

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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FEBRUARY 10, 2022



Bill and Ruth Cleveland have been married for 48 years.

Marion Brunken and Susan Haskew, together for five years, will celebrate three years of marriage in July.



Jackie and Andres Maldonado will celebrate six years of marriage on Feb. 20.



Jamie and Becca Branch, together for nine years, have been married for almost three years.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Peter and Jenny Wintermute have been married for 15 years.



Bob Eifert and Michael Curry have been together for 45 years.



Angeli and Max Miller have been married 17 years.

Love Is in the Air

Couples share their secrets to success.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As Valentine's Day approaches on Feb. 14, the second to be celebrated during the pandemic, couples across the city are making plans to honor their spouses, partners and sweethearts. But just as the pandemic produced myriad challenges for businesses and families, so too were couples faced with changing dynamics in their relationships. Seven Alexandria couples share their secrets to keeping their love alive.

Marion Brunken and Susan Haskew

Marion: "We met at a function at Alex-Renew five years ago. We chatted about living in Del Ray and in time realized we have things in common like hiking, camp-

ing and gardening. On July 20, we will celebrate three years of marriage. The pandemic showed us even more what a good match we are. I'm a better person with Susan."

Susan: "I love that Marion is an outdoor person. She is active, happy and energetic and wants to do things all the time. We both enjoy a lot of the same things and that is important to me.

You have to keep a relationship exciting. We are just very lucky to have found each other."

Bill and Ruth Cleveland

Ruth: "We have been married 48 years

"Trust and the ability to communicate are key to a successful relationship."

— Bob Eifert on his 45-year relationship with Michael Curry

and now have eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. My advice to newlyweds is to be best friends first, then lovers, then continue to work together. Marriage

is a partnership. Share everything, be open to each other and no lies."

Bill: "The secret to a long and happy marriage is to take things one day at a time."

Jackie and An-

dres Maldonado

Andres: "What is not great about Jackie? She is the most devoted mother and wife. She is everything to our kids which makes her everything to me."

Jackie: "I love that Andres is so hard working and all he does for our family and to provide for us. The pandemic with kids has been a huge curve ball as was the transition from one to two kids. But Andres is very funny and so much fun to be around and that gets us through. We will be married six years on Feb. 20. Nothing exciting planned. Maybe we will order food once the kids are asleep."

Jamie and Becca Branch

Jamie: "Becca has a very big heart and keeps me in line. I can always tell from the look in her eyes when I need to do something. My best advice to other couples is to be patient, listen, and spend time together. Find something you both love to do and do it together. And it helps if you learn to cook."

SEE LOVE IS IN THE AIR, PAGE 13

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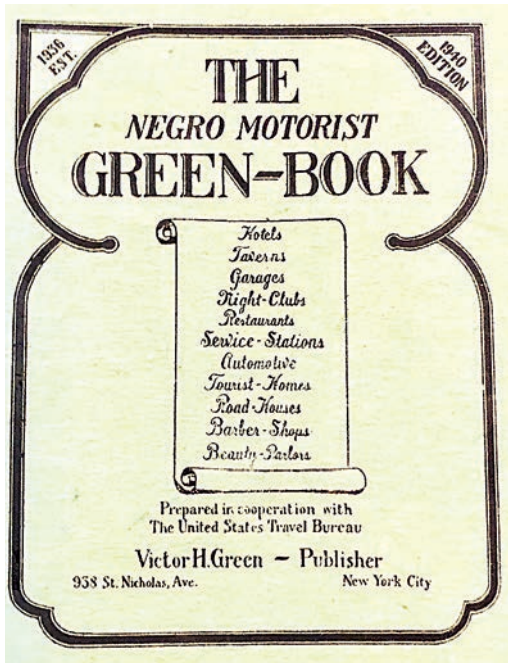


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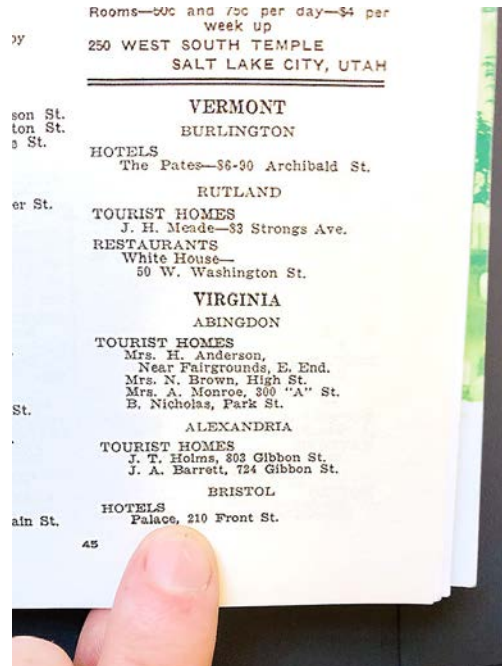
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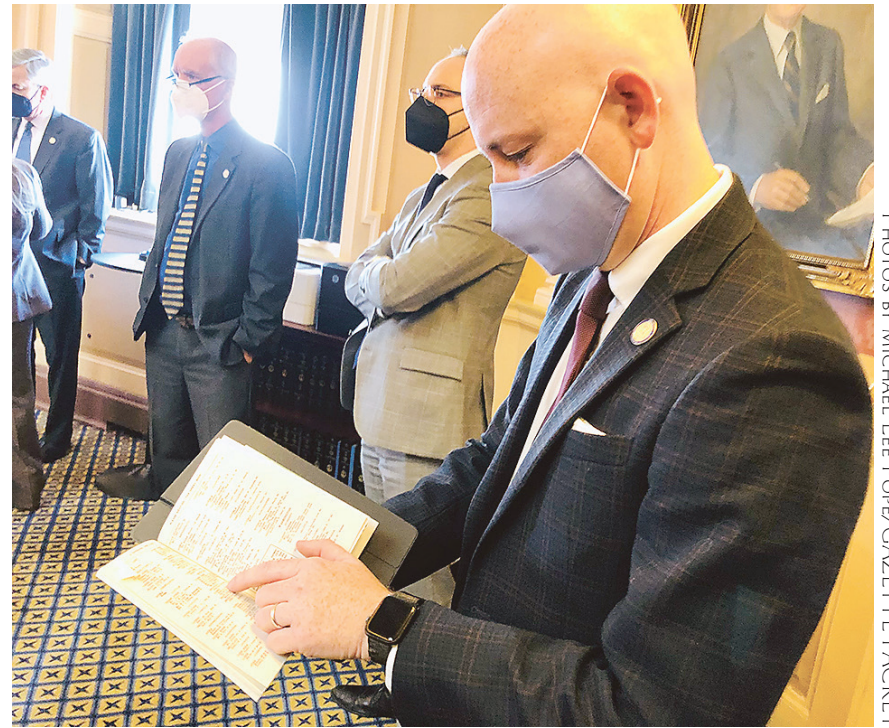
NEWS



The Green Book was created by New York City mailman Victor Hugo Green in the early 1930s. New editions were published until the 1960s.



