

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Lee Fifer, a longtime Carpenter's Shelter board member and advocate for the homeless, died April 21 at the age of 79.

Lee Fifer Jr.

Community leader and homeless advocate dies at 79.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Lee Fifer, a community leader and passionate advocate for the homeless, died April 21 following a long illness. He was 79.

A lifelong Alexandrian, Fifer was the son of a prominent local physician and followed in his father's footsteps in his commitment to serving the community, most notably in his decades-long dedication to Carpenter's Shelter.

"Lee never missed an opportunity to invite people to get engaged in the community and often as it related to Carpenter's Shelter," said Carpenter's Shelter Executive Director Shannon Steene. "He was just a natural connector -- he did it like breathing. I watched it with admiration and wonder and I don't think he thought it was in any way unusual. It was just his way

of moving through the world."

Carson Lee Fifer Jr. was born Feb. 9, 1943, at the old Alexandria Hospital at the corner of Duke and Washington streets. He was one of three children born to Sara M. Fifer and Carson Lee Fifer, Sr., a physician and chief of surgery at Alexandria Hospital.

Fifer attended St Stephen's school from grade school through graduation. He was a graduate of Brown University and the University of Virginia Law School and received an MBA from George Washington University. A retired partner of McGuire Woods, formerly Boothe, Pritchard and Dudley, Fifer focused on land use, environmental law, real estate law and affordable housing and co-authored the first affordable housing ordinance in Virginia.

"Lee was able to convene people in such a way to get them engaged to address the issues, challenges and missions of the boards that he was on," said Val Hawkins, a friend for more than 60 years and fellow Carpenter's Shelter board member. "He created a special spirit at the Carpenter's Shelter in particular. That ability was truly remarkable."

SEE LEE FIFER JR., PAGE 4

Honoring a Hero

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was one of the best kept secrets of World War II. On Dec. 16, 1944, the sleepy Ardennes countryside of far eastern Belgium was awakened by a surprise German attack that became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

The battle was the last major offensive on the Western Front and the largest and bloodiest fought by American forces in WWII. Alexandria resident J. David Bailey, at the time a corporal in the U.S. Army, survived the battle and on April 5, 2022 he was honored in Market Square in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Congressman Don Beyer and Mayor Justin Wilson were among the dignitaries on hand to pay tribute to Bailey, who is the last known living survivor of the Battle of the Bulge.

"The Battle of the Bulge was one of the largest, most deadly battles our nation has even been involved with," Wilson said. "It is one of the most singular experiences that has protected our world from tyranny and this gentleman right here was part of that. He took up arms



World War II veteran J. David Bailey, center front, is joined by Rep. Don Beyer, right, and fellow veterans from American Legion Post 24 in Market Square following an April 5 ceremony celebrating Bailey's 100th birthday. Bailey is the last known survivor of the Battle of the Bulge.

and defended our freedom a generation ago and I thank him for his incredible commitment to our nation."

Wilson presented Bailey with a key to the city while a representative from Sen. Mark Warner's office presented him with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Beyer's father-in-law, Dr. Frank Carrol, was also a veteran of the

Battle of the Bulge and wounded Jan. 25, 1945, the final day of the campaign.

"This was perhaps the most important battle of the war," Beyer said. "As the world once again sees tyranny in Europe's backyard, we are reminded and thankful for the patriotism, the heroism, the endurance of Mr. Bailey and his fellow G.I.'s who triumphed and brought

Last known Battle of the Bulge survivor celebrated.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Mayor Justin Wilson, right, presents World War II veteran J. David Bailey with a key to the city April 5 in Market Square. The 100-year-old Alexandria resident is the last known living survivor of the Battle of the Bulge.

us all freedom."

Bailey, an active member of Washington Street Methodist Church, was born Jan. 3, 1922, in Bluefield, W. Va., and joined the army in 1942. When he took to the podium, he focused his remarks on his fellow soldiers.

"Make no mistake about it, this is not only to honor me," Bailey said, "this is about the 16 million



J. David Bailey, veteran of World War II's Battle of the Bulge, is pictured in uniform as a corporal infantryman. The 100-year-old Alexandria resident joined the U.S. Army in 1942.

Americans who for over a period of three-and-a-half years served their country at their very best."

Bailey was part of the 422nd regiment of the 106th Infantry Division. He is the recipient of the French Legion of Honour medal, Combat Infantry Badge, two Bronze Stars, four Battle Stars and four Service ribbons. He was honorably discharged Nov. 24, 1945.

"Tom Brokaw was right when he declared that we were the Greatest Generation as we saved the world from becoming a fascist state," Bailey said in closing. "Thank you for acknowledging not just me but for the others of the Greatest Generation, of which I am proud to be a member."



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If you see my mom around town this weekend, be sure to wish her a Happy Birthday! We love you Mom!



Don Beyer



Victoria Virasingh

Deep Blue Primary

Incumbent congressman to face first-time candidate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE PACKET

The Eighth Congressional District is the bluest of the blue strongholds, giving President Biden 78 percent of the vote in 2020 — the largest margin of victory for all the Virginia congressional districts. For many years, the district was represented by U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who decided to step down in 2014 after serving 12 terms in Congress. Beyer emerged that year from a field of 10 candidates in the Democratic primary, and has not been challenged in a Democratic primary since that time. This year, though, Victoria Virasingh is challenging Beyer for the Democratic nomination.

“It is difficult to knock off an established incumbent member in a first run for public office,” said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. “Unless there is some dissatisfaction among the district’s Democratic Party voters with Beyer — and I do not see any — it is going to be especially difficult in this case.”

Virasingh is calling attention to Beyer’s personal wealth, criticizing the performance of his stock portfolio at a time when he was in a position to have what she calls “privileged information” as a member of Congress. She is calling for a prohibition on members of Congress being able to buy and sell stocks. That’s a policy proposal that Beyer actually agrees with. Two months ago, he says, he moved all his investments from stocks to mutual funds when the issue of self-dealing on Capitol Hill became a topic of conversation. On the campaign trail, Virasingh has tried to fashion herself as a progressive alternative to the incumbent -- a new voice of a new

generation challenging someone who has been a fixture of Virginia politics for decades.

“I could see a progressive challenge viable in the case of an incumbent voting well to the right of his or her constituency, but that is not the situation here,” said Rozell. “To the extent that the challenger can draw out some contrasts and give Democratic Party voters reason to consider an alternative, that is all good for the process as it helps to hold the incumbent accountable.”

VICTORIA VIRASINGH is a native of Arlington, where her parents were part of a community that included refugees from India and immigrants from South America. She earned scholarships to St. Agnes Catholic School in Arlington and Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. Virasingh has a bachelor of arts in international relations and a master of arts in Latin American Studies, both from Stanford University. She interned at the Internal Revenue Service and the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) before joining Palantir Technology leading public-private partnerships. She’s now a full-time candidate.

