

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

SERVING ALEXANDRIA FOR OVER 200 YEARS • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 13, 2023

Feeding the City **ALIVE! opens new distribution hub in Del Ray.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

ALIVE!, the city's largest private safety net dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger, officially opened its newest distribution hub April 12 on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray.

City officials, including Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council, were joined by ALIVE! board members and community faith leaders for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the food hub,

“These hubs are places where our clients can come in and select food of their choice at times that are convenient to them.”

— ALIVE! board president Mary Eileen Dixon

located at 2601 Mount Vernon Avenue across from Mount Vernon Community School.

“These hubs are places where our clients can come in and select food of their choice at times that are convenient to them,” said ALIVE! board president Mary Eileen Dixon. “They are not dependent on our other types of distribution where there are certain dates and times where bags are handed out that have been pre-packaged.”

This is the second Food Hub opened by ALIVE! following the May 2022 opening of a hub in the Van Dorn Station Shopping Center in the city's West End. Both hubs provide residents food, personal items, cleaning supplies, school supplies, community, and information about other support services.

In addition to Wilson, speakers at the event included ALIVE! executive director Jenn Ayers and Pastor David McWilliams of Del Ray United Methodist Church. Following the ribbon cutting, attendees toured the new facility, which features interior murals by local artist Eddie Harris.

As a sub-awardee of the City of Alexandria, ALIVE! received funding from the American Rescue

Plan Act to open brick and mortar locations to distribute free food and to connect city of Alexandria residents in need with support services.

At each Food Hub, ALIVE! staff and volunteers work to connect clients with other public and private support services with service navigators on site to provide information and assist clients with registration.

ALIVE! will continue its traditional methods of distribution with monthly food distributions events and select neighborhood pop-ups to provision food to various food pantries.

Operating hours for the Del Ray Food Hub at 2601 Mount Vernon Avenue are Tuesday-Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. (closed 2 – 3 p.m.) and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The West End Food Hub, located at 510-F South Van Dorn Street, is open Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed 2 – 3 p.m.) and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Founded in 1969 as Alexandria Involved Ecumenically by 14 faith



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

ALIVE! Executive Director Jenn Ayers and board president Mary Eileen Dixon, at right, are joined by Mayor Justin Wilson, center, and other city officials at the ribbon cutting for the new ALIVE! food distribution hub April 12 at 2601 Mount Vernon Avenue.

communities in response to rising levels of poverty, ALIVE! has grown to 49 interfaith member congregations.

“These food hubs provide a

valuable opportunity for our clients to come in and connect with other services offered by the city and area nonprofits to help with other aspects of their lives where they need addi-

tional support,” Dixon added. “The Food Hub in the West End has been a tremendous success. We expect this one to be equally successful.”

www.alive-inc.org



ALIVE! operations director Jose Amaya, right, talks with Lynn Jordan at the opening of the organization's new food distribution hub on Mount Vernon Avenue.



Vice Mayor Amy Jackson joins attendees in a tour of the new ALIVE! food distribution hub April 12 on Mount Vernon Avenue.

Spring weather came early this year! Let me help you get an early start on your housing needs!



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Three bedroom, two bath end townhouse two blocks from Braddock Road Metro. The nicely renovated and freshly painted interior reflects a blend of the earlier days with the conveniences and upgrades of today. Renovated kitchen and the sunroom addition have rich red tiles.



This Spring2ACTion, Join Me in Supporting Community Lodgings

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

Spring2ACTion is about celebrating the impact of our community's commitment to those in need. Together, we can make a difference for under-resourced families in our own backyard.

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



City Councilman Canek Aguirre, second from left, is joined by fellow Departmental Progressive Club members Vaughn Ambrose, Robert Worthy and Daniel Selby in serving guests at the annual DPC Good Friday Fish Fry April 7 in Old Town.

“The fish fry was amazing with a great turnout.”
— DPC patron Jalen Byrd



Rosa Byrd and grandson Jalen Byrd enjoy the Departmental Progressive Club’s Good Friday Fish Fry April 7 at DPC headquarters in Old Town.

Good Friday Fish Fry

DPC fundraising event returns to Old Town.

Following a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Departmental Progressive Club once again held its annual Good Friday Fish Fry April 7 at the organization’s headquarters on Gibbon Street.

“It is great to have the fish fry back,” said Rosa Bryd, who attended the event with friends and family, including grandson Jalen Byrd of Capital Youth Empowerment Program. “These wonderful people worked hard and were busy all day. We can’t wait for the next one.”

DPC members, including City Councilmen John Chapman and Canek Aguirre, prepared and served fried trout and sides to patrons, who filled the DPC facility throughout the afternoon either dining in or picking up takeout orders.

“The fish fry was amazing with a great turnout,” said Jalen Byrd. “There were lots of laughs, smiles and tons of networking. The beautiful part of it all was that all proceeds went to the DPC, one of the oldest historical African American organizations serving the community.”

www.dpc1927.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Departmental Progressive Club members John Chapman and Scott Price serve customers April 7 at the annual DPC Good Friday Fish Fry.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Del Ray Business Association held the first annual Del Ray Dog Fest April 2 at George Washington Middle School and served as a fundraiser for animal welfare nonprofit Project Second Chance.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Doggone Fun

DRBA hosts Del Ray Dog Fest.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The parking lot of George Washington Middle School was filled with furry friends and their human companions as the first annual Del Ray Dog Fest took place April 2 celebrating dogs, their owners and the Del Ray community.

Sponsored by the Del Ray Business Association, the outdoor festival featured live music, a dog’s version of the popular Taste of Del Ray, and Yappy Hours to benefit Project Second Chance, a local nonprofit dedicated to rehabilitating and finding forever homes for rescues while working to address the animal welfare crisis in Puerto Rico. Project Second Chance works with spay/neuter initiatives and feeding routes to aid homeless

and abandoned animals.