Alexandria had only two listings in the Green book, both tourist homes at the intersection of Gibbon Street and South Columbus Street in the Bottoms neighborhood.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Del. Mike Mullin (D-93) looks through a 1940 edition of the Green Book, which identified safe places for Black travelers in the days of segregation.

Commemorating Hidden History

Alexandria 'Green Book' locations may soon be designated historic sites.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

In the 1930s, traveling while Black could be dangerous. Service stations and hotels were segregated, and people traveling for work or pleasure needed to know where it was safe to pump gas or stay the night. Enter New York City mailman Victor Hugo Green. He started publishing the Negro Motorist Green Book in 1936, documenting destination sites for an emerging African-American middle class who owned cars. Now members of the General Assembly are considering a bill that would identify and commemorate all Virginia locations listed in the Green Book editions from the 1930 until the 1960s, when it ceased publication.

"The history of being an African American in Virginia is a history of all Virginians," said Del. Michael Mullin (D-93). "You're talking

about a history of people who are still alive today and yet somehow that history is already being lost."

Some cities have many Green Book locations while others have only a few. Richmond, for example, has listings for two hotels, three service stations, a barber shop and a restaurant. Alexandria, on the other hand, has only two listings — both identified as "tourist homes" at the intersection of Gibbon Street and South Columbus Street. Councilman John Taylor Chapman, owner of the Manumission Tour Company, says a "tourist home" was essentially a 1940s-era Airbnb.

"That's the Bottoms neighborhood, which is one of the earlier African-American communities in Alexandria," said Chapman. "It's not too far from Alfred Street Baptist Church, and the Odd Fellows Hall is right up the street. So this

is one of the central locations for African Americans in the city at that time."

THE BILL TO IDENTIFY and com-

"The history of being an African American in Virginia is a history of all Virginians. You're talking about a history of people who are still alive today and yet somehow that history is already being lost."

— Del. Michael Mullin (D-93)

memorate all of Virginia's Green Book sites began as a casual conversation on the House floor during some down time. Del. Jeion Ward (D-92) was reminiscing with Mullin about the beaches in their part of Hampton Roads. Ward mentioned a hotel that was listed in the Green Book as a place where visiting African Ameri-

can performers would stay.

"Big stars, they were stars to us. They would come down, and there was only one hotel that they could stay at the beach,"

historical marker explaining what happened at that location and what we might learn from it.

"A 70-bed hotel that had some of the most prominent African American singers and entertainers in the country," said Mullin. "And that place no longer exists. In fact, there's no record of it."

The first step in commemorating all the places will be identifying them. The Green Book was in publication from the 30s to the 60s, and the Library of Virginia has none of them. Ward owns a copy from 1940 that has a couple of pages of Virginia sites. So if lawmakers approve Mullin's bill, the first step would be for the Department of Historic Resources to gather all the editions and identify the sites so they can go about the work of publicizing them and educating the public about this almost-lost chapter of Virginia history.

Jinks to Keynote Friendship Breakfast

Lawhorne, Pepper to be honored with Rev. Ben Lynt Award.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Former City Manager Mark Jinks will be the keynote speaker Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast, the tra-

ditional kick-off to the city's slate of George Washington Birthday celebration events.

Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, the city's oldest fire company that was established in 1774, the breakfast will take place at the Westin Hotel

Alexandria at 400 Courthouse Square beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Former City Councilwoman Del Pepper and recently retired Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne will be presented with the Reverend Ben Lynt Distinguished Service Award.

The award is named in honor of Rev. Lynt who served as pastor of Alexandria's Second Presbyterian Church for 44 years and is presented annually to an Alexandria citizen, business or municipal leader for exemplary

SEE JINKS TO KEYNOTE, PAGE 14

OBITUARY

Arlene Hewitt Community leader, Living Legend dies at 91.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Arlene Hewitt, a fixture in Alexandria's health care community for more than 50 years, died Feb. 2 at Greenspring Senior Living in Springfield. She was 91.

Originally from Massachusetts, Hewitt and her husband and children moved to Alexandria in 1967 where she became the first social worker at Alexandria Hospital.

"Alexandria was my mother's beloved city," said Hewitt's daughter Joselyn Rochlis. "She loved the city almost as much as she loved her family."

Arlene May Hewitt was born Oct. 5, 1930, in Boston, the only daughter of Bessie and Michael Kaplan. She and older brothers Marvin and Ervin were raised in Brookline, Mass., before Hewitt left to pursue her education at the University of Bridgeport. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and political science in 1952 then earned a master's degree in social work from Boston University in 1954.

On June 6, 1954, Hewitt skipped her graduation ceremony in favor of her wedding to Melvin Hewitt. The couple began their married life in Waltham, Mass., then moved to Stoneham, Mass., where they began raising a family with son Gary and daughter Jo. During this time Hewitt held several social work positions including working as a medical social worker for the Massachusetts Division of Child Guardianship.

Following the move to Alexandria in 1967, Hewitt was hired by Alexandria Hospital and worked there in many capacities until her retirement in 2002. While working



Arlene Hewitt with daughter Jo Rochlis and grandsons Teddy and Michael.



Arlene Hewitt, a 2008 Living Legend of Alexandria, died Feb. 2 at the age of 91.

at the hospital, Hewitt started the Social Work Department, created the Employee Assistance Program and the Senior Outreach/Senior Health Access programs. Additionally, she directed the Alexandria infant and childhood immunization campaign and developed the alcohol rehabilitation program.

"Mom was very driven by her career. It was more of a passion than a job for her."

— Arlene Hewitt's daughter
Jo Rochlis

She ended her career as Director of Community Affairs.

"Mom was very driven by her career," Rochlis said. "It was more of a passion than a job for her."

Hewitt served on more than 60 community committees and initiatives and was recognized multiple times with various awards and honors. She was honored in the Congressional Record introduced by Congressman James Moran in

2002 for her years of dedicated service. Other honors include the 2002 United Way Outstanding Service Award and the 2014 Flora Krause Casey Public Health Award.

In 2005, Hewitt was appointed by City Council to serve on the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission and in 2008 she was recognized as a Living Legend of Alexandria.

"I love for people to say to me, 'It can't be done,'" said Hewitt when recognized as a Living Legend. "That really gets me going."

Hewitt was devoted to her family, traveling the world with her husband and in later years focusing on her grandchildren.

"If there were an award for grandmother of the century she would have won that," Rochlis said. "My children were her life from the day they were born and she created the most special bond

with them."

Hewitt is survived by her children, Gary Hewitt (Julia) and Joselyn Rochlis (Steven) and four grandchildren: Andy and Ariana Hewitt and Teddy and Michael Rochlis. She was predeceased by her husband in 2009.