“If I was born in this area today, my story would not be possible,” she said when asked why she’s running in the primary. “This area has exploded in growth, which is really exciting. But one of the problems is that it’s much harder to find affordable housing.”

If elected, she says, she would support a prohibition against members of Congress buying and selling stocks. She pointed to disclosure reports from Beyer indicating

“It is difficult to knock off an established incumbent member in a first run for public office. Unless there is some dissatisfaction among the district’s Democratic Party voters with Beyer — and I do not see any — it is going to be especially difficult in this case.”

— Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University

that his portfolio recently outperformed the Standard & Poor 500 index, which she says should raise red flags given his access to information as a member of Congress. She says she would also support publicly financed election campaigns, and she says she supports the Biden administration’s controversial proposal to end the Trump administration’s use of Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act of 1944 to turn away undocumented immigrants arriving at the southern border. She says it’s time for “a new type of leadership” and “it’s time to pass the torch.”

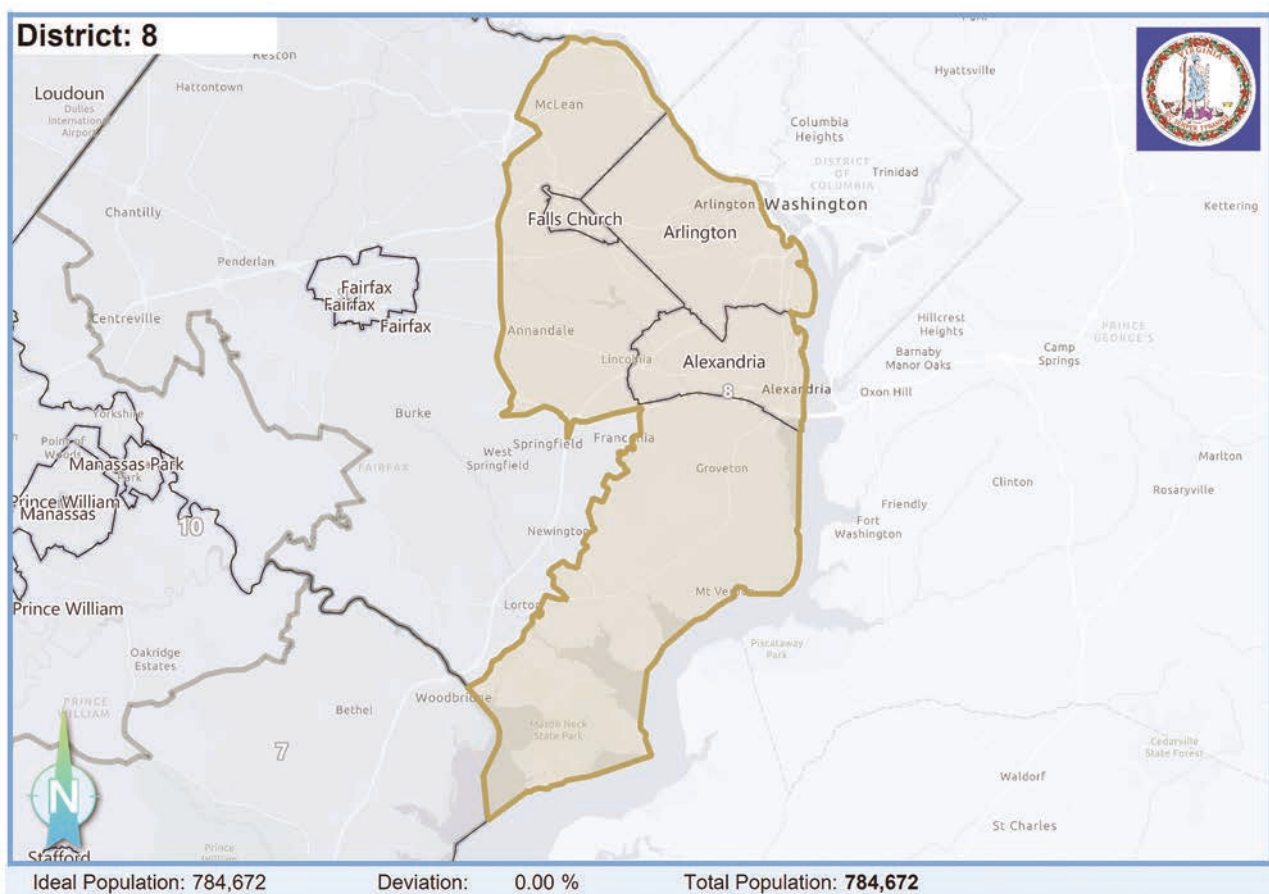
“We don’t have legislators who understand what the challenges are,” she said, adding that Beyer and others fit that description. “They don’t understand the basic fundamentals of the ways in which technology is influencing our economy.”

DON BEYER is serving his fourth term in the House of Representatives. He is a former lieutenant governor who ran an unsuccessful campaign as the Democratic candidate for governor in 1997, when Republican Jim Gilmore was elected. He has a bachelor’s degree in economics from Williams College in Massachusetts, and during the Obama administration he served as ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. If elected to a fifth term to a party in the minority, he says,

he will be able to work with friends across the aisle on issues like regulating space traffic management of satellites orbiting Earth.

“This really gets into the meaning of life, you know, why are we here? I long ago figured out that I was happiest when I was trying to make other people’s lives better,” he said. “We all have to try to make sense of the story of our own lives, and this is the way I do it.” During his time in office, he says, he’s been focused on tackling the problem of climate change, pressing for a carbon tax and expansion of fusion energy to replace fossil fuels. Congress is currently considering seven of his climate change proposals as part of the long-delayed Build Back Better plan. He says he agrees with Virasingh that members of Congress should be prohibited from buying and selling stocks, and in February he moved all his investments from the stock market to mutual funds. He also agrees with Virasingh about public financing of elections, although he says he’s not yet sure whether he supports the Biden administration’s plans to lift Title 42 restrictions and allowing undocumented immigrants to seek asylum at the southern border.

“I think it might be the right thing to do legally, that there may be no legal merit to keeping it in place. Politically I think it’s very difficult,” said Beyer, who says he wants to hear all the arguments on both sides. “Generally I hate picking a political consideration over a policy consideration. I always want to do the right thing, not necessarily the smart thing.”



OBITUARY



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lee Fifer, second from right, at the 2012 Carpenter's Cook-Off fundraiser. With him are (l-r) Mary-Parker Lamm (staff), Marlene Clements (volunteer), Michael Shields (staff), and Mary Ann Anderson (volunteer).



Lee Fifer volunteering in the kitchen of Carpenter's Shelter.

Lee Fifer Jr.

FROM PAGE 1

Hawkins credits Fifer with creating one of Alexandria's signature fundraising events, the Carpenter's Cook-off.

"When we needed to come up with a fundraiser, Lee was clear that an organization working with the homeless should not have a big gala," Hawkins said. "Lee wanted something that involved the community so we pulled together more than 20 restaurants, got the Birchmere to donate the space, and in the first 14 years raised over \$1 million. That was all Lee's idea."

