Alexandria Gazette Packet

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November 18, 2021

Home of the Brave Ceremony honors veterans, Gold Star families.



Lt. Gen. (U.S. Army, ret.) Joseph DeFrancisco, Chairman, West Point Association of Graduates, speaks to the audience attending the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. Following his remarks, DeFrancisco presented Vietnam Era Lapel Pins to the qualified veterans.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

t was the war to end all wars. After four years of fighting, hostilities formally ended between the Allies and Germany at the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" in 1918. On Nov. 11, 2021, the Friends of Rocky Versace commemorated the 103rd anniversary of the armistice to end World War I with a Veterans Day ceremony at the Mount

Vernon Recreation Center, home to the Capt. Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Rav.

Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace, an Alexandria resident, was a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and several of his classmates were in attendance. Lt. Gen. (ret.) Joseph DeFrancisco, Chairman, West Point Association of Graduates, was the featured speaker at the ceremony.

"These veterans took part in a



Members of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point class of 1959 gather following the presentation of a wreath in memory of classmate Rocky Versace during the Veterans Day ceremony at Mount Vernon Recreation Center. From left, Lt. Col. Tom Boyle, Col. Dick Toye, Lt. Col. Martin Lidy, Col. Al Phillips, Col. Powell Hutton, Col. John McNerney, Col. Art Bair, Lt. Col. Jack Bohman and Col. Dave Cotts.

war that was probably America's most complex, unpopular and misunderstood war," DeFrancisco said. "Still, these warriors fought

to the best of their ability. There are no noble wars but there are noble warriors."

The ceremony included a read-

ing of the 68 names of Alexandrians who were killed or reported missing in action during the Viet-SEE CEREMONY ON PAGE 3



'The ceremony took place as the old town clock started to strike the noon hour in the presence of a large assemblage of spectators," the Gazette reported on the day the city manager form of government began.

Managing the City Alexandria created the job of city manager

100 years ago in the midst of a crisis.

By Michael Lee Pope GAZETTE PACKET

ommon Council meetings ended when a quorum of members failed • to show up. Half the police force was missing in action rather than patrolling the streets. The superintendent of gas couldn't get most of his employees to show up, and so those who dragged themselves into work were forced to work 36-hour shifts to fill in for their deadbeat colleagues. Money was appropriated to improve city roads, but City Hall couldn't find any laborers to work the streets.

In short, Alexandria was falling apart.

It was the summer of 1918, and the old ways of organizing the city's government were no longer working. Something needed to happen, and so the Alexandria Gazette began a series of articles that eventually led to the creation of a city-manager form of government. The inaugural effort was an editorial titled "Derelict City Fathers" that blasted the city for rank incompetence.

"This general derangement of industrial conditions shows no sign of change," the Gazette wrote on Aug. 21, 1918. "In fact it appears to grow more serious all the time."

At the time, Alexandria was organized in four wards under a charter written in 1871. The city had a Common Council with 16 members, four from each ward elected to one-year terms. It also had a See Managing the City, on Page 8

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Lt. Gen. (U.S. Army, ret.) Joseph DeFrancisco, Chairman, West Point Association of Graduates, right, presents a Vietnam Era lapel pin to a veteran during the Nov. 11 Veterans Day ceremony at Mount Vernon Recreation Center.



Members of St. Rita's American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11 at Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

Ceremony Honors Veterans, Gold Star Families

From Page 1

nam War. DeFrancisco noted that Versace, along with six other Alexandria veterans, are among those missing in action in Southeast Asia.

"Over 3 million Americans fought in that war and Rocky Versace was among them," DeFrancisco said. "His name is also among more than 58,000 names on the Vietnam Memorial War in downtown D.C. and he is among the 1,500 Americans still considered missing in action."

On Oct. 29, 1963, with less than two weeks before the end of his tour, Versace was ambushed and taken prisoner in South Vietnam. On Sept. 26, 1965, Vietnam's Liberation Radio reported that Versace had been executed.

His remains have never been recovered. In 2002, Versace was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor..

Following the formal portion of the ceremony, De-Francisco presented a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin to several Vietnam veterans in attendance.

Participating in the ceremony were the St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381, who opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A bagpiper from the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band provided patriotic interludes and Lt. Col. Stephen Tracy of Bugles Across America concluded the ceremony with the playing of Taps.

Also in the audience were Mayor Justin Wilson, Vice Mayor and now Delegate-elect Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, incoming Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, newly elected Sheriff Sean Casey, former Mayor Allison Silberberg, former Vice Mayor and veteran Bill Cleveland and former city councilman David Speck.

"Today is as much about the family members as about the veterans who served and fought," DeFrancisco said in concluding his remarks. "These family www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A bagpiper from the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band opens the Veterans Day ceremony No. 11 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

members faced separation and uncertainty but also a hostile environment at home and today we honor and thank them."

For more information or to become a member of the Capt. Versace Memorial Association, contact the Friends of Rocky Versace at FoRV59@gmail.com



An attendee looks at a display of MIA/POW and Vietnam veterans information prior to the start of the Veterans Day ceremony at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center.

