowerSchool account or log back into Clever after the device has powered off for example, has been of great benefit to our families."

"The work this team does has been appreciated and we are delighted we can continue the service through the end of January next year."

Rotating teams of ten staff members working virtually Monday to Friday take calls from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on anything from filling out applications for Free and Reduced Meals to helping understanding changes to a student's schedule.

While 70% of callers do not count English as their first language, the service is available to all families who have questions about any aspect of Virtual PLUS+ in four languages.

Spanish accounts for 44% of those calls, English 30%, Amharic 14% and Arabic 13%.

For those who speak another of ACPS's 121 languages and when one of our specific language helpline members is not available, an interpreter is patched in from the

Language Line service. More than half of the staff manning the lines are bilingual; all are able to use Language Line to communicate with any parent.

The most common questions continue to be about technology and nutrition access, but whenever changes are announced, the ten staff members working each day see an uptick in calls.

In September, the team was averaging more than 350 calls a day, and while those numbers have decreased through October, as our reentry plans come into effect those calls are expected to pick up again.

To prepare for the day ahead, each morning Ms. Tukan sends a "need to know" email to the team to keep them up to date with all ACPS updates that could generate questions.

If they don't have the answers, they reach out to someone in our division who does.

The call center staff, manning the lines each day from their homes, are existing ACPS employees who have shown the willingness and flexibility to switch from a different role for a few months while our buildings remain closed. The current roster of 16 include administrative assistants, school registrars, parent liaisons and several Central Office employees.

This month, twenty new recruits will be trained and ready to take over as the original crew return to their regular positions.

"We are really thankful to those staff who have temporarily transitioned from another department to join the Helpline, said Tukan. "Their dedication to helping our families and students has been wonderful to see," she added.

The Virtual PLUS+ Helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For Spanish:

Call or text 703-844-3424

For Arabic:

Call or text 703-927-7095

For Amharic:

Call or text 703-927-6866

For English and all other languages:

Call or text 703-844-1763

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

and can provide a donation receipt for your millage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you

can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Notice is hereby given to members of the NY not-for-profit corporation, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot until December 8, 2020 to elect the President-Elect, four seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 7, 2021, and may vote on proposed amendments to the ASCO Bylaws and Certificate of Incorporation. Information about proxy ballots is available at www.asco.org/election. Completed proxy ballots received will be delivered to the Chair of the ASCO Board for casting at a special meeting to be held online on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 9:00-9:30 AM Eastern Standard Time, USA. Members will be sent a link to access the special meeting in advance of the event. Members with questions can email ASCOelection@asco.org or call 571-483-1316. This notice is issued at the direction of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

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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

I'm Here to Report

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As my brother, Richard, has often said: "If the oncologist is happy then I'm happy." Let me update that sentiment slightly: If the endocrinologist is happy then I'm happy." And so we should all be happy. Yesterday, I had my post CT scan telephone appointment with my endocrinologist to discuss the previous day's lab work and the two days previous scan. She was "very encouraged." "News," as I told her, "with which I can live." And more than just the words she spoke, it's the manner in which she spoke them. Her tone was positive, uplifting; she was very pleased. I could almost see her smiling. After hearing it all, she didn't need to tell me to have a nice weekend. I was well on my way. Oddly enough, I have learned to take good news in stride. It's the bad news that has a tendency to knock me off my gait.

Prior to this Friday morning call, I had received, electronically, as I usually do, the automated releases of both my lab work and the radiologist's report. Having been down this road for nearly 12 years now, I am not unaware of discouraging results. The words I read and the numbers I see always tell a story. And even though I'm somewhat experienced, the interpretation and meaning of it all doesn't automatically jump out at me. Oh sure, I'm familiar enough and certainly know what lab results (levels) generally speaking are problematic (creatinine and bilirubin particularly). But there's so much more that I don't know. Moreover, there is no real breakdown-type summary to clarify beyond all my reasonable doubts as to what is happening in/to my body. I'm sort of left to my own devices. Devices which have proven to be unreliable - and certainly ones not very educated on the matter at hand. If this were about baseball, I wouldn't be clueless at all. But it's cancer and science and medicine; all the subjects I know very little about.