Peter Lunt was the chair of Carpenter's Shelter in the early 1990s, when, as he says, "the program was in shambles" and he recruited Fifer to join the board.

"It's a rags-to-riches story, really," Lunt said. "A lot of work needed to be done for us to become a center of learning. We were great for keeping people off the street and providing a warm place to stay but no work was being done to change lives. As chair, Lee set very high goals and was a good leader in helping achieve the things that we did to turn things around."

Soon after joining the Carpenter's Shelter board, Fifer raised \$600,000 in six months, providing the organization the resources it needed to move and improve its new facilities and carry on its services to the community.

"This allowed us to start putting money into programs like parenting skills and resume writing," Lunt said. "We have become an institution where residents are fit to live on their own when they leave. Lee led a board in making those things happen."

In addition to serving 10 years as chair of the Carpenter's Shelter board, Fifer was chairman of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the board of governors of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

and served on the vestry and strategic planning committee of Christ Church. He helped found the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau, serving as board chair for five years. In 2014, he was named a Living Legend of Alexandria.

In the early '80s, Fifer served on the mayor's Multimodal Task Force which studied transportation issues, including Metrorail. He subsequently served on the board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.

Additionally, Fifer served on the board and was treasurer of the George Mason Foundation, helping to establish a Masters degree program in real estate development at George Mason University. For more than four years he served on the board of HomeAid, the charitable organization associated with the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association.

"Even after Lee left the board my phone would ring with some regularity," Steene added. "His customary greeting was 'What do you need me to do?' He remained highly vested in the role a board has in the success of an organization and saw what an engaged and effective group of people could achieve. That is one of his hallmarks."

Fifer is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sarah Savage, a son, Carson Daniel Fifer and his fiancée London Thor, daughter Meredith Savage Fifer and her husband Alex Prieu, and niece Sharon Cassidy.

A service in his memory will be held May 3 at 11 a.m. at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington Street. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that Fifer's generosity be remembered with a donation to a cause or charity of your choice.

"Lee was a mentor to many people," Hawkins said. "He never hesitated to share his knowledge and experience and lead others with intellect, humor, thoughtfulness, and charm."



Lee Fifer, left, with fellow Carpenter's Shelter board members Val Hawkins and Collin Moller at the 2012 Carpenter's Cook-Off.



Lee Fifer, second from left, with Carpenter's Shelter board members and staff in an undated photo.

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

United Community volunteers.

United Community Honors Reverend Dr. Keary Kincannon

Hyland Humanitarian Award is the top award and goes to those who make positive impacts.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE PACKET

If the Washington Metropolitan area is looked at as a mixing bowl of cultures and ethnicities, Hybla Valley may be the center of that mixing bowl, with Reverend Dr. Keary Kincannon leading the way. For all that he achieved, Kincannon was recently awarded the Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award in front of a church full of residents that recognized his efforts at the United Community's Volunteer Appreciation Day ceremony on Saturday, April 23.

Although Kincannon was grateful to be recognized, he was not about to leave all the others out, especially the number of volunteers at United Community, and his wife Judy. "I would never have been able to do this alone," he said, "I share this award with you."

United Community's Board of Directors created the Hyland Award in 2017 to recognize outstanding individuals who have demonstrated a long-term, sustained commitment to serving people in need through empowering, transforming and enriching the lives of residents of the surrounding communities. The award is named for Gerald W. Hyland, a former member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors who represented the Mount Vernon Community for 17 years prior to his retirement in 2015. United Community worked together with Kincannon and continues today, even with Kincannon



The art on the table cards was a product of some students in Hybla Valley.

retired from his position as pastor of Rising Hope Mission Church.

Hyland was at the ceremony too, via a video monitor, and he acknowledged the efforts of Kincannon. "No words can really express my thanks to him," Hyland said. "Thank you for your selflessness which is an inspiration to us all," Hyland said.

Others were in line with those thoughts. "His main strength is love for all mankind," said Ellen McClure, who puts in many hours with the United Community effort.

SEE UNITED COMMUNITY,
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CALENDAR

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Legals

Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Environmental Center Building located at 1800 Limerick Street, Alexandria, VA. The meeting will be broadcast on AlexRenew's YouTube channel. The proposed FY23 budget and AlexRenew's audited financial statements are available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com. Copies will be made available upon request – phone (703) 721-3500 ext. 2260. April 28 and May 5.

Alexandria Renew Enterprises
BY: William Dickinson
Secretary – Treasurer

VDOT | DRPT

Public Hearings

Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2023-2028 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2023-2028 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2022/default.asp> before April 25, 2022.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Monday, April 25 Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401	Tuesday, April 26 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, Virginia 22701	Thursday, April 28 Richmond District Richmond District Auditorium 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834
Monday, May 2 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center 1 College Lane Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486	Tuesday, May 3 Lynchburg District Virginian Hotel, 712 Church Street Lynchburg, Virginia 24504	Wednesday, May 4 *Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.
Monday, May 9 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive, Suffolk, Virginia 23435	Wednesday, May 11 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, Virginia 24210	Thursday, May 12 Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, Virginia 24017

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia.

You can submit comments by email or mail by May 23, 2022.

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services 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 these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

OPINION

The 'Veto' Session

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

As provided by the Constitution of Virginia, "The General Assembly shall reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections". As such, I am preparing to return to Richmond on Wednesday, April 27th for the Reconvened Session, also known colloquially as the "veto session".

We will have much work to accomplish in just one day: the Governor vetoed 26 bills and recommended amendments to 116 bills passed by the 2022 Session of the General Assembly. Of those bills, 10 of the vetoed bills and 59 of the amended bills are House Bills. Included in these amended bills are my HB 763, HB 766, and HB 1136. Each of these bills must be reviewed by their respective chambers of origin. The Governor did not veto any of my bills.

I have been asked by several constituents over the past few weeks about the General Assembly's role in considering vetoes and amend-



ments. So, when the General Assembly is presented with Governor vetoes and amendments, what options are available to the body?

In all cases, the first step is for the vetoed or amended bill to return to its chamber of origin.

If vetoed by the Governor:

The chamber of origin may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the members

present. If the chamber of origin successfully overrides the Governor's veto, then it sends the bill and Governor's objections to the other chamber where the bill shall be reconsidered. The second chamber may override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of the members present. If both houses successfully override the Governor's veto, the bill shall become law without the Governor's signature. If either chamber fails to override the Governor's veto, the veto shall stand and the bill will not become law.

If amended by the Governor:

The chamber of origin can vote to accept the entirety of the Governor's amendments by the majority of members present. The bill is then sent to the other chamber for consideration. If both houses agree to the Governor's entire recommendation, the bill, in its amended form, becomes law.