"There are no noble wars but there are noble warriors." — Lt. Gen. (ret.) Joseph DeFrancisco,

Chairman, West Point Association of Graduates Alexandria Gazette Packet November 18-24, 2021 3



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OBITUARY

J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge

Political consultant dies at 83.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

enny Klinge was just 26 years old when he began a career in Virginia politics as precinct captain for Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in 1964. He went on to help shape the political fortunes of many Republican candidates, including President Ronald Reagan. On Oct. 27, the man known as a patriarch in Virginia GOP politics, died at his retirement home in Basye, Va. He was 83.

"I had the opportunity to meet and begin my admiration for Kenny Klinge in 1976 when I was a green rookie chair of Young Virginians for Reagan," posted former Governor George Allen in an online tribute. "Kenny was always a steady, shrewd leader in any competitive and tense operation from Ronald Reagan's to my campaigns. He was a revered and loved person."

John Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge, was born in Arlington Aug. 4, 1938, to Henry John and Bernice Klinge. He developed a passion for politics and as an expert on transportation issues served as both a Special Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretary to two Secretaries of Transportation during the Reagan Administration.

Klinge is credited with the modern expansion of Reagan National Airport while serving on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the successful efforts to expand Metro Rail out the Dulles Corridor during his tenure as Chairman of the Dulles Corridor Task Force.

"Kenny had so much to offer," said Maj. Gen. Keith Meurlin, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. "He was a great Board Member at MWAA and I so much enjoyed the opportunity to work with him and accept his guidance and advice."

His transportation expertise was respected

across party lines as then-governor Mark Warner appointed Klinge to chair the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in 2002. Klinge served as

Executive Director of the Republican Party of Virginia (1973-1975), Regional Po-

litical Director of Ronald Reagan campaigns (1976, 1980, and 1984), and National Political Director of the National Republican Campaign Committee (1987-1989).

As Executive Director of the RPV, he partnered with the late Dick Obenshain to lay the foundation for the electoral successes of Governors' Mills Godwin and John Dalton. He served as a senior leader for the winning campaigns of Governors' George Allen and Jim Gilmore, as well as Representative Tom Davis

Prior to retiring to the Shenandoah Valley, Klinge and his wife Jean were longtime Al-



Political consultant J. Kenneth "Kenny Klinge died Oct. 27 at the age of 83.



J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge speaks to a group of young Republicans as Ronald Reagan's Virginia Campaign Coordinator in March of 1976.

exandria residents with Jean running unsuccessfully for Alexandria City Council in the 1980s.

In retirement, Klinge volunteered as the Precinct Captain of the Orkney Precinct in Shenandoah County. He enjoyed playing golf, late night pok-

er games and shar-"Kenny was always a ing his skills as a natural raconteur steady, shrewd leader with family and friends. in any competitive and Klinge is survived by his wife of 44 tense operation." years, Jean Campbell Klinge; sons

- Former Governor George Allen

ers, Charles (Georgia) and Jonathan (Connie); grandchildren, John Klinge (Kylie) and Holly (T.J.); great-grandchildren, Jackson, Spencer, and Lincoln; and stepdaughter, Kendra Cipollina. A celebration of life was held Nov. 4 in Basye, Va. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Orkney Spring Fire and Rescue Squad, 922 Orkney Grade PO Box 374 Basye, VA 22810.

"Kenny Klinge was a blessing in my life and for the advancement of freedom and opportunities for all," Allen added. "We will all miss Kenny's wisdom but will be grateful for his positive influences in our lives.'

Michael (Shari) and John (Mel); broth-

'Family First'

Focus Data Solutions celebrates 20 years.

"We would not be

are without being

part of the larger

— Focus Data Solutions

CEO Elizabeth Moon

community.

the company we

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

or more than 20 years, Elizabeth and Page Moon have been familiar faces in Alexandria. From volunteering for nonprofit organizations too numerous to count to their involvement with the Chamber of Commerce, the couple

has not only survived but thrived as small business owners of Focus Data Solutions. The dynamic duo re-

cently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the IT technology and management company they founded together after Page Moon's previous company was shutting down during the dot com crash.

"An opportunity presented to us when we were able to buy assets out of that previous company," said Elizabeth Moon, who serves as CEO of Focus Data Solutions. "That allowed us to start Focus Data Solutions

The two met while students at the Univer-

sity of Virginia and took the plunge to start their own business when their daughter was born.

"We started out as a broadcast email company working primarily with political organizations," said company CIO Page Moon. "We then transitioned into what I like to do, which is help companies run their networks.'

The company has grown into an award-winning services provider, matching individual business goals with technology and management services.

