

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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JULY 22, 2021

40 Under 40 Chamber honors young business leaders.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's business community gathered July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel to celebrate the Chamber ALX's 40 Under 40 class of 2021 honorees.

Chosen from a broad range of nominations earlier this year, each honoree was selected for their professional accomplishments, scholastic achievement and community impact.

Presented by Beyer Subaru, the 40 Under 40 program was established in 2016 to recognize those age 40 and under engaged in a variety of fields including business, technology, nonprofit management, civic life, public service, education, and the arts, who are shaping Alexandria for the future.

In addition to the 40 Under 40 business honorees, the Chamber ALX recognized 2021 Alexandria City High School graduates Lorraine Johnson and Ashley Sanchez-Viafara with the organization's first Youth Honoree awards.

The Chamber ALX 2021 40 Under 40 honorees are: Amanda Alderson, National Industries for the Blind; Morgan Babcock, The Carlyle Council; Rachel Baer, Esq., Family First Law Group; Jackie Barbarito, Goodwin House; Mi-
SEE 40 UNDER 40, ON PAGE 10



The Chamber ALX 40 Under 40 honorees Michelle Smith Howard, Natasha Walters and Morgan Middleton smile together before the awards ceremony July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.



Honoree Jake Truex, right, poses in the Booth-o-Rama photobooth at the Chamber ALX's 40 Under 40 celebration July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.



The Chamber ALX's class of 2021 40 Under 40 honorees gather for a group photo July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.

PHOTOS BY KIP RADT/JASON DIXSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Blazing a Trail Aces' Hammond lone female Ripken League coach.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Jennifer Hammond may be the new kid on the block when it comes to the coaching staff of the Alexandria Aces but she is no stranger to a baseball field. The Alexandria native is well known as a player and coach throughout the region and as the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League begins its playoffs, she is blazing a trail as the league's lone female baseball coach.

"Unfortunately, it is still a rarity to see females coaching baseball," said Hammond during the team's July 14 practice at Frank Mann Field. "I think that some of the players were a little unsure at first but they have been very respectful and have come to recognize that I've been around the game and have some knowledge of the sport."

In her first season with the Aces, Ham-



Alexandria Aces pitching coach Jennifer Hammond, the only female coach in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, has helped lead the team into second place in the standings. Playoffs run July 24-31.

JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

mond has helped lead the team to second place in the standings as they head into the playoffs, which run July 24-31.

Hammond grew up playing fastpitch softball in the Northern Virginia area but baseball was her first love. After planning to play softball in college, she instead jumped at the chance to play baseball after discovering the Eastern Women's Baseball Conference, an all-women's baseball league. She spent her summers playing with their DC Thunder tournament team, traveling around the country playing with and against the best women's players in the United States and Canada.

"I grew up playing softball," Hammond said. "I was a girl, therefore there was no choice — girls played softball, boys played baseball. It's just what you did. But the EWBC changed everything. For the first time in my life I actually got to play baseball and

I loved it."

Hammond continues to participate as a player/coach with the EWBC/DC Thunder and with several area men's leagues. She recently completed her seventh season as a high school baseball coach in Fairfax County. After spending five years at Falls Church High School as the Junior Varsity Associate Head Coach and a member of the Varsity Staff, she moved on to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology where she took on the role of Varsity Associate Head Coach and Catching Specialist.

"Jen has exceeded expectations," said Aces head coach Chris Berset. "You never know how it's going to be with a woman going into a male world, especially with college kids. Are they going to accept her? Will she have a voice that is listened to? She was able to capture that and the boys respect her. It's

SEE BLAZING A TRAIL, ON PAGE 10

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The New New Deal

Uncle Sam is about to make it rain.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Not since the days of the New Deal in the 1930s has the federal government showered so much stimulus cash on Virginia, and Alexandria is about to receive millions of dollars for everything from guaranteed basic income and flash flooding improvements to staffing at the Freedom House and planters to make the King Street pedestrian plaza look more inviting.

"This is an opportunity for the city to make some transformational investments as well as to do some experimentation, which I'm particularly excited about," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "Some of this stuff is not going to work, and that's OK."

The money is coming from a variety of sources, and each funding stream is aimed at offering a helping hand to people who are still suffering from the economic crash caused by the pandemic. Members of the Alexandria City Council have already spent \$30 million, and they'll have another \$30 million available next May. The Alexandria School Board will get \$35 million. And next month, the Virginia General Assembly will hold a special session to figure out how they want to spend \$4.3 billion.

"State leaders should really be thinking about the impacts from COVID-19, particularly the different impacts of the pandemic — both economic and health — on communities throughout the state," said Chad Stewart, manager of education policy at the Commonwealth Institute. "We know that the pandemic did not affect all communities equally, and it's really important to take that into account for an equitable approach."

Leaders in the General Assembly are currently negotiating behind the scenes to nail down a spending plan before the gavel comes down on the special session, avoiding a

protracted fight over priorities at a time when they'll also be appointing several judges to a newly created appeals court.

Gov. Ralph Northam has already announced some of his priorities, including grant programs for small businesses, money for tourism and investments in broadband.

"The pandemic has reinforced how important high-quality broadband is for the health, education and economic opportunity," said Northam at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, where he announced the \$700 million broadband investment. "It's time to close the digital divide in our commonwealth and treat internet service like the 21st century necessity that it is — not just a luxury for some, but an essential utility for all."

Even with those commitments, the General Assembly still has wide

latitude for how to spend a significant chunk of change. That could lead to a clash of interest groups as the special session approaches. For example, business groups are hoping they'll be able to persuade lawmakers to invest in the

