

# Alexandria Gazette Packet

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OCTOBER 1, 2021



Founders Park is one of many recreational parks across the city.

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2021-2022

JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



### Old Town | \$3,200,000

Unique opportunity to be the next steward of an expansive, historic home with a private garden in the heart of Old Town. This 9-bedroom home offers nearly 7,000 SF of finished living space, with an additional 2,630 SF available in the unfinished basement. Currently comprised of 3 separate units, it offers the possibility of rental income, multi-family living, or a conversion to one grand residence. 126 S Fairfax St  
**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.LaurenBishopHomes.com](http://www.LaurenBishopHomes.com)



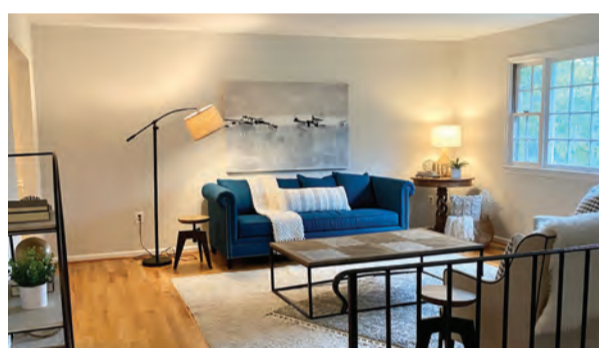
### Harborside | \$2,150,000

This 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath treasure with triple exposures has the flow of an elegant single-family home. The quality of the craftsmanship & classic features are abundant in this 3-level floor plan that works for both daily living & entertaining! Family room has floor-to-ceiling French doors that lead to a two level outdoor entertaining area with a peek of the Potomac River. Two deeded parking spaces convey. 52 Wolfe St  
**Colleen Coopersmith 703.338.2930**  
[www.ColleenCoopersmith.com](http://www.ColleenCoopersmith.com)



### Alexandria City | \$1,225,000

Situated on a large 1/4 acre corner lot, the quality & elegance of this house is apparent. Creatively expanded and improved upon to create 3 spacious bedrooms, 4 full baths, elegant great room, nicely finished family room and large screened porch. 613 Melrose St  
**Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961**  
**Sarah King 703.864.5050**



### Alexandria City | \$749,900

Amazing Opportunity! Spacious 4-bedroom, 3-bath split level home on a large lot. Primary bedroom with en-suite on main level and great natural light throughout. Spacious basement with wood-burning fireplace and large utility room for extra storage. 3602 Russell Road  
**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



### Old Town | \$549,000

SE Quadrant! Perfectly updated condo in St. Asaph Square. Rarely available 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom unit with garage parking! Move-in ready and available NOW! Convenient shopping, the waterfront and all that Old Town has to offer! 800 S. St. Asaph Street #414  
**Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)

OPEN SAT 10/2 & SUN 10/3, 2-4PM



### Old Town

**\$1,595,000**

This 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home offers 4,000 SF on 4 levels with 10-ft ceilings, a bright and updated high-end kitchen. The primary bedroom and en-suite is the entire second floor! 2 parking spots, cozy courtyard with tall trees, and a roof-top terrace with spectacular views. 712 Wythe Street

**Casey Shaw 703.718.6530**  
[www.CaseyShawHomes.com](http://www.CaseyShawHomes.com)

OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM



### Fords Landing

**\$1,215,000**

Sparkling 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, handsome moldings, custom built-ins, and a sunny stainless kitchen. Luxurious primary suite with vaulted ceilings, multiple closets, and expansive bath. Lovely deck and off-street parking for 2 cars. 722 Battery Place

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)

COMING SOON



### Old Town

**\$1,150,000**

The 2-story addition to this classic Yates Gardens home features a stunning eat-in kitchen and light-filled primary bedroom suite. With hard-to-find 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, check it out early when it comes to market on October 5th! 817 S Royal Street

**Sarah Bobbin 571.225.8716**  
[www.817SouthRoyal.com](http://www.817SouthRoyal.com)

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



The Old Town Farmer Market is one of several in the city to attract residents and visitors from across the area.



The Old Town Farmers Market is considered the oldest continuous farmers market in the country with George Washington one of the first merchants.



The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors the service and sacrifice of the 68 men from Alexandria who either died in Vietnam and the surrounding area or remain missing in action. The plaza is located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray.

## Home, Sweet Home City continues pandemic rebound.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

For centuries, Alexandria has been known primarily as the hometown of George Washington, attracting history aficionados from across the globe to its cobblestone streets and lively waterfront.

As the city of nearly 160,000 slowly rebounds from the pandemic-induced shut-

down of a year ago, visitors are once again walking the streets and enjoying the city's bustling waterfront.

"Alexandria was a great place to grow up," said Thomas Hulfish III, a sixth generation Alexandrian whose first family member arrived as a Scottish sea captain in 1780. "I loved playing along the industrial waterfront. Alexandria was here because of the river and when the railroad arrived it be-

SEE HOME, SWEET HOME, PAGE 4



Founders Park is one of many recreational parks across the city.



Members of the 31st Masonic District gather in front of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial during the July 24 dedication of the site's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, shown illuminated in the school colors of Alexandria City High School, is a city landmark.

PHOTO ACPS

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Actor Chris Meloni of Law and Order: Special Victims Unit was the captain and quarterback of the 1978 undefeated St. Stephen's football team.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Actress Casey Wilson is a 1998 graduate of T.C. Williams High School.

# Home, Sweet Home

FROM PAGE 3

came a busy, busy town."

Hulfish is well-known around the city after serving several years as the chair of the Board of Architectural Review. His interest in historic architecture was inspired by his parents, Polly Hulfish and Thomas Hulfish Jr.

"My mother renovated or restored 52 properties in Old Town and later served on the BAR," Hulfish said. "My father was a member of City Council and one of two council members who pro-

**"The best way to enjoy Alexandria is to join the community."**

— Lifelong resident  
**Tom Hulfish**

duced the city's first preservation ordinance in 1946."

Hulfish has seen many residents come and go over the years, in-

cluding his childhood friend Willard Scott. But too many newcomers do not take the time to enjoy what makes Alexandria special.

"I know so many people who live here and really don't know Alexandria at all because they don't do anything other than go to work in Washington and come home," Hulfish lamented. "The best way to enjoy Alexandria is to join the community. Do something. Join organizations — churches, civic associations — anything to take part in

SEE HOME, SWEET, PAGE 6



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Actor Dermot Mulroney was born in Alexandria in 1957.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joe Namath talks with New York Jets coach Weeb Ewbank during Namath's professional NFL debut in Alexandria on Aug. 7, 1965. The Jets played their first preseason game against the Houston Oilers at what was then George Washington High School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Angus King (I-ME) was born and raised in Alexandria and is a relative of the late former mayor and senator Patsy Ticer.



MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Holiday Boat Parade of Lights takes place on the Potomac River from DC to Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Born Ellen Naomi Cohen in Alexandria, Mama Cass Elliot, center back, was a 1961 graduate of George Washington High School.



MARK MOGLE/GAZETTE PACKET

The Scottish Walk parade is one of the city's signature events and raises funds for the Campagna Center.

## NEWCOMERS GUIDE

# Local Nonprofits

**M**any nonprofits in the city and nearby need your help to continue to rise to the need during the dual health and economic crisis of the pandemic.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally, financially, food and other goods, volunteer time. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

## Where to Give Locally

❖ **ALIVE!** Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; **ALIVE!** serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org)

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) [aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org) P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's

Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness. [aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org) 703.746.8108 [contact@aliceskids.org](mailto:contact@aliceskids.org)

❖ **At Home in Alexandria (AHA)** is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an advocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: [aha@athomeinalexandria.org](mailto:aha@athomeinalexandria.org) Website: [www.athomeinalexandria.org](http://www.athomeinalexandria.org)

❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org), Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education and community service and outreach.

❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, [www.actforalexandria.org](http://www.actforalexandria.org), Nonprofit and donor services.

❖ **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**, 703-549-6670 ext. 119

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 9

REELECT DEMOCRAT

AMY JACKSON

Alexandria City Council



ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 2.

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Actor and 1983 T.C. Williams graduate Chip Esten returned to Alexandria to perform a benefit concert for the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden got her theatrical start at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Longtime resident Monte Durham celebrated the one-year anniversary of his Salon Monte at the waterfront.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local boxer Troy Isley, center, represented the U.S. in the Tokyo Olympics.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Olympic bronze medalist Noah Lyles began his track and field career as a student at T.C. Williams High School.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Earl Lloyd (11), playing in an NBA championship game in 1955, made history as the first African American to play in the NBA when he took to the court for the Washington Capitols on Oct. 31, 1950, in Rochester, N.Y.

## Home, Sweet Home

FROM PAGE 4  
the community.”

In addition to George Washington and Robert E. Lee, the city also claims Jim Morrison, Mama Cass Elliot, Chris Meloni, Chip Esten and Casey Wilson as hometown notables.

History buffs will know that U.S. president Gerald Ford was a longtime resident and that U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers lived here after he was released from a Soviet prison in 1962.

Earl Lloyd, who grew up in a segregated Alexandria, was the first African American to break the color barrier in the NBA in 1950.

But even sports buffs likely are not aware that it was in Alexandria where NFL Hall of Famer Joe Namath made his pro football debut on Aug. 7, 1965. Namath and the New York Jets took on the Houston Oilers in a preseason game at what was then George Washington High School.