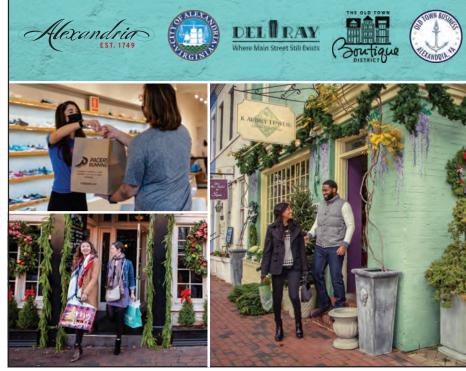
"Working with a spouse is always challenging," Elizabeth Moon said. "We work in very separate areas of the business. As our staff will attest to, Page's office is on the third floor and mine is on the first floor and that is what guarantees a success-

ful business partnership." Both Page and Elizabeth Moon are actively involved in the local community, serving on nonprofit boards such as First Night Al-See 'FAMILY FIRST', PAGE 10





AlexandriaShopSmallWeek.com



Alexandria Gazette Packet ♦ November 18-24, 2021 ♦ 5

Best in Business Chamber celebrates 2021 honorees.

he stars of the Alexandria business community gathered Oct. 21 to celebrate its leaders and small business owners at The Chamber ALX's Best in Business Awards at the Westin Alexandria Old Town.

Sponsored by Burke & Herbert Bank, the event recognized businesses in several categories, including small, medium and large businesses of the year. Scott Shaw, a restaurateur, developer and philanthropist, was honored as the Business Leader of the Year.

Following a scaled back virtual event in 2020, the Academy Awards of the business community returned to an in-person reception featuring tastings from local restaurants.

The 2021 Best in Business honorees are: Business Leader of the Year -- Scott Shaw of Alexandria Restaurant Partners; Overall Business of the Year -- Building Momentum; Small Business of the Year -- (tie) fibre space and The Jen Walker Team; Medium Business of the Year -- Your Dog's Best Friends; Large Business of the Year --Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota; Nonprofit/Association of the Year -- ACT for Alexandria; Rising Star Business of the Year – NerdstoGo.

www.thechamberalx.com

- Jeanne Theismann



The NerdsToGo team poses on stage as the Rising Star Business of the Year recipients at the Best in Business Awards Oct. 21 at the Westin Alexandria Old Town.

Niamh O'Donovan and Sam Poole are all smiles as Daniel O'Connell's hands out Shepherd's Pie during the Best in Business Awards reception.





Business Leader of the Year Scott Shaw, center, with his wife Camille and daughter Audrey at the Chamber ALX's Best in Business Awards Oct. 21 at the Westin Alexandria Old Town.



Team members of Alexandria Children's Dentistry playfully pose for a photo at the Chamber ALX's Best in Business Awards Oct. 21 at the Westin Alexandria Old Town.



Joe Collum, Walter Clarke and the Burke & Herbert team at the Chamber ALX's Best in Business Awards Oct. 21 at the Westin Alexandria Old Town.



Brad Halsey, Allen Brooks and Emma Quinn of Building Momentum accept the Overall Business of the Year award with 2020 Overall Business Winner Rina Bansal of Inova Alexandria Hospital and 2021 Chamber Chair Stephanie Beyer Kirby and Chamber President Joe Haggerty.



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NEWS DEPARTMENT: azette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner, Mark Mogle Contributing Photographers gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe Contributing Photographer and Writer gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier Contributing Writers gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson Food Writer hope@kitchenrecessionista.com @kitchenrecess

Michael Pope Senior Reporter michaelleepope@gmail.com @michaelleepope

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

Debbie Funk Disply Advertising/National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd Display Advertising, 703-740-7128 tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

> Classified & Employment Advertising 703-778-9431

Publisher Jerry Vernon 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh Production Manager: Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus: Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION Circulation Manager: Ann Oliver circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Alexandria Created the Job of City Manager 100 Years Ago in the Midst of a Crisis

FROM PAGE 1

Board of Aldermen with eight members, two from each ward elected to two-year terms. The mayor and four aldermen sat for a Court of Hustings that was sort of like a small-claims court that heard cases worth less than 1,000 pounds of tobacco. All of this happened in the absence of professional management after elections that included a dizzying array of candidates.

"A generation ago, reformers exercised their wits to devise complications of governmental machinery in a vain endeavor to prevent bad government," the Gazette explained on Sept. 30, 1921. "Today the winning principle is to simplify and clarify the processes of government so that everybody can and will understand and take part effectively."

Forcing the change wasn't easy. Advocates for a city-manager form of government got their first shot in September 1919, but they lost. Undeterred, they kept moving toward the goal. The city was horribly managed. It spent more money than it took in, and it was borrowing money without an administrative head to direct business affairs. The may-

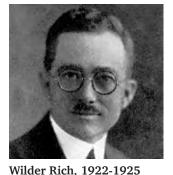
"The new council is going to appoint an experienced and, we believe, a thoroughly competent city manager and expects to devote its time to the business of the city rather than to political questions or social functions."

- City Councilman Edmund Ticer

or had veto power over both the Common Council and the Board of Aldermen, so gridlock was inevitable. The Gazette argued that the convoluted system of checks and balances led to distrust and inaction.

"The present plan is not suited to the present age, when organization and coordination are necessary to meet the pressing needs of our city," the Gazette concluded on Sept. 27, 1921. "The powers of government are too much divided and scattered to accomplish definite and beneficial results."