Other highlights of the event included Pups ‘n Poses Yoga Class with Yoga In Del Ray, pet portraits by Shoshanna and Company, a dog fashion show hosted by From Head to Tail Grooming Spa, Distracted Dog Race hosted by Passionately Pets, Scent Work with Highland Eco Pest Control, and Canine Fitness & Confidence Course with Wholistic Hound Academy. Entertainment was provided by Will Baskin with The Peele Group as the presenting sponsor.

The celebration continued throughout the evening as local restaurants featured Yappy Hours with food and drink specials.

To learn more about Project Second Chance, visit www.project-secondchance.org.

MORE DOG FEST PHOTOS, PAGE 13, 15
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ APRIL 13-19, 2023 ♦ 3

Titan Robotics Team Makes A Big IMPACT

For the second year Alexandria City High School's Titan Robotics 5587 won the FIRST Impact Award at the Chesapeake District Championships at George Mason University on Saturday, April 8, securing their place to compete at the highest level for the sport at the 2023 FIRST Championship Event in Houston, Texas, April 19-22.

"Winning this award for the second year demonstrates all the hard work we've put into our own team as well as our younger robotics teams. I am so proud of the team and all that we've accomplished," said Team President Nick Kruse.

This is the second year the Titans won the most sought after award at FIRST Robotics Competition qualifying them to go to the FIRST Championships in Texas. Robotics isn't all about the robot, it is also about teamwork, collaboration, and giving back to the community. The Impact Award is given to teams that reflect the values and embody the mission of FIRST Robotics to transform the culture in ways that will inspire the highest levels of respect for science and technology while encouraging more youth to become leaders in these areas. Teams that win this award are considered ambassadors and provide models for other teams to emulate.

"Our team helps our community not because of an award, but because we want to inspire the younger generation in our community to do the things we love," Kruse said.

Titan Robotics' winning submission and video detail how hard the team has worked to become the go-to Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) resource for Al-

exandria's schools and community. Titan Robotics welcomes any student who wants to join; no skills are necessary and there are no fees that could limit participation. When schools closed due to COVID, the Team stepped up, creating STEM lessons available on YouTube to keep younger students engaged. As soon as the pandemic slowed down, the team restarted their in-person summer camps.

"Sharing our love of STEM and robotics is a huge priority for our team," said Award Team Leader Jack Pache, a junior at ACHS. Pache won the Dean's List Award at the District competition and represented Alexandria at Regional Championships.

Each of the 30 members on the student-led team also serves on one or more of the following subteams: programming, mechanical, electrical, safety, awards, K-8, fundraising, marketing, and outreach. Titan Robotics gives back to the community in many ways, if you want to help Titan Ro-

botics students finance their trip to Houston, please consider visiting their website <https://www.frc5587.org/> or through Spring2Action. Titan Robotics 5587 is a non-

profit, student-led club at Alexandria City High School.

For more information contact: Christina Lytle at 703-217-7973 cell



Front Row: Alvaro Sandi Alvarado, Nick Kruse, Sasha Wiggins, Quinn Lindsey, Simge Gerdaneri, Megan Trueblood, Jack Pache, Samah Shummo
Back Row: Dylan Hoganson, Taylor Hoganson, Santi Silva, Hazel Belmont, Ricky Ward, Zach Harris, Zachary Roberts, Ethan Corazza, Charlie So, Malena Walker.

Rise and Shine

ACPS chef celebrates National School Breakfast Week.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Students at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy enjoyed a special treat March 9 when Jason Tepper, executive chef for Alexandria City Public School, was on hand to personally prepare and serve that morning's breakfast meal as part of National School Breakfast Week.

"I have the wonderful pleasure to serve all of our children the most nutritious, healthy meals they will have from kindergarten through 12th grade during the day while they are at school," Tepper said. "It's a fantastic opportunity to also introduce new varieties of food. We want to make the food look appealing, more like what they are used to seeing at home."

National School Breakfast Week, which took place this year from March 6-10, is an annual event that highlights the importance of a nutritious school breakfast in fueling students for success. This year's theme was "Dig Into School Breakfast," with the Lyles-Crouch cafeteria decorated with construction cones and caution tape, hard hats,



A trio of students from Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy show off their healthy breakfasts March 9 at the school campus.



ACPS Executive Chef Jason Tepper talks to students about the importance of healthy eating March 9 at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Mayor Justin Wilson, second from left, helps prepare healthy breakfast foods March 9 at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

National School Breakfast Week

FROM PAGE 4

and a small construction site, complete with bulldozers, sand and rocks.

Tepper, who has been the ACPS Executive Chef for 2 1/2 years, was joined by Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, ACPS School Board Chair Meagan Alderton and Chadwick's Restaurant owner Trae Lamond.

Wilson stressed the importance of a healthy breakfast for students.

"In a school system where over half of our students receive free or reduced lunch, this is an important nutrition access effort for us as a system," Wilson said.

Tepper said that he enjoys working directly with students.

"We also introduce the kids to new foods," Tepper said. "We have a lot of fun doing this. We have tastings for our kids in all of our schools and the great thing is that the kids are really honest. They let me know right away with facial expressions or cheering what dishes they want to see."

Numerous studies have shown that children who eat breakfast perform better in school and are less likely to experience behavioral problems. A healthy meal at breakfast provides the energy and nutrients necessary for students to focus and concentrate in class.

"We also slide things in that are plant forward and plant based," Tepper added. "We also try to sneak in an education about sustainability and decreasing our carbon footprint while providing them the healthiest, most nutritious meals they will have."

Tepper said that he strives for variety in www.connectionnewspapers.com



A student enjoys breakfast March 9 at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

"We want the kids to look forward to coming to school for their meals."

— ACPS executive chef Jason Tepper

his meal preparation.

