

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

General Motors lobbyist Christie Noonan speaks in opposition to the bill introduced by Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), which would have created a work group to investigate vehicle noise.

## Road Rage Veto

**Governor vetoes Ebbin bill investigating so-called 'macho mufflers.'**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**ake this bill and stick it in your tailpipe.

That's what Gov. Glenn Youngkin is telling state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), who introduced a bill creating a work group to investigate muffler noise. Ebbin said he introduced the bill to address the sudden rise in blaring exhaust pipes on Virginia streets. His bill motored through a Republican-controlled House, although now the governor is vetoing the bill.

Youngkin says the bill is "unnecessary." Northern Virginia Democrats disagree.

"I cannot recall a governor ever vetoing a simple study. Ever," said Del. Vivian Watts (D-39), a former Secretary of Transportation who has served in the House more than 20 years. "I have no idea where the governor got the impression that the problem has been solved. My constituents say it hasn't been solved."

The governor's veto message pointed to a bill he signed last year restoring vehicle noise as a "primary offense," meaning officers can once again pull over people specifically for making too much of a racket. Vehicle noise was a primary offense before a 2020 bill took it off a list of pre-textual offenses, although law-



MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Gov. Glenn Youngkin is vetoing a bill that would have created a work group to investigate so-called 'macho mufflers.'

makers quickly backtracked and put it back on the list last year. But even now, six months after the new law went into effect, many lawmakers say they are still hearing from exhausted constituents clamoring for action.

"Muffler noise is a constant source of irritation all over the commonwealth," said state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. "In the West End of Richmond, it's guys coming in their pickup trucks from the rural areas and having an engine-gunning contest at night. In my district, it's folks in some of the apartment complexes who are making their Mini Coopers sound like Ferraris."

**LOBBYISTS FOR AUTOMOBILE** manufacturers opposed the bill, led by General Motors. During the

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## Honoring Their Service

**VFW observes Vietnam War Veterans Day.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**hey defended a nation half a world away, with more than nine million Americans serving their country

during the Vietnam era. Tens of thousands would not return home by the time the last of U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam in March of 1973.

"March 29, 1973, was the day that Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war so it is fitting that March 29 was the choice for our National Vietnam War Veterans Day," said Jerry Krueger, Commander

SEE VFW OBSERVES, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Cadets from the Challenger One Squadron Capital Wing Civil Air Patrol retreat after placing a wreath at the VFW Post 609 flagpole in Alexandria National Cemetery April 1 in recognition of Vietnam Veterans Day.



VFW Post 609 Commander Jerry Krueger, center, addresses the crowd during the Vietnam Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony April 1 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



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Jafar Kahn and Jean Mayhan, in back, with students at the AVID career mentoring program Jan. 27 at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.



Sheriff Sean Casey talks with students about careers in law enforcement at the Jan. 27 AVID program day at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.

## Head of the Class

### AVID holds career mentoring day.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Community leaders from across the city joined together at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School to participate in the Student Leadership 101 Roundtable for middle school students as part of the AVID college-readiness program.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a nonprofit

program designed to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college. The program places special emphasis on growing writing, critical thinking, teamwork, organization and reading skills.

"Today is an opportunity for community leaders to spend some quality time with our students," said Jim Paige, Executive Director of Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria and sponsor of the Jan. 27 event. We have about 25 community leaders here and our goal is for the students to get to know them personally."

Deron Campbell, Director of Community Health Programs for Inova Alexandria, was on hand to talk about a career in the healthcare industry.

"I am engaging the youth at Jefferson-Houston Middle school on behalf of Inova and the Dream Big program, which focuses on exposing youth to health care careers that are underrepresented by race and ethnicity," Campbell said. "Our goal is to increase diversity in the healthcare workforce."

Also from Inova was Dr. Tiffany Latham. "Today we are inspiring kids to do their best, to pursue careers and answer their questions as it relates to career planning and focusing on school and college," Latham said. "As a healthcare provider, I am here to hopefully inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals."

Bobbie Cohen, president of the local Hosts Lions Club and retired registered nurse, was asked about qualifications to go into nursing by 7th grader Brianna Martinez.

"I told her to keep her grades up and to not be scared of blood," Cohen said. "I also told the students that they need to be a people person – you have to love people to go into nursing."

Jodie Peters, AVID district director for Alexandria City Public Schools, said that AVID and ACPS have had a partnership for 13 years.

"Schools choose to partner with the orga

SEE AVID, PAGE 5

## Charlie Hill Park

### Cleanup honors slain officer Charlie Hill, last APD officer to be killed in the line of duty, March 22, 1989.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Police Department Special Operations team descended on Del Ray March 22 for the annual Charles W. Hill Park clean up in memory of Hill, the last APD officer to be killed in the line of duty.

"Every year on March 22, the Special Operations team comes out to honor Charlie and his family for his sacrifice," said SWAT team commander Lt. Jason Story. "Charlie was killed on March 22, 1989, in the line of duty saving hostages, which is remarkable. We're here to remember and honor him."

March 22, 1989, began as a routine workday for Hill and his family. A member of the Special Operations Team with the APD, Hill was home early playing with his two sons when he was called to respond to a hostage situation in Old Town. During the standoff, Hill was fatally shot, becoming the last APD officer to

be killed in the line of duty.