The city manager form of government was presented as a solution to the moribund turmoil that was paralyzing the city. A new City Council would be elected with a "short ballot," allowing voters to focus their attention on a handful of candidates rather than a never-ending parade of politicians. The new





Albert Hair 1962-1970



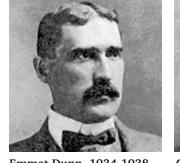


Wayne Anderson, 1970-1974 Keith Mulrooney, 1974-1975 Doug Harman, 1976-1985

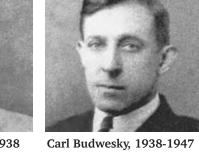
used a stream to help clean the ro-worked all night Saturday night a

work yesterday





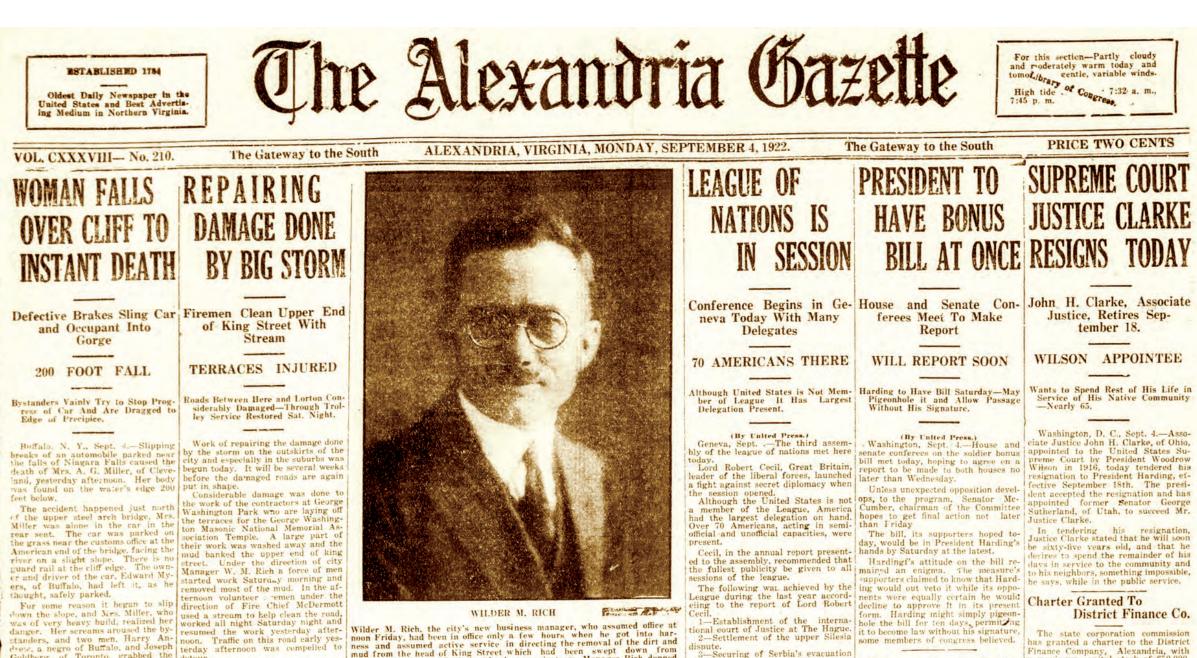
Wallace Lawrence, 1929-1934 Emmet Dunn, 1934-1938





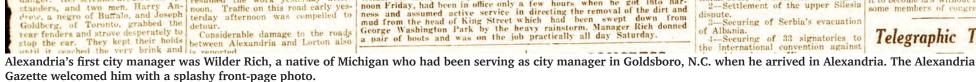


Vola Lawson, 1985-2000



WILDER M. RICH Francis and All Property

Wilder M. Rich, the city's new business manager, who assumed office at noon Friday, had been in office only a few hours when he got into har-ness and assumed active service in directing the removal of the dirt and mud from the head of King Street which had been swept down from George Washington Park by the heavy rainstorm. Manager Rich donned a pair of boots and was on the job practically all day Saturday.



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acil. Establishment of the interna-nal court of Justice at The Hague. 2-Settlement of the upper Silesia

te. Securing of Serbia's evacuation 4-Securing of 33 signatories to the international convention against







Phil Sunderland 2000-2005 Jim Hartmann 2005-2011

District Finance Co.

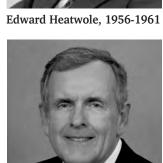
The state corporation commission has granted a charter to the District Finance Company. Alexandria, with a maximum capital stock of \$50,000. Purposes are to audit and collect ac-counts, to exploit and promote busi-



Ira Willard, 1952-1955



Rashad Young, 2011-2015



Mark Jinks 2015-2021

City Council would select a professional city manager who had experience running other cities. The Gazette devoted many column inches to outlining examples of the 154 cities and 70 towns across the United States that had adopted a pro to administer business affairs.

One of the biggest changes was ditching the old ward system.

"The council will represent the whole city and not any particular ward or section, and are more likely to conduct the affairs of the city from a comprehensive view of the whole situation." the Gazette argued because atlarge members will "plan all public improvements and betterments with a definite view to the benefit of the whole community.'

The special election was Tuesday Oct. 5, 1921, and voters overwhelmingly supported the city manager form of government - 82 percent to 18 percent. The lopsided vote gave the new form of government a strong mandate, and candidates started emerging for the new City Council, which was chosen in an election the following year. The city manager form of government officially began with a ceremony as the old town clock struck noon on Sept. 1, 1922.