"A typical breakfast may be a breakfast taco cup with hash brown potatoes, scrambled eggs or

a plant-based protein like a vegan crumble and maybe some salsa," Tepper said. "Today we have a yummy biscuit egg sandwich. If kids are being driven through the Chick-Fil-A drive through for a chicken patty on a biscuit, we're going to have something that looks the same but is made from whole grains, less processing, lower sodium, and less sugar but is still very yummy. We want the kids to look forward to coming to school for their meals."

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



ON APRIL 26, WE ARE CELEBRATING SPRING2ACTION, ALEXANDRIA'S GIVING DAY.

JOIN US AT WWW.SPRING2ACTION.ORG AND GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY WE LOVE.

Be part of a local movement to celebrate our collective spirit of giving and support the 185 organizations that make Alexandria a vibrant place for everyone. Early giving starts April 12.

Presenting Sponsors

City of Alexandria



Amazon



Spring2ACTion is hosted by ACT for Alexandria, Alexandria's community foundation and the home for philanthropy and people who want to make a difference.

Start giving today!
Visit www.Spring2ACTION.org for a list of the participating organizations.



Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

APRIL 22 | 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Pet prescriptions also accepted!



ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTALEXANDRIA.ORG

SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations on April 22 or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

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

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

Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations*

- Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray
2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Alexandria Fire Station 210
5255 Eisenhower Ave.
- NEW LOCATION! Woodbine Rehab. & Health Center
2729 King St.

*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

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

- The Neighborhood Pharmacy
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Alexandria Police Headquarters
3600 Wheeler Ave.
Just inside the entrance
Available 24/7

Inova Alexandria Hospital
4320 Seminary Rd.
Visitor's Lobby
Next to the cashier's window
Daily: 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



Airport Employees Need Employer Paid Healthcare

BY IRENE SHINN AND ELIZABETH BENNETT PARKER

Right now, an ugly reality is playing out at Washington Dulles and Reagan National Airports that is hurting some of our fellow Herndon and Alexandria neighbors. We are outraged to learn that thousands of workers who sacrificed their health and their families' health to keep our airports open and running during the pandemic are still without employer-paid health care and paid sick leave. Even before COVID, it was an affront that our essential workers lacked these key benefits for worker and community health; but after COVID, it is simply unacceptable.

Imagine a job that requires physical labor, coming into close contact with millions of passengers every day while being frequently exposed to bodily fluids. Now imagine that you have no paid sick leave or employer-paid health care benefits to see a doctor or take time off when you are sick and need care.

This is life for many of the wheelchair assistants, cabin cleaners, terminal cleaners and baggage handlers who cannot afford to miss pay when they are sick, and often must come to work putting

the health and safety of the traveling public at risk. Making matters worse, many go without seeing a doctor or medicine they need because they cannot afford health care.

This is life for Sanayet Zewde, a 63-year-old mother of three working as a wheelchair agent at DCA, who has no health care and no support from government programs. Sanayet still suffers in pain from a fall on her previous job that damaged muscles in her right leg, but she cannot afford to miss work to see a doctor, nor can she afford the out-of-pocket cost to see a doctor in the first place. "I hide the pain from my kids because they suffer when they see me in pain and already suffer by having to spend all of their money to support me."

Sanayet lives in constant fear about her life and health because for years, she hasn't been able to afford to see a gynecologist or get care for her high blood pressure and high cholesterol that could lead to a stroke. She worries that something could be wrong without her knowing and that she could not afford the treatment if that were the case. "Our doctors write letters saying we need paid sick leave, but we can't afford it so we come with sickness and pain, it's very dangerous. We are killing

ourselves because our income is a short lifeline. We have to work with sickness and pain to get money in order to survive."

For over two years, airport service workers like Sanayet have gone to great lengths to make their case before the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) about the dire need to enact a policy requiring their employers to provide paid sick leave and health care benefits. This would be a commonsense next step for MWAA after their commendable first step requiring employers to provide a living wage for these airport service workers at Dulles and DCA.

Paid sick leave and paid health care benefits are critical to keeping our airports firing on all cylinders. Various airport service workers believe they are understaffed and that their lack of paid sick leave and employer-paid health care could contribute to understaffing at Dulles and DCA airports. We are among the dozens of Virginia lawmakers who believe that providing these benefits will be critical to helping these airports attract and retain a more highly qualified workforce in a historically tight labor market. As Reagan National Airport breaks an all-time record for passenger traffic, beyond pre-pandemic levels, it's clear

there are resources to do this. It's only fair that airport service workers receive the same benefits already provided to MWAA employees and the airlines operating from their airports.

Dulles and Reagan National Airports are major job creators and key engines of the Northern Virginia economy. Yet they weaken our communities by allowing employers to deprive workers of the paid sick leave and employer-paid health care necessary for our residents to take care of themselves and avoid crippling medical debt. With inflation hitting lower-wage workers the hardest, the value of these benefits is even that much greater.

The health and recovery of our economy, our airports and airport service workers are all intertwined. This is why MWAA must act now. Workers cannot afford to wait any longer and neither can our airports.

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Dreams Do Come True for These Native Youth

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Making a young person's dream come true is a powerful thing. What would you say to ten young indigenous Americans with dreams of improving our world? And, what if I told you that these ten are just the latest cohort of Dreamstarters to converge on Alexandria since 2014 to turn their dreams into reality by launching projects that change lives in tribal communities across the country?

Well, for the past eight years the Alexandria-based national charity, Running Strong for American Indian Youth (indianyouth.org), featuring their amazing and inspirational spokesman, Olympic gold medalist and member of the Oglala



Krizek

La Lakota (Sioux) Tribe, Billy Mills, has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs. As the charity's general counsel, I was excited and honored to attend the celebration of the week-long Dreamstart-

er Academy – a training program filled with educational activities, workshops, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends for these young people and their community mentors. Of course, it included time to visit our beautiful Washington, DC region, including the not-to-miss Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. By the time the week ended these young people – citizens of the Oglala Lakota Nation, Pyramid SEE DREAMS DO COME, PAGE 7



Running Strong for American Indian Youth (indianyouth.org), has invested \$1.5 million in Native youth and their communities through the Dreamstarter programs.

