

## Bernadette Troy

Ballyshaners, parade co-founder dies at 79.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**B**ernadette Troy, a founding member of the Ballyshaners and co-founder of Alexandria's St. Patrick's Day Parade, died Feb. 21 at the age of 79.

Along with her husband Pat, Troy owned several businesses over the years that celebrated their Irish heritage and together served as Grand Marshals of the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"Bernadette was a great treasure and a great gift to the city," said friend and former City Councilman Frank Fannon. "She and Pat were instrumental in starting the St. Patrick's Day parade back in the early 1980s. What a loss and the end of an era."

Tom Mooney, owner of Murphy's Grand Irish Pub, was a close friend of both Bernadette and Pat Troy.

"Bernadette has been a pillar of love in our community," Mooney said. "With Patrick by her side she will be with us in spirit on St. Patrick's Day."

Born Feb. 9, 1943, in Kenmare,



Longtime Alexandria resident Bernadette Troy died Feb. 21 at the age of 79.



Bernadette and Pat Troy were married Sept. 1, 1966, at St Mary's Church in Lanesborough, County Longford, Ireland.

County Kerry, Ireland, Catherine Bernadette O'Neill grew up in a family of eight children. After immigrating to America, she worked as a secretary at Riggs Bank in Washington, DC.

In 1962, she met the man who would become the love of her life. Pat Troy had arrived in America the previous year from County Offaly in Ireland.

"My parents met at an Irish Club

dinner dance," said Troy's daughter Kathleen Molloy. "Mom was the first woman dad laid eyes on and for them, it was love at first sight."

The couple were married Sept. 1, 1966, at St Mary's Church in Lanesborough, County Longford, Ireland. Together they purchased the Irish Walk Import Store in Old Town in 1974 and in 1980 the couple opened Ireland's Own Bar and

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Bernadette and Pat Troy served as Grand Marshals of the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Devout Catholics, Bernadette and Pat Troy were granted an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on Sept. 11, 2013.

## Up in Smoke

Black market to remain underground for now as lawmakers reject licensing scheme.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**V**irginia's black market for marijuana will remain underground for now. Earlier this week, a House subcommittee rejected a bill introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) that would have created a way for the newly created Cannabis Control Authority to issue licenses to sell recreational weed.

"I'm very disappointed," said Ebbin shortly after the vote. "Years of work on establishing a regulated adult use market for cannabis has been dispatched by the House Republican majority without giving it thoughtful consideration."

Republicans started the session saying that ending the stranglehold on the black market was a priority. But the effort stalled when the GOP caucus was divided on the issue. Several House Republicans offered their version of what a



Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) presents his bill creating a marijuana marketplace to a House subcommittee earlier this week.

marketplace could look like, but none of those bills passed. Now the delay will offer all of the many businesses wanting to do business in Virginia an opportunity to make campaign contributions in an election cycle where all 140 members of the General Assembly will be on the ballot.

"We have folks who are still trying to grapple with the differences between CBD, the terms hemp, cannabis, delta 8, delta 9," said Del. Emily Brewer (R-64), chairwoman of the subcommittee that killed the bill. "There's a lot of confusion. So I really truly think for us to get to a regulated market, all the stakeholders need to get together."

Ebbin says the stakeholders are together, and he dismisses the idea that lawmakers are confused about a topic they've been debating for years.

"It's hard to read their minds, but I'd say they're unprepared to govern in this

SEE UP IN SMOKE, PAGE 5

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET



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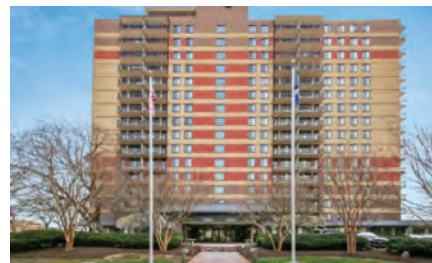
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# Getting Carded

Arminta Wood celebrates 96th birthday.



Arminta Wood holds a bouquet of 96 \$1 bills to celebrate her 96th birthday Feb. 22.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Arminta Wood was perplexed when dozens of cards began showing up at her home addressed to her son Jason. Did he have some news he hadn't yet shared with her? Unbeknownst to Wood, her son had arranged to have 96 cards sent to him to be opened by his mother as a surprise on her 96th birthday.

"Mom said Jason, there's a whole lotta cards here for you," Jason recalled. "I brushed it off and said I would tell her about it later."

Later came Feb. 22 when Wood was surprised by family and friends with more than 159 cards during a 96th birthday celebration.

**"People should live by the motto 'It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice.'"**

— Arminta Wood on her 96th birthday

"Mom's church friend Pat called me with the idea of getting 96 people to send birthday cards," Jason Wood said. "I liked the idea so we both started contacting people."

Arminta Wood was born Feb. 22, 1926, on a farm in Keysville, Va. She is the eighth of nine children, all of them working on the farm raising corn, peas and even sugar cane.

"We all worked on the farm and nobody left home until my older brother did at 28," Wood said. "I lived a very happy life."

Wood, who had six sisters and two brothers, has outlived her siblings although she noted that the most recent

two who died lived to 98 and 92 years old.

She was married for 65 years before losing her husband and



Arminta Wood, seated center, is surrounded by family and friends celebrating her 96th birthday Feb. 22.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Arminta Wood holds up one of 159 cards she received for her 96th birthday.

raised one son, Jason.

When asked her secret to a long life, she replied, "I only worked jobs that I liked. I was a recreation specialist in Washington and was always stationed at lovely playgrounds. I loved my children and that made the job a wonderful experience."



Arminta Wood receives a kiss from her son Jason at her 96th birthday celebration Feb. 22.

Her advice to young people today is to get an education and to learn things that might not be connected to your job. But most importantly, she said, is to be nice.

"People need to learn to be kind to each other," Wood said. "People should live by the motto 'It's nice to be important but it's more im-

portant to be nice.'"

Her son confirmed that is how his mother has lived her life.

"My mom is the most gracious, sweet, understanding and patient woman you would ever want to meet in your life," Jason Wood said. "And most importantly she is happy."



## OBITUARY



Bernadette and Pat Troy with children Patrick and Kathleen in an undated family photo.

Bernadette Troy, standing center, is shown in the last family photograph taken prior to the death of Pat Troy in 2018. Pictured are Dow Troy, Reyha Troy, Patrick Troy, Pat Troy, Bernadette Troy, Kathleen Molloy, Mairead Molloy, and Alan Molloy.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Bernadette Troy, left, was one of eight children growing up in Ireland.

Bernadette and Pat Troy at the grand opening of Ireland's Own in 1980.

