

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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JUNE 9, 2022



PHOTO VIA TWITTER

The inaugural graduating class of Alexandria City High School celebrates its commencement June 4 at George Mason University's Eagle Bank Arena.



PHOTO VIA TWITTER

Student Government Association president Sabine Mead speaks at the ACHS June 4 commencement at George Mason University's Eagle Bank Arena as principal Peter Balas looks on.

Titanic Celebrations

ACHS class of 2022 graduates.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The inaugural graduating class of Alexandria City High School held its commencement ceremony June 4 at George Mason University's EagleBank Arena.

With a theme "Ushering in a New Era," ACPS leaders presented diplomas to 809 graduating seniors during the ceremony, which returned to its pre-pandemic venue for the first time since June 2019. The Titans Class of 2022 are the first students to graduate from ACHS after the school's name change in July 2021.

"It's pretty special to be the first class to graduate under the new name," said Eliza Coast, who graduated with the class of 2022 along with her twin brother Sam. "It was a very meaningful name change and means a lot that we get to have it on our diploma."

ACHS executive principal Peter Balas led the lineup of speakers at the ceremony.

"I am proud of our Class of 2022 Titan graduates and excited to celebrate them," Balas said. "We commend them for the hard work, dedication and resiliency that led them through the challenges of the past few years to reach their high school graduation.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Twins Eliza and Sam Coast celebrate their upcoming graduation June 3 at Alexandria City High School

Their work ethic and resilience will serve these new graduates well as they experience life beyond high school and begin their next chapter to pursue their dreams, passions and goals."

In addition to Balas, commencement ceremony speakers included Superintendent

Gregory C. Hutchings, senior student speaker Ana Reyes Araujo, Student Government Association president Sabine Mead and Class of 2022 President Grace Williams.

"We took many risks to get here," said Mead. "But without taking these risks, without boldly and courageously daring to over-



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

ACHS senior Aldo Memisha received a full tuition scholarship to George Mason University where he will study marketing.

come, we'd miss out on the ability to discover who we are and all that we offer to the world."

Students Erin Burns and Caroline Davenport sang the national anthem and Class of 2022 Treasurer Margaret Irvine presented the class gift, which will be funding for the Classes of 2023-2025.

SEE ACHS GRADUATION, PAGE 5



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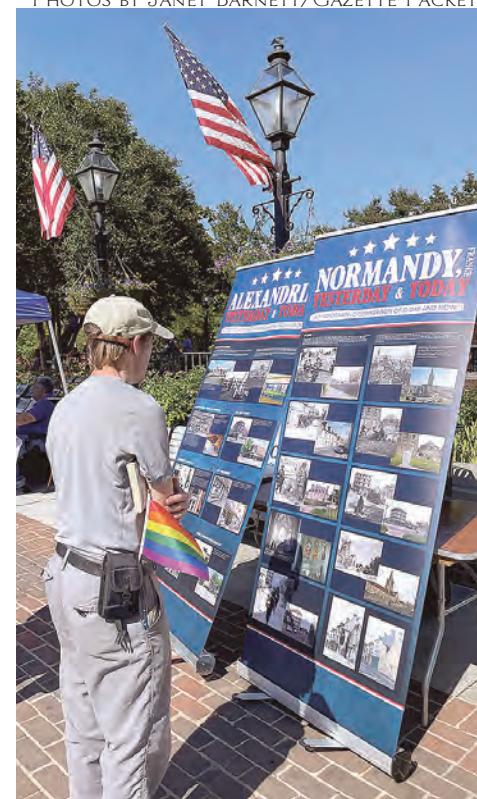


World War II reenactors participate in the 78th commemoration of D-Day June 4 in Market Square. From Left: Thomas Callear as Maj. Chet Hanson, Jim Callear as Gen. Omar Bradey, and Ted Shealey from the Second Armored Division Living History Group. In front is Anna Shealey as a liberated French civilian.



Sid Wade portrays Gen. George Patton during the 78th commemoration of D-Day June 4 in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Visitors check out a display of information at the 78th commemoration of D-Day June 4 in Market Square.

Operation Overlord

City marks 78th D-Day anniversary.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was the largest seaborne invasion in history. On June 6, 1944, 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, starting the epic battle known as D-Day in an offensive to take back Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II.

Code named Operation Overlord, the fighting was fierce with over 4,900 soldiers, sailors, airmen and coastguardsmen killed, missing or unaccounted for. But the battle is seen as the turning point in WWII and leading to an Allied victory the following year.

On June 4, the city commemorated the 78th anniversary of D-Day with a ceremony at Market Square. Featured were WWII reenactors, a 1940s jazz band, the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps, and displays detailing the battle on the Normandy beaches of Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold and Sword.

"Today I am a second armored infantryman, and my daughter Anna is a member

of the French resistance," said Ted Shealey of the Second Armored Division Living History Group. "Anna is wearing a World War I French helmet and WWI German captured equipment and I have liberated her as a civilian."

Other reenactors included Thomas Callear and Maj. Chet Hanson, Jim Callear as Gen. Omar Bradley and Sid Wade as Gen. George Patton.

"I am portraying Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley on the fourth of June in 1944," said Jim Callear as he stood next to a sign for Bradley's 1st Army Command Post. "The 1st Army command consisted of the 1st infantry division, the 29th infantry division and the 4th infantry division and those are the divisions that landed on the beaches of Normandy under my command."

Educational displays detailed the resistance met by troops entering the beaches, including Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall,' 2,400 miles of bunkers, landmines, and beach obstacles established in anticipation of a French coast invasion.



A volunteer details the 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy June 4 in Market Square.

RHA and Alexandria Youth Impact Program Offering Free Two-Week Leadership Camp for Kids Ages 10-14

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) and the Alexandria Youth Impact Program (YIP) are joining forces to offer a two-week leadership camp for students at no cost to families.

The camp, to be held at the Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, 3600 Commonwealth Ave., from June 13-24, is open to students 10-14 years

old. ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew and YIP Founder Riki Ellison are encouraging families to sign their children up.

"We formed this partnership because we need to develop leaders starting at a young age," Pettigrew said. "ARHA's primary mission involves housing, but it is important to us to also provide programs for families living at ARHA sites that will enhance their chances for growth and success. I am proud

to work with the YIP team to make this opportunity possible for our residents."

The dates for the program were chosen to fill the two-week gap between when the regular Alexandria school year ends, and summer school and other programs begin.

