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# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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JANUARY 21, 2021

## Honoring the Legacy

### Churches distribute food for MLK Day.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**U**.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) joined volunteers at Shiloh Baptist Church in Old Town for a free food distribution as part of the annual MLK Day of Service Jan. 18.

"I am here to honor Dr. King's legacy," Warner said. "In the midst of the pandemic and the violence of Jan. 6, I couldn't think of anything better to do than to be here to help my fellow Virginians and fellow Americans who are in need of assistance."

More than 500 bags of food were distributed during the socially distanced, drive-thru event. This included meat, fresh fruits, and vegetables provided by the Share Food Network.

"Every year we do something for the Martin Luther King Day of Service," said Dr. Taft Quincy Heatley, senior pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. "Due to the pandemic, we felt the need to address the need for food. Food shortage is still an issue in the Alexandria community. The pandemic has caused many to lose their jobs – people are unemployed or underemployed so if we can give them a week or two of food, this is what we wanted to do."

Alexandria's Agudus Achim Congregation held a MLK Day of Service in partnership with Food for Others.

"We are collecting power packs for Food for Others that will feed children over the



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET  
U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, right, is joined by Shiloh Baptist Church Associate Pastor Octavia Caldwell, center, and volunteer Marilyn Patterson at the church's food drive in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. day of service on Jan. 18.



Volunteers at Agudus Achim Congregation collect donations for Food for Others as part of the MLK Day of Service Jan. 18.



Sen. Mark Warner holds a food bag ready for distribution during the Shiloh Baptist Church MLK Day of Service Jan. 18.

weekend," said coordinator Samara Weinstein. "There are so many food insecure children in this area so for MLK Day we are doing a day of service."

We are expecting over 700 bags, which means we will be able to

feed over 700 kids."

Shiloh Baptist Church holds a monthly food distribution for the community.

"Dr. King was all about service," said Heatley. "Today especially is a perfect day to do this."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, right, and Sheriff Lt. Daniel Gordon stand on the Virginia side of the 14th Street Bridge Jan. 19 as Alexandria Sheriff's Office deputies oversee the closure of the bridge during the Presidential Inauguration.

## 'I Commend Them All' Alexandria Sheriff's Office spearheads 14th Street Bridge closing during inauguration.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**heriff Dana Lawhorne led a contingent of local deputies from the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in handling the traffic closures at the 14th Street Bridge in support of security efforts for the Presidential Inauguration in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Virginia State Police.

"The Virginia State Police requested our department to take command of closing the 14th Street Bridge for the inauguration," Lawhorne said. "Sheriff Lt. Daniel Gordon was responsible for the planning and implementation of the operations plan."

Several bridges that connect Virginia to Washington were ordered

closed through the early morning hours of Jan. 21. The Alexandria Sheriff's Office was among the local and state authorities assisting with the closures of the Potomac River spans under an agreement with the U.S. Secret Service.

Bridge closures from Virginia into Washington included the Theodore Roosevelt Bridge (Interstate 66), Arlington Memorial Bridge, Interstate 395 Bridge and 14th Street Bridge, beginning at 6 a.m. Jan. 19 and ending at 6 a.m. Jan. 21.

"The plan was executed by deputies from the Alexandria Sheriff's Office with the assistance of Arlington County and Herndon police departments," Lawhorne added. "The women and men of all law enforcement stand tall while facing constant threats to their safety. I commend them all."



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813 Oronoco Street



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# Killing the Death Penalty

Lawmakers consider bill to abolish capital punishment in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A few weeks after Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter was sworn into office in 2014, he found himself prosecuting a serial murderer. Charles Severance was indicted for capital murder after a killing spree that included three prominent Alexandria residents over the course of a decade as part of a deranged attempt at revenge against a city he blamed for separating him from his son in a custody hearing. Porter's friends in the law-enforcement community were urging him to seek the death penalty, but Porter had campaign as a prosecutor opposed to the death penalty and he wasn't about to back down now.

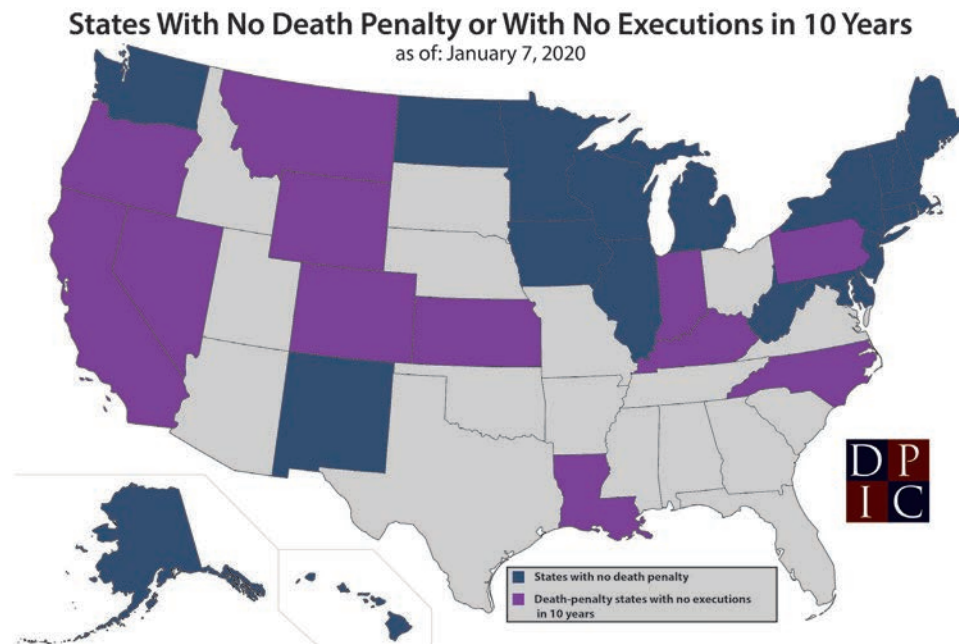
"I sincerely questioned the morality of seeking capital punishment for a person so affected by mental illness," Porter wrote in his book about prosecuting Severance. "My waiver of the death penalty spurred some to criticize me online. I remain convinced I made the right choice."

Virginia has executed people longer than any other state, a tradition that stretches back into colonial days when Captain George Kendall was executed for treason. Over the years, the commonwealth has executed more than 1,300 people. Now, Virginia may be about to join 22 other states that have abolished the death penalty. A bill to discontinue capital punishment has already been approved with a bipartisan vote in a Senate committee, and Gov. Ralph Northam says he's ready to sign the legislation if it reaches his desk.

