Alexandria Gazette Jarket

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December 22. 2022



ACPS Acting Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, center rear, poses with volunteers at the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 17 at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.



Volunteers from the Psi Nu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity gather for a photo at the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution Dec. 17 at Samuel W. Tucker elementary School.

Merry and Bright

Toy drive serves hundreds of West End families.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

hildren from across the city descended on Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School Dec. 17 to select new toys and books as part of the annual toy drive sponsored by Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue.

Founded by Del Ray resident and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, the organization has been collecting toys for families in need for more than two decades.

"This year we partnered with our sponsors to give away over 1,000 toys, 200 new coats, and over \$800 in gift cards," said Bailey, a member of the ACPS School Board. "We believe the need was much greater this year because of the economy."

In addition to toys, children were able to select books provided by the nonprofit InspireLit. Among the volunteers assisting children with their choices was ACPS Acting Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt.

"I am so grateful for the outpouring of support from this community for all of our students," Kay-Wyatt said. "We are here doing what we love. This community is our passion."

Volunteer Eva Hartman enlisted St. Elmo's Coffee Pub to assist with collecting coats for this year's event.

"St. Elmo's did not hesitate to help out," Hartman said. "We collected coats at all three locations across the city."

Volunteers included members of the Psi Nu chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, who were one of the sponsors of the toy drive.

"The support of our sponsors was certainly needed this year because we had a bigger demand for help than usual," Bailey added. "But thanks to the generosity of so many, the children will all be receiving their holiday gifts. A special shout out goes to InspireLit, who donated more than 1,000 free books to deserving kids."

Sponsors for the event include: Union Street Public House Restaurant; Chadwick's Restaurant; Five Guys



Amelia Jones and Claire Kenealy from the nonprofit InspireLit volunteer at the Firefighters and Friends toy drive Dec. 17 at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.

(Sam); InspireLit; Jack Taylor Alexandria Toyota; Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Capital Youth Empowerment Program; St Elmo's Coffee Pub; Kelly's Irish Times Restaurant (Brendan); Nationwide Credit Corporation; Energesco Solutions LLC; Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority; Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services; Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP); Michael & Sons Services, Inc.; Samuel Tucker Elementary School Staff; Alexandria City Parks and Recreation; Greene Funeral Home; and D & D Home Improvement Services

"We wanted to provide some relief to local families by taking this one thing off their plate so they can concentrate on food, utilities and other things," Bailey said. "We also know there are many refugee families in the area that need our support this holiday season."

Added Kay-Wyatt, "Because of so many generous donors and volunteers in Alexandria, the children in our community have the opportunity to receive new toys, coats and books during this holiday season. It warmed my heart seeing the smiles on the children's faces."



Volunteer and William Ramsay Elementary School teacher Sarah Blair, left, and ACHS student representative Zahra Rahimi help in the selection of books during the Firefighters and Friends toy distribution day Dec. 17 at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.



Volunteer Mindy Lyle, center, helps a family select toys during the Firefighters and Friends distribution day Dec. 17 at Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School.

Photos by Janet Barnett/(



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Old Town | \$3,495,000

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Belle Rive | \$3,499,000

This stately and expanded Cape Cod was completely remodeled from top to bottom in 2017 and has breathtaking views of the Potomac River. The main level offers formal living and dining rooms, a gourmet kitchen and adjacent family room, large screened-in porch, and a primary en-suite bedroom. Stairs from the backyard lead down to a 275-foot pier with a dock and boathouse with lift. 4001 Belle Rive Terrace

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Old Town | \$1,595,000

This 1770s Georgian home was modest to begin with, consisting only of the front 20x18 brick section, two stories high. As the families of different owners grew, and needs changed, the house was added on to 3 separate times. Today its just under 3,000 finished SF with 3/4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. The two gardens on the north & south make for great natural light through abundant windows. 304 N Pitt Street

Peter Crouch 703.244.4024 & Katie Crouch 703.447.1345 www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com

Merry Christmas

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

he pages of the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and sister papers have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Amazing group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving EDITORIAL by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving by tractor-pulled hayride, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite

and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 25:35-40:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

SO HERE IS the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of Dathe Christmas story literally or in spirit, it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

herds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

titude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

Editor's Note About the Rest of 2022

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales/marketing/advertising at sales@ connectionnewspapers.com.

Digital replica editions of the most recent week's papers are available at www.Connection-Newspapers.com/PDFs

Did you miss the Children's Gazettes? Take a look. They are special.

http://connectionarchives.com/ PDF/2022/121422/Alexandria.pdf

PDF/2022/121422/Mt%20Vernon.pdf

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Whether you embrace

vid.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife,

"And there were in the same country, shep-Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord

"And suddenly there was with the angel a mul-

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone

— Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

This is our last edition of 2022. Our next edition will publish Jan.11, 2023, with deadlines for content and advertising of Jan. 5, 2023 (late

http://connectionarchives.com/

— Mary Kimm



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to light the other eight.

