



## Titanic Loss **Balas to leave ACHS for Wakefield HS in Arlington.**

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**P**eter Balas, Executive Principal of Alexandria City High School, has announced his departure from ACHS to take the helm of Wakefield High School in Arlington. The move will take effect July 1 following Balas' final ACHS graduation ceremony June 3.

Balas, who has been with Alexandria public schools since 2001, made the announcement in a May 11 letter to parents and students.

"After 22 years with Alexandria City Public Schools as a teacher, an assistant principal, and a school principal at Mount Vernon Community School and Alexandria City High School, I am saying farewell to you all as I explore the next phase of my career," Balas wrote. "To watch these students grow over time is more rewarding than I ever anticipated. My time in ACPS has made me a better teacher, leader and person."

Balas was appointed by then-Superintendent Alvin Crawley as principal of ACHS in 2017 following the departure of Jesse Dingle. At the time, Balas was the third principal in three years at the school. Dingle was appointed to the post in 2015 but left the area in 2017 to be near family in North Carolina. Dingle was preceded by Suzanne Maxey, who held the job for five years.

"In my time at ACHS, I am so excited to



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Alexandria City High School Executive Principal Peter Balas, shown at the school's 2022 graduation, will leave ACHS in June to become principal at Wakefield High School in Arlington.**

have been part of amplifying students' voices through the school renaming process, participated in the High School Project, led the school during times of a dual pandemic, and worked to strengthen student support systems and school safety, all while having our Titans consistently shatter athletics, ac-

ademic and arts records on local, state and national levels," Balas wrote.

Balas holds a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in secondary education from Hofstra University. He spent eight years in the classroom as a high school social studies teacher. While teaching, he earned two master's degrees from George Mason University: one in Curriculum and Instruction and one in School Leadership.

Balas began his teaching career at Northpoint High School and Middle School in New York in 2000. He first joined ACPS in 2001, and in 2007, he became an assistant principal and executive associate principal at then-named T.C. Williams High School. In April 2012, