

The Great Pumpkin Patch

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill sale benefits local charities.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Charlie Brown and the gang would be impressed. In what has been a tradition for more than a quarter century, the legendary pumpkin patch sponsored by Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill opened for business Oct. 3 with thousands of pumpkins now ready for sale to benefit local and international charities.

"This is our first time at the pumpkin patch," said Fairfax resident Chatchaya Pansiri, who was visiting with Warawat Prachongkarn. "We have passed by many times but only this year decided to stop in ourselves. It is amazing."

Now in its 28th year, the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser features pumpkins sustainably grown on a Navajo Indian Reservation near Farmington, N.M.,



Chatchaya Pansiri holds a pumpkin as Warawat Prachongkarn takes a photo Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch. The pumpkin patch will be open through Oct. 31 and raises funds for local charities.



Richard Glassco and Mary Ann Rehnke volunteer Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch.

training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a hospital in Gaza.

"The situation is better now than a year ago, but with the resurgence of the Delta variant, I expect people will still welcome the return of the Patch," Conrad added. "We certainly can put the proceeds to good use:

SEE THE GREAT PUMPKIN, PAGE 10

When & Where

The Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch is located at 3606 Seminary Road and open seven days a week through Oct. 31. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on weekends and the Oct. 11 Federal holiday. Admission is free. www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org

House Seat Shuffle

Former CIA branch chief J.D. Maddox to face Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In Richmond, the 45th House District is known as a cursed seat because of its dizzying turnover. After the retirement of longtime Del. Marian Van Landingham (D-45) in 2006, the district has blazed through three delegates in rapid succession. Now the seat is open once again after the incumbent, former radio talk show host Mark Levine, lost the primary when his name appeared on the ballot twice because he was trying to simultaneously win reelection to the House while also snagging the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor.

He lost both elections, and now the seat representing Old Town and Del Ray is open yet again.

The Democrat in the race is Alexandria Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, who burst onto the scene three years ago and seized the top spot on City Council as vice mayor by receiving more votes than any other candidate, including veteran council members who have been around for years.

The Republican in the race is former CIA branch chief J. D. Maddox, who is trying to frame his campaign

SEE FORMER CIA, ON PAGE 3



Elizabeth Bennett-Parker



J.D. Maddox

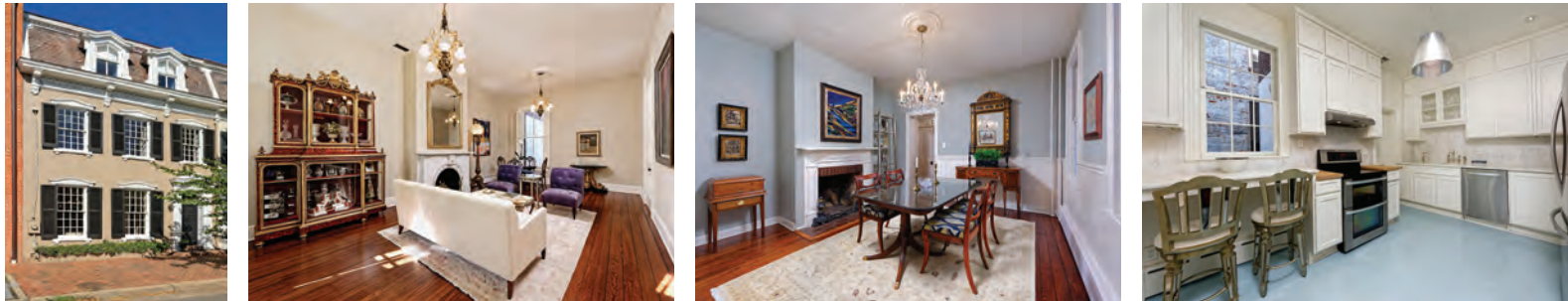
PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

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Former CIA Branch Chief J.D. Maddox To Face Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

FROM PAGE 1

as an alternative to the hyper-partisanship in the modern political landscape. Maddox will be facing an extreme partisan disadvantage of running in a district where the Democrat usually wins with 75 to 80 percent of the vote.

“It’s always tough to recruit candidates for one-sided districts where the outcome is just about a certainty,” said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. “The good news is that David can sometimes beat Goliath. The bad news is that it may take something really out of the ordinary, like the discovery of a freezer filled with cash, to dislodge a dominant party in a one-sided district.”

J.D. MADDOX was born on base at Fort Belvoir, the son of an Army officer. He has a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from St. John’s College in Annapolis, Md., and a master’s degree in security studies from Georgetown University. Professionally, he has about 25 years of experience in the federal government including more than a decade as a CIA branch chief, focused on counter-terrorism activities as well as influence and disinformation. He has lived in Old Town since 2002, and he votes at the Lyles-Crouch precinct.

“There are a lot of us who really feel like if we don’t get involved now, we are letting things go much farther than they ever should have gone in terms of the hyper-partisanship that we’re experiencing,” said Maddox. “I’m trying to take what I think are my own values and objective assessments of the environment and objective assessments of policy issues and trying to initiate discussion about that, and the political party side to me is really secondary to everything else.”

If elected, Maddox says he wants to create a program that provides four years of public higher education in Virginia for any qualified student who signs up for service in a skilled service role in Virginia. He says he would fight for more money to pay for infrastructure in Alexandria, adding that he believes the actual cost of fixing the sewer in Alexandria will end up being about

twice as much as the current estimate of \$500 million. He also says he wants the General Assembly to limit how much local governments can tax residential property taxpayers, creating a cap of 1 percent. The current residential real-estate tax rate in Alexandria is \$1.11 for every \$100 of assessed value. City officials estimate that if Maddox’s cap was in place this year, the city would have about \$47 million less revenue in the current budget.

“One of the primary purposes of the cap is to ensure that people are not pushed out of their homes because they can no longer afford the taxes,” said Maddox. “I know from speaking to people door-knocking and elsewhere that it’s African Americans and other people of color who appear to be having the worst trouble with affordability of their current homes.”

If elected, Maddox says, he would oppose requiring businesses to offer five paid sick days a year. He would also oppose a ban on assault weapons, a bill that Levine introduced but was ultimately un-

successful. Maddox says he opposes efforts to create limits to campaign contributions, and he says he agrees in principle with eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes although he’s worried about how it would be implemented. When asked about re-instating the requirement that a person have an ultrasound before getting an abortion, he said he had no opinion on that. He also says he would support legislation requiring school divisions to have school resource officers, and he opposes efforts to ditch the Electoral College by joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

“Socrates died because of direct democracy,” he said. “I appreciate the emotion behind trying to create a direct democratic vote, but I want to be consistent with the Constitution.”

ELIZABETH BENNETT-PARKER is a native of Alexandria, she was born into a military family that moved frequently during her childhood. She has a bachelor’s degree

in history from Cornell University, and a master’s degree in the anthropology of food from the University of London. She emerged on the scene three years ago during her first campaign for office. Although she was a first-time candidate, she received more votes than any other Alexandria City Council candidate – a distinction that landed her the title of vice mayor. In 2014, she founded a social enterprise known as Fruitecycle to fight food waste and hunger. That organization later merged with the nonprofit organization Together We Bake, which provides workforce training and personal development to women in need. She votes at the Naomi Brooks School, which was formerly known as the Maury Precinct.