# Ballyshaners, Parade Co-founder Dies at 79

FROM PAGE 1

Restaurant, which for many years hosted the diocesan Theology on Tap series for young adults. The two were married for 45 years prior to Pat Troy's death in 2018.

"I first met Bernadette back in 1987 when President Reagan visited Ireland's Own on St. Patrick's Day," Fannon added. "Bernie and Pat were so proud to have Reagan at the restaurant. It was a memorable day in Alexandria."

Tributes to Troy poured in on social media, with many praising her devotion to her husband, family and Irish heritage.

"What a proud and wonderful woman," said Lisa Fitzpatrick. "Along with her husband Pat she brought and shared the strength of what it means to be Irish in America to Alexandria."

Added Victoria Curtin, a friend for more than 45 years, "How does one say all that needs to be said about such a wonderful Irish

Rose? Bernie was such a good soul to so many of us. She was the most elegant hostess and made the best Irish Trifle ever. She leaves such a hole in so many hearts, especially her loving children and grandchildren. But the love of her life was always that handsome devil, Pat. I will miss her."

A devout Catholic and parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary in Old Town, Troy and her husband were granted an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican in September of 2013.

Troy made annual trips to Ireland and was involved in Irish organizations The Rose of Tralee and Project Children. In Alexandria, she raised funds for Christ House and enjoyed gardening and traveling.

"Mom loved the open road," Molloy said. "Memorial Day weekends setting up shop at the Irish Festival in the Catskill Mountains to driving across the country to

see her sister. One thing she never lost was her determination and she was fiercely independent. We were so lucky to be part of the adventure with her."

Troy is survived by her son Patrick Troy (Dow), daughter Kathleen Molloy (Alan), and granddaughters, Mairead and Reyha.

A visitation will be held March 3 from 5-7 p.m. at Demaine Funeral

Home, 520 S. Washington Street. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated March 4 at 3 p.m. at The Basilica of St. Mary, 310 South Royal Street. Interment to follow at St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families, 4901 Eastern Ave. NE, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

"Bernadette and Pat were really proud to be from Ireland but they were especially proud to be Americans," Fannon said. "She was a wonderful asset to the community."

Added Mooney and his wife Melinda, "Bernie's strength and perseverance gave others the ability to handle difficult times. We admired her for years for that strength and her faith in God."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNews-papers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

Rabies, Distemper and Microchip Clinic. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Sponsored by the Animal

Welfare League of Alexandria. The clinic will be by reservation only. The cost for rabies and distemper vaccinations is \$15 per pet and for a microchip is \$10 per pet. Up to two pets can receive vaccines and/or microchips during a 5-minute appointment. Sign up at [AlexandriaAnimals.org/RabiesClinic](http://AlexandriaAnimals.org/RabiesClinic).

#### GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM ACCEPTING JUNIOR DOCENTS

Do you know a child or student who

enjoys learning about history and talking about what they know? Gadsby's Tavern Museum's Junior Docent Program is a wonderful way to encourage their interest and enthusiasm! Students accepted into the program are trained in museum information and presentation skills. Then, they provide tours in 18th-century clothing Sunday afternoons during the summer

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# Up in Smoke

FROM PAGE 1

area and afraid of their base,” said Ebbin. “I think they’re afraid of cannabis, which the General Assembly has already made a public policy decision to legalize. And they didn’t do their homework.”

**SOCIAL EQUITY LICENSES** became one of the major flashpoints during the debate as Republicans pushed back on the idea that people convicted of misdemeanor crimes should get first dibs on getting a license to sell marijuana. Ebbin’s bill also had preferential licenses for family members of people convicted of marijuana misdemeanors. Republicans campaigned against social equity licenses last year during the campaign, and now they feel they have a mandate to reject them.

“I’m opposed to taxpayer-funded money going to criminals to start businesses because they broke the law,” said Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) on the campaign trail last year.

Republicans were also opposed to the idea that jurisdictions have been disproportionately policed.

The Ebbin bill created a process for the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census data to determine which jurisdictions experienced disproportionate arrests and convictions during the failed war on drugs. Del. Michael Weibert (R-18) introduced a bill that would have ditched this approach.

“You can have some wealthy areas that have been targeted by a cocaine bust,” said Weibert.

**HELPING ECONOMICALLY** disadvantaged areas emerged as a rare point of agreement during the debate. Ebbin’s bill included language directing the board of directors of the Cannabis Control Authority to use Census tract data to identify areas that are “economically distressed.”

Republicans were also hoping to add preferential licenses for women- and minority-owned businesses.

“I don’t think Republicans necessarily hate the idea of equity licenses,” said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)., “Maybe they hate the word equity. I mean it seems like it’s a verboten word these

days. But they want to do the same thing that we want to do, and that’s right the wrongs of the past.”

**“I don’t think Republicans necessarily hate the idea of equity licenses. Maybe they hate the word equity. I mean it seems like it’s a verboten word these days. But they want to do the same thing that we want to do, and that’s right the wrongs of the past.”**

— Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)

**“I’m very disappointed.”**

— Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

## BULLETIN BOARD

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(based on student availability), practicing their speaking skills and engaging visitors of all ages and sharing their interest in history.

Applications are now being accepted from 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade students. To be considered, students must complete the application, available at alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern and return it to the Museum no later than Friday, March 25. Applicants must also attend an audition on Sunday, March 27, where the child will have the chance to give a short presentation on a historical topic of their choosing. Application includes information about required training classes. Questions should be directed to the Assistant Director at 703-746-4739.

### APPLY FOR COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

The Alexandria Police Department is now accepting applications for its 46th Session of the Community Police Academy. The Alexandria Community Police Academy provides an opportunity for Alexandria residents and workers to learn various aspects of policing. The academy will be held

every Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at APD’s Headquarters located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue in the Community Room. Classes begin on March 23, 2022, and will end with a graduation ceremony on May 11, 2022. Read more: <http://Alexandriava.gov/126249>

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children

Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org)

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services- Volunteer Guardian Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an inca-

pacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person’s wishes as much as possible. [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org)

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

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

**ALIVE!** offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator

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## Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 7 p.m.  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>

**Find out** about plans to rehabilitate the Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395 to improve safety and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge connects the southbound I-395 collector-distributor lanes and southbound Shirlington Road to North Quaker Lane at the I-395 Exit 6 interchange. The project includes resurfacing the concrete bridge deck and closing deck joints, repairing concrete piers and abutments, repairing and repainting steel beams, adding protective concrete barriers adjacent to piers, replacing bearings, and upgrading guardrails adjacent to the bridge.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

**Review** project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3256 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or by **March 25, 2022** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Vicente Valeza, Jr., P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference “Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation” in the subject line.