Namath had just signed the richest contract in pro football history and as the Alexandria Gazette reported at the time, “the eyes of the sports world will be focused on Alexandria to see just how he fares against the play-for-pay boys.”

At 15.4 square miles, pre-pandemic Alexandria hosted nationally recognized events such as the Scottish Walk Weekend and Del Ray’s Art on the Avenue, both of which are set to return this year.



LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

Willard Scott was born in Alexandria and graduated from George Washington High School in 1951.

But off the beaten paths of King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue are attractions such as the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier and the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Another Alexandria landmark is the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Located in front of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, the plaza honors the 68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.

King Street in Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray serve as the shopping and dining hubs of the city. Both are lined with locally owned boutiques and

restaurants that have reopened and adapted to COVID-19 guidelines.

The Birchmere in Arlandria has reopened for live performances while a wide variety of classes are available for children and adults at The Little Theatre of Alexandria on Wolfe Street, where Dermot Mulroney and Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Harden honed their craft.

“It’s good to see the local businesses thrive and doing well again,” Hulfish said. “I’ve enjoyed Alexandria so very much. I’ve never thought about living anywhere else.”

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



The Alexandria City High School Jr. ROTC Honor Guard presents the colors as the ACHS choir sings the National Anthem during the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 20 at City Hall.



Dave Embrey portrays a fifer from 1787 during the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 20 at City Hall.

## ‘We the People’

### City commemorates Constitution Week.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Students from Alexandria City High School joined Mayor Justin Wilson Sept. 20 at City Hall to participate in the signing of a proclamation recognizing Constitution Week, a week designated to promote the study and appreciation of the document sometimes referred to as “America’s birth certificate.”

Constitution Week is held each year from Sept. 17-23 with this year marking the country’s 234th anniversary. Written in 1787, the document provides the framework of the American government and upholds and protects American freedoms. Four Virginians were crucial to the creation of the Constitution: James Madison, George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

Constitution Week was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted and signed into public law on Aug. 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The aims of Constitution Week are to emphasize the responsibility of citizens to protect the Constitution, to educate people about the role of the Constitution and encourage the study of historical events leading to the drafting of the Constitution in September of 1787.

Participating in the ceremony were stu-



Vicky and Dave Embrey represent Alexandrians from 1787, the year the U.S. Constitution was signed, during the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 20 at City Hall.

dents from the Alexandria City High School Jr. ROTC, the ACHS choir, fifer David Embrey, bell ringer Jane Ring and ACPS staff and board members.

Also attending was Thomas Roth III, President of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution as well as DAR members from five local DAR chapters: John Alexander, Mount Vernon, Kate Waller Barrett, Nelly Custis and Dr. Elisha Dick. Council member Amy Jackson is a DAR member and also participated in the ceremony.



Mayor Justin Wilson signs a proclamation celebrating Constitution Week Sept. 20 in council chambers at City Hall.



DAR member Jane Ring participates in the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 20 at City Hall.



Members of area chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution stand with Mayor Justin Wilson as part of the Constitution Week ceremony Sept. 20 at City Hall.

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# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## Give Locally

FROM PAGE 5

<https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade. Donate now to fund its mission of making sure that every child in Alexandria can read and succeed.

❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. As a result of closures relating to the coronavirus, the organization has reshaped its Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Since April, Assistance League has provided 1031 grocery store gift cards, valued at more than \$20,000, for four of the Title I schools that we serve in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. Contact [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org) or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org)

❖ Bethany House, 6121 Lincoln Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhnhv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

❖ The Campagna Center, 703-549-0111, [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org), Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

❖ Carpenter's Shelter, 703 548-7500, [www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org), Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

❖ Center for Alexandria's Children, 703-838-4381, [www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org), Child abuse and neglect and parent support.

❖ Child and Family Network Centers, 703-836-0214, [www.cfnc-online.org](http://www.cfnc-online.org), Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

❖ Community Lodgings, Inc., 703-549-4407 Transitional and affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

❖ The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, [www.cfnova.org](http://www.cfnova.org) The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

❖ Computer C.O.R.E. 703-931-7346, [www.computercore.org](http://www.computercore.org), Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: [info@computercore.org](mailto:info@computercore.org)

❖ Comfort for America's Uninformed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org)

❖ Hopkins House, 703-549-

8072, [www.hopkinshouse.org](http://www.hopkinshouse.org), Preschool academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

❖ Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, 703-237-0866, [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org), Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

❖ Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. Able to devote more than 98 percent of the donations and grants to direct client support and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. [bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC](http://bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC)

❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout region. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, [www.neighborhoodhealthva.org](http://www.neighborhoodhealthva.org)

❖ Northern Virginia Family Services, [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org), Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500

❖ Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) seeks to provide low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation helps homeless pets find their way into loving homes through rescue and adoption. We offer same-day adoptions and two-week trial periods. All pets are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. [lostdogrescue.org](http://lostdogrescue.org)

❖ Mount Vernon At Home, 703-303-4060, [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org). Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay safe, secure, and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and support for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/) HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: [info@nami-nova.org](mailto:info@nami-nova.org)

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 11



# EXPERIENCE TRANSPARENCY EQUITY

**Vote for Tammy Ignacio for  
Alexandria City Public School Board  
District B**

**We can trust TAMMY IGNACIO to fight for our students  
BECAUSE SHE HAS FOR 30 YEARS.**

As an educator with 30 years of experience and the mother of three ACPS graduates, Tammy Ignacio is running for School Board to ensure all students have equitable access to programs and services. She earned her master's degree in education from George Mason University. Tammy has had a 30-year career as an educator: seven years as a teacher; 11 years as assistant principal at ACHS (formerly TC Williams High School); five years as ACPS (Alexandria City Public Schools) chief of staff; and, in her last position before retiring, the lead administrator for special education at ACHS.

As a School Board member, Tammy will fight for:

- Increasing Student Achievement
- Transparency and Accountability
- Developing a First-Rate Workforce




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## THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT  
[ALZ.ORG/WALK](http://ALZ.ORG/WALK)



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)

OCTOBER 9 THE NATIONAL MALL  
OCTOBER 24 RESTON TOWN CENTER

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# About the Alexandria Gazette Packet and Sister Papers in 2021

**T**his year, 2021 in the time of the pandemic, has been brutal for so many. Life is vastly different than it was pre-pandemic.

Families of all backgrounds are facing food insecurity and demand at food pantries has skyrocketed.

Thousands of families could be facing eviction.

Many small businesses are still in economic crisis, and some employees are facing unemployment.

Local newspapers, including the Gazette Packet and the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis of coronavirus.

We turned to GoFundMe at a critical point, and our readers answered, raising nearly \$50,000 to get us through a terrible time until we received some PPP funding. We thank all who gave, as well as all who wished us well.

Now, though, we are back to great difficulty. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going. We have applied for Rebuild VA funds, but the timing is uncertain and certainly not when we needed it (in the summer). We will renew calls for contributions shortly to try to carry on.

We will also likely begin a membership program soon, so watch for new links. Here is the link to the past GoFundMe which is still working. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-america-oldest-newspaper>

**IN THE MIDST** of this, we at the Gazette Packet and Connection still hear the call to continue to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry; of those who have gotten sick with the virus, of those who are caring for the sick; and those who are performing essential jobs, from grocery clerk to firefighter to nurses and doctors. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality in the time of COVID.

Perhaps most of all, it is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives. It is still our mission to cover the normal news of the local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituar-

ies. Tell us: how are you surviving in the pandemic?

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome.

For many months, there were no calendar listings in our papers. Everything was cancelled. Now there is a return of many face-to-face events. If you are planning an event, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community weekly newspaper, the Gazette, is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. This is our flag-

## Alexandria Gazette Packet

SENIOR LIVING PAGE 14

25 CENTS SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame inductees unveil the Hall of Fame Wall Sept. 18 at Alexandria City High School.



Members of the 1971 DC Williams football team prepare to be inducted into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Sept. 18 at Alexandria City High School.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT, ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

### Alexandria Couple Donates Edward R. Murrow World War II Microphone to the National Press Club



Alexandria residents Anne Friedman and Michael Friedman, past president of the National Press Club, (left) and National Press Club Executive Director William McGowan and Gary Murrow at the display of the Edward R. Murrow microphone. Gary Murrow's father, broadcaster Edwin R. Murrow, used this microphone for his legendary radio broadcast from London in 1940. The Friedman family acquired and donated the microphone for permanent display in the Edward R. Murrow room at the National Press Club.

### ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2020, 2021 newest inductees.

By JEANNE THEISMAN

SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



Members of the 1971 DC Williams football team prepare to be inducted into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Sept. 18 at Alexandria City High School. Pictured are (l-r) John Welch, Jerry Pile, Eddie Dixon, Phil Jones and George Coburn.

ports stars from across the city converged on Alexandria City High School Sept. 18 as the Alexandria City School Board inducted its newest members into the ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame.

A joint induction ceremony was held honoring both the class of 2020 and 2021 due to

the postponement of last year's event. A "hall of fame" was unveiled revealing the players dedicated to each individual inductee.

Along with the ceremony on Saturday, inductees were introduced during halftime of the ACPS football game Friday evening, the first played under lights at a renovated Potomac Stadium.

The 2021 ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame members include: Tony Bailey, Baseball, J.C.

See ACPS ATHLETIC, ON PAGE 4



Legendary editor Kemal Kurspahic died Sept. 17 at the age of 74.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT, ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

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## 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.