"The new council is going to appoint an experienced and, we believe, a thoroughly competent city manager and expects to devote it's time to the business of the city rather than to political questions or social functions," noted Edmund Ticer, the only member of the old Common Council to run for election in the new City Council.

That first city council, which was elected in 1922, had some very familiar names. The new mayor was William Smoot, whose name appeared in the Gazette as vice president in 1918 when the newspaper started blasting "derelict city fathers." The last names of council members reads like a who's who of Alexandria politics even today: Edmund Ticer, Thomas Fannon, Arthur Bryant and Robert Jones. The first city manager was Wilder Rich, a native of Michigan who was acting as city manager of Goldsboro, N.C. He began work by getting his hands dirty and helping the city dig out of a storm, literally and figuratively.

"He got into harness and assumed active service in directing the removal of dirt and mud from the head of King Street, which had been swept down from George Washington Park by the heavy rainstorm," the Gazette noted, including a splashy front-page photo of the new city manager. "Manager Rich donned a pair of boots and was on the job practically all day Saturday."



Phil Sunderland

Who Runs the City?

genda Alexandria will be exploring the role of city manager and how the office works in a forum at the George Washington Masonic Temple Monday Nov. 22. Panelists include:

* Phil Sunderland was city manager of Alexandria from 2000 to 2005. For 12 vears, he served as senior vice president and general counsel at the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. He is currently on the board of directors of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation.

David Speck is a former member of the Alexandria City Council and a former member of the House of Delegates repreJanet Barnett

senting Alexandria. In 2016, he retired as the managing director for investments with the Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors.

He was a founding member of Agenda Alexandria when the nonprofit was created in 1998.

✤ Janet Barnett is the former deputy director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities responsible for recreation and cultural arts programs. After retiring from the city in 2007, she became the executive director of Senior Services of Alexandria. She is currently a member of

the Agenda Alexandria board of directors. For more information, visit agendaalexandria com



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News

'Family First'

From Page 5

exandria and Elizabeth Moon is a past board chair for the Chamber of Commerce.

Page Moon is a Navy veteran and served on the city's IT Commission. Both have been actively involved as parents with St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School with Page Moon serving on the Board of Governors.

"We would not be the company we are without being part of the larger community," Elizabeth Moon said. "We are very proud of that aspect and our family first company culture."

Amanda Chandler has worked at Focus Data Solutions for 11 years and agrees.

"Working for the Moons, family definitely comes first," Chandler said. "They make sure that the staff gets the proper training and resources that we need for professional development. They put a lot of energy into making this a great workplace with the core principles of collaborate, trust and communicate instilled in us every day."

The company has grown to 18 employees, something Page Moon sees as a success.

"We have been in business for



John Patton, Elizabeth Moon, Tamera Thom, Page Moon and Amadan Chandler outside the offices of Focus Data Solutions on Princess Street. Elizabeth and Page Moon started the company together in 2001 and recently celebrated the firm's 20th anniversary.

20 years and been profitable every year," he said. "We've had an opportunity to build our team and I take a great deal of pride that we are providing for them as well as

for ourselves."

Each had their own advice for others looking to start their own business.

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7



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HOTO BY JANET BARNETT/C.AZETTE PACKE

Elizabeth and Page Moon founded Focus Data Solutions 20 years ago.

'Family First'

From Page 10

"Join the Chamber and get involved in the community," Page Moon said. "You may not necessarily walk into the first Business After Hours event and land a client but you're going to gain lifetime friends and acquaintances in the business community that can help you grow your business."

Elizabeth Moon's advice: "Have a really good lawyer, a really good accountant and a really good mentor to help you. We were lucky in all those respects."

www.focusdatasolutions.com

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jur Hurchigh	HIGH STREET	Route	Hours Weath	Charlen 21	Proving Date
MONTGOMERY	12355	787	DRY VALLEY RD./ROUTE 787	MEADOW CREEK	10/28/2021
DINWIDDIE	6063	631	CLAIRBORNE RD.	HATCHER RUN	10/23/2021
CARROLL	4640	620	FOREST OAK RD./ROUTE 620	CROOKED CREEK	10/22/2021
SCOTT	16924	796	GILLENWATER LOOP	BIG MOCCASIN CREEK	10/20/2021
LUNENBURG	11609	626	DOUBLE BRIDGES RD.	LEDBETTER CREEK	10/12/2021
			a succession a contraction	a set of any set of an end of the set	

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit https://www.virginiadot.org and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.





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Entertainment

Spotlight on the 15th Annual Alexandria Film Festival

By Dennis D. McDonald

ne great thing about film festivals is that they enable audiences to view a real diversity of films under one roof. While the 15th annual Alexandria Film Festival (AFF) is once more this year virtual -- and roofless -- the independent films streaming now through Thanksgiving (https:// festival2021.eventive.org/films) exemplify diversity in tone, length, topic, and polish. Here are a few that I've liked so far:

"Ala-Kachuu – Take and Run" is a beautifully produced short film about a young small-town woman from rural mountain-locked Kyrgyzstan. She dreams of escaping her childhood home for independence and an education in the country's capital. She gets her chance but is soon kidnapped and returned to a small village. There she is forced by custom to marry a local guy. Things do not go well. She repeate

dly attempts an escape. Part of the "Superwomen" showcase of AFF films, what distinguishes Ala-Kachuu is excellent acting, extraordinary scenery, and very tight editing and dialogue.