Thirty-four years later, members of the law enforcement community turned out for the annual clean up and beautification of the Del Ray park named in Hill's memory.

A 13-year-member of the Alexandria police force, Hill was killed when 34-year-old Jamie Wise had taken several hostages in the 300 block of Hopkins Court to collect on a drug debt.

After a five-hour standoff, Wise emerged with a sawed-off shotgun pointed at the head of a teenage hostage. A police sharpshooter shot Wise but not before he was able to fire off two rounds. One fatally wounded Hill and the other severely injured Hill's partner, officer Andrew Chelchowski.

Just one month earlier, Hill had celebrated his 40th birthday. In 1993, Chelchowski, Hill's partner that day, died of suicide after suffering from PTSD from the incident four years earlier.

Added Story, "It means a lot for the community to come out and remember Charlie's sacrifice."



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria Police Department Special Operations team join with Audrey, Eleanor and Laila Hill, seated, granddaughters of the late Corporal Charles Hill, at the annual park cleanup March 22 in Del Ray.

# VFW Observes Vietnam War Veterans Day

FROM PAGE 1

of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 609 in Alexandria during an April 1 ceremony honoring the veterans at Alexandria National Cemetery. “Our national commemoration honors everyone who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, with no distinction being made between veterans who served in the country of Vietnam or who were stationed elsewhere. All were called to serve and all were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior.”

Despite the sometimes heavy rain, close to 100 people turned out to honor the city’s Vietnam veterans. Krueger and VFW Post 609 were joined by representatives from American Legion Posts 1775 and 24, both in Alexandria, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration in hosting a wreath laying ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans as well as recognizing those who died in service to their nation.

“The names of our service members lost in that battle are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known as The Wall, in Washington DC,” Krueger said. “So today we gather to honor those from the community of Alexandria who, in President Abraham Lincoln’s words ‘gave their last full measure of devotion’ and are counted among the 58,280 whose names are engraved in the polished granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.”

In 2012, President Barack Obama signed a presidential proclamation designating March 29 as the annual observance of Vietnam War Veterans Day. The signing of the proclamation marked the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam. Only U.S. embassy personnel and support staff remained in South Vietnam until the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

The proclamation states: “In one of the war’s most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected — to face treatment unbecoming their courage and a

welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again.”

Cadets from the Challenger One Squadron Capital Wing Civil Air Patrol placed a wreath at the VFW Post 609 flagpole in the cemetery honoring the veterans. Lt. Col Colleen Wallace, Commander of American Legion Post 1775, rang a bell as the 68 names of Alexandria’s Vietnam War fallen were read aloud.

CAP Cadet Zoey Carlos opened the ceremony with the National Anthem with American Legion Post 24 member and Vietnam War veteran Donna Reuss singing God Bless America. Bugler Ryan Welch concluded the ceremony with the playing of Taps.

“We are here to honor their collective sacrifice,” Krueger said. “These veterans deserve our profound respect.”

PHOTOS BY  
JANET BARNETT  
GAZETTE PACKET



Vietnam veterans Joe Zelinka, USAF, and Douglas Guiler, USA, salute during the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony April 1 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



Lt. Col Colleen Wallace, Commander of American Legion Post 1775, rings a bell as names are read of the 68 Alexandrians died or missing in action from the Vietnam War at the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony April 1 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



Bugler Ryan Welch plays taps to close the Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony April 1 at Alexandria National Cemetery.



A crowd of close to 100 braved the rain to honor Vietnam veterans April 1 at Alexandria National Cemetery.

**“All were called to serve and all were seen in the same way by a country that could not separate the war from the warrior.”**

VFW Post 609 Commander Jerry Krueger

## Governor Vetoes Ebbin Bill Investigating So-called ‘Macho Mufflers.’

FROM PAGE 1

General Assembly session, the lobbyist for General Motors told lawmakers the Detroit-based automaker was concerned about enforcing a standard that limited vehicle noise to 85 decibels at 50 feet. She also pointed to a fiscal impact statement suggesting that the Virginia State Police would need at least \$200,000 to implement that kind of

restriction.

“General Motors cares about this issue because we manufacture vehicles that have the capacity to reach 85 decibels,” said Christie Noonan, a lobbyist with the Richmond-based firm Reid Smith. “The bill would have made those vehicles illegal on Virginia roads.”

Ebbin’s bill would have created a work group convened by the Virginia Department

of Transportation, including input from automobile manufacturers, law-enforcement officials and prosecutors. After Ebbin introduced the bill, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) added a provision to make sure local governments were in the loop. During one meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee, Surovell suggested a better approach might be for lawmakers to give local

governments more power to crack down on so-called “macho mufflers.”

“Perhaps the solution to the problem might lie in giving local governments the authority to do things as opposed to us trying to adopt some statewide solution on this problem,” said Surovell. “I think it’s more of a problem in denser localities than it is in rural areas.”

# NEWS

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Seventh grade student Brianna Martinez talks with retired nurse Bobbie Cohen during the AVID careers mentoring program Jan. 27 at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.



Dr. Tiffany Latham, back left, and McArthur Myers, back right, with students Mionya, Milan and Cherise at the AVID program day Jan. 27 at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School.