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State Project: 1250-000-913, B608, P101  
UPC: 118832  
Federal: STP-5B01 (210)

*In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, March 28, 2022 at the same time.*

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## Budget Will Reflect Values, Priorities

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

Virginia operates on a biennial budget comprising some \$158 billion in spending on state programs and services. This budget must pass each legislative body and receive the Governor's signature after our "long" 60-day session. During the process, each body reports their version of the budget, which includes some of the amendments offered by members for funding that was not originally included in the introduced budget. These two, often competing, budgets must then be negotiated and reconciled in a "committee of conference" during the final two weeks of session.

A budget is more than a balance sheet — it reflects the values and the priorities of those who craft it. It tells us, arithmetically, what areas, issues, projects, and programs are most important by those who influenced the budget. With differing parties holding majorities in the Senate and House this year, the reported versions of the budget are vastly different and reflect the difference in the priorities and values of each body. These differences create a significant challenge for those tasked with negotiating a compromise proposal. The Senate proposal contains major investments in education and unemployment benefits, prudent tax cuts, and a number of key wins for the 30th District which I hope will be retained in the final spending bill.

A major theme on the campaign trail this year was needed investments in education. I am glad that the Senate budget invests in our teachers, our school infrastructure, and critical programs including Pre-K for at-risk students. We increased the number of student support positions such as school nurses, counselors, and reading specialists from 17.75 per 1,000 students to 20 per 1,000 students,

and proposed a five percent raise for all teachers, along with a one-time, \$2,000 bonus. Our teachers have worked diligently and dedicatedly during the pandemic under unforeseeably difficult circumstances — their prioritization in the budget begins to reflect this.

Additionally, we increased the investment in educating at-risk Pre-K students by \$700 per pupil per year and proposed \$500 million for school construction. More than half of Virginia's schools are over 50 years old, and the renovation of existing facilities paired with the construction of new ones is critical to providing a healthy, functional learning environment for our students, teachers and staff.

We continue to work on reforming the Virginia Employment Commission, proposing \$110 million to replenish our depleted unemployment trust fund and \$500,000 to initiate a comprehensive review of the efficiencies and processes of the Commission.

The Senate included some \$300 million in funding to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which builds and subsidizes affordable housing. We additionally included \$47 million in tax subsidies for the construction of new affordable housing. I have long been an advocate for deliberate investment in affordable housing and am glad we are finally moving to meet the market demand which is felt so strongly, especially in Northern Virginia.

The Senate budget also includes thoughtful, pragmatic tax relief for Virginians to reduce the increasing cost of living caused by supply chain issues, conflict in Ukraine, and inflation on certain goods felt heavily in Northern Virginia. We provided a one-time tax rebate of \$250 for single taxpayers and \$500



Ebbin

for married taxpayers filing a joint return, reduced the grocery tax by 1.5% while retaining the locality share for school and transportation funding, and expanded the refundability of the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income Virginians.

This will provide crucial dollars directly back into the pockets of those who need it most, without gutting ongoing funding for the programs and infrastructure of the Commonwealth.

I was pleased to get a number of key priorities included in the Senate budget via amendments offered in subcommittees. During the interim, constituents often approach me with very specific, niche concerns related to the state budget, which are frequently not on the radar of the Governor or the Secretariats who help prepare the introduced budget. This year I was glad to get \$200,000 to preserve and digitize records at Central State Hospital at the request of Racial Justice Alexandria. These funds will support a research team currently digitizing the records of Central State, which served as the first segregated Black sanatorium in the United States, opening nearly immediately after the end of the civil war. Without digitization, these records are at risk of deterioration and eventually will be lost to history.

I was also able to obtain \$8.8 million to complete the installation of air conditioning at several adult correctional facilities which are currently without AC, subjecting those incarcerated to severe summer heat.

I worked to secure funding to establish an education center on naval history in Alexandria sup-

porting the Tall Ship Providence. The John Warner Maritime History Center will serve as a major tourist and economic development draw to the waterfront and enhance the already rich history of our city.

We also allocated \$200,000 for a Veteran Farmer Training Program through Arcadia Farms in Mount Vernon, which I visited along with Governor Northam this summer. Since 2016 Arcadia has trained 125 military veterans, active-duty service members and family members for new careers in agriculture. Arcadia offers three training tracks: the Veteran Farmer Reserve, the Veteran Farm Fellowship, a GI Bill-compliant on-the-job training program apprenticed to professional farmers, and the Arcadia Veteran Farm Incubator.

Additionally, I was glad to see \$2 million included in the Senate budget to increase public access to historic River Farm, which has been saved from sale and development due to ongoing advocacy from local and state leaders and citizen activists.

Finally, the Senate budget retains key funding for the remediation of Alexandria's combined sewer overflow system. The House budget fully removed this funding, which is incredibly concerning for ratepayers in the city, and I will work to ensure it is reinstated in the conference committee.

We will have to wait a couple of more weeks for the differences in the Senate and House budget to be reconciled and for the final budget to be announced.

It will be the result of collaboration and compromise, and I hope it will reflect our values while bringing much-needed and worthy investments to every corner of the Commonwealth.

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

## Budgets Express Values; I Voted No

BY DEL. ELIZABETH BENNETT-PARKER

Last week was budget week in the General Assembly. The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee each presented their amendments to Governor Northam's budget and

both chambers spent a long day on the floor considering the amendments and overall budget.

Budgets are a clear expression of values and priorities, which are reflected in the differences between the House and Senate budgets.

As compared to Governor Northam's introduced budget, the

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# Don't California Virginia's Budding New Market

BY SHERIFF (RET). CURRIE MYERS AND JACOB FISH

**C**riminal enforcement of marijuana laws has had a negative impact on our country. Prohibition has created a dangerous black market, locked many people up in jails unnecessarily, and taken time and energy from law enforcement to solve more serious crimes. Last year, Virginia became the first southern state to allow for a fully legal cannabis market by 2024. But this year unfortunately, legislators missed the opportunity to address the shortcomings in the law — deferring further action until 2023.

While we applaud Virginia for taking this first step, the current framework set up by the legislation has the Commonwealth going down a dangerous and counterproductive path many other states have unfortunately taken. For example, high taxes and overburdensome regulations in California's legal marijuana industry have resulted in high costs, cronyism, and the proliferation of the black market. Fortunately, Virginia law-

makers have an opportunity this legislative session to "Un-California" its cannabis market before it opens for business.

The current reform plan in Virginia would impose heavy state and local excise taxes (21% state, up to 3% local), plus state sales tax as high as 7% and local "meals" taxes up to 7.5%; not to mention annual fees doled out by the "Virginia Cannabis Control Authority." Unsurprisingly, when California enacted their legal cannabis laws, they implemented a heavy tax structure, including a 7.25% state and up to a 3.5% local sales tax, a 15% excise tax on retail shops, and heavy taxes on farmers. These taxes can add 50% or more to the final price.