“My mom always taught me if you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem,” said Bennett-Parker. “My experience on City Council has taught me a lot about the issues that are important to my community and how we need changes and more authority

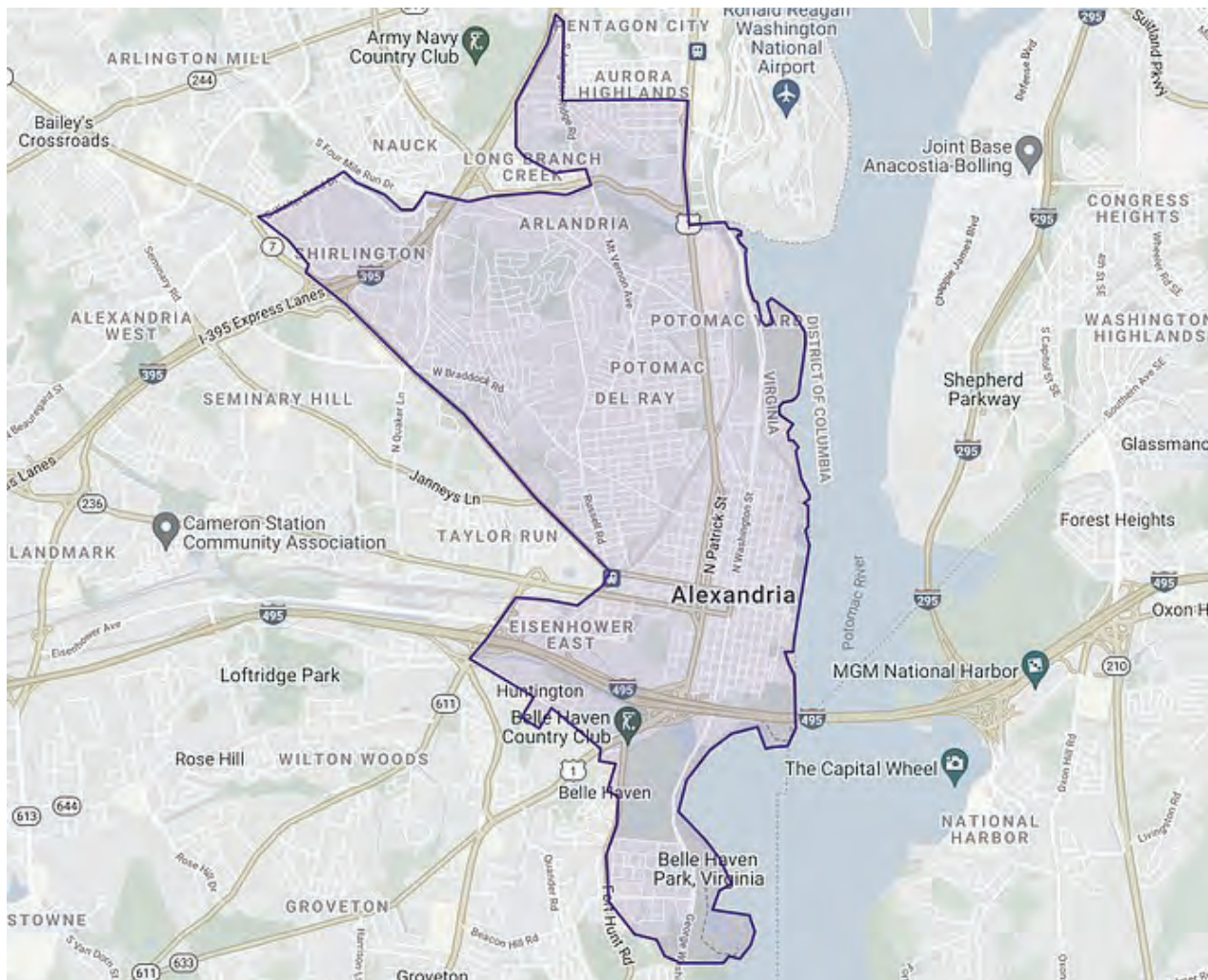
from Richmond in order to better serve our residents.”

As a member of City Council, she used her food-manager’s license to lead meal production for students who live in poverty during spring break last year at the beginning of the pandemic. She worked with small-business owners to install a mural known as the “Butterfly Effect” on Upper King Street, and she suggested an amendment to the city’s environmental policy to make sure that all future public buildings are net-zero for carbon emissions. She’s currently working with the Virginia Freedom of Information Council to advocate for a new law that would allow for local government boards and commissions to meet electronically, which is currently prohibited outside of an emergency.

“We’ve seen virtual participation and public participation dramatically increase during the shift to virtual meetings over the last 18 months,” said Bennett-Parker. “We certainly want to keep our residents engaged in government.”

She’s in favor of limiting campaign contributions and banning contributions from corporate donors, particularly public utilities like Dominion. She supports banning assault weapons and joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and she says she would vote in favor of eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes. She says she would like to expand access to early childhood education by providing waivers for free childcare to families that earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and she supports requiring businesses to offer five paid sick days a year. She also says she would work with the Alexandria Library Board to pass legislation making new demands on publishers who withhold digital content to protect profits.

“If these publishers also have an e-book version of their book available, they need to also offer that to libraries,” she said. “During the pandemic, our e-books and digital publications and resources have skyrocketed,” she said. “We want to make sure that people have access to those.”



The 45th House District includes Old Town, Belle View and Del Ray, stretching into Shirlington and Aurora Hill. (map from the Virginia Public Access Project)

SOURCE: VIRGINIA PUBLIC ACCESS PROJECT

Why I'm Walking to End Alzheimer's

Walker Name: Madeline Davis
Hometown: Alexandria, VA
Team Name: Forging New TrALZ

Participating in the DC Walk on Oct. 9

Q: Years involved with Walk to End Alzheimer's:

A: I have been involved since 2016 when my mother was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimers. She was 54 years old. Last year I raised \$5,945 and have raised more than \$20k since starting my team. I attend all of the post-Walk events held by the National Chapter to recognize the participants and have attended some virtual seminars during COVID.

Q: Why do you support the Walk and the Alzheimer's Association?

A: As I mentioned, my mother was diagnosed in 2016 at the age of 54. She was my idol and my best friend. I was the impetus for her getting tested and remember the appointment with her doctor when he told us she had Alzheimer's. My whole world came crashing down and I was absolutely devastated. After a couple of days, I decided that being sad wasn't going to help my mother or family so I got online and looked at ways I could get involved with finding a cure. The National Walk to End Alzheimer's popped up and I signed up immediately and created my team.

It gave me a sense of hope and a real sense of purpose in channeling my energy toward finding a cure. While I have known that efforts in finding a cure would not come in time for my mother, I strive to find a cure so nobody ever has to go through what my family has gone through. I don't know how much longer my mom will be with us but I know she was proud of my involvement. I love that the Alzheimer's Association is very proactive rather than reactive and I knew it was an organization I wanted to work with.

Q: Please share a favorite memory of your loved one.

A: My mom, Holly, used to own an old Toyota Landcruiser that my dad surprised her with one Christmas morning. We used to drive around for hours blasting Jimmy Buf-



fet, KC and the Sunshine Band, U2, and Coldplay. I remember singing "Cheeseburger in Paradise" as loud as my little voice could possibly go and knowing I would have a sore throat afterward but I didn't care. Then we'd go to South Austin Grill in Old Town and giggle while eating carnitas tacos and drinking Shirley Temples. She could make a regular Tuesday feel like the best day ever.

Q: What would you say to someone to encourage them to join the Walk?

A: Don't give up. There will be a cure and your efforts do matter and will have an impact. It's easy to feel like life stops when your loved one gets diagnosed with Alzheimer's but you have to keep moving forward and by participating in the Walk you can keep moving forward with a purpose, a desire, hope, and with an amazing community behind you. Don't let Alzheimer's win.

Q: Any other thoughts, comments, info you'd like to share?

A: I'd like to mention my amazing father, Brian, and my sister, Tenley, who have weathered the storm with me through this. It's people like them who are the true unsung and unrecognized heroes helping to tackle Alzheimer's on a daily basis as well as our caretaker Naomi. I'd also like to recognize my fiancé Michael for his undying support from the very beginning for me and my family. Patience is a virtue that not many have, and compassion is even more fleeting, but he has both and I wouldn't be where I am today without him.

I also think a large chunk of my success



in fundraising has been creating "incentive" programs of my own for donors - for every \$1,000 donated I commit to 16 hours of community service in honor of the 16 million Americans who provide unpaid Alzheimer's care annually - and for every \$200 donated I commit to planting one tree in the community. The top 5 donors are able to choose where I commit 5 hours of community service as well.

Michael and I have also foregone a tra-

ditional wedding registry and have instead opted to request donations for the Forging New TrALZ team. We planned our wedding date around the Walk for this year and will be having it the weekend before the Walk - it is an exceptionally important event for us.

Don't miss the information on Madeline Davis page:

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?px=12601756&pg=personal&fr_id=14365

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

Walk to End Alzheimer's - Washington, D.C.

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=14365&pg=entry

Saturday, Oct. 9

National Mall

Registration opens at 8 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Faith Anderson at 703.766.9035 or fanderson@alz.org

Walk to End Alzheimer's - Northern Virginia

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=14363&pg=entry

Sunday, Oct. 24

Reston Town Center

Registration opens at 8 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Shiri Rozenberg at 803-371-9793 or shrozenberg@alz.org

Foster Homes Set Shelter Animals Up for Success

By BARBARA S. MOFFET
GAZETTE PACKET

Let's say you're a 60-pound dog who is finding the kennel at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) friendly and nurturing but a bit confining. And let's say that one day a kind person comes along and takes you to their house for a little vacation.

That's what happens regularly to some dogs, cats and other animals at the AWLA when they need a break on their journey to adoption.

The shelter's foster program assists animals who are especially in need of time and care in a home environment, including very young animals, pets with special medical needs, animals who've been in the shelter environment for a longer time and could use a change of scenery, and owned pets temporarily held in the AWLA's Crisis Care program.

Prospective fosters start the process by signing up, then undergoing an orientation and evaluation of their specific interests and

needs, followed by training and guidance from the AWLA staff. The AWLA provides all food and other supplies for the foster animals as well as a 24-hour hotline for fosters to call in emergencies.

Foster "mom" Sarah P. and her daughter, Destinye, now 17, began volunteering for the program three years ago. Despite Sarah's petite size they "somehow always got the bigger dogs, 60- to 70-pounders," she says. There was Ash, a Lab mix who, despite having behavioral issues in the past, behaved perfectly;

Chocolate, a Lab mix who got so excited that he leapt toward other dogs until Sarah trained him to calm down with treats; Priscilla the anxious terrier mix who liked to nibble on blankets; Ben, a pit bull mix who chewed his leashes until the shelter provided a metal one for him, and many others. All were ultimately adopted. Most recently Sarah and her daughter have hosted Frankie, an American bulldog who had lost a significant amount of weight in the shelter but responded well to home-cooked

meals, especially Sarah's specially made instant-pot porridge.

"The larger, more active dogs need more space and more mental stimulation that they can better receive in a home environment," said AWLA Senior Manager of Veterinary and Foster Care Arianne Killen. "After a while at the AWLA, they can get a bit frustrated, and it's hard for us to get an idea of their true personalities."

Fostering helps gather that information, especially by placing

SEE FOSTER HOMES, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF AWLA



PHOTO BY INBAL KATZ

American bulldog Frankie, having fun in his foster home. Frankie refused to eat at first but later warmed up to specially prepared meals.

Spot, whose front leg had to be amputated after an attack by a dog, gradually came out of her shell in a foster home and eventually was adopted.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AWLA



PHOTO BY KERIN ORD

Before: A Shiba Inu named Amai Pai suffered from a severe case of mange when she arrived at the AWLA.

After: Amai Pai blossomed with treatment for her ailments in the foster home of Kerin Ord and Martin Parr.

Foster Homes Set Shelter Animals Up for Success

FROM PAGE 4

animals in situations not available at the shelter. Spending time in a home that has a staircase, for example, can help AWLA staff answer a potential adopter's question: "Can he climb stairs?"

"If an animal has a track record in a home, it's much easier for them to get adopted," said AWLA Veterinary and Foster Care Coordinator Elena Carver. "If we can relay to potential adopters that an animal has turned out to be super-sweet, playful and did great with other animals in the home, they might take a chance they hadn't considered before."

So far this year about 160 individuals and families have fostered animals for the AWLA. The need for foster volunteers has grown in recent months due to the harsh economic effects of the pandemic, leaving some people without stable housing and in need of temporary help with their pets.

Animals who are recovering from surgery or struggling with other medical challenges find the quiet and individual attention of foster homes critical to recovery. One of foster Inbal Katz's favorite "patients" was a grayish pit bull —

"with a face like a hippo" — called Baybee who was recovering from surgery after swallowing a foreign object. "She needed a lot of TLC," Katz recalled. "She was lying down a lot at first, but then started playing." Baybee began to shine in Katz's care, and, upon returning to the AWLA, Baybee was soon adopted.

A black and white senior dog named Milk needed watching over after surgeries to remove masses in her mammary glands. "I tried to put bandages on her, but she wouldn't have it," Katz said. "So I got her a 'onesie' for dogs that covered the wound so she couldn't scratch it." Milk healed really well and soon found her family.

Foster homes open their doors to all kinds of animals. Foster Kerin Ord and her husband, Martin Parr, recently housed a mother chinchilla and her baby in a special area of their basement in Alexandria. They also patiently waited out a cat named Spot who was recovering from a traumatic injury and hid under a bed for more than a week, which is not uncommon with shy or unsocialized cats. The woman who adopted Spot lay on the floor

SEE FOSTER HOMES, PAGE 14

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City's Head Still in Sand on So-called Stream Restoration

Regardless of soil test results conducted by Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) on behalf of the City, or anyone else for that matter, for total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN) along the Taylor Run stream banks at

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chinquapin Park and First Baptist Church pursuant to clearcutting the forest and reconfiguring the entire hydrology of the stream valley, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage, has already advised that WSSI's and the Department of T&ES, Stormwater Management's proposed natural channel design for the park is incompatible with resource protection of the Acidic Seepage Swamp at Chinquapin Park:

"The site and significant community should be managed to

protect the critical groundwater hydrology. Alteration of the Taylor Run stream channel or other actions that would increase overland flooding should be avoided... Protection Comments: The seepage swamp should be recognized as a critical natural resource within the City of Alexandria's park system."