"The Proposal," a Russian film comedy that is part of the International showcase group of films, tracks the hoops a young suitor must jump through when his beloved demands a unique and non-traditional marriage proposal. Talk about a "tough audience" as we watch what the young man goes through to get her to say yes!

Delicate and emotionally engaging, the Moroccan film "Ultimate



Ala-Kachuu – Take and Run





Tick? With Prof. Peter Henriques. Doors open

at 7 p.m., Lecture starts live and online at

7:30 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at

the Lyceum and Virtual. While recognizing

him as the most important figure in Ameri-

can History, Professor Peter Henriques takes

issue with the traditional image of George

Washington as a selfless leader. Rather, his

portrait of George Washington reveals a more

complicated - and interesting - man who was

both self-effacing and wildly ambitious, with

fully acknowledged, perhaps even to himself.

Cost is \$12 per person, \$10 OHA volunteer or

a desire for public adulation that he never

MVUC Holiday Shop. Virtual. At 1909 Windmill

Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Unitarian

Church's 56th Holiday Shop is virtual due to

Bloomers, Bead Therapy, Deerhawk Art, The

Bathing Raven Candle Company, Recycled

Covid. Vendors include Papazian Design, Late

\$6 virtual only.

NOV. 19-DEC. 17

The Proposal

bag Lady, Jane's Crafts, Nina Tisara Mosaics. Information: mvuc.org. Visit us at bit.ly/

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

MVUCHoliday.

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Offering a variety of antiques and vintage items, practical, as well as creative and handcrafted items such as lavender sachets, pottery, holiday decor, handcrafted soaps, and much more! 25 + vendors. Visit the website: https://mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com/

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Bach Consort Performance. 7-8:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Josquin des Prez (c.1450/55-1521) was among the most important composers of his era and, like Bach, a master of counterpoint. He was held in especially high esteem by his contemporaries-a reputation that

Ink," also part of the International showcase, follows an elderly calligrapher who runs a small shop that inscribes stone plates containing cemetery epitaphs.

He draws the contents of each epitaph in Arabic. His young assistant then chips the letters into flat stone plates. One day a mysterious visitor leaves an order for an epitaph for a man with the same name as the old man. We follow a small cast through narrow passages, alleyways, and labyrinthine walkways as the mystery of this strange epitaph unfolds. What could have been photographed as dark and shadowy instead is a study in classic image framing, brilliant color balance, and detailed but unshowy camera movement. Much thought and sensitivity have gone into the production of this short film and it shows.

"Departure," a short film in the Sci-Fi-Ish showcase, is an intensely emotional tale about life, death, love, loss, and remembrance. The themes are familiar, including that nagging eternal question, "What if you could do it all over again?" Some of the acting is a bit underwhelming but that does not prevent the film from having an emotional impact especially for anyone who has experienced loss, or tragedy, or major upsets. The dialogue is carefully crafted. This is a fantasy more than a sci-fi film but in some ways it reminds me of how Denis Villeneuve's movie "Arrival" dealt with family tragedy.

Alexandria resident Dennis D. McDonald, a volunteer with the Alexandria Film Festival, writes occasional film reviews at www.ddmcd. com/movies and can be contacted via email at ddmcd@ddmcd.com.

continues to the present day. Cost is \$40. Visit the website: bachconsort.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Snow Globe Series Concert. 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Accompanied by pianist Wei-Han Wu, ACS will perform a flurry of seasonal favorites from around the world, like 'Daa Naa Se (Oh, Give Thanks)', 'S'Vivon', 'Si-lent Night', 'Ose Shalom', 'Riu, riu, chiu,' and 'Christus Natus Est.' Contemporary works like Morten Lauridsen's 'Sure on this Shining Night,' Eric Whitacre's 'Glow,' and Dan Forrest's 'Gloria in Excelsis' - as well as a few exuberant holiday carols - round out this family-friendly winter program.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Outlandish Tours at the Apothecary Museum,

See Calendar, Page 14

CALENDAR

NOW THROUGH-DEC. 12

Fall Salon. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center is encouraging people to bring home original work from local artists this fall with two major offerings dedicated to making art buying simple and affordable. Target Gallery's next group exhibition, Fall Salon, features 70 works by artists from the greater metropolitan region, all priced at \$1,000 or less. Art Fest-Sunday, November 14, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.—brings this collector's spirit out of Target Gallery and throughout all three floors of the Art Center. Tickets start at \$15 with access to the 3rd floor Art Lounge with expansive Potomac views, a live art project, and beverages to enjoy while you relax. Music will be spun all day by DJ One Luv.