"By the time these young people complete this course, they will have undergone leadership development, character building and academics – and we hope

have fun doing it," Ellison said.

The program is open free to any ARHA family in the city. The school is located in the Del Ray neighborhood. No matter the distance, ARHA is providing free transportation for any participant in either the public housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The program is limited to 200 participants, so ARHA urges interested families to send in their application. To apply, please visit www.youthimpactprogram.org or contact Ms. Diaz at ARHA at 703-929-8218.

OBITUARY



Bill Jarrett, right, died May 17 at the age of 81. He is shown with his son Billy in an undated photo.



Bill Jarrett served as a member of the National Ski Patrol team.

William Jarrett Sr.

Community leader dies at 81.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Jarrett, a past president of the Alexandria Rotary Club and Saint Andrew's Society, died May 17 following a short illness. He was 81.

"Bill was a lifelong man of service," said Jarrett's fellow Rotarian Gant Redmon. "He was one of the most outstanding presidents we had. I think he brought in more members than anyone I have ever known and served his community with distinction."

William Fretz Jarrett Sr. was born June 24, 1940, in Washington, D.C. to James McPherson Jarrett and Helen Fretz Jarrett. He attended Wilson High School, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1956.

Jarrett continued his education at the University of Montana, earning a BA and MS in Business and Marketing. During this time he served as a forest ranger and firefighter in the Bob Marshall Wilderness of Montana and served with the Montana Paramedics Skydiving Rescue Team. He later became a Ski Patrol and was recognized as a member of the National Ski Patrol Team.

Upon his return to the East Coast, Jarrett served in the Executive Office of the President during the administration of Lyndon Johnson as project manager of the Office of Economic Opportunity for Shriver's Job Corp.

During President Gerald Ford's administration, Jarrett served as vice president of finance of the National Alliance of Businessmen working alongside the nation's top corporate leaders in helping American citizens.

In 1977, Jarrett helped open the Alexandria Office of Merrill Lynch, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. During this time he was recognized for many significant transactions, including having "consummated the largest railroad equipment private placement ever done on Wall Street."

In addition to the Alexandria Rotary Club

and Saint Andrew's Society, Jarrett served as president of the Alexandria Symphony and president of the Virginia Scottish Games, among others. He oversaw the funding of the building of Blessed Sacrament Church and was instrumental in creating the memorial in honor of Father Thomas Casey.

During his retirement, Jarrett split his time between his Alexandria home and a farm in Rappahannock County where he continued his service as president of the Flint Hill Fire & Rescue Company, volunteering with Boy Scout Troop 316, and the Rappahannock Food Pantry and as member of the Knights of Columbus.

In addition to the many organizations he served, Jarrett had a lifelong love of music and enjoyed singing, yodeling and playing bluegrass music.

"Growing up Dad always kept his guitar in the back of our car," said son William "Billy" Jarrett Jr. "He never went anywhere without it."

"I know it sounds cliché but they just don't make them like him anymore."

— William "Billy" Jarrett Jr.

Jarrett is survived by his wife, Jeanne Marie, son William F. Jarrett Jr. of Miami, stepdaughters Leslie Patykewich (Paul Dowling) and Erika Robinson (Charles,) godson Scotty Harrower and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, James McPherson Jarrett and Helen Fretz Jarrett, and his brother, Robert McPherson Jarrett.

A funeral service will be held at St. Peter Catholic Church at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alexandria Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 32066, Alexandria, VA 22320.

"Dad really was a man of service," Billy Jarrett said. "I don't know many people who are like that anymore. I know it sounds cliché but they just don't make them like him anymore."

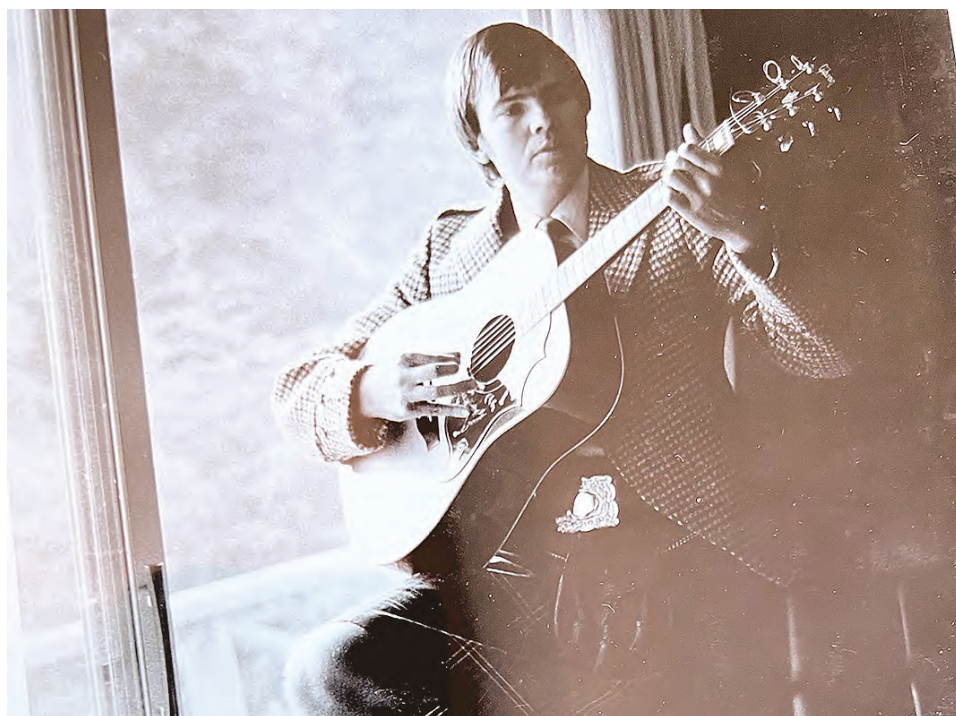
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Bill Jarrett at his wedding to Jeanne Marie with son Billy and stepdaughters Leslie and Erika.



Bill Jarrett, second from left, served as the president of the Saint Andrew's Society in 1984.



Bill Jarrett was known for his love of music and playing bluegrass on his guitar.

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PHOTO VIA TWITTER

ACPS superintendent Gregory Hutchings, second from left, poses for a photo with City Council and School Board members June 4 at Eagle Bank Arena.

ACHS Graduation

FROM PAGE 1

Prior to the presentation of diplomas, Balas awarded a posthumous diploma to 18-year-old Luis Mejia Hernandez, who died May 24 following an altercation at Bradlee Shopping Center. Hernandez's uncle, Guillermo Romero, accepted the certificate on his behalf.