DCR, DNH concurs with the Dept. RPCA, Natural Lands Management, who first identified and documented the wetlands along Taylor Run over 20 years ago and has worked tirelessly since then to protect the wetlands from adverse impacts.

This is sound science by specialists in the field vs. those beholden to facilitating overdevelopment, increased impervious surface that is the main cause of downstream flooding, and the stream construction industry's bottom line profits.

But effective preservation of this irreplaceable, globally rare natural resource will have to come from the will of Alexandria residents and the actions of the City Council who represent them. State DCR and local resource management staff have more than done their part in presenting quality science and best practices for the preser-

vation of the wetlands. It's long past time that Alexandria grasped the existential threat of climate change, locally, and the grave effects of deforestation, stream and wetlands destruction, and habitat loss as stressors driving it.

Rod Simmons,
environmental scientist
Arlington, Virginia

And Chaos for Those Who Live on Lee Street

Dear Editor:

Regardless of the numerous inconveniences posed by changing the Lee street name, there is an unwarranted rush to judgment in contemplating this action. The Lee family is an integral part of Alexandria and Virginia history, and are part of a storied past.

The Lees were connected through the Carter and Randolph families with many other distinguished Americans. Anna Maria Mason, (one of George Mason's granddaughters) married Robert's brother Sydney Smith Lee.

At one time, the Lees owned ten homes in Alexandria. It was in Alexandria that Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee III wrote that George Washington was "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and endearing scenes of private life." George Washington was a frequent visitor to the Lee Fendall house, which no less than 37 Lee members lived or stayed from 1785 to 1903. The Lees are also connected to Washington. Robert E.'s wife Mary Custis Lee was the daughter of George Washington Parke Custis and the Great Granddaughter of Martha Washington.

Please reconsider this proposal to rename this street. One cannot learn from history if it is eradicated.

All of this is on top of the fact that if this initiative is enacted by the Council, total chaos will result in the lives of those citizens who have to change their addresses on all their legal documents. A large task within itself. Choose wisely, Alexandra!

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Senior Services of Alexandria Kicks Off its 2021-22 Speaker Series 'Senior Living in Alexandria' How Seniors Can Stay Fit and Safe at Home

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR,
COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH
SENIOR SERVICES
OF ALEXANDRIA

On Thursday, Oct. 21 at 10 am, Senior Services of Alexandria will host the first of its 2021-2022 Speaker Series "Senior Living in Alexandria" on the important topic of senior safety in the home. This event titled "How Seniors Can Stay Safe

and Fit at Home" will address many steps seniors can take to stay healthy and secure in their home. The panel presentation will be virtual on Zoom and is free and open to the public. To register online, go to www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, extension 110.

"How Seniors Can Stay Safe and Fit at Home" will feature informative presentations from representatives of Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, Goodwin House, Kupana Aikido Safe Falling

for Seniors Center, and the Fairfax County's Financial Exploitation Task Force. At the conclusion of the panel, presenters will be available to answer questions, time permitting.

As people age, more time is spent at home and the need for assistance increases. There are many easy ways to keep homes safe with fall prevention, proper falling techniques, home safety modifications and education about how scams

target retirement savings and other valuables. This panel will address some options as to how to accomplish this in a simple and straightforward manner.

Senior Services of Alexandria is pleased to be back with the popular Speaker Series program and hopes to see you online. Beginning in January of 2022 SSA will again evaluate if in person Speaker Series program events are safe and possible.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Stuff the Bus. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fastran buses will be accepting food donations at the following location: Lee | Benefitting United Community, Island Creek Elementary School, 7855 Morning View Lane, Alexandria.

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://lwvarlalexcity-councilmayorforum.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>.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 20

A presentation on Wintering Waterbirds. 7 p.m. on Zoom. The Friends of Dyke Marsh hosts Greg Butcher of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and the U.S. Forest Service who will explore the diversity of waterbirds that spend the winter in Northern Virginia. He will review citizen science studies and conservation needs for birds and people along the Potomac River. The program is free and open to the public. Visit www.fodm.org to register. (Home page, left side)

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: 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.alxfss.org/>

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.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide

vide 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.volunteeral-alexandria.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.volunteeralexandria.org

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

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

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 23 | 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Pet prescriptions also accepted!



ALEXANDRIA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTITALEXANDRIA.ORG

SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The City of Alexandria continues to remind the public that everyone is safest at home. Individuals on essential errands can drop off medication at these designated locations on October 23 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Face coverings must be worn in indoor public settings and outdoor public locations where physical distancing requirements cannot be maintained. Please maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others.

To learn about ways to dispose of medications safely at home, visit alexandriava.gov/opioids.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters 3600 Wheeler Ave.	Alexandria Fire Station 210 5255 Eisenhower Ave.
First Baptist Church 2932 King St.	The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray 2204 Mount Vernon Ave.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

The Neighborhood Pharmacy 2204 Mount Vernon Ave. Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Alexandria Police Headquarters 3600 Wheeler Ave. Just inside the entrance Available 24/7
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Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Rd.
Visitor's Lobby
Next to the cashier's window
Daily: 1 - 5 p.m.

NEW! NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



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ALZ.ORG/WALK



Additional Walks available. Find one near you at alz.org/walk

OCTOBER 24
RESTON TOWN CENTER

2021 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSORS
Edward Jones & CVS Health

‘We Need More Normalcy’

Fall events return in 2021.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The arrival of fall one year ago was less than celebratory as many of the area’s signature events were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But as strides are made in understanding and combating the virus, a sense of normalcy is cautiously returning to Alexandria.

Two events in particular will return this year, including the unofficial but overwhelmingly popular trick-or-treating on South Lee Street in Old Town.

“Before COVID struck, Lee Street had quite the Halloween trick or treating going on,” said Yvonne Callahan, vice president of the Old Town Civic Association. “It was all quite fun, and especially in the last few years, with more police presence and barricades to make the streets safer to traverse, it has been most successful.”

The residents of South Lee Street are known for their over-the-top decorations but opted last year to cancel the Halloween street celebration. This year, they are enthusiastically ready to revive the tradition.

“Last year, we had nothing of course,” Callahan said. “Now we are eager for the tradition to be revived. We need more normalcy and this is one way to bring it back for one evening.”

In addition to the South Lee Street trick-or-treating on Halloween night, the popular Del Ray Halloween Parade will return Oct. 24 after a year’s hiatus.

Taking place on Mount Vernon Avenue, the parade will feature children, pets and strollers in costumes with awards given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Stroller.

