

'I Pledge Allegiance' Naturalization ceremony celebrates newest American citizens.



New American citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance at a Citizens Day naturalization ceremony Sept. 13 at Market Square.



Maximiliano Aedoespicto at the ceremony honoring new American citizens Sept. 13 at Market Square.



Two of America's newest citizens celebrate at the Sept 13 naturalization ceremony at Market Square.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Mayor Justin Wilson was on hand as 25 immigrants from 24 different countries were welcomed as America's newest citizens with a Citizenship Day celebration Sept. 13 in Market

Square.

The ceremony was the first in-person naturalization event since 2019.

"This journey has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life," said Maximiliano Aedoespicto, whose family are first-generation immigrants from Chile. "This day is a fulfillment of everything

my parents gave up in leaving our family back home. Getting the citizenship today fulfills their entire journey and just makes this place more of a real home for me."

Michael Valverde, Associate Director for Field Operations for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, administered the Oath of

SEE NATURALIZATION, PAGE 6



A new U.S. citizen places a hand over her heart as she recites the Pledge of Allegiance Sept. 13 at Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY NINA TISARA/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Chet Avery, a Living Legend of Alexandria, died Sept. 8 at the age of 85.

'We Have Lost a Giant'

Disability rights champion Chet Avery dies at 85.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Chet Avery, a disability rights stalwart who helped transform protections for persons with disabilities across the country, died Sept. 8 at his home in Alexandria. He was 85.

Blind from the age of 17, Avery spearheaded tangible changes in Alexandria including curb cuts, a central library with no stairs and an office dedicated to serving Talking Book users, an accessible courthouse, accessible voting machines and a human rights ordi-

nance that includes persons with disabilities as a protected class.

"Chet's fingerprints are all across Alexandria, especially for people like myself who are blind," said Douglas Goist, who served on the Commission on Persons With Disabilities. "We spoke often about the commission's efforts to get spoken annunciators installed on all DASH and Metro buses in Alexandria and Chet was always willing to help in any way he could. Although he is no longer here, his impact on persons with disabilities will be seen, heard and felt for generations to come. He truly was Alexandria's forefather of disability rights."

Chester Pike Avery Jr. was born Aug. 1, 1937, to Chester Avery Sr. and his wife Gladys. He grew up in Sanford, Maine, where he was known among his friends as Spike.

"Before Spike went blind he and I were typical goof offs," said childhood friend Roger Marquis. "The summer he incurred the

detached retina and was admitted to Mass General in Boston everything changed. I kind of be-

came his crutch from driving to reading and companionship. Funny thing happened, I got paid \$1 an hour to read to him by the State of Maine for his high school class work and mine. Spike got grades good enough to

SEE DISABILITY RIGHTS, PAGE 4

"Chet truly was Alexandria's forefather of disability rights."

Former Commission on Persons With Disabilities member Douglas Goist

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Alexandria Film Festival

Back-to-back Events Ahead of November Fest, Starting Sept. 16

The Alexandria Film Festival announced it will offer September and October events ahead of its film festival, Nov. 10-13, which will combine in-person and virtual screenings.

"We're excited to bring deeply engaging films to the Alexandria community and beyond ahead of our 16th annual festival," said Dara Sanders, chair of the festival. "Our ability to offer this back-to-back programming is thanks to our generous partners Patagonia Old Town and Abramorama."

The Human Trial – Buy Tickets

Starting Sept. 16, The Human Trial, a feature documentary about finding a cure for type 1 diabetes, will be available to screen virtually for \$10. Viewers will go on an intimate journey inside a clinical stem cell trial as patients (including the filmmaker) and scientists put themselves on the line to be first.

Living Wine – Buy Tickets

On Thursday, Oct. 6 at the Patagonia Old Town Store, the festival will present an in-person screening of Living Wine, with the filmmak-

er on-hand to take questions from the audience, and a special wine tasting. The feature documentary follows natural winemakers from Northern California who create exceptional wines through innovative, sustainable, and regenerative farming and without chemical additives. Tickets are available at two price points: \$20 for young professionals between the ages of 21 and 30 and \$35 for the rest of us. Seating at this exclusive, live event is limited to 75 people. Doors open at 6:00 pm. "Capacity is very limited, so we expect the event to sell out quickly," added Sanders.

About the Alexandria Film Festival

<https://alexfilmfest.com/>
The Alexandria Film Festival brings high-quality short and feature-length films, documentaries, filmmaker panels, and arts presentations to the port city of Alexandria, Virginia and beyond. The festival highlights the talents of local, national, and international filmmakers in an acclaimed travel destination within eyesight of the nation's capital.

Alexandria's Annual RUN!

GEEK! RUN! 5k Is Back

BY TIFFANY GUNTHER

14th annual RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5k race in Del Ray on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 8:30 a.m. This year's beneficiary is Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, the only region-wide organization focused solely on preventing child abuse and neglect across Northern Virginia.

RUN! GEEK! RUN! is a non-profit organization which hosts an annual race supporting a new beneficiary each year for fundraising. The 5k is a run/walk for all ages, with its well-known Mascot, Eugene, "the geek." Eugene is recruiting geeks and runners of all skill levels to join his team to support a great cause.

According to SCAN, one in four children will experience abuse during childhood and the outcomes can be detrimental to their futures. Preventing child abuse leads to better medical and mental health outcomes and decreases the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

"Alexandria's youth need us now more than ever," said Leah Fraley, Executive Director of SCAN. "We're so grateful to be the beneficiary of this year's event and to have partners like Ironistic dedicated to bringing support to child abuse prevention in our community."

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RUN! GEEK! RUN! race director Rita Foss shares her excitement toward supporting SCAN. "Our RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5K has always been a blend of health and wellness, technology, and giving back to the community, and this year we couldn't be more proud than to center our support around SCAN," said Foss. "Their positive impact on the children in our area has been nothing short of life-saving, and we're happy to contribute to their success."

