

Republican Sweep

Democrats lose statewide for the first time since 2009.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia has a long tradition of offering a counterpoint to presidential elections starting after the election of Democrat Jimmy Carter for president in 1976. Virginia responded by electing Republican John Dalton. Ever since then, it's been a pretty predictable pattern. After the Reagan Revolution in 1980, Virginia elected Democrat Chuck Robb governor. The election of Democrat Bill Clinton brought on the election of Republican George Allen, and the answer to Republican George W. Bush was Democrat Mark Warner.

Only one candidate for governor has been able to break the spell — Terry McAuliffe, who bucked the trend in 2013 by defeating Republican Ken Cuccinelli on the heels of Barack Obama's reelection. Democrats were hopeful that McAuliffe could pull it off again. But his campaign attempting to tie Republican Glenn Youngkin to former President Donald Trump failed as a wave of voters raised objections to anti-racism curriculum in schools and transgender students using the bathroom of the gender their choice.

"Unfortunately, Virginia's long-standing trend of electing a governor from the opposite party of the president continues," said Noam Lee, executive director of the Democratic Governors Association. "Sidestepping the issues that mattered to voters, the GOP lied and schemed to hide their candidate's extreme positions, and their far-right agenda won out."

Youngkin declared victory at a raucous victory party in Chantilly, thanking his family and outlining his agenda for the next four years. At the top of the list was education reform. He made no mention of critical race theory, the law-school concept that he has vowed to ban from public school classrooms. But he did promise the largest education budget in history,



Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin addresses a crowd Oct. 30 at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Youngkin upset Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe in the Nov. 2 general election.

and he said he would expand charter schools. He also said he would deliver the largest tax refund ever, and he vowed to eliminate the grocery tax.

"This is our moment," said Youngkin. "Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."

The blame game has already started among Democrats, who are critical of the McAuliffe campaign for focusing too much attention on Trump and for not fighting back harder against allegations that critical race theory is taught in

Virginia classrooms. As Democrats saw power slipping from their grasp Tuesday night, they were particularly angry that Republicans were able to seize on the issue of education — a campaign issue Democrats have long considered their own personal realm.

"You cannot lose education," said Brian Moran, a former Democratic

caucus chairman in the House who now works in the Northam administration. "It's bread and butter: Health care, education and safety. That's what Democrats talk about, and that's what we care about. We cannot forfeit those issues."

Since Democrats seized control of the General Assembly two years ago, they've been able to achieve drastic change.

They've legalized marijuana, abolished the death penalty, restricted predatory lending, implemented gun violence prevention measures and overturned restrictions to abortion. For many voters, that may have been too much too soon. The election of Youngkin and the Republican ticket is certain to be viewed as a repudiation of the agenda that Democrats pushed during their brief era of legislative power.

"It's official: Virginians have completely rejected the failed policies of the liberals running Richmond and voted for a brighter future full of supported small businesses, empowered parents and safer streets," said Dee Duncan, president of the Republican



Hundreds turned out in Old Town Alexandria Oct. 30 for a rally for Republican gubernatorial candidate Glenn Youngkin.

State Leadership Committee. "We supported the right candidates, developed the right messages, and executed the right strategies to overcome a two-to-one spending disadvantage driven by national liberals like Barack Obama, Eric Holder, Nancy Pelosi and Stacey Abrams."

Youngkin launched his campaign initially aiming squarely at economic issues, promising tax cuts as part of a very traditional Republican playbook. But then events caught up with the campaign. A high-profile prosecution in Loudoun gave opponents of transgender students using the bathroom of their choice an opportunity to question safety. And a national movement against so-called critical race theory erupted at local school board meetings across Virginia. Then McAuliffe stuck his foot in his mouth in the second debate saying he didn't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.

"I think Terry made an unfortunate remark, and that started it," said Del. Kaye Kory (D-38). "Before that, there really was not any

talk about this on this scale."

After the debate in Alexandria at the Schlesinger Center, Republicans recalibrated their campaign to be aimed right at the issue of parental rights. That gave them an opportunity to ride the wave of concern over anti-racism curriculum in the classroom, which they call critical race theory even though that's not taught in Virginia classrooms. And every new detail in the Loudoun prosecution was amplified on right-wing media. McAuliffe's own words were endlessly repeated in Republican television ads, and the McAuliffe campaign was late in walking the statement back.

"We are grateful to Virginians who place their trust in us," said Republican House Leader Todd Gilbert after Republicans won enough seats to take control of the House of Delegates. "We look forward to immediately going to work with Governor-elect Youngkin and his administration to restore fiscal order, give parents the voice they deserve in education and keep our commonwealth safe. Our work begins now."

PHOTO: JAMAL NELSON/TWITTER

PHOTO: ALISCIA ANDREWS/TWITTER

"Together, we will change the trajectory of this commonwealth."

— Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin



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Head of the Class

New members to join three incumbents on ACPS School Board.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

With the national spotlight on education, a topic that helped propel longshot Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin to victory over Democratic rival Terry McAuliffe in Virginia's gubernatorial race, Alexandria residents elected nine representatives to the Alexandria City Public Schools Board Nov. 2, with three incumbents holding on to their seats.