Recently named one of the Top 3 Best Small Cities in the U.S. by Conde Nast Traveler Readers’ Choice Awards, Alexandria showcases a line up of both historic and contemporary sights and sounds to awaken the autumn season. From leaf peeping to ghost tours and doggie trick-or-treating, fall festivities abound.

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill welcomed the season with its annual Pumpkin Patch. The event raises funds for local charities and



Tours and cruises are available aboard the tall ship Providence located at the Old Town waterfront.

runs through Oct. 31.

At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, two special fall events continue with the Fall Wine Festival Sunset Tour Oct. 8-10 and the Fall Harvest Festival Oct. 23-24. Mount Vernon will also host trick-or-treating on Oct. 30. www.mountvernon.org

While the city is known for its historic homes and museums, a lesser-known claim-to-fame is that Alexandria is home to some of the biggest trees in the country including more than 100 champion or notable trees. With foliage expected to peak in mid-October, leaf peeping in Alexandria can be seen close to home at Fort Ward Park, Jones Point and Alexandria National Cemetery, home to the country’s largest dwarf hackberry tree.

The Old Town Business Association is again sponsoring the Old Town Oyster Festival Oct. 16-24 in partnership with the Oyster Recovery Foundation. The Oyster Shucking Competition will take place Oct. 16 to kick off the festivities at Vola’s Airstream Patio.

Also along the waterfront is the Tall Ship Providence. Tours as well as cruises, including for private events, are available. A special craft beer sunset cruise in partnership with Port City Brewing will take place Oct. 16 www.tallship-providence.org



Fall enthusiasts will find the largest dwarf hackberry tree in the entire country at Alexandria National Cemetery. In addition to this national champion, the cemetery is also home to several state champions and a notable sweetgum, whose star-shaped leaves pop into a deep orange come autumn.

“We need more normalcy, and this is one way to bring it back for one evening.”

— Yvonne Callahan on Halloween night on S. Lee Street

[providence.org](http://www.providence.org)

Ghost tours are popular year-round but October is the most popular time of year to learn local lore surrounding Alexandria’s past. In addition to the Ghosts & Graveyard tour by Colonial Tours, a Spirits of Ivy Hill Ghost Tour will be held at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

The cemetery will also be the site of the Guillotine Theatre presentation of “Poe outside the Vault.” Actors from Guillotine Theatre will read from the works of Edgar Allan Poe on Oct. 28 and 30. RSVP to info@IHCHPS.org

The Little Theatre of Alexandria



VERNON MILES/GAZETTE PACKET

Fall decorations appear on Prince Street in Old Town.

Chris Leary gives out candy to a pre-pandemic crowd of trick-or-treaters on South Lee Street, the unofficial place to gather on Halloween. The tradition will resume in 2021.



Gerson Baten of the Fish Market took top honors in last year’s oyster shucking contest. This year’s event will take place Oct. 16 at Vola’s Airstream Patio on the Alexandria Waterfront.



The Del Ray Halloween parade will return this year on Oct. 24 on Mount Vernon Avenue.

continues its schedule of live theatre performances with “Wait Until Dark.” Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, the show follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. The show runs Oct. 16-Nov. 6. www.thelittletheatre.com

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the Walk to Bust Cancer returns Oct. 24 at Fort Hunt Park. A virtual option is also available and proceeds help fund diagnostics and treatment for uninsured and underinsured patients. www.walktobustcancer.org

For more information on fall festivals and city events, visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.



Sisters Victoria and Azura Ungureanu play atop pillars in “Groundswell,” the public art installation at Waterfront Park in Old Town. The temporary display runs through Nov. 1



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY DEUA SULLIVAN PHOTO

The 2021 Walk to Bust Cancer takes place Oct. 24 at Fort Hunt Park. The event will also offer a virtual option in the fight against breast cancer. www.walktobustcancer.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Mount Vernon Fall Wine Festival Sunset Tour will be held Oct. 8-10 at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. www.mountvernon.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Mount Vernon Fall Harvest Festival will take place Oct. 23 and 24 at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. www.mountvernon.org

The Great Pumpkin Patch



Visitors look over a pumpkin Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill pumpkin patch.



Ghost pops and other baked goods and home-made soups are available at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch.

PHOTOS BY
JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET



Chatchaya Pansiri and Warawat Prachongkarn hold up some of the pumpkins selected Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch.



Brothers Joshua, 4, and Xavier, 7, show off some of their pumpkin picks Oct. 4 at the Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch.

FROM PAGE 1
we confronted unprecedented need last year with COVID-19, and this year we're already contributing significantly to Afghan refugee resettlement."

Local charities benefitting from the sale include ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Senior Services of Alexandria, Christ House and Community Lodgings.

The church works with Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers in North Carolina, a small company which consigns pumpkins to churches and nonprofit organizations throughout the country. In its first year of sales in 1993, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill received a shipment of about one quarter of a truckload of pumpkins. In recent years, the church has received four semi-trailer truckloads.

"I have been doing this for as long as the church has held the pumpkin patch," said Richard Glassco, one of the many volunteers who staff the patch for 10 hours each day until Halloween. "The funds raised really make a difference to the charities that we support so I hope people will come out and support us."

The Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Pumpkin Patch is located at 3606 Seminary Road and open seven days a week through Oct. 31. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on weekends and the Oct. 11 Federal holiday. Admission is free. www.immanuel-on-the-hill.org

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU OCT. 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.

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays additional tours at 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per adult; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 per child. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

OCT. 8-10, 2021

Adventurous Children Wanted. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Free, virtual, three-day adventure at the Folklore Society of Greater Washington's Online Getaway! Storytelling, role play, fantasy, magic. Register to receive materials for 3 sessions on 3 consecutive days. <https://www.fsgw.org/event-4484084> Three sessions: Oct. 8, 2021, 3:30 p.m. Oct. 9, 2021, 10:30 p.m. Oct. 10, 2021, 10:30 p.m.

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.

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 residents 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

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Legacy of the Green Family Cabinet Makers Walking Tour. 9:30 a.m. In the early 19th Century, William Green started the Green Furniture factory in Alexandria and by 1823 his son, James, would take over. James expanded his father's factory and established himself as a prominent Alexandrian through building and operating Green's Mansion House Hotel. Join us on a tour to learn about James Green and his family's life here in Alexandria. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this 1.5 hour guided tour. Tour is held rain or shine unless there is severe weather.

OCT. 9-31

St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch. 12 to 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Pick up pumpkin bread, soup and pumpkins, and gourds galore. Proceeds support the Navaja Nation who grow our pumpkins and youth and outreach programs. Pumpkins priced by size. Pumpkin bread and soup \$5. Great prices on decorative pumpkins and gourds of all types. Patch open Saturdays starting Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sundays Noon - 7 p.m. Mon - Thurs 3 - 7 p.m., Fri 1 - 7 p.m. through Halloween or until they sell out.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Watercolor Workshop: Still Life. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Adults) Whether you are a beginner or experienced painter, learn to paint still life in watercolor with the help of artist Dawn Flores. Gain skills in building form, developing color harmony, and painting flowers, water, shadows, and backgrounds. Bring in objects to make simple com-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

3 Dates to Circle in October

BY HOPE NELON
GAZETTE PACKET

From new plant-based menus to Armenian fare to the last days of Oktoberfest, October is teeming with possibilities. Here are some of the month's best bets.