RUN! GEEK! RUN! was originally started by PR Firm, W2 Communications. RUN! GEEK! RUN! is now a 501(c)(3) non profit, with the 5K race hosted by Ironistic, a full-service web development and digital marketing agency headquartered in Alexandria, Va. The organization is community focused, and an event for all. A lot of dedicated work goes into RUN! GEEK! RUN! each year to make this event fun for its runners and successful for its beneficiaries.

Join this year's RUN! GEEK! RUN! 5k run/walk! The race is both kid-friendly and stroller friendly. Cost is \$35 and increases to \$40 Sept. 16 through race day (Sept. 25). Registration includes a t-shirt and geek glasses. Mascot bobbleheads will be awarded to 90 winners. Don't forget to join Team Eugene.

OBITUARY

Sherry Wilson Brown

Arts advocate, community volunteer dies at 76.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sherry Wilson Brown, known as a dedicated volunteer and advocate for the arts, died Sept. 16 following a brief illness. She was 76.

Born Sept. 7, 1945, Brown moved from her native Georgia to Alexandria in 1968 with a dream of living in an All-American City. Inspired by the volunteer work of her mother, Brown saw Alexandria as a good fit as she set out to get involved with her new community.

A Sunday School teacher at the Presbyterian Meeting House, Brown began what would turn out to be a lifelong dedication to the arts when she first volunteered in the arts program at Jefferson-Houston School, where her mother was a volunteer teacher.

She would go on to serve as Chair of the Alexandria Arts Forum from 1999-2009, as well as vice-chair of the Alexandria Performing Arts Association and member of the Public Arts Committee.

From 2002-2017, Brown was executive director of Agenda: Alexandria, a nonprofit community organization founded in 1998 that explores a wide range of local topics with the motto "Taking a look at issues without taking sides."

"Sherry was an amazing lady," said Pat Miller, the current executive director of Agenda: Alexandria. "She was absolutely amazing in the time and effort she put into this community."

Brown was Director of Personnel of the U. S. Customs Service and served part time as president of the board of the 1600 Prince Street Unit Owners Association. She was a member of the ad hoc King Street Metro Task Force and PTO-Carlyle Livability Task forces from 1999-2005. In this capacity she championed the use of the concourse connecting Duke Street to the King Street Metro as a pedestrian tunnel with walls showcasing the work of local

artists.

As Whole Foods announced plans to open in Alexandria, Brown convinced the company to commission a local artist to install murals on the store's Duke Street exterior. In 2004, Brown chaired the Alexandria Arts Festival.

After attending a performance at MetroStage, Brown began volunteering in the usher program, eventually serving 11 years as volunteer Director for Management and Resources.

"Sherry was an invaluable part of MetroStage for many years when our theatre was on Duke Street in a converted storefront," said MetroStage Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. "She handled the box office, phone calls, and my two youngest children who grew up on the premises. She was the perfect face for MetroStage, welcoming all and accommodating all requests with a smile and probably a story."

In 1991, Brown was honored as the theatre's Volunteer of the Year.

"My favorite Sherry story is when she organized a bus trip for our patrons to see Moon Over Buffalo with Lynn Redgrave and Robert Goulet in New York," Griffin added. "She coordinated everything including making the box lunches for the trip and the reservation at Sardis after the matinee. Lynn and Robert accompanied us to the restaurant, and nobody will ever forget the experience. It was classic Sherry Brown."

For more than a decade, Brown helped with the logistics of the Ladies Sherry Party, a bi-partisan annual event to bring together local women of influence. Additionally, Brown served as secretary of the Living Legends of Alexandria board of directors from 2011-2013.

In 2001, on the 20th anniversary of the Commission for Women, Brown was presented with the city's Cultural Affairs award for advocating for the arts in Alexandria.

Brown was divorced and had no children. No memorial is planned at this time. Donations may be made to Living Legends of Alexandria, the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria or WETA-UK.

"Sherry really had so many talents," Miller said. "I appreciated her a lot."



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Sherry Wilson Brown, a 2018 Living Legend of Alexandria, died Sept. 16 at the age of 76.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Sherry Wilson Brown, right, with the late Lois Walker at the 2012 Ladies Sherry Party. Brown died Sept. 16 at the age of 76.

Disability Rights Champion Chet Avery Dies at 85

FROM PAGE 1

finish school and go on to Harvard. Apparently, he was listening and I wasn't."

Avery served as president of the Sanford High School class of 1955.

"When Spike walked the halls of Sanford High, laughter followed," said classmate Helen Pajama. "When our class found out that Spike had lost his vision, we chipped in to get him a braille watch and it was then that I realized how dramatically life would change for him. But Spike met the challenge with intelligence, and gusto. His contribution to society will be remembered and his love of life inspiring."

Avery attended Harvard University, earning a BA in history and a master's degree in counseling and education. On his first day of graduate school, Avery met Sabra Allen, the woman who would become his wife.

"I knew when Chet was in that classroom with me that he was a special man," said Sabra in recalling that first meeting. "I volunteered to read for him because I wanted to be with him. We were with each other and stayed with each other ever since."

The couple were married in 1961 and relocated to the Washington area in 1964 when Avery accepted a job with the federal government. He worked as Director of the Office of Handicapped Concerns at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and later at the Department of Education.

In this capacity, he oversaw the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – the first disability civil rights law enacted in the United States, which protects individuals from



Chet Avery in an undated photo from his early years in the Washington area.



Chet and Sabra Avery celebrating Valentine's Day in 2020.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

discrimination based on their disability.

Avery moved to Alexandria in 1967, beginning decades of service to the community. Most notably, he served on the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities for 36 years and the city's Human Rights Commission for more than 30 years.