Funeral services were held Feb. 6 at Beth El Hebrew Congregation followed by interment at King David Memorial Garden. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund (www.bethelhebrew.org) or Neighborhood Health (neighborhoodhealthva.org).

"If there is one thing my mother instilled in me my whole life is 'if you have a mouth, use it,'" Rochlis said. "My mom lived by that. She wasn't shy and was taught by her mother that if you don't like something, stand up for yourself. That is something I will always, always remember."



Arlene and Mel Hewitt on their wedding day, June 6, 1954.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Bill Vosbeck Noted architect, WWII veteran dies at 97.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Vosbeck, a World War II and Korean War veteran who went on to become a nationally recognized architect, died Dec. 15, 2021, at the Fairfax Retirement Community in Fort Belvoir. He was 97.

A longtime resident of Alexandria, Vosbeck was president of Vosbeck, Vosbeck & Associates, an architectural firm he started following his years of military service.

"Bill is another giant of Alex-



Bill Vosbeck, a noted architect and veteran of World War II, died Dec. 15, 2021. He was 97.

andria that we have lost," said Jim Aldige noting the loss of Don Simpson Sr. in 2018 and T.J. Fannon in 2013. "These were the men who shaped the community."

William F. Vosbeck Jr. was born May 13, 1924, in Mankato, Minn. He met his future wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Just, in high school and together they attended the University of Minnesota. The two married following graduation and celebrated 74 years of marriage prior to Vosbeck's death.

While still in college, Vosbeck enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps. He was stationed at Quan-

tico and moved his wife and young family to Alexandria.

"I joined the Marine Corps during World War II since I knew the Marines were being so successful overseas at that time," Vosbeck told the Connection Newspapers in 2020. "I remained in the reserves when the war ended and when the Korean War came along, I had to report to duty immediately. When my time in the service ended, my wife Betty and I decided to make Alexandria our home and I started my architectural firm."

Following his military service,
SEE BILL VOSBECK, PAGE 8



High school sweethearts Bill and Betty Vosbeck were married for 74 years.

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Putting Crime Guns in the Cross Hairs

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

As the co-chair of the General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, confronting the gun violence crisis has been a priority of mine for years. While I support the Second Amendment and the availability of firearms for hunting, self-defense, and sport, we must implement common-sense gun safety laws that keep dangerous firearms out of the hands of those who will not responsibly use them. I have two bills this session focused on gun safety. The first, addresses the growing threat of “ghost guns;” the second targets firearms without serial numbers being used and traded. Mirror versions of these bills are being carried by House member Del. Marcus Simon (D-Falls Church). Both bills passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and await floor votes.

Ghost guns are undetectable, untraceable firearms which can be bought online, assembled with ease, and function precisely like any other firearm. These weapons pose a serious and deliberate prob-

lem. Law enforcement report seeing a rise in the use of these weapons in criminal acts as well as accidental shootings. It can be easier to build a ghost gun than to assemble an Ikea dresser. The process of converting ghost gun parts — which can be purchased without a background check, license or record of sale, into a functioning firearm — involves just a few steps and can be completed without any specialized skill. Due to the nature of their component parts, these weapons cannot be detected by normal security screening methods, like those you would encounter in an airport. They are particularly enticing to people who cannot pass a background check — domestic abusers, minors, organized crime, and those with a violent felony record.

In 2018, a man prohibited from accessing guns built his own ghost gun from parts ordered online and perpetrated a mass shooting at his workplace in Middleton, Wis-



Sen. Adam Ebbin

consin. In late 2019, a 16-year-old, too young to purchase a firearm, used a ghost gun to kill two students and injured three others at Saugus High School in California.

My legislation fixes a loophole: manufacturers are required to put

a serial number on finished firearms but not on individual parts. This bill requires manufacturers, dealers, and distributors to add a serial number, which legitimizes a weapon and makes it traceable if used in a crime, to the parts sold in Ghost Gun kits.

My second bill, SB 643, has garnered support from a broad coalition including the Virginia Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, the Virginia Citizens Defense League, prosecutors, and the State Police Association.

This bill addresses the people using or distributing firearms that are already illegal: guns that have had their serial number removed. Removing the serial number makes the devices untraceable

when found or connected to a crime. Federal law makes possessing, transporting, or delivering a gun with an altered serial number a felony. Under current Virginia law, only the removal or alteration of a serial number is a crime, but not the use or sale of such a gun. Commonwealth’s Attorneys cannot prosecute people in state courts for this offense.

Considerable effort is required to remove a serial number from a weapon. At minimum, welding tools and drills are needed. Removing the serial number is an intentional act aimed at avoiding accountability for actions taken by the person wielding the weapon. These are crime guns, full stop.

While no one law can prevent all violent incidents, I believe that smarter gun regulations are a part of the solution to prevent some of the tragedies that we all wish to end including homicides, domestic violence, children’s accidental deaths, and suicide by firearm. I am certain that the lives that we save will be worth the effort.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

Week Four: Bills Moving in Richmond; Retail Marijuana Under Discussion

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

In the fourth week of the General Assembly’s session, several of my 27 bills advanced.

The Senate passed my resolution to create a two-year study between the House and Senate to evaluate the state’s COVID-19 pandemic response. If adopted by the House of Delegates, this will be a major, two-year evaluation with recommendations about lessons learned.

One of my bills would place our projected \$1 billion surplus from the Virginia 529 Plan into an endowment fund to create 2,000 full-ride scholarships for female and minority students who would have been denied admission to Virginia universities before 1900 because of gender and race-based discrimination practices. I asked that the bill be tabled and referred to an ongoing study about the surplus. Various Senate committees have favorably acted on all of my other bills so far.



Surovell

The Senate passed my bill to make it easier for divorcing spouses to divide retirement plans administered by the Virginia Retirement System. We also passed my legislation to create a clear runway for companies to invest in large-scale, organic waste digesters that can make renewable biomethane. This approach can replace methane extracted through hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” a natural gas extraction method which I have helped prohibit east of Interstate 95 in Virginia. My legislation to establish a new charter for the Town of Occoquan received a unanimous vote and is now in the House of Delegates.

MARIJUANA We had our first public hearing on legislation to set the parameters for the retail sale of marijuana. This is a complicated situation. Under the bill we are considering, there will be a three-tiered system to separate ownership between cultivators,

processors and retailers that will maximize the development of Virginia businesses and community capital. However, the details around the system are fraught with complexities and choices.

There is no consensus on a tax rate that will generate sufficient revenue while avoiding sufficient incentives to continue a black market. There is no agreement on how

the revenues would be used. The Senate Democratic Caucus would like the revenues in part to be invested in a way to help alleviate the disproportionate impact that criminalization of marijuana offenses has had in the state.