"I believe the time has come to abolish the death penalty in Virginia," said Porter in an interview this week. "Human beings are imperfect, and that means it's just not reasonable to expect that the death penalty can always be implemented justly or impartially or infallibly."

**RARELY IS A VOTE** in the General Assembly a matter of life or death the way it is right now for two people currently on Death Row. For them, the debate over ending capital punishment isn't an academic discussion or a political debate. Supporters of the death penalty say the ultimate punishment is necessary to make sure dangerous people are removed from society.

"An executive death sentence absolutely guarantees the killer will never kill again," said Michelle Dermeyer, the widow of a Virginia State Police trooper who was murdered in 2016. "It is imperative that Virginia continues to allow the death penalty as an option for those families who make a decision to seek it as justice for their loved one's death."



Last year, Louisiana became the 22nd state to abolish the death penalty. Lawmakers in Virginia are now considering adding the commonwealth to that list.

Critics of the death penalty say it's too expensive, doesn't act as a deterrent and is used disproportionately against Black people. The coalition of organizations supporting legislation to end capital punishment in Virginia include religious groups, civil rights groups and families of victims who say murdering the murderers will not bring justice. Some of the most vocal advocates are the lawyers who have seen the process up and close and personal in courtrooms across Virginia.



Scott Surovell

"For 25 years I've been walking into courtrooms and purporting to have dignified discussions about whether or not we should make one of the other people in the room stop breathing," said Doug Ramseur, a board member of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "There's no denying that it's racist and values white lives over Black ones, and it has the potential to execute innocent people and it's just plain unnecessary."

Most of the opposition to eliminating the death penalty comes from people connected to the law-enforcement community. They say criminals who kill officers deserve to be put to death. When the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee considered the bill earlier this week, one of the speakers who testified against the bill was former Sen. Bill Carrico (R-40), who spent many years as a Virginia State Police trooper.

"The death penalty is reserved for the most pathological most heinous crimes that are committed against people," said Carrico. "When they commit these crimes they commit them against you and I. They commit them against law abiding people."

THE BILL TO end the death penalty was introduced by Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who points to examples where executed defendants were later found to be innocent. Laying out his case to the committee this week, Surovell said one of the problems with putting together juries in capital cases is that they exclude people who are morally opposed to the death penalty, which prevents about 43 percent of people in having a say over whether defendants are executed. He also dismissed the argument that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to killing officers.

"Anybody who's dumb enough to take a shot at a law enforcement officers is probably asking to be killed," said Surovell. "I mean, you're going up against someone who's armed, and the idea that having a death penalty on the books is going to deter

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## EXPANDED COVID VACCINATIONS

Governor Northam announced this week that Virginia is preparing to expand vaccination eligibility to 65+ and individuals age 16-64 with a high-risk medical condition or disability. The Health Department will begin registering individuals in these new groups, on Monday, January 18. However, it will take some time to get through this group. Vaccine supply is limited and the ability to vaccinate

someone who's that stupid or reckless or craven doesn't hold water."

The Virginia State Police Association is leading to opposition to Surovell's bill, arguing that people who take the life of law-enforcement officers deserve to be put to death. Making the case to senators that they should continue executing defendants, executive director Wayne Huggins recounted the case of a special agent who was shot and killed in 2017. His murderer was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to 36 years. He also mentioned the killer of a Richmond police officer who was released after serving 40 years.

"Life no longer means life," said Huggins. "Not only are they not getting the death sentence, they're not even getting life in prison."

THE LAST TIME the death penalty was used in an Alexandria case was in 1990, when Wilbert Lee Evans was executed by electrocution after being convicted of murdering Alexandria Sheriff's Deputy William Truesdale.

The murder happened in January 1981 when Evans shot Truesdale with his own weapon while the deputy was leading the inmate back to jail after a hearing at the courthouse. Defense lawyers accused Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney John Kloch of withholding crucial evidence in the trial. Eyewitnesses said Evans bled profusely as he was being electrocuted.

"I am dead, and you don't have to hate me anymore," was Evans' last statement, an apology to the Truesdale family.

Supporters of the bill to abolish the death penalty point to the glaring racial inequality in how capital punishment is applied. When the governor outlined his opposition to the death penalty in his State of the Commonwealth address last week, he pointed out that a person is more than three times as likely to be sentenced to death when the victim is white than when the victim is Black.

"The death penalty is racist," said Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano. "The role of the prosecutor always should be to build a criminal justice system that is fair for all people and is also effective, and the death penalty is neither of those things."

is dependent on the amount of supply they are provided from the state.

Key data points:  
Currently Virginia in its entirety receives about 110,000 doses of vaccine a week.  
168,000 residents in the Fairfax Health District are considered to be within phase 1b.  
Last week, the Fairfax County Health Department had vaccinated 15,980 people since Christmas. This does not include vaccinations administered by Inova or at long-term care facilities.

In addition, they are working with Inova Health System to vaccinate frontline essential workers and 40,000 public and private school staff

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9



## Vote for Sarah Brady Elementary School

To the Editor:

Why not recognize our teachers and rename the Maury Elementary School for a former Alexandria Elementary Public School teacher who gained national prominence promoting public safety for all Americans? This would be inspirational to both our teachers and students.

The Alexandria School Board has a momentous opportunity to recognize and demonstrate its respect for the extraordinary achievement of a former Alexandria student and Alexandria elementary school teacher, the late Sarah Brady. Her remarkable leadership was largely responsible for President Clinton signing the “Brady Bill” into law.

Following the shooting of her husband, President Ronald Reagan’s beloved Press Secretary Jim Brady, Sarah Brady led an extraordinary national effort to protect all 330 million Americans from handguns being obtained by individuals not legally permitted to own them. This legislation did not inhibit the rights of anyone, it simply imposed a “three day waiting period” while a background check could be completed to ensure the purchaser met the legal requirements to own a handgun.

Because of the ferocious opposition of special interests on Capitol Hill, the well-funded National Rifle Association, and various state and local groups, Sarah led an exhaustive campaign over seven years, six Congressional votes, and three Presidencies, which culminated in the passage into law of the Brady Bill.

This legislation enhanced the personal safety



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Gun control activist Sarah Brady, shown with her husband Jim Brady, was raised in Alexandria and taught elementary school in Old Town during the first years of integration.**

and lives of all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color, gender, age, or economic circumstances. It only impinged on the supposed Constitutional rights of those needing a handgun to shoot someone within three days.