Former City Councilman Willie Bailey will join incumbents Jacinta Greene and Michelle Reif in representing District A, with newcomers Kelly Carmichael Booz, Tammy Ignacio and Ashley Simpson Baird winning election in the crowded field for District B. Only three candidates were vying for election in District C, including incumbent board chair Meagan Alderton. Joining her are Abdel Elnoubi and Christopher Harris.

"I am so excited to continue to serve and advocate for the students and staff of ACPS," said Ignacio, who recently retired as the lead ACPS administrator for special education following a 30-year career in education.

School board representatives are elected for three-year terms in three districts, each with three

"We have a lot of work to do."

— School Board member-elect
Kelly Carmichael Booz

seats up for grabs. Five candidates ran in District A, seven in District B and three in District C, thus guaranteeing each of the District C candidates a seat on the board. Only Alderton, Greene and Reif from the current board sought re-election.

"I am humbled and honored to get to work for our students in Alexandria," said Booz. "We have a lot of work to do as we continue to recover from the disruptive year and a half and focus on learning and our socio-emotional recovery."

The Alexandria City School Board is a nine-member elected body that adopts policy for the daily operation of schools and sees that school laws are properly explained, enforced, and observed.

"I am both humbled and honored to be elected to represent District A on the Alexandria City School Board," Bailey said. "I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those who placed their confidence and trust in me. I will work my hardest to fulfill your expectations and lift up our kids and families who need us most."

DISTRICT A



Willie Bailey



Jacinta Greene



Michelle Reif

DISTRICT B



Kelly Carmichael Booz



Tammy Ignacio



Ashley Simpson Baird

DISTRICT C



Meagan Alderton



Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi



Christopher Harris



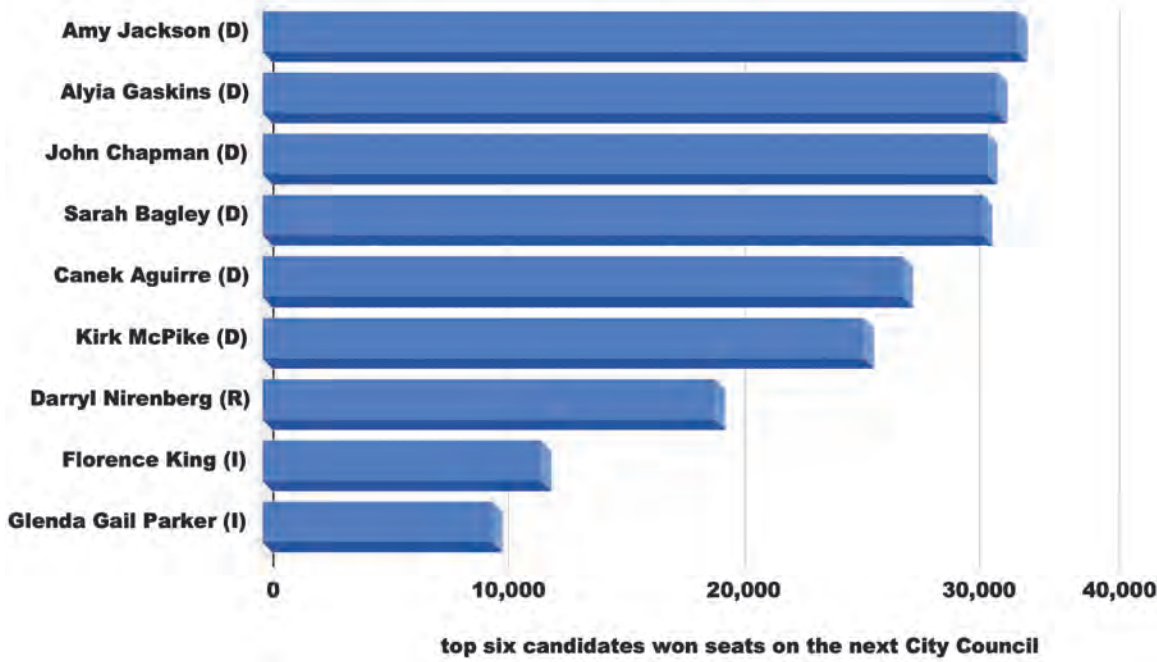
School Board District B candidate Tammy Ignacio, center, gets a victory kiss from husband Victor Ignacio, left, and son Dillion Ignacio Nov. 3 outside their Alexandria home.

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School Board District B candidates Kelly Carmichael Booz and Tammy Ignacio, standing second and third from left, celebrate their victory with former T.C. Williams High School principal John Porter, bottom left, and supporters Nov. 3.

Election for Alexandria City Council



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Mayor Justin Wilson, left, poses for a selfie with voters at Temple Beth El Nov. 2. Wilson easily won reelection over Republican challenger Anetta Catchings.

Jason Kaufmann, left, husband to City Council candidate Kirk McPike, Council candidate Darryl Nirenberg's daughter Kelly Nirenberg and Victor Ignacio, husband of School Board candidate Tammy Ignacio, campaign Nov. 2 at Temple Beth El.