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NEWS

Dreams Do Come True For These Native Youth

FROM PAGE 6

Lake Paiute Tribe, Omaha Tribe, Standing Rock Reservation, Navajo Nation, Crow Nation, Cherokee Nation, and closer to home, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe in Maryland – were fast friends and new members of what they like to call “the Dreamstarters family.”

Then, at the end of this special week, there was a ceremony where each Dreamstarter presented their dream and was provided a beautiful Pendleton blanket with Billy Mills speaking to them and all of us in the audience, encouraging them to realize their dreams just as he did when he won the gold medal – the realization of a childhood dream as an orphan growing up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. They also receive \$20,000

from Running Strong through their mentoring nonprofit to fund their project.

There was also a powerful presentation by Eileen Quintana, program manager of the Nebo, Utah, Title VI Indian Education program in Spanish Fork, Utah, who has mentored five Dreamstarters over the last six years. Eileen told the audience that with the financial support from Running Strong grant funding, she has now expanded programming for her Indian Education program to include establishing American Indian clubs for all the schools in her district, serving nearly 500 Native students. Where the graduation rate for American Indian students was 37% in 1998 that number has reached 100% five times since!

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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 HOSPITAL APPROVED FOR FRANCONIA

Inova Health System is pleased to announce the Virginia Department of Health has approved its Certificate of Public Need (COPN) application to build a new hospital in the Franconia community of Southern Fairfax County. Last year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors provided unanimous approval for Inova's land-use applications in support of the new hospital.

The new hospital will be built on land adjacent to Inova's existing Franconia-Springfield HealthPlex and within walking distance of the Franconia-Springfield Metro and Virginia Railway Express stations. This hospital will serve as one of two replacement hospitals for the current Inova Alexandria Hospital on Seminary Road. The other location will be at the WestEnd Town Center (formerly Landmark Mall) in the City of Alexandria.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

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

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

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

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Help WMPA Make Musical Memories April 12th through 26th

Use QR code or visit wmpamusic.org/donate

Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association

Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed State Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
TAZEWELL	18573	627	ROUTE 627	INDIAN CREEK	3/30/2023
DINWIDDIE	6048	623	SUTHERLAND RD	WHIPPONOCK CREEK	3/22/2023
TAZEWELL	18616	643	BRUSHFORK RD	N&W RAILWAY	3/20/2023
SMYTH	17697	707	LAUREL SPRING RD	INTERSTATE 81	3/16/2023
SMYTH	17534	603	LAUREL VALLEY RD	LAUREL CREEK	3/16/2023
PRINCE WILLIAM	14338	643	PURCELL RD	PURCELL BRANCH	3/15/2023
ROANOKE (M)	21669	11	ROUTE 11	PETERS CREEK	3/14/2023
WASHINGTON	18967	91	CRESCENT RD	MCHENRY CREEK	3/13/2023
PRINCE GEORGE	14097	618	HITCHCOCK RD	BLACKWATER SWAMP	3/9/2023
WASHINGTON	19075	647	KINGS MILL PIKE	SINKING CREEK	3/8/2023
LEE	10825	621	COVE SPRINGS RD	POOR VALLEY CREEK	3/7/2023
SMYTH	17646	657	THOMAS BRIDGE RD	S FORK HOLSTON RIVER	3/7/2023
WISE	19390	613	EAST STONE GAP RD	POWELL RIVER @ BIG-S-GAP	3/7/2023
CHESTERFIELD	31794	650	TURNER RD	POCOSHOCK CREEK	3/7/2023
NELSON	12416	56	CRABTREE FALLS HWY	MILL RACE OVERFLOW	3/6/2023
NELSON	12373	6	IRISH RD	COVE CREEK	3/6/2023
CHARLOTTE	4849	47	THOMAS JEFFERSON HWY	NS RAILWAY	3/3/2023
CAMPBELL	4165	43	BEDFORD HWY	PLUMTREE BRANCH	3/2/2023
CHARLOTTE	4843	47	TOLLHOUSE HWY	ROANOKE CREEK	3/2/2023
LOUDOUN	11167	612	TAIL RACE RD	TRIB. OF LITTLE RIVER	3/1/2023

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

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

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

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

18th Century Fun at Gunston Hall

By GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

George Mason IV was a serious-minded, independent-thinking man, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, a document that formed the basis of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and one of the architects of the American Revolutionary War.

On April 1, visitors learned that George and his family, including 11 children, had fun too at his 18th century, 5,000-acre plantation on Mason Neck within view of the Potomac River. Gunston Hall's annual spring festival showcased 18th century games, kite making and flying and mansion and outbuilding tours.

The morning started gray and gloomy with thick clouds shrouding the sky, but by 12:30 p.m., the sun emerged and white clouds and contrails floated across a classic blue sky. By early afternoon, the wind picked up, perfect for kite flying.



The Gunston Hall festival started under a gray sky.

Games for All Ages

Douglas Cohen, who portrayed Mason, black wig and all, played Shut the Box with visitors, using a wooden box and dice game made in Mason's day by an artisan or ordered from England before the Revolutionary War when the British subjects were required to order products from London or Glasgow. "Shut the Box tests your ciphering skills," he quipped.

Youngsters in 18th century garb, Greta Bowser and Andrew King, explained how to play Mancala, a game that originated in the Middle East and came to America through Africa. The Masons' and enslaved people's children may have also played it using stones or seeds on a playing space scraped out in the dirt, said Lacey Villiva, Education Manager.