**SUNDAY/OCT. 3**  
Alexandria Love Your Pet Day.  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park at 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Proceeds will go to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which is organizing the event. The festival will offer family-friendly entertainment and activities throughout the day. Musical acts Uno Dos Tres Andrés and Rainbow Rock Band will headline the main stage, magician

Chris Michael and interactive training and musical demos will round out the festivities. The AWLA will offer a Family Entertainment area, with animal-focused crafts, games and adoptable animals. The event is also open to friendly, leashed pets. Visit [AlexandriaLoveYourPetDay.com/Schedule](http://AlexandriaLoveYourPetDay.com/Schedule).

**SUNDAY/OCT. 3**  
Updated Garden Beds at Simpson feature Native Plants. 12-1:30 p.m. 2021 Master Gardener Intern Project at Simpson Gardens - located next to Eugene Simpson Stadium Park, 426 E Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Come join Extension Master Gardener

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

## Let Us Know Your View

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

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## NEWS

### Q & A Sessions for Alexandria's Nov. 2 Elections

To increase public awareness of the Nov. 2 elections in Alexandria, the Seminary Ridge Civic Association (SRCA) will hold two Question and Answer sessions to introduce Alexandria residents to the nine candidates running for City Council and the two candidates running for Mayor.

The first forum (of two) in October will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. This will include all nine City Council candidates together.

The second Forum for the two Mayoral Candidates will be on Tuesday, Oct. 19 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Both sessions will be held on Zoom using the webinar format. All Alexandrians are invited to participate to become better aware of the candidates and their positions on issues of concern to Alexandria. For the Zoom link to the Oct. 6 webinar, please visit SRCA's website homepage at: [www.seminaryridge.net](http://www.seminaryridge.net)

### Give Locally

FROM PAGE 9

4770. Work with 450+ nonprofit partners across the region, partners who distribute an average of 88,000 meals daily. Together, provide more than 30 million meals every year. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)

❖ New Hope Housing, ending homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 [www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/](http://www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/)

❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, [www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org](http://www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org), Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org), Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity.


❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, [www.scanva.org](http://www.scanva.org), Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ United Community formerly United Community Ministries; "Our vision and aspiration is to end multi-generational poverty. It's a big aspiration; but we know that together, it's achievable." Donate, volunteer. 7511 Fordson Rd. Alexandria, VA 22306

<https://unitedcommunity.org/>

❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteeralexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

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**Annual**  
**HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM**  
**Grades 9-12**  
**Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021**  
**11am-1pm**  
**A Virtual Event**  
**For information and/or to register go to**  
**[vwmshsca@gmail.com](mailto:vwmshsca@gmail.com). Please give your first**  
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**(email & ph#). Last day to register is**  
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# Contaminated Legacy

From slave plantation to industrial pollution, a hidden history of North Old Town.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The shuttered power plant dominating the landscape in North Old Town has layers of industrial pollution, a hidden history buried under the contaminated soil of the Potomac River Generating Station. Even before the coal-fired power plant was constructed in 1949, the property was home to the American Chlorophyll Company and Potomac River Clay Works. That means the long and complicated task known as “remediating” the property could mean removing everything from coal ash and mercury to industrial fertilizer and hazardous metals.

“What I’m most worried about is the process by which they dismantle the plant,” said Mary Harris, president of the North Old Town Independent Citizens Association, who lives in neighboring Marina Towers. “The air emissions that will come from that are very concerning.”

The land where the power plant is now located was once a slave plantation owned by the first rector of Christ Church, Townshend Dade. In the 1920s, the area experienced rapid industrialization. The American Chlorophyll Company set up operation on the spot where the power plant would later locate the coal pile. And the Potomac River Clay Works had an operation on what is now the parking lot of the power plant. Neighbors in North Old Town say they want all that con-

**“It was a long, hard haul, and we had so many obstacles. But the truth finally won.”**

— Elizabeth Chimento, North Old Town resident who led the fight

taminated soil cleaned up rather than capped in place and left where it is, a common way to deal with these kinds of heavily polluted sites.

“We are committed to a transparent community engagement process and to working with the community and city leaders on the redevelopment of this site into a sustainable and inviting mixed-use district of which we can all be proud,” said Ella Hoffman, senior vice president of Hilco Redevelopment Partners, which is redeveloping the site.

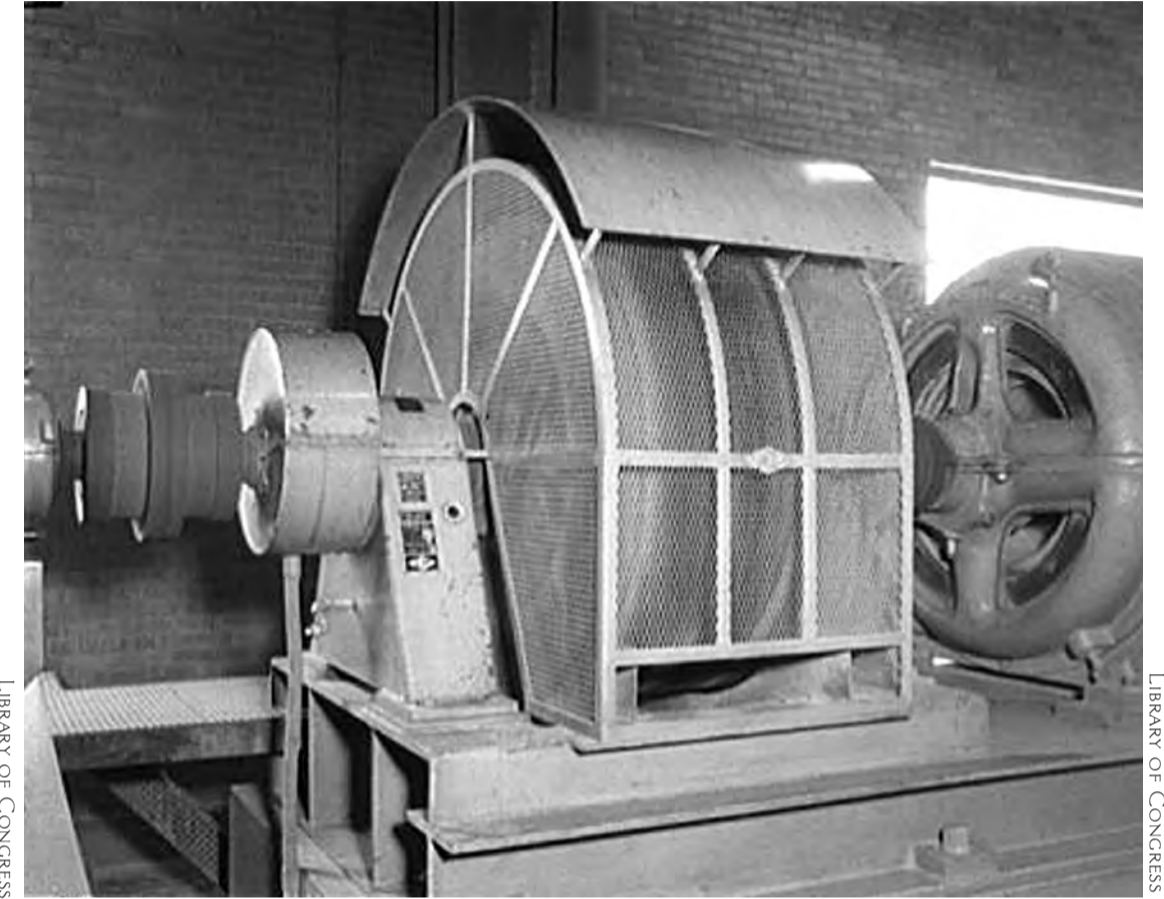
**SHORTLY AFTER** the neighborhood moved from a rural agricultural area to an industrial zone, Alexandria annexed the property from Arlington in 1930 — an annexation that Arlington opposed in court, a fight they lost. A