New vegan menu debuts at Elizabeth's Counter, Oct. 6

The doughnut-shop-turned-café has reinvented its menu, bringing in some new veg-forward items while keeping some of its greatest hits (vegan chik'n sandwich, anyone?). Say hello to new salads and other bowl-oriented meals, ranging from curry chickpea salad to a celery root cake concoction. And also belly up for brunch with burritos and plant-based quiche. And don't fret: Doughnuts and their pastry kin will still be in plentiful supply. 804 N. Henry St.

Oktoberfest at Lost Boy Cider, Oct. 16

Prost! It's Oktoberfest time, and Lost Boy Cider is getting into the spirit. And they're not doing it alone; five breweries will be

on tap to join the festivities. Right Proper Brewing, Aslin, Port City, Vasen and Black Narrows will be on offer, as well as pretzels from Chewish Deli and on-site food trucks. Your ticket gets you three 12-ounce pours in a commemorative Oktoberfest mug as well as additional discounted drink tickets if you're still thirsty. Costumes welcome. Noon-6 p.m. \$63.78. 317 Hooffs Run Drive.

Armenian Arts and Food Festival, Oct. 23-24

Market Square will come alive with Armenian flavors and culture during the Armenian Arts and Food Festival. Expect an abundance of music and dance performances throughout the weekend, as well as various Armenian delicacies to nosh on throughout the event. A folk-craft area will be on display as well as the opportunity to shop from various vendors. Noon-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. 301 King St.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 10

Holmes-Run Storywalk Festival. 2-4 p.m. Holmes Run Park Walking Trail. Intersection of Holmes Run Parkway and Pelham Street, Alexandria. Walk the trail and join local

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

positions or challenge yourself with crystal and silver. \$97 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code A4E.O1BW.

Supporting Healthy Youth and Healthy Families: Celebrating Safely

As fall begins and homecoming approaches, SAPCA encourages parents and teens to celebrate safely and substance-free and to know the legal consequences related to underage drinking.



Parents and Caregivers: It is against the law to provide alcohol to any persons under the age of 21. Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

Support our youth to be happy, healthy, and substance-free by making your values clear about substance use -- particularly underage use of substances -- with your children and other parents, and pledge to keep celebrations for youth substance-free.

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OCTOBER

10/6/2021.....Wellbeing: Senior Living Focus
10/13/2021.....HomeLifeStyle
10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
10/27/2021.....Senior Living
Connection Families: Safe for Halloween
10/2/2021.....Election Preview

NOVEMBER

11/3/2021.....Wellbeing
11/10/20.....HomeLifeStyle
11/17/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
11/24/2021.....Senior Living
Connection Families: Celebration & Gratitude
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• Centreville	• McLean Connection	• Springfield Connection
• Chantilly Connection	• Mount Vernon Gazette	• Vienna/Dorton Connection

Obituary

Obituary

Elizabeth Giuseppe Giansante

Nov. 2 1924 – Aug. 28, 2020

Elizabeth passed away peacefully at the age of 95. Predeceased by her husband Arthur, parents James and Annie (Giammittorio) Giuseppe, her sister Rita (Giuseppe) Carlson (Carl), her brothers Eugene Giuseppe (Ethyle) and John Giuseppe (Barbara). She is survived by her sister Mary (Giuseppe) Glass, and her brother George Giuseppe (Brenda), numerous nieces and nephews, and her daughter Cindy (Peter Hoppmann) and four grandchildren Eric, Julie, Kurt, and Mark.

Elizabeth graduated from George Washington High School in Alexandria, VA in January of 1942. She helped with the war effort by manning the switchboard at the Masonic Temple. She worked at the City of Alexandria Treasurer's Office before her marriage to Arthur in January of 1953. After raising her daughter, Cindy, Elizabeth worked as a legal secretary and for the Commissioner of Accounts in Alexandria. Elizabeth moved to Middleburg, VA in 1988 to be near her grandchildren.

Elizabeth made friends easily and was always willing to help. She had an ability to connect with people and made everyone feel special and cared for. True to her Italian heritage, she loved feeding people and making Christmas Pizzelles. Elizabeth believed in education, liked to read to her grandchildren, and was a stickler for proper grammar. She was known as Nona to her grandchildren, great-nieces and nephews and many in the Middleburg community. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Obituary

Obituary



Jeanne Dumas Smiley of Culpeper, Virginia passed away peacefully at the age of 77 on June 24, 2021 in Alexandria, Virginia. She had been receiving hospice care at the home of her daughter after battling colon cancer for the past two and a half years.

Born in Washington, DC, Jeanne Elmere Dumas grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, graduated from Hammond High School and was married to Andrew Carl Apperson from 1961 to 1971. Jeanne worked and raised her family in Alexandria and married William Donald Smiley in 1972. Over the years, she was a Cub Scout & Girl Scout Leader, an avid Alexandria Youth Recreation League baseball, basketball & football parent and a T.C. Williams Titan Band Booster & chaperone. She also enjoyed visiting her extended family in Davis, West Virginia. After her children were grown, Jeanne relocated to Culpeper in 1985.

Professionally, she began her career working for Cappet Corporation of Alexandria, VA where she developed her interest in pet care. She later went on to own and operate two retail pet stores, The Pet Barn in Oxon Hill, MD and Pet Carnival in Culpeper, VA. In later years, Jeanne worked for Peebles in Warrenton, Virginia, where she made several lasting friendships.

Upon her retirement from retail, Jeanne pursued her true passion of collecting and selling antique china and glassware. Jeanne was most happy scouring hole in the wall places in search of that one perfect piece or that one incredible bargain. She was a proud member of the Homer Laughlin China Collector's Association, frequently attending their annual conferences and she thoroughly loved the wonderful friends she met through the HLCCA. She also enjoyed crocheting, gardening and catching up with her cherished high school friends during their many reunions and regular get-togethers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred James & Reta Calvert Dumas. She is survived by her children and grandchildren; James Bentley Apperson, his wife Mary & their children Kathryn Lynn & Reese James of Clifton, VA; Margaret Suzanne "Suzy" McQuilkin & her husband Jeffrey of Alexandria, VA and Andrew "Drew" Carlyle Apperson, his wife Katie & their sons Kevin McNally & Jarett Thomas of San Antonio, TX. She is also survived by her siblings, Reta Ann Dumas of Mesa, AZ, Jackson Calvert Dumas of Atascadero, CA and Margaret Dumas Worden & her husband James of Springfield, VA. She was also preceded in death by her brother James William Dumas, her former husband, William Donald Smiley and her beloved dog, Jackson. She leaves behind many dear cousins, nieces, nephews and treasured friends who loved her and will miss her greatly.

The family will be hosting a celebration of life at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22305 on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 1:00 pm. To honor Jeanne, the family kindly requests that donations in her memory be made to: Capital Caring, (www.capitalcaring.org) 3180 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 500, Falls Church, VA 22042, 1-800-869-2136 or the Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA (www.caspc.org) 3355 Berkmar Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-973-5959.