THURSDAY/NOV. 18 Lecture: What Made George Washington

12 🏶 Alexandria Gazette Packet 🚸 November 18-24, 2021

APPETITE

Restaurants To Be Thankful For on Thanksgiving

BY HOPE NELSON Gazette Packet

h, Thanksgiving, that time of family togetherness and feasts that leave leftovers for days and days. Sometimes perhaps especially coming out of pandemic-induced hibernation - families would rather focus on the food and fellowship and not so much on the cooking and cleanup. For those times, not to worry: The Alexandria restaurant corps has you covered. From takeout to dine-in, here are some of your best bets for staying out of the kitchen this year.

From Politics to Pastry

In need of a dessert (or three)? You'd better hurry. The deadline is this Friday to place your order for Pennsylvania Dutch shoo-fly molasses pie, chocolate chunk scones, Parker House rolls or multigrain rolls. Prefer the hands-on approach but have no idea where to start? The company is also hosting a virtual scone-making class this Sunday. Email frompoliticstopastry@icloud.com to reserve your spot (or your dessert!).

Spice Kraft Indian Bistro

Put a spicy flair on your festivities with a trip to Spice Kraft. Whether you elect to dine in or carry out, the restaurant's sixcourse menu will surely leave you in a dazed and happy state by dessert time. The tone is set early on with an appetizer of "turkey cutlet with Chettinad spice crust," and continues through a tandoor-roasted butternut squash soup, tandoori-roasted turkey and turkey tikka masala and a half-dozen sides. And that dessert? It's pumpkin halwa, a sweet pudding. Toast with champagne, beer or mango lassi and leave the table satisfied. 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

Trademark Drink and Eat

It may be well into autumn now, but Trademark is gazing back wistfully to warmer days with its homage to last summer's "Rums of the Caribbean" event. Thanksgiving will feature a turkey brined in the restaurant's "Bright and Stormy Grog Cocktail." Dine in or order to-go; the restaurant will help you out either way with all the fixings.

SEE RESTAURANTS PAGE 14 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com





"One-Hundred Seventy-Three Minutes"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's exactly how long the pre-recorded, artificially-computerized voice said I would have to wait on the phone if I wanted to speak with an actual person. For those of you arithmetically challenged, 173 minutes is almost three hours. Seeing no point in holding that long, I hung up the phone.. EZ-Pass of Maryland is not as easy as I had hoped. Sure the transponder on my car has changed the way I toll around. I only wish I had been earlier to the party. But I waited until the monthly fees were eliminated before I joined. Had I been more on the ball, I would have been sailing through toll plazas up-and-down the east coast years ago. Nevertheless, I'm in the game now (last few years) and enjoying modern technology as it simplifies and eases the occasionally arduous task of driving through tolls - yours truly now being for whom the bell now calculates.

However, I needed to contact the EZ-Pass offices to question a \$25 "replenishment"/charge/ debit to my EZ-Pass account. My car/transponder had been sitting in my driveway for most of the last week, undriven by anyone anywhere near a toll. Yet there it was in my email: a courtesy email advising of the \$25 charge/debit to my account. I was curious; having been told recently by my wife, Dina, of an EZ-Pass audit which showed phantom-charges (charges for roads not driven). As a result, I thought I would pursue the questionable debit to my account with a real person. I googled the EZ-Pass phone number and naively called it thinking I might get some satisfaction/resolution. Neither of which I did, but I did get a subject for this week's column.

To be fair-ish, the message does refer the caller to the EZ-Pass website, but that requires the caller to know their account number and password, which of course, I don't. As the message continued however, it spoke to this very circumstance and advised that if one didn't know their account number/password, press #2 I think it was, and then hang on to speak with someone. That's when I heard the 173-minute warning shot fired across my brow. That's when whatever hope I had of a reasonable reconciliation ended. I couldn't justify/tolerate the time it would take to possibly reconcile/credit my account the \$25. I figured my time was more valuable than that so I hung up. Alas, poor Yurik. It was not to be or be at all. I can't think of a more efficient way to solve a dispute in your favor: making callers wait three hours on hold just to talk to a person who might credit back an unnecessary debit into their account. Hardly a guarantee. More likely a definite maybe.

In effect: there's no dispute. There's no discussion and there's no reconciliation. The money's gone and I have absolutely no way/recourse to "replenish" my bank account. Sure, I could call back when the message advises due "to extremely high call volume," but when would that be? Midnight probably, on a weekend. But guess what? There's nobody home at that time. Apparently, the only time to get through to someone is when there's nobody around to be gotten through to. Granted, it's only \$25, but I'm entitled/deserving of an explanation. If I thought of it, I could certainly get paranoid about computers having access to my bank account and/ or credit card information. I realize it's the way of the world to provide this information to total strangers/computer programmers, but if I have no real way to settle a dispute of a charge/debit, it makes me rather nervous. Dollars could very well disappear in the interests of whomever has access to the account. If I can't talk to a human being - in less than three hours, then in point of fact, I have no recourse. And no recourse is hardly the stuff from which dreams are made. It's the complete opposite, actually. It's a nightmare, and one from which we might never wake up.

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



Call 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION



Calendar

From Page 12 105-107 South Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the November release of Book 9 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved Outlander series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. The tour also touches on the role of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. Recommended for ages 18 and up. Cost is \$15 per person and advance purchase of tickets is required. Tickets are available through AlexandriaVa. Gov/Shop.