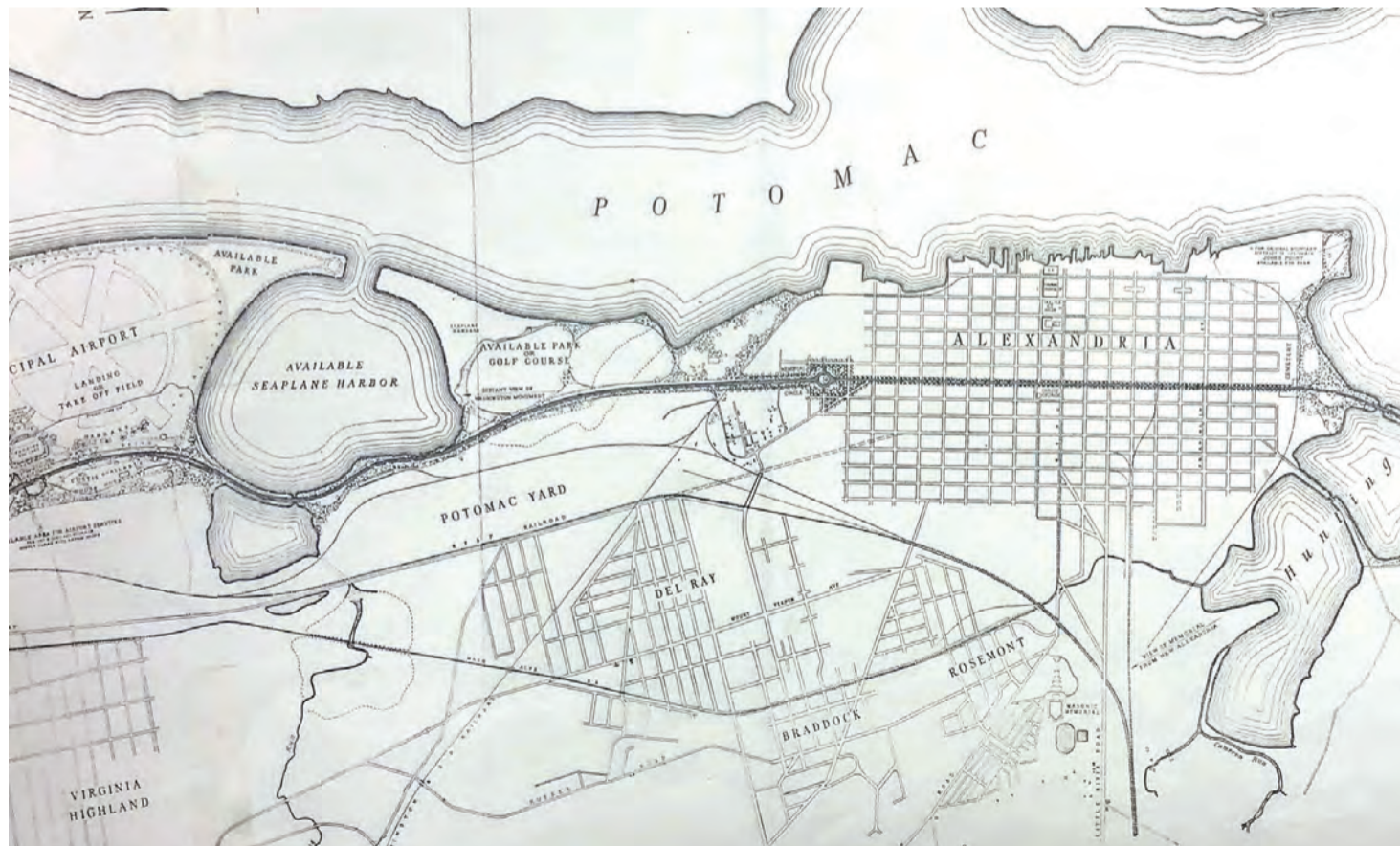
The Potomac Electric Power Company opened the Alexandria power plant in 1949 to provide power to the Pentagon, parts of Maryland and the Rosslyn neighborhood of Arlington.



This 1947 image shows the site where the power plant would be constructed a few years later.



The power plant had a magnetic fan that was part of the process of generating electricity.



This 1930 map from the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Public Roads shows the location of the future power plant as a spot available for a park or golf course.

few years later, in 1940, the Potomac Electric Power Company started looking at the site for a potential coal-fired power plant. Company officials realized that the Benning Road Power Plant, built in 1907, and the Buzzards Point Power Plant, built in 1933, would no longer meet the needs of the region.

“To provide the facilities necessary to meet the increasing demands of our customers, the company has embarked upon a construction program of unprecedented magnitude,” wrote Pepco President Alfred Neal in a 1949 newspaper column. “In addition to expanded transmission and distribution facilities,

a new power station is being constructed at Alexandria, Va., which will eventually have a capacity of 400,000 kilowatts.”

The dedication luncheon of the new plant in October 1949 included 250 officials from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Neal explained to the assembled



The shuttered coal-fired power plant at the Potomac River Generating Station on North Royal Street has a long and sooty history.

dignitaries that Pepco realized it needed to do something in 1940, and so the company purchased the 23-acre property in 1942 and started demolishing the industrial uses that were already on the site. He added that the war slowed down progress on the project, although he added that the final product represented a huge step forward for Pepco and the region.

“This investment, which will enable the company to continue to meet its responsibility of providing an adequate supply of electricity to its District of Columbia and Maryland customers is the largest item in the company’s post-war expansion program,” Neal said.

**“But we persisted.”**  
— Paul Smedberg in 2012

He added that the threat of air pollution would be handled by blowing the fly ash into the air at 60 mile an hour, a solution that led to years of air pollution and toxic politics.

**THE LONG BATTLE** to close the power plant started with a group of neighbors who were sick and tired of coal dust collecting on their windowsills and patio furniture and worrying about the dangers of the pollution. Eventually, they got

together and spent about \$3,000 out of their own money to hire a meteorologist to study sulfur dioxide in the pollution that rained down on North Old Town known as “downwash.” That led to a state investigation that

**“What I’m most worried about is the process by which they dismantle the plant.”**

— Mary Harris,  
North Old Town Independent  
Citizens Association

eventually led to a zoning change evicting the coal-fired power plant from the city.

“It was a long, hard haul, and we had so many obstacles,” said Elizabeth Chimento, a North Old Town resident who led the fight. “But the truth finally won.”

Chimento said when she first raised concerns about the danger of pollution, city officials were reluctant to do anything about it. That’s why she and Poul Hertel teamed up with Tim Knight to finance that privately funded downwash study that eventually led to the plant closing. During that time, she worked with Councilwoman Del Pepper and Councilman Paul Smedberg to keep up the pressure on Mirant, the Atlanta-based company that sued Alexandria to stop the rezoning.

“We didn’t have a lot of unanimous support, to be quite honest, on council and within the community,” said Smedberg in 2012. “There were a lot of groups that thought we were crazy to pursue this, and we had council members who thought we were crazy for doing this. But we persisted.”

**REDEVELOPMENT OF THE** power plant will be guided by the Old Town North Small Area Plan, which City Council approved on

June 24, 2017. It calls for housing, office space, retail and dining options as well as open space and affordable housing. When the community was considering the plan in the spring of 2017, Mayor Justin Wilson said he had never seen a neighborhood be so favorable to growth and development. Since that time, North Old Town has seen a number of large scale projects and construction. Now the pendulum may be swinging in the other direction as fears of overdevelopment mount with each new block of residential housing opens for sale.

“There is an enormous amount of development that is happening all at once in that area, more than I think we realized was going to happen all at once,” said Wilson. “Normally when we do these plans, we’re planning around a 20 year or 30 year cycle. But it happened all at once here because the market was super hot and remains super hot.”

Nevertheless, Wilson says, the future of North Old Town is an opportunity to match the new vitality to the south. The vision of unobstructed public access along the waterfront was a dream for decades, but now the 2012 Waterfront Plan has finally made that a reality. For now, that public access stops when people hit North Old Town. When the power plant is demolished and redeveloped, though, he says Alexandria will have an opportunity to replicate the recent redevelopment that has transformed the southern half of the city’s waterfront.

“That whole area along the northern end of the waterfront is a missing link for the city,” said Wilson. “There is no reason that the same vitality and life that’s happening on the southern end of the waterfront cannot happen on the northern end.”

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



COURTESY AWLA

AWLA staff member poses with an adoptable rabbit.



COURTESY AWLA

Two pups ready to head home with their new family.

# Make Yourself at Home, With a New Pet

**Animal Welfare League of Alexandria touches the lives of thousands of animals every year.**

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the pets and people of our community. Located at 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, the AWLA is contracted by the City of Alexandria to provide animal control and stray sheltering services, but thanks to the support of the community, we also offer adoption services, community assistance, humane education and so much more.

The AWLA touches the lives of thousands of animals every year, which includes animals looking to find new homes but also owned pets in the city. Through services like our Community Pet Pantry, AniMeals supplies for the pets of housebound seniors, pet vaccination clinics and spay/neuter vouchers, we strive to prevent crises that might lead to a pet's surrender before they occur and help to keep animals where they belong — at home, where they are loved. Through

the AWLA's Animal Services team, we also work to keep our community safe, assisting trapped or injured wildlife, enforcing city ordinances about animal health and safety and supporting the City in cases of animal abuse or neglect. The AWLA also helps reconnect lost pets with their families, provides medical and behavioral assistance to the animals in our care and educates students and children about pet ownership and animal welfare.

The AWLA is supported by a cadre of hundreds of volunteers who donate their time in and out of the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, walking dogs, cleaning enclosures, providing administrative support and caring for ani-

mals in their own homes as foster families. The time they contribute annually equates to more than a dozen full-time staff and enhances the level of care of animals in the facility. The AWLA is always welcoming more fosters and volunteers to help us continue to go above and beyond for animals in need.

The AWLA's Fear Free-certified staff is dedicated to the love and care of animals in need and makes it their mission each and every day to improve the lives of pets — and the people who love them.

For more information about the AWLA, visit [AlexandriaAnimals.org](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org). To support our mission of helping animals and people, visit [AlexandriaAnimals.org/Donate](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org/Donate).



COURTESY DeSILVA STUDIOS

Adoptable cats have a variety of enrichment during their time at the AWLA.



COURTESY DeSILVA STUDIOS

Adoptable pup enjoys his stay at the AWLA on his way to finding his new home.

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Shannon Galey Ripley tosses a toy to K-9 Taz and Sgt. Kyle Russel Sept. 14 at Police Headquarters.



Shannon Galey Ripley, left, presents a check for \$1,000 to Alexandria Police Foundation Willem Polak and APF executive director Ginny Obranovich Sept. 14 at Police Headquarters. The donation is to support the K-9 Unit of the Alexandria Police Department.

## Going to the Dogs

### APF receives donation for K-9 Unit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

A family yard sale resulted in a \$1,000 donation made Sept. 14 to the K-9 unit of the Alexandria Police Department.