HAPPY HANUKKAH - Del Ray neighbors gather in front of the menorah to celebrate

the third night of Hanukkah Dec. 20 at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square. The meno-

rah is a nine-branched candelabrum lit during the eight-day Jewish holiday, which

ends Dec. 26. Eight of the nine branches hold lights that symbolize the eight nights

of the holiday. The ninth branch holds a candle, called the shamash, which is used

Boxers

The Gold Standard

Local boxers win national championship.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

erriel Cooke Jr., an 11-year-old at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, brought home the gold as ALX Boxing returned as national champions from the 2022 USA Boxing National Championships in Lubbock, Texas.

"The team worked very hard to win the Nationals," said Alexandria Boxing Club executive director Alice Williams. "This is a big deal for the team and the City of Alexandria."

Held Dec. 3-10 at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, the competition featured more than 1,000 boxers aged 9 to 39.

"This was a week-long, grueling competition," Williams said. "But the team did not disappoint with boxers returning ranked on the national level and our own National Champion."

Cooke took home the gold for the third year in a row at

the national boxing championships. The two-sport athlete is also a multiple youth Virginia wrestling state champion and Triple Crown winner.

As a boxer, Cooke is following in the footsteps of ALX Boxing's most recent past National Champions, Omar Mahmoud and Olympian Troy Isley.

He is trained by head coach Jeffrey "Steady" Johnson, Eric Zimmerman and Chad Zaamana. ALX Boxing club trains out of Charles Houston Recreation Center.

This year's championships served as the first qualifier for the 2024 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Boxing, which is scheduled to take place in December 2023, for boxers competing in the elite Olympic



Members of the ALX Boxing Club team pose for a photo at the 2022 USA Boxing National Championships Dec. 10 in Lubbock, Texas.

"The team worked very hard to win the Nationals."

— ALX Boxing executive director Alice Williams

weight classes. The championships brought boxers in the youth and elite divisions one step closer to becoming part of USA Boxing's high-performance teams, which provides the opportunity to potentially represent Team USA on the international stage.

For information on how to support or train at ALX Boxing Club, visit www.ALXboxingclub.org.



ALX Boxing's Terriel Cooke Jr., right, competes at the 2022 USA Boxing National Championships Dec. 10 in Lubbock, Texas. Cooke took home the gold for the third straight year.



Terriel Cooke Jr. celebrates his gold medal victory at the USA Boxing National Championships Dec. 10 in Lubbock, Texas.

SSA Caregiver Workshop Set for Jan. 11

Senior Services Community Outreach MANAGER

he role of a caregiver is an extremely important one. Did you know that nearly 1 in 5 American adults is a caregiver, according to AARP? Caregivers work hard to ensure the wellbeing and safety of their loved ones, from preparing meals or driving

By Margaret Shetler to a doctor's appointment, to providing more complex medical support. Though many caregivers report finding a sense of purpose or meaning in their role, caregiving can often be overwhelming and stressful as one navigates uncertainty and making crucial decisions about the future. Caregivers themselves need support too, and thankfully, there are many resources available to support caregivers right here in Alexandria.

Senior Services of Alexandria has teamed up with local experts to bring this important knowledge directly to caregivers in our Caregiver Workshop: Strategies & Resources for Caregivers of an Older Adult. The January 2023 "Senior Living in Alexandria" workshop will take place on Wednesday, January 11, at 10 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. Participants will receive a wealth of knowledge on the resources available in Alexandria and

beyond on the topics of memory care, in-home care, financial planning, caring for yourself as a caregiver, and more. Our guest speakers come from AARP Virginia, Insight Memory Care Center, SYNERGY HomeCare, and Signature Estate & Investment Advisors. The Division of Aging and Adult Services will also join us to share about their programs. Please RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or call (703) 836-4414 ext. 110.



Twinkle All the Way

omes across the city are shining bright with holiday lights as Alexandrians prepare for Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations. With Hanukkah ending Dec. 26, both holidays will fall on some of the coldest days of the year as temperatures are expected to dip into the teens as part of a deep freeze moving across the country. But reindeer technicians and elf engineers promise to have Santa's Sleigh ready to be airborne

- Jeanne Theismann









Bella, 11, recovering from removal of a large tumor at the home of



A senior cat known as Mister Miller relaxes in the home of Jodi Horton, who fostered him until he was ready for adoption.



Mister Miller, who had spent at least four years at a shelter in West Virginia, came to life in a foster home and eventually was adopted.

'Snuggle Time' in Homes Can Ready Senior Pets for Adoption

By Barbara S. Moffet Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

is name was Mister Miller, and he had lived in a shelter in Barbour County, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

W.Va., for at least four years when he arrived at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). The large gray senior cat had a chronic cough, labored breathing, diseased teeth and an eyelid malformation causing chronic irritation.

After two surgeries, including one on his eyelids, Mister Miller moved on to recuperate in a foster home. "Foster homes help animals in every way — mentally, physically and emotionally — and can prepare the animals for adoption,"

said AWLA Veterinary & Foster Care Manager Elena Carver.

Longtime foster volunteer Jodi Horton knew just what to do with Mister Miller, even though Carver had warned her he was not used to being a house cat. At first, she confined him to a spare room in her Springfield townhouse, apart from her pet cats. Occasional hissing would betray Mister Miller's nervousness, but it wasn't long before he sought out Horton's lap. Horton

SEE 'SNUGGLE TIME', PAGE 11 Alexandria Gazette Packet & December 22-28, 2022 & 5

Fear-mongering Fail safe after crimin justice reforms.