Andrew, age 10, ably described several games on display and his apparel: a waistcoat, shirt, breeches, stockings, buckle shoes and a linen cap. "I really love history," he said. His friend, Hugh Keaney from Lorton, also 10, loves history too, adding, "I want to learn more about George Mason." Keaney then expanded on Mason's conflicted life, relating that Mason that owned 100 slaves that he never freed, but wrote these words: "That all men are born equally free and independ-



Harriet Morgan demonstrated hearth cooking.

dent, and have certain inherent natural Rights ... among which are the Enjoyment of Life and Liberty, with the Means of acquiring and possessing Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety." Mason called slavery a "slow poison," said Sandra Vieira, Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

Other examples of games in the 1700s were Whist, Loo and Farro. Historians know about the games of that era from some tangible objects that survived, from paintings of that period and from an 18th century manual titled "Hoyle's Book of Games," said Villiva, citing

the example of Nine Men's Morris, a board game like checkers, chess and tic-tac-toe combined.

Susan Hardenburgh, who volunteers with the archaeology program, showed youngsters how to make kites and by early afternoon, with winds gusting, people got their kites aloft.

Plantation Life

On the house tours, guests could study playing cards, ready to deal in the parlor, but people focused on the intricate, hand-carved woodwork, yellow pine floors, bold paint colors, lively wallpaper, antique

furnishings and classical touches like columns and arches. Guide Rebecca Hall remarked that making the mansion reflect the 18th century requires "historical detective work" including studying rats' nests which can give clues about wallpaper and building materials.

The Masons designated half of the first floor as the formal part of the house, off-limits to children,



Douglas Cohen portraying George Mason played games with visitors.



"George Mason" played games with guests on April 1.



Susan Hardenburgh helped youngsters make kites.

but upstairs was surely a lively scene of many antics. The Masons had 11 children, nine of whom survived to adulthood and the second floor's seven bedrooms must have



Greta Bowser from Arlington showed visitors the Mancala game.

offered multiple opportunities for bedtime mischief, like romping on straw and feather mattresses. An 18th century baby walker on display perhaps helped confine some

Visiting

Gunston Hall at 1709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, VA 22079, is open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.



Robert Watson, portraying an enslaved person, split wood.

rambunctious toddlers. Interpreters in the outbuildings brought a dose of practical reality to the day's discourse. The Masons' 5,000-acre plantation functioned because of its enslaved laborers. Robert Watson, as "Robert" an enslaved worker, made cypress shingles using a draw knife and draw bench, explaining that for enslaved workers, there was no financial incentive tied to the number of shingles produced. Asked if any of the plantation's slaves rebelled, he said, "They rebelled every day," in subtle ways like slowing production, breaking tools and feigning illness. "But the enslaved people here found a way to hope," he said, as woody curls flew off the cypress piece.

Three women in period clothes gave visitors samples of the grand salad from a 1660 cookbook recipe, a tasty combination of beets, lettuces, sorrel, spinach, parsley and



Andrew King explained several 18th century games which he had mastered.



Hugh Keaney and Andrew King demonstrated a game requiring them to catch a wooden ball on a string connected to a cup-like object.



Robert Watson showed how enslaved workers made shingles.



Playing cards were displayed in the parlor.



PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH

Hugh Keaney proudly described his 18th century clothes.

imported olives. They also offered hearth-cooked greens simmered in chicken broth.

In the schoolhouse, Janis Harliss, portraying Nancy Mason, the eldest daughter, said that her father "respected the minds of women and wanted them educated." Mason hired tutors from England to educate his children, she remarked.

The annual spring festival is an effort "to help people understand the lives of the people who lived here," commented Rebecca Martin, Director of Education, "how people tried to have fun after a long winter." Sivani Suripeddi, a Loudoun County elementary student had had a recent field trip to Gunston

Hall and loved it so much she convinced her parents to bring her back on Saturday.

George Ganzh brought his son from Washington, D. C., to make kites and learn about Mason. It was a first visit for Kim and Morgan Lalonde, from Nova Scotia, Canada. Morgan is posted at Canada's embassy in Washington. They wanted to see the house and enjoy an outdoor picnic. "I had never seen rebuds and mockingbirds before," said Kim.

Gunston Hall's youngsters, like all youngsters of all times, no doubt also invented many games indoor and out and had plenty of room to do so.



Kite Flying at Gunston Hall's Spring Festival.



A girl with a kite at Gunston Hall's Spring Festival.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNSTON HALL

PHOTO COURTESY OF GUNSTON HALL

New information available: Review updated concepts!

Share your input
April 13-30
to help define the
future of Duke Street!

Join us for an Open House
» April 20 | 5:00-8:30 pm
» Bishop Ireton School
» 201 Cambridge Rd, door 15



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COMMUNITY

Spring2ACTion Set for April 26

Early giving underway for local nonprofits.

Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's community-wide Giving Day, will celebrate its 13th anniversary April 26 with early giving already underway for 185 local nonprofits.

The annual online fundraising event provides a platform for local nonprofits to raise awareness in the community as they raise funds to provide much-needed social services.

In 2022, 7,700 donors gave \$2.65 million to 172 participating nonprofits serving Alexandria. This year, 185 nonprofits are participating with Spring2ACTion awarding more than \$20,000 in prizes to organizations to help encourage and leverage giving.

In addition to giving to nonprofit organizations, donors can give to the Alexandria Resilience Fund, a collective emergency support pool to help families who are facing significant financial hurdles, including eviction, that were exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. According to the City of Alexandria's eviction dashboard, since the start of the year, 467 households have received a writ of eviction – meaning eviction is imminent. This is a

372 percent increase from the previous year with the average eviction judgment \$9,319.

This year more than 75 local businesses are participating as Business Fundraisers by supporting the day as a sponsor, amplifying the day as a business fundraiser, or donating back a percentage of proceeds to either ACT or a local nonprofit.