"I first met Chet in the mid-1990s, when I was appointed to the Alexandria Commission on Persons With Disabilities, which Chet chaired," said Tim Sullivan on a tribute page for Avery. "I was continually impressed by his intel-

ligence and his dedication to the community of disabled persons. We have lost a giant."

Avery retired from the federal government in 1996 but continued his advocacy as a member of the Virginia Rehabilitation Council and the Virginia Assisted Technology Commission, appointed by then Gov. Mark Warner. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of The Washington Ear and was instrumental in developing the first audio descriptive videos in theaters.

"Chet turned his 'audio caption' idea into a reality," said author Joel

Snyder, who interviewed Avery for his book *The Visual Made Verbal*. "Now audio description accompanies almost all feature films produced in the United States, a wide range of television broadcasts, and increasingly in museums. Worldwide, audio description has taken root in over 70 countries. Chet is very much missed but his inspiration and his wise counsel remains with me. For that, I will always be grateful."

Honors for Avery include the 2008 Alexandrian of the Year, Alexandria United Way Volunteer of the Year, the 1998 John Duty

Collins Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities award, and special awards from the Alexandria Special Education Advisory Committee and the Alexandria Human Rights Commission. In 2010, Avery was named a Living Legend of Alexandria and The Chet and Sabra Avery Room was dedicated at City Hall.

Avery is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sabra Allen Avery, son Bradford B. Avery, and two grandchildren. No service planned at this time. Tributes can be made on his memorial page at www.Everly-Wheatley.com.

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.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children. Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click

on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services- Volunteer Guardian. Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an incapacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person's wishes as much as possible. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board

of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

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

ties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email

FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com. STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551- 2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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Naturalization Ceremony Celebrates Newest American Citizens

FROM PAGE 1

Allegiance prior to the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of citizenship certificates.

"Today we presided over the naturalization of 25 people from 24 different countries," Valverde said. "These 25 individuals chose to be members of our nation and today we watched the nation get stronger and more prosperous."

To become a naturalized citizen an individual must meet federal requirements, including a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States; ability to read, write and speak English; knowledge and understanding of United States history and government; good moral character; and attachment to constitutional principles.

"Today is a message of thanks," Valverde said. "We're grateful that they joined our community and we are a better nation because of it."

"This day is a fulfillment of everything my parents gave up in leaving our family back home."

— New U.S. citizen
Maximiliano Aedoespicto



Mayor Justin Wilson presents a certificate of U.S. citizenship during the Sept 13 Naturalization ceremony at Market Square.



Basant Lamiccane, left, celebrates his new U.S. citizenship with son Ayan and wife Sarita Chaulagain Sept. 13 at Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET



Luis Fernando Paredes, originally from Colombia, proudly waves the American flag at the Citizenship ceremony Sept. 13 at Market Square.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services representative Michael Valverde, center, celebrates new American citizens Hamza Najib, left, and David Nassar Sept. 13 at Market Square.



America's newest citizens recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the Sept. 13 naturalization ceremony at Market Square.

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How the West Was Won

70 years ago, Alexandria battled Fairfax County to double the size of the city.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria started as a small patch of what's now considered Old Town, expanding a handful of times over the span of hundreds of years. But the final expansion was the largest by far, and perhaps one of the most bitter. In 1952, city leaders doubled the size of the City of Alexandria by annexing a sizable chunk of Fairfax County, where officials accused City Hall of "occupying" their territory.

"Take the citizens of Fairfax and give them to Alexandria?" asked Dranesville Supervisor Maurice Fox. "A man ought to be jailed to do a thing like that."

By the late 1940s, Alexandria was bursting at the seams. The post-war boom had created a sense of claustrophobia in the city, which had no place to locate new residences, business or industrial areas. Alexandria was particularly in need of recreational areas. That's why City Hall launched a plot to double its size, adding 11,000 people and more than seven square miles. Although the land in question included the Virginia Theological Seminary and the Shirley Duke Apartments, it was 80 percent undeveloped scrub pine. The chief architect of the plan was City Councilman Albert Smoot, who served as chairman of the council's Annexation Committee.

"Annexation is both feasible and desirable, and some action must be taken immediately," Smoot told council members at the outset of the fight with Fairfax County. "Everybody thinks we're going exactly the right way."



Albert Smoot

THE PLAN was described as "ultra conservative," weighing the financial burden against the potential benefits. The analysis included the cost of new schools, transporting pupils, sewage treatment plus the addition of a new fire station. Ultimately city leaders determined the cost would be about \$475,000 a year, but the anticipated revenue would be \$600,000. Critics pointed out that the city currently had an unbalanced budget and was already about \$120,000 in the red.

"Our people have been taxed enough,"

said Councilman Marshall Beverly. "The city of Alexandria is not financially able to assume more territory."

The final vote on City Council was four to one. Councilman Beverly was the lone holdout, vowing to fight annexation in court. But other members were more optimistic. Mayor Franklin Backus said the cost of purchasing the land from Fairfax County would be offset by the revenue that would be coming to City Hall from all the new taxpayers, who would now be subject to the pay \$2.75 for every \$100 of assessed value.

"Annexation is not only economically sound," said Mayor Backus, "but a financial gain to the city."

Public sentiment was divided. The idea had support from some prominent land owners, including Mark Winkler and Paul

Stone. Most of the residents who lived in the annexation area were in opposition, though, adding their names to a petition with more than 500 signatures. One of the more outspoken opponents was the superintendent of the Virginia Episcopal Seminary, although he was hardly alone.

"I have a feeling we've got to pay for a lot of things Alexandria will have that we won't have," said Clayton Donaldson, grocery store manager in Lincolnia. "Sewers, city water, utilities, trash removal."