New poll shows Virginians feel safe after criminal

By Michael Pope GAZETTE PACKET

s Election Day approached last month, Republicans landed on a closing argument of public safety.

They tried to position themselves

as tough on crime, describing recent chang-

es to Virginia's criminal-justice system as po-

tentially threatening to the safety of neigh-

borhoods and communities. Advocates for

criminal justice reform worried that the out-

come of the election might be seen as a ref-

erendum to pull back some of the changes to

Virginia law that happened when Democrats

were in control of the General Assembly and

"It was all based on anecdotes and no data

whatsoever because the data doesn't support those claims," said Brad Haywood, founder

of Justice Forward Virginia and chief public defender for Arlington County. "Voters didn't

A new poll from Data for Progress shows a majority of Virginia voters say they feel safe after reforms. The poll was conducted in late

October during the closing days of the campaign, asking 654 likely voters in Virginia

their opinion on everything from decriminalizing marijuana to ending the death pen-

alty. It found that voters want to see more reforms, and that they're willing to support candidates who are willing to push forward

"Virginia was on this tough on crime path from 1994 to 2019, and then suddenly we had this big course correction in 2020 and

2021," said Rob Poggenklass, executive director of Justice Forward Virginia. "And

when you look at the poll results it seems like folks were just fine with that and they

want to continue to see it happen.'

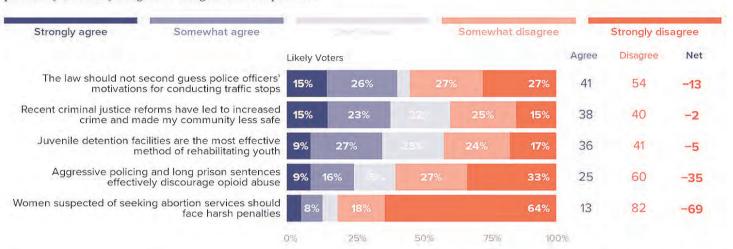
the governor's office.

rather than pull back.

buy it."

Virginia Voters Reject State Republicans' Criminal Justice Agenda

The following is a list of criminal justice positions supported by certain leaders in Richmond. For each of the following statements, please say whether you agree or disagree with the position.

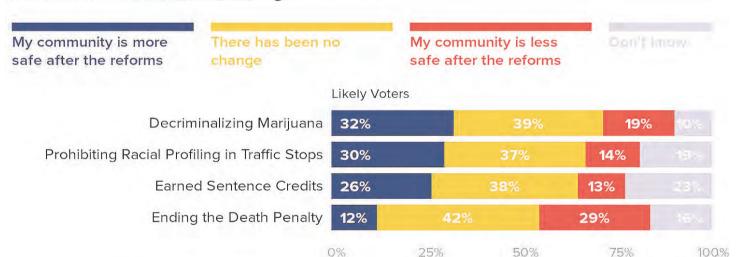


October 22-26, 2022 survey of 654 likely VA Voters

M DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

A Majority of Virginia Voters Feel as Safe or More Safe After Reforms

For each of the following reforms, do you think that they have made your community more safe, less safe, or has there been no change?



October 22-26, 2022 survey of 654 likely VA Voters

M DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

THE POLL RESULTS will be important heading into the next session of the Virginia General Assembly, which starts next month. Republicans are already talking about rolling back some of the reforms that happened under the last administration, which saw a flurry of activity when Democrats held the trifecta of power in Richmond — both legislative bodies and the entire executive branch. The reform that has received the most amount of pushback is the one prohibiting police officers from stopping drivers based on a hunch or a pretext for things like an air freshener hanging from a rearview

"No one wants to be in fear of having an air freshener hanging from their rearview mirror potentially land them with engagement with police," said Valerie Slater, executive director of RISE for Youth. "And so for the police to have the ability to pull folks over for very minor and non-criminal reasons, no one is excited about going back to those days."

When asked if the law "should not second guess police officers' motivations for conducting traffic stops. They know how to best reduce crime and keep us safe," 54 percent of respondents disagreed. But the responses also showed a deep partisan divide. Democrats were more likely to say they disagreed with that statement, and 66 percent of Republicans said they actually agreed with that proposition. During the debate in the General Assembly on pretextual policing, Republicans argued that Democrats were in favor of pretextual policing when it meant stopping people for using a cell phone.

"All of a sudden these defund-the-police activists in the General Assembly have decided that we need to crack down on pretextual stops by police," said state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) during the debate in 2021. "If you're concerned about pretextual stops, you ought to be concerned about it across the board, not just in limited circumstances."

THE BUDGET will be another place where lawmakers will clash over criminal-justice reform next year. And, yet again, this is an area where the poll will be instructive. When asked if the government should prioritize funding for state prisons and jails or funding for crime prevention programs, the overwhelming majority of voters said they would rather see the money go toward prevention. Even 73 percent of Republicans said Virginia should prioritize prevention over incarceration.

"What makes communities healthier, safer and more equitable are things like good-paying jobs, education, health care and affordable housing," said Haywood. "It's common sense, but it's something we lose sight of in the moment when we get freaked out or we're anxious, and people have been feeling that way a lot during the pandemic."