"I want to congratulate the Titan Class of 2022," said Hutchings in his remarks. "Their hard work and perseverance made them the first graduating class of our newly named Alexandria City High School, made possible

by the students' efforts and engagement in the award-winning Identity Project. We celebrate their achievement today and are grateful also, to all those who have helped them along the way."

Said senior Sam Coast, "I am excited to move on with my life and start a new chapter, as I think all seniors are by the time they reach the end of their four years."



PHOTO VIA TWITTER

Class of 2022 President Grace Williams speaks at the ACHS June 4 commencement at George Mason University's Eagle Bank Arena.



PHOTO VIA TWITTER

ACHS Executive Principal Peter Balas addresses the class of 2022 June 4 at George Mason University's Eagle Bank Arena.

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SUMMER 2022

JUN
10-12

George Washington's Mount Vernon Summerfest

JUN
11

7th Annual Well Ray Festival

JUN
16

JUL
21

AUG
18

Old Town Art Walk

JUN
17-18

Portside in Old Town Summer Festival

JUN
19

Juneteenth at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

JUN
26

Growing Pride at The Garden

JUL
9

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration

JUL
9

9th Annual Old Town Pub Crawl hosted by Port City Brewing Co.

JUL
31

The Science Behind Harry Potter Tours at the Apothecary

AUG
6

Friendship Firehouse Festival

AUG
27

Around the World Cultural Festival

For more summer events and activities, check out:

[VisitAlexandria.com/Summer](https://www.visitalexandria.com/Summer)

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“Our primary goal tonight is to honor and remember the victims of gun violence.”

— Kelly Johnson, Alexandria Moms Demand Action



More than 350 people gather in Market Square June 3 for the Moms Demand Action Wear Orange rally as part of National Gun Violence Awareness Day.



Volunteers with Be Smart, the education division of Moms Demand Action, at the June 3 National Gun Violence Awareness rally in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT/
GAZETTE PACKET

‘We Will Be Relentless’

City marks National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Market Square was a sea of orange as more than 350 people turned out June 3 for the Alexandria Chapter of Moms Demand Action’s Wear Orange Rally marking National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Held each year on the first Friday in June, the National Gun Violence Awareness Day rally kicked off Wear Orange Weekend to recognize those who have been impacted by gun violence in the U.S.

“Our primary goal tonight is to honor and remember the victims of gun violence,” said Kelly Johnson, the event lead for the Alexandria chapter of Moms Demand Action, an organization supporting stricter gun legislation. “A strong second goal is to help people plug in. People care about this issue and don’t know what to do with their anger and sadness, particularly

these last few weeks, so we have ways to plug them into the gun violence prevention movement.”

Mayor Justin Wilson welcomed the crowd to Market Square, declaring June 3 Gun Violence Awareness Day in Alexandria and reading excerpts from City Council’s Proclamation on Gun Violence issued May 23.

Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) was the keynote speaker at the rally.

“If we elect the right leaders, the right leaders who want to do something about guns, we can change the laws and change the culture,” Beyer said “While we breathe, we hope. We will be relentless.”

Volunteers at the event read the names of each victim from the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, N.Y., and Uvalde, Texas, and honored the 1,065 victims of gun-related deaths in the state of Virginia each year.

“We also need to educate gun owners and community members about how to secure and store guns,” added Johnson at a table with information on Be Smart, the education division of Moms Demand Action. “We believe in fighting this battle on a number of fronts.”



A representative from the Alexandria chapter of Moms Demand Action registers a participant for the June 3 National Gun Violence Awareness Day rally in Market Square.



A.J. Thomas, Ellen Nelson, Rosa Byrd and Jack Byrd at the June 3 National Gun Violence Awareness rally in Market Square.



Two women hold “grandmas against guns” signs at the National Gun Violence Awareness rally June 3 in Market Square.



CONGRATULATIONS

Alexandria City High School Class of 2022!