"As the daughter of a retired Federal Police Officer and sister of an active Police Sergeant, I am incredibly proud of our City of Alexandria's first responders," said Shannon Galey Ripley, who presented the check to the Alexandria Police Foundation at police headquarters. "Especially the K-9 Unit and their service to our community."

Ripley and her husband John were prompted with the idea of a yard sale from their 8-year-old son, Keegan, who wanted to ensure that funds of the sale would go to the "dogs and officers who need it."

After making \$500 from the sale and through neighborhood donations, the Ripley family matched the funds and worked with Pet Supplies Plus in Franconia to provide eight care packages for the K-9s including treats, toys and supplies.

"This donation is wonderful," said APF chairman Willem Polak. "We are very appreciative for the consideration and the donation of the Alexandria Police Foundation. This is the exact action we are looking for that has a trickle-down positive impact to the community."

The Foundation is now working with Ripley to launch a year-long campaign called K-9 Cares. The campaign will focus on activities and fundraising events for the Alexandria Police K-9 Unit each month to help increase awareness of their mission and role in the community, as well as provide additional funding to supplement officer's needs for caring for active and retired canines.

"Growing up with seven German Shepherds throughout my life, I know how special these working breeds are and how close their bonds are with the officers," Ripley added. "Anything we can do to help is small, in comparison to what these officers do daily."

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org](http://www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org)

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## Offer to Buy River Farm Inches Up, But Declined by Seller

**NOVA Parks is still part of the future at River Farm.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Sunday evening, Sept. 26, the American Horticultural Society voted against an offer from NOVA Parks to purchase River Farm during a board meeting of the American Horticultural Society, but they are leaving it open for more offers.

“The negotiations with NOVA Parks have been a positive experience. The AHS board has not been able to reach an agreement on selling River Farm to NOVA Parks, so we must decline the current offer,” said Board Chair Terry Hayes. “I would like to thank NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert, Supervisor Dan Storck, and others who have been in conversations with us over the past year for their cooperative attitudes and support.”

The exact amount of the latest NOVA Parks offer is still at large, and when it comes to money and real estate, there are a lot of tight lips. When asked about the offer, AHS did release a non-descriptive statement though: “AHS will continue to look for alternatives to provide for the appropriate steward for River Farm. As noted, we appreciate the cooperative spirit of NOVA Parks and their desire to help AHS in this endeavor,” according to a statement by one half of the board.

Not so fast, said Senator Scott Surovell



**Last May, neighbors were out in full force in front of River Farm.**

(D-36th). There are 10 members on the board and the other five have a different angle. “As you know, we five members of the AHS Board oppose the sale of River Farm,” the other five said, citing that the AHS is not in need of the money as it has claimed. “Public examination of the published AHS financial statements has shown that AHS has no financial need to sell River Farm,” the “don’t-sell” members of the board said.

In the end, noted Surovell, there are easements and a historic overlay that would make development nearly impossible.

Private ownership “will never happen,” Surovell said. Both the Virginia General Assembly and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors have taken action aimed at making private development less likely.

AHS said their vision all along has been to find the “best steward that meets our goals of respecting the history of this beautiful property, conserving the greenspace, and ideally allowing a level of public access to the grounds.”

This isn’t something supported by local officials, neighbors or area historians, as seen with all the picketing outside the gate and public hearings in the past.

Board officials did acknowledge there is a prospective developer out there that is also looking at two adjacent parcels for a “massive residential and commercial complex on a proposed assemblage of 54 contiguous acres along the Potomac,” they said.

“Against the backdrop of this real and present threat, we believe that the efforts to protect River Farm must accelerate,” half of the board said, and that protection comes with a NOVA Parks deal.

Surovell agreed, “The board needs to start talking with each other and make a deal with NOVA Parks,” he said.

NOVA Parks is a government entity, and any purchase is with tax money. Half would be from the state coffers and half would be local, said Surovell.

### Farm Has History

The 25-acre River Farm has a long history, starting with Giles Brent Jr., and his wife, a princess of the Piscataway tribe, who owned

it in 1653 or 1654, the Goodhart Group real estate listing states. Then George Washington bought it and made it part of his plantation. Malcolm Matheson bought the property in 1919 and remodeled the home, and in 1973, American Horticultural Society (AHS) board member and philanthropist Enid Annenberg Haupt provided funds for the AHS to purchase the property, the listing states.

But Haupt gave the money under the condition that AHS maintain ownership and allow public access.

The farm is currently listed by The Goodhart Group for \$32,900,000 million. The property has six bedrooms, six full baths and four half baths, multiple garages, a cottage and carriage house. “The existing home is currently being used as offices for the American Horticultural Society, but as you step through the front door of the stately manor house, it’s easy to envision its history as a private residence,” the listing states.

In September 2020, preservation supporters submitted a 6,000 signature petition to save the property and a letter from Chairman Jeff McKay to Governor Northam, calling it “a local institution in the Mount Vernon District, full of history, heritage, and natural beauty.”

In March 2021, the NOVA Parks, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and their partners made an offer to buy River Farm in Mount Vernon, but the American Horticultural Society board of directors has voted to decline their offer, looking for their original asking price of \$32,900,000 million that they need to keep the society in operation, AHS said at the time.

## Hollin Hills Heaven House + Garden tour makes sold-out return.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he historic community of Hollin Hills played host to more than 1,500 visitors during a sold-out House + Garden tour that featured 13 of the 450 distinctive homes designed by noted mid-century modern architect Charles Goodman.

The Marthas Road home of Ann and Richard Ward was one of the featured destinations on the Sept. 25 self-guided walking tour.

“We are the third owners of the property,” said the Wards of the 1957-built home they have named Hilltop. “We believe Hilltop is a pivotal and masterful example of Goodman’s architectural and artistic genius. His concepts and the principles of design to which he adhered are clearly manifested and reflected here.”

The Ward home, which has 140 windows, showcased an impressive art collection including several significant pieces in an outdoor sculpture garden.

With homes built between 1946 and 1971, the Hollin Hills community was the brainchild of Goodman and developer Charles Davenport. Groundbreaking



**Attendees wait to tour the Ward home on Marthas Road home as part of the Sept. 25 Hollin Hills House + Garden tour.**

for its time, the neighborhood is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Virginia Landmark Historic District.

Presented by the Civic Association of Hollin Hills, the House + Garden tour is the largest tour of mid-century homes on the East coast. It is traditionally held every two years and returned this year after the 2020 tour was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [www.hollinhillsmodern.com](http://www.hollinhillsmodern.com)

**Visitors tour one of the living spaces in the Ward home on Marthas Road.**



**“We believe Hilltop is a pivotal and masterful example of Goodman’s architectural and artistic genius.”**

— Hollin Hills homeowners Ann and Richard Ward

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Shoppers walk the streets of John Carlyle Square during the Alexandria Old Town Art Festival Sept. 19.

## 'It's Good to be Back'

Art Festival returns to Carlyle.

The Alexandria Old Town Art Festival made its return to John Carlyle Square, celebrating 19 years as one of the signature arts events in the city.

The two-day festival was held Sept. 18-19, with artists from around the country drawing thousands of attendees to the streets of the Carlyle neighborhood. Held for many years on King Street, the festival moved to the Carlyle area in 2020.

"It's good to be back," said Jon Smith, a painter from Clearwater, Fla., who described his work as a cross between realism and impressionism. "I like the layout of the Carlyle but I do miss the atmosphere of King Street – the Colonial feel. But the drawback is that it was more crowded there so there is a give and take to moving here."

All artwork at the festival is juried, which organizers say promotes a higher level of quality, diversity and creativity of art on display, "exemplifying the gifted artists in re-



Handcrafted jewelry is on display Sept. 19 during the Alexandria Old Town Art Festival in John Carlyle Square.

gions from all over the country." The show, sponsored by Howard Alan Events and American Craft Endeavors, is rated as one of the top 100 art shows in Sunshine Artist Magazine.

– JEANNE THEISMANN



A couple browses the artwork on display Sept. 19 at the Alexandria Old Town Art Festival in John Carlyle Square.



Jacqueline Kennedy, left, stands at the Sidney Creations booth with artist Sidney Carter from Powder Springs, Ga., during the Alexandria Old Town Art Festival Sept. 19 in John Carlyle Square.

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## THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

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 10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools  
 10/27/2021.....Senior Living  
 Connection Families: Safe for Halloween  
 10/2/2021.....Election Preview

#### NOVEMBER

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Flying High ACCT returns with “Defying Gravity.”

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE GAZETTE

**A**ldersgate Church Community Theater is flying high again as it opens its doors Oct. 1 with “Defying Gravity,” the fictional Jane Anderson play based on events surrounding the 1986 Challenger Space Shuttle disaster.

The impressionistic show, directed by Jessie Roberts, features the main characters of Teacher (the Christa McAuliffe character) and her daughter Elizabeth. Other characters include Donna, a waitress in a bar frequented by NASA astronauts, and Impressionist painter Claude Monet, who watches the events unfold.

“Impressionism is more than an art form,” said Roberts. “It is a state of mind that seeks out the impression of events on people rather than the linear, realistic storyline of an event.”

Yes, ‘Defying Gravity’ is about the Challenger disaster but the play is also an impressionistic challenge in itself. It challenges the director and cast to bring to life this sensitive but bold treatment of the disaster and its impressions on ordinary people.”

Kathy Ohlhaber plays Elizabeth, daughter of the Christa McAuliffe character who in real life was just 6 years old when she lost her mother.