## AVID Career Mentoring Day

FROM PAGE 3

nization to promote college and career readiness for students who may not normally have college in their path," Peters said. "It's an opportunity to not only support students but to support families to understand what it means to go to school in the United States, to understand two- and four-year degree pathways, to have students take part in things they might not necessarily be a part of on their own."

Seventh grade student Milan Stephen attended the program to get guidance on pursuing a career as a performing arts teacher and interviewer.

"Communication is really key in life," Stephen said. "Especially in college because you have to work in big groups to get things done."

Peters praised the partnership with the CCNA for the success of the program.

"With this partnership with CCNA and all of the networks they are connected to, they have made it so Jefferson-Houston AVID can have ongoing partnership opportunities like this event," Peters added. "This exposes students to a number of different career fields and they can talk and hear from experts in those fields and really hear the true journey of these careers."

[www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org)

Natalia Kazaryan, piano

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### JOIN US FOR Woodbine Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. NHDD is an initiative to encourage individuals to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes.

Woodbine will host a Healthcare Decisions Day with volunteers offering **FREE CONSULTATIONS**, explanations and support to anyone wishing to learn about Palliative and Hospice Care or complete an Advanced Directive.

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Joyce Garrett, Music Director at Alfred Street Baptist Church.



Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Senior Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church since 2008.



Alfred Street Baptist Church Palm Sunday, 2023.

# Alfred Street Baptist Church Prepares Easter for 3,600

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alfred Street Baptist Church has been an institution in Alexandria since it began as Colored Baptist Society at the time Thomas Jefferson was the third President of the United States. In the mid-1850s they had 83 members. Today Alfred Street Baptist Church has 12,000 members.

This year's Easter Service will be held at Washington Mystic Stadium which will hold 3,600 in order to reach as many members as possible. Joyce Garrett, Director of Music, says this is a major, major MAJOR undertaking. "All of the different stakeholders in the church including music, worship, AV, communications, security and culinary have been meeting weekly by zoom for weeks to coordinate the planning. But we do it, and it goes without a hitch because of so much planning."

But the good news according to Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley is that they have done this before and it is like riding a bike. But still he acknowledges the logistics make it a huge effort. Wesley says he has been working on his sermon since Lent began although ideas start to flow a year in advance. Planning has to begin before Lent because he plans to have a cohesive structure and the last six Sundays are all a lead in to what this Sunday will be and will proclaim. It is all coordinated with music and message.

He says the big challenge of Easter is that you have a specific set of Biblical passages to work with. "The whole Bible isn't open. I like to use it to remind people of the foundation of our faith, that Christ died and was resurrected." Wesley doesn't believe Easter is a time for creative innovation, but a remind-

er of truths. "There are so many messages that could come out of the Easter message to impact our daily lives. You could take the perspective of the person who looks in the darkness of the tomb and is depressed and grieving with no hope. But a belief that things will change."

"I like to say when it looks like God isn't good that means he isn't done."

Garrett says 450 volunteers are involved in the event which involves a number of details. "For instance, we have 130 choir robes to be arranged on a rack with each person's name and transported to the venue." They have found a lift for one of the choir members who is in a wheelchair and can't walk up the bleachers. The greeters and ushers will have to know what to do and the deacons will have to decide how to pass out communion.

"Since Covid, we have the bread and juice in a plastic ziplock." A hundred details.

The culinary team is preparing snacks for 450 volunteers for the dress rehearsal on Saturday that will begin at 8 a.m. and run until 4 p.m. Then they will be preparing 450 breakfast sandwiches for Sunday morning for the volunteers who need to be there at 8 a.m.

Alton and Pat Wallace, members of the church since 1983 and long-time church leaders, will be leaving for the Easter service on a 7:30 a.m. bus for volunteers. They say they will be wearing their black uniforms and manning a section in the arena for communion. "Our two daughters and son-in-law and two grandsons will be at the service. Our grandsons are in the choir and doing everything at the church their mothers did."

The Wallaces say they came to the church as young parents who needed a church for their children's sake. Their neighbor invited them to Alfred Street Baptist Church and

they immediately got a sense of home like their church in North Carolina. "It was the music we were used to; we just loved it. The children's activities were outstanding and they flourished there."

Since then Pat has led successful Girl Scout troops for many years doing things she thought she would never do (camping) as well as been co-chair of the year-long Bicentennial celebration as well as other large events and a member of the Foundation Board and a deacon. "You know when you do something they like, they just put you in charge of the next thing."

Alton was also ordained a deacon shortly after he joined the church and since he was so young they were worried that he wasn't old enough to have sinned enough and been forgiven enough to really understand.

He went on to be President of the Foundation Board and to establish the mission of giving poor but smart kids a scholarship. "That had been me growing up on a tobacco farm and my scholarship got everything started that led to my success." He also helped set up a Military Ministry, rewrite the church constitution several times and write a history of the church for the Bicentennial Celebration. "I am a math guy and I thought people just took history in college because they couldn't do numbers."

This year the church has invited Benita



Alton and Pat Wallace, long-time parishioners at Alfred Street Baptist Church

Jones, a guest soloist from Atlanta, to lead the Praise and Worship which will be the first half of the Easter service. "We will have to practice with her because she hasn't been here. The choir will be going over the background music."