Before gaining international recognition, Sarah Brady grew up in Alexandria’s Parkfairfax section, graduated from George Mason Elementary and Francis Hammond High School, and earned a Degree in Elementary Education from William and Mary.

She began a four-year teaching career in Alexandria at the ACPS Ficklin Elementary School in north Old Town during the first year of integration. She experienced ugly demonstrations and threats to her personal safety while many of her students from the public housing projects vowed “we will protect you” as she manifested her support of racial justice.

The renaming of Maury School for a former

ACPS student, an ACPS elementary school teacher, a modern woman who achieved extraordinary national prominence to enhance the personal safety of all Americans while caring for a paralyzed husband and raising a school aged child traumatized by his father being shot, is an unparalleled success. This success could be transformative to both our teachers and school children.

To recognize the remarkable leadership of the leading spokespersons for Handgun Control from 1989 until 2012, the organization honored Sarah and Jim Brady by renaming as the “Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.” Sarah and Jim then enjoyed their final years of retirement at Goodwin House in Alexandria where they were often visited by then Vice President Biden. Their wit and personality made them favorites among the professional staff and residents at Goodwin House.

Alexandria needs Sarah Brady Elementary School. Named for a modern woman of extraordinary achievement who helped all Americans.

Show your support to our School Board by mail to: ACPS School Board, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 610, Alexandria, Va. 22314 or via email to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. at [superintendent@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:superintendent@acps.k12.va.us).

**Reverend Dr. George Pera,**  
Alexandria Living Legend

**Debbie & Jerry File,**  
ACPS School Nurse,

ACPS Alumnus and ACPS Parents

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Plus of a Progressive Prosecutor

I wish to address concerns raised by a previous letter to the editor concerning inadequacies of Progressive Prosecutors due to their lack of experiencing previous decades where crime was higher.

I am the current City Council appointed Chair of Alexandria Community Services Board, the public behavioral health department. I am also someone who has had the fortune to see the buddings of new policies which will help people with behavior challenges starting here in Alexandria, and someone who has required the services of a progressive prosecutor when I was in a mental health crisis and the only path for me to receive treatment was by being forced into it with the involvement of Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter.

I will use myself as one model and Alexandria serial murderer Charles Severance as another, when it comes to the progressive policies of a progressive Commonwealth’s Attorney.

I will not give an entire history

of the public mental health system here in the USA. I will just say that those with biases from the 1960s and 1970s would not be as quick to utilize their services as a functional tool for breaking the cycle of recidivism as our “young” Commonwealth’s Attorney.

I was arrested for a non-violent crime, but a crime nonetheless, while in a serious mental health crisis. My condition was treatable with medication. However, as anyone with close personal experiences with someone who experiences a serious mental health condition will tell you, insight is almost universally absent during a serious mental health crisis.

What is to be done with a person who breaks the law while in a mental health crisis? I was given, then mandated, treatment while hospitalized to determine competency to stand trial. But would this softest-of-sticks approach followed by the carrot of my sentence of a year of mental health probation do for the safety for the citizens of Alexandria? Was Commonwealth’s Attorney Porter unaware of the dangers of letting a madman loose on the public?

While on probation, I took my medicine every day. Then about 6 months into my probation, I

started to realize how much my medicine was my control against my illness, rather than Commonwealth’s Attorney Porter’s control over my mind and freedom. While on probation, I finished my Master’s Degree in Biology at GMU, started my first voluntary term on the CSB board, during which I rose to vice chair and then chair, all the while contacting Commonwealth’s Attorney Porter as a grateful and now productive member of society with my policy ideas and opinions about the best strategies for breaking the cycle of crime for any and all of Alexandria’s residents that misbehaved while experiencing mental health crises. I still have feelings about my time being prosecuted by Commonwealth’s Attorney Porter. But his interests are one of reducing crime while never forgetting the humanity of those people he prosecutes.

Now I will contrast my situation with that of infamous Alexandria serial murderer Charles Severance. As a person who feels I have experienced persecution because of a mental health diagnosis, I was concerned when the last of Severance’s murders was announced in the paper that the prosecution could be based around a mental health diagnosis, which would serve to bias, rather than properly identify the killer.

In “The Parable of the Knocker” SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

by Bryan Porter, Porter speculates about the mental health of Charles Severance. Any likely mental health condition the killer had, which motivated the killings, was not treatable currently by any medication, and went so far as to differentiate a mental illness from a personality disorder. While this is still a stigmatizing term, it drew the attention to motive rather than any perceived deficiencies by the public of mental illness.

Commonwealth's Attorney Porter uses a much more human approach to prosecution than any seen in the 1960s and 1970s. A progressive prosecutor is one whose approach is able to separate someone who is a danger to society and is required to be jailed for life, and someone who with the proper support, can become a highly successful, highly educated, advocate for the vulnerable. That is the progressive approach.

I will continue to work with Commonwealth's Attorney Porter to advocate for future improvements to the criminal justice process, to find all those who can become functioning and contributing members of society, and see they are given the support and help to bring about that change.

It does not escape me that with a Commonwealth's Attorney with the mentality held so commonly by those from the 1960s and 1970s, I could still to this day be a burden on the community, or worse an expense because of an inappropriate, unnecessary and costly incarceration.

The only difference is the virtue of the progressive prosecutor that I had, and still have the fortune to serve my home town.

**Henry Johnson**  
Alexandria



Thomas Chambliss Williams.

## Remembering T.C. Williams

To the Editor:

In the aftermath of the controversial decision of the Alexandria School Board in late November to change the name of T.C. Williams High School, I think it is important to remember why the school was named after him. There was a tablet on display in the lobby of the school with a picture of him and an inscription describing the attributes of Mr. T.C. Williams.

It was pictured in the 1975-76 T.C. Williams yearbook and reads as follows: "This school is dedicated in honor of T.C. Williams by the City of Alexandria in grateful appreciation of his many years of dedicated service as Superintendent of public schools. His vision, competent leadership, courage and

energy have been major factors contributing to the excellence of public education in this city. November 1965."

Mr. T.C. Williams died in Alexandria on Feb. 24, 1968 at the age of 73. His death was overshadowed by the traumatic events of that turbulent time, namely the bloody Tet offensive at the height of the Vietnam War. But his legacy cannot be forgotten.

**Greg Paspatis**  
Alexandria, Va.  
T.C. Williams class of 1978

## Acute Inadequacies of Stormwater System

With the acute inadequacies in the City's stormwater system coming sharply into focus in the last two years, it has become apparent that when the City introduced the Storm Water Use Fee in 2018 it cynically and quietly moved personnel costs from the general fund to this new income stream. With almost one-fourth of the fee (\$3.2 million in FY 22), it is hardly surprising that we have seen virtually no visible progress in addressing Alexandria's residential flooding problems.