Unofficial Results from Virginia Board of Elections

	Votes	Percent
Commonwealth's Attorney		
Bryan L. Porter	42,778	96.62
Sheriff		
Sean Casey	43,010	97.23
Mayor		
Annetta M. Catchings	16,364	31.07
Justin M. Wilson	35,557	67.52
Member City Council		
Top 6 Elected to City Council		
Darryl D. Nirenberg	19,199	8.72
Canek Aguirre	27,208	12.36
Sarah R. Bagley	30,587	13.9
John Taylor Chapman	30,761	13.98
Alyia Smith-Parker Gaskins	31,213	14.18
Amy B. Jackson	32,077	14.58
R. Kirk McPike	25,515	11.59
Glenda Gail Parker	9,766	4.44
Florence M. King	11,832	5.38

Member School Board (DISTRICT A) Top 3 Elected to School Board

Michelle M. Rief	11,323	25.3
Deanna M. R. "D" Ohlandt	6,227	13.92
A. M. "Ish" Boyle	6,060	13.54
Willie F. Bailey Sr.	9,427	21.07
Jacinta E. Greene	11,277	25.2

Member School Board (DISTRICT B) Top 3 Elected to School Board

Ashley E. Simpson Baird	77,941	9.87
Bridget Shea Westfall	4,418	11.26
Tammy S. Ignacio	6,717	17.13
Deborah J. Ash	3,225	8.22
PreeAnn Johnson	6,352	16.2
Kelly Carmichael Booz	6,952	17.73
Ricardo N. "Coach Rico" Roberts	3,383	8.63

Member School Board (DISTRICT C) Top 3 Elected to School Board

Abdel S. Elnoubi	7,332	33.21
W. Christopher Harris	6,916	31.32
Meagan L. Alderton	7,392	33.48

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.

ALEXANDRIA SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE MOVING TO NEW LOCATION

The Alexandria Social Security Office will relocate to its new location at 5510 Cherokee Ave, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22312 on Monday, November 22. Business operations at 6295 Edsall Road, Suite 190, Alexandria VA 22312 will end after close of business on Friday, November 19.

Social Security employees are working remotely to provide the vital services the public relies on and the agency currently provides multiple service delivery options for all

Americans. Most Social Security services are available to the public online at www.socialsecurity.gov and with a my Social Security account, by telephone, or via in-person appointments for limited, critical situations. Please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus for more information about services during the pandemic.

Most Social Security services do not require the public to take time to visit an office. People may create their my Social Security account, a personalized online service, at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

ALEXANDRIA TO HOLD VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

The City of Alexandria and Friends of Rocky Versace will host the 20th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Thursday, November 4. SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

Dr. Laura MacLean (left) of VCA Old Town Animal Hospital and Stephanie Frederick of VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital examine a cat at the recent Community Care Clinic, organized by the Animal Welfare Leagues of Alexandria and Arlington.

Pets and People Line Up For Free Vaccinations

CDC's 'One Health' model uses the interconnection among people, animals and the environment to better serve the community.

By BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
OF ALEXANDRIA

By the time the Community Care Clinic was in full swing on a recent sparkling fall morning, a line of people and pets snaked through Four Mile Run Park in the Chirilagua neighborhood of Alexandria. Pet owners had lined up so their beloved animals could get free vaccinations for rabies, distemper and parvovirus from licensed veterinarians — and the humans could take advantage of COVID-19 vaccinations and bags of shelf-stable groceries, among other resources.

Ileana Ramos pulled a red wagon bearing a mother cat named Nala and three of Nala's black and gray kittens. Ramos, her mother and her daughter all had made the



Local pups find a lot in common at the Community Care Clinic, held in Alexandria's Chirilagua neighborhood. Besides vaccinations, free pet food and supplies were offered at the event, along with shelf-stable groceries for people.

trip from Stafford, Va., to make sure the felines got their vaccinations.

Becky Burnley brought her

eight-year-old Maine Coon rescue cat, Jody, joining the line for both vaccinations and a trim of Jody's

SEE PETS AND PEOPLE, PAGE 14

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Racial Injustice Is Violence

Develop evidence-based actions to protect dignity and humanity of Black and brown lives.

BY ADRIENNE FIKES,
LADONNA SANDERS,
AND LINDSEY BATTAGLIA
RACIAL JUSTICE
ALEXANDRIA COLLECTIVE

We call upon our legislators to develop proactive and preventative measures to uplift the rights, dignity, and well-being of Black people. Racial injustice is violence and must be aggressively treated as such.

In July 2020, Racial Justice Alexandria began meeting with each council member to discuss the Vision for Black Lives, a comprehensive and visionary policy agenda developed in 2016 and updated in 2020 by The Movement for Black Lives. It would be an understatement to say that we've been disappointed by the response. Most council members were unprepared and unfamiliar with the policy platform developed by experts in the field of racial justice, including SNCC veterans and leading social justice advocates.

This lack of respect for experts and Black voices is evident in the current calls to put SROs back in school after ending the program earlier this year. Over and over, researchers have found that SROs do not make schools safer or reduce school violence, gun violence, or mass shootings. Repeatedly, researchers find that the presence of SROs results in greater numbers of suspensions and expulsions and criminalizes school discipline matters. Additionally, students of color and students with disabilities are disproportionately referred to

and arrested by police in schools. SROs do not make schools safer for anyone but they do make schools measurably less safe for Black and brown students and students with disabilities. Why would the City continue to fund an ineffective and harmful program? Without bothering to gather local data for decades, our city leaders would have us believe Alexandria's SRO program is magically different from every other program in the nation.