Garrett says, "We have combined our five adult choirs for the Easter service. This was my biggest challenge — wondering whether I would get the choir I needed due to the pandemic." She sent out a request "And sure enough they did respond."

She said another challenge was planning exactly the right music. "When you do that

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

every year, it's hard to top that the next year." She finally decided on, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." It will be accompanied by their orchestra but she wanted a more varied repertoire so the choir will join in for two verses and then put some emphasis and end with a big bang. She says when she is coming up with her program she just imagines what she would like to hear. "Imagination can take you places."

They will have 40 orchestra players on the stage with the artist and her background players, then room for the dancers when the artist leaves and the choir can sing. Garrett says she knows the service will fill up and unfortunately not everybody will be able to attend so they plan to send out a communication over the website so people won't

come and be turned away. Garrett has been at the church since 1979 when they were in the old building. "We had 30 devoted singers who never missed a rehearsal. Back in the day gospel was still a novelty, 'a thing' and they opened the score on an Easter cantata and just sang through the booklet. Now the church also has a bell choir, liturgical dancers, an adult and a youth orchestra, five adult choirs as well as children's and teen choirs

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley says that preaching to 3,600 people means he probably can't see their faces. "But I know my members and I go out and shake hands and make a connection ahead." He says he will hear some Amens or see some gestures in the dynamic response style characteristic of the Black church. This conversational style is what distinguishes Black churches. He says, "Some people don't like this large setting; others love it." He says sadly they will have to turn people away for the Easter service but it is very difficult to find venues for a church that hold 5-7,000.

Wesley says when he arrived in 2008 the church membership was 2,500; now it is over 12,000. He said a lot of these members came during the pandemic, and 15-20 percent of the members are virtual but want to be part of the church. "We have 300 members in both Philadelphia and Richmond, and LA is a big center, too."

Wesley says he thinks there are so many factors behind the growth including the church's focus on mission and philosophy and giving to the local and national community. Wesley says the church gives ten percent of everything they raise to outside the church for needs in the community. "We gave nearly \$4 million last year."

He says with the growth came a number of challenges requiring drastic changes in administration, multiple church services and emphasis on children and youth. "Families come here and they want their children to get the same faith experience." The staff grew from 12 to 98. "We are the largest employer of Black people in Alexandria."

But he thinks a lot of it is because "we have a sweet spirit and kind relationships and love and we are open to everyone."

And, "we want to be sure that the person who just shows up has a good experience. We support customer service." That'll be no small task for 3,600 worshippers on Easter Day.

## Healthcare Decisions Day

Woodbine to host free seminar April 13.

Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center will host Healthcare Decisions Day April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Located at 2729 King Street, Woodbine will have volunteers on hand offering free consultations, explanations and support to anyone wishing to learn about Palliative and Hospice Care or complete

an Advanced Directive. The event is free and open to the public.

Partners for the event include: Lonnie C. Rich, Esq. Family First Law Group, PLLC; Kimberly Spriggs, Vice President, Branch Manager/Crystal City and Notary Public, Burke & Herbert Bank; and Capital Caring Health Client Services and Pastoral Care.

### CITY IN BRIEF

## Days of Remembrance

The City of Alexandria will observe the Days of Remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust at noon on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in Market Square, 301 King St.

The City of Alexandria hosts the annual ceremony as part of the weeklong commemoration of the national Days of Remembrance, Sunday, April 17 through Sunday, April 24, 2023. This is the 34th year the city has held the Days of Remembrance ceremony. The event is free and open to the public. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the City Council Chambers located on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 301 King St.

The guest speaker will be Robbie Schaefer, the son of a Holocaust survivor. He is a musician, songwriter, and theater artist. He is the guitarist and songwriter for the indie folk band, Eddie from Ohio, and has also recorded several solo albums including 2017's Sounds Like Home: Songs From the Musical, Light Years.

Schaefer is the founder of OneVoice, an international non-profit that unites and empowers youth through music and the creative arts.

During the ceremony, Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council will light a candlemarum that the late Holocaust survivor Charlene Schiff and her husband, Ed, donated to the city. The 54-inch high, solid brass candlemarum was donated in memory of Charlene Schiff's parents and sister, and the six million Jews and millions of others who perished in the Holocaust.

The Schiff candlemarum is also made available to schools and civic groups studying the Holocaust.

## Poetry Month in Alexandria

Zeina Azzam, Alexandria's Poet Laureate, invites all Alexandrians to participate in National Poetry Month activities throughout the month of April.

April is National Poetry Month to celebrate poetry and its ability to enrich everyday life. To learn more about National Poetry Month and the activities celebrated throughout the country, visit [www.Poets.org](http://www.Poets.org).

The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing Words in Motion." The poetry contest encouraged quality writing by writers and poets 16 years or older, who lived, worked, or studied in the City of Alexandria.

Seven poets were selected from sixty-three submissions. Zeina Azzam, Alexandria Poet Laureate and the winning poets will have their poems published inside the DASH buses and Trolleys in April and May. The winning poets are Kacie Candela, Christine Riccardi Coker, Rose Dallimore, Christa Edwards, Jonathan Lewis, Elizabeth Reese, and Anthony Smith.