Spring2ACTion sponsors include: City of Alexandria, Amazon, The Patterson Group of TTR Sotheby's, King Street Wireless, Madigan Schuler, Seward Group of TTR Sotheby's, Wegmans, BASH, Washington Gas, Braemar Cabinetry, Burke & Herbert Bank, Clarke & Sampson, COVANTA, Giant, John Marshall Bank, Marks-Woods Construction Services, Monument Title Company, Betsey R. Rosenbaum and Jon H. Rosenbaum Fund, Speedwell Law PLLC, and Virginia Tech.

Media Sponsors include: Alexandria Gazette Packet, Alexandria Living Magazine, Alexandria Times, VIP Alexandria and The Zebra. ACT Annual Partners include: Alexandria Restaurant Partners, ALX Community, Citi Foundation Community Progress Makers, Colonial Parking, Reingold and Verdence.

To learn more about Alexandria's Giving Day or to donate, visit www.Spring2ACTion.org.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

Public Hearings

Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2024-2029 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2024-2029 SYIP. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available <https://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings2023/default.asp> before April 20, 2023.

Public meetings begin at 4 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Thursday, April 20 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Auditorium 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	Monday, April 24 Richmond District Hawthorne Room 2430 Pine Forest Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834	Monday, May 1, 5 p.m. *Northern Virginia District Polomac Conference Center NOVA District Office 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030
Tuesday, May 2 Culpeper District Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701	Wednesday, May 3 Staunton District Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Monday, May 8 Fredericksburg District Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408
Monday, May 15 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210	Tuesday, May 16 Salem District Salem Civic Center Community Room 1001 Roanoke Boulevard Salem, VA 24153	Wednesday, May 17 Lynchburg District Lynchburg Grand Hotel 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504

*The Northern Virginia District meeting will serve as the required joint public meeting with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, the Virginia Railway Express, and the CTB per § 33.2-214.3 of the Code of Virginia. This meeting will also be streamed online at <https://www.youtube.com/live/ranpvKJOF74?feature=share>.

You can submit comments online at <https://arcg.is/X11TG0>, or by email or mail by May 24, 2023.

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation, 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com. STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaaldea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families

and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org. Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

NEWS

CRWC to Host Earle-Sears April 27

Lt. Gov. to speak at annual meeting.

Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Commonwealth Republican Women's Club in Alexandria. The meeting will be held April 27 at the Lyceum before regional Republican leaders and their guests.

Earle-Sears was elected Lieutenant Governor in 2021, the first female and the first woman of color in the office in the Commonwealth's 400-year legislative history. Born in Jamaica, she previously served in the U.S. Marine Corps, been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, and held several appointed positions before her election to the second-ranking office in the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club is the local chapter of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

www.alexandriacrwc.org



Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears

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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>

BEGINNING SATURDAY/ MARCH 18

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

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 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

GARDENING TIPS AT GREEN SPRING GARDENS

Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening, At 4603 Green Spring Road in Alexandria. 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 13

Career Event (High School). 6-8 p.m. At Goodwin House Alexandria, 4800 Fillmore Ave., Alexandria. Goodwin Living's career event for high school students will introduce them to professionals from Marketing, Rehabilitation, Life Enrichment, Nursing, Brain Health and our business team through hands-on workshops and a short panel. There will be information about volunteering and internships opportunities. Visit the website: www.goodwinliving.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 14

The Late Shift Art Night: Cherry Blossom Jubilee. 7 to 10 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art



The 90th Old Town Alexandria Historic Homes & Gardens Tour will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Old Town Alexandria.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Garden Day Tours at Carlyle House. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Enjoy open house-style tours of the garden at Carlyle House as part of the Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Experts will be on site to answer questions about working within the confines of a historic garden in an ever-changing climate. Tours are continuous throughout the day. No reservations are required.

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

90th Old Town Alexandria Historic Homes & Gardens Tour. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Begins at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory, 411 Duke St., Alexandria. Overlooking the Potomac and within minutes of our nation's capital, Alexandria was the third city in the country to create a historic district to preserve its downtown. Part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, this walking tour includes private townhomes and secluded gardens located along the tree lined streets of the historic district, boutique shopping, and fine dining, which are all just steps away. In addition, the tour ticket allows access to two Garden Club of Virginia restoration projects, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens and Green Springs Gardens, along with other local places of interest. Visit vagardenweek.org/tours

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra - Rite of Spring & Grieg Concerto - Awaken. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Featuring Natalia Kazaryan, piano; Grieg: Concerto for Piano; and Stravinsky: Rite of Spring. Maestro Ross pairs two symphonic music's most popular works: Grieg's lyrical, passionate piano concerto with Georgian pianist Natalia Kazaryan, and Stravinsky's brutal, breathtaking ballet Rite of Spring. Cuban composer Guido López-Gavilán's spicy musical take on Hemingway's favorite cocktail will have you ready to party!

SATURDAY/APRIL 15

Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. At the parking lot of 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. and the back parking lot of the Salvation Army Corps at 1804 Mt. Vernon Ave. in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. This is a change from the usual "Second Saturday" date. They will have a full roster of vendors, food, and

adoptable animals. The Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market is sponsored by Amy Sills Eggers, licensed Virginia Realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty.

SUNDAY/APRIL 16

Music and Art. 4 p.m. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Hollin Hills, Alexandria. Ten Mount Vernon Unitarian Church visual artists are mounting their inaugural group exhibit in conjunction with the Musikanten Choral Concert at the church on Sunday, April 16, 4 p.m. Tickets to the concert are \$30 in advance and at the door. In addition to being seen on April 16, the art exhibit may be viewed from April 14 through May 25, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and other times by appointment (contact Ninat@ninatisara.com). The exhibit will include work in the mediums of photography, painting, pastels, mosaics, and sculpture.