This has resulted in the black market being able to outcompete the legal one. It's estimated that in California, \$8.7 billion worth of cannabis products are purchased from non-legal sources and that 75% of the cannabis market is still controlled by unlicensed dealers. It's gotten so bad in California that some localities have suspended their local taxes in order to allow legal retailers a fighting chance

against their illicit counterparts.

In contrast, Michigan went with a much more reasonable taxing structure when they legalized their cannabis market. The most recent data shows that the state was able to capture over 60% of the market share in the first year alone. This also means that more Michiganders are purchasing cannabis products that are regulated and tested for safety and quality.

Virginia lawmakers should also take another lesson from other states like Florida and Nevada who have allowed cannabis oligopolies to control their state's markets due to anti-competitive regulations and licensure limits. Arbitrary licensure limitations create less competition and poorer quality products — as well as breed corruption. As a 2020 Politico article stated: "These practices effectively put million-dollar decisions in the hands of ... the mayors and councilors of small towns and cities, along with the friends and supporters of politicians who appoint them to boards. In Nevada, where 130 retail licenses were up for grabs, large campaign contributions were doled out to Coun-

ty Commissioners responsible for shelling out these licenses just before applicant hearings. Virginia's proposed law contains licensure caps from farming to retail. The proposals also contain no mechanism for this number to increase as Virginia's population and economy grows, meaning the licensure scheme will become more problematic as the years go on.

Virginia's current proposal also allows a license to be denied to an individual if they have been convicted within the past seven years of a "crime of moral turpitude" which is as vague as it sounds. This means that many of the roughly 1.6 million Virginians with a criminal conviction on their record, many of whom carry that record due to criminal enforcement of marijuana prohibition, would be left out of the market based on someone's judgment call as to whether the crime is one of "moral turpitude." Employment is one of the most important factors in whether someone will be successful after reentering society from the criminal justice system. Certainly, some violent crimes and offenses that have a direct relationship to the job

should be considered by the licensing boards, but "moral turpitude" exclusions create unnecessary barriers for those trying to contribute to society as well as increase their chances to commit future crimes.

Virginia's legislative session creates a perfect opportunity to re-examine the future of the cannabis market in the state. We hope lawmakers take note of the lessons learned from other states and revisit the current plan instead of leaving it unchanged.

*Currie Myers is the retired sheriff of Johnson County, Kansas. Jacob Fish is the Deputy Director of Americans for Prosperity-Virginia.*

CALENDAR

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connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

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# Uncommon Valor



Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gather for a photo following a wreath laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 18 in Arlington. Pictured left to right are: Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault and Ivan Hammond.

## Survivors mark Iwo Jima 77th anniversary.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Roy Earle was just 18 years old when he enlisted in the Marines shortly after graduating from high school in 1942. For the next three years he would mark his birthday in the midst of some of the worst battles fought in the Pacific Theater of World War II, including his 21st birthday as the Battle of Iwo Jima raged around him.

"For several years, I never celebrated a birthday," said Earle, who will turn 98 on March 5. "The best I can say is that I marked the occasion lucky to be alive."

Earle was one of four survivors to gather in Arlington over President's Day weekend to mark the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest in U.S. history.

"Two years ago we had more than 50 Iwo Jima survivors gather for the 75th reunion," said David Fields, a board member of the Iwo Jima Association of America that sponsored the gathering. "This year only four veterans were able to return."

Fields, a Vienna resident who served six years as a Marine infantry officer, is the son of the late Col. Thomas Fields, a veteran of Iwo Jima who went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam.

"Dad felt he was an old man at age 26 when he served in Iwo Jima," Fields said. "When he talked about his experiences there, he always said that the credit goes to the 18-year-olds, who fought with immeasurable courage. In his Company D battalion of the 5th Marine Division, 250 men in his company walked in and only 19 walked out."

The Battle of Iwo Jima began Feb. 19, 1945. It was the first day of an intense, 36-day battle that became one of the major turning

points in WWII. Situated 791 miles from Japan's capital city of Tokyo, two airfields on the small volcanic island were seen as vital in order to achieve victory in the Pacific.

The raising of the American flag by six Marines on Feb. 23, 1945, was immortalized in a Pulitzer-Prize winning photograph by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

"I was in the fourth wave to land on Iwo Jima," Earle recalled. "Iwo was a very soft ash - when you stepped on it you went down to your ankles. Mount Suribachi was an active volcano and the Japanese had fortified the island with 15 miles of tunnels so you never knew where or when you would be attacked."

Recalled Fields, "Dad would say that the Japanese were not on the island, they were in the island."

Approximately one-third of all Marines killed in action during World War II were killed on Iwo Jima. More than 100,000 Americans fought there and 6,821 died as a result - 5,931 of them Marines. An additional 19,000 troops were wounded in the battle that claimed more than 21,000 Japanese lives. Of the 23,000 Japanese troops defending Iwo, only 1,083 were taken prisoner.

In addition to Earle, Iwo Jima veterans attending the reunion at the Hilton Crystal City included Ivan Hammond, John DeGennaro and



Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears, center, receives the Iwo Jima Association of America's Spirit Award Feb. 19 in Crystal City. With her are IJAA President Lt. Gen. Norman Smith, USMC, Ret., and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Schultz.



John DeGennaro.

**"In [Col. Thomas Fields] Company D battalion of the 5th Marine Division, 250 men in his company walked in and only 19 walked out."**

— David Fields, speaking of his father



Lt. Gov. Winsome Sears greets Iwo Jima veteran Roy Earle Feb. 19 at the Hilton Crystal City.

their families, including those who fought at Iwo Jima," Sears said. "I heard stories and thoughts from veterans and Gold Star families, reminding us that freedom isn't free."

The four-day series of events included a veterans panel, a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico and wreath-laying ceremonies at the WWII Memorial and the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Earle, who lives in Maine with his wife Linda, was in constant combat against the Japanese in

the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. For his service he received the two Presidential Unit Citations awarded the 4th Marine Division, the Navy Unit Citation awarded JASCO, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with four bronze battle stars, and the World War Two Victory Medal.

"I walked off of every battlefield, I was that fortunate," Earle said. "I was proud to be a Marine. More specifically I was proud to be a 4th Marine Division Marine. We fought four battles and won them all."

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Survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima gather for a photo following a wreath laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial Feb. 18 in Arlington. MGySgt Roger Roll, holding the wreath, is pictured with Iwo Jima veterans Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault and Ivan Hammond.



Ivan Hammond.



