

Remembering the Fallen

Ivy Hill ceremony honors fire and EMS personnel.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's fallen firefighters and EMS personnel were remembered by members of the city's first responder and law enforcement agencies in a memorial service and wreath laying ceremony Oct. 14 at Ivy Hill Cemetery as part of the annual National Fire Prevention Week ceremonies.

The ceremony, which dates back to 1856, honors those who have died in the line of duty and also

"It's important for us to recognize and remember those who risked their own wellbeing to serve our community."

— Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley



Alexandria Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley, left, and Volunteer Fire Department President Jay Johnson place a wreath at the Memorial to Fallen Firefighters Oct. 14 at Ivy Hill Cemetery as part of National Fire Prevention Week ceremonies.

marks the passing of members of the department who have died during the preceding 12 months. For the first time since 2019, this year's ceremony was held in person and open to the public.

"It's important for us to recognize and remember those who risked their own wellbeing to serve

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 7



An American flag hangs at the entrance to Ivy Hill Cemetery as firefighters and EMS first responders prepare for the Oct. 14 ceremony to honor the fallen.



Retired fire department employee Callie Terrell, left, presents a single rose in memory of a fallen firefighter during the Roll Call of the Fallen at Ivy Hill Cemetery Oct. 14.

Alexandria Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley praises the service and sacrifice of Alexandria's firefighters and EMS first responders during the Oct. 14 ceremony at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



Alexandria Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley, second from right, is joined by Councilman Kirk McPike, Police Chief Don Hayes, Sheriff Sean Casey and Mayor Justin Wilson at the ceremony to honor fallen firefighters Oct. 14 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.



The ceremonial unit of the Alexandria Fire, Police and Sheriff departments performs the presentation of colors Oct. 14 at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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2022 Year to Date



408 North Union Street, 22314

Fabulous views of the Potomac across from Founder's Park! Featuring 4 bedrooms, garage and hidden off st parking space!

Represented the buyer.
Sold price over asking at \$2,075,000



800 South Royal Street, 22314

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Sold at \$1,845,000



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Sold at \$950,000



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Outstanding architectural design and construction in Forest Hills just minutes from the Pentagon and DC! Brick walled garden, garage and ELEVATOR!

Represented the seller.
Sold at \$895,000



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Represented the seller.
Sold over asking at \$725,000

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Inclusive Dreams

What if Alexandria could force developers to build affordable housing?

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A variety of state and federal programs provide funding for affordable housing

If Alexandria wanted to take a carrot-and-stick approach to development, city officials would soon run into a problem. The lure of density is a big fat carrot, which seems to be getting larger each year. But city officials in Richmond are holding all the sticks. Chief among them is the idea of inclusionary zoning, which would require the General Assembly to give Alexandria permission to force developers to build affordable housing.

“We’re forced into this very defensive land-use posture because we have such limited levers that we can pull on land use,” said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. “Part of the problem right now is that any land-owner has a by-right land use no matter what, and we can’t do anything to stop it.”

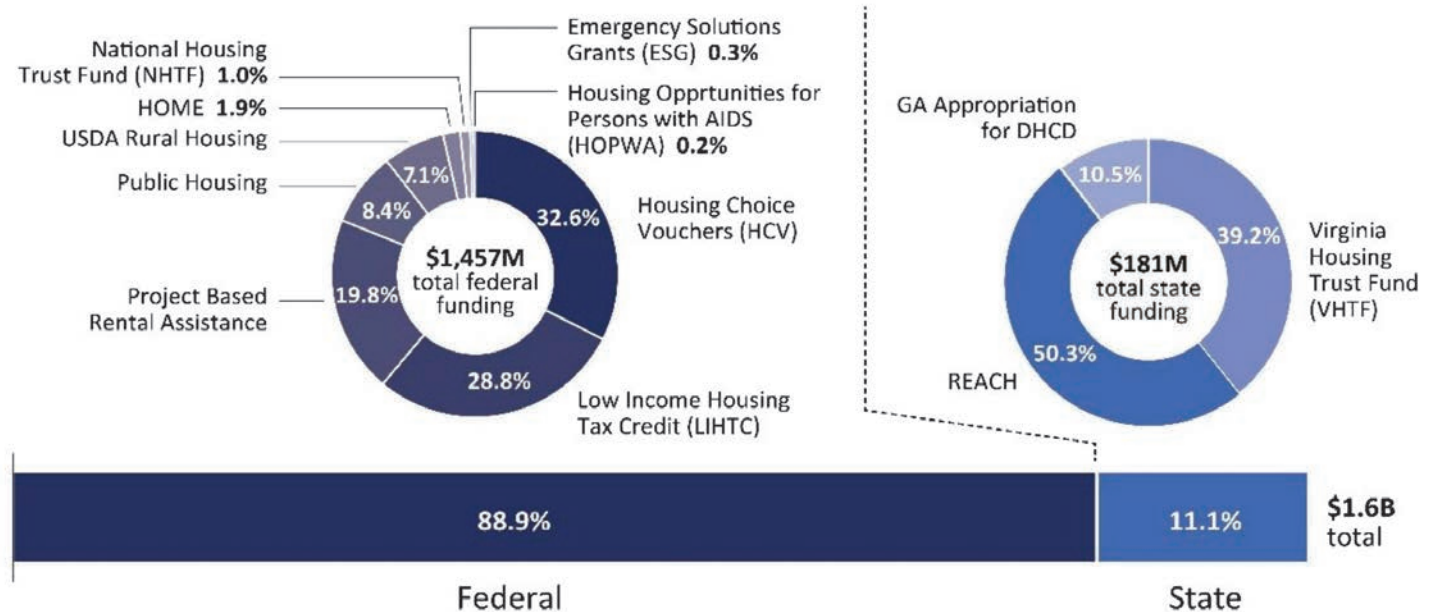
The prospects of the General Assembly giving that kind of authority to local governments seems slim at the moment regardless of which party is in power. But advocates for affordable housing say lawmakers should at least take action on recommendations from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to create incentives for new zoning policies to facilitate the development of more affordable housing. The commission presented lawmakers with a series of recommendations last year but nothing happened. Now lawmakers are about to move on to the latest recommendations from the commission about making the income tax more progressive without taking action on affordable housing.

“The General Assembly is likely to talk about increasing tax relief, but more important and more key to people on the ground is housing relief,” said Sheila Herlihy, an organizer with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. “We don’t need another study to tell us that one in three Virginia families are struggling to pay for housing, and we need to allocate resources to support them.”

THE NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING has been documented over and over again, and the recent JLARC report from December 2021 brought the need into stark relief. Researchers at the commission found that one out of three households in Virginia are “cost burdened” because they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing expenses. They also pointed out that the need for new affordable housing rental units is greatest in Northern Virginia, which is why Alexandria adopted a goal in 2013 to create or preserve 200 new affordable housing units a year every year for 10 years.

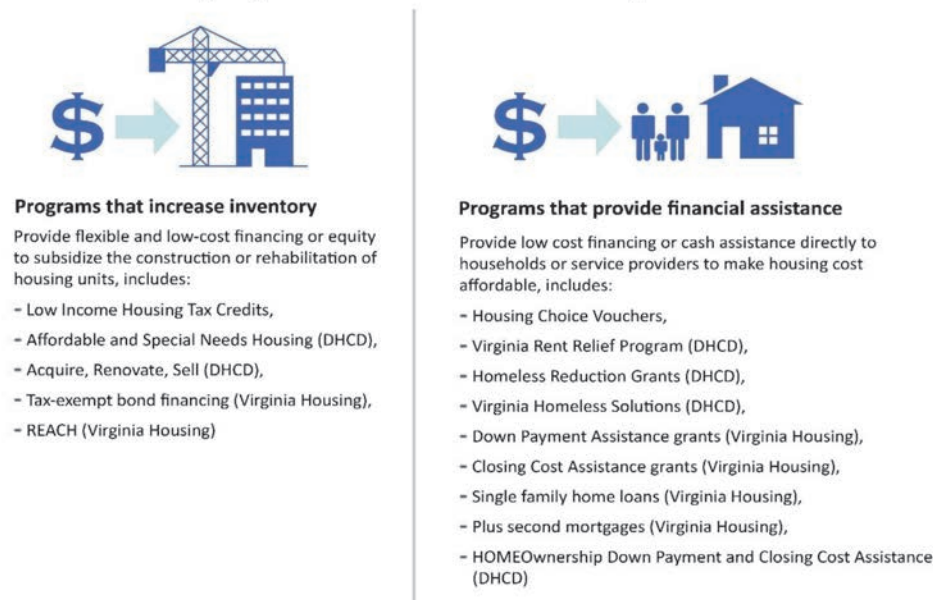
“The goal was rather modest,” said Michelle Krock, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. “If you skip over to Arlington, they’ve got a goal of 600 units a year. They haven’t met that either by the way.”