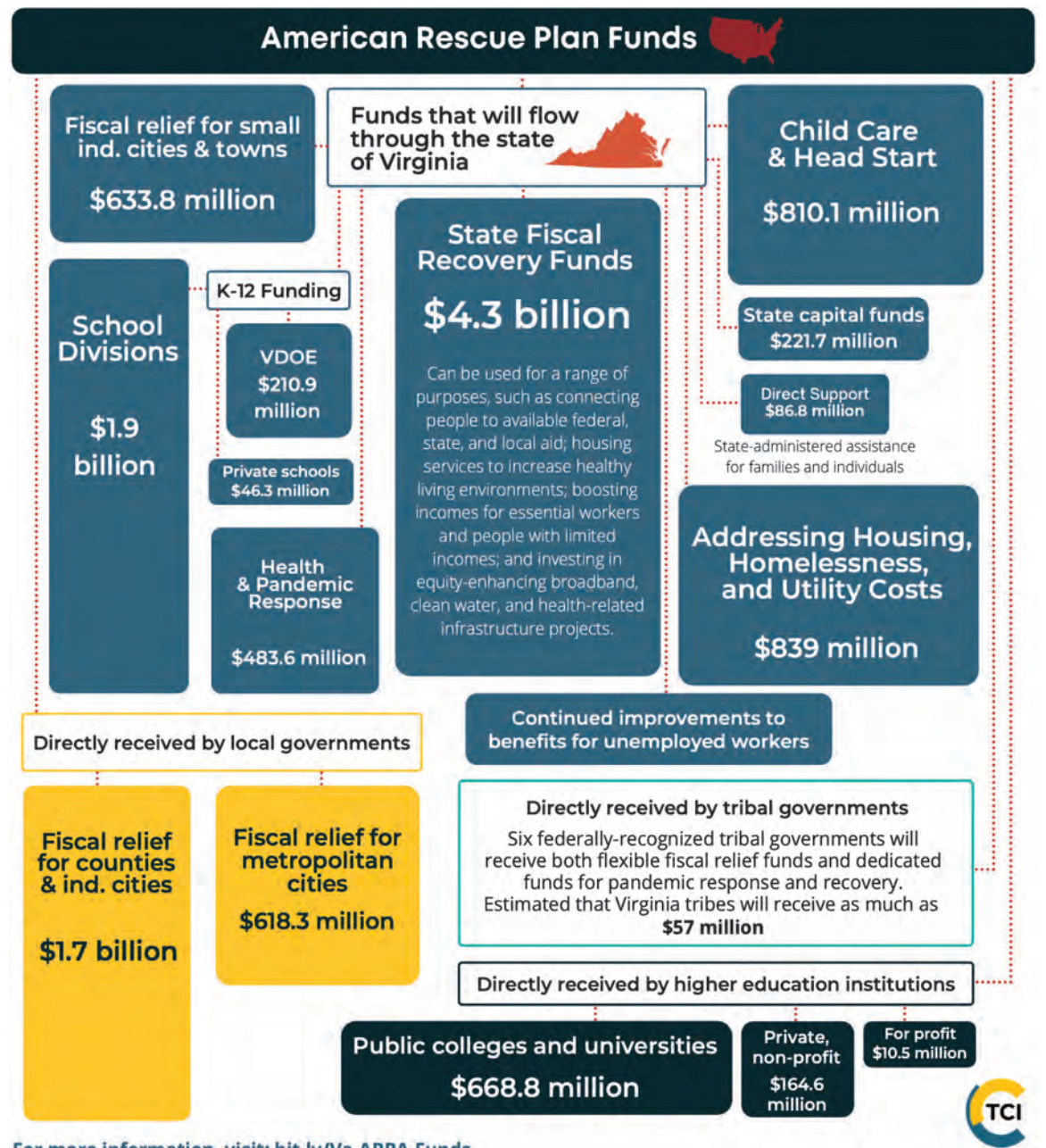
unemployment trust fund. Critics say making a large deposit into the trust fund could prevent business taxes from going up, but they say that should be balanced against spending that could help families.

"We think that keeping the cost of having employees down is important," said Barry DuVal, president of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

"History has shown that federal dollars have often been used to restore the unemployment trust fund. Without this, the cost to employ someone is significant."

Similarly, lawmakers are probably also going to experience a clash of interest groups on how to spend money for education. Although school boards across Virginia will be able to spend some of the money from the federal government and the Virginia Department of Education will also get an allocation.

SEE THE NEW, PAGE 14



Recovery Goal	Project Name	Cost
Businesses Thrive	Lower King Street Closure/King Street Place short term improvements	\$ 100,000.00
	Visit Alexandria Web Site Enhancement	\$ 120,000.00
	New Business Support Programs	\$ 280,000.00
	Visit Alexandria, Expanding Audiences, Awareness & Regional Marketing	\$ 500,000.00
	Seed funding for Old Town North Community Development Authority	\$ 500,000.00
	Foundational Support for Commercial Business Districts	\$ 560,000.00
	Re-employment and Upskilling Project	\$ 1,120,000.00
Everyone has access to the basics	The Unified Early Childhood Workforce Stabilization Initiative	\$ 2,830,000.00
	Rental Resiliency	\$ 312,000.00
	Food Security System Advancement	\$ 2,500,000.00
	Alexandria Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program	\$ 3,000,000.00
	Alexandria Community Access and Emergency Support Grant Program	\$ 4,000,000.00
	Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV) COVID-19 Eviction Prevention*	\$ 200,000.00
	Food/Rent Bridge Funding #2*	\$ 450,000.00
Recovery Lifts Everyone	Food/Rent Bridge Funding #1*	\$ 1,000,000.00
	Digital Equity Plan & Broadband Strategist and Policy Analyst	\$ 420,000.00
	Alexandria Library Outdoor Programs & Job Skills Workshops	\$ 24,000.00
	City Arts Relief and Recovery Grants to Alexandria-based Artist(s) and Arts Organizations	\$ 110,000.00
	Alexandria African American History Tourism Enhancements	\$ 295,000.00
	Increase Seasonal Staffing Hours at Freedom House	\$ 150,000.00
	Alexandria Community Remembrance Project	\$ 150,000.00
Long-term community investment	Alexandria Library Mobile Hotspot Lending Program	\$ 20,000.00
	LGBTQ & BIPOC Equity Project	\$ 253,000.00
	Out of School Time Program (OSTP) Enhanced Enrichment Programming and Financial Assistance Opportunities	\$ 620,000.00
	Court Mental Health & Asset Builder Program	\$ 500,000.00
	Arlandria Chirilagua Housing Cooperative Improvement Initiative (study)	\$ 50,000.00
	Flash Flooding spot improvements	\$ 1,900,000.00
	AHDC - Arlandria Community-Serving City Flex Space	\$ 2,000,000.00
	Stormwater State of Good Repair & Resiliency	\$ 3,852,000.00
	City Wide General COVID Expenses, Response, and Grant Administration	\$ 2,000,916.50
		Total \$ 29,816,916.50

*Previously approved by City Council

This is how the city plans to spend the first \$30 million instalment of stimulus money. City leaders will be getting another \$30 million in May.



A new food distribution center opens on the basketball court at William Ramsay Recreation Center Saturday, July 17.



A line forms down the sidewalk at William Ramsay Recreation Center food distribution site on Saturday, July 17 to pick up 5-7 day supply of groceries for a family of four.