The chamber of origin, by a two-thirds vote, may accept one or more of the Governor's amendments. The second chamber may also agree to one or more of the Governor's amendments. If both houses agree to one or more amendments but not to the entire recommendation of the Governor, the bill shall be reenrolled with the Governor's amendments agreed to by both chambers and shall be returned to the Governor. The Governor then can either sign or veto the bill returned to them. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the veto shall stand and the bill will not become law.

Both chambers may agree to the bill in the form originally sent to the Governor by a two-thirds vote of all members present in each house. In this case, the original bill shall become law.

In the past, the Governor once had the power to offer "counter-amendments" if the General Assembly opposed the first round of amendments sent down to them. As of January 1, 1995, this power was removed, leaving only one chance for the Governor to make amendments to any bill. The General Assembly gained considerable power from this shift, earning the ability to consider the Governor's amendments individually or en bloc. With my three amended bills, I plan to ask the body to accept the Governor's amendments, even though I am not supportive of all of them. I would prefer to not send them back to the Governor and risk a veto, especially since the underlying bills are not adversely affected.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Short Reply to Sen. Ebbin's Rant

Both parties play petty politics. State Senator Ebbin's column catalogs the most recent installment, reading all sorts of ill intent (partisan payback) and ineptitude (inexperienced staff not having enough time to review bills) into Governor Glenn Youngkin's vetoes. A simpler explanation might be that Youngkin's vetoes of 25 bills constitute

merely 3 percent of the 728 bills the legislature passed. Youngkin is merely throwing a bone to those of us who believe that 728 new laws is legislative overkill and that the public would benefit from laws being repealed rather than new ones being piled on. So Youngkin chose to veto bills which duplicate other bills, bills which involve studies,

etc. What bona fide purpose do two bills to do the same thing serve but to cause confusion and costly court cases to sort out the implications of slightly different phrasing which the legislature should have cleared up and merged into a single bill before sending them to the governor? The governor can start reducing the backlog at the Virginia Employ-

ment Commission more efficiently by executive action than by legislative mandate which allows for less administrative flexibility. Moreover, the executive action can start now, not wait for the July 1 effective date of most legislation.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

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

ALEXANDRIA PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The City of Alexandria encourages residents to safely dispose of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications, including those prescribed by veterinarians, during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 30. Residents have several options for disposal, including designated collection sites during the event, permanent medication drop-off locations, a new permanent needle disposal box and methods for disposing of medication safely at home.

A collection will take place on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m., at the following drop-off sites staffed by the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Sheriff's Office:
First Baptist Church (2932 King St.)
Alexandria Police Department Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Ave.)
Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave.)
The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.)
Alexandria is currently at a low COVID-19 community level and individuals may choose to wear a mask. Specific settings, such as health care and congregate facilities,

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DOG WALK



The Timmons family enjoys the first annual ALX Dog Walk April 2 at Oronoco Bay Park.

Pawsitive Partners

ALX Dog Walk raises \$40k for local initiatives.

Hundreds of dogs and their owners turned out April 2 for the inaugural ALX Dog Walk in Oronoco Bay Park.

The 2-mile walk along the Old Town waterfront served as a fundraiser for the newly formed nonprofit ALX Dog Walk, which aims to help beautify and protect the city's environment and educate citizens about best sustainability practices.

NBC4 meteorologist Chuck Bell served as honorary emcee with Monte Durham of "Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta" and Mayor Justin Wilson serving as honorary co-chairs.

Durham served as judge for the costume contest with winners receiving a \$100 gift card from The Dog Store in Del Ray and a one-year supply of eco-friendly laundry detergent from Earth Breeze.



Participants register for the first annual ALX Dog Walk April 2 in Oronoco Bay Park.

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PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



School Board member Tammy Ignacio kisses Luna Blue at the ALX Dog Walk April 2 in Oronoco Bay Park.



Lula-Mae Drake with Rufus.

Founded by local resident Julie Chapman, the event raised over \$40,000 with all net proceeds donated to initiatives to include Operation Waterfront Clean-Up, a new project to clean up plastic, debris and trash along the banks of the Potomac River; the refurbishing of King Street Garden Park, and the planting of 20 trees to contribute to Alexandria's tree canopy.

"We want to educate people about plastic-free living and sustainability and also help beautify and protect the city of Alexandria's environment," Chapman said. "We hope this becomes an annual tradition that the area seeks out while raising money to do good in the community."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Amanda Kelly and Kaula in matching jackets.



I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and Prince George's County, MD

Virtual Public Information Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (presentation at 7 p.m.)
<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>

In-person Public Information Meetings
All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Oxon Hill High School
6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Monday, May 23, 2022
John R. Lewis High School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center
1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) proposed 11-mile extension of the I-495 Express Lanes from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland. The goals and objectives of this I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study (495 Southside Study) are to evaluate transportation improvements that extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495 (Capital Beltway), provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion, improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans.

VDOT will hold a virtual meeting option, as well as three in-person meeting options. All meetings will include the same information.

The virtual public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Visit <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside> or call 703-259-3752 for information about how to access and participate in the virtual public information meeting.

The in-person public information meetings will be held on Thursday, May 19, at Oxon Hill High School, Monday, May 23 at John R. Lewis High School, and Wednesday, May 25, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center. Each in-person meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Meeting display boards will be available to review, and project staff will be present to answer questions. In-person meetings will follow current CDC-recommended health measures and guidelines.

VDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, has initiated an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771.

Review study information on the project webpage (<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>), during the virtual and in-person public information meetings, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3752 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Provide your input by completing a public opinion survey at <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>, and by providing your written comments at one of the meetings or submitting them by June 6, 2022 to Nick Nies, AICP, VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study Project Manager, 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23235, or email 495southsideexpresslanes@vdot.virginia.gov.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

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Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

One month,
one family at a time.

By SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

We are reprinting excerpts from this story because the photos of the women were omitted last week.

Guest House in Alexandria is a residential facility that helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration. It is the only residential house of its kind serving women in Northern Virginia, providing wrap-around services and individualized case management that help each person bridge the gap to a new life.

Guest House can accommodate up to 30 women in its two primary residential facilities located on E. Luray Avenue and Payne Street. They also have Second Chance Community affordable housing on Gordon Street, which can accommodate eight women.

During a special pizza lunch break between classes three Guest House residents share their stories.

Janet Wood has just arrived from the Lynchburg Adult Detention Facility where she had spent 332 days, mostly in lockdown due to COVID restrictions. "We were restricted to our rooms with our doors shut." This is her third day at Guest House and her first day in the classes at the church just across from the Guest House residential facility on E. Luray Avenue. She says the worst thing for her in jail was she couldn't do anything ... "People telling me when to get up, have meals."

Wood has just been to art therapy and shows a collage she has created of her journey. The first picture is a happy couple. She says this shows she is praying God will give her another mate so she can live in togetherness again. The picture below in the cor-

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE



Michelle Miller, two-month resident of Guest House Payne residential facility

ner is an eagle with spread wings, which she says is flying free with no restraints, which is her goal. The map at the top represents her 20-years of homelessness journey from Texas. "I have prayed about it." And the beach scene again represents freedom with each person choosing to do a different thing. The feathers in the corner speak to her from her long walks, each feather representing a different thing.