**Alexandria City High School graduates have diverse postsecondary plans.
We wish them luck in their future endeavors!**



Ryan E. Fields
Miami University



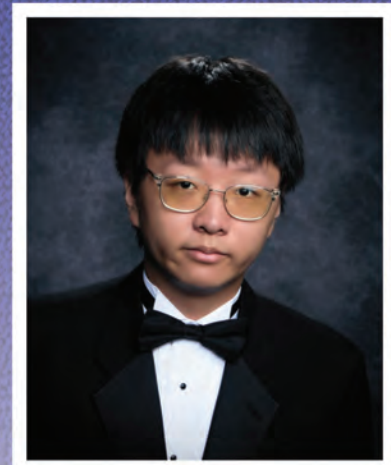
Dana Ortega
University of Virginia



Kevin Vasquez Marroquin
Northern Virginia Community College



Maile Organek
Princeton University + Army ROTC

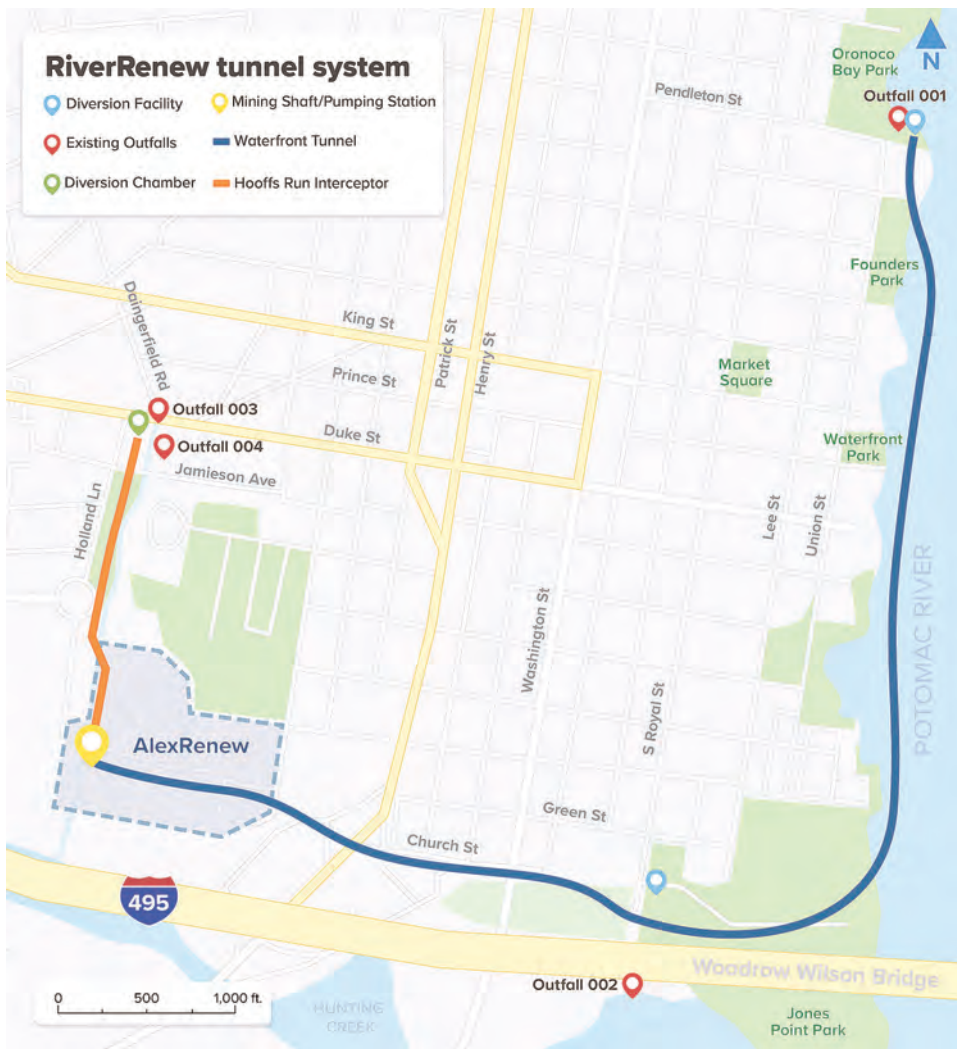


Kevin Zheng
The College of William & Mary

As of June 3, Alexandria City High School graduates are heading off to the following colleges and military institutions:

American Trade School; American University; Auburn University; Bard College; Boston University; Bowdoin College; Case Western Reserve University; Chatham University; Christopher Newport University; Clarkson University; Clemson University; Colby College; Colgate University; College of Charleston; Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art; Cornell University; Dartmouth College; Duke University; Duquesne University; Elon University; Fashion Institute of Technology; George Brown College, Toronto; George Mason University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; Hampden-Sydney College; Hampshire College; Hampton University; Ithaca College; James Madison University; Johnson & Wales University-Providence; Longwood University; Loyola Marymount University; Loyola University New Orleans; Lycoming College; Mary Baldwin University; Marymount University; Miami University, Oxford; Michigan State University; Morehouse College; Morgan State University; Mount Holyoke College; New York University; Norfolk State University; North Carolina A & T State University; North Carolina State University at Raleigh; Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria; Northern Virginia Community College - Annandale Campus; Old Dominion University; Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus; Princeton University; Purdue University-Main Campus; Queen's University; Radford University; Roanoke College; Rochester Institute of Technology; San Diego State University; Savannah College of Art & Design - SCAD; Seton Hall University; St Olaf College; St. Lawrence University; St. Paul's School of Nursing; SUNY College at Oswego; Sweet Briar College; Texas State University; The Hague University of Applied Sciences; The New School; The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; The University of the South; Thomas Jefferson University; Trinity Washington University; Tufts University; Tulane University of Louisiana; University of California-Berkeley; University of California-Los Angeles; University of Colorado Boulder; University of Hawaii at Manoa; University of Mary Washington; University of Maryland-College Park; University of Minnesota-Twin Cities; University of Notre Dame; University of Oregon; University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus; University of South Carolina-Columbia; University of Virginia-Main Campus; University of Washington-Seattle Campus; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Vassar College; Virginia Commonwealth University; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Virginia State University; Wagner College; Wellesley College; West Virginia University; Whittier College; William & Mary; Worcester Polytechnic Institute; York College of Pennsylvania; U.S. Army; U.S. Navy; U.S. Air Force; U.S. Marine Corps.

Alexandria
Another **Gazette Packet** Community Partner



The map shows the tunnel route around the city, designed to stop the overflow of raw sewage into the Potomac River.

River Renew Project Focuses on Clean Water

City project is in response to a 2017 directive.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Remember the Chunnel? In 1988, engineers in Europe came up with a tunnel boring machine that chewed its way from England to France under the English Channel. It took five years for the boring machine to create a tunnel 31.5 miles long that is now the route of the Eurostar train that links England and France.

Alexandria is about to see its own chunnel as engineers start on “River Renew,” using a boring machine to build new tunnels for the City of Alexandria’s aging sewer system. The tunneling includes stretches like the “Hoofs Run Interceptor,” which slants towards the Potomac River, and connects with the Waterfront Tunnel, which parallels Church Street and then Jones Point Drive through Jones Point Park and goes under the Potomac River. It goes north under the river, past the waterfront area and King Street, heading inland at Oronoco Street, and ends just north of the Robinson Terminal.

The boring machine in Alexandria will make a tunnel 12 feet wide, and 120 feet deep, but to people and traffic on the sur-

face, there will be “no disturbance,” said Justin Carl at AlexRenew. “It goes well under the bottom of the river,” he said. The boring machine is due to arrive from Germany in July, and they plan to have a naming event for the boring device.

The project is AlexRenew and is using River Renew technology to achieve the goal. According to project information, RiverRenew will prevent millions of gallons of combined sewage from polluting the rivers and streams each year. This will create safer, cleaner, healthier waterways for the community, wildlife, and future generations.

The tunnel system that will connect to the four combined sewer outfalls, which currently pollute local waterways on rainy days. The tunnel system will capture millions of gallons of sewage mixed with rainwater for treatment at AlexRenew and the cleaned water will be returned to the Potomac River.

Officials broke out the golden shovels in late September last year to kick off this \$454.4 million project in response to a 2017 law passed by the General Assembly to clean the waters in and around the City of Alexandria. Officials created AlexRenew as a response to that directive, and launched a major infrastructure program to achieve

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS CONTRIBUTED



Hoofs Run Riparian Buffer Enhancements



Vibrant Public Space At Oronoco Bay

These artist renderings show two locations impacted by the project.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

Under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, a staging area is currently surrounded by a River Renew fence.



A project information sign on site under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

cleaner, healthier waterways in Alexandria.