WELLBEING

Keep Your Distance



- Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you
- Indoors and outdoors, you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in close contact with others for a long time.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Is It Safe To Trick-or-Treat This Year?

Some COVID-19 mandates have been lifted, some precautions are still urged.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

After Angela Morgan's father died from COVID-19 earlier this year, she was devastated, and she was moved to change her mind about safety precautions. Before her father died, she was annoyed by mask mandates and refused to get a COVID-19 vaccine. As Halloween approaches, Morgan says she has concerns about taking her daughters, ages three and seven, trick-or-treating.

"Halloween is very popular in my neighborhood," said the Bethesda mother. There are hundreds of kids and their parents out and about, almost every house is decorated and the owners give out loads of candy. It will be impossible to avoid crowds and I probably won't be able to stop my seven-year-old from running up with her friends to every house that's giving out candy. My three-year-old is frightened by Halloween costume masks, so I don't know how I'm going to handle that."

Marked by costumes, trick-or-treating and visiting with friends and neighbors, Halloween is one of the sweetest and most popular holidays of the year. With COVID-19 cases and the Delta variant spreading, navigating this time-honored holiday tradition will be complicated for some parents, especially those with children who are under 12, too young for a COVID-19 vaccination.

"Although trick-or-treating occurs outside where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is less, if kids go in groups, there is likely not to be social distancing and there will be contact with people in a lot of different households handing out candy," said Lucy H. Caldwell, director, communications, Fairfax County Health Department. "While some COVID-19 measures are no longer mandatory, it's still important to take precautions to prevent COVID-19 as disease transmission is still happening in our community at a high level. Wearing a mask would be a good thing to do. The CDC has the Halloween Activity Checklist for Parents." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/daily-life-coping/Trick-or-treating.pdf>.

Like Morgan's daughter, there are young children



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE FROM 2020

One way to avoid close contact for Halloween trick or treating: Arlington homeowner sends candy or a stuffed animal down one of the two Halloween chutes he built out of leftover heating pipe for Halloween last year.

who are frightened by Halloween masks that can offer a layer of protection, says Glenda Hernandez Tittle, PhD. education professor at Montgomery College. "If children are afraid of Halloween, it is important to acknowledge those feelings," she said. "Consider selecting fun and interesting costumes for children. Make the connections that Halloween is about pretending and costumes allow us to do that on this day."

Of all the Halloween traditions, trick-or-treating is one of the riskiest because it often means large groups of children crowded around a neighbor's front door grabbing for candy.

"Even though we all love candy, it's not worth putting yourself or others at risk," said Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services. "Masks, distancing, handwashing, testing, and vaccinations are all important layers of protection when it comes to COVID safety."

Though COVID might be at the forefront of conversations about Halloween safety, Larrick advises the public not to forget other safety measures. "Drive and bike slowly and take precautions at intersections," he said. "There will be many more people of all ages walking around on Halloween than your typical weekday evening, so be sure to take extra care."

"Wear reflective clothing, have a flashlight ... don't pet dogs you don't know [and] don't eat foods that are not wrapped," added Caldwell.

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Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described item.

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the closure of the 100 Block of King Street to Vehicular Traffic.
The proposed ordinance closes the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic, between Union and Lee Streets.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday October 23, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Legals

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News I Don't Want to Use



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But I doubt very much I'll be able to bury the lead. The lead being the start date for the lenvima, the thyroid cancer medication I've been "pilling" once a day since Sept. 3rd, 2020, and more/most importantly, the end date. The end date being the presumptive time frame, two to three years from start to perhaps my finish. The finish being the date in the future when the medication I've been taking for a little over one year eventually stops working, according to medical opinions. And why is this medication's effective life so relevant? Because at this time, it's the best/only alternative to treat my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. What happens after I can only guess because my oncologist rarely discusses scenarios. It's likely somewhere between a wait and see and why worry - about a set of circumstances years off and a definite maybe at that. Plus cancer research continues.

However, as much as I've benefited from lung cancer research that extended my life so long when I was taking tarceva, avastin and alimta - in that order, "miracle drugs" as my oncologist called them; the underlying reality may have been that I didn't have stage IV non small cell lung cancer at all, but rather slow growing papillary thyroid cancer. A cancer that was neither helped nor hindered during the years I was treated for lung cancer. Unfortunately, I was hindered.

Hindered in that after years of receiving heavy-duty chemotherapy - perhaps for the wrong cancer, I've suffered kidney damage which is irreparable. Specifically, my kidneys are functioning at approximately 50-percent efficiency. Though this deficiency doesn't seem to manifest itself in everyday activities/life, it does affect what cancer medications I can take and even some non-prescription drugs available. As an example, I can't take nsids (ibuprofen/advil) and when I lie down for my quarterly scans, I cannot be given "contrast," an injection given to sharpen the details of the scan. The reason being that I can't take anything that is filtered through the kidney for risk of making a bad situation worse. A situation that perhaps has occurred unnecessarily because of years or receiving lung cancer chemotherapy when I should have been receiving thyroid cancer medication. And as a result of this infusion of toxic chemotherapy into my body, it has affected the treatment of my thyroid cancer.

When my thyroid cancer first appeared as a growth above my adam's apple, subsequent biopsies confirmed that it was in fact thyroid cancer, not a "clone" of my lung cancer. These biopsies lead to a thyroidectomy which surgically removed both my thyroid and parathyroid. But since the uncontained tumor had grown under my collarbone for approximately nine months since it first appeared, the surgeon - after seven hours of trying, was unable to get all the cancer. No real problem. There was another procedure scheduled to eradicate the remaining cancer. It required that I receive an injection of nuclear isotopes and an overnight stay in the hospital.

A procedure, that is generally successful for a cancer that is called "the friendly cancer" because of its curability, was unsuccessful. Why? Because I was only given one third the required dose of the isotope because - the isotopes are filtered through the kidney and my pre-existing kidney damage from the nine-plus years of lung cancer treatment impacted the use of the proper dose. The result? I now have incurable stage IV papillary thyroid cancer and am taking a medication that likely stops working in the next year or two with at present no new options in the medical pipeline. Moreover, the combination of factors that lead to my present situation is not exactly a regular occurrence which would lead to a clinical trial of similarly-affected patients. I'm not entirely on my own, but I'm not on too many others either.

(There's nothing funny in this column because there's nothing funny about my situation.)

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

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News

Foster Homes Set Shelter Animals Up for Success

FROM PAGE 5

next to the bed to view her.

A Shiba Inu dog who was scratching constantly from a severe case of mange would pose a challenge for any foster, but Ord and Parr were willing to take her on. With guidance from the AWLA's veterinary team, they gave her a series of medicated baths and were able to help her look and feel healthier, eventually helping to find an enthusiastic adopter for her.

Ord, whose household includes two cats and two dogs, says she and Parr are accustomed to animals with special needs. More than once they, like some other AWLA foster caregivers, have come to the conclusion that the best home for some foster animals in their care is with them. In fact, both of

the couple's current canines, Josie and Stubby, started with them as fosters and went on to become full-time residents, now assisting with the parade of foster animals seeking a helping paw.