Food Glorious Food

New **ALIVE!** distribution site opens July 17.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

David Wynne stands on the sidewalk outside William Ramsay Recreation Center with his clicker. It is 8:57 a.m., and he has counted 66 families who have

stopped by since the new ALIVE! food distribution site opened at 8:30 a.m. Wynne is a social worker and recognizes a number of his clients. One had texted him earlier in the morning to find out if halal meat would be available today.

Ann Patterson, ALIVE! food director says, "One man was already

in line when I arrived at 6:54 a.m. "He had to go to work and he wanted to be first in line to avoid a potentially long line later." Patterson says they came with the intention to serve 200-250 families with a 5-7 day supply of food for a family of four at this new site today.

The walk-through site at William



Ann Patterson (left) ALIVE! food program manager, and Liza Feiler, volunteer manager, compare notes on the new food distribution site at William Ramsay Recreation Center.



Judy Cohen, ALIVE! volunteer loads up family size packages of chicken with boxes of fresh produce and dry goods for a family of four.



New ALIVE! food distribution site at Ramsay Recreation Center.



Liza Feiler, volunteer manager, hands out leaflets with assistance about rent supplement and evictions.



A box of dry goods for every family includes different staples each week.

Ramsay joins Cora Kelly Elementary School and NOVA Alexandria campus, which are drive-through sites, for food distribution two Saturdays a month. "We wanted to add a new location closer to their neighborhood in a high need area,

to meet clients where they are. Transportation is one of the top three barriers to accessing social services."

Patterson calls out to those waiting in line: "Tell your neighbors.

SEE NEW ALIVE!, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

News

New ALIVE! Distribution Site

FROM PAGE 4

We are open until 10:30.”

A socially distanced line of people wait along the sidewalk, some with shopping carts and others just with strong arms. The pandemic has temporarily replaced the customized choice model with “grab and go” prepackaged supplies. Each household stops for a family-size package of fresh chicken, bread of some kind, eggs and a box of fresh produce, which today includes green and jalapeño peppers, garlic, cabbage, apples, plantains. In addition, there is a box of dry goods.

Patterson says some people don’t want everything in the dry goods box like granola bars and applesauce and “we find they open the box and take what they want and leave the rest. What they take out has to be collected later from the sidewalk where they left it. They want fresh produce.”

Patterson muses that some people have been coming to the food sites for decades but still don’t bring anything to take home the food. “I ask them to remember next time and they tell me that I always find a way to help them carry it home, like an empty chicken box or an extra bag.”

Patterson says at the height of the pandemic they would serve 1,200 families on a Saturday. “Sometimes we would empty out the truck but everybody went home with something — maybe three dozen eggs and bread but no fresh vegetables.”

Joe Harrington and Madelyn Giblin are the site coordinators who are in charge of running the show at the Ramsay site. Patterson says, “They stage the food, organize and make all of the decisions when I’m not here.”

Liza Feiler, volunteer manager, is in charge of all of the ALIVE! volunteer programs and is inserting eviction and rental assistance leaflets in with the groceries. She says ALIVE! is volunteer based and has “so many different programs that utilize hundreds of volunteers.”

This year, weekend food distributions served 1,790 households for the food distribution in the month of April; 1,411 households in May; and 1,348 in June. In addition, pop up food distributions provide food to specific neighborhoods and apartment buildings.

More information on schedule and location of upcoming distributions can be found at www.alive-inc.org

The summer ALIVE! food distributions are funded by grants from the Albertsons Foundation, No Kid Hungry and the City of Alexandria.

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Closing the Digital Divide

Federal funds make this possible by 2024.

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Last Friday, Governor Northam announced good news for Virginia: \$700 million in American Rescue Plan Funding will be invested to achieve universal broadband in the Commonwealth by 2024! This brings us full broadband access four years ahead of the schedule set by Northam's previous goal: universal broadband by 2028. With this announcement, Virginia is now poised to become one of the first states in the nation to achieve universal broadband service.

What is broadband and why is it so critical?

Broadband is defined as high-speed internet access. It is different from dial-up internet in that it provides a higher speed of data transmission, allowing for higher quality transmissions like video conferencing. Broadband also does not block phone lines, and there is no need to reconnect each time you need to use the internet. Broadband provides high-speed internet access through multiple types of technologies including fiber optics, wireless, cable, DSL

(Digital Subscriber Line), and satellite.

In Virginia, there are an estimated 233,500 unconnected homes and businesses. In our modern world, having access to the internet is as much a necessity as utilities like electricity, water, and sewage; and, without it rural communities are being left behind. Frankly, it is as stark as this -- that the absence of broadband in a community means the absence of jobs.

Access to broadband allows communities to flourish. Communities are better able to retain and attract jobs. Students have better educational opportunities. Residents gain better access to health-care with telemedicine options. Overall, opportunity can be equally distributed regardless of where someone lives. We cannot continue to allow rural communities to be left behind. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, it became even more clear how disadvantaged rural communities were compared to those with adequate broadband access.



Krizek

Not just looking at this situation through an equity lens, the economic gains of universal broadband would be significant. A 2019 study done by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Amazon showed that universal broadband access would increase Virginia's annual sales by \$2.24 billion and add over 9,000 jobs. A 2019 USDA study revealed that universal broadband would increase total agriculture production by 18%, or \$16.3 billion in Virginia's agriculture and forestry output. Agriculture is our number one industry in Virginia with an economic impact of over \$91 billion dollars and 334,000 jobs!

Thankfully, because the Governor has diligently worked with us in the General Assembly and service providers over the last several years to prioritize this issue through the very successful Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), it will not take long to get Virginia over the finish line with this dramatic injection of federal funds. In 2019, the Governor and

the General Assembly established a pilot program that promotes collaboration between localities, electric utilities, and internet service providers to connect unserved areas to high-speed internet. In just two years of this pilot program, Virginia's utility companies have helped connect more than 13,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth. Earlier this year, Governor Northam signed bipartisan legislation that makes the pilot program permanent. Since 2018, when the VATI program got going, we have seen the digital divide cut in half with 140,000 Virginia homes and businesses connected across 44 localities.

In the upcoming special session beginning on Aug. 2, as we decide how to spend the \$4.3 billion in federal funds available to the Commonwealth, I look forward to doing my part as an Appropriator, and member of the Broadband Advisory Council, to ensure that the General Assembly approves and fully funds the Governor's proposal for universal broadband in order to close the digital divide. Our fellow Virginians should not wait any longer to get online.