THE POLL ALSO found that voters disagree with attempts to criminalize abortion. Voters support more equity between state prosecutors and public defenders; prosecutors are paid far more. When asked about the failed

War on Drugs, voters said they would rather see a public health approach than engaging in more mass incarceration. When asked about funding priorities, respondents said they would rather see money for alternative sentencing and prison diversion programs than more funding for prisons. Ultimately, the progressive Data for Progress poll found that Republican policy positions on criminal justice reform were unpopular with voters — even unpopular with Republicans in some cases.

"Contrary to what many state lawmakers might argue, Virginians do not support their egregious attempts to undo the progress made in the state's criminal justice system," wrote Brian Burton, senior analyst at Data for Progress. "Should these representatives continue in their pursuit of such a regressive agenda, or should they choose not to fight to protect the state's progress, they are likely to be in for a difficult time come Election Day next year."

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Ann Burke, pictured at her family's summer home, is committed to finding solutions to end racial injustice.

Leading with Deeds to Equity

Ann Burke's grassroots efforts and support of community make her an agent of change.

"We all have a joint

responsibility to help

right the wrongs that

racial inequality."

have led to the country's

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

igher, higher," commanded a 10-year-old boy as Ann Burke pushed him in a tree swing in the backyard of his new home in Vienna. He's the oldest son and third child of a single mother and until earlier this month, he lived in a low-income apartment in a neighborhood marred by gun violence, a lack of access to quality education and the safety of afterschool programs. Now the family will have a new home for the holi-

With leaves crunching under foot, Burke walked through her own backyard in Alex-

andria blinking back tears as she recounted the family's rise from a life of poverty and instability to one of safety and possibility. She gave the family money for a down payment and cosigned a loan so that the family could purchase a home in

Vienna, Virginia. This display of generosity underscores Burke's commitment to slavery reparations which she says are critical to healing this country's racial divide.

"Am I responsible for slavery and the impact that it continues to have on the African American community? No, I'm not" she said. "No but we all have a joint responsibility to help right the wrongs that have led to the country's racial inequality."

Burke has spent more than a decade on the frontlines of the effort to fight systemic injustice and provide economic development opportunities for African Americans.

Her approach is two-pronged. Burke, who is white, supports organizations that work to dismantle the pattern of more than 400 vears of inequality in the United States. She also works to help other white Americans understand the impact that past discriminatory practices have on the current quality of life people of color.

"I think that there are a lot of white people who just don't get it," she said. "The knee jerk reaction of some is to say, 'We've had a black president and there are many blacks in positions of power. Why do we need reparations?"

Part of her work is hosting open dialogue sessions in her home that are designed specifically for people who are white, a dynam-

> ic that she feels is vital to having the honest conversations necessary to effective create change. Having begun her work years before the racial protests after the murder of George Floyd by a police officer, she says her ideas were seen as con-

- Ann Burke

troversial. "I think that people saw me as the Marcus Garvey of the 21st Century."

Since that time, the ideas that Burke touted have become mainstream. Last year the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia voted to create a fund for reparations and is crafting a plan to put it into action.

"The most important work I've been involved in is really changing how white people think about race," said Rev. Elizabeth Rees, an Episcopal priest and the Upper School Chaplain of St. Stephen's & St.

SEE DEEDS TO EQUITY, PAGE 12

www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar about upcoming

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George Washington Middle School Student Art



Emma Lynch, 6th grade



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Maleia Maultsby, 7th grade



Siena Lester, 8th grade



Olivia Grajales, 8th grade



Nora Beekman, 8th grade



Gabriela Galvan Cabrera, 8th grade



Grace Wensing, 8th grade



Meleia Maultsby, 7th grade



Meleia Maultsby, 7th grade

'Snuggle Time' in Homes Can Ready Senior Pets for Adoption

FROM PAGE 5

worked closely with the shelter to help Mister Miller recover from his surgeries and to monitor his other health issues, including a course of steroids that helped him start to feel better.

"After about 10 days in his own room, he was ready to explore the whole house, and it wasn't long before he owned the place," Horton recalled. By day he would bat a catnip toy around on the floor like a kitten and at night he took to sleeping with Horton. "He fit in wonderfully with my own cats and has been such a joy – he's turned into a purring machine." Horton said. "He's a wonderful gentleman — his name fits him perfectly." The best news of all: Mister Miller has now been adopted.

Many of the senior animals who arrive at the AWLA come from outside rescue groups who can't find homes for them, and most of them likely had lived in homes at some point in their lives, Carver said. "The shelter environment may be foreign to them and may cause them to stop eating and shut down emotionally, so we prioritize senior animals for foster

care," she said. "We want them to feel what they used to experience in a home." More than 200 AWLA volunteers serve as fosters, and the food and other supplies for the animals' foster stays are provided by the AWLA.

Carver works to match ani-

mals with medical needs with foster volunteers who are prepared to take care of them. Carolina Leon-Duarte has hosted a total of seven senior dogs so far at the home in Arlington she shares with her mother and resident dogs, who are all seniors. There was tiny Sophie who had surgery for tumors and had lost most of her vision and 11-year-old Bella who was recovering from surgical removal of a large tumor. To prevent Bella from scratching the wound area, Leon-Duarte dressed her in a series of cones, donuts, booties and doggie "onesies." And there was Molly, a toothless 16-year-old who could only eat moistened food and had to be carried up and down stairs. Sophie, Bella and Molly all were eventually adopted.