As elected officials get more aggressive about using zoning codes to require developers to build affordable housing, some neighborhood groups are worried about the



SOURCE: JLARC analysis of Code of Virginia, Appropriation Acts, state agency and federal agency documents.
NOTE: Estimate of funds allocated for housing programs does not include funds distributed through Virginia Housing lending programs, local funding for housing programs, operational funding for public housing developments, funding for housing programs targeted to special populations, or federal funds dedicated to pandemic-related rent or mortgage relief. Project-Based Rental Assistance and USDA funds are from federal fiscal year 2021. LIHTC value is from calendar year 2020.

Affordable housing programs typically support the construction of new affordable housing or provide financial aid for housing costs



SOURCE: JLARC review of housing programs operating in Virginia.
NOTE: Not an exhaustive list of all housing programs operating in Virginia.

“We’re forced into this very defensive land-use posture because we have such limited levers that we can pull on land use.”

— Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson

pace of change. Many homeowners in Del Ray are alarmed that the city government is considering a plan that would allow developers to exceed height limits in exchange for dedicated affordable housing units. City officials already allow for this in a limited

number of areas, although a proposed expansion of where this is allowed could end up allowing height bonuses in a way that would fundamentally change the skyline of Del Ray.

“We encourage the legacy of thoughtful

In the Heights

On Monday Oct. 24, Agenda Alexandria will host a forum on affordable housing at the Lyceum on South Washington Street. A small reception begins at 6:30 pm, followed by a panel discussion at 7 pm. Panelists include:

- ❖ Alexandria City Manager James Parajon
- ❖ Save Del Ray co-founder Nate Hurto
- ❖ Wesley Development vice president Kami-lah McAfee

development along Mount Vernon Avenue, which emphasizes historic and neighborhood context,” said a group known as Save Del Ray, according to its website.

LAST WEEK, an attorney representing the developer of a controversial proposal on Mount Vernon Avenue announced that the project was on hold because of neighborhood opposition. Although the developer was seeking to exceed the height limits, the prospect of delivering dedicated units of affordable housing was not part of the discussions. Nevertheless, the controversy sparked by the redevelopment of the Human Services building at 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue opened a new discussion about the value of swapping height limits in exchange for more affordable housing units. Now the plan to expand bonus height is on hold, and the mayor is hoping to prompt a new conversation about what the city wants and what it’s willing to do to accomplish its goals.

“I have suggested that rather than having our staff come back on just the bonus height that we come back on everything all at once,” said Wilson.

“How many units do we want to create and what are the impacts going to be?”

Townsend Van Fleet

Vietnam veteran,
community activist dies at 87.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

He was known simply as “Van,” a towering figure with a commanding voice befitting of a West Point graduate and retired Army colonel. A proud conservative, he never shied away from debating the political issues facing the City of Alexandria, the place he called home for more than 40 years. On Oct. 17, Townsend Van Fleet died peacefully at his home in Old Town at the age of 87.

“Van Van Fleet’s passing is a loss to the many who knew him,” said friend and former City Councilman Frank Fannon. “His engagement and opinions on issues that shaped the City of Alexandria were not often well received by the elected officials, but like every citizen he had the right to make his opinion known.”

A frequent voice at City Council and various commission meetings, Van Fleet unsuccessfully ran for Mayor as an Independent in 2003. As a Republican, he twice ran for City Council in 2006 and

2015. He served as the president of Old Town Civic Association, was a member of the city’s Waterfront Commission for eight years and was a Federation of Civic Associations board member for 15 years.

“We were on the same landscape when it came to political issues,” said Fernando Torrez, who also ran for City Council in 2015. “That bonded us. He was a man of character.”

Townsend Allen Van Fleet was born Jan. 12, 1935, in San Francisco to Allen Townsend Van Fleet and Ellania Hoburg Van Fleet. A younger sister, Diane, was born the following year. The siblings were raised by a single mother when the elder Van Fleet died suddenly when Van Fleet was 2 years old.

Van Fleet earned a commission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1958 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army and subsequently had a 23-year career as a Field Artilleryman having served in the U.S. and overseas to include Vietnam and Germany. In 1976, he graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., and in that



Townsend Van Fleet, a Vietnam veteran and longtime community activist, died Oct. 17 at the age of 87.

same year earned an MS Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg State College.

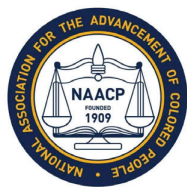
“Van served in Vietnam with distinction,” said friend and retired Air Force veteran Jim Ervin. “He was very open and gracious, mentoring many people, including me, to get started in the government relations business.”

From 1976 to 1981, Van Fleet managed the Congressional Affairs Office for the Army’s Chief of Research, Development and Acquisition. He retired as a Colonel in 1981, establishing his own lobby-



Townsend Van Fleet with wife Julie, who died at the age of 61 in 2013 after a long battle with breast cancer.

NAACP ALEXANDRIA VA ELECTIONS 2022



NAACP
Alexandria, Virginia



It’s an election year for Alexandria VA NAACP. Branch elections are held biennially.

The positions of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Members-At-Large (6) will be elected by ballot.

The Alexandria VA NAACP Branch Elections will be held on November 17, 2022 between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Voting will be conducted via electronic ballot using Election Buddy. You will receive a ballot by 4:00 p.m. to the email address the National NAACP Membership database has on file for you from **Election Buddy Elections** (invitations@mail.electionbuddy.com) with the subject line similar to *Vote now: NAACP Election Ballot – NAACP Branch Elections*.

- email ballots may not be shared with another member, the ballot is unique to your email or cell phone number
- be sure to check your spam/junk for an email if you do not see it in your inbox
- each member who is eligible to vote must have his/her own email address. If you share your email with a spouse, partner, or friend, only one vote will be able to be cast using that email
- if you are using your cell phone number to receive your ballot, be sure that you are able to click on the link using your device, the phone must be a ‘smartphone’.

Please note: Only members in good standing are eligible to vote.
(For the purpose of voting in Branch elections, good standing is a member 30 days prior to the election.)

For more information or to confirm your membership status, contact the Branch Secretary at alexnaacpsecretary@gmail.com

NAACP Alexandria VA, P O Box1740, Alexandria VA 22313 703-684-6190
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Townsend Van Fleet, a longtime civic activist, made unsuccessful bids for Mayor and City Council.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

ing firm representing the interests of many national and international corporations on marketing, regulatory and legislative matters before federal agencies and the U.S. Congress.

“Van was one of the first retired military men to start a lobbying business,” Ervin said. “He may have even been the first. Usually those firms are started by retiring members of Congress or Capitol Hill staffers but Van did it upon his retirement from the Army.”

Together with his wife Julie, Van Fleet was a dedicated civic activist with Julie Van Fleet publishing for several years a bi-weekly newspaper entitled “In My Opinion”

to highlight the numerous public policy issues facing the citizens of Alexandria. Julie Van Fleet died in 2013 at the age of 61 following a five-year battle with breast cancer.

Van Fleet is survived by two daughters. He was predeceased by his second wife, Julie Louise Van Fleet. A first marriage to Sue Frances Murray ended in divorce. Interment will take place at a future date at Arlington National Cemetery.

“As a descendent of George Mason, Van loved his country, his Commonwealth and his city,” Fannon added. “He served all of them well with passion and commitment as a private citizen.”