Calling all Centenarians: We Want to Honor You

BY MARY LEE ANDERSON
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

This Fall, the City of Alexandria and the Successful Aging Committee will be celebrating National Centenarian Day, honoring those residents who will have reached the age of 100 or older by Dec. 31, 2021.

Just think of how much has changed in the last 100 years. Warren Harding was sworn in as President on March 4, 1921 and signed a joint congressional resolution declaring an end to America's state of war with Germany, Austria and Hungary. On Sept. 8, 1921 sixteen-year-old Margaret Gorman won the Golden Mermaid trophy at a beauty pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey; officials later dubbed her the first Miss America. Prohibition in the United States was a nationwide constitutional ban on the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages from 1920 to 1933, and the Roaring Twenties was a period of economic prosperity with a distinctive cultural edge in the United States and Europe -- "flappers"



Mary Lee Anderson

redefined the modern look for American women. Our centenarians have experienced World War II, the first man on the Moon, the cell phone and Facebook! Oh, what stories and wisdom they can share.

At the Sept. 28, 2021 City Council meeting, a slideshow presentation will recognize the experiences and achievements of residents who have lived a century or longer. Alexandria centenarians who choose to participate in the presentation will receive a certificate and recognition coin honoring their resilience and accomplishments.

To participate or submit a nomination, complete an application and social history form by July 30.

If you are or know of someone who will be celebrating this special milestone by Dec. 31, please submit an application to Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) by July 30. Applications can be found on the City of Alexandria's website at

www.alexandriava.gov/aging or at www.seniorservicesalex.org. For more information email admin@seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

Mary Lee Anderson is Executive Director of Senior Services of Alexandria and a member of the Successful Aging Committee.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Dedication. 8 – 9 a.m. At 1001 S. Washington Street (at the corner of Church Street), Alexandria. Join Historic Alexandria in honoring Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network (AACRN). The free dedication will include a wreath laying by the 31st Masonic District, a reading by representatives of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), and remarks by Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley. The ceremony will take place rain or shine.

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Cemetery and Burial Sites Meeting. 10-11:30 a.m. in the City of Alexandria's Fort Ward Park to discuss marking, protection and recognition of key cemetery areas and burial sites related to the African American Fort community. City staff from the Office of Historic Alexandria will be leading a discussion on issues and ideas for demarcating and memorializing these sacred areas. Attendees should meet City staff in the parking lot behind Fort Ward Museum and be prepared to walk to the four major burial sites. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held in the reception hall at Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King Street, Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA LAUNCHES SEARCH TO HIRE CITY MANAGER

The Alexandria City Council is conducting a national search for a new City Manager for the City of Alexandria. City Manager Mark Jinks, who announced his impending retirement in June, will remain in his position throughout the search and will retire with the hiring of his replacement. City Council anticipates

announcing the selection of the new City Manager by the end of 2021. City Council, to which the City Manager reports, is coordinating and conducting the process for choosing a successor. City Council has contracted with search firm POLIHIRE to conduct a nationwide recruiting search. During an executive session prior to their July 6 meeting, City Council approved initial recruitment materials, including a recruitment brochure with a candidate profile and timeline for the process.

STEM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The AAAS STEM Volunteers Program, stem-volunteers.org, needs STEM professionals to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in school districts in the DC metro area during the 2021-22 school year.

If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please send a note to bcalinge@aaas.org with your home address.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children
Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteeralexandria.org

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services-
Volunteer Guardian

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

DISPOSE OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS AT THESE DROP-BOX LOCATIONS!



NEIGHBORHOOD PHARMACY

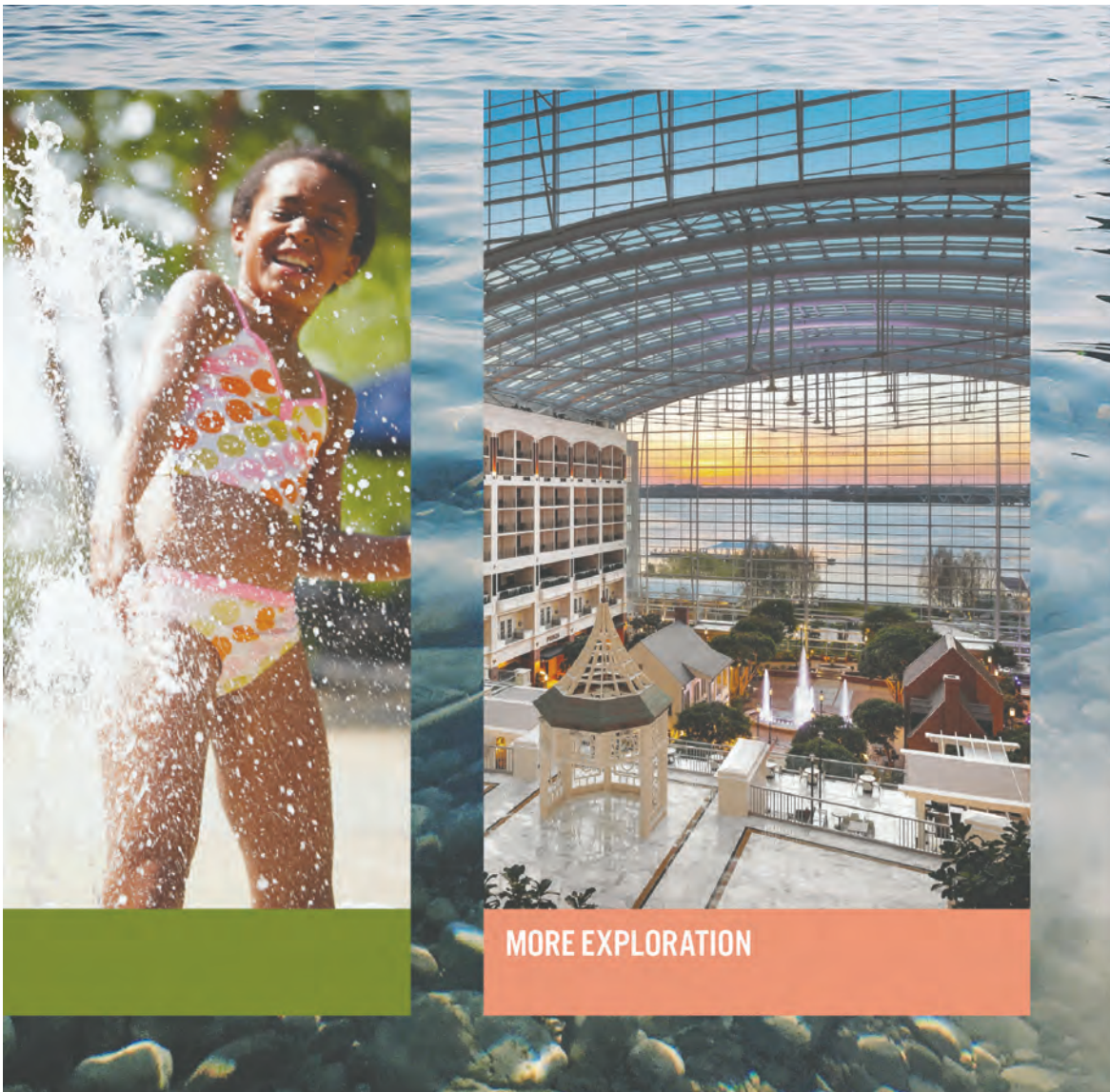
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Can Our Yards Save the Planet?