Even with doubling the fee, only limited progress will be made in addressing the massive problems that the City is facing in modernizing and expanding the capacity of the storm water system. A major reason is that \$52.5 million of the funds raised will go for personnel costs.

I am opposed to doubling the Storm Water Use Fee, unless all personnel costs for T&ES are paid out of the general budget. Yes, this will necessitate finding economies elsewhere in the budget, but the City government has long avoided going on a serious financial diet.

Given the proposed doubling in fees, the City needs to establish a citizenry oversight board on expenditures for this fund with robust powers.

If you agree, I hope you will either write to the City Council or sign up to speak at its Jan. 26 meeting.

**Tom Slayton**  
Alexandria

## Many of Taylor Run Trees Slated for Euthanasia Are 100+ Years Old

If you use relevant soils data to calculate phosphorus savings from the City's planned \$10 million "restorations" of Taylor Run, Strawberry Run, and Lucky Run, rather than using the strange assumptions that the City does, these projects would achieve less than a fourth of the environmental benefit that the City claims. These projects aim to reduce erosion of phosphorus by reducing the depth of incised streams with tons of fill dirt, inserting rock vanes, and spreading their flow

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 6



## ALEXANDRIA RESTAURANT WEEK

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# Motorcyclist Killed on Beltway

**A**t 12:51 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, Virginia State Police responded to a crash on the southbound side of Interstate 495 near the 54.8 mile marker. A 2005 BMW R1200 GS motorcycle ran off the right side of the road and struck a disabled dump truck parked on the right shoulder.

The driver of the motorcycle, William H. Engelbrecht, 53, of Alexandria, Va. died at the scene. He was wearing a helmet.

There was no one in the dump truck at the time of the crash.

The crash remains under investigation.

## Police Investigate Serious Motor Vehicle Crash

**T**he Alexandria Police Department continues to investigate a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021, at approximately 2:30 p.m., in a parking lot in the 200 block of S. Van Dorn Street. The preliminary investigation indicates the male victim, a 59-year old Alexandria resident, was walking across the parking lot when he was hit by a vehicle driven by a 52-year-old Alexandria resident, who remained at the scene.

The victim was transported to an area hospital, where he lost both legs as a result of the crash. He remains in critical but stable condition. The driver was arrested and charged with Maiming of Another Resulting from Driving While Intoxicated.

Members of the Alexandria Police Department Crash Reconstruction Team are investigating the crash. Anyone who witnessed this crash is asked to contact Investigator Jordan Young at 571-414-8975.

## Upcoming Actions on Enhanced Gun Safety Legislation

**D**el. Patrick Hope (D-47), who chairs the House Public Safety Committee, said after gun safety bills passed subcommittee today, that on Friday the full committee will be taking up legislation to continue to prevent gun violence.

❖ HB 1992, sponsored by Del. Kathleen Murphy would impose penalties for the purchase, possession, or transportation of firearms following conviction for assault and battery of a family or household member. This bill will allow for the Commonwealth to enforce federal law, and help to limit potential gun related fatalities resulting from domestic disputes.

❖ HB 2276, sponsored by Del. Marcus Simon would prohibit the manufacture, import, sale, transfer or possession of plastic firearms and unfinished frames or receivers and unserialized firearms. This legislation would address the critical and emerging threat posed by so-called "Ghost guns" and 3D printed guns.

❖ HB 2295, sponsored by Del. Mark Levine will prohibit any person from carrying a firearm or stun weapon within Capitol Square and the surrounding area, as well as into buildings owned or leased by the Commonwealth. Crucially this legislation will codify

SEE UPCOMING ACTIONS, PAGE 9

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 5

in floods. Phosphorus, a nutrient that naturally occurs in sediment, can contribute to problems like algae blooms and dead zones if it washes into the Bay. Nutrient reduction yields valuable environmental credits that would allow the City to avoid other costly phosphorus reduction measures.

The environmental costs of these stream restorations, including clear-cutting hundreds of trees, bulldozing away all life forms in a 40-foot strip on each side of these streams, and constructing a heavy equipment access road, will be larger than the projected benefit in phosphorus reduction.

The City's elaborate calculation of how much these construction projects will reduce the erosion of phosphorus assumes that there are 1.05 pounds of phosphorus in every ton of sediment in the soils around these streams. Strangely, the City bases this key data point on soil samples taken near four streams surrounded by farms in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Inexplicably, the City and its engineers have no curiosity about how much phosphorus is in the soil near the proposed Alexandria stream projects. They refuse to take local samples. To fill the void, the City's Natural Resource Manager/Plant Ecologist, Rod Simmons, has taken ten samples near these streams, finding that phosphorus levels actually average less than a fourth of the Pennsylvania levels assumed by the City. This Analysis cost \$25 per sample). Simmons' findings are no surprise; throughout Northern Virginia, phosphorus levels around forested upper headwaters streams tend to be low. Their heads thrust in the sand, the City and its engineers refuse even to discuss Simmons' samples.

In planning the Taylor Run project, the City actually counted the number of trees that it would have to cut, rather than counting trees in Pennsylvania. So why does it insist on using phosphorus soil samples from agricultural streams more than 150 miles away? The City's only response is that the law allows it to. The only "law" that the City cites is the Recommendations of the Expert Panel on Stream Restoration, which actually encourages cities to use local samples rather than rely on default values. I suspect that in applying the law, a reviewing court would rule that the city's action, based on irrelevant Lancaster County phosphorus levels, was arbitrary, capricious, or an abuse of discretion.

Even if the law allows the City to use Pennsylvania soil data to plan expensive and invasive construction projects in forested Alex-

andria parks, why would it do so? Suppose Alexandria's public health czar, in planning a strategy for COVID-19, insisted on relying on infection incidence data from Lancaster Pennsylvania, rather than Alexandria, and infection rates in those cities were radically different. And suppose the czar's only justification was that it was legal to make that strange assumption. I have a feeling that Alexandria's mayor would fire the czar.

I believe that the City and its engineers know that Simmons' measurements are correct and that they are grossly overestimating how much phosphorus their project would sequester. They apparently don't care how little phosphorus these projects will keep out of the Bay. If these projects keep out less than a fourth of what they purport to, so be it. Alexandria will be entitled to the inflated number of phosphorus credits, regardless of how little phosphorus is actually saved. In other words, the City is cynically gaming the TDML-MS4 environmental credit system.