There is also no consensus on a transition period to the new retail licensing system. Today, Virginians

SEE WEEK FOUR, PAGE 14

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OPINION

Alexandria Police in Staffing Crisis

BY MARCUS DOWNEY
VICE PRESIDENT, IUPA LOCAL 5

The Alexandria Police Department is suffering from a staffing crisis unlike any in recent history. In the last twenty-four months, the department has lost more than 10% of its sworn staff and those positions have continued to go unfilled. During that same time, Part 1 crime rose more than 17% within the City.

I recognize that Alexandria's police staffing issues are not unique. Other jurisdictions in the region are scrambling to maintain appropriate staffing levels to combat crime and keep their communities safe. The Washington D.C. region already suffered from a competitive job market when in search of quality police applicants and the regional staffing crises has made it exceptionally worse.

So, I ask you to consider the following:

A senior in college is about to graduate at the top of his class with a Bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He has excellent communication skills, good moral character, a desire to help the community, and he is in good physical and mental shape. He meets every criterion of the perfect police candidate.

He is searching for his dream job as a cop, and having grown up in Northern Virginia, wants to remain in the area. He goes online to look

at his options and finds more than two dozen local law enforcement agencies, all of which are actively hiring. Each agency has an extensive, months-long hiring process because of the complexity of the job, so to be efficient with his time, he narrows down his focus on the departments that pay the most. Because Alexandria City's starting police salary ranks 23rd out of 24, he does not waste his time applying. Makes sense, right?

It is illogical to reason that quality police candidates would focus their attention on a police department that pays substantially less while doing the same type of work as other law enforcement agencies in the area.

For months, IUPA Local 5 has shared our concerns with City Council and the City Manager's Office. We are hopeful that the drastic disparity in pay will be resolved in the FY23 budget. We believe the first step to rectifying the issue is to provide a 10% across-the-board salary increase so that our salary is more commensurate with the cost of living in Alexandria. The City of Alexandria cannot reasonably state it provides a competitive compensation package when its starting salary for police officers ranks literally at the bottom. That's not what competitive means. As Inigo Montoya aptly stated, "you keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

Local Republican Party Endorses Prioritizing Police In FY 2023 City Budget

The Alexandria Republican City Committee (ARCC) addressed the issue of rising crime rates and local policing at its February meeting, and voted a show of support for the Alexandria Police Department (APD) and other first responders. A copy of the statement was hand-delivered to APD addressed to Acting Chief Don Hayes.

Chairman Pete Benavage said, "In light of the unprecedented rise in crime rates that we are facing, I am stunned that the Police Department is suffering from such an apparent lack of support from City Council. It's as if the Mayor and Council don't think that public safety is a necessity. First Responders risk their lives for us every day. They need our complete and bipartisan respect, support, and appreciation. They must have the adequate resources to do their jobs and care for their families."

Sean Lenehan, Immediate Past Chairman, offered up a strong statement of support that was

seconded by recent city council candidate Darryl Nirenberg and unanimously approved by the committee members. It reads: "Alexandria Republicans proudly continue our long-standing support of the Alexandria Police Department. The Alexandria Republican City Committee officially endorses the incorporation of reinvestment in policing strategies in our city's Fiscal Year 2023 budget. We clearly believe that providing fair and competitive pay for first responders is not a partisan issue."

Nirenberg added, "President Biden got it right this week when he called for more funding for community policing, and for law enforcement to be given 'the tools, the training, the funding to be partners, to be protectors.' Let's hope our City Council follows suit and brings our first responder salaries back up to the median for the region. It's just common sense."

ARCC (at www.AlexGOP.org) is the local unit of the Republican Party of Virginia.

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Tony Tran

Owner of Sam's Custom Cleaners dies at 58.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Tony Tran, the longtime owner of Sam's Custom Cleaners in North Old Town, passed away suddenly on Jan. 11 at the age of 58.

"Tony was a good friend to me and so many in our community," said former Mayor Allison Silberberg, who has been a customer and friend of Tran for close to 30 years. "He was incredibly kind and helpful, always with a smile and a great sense of humor. I will certainly miss Tony."

As a young man, Tran immigrated to the United States from Viet-

nam.

"His life's story is one of the American dream," Silberberg said. "With great struggle and risk, he left his homeland of Vietnam and worked very hard and made Northern Virginia his home. For many years, he has been running his own business, Sam's Custom Cleaners, at Slater's Lane and the GW Parkway. He was phenomenal."

Tributes to Tran poured in on social media.

"Sam's is still the dry cleaner I compare everyone to," said Stacey Wiessbock in a social media post. "When I left Alexandria, I still drove from D.C. to bring stuff to

"His life's story is one of the American dream."

— Former Mayor Allison Silberberg

him. Tony was the kindest human."

Added former City Councilman Paul Smedberg, "This is so sad. I



Tony Tran, longtime owner of Sam's Custom Cleaners, died Jan. 11 at the age of 58.

knew Tony for several years - he was a wonderful man."

A funeral and witness cremation service, including traditional Buddhist blessings, was held Jan. 19 at National Funeral Home in Falls Church.

"Tony was the hardest working and kindest man," said customer Lisa Yarbrough. "I went to his business for over 15 years and every time I walked in



Sam's Custom Cleaners on Slaters Lane has closed following the sudden death of owner Tony Tran.

he was always so gracious. We in the Potomac Greens community will miss his infectious smile and generosity."

Sam's Custom Cleaners closed at the end of the business day on Feb. 4.

"This is an overwhelming loss, but the family is doing their best to reach out to all the customers, whom Tony loved helping," Silberberg added. "Tony made a difference here and will be very missed by so many in our community."



COURTESY PHOTO

Phil Guglielmo, a graduate of SSSA who played basketball at the U.S. Naval Academy, will be the featured speaker at the Feb. 16 meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club.

ASC to Host Guglielmo Feb. 16

SSSAS graduate now elite basketball trainer.

Phil Guglielmo, a graduate of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School who went on to play basketball at the U.S. Naval Academy and Nyack College, will be the guest speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club annual Basketball Night Feb. 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Guglielmo is currently Director of Marketing and Operations at Evolution Basketball Training, an international basketball organization

designed to help athletes develop in the areas of skill training, character building and personal development.

Guglielmo played basketball at SSSAS and then at the Naval Academy, Nyack College and Capital City Go-Go. He will talk about his career, the business of training young athletes and the connections he fosters to get them to the next level. The presentation will be followed by the scholastic Athlete-of-the-Month awards.

The meeting will be held Feb. 16 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, with complimentary dinner and drinks beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

Bill Vosbeck

FROM PAGE 4

Vosbeck and younger brother Randy, also an architect, formed Vosbeck, Vosbeck & Associates. They eventually merged with an engineering firm and the resulting company became known as VVKR, an Alexandria-based and nationally recognized design and planning firm that won over 60 design awards in the greater Washington Metropolitan Area and Mid-Atlantic Region.

Vosbeck was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, an honor bestowed by the Institute on AIA-member architects who have made outstanding contributions to the profession. He served on the board of directors of Virginia Power and of United Virginia Bank. Vosbeck was a trustee of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and a founding member of Senior Services of Alexandria. He was a long standing and active member of Belle Haven Country Club and of the Rotary Club of Alexandria.