SUNDAY/APRIL 16

10th Anniversary Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, 2311 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Arts on the Horizon, a theater company for children ages 0-6 and their families, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary Season with a free event in Del Ray. Visit the website: <https://www.artsonthehorizon.org/10th-anniversary-celebration.html>

TUESDAY/APRIL 18

Jewish Genealogy Introduction. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. Jewish Genealogy encompasses many different groups, migration patterns, languages, and countries of origin. It also encompasses a different calendar. Until recently there have been few records, especially in eastern Europe. According to Mary-Jane Roth, vice president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington, will discuss the challenges inherent in Jewish Genealogy and provide advice at the Mount Vernon Genealogy Society's April 18 meeting. Register for this free ZOOM event at <https://mvgenealogy.org/page.php?pt=111> or email a registration request to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Find out more about this and other society events at <https://mvgenealogy.org>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 21

Book Release: Reclamation by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join in the book release of Reclamation. by C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas, a Black Non-Binary, award-winning poet, teaching artist, an advocate for Child Abuse Prevention, the LGBTQIA community, and Mental Health Awareness. Their forthcoming collection of poems, titled Reclamation., is a poetic journey through C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas' process of re-emergence and re-acceptance of self. It is their rebirth and ownership of all that has sought to destroy them.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) 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 Gardeners show you how to grow vegetables in a small space. Whatever your space constraints, you too can grow delicious

and nutritious fruits and vegetables! \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 11B.N6ER.

SATURDAY/APRIL 22

5th Annual Environment Expo. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Rd. Come out for live music, demonstrations, workshops, nature walks, giveaways and more!

SUNDAY/APRIL 23

39th Annual PNC Parkway Classic. Mount Vernon Estate through Old Town Alexandria. Alexandria's hometown destination race returns this Spring when the 39th PNC Parkway Classic hits the pavement on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The race, organized by local running retailer Pacers Running, attracts thousands of runners and spectators who want to experience the George Washington Memorial Parkway from a unique perspective. The race features both a 5K, and a 10-mile race offering starting at 8:00 a.m. as well as a 600-meter Kids Dash race for the little runners kicking off at 10:30 a.m. The Classic 5k Course will start and finish at Oronoco Bay Park. The 10-mile race will start at Mt. Vernon Estate with the course taking runners up the George Washington Memorial Parkway and ending at Oronoco Bay Park. Visit the website: www.parkwayclassic.com.

MAY 5-27

The "Prints in May@DRA: Exploring the Possibilities" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery features traditional printmaking techniques such as reliefs, intaglios, monoprints and handmade prints with mixed media, along with artworks created using computer graphics programs and other objects enhanced with block prints or imprints. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed May 28). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

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.

APRIL

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
Sat. 15: Oh He Dead \$29.50
Sun. 16: The Wailin' Jennys \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Mon. 17: The Wailin' Jennys \$65.00 SOLD OUT!
Tue. 18: Graham Nash - Sixty Years of Songs & Stories \$99.50
Wed. 19: Graham Nash - Sixty Years of Songs & Stories \$99.50
Thu. 20: Langhorne Slim & John Craigie \$39.50
Mon. 24: Steve Morse Band \$65.00
Wed. 26: Suzanne Vega - An Intimate Evening of Songs and Stories \$55.00
Fri. 28: Ohio Players \$69.50
Sat. 29: Eaglemania - The World's Greatest Tribute to the Eagles \$45.00
Sun. 30: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$55.00

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DEL RAY DOG FEST

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Del Ray Dog Fest vendors included Barkhaus.



A canine attendee enjoys the Del Ray Dog Fest April 2.



Canine bowling at the Del Ray Dog Fest April 2.



Sharisee Garcia and Daniella Ferraro with macho at the Del Ray Dog Fest April 2 at George Washington Middle School.



Professional pet portraits from Shoshanna and Company were available at the April 2 Del Ray Dog Fest.

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Obituary

It is with great sadness that the family of **Richard "Rusty" Shaw** announces his passing on March 23, 2023. He was 67. A celebration of life service is planned for Monday, April 17 at the Washington Street United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Washington Street United Methodist Church Open Table Ministry.

Obituary

Lorraine "Rainbow" Hill has gone on to eternal rest on March 5, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. Her home-going will be at Greene Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA April 13, 2023, and she will be laid to rest at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Annandale, VA.

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Obituary

Obituary

Ray Hamilton Morrison



Hamilton Morrison—father, entrepreneur, historic architecture expert, business founder, real estate developer, sailor and bon vivant—passed away peacefully on April 1, 2023, with his children at his side.

Mr. Morrison, known as Ham, had an aura about him that drew people into his personal orbit. His charisma made him all but irresistible to his many friends and family members. No recitation of Ham's life would be complete without a description of his unique laugh, as it was an expression of his joie de vivre. A Ham Morrison laugh made total strangers stop in their tracks, turn and stare, then smile and giggle along with him. Starting deep in his diaphragm, the sound was a high-pitched wail requiring deep, gasping breaths to keep up with his expression of pure joy.

Early in his business career he founded the ad agency RH Morrison, Inc., which, to this day, fifty-six years later, remains one of the leading marketing firms in the mid-Atlantic under the name of Williams Whittle Associates. Displaying his architectural acumen, he consolidated several old building in Old Town Alexandria into a single structure featuring a three-story atrium over a brick walkway and tropical garden, which served as the agency's headquarters. His eye for architecture led the agency into many relationships with real estate developers, including the then-new town of Reston. He retired from the agency in 1978. Some believe that the Don Draper character in the TV series "Mad Men" was modeled after Ham.

Of his entrepreneurial activities, he was able to count thirty-one restorations in Old Town Alexandria, receiving awards in Alexandria for historic renovation seven years in a row. Other restoration achievements include restoring the oldest marina on the Chesapeake Bay, converting the old sail maker's quarters into seven apartments, and in Bermuda where he helped convert two old buildings into part of the Glencoe Hotel overlooking Hamilton Harbor. His latest venture led him into the problems associated with affordable housing in inner cities.