Louis Bourgault.



Roy Earle.

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# Remnants Tell Tales of Dyke Marsh's Past

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

IMAGE FROM NATIONAL TRUST LIBRARY HISTORIC POSTCARD COLLECTION FROM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Most walkers, runners and bikers on the Mount Vernon Trail south of Alexandria don't notice the concrete chunks jutting out of the thick brush on the west side of the trail near Northdown Road, cement blocks soon largely to be covered with vegetation.

Tauxemonter Jack Hinman recalls playing in those slabs, walls and pillar pieces as a youngster in the 1950s. He speculates that the site was a gun battery, an observation outpost or pieces of a rail station for the former electric railroad which took passengers from Washington, D.C. to Mount Vernon from 1892 to 1932.

This cement jumble is in fact what remains of a private home, known as the J. W. Kruettner mansion that stretched across what is now the George Washington Memorial Parkway, according to Matthew Virta, Cultural Resources Program Manager for the Parkway. The four-level house had "the appearance of a European villa," according to a National Park Service document. The chunks visible today could be parts of a wine cellar, walls and broken columns.

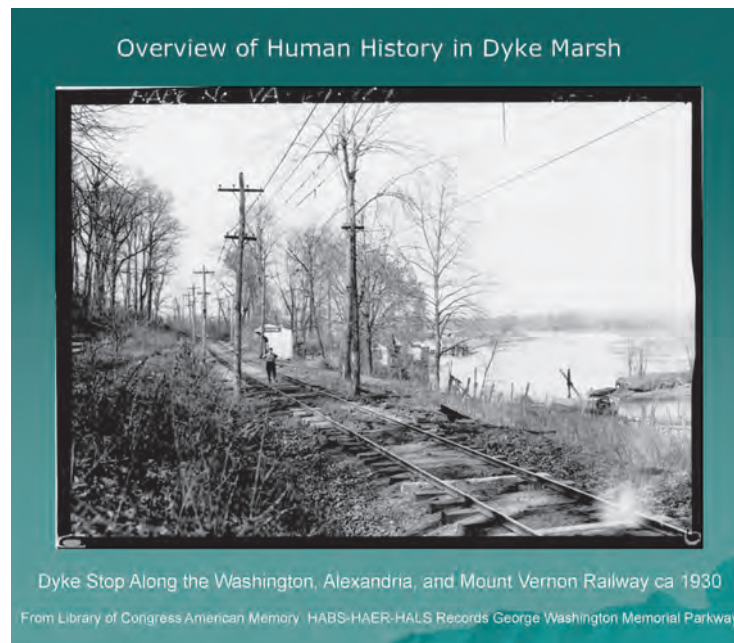
The Kruettner house was built around 1904 to 1906 of poured reinforced concrete and had stairs down the hill. Kruettner was president of the American Portland Cement Association. The Kruettners no doubt had a front-row view of Dyke Marsh.

## Protruding Pilings

Many locals question the dark, deteriorating pilings and other debris that poke out of Dyke Marsh at low tide in what some call "Pipeline Bay," across from the turnaround north of Morningside Lane. Virta's best guess is that they are related to Mr. Almond "Cigarette" Dodson's enterprise.

"The gentleman known as 'Cig' had been essentially 'squatting' on NPS land after it was acquired from Smoot Sand and Gravel, who had apparently let him live and run a business there for nominal rent," explains Virta. "Cig had some type of 'store' and marina operation besides his living quarters in that area before the NPS asked him to leave."

Mount Vernon resident Eugene D. Vinogradoff knew Cig and shared this memory: "Cig and his wife lived in a wooden shack, with a tar-paper roof, built on top of a wooden barge located in the inlet just offshore from today's 'Cigarette



The Dyke stop for the railroad with shacks in background.

Turnaround.' Their barge and shed were located on the south side of this inlet, tied by ropes to a couple of trees that grew on the shore."

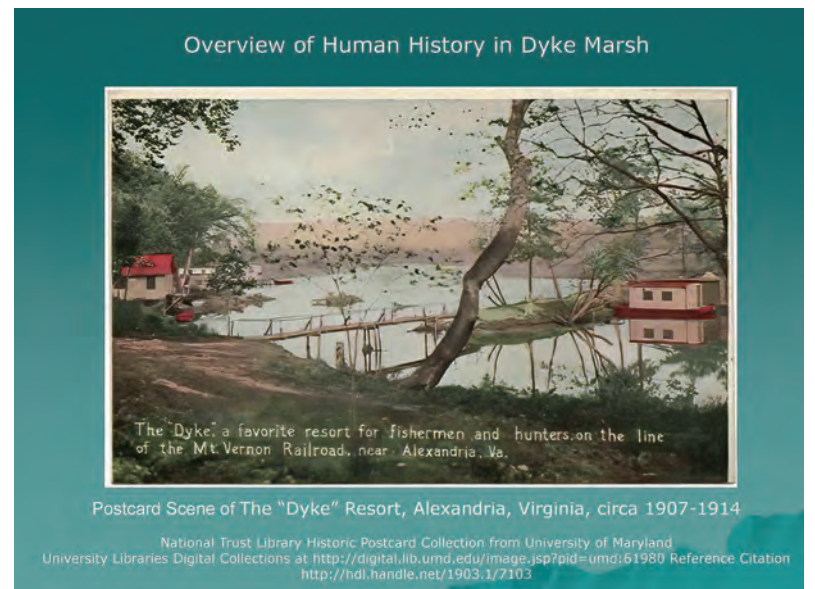
Dodson was an enigmatic "entrepreneur," mostly a trapper, says Vinogradoff. "He caught muskrats, beavers and occasionally foxes and rabbits and sold their pelts. He also had a fishnet or two. The nets were held up by lines of wooden poles driven into the muddy bottom of the Potomac. The ice pulled them up each winter, so they had to be re-driven in the spring. He caught mostly white perch and carp."

Cig also rented out duck blinds and would dispatch his Chesapeake retriever to swim out and bring the dead ducks back to shore. Waterfowl hunting fed people in the area in the 1930s, said the late John Andrews, who grew up near Dyke Marsh.

"Cig drank bourbon and, as his nickname suggests, he smoked," Vinogradoff recalls. "In the afternoon and evening, he offered visitors a shot of bourbon, followed by a glass of water. Cig collected rainwater and, when that ran short, he also took water from a spring on the shore."

Cig was a rumored bootlegger and with jurisdictional responsibilities murky in marshes and rivers, nefarious activities could probably thrive. At some point after the Civil War, "arks" appeared, 10-foot by 24-foot boats with a 12-inch draft, moored in Hunting Creek, the Potomac and the marsh.

