

‘This Soil Cries Out’ Ceremony remembers lynching victims McCoy, Thomas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

As a somber crowd gathered in Market Square to remember the lives of Thomas McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, Alexandria’s two known lynching victims, as part of a soil collection ceremony Sept. 24.

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project organized the event to honor and acknowledge the deaths of McCoy and Thomas, both teenagers at the time of their deaths.

Soil previously excavated from sites across the city connected to the lives of both victims was placed in wooden vessels designed and built by eighth grade students at Jefferson-Houston IB School. Led by descendants of Joseph McCoy, soil was drawn from each vessel and placed into glass jars which will be delivered to the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala.

“This soil cries out and demands a response,” said the Rev. James G. Daniely, pastor at Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church. “What will your response be? Will it be another



Alexandria City High School students Naeem Scott and Nathan Desta place soil from locations related to the lives of lynching victims Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas into jars during the soil collection ceremony Sept. 24 at Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



The Rev. Robert Lewis Taylor, a descendant of lynching victim Joseph McCoy, draw soils from the location of McCoy's death as part of the soil collection ceremony Sept. 24 at Market Square.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Rosh Hashanah

Norma Safren prepares to welcome Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year of year 5783, on Sept. 25 with granddaughter Hannah Safren, great-granddaughter June Safren, grandson-in-law Emmanuel Medina and great-grandson Elan Medina. Rosh Hashanah started at sundown Sept. 25, and ended at nightfall Sept. 27.

monument that's tagged on a wall somewhere or will you be moved to fight for justice?"

McCoy was a 19-year-old African American who was taken from a cell at the police station by a mob of white men. He was lynched at the southeast corner of Cameron and Lee Streets on April 23, 1897.

Two years later, on Aug. 8, 1899, Thomas, a 16-year-old African American, was pulled from the city's jail and dragged more than half-a-mile by a white lynch mob. He was hanged and shot at the corner of King and Fairfax Streets, opposite Market Square.

These two lynchings are among the 4,743 that occurred in the United States between 1882 and 1968, as documented by Equal Justice Initiative. The EJI has called upon communities to remember victims of racial terror by researching their stories, collecting soil representing their lives and deaths, and taking a pilgrimage to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

More than 160 residents will participate in the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project pilgrimage Oct. 6-10 to deliver the soil jars to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Working with the Equal Justice Initiative Remembrance Project, ACRP will receive a steel pillar that memorializes McCoy and Thomas. The pillar will be transported to a



Rabbi David Spinrad places soil collected from sites associated with lynching victim Benjamin Thomas into a jar as part of the soil collection ceremony Sept. 24 in Market Square.

permanent space of remembrance in Alexandria at a future date to be determined.

Participating in the ceremony were Alexandria City High School students Irvin Naeem Scott and Nathan Desta, who recited as monologues the stories of McCoy and Thomas. City of Alexandria Poet Laureate

SEE CEREMONY, PAGE 6

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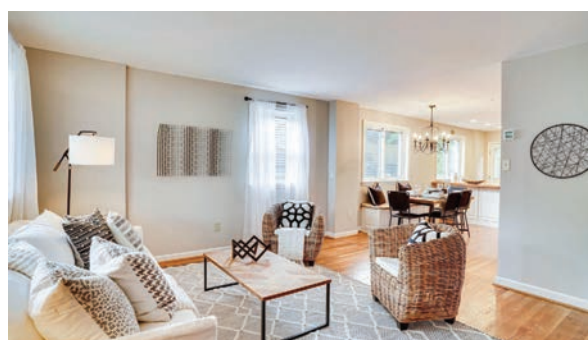
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NEWS

School Stabbing Cast Long Shadow

Did Alexandria's tough-on-crime approach in the 1990s work?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Teachers and administrators became increasingly concerned about the scene outside George Washington Middle School one sweltering July morning in 1996. That's why they summoned police officers to the school after neighbors reported young people hitting each other with cinder blocks. Concerns were mounting that the Arlandria-based Latin Homies were about to have some kind of a brawl with a gang from the West End known as the Los Bravos. Looking out the windows of the middle school, administrators could see the gang members assembling outside the school, and yet they decided to dismiss students anyway.

"I'm comfortable with the way they handled it," said School Board Chairman Stephen Kenealy at the time.

The two rival gangs were at each other's throats since the previous day, when some perceived slight happened in the cafeteria. The situation exploded outside George Washington Middle School, where one of the teenagers ended up swinging a knife as he was being kicked. When the brawl ended, one 16-year old was dead and another 16-year old was charged with murder. The community was shocked at the gang violence, and many people questioned by the School Board chairman would defend the decision to release students that afternoon instead of figuring out a way to secure the situation.