On the Surface

Cleanliness is the buzzword, and this stands true in the construction as well. Riv-

erRenew is being constructed consciously and built to last, the AlexRenew information said. “We’re incorporating sustainable

SEE RIVER RENEW, PAGE 9
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NEWS

Donate for the Little Ones

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Builders for Babies Drive is about halfway to their goal of collecting 50,000 diapers for HomeAid America's nonprofit partners. The diaper drive began this year on Mother's Day and is due to end On Father's Day, June 19. Although all diaper sizes are in demand, the current need is particularly for the larger size 4, 5, 6 and all sizes of pull-up training pants.

The cost of disposable diapers is \$1,000 per year which is a challenge for families already struggling to pay rent and buy food and pay other critical bills. Reusing diapers or leaving them on too long can cause diaper rash and discomfort for infants. Low-income assistance programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) don't cover the expense of diapers and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which does cover diapers, is stretched thin for families with other necessary supplies.

A number of local businesses have organized a diaper drive including First Excel Title, Robin Mathis Law, Embrace Home Loans, JR Jenkins, Intercoastal Mortgage LLC, Beazer Homes, McAlister's Deli, nine different Starbucks locations, Centerview Title Group, Merritt Properties, Chateau de Chantilly Cafe, Pulte and Thompson and Greenspon. If you would like to host a drive and need a collection box, contact Georgeanne Harter at 703-953-3525 or gharter@homeaidnova.org.

In addition, individuals or companies can schedule



Robin Mathis Law employees collect diapers for the HomeAid America Builders for Babies Drive.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

a time for a drop off at 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 1108 Chantilly or send diapers directly through the Amazon Wishlist.

HomeAid Northern Virginia brings together local non-profit service providers with the local home builder community to build and renovate homeless shelters, housing facilities, and community spaces for programs serving the homeless.

River Renew Project Focuses on Clean Water

FROM PAGE 8

design elements into the new infrastructure being built and seeking certification from leading sustainable infrastructure accreditation programs," their information stated. These environmentally sound steps include LEED certification at the pumping station, a tunnel developed to withstand any impacts from climate change and "green" infrastructure will be installed at multiple locations to capture and treat stormwater to help protect natural resources. Similar systems are being used in Richmond and Lynchburg.

In the end, Alexandrians will benefit at several locations, project information said. Along Hooffs Run, the riparian buffer will be enhanced and will include a new boardwalk trail. Habitat creation and native plantings will provide the community with opportunities to interact with natural resources. Across town at Pendleton Street, a new community promenade will be constructed, creating an enhanced public connection to the waterfront. At South Royal Street, inva-

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sive species will be removed in portions of Jones Point Park, and the park entrance will be restored with native grasses and trees while preserving adjacent forested wetlands.

History

The City's combined sewer system dates back to the 1800s. During most wet weather events, combined sewage (a mixture of wastewater and stormwater runoff) discharges through one of four combined sewer outfalls into receiving waterways, resulting in 140 million gallons of raw sewage a year.

In April 2017, the Virginia General Assembly passed a new law requiring the remediation of these outfalls by July 1, 2025. The City, working with Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew), submitted a Long Term Control Plan to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) in 2018.

The City has transferred ownership of the combined sewer outfalls to AlexRenew. AlexRenew is implementing the plan as part of its RiverRenew Program. <https://www.riverrenew.com/>



We invite you to join us
Sunday, June 12, 2022

at 1801 North Quaker Lane for a
building dedication service and
celebration of our permanent church home!

11:15 a.m. Service 12:30 p.m. Bluegrass & BBQ

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CALENDAR

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 JUNE 26

The "Afros and Abstract" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Celebrates imagination and passion that reaches the expanse of humanity and a movement, encapsulating the amorphous state of color. Join them on opening day (Friday, June 3, 12-9 p.m.) for the widest selection of artwork. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit: DelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THRU 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.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

JUNE 8-26

"Birds of a Feather." 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Arts on the Horizon presents Birds of a Feather. Written by Joshua Rashon Streeter and directed by Ryan Sellers. This nonverbal production is best for children ages 3-6 and their families. Visit the website: www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

Ikebana Demonstration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Ikebana artist Katsuko Thielke will give a demonstration on the art of Japanese floral arranging. To purchase tickets, go to: <https://iichapter1.com/>

JUNE 10-12

Mount Vernon Summerfest. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. More than 30 craft beers from Virginia breweries are available to sample at Mount Vernon Summerfest. Your



Take an Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour at the Carlyle House on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

ticket includes a commemorative tasting cup and 8 tasting tickets. Additional tastings are available to purchase on-site. Visit mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

The Late Shift: ALX Pride at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 7 to 10 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. ALX Pride is a community-focused event to celebrate LGBTQ+ creatives in Alexandria and beyond with a night of arts projects along the waterfront and the Union Street entrances as well as throughout the building in a myriad of styles and celebrations.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Floral Design Workshop - Summer Bouquet. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Create a beautiful summer flower arrangement with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn how to properly care for and handle flowers along with learning creative design ideas. Register for both the class and the supply fee. Bring disinfected shears and a short box or container that will help you transport your arrangement home. \$40 per person (plus \$30 supply fee). Code 0D2.O71Q.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Garden Tour and Ice Cream. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Tour the vibrant summer gardens with a Green Spring Master Gardener docent. Finish at the Historic House lawn to enjoy delicious ices, served with toppings and garnishes. \$15 per person. Code I7Q.GOTU. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

7th Annual Well Ray Festival. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. Over 100 health and lifestyle inspired vendors offer demos and sample

treatments such as health screens, massages, acupuncture, physical therapy, nutritional assessments, and reiki energy treatments. Alexandria's best fitness professionals will be offering a variety of 30 minute classes such as yoga, Pilates, HIIT Classes, boxing, Barre, cycling, dance classes, and meditation classes. Food vendors will feature healthy food bites and local retailers will feature wellness related fashion and products. Visit WellRayDelRay.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Garden Talk - Edible Ornamental Garden. 10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Make your garden beautiful and tasty with edible plants! Let Extension Master Gardener docents show you many possibilities for incorporating edibles, including veggies, berries and roots into your garden. \$12 per person. Code 239.3CR8.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Take a tour of Alexandria as we explore looking at the various Architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour. 9 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Alexandria. This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation. The tour is limited to 12 participants and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Walking tours take place rain or shine so please wear appropriate shoes and clothing. For

more information, call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendall-house.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Mosaic Harmony Concert. 5 p.m. At GW Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Celebrating the Harmony that Connects Us with special guest GenOUT Youth Chorus. General admission \$30. Visit www.mosaicharmony.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

"The Manchurian Candidate." 6 p.m. Picnic; 7 p.m. Show begins. At 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Presented by the Picnic Theatre Company and Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House. The Manchurian Candidate is a neo-noir, psychological thriller about the infiltration of the American political system by Russian agents during the Cold War.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

"Tell Me Your Name" Tour at Carlyle House. 5:30 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and John Carlyle's plantations. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th-century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

Steps Toward Freedom: A Juneteenth Remembrance. 5 and 6:30 p.m. At The Secret Garden at the Rectory, 711 Princess St., Alexandria. Exciting artists and a powerful program of beloved spirituals, incredible songs, narration, storytelling and lyrical dance bring to life this new American holiday. After presenting its first Juneteenth concert just a day after Congress voted to make Juneteenth a national holiday, Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts partner once again to celebrate this day of joy and liberation. Enjoy a Juneteenth cocktail during this performance.