If the City used actual phosphorus levels to calculate credits, rather than Pennsylvania default values, the cost of the phosphorus reduction per dollar spent would be more than four times greater – more than \$72,000 a pound, rather than the City's \$18,000 per pound estimate. Surely the City could find cheaper ways to decrease phosphorus pollution. (I would love to help). And those other measures could actually reduce phosphorus erosion by the target amount, rather than just purporting to.

The City's plan to clear 269 trees along Taylor Run to make way for its construction project highlights another reason the project won't perform as advertised. The Expert Panel's Recommendations warn that cutting down extensive tree canopies reduces nutrient removal until the replacement plantings mature, which could take decades. They cite a study showing that the older the trees, the greater the effectiveness of riparian cover. Many of the Taylor Run trees slated for euthanasia are more than 100 years old. The City's plan fails to account for this effect.

The City's environmental credit gaming ploy demonstrates a lack of regard for either Alexandria's riparian forests or for the Bay. It makes a mockery of the City's slogan that Alexandria is an "eco-city." It's not too late for the City to come clean.

**Jim Clark**  
Alexandria

*Jim Clark author is a retired government attorney, natural resources technician, and Alexandria resident.*

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Get Ready for Winter Restaurant Week – To Go

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKETT

**A**fter last summer's Alexandria Restaurant Week, you know the drill by now: Instead of simply offering dine-in deals, restaurants are offering up takeout or curbside options as well. And they're not phoning it in; dozens of restaurants are participating, and the menu selections are plentiful. From pan-Asian to pizza to pubs, there are a multitude of ways to support your local businesses.

By and large, from Jan. 22 through Feb. 7, \$49 will net you a three-course meal for two; \$25 will do fine for a three-course meal for one.

See [www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/) for more.

Here are some of the city's best bets.

### **Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave.**

The new dog-friendly pub has teamed up with the Laughing Pig for a tasting menu that's available for takeout or curbside pick-up.

Choose between fried Brussels sprouts or parmesan truffle fries for an appetizer; then select two flatbreads ranging from bacon-sausage-pico to the Barkhaus special;



Dumplings from Kisso Asian Bistro.

then finish things off with a crepe or fried apple pie. And don't forget to pick a beverage – red wine or Crafters Union beer are both at the ready.

### **Kisso Asian Bistro, 300 King St.**

Kisso is offering two prix-fixe experienc-

es depending on your tastes. Combo A features seaweed salad and miso soup for two, plus a sushi-sashimi combo and cheesecake for dessert. Combo B features hot and sour soup, meat or chicken dumplings, and a choice of two of five hot (read: non-sushi) entrees, as well as cheesecake to sweeten things up.

### **Pasara Thai, 2051 Jamieson Ave.**

Like Kisso, Pasara is offering two separate prix-fixe choices for their Restaurant Week special. The first choice features a papaya salad and crispy spring rolls to start, followed by pad Thai with chicken and pat-taya seafood as entrees and then wrapped up with mango sticky rice or sticky rice with coconut custard. The second option starts off with Thai salad and fried calamari, then moves into drunken noodles with beef and seafood green curry, and ties things up with mango sticky rice or sticky rice with coconut custard.

### **Piece Out, 2419 Mount Vernon Ave.**

Del Ray's newest pizza place is offering up some treats and treasures for Restaurant Week. Select a bottle of house red or white wine to start the proceedings and then dive right into the feast: A choice of two starters, including Greek or winter squash salad and minestrone; then a choice of two pastas; then a gelato or cannoli to share. Toast to your takeout – and to your time out of the kitchen!

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

## CALENDAR

### **NOW THRU**

#### **MARCH 29 (MONDAYS)**

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method, which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. \$129 per person for 11 sessions. Class held indoors. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates) (code 6E6.JNLA) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

#### **SATURDAYS THRU MARCH**

Virtual Pure Barre. 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom. Pure Barre has again partnered with the National Landing BID to bring free virtual classes to the community. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/virtual-pure-barre-intro-classes>

#### **THURSDAYS THRU MARCH 11**

Happy Hour Yoga. 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
Virtual via WebEx. The National Landing BID has partnered with Erin Sonn, owner of eat.YOGA. drink, to bring unique yoga experiences to you virtually. This free, hour-long class will have a different theme and playlist each week and requires registration. Visit the website: <https://nationallanding.org/do/happy-hour-yoga>

#### **JAN. 22 TO FEB. 7**

Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. More than 60 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$49 takeout, delivery or curbside pick-up dinner for two during Alexandria

Restaurant Week To-Go. New this winter, more than half of these restaurants will offer a \$25 takeout dinner for one in addition to the \$49 for two deal. This expanded offering was created in response to popular demand from single diners during Alexandria's first Restaurant Week To-Go in August 2020. New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include Aldo's Italian Kitchen, an Italian eatery on Eisenhower Ave.; Barkhaus, Alexandria's new dog bar; Carlyle neighborhood eatery Pasara Thai and The Alexandrian hotel's new restaurant King & Rye. Restaurants offering to-go deals for one and two people include Los Cuates, Rus Uz, Sonoma Cellar, Village Brauhaus and more. View the menu flip-book and make reservations at [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or 703-838-5005.

#### **SATURDAY/JAN. 23**

Garden Talk -- Easy Houseplants to Grow. 10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. You don't have to wait for spring to satisfy that itch to garden. Take your passion for gardening indoors this winter with some help from the folks at Green Spring Gardens. Come to the "Garden Talk-Easy Houseplants to Grow" program and Extension Master Gardeners will show you how you can enjoy beautiful flowering plants and foliage plants inside your home. Get the know-how to be successful gardening indoors when it is too cold to be digging in the soil outside. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-642-5173; or visit Green Spring Gardens.

#### **SATURDAY/JAN. 23**

Virtual Film Screening: The American L.O.W.S. 2-5 p.m. Join in a Zoom for a screening of The American L.O.W.S. (The American Legacy of White Supremacy), a documentary created by Darnley R. Hodge, Jr. Immediately following the film screening is a panel discussion with filmmaker Darnley R. Hodge Jr. and historians from the film. Free, but registration is required here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bX9IOd5yRv6vFcDnAOGUCA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bX9IOd5yRv6vFcDnAOGUCA)

#### **SUNDAY/JAN. 24**

Sizzling Succulents. 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
At Green Spring Gardens 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Colorful and creative succulents are the one of the easiest ways to brighten a patio or garden with little effort. Garden professional Brie Arthur shares growing and propagation advice about her favorite tender and hardy succulents. Learn creative combinations for year-round interest and new introductions for cold hardiness. Low maintenance, drought tolerant and eye catching, Sizzling Succulents will encourage you to indulge in this sustainable growing trend. Register with code 7QN.XCYD.