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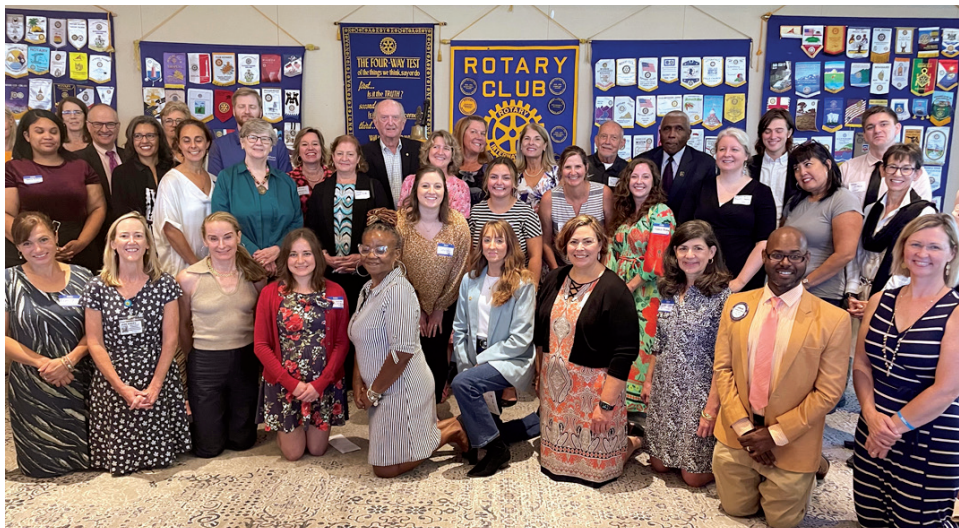


PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Representatives from area nonprofits gather with Rotary Club members for a photo after receiving \$60,000 in grants from the Alexandria Rotary Club Sept. 20 at Belle Haven Country Club.

Show Me the Money

Rotary awards \$60k to local nonprofits.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Rotary Club of Alexandria awarded grants of more than \$60,000 to local nonprofits during its annual Contributions Day luncheon Sept. 20 at Belle Haven Country Club.

The organization's grant program provides financial support to nonprofit organizations that advance literacy for children and adults or improve the lives of children, youth, seniors and others with special needs.

"This is just one way that Rotary gives back to the community," said Jermaine Mincey, chair of the organization's contributions committee. "We review their grant applications then distribute funds based on

the needs of the organization."

Thirty local nonprofits received grants, which provide funding for programs and activities that strengthen core programs; provide seed funding for a new program, program elements or initiative; or support capital expenditures. Grant amounts typically range from \$500 to \$5,000 with the average of \$2,050 per recipient.

"We look for organizations that are servicing the community and that have a big impact," Mincey added. "This really and truly is the 'service above self' attitude that we believe in."

Funding for the grants comes primarily from the Rotary Club's signature event, The Taste For Giving, scheduled for Nov. 5 at The Atrium. For tickets or more information visit www.alexandriarotary.org.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Pastor Juli Wilson-Black, center, of Fairlington Presbyterian Church, cuts the ribbon to open the Waypoint at Fairlington, a Wesley Housing community, Sept. 28 on Menokin Drive.

The Waypoint at Fairlington

Ribbon cutting for 81-unit affordable community.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Waypoint at Fairlington, an 81-unit affordable community developed in partnership with Fairlington

Presbyterian Church and Wesley Housing, held a ribbon cutting Sept. 28 at the site on Menokin Drive adjacent to the church near Bradlee Center.

SEE THE WAYPOINT, PAGE 14

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Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 29 | 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



Pet prescriptions also accepted!

ALEXANDRIA.VA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTITALEXANDRIA.ORG

SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations on October 29 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

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

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

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
First Baptist Church Parking Lot
2932 King St.

Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.
The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

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

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

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

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

NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



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35 years of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

This October marks the 35th year that our nation has observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each year, this month serves as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working to combat and raise awareness about domestic violence, to support domestic violence survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and strengthen legislation to further these goals.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship. These behaviors are not limited to physical violence, but can also include stalking, sexual assault, financial control, verbal abuse, isolation from family and friends, and threats to harm loved ones and pets, among other tactics.

Domestic violence is all too terribly common. It is pervasive across all walks of life, varying age groups, all backgrounds, all communities, all education levels, all economic levels, all cultures, all ethnicities, all religions, all abilities, and all lifestyles. 1 in 3 women and 1 in

4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Each year, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence, and 1 in 15 children are witnesses to intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the United States. 72% of all murder-suicides in the United States involve an intimate partner, and 94% of the victims of these murder-suicides are female. An abuser's access to a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%. Indeed, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence notes that 498 gun-related domestic violence deaths have occurred so far this year.

Over the past several years, the Virginia General Assembly has taken several steps to combat



Krizek

An abuser's access to a firearm in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.

this issue. In 2020, we passed a law prohibiting respondents to final domestic violence protective orders from possessing, purchasing, or transporting firearms, and a bill to require background checks for firearm purchases.

Also in 2020, my bill HB 1044 passed, increasing the penalty for the unauthorized use

of tracking devices, frequently used by abusers to stalk victims. I also plan to reintroduce a bill that would require anti-harassment training in the workplace, an effort to curb sexual harassment, discrimination, and other abusive behaviors that can become pervasive in a workplace environment if allowed to continue.

Domestic violence doesn't end when October does. Everyone should do their part to learn and recognize the signs and symptoms of domestic violence and learn

how to be an engaged bystander on this issue that, unfortunately, affects so many of our neighbors. The Virginia Department of Social Services, and organizations like the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence provide fact sheets and resources on their websites to educate everyone on these abusive behaviors, how to seek help in an abusive relationship, and how to support victims and survivors in our lives.

Sexual and domestic violence programs provide crisis services, emergency shelter, and resource-based support. The Virginia Statewide Hotline is ready to help (24 hours a day, 365 days a year), and sexual and domestic violence programs all over the state. If you or someone you know needs help, please call: 1-800-838-8238, text: 804-793-9999, or chat: <https://www.vadata.org//chat/>.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. To support charitable efforts to combat domestic violence please consider donating to the Family and Children's Trust Fund <http://www.fact.virginia.gov/donate-2/>, the only organization in Virginia devoted to treating and preventing family violence across the lifespan.

democracy, our values, and our common decency from the evil working to overtake what's best about our nation?

We need to send a message to our people and the world letting them know we are working hard to be the good guys again.

I urge my representatives to pass these two bills.

Nikki Enfield
Alexandria

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Efficient Access to West End Destinations

To the editor:

Detailed planning for the former Landmark Mall continues apace and will provide new retail, medical offices, more than 1,100 multifamily housing units, and park & open space by early 2026. The developer, Foulger-Pratt, will provide additional facilities, including a hotel, condos, townhomes, a fire station, and more retail in later phases. Inova will build a new Alexandria Hospital on the site, with an expected opening in 2028. In short, the area that Foulger-Pratt is rebranding as West End Alexandria, will soon provide both new destinations for existing Alexandria residents and homes for hundreds of new residents. West End Alexandria will also be a transit-accessible, walkable, and bikeable community with a new transit hub on the site.

How well the West End transit

hub serves residents and visitors depends on the usefulness of the applicable transit service. The Duke Street Transitway project is an opportunity to significantly improve transit frequency and reliability and keep Alexandrians moving. Buses can move people more efficiently and with less environmental impact than private vehicles. Buses in dedicated lanes would enable more Alexandria residents to more easily access Duke Street restaurants. Students would more easily access the Beatley Library and Witter Field. Residents in the corridor, particularly those in high-rise apartments, would have access to shorter bus trips, for both local trips and connecting to other high-capacity transit, e.g., at the King Street metro station. I am confident that most Alexandrians will appreciate the benefits of dedicated bus lanes on Duke Street to provide better and more equitable access to current and future Duke Street destinations as well as more efficient transportation options for current and future residents. Let's plan for the future, when more people will want and need to be served by reliable, efficient and

climate-friendly bus transportation operating in dedicated lanes.