"I considered Bill a mentor to me," said Aldige, a fellow Rotarian. "He was always approachable and I never saw him get upset about anything. Bill showed those around him what it is like to be a true lead-



Bill Vosbeck, right, with brother and business partner Randy Vosbeck in 2012.

"Bill is another giant of Alexandria that we have lost."

—Friend Jim Aldige

er."

Vosbeck is survived by his wife of 74 years, Betty; brother, Randy, of Colorado; daughters Lee Hagan of Alexandria and Lynn Kunkel of St. Augustine, Fla.; daughter-in-law, Bibi Vosbeck of Alexandria; and six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons Jon, Fred and James.

A memorial service will be held Feb. 12, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001



Bill Vosbeck at 6 years old in 1930.

Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Va. 22306. A Celebration of Life reception will follow from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Senior Services of Alexandria, 206 North Washington Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

"Bill always carried himself like a Marine Corps general," Aldige added. "He appreciated that part of his life and the structure that it gave him for his future successes."

Said Vosbeck, "I am thankful to the Marine Corps for what they did for me throughout my career. I was fortunate to be at the right place at the right time."



PHOTO OFFICE OF MARK WARNER

Sen. Mark Warner, right, talks with Arlington County Environmental Services Director Greg Emanuel Feb. 4 at the Mount Vernon Avenue bridge over Four Mile Run. Warner met with local leaders and engineers to inspect the state of the bridge and to advocate for significant federal funding for infrastructure projects across the state. "On Friday, I got to take a rainy walk across the Arlington Ridge Road Bridge to talk about the great changes coming to the Commonwealth as a result of the infrastructure law," said Warner on social media. Virginia will be receiving \$537 million for bridge repair as part of the new infrastructure bill.

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PHOTO OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TALKING TAXES

Governor Glenn Youngkin made a visit to the Alexandria Safeway at Bradlee Center Feb. 3 to discuss his proposal to eliminate Virginia's grocery tax. "Today, I sat down with Virginia parents to discuss my administration's plan to combat rising inflation and its impact on families," Youngkin said on social media. "I look forward to working together to address the rising costs of raising a family in the Commonwealth, starting with eliminating the grocery tax." Groceries in Virginia, one of 13 states that taxes groceries, are taxed at 2.5 percent.

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THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

Special Edition: PET Connection

Publishes:

February 23, 2022

Ads submitted by:

February 17, 2022

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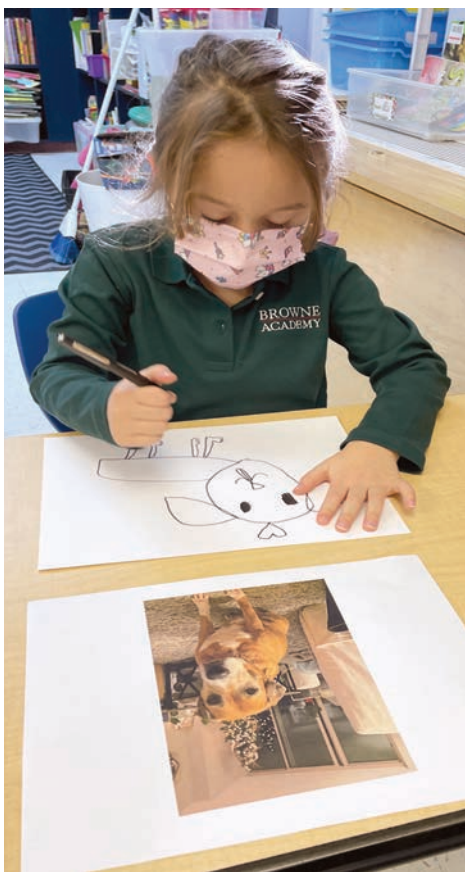
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Kindergarten Gives To Animals

What began as a simple collaboration between Browne Academy's kindergarten students and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) morphed and grew and became something truly amazing. The students used the passion for animals, and what they have learned about empathy, to make magic.

Kindergarten teachers Rebecca Culbreth and Maddie Fields helped students research all types of creatures to figure out what types of animals made good pets, and why. Students spent time looking on the AWLA website and reading about the animals up for adoption, and what kinds of homes would be best. The Kindergarten had a Zoom field trip to ooh and ahh over some of the animals and meet the staff of the AWLA, learning about what they do to support the animals and pet lovers in the community. The children also made personal connections, because their classroom pet Peter Rabbit is an alum from the Animal Welfare League!

Students used what they learned to write persuasive stories and signs convincing potential adopters to look into adopting from the AWLA. Lots of details were included, as the students described specific animals as well as wrote general reasons why pets would be perfect fits for a variety of families. These writings were shared with the AWLA, who then hung them up around the animal shelter for adopters to read.

In Innovation and Science classes, the students worked with their teachers to learn about animal instincts and how they guide what toys they prefer. The students created cat toys and pillows for the animals.

As they learned what it takes to help animals, the students were determined to raise



funds to sponsor the adoption fees for an animal. The kindergarten artists welcomed well over a hundred photos of Browne community pets, and students worked hard

to create one-of-a-kind portraits of each animal. Families paid \$1 per portrait, and there was a Portrait Pick Up Party during carline, One of Browne's kindergarten fam-

ilies has personal connections to the AWLA, a former employee mom and a current volunteer aunt, and they came to help us rock out to music and pass out the adorable and creative portraits.

Overall, kindergarten raised more than \$340. That is enough to sponsor the adoption fees for an animal, and more. Browne's kindergarten students – and teachers -- are so excited about what they were able to accomplish through this project-based-learning experience.

What the students said::

"We drew about 300 portraits and it was hard and also easy. It was a lot of work! We worked hard on it."

How do you think people felt getting their portraits?

"Happy! Proud! Maybe they fainted on the floor because they were so adorable! They would laugh and smile."

"Vern was adopted so Ms. Carly sent the story about him to his new family."

How do you feel about being in the newspaper?

"Excited! Surprised! We are proud of ourselves. Maybe Peter is proud of us too!"

Victoria C – "I liked the pets. They all looked cute like Peter and Cow are cute! People should treat animals nicely and get more pets. If they filled up and nobody took pets home, if another animal needed help they couldn't help it!"

Ryan – "Making the pet portraits was so fun! I got to draw, and that's one of my favorite things

Alexandria Native in Marine Exercise Philippines Aboard USS Pearl Harbor

BY STEPHANIE FOX
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – An Alexandria, Virginia, native is participating in Marine Exercise (MAREX) Philippines aboard USS Pearl Harbor, a U.S. Navy warship that transports and launches Marines from sea to shore as part of amphibious assault operations.

Petty Officer 1st Class Maria Rosal joined the Navy for the opportunities the military provides.