Sophie, a senior dog who had lost most of her vision and spent time in AWLA foster care before she was adopted.

"I love fostering senior dogs, and I fall in love with them the day they come," Leon-Duarte said. "I am not a high-energy person, so I like chill dogs. And it's an honor to give them a comfy place to stay — home-cooked meals and fireplace time."

Donations made to the AWLA's Rosemary's Fund help support the senior foster animals' journeys to adoption. "We're really grateful for the donations that help get these animals off on the right foot," she said. "It's never too late to make a difference for an animal

— these senior dogs and cats can turn into puppies and kittens right in front of you."

You can make a difference for a senior animal at AlexandriaAnimals. org/Rosemary.

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 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.

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Entertainment



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

First Night

Fireworks will light up the sky over the Potomac River as the finale to First Night Alexandria on Dec. 31. A day-long series of New Year's Eve events includes live entertainment at venues across the city beginning at noon and ending with fireworks along the waterfront. View performance schedules and purchase tickets at www.firstnightalexandria.org

Calendar

NOW THRU DEC. 29

An Eye for Nature Exhibition. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography. 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@

NOW THRU JAN. 8, 2023

The Botanical Gourmet. Presented by the Botanical Arts Society of the National Capital Region. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. For eons, animals ranging from massive leaf-eating dinosaurs to minuscule nectar sipping insects have been attuned to the healthful benefits of a plant-based diet. For their part, plants have enlisted the help with visual and other cues for purposes of reproduction. These interactions, while necessary, are purely transactional. They lack the aesthetic spirit. That's where botanical artists step in. Botanical art is neither scientific illustration nor decorative floral composition,

but an engaging combination of the two. Like blue jays or cabbage moths, botanical artists are drawn to shiny red berries and bright yellow flowers, but unlike other creatures, they have the means to depict their attraction. The works in this exhibit focus specifically on plants that have health-giving nutritional properties for people.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

DECEMBER

Thu. 22: MAYSA - A Very MAYSA Christmas! \$69.50 Fri. 23: Charles Esten w/ N'est Pas

Thu. 29: Bela Dona Band \$35.00 Tribute with Robin & Linda Williams, Daryl Davis, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Patrick McAvinue, & Alex Lacquement \$35.00

Sat. 31: New Year's Eve with The Seldom Scene, Eastman String Band & Wicked Sycamore - 8 p.m.-- \$49.50

3 Restaurant Options For Christmas Weekend

By Hope Nelson

ife is stressful enough around the holidays; why not let your favorite restaurant pitch in with the food? Here are three eateries that are certainly up to the task – no cleanup required.

Brunch at Café 44, 44 Canal Center Plaza Suite 401

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout Christmas weekend (including the big day itself), celebrate the holiday with a festive brunch at Café 44. The restaurant's brunch menu will be in full force with such favorites as omelets, breakfast burritos and sandwiches, eggs benedict, a vegan breakfast bowl and more. Also on display: the café's holiday cocktails, along with some chef's specials to round things out. Reservations recommended.

Christmas Eve dinner at Spice Kraft, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

Looking to branch out from the usual turkey and dressing? Spice Kraft has you covered with an Indian flair. Whether you're vegetarian or a die-hard carnivore, there are plenty of options in the eatery's prix

fixe menu. Start off with the likes of brussel sprouts pakora or chicken sheek kebab, then proceed to a feast of (depending on your dietary choices) jackfruit, dhal, eggplant and corn, seafood biryani, lamb gongura and much more. Finish things **APPETITE** out with a gulab jamun black forest cake and toast to the evening! Preorder your feast and

the restaurant will have everything ready on Dec. 24.

Christmas Day delivery from South China, 1302 Mount Vernon Ave.

It's a holiday favorite for many families (including your humble columnist's over the past few years) a feast of Chinese takeaway is sometimes the perfect meal for Christmas Day. South China is certainly up to the task. From fried rice to lo mein to kung pao to egg foo young to all your other favorites, the restaurant delivers on every front. Pro tip: Order more than you'll want so you can have plenty of leftovers. And pro tip 2: Call early in the day for speedier service (the restaurant gets popular!).

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

Deeds to Equity

From Page 5

Agnes' School in Alexandria. "It's happening in small groups all over the county. We just elected a new bishop [Rt. Reverend E. Mark Stevenson] for whom that is a priority as well. The church is really sinking into this kind of work right now."

Grassroots organizations can become agents of change, says Burke. "Working together as individuals and as a part of a group we can tap into our collective wisdom to find solutions."

One such group is ACT for Alexandria, a community foundation that serves the city in part by mobilizing the residents around issues like racial equity and economic opportunity. One of the group's current initiatives is working as a collaborating partner on ARISE, a guaranteed income pilot program by the City of Alexandria.

"It will help low-income families receive \$500 per month for two years," said Kyle Reardon, Marketing & Communications Manager, ACT for Alexandria. "These are critical resources that will help families move up the economic ladder. One hundred seventy households will be randomly selected to participate and will begin receiving payments in February 2023."

Burke will begin a new project in the new year in which she plans to teach others how to use meditation as a means of increasing awareness of one's thoughts and the role that they play in our personal biases.