Carolyn Grigione
Alexandria

Make Indigenous Peoples Day a Federal Holiday

To the editor:

With white supremacy, extreme and dangerous nationalism, and domestic terrorism running rampant, now is the perfect time to send a message about who Americans really are and pass the long overdue HR 5473 & SR 2919 to make Indigenous Peoples' Day a Federal Holiday to replace the gross, outdated, and ill-advised Columbus Day.

Rep. Beyer, Sen. Kaine and Sen. Warner have chosen to put themselves into a position of leadership. I urge them to lead. Do they want to be remembered as a patsy who cowered in the corner when America needed heroes--or are they going to step up and reclaim our

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



Election Officers Appointed to Receive Election Day Complaints

Assistant United States Attorneys Jordan Harvey, Avi Panth, and Anthony Mozzi, will lead the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA) in connection with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program for the upcoming Nov. 8, 2022, general election.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harvey has been appointed to serve as the District Election Officers (DEO) for the Northern Virginia region, Assistant U.S. Attorney Panth for the Central Capitol region, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mozzi for the Tidewater region. In this capacity, they are responsible for overseeing the District's handling of Election Day complaints of voting rights concerns, threats of violence to election officials or staff, and election fraud, in consultation with Justice Department Headquarters in Washington.

"The ability to vote freely and without interference is the right of every eligible American," said U.S. Attorney Jessica Aber. "In order for fair, impartial elections to take place, election officials and staff must be able to do their work in facilitating the vote without suffering threats or violence." The Department seeks to ensure public confidence in the electoral process by providing local points of contact for the public to report possible federal election law violations.

Federal law protects against such crimes as threatening violence against election officials or staff, intimidating or bribing voters, buying and selling votes, im-

personating voters, altering vote tallies, stuffing ballot boxes, and marking ballots for voters against their wishes or without their input. It also contains special protections for the rights of voters, and provides that they can vote free from interference, including intimidation, and other acts designed to prevent or discourage people from voting or voting for the candidate of their choice. The Voting Rights Act protects the right of voters to mark their own ballot or to be assisted by a person of their choice (where voters need assistance because of disability or inability to read or write in English).

In order to respond to complaints of voting rights concerns and election fraud on Nov. 8, the DEOs will be on duty while the polls are open. From 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., any calls should be directed to 703-299-3700. From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Alexandria, calls should be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jordan Harvey, 703-299-3700.

Complaints about possible violations of the federal voting rights laws can also be made directly to the Civil Rights Division in Washington, DC by phone at 800-253-3931 or by complaint form at <https://civilrights.justice.gov/>.

In the case of a crime of violence or intimidation, please call 911 immediately and before contacting federal authorities. State and local police have primary jurisdiction over polling places, and almost always have faster reaction capacity in an emergency.

Remembering the Fallen

FROM PAGE 1

our community as fire and emergency service professionals," said Fire and EMS Chief Corey Smedley. "The Alexandria Fire Department will always remain dedicated to never forgetting and honoring those we've lost." Held in front of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial obelisk, the centerpiece of the ceremony is the Roll Call of the Fallen, a reading of the names of fire safety and EMS career and volunteer personnel who have died in the line

of duty. Following the Roll Call, Chief Smedley and Volunteer Fire Department President Jay Johnson placed a wreath at the memorial to honor the fallen firefighters.

Police Chief Don Hayes, Sheriff Sean Casey, Mayor Justin Wilson and other city officials were in attendance to pay homage to Alexandria's fallen fire department first responders. Gary Kirchbaum, program manager of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, delivered the keynote remarks.

An Eye For Nature

Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, Nov. 11 - Dec. 29.

The exhibit may be seen from 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Tuesdays and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays except for Thanksgiving. To schedule other hours contact ninat@ninatisara.com



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
GILES	8517	643	GRAY SULPHUR SPG/ 643	SULPHUR BRANCH	9/27/2022
POWHATAN	10136	684	BELL RD	STEGERS CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	13259	626	CASTLE ROCK DR	DOE CREEK	9/26/2022
GILES	2918	623	RIVER RD/ 623	NEW RIVER/NS RWY	9/26/2022
GILES	10171	635	BIGSTONE CR RD/ 635	WHITE ROCK BRANCH	9/22/2022
GILES	12345	623	CASCADE DR/ 623	LITTLE STONEY CREEK	9/22/2022
MONTGOMERY	13414	616	DOBBINS HOLLOW RD/ 616	BRUSH CREEK	9/22/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13413	0	SHERROW AVENUE	TRIPPS RUN	9/21/2022
SCOTT	13290	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	9/20/2022
ROANOKE	13269	864	OLD CATAWBA RD/864	MASON CREEK	9/19/2022
FALLS CHURCH	13283	0	S. OAK STREET	TRIPPS RUN	9/16/2022
ROANOKE	2782	637	BOTTOM CREEK LANE	LAUREL CREEK	9/16/2022
FRANKLIN	3455	757	SKILLET RD/ 757	STORY CREEK	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13396	777	FTLEWIS CHURCH RD/ 777	STYPES BRANCH	9/15/2022
ROANOKE	13392	1662	MCVITTY RD/ 1662	MUDLICK CREEK	9/15/2022
BOTETOURT	13410	615	CRAIG CREEK RD/ 615	DUTCHMAN BRANCH	9/14/2022
CARROLL	14974	747	PINE GROVE RD/ 747	BRANCH SHORTS CREEK	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5503	623	FAIRYSTONE PK RD/ 623	RYANS BRANCH	9/14/2022
FRANKLIN	5556	825	HILLOCK RD/ 825	RENNET BAG CREEK	9/14/2022
ROANOKE	10147	696	APPLE GROVE LANE/ 696	BACK CREEK	9/14/2022
BOTETOURT	10152	616	BLUE RDGE SPGS/ 616	BRANCH OF GLADE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13278	919	GRASSY HILL RD/ 919	LITTLE CREEK	9/13/2022
FRANKLIN	13337	688	POTEET RD/ 688	GILLS CREEK	9/13/2022
BEDFORD	13317	695	GOOSE CK VLY R/ 695	N. FORK GOOSE CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13336	639	HURRICANE DR/ 639	NORTH OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	13303	680	MURRELLS GAP RD	SHEEP CREEK	9/12/2022
BEDFORD	3387	680	PATTERSN MILL RD/ 680	LITTLE OTTER CREEK	9/12/2022
ROANOKE	12355	666	BANDY CREEK RD/ 666	BACK CREEK	9/12/2022
BOTETOURT	12304	606	GROVE HILL RD/ 606	CATAWBA CREEK	9/9/2022
FRANKLIN	18127	697	BRICK CHURCH RD/ 697	LITTLE CREEK	9/9/2022
BOTETOURT	18065	737	HOGAN HOLLOW RD/ 737	CATAWBA CREEK	9/6/2022
DINWIDDIE	14789	709	SHIPPINGS RD	BUCKSKIN CREEK	9/2/2022
BOTETOURT	14773	1324	PATTONSBURG LA/ 1324	PURGATORY CREEK	9/1/2022
BOTETOURT	14801	764	SPEC MINE RD	BRANCH OF BACK CREEK	9/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Christ Church's indoor Lazarus Food Pantry was closed for two years during COVID so they turned to delivery and an outdoor pantry for part of the time.



FILE PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Melanie Gray, Director of Christ Church Outreach Ministry.



One of the regular guests before Covid when the Lazarus Food Pantry was inside Christ Church. It just reopened inside in May.