Our current reliance on the police does little to reduce violence and harm, and actually perpetuates systemic racial inequities. That's not to say that tragic things can't happen. No one wants to see any of our students or community members harmed by gun violence. So why aren't our city leaders developing structural justice instead of continuing to entertain carceral solutions? When will the school leaders finally begin exploring a variety of ways to dismantle this harmful cycle of violence? There's a growing body of research to support investing in mental health support instead of continuously feeding Alexandria's pipeline to prison.

Dr. David R. Williams is the Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health, and chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Williams is also a Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology at Harvard University. During the Black People, Health and Wellness: A Historical Perspective Panel of the 106th Annual Meeting and Con-

ference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Dr. Williams shared a brief summary of global research findings on racial discrimination using the Everyday Discrimination Scale he developed.

The research found that discrimination is having an adverse effect on the physical health and mental health of the African American population, and other populations who experienced these measures of discrimination, even after accounting for income and education.

Here are a few highlights from the research findings Dr. Williams shared:

If you are growing up in the African American community, you experience the loss of life of others in your social network, disproportionately

Over 70% of black mothers are worried about what might happen to their children in the hands of the police

Children of African American mothers in 20 cities in the United States, on average, had been stopped by the police at least once by age 15

Mothers whose children had been stopped by the police had worse mental health, which led to poorer sleep because of anxiety and depressive symptoms

African American teenagers who scored consistently high on the Everyday Discrimination Scale at 16, 17 and 18 years old, showed biological dysregulation by age 20. They had higher levels of stress hormones, blood pressure, weight, and inflammation at age 21.

Dr. Williams offered three re-

sources that are shown to reduce the negative effects of stress and discrimination on teen mental health.

Quality Social Ties and Close Relationships with Friends, Family, and Teachers

Scoring High on Three Aspects of Religious Involvement (Attendance, Social Support, and Seeking Guidance in Life)

Engaging in Protest, Advocacy, Empowerment, and Having a Building Where Their Culture is Celebrated

Why haven't our city leaders explored this established and growing body of research? Shouldn't our community want to fund effective programming? When will our school board and city council begin backing systematically marginalized community protests, advocacy, empowerment, and investment in spaces for Black and brown students to celebrate and stay connected to their history and culture? This is the type of community Alexandria deserves. This is a true commitment to peace and public safety.

Council and school board must show the same determination, patience, and all-hands-on-deck response to develop real solutions for this public health crisis of discrimination as they have with COVID-19. Instead of returning armed police to schools, the school board, council and residents of Alexandria must deconstruct harmful ideas of power, punishment and justice, and take tangible, evidence-based actions to protect the dignity and humanity of Black and brown lives.

On behalf of the Racial Justice Alexandria Collective
<https://bit.ly/RacialJusticeAlex>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

11, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center (2701 Commonwealth Ave.).

The one-hour, indoor ceremony will honor the 68 Alexandrians who either died during the Vietnam War or remain missing in action, and all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The ceremony will feature the presentation of the Department of Defense Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to qualified veterans by retired Lieutenant General of the U.S. Army Joseph E. DeFrancisco, who serves as Chairman of the Board for the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point. The ceremony will also include recognition of Gold Star families in attendance; the

reading of the 68 names engraved on the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial; a tribute to Alexandrian and Medal of Honor recipient Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace with a wreath laying in his honor; and the sounding of "Taps" and performance of "God Bless America."

The Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located in front of Mount Vernon Recreation Center and was dedicated with support from local citizens and the Friends of Rocky Versace. Captain Versace was a Prisoner of War, Ranger Hall of Fame inductee, Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment and Distinguished Member of The Old Guard Regiment in the 3rd U.S. Infantry.

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU NOV. 6

"Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Set against the socially turbulent 1960s, "Wait Until Dark" follows the story of Suzy, a blind woman who, while left alone in her apartment, becomes embroiled with a group of con men hatching an elaborate scam. As the tension mounts, Suzy must fend for herself, but the phone line is cut, and the house is plunged into darkness. Can Suzy outwit her murderous visitors? Note: All patrons are required to wear a mask (even if vaccinated) for the duration of the performance. Admission: \$21 to \$24 per person. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Our Town Alexandria. 6 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria. In partnership with the Alexandria Film Festival, the ASO presents Homegrown: American Stories in Music and Film. Our Town - Alexandria will incorporate footage of our beloved city set to music from Copland's Our Town. Click on the video for a preview of the film. (Film footage by Spark Media.) The concert will feature six American films set live to picture with American music, woven into the tapestry of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. For tickets, visit <https://alexsym.org/performance/pictures-at-an-exhibition/>

TUESDAY/NOV. 9

Outdoor Chamber Music. 6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, Alexandria. After 13 concerts since June 2020, audience favorites from the NSO return once again to delight audiences when a quartet of musicians from the horn section performs in beloved staples of chamber repertoire in unexpected arrangements. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

NOV. 11-14

Alexandria Film Festival. The Alexandria Film Festival will take place as a hybrid event—virtual, with some in person events. The festival footprint is expanding this year to include a partnership with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, which will feature six original films and will be presented with a "live to picture" performance of the orchestra on November 6 and 7. This performance will be in person but will observe current safety protocols such as social distancing. Admission: \$12 per showcase or \$75 per All-Festival Pass. To get the latest information, visit AlexFilmFest.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Outdoor Movie Night. 7 p.m. At Original Mount Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is excited to introduce a new family-friendly event to the Richmond Hwy Corridor in Fairfax County. SFDC is set to host the 'Outdoor Movie Night', featuring the Disney movie "Luca" (2021). Bundle-up for this fall evening and bring your own blanket or chair. Admission to this event is free.