Visit classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts

JUNE 16-19

"The Royal Revue." At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Metropolitan School of the Arts is kicking off summer break with spring dance production featuring popular fairytale princesses and princes in its the Royal Revue at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. More than 450 Metropolitan School of the Arts students will perform the spring production with support from 200 volunteers. Show times: Thurs., June 16, and Fri., June 17 at 6:30 PM; and Sat., June 18 and Sun., June 19 at 12 PM and 5 PM on both days. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org/tickets to purchase tickets.

JUNE 17-18

Alexandria Jazz Festival. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. The 44th Annual Alexandria Jazz Fest will be held Friday, June 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Festival-goers will be treated to jazz from Cubano Groove, VERONNEAU and the Eric Byrd Trio; plus interludes of poetry by Zeina Azzam, the City's newest Poet Laureate; KaNikki Jakarta, the City's Poet Laureate from 2019 to 2022; and an up-and-coming Alexandria youth poet. The free Portside Festival continues Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 9 p.m. with an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family with hands-on art, history activities and more. Visit the Portside Festival website.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Storytime with the Black History Museum. 11 to 11:30 a.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Gather in the reading garden to explore the history of Alexandria's local African American community through books, stories and songs. All are welcome, but the event is geared towards children ages 3-6. Cosponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Juneteenth Jubilee with Culture Queen. 12 to 1 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join Grammy-nominated performer Culture Queen for an interactive musical storytelling show and learn the meaning of the Juneteenth holiday. Open to all ages. Cosponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria as part of Celebrate Juneteenth 2022.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Servants at the Lee-Fendall House. 2 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. Hear the stories of how they built and shaped the Lee-Fendall House over the course of its history. For your safety and for those around you, face masks

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

are required. The tour is limited to 8 participants. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$10 per person. Members of Lee-Fendall House can attend for free but must call (703) 548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org to make a reservation.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Juneteenth Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Guest speakers Teri Speight and Abra Lee will discuss the past, present and future of Black garden clubs in Virginia, and environmental educator Maya Alexander will highlight the benefits of natural spaces for the Black community. During the panel discussion, there will be a mini farmer's market and activity tables for children to enjoy. After lunch, join a garden walk or seed planting session. Pack a picnic or pre-order from local restaurant Granddaddy's Skillet. Call 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. America's second Independence Day is a time to celebrate, reflect and learn about the end of slavery in the United States. It's a celebration of freedom and also an opportunity to deepen our awareness of the nation's legacy of systemic racism and oppression. Join artists at the Art Center for a shared community

space in the Grand Hall to create artistic messages with your loved ones.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth Celebration with Vocalist Tomika Arnold. 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Join in a Juneteenth celebration of Black music featuring a performance of gospel, R&B, and blues standards by DC native vocalist, songwriter and author Tomika Arnold. The performance will take place in the garden at Duncan Library.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth Celebration at Carlyle House. 12 to 4 p.m. At the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Presented in collaboration with C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas and The Athenaeum, the event will be held outside in the gardens, on the lawn and the tented terrace of the Carlyle House, located in the heart of Old Town. Discover the history of Juneteenth through live music, hands-on activities, art, history and poetry readings. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865.

JUNE 22-25

MVBA Summer Basketball Camp at Walt Whitman MS. Co-Ed. Ages 5-14 Years Old. June 22-25, June 27-July 1, July 5-8. Camp Hours from 9 AM-3 PM. For information, email us at markvincentbasketball

academy@gmail.com or visit our website markvincentbasketballcamps.com.

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.

JUNE

Thu. Jun. 9: Dixie Longate: "Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets" \$35/\$85(VIP)
Fri. Jun. 10: Tusk - The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band \$45.00
Sun. Jun. 12: Gaelic Storm \$45.00
Mon. Jun. 13: We Three \$35.00
Wed. Jun. 15: Debbie Gibson: "The Body Remembers Tour" \$59.50
Fri. Jun. 17: NRBO and Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun \$45.00
Sat. Jun. 18: SOS Band \$69.50
Sun. Jun. 19: The Zappa Band \$55.00
Mon. Jun. 20: Jesse Cook \$45.00
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Fri/June 24: A Tribute to Tom Petty \$25
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Sun. Jun. 26: The Music of Cream featuring Will Johns and Kofi Baker Performing Disraeli Gears & Clapton Classics \$35.00
Mon. Jun. 27: Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway \$39.50
Wed. Jun. 29: Dave Mason 'World In Changes' \$59.50

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.

INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN AND OUTDOOR POOL SEASON

The City of Alexandria's Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain opened May 28 and will operate through October 15. Outdoor pools will be open Saturday, May 28, through Friday, September 9.

POTOMAC YARD PARK INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN

Located between Potomac Yard Park's two playgrounds at 2501 Potomac Ave., the interactive fountain features 36 water jets with programmed sequences and lighting for nighttime effects. For added public safety, the fountain features a secondary ultraviolet water treatment system. Shoes must be worn while using the fountain.

Hours of Operation:

May 28 through September 5: Daily, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

September 6 through October 15: Daily, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

OUTDOOR POOLS

The City's three outdoor pools will provide scheduled programming and opportunities for recreational open swim and lap swimming at the following locations:

Old Town Pool (1609 Cameron St.) This complex includes a large pool with eight 25-yard lap lanes and a diving well, and a separate 1-3 foot depth training

pool with a ramp available for small children. A picnic area and a playground are adjacent to the pool. A free parking lot is on-site, and a DASH bus stop is one block away.

Memorial Pool at Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe St.)

This small pool with a beach entry and spray features is ideal for families with young children and adults seeking therapeutic benefits. A free parking lot is on-site, and a DASH bus stop is one block away.