"It was the wrong decision," said former Superintendent Herb Berg during an Agenda Alexandria panel discussion earlier this week. "In hindsight, locking the students down into the classrooms where there was an adult teacher and others, and they're all in their room and the doors are closed and you hold people in place — I think that's the way most security directions are today."

THE 1996 STABBING of a summer school student offers a cautionary tale for a school system currently struggling to cope with the stabbing of an Alexandria High School



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

George Washington Middle School was the scene of a stabbing in 1996, where a 16-year-old student was fatally stabbed.

student at the Bradlee Shopping Center in May. Perhaps the most immediate lesson is what kind of justice the court system will seek. In the 1996 case, the 16-year old who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter should have faced a maximum sentence of six months, but prosecutors asked for a 10-year sentence to send a message about crime in Alexandria. Circuit Court Judge Donald Haddock Sr. overrode sentencing guidelines and gave the teenager a five-year sentence.

"The judge struck a good balancing act," said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Cullen at the time. "He sent a message that if you do things like this in this city, you can expect a lot of punishment."

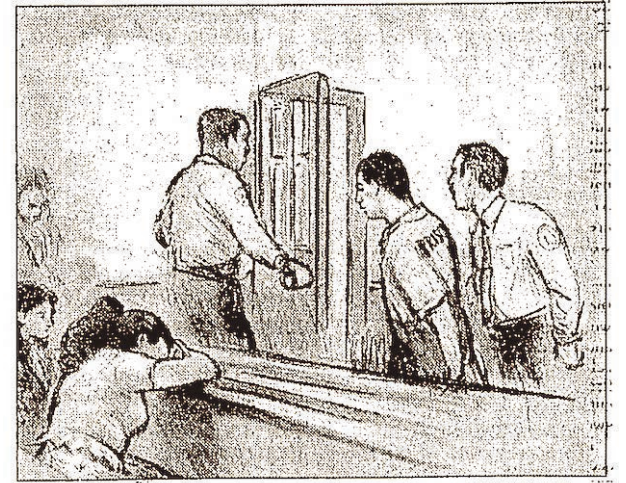
But did all those tough-on-crime tactics work?

According to the Prison Policy Institute, Virginia incarcerates more people per capita than virtually any independent democracy on earth. Virginia's incarceration rate is higher than the national average, and many people are now questioning the wisdom of the mass incarceration policies from the 1990s. The 1996 stabbing at George Wash-

ington Middle School happened at a time when crime rates were already declining, leading critics of mass incarceration to wonder if a different approach might have worked better.

"We're still living with most of those absurd laws that were implemented back then," said Brad Haywood, executive director of Justice Forward Virginia. "Virginia still transfers and certifies kids to be tried as adults. Kids as young as 14! I'm unaware of any reforms in Virginia that might have led a kid to stab another kid."

THESE DAYS, the Latin Homies and Los Bravos are a distant memory. But Police Chief Don Hayes says Alexandria still has gangs and "crews," young males engaging in violence and committing crimes. During a recent Agenda Alexandria forum on school safety, he said the crews are at work in the city's communities and in Alexandria schools using social media to gather intelligence about what the authorities are doing.



WASHINGTON POST ARCHIVES

This illustration shows the 17-year-old defendant in the 1996 stabbing being escorted from Alexandria Circuit Court after sentencing while his mother leans on the spectator railing and cries.

"We're still living with most of those absurd laws that were implemented back then."

— Brad Haywood, executive director, Justice Forward Virginia

"They try to stay one step ahead of what we're doing," said Hayes.

Hayes also said people in Alexandria should not get the wrong idea about the level of crime in Alexandria, which he said is much lower than most people think. Part of that is because of how television news presents crime, a phenomenon that dates back to the era of eyewitness news and action news that wallowed in details about things like the 1996 stabbing at George Washington Middle School. Ultimately, many people argue, the threat of learning loss is a greater concern than the possibility of violent crime.

"With the loss of two years of education, it is a genuine crisis," said Berg at the conclusion of the Agenda Alexandria forum Monday night. "Children have to learn, and they're behind. And I don't see the urgency to get after it."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteerallexandria.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.volunteerallexandria.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.volunteerallexandria.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.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>
Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, 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.

Local Area Tops US in New Afghan Refugees

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Last September we were told not to worry by the resettlement agencies, that refugees won't resettle here in Alexandria because it is too expensive," says Whitney Mallory, Refugee Ministry Coordinator for Historic Christ Church Alexandria. "Now northern Virginia has surpassed California as the largest resettlement area but rent prices have continued to escalate. It's debilitating."

Since May when Mallory came, Christ's Church has welcomed 31 new families. "The biggest challenge we've had is the exponential growth in numbers. It's expensive to give rent assistance to more." In addition, she says, "Since we care deeply about these families we use a CARE Team module in which members of the congregation volunteer to be a friend to the families. It is really a big indefinite commitment for a CARE Team."