THE ANNEXATION COURT met for more than a month in the autumn of 1950, overseen by a three-judge panel that had jurists from Fairfax County, Arlington County and Accomack County. Lawyers for Alexandria made the case that the transaction would be in everyone's best interest, including residents of the city and the county. Alexandria Superintendent T.C. Williams told the annexation court that overcrowding at Fairfax schools was so bad a restroom for teachers was currently being used as a classroom. He also said that Black high school students in

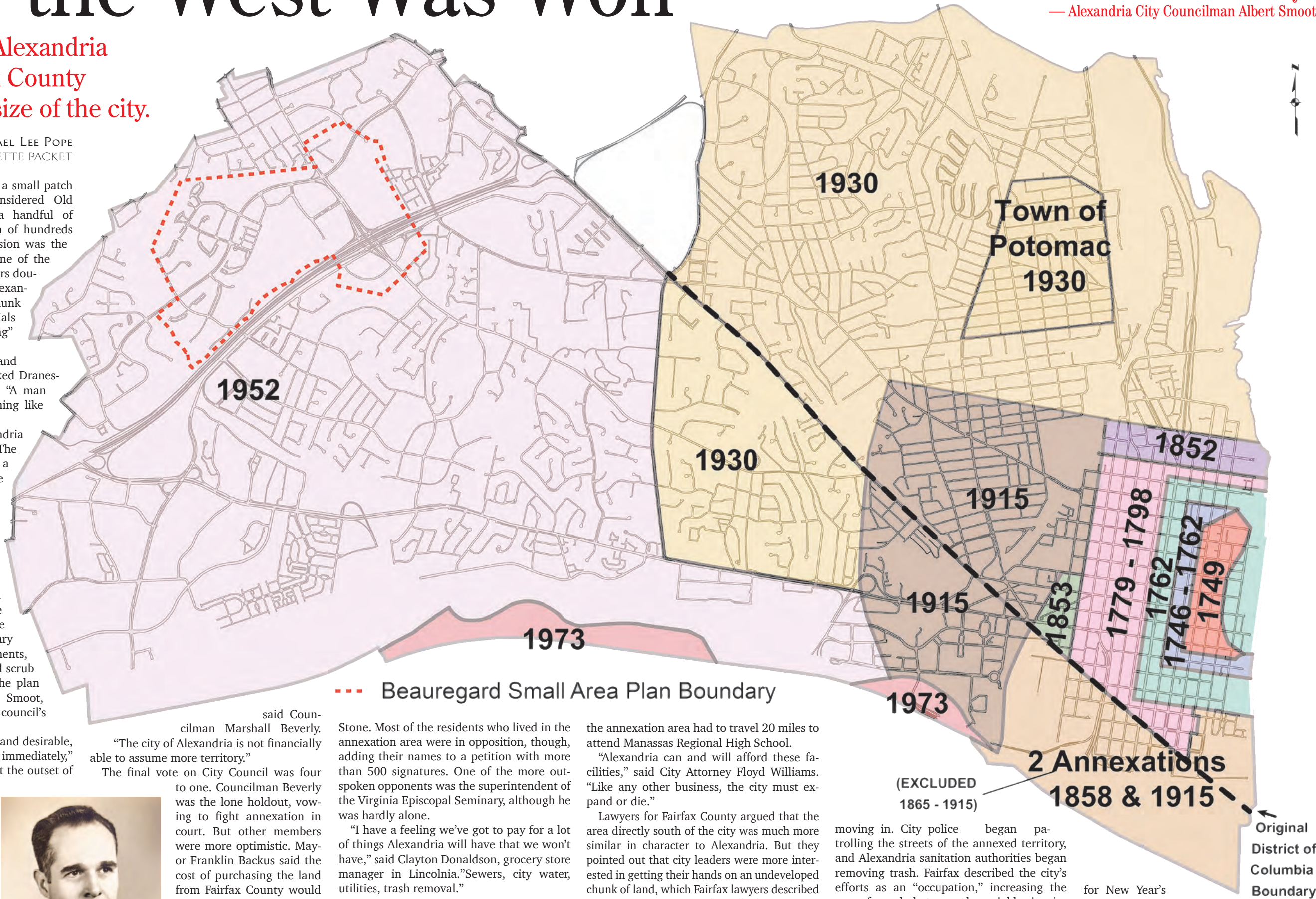
the annexation area had to travel 20 miles to attend Manassas Regional High School.

"Alexandria can and will afford these facilities," said City Attorney Floyd Williams. "Like any other business, the city must expand or die."

Lawyers for Fairfax County argued that the area directly south of the city was much more similar in character to Alexandria. But they pointed out that city leaders were more interested in getting their hands on an undeveloped chunk of land, which Fairfax lawyers described as an inconsistency in Alexandria's argument. If Alexandria was really interested in acquiring a part of Fairfax that was similar, they'd be asking for Belle Haven. That argument didn't win over the three-judge panel, who sided with Alexandria and ordered the city to pay \$454,905 for the new land — a valuation that included the acquisition of Lee-Jackson Elementary School as well as a "proportionate" share of the Virginia Literary Fund loans already floated by the Fairfax School Board.

Fairfax County appealed the decision, although Alexandria officials already started

"Annexation is both feasible and desirable, and some action must be taken immediately."
— Alexandria City Councilman Albert Smoot



moving in. City police began patrolling the streets of the annexed territory, and Alexandria sanitation authorities began removing trash. Fairfax described the city's efforts as an "occupation," increasing the war of words between the neighboring jurisdictions. Alexandria planted signs to designate the area as part of the city, although Fairfax police officers promptly uprooted the signs.

"Until they show me some kind of court order to restrain us, we're going ahead as planned," said Alexandria City Manager Guy Ancell.