According to local lore, bootleggers operated stills in Dyke Marsh. Small skiffs arrived in the black of night and left with "products."



A postcard of the "sportsman's resort" with an ark on the right, shacks on pilings, a bridge on pilings, probably docks nearby on pilings and pilings for boat tie-ups.



Large pieces of rusted iron jut out of the water probably left from dredging operations.

A 1931 Washington Post article reported that police raided "Gus Quayle's place on the Dyke near New Alexandria," and arrested him after watching him haul liquor from the bottom of the river and making a sale. Officers found 138 bottles of alleged home brew and seven pints of liquor in gunny sacks under the water. Before his death, Andrews offered, "My dad saw the local sheriff get his payoff every Friday night from the bootleggers down there."

At Congress's direction, the Park Service built the parkway as a memorial to George Washington and in 1932, the 200th anniversary of his birth, opened the south section. The Park Service evicted the Dodsons in 1960. "I remember when Cig had to leave the marsh. He had a small-ish outboard motor on the back of a skiff, a flat-bottom wooden rowboat, which was pushing

from behind his barge with their shack on it. He and his wife set off down the Potomac River. I took my boat out and met them in the channel to say goodbye. I remember that Cig said he did not know where they would try to settle. He was just going to play it day by day for a while, getting further and further down the river."

The remnants at the site of the Dodsons' former operations could also be pilings and pieces of structures related to the "resort" of ramshackle fishing and hunting shacks, says Virta. An early 20th century postcard advertises "Dyke" as a fishing and hunting "resort," showing an ark moored against a surviving section of an attempted dike and connected by a small suspension bridge. The electric railroad had a stop on the marsh's shoreline in this area called "The Dyke."

## Dredging Debris

In several places in Dyke Marsh today debris protrudes from the water, possibly left by Smoot Sand and Gravel's dredging operations. The company hauled away around 270 acres or 54 percent of Dyke Marsh from 1940 to 1972. In 1972 after flying over the marsh, Secretary of Interior Nathaniel Reed, wrote that he "was horrified. If the work is legal—and I doubt that—it is amoral. ... I do not want the remaining marsh turned into an upland 'recreation' area. I want a MARSH," he stressed. "Just figure out a way to stop what you are doing now—promptly."

PHOTO BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

Two U.S. Geological Survey studies in 2010 and 2013 found that sand and gravel dredging was a strong destabilizing force that "shifted Dyke Marsh "from a semi-stable net depositional environment ... into a strongly erosional one," leaving it by 1976 in a "net destructive phase."

The Park Service is implementing a stabilization plan now and has completed construction of a sill and a breakwater to replicate a former protective promontory.

Andrews remembered a four-masted schooner named the Cumberland Queen used as a breakwater near today's Belle Haven Marina so pieces of that vessel could be around.

For years, many people viewed wetlands as dumping grounds so some of the debris could have been intentionally deposited or some brought in by storms. Trash is unending. Volunteers have found things like barrels, refrigerators and a sofa in the marsh.



# 4 Dates to Circle in March

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

From meatball relay races to St. Patrick's Day festivities to beer, cider and macarons, March comes to the hoop strong. Here are some of the month's best picks.

## Meatball Madness at Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, March 5

Is it National Meatball Day again already? Just in case you didn't have the date marked on your calendar, Lena's has you covered. Put a team together and race against others to see who can race the fastest while holding one of Lena's giant meatballs on a spoon. Think of it as reminiscent of the relay races from picnics as a kid. One entry is good for four team members and comes with a commemorative T-shirt and – of course – a coupon for a free meatball. The entry fees go to support Carpenter's Shelter – everybody wins. 10 a.m.-noon. \$80 per team. 401 E. Brad-dock Road.

## Beer vs. Wine Dinner at the Alexandrian Hotel, March 10

Aslin Beer Company and Barboursville Vineyards are checking into the Alexandrian for an evening to square off in what the hotel calls "an epic show of local libations." Following a reception, dinner will consist of a five-course menu paired with wine and beer tastings throughout. 6:30-10 p.m. \$69. 480 King St.

SEE 4 DATES TO CIRCLE, PAGE 12



Just because the parade is postponed doesn't mean the celebration has to be. Murphy's will kick off the St. Patrick's Day celebration Saturday, March 5.

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

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4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools  
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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## Obituary

**Claudia Pop Winkler, 94**, died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, January 30, 2022, comforted by loved ones around her. She was born on November 13, 1927, in São Paulo, Brazil to Margarete Pfeffer and Claudio Bernini. She lived most of her childhood in Santa Ana and Araraquara, Brazil, in the care of her Aunt Hedwig Pfeffer.



In June of 1939, at the age of 11, she traveled to Germany with her loving adoptive parents, where she attended school, and then on September 1, 1939, WWII broke out. Claudia went into her teenage years living amidst the most tumultuous times.

In 1946, while in Munich, Claudia met the love of her life, Liviu Pop - a tall and handsome Romanian at Camp-München Neu Freimann. Their bond was strengthened through dancing many evenings while at the Camp. Due to wartime circumstances, they were forced to be separated and each one was set to return to their

native countries. After three tearful attempts at goodbye, Claudia and Liviu decided to get married. Ingo was born and the young couple traveled with their infant son on a ship to Brazil. There they started a new life and raised their three children - Ingo, Ionel, and Monica.

In 1968, Liviu and Claudia brought their family to the United States and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Liviu has since passed away.

Later in life, she married and became the widow of Edmund Winkler.

She eventually moved to Alexandria, Virginia to be close to family and was blessed with many friends.

Sadly, Claudia (Mimi-Vovó) passed in the home of her loving daughter.

Claudia leaves behind three adult children, eight adult grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and two great grandchildren on the way.

Private services will be held.

<https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Claudia-Winkler>

## Obituary

**Lawrence John O'Connor** of Alexandria, VA died suddenly on February 16, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Ashley Power O'Connor, and their children Sloane, Bart and Allison, as well as his son from a previous marriage, Timothy O'Connor and his wife Andrea of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Born on February 24, 1961 in Long Beach, CA, Lawrence was raised for most of his youth in Alexandria, VA and graduated from Hayfield High School in 1979. Following his father and an older brother, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he played baseball and graduated with the Class of 1983. He became a naval aviator and earned his wings in Pensacola, FL in 1985. Lawrence flew in the EA-6B Prowler in tactical electronics warfare squadrons and was a veteran of military operations in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf while deployed on the USS RANGER (CV-61). Following his time in the Navy in squadron VAQ-131 and in the Pentagon on the Navy Staff, Lawrence earned a Masters Degree in Computer Science from the George Washington University and had a successful career as a management consultant and IT executive at Booz Allen & Hamilton, ITSolutions, and Netcentrics.