Plant native plants for pollinators, food for birds and more.

By Glenda C. Booth
Gazette Packet

When Tami Entabi moved into her Mount Vernon-area home in 2006, the backyard was a thick mass of intertwined English ivy. Today, to her delight, purple violets are spreading and the garden is abuzz with birds, bees, butterflies, moths and other insects from spring through fall.

Entabi removed most of the English ivy, an invasive plant, and wants the violets to take over. They support the great spangled fritillary butterfly and provide nectar plants for other pollinators. She's striving for blooms most of the year. She leaves the leaves and dead wood in her garden beds. Her goal is a woodland garden of native plants that supports native insects, birds and other wildlife.

Entabi and many others are trying to eliminate plants not native to the area. Non-native or invasive plants are plants introduced to an area intentionally or accidentally. Many spread rapidly and lack natural controls. They usually outcompete native plants, alter biological communities and degrade natural ecosystems. Some can cause economic harm.

Trouble Signs

The Earth is losing one to two percent of its insects every year, reported University of Connecticut entomologist David Wagner in January, a trend some call "the insect apocalypse." NatureServe scientists estimate that about one third of all U.S. species of animals and vascular plants are at risk of extinction. A 2020 World Wildlife Fund study found that of nearly 4,400 mammals, amphibians, birds, fish and reptile populations have dropped by 68 percent since 1970.

These studies are signaling that the way we are managing or failing to manage our natural resources is having serious consequences. Experts point to habitat loss and fragmentation, monocultures, invasive species, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, climate change, light pollution and disease as contributing factors.

In suburbia, lawns and sprawling development have replaced most native biodiversity. Lawns cover 40 to 50 million acres of land in the United States, almost equivalent to all of the country's national parks, wrote Tik Root in the July 1 Washington Post. Lawns and turfgrass



Tami Entabi next to coral honeysuckle, a favorite of hummingbirds.

are the largest "crop" grown in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. And while the perfect green lawn may be an American icon, ecologically, it has very little habitat value.

To reverse the declines in insects, birds and other wildlife and to be better stewards of the environment, many gardeners today are turning to more natural landscaping approaches and native plants.

University of Delaware entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy offers this: "We have allowed alien plants to replace natives all over the country. Our native animals and plants cannot adapt to this gross and completely unnatural manipulation of their environment in time to negate the consequences."

With his initiative called "Homegrown National Park," Dr. Tallamy argues that our national parks are too small and spread apart to preserve species to the levels needed, that people can restore habitat and the ecological health of our communities.

Examples: Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and volunteers converted part of the landscape around the Mount Vernon Government Center to native plants. He led an effort started in 2018 and adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in 2020 to apply natural landscaping practices to county properties. Belle View Elementary School teachers created a native garden, outdoor classroom.

Pollinator Gardening

Pollinators include bees, beetles, butterflies, moths, other insects, birds and bats. When a pollinator carries pollen grains from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of flowers of the same species and fertilizes it, pollination

results and the plant can produce seeds. Around 75 percent of all flowering plants depend on pollinators for fertilization, but many pollinator species are declining. "The main threat facing wild pollinators is loss of habitats," wrote Kathy Reshetiloff for the Bay Journal.

Some pollinators are generalists and can pollinate a variety of plant species, but others are highly specialized. Many pollinators evolved to emerge when their plants are flowering. If the plants are not available, the pollinators cannot survive.

In Entabi's backyard, coreopsis plants attract skipper and fritillary butterflies. Hummingbirds probe coral honeysuckle blossoms. Luna moths visit the pignut hickory trees. Zebra swallowtail butterflies visit the pawpaw trees. Their caterpillars feed at night and spend the day in the leaf litter. Bees love the St. Johnswort. Many insects feed on the goldenrod. Woodpeckers excavate dead wood. Skinks hide out in brush piles. Where a big tree that came down left a big hole, Entabi's making a frog pond. "The soft bottom will be good for hibernating and the trunk will be part of pond and offer places to hide," she says.

Butterfly Gardening

Some people are planting native plants to support butterflies. "Selecting plants that will feed butterflies while also encouraging them to stick around for a while, laying eggs and creating a new generation of butterflies is your goal," advises the North American Butterfly Association's website. "To do this, you will need to choose plants that fall into two groups: nectar plants that will provide adult butterflies with



Tami Entabi explains that bees like the false indigo plant.



Violets now carpet her backyard.



Bumblebee on an obedient plant

energy and caterpillar food plants that will feed caterpillars. With careful selection from these two groups, your garden will provide for the entire life cycle of butterflies."

Some people are planting to specifically help monarch butterflies and support their migration to and

from Mexico. These orange and black butterflies, weighing one-fifth the weight of a penny, are the only butterfly species to regularly undertake a two-way migration, for some, a 3,000-mile trip over three generations. "This is one of the most extraordinary annual migrations on our planet," said mon-

arch expert, the late Dr. Lincoln Brower of Sweet Briar College.

Most butterfly caterpillars feed on specific plant species, called their host plant. Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed leaves. Host plants generally are the plants on which butterflies lay eggs and their cat-



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed.



Wasp on gray dogwood.



Eastern tiger swallowtail butterfly on fall phlox.



Bumblebee carrying pollen and feeding on milkweed blossoms.



Buckeye butterfly on hyssop



Milkweed garden at the Martha Washington Library on Fort Hunt Road. Belleview Elementary School is in the background, across the street.

erpillars eat. Without milkweed, monarch butterflies cannot complete their life cycle.