Follow the Long Faith Journey of a Tomato

Unsold produce at Old Town Market makes for modern gleanings, and food for people with need.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

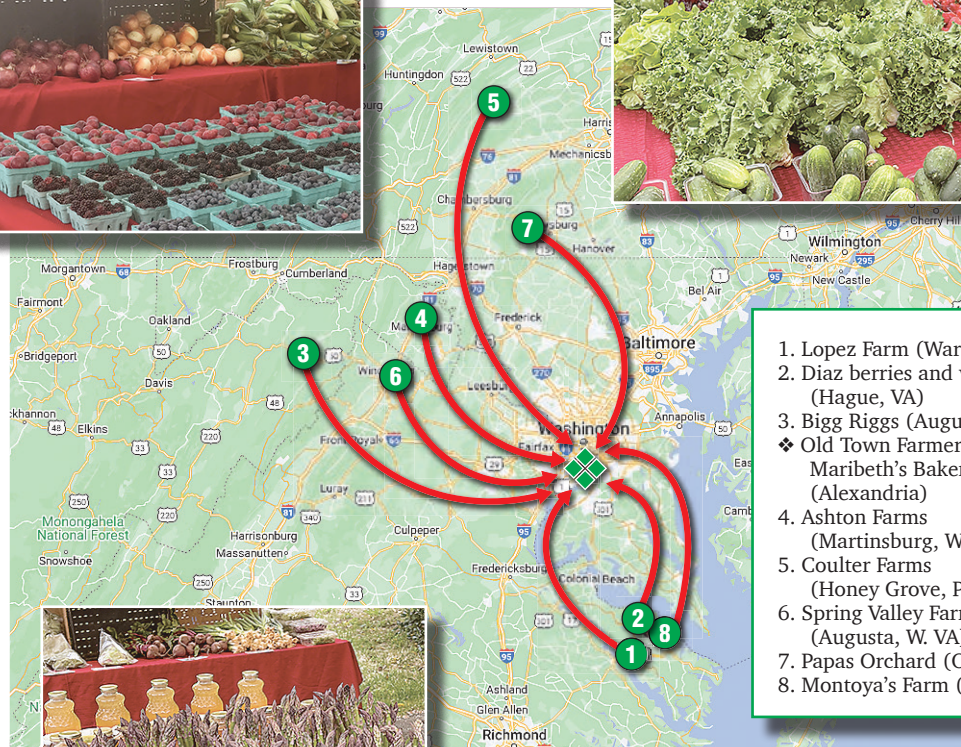
It is a journey. The squash grown on Lopez Farm in Warsaw, Va., the cheese curds from Coulter Farms in Pennsylvania or the corn from Ashton Farms in West Virginia to the Old Town Farmers' Market. When the market is over for the day, some of the vendors donate unsold leftovers, a process called gleaning. The word gleaning derives from the Old Testament Leviticus 19 where farmers were instructed not to reap their harvest to the edges of their fields in order to leave some leftover grain for the poor.

The gleaned produce is loaded into wooden crates by volunteers who pack it and deliver it to Christ Church. The final leg of the journey is from the Christ Church Lazarus Food Pantry on Thursday mornings to the homes of those in need.

"It is so compelling. I don't want to get biblical about it," Melanie Gray, director of Christ Church Outreach Ministry, says, "but there are so many elements of faith involved in the process. There are so many steps on this journey. We never know how many people will be coming to the food pantry, how much produce there will be, how many volunteers will be there to help on any day."

Liz Denson, assistant director of Outreach at Christ Church, keeps a record of the most regular food pantry guests totaling about 45. She says they range across zip codes with half coming from 22314 which is Old Town.

Gray says the economy is horrific and food insecurity is more urgent. "It's not going to end any day soon." She explains they are almost dealing with two different food



Journey from farms donating their gleanings from their farmer's market stands to Old Town Market where volunteers load up crates for the Christ's Church pantry.

pantries at Christ Church. "Before COVID, we were on a roll. In addition to the food pantry, Marymount nursing students would come each week and do routine health screenings for blood pressure and weight and teach good health practices. We had a yoga instructor available and we had just received a grant to set up a teaching kitchen to demonstrate what to do with unpopular vegetables like carrots."

For two years during COVID, Denson explains "the food pantry was closed and Christ Church ran a delivery ministry, but it worked." It was a totally different batch of volunteers with different people getting the food. "We had to rebuild from scratch, dis-

mantle the old process and rebuild the new. It didn't just happen."

For a while they had the food pantry outside. Denson says, "People who walked by the church would ask us if this was a farmers' market." Now Gray says they just reopened the indoor pantry in May and are still feeling their way. "We haven't aggressively advertised. Will Marymount be back next year, will we have yoga? I hope so."

Gray says they work with the City of Alexandria, a great example of a public-private partnership that benefits the community. "I don't think too many people know about it."

Esperita Bullard, Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services custom-

er relations which oversees the farmers' market says, "We have been doing gleaning for over 7 years. Initially it was not a part of DHS but was transferred within the City structure to the center that focuses on economic support with other programs like Medicaid, SNAP, rent and utilities. This gives us better access to promote, look at participation, and SNAP outreach, particularly the double dollars incentive program." Bullard says she has been working with the City for 32 years which allows her to give. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with a population who have need. I go at it with a passion."

Gray calls Brandon Hare, SNAP/EBT Coordinator for Alexandria, "the glue between the vendors and the food pantry." He is there to collect data, provide the scale, drop off the crates and oversee the volunteers who load the donations from the vendors into milk crates. Hare's statistics record the donations of mostly produce but sometimes milk,

eggs or bread by vendor beginning June 18 and varying by week from 295 pounds on July 6 to 84 pounds on July 13.

"The pounds of food is eye popping," Gray says.

Hare remembers, "One week we got so much cantaloupe, I said to the ladies 'you take the bread. I got this.'"

Hare says working together is like gears operating. "We provide the list; they provide the pantry."

The Old Town Farmers' Market is the oldest continuously operating farmers' market in the same location in the United States. George Washington brought his produce from Mount Vernon to be sold at the Old Town Market.

The market is located at 301 King Street and is open every Saturday rain or shine from 7 am-12 noon with 70 vendors participating during peak season..

Goodwin House Celebrates New U.S. Citizens

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

U.S. Congressman Don Beyer was on hand Sept. 16 as Goodwin House Alexandria recognized three employees who recently became U.S. citizens through the Goodwin Living Foundation's citizenship grant program.

"Our program began in 2018 when one of our residents, Rita Siebenaler, had the idea that our staff could benefit from a program for a clearer path to citizenship," said Goodwin Living president and CEO Rob Liebreich. "Twenty-five percent of our staff are not U.S. citizens. They want to become citizens but just don't have the funds to make it happen."

In 2018, Goodwin Living and the Goodwin Living Foundation created a citizenship application fee program that provides employees with grants to cover the cost of citizenship application fees. Nearly 1,000 Goodwin House employees from more than 60 countries are non-U.S. citizens.

Celebrating as new citizens were Ali Cherchar, Emmanuel Nkiruka and Yehula Azene.

"Becoming a citizen is about representing the U.S. values of equity, inclusion and opportunity for all," said Cherchar. "That is why I wanted to become a U.S. citizen and today I am proud to be an American."

Goodwin House residents volunteer to tutor the employees to prepare for their citizenship exams.

"Today was so fulfilling, so joyous," said Judy Hansen, a Goodwin House resident and coordinator of the tutoring program. "The ceremony is so important to me and reminds all of us what it means to be an American, because I think we forget."

The program has been so successful that Goodwin Living has extended the citizenship program to the



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Congressman Don Beyer, right, poses for a photo with new U.S. citizens as part of a ceremony Sept. 16 at Goodwin House. Shown are Ali Cherchar, Goodwin Living president and CEO Rob Liebreich, Emmanuel Nkiruka, Goodwin House resident and tutor Judy Hansen, and Yehula Azene.

spouses and children of employees and created a Citizenship Playbook to help other institutions implement similar programs.

"Four years after creating this program, we have impacted 115 lives in creating new U.S. citizens," Liebreich said.

Said Azene on attaining her citizenship, "I now feel fully complete and part of the American family."

Miracle League Honors Townsend Reese

Pollinator garden dedicated to founding supporter.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The family of Townsend Reese, one of the founding members of the Miracle League of Alexandria, was on hand as the Townsend Reese Memorial Pollinator Garden was dedicated in his memory Sept. 24 at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

"Townsend was one of our original parents when we started the Miracle League program in 2011," said Miracle League of Alexandria chair Mac Slover. "His son Philip continues to play in our program and today we are dedicating this pollinator garden in Townsend's honor."