Wood's goal is to graduate in the 6-9 month program and give back to the community.

She says, "I have been a year and a half clean but there will be temptations everywhere when I get out. I need a structure."



Janet Wood, newly arrived resident of Guest House

Lydia McVee has come to the Payne House residential facility of Guest House from Robinette Regional Jail through a court order. She has been with Guest House for a month and a half and is attending classes and looking for employment. She says she used to own a construction company with her husband so she is used to a lot of responsibility and organizing competing demands but she's not sure what she'll be allowed to do here.

Already today McVee has had meditation, a Together We Bake interview, art therapy and she has her therapist tonight. She explains there is a structure of classes, therapy, meetings, job interviews and other expectations like helping other residents. "And everything is different. It can be a bit overwhelming, and for a lot of people this can be a trigger."

The most difficult thing for her is "not being able to see my babies." Her two sons are 13 and 17-years-old and she has not seen them in person for a month and a half. She says the residents get passes but her sons live 4 hours away and it doesn't work for them to drive all that distance for the short visit

that she is currently allowed. She is waiting for her first 24-hour pass and currently using FaceTime, which just isn't the same.

McVee looks forward to having her own business of some kind again, doing her own thing and making her own choices. "I like the girls I've met here. They've been through the same thing, and they understand. There are really great people here."

Guest House is funded through the Virginia Department of Corrections and grants through local government entities, which provide the basic shelter and food.

The breadth of additional services offered, which contribute to the success of the program, such as case management, workforce preparation training and life skills reinforcement are funded through other grants and community and business support and contributions.

For more information or to contribute contact: www.friendsofguesthouse.com. Amazon wish list for in kind contributions of hygiene products etc. <http://bit.ly/foghamazon>

'Don't Bank on Death'

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Climate change protestors gathered April 4 in front of Chase Bank and Wells Fargo Bank in Old Town as part of Third Act Virginia's rally to draw attention to the harm of fossil fuels.

Protestors staged a "die-in" while displaying signs and reciting chants against the financial institutions for their investments in fossil fuels.

"Third Act is a national organization for elders who are very concerned about the plight of our planet and democracy," said protestor Deborah Kushner outside Chase Bank on N. Washington Street. "We focus on banks that are funding the worst possible institutions that are destroying our planet and people who will take away our democracy."

The group delivered a letter demanding

banks divest from fossil fuels by the end of 2022.

"We are putting Chase on notice and demanding that they divest of all fossil fuels by the end of this year or en masse millions of people will divest from Chase," Kushner added.

Marching to the chant of "We are unstoppable – another world is possible," protestors moved from Chase Bank to Wells Fargo at the corner of Washington and Princess streets with the same demands.

"There are large movements that understand that we are on a very narrow timeline when we can get off fossil fuels in order to save ourselves and future generations from the most horrible effects of climate change," Kushner said. "We are here to let other people know they can join us and take the Third Act pledge."

www.thirdact.org.

Climate change protestors target local banks.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Third Act Virginia protestors stage a "die-in" April 4 in front of Chase Bank on Washington Street in protest of the bank's investment in fossil fuels.

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CHRISTENING



Christening the New Shell, Lisa Zickar

The Alexandria City High School Rowing program christened its new shell, the Lisa Zickar, Saturday, April 23 at the Dee Campbell Boathouse in Old Town.

The event, which featured a “row-by” from the Titan Rowing Boys Team, included community members and elected officials including school board members Michelle Rief and Chris Harris.

Harris, a former high school athlete, pictured, took a turn on the erg with the boys’ team.

Lisa Zickar, a longtime volunteer for the Alexandria Crew Boosters, served as co-vice president of the Alexandria Crew Boosters in 2012. In 2013, she took over as co-president — a position she held for two years. As co-president, she defined the Crew Booster mission as being very simple. “Our mission is to fund, feed, and cheer our rowers on,” she said.

In 2014, Lisa became the director of the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints — an ambitious role that includes dozens of volunteers, countless moving parts, and more patience than is quantifiable.

In 2018, she helped manage the first World Rowing Indoor Championships in Alexandria. In the six years she headed the event, the Erg Sprints became known as the second largest indoor rowing competition in



the world — and the largest event of its kind for juniors. During that time, it also brought in more than \$200,000 for the program.

Lisa has since ceded her role managing the Sprints, but she created a high standard that the Crew Boosters hope to meet when the sprints resume in 2023.

Her children, Allie and Sam, (pictured with her husband, Lou, at the christening) were both Titan rowers, and Sam Zickar began coaching for the Titan Boys Team in 2022.

Lisa and Lou live in Alexandria and remain strong supporters of the program.



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SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations on April 30 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

Everyone should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if they have symptoms. Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time. Specific settings, such as health care and congregate facilities, may require masks.

To learn more about the importance of safe medication disposal, visit alexandriava.gov/opioids.

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.

Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.

First Baptist Church
2932 King St.

The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

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

The Neighborhood Pharmacy
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.
Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
Just inside the entrance
Available 24/7

Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Rd.
Visitor's Lobby
Next to the cashier's window
Daily: 1 - 5 p.m.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



ENTERTAINMENT

4 Dates to Circle in May

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Celebrate Mom, pair your cider with chocolates, test your heat tolerance with a wing-eating competition and wash it all down with some wine – it's a busy month in Alexandria's food and drink scene! Here are some of your best bets.

Mother-Daughter Brunch at Whiskey and Oyster, May 7

Let's raise a toast to Mom! Whiskey and Oyster will offer up a special brunch menu for the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend and invites all to come join in the celebration. Along with the food, lift a glass with a mimosa and then peruse the woman-owned pop-up shops that will be featured on the patio. Stick around long enough and you may even be eligible for a prize. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 301 John Carlyle St.

Chocolate and Cider Pairing at Lost Boy Cider, May 7

Kingsbury Chocolates is joining forces with Lost Boy Cider for the next in the cidery's pairing events – this time, featuring an array of delectable sweets. Your ticket grants you access to a flight of ciders with two chocolates per drink. With a variety of



Whiskey and Oyster will offer up a special brunch menu for the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend, plus woman-owned pop-up shops will be featured on the patio.

bonbons and bars ranging from fruit cordial to lavender pistachio truffle, you're sure to find something to light up the taste buds. \$50. 11 a.m. 317 Hooffs Run Drive.

Spring Wing Fest at Del Ray Pizzeria, May 14

Join Del Ray Pizzeria and the Bradshaw Hot Sauce Company to celebrate all things wings. Looking for a little competition? Sign up for the "Wings of Doom" competition, which begins at 5 p.m. A word of warning: You'll need to sign a waiver. May the hot-sauce gods be with you. 3-7 p.m. 2218 Mount Vernon Ave.