“Elizabeth is very complex because she is still trying to come to terms with the loss of her mother 20 years after her death,” said Ohlhaber. “Finding the balance



Kathy Ohlhaber, left, as Elizabeth, and Heather Plank as Teacher in the Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of Defying Gravity. The show opens Oct. 1 and runs through Oct. 17.

with my character was the biggest challenge for me since she shifts from a 5-year-old to a 25-year-old in a blink of an eye throughout the show. She has so many feelings about her mother and is trying to come to some type of closure.”

Paul Donahoe plays Claude Monet, who in reality died 50 years before the disaster took place.

“Monet is an abstract character in the play that brings his Impressionism and compassion to the other characters,” Donahoe said. “He weaves in and out of the action in the telling of The Challenge-

**“‘Defying Gravity’ is the perfect expression of positivity and hope, while providing outstanding theater right in our backyard.”**

— ACCT producer Charles Dragonette

er disaster. The most challenging part of the role is to move naturally through a modern time in which he is not familiar, and to connect with each of the other characters to experience what they are going

through.”

Others in the cast include Heather Plank as Teacher, Christine Tankersley as Donna, and Patricia Smith and Steve Rosenthal as a retired couple who come to witness

the Challenger launch.

“As an ACCT Board member, I felt this was a play that was beautiful and important,” said producer Charles Dragonette. “As ACCT’s first production since its enforced pandemic downtime, ‘Defying Gravity’ is the perfect expression of positivity and hope, while providing outstanding theater right in our backyard.”

Added co-producer Marg Soros, “Impressions are important. We need to keep moving forward and weave setbacks and disasters into how we live our lives.”

Optimism was a recurring theme among the cast as they return to live theater.

“I hope audiences will take away feelings of resilience and hope,” Tankersley said. “No matter how bad things seem, they will get better.”

There are many miracles still ahead of us to look forward to.”

Said Plank, “So often we are caught up in the busyness of daily living, focused on what must be done today, tomorrow, this week. The character of Monet – free from the demands of the ‘now’ – invites us to step back, consider the bigger view and appreciate the experiences and connections that give lasting meaning to our lives.”

“Defying Gravity” runs Oct. 1-17 at Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and active duty military. [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org)

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Interns Sabrina Morelli and Tiffany Frazier as they showcase newly updated garden beds at Simpson Gardens. The interns will talk about their experiences this year updating two gravel beds to include local native plants. They will answer questions and provide advice for homeowners seeking to update their own gardens, with native plants, to attract and support local wildlife, including pollinators. Free.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 9

LWV of Arlington - Alexandria City Council/Mayoral Forum. 2 to 5 p.m. Online. Meet the candidates running for Alexandria City Council and Mayor. You will have the opportunity to ask your questions directly in breakout rooms. Visit the website: <https://lwvarlalexcitycouncilbdforum.com>

[alexandriacitycouncilmayorforum.eventbrite.com](https://alexandriacitycouncilmayorforum.eventbrite.com)

### SUNDAY/OCT. 10

Alexandria City School Board Candidate Forum. 2-4 p.m. Online. The League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City and their partners, AAUW of Arlington, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, invite you to join their Alexandria City School Board Candidate Forum. Meet the candidates running for Alexandria City School Board. You will have the opportunity to ask your questions directly in breakout rooms. RSVP at: <https://lwvarlalexcityschoolbdforum.eventbrite.com>.

### BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY OPENS ON SUNDAYS

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 3, Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library (4701 Seminary Road) will be

open to the public on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library (5005 Duke Street) and James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library (2501 Commonwealth Avenue) also offer in-person service on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. At this time, Kate Waller Barrett Branch (717 Queen Street) remains closed on Sundays until further notice. For more information, visit [alexlibraryva.org/reopen](http://alexlibraryva.org/reopen).

### VOLUNTEER WITH AFSS.

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets. Help spread the pedestrian street safety message by volunteering for 2-hour shifts to staff an Alexandria Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) table at one of the following Farmers' Markets: Dates available: 9/18, 10/9, 10/30, 11/6, Nov TBD. Del Ray Farmers' Market: 10/30 Old Town Farmers' Market: 10/9, 11/6 Visit the website: <https://www.alxsfss.org/>

### 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.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org) Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services- Volunteer Guardian 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.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.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.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org)

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program,

SEE HELPING, PAGE 22

## ENTERTAINMENT

# 3 Quintessentially Alexandrian Restaurants

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**pend more than a day or two in Alexandria and you'll learn that the restaurant and bar scene is hopping (even in pandemic times). While many of the city's eateries seem fresh and new, their roots run deep in a town with centuries-old history. Below are excerpts from *Classic Restaurants of Alexandria*, published by Arcadia Publishing, delving into the past, present and future of some of the city's best, and authored by Hope Nelson.

### Landini Brothers, 115 King St.

Stride along lower King Street and you'll soon come upon a tasteful, dignified storefront that gives way to a warm, historic dining room and bar. A spot for both those looking for a dressy, special night out and for the regulars who sidle up for their favorite drink each and every night, Landini Brothers is a longstanding hidden gem, a stalwart in a sea of the ever-changing business landscape.

Launched in 1979 by Franco and Noe Landini, it could be argued that Landini Brothers hasn't changed a great deal in the decades hence. Its deep red hues, stone walls, and wood-paneled bar harken back to another time, when dining out was the exception rather than the rule, when dinner was an event.

Keen watchers of Landini Brothers' foot traffic will notice a strange phenomenon as day turns to night: Some patrons will bypass the dining room and bar altogether, opting instead to jaunt upstairs to parts unknown, sometimes not to be seen again for several hours. The secret? Landini also plays host to CXIII Rex, a private cigar bar that opened in the shadow of Virginia's smoking ban, which forbids any lighting up in restaurants.

The loophole? With a separate ventilation system, old Rex is in the clear.

With cigars upstairs and pasta downstairs, Landini Brothers has continued to find new ways to surprise and delight customers from all walks of life. The bastion of lower King Street has straddled two centuries; its life ahead seems to stretch as far as the longest strand of spaghetti, with plenty of spice to carry it through along the way.

### Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

The high-water marks memo-  
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Landini Brothers, 115 King St.

rialized in brass plaques on the interior column belie Chadwicks' proximity to the Potomac River, and while the neighborhood grill has seen some adventures over time, its scars lend the restaurant character indeed. An Alexandria stalwart for 40 years, Chadwicks' history is rooted in a culture that is at once a family-friendly dinner experience, a happy-hour hot spot, and a place to kick back on Sundays and watch the football games while bellying up to the bar.

The restaurant – the kid brother to the original Chadwicks in Georgetown, which opened in 1967 – opened its doors in 1979, taking up residence in a long and storied location that had seen plenty of triumph and tragedy over the centuries past. The footprint that Chadwicks sits on dates back to the mid-1800s, when the warehouses and wharves had been built back from an 1811 fire.

Much of the waterfront was again destroyed in 1897 in one of the worst fires in Alexandria history, but within a decade, DeWilton Aitcheson, who owned the now-burned property, had begun to build again, creating the façade that so many Alexandrians would now recognize as a favorite restaurant.

Throughout its lifetime, Chadwicks' modus operandi has been largely unchanged: The kitchen

serves up good, down-home American-style food at a good price. From a passel of burger options (which have grown over time to include turkey and veggie patties) to crab cakes to bar snacks such as nachos and fried green tomatoes, diners have had plentiful options that stand the test of time. And while occasionally new chefs have worked to put their own spin on the menu, at the end of the day the fare harkens back to where it started – pub food with a decidedly Alexandrian twist.

The worst-kept secret at Chadwicks is its robust (and affordable) weekend brunch. From classics such as omelets and French toast to Old Town favorites such as a "Scottish scramble" featuring smoked salmon and cream cheese served with an English muffin and home fries, the menu offers too many tempting choices – and affordable adult beverages, as well. Though the days of 95-cent champagne glasses are long gone (but only by a decade as of this writing), mimosas still ring in at \$4 and a bottle of champagne will set you back \$14.

For years, Chadwicks sported several siblings, including another longtime location in Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood, but as management changed hands and the dining landscape morphed throughout the region,



Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

only the original Alexandria location remains. The waterfront simply wouldn't be the same without its faithful overseer, home to many a brunch, lunch, and dinner over decades of service.

### Taqueria Poblano, 2400 Mount Vernon Ave.

By *Classic Restaurants* standards, Del Ray's Taqueria Poblano is a baby of the group. The Baja California-styled taco joint is only two decades old, coming onto the scene in 1999, but over the years has become an institution within Alexandria's international-food scene. But to label it a straight Mexican restaurant would be a vast misnomer. Rather, the tacos this kitchen produces are a healthy blend of Mexican and Californian stylings, providing diners with the best of both cultures on one pastel-colored plate.

The outside of the restaurant is just as friendly – and as cozy – as the inside. Seating for close to half a dozen tables is available on the restaurant's "front porch," as it were, overlooking Del Ray's main drag, Mount Vernon Avenue. At all times of the year, the porch is full to bursting with diners – and would-be diners in waiting – who are enjoying either the spring or summer weather ... or who are nestled among stand-up heaters,

a plastic sheet enclosing the space somewhat.