Eventually, Alexandria received word from the court ordering it to relinquish the disputed territory. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia, which sided with Alexandria. The transaction was set

for New Year's Day 1952, when 7.65 square miles of new territory were officially won from Fairfax County. For city leaders, the beginning of 1952 marked the culmination of more than a year of fierce litigation against Fairfax County.

"As New Year's bells rang, the city's police cars fanned out to patrol 7.65 square miles of new territory won from Fairfax County in an annexation suit," wrote Washington Post reporter Mel Bergheim, who later served as a member of the Alexandria City Council. "City firemen stood by to guard the lives and property of more than 11,000 new citizens."

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

About the Alexandria Gazette Packet in 2022

This information was inadvertently left out of last week's Newcomers and Community Guide

IN THE MIDST of the crisis which never ends, we at the Alexandria Gazette Packet and Connection Newspapers hear the call to serve our communities. We still seek to fulfill our mission by continuing to publish, even with reduced resources. It's still our mission to provide information about where to get help and how to help; to disseminate information about the virus and efforts to stem its spread; to tell the stories of those who are helping, of those who are hungry. It's still our mission to tell the stories of those working for social and racial justice, and battling income inequality.

It is our mission, set out in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, to press local government every day for transparency. Your local newspapers can be your window into the workings of schools, police, transportation, zoning, stormwater management, services, and a nearly infinite number of other functions. These are the things that impact our lives at home and work. The public has a right to expect transparency from such local institutions, more so when they are publicly funded. The constitution clearly anticipated the ongoing need for the press to help in this role.

It is still our mission to deliver the local news you need, to help make sense of what is happening in your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives. It is still our mission to cover the news of the local communities.

We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome.

For many months blending into a year, there were no calendar listings in our papers. Everything was canceled. Now there is a return of many face-to-face events. If you are planning an event, we appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Find What You Need

- ❖ ONLINE: www.connectionnewspapers.com
- ❖ Digital editions of the week's papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs
- ❖ Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at <http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/>
- ❖ Advertising information, Special Section details here www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising Email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.
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- ❖ ON FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/connectionnewspapers
- ❖ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com
- ❖ Events to list in the calendar, www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/

Your Alexandria Gazette Packet is published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. The Alexandria Gazette Packet is our flagship paper, one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

But this year, 2022-23 in the time of the pandemic, we struggle to keep going.

Local newspapers, including the Gazette Packet and the Connection Newspapers, are facing an existential threat from the combination of nationwide downturn in newspaper advertising that has been worsening over several years, compounded by the economic crisis of coronavirus.

We turned to GoFundMe at a critical point, and our readers answered, raising nearly \$50,000 to get us through a terrible time. We thank all who gave, as well as all who wished us well.

Now, we are back to great difficulty. Revenue has not nearly rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, and we are going to need more help to keep going, even at our diminished state. Please contribute if you can as we try to carry on. Here is the link to our GoFundMe. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-news-paper-printing>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Man Sentenced to 30 Months For Manslaughter

An Alexandria man who was intoxicated and had used drugs, and then drove his truck more than 50 miles per hour over the speed limit before crashing into a tree and killing his front seat passenger was sentenced today to 30 months in prison for manslaughter. The following account comes from a release by Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Pamela A. Smith, Chief of U.S. Park Police, after sentencing by Senior U.S. District

Judge Liam O'Grady.

According to court documents, on May 31, 2020, at approximately 5:45 p.m., Samuel Meyer, 22, was driving his Toyota Tacoma truck southbound on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which is federal land. Near Mount Vernon Circle, as the road curves, Meyer lost control of his truck, left the roadway, and crashed into the woods next to the travel lanes. The truck crashed with such force that the skin of the passenger side of the vehicle was peeled off entire-

ly, and the front passenger door of the vehicle was embedded into a tree a short distance from where the truck came to a stop. Meyer's front seat passenger, Michael Cunningham, 19, who was wearing his seatbelt, was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Hospital personnel could not resuscitate him, and he died from blunt trauma injuries to his head, neck, trunk, and extremities.

Meyer and a backseat passenger were also transported to the hospital with minor injuries. About

three and a half hours after the crash, blood samples were taken from Meyer. An analysis showed that Meyer's blood alcohol content was .09 g/100 mL, still above the legal limit hours after the crash. Also present in Meyer's blood were benzoyllecgonine, the main metabolite of cocaine; THC, the psychoactive compound in marijuana; and cocaethylene, which is formed by the liver when cocaine and alcohol coexist in the blood.

Meyer's vehicle's electronic data recorder revealed that he was driv-

ing 85.1 miles per hour at the time of impact. The speed limit at the location of the accident is 35 miles per hour.

There was no sign that Meyer had applied his brakes and the accelerator was pressed for the last five seconds prior to impact. The roadway was clear and dry, and Meyer's truck was working properly with no defects or malfunctions. Just before the accident, Cunningham and the other passenger had each implored Meyer to slow down, according to the repor.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfax-county.gov) at 703-324-4547.

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

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and

social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding

in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

Farmer's Market Volunteers Needed.

To volunteer for the Farmer's Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteerealexandria.org/ for more.

Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.

❖ **Support Group in Spanish**, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact ijkingconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/ contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohay@ccda.net.

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meet-

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

CHECK OUT THESE PLANT CLINICS

The Del Ray Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 203 E. Oxford Ave., Alexandria is open on Saturdays from 8:30-11:15 a.m., and will operate through September 24.

The Alexandria Old Town Farmers Market Plant Clinic, located at 301 King St., Alexandria, operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m., through September 24.

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo

Exhibition. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

AUG. 31 TO OCT. 5

Waterfront Wednesdays Music Series. 5-7 p.m. At Robinson Landing Promenade and Pier, 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Head to Robinson Landing for the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series presented by Yellow Door Music Concert Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats.