Alexandria's Poet Laureate will lead the "Poem in Your Pocket Celebration" on Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Athenaeum (201 Prince St.). The formal program begins at 7 p.m. Zeina Azzam will be joined by winning poets of the 2023 DASHing Words in Motion program. Limited seating will be available, so reservations are required. To make a reservation email [arts@alexandriava.gov](mailto:arts@alexandriava.gov).

## Food Waste Composting Pilot

The City of Alexandria will launch a new curbside food waste composting collection pilot for residents who currently receive City trash and recycling services. Registration for the pilot program is now open, with collections expected to start this spring.

The City has contracted Compost Crew, a organics recycling company, to provide this service to residents.

Up to 2,000 households will be selected in the pilot program each year for two years. Pilot participants will receive the first six months of service for free along with the start-up kit paid for by the City. Of the 2,000 households, the City will provide a twelve-month subsidy for 100 households currently exempt from payment of the Residential Refuse Fee and receiving tax relief and assistance. Registration will be on a rolling basis until the maximum capacity of participants is reached. Residents who pre-registered through the City's feedback form back in December will receive a confirmation email with next steps.

Pilot participants will be encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to the City. After six months, residents may continue service with the vendor for a monthly or annual subscription fee. Residents will have the option to cancel service at any time.

As part of this program, the City will also conduct a Food Waste Reduction outreach campaign to provide residents with everyday tips to reduce food waste impact at home. The Curbside Composting Pilot will be in addition to the City's free food waste composting services open to all residents at farmers' markets.

Visit [alexandriava.gov/go/4289](http://alexandriava.gov/go/4289) to learn more

# ENTERTAINMENT

## ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY

April 2023, various events, Virtual and In-Person. Help commemorate the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day with a month full of environmentally focused events, activities, and online initiatives that center on the Eco-City Vision in which Alexandria's residents, businesses, and City government participate in a vibrant community that is always mindful of the needs and lifestyle of the generations to come. We all need to do our part and what better way than through fun, educational, and engaging opportunities. For more information go to: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/EarthDay>

## ONGOING

**Cherry Blossom Water Taxi to The Wharf.** Departures beginning at 1:30 p.m. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf development in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station. Visit [citycruises.com](http://citycruises.com)

## BEGINNING SATURDAY/ MARCH 18

Traveling Exhibit, We The People: Portraits of Veterans in America. At



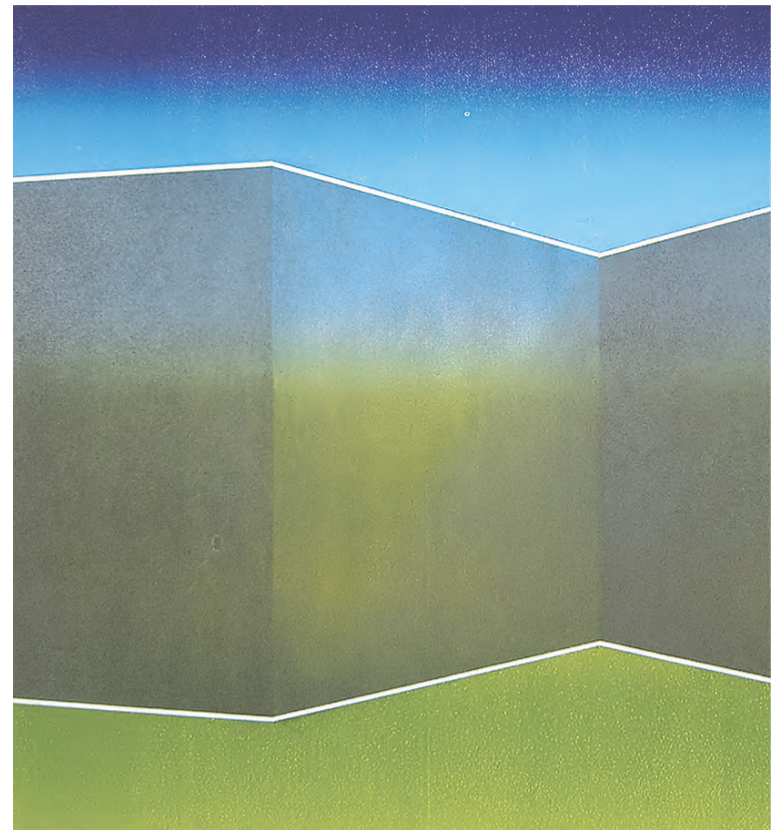
Take a Cherry Blossom Water Taxi to The Wharf from Alexandria.

National Museum of the U.S. Army, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Exhibit tour with artist Mary Whyte. In 2010, Whyte set out on an inspirational seven-year mission to paint 50 large-scale watercolor portraits of current-day American veterans. WE THE PEOPLE, depicts military veterans of all ages and in all walks of life. Images including a Missouri dairy farmer, a Rhode Island lobsterman, a Pennsylvania science teacher, a South Carolina single mother, and 46 other moving portraits will be showcased. Visit [theNMUSA.org](http://theNMUSA.org).

## NOW THRU APRIL 16

Cherry Blossom Guided Tours with Pedego Electric Bikes Alexandria.