VIP Rose Wine Dinner at Lena's, May 23-24

Rose season is here again! The rosy-cheeked wine varietal is the perfect accompaniment to these warmer days. In honor of National Wine Day, Lena's is sponsoring a Rose Wine Dinner to celebrate the beverage – and pair it with a four-course tasting menu. The accompanying drink pairings include a rose cocktail and three glasses of rose wine. Reservations required. \$85. 6-8:30 p.m. 401 E. Braddock Road.

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

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU MAY 5

Solo Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
At Art & Framing, 694 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Art & Framing will be home to the exhibition "Works from Nature's Jewel Tones: Paintings by Kathleen Callery. The show features 20 of Callery's works. The jewel tones found in nature have been the main inspiration for these paintings--Kathleen Callery.

NOW THRU JUNE 5

"SeeWorthy" Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Studio #9, Alexandria. View ship construction through the eyes of maritime archaeologists in SeeWorthy, a new exhibit from Alexandria Archaeology highlighting the technology used to digitally reconstruct historic vessels. Recent development along the waterfront has led to significant discoveries by archaeologists, including the remains of four historic ships. These remnants have been laser scanned to create models showing what they would have looked like in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

NOW THRU MAY 1

Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios from Saturday, April 2 until Sunday, May 1. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit torpedofactory.org.

NOW THRU JUNE 12

MVUC Greenhouse Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weekends only. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the MVUC Greenhouse opens April 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends only. They have a variety of vegetables and flowers for sale again this year. Lots of regular and heirloom tomatoes and not-too-hot peppers (more than 20 different varieties) as well as some of your favorite perennials, annuals, and herbs. Visit the lovely, old greenhouse and buy some new plants for your spring garden.

NOW THRU MAY 28 (SATURDAYS)

Washington Whiskey Tasting. 2-5 p.m.
At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. At this outdoor event, sample George Washington's whiskey and other distilled spirits made at Washington's Distillery. Enjoy a rare opportunity to taste Mount Vernon's one-of-a-kind distilled Spirits. Sample 3 distilled spirits, made using 18th-century distilling methods and techniques. Hear from Mount Vernon's Historic Trades team about the history of distilling spirits, and tour George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill which is located 2.7 miles from the main estate entrance.

NOW THRU MAY 29

Canvas Meets Curve. At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria.

www.connectionnewspapers.com



"Beauty and the Beast" will take place May 7-8 at George Washington Masonic Temple in Alexandria.

Sabiha Iqbal and Paul Cunningham have been painting, critiquing, and exhibiting with a group of local artists since they met at the Corcoran School of Art and Design seven years ago. The Athenaeum show is the first joint exhibition for the two artists. While the formal aspects of their work appear very different, they have always been struck by the ways in which their bodies of work echo each other. At times their color palettes converge serendipitously, while the abstract figurations in Sabiha's canvases play off the bends and curves of Paul's three-dimensional pieces. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

NOW THRU MAY 4

Screen Dream and Life is Fragile Exhibit. At The Art League, 105 North Union Street, in Alexandria. Lights! Camera! Action! Screen Dream takes its cue from the big and small screen. Member artists created works—drawings, paintings, glass, mixed media, sculpture, and photography—inspired by the stories, images, writers, actors, directors, and musical scores from popular movies and television. Brown-ing-Dill will be in conversation about her exhibit and artistry in The Art League Gallery on Thursday, April 21, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. RSVP here. Both Screen Dream and Life is Fragile: Handle With Care are on view through May 4. Visit www.theartleague.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 28

Art Exhibition Fundraiser. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Lorient Hotel and Spa, 1600 King Street, Alexandria. An art exhibition featuring local Made in ALX artists and a one-hour performance by Tik Tok Star & Cellist Andrew Savoia. A \$20 entry fee and a portion of all art

purchases will be donated to the Ukrainian Crisis Fund via Care.org. The \$20 entry fee includes: the art exhibition (with option to purchase art), complimentary wine, classical music entertainment and the opportunity to win a \$300 gift card to the spa.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
At 1701 N. Quaker Lane Parking Lot, Alexandria. Largest native plant sale in DC Metro Area hosts 10 vendors from 3 states and DC selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. This event is free. Call 571-232-0375 or www.NorthernAlexandriaNative-PlantSale.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Carrie Newcomer. 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Carrie Newcomer is a songwriter, recording artist, performer and educator. She has been described as a "prairie mystic" by the Boston Globe and one who "asks all the right questions" by Rolling Stone Magazine. Tickets are \$35 in advance (\$35 at the door to members, \$40 at the door to non-members, virtual tickets purchased day-of are also \$40). COVID protocols, details and tickets at www.focusmusic.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Community Pet Event. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Stevenson Park, 300 Stultz Road, Alexandria. Join the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria for a Pets and People Community Wellness Event. Read more at AlexandriaAnimals.org/Pets-and-People. Visit the website: AlexandriaAnimals.org/Pets-and-People

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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Obituary



Sara “Sally” Armstrong Bartley, 95, died at her home in Alexandria, on April 18, 2022. Sally was born in Alexandria, VA to parents Sarah “Lal” Cunningham and Robert Armstrong. She was a proud “native” Alexandrian, having resided in Alexandria most of her life. After graduating from George Washington High School in 1943, she attended Virginia Intermont College, majoring in Dance. Following college, Sally attended the Washington School for Secretaries. She then began a career as a personal secretary to many: Helen Arny Macan, Headmistress of St. Agnes School, broadcast radio leader Carl Lindberg, owner of WPIK , and Robert New, investor.

Sally retired from Columbia University-based, Riverside Research Institute, (RRI) having managed its Arlington office's administrative function for 15 years. At RRI, she earned the Ralph J. Mastrandrea Memorial Award, recognizing significant achievements and practical devotion, reflecting immense respect of the management team.

Sally had a keen interest in community activities that began with her membership in the Girl Scouts of America. She was a member of the Junior Women's Club of Alexandria, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and served on the Altar Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Sally loved her home of 45 years at Place One Condominium, and volunteered her services to numerous committees there. She had a love for animals, but certainly was partial to her cats.

Sally made lifelong friends wherever she was. She loved to cook, garden on her balcony and entertain at home.


She is survived by her son, Robert Armstrong Simmons, her daughter Ann Hepburn Webb (Bill), grandson, Andrew Hepburn Webb, and step son J. T. Martyn Zimmerman (Cynthia), all of Alexandria. She is predeceased by her husbands, John Francis Hepburn, Eugene W. Zimmerman and Edward L. Bartley. Her first marriage to Ruffner Simmons ended in divorce. Her sister, Barbara Armstrong Anderson of Atlanta, passed away in 2014.

A Funeral Service will be held on Sunday, May 1st at 1:00pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Private interment to be held at Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution, in Sally's honor, to St. Paul's Foundation or the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

Obituary

Obituary



Rev. Roger Lee McGee, 65, of Alexandria, Va., passed away unexpectedly on April 19, 2022 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital after injuries sustained in an accident.