SEPT. 2 TO OCT. 1

"The Big 3-0" Members Showcase. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features artwork in a variety of media and celebrates Del Ray Artisans 30th Anniversary. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 2). Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SEPT. 22-28

Faces - An Interactive Art Installation. 12-6 p.m. At Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Opening Reception Thursday, Sept. 22 from 5-7 p.m. The Faces exhibit aims to capture what it means to live and be part of the Alexandria community. Everyday people we see walking down the street have their own story to tell, and each story, feeling, and thought matters to our collective understanding of one another.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

80th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The TWIG's 80th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour will showcase seven addresses including a home recently featured in Southern Living magazine, a home shaded by a 75-year-old fig tree and a home with a guest room featuring an



The HalloWEIRD Art Market will take place on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Alexandria.

"Alexandria-centric," hand-painted mural. Docents will share interesting information and details about each property. Proceeds from the tour support Inova Alexandria Hospital which is celebrating 150 years of serving the health and wellness of the community. Admission: \$40 in advance; \$45 day of tour. At Various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Visit thetwig.org/homes-tour

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

HalloWEIRD Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Colasanto Park, adjoining Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. HalloWEIRD Art Market features a variety of artwork from local artisans that celebrates the spooky and fun sides of the season. Rain or shine outside Del Ray Artisans. Free. Go to elrayartisans.org/exhibits/#event=halloween-art-market-2022

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Saving Garden Treasures - Taking Plant Cuttings. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Learn how to propagate plants from cuttings following simple techniques demonstrated by Green Spring staff. Gain strategies to overwinter your favorite tender perennials so you can add them to your garden next year and save money. Take home a starter collection to begin your own saved treasures. \$23 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3UC.HSFG

SATURDAY, SUNDAY

SEPT. 24, 25

The Annual Civil War Books, Relics and Memorabilia Show will be held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd, Fairfax, on Saturday and Sunday Sept. 24 and 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Vendors are welcome. For information, call Bud Mayo, 703-389-1505 or mayo5304@cox.net

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Tea Program: All Things Scottish Tea. 1-3 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, Alexandria. (Adult) Tea is regarded as England's quintessential drink, but Scots played important roles in tea-drinking history. Travel north

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

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CONSTITUTION WEEK

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Wearing Revolutionary War-era Tricorne hats, Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy students sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic at the celebration of the 235th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution Sept. 16 at City Hall.



Mount Vernon Community School students recite in the Pledge of Allegiance during the Constitution Day ceremony Sept. 16 at City Hall.



The Honor Guard of Joint Base Andrews is joined by members of the Alexandria City High School choir singing the Star-Spangled Banner during the Constitution Day ceremony Sept. 16 at City Hall.

‘We the People’

Students, DAR celebrate Constitution Week.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Songs of patriotism filled the air as students from across the city gathered to celebrate the signing of the Constitution Sept. 16 in the City Council chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Justin Wilson signed the official Proclamation commemorating Constitution Week, Sept. 17 – 23, marking the 235th anniversary of the signing of the historic document.

“Those were exciting times,” said Linda Ferrara, who welcomed the students and provided a background of the drafting and signing of the Constitution.

Ferrara is the Constitution Week chair of the District 5 Daughters of the Revolution. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside Sept. 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the Congress and signed into law on Aug. 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

“The U.S. Constitution is our nation’s charter,” said Ferrara in giving a history of the signing of the document. “It establishes our form of government and is an outline by which we exercise self-rule. It is a unique document, one that continues to be used as a model for many other nations in creating their own government guidelines.”

The aims of Constitution Week are to emphasize citizens’ responsibilities to protect the Constitution, to educate people about the role of the U.S. Constitution and encourage the study of historical events leading to the drafting of the U.S. Constitution in September 1787.



Students from Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School are joined by reenactor Vicki Embrey, Mayor Justin Wilson and acting ACPS Superintendent of Schools Melanie Kay-Wyatt at the Constitution Day ceremony Sept 16 at City Hall.

Ferrara noted that Virginians played an important role in the drafting of the Constitution.

“Most of you know Virginians played a prominent role in our independence and in establishing our government,” Ferrara said. “George Washington was the organizer and president of the Constitutional Convention. Inspired by Thomas Jefferson and others, James Madison did much of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. His masterpiece was a document for a unified government and for the rights of citizens.”

Participating in the ceremony were students from Alexandria City High School,



Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution pose for a photo with Mayor Justin Wilson and acting ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt at the Sept. 16 Constitution Day ceremony at City Hall.

Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, Mount Vernon Community School and Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy, who wore Revolutionary War-era Tricorne hats as they performed the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

“We are a school that follows a core knowledge curriculum that supports history and patriotism in our students,” said LCTA principal Patricia Zissios. “Being here in one of the centers of the beginning of our nation’s history our students have learned about the Revolutionary War and are wearing the Tricorn hat as a representation of colonial history here.”

The U.S. Constitution was signed on Sept. 17, 1787. In addition to establishing Con-



Mayor Justin Wilson signs the Constitution Day proclamation Sept. 16 at City Hall.

stitution Week, the DAR erected a structure built in tribute to the Constitution of the United States. DAR Constitution Hall, which is a performing arts center, opened in 1929, in Washington, D.C.

“The U.S. Constitution is impressive because it filled in the gaps left by the Articles of Confederation where the 13 colonies needed to be more unified, particularly in things like currency, interstate trade, and dealing with foreign governments,” Ferrara said. “Our Constitution is one that has stood the test of time -- longer than any other in world history. It reflects the thinking of many learned Founding Fathers more than 200 years ago and yet it still applies today.”