Departures at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on weekends; by appointment on weekdays. Admission: \$69 per bike (\$10 for passenger riders on cargo or tandem bikes). At Pedego Alexandria, 210 North Lee St., Alexandria. Join a three-hour guided tour from Old Town Alexandria to the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C., including a ride through the blossoms around East Potomac Park. The views of the blossoms from a Pedego are fantastic, and you don't have to fight traffic or find a place to park downtown. Weekend tours fill up quickly, so contact Pedego early to make your reservations. Call 571-312-5168 or email [info@pedegoalexandria.com](mailto:info@pedegoalexandria.com). [Pedegoalexandria.com](http://Pedegoalexandria.com)



The Matthew McLaughlin Art Exhibit can be seen at the Athenaeum from now through April 30, 2023.

## NOW THRU APRIL 30

Matthew McLaughlin Art Exhibit. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Reception: Sunday, March 26, 4 - 6 p.m.; Artist Talk: Sunday, April 30, 2 - 3. Matthew McLaughlin's

work explores how people define space in relationship to themselves on multiple levels, through personal and public forums, by bringing together those themes via

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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# 3 Dates to Circle in April

By HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

From anniversary parties to block parties to a refined wine dinner, April is bringing a great many ways to celebrate. Here are three of the month's best.

## Chalkboard Wings and BBQ First Anniversary Party, April 15

Has it been a year already? Chalkboard Wings and BBQ is ready to ring in its first birthday in style. From food and drink specials to live entertainment featuring musician James Stevens, the eatery is pulling out all the stops. And if you can't get enough Chalkboard, good news: The restaurant is launching a Kickstarter campaign to open a second outpost as well as additional food truck and catering options. 8723-C Cooper Road. 1-11 p.m.

APPETITE



## Chalkboard Wings and BBQ first anniversary party, April 15

tuna tartare, an entrée of either herb and garlic crust-ed lamb or roasted duck breast, and finally some car-amel custard bread pudding as a sweet treat. Each course will pair with a different California wine. Call the restaurant to reserve your spot. 6452 Old Beulah St. 6:30 p.m. \$95.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## Spring Block Party at Lost Boy Cider, April 22

Shop, eat and drink – and maybe have your tarot cards read? – at Lost Boy Cider's block party. Hooffs Run Drive will undergo a conversion from parking area to party zone with lots of entertainment options. LAZ Collective will be providing live music; Whiskey and Oyster will be shucking oysters; and nearly a dozen vendors from Shop Made in VA will also be in attendance to allay your shopping cravings. And – of course – Lost Boy's cider will be readily available! 317 Hooffs Run Drive. 1-6 p.m. Free entry.

## Copper Cane Wine Dinner at Burtons Grill and Bar, April 24

Take in a food-and-wine pairing event at Burtons' Alexandria location featuring varietals from Copper Cane Wines and Provisions. The four-course meal will feature the likes of a Southwest spiced salad, spicy

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

mixed-media works from multiple series. The exhibition covers three distinct series, Proxemic Boundaries, Plotting Truths, and Reflective Cartography.

### APRIL 7 TO APRIL 29

"A Tale of Two Studios." Del Ray Artisans partners with Art Enables Gallery & Studio in an open-themed showcase of the inspiring art of these two community organizations to convey an essential story about creative expression and art-making. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, April 7 from 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays 12-6 p.m., and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed April 30). [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### GARDENING TIPS AT GREEN SPRING GARDENS

Garden Talk - Spring Cleaning in the Garden. At 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. Friday, April 7, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. There is plenty of seasonal maintenance to do before summer arrives! Learn from Extension Master Gardener docents what you need to do to ensure that your plants are ready for the summer ahead, what needs pruning, what needs trans-

planting, and what needs mulch.

Enrollment is \$12 per person.

Plant Swap - Houseplants, Cuttings and Containers

Saturday, April 8, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual Plant Swap!

Bring your unwanted houseplants, cuttings and containers to swap with others or simply give away. A lecture and Master Gardener Help Desk will be included. Leave with new plants, containers, garden friends and expert advice. Enrollment is \$15 per person.

Hidden Gems of Green Spring Saturday, April 8, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Join Green Spring Gardens staff on a walk that highlights interesting and seldom seen parts of the gardens. Get the inside scoop on the dazzling plants that bloom in the quiet corners of Green Spring. Program takes place outside, please dress for the weather. Enrollment is \$19 per person.

Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening

Saturday, April 22, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Don't have a large yard? With a little creativity, even the smallest patio, deck or townhouse yard can be turned into a successful vegetable garden! Let Extension Master Gardener docents show you how to grow vegetables in a small space. Whatever your space constraints,

you too can grow delicious and nutritious fruits and vegetables!

Enrollment is \$12 per person.

Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. For more information on these and other gardening program offerings, call 703-642-5173 or visit the Green Spring Gardens website.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 6

Yacht Haven Garden Club Meets. 10 a.m. At Mount Vernon Yacht Club, 4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria, Va. The program will be Growing Hydrangeas. Contact [pmuchello@aol.com](mailto:pmuchello@aol.com)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Garden Talk - Spring Cleaning in the Garden. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) There is plenty of seasonal maintenance to do before summer arrives! Learn from Extension Master Gardeners what you need to do to ensure that your plants are ready for the summer ahead, what needs pruning, what needs transplanting, and what needs mulch. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Q56.GL4T.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

### Obituary

### Obituary



## Victor Henry Ritz

**Victor Ritz, 88**, of Old Town Alexandria has passed away. Born in Brooklyn NY, Victor was the only child of Henry Geslain Ritz and Matilda Marie Von Essen Ritz. They frequented museums with his cousin, Virginia. Victor was a voracious learner, studying at the Brooklyn Institute for Arts and Sciences, NYU and the U on Maryland. Victor earned his PhD in physics at the U of São Paulo, Brazil, via a Fulbright Scholarship. This led to a career as a research scientist with the Naval Research Lab., working to pioneer new materials.