The CARE team members help with what the family needs. It could be accompanying them to a parent-teacher conference. "It is a foreign concept. Everything is so intimidating." She explains there are all of the cultural differences. For instance, the confusing concept of decorating with pumpkins but not actually cooking with them. Or she says the CARE Team member could be having dinner with the family or taking them to a doctor's appointment. "With 31 new intakes we can't keep up."

Mallory says the intake process often begins when a family gets referred to the Church Lazarus Help line. She thinks a lot of it is word of mouth. "I think we have established a reputation as a place that will help and listen. 'Here is a list of churches who may be able to help.' One of the counselors takes the information and funnels it to me. I call the family and find out their specific needs."

Mallory says the families also face legal obstacles as they attempt to negotiate the paperwork to gain asylum.

Mary Nell Bryant, an Arlington resident, works with Christ Church Afghan refugees. She has just spent two days from 9 am-6 pm in workshops sponsored by Lutheran Social Services of the Capital Area to assist Afghan refugees with the process. "I am currently working with a family at Christ Church that has to fill out 4 separate applications for asylum because of U.S. definitions. They don't have a resettlement agency and don't know what to do."

Bryant says you sit with them and help them answer the questions. The refugee has to fit into certain categories to qualify. She says some of the questions are difficult culturally for them to understand and they may recognize the words but not what they mean. Bryant can help because she knows the language, the country and the culture.

Part of the process is to fill out a declaration of why they are applying for asylum, to tell their story. "It is a painful experience. I had a family earlier this week; the father had been blown up. It was terrible. How do



Whitney Mallory, New Refugee Ministry Coordinator at Historic Christ Church

"We prioritize beds and new bedding. When we find a family is sleeping on the floor, we don't wait for donations."

—Whitney Mallory,
Refugee Ministry Coordinator for
Historic Christ Church Alexandria

you prove that? They don't have death certificates."

Also they don't have an address to fill in that blank—just the district where they live. Some of them have carelessly filled out the wrong family name somewhere along the way and then can't prove who they are and can't get a job. "They are scared, hungry, beaten up and then someone asks them their name."

Bryant explains the process has security questions like the name of their first pet. But Afghans don't have pets. The craziest question was "from what City did you first see the ocean."

Mallory explains there are really two categories of Afghan refugees. It could be that they have been established with a resettlement agency and their benefits have run out and they are not sustainable yet. "This is why we were set up. The average family needs 3-5 more months of help." She says this is about half of their referrals but it is growing.

The other category is families who have settled somewhere else that doesn't have a vibrant Afghan community, maybe someplace like Minnesota. Often the wife doesn't speak English and is lonely and depressed. They have already experienced so much trauma. But since there is a large Afghan community in the Northern Virginia area,



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

One of the Christ Church Alexandria Humanitarian families as they were arriving in the US after the fall of Kabul.

they opt to relocate.

Mallory says the first step is to identify why the Afghan refugee is calling. Do they need rent assistance, English classes, child care? She explains there are a myriad of needs. Mallory says Alexandria has an amazing workforce development program where they offer paid internships. "We have a strong relationship with them. They help with employment or English lessons or help getting Temporary Assistance for Needy Families." Mallory says the families usually come with SNAP and Medicaid so part of the benefit system is working.

The workforce program also helps locate child care although Mallory says the trend when families come with young children the wife often stays at home. And she adds that St. Paul's has been generous in offering tuition assistance for child care in their program.

"It is tortuous work to reach an understanding between two cultures but it is rewarding."

—Mary Nell Bryant,
assisting Afghan families

"And we're lucky that ALIVE! just started back up their furniture program." She says if ALIVE! gets a donation, "we call immediately to get a sofa or dining room table from them. We prioritize beds and new bedding. When we find a family is sleeping on the floor, we don't wait for donations. We place an order immediately and have it shipped to their home."

Mallory says she works with the family on their preferences "I talk to the husband who usually speaks English. 'Show this to your wife — what color does she want?' We want

them to have personal agency.

"We also partner with ALIVE! to use their truck for moving furniture, and volunteers come from St. Stephens-St. Agnes who need community hours to help us move furniture. Finding furniture and moving it takes a lot of my time."

Mallory says they also work with ALIVE! on smaller household items such as dishes, shower curtains, clothes hangers, bathroom rugs. "Also if I need something I look around, go on NextDoor until I find it." She says some of the CARE team members take orders for the food pantry since the family may be working and have no car and unable to get there.

She says they plan to resume the community dinners sometime this fall. "We try to get the families in touch with each other. It's really a big celebration and a happy moment. New families meet veteran families and can share information and experiences."