Where many taco-centric eateries focus on the Mexican side of the border, Taqueria Poblano has always managed to hew to a more diversified feel. The "L.A.-style crispy tacos" have been a mainstay at the restaurant since its opening, and most of the menu items soundly straddle the border between North and Central America. But "Don't come expecting Mexican fast food that is Americanized in a cloak of cheese or loaded on a combo platter (thank goodness)," Washington Post food critic Tom Sietsema wrote in 2013. He's right about that.

The Taqueria Poblano family has continued to grow in the 20 years since Adams began the Del Ray outpost. Both the locations as well as the menu have grown and changed to adapt to new palate (and residency) demands.

Though its menu has adapted with the times, the Del Ray mainstay remains the favorite it became almost immediately upon opening – a true classic, even at a mere 22 years old.

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).

**Obituary**

**Obituary**

**Marisa M.M. Smith**



**Manteo-** Marisa M.M. Smith passed away peacefully in Nags Head, NC September 26, 2021 at the age of 92. Born June 8, 1929 in Washington DC, she was the daughter of the late Delos H. Smith and the late Iris B. Smith. The family was committed to establishing Marisa's early educational foundation and sent her to the Poto-mac School in Washington, DC and later to Miss Graham's School in Norfolk, VA. After finishing her studies at St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA, Marisa graduated from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA.

Back in northern Virginia, Marisa was an active member of St. Pauls Church of Alex-andria, VA. Along the way she built a successful career in various aspects of the real estate industry including residential sales and historic restoration projects. Marisa also worked for many decades in real estate appraisals.

Upon retirement, Marisa sold the family home in Alexandria and the family cottage in Nags Head and built her home in Manteo, NC. There she flourished in the community delivering meal on wheels, reading to children in the elementary school, and joining the Roanoke Island Garden Club. She also joined a book club in Elizabeth City and became an active servant at St. Andrews By the Sea Episcopal Church in Nags Head. Marisa is survived by three cherished Godchildren; Chris Midgett Nunemaker of Nags Head, NC; Ellsworth "Buddy" Midgett, III of Florida; and Margaret "Maggie" Laurent Gordy also of Florida as well as several loyal friends.

The family will honor Marisa's directives for cremation with a simple memorial service which will be held Tuesday October 5, 2021 at 11 am at St. Andrews by the Sea Church. Reverend Nathan Finnin will officiate. Her urn burial will be private. The family gratefully suggests donations to the Dare County SPCA or St. Andrews By the Sea Church in lieu of flowers.

Expressions of sympathy and comfort are welcome via the on-line register at [www.gallopfuneralservices.com](http://www.gallopfuneralservices.com). Gallop Funeral Services, Inc. was entrusted with arrange-ments.

**Obituary**

**Obituary**

**Deborah Byrnes File**

Deborah Byrnes File died peacefully at Goodwin House in Alexandria on Sept. 17, 2021 surrounded by members of her family. Debbie was the daughter of E. Daly Byrnes and Dorothy Kemp Byrnes of the Roland Park neighborhood of Baltimore where her large family included the first Irish Catholic governor of Maryland, Herbert R. O'Connor. She was a 1958 graduate of Mt. Saint Agnes High School and earned a nursing degree from Church Home and Hospital, now part of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



After working as a registered nurse for two years, she married Lt. Gerald B. File, USMC in 1965. During Jerry's 1967 tour in Vietnam, she gave birth to their daughter Jocelyn in Alexandria. She worked part-time as a registered nurse at Washington Hospital Center, Alexandria Hospital and Alexandria City Public Schools.

As a community supporter she volunteered at Beverly Hills Preschool, St. Mary's Elementary, St. Mary's Academy; the office of State Sen. Bob Calhoun, and she represented her friend, the late Sarah Brady, in testimony before a Virginia legislative committee on handgun safety. She also headed a Christmas fundraising gala at Gonzaga College High School and was a founding sponsor at the Washington Jesuit Academy. The National Gallery of Art benefited and commended her for 10 years of service as a docent.

Debbie was a long-time member of Alexandria's the Twig and Junior Friends of The Campagna Center, which supported the Alexandria Hospital, YWCA and children at risk.

While raising two children of her own, she mentored four boys who lost their mothers at very young ages and also has sponsored a student at the Washington Jesuit Academy every year since its founding in 2002.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Margaret Byrnes and her infant daughter Laura. She is survived by her husband of 56 years Gerald of Alexandria; daughter Jocelyn Adamoli, husband Joseph and grandchild Charlie of Arlington; son Jay, wife Nikki and grandchildren Brendan, Bridget, and Bryce of Atlanta; and grandchild Brianna File Johnston, husband Eric and great-granddaughter Charlotte Marie of Dallas; brother Kemp Byrnes (Fritzi) of Baltimore and sister Cindy Byrnes-Golubin (Greg), children Garrett, Courtney of Alexandria; and sister-in-law Mary Ellen File, children Nancye Vermillion, Bill Butcher, and Katie Sargeant.

A memorial mass will be held on Oct. 9 at 10 am at St. Aloysius Church on North Capitol Street at Gonzaga College High School. Burial will be later at Arlington National Cemetery.

Because of her many years as a volunteer school nurse, the family will have the student clinic at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria named in her honor.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Campagna Center, 428 S. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314 or the Washington Jesuit Academy, 900 Varnum St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20017.

**CALENDAR**



The 26th annual Art on the Avenue will take place in Del Ray on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021.

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 30**

The Taste of Old Town North. 3:30-8 p.m. At Montgomery Park, 901 North Royal Street, Arlington. The Taste of Old Town North is free, kid- friendly, and offers the chance to sample a variety of food from local restaurants including Cafe 44, Grateful Kitchen and St. Elmo's Old Town North. Visitors to the Taste can also shop at the local farmers' market, try their hand at Art in the Park with KidCreate, watch a karate demonstration from Seichou Karate, and picnic in the park. Live music will be provided by two local bands - Sally and the Mander, starting at 5 p.m. and Three Man Soul Machine, starting at 6 p.m. Visit [www.oldtownnorth.org](http://www.oldtownnorth.org) or call 703-836-8066.

**FRIDAY/OCT. 1**

Garden Talk: Design for Fall Beauty and Winter. 1:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. Master Gardeners will show you how to create a warm and inviting entry with colorful berries, dazzling leaves, beautifully structured branches, stunning grasses, stand-out seed heads, and even blooming flowers. Find a new favorite to add beauty and vibrance to your fall and winter landscape. The cost is \$12 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens webpage.

**OCT. 1-30**

In the "Expanding the Common Ground: Voices of the Global Majority" art exhibit, themes of people of the global majority reflecting, celebrating, and claiming power over oppression are explored, as well as finding common ground and healing divides. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**SATURDAY/OCT. 2**

26th Annual Art on the Avenue in Del Ray. Organizers are expecting



Soloists Dara Rahming, Marquita Raley-Cooper, Rodrick Dixon and Daniel Rich appear courtesy of the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts on Oct. 2-3 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria..

more than 50,000 visitors to stroll down Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray, between Bellefonte and Hume Avenues for the festival. They will be greeted by more than 300 artists (jewelers, silversmiths and beaders, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptors, fabric artists and more), musicians, (Irish, folk, rock-n-roll, country and more). And there will be plenty of food vendors (hot dogs, BBQ, Indian, Mexican, pizza, crab cakes, chocolate bananas dipped on sticks, homemade cider donuts and more). Kids activities have always been part of the festival. Get involved with your kids, stuff your own scarecrow, paint a pumpkin, lotus flower design, weave screen art, to name a few. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

**SATURDAY/OCT. 2**

Golden Garden Tour. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Look at all the gold in Green Spring's gardens and learn how to use this neutral color to balance your garden color palette. Create gorgeous combinations and meet gold plants that can carry you through all four seasons. The cost is \$18 per person. Call 703-642-5173; or visit Green Spring Gardens.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 2**

Native Plant Sale in Northern Alexandria. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Largest native plant sale in D.C. Metro SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 21

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 20

Area hosts 12 vendors from 3 states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This event is free. At The Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot, Alexandria, VA 22302. Call 571-232-0375 or www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 2

"Le Tour d'Alexandria" Bicycle Tour. 10 a.m. This year's tour will highlight the art located in the City of Alexandria. Participants can bring their bicycles and join library staff for a leisurely 3.5 mile ride through Alexandria starting at Burke Branch Library (4701 Seminary Road) and ending at Duncan Branch Library (2501 Commonwealth Avenue). This ride showcases Burke's new Outdoor Public Art installation and the City's Art on the Avenue event. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. and registration is required for this event, as space on the tour is limited. Riders must be over the age of 13 to participate. Children and teens under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit alexlibraryva.org/alexandria-bike-tour.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Nature Scavenger Hunt. 10 to 11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Round up the family and go on a "Nature Scavenger Hunt" at Green Spring Gardens. Learn about different aspects of nature while hunting for themed objects around the park. The challenge is designed for family members ages 4 to adult. Cost is \$7 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens webpage.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Organ Recital. 11:30 a.m. At Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. There will be a free organ recital by David Leahy, Minister of Music at Historic Pohick Church. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ with 16 stops, 18 ranks, and 948 pipes will include selections new and old. Call 703-339-6572 or visit the Pohick Church website at www.pohick.org.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Historic Pohick Church Country Fair. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. This annual event is about fun, family, and fellowship. There will be something for everyone and of every age to enjoy. This year the Country Fair will feature: The First Annual Pohick Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkin Painting, Food and Drink Concessions, Homemade Apple Butter, Turkey Shoot, Pony Rides, Historic Colonial Church Tours, Living Historical Characters, Live Music including Members of The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp, Classic Cars, and much more. Visit the website at www.pohick.org or call the church office at 703-339-6572.