FRIDAY/NOV. 12

Intersections. 6:30-9 p.m. At The Gar-
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE



Elks Lodge 48 members Harold Hughes, Exalted Ruler, (left) and Arthur Miller stand outside their historic lodge on Henry Street.



Arthur Miller stands in the Elks Lodge Room, the only Lodge in Elksdom (anywhere), with a specific Lodge Room just set up for meetings.



The ceiling in the Lodge Room has had repairs for numerous leaks but the historic tin squares on the ceiling are awaiting the appropriate and difficult historical renovation.

Elks Historic Lodge Preserves Alexandria History

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

C OVID hit. Water poured in through cracks in the roof. Membership dropped. The property plat is missing. But the desire and initiative of Elks Lodge 48 on N. Henry Street to restore their historic building only grows in intensity.

The Lodge got their long sought-after historic designation in May 2020. A \$10,000 grant from The Historic Alexandria Founda-

tion allowed them to do some roof repair, plastering, fixing the collapsed chimney flue and installing new floors and toilets in the bathrooms. They were able to stretch the funds with donation of sinks, hiring a plumber with a low rate and a lot of work by Elks brother Arthur Miller and other volunteers. When Miller wasn't plastering walls, he was installing toilets and patching the concrete over and over as leaks sprung up in a number of spots all over the building. And "Tom Fannon gave us a new water heater and put it in—that was a real miracle."

But there are so many things to do that it's difficult to know where to begin. They have basically plugged the holes in the dike — redirected the water in the alley thanks to the City, and repaired the leaks in the roof because they couldn't afford a \$30,000 roof replacement. "Amen" interjects Harold Hughes, Exalted Ruler of Lodge 48. Now as the Lodge looks forward, they think about triaging the most urgent need "which is definitely the basement where the skeletal kitchen is located."

The Lodge discovered a couple of years

ago their long-utilized kitchen stove didn't meet code and would require an expensive renovation including three flame retardant hoods. Since then they have been stymied in efforts to move forward by lack of a working kitchen. Carol Black, board member of the Historical Alexandria Resource Commission and volunteer construction manager, says the kitchen is the linchpin of the renovation.

The Elks have traditionally held a community Thanksgiving event for hundreds of

SEE ELKS LODGE, PAGE 11

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Elks Historic Lodge

FROM PAGE 10

people in their community room for almost 40 years as well as an event for their adoptive family at Christmas. Recently they have had to move Thanksgiving to a community center and to make food at home and bring it to the Lodge for the Christmas celebration. In addition, fundraising activities usually involve food, which brings them back to the need for a working kitchen. "We need a bottom of the floor to top of the ceiling renovation—prayer with a little hope," Hughes says.

Hughes says the goal is to be able to increase membership so they have the resources to fulfill their mission to serve the community, youth and education. Hughes says the Lodge was established in 1904 with 18 members. Membership grew over time until it topped out at several hundred brothers and several hundred daughters after World War II when soldiers started coming back home. Now it has fallen to 27 brothers and 27 daughters, down from 42 of each in 2019 before COVID took its toll. Hughes says the organization is too top heavy as older members die off and younger folks aren't interested in joining.

WALK IN the front door, and the walls hold the secrets of Alexandria's history. The newly painted gentlemen's lounge is on the left and the ladies lounge on the right. Hughes explains that members of the community recently volunteered to fix up some of the rooms. Rodney Grimes and his wife volunteered to help fix up the gentlemen's lounge, which had just been painted in the Elk Lodge colors of purple and gold.

Miller heads into the lodge room normally open only to members. A stuffed Elk head is mounted on the side of the room and an American flag sits ready for the meetings. Hughes says, "This is the only Lodge in Elksdom (anywhere) that has its own specific Lodge Room just set up for meetings." He explains a number of the Elks Lodges were established in houses and didn't have the space for meeting rooms.

The large room has been cleaned of truckloads of former member detritus, and the ceiling has been patched from recent severe water damage. But the restoration of the tin ceiling remains untouched. Black explains that it is difficult to get the paint off the bronze wash on the patterned tin squares to restore the ceiling. They have had three different estimates so far and "we've done a lot of research." But they want to be careful.

Hughes walks into an adjoining newly painted room, which has had the interior walls removed, and carpet taken up. It is now rented out to a group for weekly music practice to raise funds for the Elks renovation. The music group did all of the work themselves. "This room was originally for dances and entertainment for Black soldiers who couldn't get in anywhere else in segregationist Alexandria." In its time the Lodge hosted name entertainers such as James Brown and Ray Charles. Close your eyes and you can still hear "Un-chain my Heart" reverberate off the walls.