Mallory says she found out about this new position at Christ Church this spring, and it seemed like a good fit for her. "My husband is a Navy officer, an attache to Ukraine so I've lived abroad a lot. I knew what it felt like to be in a foreign land." She says she was teaching in an international school in Ukraine and was part of the first group to be evacuated. She finished the school year online as she watched her students leave for Dubai and Italy. When the airspace closed, they were sitting in line at the border and finally abandoned their cars and walked over the border. She says so many of our families their ministry sees feel stress and grief for their families left behind.

Bryant says she first fell in love with Afghanistan when she was a backpacking hippy. When she got a chance to go back to Afghanistan with the State Department, she spent 15 years there. "Now I know I want to help Afghans. I go crazy; it is tortuous work to reach an understanding between two cultures but it is rewarding."

VOTE

Ruth and Bill Cleveland supporting Karina Lipsman outside the Elections Office on the first day of early voting.

Visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/elections/key-absentee-voting-dates-deadlines>



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Karina Lipsman talks to voters outside the Elections Office on the first day of early voting.

OPEN AGAIN!

Written by
George Batson

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Resources for Suicide Prevention Month

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

September is National Suicide Month, and the City of Alexandria has raised awareness about the need to address this preventable public health problem. “But,” Norraine Buttar, Chief of Youth Development for the Department of Community and Health Services (DCHS) for the City of Alexandria says, “it’s fine to emphasize suicide prevention for one month but we need to do more year round.”

Buttar says the city’s 2019 community health assessment (CHA) indicates from self-reported suicide data that female high school students seriously consider suicide at twice the rate of male students and 11 percent report needing treatment for injuries. In addition, more than half of high school students who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual report feeling sad or hopeless for more than two weeks. A higher proportion of LGBTQ high school (16%) and middle school (28%) students report attempting suicide compared to their heterosexual peers (3% and 4% respectively).

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in the U.S. with 1.2 million suicide attempts and 45,979 Americans who died by suicide in 2020, averaging 130 suicides a day.



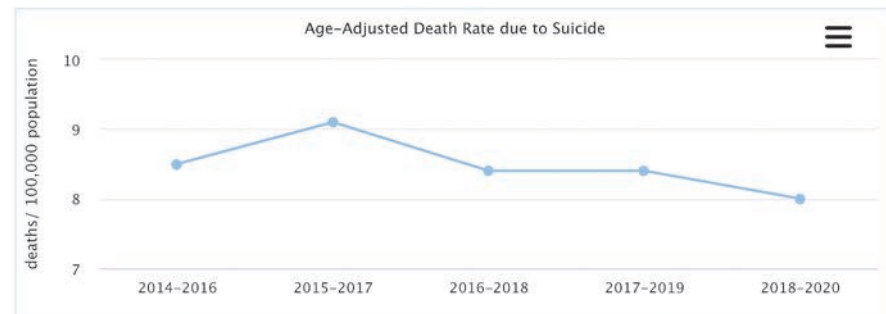
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria offers free lock boxes for guns as well as for medications as a means of preventing suicide.

The most recent data on suicide rates in Alexandria is found in the 2020 Annual Report. It reports 14 suicide deaths in Alexandria in 2020 with the average 8.8 deaths per 100,000 persons.

DCHS provides a number of online resources on how to recognize signs of a potential suicide victim and what to do to help. In addition, Buttar says some city employees such as psychologists and social workers are placed in schools as mental health support teams, and the City sponsors a number of training classes open to the community. They offer mental health first aid for the layperson to help them recognize the symptoms and offer support and connect people to the help they need.

She adds that DCHS offers classes in the shelters, nonprofits and “We have a trainer



Trend in Alexandria suicide rates.

who works for the police department offering inside training.”

Buttar says the ACORP Program in which a trained mental health professional rides along on behavioral health police calls has been deemed a success, and Council approved two more ACORP teams in the FY2023 budget. In 14 incidents where arrests could have been made, the team diverted 71 percent from arrests.

The City also participates in the Virginia-wide state Lock and Talk campaign. The lock part of the campaign provides free firearm locks and medicine lock boxes that are available at the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court’s Office, Alexandria Health Department and DCHS on Mount Vernon Avenue. According to AFSP 53 percent of suicide deaths were the result of firearms, and 19 percent who die by suicide use poison or medications.

The talk part of the campaign encourages sharing resources posted on DCHS Twitter and Facebook, attending a community seminar, getting trained in recognizing the signs of mental distress and talking about the issue with persons who may be showing signs of mental stress.

Buttar says that the City’s recently released Children and Youth Master Plan 2025 plan emphasizes increased access to mental health. “We know that the more adverse child experiences you have the more likely a child is to have negative outcomes. So it’s important to support children early.” CHA survey respondents listed mental health as the number one health issue in Alexandria.

Suicide research shows that suicide can be prevented. Contact the new National Suicide Prevention Hotline 988 or for local assistance through Crisis Link Text “CONNECT” to 85511 or call 703-527-4077.