“I joined the Navy because I wanted to receive education benefits to pursue a degree in nursing,” said Rosal.

Today, Rosal serves as a U.S. Navy machinist’s mate.

“My favorite part about being a machinist’s mate is that I like how I am able to fix anything in the Navy ships,” said Rosal.

On Jan. 27, 2022, the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps began training with the Armed Forces of the Philippines as part of MAREX 2022 to further the maritime security capabilities of the U.S. and the Philippines.

Rosal is proud to participate.

According to Rosal, the values required to succeed in the military are similar to those



found in Alexandria.

“I moved from Jakarta, Indonesia, to the United States,” said Rosal. “This allowed me to learn how to adapt to new environments quickly and pick up on new skills easily.”

Pearl Harbor is a Harpers Ferry-class amphibious dock landing ship designed to de-

liver Marines and their equipment in support of amphibious operations including landings via Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft and helicopters, onto hostile shores.

Homeported in San Diego, Pearl Harbor is longer than two football fields at 610 feet. The ship is 84 feet wide and weighs more

than 16,000 tons. It has four diesel engines that can push the ship through the water in excess of 25 mph.

Serving in the Navy means Rosal is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America’s focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

“We go on deployments to show the world that the United States contributes to other countries with humanitarian aid and military presence,” said Rosal.

There are many opportunities for sailors to earn recognition in their command, community and careers while serving in the Navy.

“My proudest accomplishment in the Navy is that I am on the road to earning a letter for Engineering Officer of The Watch,” said Rosal.

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Rosal, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

“Serving in the Navy means that I get to give back to my country,” added Rosal.

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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.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
LEE	10832	626	DELVALE RD	N F POWELL RIVER	1/31/2022
LEE	10876	648	ROUTE 648	TOWN BRANCH	1/31/2022
LEE	10897	662	ROUTE 662	SIMS CREEK	1/31/2022
GRAYSON	8912	734	CHESTNUT GROVE RD	FOX CREEK	1/31/2022
WASHINGTON	25100	616	LITTLE WOLF RUN	ABRAMS CREEK	1/20/2022
BUCHANAN	23115	755	STILTNETS BOTTOM RD	LEVISA RIVER	1/19/2022
BUCHANAN	23116	1025	MEETING HOUSE RD	LEVISA RIVER	1/19/2022
WYTHE	19666	610	PEPPERS FERRY RD	COVE CREEK	1/18/2022
RICHMOND (M)	21358	0	COLUMBIA STREET	GOODES CREEK	1/13/2022
FRANKLIN	7902	688	POTEET RD/ROUTE 688	GILLS CREEK	1/11/2022
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/ROUTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2	1/11/2022
AMELIA	1235	602	BEVILS BRIDGE RD	APPOMATTOX RIVER	1/6/2022
FRANKLIN	7907	695	ISOLANE RD/ROUTE 695	HATCHET CREEK	1/5/2022
MONTGOMERY	12292	663	WALTON RD/ROUTE 663	CRAB CREEK	1/4/2022

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.

NOW THRU FEB. 15

The Restaurant Cherry Challenge. The “Cherry Challenge” is a competition among finer restaurants in Alexandria. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert in honor of our distinguished native son, of course! The competing restaurants and their entries are listed at <http://washing-tonbirthday.com/cherry-chal-lenge>, and the winners will be announced on Parade Day.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

Hunt for Washington. A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from www.washingtonbirthday.com at home and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com any time before the end of the day on February 28. There are prizes and mementos associated with this event! Free.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

American Legion Post 24 Run, Walk, n’ Roll. This George Washington Birthday Commemorative event is intended to build community and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional resiliency of participants—veterans and non-veterans alike. This month-long event during February 2022 encourages participants to run, walk and/or roll on their own for at least 24 miles in increments and routes they choose. Registration is \$24. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/GWB24RunWalkRoll> for more information.

NOW THRU MARCH 6

Artist’s Exhibition: Oenone Hammersley and Darren Smith. At the Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Artists Meet and Greet, Sunday March 6, 2 — 4 p.m. Oenone Hammersley’s paintings depict abstract water patterns in mixed media on canvas and wooden panels. The panels are cut to resemble water cascading or waves breaking. Darren Smith uses his creative vision while leading the foreign-language editions of National Geographic Magazine. He applies the same skills to making his handmade photo collages. The Athenaeum Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

NOW THRU FEB. 26

The “DADA 2.0” Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that expresses absurdity and discontent through the lens of Dada. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed



Enjoy Chocolate with Washington on Saturday, Feb. 12 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria.

February 27, 2022). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

THURSDAY/FEB. 10

The Life and Times of Colonel Charles Young. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Join Park Ranger Roger Osorio, from the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument, to learn the story behind Colonel Young’s life and the legacy he created. Charles Young, born to enslaved parents, persevered through racism and prejudice to become one of the first African American graduates from West Point Military Academy and went on to serve in many capacities and missions throughout the United States and the world at a time when opportunities for Black Americans were severely restricted. Contact mzimmerman@alexli-braryva.org. Visit alexlibraryva.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 11

Sing Willow by The Thirteen. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria. Throughout musical history, composers have long turned to the natural world for inspiration and solace. Chief among equals is English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was born in 1872 and whose 150th birthday we celebrate in this program. The Thirteen will pair Vaughan Williams’ music with works that explore the concept of the natural world and humankind’s place in it by beloved composers including Trevor Weston, Caroline Shaw, Benjamin Britten and more. Visit the website: www.TheThirteenChoir.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Storytime with the Alexandria Black History Museum. 10 a.m. Virtual. Educated kids during story time with the Alexandria Black History Museum, a collaboration with the Alexandria Library. Join Mrs. Lillian Patterson for story time and hear about African American history. The event is great for children ages 4 to 8, but all are welcome. Recurring story times occur on the second Saturday of each month. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Children’s Business Fair. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Aldersgate Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Experience young minds marketing, selling, counting money and feeling accomplished! Come be a shopper and help Fort Hunt’s young entrepreneurs launch their businesses. Visit the website: <https://www.KidBizInc.com/CBF>

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Chocolate With Washington. 2-3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Children (and accompanying adults) are invited to spend an hour with General Washington to talk about the American Revolution, ask questions of our first citizen, and enjoy hot chocolate and delicious come-stibles. Sponsored by First Home Care of Alexandria. Masks will be required. Free. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com> and search Chocolate with Washington. Visit the website: www.washingtonbirthday.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

A White Historian Explores “Race Riots.” 11 a.m. Virtual. Violent clashes between large crowds of different races have disturbed the social order in the United States since long before the Civil War, and the phrase “race riot” has been used to describe such disparate events such as the Tulsa massacre of 1921, the 1968 uprisings following the assassination of Martin Luther King and the anti-Chinese riots of the 1870s. Susan Strasser investigates the term and a history of racially-charged violence that has framed American discussions of race throughout the nation’s history. Visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Starting from Scratch with Seeds. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (16-Adult). At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Grow flowers, vegetables and herbs from seed and expand your garden. Be inspired by Green Spring staff members as they discuss potting mixes, containers, seed treatments, lighting, fertilization, watering, seed sources and timing. Then take home a few seeds to start your own collection. \$22 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-takes or call 703-642-5173. Code J1VD6BU.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

Rachmaninov Rhapsody. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is joined by renowned soloist Sara Daneshpour with Rachmaninov’s romantic Rhapsody.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

Senior Living in Alexandria Workshop: Cooking with Kole

BY MARYANNE BEATTY

Senior Services of Alexandria Register now for Senior Services of Alexandria’s Feb. 17, 10 am Virtual Webinar - “Cooking with Kole” - a fun, interactive experience in the comfort of your own kitchen. Kole, who presents regularly at the Beatley Library, will guide you through easy-to-follow recipes to make along with him or at your convenience.