For the last 27 years, Roger has served as Pastor for Music and Worship at First Baptist Church of Alexandria. Over the years, he has led tens of thousands of people in worshipping Jesus every Sunday, and impacted thousands more through his music ministry. Roger was responsible for leading more than 400 people from toddlers to seniors in choirs, an orchestra, bands, and a technology team. He led mission trips to nearly every continent, as well as hundreds of concerts and community events more locally. He previously served at Ashley River Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C. for 10 years, and at Forest Hills Baptist Church in Anderson, S.C. for five years.

Roger lived an extraordinary life that was shaped by his devotion to God. Born in Heidelberg, Germany on Oct. 25, 1956, he was adopted and raised by Ollie James and Flora Belle McGee in Selma, Ala. He attended Southside High School and Shiloh Baptist Church in Selma before going on to pursue a Bachelor of Music Education at Samford University (’79).

While pursuing his Master's degree in Church Music (Conducting/Ministry) from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he met his beloved wife Suzanne (née South). Roger and Suzanne were married for 36 years before she preceded him into heaven in 2017.

Roger is survived by his sister, Rhonda Mobley (David); his two sons, Corey (Liz) and Casey (Aislyn) McGee; and his granddaughter, Avery McGee.

Roger's fun-loving nature, selflessness, kindness, patience, warmth and passion for Christ can never be replaced. His family, friends, and church community will miss him more than words can say.

A visitation will be held on Friday, April 29 from 4:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Alexandria at 2932 King St in Alexandria, Va. A memorial service will be held the following day, on Saturday, April 30 at the same location at 11:00 a.m., followed by a reception in the church's Faith Activities Center at 1:00 p.m. For those who cannot attend Roger's memorial service in person, it will be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistalexandria/live> <https://fbcalexandria.org/live-stream>

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Baptist of Alexandria Foundation: Suzanne McGee Fund, or to First Baptist Church of Alexandria.

Obituary

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Laughter in Recovery. 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual. The Alumni Association at Recovery Centers of America is honored to present comedian, author and social media star Tiffany Jenkins to speak about how she found life and laughter in recovery from addiction. Jenkins will speak about\ addiction, motherhood, marriage, and mental health. RSVP here: <https://help.recovery-centersofamerica.com/WEBINARAF2022-04TiffanyJenkins.html>

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Raptor Rapture. 10 a.m. to noon. At Belle Haven Park, GW Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. See live raptors like owls and hawks. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the National Park Service, Secret Gardens Birds and Bees and the Monarch Teacher Network. Look for the tents near the restrooms. Free. Visit www.fodm.org.

APRIL 30 TO JULY 9

Retrospective Art Deco Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria. The first retrospective on the work of Art Deco designer Edgard Sforzina will open April 30th at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the Art Deco Society of Washington's 39th annual Washington Modernism Show. Discount tickets are available at www.washingtonmodernismshow.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

May Day Soiree. 4:30-6 p.m. At Car-

lyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee to celebrate the tradition of “La Fête du Muguet” during a celebration of France's May Day! Join us at the King Street Farmers Market to purchase your very own lily of the valley, followed by a free garden party with a champagne fête and family friendly activities at the Carlyle House. Visit <https://alexandriacaen.wordpress.com>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Historic Hose Carriage Returns. 1 p.m. At Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria. The Friendship Fire Company's ornate hose-reel carriage, purchased in 1858, has been off-site for much-needed conservation treatment. At the welcome-back event Conservator Josiah Wagener will discuss the conservation treatment, how he determined the historic appearance of the apparatus, and the techniques he used. Visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/museums/location/visit-friendship-fire-hous...>, or call 703-746-4994.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Mendelssohn's Elijah. 4 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Featuring Mandy Brown, soprano; Heather Johnson, mezzo soprano; Benjamin Warschawski, tenor; and baritone Timothy LeFebvre as Elijah. Also featured will be the choir of Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Great Falls, Virginia, with Jerry Kavinski, Director. Now celebrating its 31st year, New Dominion Chorale and orchestra will be conducted by Artistic Director Thomas

Beveridge. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, open seating. Visit: www.newdominion.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Gadsby's Anniversary Party. 4-6 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum Ballroom, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join GTMS as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary with prosecco and cake. Registration is free, although a \$30 donation would be appreciated in honor of the 30th birthday. To register and donate, visit gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/anniversary

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Haydn's “Joke” for Strings. 5 and 6:30 p.m. At the Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. At Haydn's “Joke” for Strings, string musicians from the National Symphony play Haydn's witty String Quartet in E-flat – nicknamed “The Joke” – and “Southern Harmony” by composer Jennifer Higdon. Then, hilarious duo “The String Thing” (Heather LeDoux Green, Paul DeNola) leads a Guess the Composer Challenge.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Mary Sarah Bilder Female Genius: Eliza Harriot and George Washington at the Dawn of the Constitution. 7 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon. Eliza Harriot was a path-breaking female educator and the first public female lecturer; her courageous performance likely inspired the gender-neutral language of the Constitution. Cost is \$60 individual lecture/\$175 series. Discount for members. Visit mount-vernion.org/michellesmith

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Making Art Splash. 6-9 p.m. At Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For “First Thursday”, come create a “Washington Color Rule-the-School” canvas in Colasanto Park outside the Del Ray Artisans gallery, and recreate a Gene Davis Stripe Sidewalk Painting. Details: <https://delray-artisans.org/calendar/#event=-first-thursday-2022>

MAY 6-28

The “Drips, Lines, Splatters, and Splash: A Celebration of the Washington Color School” exhibit channels art spotlighting this movement. Juror Barbara Janusz-kiewicz selected artwork exhibiting remarkable use of color, movement, line, and sense of space, both representational and abstract. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Colasanto Park, outside the Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The Spring Art Market is a one-day, outdoor event that gives you the chance to purchase original handcrafted artwork from talented local artists. It includes a wide range of media including ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, paper, photography, and more. Shop original work from local artists—perfect for gifts or treat yourself. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/exhibits/#event=spring-art-market-2022>

Obituary

Taylor, Danna Lee

Danna was born in Loyal, Wisconsin on Nov. 23rd, 1948. She died with her devoted husband, Brian, at her bedside, after a 2 ½ year battle with breast cancer at Good Shephard Hospice in Lakeland, Florida on Nov. 2nd, 2021. Danna worked for Allegheny, Piedmont, USAir and retired as an Administrative Assistant from SAIC in Tysons Corner, Va. Danna was always willing to share her beliefs and her opinion, whether you liked it or not. Danna was an active member of the Front Royal Elks Club. In addition, she was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program in Front Royal. She was an avid gardener and was very happy to share the fruits and vegetables she grew on the family farm with her many friends in Front Royal.