Warwick Pool (3301 Landover St.)

This complex includes a six lane 25-yard lap pool with an accessible ramp entry. The water depth ranges from 0 to 5 feet. The Landover Street playground is adjacent to the pool. Limited free street parking is available, and a DASH bus stop is two blocks away.

Operations may adjust according to local, state and federal health guidelines. Visit alexandriava.gov/aquatics for a complete list of City pools, current operating hours, fees and entry requirements.

AQUATIC CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

Registration for summer water aerobics, learn-to-swim classes and swim team is now available by visiting alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

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Obituary

Obituary

Margaret Ellen Dring (Peggy)

Peggy died peacefully, at home with her husband and friends on May 17, 2022, at the age of 75, following a recurrence of cancer. A graduate of The Grier School and Hood College, Peggy joined the Defense Intelligence Agency and was posted to Bogota, Colombia, where she met her husband-to-be. They were married in 1972 and would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this September. Peggy patiently saw her husband through college at Georgetown University and later at Georgetown Law, and in 1980 started her own interior design business, Peggy Dring Interiors, Inc., which she ran for the next 40 years. Her business focused almost exclusively on Old Town, Alexandria homes, and while catering to a wide variety of design styles, her favorite was the Empire Period. Peggy was beautiful, thoughtful and engaging. It was always a joy to be in her company. She will be greatly missed. Arrangements for a memorial Mass will be announced at a future time.

Obituary

Obituary

Rose Marie Laue Christensen, 89 years old and living at the Fairfax Retirement Community, passed away surrounded by her family on May 27, 2022 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

Rose Marie was born on February 16, 1933 to Augusta Pauline Rabe and Herman Frederick Laue on a farm near Palmer, Kansas. The family moved from the farm to Greenleaf, Kansas which she considered her home town. She was the second youngest of 6 children and is survived by her older sister, Erlyne Snow. Rose married John Edward Christensen of Waterville, Kansas in 1951. John joined the Army and Rose began the life of the military wife. She had three children, all boys, John Edward, Paul Evan and David Edgar. John had childhood leukemia and passed at age 3 in 1956. Paul is married to Chong Hui Christensen and David is married to Lethu Christensen. Rose has three grandchildren from Paul's marriage, Danielle, Amanda and John. Amanda is married to Jonathan Graef and John is married to Tara Purdham. John and Tara gave Rose two great-grandchildren, Natalie and Noah. Rose also has two step-grandchildren from David's marriage, Andrew and Monica.

Rose Marie raised her children and began work with the federal government in 1977 as a clerk typist. She returned to college in the early 1980's and earned her Bachelor of Science diploma from the University of Maryland in 1986. Rose continued to advance in her career and retired in 2003 after 26 years as a GS13. Her last position prior to retirement was as Manager of the Army's Freedom of Information Office. After retirement from the government Rose continued to work part time at Curves, where she would assist others with their workouts.

Rose was devoted to her family and many other causes including Meals on Wheels, Red Cross and she loved animals. Rose learned to scuba dive and snow ski. She went on a 10-day white water rafting trip down the Colorado River when she was in her 60's and traveled to the Amazon in her 70's. Rose had a strong connection to her religion and one high light of her life was being able to travel to Israel to see where Christ lived and preached.

Rose was well known for caring for and helping others and putting her whole heart into anything she tried to do. She had a sharp wit and was never shy in speaking her mind.

Viewing and services will be held at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA, on June 18th. More information is available at DemaineFuneralHomes.com or DignityMemorial.com.

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of the worst mistakes that can be made
in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

Legals

Legals

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

6/8/2022

Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria

3209 5th Street SE, Washington DC 20032

202-800-0632/703-836-1021

On or about June 9, 2022, Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Healthy Homes Production Grant Program (HHP) is authorized under 501 and Section 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. §§ 1701z-1 and 1701z-2), and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021(Public Law 116-260, approved December 27, 2020) for the following multi-year program/project: Healthy Homes Production Grant, for the purpose of providing healthy home repairs to low-income homeowners in DC and the City of Alexandria, VA. Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria is requesting the release of \$1,600,000.00 in HUD assistance.

The proposed hazard control activities to be funded under this/these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area(s) has/have been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been achieved in this Tier 1 review: Airport Hazards, Air Quality, Coastal Barriers Resources, Coastal Zone Management, Sole Source Aquifers, Endangered Species, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protections, Floodplain Management, Noise Abatement, Wetlands, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Environmental Justice. Site-specific environmental reviews will include compliance with the following environmental laws and authorities for proposed projects funded under the program listed above: Flood Insurance, Historic Preservation, Contamination/Toxics. Should individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at 301 N Fairfax Street, Suite 208, Alexandria, VA 22314, ia@rebuildingtogetherdca.org and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria, info@rebuildingtogetherdca.org. All comments received by June 17, 2022 will be considered by Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria certifies to HUD that Katharine Dixon in his/her official capacity as President and CEO of Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria to utilize federal funds and implement the Program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria; (b) Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD and sent to the email address as follows: Karen M. Griego, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Program Environmental Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development LeadRegulations@HUD.GOV Potential objectors may contact HUD directly to verify the actual last day of the objection/comment period.

Katharine Dixon
President and CEO
Rebuilding Together DC Alexandria



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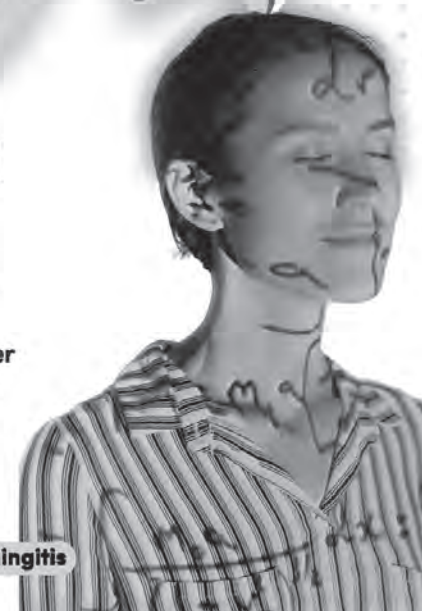
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It's My Idea, and I Do Think Much Of It

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And while I ended last week's column referring to two cities, Rome, and Milwaukee, that weren't built in a day (figuratively speaking), neither as it happens are they cities that I've visited. In fact, there are lots of cities that I've not visited, for all the usual reasons. Reasons which, after receiving a diagnosis of "terminal" cancer, become insignificant, and life in the post-cancer diagnosis years takes on a whole new/urgent meaning. A meaning which invariably presents itself in the organization and planning of a presumptive "bucket," list, a list of people you want to see, places you want to go, and things you want to do before you succumb to your disease.