Ceremony Remembers Lynching Victims McCoy, Thomas

FROM PAGE 1

Zeina Azzam recited her original “The Earth Speaks” followed by an interfaith reading of Lift Every Voice and Sing as cellist Vivian Podgainy provided an instrumental interlude.

Soil for Thomas was collected from his boyhood home as well as the site of his lynching. McCoy’s jar was filled with soil from his boyhood home on South Alfred Street and the church where his funeral was held. Both jars held soil from significant sites in the city’s African American history including the Queen Street Library where African American lawyer and community leader Samuel Tucker led a sit-in in 1937.

Three descendants of McCoy attended the ceremony, including Springfield resident the Rev. Robert Lewis Taylor. Taylor and his cousins Michelle Hill and Debra White of Atlanta received a proclamation and formal apology on behalf of the city from Mayor Justin Wilson.

“Today’s ceremony gives us a chance to begin reconciliation,” said Taylor, who learned of his ancestry from Alexandria researchers earlier this year. “It won’t be closure but it is a start for reconciliation.”

www.alexandriava.gov/Historic



Lynching victim Joseph McCoy descendants Michelle Hill, Debra White and the Rev. Robert Lewis Taylor attend the soil collection ceremony Sept. 24 at Market Square.



A jar marked with the name of lynching victim Benjamin Thomas is filled with soil collected from sites around the city associated with Thomas’ life.



Mayor Justin Wilson addresses the crowd at the soil collection ceremony remembering Alexandria’s lynching victims Sept. 24 in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Lillian Patterson scoops soil collected from sites around the city related to the life of Benjamin Thomas into a jar as part of the soil collection ceremony Sept. 24 in Market Square.

CALENDAR

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](https://delrayartisans.org/exhibits)

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>

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Mount Vernon Historic Plant and Garden Sale. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Shop at Mount Vernon for plants, perennials, shrubs and trees grown in our greenhouses. The cooler fall weather makes it an ideal time for planting. The same plants grown at George Washington's estate can adorn your garden. The General's Choice plants are grown from seeds or cuttings collected from

plants on the estate.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6

CPS Safety Check. 2-6 p.m. 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Transurban, the operator of the 495, 95 and 395 Express Lanes, Safe Kids Fairfax County and State Farm Agent Kenya Z. Knight are hosting a free Child Passenger Seat (CPS) safety check at the Gum Springs Community Center in the 95 Express Lanes corridor.

ALEXANDRIA COLONIAL TOURS' GHOST & GRAVEYARD TOUR

Fridays and Saturdays in October from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. Walk your way through the streets of historic Old Town Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost & Graveyard Tour. During this tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Visit alexcolonialtours.com

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.

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.

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Scott Leaf and Debbie MacKenzie with the “Goddess of Speed” Packard hood ornament of the 1930s at the Sept. 17 Classic Car Show at the Lyceum.



James Hancock with the 1967 Pontiac GTO that was purchased prior to his birth and used as the family vehicle.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Lynn Shirey in the 1953 Packard Clipper Touring first purchased by her grandfather.

Classic Style Car show displays “orphan” vehicles.

BY JEANNE THEIS-MANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a step back in time at the Alexandria History Museum as the Lyceum hosted the 6th Classic Car Show Sept. 17, featuring Packards and other “orphan” vehicles, or vehicles that are no longer manufactured.

Co-sponsored by Packards Virginia, the show featured 18 classic vehicles on display, with several that are still used daily.

“A few vehicles that were supposed to be here had mechanical issues,” said Scott Leaf of Packards Virginia. “But all of these are still going strong with about four here that get driven on a daily basis.”

One of those vehicles is the 1967 Pontiac GTO that was purchased by the parents of James Hancock, who drove it to bring him home from Arlington Hospital after he was born.

“This was my parent’s everyday car,” said Hancock. “It is an early edition purchased in November of 1966 -- one of the first ones that came out of this model. I came home from the hospital in the backseat of this exact car. It’s a family heirloom.”

While not the exact vehicle, Jim Vines proudly displayed his 1951 Packard 200 Deluxe.



Jim Vines sits in his 1951 Packard 200 Deluxe at the Classic Car Show Sept. 17 at the Lyceum.

“All of these are still going strong.”

— Scott Leaf of Packards Virginia

“My dad bought a 1947 Packard immediately following the war,” Vines said. “My mother did not shift well so he purchased another in 1951 in this shade of green. When I saw this vehicle in 2013 I got teary eyed – it reminded me of my parents.”

Lynn Shirey showed up at the show in her 1953 Packard Clipper Touring, a vehicle owned by her grandfather.