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 10

ings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Public Space Recycling. Alexandria has placed more than 80 bright blue recycling containers next to public trash cans in the commercial districts along Mount Vernon Avenue and King Street, as well as other public spaces, including parks, recreation fields, and other high-traffic pedestrian areas. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling.

Composting and Food Waste. Alexandria now has Resource Recovery Stations, located at the City's Farmers' Markets (Old Town, Del Ray) to collect food waste. More than 270 people have participated in the food waste program over the last several months. Participants drop off items weekly, over eight tons of waste has been collected, to be composted to make a natural fertilizer. To learn more about composting visit alexandriava.gov/YardWaste.

English as a Second Language Class. Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Tuesdays and Thursdays, all levels 10 a.m.-12 p.m., intermediate workshop 3-5 p.m. All classes free. Call the information desk, 703-746-1702.

The Talking Book Service at Alexandria Library will now operate Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Patrons may also reach the service at 703-746-1760.

Digital Magazines. Patrons of Alexandria Library will have unlimited access to read digital magazines, which can be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside of the library. Accessible through www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio.

Eligible low income households can now use their SNAP benefits to buy local foods at the Old Town Farmers' Market. SNAP customers are able to use their electronic benefits transfer cards to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and other eligible food products at the market. The Old Town Farmer's Market is located at 301 King St., and is open on Saturdays, year round from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Opera NOVA has begun collection of used musical instruments. Any instruments welcomed, regardless of type. Snare drums, clarinets, and violins are just some of the instruments that could bring joy to a home or school. Any recorders donated will be sent to an orphanage in Haiti in order to build a musical presence there. Opera NOVA has tax-exempt status. Contact Miriam Miller at 703-536-7557 or medm1@verizon.net to arrange for delivery.

Free Medicare counseling is available for City of Alexandria residents through the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) to help individuals understand and navigate Medicare insurance programs. VICAP Medicare counselors will be available on Thursdays from 1-5 p.m., by appointment only, at the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, located at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Speakers are also available to present information on Medicare Basic to

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Obituary



Leona "Lee" Bobko Lemeschewsky, 81 of Alexandria, VA passed on July 27, 2022 having been surrounded by family in Midlothian, Virginia. She is survived by her loving children Craig Lemeschewsky (Wendy), Roxanne Young (Preston), Charlene Nieman (Eric), Toni Day (Wes); grandchildren, Craig, Andrew, Carter, Jason, Simon, and Molly; sisters Mary Ann Bauder and Shirley Bartholomew. She was preceded in death by her husband Arthur Lemeschewsky; granddaughter Vivienne Day; her parents Francis Jr. and Mary (Skraban) Bobko; siblings Marlene Blakenship, Francis Bobko, Robert Bobko, and Samuel Bobko.

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m., Saturday, September 24 at Commonwealth Baptist, 700 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301. A reception will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Obituary



FORMER OWNERS NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Provisions of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended 33.2-1005A (formerly 33.1-90A). This is to notify Percy Talley, their heirs or assigns, of the opportunity to purchase property located between 38th Place North and North Richmond Street, in Arlington, Virginia. (No Tax Map or Parcel # Assigned). Contact Jordan Cheresnowsky at Jordan.Cheresnowsky@VDOT.Virginia.gov, 703-259-2971, Virginia Department of Transportation – Right of Way and Utilities Divisions, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax VA 22030 by October 17, 2022.

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Having My Cake, and Eating It Too



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After way too many months to remember; my eagle, so to speak, has finally landed. The Entenmann's "Marshmallow Iced Devil's Food Cake" is once again in the house. The only problem is its size, it's too small. A sheet cake type-size would be ideal. Nevertheless. Cake one will likely be consumed in a day, two maximum. Followed by cake number two which will suffer a similar fate. In my house anyway, if the Entenmann's cake referenced above was an animal, it would sit atop the endangered species list. Moreover, I had written in a previous column moaning about my difficulties finding this item locally; even going so far as calling the parent company, "Bimbo Bakers USA" at their headquarters in Horsham Township, Pa. My thinking was, perhaps if I could speak with a distribution or public relation's person, maybe they could determine where, specifically, this item is being delivered. Unfortunately, the call was in vain, as the cake couldn't be located. In fact, the woman with whom I spoke wasn't even familiar with this item. Amateur. This escalation is some context for what action has followed.

This unsuccessful attempt followed my initial pursuit which was to visit my local Giant supermarket (after perusing the Entenmann's website which also proved unsatisfying) to speak with the store manager about possibly adding this cake to their rather pedestrian weekly inventory of cookies, other cakes, donuts, and such. I was told that the Entenmann's order is handled by a middleman-type vendor who isn't even a Giant employee. As a result, Giant has no control/ability to submit any amended weekly list to accommodate my needs. Very disappointing. Therefore, I am stuck between a chocolate fudge cake, a cheese Danish/pastry, and an array of miscellaneous donuts/popems. None of which compares to the "sinfully good cake with heavenly Marshmallow frosting" as it's described on the Entenmann's website under "Delicious Products."

The reason I was forced to take this action is because the Entenmann's website provided no relief. There is a "store locator" feature on the site which enables the user to specify the item and then find it, if available/delivered within a 20-mile radius (maximum distance, from the zip code provided). After multiple visits to their site, I came away unrequited. I was out of any alternative ideas to reach this promised land. Then it hit me, perhaps the cake is located/distributed in other less local – to me, supermarkets, and so on a few occasions when I was further than 20 miles from my home, I would stop in a local supermarket or two (it didn't have to be a Giant; I've bought the cake at Safeway before, twice) and cross my fingers and hope to buy. That too, on the occasions which presented themselves, likewise proved unsuccessful.