## OCT. 2-3

Rhapsody in Blue. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

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### Employment

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## Scan Hardly Believe It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Life goes on. My warranty has been extended for another 90 days as all three scans from Sept. 23rd indicated stable and/or no new metastases. News with which I am extremely fond of saying, I can live. Though the radiologist's report that I received lists both non small cell lung cancer and papillary thyroid cancer as "the indication," my endocrinologist feels what I have is thyroid cancer and likely have always had thyroid cancer. I wish I could say that will be for the lawyers to argue, but peculiarities of law and the three-year statute of limitations in Maryland makes a final resolution unlikely. Therefore, I will continue to live with my amazing good fortune and possible misdiagnosis as part and parcel of how I roll.

And how I roll, as you regular readers know is chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapy once again - in that order, and diagnostic scans every three weeks in the beginning and eventually and presently, every three months. As such, over these nearly 13 years of being a cancer patient, I figure I've probably had at least 50 CT scans and another 20-plus MRIs, plus an occasional PET scan. The point being that over the years, I've done an awful lot of waiting for scan results with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance. And 'balance' is exactly what one needs to endure these incredibly anxious situations. Though I'm fairly experienced at this juncture, the actual moment of truth when I receive the email containing my results is oft-putting to say the least and downright heart-stopping to say the most.

However, my personality is perfectly suited for these ongoing challenges. I never presume the worst. I never woe is me. I never bemoan systemic delays in communicating the results to me. As my close friend John would most definitely say: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." I never put the proverbial cart before the horse. I can take it. No problem. My wife, Dina, on the other hand, cannot. For her, the results cannot arrive soon enough. Granted, immediate feedback would be much preferred. But, that's never been the process. I can accept it. Dina, not so much.

That being said, I will admit that after all these years/scans/waiting for results, I have become less able to take it all in stride. It's as if a layer of patience and understanding of the process has been worn away with time. Even though I've mostly received good news (unexpectedly given my original "13 month to two year" prognosis - in Feb., 2009), I have had my share of disappointing news. But on the whole, I've been one of the luckier cancer patients. Still, each scan I wait for results is hardly an adventure in wonderland. I am constantly wondering and worrying when the other shoe will drop (the bad news). In fact, opening up the email that contains my scan results literally takes my breath away.

Not to be negative, which I'm not, but during the Team Lourie meeting in late Feb., 2009 when I first met my oncologist and were given all the medical reports/assessments of my recent X-Rays, CT scan, PET scan and surgical biopsy from the pulmonologist, thoracic surgeon, pathologist and internist, it was clear and convincing from all these doctors that I had lung cancer. And my prognosis? Grim, and it was no fairy tale. It was surreal to hear and nearly impossible to process. I have what? When I was told the survival statistics by my oncologist of stage IV non small cell lung cancer patients (me): 2 percent survive beyond two years, my brother asked if there are exceptions. To which my oncologist replied to me: "Could you be the one? Sure." Little did I know that the doctor was being literal. One was the answer. Ever since I heard that, I felt my days were numbered. All these several years later, I'm not exactly counting days, but neither am I counting chickens. I live quarter to quarter and am grateful to do so.

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

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## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 18

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

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 21

ny and Rhapsody in Blue. Featuring James Ross, conductor; Michelle Cann, pianist; and Michelle Cann appears by arrangement with the Curtis Institute of Music. The season launches with two giants from the symphonic repertoire: Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

### OCT. 2-3

Beethoven's Ninth. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E Campus Dr., Alexandria. The season launches with a joyful noise, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 featuring the Alexandria Choral Society with a new English text by poet laureate and Pulitzer prize-winner Tracy K. Smith. Cost is \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/beethovenninth/>

### SUNDAY/OCT. 3

Alexandria Love Your Pet Day. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park at 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Proceeds will go to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), which is organizing the event. The festival will offer family-friendly entertainment and activities throughout the day. Musical acts Uno Dos Tres Andrés and Rainbow Rock Band will headline the main stage, magician Chris Michael and interactive training and musical demos will round out the festivities. The AWLA will offer a Family Entertainment area, with animal-focused crafts, games and adoptable animals. The event is also open to friendly, leashed pets. Visit [alexandrialoveyourpetday.com/schedule](https://alexandrialoveyourpetday.com/schedule).

### OCT. 8-10

Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6 to 9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Taste unlimited samples from Virginia wineries after hours at George Washington's estate. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River and meet General Washington. Call 703-780-2000 or visit [mountvernon.org](https://mountvernon.org).

### OCT. 8-22

Octoberfest Online Auction. Carpenter's Shelter's Octoberfest Online Auction. Join them online to bid on one-of-a-kind items like trips to wineries, theater tickets, jewelry, gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, and much more. Start your holiday shopping early while supporting children, women, and men experiencing homelessness in Alexandria. Visit <https://carpentersshelter.org/event/octoberfest2021>

### FRIDAY/OCT. 8

Spirits of Carlyle House. 6 to 8:30 p.m. (Tours on the half hour). At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Carlyle House's long and diverse history is full of truths, myths and rumors that makes it one of the most visited places on Alexandria's ghost tours. Come and experience a uniquely haunting tour of the house and grounds by candlelight, perhaps encounter the departed spirits of notable resi-

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](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://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](mailto:FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com).

dents and neighbors and hear their tales of sadness and triumph. Reservations required due to limited space. Tours are on the half hour.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Join Carlyle House for a tour of Alexandria looking at the various architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this one-and-a-half hour guided tour. Tour is held rain or shine unless there is severe weather. Visit [novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park](https://novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park)

### SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Friendship Firehouse Museum Special Open Hours. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 107 South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Learn about the Friendship Fire Company's fire fighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. Families with young children will be given take-home kits, including a fire helmet and activities.

### THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

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 Tue. Oct. 26: Piff The Magic Dragon \$45.00  
 Fri. Oct. 29: Nitty Gritty Dirt Band \$59.50  
 Sun. Oct. 31: Tom Paxton & The DonJuans and John McCutcheon \$45.00  
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OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

### Belle Haven | \$2,395,000

Majestically sited overlooking the grand Potomac and Belle Haven C.C., this home has been strategically positioned with 4 balconies and a deck to maximize viewing. The main level features a study, stone sunroom, and generous living and dining rooms. The eat-in kitchen is exceptional with adjacent family room overlooking the stone patio. The lower walk-out level has spectacular 1,500-bottle wine cellar. 6115 Vernon Terrace  
**Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984**  
[www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



OPEN SAT 10/2 & SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

### The Middleton | \$2,190,000

Modern convenience in historic Old Town! This nearly new townhome is ideal for town living with 2 off-street parking spaces, electric car charger, and solar! Almost 4,000 SF with 9-ft ceilings, hardwood floors, 2 gas fireplaces, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, private patio, primary suite deck, and small top-level balcony. Located just 3 blocks from both King Street and the Potomac River. 331 N Royal Street  
**Bobby Mahoney 703.298.1161**  
[TheMahoneyGroupNow.com](http://TheMahoneyGroupNow.com)



OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

### New Alexandria | \$1,175,000

Situated on a lovely corner lot, this recently updated, elegant home is designed for today's lifestyle with an inviting living room, separate dining room, and gourmet kitchen with a large granite island that is open to the family room and breakfast room. 6428 Potomac Ave.  
**Mary Farrell 703.969.5522**  
[www.choosemary.com](http://www.choosemary.com)



### Riverside Gardens | \$729,000

This home has it all - location, condition, and price! The charming front yard and entry welcomes you into the bright living room with large picture windows, wood burning fireplace, and open to the dining space. 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. 1907 Old Stage Road  
**Alexis Bogdan 703.965.6556**  
[www.AlexisBogdan.com](http://www.AlexisBogdan.com)



OPEN 9/30, 5-7PM; 10/2 & 10/3, 1-4PM

### Old Town Village Condos | \$675,000

Lovely to look at, delightful to own. Beautifully updated townhouse-style condo with expansive living area, family room with gas fireplace, open kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gorgeous dark hardwoods, 2 parking space, and much more. 1314 Roundhouse Ln  
**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.LisaGroover.com](http://www.LisaGroover.com)



OPEN SUN 10/3, 2-4PM

### Del Ray \$775,000

Just Listed! Renovated & expanded duplex with 3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, and new chef's kitchen (2020) steps from the heart of Del Ray & Braddock Rd Metro station. First level bedroom with bath, refinished hardwood floors, and more! 122 E Glendale Avenue

**Kathy Hassett 703.863.1546**  
[www.MPHHomeTeam.com](http://www.MPHHomeTeam.com)



### Warwick Village \$689,900

New Price! Updated townhome with 2 spacious bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and great closet storage! Hardwood floors throughout the main and upper level. Nice deck and outdoor space, with an easy stroll to Del Ray shops and dining. 2529 Mosby Street

**Jen Walker 703.675.1566**  
[www.JenWalker.com](http://www.JenWalker.com)



### South Kings Station | \$445,000

Minutes to Huntington Metro, 495, Crystal City, Old Town & Ft Belvoir offers 2 upper level primary bedroom suites with totally remodeled baths, hardwoods in living & dining area, finished lower level, fully fenced rear yard & 2 reserved parking spaces. 6507 Brick Hearth Court

**Nick Kuhn 703.671.5225**  
[www.McEneaney.com](http://www.McEneaney.com)

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