“I am only the second owner of the car,” Shirey said. “My grandfather bought this car new in 1953, taking a train from Tulsa to Detroit to take delivery of the car. He drove



Vehicles are lined up on display at the classic “orphan” car show Sept. 17 at the Lyceum.

it around Tulsa until it was not elegant anymore then took it up to his cabin where he used it to pull a trailer and pull out tree stumps. It had a hard life. I totally restored it.”

Leaf praised Jim Holloway and the City of Alexandria for making the car show a success.

“Jim Holloway has helped make this event possible for six years in a row, including the year that COVID was quite prevalent,” Leaf said. “There were certain requirements that were all met, including masking and so-

cial distancing and everything has always worked perfectly And we’ve been lucky to also always have nice weather.”

Featured vehicles included a 1955 MG ZA Magnette, a 1934 Hudson Terraplane, a 1937 Packard 120C, a 1967 Pontiac GTO, and a 1972 Pantera.

“A whole bunch of car guys know each other and get together and work on cars together,” Leaf added. “They like to display their cars, talk to the public and have an opportunity to drive their vehicles.”

Said Vines, “Cars are meant to be driven.”

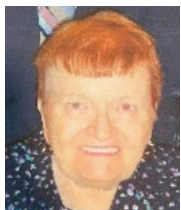
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Obituary



Maureen F. Schreiner, 85 of Alexandria, Virginia passed away on Monday, September 19, 2022, at Poet's Walk in Warrenton, VA. She was born on January 10, 1937, in Providence, Rhode Island to the late Paul Terry and Maggie McKiernan Terry. Maureen started work on the Fairfax County Parkway when the project was just an idea. She worked for the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County Government for over twenty years, first as the Chief Aide to the late state senator, Joe Gartlan, and later as Project Manager Assistant to the county supervisor, Joe Alexander. In 2000, she was the recipient of the Lady Fairfax Award.

In addition to her parents, Maureen was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond John Schreiner. She is survived by her children, Michael Schreiner (Colleen) of Warrenton, VA, Stephen Schreiner of Alexandria, VA, and Kristin (Ron) Rahna of Alexandria, VA; a brother, Joseph Terry of Providence, Rhode Island; and four grandchildren: Michael F. Schreiner, Jr., Maddy Schreiner, Alex Schreiner, and Julien Schreiner.

A funeral service was held on Monday, September 26 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 6222 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA. Interment followed at Mt. Comfort Cemetery, 6600 S. Kings Hwy, Alexandria, VA. Online condolences may be expressed at www.moserfuneralhome.com

Obituary



David Marlin Polm, 71 years old, was born in Lykens, PA on February 7, 1951. Passed away peacefully in his sleep in Virginia on September 8, 2022. He was the widower of Jayne (Rusty) Neely. David was the son of the late Marlin N. Polm and Viola (Zimmerman) Polm. David was pre-deceased by his sisters Dianne L. Polm (Johnson) and Janice K. Polm (Isenberg). Dave will be greatly missed by his Nieces, Nephews, and Extended Family. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

Obituary

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As I Was Saying Last Week

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I was venting about the difficulty I was having locating a specific Entenmann's cake: the "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake" for what seems like my lifetime. Whatever timeline actually applies, it minimizes the impossibility I was experiencing finding this staple of my diet. However, let me state for the record before you read and I write any further: I am not undernourished and, I am, generally speaking, able to satisfy my sweet teeth. Nevertheless, there was something definitely missing from my diet. I wouldn't say I was deprived, more that I was chronically disappointed; especially when I would walk by the Entenmann's display at my local Giant, and occasionally at Safeway or some other less conveniently located supermarkets (Aldi's, Magruder's, Food Lion, et cetera). Now that you're reminded of the context and of my perspective/need, let me set the scene as to how this cake (times two) made its way into my house in Maryland on September 10th, 2022. A date that will be long remembered in Burtonsville, Md. (If I was Klingon, we'd sing songs about it.)

My wife, Dina and I were day-tripping to Phoenixville, Pa., approximately 130 miles north, to visit some close friends, Shelley, and Fran. It was late afternoon on that Saturday as we sat in their living room after spending an enjoyable day together preparing to say our good-byes when I asked Fran (the husband) quite casually if there was a supermarket nearby. I then mumbled something in Dina's direction about looking for the cake since we were a few hours from home. I was thinking (hoping) that we were far enough away from Maryland that this cake might be available here somewhere. (After all, I'm a Red Sox fan; I know about hope.) When I mentioned cake/my need, Fran perked up and asked what kind of cake I was looking for. Shelley, his wife chimed in that Fran loves sweets. I didn't need to be asked twice: Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake," I said. To which Fran asked: "Is that a vanilla frosted cake?" Then I perked up. "Yeah," surprised by his familiarity, I again reiterated my desire for this cake. "I saw that cake in my local supermarket last week. It was a 'BOGO,' I almost bought it," Fran recalled. I immediately asked/insisted on directions to that store and/or asked Fran if he would mind driving us/driving ahead with us following him - so there would be zero chance that I'd get lost. (I was too close to take any chances now.) To which Fran responded with the following words which will endear him to me for the rest of my cake-eating life: "Don't bother. I'll just drive down there myself. It's only two miles away and see if they have any left." Incredibly hopeful, and appreciative, I said: "Sure, if you don't mind?" "Don't be silly." He says. "I'll be right back" Fran then happily grabbed his car keys and headed out to his car.