While living in Florida, Danna started taking Bridge lessons and spent many hours studying and learning the game. She participated in several Bridge groups and spent many hours on the computer playing and learning about the game. She met many of her Florida friends through her participation in Bridge. She loved the challenge and was always striving to get better at the game. She was married for 40 years to her loving husband, Brian Taylor of Alexandria, Va., Strasburg, Va. and currently, Lakeland, Fl. Danna was the scorekeeper for the Mount Vernon High School Wrestling Team where her husband was the head coach for 15 years. She was the head scorekeeper for many District, Regional and Va. State Wrestling Tournaments.

She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law Verland and Debra Hammer of Rockford, Illinois, sister and brother-in-law, Marggo and Ray Reinart of Granton, Wisconsin, sister and brother-in-law Pamela Mitchell and Larry Wood of Middletown, Va., brother and sister-in-law Butch and Lucia Houpt of Marshfield, Wisconsin, sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mary Ellen and Danny Varela of Warrenton, Va. Cousin Donna Heslop of Pilot Mound, Iowa.

She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews too numerous to mention.

Danna's ashes will be interred at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, Va. On Saturday, June 25th at 10 AM. 6600 S. Kings Hwy, Alex. Va. 22306

In Lieu of flowers, send donations to Good Shephard Hospice, 3470 Lakeland Hills Blvd. Lakeland, Fl. 33805

Obituary

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I Know What I Saw and Heard

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As the homeowner of a historic 250-plus year-old house located on two acres in Montgomery County, there are constant maintenance-type demands, none of which, cancer notwithstanding, I am able or even willing to do. Nevertheless, I am caretaker of a property that has been designated as "historic" with the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Though compliance with the Commission is required for renovation like doors, windows, roof, downspouts, gutters and of course, additions, day-to-day upkeep inside and outside the house, grounds included, fall exclusively on the homeowner. And so, whenever I can afford (literally) help, I am almost dutybound to pursue it.

Winds gusting during or after a soaking rain always make me nervous. On a property full of hundred-year-old trees, there is always a risk of a tree toppling to the ground, and/or maybe even hitting the house, as we are surrounded by trees. Many of which, due the passage of time, the collection of moisture and the weakening of roots have already fallen on previous occasions. And so, it happened again a few weeks back multiple trees at multiple locations – some even risking an adjacent neighbor's property, fell or were leaning, compelled me to damage control.

I called our local tree service company – with whom we have had dealings with previously, to come by and estimate the fix. They came by later that day. I can't say the price they quoted me was in the range of what I expected – unfortunately. However, after a few days delay on my part, they offered a lower price, one that was a tiny bit more palatable.

And so, it was on Thursday morning, April 14 when I wrote the following paragraph:

With apologies to Robert Duvall as Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore in the movie "Apocalypse Now" (1979); I love the sound of chain saws in the morning, especially when it's not me holding one. I was forewarned by my architect-friend/homeowner Marty who after seeing my two acres of trees, bushes, shrubs, and all advised me that I needed a chain saw, a tool he characterized as "the most respected tool in the homeowner's arsenal." As a lifelong renter, the need for such equipment had previously been beyond my purview. But here I was, proud owner of a property that required all hands-on deck, so to speak.

The next Christmas, I received as a gift, a Poulan-brand 14" gas chain saw. Subsequently, as advised, I went out and bought steel-toed work boots and rawhide work gloves. I was almost ready to saw when after numerous unsuccessful pulls of the rip-chord, I was unable even to get the chain saw started. A neighbor came by at my request to help and with his one pull, I was in the chain-saw business. And though I tried to fulfill my responsibility, I failed miserably. I didn't hurt myself exactly, other than my pride, but I soon realized I wasn't the man for the job. Ed's Tree Service are the men for the job, as they were on the 14th, and thankfully so. All I could do was see what needed to be done.

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

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COMMUNITY

United Community Honors Reverend Dr. Keary Kincannon

FROM PAGE 5

"He led our community in prayer and action," added Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee). "Pastor Kincannon has dedicated his life to helping others."

"We are just 'one'," said Eva Webb who leads a group of volunteers from a part of the community that includes Jenna Lee Avenue, an area that Kincannon worked on. "He's open minded, we're all inclusive," she added.

Gala of all Galas

The morning started out with tables of food in the hall of Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church and lots of smiles around the church. Then there were speeches, dancing and poems to set the mood. Tom Curcio, the chairman at UC, was the master of ceremonies and he reflected back on the volunteer efforts with the food distribution which picked up after Covid hit. In 2021, they recorded 3,500 volunteer hours "and we were able to feed 6,000 families," Curcio said.

Niema Knight from the Sacramento Community Center did the poetry reading followed by a dance performance led by Bethany Barber, an eighth grader at Carl Sandburg



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk recognized Kincannon's achievements.

Middle School. Other participants included Candace Brown, Rev. Dr. Brian K. Brown and Carla Claire who spoke in her native language which was a factor she overcame when she immigrated to Mount Vernon from South America. Blanca Vasquez translated through the event.

Be a Part of Mother's Day Photo Gallery

Every year at this time, The Gazette calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 18th edition. Photo submissions are due by Monday, May 16, but now is the right time to submit your photos.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is hap-

pening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly using the form at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/> or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

This is also a fine time for submissions for our annual Father's Day galleries. Submit them online HERE <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday/>

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

ties, may require masks. Everyone should stay up to date with vaccines. Those with symptoms should get tested and stay home.

Needles are not accepted during the take back event or in the City's permanent medication drop boxes that provide year-round disposal options. Dispose of needles and syringes in a separate designated permanent drop box, located inside the visitor's entrance at Inova Alexandria Hospital.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and abuse, especially opioid prescriptions. In 2021, the City collected 2,052.6 pounds of unused medication at drug take back day events and from year-round permanent drop boxes, a 54.8% increase in the amount of medication collected in 2020.

Drugs are also an environmental hazard to waterways and should never be flushed down the toilet. Drug take back days and permanent drop boxes help support the goals of the Eco-City Alexandria initiative to ensure that people can live healthier and economically

productive lives, while reducing their impact on the environment.

Visit alexandriava.gov/SAPCA to learn more about ways to prevent substance use and misuse. Visit alexandriava.gov/Opioids for more information about Alexandria's efforts to fight the national opioid epidemic.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Earth Month Celebration. 9 a.m. to noon.

At Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria. The Stormwater Management Division will be at Ben Brenman Park to educate people about stormwater and water quality. They'll have games for kids, an interactive selfie station, a DIY rain gauge workshop (bring a 2-liter bottle!) and tours of the water quality-enhancing features of the pond. Experts will be available to chat with people about flood mitigation steps and water quality steps they can take on their properties, as well as discuss grants they are eligible for. The Office of the Arts will be there with its Mobile Art Truck to do screen prints of new, artist-designed manhole covers that will be installed in Old Town North this summer.

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OPEN SUN 5/1, 2-4PM

Belle Haven | \$1,785,000

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www.JanetPriceHomes.com



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Braddock Heights | \$1,175,000

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Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
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Braddock Heights | \$849,900

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