The American Horticultural Society's River Farm, Fort Belvoir and Burgundy Farm Country Day School have monarch butterfly gardens. The Martha Washington Library has a milkweed garden.

Tallamy urges people to "re-create" nature. For species in decline, he says, "Their only hope for a sustainable future is for us to inter-

Resources

Pollinator Gardening, www.pollinator.org; www.xerces.org/bringbackthepollinators Butterfly Gardening, <http://nababutterfly.com/basics-of-butterfly-gardening/> Guide to Native Plants for Northern Virginia, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/WildlifeHabitatGardens>: Audubon at Home, www.audubonva.org, <https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat>; Habitat at Home, <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/> "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard," book By Douglas W. Tallamy

vene to right the wrongs that we have perpetrated. In order to let nature take its course, we must first

re-create nature."

Tami Entabi's backyard is a good example.

"On your own property you can make a difference," Entabi says. "It's exciting."

Blazing a Trail

FROM PAGE 1

a win-win for everyone and we are lucky to have her.”

Aces pitcher Adam Schwartz agrees.

“Coach Jen is so encouraging to our bullpen,” Schwartz said. “She always has something positive to say after each outing but also gives us great constructive criticism. She is especially great at pitch sequencing -- telling us when and how to use our pitches.”

Hammond also serves as a Head Coach with DC Girls Baseball, a nonprofit program dedicated to developing opportunities for girls to play baseball. In the five years she has been with the program, Hammond has grown the program to provide a welcoming arena for girls to play baseball; to help them develop solid fundamental skill sets and baseball knowledge; and to provide competitive opportunities for more advanced players who wish to play at the high school level and beyond.

“Many of the players in the DC Girls Baseball program are one of only a few girls on their little league, travel or school teams,” Hammond added. “When they play with us they find community. No longer are they sticking out or drawing a lot of attention as the only girl. It’s been amazing to see



Coach Jennifer Hammond, left, demonstrates a pitching grip to the Alexandria Aces bullpen July 14 at Frank Mann Field.

the girls as they grow into confident and capable young women and I am hopeful that they will be exposed to many more opportunities in the baseball world than existed when I was their age.”

Hammond credits Berset and the other Aces coaches for making her feel welcome and valued as part of the team.

“I am looking forward to the day when women are seen simply as ‘coach,’ when this is less of a novelty that sticks out,” Hammond said. “I hope there comes a time when

we don’t have to worry that every move we make or the outcome of a game is a reflection on our gender’s ability to be successful in this field.”

The Aces will take on the league-leading Bethesda Big Train in their final regular season home game July 22 at Frank Mann Field at 6:30 p.m. Playoffs run July 24-31.

“Baseball is a great vehicle to learn life skills,” Hammond said. “It is a game full of failure and helping players learn to confront



Alexandria Aces coach Jennifer Hammond hits fly balls to players during a practice July 14 at Frank Mann Field.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

that, to handle disappointment and learn from it and go right back at it is one of my favorite parts of coaching. That resiliency, that mental

strength, that ability to reset and grind — these are all skills that translate to life outside the lines.”
www.calripenleague.org

40 Under 40

FROM PAGE 1

guel Blancas, City of Alexandria; Taryn Brice-Rowland, National Association of Truck Stop Operators (NATSO Inc); Alycia Burant, Healthy Minds Therapy; Christina Calloway, United States Patent and Trademark Office; Cynthia Chin, United States Patent and Trademark Office; C.J. Cross, Hops N Shine; Lieutenant Marcus Downey, Alexandria Police Department; Cheyanne Dwyer, Building Momentum; Paula J. Eichenbrenner, MBA, CAE, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Foundation; Kelly Ferenc, Bishop Boutique; Claudia Girerd, Freeman Decorating Company; Alyson Glick, Aptive Resources; Kellie Gunderman, The Social Edge, LLC & VIP Alexandria Magazine; Connie Hammell, KWC Certified Public Accountants; Amanda Parker Hazelwood, The Spitfire Club; Jenna Hong, MD, INOVA Medical Group; Mary Charlotte Horner, Legal Services of Northern Virginia; Michelle Smith Howard, Smart Beginnings Alexandria; Lorraine Johnson, Alexandria City High School Student;

Nicole Jones, Stomping Ground, Bagel Uprising & Mae’s Market & Café; Harrison C. Lee, Cotton and Company; Lizzie Liu, The Campaigna Center; Sarah Locke, Old Town Tax Consultants; Drew Marks, Mark-Woods Construction Services; Jennifer N. Masi, Children’s Law Center; Cody Mello-Klein, Alexandria Times; Morgan C. Middleton, United States Senate Federal Credit Union; Ashley Sanchez-Viafara, Alexandria City High School Student; Oliver N. Schipper, MD, Anderson Orthopedic Clinic; Robin Shultz, INOVA Health System; Faith Spillman, Alexandria Police Department; Jacobson Truex, McLaughlin Ryder Investments; Jaqueline Tucker, Esq., City of Alexandria; Lauren H. Waldron, Society for Marketing Professional Services; Natasha Walters, Brandywine Living at Alexandria; Toriseju Whyte, MD, Kaiser Permanente Mid Atlantic Medical Group; Jordan Wilhelm, The Critical Mass LLC; Andrew Young, Renner and Company, CPA, PC.

www.thechamberalx.com



Honorees Morgan Babcock and Christina Baucom share a laugh after the Chamber ALX’s 40 Under 40 ceremony July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.



Youth Honorees Ashley Sanchez-Viafara and Lorraine Johnson pose with their awards at the Chamber ALX’s 40 Under 40 celebration July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.



Honorees and audience members gather for the Chamber ALX’s 40 Under 40 program July 15 at The Alexandrian Hotel.

PHOTOS BY KIP RADT
JASON DIXSON
PHOTOGRAPHY

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an incapacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person's wishes as much as possible. www.volunteeralexandria.org

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors

The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeralexandria.org

ALIVE!

Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>

Alzheimer's Association - Walk to End Alzheimer's

Saturday, Sept. 25 (National Harbor) & Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021 The National Mall, Washington, DC. Volunteers are needed on the day of the events to help with set up, sign placement, information services, promise flower distribution, cheerleaders, and route monitors. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for

community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

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' BeFriend-A-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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12



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Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKETT

New restaurants, new chefs, new sweet treats – it's a time of change in Alexandria's restaurant world. Here are some bites to sustain you as the summer rolls along.