It couldn't have been more than 10 to 15 minutes before Fran came walking back into the living room smiling as he moved closer to where the three of us were still sitting on the living room couch and deposited two Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cakes" on the coffee table right in front of me, almost like magic. (My over-the-top salivation for this cake had convinced Fran to buy one for himself, he offered.) I wasn't totally dumb founded by the cake's appearance; we're only talking about cake here, but I was nearly speechless nonetheless while gushing my gratitude and excitement over his effort, and his awareness even for noticing this cake in the store in the first place. It's not exactly my white whale but locating it has been the bane of my existence as well as a reoccurring void in my dessert selections.

Now I have a resource/outlet, at least, one place I know where I can, for the moment anyway, buy this cake. Unfortunately, its location is a two hours-plus drive from home and as for mailing it, it's an item that I don't think would travel very well, considering its packaging, if you know what I mean? Still, my future (cake wise) looks brighter than it has in years. I am finally going to have my cake and eat it, too; literally and figuratively; thanks to Fran in Pennsylvania, (my new favorite state).

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

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Each local newspaper 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. The fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

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APPETITE

5 Dates to Circle in October

By HOPE NELSON
 GAZETTE PACKET

From goats in costumes to cookie decorating, from wine class to river cleanups to dog-friendly Halloween festivities, October is teeming with events for foodies. Here are some of the month's top picks.

Cookie Decorating at Sweet Relief, Oct. 2

Get into the autumnal spirit with some freshly decorated cookies. Your registration guarantees you five Braegs signature sugar cookies, icing, coffee to keep you on task, a discount on additional in-shop purchases and – most importantly – two hours of instruction. 1506 Mount Vernon Ave. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$65.

River Cleanup and Clean Water Act 50th Anniversary Celebration at Port City Brewing, Oct. 16

Spend the morning cleaning up our local waterways – then enjoy an afternoon of live music and cold beer to celebrate your achievement. From 10 a.m. to noon, join the folks from Potomac Riverkeeper and Port City at Ben Brenman Park to freshen up Holmes Run. Wear close-toed shoes and some clothes you don't mind getting dirty in – Potomac Riverkeeper's volunteers will have your cleanup supplies. After noon, head back to Port City to enjoy music, a raffle and plenty of refreshments. Pro tip: Cleanup participants also get a discount on beer. 3950 Wheeler Ave.



Get into the autumnal spirit with some freshly decorated cookies.

Virginia Wine Class at Sonoma Cellars, Oct. 19

Drink locally with a class focusing on Virginia wines. Walk through six different wines with Sonoma Cellars' sommeliers and learn more than you thought possible about varietals coming from our own fair Commonwealth. Light bites will also be provided. 207 King St. 7-9:30 p.m. \$50.

Halloween Goat Social Hour at Lost Boy Cider, Oct. 22

Cider. Goats. Goats in Halloween costumes? Even better. The goats from Walnut Creek Farm are making a visit to Lost Boy for an adults-only social hour as well as the farm's owner, Dr. Maureen Roberts. Come ready to visit with the friendly farm animals and lift a glass of cider as a toast. 317 Hoofts Run Drive. 10-11 a.m. \$45.

Sleepy Howlloow at Barkhaus, Oct. 27

In the face of Halloween, dog-friendly Barkhaus becomes a haunted forest for one night only. Bring your pup (one dog per person) to join the festivities – costumes are required! – and get into the spirit of Sleepy Howlloow. Your entry fee includes five complimentary drinks, a selection candy and other snacks, a donation to the ASPCA and – of course! – puppuccinos for your favorite four-legged friends. 529 E. Howell Ave. 7:30-10 p.m. \$55.

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

Obituary

Obituary



Bruce Elliott McCarthy, 89, loving father and grandfather died peacefully on September 24 2022. Bruce was born on May 7 1933 near Rochester New York, the son of the late Henry McCarthy and Ona Stinson McCarthy. He is survived by his daughters Ona and Leila, grandchildren Miles and Rhojene, niece Colleen and wife Mariette.

Bruce had a great interest in history and devoted the majority of his professional life to public service in the federal government. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1954 with a degree in history. He joined the Air Force and was stationed in Japan in 1955-58. Bruce returned to Syracuse University, awarded a Masters in Public Administration in 1959.