Victor was an insatiable traveler, visiting all parts of the globe and bringing back treasures to fill his beloved home on Princess Street in Alexandria, VA. He was a global gourmet cook, and an avid gardener, making the most of his urban garden by planting and replanting it several times a year. His roots went deep in Old Town's community, speaking frequently of his close community of neighbors.

He is survived by his cousin Virginia Poole Bauer and her children, George Bauer of Florida, and Rick Bauer, and Nancy Bauer Howell, of Connecticut. His wry sense of humor is displayed on a plaque on his house that claims "on this site in 1887 nothing happened here" He is missed.

### Obituary

### Obituary

## MARILYN O'DONNELL ALLS

May 19, 1951-March 24, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of **Marilyn O'Donnell Alls, 71**, after a mercifully brief illness, on March 24, 2023. Marilyn, a 1965 graduate of Blessed Sacrament Elementary School and Francis C. Hammond High School (1969), earned her RN at NVCC and Bachelor of Science in Nursing at George Mason University while raising her only child, Charlene, working full-time at Alexandria Hospital as a nurse in the Emergency Department, and caring for her aging parents. In 1980, Marilyn proudly added the letters "C.E.N." to her credentials, as she was in the first group of nurses in the United States to attain board certification in Emergency Nursing.



Patients at NOVA Alexandria Hospital (where Marilyn worked for more than four decades) weren't the only beneficiaries of her nursing expertise. Friends, family members, and neighbors were, too. Where there was a need for a nurse—no matter where, no matter when—Marilyn never hesitated to meet it. Her gift for healing also extended to animals, particularly to dogs. If there was ever a person who could rightfully answer to the moniker "Dog Whisperer," it was Marilyn.

Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, William and Catherine Walsh O'Donnell, and her brother, Joseph M. O'Donnell. She is survived by her devoted daughter, Charlene Alls Rhatican, and her two beloved grandchildren, Raymond Thomas Rhatican and Taylor Bevin Rhatican. Surviving siblings include Frank -O'Donnell (Arlene) of Irvine, CA; Karen O'Donnell Ranger (Jim) of Walnut Creek, CA; and William P. O'Donnell (Daniel Sauro) of St. Michaels, MD. Numerous nieces and nephews, as well as Marilyn's lifelong friend, Delane Swan Ryan, also mourn their tremendous loss.

A Memorial Mass and Celebration of Life will take place at Blessed Sacrament Church, Alexandria, VA, June 9, at 10:00. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Marilyn's name to your local animal shelter, hospice, or ASPCA will be greatly appreciated.

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**Obituary**



**David Lee Fannon, Sr.** of Amissville, Virginia passed away peacefully on March 9th, 2023 at the age of 87. David was born in Alexandria, Virginia in 1935 and spent his formative years living there and working at Fannon Petroleum. A time of visitation will be held Saturday, April 29th, 2023, from 2pm to 5pm at Laurel Hill Farm, 641 Laurel Mills Road, Castleton, Virginia 22716. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in David's memory to the Amissville Volunteer Fire and Rescue, 14711 Lee Highway, Amissville, Virginia 20106.

**Be a part of our:**

**Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

## SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**Plant Swap: Houseplants, Cuttings and Containers.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Join us for Green Spring Gardens' 2nd annual Plant Swap! Bring your unwanted houseplants, cuttings and containers to swap with others or simply give away. A lecture and Master Gardener Help Desk will be included. Leave with new plants, containers, garden friends and expert advice. Rules and regulations of the swap will be emailed before the program. \$15 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 1AT.VWV5.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**Hidden Gems of Green Spring.** 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Join Green Spring Gardens staff on a walk that highlights interesting and seldom seen parts of the gardens. Get the inside scoop on the dazzling plants that bloom in the quiet corners of Green Spring. Program takes place outside. Dress for the weather. \$19 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code UNW.QJYM.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 14

**The Late Shift Art Night: Cherry Blossom Jubilee.** 7 to 10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. In partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Torpedo Factory Art Center invites visitors to explore the celebrated cherry blossoms through art demonstrations, music and interactive activities among three floors of open studios and galleries.

## APRIL 14-15

**Spring Garden Market.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The

American Horticultural Society presents the ultimate two-day shopping experience, the Spring Garden Market, on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at River Farm in Alexandria. Join 2,000 fellow gardening enthusiasts, 30+ vendors, food trucks, and the ever-popular alpacas for family-friendly festivities on the beautiful 25-acre historic property along the Potomac. This year, the AHS celebrates 50 years at River Farm. [www.ahsgardening.org/sgm](http://www.ahsgardening.org/sgm)

## 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](http://www.Birchmere.com).

## APRIL

- Fri. 7: Bob Schneider w/ Ashley Ray \$35.00
- Sat. 8: The Sun Ra Arkestra \$35.00
- Wed. 12: Rick Wakeman "His Music And Stories" w/ Gina Sobel (Solo) \$59.50
- Thu. 13: Trevor Hall 'An Evening In A Blue Sky Mind' \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
- Fri. 14: Christian de Mesones "Big New York" \$39.50
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## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 20

**April Networking Breakfast.** 8:30-10 a.m. At Hilton Alexandria Mark Center 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. The Chamber ALX's Networking Breakfast with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, presented by United Bank. Exchange business cards, share your elevator pitch, and expand your network with friends in Northern Virginia.