Reese, who died earlier this year, was a passionate baseball fan. His grandfather was a bat boy in the 1910s for the old Washington Senators.

"Townsend loved baseball," said his widow, Janet Reese. "He was thrilled when the Miracle League was built. It meant that his beloved baseball could be accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities. I am so proud that his contribution to the Miracle



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Janet Reese, right, is joined by her children Philip, Andrew and Emma in unveiling the plaque dedicating the Memorial Pollinator Garden to her husband Townsend Reese Sept. 24 at the Kelley Cares Miracle Field.

League is being memorialized like this."

The Miracle Field is located at 1108 Jefferson Street at the Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center.

www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com

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Animals Come from Far and Wide to Find Homes Here

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE
OF ALEXANDRIA

“We will be receiving 17 cats from Animal Friends of Barbour County tomorrow,” the email to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) staff read. “There are three litters (under the age of 6 months), one of them without mom, and one single adult. In addition, we will be receiving 2 rabbits.”

At least once a week a similar email goes out to the AWLA staff. “We have such a pet-friendly community here and a great demand for pets,” said AWLA Chief Operating Officer Tony Rankin. Along with helping animals who come in from within the City of Alexandria, he said, “we’re able to help dogs and cats from many areas that might otherwise not be able to find homes.” Some of the animals have waited in their local shelters for years.

At any given time, up to one-third of the cats, dogs and other animals at the AWLA have been transferred in from other areas. A new relationship with Animal Friends of Barbour County (W.Va.), for example, regularly brings cats from a county that lacks resources to house and adopt out pets. Another West Virginia rescue group, One by One, also regularly transports cats to the AWLA, where they have a much better chance of finding a family.

The AWLA regularly partners with about 10 groups to bring animals to Alexandria to find homes. The AWLA and Potomac Highlands Animal Rescue (PHAR) have been working together for more than 20 years to rescue animals in Hardy County, W.Va., where a lone war-

den takes care of unclaimed animals in a shelter not open to the public. Newer relationships have brought in dozens of animals from Virginia’s Rockingham Harrisonburg SPCA as well as Smyth Animal Rescue & Resource Center, which transports dogs from the Smyth County, Va. animal shelter.

Some partner groups drive the animals to the shelter, and other times the AWLA goes to them, often delivering pet food and supplies donated by the Alexandria community. “Barbour County was here recently and dropped off 16 cats and kittens and then loaded up the van with supplies,” said the AWLA’s Director of Veterinary and Foster Care, Arianne Killen. “One of our volunteers who heard what was needed went out and bought the cat food for the Barbour group.”

A gray-and-white cat from Animal Friends of Barbour County, known as Marcus, arrived with painfully inflamed eyelids because of a birth defect. Marcus had resided at a shelter for more than six months awaiting surgery to address the problem. Once he arrived in Alexandria, the AWLA arranged for the procedure at a local veterinary office. It was successful, and Marcus was adopted.

As the AWLA learns of need across the country, new partners are added. A Florida-based rescue known as True & Faithful Pet Rescue Mission has brought animals to the AWLA on a nearly monthly basis since 2020. The relationship made all the difference for a shih tzu named Buggy, who arrived from Florida with irritated skin and a hairless tail. Depressed after his elderly owner in Florida had died, Buggy hid behind AWLA office furniture for days until he fi-



Buggy, a shih tzu from Florida, was depressed when he arrived at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria but eventually relaxed and was adopted.

nally made friends with a staffer’s dog. He eventually was adopted and now has two “sisters” — another shih tzu and a cat. More recently, that same rescue group brought an emergency transport to the AWLA: more than a dozen dogs who needed to be evacuated when Hurricane Ian devastated the rescue facility.

This year has brought a relationship with the national ASPCA, which operates as a middleman between shelters that are overwhelmed with unwanted pets and facilities like the AWLA who can help them. The ASPCA does a thorough medical and behavioral assessment of the animals before transporting them, and many have been spayed or neutered before arriving. “We’re getting the opportunity to help some really great dogs through this relationship,” Rankin said.

Along with ongoing partnerships, the AWLA tries to lend a hand to any group experiencing a crisis. A relationship with the Humane Society of the United States

brought beagles to the AWLA last month from Envigo, a breeding and research facility in Cumberland, Va., that had been found guilty of violating federal regulations. AWLA staff members drove a van to the facility to pick up some of the more than 4,000 beagles that would be removed, taking them to the AWLA to be evaluated and prepared to meet their families. Lacking in normal socialization, some of the adult dogs were fearful, but all of the dogs eventually were adopted by the community, and adopters are already sharing stories and pictures of these dogs in their new, loving homes.

“We’re just trying to save as many animals as we can,” Rankin said.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria’s only open-access animal shelter. The AWLA impacts the lives of thousands of animals each year through adoptions and other programs, including a Pet Pantry that last year provided more than 50,000 pounds of pet food and supplies to community members in



Fresh from a bath, a beagle transferred to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria from Envigo breeding and research facility relaxes.



Marcus, who was brought to the Animal Welfare League by Animal Friends of Barbour County (W.Va.). Once transferred, Marcus had much-needed eye surgery and was adopted.

need. The AWLA also helps Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and other animals in the community. More than half of the AWLA’s budget is composed of donations. More information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Alexandria Recognizes National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The City of Alexandria encourages residents to safely dispose of unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications, including those prescribed by veterinarians, during National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Oct. 29. Residents have several options for disposal, including designated collection sites during the event, permanent medication drop-off locations, a permanent needle disposal box and methods for disposing of medication safely at home.

A collection will take place on Saturday, Oct 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the following drop-off sites staffed by the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office:

- ❖ First Baptist Church Parking Lot (2932 King St.)
- ❖ Alexandria Police Department Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Ave.)
- ❖ Fire Station 210 (5255 Eisenhower Ave.)

- ❖ The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.)

The following locations offer secure permanent medication drop boxes for year-round disposal:

- ❖ The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.), available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ❖ Inova Alexandria Hospital (4320 Seminary Road, inside the visitor’s entrance and next to the cashier’s window), available daily, 1-5 p.m.
- ❖ Alexandria Police Department (3600 Wheeler Ave., inside the front entrance, ring bell for access); available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Needles are not accepted during the take back event or in the permanent medication drop boxes that provide year-round disposal. Dispose of needles and syringes in a

separate designated permanent drop box at Inova Alexandria, accessible at the same location and hours as the hospital’s drop off box for medications.

For safe medication disposal at home, the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria is promoting the availability of free Deterra drug disposal pouches until Oct. 31. Request a free pouch online.

If you do not have access to a drug disposal kit, follow these steps:

Check medication bottles for instructions on proper disposal. If no instructions are present, remove medication from its original container. Do not crush tablets or capsules. Mix medication with an undesirable, inedible substance, such as kitty litter or used coffee grounds. Place mixture in a sealable bag or container and throw away in the trash. Black out all personal information on the prescription label so it is unreadable.

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

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

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

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS IN ALEXANDRIA

OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER

Nightly Spirits. Thursdays through Sundays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.; 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission: 21 and over at \$25 plus tax. Tours meet at The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. Sip a local beverage and listen to the secret and spooky lore of Alexandria's haunted past. Hear tales of the ghosts that wander the streets of Alexandria and haunt local establishments. These tours are for individuals ages 21 and over. Haunted private tours are also available for all ages.

NOW THRU NOV. 5

The Little Theatre of Alexandria Presents "Design for Murder." Wednesdays through Sundays at 8 p.m. Admission: \$21 to 24 per person. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Murder, romance and comedy are the three best ingredients for a fun, suspense-filled evening of theatre. This fast-moving, highly tense whodunit treats the audience to a remote mansion, a sleazy black-mailer, a trench coat-clad detective and even a dark and stormy night. A once-wealthy mother and son struggle to keep up appearances at the old mansion, but when a maid is murdered, everyone becomes a suspect.

OCT. 21, 30

Poison Specialty Tour at the Apothecary Museum. October 21 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.; October 30, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person, \$12 for OHA members. At Stabler-Lead-



Alexandria Colonial Tours' Ghost & Graveyard Tours take place nightly in October in Alexandria.