Easy going, and with a ready smile and great sense of humor, Lawrence was an outstanding father and family man, always engaged in his children's lives, education and activities. He was a proud ice hockey dad and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Father's Club member. He was an ardent fan of the Washington Nationals and the Washington Capitals and was an avid runner who completed more than a dozen marathons, including the New York City Marathon and locally the Marine Corps Marathon.

Lawrence enjoyed spending time on the river in Matthews, VA, traveling with his family, and cooking with his kids. He was a voracious reader of American history, a lover of games and puzzles, and a friend to all dogs, especially Labrador Retrievers. He was an active member of Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria where he enjoyed rounds of golf with family and friends, and a former board member of the Historic Alexandria Foundation. Lawrence is also survived by his four brothers and four sisters and their families. He was predeceased by his parents, Captain Thomas J. O'Connor USN (Ret) and his wife Alice, of Alexandria, VA.

The family will hold a private remembrance of Lawrence's life at a later date. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

## Obituary

# CALENDAR



Homeschool Day will take place Monday, March 7 at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

## 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.

## MARCH 2-31

Woodlawn's 2022 Needlework Show, Common Threads: Connecting People, Families, and Communities, Past and Present, in person. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The 59th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show's theme "Common Threads" focuses on the threads in life that connect us as a community and the commonalities that exist among all people, as demonstrated through the pursuit of craft. Every day except Tuesdays. For more information on the theme and submitting work, [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org). Call 703-780-4000 or email [woodlawn@savingplaces.org](mailto:woodlawn@savingplaces.org)

## THURSDAY/MARCH 3

Club Meeting. 9:30 a.m. to noon. At Yacht Haven Yacht Club, 4817 Tarp Lane, Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club meeting program is about Shade Gardening by Anne Alexander, Certified Master Gardener. Visitors are welcome. Call 703-304-0156.

## MARCH 4-26

Flora & Fauna Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores the interdependence of plants and animals, combining art with science. Exhibit is open at Noon, Thursdays - Sundays, from Friday, March 4 to Saturday, March 26. It closes at 6:00 pm, except Saturdays it is open until 9 p.m. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/2022/01/flora-fauna/>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Pen and Ink Workshop. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Enjoy the "Watercolor Workshop - Pen and Ink." By the end of this class, you will be confident drawing with ink. Bring in a drawing or watercolor painting that you do not like and see how to improve it by adding ink. This class is appropriate for those 16 years and older. A supply list will be emailed before class. Bring a lunch.

The cost is \$105 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Meatball Madness Relay. 10 a.m. to noon. In honor of National Meatball Day, Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap is hosting their First Annual Meatball Madness Relay. Individuals are welcome to gather teams of four to see if they can balance Lena's Giant Meatball on a spoon without dropping it in record time. As teams win, they will advance to the next round in this fast-paced tournament. Teams will check-in at Lena's and the race will happen across the street from Lena's at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park (1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria). Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lenas-first-annual-meatball-madness-tickets-269719858357>

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Special Garden Tour - Witch Hazels. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Celebrate Green Spring's signature shrub! An Extension Master Gardener docent-led tour showcases our nationally accredited witch hazel collection, featuring over 200 specimens with blooms that glow red, yellow, purple and copper from fall through March. \$15 per person. Code U52.S2P8. Register SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

# 4 Dates to Circle in March

FROM PAGE 11

## St. Patrick's Day at Murphy's or Daniel O'Connell's, March 17

Get ready for live entertainment and plentiful beer: Alexandria's beloved Irish pubs will certainly have some festivities up their sleeves on St. Patrick's Day. Look for live music, Irish food and drink, and of course plenty of partiers at both Murphy's Grand Irish Pub and Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant and Bar - and don't forget to wear green! 713 King St. and 112 King St., respectively.

Macaron and Cider Pairing at Lost Boy Cider, March 20

In what Lost Boy Cider dubs one of its most popular events of the year, Juicestand Macarons is coming to the cidery to pair some of its sweet treats with an array of ciders on offer. A flight of four ciders will walk the aisle - so to speak - with Juicestand's macarons, each of which has been hand-selected to pair with the brews. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$45. 317 Hooffs Run Drive.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Getting the Most Out of Small-Space Urban Gardens Virtual Program. 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Using examples from area gardens, Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of Washington Gardener Magazine, will illustrate basic design principles for maximizing garden space. Get ideas for common small-space challenges, such as creating privacy, adding light to shady areas, and finding low-budget design solutions. This program will be presented virtually. A Zoom link will be emailed no later than the morning of the program. \$15 per person. Code 4PD.8XP8. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 6

Afternoon Tea: The Femme Fatale. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) The femme fatale has used her "deadly" charms to lure and entrap men throughout the ages. Explore how this dangerous siren is depicted in mythology, literature and film. In celebration of Women's History Month consider her an example of female independence and empowerment. \$38 (lecture + tea); \$15 (lecture only). A traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, and scone with cream and jam. Specially prepared tea boxes to go are also available with advance purchase. Programs are by reservation only. Call Historic Green Spring at (703) 941-7987.

## MONDAY/MARCH 7

Homeschool Day. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Discover the 18th century by exploring the Farm at Mount Vernon. Watch costumed historic trades interpreters produce 18th-century goods and learn about George Washington's innovative farming practices. Visit activity stations and enjoy specially scheduled programs. Special rates for homeschooling families. Kids 6-18, \$12; Adults, \$14. Visit the website: <https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/homeschool-day/>

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Spanish Guitar Music. 7-8 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Sip Spanish wine as you journey from Southern Spain, through North Africa, all the way to Afghanistan. Join them in the Atrium for a pre-season display of improvisation, virtuosity, and an unforgettable exchange between cultures. Guitarist Wadih Ettabakh returns after opening our autumn season with his distinctive blend of flamenco and Moroccan music, joined by newly arrived Afghan musician Hamid Habib Zada playing the tabla, the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Obituary
Obituary

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**Helen Jones, 77**, passed away on February 25, 2022 of natural causes in North Augusta, South Carolina. She was born on September 1, 1944 in Washington D.C., the third daughter of Walter and Treva Nesselrodt.

Helen was raised in the Northern Virginia area and graduated from Lee High School in Springfield, Virginia in 1962. She attended Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia. After college, she returned to Northern Virginia to begin her lifelong career in the legal industry, from legal secretary to paralegal. She worked for two attorneys for 28 years.

At the age of 50, she was "discovered" by a modeling agency and she worked part time as a print and runway model for about 13 years.

Helen had a lifelong interest in crafts, particularly those made with paper. Her friends and family were always excited to receive her beautiful, one-of-a-kind creations, whether it was a book or greeting card. In her later years, she taught a variety of crafts in local craft stores, at the Deer Valley YMCA Family Camp, and in her home.