Black says it's interesting that the room was used for music then and has come round to music again. There is a lot of history within the walls of this build-

SEE ELKS LODGE, PAGE 13



Harold Hughes illustrates one of the historical pictures of the Lodge; this one appeared in the Alexandria Gazette in 1987.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE



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Obituary

Obituary



Charles Carroll Phillips Jr. passed away today, October 26, 2021, at Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, VA, on the second day of his ninety-ninth year. His death was due to complications of a urinary tract infection. Charley was born on October 25, 1923, in Alexandria, VA in the Carlyle Apartments, which once stood directly in front of the Carlyle House in Old Town Alexandria. He was the son of Charles Carroll Phillips Sr. and Rebecca Harding. His family moved to Fairfax Street shortly thereafter, where he grew up in Old Town and along the Potomac River. His Alexandria version of the southern accent, once common in this area, often caught people off-guard when he spoke. His father was a locomotive mechanic and machinist who worked at Potomac Yards while his mother raised Charley and his two brothers and two sisters. Charley excelled at baseball and basketball in his early years and

became an accomplished golfer as an adult. When he was young, oyster houses were still common in Alexandria and he developed a passion for oysters (while hating all other types of seafood!). At Christmastime his family always had Shuman's Jelly cakes which he loved to the end of his life. When he was a teenager, he nearly drowned at Smoot's barge in the Potomac River when an anchor rope got wrapped around his leg as the line was thrown by a friend from a rowboat to the barge. He went to George Washington High School ...usually. He occasionally skipped school and took a trolley to Griffith Stadium in Washington, DC to watch the Washington Senators play. In 1943 he enlisted in the US Army after World War II broke out. He was badly injured in a night driving accident at Fort Ord, CA where his unit was preparing for the Invasion of Japan. He spent more than a year in various hospitals and said that doctors at Bethesda Naval Hospital saved his life.

After the war, he went to work for the US Postal Service in Alexandria. He moved into Postal Management in the 1960s and was appointed the Postmaster of Alexandria in 1973 by President Nixon. He was one of the last presidentially appointed postmasters. He was postmaster for sixteen years during a period of extremely high growth in the City of Alexandria. He retired in 1988 with forty-one years of service. He was a member of the Andrew Jackson Masonic Lodge and an honorary member of Friendship Firehouse. When his children were younger he served as a Cub Scout Pack Leader and an assistant Scoutmaster. He was an umpire for various Alexandria recreation leagues, including Little League.

He spent his retirement years in Alexandria, VA, Dunedin, FL, and finally in Arlington, VA. He is survived by his wife, Otha Reeves McGinnis Phillips, of Arlington, VA. Had he lived another two weeks, they would have celebrated 70 years of marriage. He is also survived by five sons; Charles C Phillips III of Warrenton, VA, Randall William Phillips of Alexandria, VA, Darryl Alan Phillips of Manassas, VA, Brian Jeffery Phillips of Alexandria, VA, and Gary Reeves Phillips of New York City, NY. He is also survived by a sister, Betty Jane Saliga of Dunedin, Florida. In addition, he is survived by two daughters-in-law: Mimi Huynh Phillips and Lisa Mackenzie Phillips and by four grandchildren: Evan Michael McCarthy of Chicago, IL, Chandler Grace McCarthy of Lebanon, NJ, Mackenzie Reeves Phillips of New York City, NY, and Tessa Alexandria Phillips of New York City, New York.

A Visitation will take place on Thursday, November 11, 2021, starting at 1 PM to 3 PM and then 5 PM to 7 PM at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302. The following day Friday, November 12, 2021, a graveside service will take place starting at 11 AM at Quantico National Cemetery 18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA 22172. If family and friends wish to send flowers, please send flowers to Everly Wheatley Funeral Home 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302.

WELLBEING

The Grim Reality of the High Maternal Death Rate among Black Women

Racism and access to medical care are among the causes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Chest pains during and after her pregnancy were the first sign that something might be wrong. When Corretta Lewis of Alexandria visited her doctor, she was told that her pain was the result of low iron levels and a nutrition-deficient diet. She was skeptical of her physician's diagnosis.

"I had a friend that died at 21 with her 3-day old baby in her arms because the doctors didn't take her seriously, so I was scared," said Lewis.

She adjusted her diet but the discomfort persisted.

"I nearly died while in labor with my son and then I was dismissed by my OB-GYN during postnatal care," she said. "After giving birth, I was still experiencing severe chest pain and after a few weeks my wife forced me to go to another doctor to have them look into it further."

A cardiologist ordered an echocardiogram. "It turns out that the doctor saw something on an ultrasound of my heart," said Lewis. "I could have died. I was dismissed because I was a young black woman."

Lewis' experience is not uncommon. Black women are three-to-four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes at a higher rate than white women in Northern Virginia and parts of Montgomery County. A lack of access to healthcare and racism from medical professionals are among the top reasons for this gap.

Most pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, according to the CDC. Racial and ethnic disparities in pregnancy-related deaths have persisted over time, the CDC reports. Even in states with the lowest pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, and among women with higher levels of education, significant racial differences persist. These findings suggest that the disparity observed in pregnancy-related death for Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women is a complex national problem, according to the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2019/p0905-racial-ethnic-disparities-pregnancy-deaths.html>

"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women," said Joanna Hemmat, assistant director, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department.