#### **SUNDAY/JAN. 24**

Catch a Critter. Jan. 13 from noon to 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 24 from 1-2:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. On these special days, program participants will have the chance to see, touch and study wetland creatures up close under the guidance of a park scientist. Grab a net to SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

## ALEXANDRIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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## Obituary

## Obituary

### George Francis Gunning, 88



**George Francis Gunning** passed away on January 6, 2021, at the Silverado Memory Care Community in Alexandria VA. He was 88 years old. He died as a result of COVID-19. George was an avid and adventurous world traveler who served his country, first as an officer in the US Army, and then in a long and distinguished civilian career with the US Navy. George had been a resident of Alexandria VA for more than 40 years.

George was born in Rome NY on July 1, 1932. Hoping to find better economic conditions during the Depression, his family moved briefly to Ireland in 1940, before returning to New York City. George graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in New York City. He attended Columbia University for a time, but completed his undergraduate studies at the City College of New York. As a member of the Army ROTC, George was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served at Fort Carson in Colorado and was promoted to First Lieutenant.

After leaving the Army, George returned to Columbia University where he earned a Master's Degree as well as a Professional Diploma from Teachers College.

George began his professional life working for the Prudential Insurance Company, first in Newark NJ and then in Santa Monica CA. He then made a career move that would set the stage for the rest of his life when he became a personnel specialist with Douglas Aircraft and then with NASA's Flight Research Center at Edwards Airforce Base. He then moved on to a role with the Navy's Regional Office of Civilian Manpower Management at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. This role took him on frequent personnel troubleshooting assignments in Guam, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. He then served as the Civilian Personnel Director for the US Military Assistance Command in Bangkok, where he lived for five years during the height of the Vietnam war.

In the late 1970's, George returned stateside to Alexandria VA, continuing to provide direction and expertise on civilian personnel matters for the US Naval Facilities Engineering Command and later for the US Army until his retirement in 1990.

Throughout his career, George received numerous commendations for his excellent performance and contributions, including the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service award.

Following his long and exciting career, George remained an active member of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, and participated in many adult travel and education programs including Road Scholars.

George is survived by his nephews, Richard Magee of St. Louis MO and Steven Magee of Short Hills NJ, and by his niece, Ann Magee Peretzman of Princeton NJ. George is also survived by his close friend Cris de Castillo of Alexandria VA.

Memorial contributions in memory of George Gunning can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

## Legals

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION

Pursuant to the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Regulations, Virginia Administrative Code section 9VAC20-160-120, Landmark HHH, L.L.C. (Participant), with an address of 4001 Williamsburg Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032 hereby provides notice of voluntary remediation at a site located in Fairfax County with the following address (Site):

Plaza at Landmark  
6222 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, Virginia, 22312  
VRP Number VRP00679

Environmental investigations completed at the Site from 2015 to 2018 detected volatile organic compounds in sub-slab gas and groundwater beneath, and in the vicinity of, a former dry cleaner tenant space (#6222) at levels that could pose risk to human health or the environment. The contamination is likely resultant of commercial dry cleaning operations conducted at tenant space #6222 prior to approximately 1989. To address the potential risk, the Participant applied to and was deemed eligible for participation in the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP). From 2015 to 2020, several Site Characterization Reports, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and a Risk Assessment (RA) have been reviewed and accepted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The risk evaluation found that the following restrictions placed on the future use of the Site pursuant to the VRP will be protective of human health and the environment: (1) groundwater beneath the Site will not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring and testing or dewatering in compliance with law, and (2) the Site shall not be used for residential purposes or for children's (under the age of 16) daycare facilities, full-time pre-collegiate schools or playground purposes (although hotels and motels are not prohibited, nor are play areas constructed over a designed barrier).

Persons wishing to comment on the voluntary remedial action or request additional information should contact the following person who is familiar with the Site:

Peter A. Reichardt  
Groundwater & Environmental Services, Inc. (GES)  
1350 Blair Drive, Odenton, MD 21113  
800-220-3606, Ext #3726  
preichardt@gesonline.com

Written comments will be accepted until 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

## Obituary

## Obituary

### Obituary for Jessy May Abramson Jackson (96) Civil Servant



**Jessy Jackson** passed away peacefully Tuesday evening, January 12, 2021 in Springfield, VA.

Jessy was born on October 17, 1924 and was one of four siblings born to Edith Sloan Steelman and John Abramson of Woodbury, NJ in Gloucester County, which once incorporated the Great Egg Harbor Township that today still carries the Steelman and Scull town surnames of her founding ascendants of the Dutch and Swede settlements of the Colonial Era.

The Abramsons moved to Washington, D.C. during the Great Depression where Jessy graduated from Central High School. She then began her career as a federal civil servant with the Department of Agriculture (USDA) during WWII. While there, she met Blaine C. Jackson, Sr., who was an enlisted Marine. They married while he was on leave during Thanksgiving weekend - November 25, 1944.

Jessy continued with the USDA until June 1951, when she transferred to the Department of the Army when the couple moved to Norfolk, VA, where Blaine had accepted a position with the Department of Treasury in the Alcohol Tax Unit. It was upon the long-awaited birth of their son, Blaine, Jr., in 1953, that led the family to then move to the City of Alexandria, and later Springfield, VA as Jessy remained home (1954-1971) and Blaine, Sr. accepted his established position with the IRS in Washington.

In 1971, after their son had graduated from Annandale High School and went on to Virginia Tech for college, Jessy returned to her career at the Department of the Army in Washington. She retired 18 years later as a computer specialist, on the precipice of the internet era, in December 1989.

Throughout her life, Jessy enjoyed the company of her family, friends, and cats. She was a staunch advocate for women's equality with earning her aviator's license during WWII. She was a creative soul, who could create anything with a spool of thread, yarn, needle, paint brush, or candle wax, and as a committee member and Chair of the Christmas Bazaars at her Episcopal Church, would submit her creations for the charitable cause. She was an avid gardener, with her home being one that those strolling by would stop and gaze at her beautiful azaleas, hibiscus, and favorite annuals, all the while growing tomatoes, raspberries, and blueberries in the backyard. She could expertly finesse the tournament bridge game and create the best "cakey" cookies. She loved her daily glass of wine, Godiva Chocolate Martinis, and she always celebrated the end of every year by hosting THE annual Christmas Party that she began in the 1960's for her neighbors and friends. One that continues to this day, thru the generations. And, above all, she was loved and she loved back - fiercely.