Bruce came to Washington D.C. in 1959, working at the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency and as a staff member on Capitol Hill. In 1967-68 he served in Saigon with the Agency for International Development. In the early '70s Bruce managed a chain of weekly newspapers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He returned to D.C. in 1976 as Associate Deputy Assistant to the Secretary for Public Affairs, later becoming the Department of Housing and Urban Development liaison with FEMA. Bruce retired from the federal government in 2005 with 38 years of service. He retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for his work as commander of the team that processed the "Project Blue Book" UFO sighting reports in 1976.

A rugby enthusiast, Bruce was an early member of the Club Sudamericano de Rugby. He loved his community in Alexandria and volunteered his time avidly to various events and committees. Bruce had a number of hobbies- he owned a 1936 Packard and played tennis up to age 88. He will be remembered fondly for his caring disposition, wit, idiosyncratic sense of humor and fashion sense.

A service in celebration of Bruce will be held at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, Alexandria, 3pm, Saturday, October 1st 2022. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Carpenter's Shelter <https://carpentersshelter.org/give>

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Malvern Hill | \$1,690,000

Located on a coveted cul-de-sac, this large home boasts 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a stunning great room opening onto a gracious covered porch overlooking a lushly landscaped rear garden with stone fountain and magical playhouse. 1305 Chancel Place

Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165

www.noelk.com



Old Town | \$1,495,000

Built in 1800, this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home has been thoughtfully updated while maintaining its historic character. Beautifully updated kitchen adjoins family room with wood-burning fireplace and direct access to an enchanting patio and garden. 411 S Lee Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079

www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



OPEN SUN 10/2, 2-4PM

Del Ray | \$1,349,000

1927 Sears kit home – expanded Craftsman style! 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, first-floor primary bedroom suite, updated kitchen & baths. Heart pine floors in the original part of the house. Off-street parking for 2 cars tandem. 2 porches, deck & hot tub. 19 W Wyatt Ave

Cindy Clemmer 703.966.0403

www.ClemmerAndSchuckHomes.com



OPEN SUN 10/2, 2-4PM

Olde Belhaven Towne | \$895,000

Exquisite townhome in sought-after community across from Bell Haven Country Club. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, light hardwood floors, & updated kitchen with quartz countertops. Lower level rec room with gas fireplace, sunroom addition, & two patios. 6315 Fort Hunt Road

Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941

www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



OPEN SAT 10/1, 1-3PM

Nethergate | \$799,900

2-bedroom, 3-bath, all-brick, end unit townhouse. Gourmet kitchen with granite & stainless. Living room opens to patio. 3 fireplaces! Fully finished basement with bath. Walking distance to the upcoming Potomac Metro, National Landing, & more! 1117 Portner Road

Jen Walker 703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



Warwick Village | \$660,000

Charming 3-level townhouse has been professionally painted and floors refinished. Kitchen and bath previously renovated. Finished lower level has new wall-to-wall carpeting. Enclosed rear yard with brick patio. Minutes to Del Ray's best! 2944 Landover St

Julian Burke 703.867.4219

www.JulianBurke.com



OPEN SUN 10/2, 1-4PM

Old Town \$1,095,000

Classic SE quadrant home, 4 blocks to King St & 3 blocks to the Potomac. Library in front, then open concept living/dining area & rear-facing kitchen that looks out on garden space & brick patios. Either 3 bedrooms or 2 with a sitting room upstairs. 420 S Fairfax Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024

Katie Crouch 703.447.1345



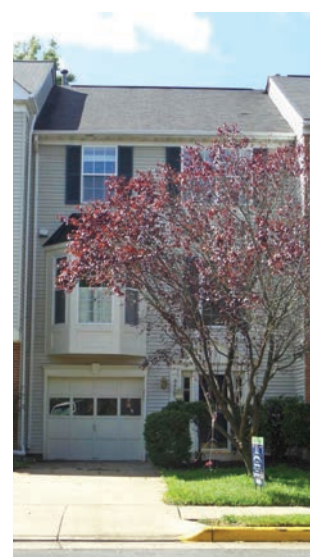
OPEN SAT 10/1 & SUN 10/2, 1-4PM

Lynhaven \$699,000

Perfect location in the center of it all – with off-street parking space! Meticulously maintained home with eat-in kitchen, refinished floors, and freshly painted. Large finished lower level with full bath. Fully-fenced back yard with shed and wooden deck. 242 Evans Lane

Kristen Jones 703.851.2556

www.KristenJones.com



Kingstowne \$659,900

Lovely garage townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.55 baths, family room with access to the fenced back yard and patio, spacious kitchen with a sunny breakfast nook, living and dining area has a gas fireplace and opens to a large sunny deck. 6627 Kelsey Point Circle

Charlene Schaper 703.217.2666

www.cschaper.com

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