Nightly in October

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. 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. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost & Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge.

beater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Explore the sinister side of medicine on the Apothecary Museum's Poison Tour. This tour explores several different types of poisons, their historic uses at the Apothecary and what we know today. The

event is recommended for ages 18 and up.

OCTOBER 21 AND 28

Death Comes to Carlyle House. 6 to 8 p.m. Admission: \$12 per person. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St., Alexandria.

Carlyle House presents an exhibit on mourning practices in the 18th-century through the experiences of those who occupied the Carlyle household, mourning the death of Alexandria's co-founder, John Carlyle, in September 1780. Reservations are required as space is limited.

OCT. 21, 22, 28, 29

Grief and Ghosts Tour at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 7 to 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 per person. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious occurrences at the Lee-Fendall House. Customs such as draping the mirrors after a death, funeral practices, hair jewelry, mourning clothing and séances will be explored. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours will be offered every half hour from 7 to 9 p.m.

OCT. 22

Fall Frolic at Lee-Fendall House Museum. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$15 per children ages 2-12, Accompanying adults \$5 each, Infants under 2 are free. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Enjoy some fall-themed family fun in the garden during Lee-Fendall House's Fall Frolic event. Activities catered to children ages 3-12 include a "ghost" hunt, crafts, a costume parade and more. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance.

SEE HALLOWEEN, PAGE 14

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ENTERTAINMENT

Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes for October

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

From new restaurant openings to location changes to structural shifts, there's a lot going on in the Alexandria food scene this month. Here are a few bite-sized nuggets of food news circulating around town at the moment.

Andy's Pizza Opens on King Street

There's a new pizza joint in town: Local chain Andy's Pizza has opened an outpost at 107 N. Fayette Street. Dine in with a whole pie or pick up a slice to carry out as

you stroll the streets of Old Town. The Alexandria location is Andy's sixth in the area, and the eatery has developed quite a following throughout the DMV region. From family favorites to new flavors (plant-based Margherita, anyone?), Andy's has a wealth of options to choose from.

Magnolia's Becomes Michael's on King

Magnolia's, nee Magnolia's on King, has changed hands (and cuisines) with Michael's Little Italy to become Michael's on King. The restaurant at 703 King Street opened its doors Oct. 10 following the closure of Michael's Little Italy at 305 S. Wash-

APPETITE ington Street at the end of September and offers many of the Italian specialties (and staff!) diners have come to expect from the former Washington Street location – “with the addition of a few of Michael's specialties,” the restaurant said in a statement.

Sweet Relief Moves to Online Orders Only

Sweet Relief at 1506 Mount Vernon Avenue is making some changes to its structure – but is still serving all the decadent treats customers have come to expect.

“Sweet Relief will be a multi-use space so stay tuned for events we host. Our location

will also be available for bookings,” the company said via social media.

“We will keep a consistent menu which will still include specials. ... We will offer scheduled pickups and delivery within a set mile radius. Catering orders for both pickups and delivery is available. ‘Cupcake’ our trailer will still make her appearance and be available for bookings.”

The new online-order business model takes effect Oct. 23.

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.

CALENDAR

OCT. 2-31

Bold and Fierce. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Bold and Fierce, a new juried membership show featuring artworks by Diana Papazian, Joyce Zipperer, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Jennifer Brewer Stone, Rebecca McNeely, Mary Beth Griffin, Melanie Kehoss and Helen Power. Artists showcase works that are Bold—brave, flashy, brightly-colored and high-contrast—and/or Fierce—wild, savage, eager, severe or intense.

OCT. 6-NOV. 13

Woodcuts Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Featuring works by Joan Mayfield and Ruth Trevarrow. Woodcuts is a mixed-media exhibition that focuses on different types of wood, how we view it, and its transformative properties as part of nature. Mayfield and Trevarrow came up with the concept for the show because they saw a lot of affinity for their individual work as a commonality in their practices. Artist Reception, Sunday, October 16, 4-6 p.m.; Artist Talk, Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m.

OCT. 7-29

“Return to Eating, Drinking, and Merriment” exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit celebrates the return of food, drink, and the rituals and places associated with dining in a hybrid show combining a National Ceramic Show (juried by nationally recognized potter Jeremy Wallace) and a Regional Art Exhibit. Opening Reception: Friday, October 7, 7-9 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Book Talk with Michael Pope. 7 p.m.



The Tour de Mount Vernon 2022 takes place on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

Tour de Mount Vernon 2022

Meet Up at the Workhouse Arts Center for a Community Bike Ride. The 7th Annual Community Bike Ride will be on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., starting and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. The Tour de Mount Vernon brings cyclists on a fun ride through the southern and central portions of the Mount Vernon District including a scenic route through Fort Belvoir. The route consists of paved roads, paved trails and has several challenging sections. Ride monitors and Fairfax County Police help with directions and keep everyone safe. Details and registration: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/tour-de-mount-vernon-2022

At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. The Byrd Machine in Virginia: The Rise and Fall of a Conservative Political Organization. In his new book, The Byrd Machine in Virginia, author and journalist Michael Lee Pope traces the history of the conservative political organization that ran Virginia politics for more than half a century. Visit <https://www.nvfaa.org/happening>

OCT. 21-22

Vietnam War Symposium. At the National Museum of the United States Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. This event will take place from 1-4 p.m. on Friday, October 21 and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, October 22. Join historians, veterans and educators for this two-day symposium which will look back at the Vietnam War era and the Soldier experience. Visit the website: <https://tickets.then-musa.org/Info.aspx?EventID=62>

OCT. 21, 28

Death Comes to Carlyle House. 6 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St., Alexandria. Carlyle House presents an exhibit on mourning practices in the 18th-century through the experiences of the Carlyle household, mourning the death of town founder, John Carlyle, in September 1780. Reservations are required as space is limited.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

27th Annual Art Safari. 12 to 4 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. An Alexandria tradition for more than a quarter-century, Art Safari is a beloved in-person day of activities for kids and families. Join fellow lovers of art and learning for outdoor waterfront art activities and hands-on projects throughout the building. A great event for kids ages 5 and over.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

AWARE! 1 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Are you AWARE!? Join Athenaeum Poet In Residence, KaNikki Jakarta for free with your RSVP for a fantastic awareness event. Now in its 6th year, in partnership with the Athenaeum, this event brings family and friends together in recognition of Awareness. Ten spectacular presenters bring awareness through poetry and story-telling focusing on their selected topics of Healing, Crisis of Faith, Cancer Awareness, Purpose-Driven Fear, and Connections, using life's difficulties as teachable moments, and more! RSVP to greatpublishing@yahoo.com

OCT. 22-23

Fall Harvest Festival. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Celebrate the crisp autumn season

with 18th-century activities and demonstrations at the Farm at Mount Vernon. During this event, you can explore the farm, meet George Washington, see spinning demonstrations and more. Visit mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

Free Concert NCBA. 3 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. This free concert entitled “Requiem for the Unarmed” is its composer's musical response to the death of George Floyd. Also, featured in the concert is Cecile Chaminade's Concertino for Flute. Visit the website: nationalconcert-band.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

Autumn Leaves 2022 Fall Fundraising Concert. 5-8 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, Alexandria. A mix of Jazz, Country and Americana. Join the supporters of Autumn Leaves, a unique fundraising concert at The Rectory featuring ASO musicians wearing their other musical hats—jazz, bluegrass, folk, Americana and more. Pianist Lester Green, tenor Aaron Paige, Marlisa and Dean Woods with their group Holly Creek. Catered appetizers and festive beverages.

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Plane. 7:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance returns to the Athenaeum with Plane, a collection of new works that respond to the location through themes of balanced predictability, progression, self-awareness and passion. Visit <https://janefranklin.com/performances>

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Fashion Fusion. At Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 38th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. Fashions will be provided by Johnny Was – Inspired by world cultures and the arts. Fashion show tickets are \$55.00. Make checks payable to YHGC. Include phone number and email address and mail to Rhea Killinger at 510 Tennessee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. For more information, email: rgkmsbell@hotmail.com.