Much of Ham's life centered around the water which afforded him-- and his friends and family—many adventures. He captained several voyages in his beloved Hinckley Bermuda 40 sailboat both north and south of the Chesapeake. Perhaps his most epic trip began on the Chesapeake to Bermuda, enduring the Gulfstream on the edge of a hurricane. From there, he sailed south to the British Virgin Islands and ultimately as far south as Antigua.

Ray Hamilton Morrison, Jr was born in North Carolina in 1935. He is survived by three children, Ham Morrison (Mimi) of Charleston, SC; Cary Morrison Cauthen (Clay) of Austin, TX ; and Amy Morrison of New York City as well as five grandchildren, Harrison Cauthen, Mary Brooks Cauthen and Wren Cauthen of Austin and Hamilton Morrison and Mary Lynn Morrison of Charleston.

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DEL RAY DOG FEST

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Friends and their four-legged companions enjoy the Del Ray Dog Fest April 2 at George Washington Middle School.



A pair of pooches enjoy the Del Ray Dog Fest April 2.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

tion, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson's patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children's learning.

- ❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.
- ❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

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

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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.

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Untethered



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in 68-plus years/my entire life, I am not considering the consequences – too much anyway, of my miscellaneous actions/behaviors, encompassing all facets of my life. With my brother's recent death in addition to our parent's respective deaths in 2006 (father) and 2008 (mother), yours truly is it. 'It' being the last man standing of the Newton Centre Louries.

With neither my brother nor I fathered any children/heirs to carry on our family traditions, "The buck," as it did with President Harry S. Truman, "stops here." Because, quite frankly, it has nowhere else to go. Moreover, whatever bucks remain after Dina, and I die will go who knows where? If to err is human, and we have no significant heirs, then there will be no heir apparent to the Lourie legacy.

As such, I have fewer people to answer to/concern myself with or worry about in any shape or form now, other than my wife, Dina. I'm not exactly adrift. But I am something, what that is exactly, I can't say. Whatever it will be, it will be very unnatural. 'Unnatural' as in behaviors/responsibilities I've had to do (happily and willingly) my entire life, I no longer must do as there's no one left to answer to. Still, I have never chafed at the responsibilities/obligations to my parents and brother. Nevertheless, as I live/survive forward, I do not have any of the checks and balances that previously characterized my life. Unfortunately, as this column's title says, I am now free of many of the ties which on and off have knotted me up, while likely keeping me between the lines, and mostly out of trouble.

I am now left to fend for myself (Dina notwithstanding). My entire life I've never had to fend for myself. It seems silly that after all these decades of organizing my life/adhering to certain guidelines, something should change. Boy, did it. With my last blood family member predeceasing me, I am free to fail. In spectacular fashion if I so desire or succeed in ways never imagined/considered given the non-literal, non-verbal constraints I was bound to, especially since I was "The baby of the family," (as was my mother). Just as last week's column described my new scan interval taking me into "new territory," so too does living my life without my brother stagger me forward into uncharted waters. I will live on for sure, but for a while, the loss will be difficult, especially with baseball season upon us. If my brother and I shared anything, it was the love of the Boston Red Sox (and The Three Stooges, but that's for another column). And did I ever feel it on Sunday, April 2nd. On that day, the Orioles played the Red Sox in Boston. It was scheduled for 1:35 pm. That would have been the exact time that my brother and I would have gotten together to watch the ballgame. And aside from watching the game, it would have given me the opportunity to make sure Richard had the details about how to sign up for the MLB package on Cable so he could see as many Red Sox games as possible. (There are certain tasks that fell to me, as the younger brother. Advising Richard when and how he could watch Red Sox games on television was one of the most important.) Sitting at home alone on that first Sunday of the season watching the Red Sox game, all I could think about was my brother and all the conversations we'd be having about the Red Sox – and of course, life. Never again would we be together, except in my dreams (I can hope, can't?)

Aside from my brother being older and wiser – and a more experienced salesperson than I was, he was a great brother ("my best man" in fact) – and friend, and my biggest booster as well. I remember when I was hospitalized for a week in August 2015, my brother was at the hospital every day, all day, encouraging me on the one hand, and interfacing with the doctors and staff on the other to make sure I was getting the best, most hands-on care. And when I had an opportunity to return the favor this past July through mid-Sept., when he was hospitalized; to visit and support my brother, bring him food, run any outside errands he needed, whatever, I was available every day, all day, whatever he or his wife, Vanessa needed me to do. With his passing, I feel as if I'm only living part time, if you know what I mean? And unfortunately, I don't suppose it's going to get any better for a while.

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

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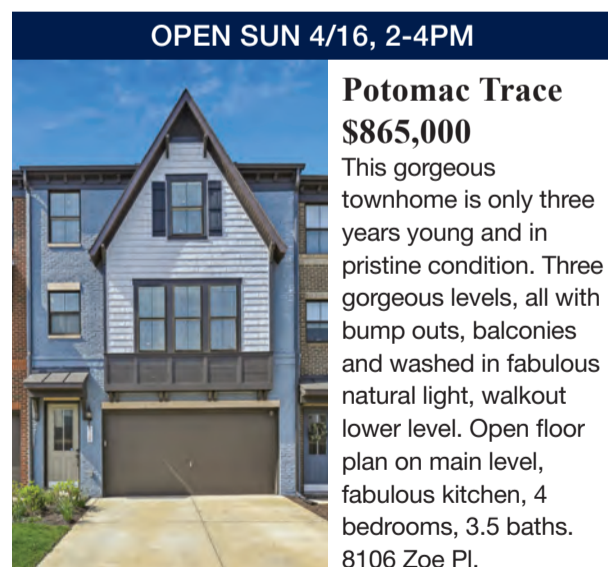
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