Recipes include Lemon Asparagus Fettuccine, Pastina Soup and Prawns Provençal.

Kole Ganseboom began his fascination with food and nutrition from a young age. Throughout his journey, “he’s discovered when you eat meals made from ingredients that are grown natively and harvested in season, you’re gifted incredible flavor that’s packed with nutrition. Preparing foods with

these tenets in mind is good for our bodies and the planet.”

Kole studied at the Omaha Institute for Culinary Arts and later graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Nutrition and Dietetics. He believes “that knowledge about nutrition and how to eat well is only half of the equation. Being able to prepare food and maximize flavor is when the excitement really starts. It’s been a joy to share my knowledge with friends, family, and in classes like these.”

This is a zoom event, free and open to the public. You can register online at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA’s office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

The ingredient list and recipe details will be sent to all registered attendees a week before the event, Feb. 17

ASO Presents Rachmaninov’s Masterpiece

BY MELINDA KERN C

Under the direction of Music Director James Ross, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with pianist Sara Daneshpour on Saturday, February 12, 2022 (7:30 p.m.) at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday, February 13, 2022 (3:00 p.m.) at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ms. Daneshpour has garnered awards internationally and received acclaim as a sought-after touring artist. New York Concert Review wrote of her artistry, “She lavished color on oft-neglected line, illuminated subtle beauties, and raged through the storms, always with stunning polish.” Sara Daneshpour joined the Astral Artists roster as a winner of its 2010 National Auditions.

The program, titled Dark Glow, opens with Finnish composer Jean Sibelius’ well-known and beloved tone poem Finlandia. Strings take center stage with Beethoven’s Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for orchestra by Maestro Jim Ross. One of his last works composed when he was completely deaf, the piece explores a range of joy and heartbreak. The program also features George Walker’s Lyric for Strings, inspired

by his grandmother, who was born into slavery. A trailblazer among composers throughout his life, Walker was the first African American awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1996. The program culminates with Rachmaninov’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, a set of 24 variations based on Paganini’s theme for violin.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is committed to providing a safe concert environment for patrons, musicians and staff. Schlesinger Concert Hall has been completely overhauled with a state-of-the-art ventilation system. Audience members, musicians, staff, and volunteers will be required to wear a mask (N95 recommended) for the duration of performances. All audience members, musicians, volunteers and staff must be fully-vaccinated to attend.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region’s wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. Single tickets are \$20-\$85 for adults, \$5 for youth (18 and under), and \$15 for students (with ID). The ASO also offers senior and group rates and a special discount for military employees and veterans for this performance. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call (703) 548-0885.

Love Is in the Air

FROM PAGE 1

Becca: "We met in college at a bar at Ole Miss.

We have been together almost nine years and married for almost three. It has been great to share so much time together. What I love most about Jamie is that he is very sincere and very patient ... and I need someone with a lot of patience."

Bob Eifert and Michael Curry

Bob: "We have been together for 45 years now. Gay marriage was not legal at the time and over the years marriage was never a huge issue for us. But as we approached retirement we learned that we had to get married in order to share retirement benefits.

So after being together for 38 years, we got married and in July we will celebrate seven years of marriage. Trust and the ability to communicate are key to a successful relationship."

Michael: "We have been in love for many, many years and had some difficult times but it is important to believe in each other and support each other."

Angeli and Max Miller

Max: "We went to school together at Loudoun High School but didn't get together until we met after college on the bike trail. We have been married for 17 years now and my favorite thing about Angeli is her organization and planning skills."

Angeli: "It is important for us to do our own thing. We do not always have to be together. We get to be individuals and have our own hobbies and hang out with our own friends. My favorite thing about Max is his great sense of humor."

Peter and Jenny Wintermute

Peter: "We met through a friend in Dewey Beach and I proposed at the Daytona 500 in 2004. My favorite thing about Jenny is what a wonderful mother she is to our children. It's not easy juggling outside family and in-laws."

Jenny: "Peter and I have been married 15 years now. I love what an amazing father Peter is. He is very involved and supportive of his wife and children. It is a challenge making time for one another when there is work and children and other responsibilities, but it is important to the success of a relationship."

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Obituary

Raymond John Schreiner, age 88, a resident of Alexandria, VA passed away at Poet's Walk in Warrenton on January 26, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Maureen Schreiner, Alexandria, VA; his son, Stephen Schreiner, Alexandria, VA; his son, Michael Schreiner and his wife, Colleen of Warrenton, VA, and daughter, Kristin Schreiner and her husband, Ron Rahna, of Alexandria, VA; two sisters, Laurel Schreiner and Lenore Daly; and his grandchildren, Madeline Schreiner, Alexander Schreiner, and Michael Schreiner Jr.

For 20 years, Raymond was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church Warrenton, VA on Monday, January 31, 2022. Burial followed at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, VA. Arrangements by Moser Funeral Home 233 Broadview Ave. Warrenton, VA 20186, 540-347-3431. Online condolences can be made at moserfuneralhome.com

Obituary

Margery May Johannes Nelson December 4, 1929- December 18, 2021

Margery was born and raised in Hoquiam, Washington. After graduating from Hoquiam High School in 1947, she attended the University of Washington where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority.

She was predeceased by her parents Eugene "Joe" and Linda Johannes, her sister Carolyn (Terrence) Hanley, her husband William A. Nelson and her son, William E. Nelson.

Margery is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Bonnie Johannes of Hoquiam, Washington; her daughter and son-in-law, Carrie and Chris Cahill of Pennington, NJ and her daughter-in-law, Mary Nelson of Chicago, IL.

She is also survived by her four adored granddaughters, Dana Cahill, Kelsey (TJ) Clarkson, Kaitlin Cahill and Alison Cahill along with many nieces and nephews who will miss her very much.

While Margery was a Homemaker, she was an ardent volunteer, giving her time to many great endeavors. Her warm smile and generosity were her trademark. She was a wonderful role model to her children and granddaughters. The love she gave was unconditional and she had a lot of love to give.