Jessy was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Blaine C. Jackson, Sr. (2003), her sisters Iris West, Eugenie Collins, and her brother John Abramson.

Jessy is survived by her beloved son, Blaine C. Jackson, Jr., daughter-in-law Alexandria City Councilwoman Amy Jackson, and grandchildren, Ella and Blaine, III ("Bryce"), all of Alexandria, VA.

As a lifelong advocate for animal welfare and the environment, it is in keeping with Jessy's wish that in lieu of flowers, donations should be made in her memory to one of her favorite non-profits: Best Friends Animal Society (link: <https://bestfriends.org/>).

A visitation in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions will be held at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home at

1500 W. Braddock Road in Alexandria, VA on Thursday, January 21, 2021, 4-6pm. A private gravesite ceremony will follow in the spring at Arlington National Cemetery.



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## Announcements

## Announcements

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

see what can be found in the wetland and use magnifying lenses to study the unique characteristics of these little animals. Discover what they can tell us about their home. This rare opportunity to dip-net in the wetland is possible through the guidance of the park naturalists, and the event is designed for nature lovers age 4 to adult. The cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 24

**Virtual Tea. 2-3 p.m.** Virtual. Sponsored by Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. This "Virtual Afternoon Tea: Rebellious Royals" will focus on non-conformist royalty through the years. From Henry VIII to Harry and Meghan, royal rebels have flouted traditions of duty and precedence. Hear about some untraditional royals who have broken the rules, sending shock waves through the palace and challenging the monarchy to accept modernity and change. Registrants will be sent a link by e-mail to join the Zoom lecture.

The cost is \$24 for the lecture and an individual, take-home tea box that you can pick up in advance to enjoy during the program. The cost is \$12 for the lecture only. Call 703-941-7987.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 28

**Edward Ball, Life of a Klansman: A Family. 7-9 p.m.** For whites, to have a Klansman in the family tree is no rare thing. Demographic estimates suggest that fifty percent of whites in the United States have at least one ancestor who belonged to the Ku Klux Klan at some point in its history. Edward Ball, a descendant of a Klansman, tells the story of his ancestor. Free, but registration is required here: [https://zoom.us/join/registration/WN\\_GgCCIDY1TG6qTlmlpy460g](https://zoom.us/join/registration/WN_GgCCIDY1TG6qTlmlpy460g)

### SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**Sense of Place. 7 p.m.** Presented by Jane Franklin Dance and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association. Virtual presentation. Featuring: Jane Franklin Dance - Philip Baraoidan, Carly Johnson, Kelsey Rohr, Amy Scaringe, Brynna Wilde. Tickets: FREE with donations accepted (\$10 suggested minimum to help JFD & NVFAA) Registration is required. Info: <https://www.janefranklin.com/sense-of-place>

### SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**Virtual George Washington Birthright Banquet and Ball. 7-9 p.m.** Virtual. The George Washington Birthright Celebration Committee and Gadsby's Tavern Museum will present the annual celebration of the birth of our first President, George Washington -virtually this year. Join the likes of Mr. Gadsby, citizens of Alexandria, and General Washington himself for a Birthright celebration on your personal screen. Over Zoom, begin the evening with a video presentation full of dancing, conversations, and toasts. Then the General will be available live for all your questions. After the Q&A, enjoy English Country Dancing called by the expert Dance Master that you can do with 1, 2, or 4 people at home. Period costumes of the 1790s encouraged. Visit Alexandria.Va.Gov/Shop.

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FROM PAGE 3

and teachers.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 16

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1-2:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Award winning writer and educator, Ric Murphy, discusses his recent book, Section 27 and Freedman's Village in Arlington National Cemetery, at Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's February meeting. Murphy is the National Vice President for History, for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. His recent book explores how

Arlington House, a slave plantation and home of Robert E. Lee, became a military camp for Federal troops, a freedmen's village and farm, and America's most important burial ground. Nonmembers are welcome to attend one program a year without cost. Register no later than February 12 by emailing your name and address to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

## 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), and can provide a donation receipt for your mileage. 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.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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.

## Upcoming Actions

FROM PAGE 6

the House and Senate Rules prohibiting firearms from the Capitol building and grounds. This is especially important in light of recent events in Washington DC.

"This legislation is another important step in our efforts to protect families in Virginia from the epidemic of gun violence that has ravaged our communities" Hope said.

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### Announcements

### Announcements

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### Announcements

### Announcements

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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**

### Legals

### Legals

Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of Adoption of "All Alexandria: Committing to Race and Social Equity" Resolution.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 10-1-15.1 (TRUCK TRAFFIC; PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS; PENALTY) of Chapter 1 (GENERAL PROVISIONS) of Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance adds the section of East Linden Street between Commonwealth 17 Avenue and Mount Vernon Avenue to the list of roads not accessible by thru truck

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 3-1409 (USE LIMITATIONS) of Article No. III 10 (RESIDENTIAL ZONE REGULATIONS); Sections 4-107 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-207 11 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-307 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-407 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-507 12 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-607 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-707 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-807 13 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-906 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-1006 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-1106 14 (USE LIMITATIONS), 4-1206 (USE LIMITATIONS), and 4-1413 (USE LIMITATIONS), all 15 of Article No. IV (COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES); Sections 5-110 16 (USE LIMITATIONS), 5-210 (USE LIMITATIONS), 5-310 (USE LIMITATIONS), 5-410 17 (USE LIMITATIONS), 5-511 (USE LIMITATIONS), and 5-602 (COORDINATED 18 DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS CREATED, CONSISTENCY WITH MASTER PLAN, 19 REQUIRED APPROVALS) all of Article No. V (MIXED USE ZONES); and Section 6-707 20 (USE LIMITATIONS) of Article No. VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES) of the City of 21 Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by 22 city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-00009. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2020-00009 27 to clarify the pick up and drop off requirements for day care establishments.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by 10 adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the 11 Potomac West Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan through the Oakville Triangle & 12 Route 1 West Corridor and Vision Plan Overlay as Master Plan Amendment No. 2020- 13 00003 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may 14 be inconsistent with such amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 19 2020-00003 to update the Oakville Triangle & Route 1 West Corridor and Vision Plan 20 Overlay of the Potomac West Small Area Plan to facilitate redevelopment of the 12.8 acre 21 Oakville Triangle site, including the Inova Healthplex, through an amendment to land uses, 22 heights, framework streets, and location of open spaces within District 2 (Oakville Triangle), 23 approved by the City Council on December 12, 2020.