The actions that are associated with these behaviors are dismissing a patient's symptoms, making assumptions and generalizing.

"We work on addressing institutional racism and implicit bias—in collaboration with One Fairfax, our county-wide initiative to bring an equity lens to all areas of operation throughout the county, including



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORRETTA LEWIS

Corretta Lewis, pictured with her wife Mea and their son Caleb says that she almost lost her life due racism in healthcare.

"Institutional racism, implicit bias, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence ... are contributing factors to the staggering disparity among black women."

— Joanna Hemmat, Health Services Division, Fairfax County Health Department

health," Hemmat said.

A lack of access to prenatal and postnatal healthcare is another barrier to closing the maternal mortality gap between Black and white women. "Uninsured women are less likely to seek routine health care and more likely to receive episodic care in the emergency department," said Hemmat, "The diagnosis and management of chronic health conditions may be delayed and follow-up care is not coordinated."

To address the issue of a lack of healthcare, local counties are partnering with medical facilities to offer services on a sliding scale for uninsured patients.

For example, Arlington County teams up with the Virginia Hospital Center to provide services to pregnant women, says Kurt Larrick, assistant director of Arlington County Department of Human Services. "They do all deliveries and we actually send any high risk pregnancies to them immediately as well," he said.

Addressing pre-existing medical conditions and creating an overall healthy lifestyle can help lower maternal mortality rates among women of color.

"Mental Health screening, screening for intimate partner violence and substance use, as well as subsequent referrals, are essential components of care provision during the prenatal and postpartum periods. In order to reduce maternal deaths due to suicide, overdose, and intimate partner violence," said Hemmat.

Though she survived her pregnancy and now has a happy family of three, Lewis is still concerned about the plight of other women of color.

"It's not asking a lot for all black women to live long enough to see the child they carried celebrate their first birthday, and many others," Lewis said.

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE

The Members' lounge downstairs still has a telephone booth and a jukebox, reminders of former years

Elks Lodge

FROM PAGE 11

ing. The members lounge downstairs has a telephone booth in the corner by the pool tables and a jukebox along the wall. Behind the bar are historical pictures of Elks community events dating from the early 1900s.

The Lodge has been resourceful in raising funds by rental of their space. The Pure Heart Global Ministries church utilizes the large community room upstairs for Sunday services. The church painted the room themselves as well as the radiators and installed white curtains. Hughes says on Sunday the church replaces the usual round tables and chairs with rows of red covered chairs and a red banner running up the aisle on the floor. Black says, "The preservationist in me would like to see those windows on the walls uncovered." She says a woman told her recently that in former years when the Elks had a music program, the little girls would pull up a crate outside the window in the alley and listen in.

So far in the last couple of years there has been a lot of help from the community, the City that has assisted with the installation of a curb and the neighbors who have cleaned up the alley and dilapidated fences. Black says it was a win for everyone. But there is a long way to go. Black is currently planning to apply for a National Trust for Historic Preservation grant "but it takes a lot of work. They want to know their funds will be well spent." No one knows how long it could take to restore and preserve this building but it has a piece of Alexandria history within its walls

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Obituary



James B. MacDonald, 71, passed away on October 23, 2021 at his home in Alexandria. Known as Buff to family and friends, he is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan Hussey MacDonald and his son, James B. MacDonald IV (Mac), 27. He was predeceased by his parents, James and Jewell and a brother, John. Having grown up in North Carolina, Buff retained a lifelong love of his home state, following his beloved Tar Heels with great passion. He graduated from UNC in 1973, and played on the Tar Heels Freshman basketball team under the legendary coach Dean Smith. Buff seemingly knew every good restaurant and BBQ joint in the state, even after being an Alexandrian for decades.

During the '70s, he shared his great love for music and his huge collection of songs at the legendary "Chinese Disco" in downtown Washington as the primary DJ on Saturday nights. Son Mac says, "I would love nothing more than to travel back in time and see him in all his glory spinning records in the basement of a Chinese restaurant, loving life and becoming the urban legend that still exists today."

After a long and successful career in pharmaceutical sales, Buff retired with Susan to their Alexandria home. He was an avid golfer, sporting a single-digit handicap. He was an active member of the Board of Belle Haven Country Club, and with his outgoing personality, recruited and nurtured many a new member to the Club. He was also an active member of Old Presbyterian Meeting House where he was a Deacon.

He had a wide range of friends, including pals from his Carolina days and countless golf buddies. They remember him as kind, generous, funny and a bit quirky.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Old Presbyterian Meeting House—opmh.org and First Tee—firstteedc.org.

Obituary

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Residents in Fairfax and Chesterfield counties should reach out to their counties' programs.

Diffusing But Still Losing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And not too proud or embarrassed to admit it. Although it's hardly an AA-type situation where I'm also powerless against its pull, I am nonetheless acknowledging my weakness. With five cats living exclusively indoors - under one roof in approximately 1700 square feet, the ruckus is non stop. Trying to integrate into an animal-family unit an older pair of siblings, a single female and a new pair of siblings, has not been easy. Granted, we haven't exactly followed the presumptive advice cat whisperer Jackson Galaxy might have recommended: slowly introducing and acquainting the various cats to one another and into shared areas of the house. Unfortunately, we're way past being able to undo any inadvertent psychological animal trauma we may have caused. Though our house remains standing with relatively minor impact, there does appear to be a path forward to possibly upend the "territorializing" that goes on when new cats are added to a household where older cats have already taken up residence - and staked their claims. The answer is a product called "Feliway." Or so I hope, and have been led to believe - by my wife, Dina.