## NEW DMV SELECT OFFICE TO OPEN IN ALEXANDRIA

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is partnering with AAA Alexandria to open a DMV Select office on April 3. The new DMV Select, located at 2231 Eisenhower Avenue, is an expansion of DMV's partnership with AAA Mid-Atlantic. The AAA Car Care Insurance Travel Center in Richmond's Scott's Addition has offered DMV Select services since December.

DMV contracts with local governments and private entities to offer vehicle services at DMV Selects. Services available include vehicle titles and registrations, license plates and decals, disabled parking placards, transcripts, hunting and fishing licenses, E-ZPass, voter registration applications and more.

The new AAA Alexandria DMV Select will be open for walk-in service Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information on DMV Selects, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/select](http://dmv.virginia.gov/select).

## LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. [www.volunteerallexandria.org](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org)

**ALIVE!** Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

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

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers.

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

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

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

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

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron 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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## Wading Into New Territory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have been CT-scanned regularly/quarterly for 14 years. Occasionally, given my relatively "stable" existence, my oncologist has suggested increasing my scan intervals to four or even five months, up from the current three months. We have always resisted, especially Dina (being afraid the delay would allow a tumor to grow unchecked or to even get noticed in the first place). This suggestion by my oncologist was not made lightly. Given how well I've done, diagnosis-to-date, and how slowly the tumors in my lungs are growing, adding a month or two to the interval is not going to appreciatively tip the scales against me, according to my doctor. And lessening the amount of radiation, albeit comparatively low, that I'm/have been exposed to over these many years, is a side benefit, in addition to making my life less cancer centric (fewer appointments in hospitals). This suggestion is consistent with what my oncologist has regularly said over the years: that my quality of life was paramount. This new variable seems to have given us (Team Lourie) additional insight into the overall health risks possibly affecting someone who's been scanned as often as I have. (One of the side effects of exposure to radiation is, you guessed it: cancer. And since I already have enough cancer, Team Lourie, more so Dina, has consented to this change in scan frequency.) And in real time, now actually, I'll be getting my first scan after this new, longer interval.

To say I'm anticipating trouble is a bit of an overstatement. To say I'm worried about the consequences of waiting (scanning) an extra month or two longer than usual/normal, to see what's going on inside my lungs - where my papillary thyroid cancer has set up shop (and it's a big shop, apparently), is more accurate. Though the thinking/strategy for extending the scan interval still seems reasonable, faced now with the reality of it, is leading to some sleepless nights and stressful days. If I had it to decide over, I'd make the same decision. Still, this first go-around is a bit more challenging than I anticipated. It's hardly just another day in paradise, is it (as the Brits so often end their sentences with a question mark)? But as long as I'm still in the game, I'll never complain. And even though I've been scanned upwards of 75 times since my initial diagnosis in Feb. 2009, I don't ever take any results for granted. I take them as they come and try to take them in stride.

Still, after 14 years; introducing a new variable to my equation, this very familiar process seems sort of new again. It's as if I'm being scanned for the first time and trying not to think that my life hangs in the balance. Over time, especially considering the number of years I've been a cancer patient undergoing treatment, you develop a sense of rhythm in your life; you learn to navigate and schedule all the cancer-related activities/requirements/appointments so that it becomes routine. And in this routine, you're able (at least I was) live a relatively normal life where the cancer is not totally in control (of course the cancer is in control, but you're able to manage it, sort of, so your life isn't completely cancer centric). Unfortunately, increasing the interval between scans is not an indication that I'm in remission. Though it is an indication that I'm less terminal (if there's such a characterization), but as far as being out of the woods? I'm nowhere near the woods, let alone be out of them.

Though there's a new interval, the process by which I, as the patient learn about the results of the scan, has not changed. By an automatic 'process' scan results are emailed to me by the radiologist, perhaps even before my oncologist has even had a chance to review and even comment on them. What the patient receives is right out of the radiologist's pen. All medical jargon. After a few years of reading these documents, I know where to look for answers. There are two obvious lay-person-type sections. One is called "Impressions." The other is called "Findings." It is under these two headings where, sprinkled amongst the medical jargon, you'll find most of what passes as familiar English. I read it and re-read it trying desperately to discover its meaning. And though I wouldn't want to bet my life on my interpretation of the report, that's exactly what I'm forced to do, since I receive it before my oncologist, and I have spoken about/discussed the results. Granted, it's not perfect, but the release of this information is almost immediate, sometimes even the same day as the actual scan. So even though I'm now waiting an extra month or two for the regular scan than I have been having for years, I am not waiting any longer than usual to receive the report from the radiologist. Thank God! I've spent more than enough time already waiting for results over these last 14 years.

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

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