Released automatically, I receive the same document that the doctors do. That means what I'm reading is the actual report, written by a doctor for a doctor. The report is full of medical jargon. And though there are "impressions," provided as well as an organ-by-organ characterization, until I speak with one of my doctors and have them review the report with me, I'm never quite sure if what I think I understand is wishful thinking or whether my worst nightmare is happening during the day.

As a result, there are lots of words and medical assessments that are lost on me. It's not like reading a baseball box score when I know what everything means and its significance. Sure, there are many familiar words, but there are more that are not. Obviously "no new sites of metastatic disease I can understand and appreciate, literally. But "aortic atherosclerotic calcification" and intrathoracic and axillary lymphadenopathy" I don't. Understand them? I can barely pronounce them, let alone spell them. And as much information is provided in these reports, I feel as if I need a scorecard to identify all the players and determine what it all means.

Now when I have that follow-up phone call with the endocrinologist/oncologist, the report is explained. However, the explanations are not chapter and verse, they are more like sentence and paragraph. They're short and hopefully, as it was time, sweet. Of course, I could ask more questions but as the comedian Dennis Miller once joked on the radio: "I don't care how the popcorn is popped, I just want it to pop." So too am I less concerned with the popping (details). I want to know if I'm going to live or die. Unfortunately, the reports - and the conversations don't really offer a glimpse into the future as much as they attempt to clarify the present - which apparently is as good as it is likely to get. If 11 years - and nine months as a cancer patient has taught me anything, it has taught me to be grateful for any good news, however indeterminate.

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

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NEWS

Addressing the Demands of Virtual University Classrooms

FROM PAGE 11

face of so many challenges," he said. "Another silver lining is that we've been able to invite colleagues and experts from around the country and world to join us in our [virtual] classroom in a way that was harder to imagine before the pandemic."

Distance learning offers the flexibility of location from which classes can be attended. "Some of my students are able to be more engaged because they don't have to spend time commuting, said Petillo. "My virtual attendance this semester appears to be higher than my typical face-to-face attendance in

previous semesters."

Instructors have been forced to gain new skills as a result of distance learning, says Petillo. "I have had to learn new presentation and teaching skills in a compressed time frame," she said. "I am growing in confidence and ability with teaching online. There is more of a personal connection with the class than I had expected."

"I think when we return to our in-person classrooms, we'll both appreciate how much we were able to do online, but also some of the advantages and joys of learning together in person," added Flanagan.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

MONDAY/NOV. 23

How is Covid Affecting Businesses? Agenda Alexandria will hold its November program on Monday, Nov. 23 at 12 noon. How is COVID-19 pandemic affecting Alexandria businesses. A panel of key local leaders will take a deep dive into how businesses are "Surviving or Thriving Through the Pandemic as They Adjust to the New Economic Reality." The virtual event will be accessible on Facebook and directly through the Agenda Alexandria website <https://agendaalexandria.com>.

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Alexandria Restaurant Partners is ready for Thanksgiving with exclusive offers and menus from Palette 22, Mia's Italian Kitchen, The Majestic and Joe Theismann's for dine-in and takeout. The menus are priced at \$29 a person.

PAVILION FOR POTOMAC YARD METRO APPROVED

At its meeting on November 14, the Alexandria City Council unanimously approved an amended development special use permit for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, which adds a southwest access pavilion to the new Metrorail Station at E. Glebe Road and Potomac Avenue. The enhancement follows two years of extensive engagement with the community, including the Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group, to provide a substantial entryway to the station within available funding. The enhancement will be funded with a \$50 million state grant, which the City received as part of the Commonwealth of Virginia's incentive package for the new Amazon headquarters and Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center.

The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals.

Interested candidates should email FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the

2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's pre-teens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org/ for more.

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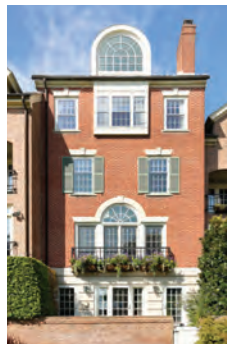
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