"Recognition and acknowledgement are the first steps in the process," she said. "As long as we keep moving forward, we can make change one person at a time."

A New Normal

Considerations for Family Caregivers

By Deborah Tompkins Johnson Special to the Gazette Packet

s caregivers we not only assist in caring for our loved ones, but we also advocate for them with medical professionals. Being informed is crucial to achieve needed and desired results. Besides consulting with medical professionals, we can talk to friends and relatives who supported their loved ones as a caregiver. Today, there are online resources, printed materials available from hospitals and health care associations and of course there are books we can refer to.

One resource I recommend is a book I read partially when I was caring for my dad. What I did read was helpful enough that I have spoken of it and referred it to others. I read it again cover to cover for this article. I am confident in encouraging you, no, urging you to read it if you are a caregiver now, or if due to the age or declining health of a loved one, you anticipate serving as a caregiver.

The book is "Being Mortal—Medicine and What Matters in the End," by Atul Gawande. Gawa-

nde's authority to speak and write on health topics, medical performance and end of life care is informed by his profession, his own family's medical experiences and his interests. Gawande, who I learned is an appointee in the Biden-Harris administration, is considered a renowned surgeon and an active advocate on global health care.

Atul Gawande.

My thanks to a friend with whom I served on a non-profit board for "lending" me Being Mortal. It turned out to be a gift rather than a loan, as a few years later I still have it. She is fine with that. When we talked recently, we shared similar considerations from the book: Our loved ones may be going through many surgeries, but what about quality of life? And though we tend to default to medical treatments that might extend life, what about making sure our loved ones are comfortable? Will the outcomes be really what our loved ones most want as the body declines or end-of-life seems to be approaching? There is much to learn, consider and decide.

I say read it before you need it.

How I wish I had been able to read Being Mortal entirely while my dad faced his medical challenges: Contracting and ultimately recovering from the rare necrotizing fasciitis infection. Diabetes. And for many years: High blood pressure. High cholesterol. Poor blood circulation in his legs and a heart condition.

Being Mortal does cover health care industry changes and realities of a much larger aging population and how both influence medical treatment. But for us caregivers, the book can help guide our mindset as we advocate for loved ones enduring serious health conditions or possibly facing end of life in months or weeks. If symptoms and conditions seem dire enough, if the doctor has not offered a prognosis, it is an important question to ask.

One doctor told my brothers and me my dad's heart was functioning at about 20 percent capability. He also said, rather in passing as I recall, that Dad had about 90 days to live. I might have been in denial. I am not even sure I believed him, because Dad's stature seemed so strong. So Dad, my brothers and I continwww.ConnectionNewspapers.com



PHOTO CONTRIBU

Deborah Tompkins Johnson holds the book Being Mortal by

ued to agree to medical procedures, some could have been considered extreme, and even other surgeries.

Given my reaction to the doctor's statement or lack of reaction, I believe it could be helpful for us as caregivers to consider sharing prognoses and other specific medical information with friends or relatives who are not quite as close to the situation. They might help us move beyond the denial we do not know we are experiencing.

Gawande's book helps us to navigate the balance between treating our medical symptoms and making sure we have the very difficult conversations — in a compassionate manner — to know whether our loved one is nearing end-of-life. If our loved one is approaching death, then we extend the conversations to take steps and consider wishes that could help life end well. Thus, the subtitle of the book, Medicine and What Matters in the End.

Stories shared by Gawande in Being Mortal showed that some key conversation points between the doctors and patient can be helpful: biggest fears and concerns, important goals, what our loved one might be willing to give up and what they do not want to give up. Last and certainly not least, what they absolutely do want.

These are the types of discussions held between the patient and palliative care professionals or a doctor trained in or who has studied and embraced palliative care. Palliative Care is sometimes called Advanced Illness Care. Capital Caring Health describes Advanced Illness Care as "specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. It focuses on relieving the symptoms, pain and stress of illness, with the goal of improving the quality of life for both the patient and family"

More on advanced illness care in the next article.

Deborah Tompkins Johnson is an alumna of Leadership Alexandria and served for many years on the Alexandria Chamber Board of Directors. She retired from Dominion Energy as Regional Policy Director.

Instagram: @deborahtompkinsjohnson www.deborahtompkinsjohnson.com



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Obituary

Obituary

Harvey Cohen

July 29,1930 - December 6, 2022



McLean - Harvey B. Cohen July 29, 1930 - December 6, 2022. Harvey B Cohen, 92, died peacefully smrounded by family in McLean, Virginia on December 6th. Born July 29, 1930 in New York City, he was the son of the late Harry and Stella Cohen. Harvey was his charming and magisterial self until the end, with an enduring affection to his loving wife Marina. It was a life well-lived. Harvey was a trial lawyer extraordinaire from "central casting", rep-

resenting a wide range of clients in complex civil litigation matters in state and federal court. For more than 50 years, he handled business disputes including securities, malpractice, insurance and bankruptcy litigation. Harvey was the managing partner and lead litigation cow1sel of Cohen, Gettings, Alper and Dunham and successor firms during the 1960's through the 1990's. After he closed his firm, he continued to actively practice law past the age of eighty with M.iles & Stockbridge and then DiMuro Ginsberg. Retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge Joanne F. Alper who worked with Harvey for 18 years shared the following thoughts: "Harvey was the most outstanding trial attorney of his generation, with a unique ability to connect with judges and juries. He gave me the opportunity, as a young woman in the mid-1970's, to gain valuable experience and work my way to Partner in Northern Virginia, when there were very few women in the profession. I would not have had the career that I did without Harvey." Education:

Georgetown University Law Center, LLM. 1961. Georgetown University Law Center, LLB. 1959. University of Miami, A.B. 1952. From 1954-1956, he served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force with tours as a young officer in Tokyo, Japan. Upon graduation from Georgetown, Harvey held the positions of Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia (1960-196 I) and Counsel for the House of Representatives, Select Subcommittee on Labor (1961-1962). Harvey is past-President of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and member of its Board of Governors. Listed as a "Washington, DC Super Lawyer", The Best Lawyers in America (ATLA), and Virginia State Bar Association: Medical Malpractice Review Panel

Harvey was actively involved in Virginia politics, running for House of Delegates in 1963. Later he was a close confidant and advisor to Gov Linwood Holton, Sen John Warner, and served in honorary capacity to Presidents Nixon, Ford and Bush (41), chairing Bush's Virginia presidential campaign in 1980.

Harvey's family still tell stories about the U.S. Secret Service taking over Key Drive when Tricia Nixon (Cox) hosted a reception at the Cohen residence in Alexandria. Growing up in New York City, Harvey attended public schools and enjoyed the freedom of city living in the 1940's, including trips on the subway to Coney Island and other adventures.

During his teens, his family moved to Washington DC where a young Harvey helped his mother run the family Dry Cleaning business. Swnmers were spent with his Plager cousins in Long Branch, New Jersey.

After college in Miami, attended on ROTC scholarship, he headed to Japan serving as an Air Force Intelligence Officer with flyovers of the Korean Peninsula in a B52. Harvey will be remembered for his intelligence and his sense of humor. His charm and beguile talked his way out of many a speeding ticket in his Lincoln Continentals. He fascinated his grandchildren with tales of stickball in NYC and the escapades with his Plager cousins in Long Branch - one of which famously ended with precarious fence hopping and a bad broken arm for Harvey.

His kindness, quick wit and irreverent repertoire filled many a room with laughter. Harvey is survived by his beloved wife Marina and his four children, Teresa Cohen Kelley, (Lance) of Round Hill, VA, Mark Cohen, (Stasha) of Darien CT, Douglas Cohen of Reston, VA, and Annastelle Cohen (Washington DC). Harvey is also survived by his sister, Joyce Chantker.

Harvey was proud of his seven grandchildren, Katherine Lamb (Justin), Alexandra Spooner (ret Capt. Steven Spooner, USMC), Danielle Gatling, Jonathan Gatling, Joseph Cohen, Jake Cohen, Zachary Cohen, and his three great grandchildren, Lydia and Sophie Spooner, and Aria Lamb, as well as his nieces and many cousins. Harvey was pre-deceased by his first wife (Toan Bradley Ogren) who passed in 2018 and is btrried at Arlington Cemetary. A Celebration of Life will be held at Army Navy Country Club on January 27th.

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Obituary

Obituary



SCHELHORN, **Carlton "Shady", LTC., 91**, of Mechanicsville, formerly of Alexandria, passed away on December 14, 2022. He is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years, Pat; children, Chip Schelhorn (Julie), Lynn Michaux (Jody), Cathy D'Antuono (Steve), and Nancy Bennett (Mark); 9 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. Shady was a 1955 University of Virginia graduate, where he played football and was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for 23 years,

retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Known for his incredible sense of humor and charm, Shady never met a stranger. He was always the loudest voice in the room, an excellent dancer, and fond of martinis. His family was his greatest pride and joy; "G-Dad" was adored in return. Some of his favorite pastimes included golfing, especially with the Over-The-Hill Hoos, spending winters in Marco Island, Florida and lately watching "Grit" TV. The family received friends from 2-4pm on Wednesday, December 21st, at the Bennett Funeral Home, Mechanicsville Chapel, 8014 Lee Davis Rd., where funeral service followed at at 4pm. Interment will take place in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

















Deck the Halls

Tree sale raises funds for summer youth camp.

he Alexandria Police Foundation held its annual Christmas Tree sale to raise funds for the Alexandria Police Youth Camp.

"We have a lot of ornaments so we are looking for a tree with sturdy branches," said Jeff Anderson, who was shopping for a tree Dec. 17 with his wife Margot and children Julie and John. "But it can't be too thick since we need space for the ornaments."

Proceeds from the sale, held on Callahan Drive outside Alexandria's Union Station, help sponsor kids to attend the Alexandria Police Youth summer camp in Kilmarnock,

"I want a big tree," said Julie, while John added, "I want a really tall one."

For more information on the Police Youth Camp, visit alexpyc.org

— Jeanne Theismann



Jeff Anderson, right, with wife Margot and children John and Julie, shops for

a Christmas tree Dec. 17 at the Police Foundation tree sale on Callahan Drive to raise funds for the Police Summer Youth Camp.