\*\*\*\*\*

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-602 (COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT 10 DISTRICTS CREATED, CONSISTENCY WITH MASTER PLAN, REQUIRED 11 APPROVALS) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning 12 Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text 13 Amendment No. 2020-00006. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2020-00006 18 to amend Coordinated Development District Number 24 to revise uses and associated 19 regulations.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday JANUARY 30, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

### Announcements

### Announcements

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## Cancer and Covid ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



... don't exactly go together like milk and cookies. Rather they go together like snow and ice. One or the other is bad enough, but together they become even worse. And unfortunately I have one, and am constantly worried/mindful of the other. Moreover, since covid is kind of a pulmonary issue, those of us who have cancer in the lungs, where we're already compromised, need to contract a virus like this like Washington, DC needs a "wintry mix" in the forecast.

In the course of my ongoing papillary thyroid cancer protocol, recently I spoke with an oncology pharmacist (who knew?). When he asked me, during our regular monthly phone call if I was experiencing any new symptoms, I was honest and said "Yes, shortness of breath." He noted my response and subsequently completed our call, as per usual. Not 10 minutes later, he called back. He had just spoken with my oncologist who he advised said that I should go to Urgent Care immediately. "Excuse me? What do I tell the doctor? Will my oncologist have spoken to them/expressed his concern/coordinated my care?" "No," I was told. "Just tell them your symptoms." Having had a negative covid test the week before Christmas, and have pretty much been at home ever since, I didn't believe I had the virus. But considering how little I know about such matters, I went with the medical flow and made an Urgent Care appointment for 2 pm that same day.

What I learned later that day after three hours in Urgent Care after an examination, lab work and chest X-Ray was the true reason why my oncologist wanted me not to wait for care: bloods clots which could lead to a pulmonary embolism (clots moving through the bloodstream and ending up in the lungs) where they could burst, so to speak, and cause a sudden death. So the concern wasn't covid, it was more sinister: immediate death if left unresolved. Little did I know, thankfully. Otherwise, I might have been a bit more anxious.

Luckily, my lab work was normal, my chest X-Ray was clear, and I had no corroborating symptoms: my legs weren't swollen and I had no chest pain. Nothing was mentioned about covid. Even though that was my presumption for the urgency, apparently, that was not my oncologist's concern. By 5 pm, with no new symptoms to report, I was released on my own recognizance. If I experienced any shortness of breath, I was encouraged to call. I was prescribed an inhaler - like those used by asthmatics, with the proper medicine and advised not to hesitate using it should the need arise. I was given approximately 30 doses, I was told.

I then went to the pharmacy to pick up my parting gift. After a 30 minute or so wait, my name was called and I went up the window to collect my goodies. Now I was free to go. Within 45 minutes I was home. No fuss, no muss, as it turned out. My follow up appointment with my oncologist is next Tuesday (as I write this on Sunday) which also happens is my next scheduled video visit, previously scheduled to discuss the results of the previous week's CT Scan and brain/abdomen MRI which amazingly, miraculously continue to show shrinkage of the thyroid tumors located in my lungs (you know, my pre-existing comorbidity). And of course this comorbidity is the reason I'm extremely cautious and occasionally even proactive because to not would be incredibly stupid and irresponsible.

Now, if I could only figure out how to lock and load this inhaler, I might actually be able reduce the stress and discomfort when I become short of breath. But knowing now that my symptoms were not covid-related, nor as I learned later that day, blood-clot-oriented, I can breathe easier before, during and after I'm short of breath, if you know what I mean?

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

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## News



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Longtime server Irene Stesanas takes an order Jan. 18 during the final week of operations at Atlantis Family Restaurant.

## 'We Are Devastated'

### Atlantis Family Restaurant closing after 38 years.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Long before celebrity chefs invaded the local culinary scene, there were Bill and Jim Patrianakos, who opened an unassuming restaurant in 1983 in an effort to provide quality food at reasonable prices.

With the average restaurant lasting no more than five years, Atlantis Family Restaurant and Pizzeria defied the odds, surviving three recessions while serving generations of families, community organizations and local politicians for 38 years.

But the challenges of surviving the COVID-19 pandemic proved to be insurmountable, and the Patrianakos brothers announced that the restaurant will be permanently closing its doors Jan. 24.

"I feel very bad about this decision," said Bill Patrianakos. "We have been here 38 years. We want to thank all the customers who have come in all these years to support us. We love them and are going to miss them."

The restaurant has been providing take-out meals since the pandemic began in March of 2020 but in the end it was not enough for the business to survive.

"I have been coming to Atlantis for 38 years," said Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. "I used to moonlight walking the Bradlee Shopping Center when I was a police officer and would always be greeted with a warm, friendly smile by Bill and Jimmy. And I spent many a day warming up by the pizza oven."

Known for its Greek, Italian and American fare, Atlantis was a popular family destination for its legendary pizza.

"I used to bring my girls here every Friday night for pizza," Lawhorne added. "It was our tradition. And all three of my daughters worked summer jobs here. Bill has become a close, dear friend of mine and I love him like a brother. This is like losing a part of your family."

Longtime customers reacted with shock at the sudden news.

"I just can't believe it," said Alice Merbeth. "Atlantis has been here since I moved here. It's a neighborhood mainstay. We are devas-



Atlantis Family Restaurant owner Bill Patrianakos gives a wave to patrons Jan. 18 after the sudden announcement that the restaurant will be permanently closing Jan. 24 after 38 years in business.

tated."

Added Tom Diamantis, "I have been coming here since 1999. Everything here is the best. Anything you order you're going to like."

Over the years, the restaurant played host to many community events, including the inaugural celebration when Lawhorne was first elected sheriff in 2006.

"This restaurant means a lot to the community," Lawhorne said. "How sad it is that somebody would come into the restaurant every morning at 4 a.m. and leave at 11 p.m. seven days a week for 38 years. Bill never took a day off, never had a vacation and this is what you get. You have to close because of the pandemic. It's just sad."

Despite pleas to remain open, the decision to permanently close one of the last remaining family restaurants in the area remains final.

"My girlfriend and I have been coming here for about 20 years," said Debbie Ellis. "We're going to miss visiting here and enjoying a family restaurant, which is so hard to find these days, especially in Northern Virginia."

Said customer Jim Drou simply, "This is the best restaurant ever."

Atlantis Family Restaurant is located in the Bradlee Shopping Center and will remain open through Jan. 24.

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OPEN SUN 1/24, 1-4PM

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