SUNDAY/NOV. 21 Meet the Thirteen. 3-4 p.m. Virtual. At 2501

Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversations: An Inside Look at the local Vocal Ensemble, The Thirteen, Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director will discuss the ensemble and their remarkable sound. The Thirteen is an acclaimed professional ensemble comprised of vocal and instrumental artists who are vanguards of classical ensemble music. Since its founding in 2012, the choir has been at the forefront of invigorating performances of choral masterworks ranging from early chant to world premieres and the centuries in between. Learn how this ensemble got its start, how they attract world class talent, and what makes this group so unique. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom. us/j/86582608669. Dial in: 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 865 8260 8669

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

George Washington's Alexandria Tour. 2-4 p.m. At Christ Church, 118 N, Washington Street. Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. To register, visit eventbrite. com and search for George Washington's Alexandria Tour. Visit the website: www. washingtonbirthday.com

DEC. 3-19

Del Ray Artisans annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend.



The Mt. Vernon Flea Market will be held Saturday, Nov. 20 in Alexandria.

> Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus, FUNd raising 2022 wall calendars and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Market is December 3-5. December 10-12, December 17-19. Fridays 6-9pm and Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2021

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. November
- Thu. 18: Luna w/ The Natvral \$39.50
- Fri. 19: Paula Poundstone \$55.00 Sat. 20: Paula Poundstone \$55.00
- Sun. 21: Paula Poundstone \$55.00 Mon. 22: Jake Shimabukuro "Christmas In Ha-
- waii" \$55.00 Tue. 23: The Musical Box Presents: A Genesis Extravaganza Vol. 2 \$49.50
- Wed. 24: Hot Tuna Acoustic & Electric with special guest Steve Kimock & Friends \$75.00
- Thu. 25 Thanksgiving Fri. 26: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00
- Sat. 27: Chris Isaak 'Holiday Tour' \$115.00 Sun. 28: Charles Esten \$59.50
- Mon. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00
- Tue. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

4 Restaurants To Be Thankful For on Thanksgiving

EROM PACE 13

If you do choose to celebrate at Trademark, belly up for a three-course dinner beginning with soup, salad or bruschetta, then choose between the aforementioned turkey and a pumpkin ravioli, and put the cherry on top (as it were) with a choice of rum pecan pie, carrot cake, dark chocolate torte or a cranberry-apple tart. 2080 Jamieson Ave.

Ada's on the River

How about dinner with a river view? Ada's has you covered. The restaurant's three-

course dinner is available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and features the likes of preserved root vegetable tartare or seared scallops to start; smoky turkey breast roulade, filet mignon or seared halibut as main course; and ginger-blood orange parfait, pecan cheesecake or pumpkin tart to add a sweet treat. 3 Pioneer Mill Way

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.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



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#WeAreAlexandria





Old Town | \$2,595,000

This stunning home presents lifestyle options rarely found in an urban setting. The grand living and dining rooms are ideal for entertaining while the gourmet kitchen is worthy of any chef. Lower level media room, family room, wine cellar and bar area for casual entertaining. Park the cars in the two-car garage and walk to shops and restaurants just a block away! Shown by appointment only. 1011 N Washington Str Kate Patterson 703.627.2166



Harborside | \$2,150,000

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

www.KatePattersonHomes.com

OPEN SAT 11/20 & SUN 11/21, 2-4PM



Arlington | \$874,900

Delightful 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in sought-after Waverly Hills. Open concept gourmet kitchen and living room includes a gas fireplace, eating space, and leads out to the private yard. Finished lower level with bonus room, full bath, rec room. 4419 20th Street N Margot Lynn 703.973.3722 www.MargotLynnRealtor.com



Nethergate | \$675,000

Renovated brick townhouse tucked into a quiet, offstreet location. Living room with hardwood floors, window seat, & built-ins surrounding a wood-burning fireplace. Custom-designed kitchen & dining space with French doors to private patio. 1223 Portner Road Sandra Gehring 703.626.9851 www.HomeInAlexandria.com



Hunting Creek Club | \$209,900 Panoramic Potomac River view from every window of this 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo with parking close to Metro. Features include a 14' balcony, updated vanity area, fresh paint, new carpet and new stainless kitchen appliances. 2059 Huntington Avenue #1501 Charlene Schaper 703.217.3666 www.cschaper.com

OPEN SAT 11/20, 2-4PM



Old Town \$699,000

Nicely updated townhome in Jefferson Homes/SW Quadrant. Three levels, including hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Totally renovated, including stainless steel appliances, cabinets, counters, bath, etc. New sewer line as well. 605 S Henry Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024 www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

Village \$644,900

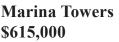
Four finished levels on a premium lot in neighborhood with privacy overlooking wooded area at rear. All three bedrooms have their own full bath. Plenty of storage in floored attic. 3805 Woodlawn Court

Suzanne Morrison 703.863.3110 www.SuzanneMorrison.com

Early Street







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 walkin closet and bath! 1 garage parking space conveys. 501 Slaters Lane #803

Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403 www.ClemmerandSchuckHomes.com

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