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Twinkle Lourie. A Sad Tail.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

May she rest in peace. Our 10-year-old, white domestic short haired cat was euthanized on Thurs., Sept 29. A month or so prior, after not eating for a few days, we took her to the emergency veterinarian near our home. (As you may or may not know, it's nearly impossible to get a time-sensitive appointment with a veterinarian. They're all either too busy or short-staffed and moreover, many are not even taking new clients. And this often applies to the emergency veterinarians as well.) And so, it was for Twinkle. Fortunately, we were existing clients. Otherwise, we would have been turned away, as the sign posted on their day informed, referring us to other emergency veterinary practices, all of which were hours away and who were totally unfamiliar to us and with our animals. Twinkle was admitted that first day and the evaluating process began. A few days and a few thousand dollars later, we received the very distressing news: cancer. Twinkle had a tumor near her heart. Her prognosis was not very encouraging.

Nevertheless, we took her home and for the next week or so and followed the pill regimen as directed. For a few days, there was marginal improvement, but soon thereafter, Twinkle reverted to her non-eating ways, even though she was on an appetite stimulant and was receiving steroids as well to treat her tumor. (Steroids have a side effect of increasing appetite.) If this combination didn't cause Twinkle to improve/eat, we were advised that Twinkle's survival was very much in doubt and perhaps we might be considering her quality of life at that point. We couldn't believe what we were hearing. It all happened so fast, and so unexpectedly. The three of us returned home and then began to organize and plan for Twinkle's next week – or less.

After another few days of Twinkle's continued decline at home despite following doctor's orders – and then another interim visit to the emergency vet. for a B-12 shot (to try again to boost her responses which ended up not helping), we decided that this situation/deterioration wasn't fair to Twinkle and so we made the difficult decision to end her suffering. I spent the last few hours of her life lying in bed with her reassuring and comforting her as best I could. Eventually, Dina came upstairs and suggested that it was probably time to go; that the waiting was too difficult, and that somehow, we needed to move forward, for all our benefits, especially Twinkle's.

We called ahead to the emergency veterinarian to let them know our decision and that we were on our way and that we lived five minutes away. Sure enough, they were ready for our arrival and quickly escorted all of us into an examining room. The vet. was kind and caring and couldn't have been nicer as she explained the process to us. Dina and I both held Twinkle as the vet injected the two medicines that would gently put her to sleep and ultimately end her life. When it was over, the vet. asked if we'd like some time alone with Twinkle, which of course we said we would. After we got our bearings and the vet. returned, she took Twinkle away to "prepare" her. At that point, we went back out to the waiting room, sat down, and waited to take Twinkle home.

Within 15 minutes or so, the vet. came out carrying a cardboard box – with Twinkle inside. It had her name on it and some pretty artwork as well. We took her home and kept her in the house that first night. We didn't want to leave her alone outside or in the car. We wanted her to spend her last night in the house with us. During that night, we decided when and where to bury her.

Twinkle was buried the next day on our property, "Beliacres" next to her two older siblings, Biscuit and "Chino" who preceded her in death. They're all buried close to the house so we can visit them often, which we do. Their graves are marked with stones. I miss Twinkle terribly. She had bonded with me alone as white cats do, according to an article Dina had read; and soon we were inseparable; during the day in my home office and at night, in bed. She was my cat, just as "Chino" (her brother) had been.

The last three weeks have been difficult for me. I feel cheated by her premature death. The loss is palpable. Something (Twinkle) is most definitely missing from my life.

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

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CENTRE VIEW

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. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

FROM PAGE 11

Sessions start on the hour between 10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are limited to 20 children each. Tickets are \$15 per participating child ages 2-12. Accompanying adults are \$5 each and infants under the age of 2 are free.

OCT. 27

Sleepy Howllo at Barkhaus. 7:30 to 10 p.m. Admission: \$40 for members, \$55 for the public. At Barkhaus, 529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Barkhaus, the D.C. Metro area's first dog bar, invites you for an enchanting evening in the woods of Sleepy Howllo. This private haunted-themed event includes admission for one per person, beer, wine, candy, snacks and puppuccinos. Costumes are required. Must be 21 and over.

OCT. 29

Raven's Night at the Birchmere. 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$35 per person. The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. In its 10th year, Raven's Night creeps, slithers, and slinks its way back to The Birchmere. Mark your calendars and dress up to spend Halloween weekend with The Birchmere for a unique event featuring fusion belly dance, live music, a costume contest and a pre-show carnival. This year's theme, "Underworld," brings the most iconic demons, witches and wizards to the stage—a magical night and a feast fit for all fandoms.

OCT. 29

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

OCT. 29

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: General public: \$25 per adult; \$15 per youth; Members: \$17 per adult; \$9 per youth. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Mount Vernon. Celebrate Halloween with 18th-century entertainment and activities. Visit Mount Vernon in costume, watch Halloween-themed Punch & Judy shows, see 18th-century chocolate-making demonstrations and more. Trick-or-treating at Mount Vernon takes place rain or shine.

OCT. 29

Old Town Family Trick or Treat. 12 to 4 p.m. Various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town. Bring your own "boo bag." Maps will be provided.

OCT. 29

Nightmare at Barkhaus. 5 to 8 p.m. At Barkhaus,

529 E. Howell Ave., Alexandria. Get ready for the spookiest night of your life as Barkhaus celebrates All Hallows' Eve with the living and the dead. It's your pup's favorite season, and Barkhaus dares all four-legged friends and their parents to join the 3rd annual Halloween party. The event will include a costume contest and spooky food and drink specials. Costumed are highly recommended for both humans and pups.

OCT. 29

2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission: \$10 per person. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 2nd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will be costume prizes and a Dog Costume Contest.

OCT. 30

Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat. 1 to 5 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your spooky pooch over to The Dog Park for a Halloween "boo bag" full of treats for your pup. After registering at The Dog Park retail store, you and your dog will enjoy a leisurely stroll around Old Town and receive boo bags while supplies last.

OCT. 30

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave., Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb; awards are given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home and Best Decorated Stroller.

OCT. 30 AND 31

Poe in Alexandria. 8 to 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$20 per person. At Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Enjoy an unforgettable evening with America's earliest master of the macabre, Edgar Allen Poe. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to re-create Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. This year's performance will include short stories, poems, musings, literary criticism and a comic essay never before performed at The Lyceum. Mr. Keltz's performance has been lauded by The Poe House and Museum in Baltimore, The Poe Museum in Richmond and the Poe National Historic Site in Philadelphia. Reservations are strongly recommended.

The Waypoint at Fairlington

FROM PAGE 5

Wesley Housing president and CEO Shelley Murphy and Fairlington Presbyterian Church pastor Juli Wilson-Black were joined by city officials and project partners in celebrating the completion of the \$37.2 million project.

The four-story development offers three studio, 12 one-bedroom, 49 two-bedroom, and 17 three-bedroom apartments for households whose income is at or below 60 percent of the area median income. There are also nine deeply subsidized apartments through the City of Alexandria.

Prior to redevelopment, the land on which the new community is sited was an underutilized parking lot owned by Fairlington Presbyterian Church. Key partners

in the project include Harkins Builders, Hefner Architects PC, and Walter L. Phillips. Financial support was provided by the City of Alexandria, Virginia Housing, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, as well as Capital One, Freddie Mac and Hudson Housing.

Wesley Property Management will manage the community and Wesley Housing's on-site resident services team will provide year-round programs and services for the individual and family households who begin moving in this month. In addition, local nonprofit partner, Our Stomping Ground, will provide case management and supportive services to residents with developmental disabilities.

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This absolutely beautiful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath brick townhouse checks all the boxes! Open floor plan, neutral decor, fireplace, refinished wood floors, & just 5 blocks from the river & King St. 2 parking spaces in the common garage, plus additional storage. 525 N Pitt St
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1929 Sears kit house expanded in 1989 and kitchen remodeled in 2015. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen/ breakfast room addition looks out to landscaped yard and patio. Unfinished basement. Detached garage with climate-controlled office. 2403 Ridge Road Dr
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