"Feliway" is a retail product we are now buying online from Chewys, the online pet superstore. It is similar in design and application to a plug-in room freshener. There's a part which plugs into an electrical socket: the diffuser, and another part, a liquid which is inserted into the diffuser. This heated up liquid is supposed to release a sort of calming vibe throughout the house and promote peace among the warring cat factions. Moreover, it's supposed to prevent fighting, staring, posturing and chasing. So far, three-plus months or so into it, the results are mixed. The cat mood in the house seems occasionally tranquil with cats coexisting and tolerating. Though nobody is making new friends, there does seem to be some allowances from some cats for other cats to sometimes occupy similar/familiar spaces. And it's only apparent to us that this is happening when it's not happening. And by that I mean, when our supply of diffuser refills run out - and we don't immediately replace them with new. Then there seems to be an upset/upheaval of sorts among the various cat groups. The cat groups being Andrew and Sloane, the oldest siblings and longest living in the house; Twinkle, the middle cat and not part of a pair; and the newest additions, siblings Louie and Mia. The siblings get along with one another perfectly well, but when any other group appears, aside from feeding time (we feed the three groups in separate rooms in an attempt to keep the peace) when the fighting is minimal, chaos usually ensues. And since diplomacy does not work, Dina and I are forever reacting to the sound of a cat screaming, locating it and running off to protect/prevent any unnecessary fistacuffs (invoking one of my fathers' expressions from my youth). Since we're reacting, we're usually too late, but we do what little we can and try to comfort whomever seems the most distressed.

As a consequence, I am constantly on the phone with Chewy buying diffusers and diffuser refills, and/or checking the fluid levels of the in-home diffuser refills trying to determine how much time/relative peace we may have until war breaks out. It seems unlikely that we'll have enough diffusers in the house, or have enough refills in inventory, to maintain the calm. Quite frankly, we're running out of electrical outlets in which to plug in the diffusers. Our house is over 250-years old and aside from limited closet space, there are also minimal electrical outlets. Throw in the number of outlets which are already being used for non-Feliway uses: lamps, television, stereo, miscellaneous other electrical appliances, and then consider that some of the outlets are old and tired and no longer working and you have a recipe for disaster, at least as far as living in a house with five cats - most of whom don't get along, is concerned. Trying to regulate the peace becomes next to impossible. Feliway may not be the answer, but I'm addicted nonetheless. Their products are all I think about; morning, afternoon and evening.

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

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NEWS

Pets and People Line Up For Free Vaccinations

FROM PAGE 5

claws. "She's my faithful companion," Burnley said. "She provides unconditional love."

Tereza Son and her family were accompanied by Jackson, a six-year-old Jack Russell terrier mix they had rescued. "Jackson was due for his rabies vaccination, and it was really helpful that it was free," Son said. "My husband and daughter enjoyed the playground that was nearby while Jackson saw the vet."

The Community Care Clinic, which attracted hundreds of people, was a collaboration between the Animal Welfare Leagues of Alexandria and Arlington. The clinic followed the CDC's "One Health" model, which recognizes and utilizes the interconnection among people, animals and the environment to better serve the community.

"Our goal is to be a resource to our community, and by connecting with people near where they live, we were able to better serve attendees, both human and animals," said Stella Hanly, Executive Director of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. In all, nearly 20 people received COVID vaccinations, which were administered by the staff of Neighborhood Health, and more than 200 vaccinations were provided to pets.

Waiting for the pets were veterinarians skilled at calming animals while administering critical vaccinations. At one table, dogs distracted by cream cheese or peanut butter hardly noticed the needles providing potentially life-saving vaccines. In the closed tents serving cats, one veterinarian gently interacted with the animals, often giving owners her impression of the cats' overall health as she worked.

"Her skin looks good, and her weight is just fine," Dr. Laura MacLean said to owners of a young brown and white tabby cat named Rose. Rose and her sister, Tulip, each got rabies shots and a nail trim.

Numerous tents and tables dotted the park that morning, offering an abundance of resources and information. Pet food, preventatives, dewormer and other animal supplies were available, as well as bags of groceries from ALIVE! Representatives of Inova; InspireLit; Liberty's Promise; Nueva Vida; Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities of Alexandria; Senior Services of Alexandria; and Virginia Cooperative Extension provided information on health and nutrition, support services, local recreational opportunities, free books and more. Support for this event was provided by PetSmart Charities and the Del Ray North/Mount Vernon Shopping Center.

"By connecting with people and their pets at the same time, the event helped make our community a healthier and safer place for all of its residents," said the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria's Joanna Fortin, director of community programs. "We worked with hundreds of our neighbors to make sure they all received the care and support they deserve."

Celebrating its 75th year, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.



A dog receives needed care at the Community Care Clinic, organized by the Animal Welfare Leagues of Alexandria and Arlington. Dogs and cats received free vaccinations — and people got COVID-19 shots.

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