Celebrating its 75th year, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global pandemic, the AWLA has established a virtual adoption process and is operating a Pet Pantry that provides pet food and supplies to community members in need. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

author, Alice Y. Chen, as she reads her picture book, Centipede Dragon. This outdoor festival for all ages. Other activities include crafts, a lion dance and martial arts performance. Visit the website: <https://alexlibraryva.org/event/5638400>

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 13

Mount Vernon Home and Garden Club is hosting its first garden club meeting at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Dr., Alexandria. The guest speakers will be two Green Spring Master Gardeners speaking about Native Plants. They also have a garden tour set for Oct. 16th that you can sign up for at the meeting.

FRIDAY/OCT. 15

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 residents and neighbors and hear their tales of sadness and triumph. Reservations required due to limited space. Tours are on the half hour. Visit novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

Thu. Oct. 7: Lori McKenna "The Two Birds Tour" with Mark Erelli \$29.50
 Sat. Oct. 9: The Guess Who \$69.50
 Sun. Oct. 10: Phil Vassar \$45.00
 Mon./Tue. Oct. 11 & 12: An Evening with Patty Griffin & Gregory Alan Isakov \$95.00
 Wed./Thu. Oct. 13 & 14: An Evening with Damien Escobar \$59.50
 Fri. Oct. 15: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$55.00
 Sat. Oct. 16: Raven's Night 2021 \$29.50
 Sun. Oct. 17: An Evening with Judy Collins \$59.50
 Mon./Tue. Oct. 18&19: Boney James: Solid Tour \$79.50
 Wed. Oct. 20: Iris Dement w/ Anna Egge \$39.50
 Thu. Oct. 21: Tab Benoit "Whiskey Bayou Revue" \$39.50
 Fri./Sat. Oct. 22&23: The Whispers \$85.00
 Sun. Oct. 24: Rick Wakeman "Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour" \$59.50

Mon. Oct. 25: Gordon Lightfoot \$95.00
 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
 *All shows are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted.
 **Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. For more information, contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

Birchmere Shows Nov-Dec 2021 & 2022!

Tue. Nov. 2: Shovels & Rope "The Bare Bones Tour" \$45.00
 Wed. Nov. 3: Chicks With Hits: Terri Clark, Pam Tillis, Suzy Bogguss \$69.50
 Thu. Nov. 4: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$49.50
 Fri./Sat. Nov. 5&6: Stephanie Mills \$89.50
 Sun. Nov. 7: Steep Canyon Rangers \$39.50
 Mon. Nov. 8: Marc Broussard \$45.00
 Wed. Nov. 10: Brandy Clark "Who You Thought I Was Tour" \$35.00
 Fri. Nov. 12: 10,000 Maniacs \$55.00
 Sun. Nov. 14: Hiroshima \$49.50
 Mon./Tue. Nov. 15&16: Rosanne Cash \$69.50
 Wed. Nov. 17: John Hiatt and The Jerry Douglas Band \$75.00
 Thu. Nov. 18: Luna \$39.50
 Fri./Sat./Sun. Nov. 19,20,21: Paula Poundstone \$55.00
 Tue. Nov. 23: The Musical Box Presents: A Genesis Extravaganza Vol. 2 \$49.50
 Wed. Nov. 24: Hot Tuna Acoustic & Electric with special guest David Grisman's Dawg Trio featuring Danny Barnes & Samson Grisman \$75.00
 Sun. Nov. 28: Charles Esten \$59.50
 Mon. Nov. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00

Fri./Sat. Dec. 3&4: Chris Botti \$110.00
 Sun. Dec. 5: Dar Williams w/ Emily Scott Robinson \$45.00
 Fri. Dec. 10: Maggie Rose "Have A Seat Tour 2021" w/ Them Vibes & Dylan Hartigan \$29.50
 Sat. Dec. 11: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$49.50
 Sat. Dec. 18: Tom Papa \$35.00 (Resched from 3/26/21. All 3/26/21 tickets honored)
 Sun. Dec. 19: Luther Re-Lives Holiday Show featuring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$45.00
 Mon. Dec. 20: Puddle Pity Party \$49.50

Thu./Fri. Jan. 20 & 21: Keb' Mo' \$89.50
 Thu. Jan. 27: The Gilmour Project \$35.00
 Fri. Jan. 28: Raheem DeVaughn \$69.50

*All shows are at 7:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

**Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. For more information, contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

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BRAKE PAD SPECIAL \$99.95

BRAKE PAD REPLACEMENT
INCLUDES: INSTALL GENUINE TOYOTA FRONT BRAKE PADS,
INSPECT FRONT & REAR ROTORS AND/OR DRUMS, CHECK TIRE
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Old Town | \$1,575,000

Chic historic home! Stunning 2014 renovation created a luxurious modern presentation with high-end finishes behind a classic Federal façade. 2,300 SF of living on 2 levels with open floor plan, 3 gas fireplaces, 2 spa-like baths, & a gorgeous private patio. 210 N Fairfax St
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN THURS 10/7, 5-7PM

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



George Washington Park | \$1,299,000

Timeless and sophisticated, this expanded Cape Cod combines charm & modern elements. Almost 3,500 SF of living space with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Gourmet kitchen with large island overlooks the great room. Finished lower level. 702 West View Terrace
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Del Ray | \$799,000

This updated 3-bedroom, 2-bath home is light and bright with a great flow. Open living/dining room off the kitchen with dining peninsula. Main level bedroom and full renovated bath. Private back yard with brick patio perfect for entertaining. 3333 Helen Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SUN 10/10, 2-4PM

Fort Hunt | \$899,000

Incredible Opportunity! Over 4,300 SF of living space on almost a half acre. Huge great room addition with vaulted ceilings and stone fireplace. 5 upper level bedrooms. Screened porch and multi-level deck. New roof and siding & freshly painted. 8313 Crown Court Rd
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SUN 10/10, 2-4PM

Jefferson Green | \$414,900

Fabulous, move-in ready, 2-level townhome with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, & 1,300 SF of living space. Freshly painted, new flooring, sunny eat-in kitchen with new stainless appliances. Private patio, 2 parking spaces plus amenities at Bren Mar. 5619 Independence Circle
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



OPEN SAT 10/9 & SUN 10/10, 1-4PM

Burges Square \$889,000

Sensational turn-key brick townhome in the heart of Old Town. Features include a wood-burning fireplace, hardwood floors, fenced-in back patio with shed. The primary bedroom features two closets & high ceilings. Generously sized second bedroom. 811 Wolfe Street

Kristen Jones 703.851.2556
www.KristenJones.com



OPEN SAT 10/9, 1-3PM

Rosemont Park \$735,000

Three level, 2 bedroom, 2 full bath townhouse with hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Kitchen features new appliances, office is off the kitchen & overlooks the private, fenced backyard. Walkout from lower level laundry room & office. 211 Commonwealth Ave. HayesWoodHomes.com

Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



Marina Towers \$615,000

UNOBSTRUCTED RIVER VIEWS! 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in North Old Town. Freshly painted, gorgeous new hardwoods. Kitchen and dining access to balcony. Primary bedroom with walk-in closet and bath! 1 garage parking space conveys. 501 Slaters Lane #803

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