Kismet Modern Indian to Open in Old Town

Aficionados of the area's Indian cuisine are likely already well versed in the District's Karma Modern Indian, located on I Street Northwest. But soon Karma fans will be able to get a taste of owners Sachin Mahajan and Ajay Kumar's well known flavors right here in Alexandria. This fall, the creators' new concept, Kismet Modern Indian, will open its doors at 111 N. Pitt St., former home of both Pat Troy's Ireland's Own and more recently BurgerFi. Look for a more casual atmosphere than big sibling Karma offers in the District; and keep an eye out for an opening date as the weeks roll by.



Kaizen chef/owner Melvin Urrutia.

New Chef at Kaizen Tavern

Has it been a minute since you visited Del Ray's Kaizen Tavern? Get ready for a change. There's a new chef at the helm, but longtime Alexandria diners won't be surprised to hear his name. Melvin Urrutia, formerly of The Handover, People's Drug and the long-departed but much-missed Flying Fish, has entered the kitchen at Kaizen, putting a new spin on the menu as a result. 1909 Mount Vernon Ave.

Olympics-Themed Doughnuts at Elizabeth's Counter

After a yearlong delay, it's well past time to get into the Olympics spirit, and Elizabeth's Counter is ready to get the party started with some themed doughnuts. The plant-based delicacies adorned in red, white and blue come onto the scene July 23, the same day as the opening ceremonies, and persist through the Games. 804 N. Henry St.

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

DEL RAY ART CAMP

Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2021 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and other artful planned activities. During nice weather, campers will even have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. July 26-30; \$325/child; scholarship support available. Registration at DelRayArtisans.org/event/art-camp-2021

THURSDAY/JULY 22

Twilight & Tipple Tour. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Join in a special tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Pope-Leighey House for this one-of-a-kind event where you can view the intricate details of the house in the evening light, bringing a whole new dimension and radiance to the experience of this iconic home. Dinner will not be provided, but you are welcome to bring a picnic dinner. Tables and chairs will be set up around the Pope-Leighey House for you to use. No food or drink will be allowed inside.

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Family Fun: Planting Your Plate. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (5-Adult) Farm to table...how about backyard to table? Join us to learn how to plant, grow and harvest herbs, flowers, and vegetables to make colorful and delicious additions to every meal. Explore our park's

Edible Garden and plant your own mini edible garden to take home and enjoy. All attendees must be registered for the program. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 4K4.W102) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Garden Tour and Ice Cream. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Tour the vibrant summer gardens with a Green Spring Master Gardener docent. Finish at the Historic House lawn to enjoy delicious ices, served with toppings and garnishes. \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code I7Q.W900) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 24

Watercolor Workshop: Botanicals. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) For the beginner or advanced student, this in-person workshop teaches watercolor techniques through exercises that help you understand color and composition, and improve brush control. Artist Dawn Flores teaches you about paper, paint, drawing and transfer techniques used in botanical art. Basic drawing skills are helpful for drawing the plant specimen from which to paint an elegant botanical portrait. Supply list will be emailed before class. Tables will be separated for social distancing and masks are required. Bring a lunch. \$94 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 8GJ.3EBX) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

THURSDAY/JULY 29

Savory Soiree: "Bold as Brass" - Cham-

ber Music. 5:30 and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. If you've never heard a trombone quartet or a French horn trio, this is your moment. Hear the noble French horn and the characterful trombone showcase the arresting versatility of their instruments. Featuring Kennedy Center Horn Trio: Wei-ping Chou, Horn | James Nickel, Horn | Robert Rearden, Horn. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secret-gardenconcerts/>

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Tropical Teas Tasting. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Savor a selection of real and herbal iced teas that will transport you to the tropics. Flavored with tropical plants, fruits, and flowers, these teas are delicious hot or cold. Take home recipes for more exotic teas to blend yourself. Tropical accompaniments served. \$25 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code JIW.B59M) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

AUG. 6-28

"Together" is an exhibit by Del Ray Artisans' outstanding volunteers and board members, who make Del Ray Artisans an organization that fosters community and promotes creative expression and artistic endeavors. Come celebrate their dedication and enjoy their artwork. The "Together" exhibit runs August 6-28, 2021 at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays 12-6pm, Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 29). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

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 preteens 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.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth.

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

Obituary



Jeffrey P. F. Petrino
January 2, 1949 – July 15, 2021

The family will receive visitors at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia on Friday evening, July 23 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A Solemn Requiem Mass in the Extraordinary Form (1962 Missal) will be offered on Saturday, July 24 at 11:00 am at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 South Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Additional information may be found at www.demainefuneralhomes.com.

Employment

Youth Minister Pohick Church, Lorton - 20hrs/week. Experience working with youth, ideally in the Episcopal Church. Recruit/train youth advisors to assist & oversee 3 age groups, 5th & 6th, Jr & Sr High, with year round programs and summer mission trip. Plan Lenten Series and summer retreat activities for youth and family. Involve youth in church activities & fundraising activities. 5% pension & 2 weeks vacation. Submit resume/references to: The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi at info@pohick.org by Aug 13

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Employment

Admin Pohick Church, Lorton - 4 days, 28hrs/week Good communication/clerical skills. Format/print MS Word, Excel/Powerpt, import graphics. Word Press, Constant Contact a plus & ideally some graphic design, publishing & Web site updates. Weekly deadlines, ordering supplies, maintain church calendar/building users/keys. Process membership Baptisms Confirmations Weddings. 5% pension & up to 4% match/2 weeks vacation. Submit resume/references to The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi at info@pohick.org by Aug 13

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Kismet Healthy Foods LLC trading as Kismet Modern Indian, 111 N Pitt St Ste 12, Alexandria, VA 22314-3107. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sachin Mahajan, Managing Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Definitely on My List



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As the month of May was swept away with the last of the network-season's original programming, those of us still in lockdown and quarantining had our own reality to embrace: there was nothing new on network television. Cable became the obvious choice. In particular, "Netflix" and "Prime." Whether it was "Victoria," "The Crown," "Bridgerton," "The Kominsky Method" or "The Queen's Gambit," many of us left the networks behind and found a new home. However, even that didn't last forever. Soon we were back perusing the all-too-familiar weekly television viewing guide.