It is a question/concept I have been presented with frequently over my many cancer years, most of them while characterized as "terminal." Even my oncologist suggested it one time after a particular infused medication I had been taking stopped working and we were deciding how next to proceed. He said that perhaps I should stop treatment for a while, and since I was likely feeling as good as I ever would, perhaps take that trip I had always dreamed of. He added that I might feel worse after we started new treatment; never knowing exactly whether the side effects would be manageable, or even if the treatment would work.

As it has turned out, I never took my oncologist seriously. I figured my treatment was not something to stop just to take a vacation – because it might get worse if I didn't. I just didn't think like that. My thought was keep doing what we're doing and not allow the cancer – to the extent we had any control, to get any kind of foot hold. To me, it felt like giving up/giving in to the cancer, and I never wanted to do that. And pursuing one's bucket list, during, and as direct result of, the intervals of my cancer treatment, seemed ill-advised, or at least, ill timed – to me. Just because my treatment wasn't working at a certain point, never seemed like a good reason to do even less and try to live more. My attitude was then and is now to live as normally as possible and not create artificial diversions/accomplishments to satisfy some arbitrary list that might not otherwise exist if you weren't "terminal." I never wanted to realize that the reason I was doing something was because I was dying, and it needed to be done – or else. I never wanted to impose that kind of pressure on myself. Cancer creates enough pressure on its own. A cancer patient doesn't need to increase that pressure by trying to check off a list.

But perhaps I'm just being contrary. I've heard much about a so-called "bucket list" these last 13 and half years. And as I've said, I've never bought it to it because I thought the price was too high. I never have wanted to deny my cancer reality by living a life unsuitable to who I am at my core. I'm not exactly Popeye the Sailor Man, but "I am who I am," and if I'm not doing things that I normally do, and instead doing things that I don't normally do, I would know the only reason I'm doing these things – that I don't usually do, is because I'm dying. To me, I'd be reinforcing a negative, and the last thing I've wanted to do during my cancer career was allow negativity to take root anywhere, anyway, anyhow. I've always felt that when I die, I want to die on my own terms, doing my own things for my own reasons.

To summarize my philosophy, I don't want to do things because I have cancer, I want to do things as if I don't. Granted, some days are harder than others, but at the end of every day, I'm more determined than ever to make the best of a bad situation. And for me, a vacation from my treatment was never going to work.

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

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homELiFEStYLE

Using Interior Decor to Herald the Arrival of Summer

From throw pillows to rugs, small changes in a home's accessories can create the lazy days of the coming season.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE PACKET

With Labor Day in the rear view mirror and the official start of summer just two weeks away, three local design aficionados are focusing on accessories that create a seamless transition from spring to summer. Their ideas run the gamut from foliage to rugs and offer inspiration for embracing the beauty of the new season.

Light and airy color combinations, particularly those found in works of art can evoke a relaxed aura. Having recently completed a series of breezy beach scenes, reminiscent of summer, interior designer and artist Gretchen Fuss, formerly of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, says that paintings can set the tone of an interior space. "Attention to detail and design is all about truly living in a comforting environment. Each space needs harmony and purpose." Fuss works with other tastemakers to create a piece of art commissioned by a client.

In fact, Bethesda designer Eleanor Burch uses beach inspired elements to create ocean inspired spaces. "Beige, blue and white color schemes can take you away to a lazy summer day at the beach even if you're sitting in your living room," she said. "Even adding rattan baskets or using rattan placemats at dinner can create a sense of peace."

Seasonal foliage can be used to make the transition from spring to summer and blossoms are plentiful in the Washington region, says local designer Georgia Hoyler, owner of Passerine, an online shop which carries handmade vintage rugs from around the world. "Flowers offer an array of bright floral arrangements," she said. "But for a more dramatic statement, consider clipping flowering foliage from your yard to bring the season in. When it comes to branches as decor, bigger is always better. Oversized branches bring a sculptural element to a space that evokes a natural drama. Opt for an asymmetrical arrangement to create a more graceful line. By refreshing their water daily, a cut branch can last up to two weeks in your home."

From the understated elegance of a cotton knit throw draped casually on the back of a chair in the family room or a quilt in airy hues topping the bed in a guest room, trading heavy textiles for their warm weather counterparts throughout one's home is a cost effective way to embrace the carefree spirit of summer. "The simple replacement of throw pillows from stripes to tonal, block print floral patterns, for instance, makes a substantial impact with little effort," said Hoyler. "Beyond just pattern updates, consider the fibers of your textiles. Swapping a heavier weight cotton velvet or wool that



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA HOYLER.

When updating a home's interior to reflect a change in seasons, designer Georgia Hoyler, owner of online boutique Passerine, says that the most substantial change that you can make without replacing a single piece of furniture is updating your rug.

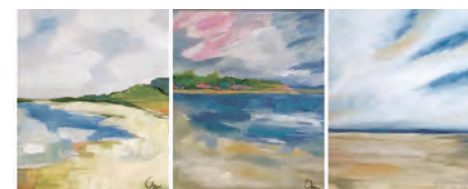


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETCHEN FUSS

Works of art, such as these beach scenes can herald a new season.

works for winter to lighter linen in pillows and bedding subconsciously feels fresher. Most importantly, consider the color palette. Consider romantic, cooler hues of spring and summer, such as soft blues, creams and whites."

The most substantial change that you can make without replacing a single piece of furniture is updating your rug," says Hoyler. "On cold winter nights, the shag of a Moroccan rug's thick pile may have appeal, but spring was made for a vintage Persian area rug," she said. "The lower pile height of an antique Persian Tabriz, Farahan or Bahktari make them perfect options in warmer months."

Changing the lighting in a space can be a minor endeavor that can have a major impact when transitioning for one season to another. "Knowing that summer's longer days typically pull brighter, natural daylight tones in your home, consider how to control your lighting," said Hoyler. "Swap the warm 2700 kelvin bulbs that you craved in winter for energy-efficient LED bulbs to compliment the change in natural light outdoors. If you have an outside space you like to enjoy in warm spring or summer evenings, install solar-powered landscaping spotlights or string twinkle lights over your patio or deck to draw you outdoors, even as the light fades."

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