She lived in Alexandria, Va. for 42 years where she was a dedicated member of the Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church. Margery was involved with United Community Ministries and Mt. Vernon-Lee Enterprises and Meals on Wheels just to name a few.

In 2019, Margery moved to Pennington, NJ to be closer to her family. Her family is honored and blessed to have been a part of her earthly world and wish her gentle travels onto her next journey.

A special thank you to Brandywine of Pennington and Penn Medicine Hospice for such wonderful care.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a local Humane Society. A Celebration of Life will be held privately with her family.

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Apparently, the Time Wasn't Now

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I thought those quarterly scans that I discussed last week came around a little too quick. However, sometimes (heck, oftentimes) life gets to be a bit of a jumble and cooler heads don't always prevail. I was both right and wrong in last week's column. I was right to be surprised by the need timing-wise, to get scanned again so soon. And I was wrong thinking the scans were my usual and customary quarterlylies. They were not. Before the scheduled appointments, I called Member Services to get some clarity. Sure enough, these scans were not the typical, recurring quarterly CT and Bone scans that I wrote about last week coming around so quickly. They were different. They were two MRI scans, one of the brain and the other for the lower abdomen. Scans that I have annually but have no sense when that annual cycle occurs. Of course, the appointments were set by my oncologist – with me, after our last post-scan meeting, but I had totally forgot. Fortunately, I remembered in time, and so far, the results indicate no activity/complication. I am not free and clear by any means, it just means, to quote "Forest, Forest Gump:" "One less thing." News for which I am exceedingly grateful and amazed – and never take for granted.

The MRI scans will take about 35 to 40 minutes each, so long as I remain still during the study. Still, it means lying down and locked in a face cage and then loaded into a claustrophobic tube to endure bangs and knocks and all sort of other auditory interference while the resonance is imaging. The first time I had an MRI 13 years ago, I was loaded into the tube and immediately pressed the panic button to unload. When I slid back outside the tube, the technician advised me to keep my eyes closed. And for 13 years, annually, I have followed her advice. So long as I don't open my eyes and see how close my face is to the machine (inches) and think about how much of my body has been inserted into this tube (almost entirely), I can endure the scan. I've never been given any medication to keep me calm, not an uncommon occurrence for patients (like my father) who couldn't be so confined for so long in such a small place.

But none of that really bothers me. What bothered me was how unprepared I was for the scan appointment. Usually, I know what's going on in my care. The fact – which became a concern, that this time, I was unaware of the procedure and the timing. And after I spoke with Member Services, I realized I had cause for that concern. My most recent quarterly scans were during the last week of December, a mere five weeks prior to this most recent scan appointment. Yet I had no sense of the time/recurrence but instead thought quite mistakenly that it was time for the quarterly scans and got a bit agitated that it seemed to come around so quickly. Boy was I wrong – and right.

But I'll try to take it in stride. After all, being in treatment has its struggles. Invariably, there are complications and confusions. As I was advised to do so years ago: "Blame the cancer."

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

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News



Former City Manager Mark Jinks will be the keynote speaker at the annual Friendship Firehouse Breakfast Feb. 21 at the Westin Hotel Alexandria.



Former City Councilwoman Del Pepper will receive the Rev. Ben Lynt Award Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast.



Recently retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne will be presented with the Rev. Ben Lynt Award Feb. 21 at the Friendship Firehouse Breakfast.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Jinks to Keynote Friendship Breakfast

FROM PAGE 3

service to the community.

In his remarks, Jinks, will tell of ghost stories and other episodes from the city's history.

The Friendship Firehouse breakfast kicks off the city's George Washington Birthday events that includes a wreath laying at the

Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier at 11 a.m. and the Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony at noon. The parade through Old Town begins at 1 p.m.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$45. For reservations, contact Bill Kehoe at kehoefd@aol.com or call 703-751-6416.

Week Four: Bills Moving in Richmond; Retail Marijuana Under Discussion

FROM PAGE 6

can legally purchase marijuana from five licensees, such as Beyond Hello in Manassas, if they have a recommendation from a medical provider. The medical marijuana companies would like to sell marijuana at the retail level without the medical recommendation while others would like to see vertically-integrated hemp growers authorized to sell marijuana until the final retail system is in place.

We are also debating how to address the fate of 500 Virginians currently imprisoned for marijuana distribution and several thousand more who received enhanced sentences for other offenses due to marijuana-related sentence enhancements. I am carrying legislation with Senator Louise Lucas to create both resentencing and parole board avenues to seek a modification of sentence. This will be a complex negotiation and I am optimistic we will make progress this year to finalize this issue so we can move on to other issues.

The Senate approved my legislation to create a seventh Circuit Court judgeship in Prince William County.

Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park have grown by nearly 50,000 people or about 10 percent since judicial caseloads were last evaluated and wait times to go to court are significantly higher there than in most other Northern Virginia jurisdictions. If the House of Delegates approves this bill, our delegation will nominate a new person to be a judge within the next two weeks.

I will be available online on Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. for my eastern Prince William County town hall meeting with Sen. Jeremy McPike and Delegates Luke Torian and Candi King. I hope you will join us and share your views.

The next week of the legislature's session is traditionally the time for final hearings on some of the most difficult bills.

I always appreciate hearing your views and suggestions. Please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

sody on a Theme of Paganini. Strings take center stage with George Walker's Lyric for Strings and Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for full orchestra. The program also features Sibelius' epic tone poem, Finlandia. Cost: \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/rachmaninov-rhapsody/>

Sunday/Feb. 13
 Rachmaninov Rhapsody. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101

Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is joined by renowned soloist Sara Daneshpour with Rachmaninov's romantic Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. Strings take center stage with George Walker's Lyric for Strings and Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in C-sharp minor, expanded for full orchestra. The program also features Sibelius' epic tone poem, Finlandia. Cost: \$20-\$85. Visit the website: <https://alexsym.org/performance/rachmaninov-rhapsody/>

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Rosemont \$949,900

4-bedroom, 2-bath gem! Welcoming porch leads to living room with cozy fireplace. Upstairs laundry room, 3 bedrooms & renovated bath. Finished lower level offers bedroom, rec room, & renovated bath. Screened porch, fabulous backyard and stone patio. 106 E Walnut Street

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OPEN SAT 2/12 & SUN 2/13, 2-4PM

Del Ray \$700,000

This charming 2-bedroom semi-detached home offers a spacious living room with a wood-burning fireplace. Separate dining room. Deck and fenced-in backyard. 2 large bedrooms upstairs and a finished basement round out the home. Walk to "The Avenue". 1506 Wayne Street

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OPEN SUN 2/13, 2-4PM

Huntington at Mount Vernon \$529,999

This 3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome has been lovingly maintained & updated! Remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, open yet cozy living room, generous primary bedroom, lower level family room with fireplace, & fenced yard. 2773 Carter Farm Ct.
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