And in returning, I discovered a program that has been on for eight years, and never once had I seen any snippet other than a brief - and bland reference about something or other: The program is called "The Blacklist." I knew that James Spader was the star, but I knew nothing about the storyline or any other actors involved. James Spader I knew from "Boston Legal," a legal drama from the early 2000s which featured among other story lines, a lawyer, Alan Shore (James Spader) offering up impassioned closing arguments for whatever wrong the firm was trying to right. I can't remember much substance but I can sure remember the feeling and conviction expressed by Spader's character. He was mesmerizing.

And so, having exhausted "Prime and "Netflix" and a few other cable channels, we reverted back to the networks. This time though to search for a show that we had overlooked during its initial previous network programming life. We discovered or rather took a chance and selected "The Blacklist" to see what we could see. Not so much my wife, Dina, but ever since I began watching episode one, I have been entranced. To say I've been binge-watching makes light of all those who have previously binge-watched. I have watched approximately 80 episodes, not at one sitting (to be fair, I have watched multiple episodes multiple times) and am presently halfway through season five. They have been renewed for a ninth season starting in the fall of '21 so if I were planning on being current by then, I would need to have watched 22 episodes per year times seven years plus half of season eight: that's about 175 shows, each one running 42 minutes give or take without commercials. That adds up to over 122+ hours of television. That would test any committed viewer's patience and schedule. Presuming I have a life other than my couch and television, the prospect seems a bit daunting and to be honest, perhaps a bit foolish. I mean, life goes on doesn't it? James Spader gets paid whether I watch him or not, doesn't he? As for the networks, I'm pretty sure they're getting paid as well whether I'm in front of the television or not. Now if I were getting paid for my viewership, I would definitely hop on the couch. However, that's not happening - not in my wildest dreams so I'm afraid I'll have to fend for myself. Still, in spite of calculating the hours necessary to get current with the show and considering the life I would need to live to reach this nirvana, I am not put off by the arithmetic or the challenge. I don't intend to commit every waking hour to fulfilling this goal, especially if one were to consider how the return of the fall shows in September would adversely impact my viewing flexibility. More shows to watch would create less opportunity to focus on any one show.

Nevertheless, there are approximately three months-ish until original programming returns to the networks in the fall. I don't have to have completed my pursuit by then. It's not as if I'm fulfilling some kind of contract. Hardly. All I'm fulfilling is a cockeyed plan to binge-watch more than eight seasons of a show that up until now, I barely knew existed. Now, not only does it exist, it's sort of the focus of my life (cancer notwithstanding). Granted, it's not very exciting, but it sure is predictable. And for a cancer patient recently re-diagnosed, predictable is good. I just hope the show ends before I do.

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

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NEWS

Freedmen Cemetery Dedication

Saturday, July 24, 8 - 9 a.m.

1001 S. Washington Street (at the corner of Church Street)

Join Historic Alexandria this Saturday in honoring Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network. The free dedication includes a wreath laying by the 31st Masonic District, a reading by representatives of the United States Colored Troops, and remarks by Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley. The ceremony will take place rain or shine.

The African American Civil Rights Network's collection of 57 powerful historic resources commemorate, honor, and interpret the nation's Civil Rights Movement and the continuing struggle for racial equality. Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery is the oldest and first site in Virginia to be added to the network. In 1864, the U.S. Army established the burial ground for contrabands and freedmen, making it one of the few final resting places of its kind in the country. Following the burial of 118 United States Colored Troops in Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery, outraged USCT protested and petitioned for their fellow soldiers' right to be buried at what is today Alexandria National Cemetery. As a result of their action, the soldiers were reburied in Alexandria National Cemetery.

For more information on the African American Civil Rights Network, visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/civilrights/african-american-civil-rights-network.htm>. To learn more about the history of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial, visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FreedmenMemorial>

Public Meeting on Burial Grounds in Fort Ward Park-July 31

There will be a public meeting on Saturday, July 31 at 10-11:30 am in the City of Alexandria's Fort Ward Park to discuss marking, protection, and recognition of key cemetery areas and burial sites related to the African American Fort community. City staff from the Office of Historic Alexandria will be leading a discussion on issues and ideas for demarcating and memorializing these sacred areas.

Attendees should meet City staff in the parking lot behind Fort Ward Museum and be prepared to walk to the four major burial

Museums Opening

Some Historic Alexandria Museums are now open. Here are the museum hours:

Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Fridays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m.
Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fridays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fridays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 - 5 p.m.
Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, Sundays - Mondays, 1 - 5 p.m.
Source: www.alexandriava.gov/Historic

sites. In the event of rain, the meeting will be held in the reception hall at Oakland Baptist Church, 3408 King Street, Alexandria.

Fort Ward Park's cemetery areas and burial sites are associated with the post-Civil War African American community known as "The Fort," which developed on the grounds and vicinity of the present-day Park beginning in the 1870s. The sites that are the focus of discussion are: The Old Grave Yard, established at least by 1897; the Adams family burial site, which includes the grave of community matriarch Clara Adams; the Clark family burial site; and the Jackson Cemetery, established on land purchased by Fort resident James Jackson in 1884 that was once part of the earlier Civil War Union fort.

City archaeologists and historians will lead discussions at each area that provide context and considerations for possible demarcation of some sites, preservation issues, and additional approaches to memorialization. Public feedback will be gathered for implementing long-term approaches to care and recognition of these sacred historical areas.

Passing of Gladys Davis

Historic Alexandria mourns the passing of Gladys Davis at the age of 103. Ms. Davis worked for the City of Alexandria for 61 years, both as a librarian and as an educational secretary for the Alexandria Public School system. She began her career as a librarian in the city in 1947 at the Robert Robinson Branch Library, which was then the segregated library available to African American patrons. She continued to work in the library system until 2008, including in the Children's Department at the Charles Beatley Central Library.

The New New Deal

FROM PAGE 3

tion, lawmakers are also considering ways to invest in the public school system.

"There has been a concern that the funds are really mostly directed toward upgrades and renovations as opposed to new construction," said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst at the Commonwealth Institute. "I know that's something that some folks in the education world are concerned about because they see that as maybe the wrong priority."

One potential spending priority that's receiving a great deal of discussion is providing wraparound services at community schools. That could be for things like assistance signing up for broadband services,

food assistance or after-school programs. The idea is that school facilities can also serve as community hubs for health services. Advocates are currently pressing lawmakers to invest in the idea of community schools during the special session.

"You might place a health center or ways to access additional family services right there within a school building or right there within a neighborhood," said Rachael Deane, legal director for the Youth Justice Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center. "Those can be really wonderful ways to increase equity and increase community engagement, and I think it's important that we use some of this money to explore new models for education like that."

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