She is survived by her sister Carolyn (Jean) Gambill of North Augusta, South Carolina; step-daughter Gayle Ann Gill of Provo, Utah; step-son Christopher Jones of San Diego, California; and step-son Jeffery Jones of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. She was predeceased by her husband James H. (Jimmy) Jones and her sister, Grace Nesselrodt Cook.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Virginia.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Deer Valley YMCA Family Camp in Pennsylvania, 254 Deer Valley Drive, Fort Hill, PA 15540.

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## More Than a Virtue



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sit and write this column on Sat., February 26, 2022, it is 13 years, almost to the day (it was a Thursday actually, Feb. 27, 2009) when Team Lourie (me, my wife, Dina and my brother, Richard) first met an oncologist who would become the center of my universe. This initial meeting WAS to review your recent diagnostic medical history and discuss treatment. Moreover, once this meeting occurs and a cancer diagnosis is confirmed, your oncologist is placed on speed-dial and his/her email is auto-selected every time you type the first few letters of their name. This oncologist becomes your lifeline, phone a friend and/or the person you ask about all thing's cancer related. And there's plenty to ask, especially if you're clueless to begin with, as was Team Lourie.

I wouldn't say I've learned my lessons well, but after so many years, one does accrue a working knowledge/familiarity with certain practices and procedures. And though I never mastered the pronunciation of some of the early-on/heavy-duty chemotherapy I infused, I always knew where to be and when. As a result, I was described as a "compliant" patient. Meaning I did what I was told and never missed any appointments. (You mean not all patients are compliant," I remember asking. The answer I received: "You'd be surprised." After a diagnosis of cancer, how does a diagnosee not show up for treatment, et cetera? Apparently, it happens, more than I can understand.)

But I never had to be told twice. And though text and emails were sent with regularity by my provider, I was always aware in advance and even though I was contacted multiple times on multiple devices, I never needed to be reminded. I was ready, willing, and able. As was the case with "Deets," (Danny Glover's character in "Lonesome Dove"). When he died, Capt. Woodrow Call (Tommy Lee Jones) carved the following sentiment on his headstone: "Never shirked a task. Cheerful in all weathers." He was dependable and reliable, as have I been during this cancer adventure.

Now whether my compliance and cheerful attitude has had any bearing on my survival, or whether a possible misdiagnosis – which led to my diagnosis being changed in 2020 to papillary thyroid cancer from the original non-small cell lung cancer after multiple biopsies confirmed the rediagnosis, Team Lourie can't know for sure – and of course, no one is admitting it. I've been told that papillary thyroid cancer, generally speaking, is a slow-moving (perhaps that's why I've survived so long), curable type of cancer. Quite a bit different than the "terminal" diagnosis/"13 month to two years" prognosis I initially received back in 2009.

Maybe that's why I am alive and reasonably well. When you're told that you have two years to live, maximum, it's hard to be mad if you're still alive 13 YEARS LATER. Over these many years, I have learned to roll with the punches and go with the flow because if being diagnosed with cancer has taught me anything, it has taught me how to be patient – and how to be one as well.

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

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## NEWS

# Budgets Express Values; I Voted No

FROM PAGE 6

House budget cuts more than \$300 million from public preK-12 education. The largest change is a reduction of \$210 million for the at-risk add on. This is additional funding school divisions receive based on the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-price meals. With 60% of Alexandria's students being eligible for free and reduced-price meals, this is a disappointing loss for our school system. Compared to the introduced budget, it also includes cutting potential salary raises for teachers by 20% (\$68 million) and removing an increase in instructional positions for English Learner students (\$21 million). It also substantially cuts early childhood education by delaying an increase to the number of Virginia Preschool Initiative slots for three-year-olds (\$19.4 million) and eliminating a mixed delivery pilot program serving infants and toddlers (\$6.7 million). Additionally, it replaces \$500 million in grants for school construction and modernization with a loan rebate program, which forces school divisions to use debt capacity to address aging infrastructure. This is a significant challenge in our district and across the Commonwealth that will take \$25 billion to address; around 40% of public schools are at or near capacity and more than half of them are at least 50 years old.

Furthermore, it rolls-back progress intended to help address crises like affordable housing and climate change. The budget slashes \$190 million in proposed funding for the Housing Trust Fund, when our community and others continue to lose affordable

housing. It harms efforts to keep our waters clean by removing funding for needed combined sewer outfall projects, including a \$40 million cut to Alexandria.

It also removes proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which go towards low-income energy efficiency and weatherization programs and the Community Flood Preparedness fund. In December, Alexandria received almost \$4 million in initial grant awards from this fund for flooding mitigation projects.

The budget also eliminates: funding for certain historic and cultural projects across Virginia, including \$500,000 for the historic Black Douglass Memorial Cemetery in Old Town; \$27.5 million in funding for a new gun violence prevention initiative, the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention; and \$2.7 million for voter outreach and education.

Finally, by removing the proposed increase to make the Earned Income Tax Credit partially refundable (at a cost of \$315 million) and instead doubling the standard deduction (at a cost of \$2.1 billion), the budget eliminates tax relief for families who need it the most while foregoing more than \$1.5 billion in projects and services.

For these reasons and more, I could not vote for the House budget. The Senate budget has many of the introduced funding levels and budget conferees will now be appointed to produce a final budget. I will work with my colleagues to fight for the values of our district and the inclusion of these necessary investments in education, housing, the environment, and more.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

ancient hand drums central to musical traditions across South Asia. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

### THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Grand Opening Event. 6-8 p.m. At Nepenthe Gallery at Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, in Fort Hunt, Alexandria. Named after the Greek term for "a place of no sorrow," Nepenthe Gallery will be the first of its kind in Alexandria – a vibrant artistic oasis that gallery owners and Alexandria natives Jim and Carrie Garland hope will also serve as a community gathering spot. Every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 p.m., Nepenthe will host an art, wine and cheese event that highlights an artwork, artist or special guest or genre.

### MARCH 10-APRIL 17

Forces Fleeting. At The Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception, Sunday, March 13, 4 – 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Forces Fleeting is a mixed-media exhibition of new works by artists Nikki Brugnoli and Anne C. Smith, in the first joint installation by the two longtime friends and collaborators. In very different ways, both women explore the transformative power of landscape, with Brugnoli's gestural screen-print drawings on mylar and wood panels and Smith's dark pencil drawings on stained linen.

### THE BIRCHMERE

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

nator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org).  
**ALIVE!** Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralive.org/ALIVE>  
 Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax

and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).  
**Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.** Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil ([Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov)) at 703-324-4547.





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