Local nonprofit representatives pose for a photo after receiving donations from the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club Dec. 8. Pictured are CRWC president Susie Miller, Alexandria Police Foundation Chair Anne Rector; acting Assistant Chief Shannon Soriano; Keaira Kittrell of Community Lodgings; Frederick Douglass Foundation founder Dean Nelson; former vice-mayor Bill Cleveland; Fire Chief Corey Smedley; Captain Kaandra Wilson; Marion Moon; and Terris Todd.

Giving Back

Local nonprofits receive **CRWC** donations.

our local nonprofits were the beneficiaries of donations from the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club at the organization's Dec. 8 Christmas cel-

Donations were presented to: Dean Nelson, Founder of the Frederick Douglass Foundation: Ginny Obranovich of the Alexandria Police Foundation, a foundation that provides a summer youth camp and cares for www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

retired K9 police dogs; Marion Moon, founder of the Alexandria Firemen's Foundation to provide healthy meals for firemen on duty; and Community Lodgings for its work benefitting the Arlan-

dria area of Alexandria. CRWC member Terry Hauser represented the National Federation of Republican Women as she officiated the swearing in of CRWC's 2023 Officers: Connie Cantrell,

Catherine Vercaemert, Shirley Miles and Su-

zanne Morrison.

Jeanne Theismann

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Between Zero and Fat



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you who know me beyond the margins of this column, this title is rhetorical. It refers to the chance that what I'm about to describe involves your truly succeeding on any level. For most of you regular readers, you only know what I tell you/admit to. Which is a lot. And I am happy and proud to be as simple and as transparent as I am. Other than picking out dessert, I'm not really your go-to person. I'm more likely your go-away person. I'm helpful, occasionally, but only to a limited degree.

Though I'm good in an emergency and usually levelheaded: "Cheerful in all weathers," to quote Augustus McCray (Robert Duvall) reading the hand-carved epitaph for Deets' (Danny Glover) as written by Woodrow F. Call, in a particular sad scene from the mini-series "Lonesome Dove," I am nonetheless challenged and unhelpful in many ways (technical, mechanical, structural) other than as manual labor. What's the point? Read on.

My wife Dina and I have had cats and dogs pretty much during the entirety of our 45-year connection. Twice the brood has consisted of a puppy and kitten raised up together in the same household. But the most recent iteration, since my cancer diagnosis nearly 14 years ago, has exclusively involved cats, upwards of five in-home, all at once, with no dog. In that time, we had never bought anything resembling a 54-inch high, multi-level cat-condo/ climbing-type furniture thing. Until "Black Friday," that is.

After spending time perusing the website for "Cat Trees & Condos," we decided on a carpeted piece of furniture/ apparatus thing exclusively for the cats to climb, hide, bat, sleep, et cetera. Sort of a jungle Jim for cats, you might say.

At any rate, we were so focused on the amenities (features and benefits) of the 'thing," and anticipating the fun our four cats - once acclimated, would have, that we never even considered how the 'thing' would be delivered; as in, in pieces or all already assembled. I had already paid for it when it hit me: Am I supposed to put this 'thing' together? Before the call ended, I asked: "By the way, does this thing come assembled or will I have to put it togethers Because, if not already together, it could present a real problem for me. Years ago, I put together a wood picnic table, but I may have peaked then." The customer-server acknowledged my concerns and put me on hold for a minute while she researched the answer. She can me back a minute later and said she couldn't find any clarification concerning the "thing" as to how it would be delivered (as in, in pieces or as seen on site) which led her to conclude that it probably required assembly. Disappointed, but undaunted, I said, "No problem, we'll deal with it."

A few days later, the 'thing' arrived in a box, in pieces, assembly required. The size of the box (small-ish) confirmed my worst fears. And when I opened it and started sorting the pieces, the nuts, bolts, screws, I began to have a bad feeling (a feeling I've had many times before) that assembling this apparatus was going to be way beyond me. And as a result, it was destined to sit in our living room disassembled and emblematic of my skillset - or lack thereof. Fighting my instincts and not automatically giving in to the assembling challenges, I located the directions to see if there was any path forward where I could possibly succeed where I knew it was likely impossible.

The how-to booklet was eight pages long, not too bad, with each section of instructions written in five language however. That didn't bode well - for me. In addition to these varied words, there were several schematics with identifying numbers and arrows with dotted lines and easy to follow directions - for a normal person, I imagine (It looked like Egyptian hieroglyphics to me and appeared totally beyond my abilities)

Nevertheless, I sat back on the couch and began reading the manual, attempting to find any familiar elements that might enable me to shock the world. It took me five minutes to realize that I wasn't shocking anybody. Instead, I was left to stew in my own juices. "Incompetent Ken" had struck (or rather not struck) again. There would be no success story here. "MightyCasey" as it were, had swung

I then looked up at Dina. She was sitting across the room anxiously awaiting my assessment. "Well?" She asked. "Well," I said, "there's no way I can do this." A few days passed with the opened box resting against the wall waiting for divine intervention. By mid-week, lightening had struck. A neighbor, with whom Dina is very friendly, took pity on us and offered to assemble the 'thing.' It took him all about one hour, and during that hour, he was talking to us the whole time, barely concentrating on the task at hand. Yet, he succeeded. And all I could do was sit there, mesmerized, as to how simple it all seemed to

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