And there the pursuit has remained, stalled almost, until Sept. 10, a day that will live in Lourie lore. That's the day when the eagle that had been flying around with no place to land indeed found its landing spot. It all happened so unexpectedly, so innocently, when I wasn't necessarily even thinking about the cake (it's rare, but it does happen) that it makes the reward all the more sweeter. As former vice president Hubert Horatio Humphrey, Jr. (1965 to 1969) might have said: "I am pleased as punch" to have found and already eaten in their entirety, both cakes. They never stood a chance, really. (And yes, they were as delectable as ever.) Not that it had been years since I was last lucky enough to find/eat this cake, it only seemed like it. Nevertheless, it was still long enough by half for yours truly to be deprived of something so essential to my existence; especially considering that as a cancer patient who was initially diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, you want what you want because you may never be able to want it again. A "13 month to two-year" prognosis will do that to you.

Next week the details of this most fortuitous circumstance which led to this auspicious and memorable occasion. The working/likely title: "As I Was Saying Last Week."

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers.

All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk.

The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

of the border to explore Scottish afternoon tea and what it reveals about the country's culture and traditions. Along with our regular tea menu enjoy some delicious Scottish fare! A traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, scone, cream, and jam. Programs are by reservation only. Call (703) 941-7987, TTY (703) 324-3988. \$42 (lecture + tea); \$15 (lecture only).

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Along Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray, a multicultural arts festival celebrating our community's diversity through the arts in Alexandria. Entertainment for all ages, art activities, food, and artists displaying and selling their work. Website: <https://delrayartisans.org/calendar/#event=art-on-the-avenue-2022>

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs,

50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Old Town Art Walk. 5-8 p.m. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Old Town Alexandria and explore the fine art and studio crafts found in art galleries and boutique shops on the third Thursday of each month, May to October. The stroll is a great activity after an early dinner, or before enjoying a meal at one of Old Town Alexandria's restaurants. The Old Town Art Walk is presented by the Old Town Business Association.

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.

SEPTEMBER

Thu. 22: Phil Vassar \$45.00
 Fri. 23: Scarypoolparty (unplugged) w/ Covey (solo) \$25.00
 Sat. 24: Paul Thorn (Band) \$39.50
 Sun. 25: Heaven 17 \$45.00
 Wed. 28: Marshall Crenshaw "40th Anniversary Show!" \$35.00
 Fri. 30: Tinariwen with Garcia Peoples \$55.00

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

community groups. Call 703-228-1726.

The Military Officers Association of America's scholarship fund gives out loans and grants to children of military families. To learn more, apply or donate visit www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund.

VCE Master Gardener Help Desk. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bring fresh samples of problem plants, weeds or insects to ensure accurate identification. VCE recommends carrying samples in plastic bags or other clear containers. No live insects. All clinics and Help Desk are free. 703-228-6414 or mgaralex@gmail.com.

Five-Star Toastmasters, Club # 9623. Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Pentagon Conference Center. Toastmasters can help participants sharpen their speaking skills, boost their confidence and energize their leadership skills in a team-oriented atmosphere. Visit fivestar.freetoasthost.com or Club President Charlie DeWitt at 202-997-5087 or Club_President@fivestar.freetoasthost.com.

Connect with T&ES on Facebook. The City of Alexandria's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) is on Facebook. The T&ES Facebook page will share information on topics such as transportation planning, trash and recycling service, road work and maintenance, traffic, infrastructure and engineering projects, Eco-City Alexandria and environmental initiatives, emergency cleanup efforts, and more. Visit alexandriava.gov/SocialMedia.

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$70-\$110 and will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays, dependent upon the participant's choice. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

Internet Offered for Low-income Families.

Internet Essentials is an adoption program designed to help close the digital divide for low-income Americans. A household is eligible to participate if it is located where

Comcast offers Internet service; has at least one child who is eligible to receive either a free or reduced price school lunch under the NSLP; has not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days; and does not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment. Any household that qualifies will remain eligible for Internet Essentials if at least one child eligible for either a free or reduced price school lunch remains living in the household.

Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays at Alexandria Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. From late-April to late-October, the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia will be holding a plant clinic for the community. Gardeners also staff the Horticulture Help Desk, 9 a.m.-noon weekdays year-round at the VCE office in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Contact 703-228-6414, mgaralex@gmail.com or www.ext.vt.edu.

At Home in Alexandria! Those interested in becoming AHA! Friends should call AHA! at 703-231-0824 or download the application form from the AHA! website at www.athomeinalexandria.org. AHA! supports Alexandrians ages 55+ who prefer to remain independent in their own homes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Energy Masters Training program, which trains volunteers in energy efficiency, water conservation, and community education and outreach, is seeking volunteers. Alexandria joins program partners Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), Arlington Thrive, and Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). The program is accepting applications for community and student apprentice volunteers for the fall training program, which starts in late September. The student apprentice program is open to college students and high school students ages 16 and over. Visit www.ArlingtonEnvironment.org/energy.

Pets Bring Joy, a local nonprofit animal rescue organization, is in need of temporary fosters. By offering a temporary loving home to a homeless cat, you are providing a critical link in their transition into a forever home. Email info@petsbringjoy.org if interested in becoming a foster. Visit petsbringjoy.org.

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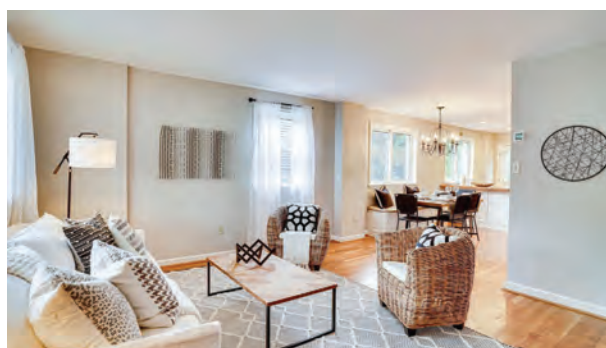
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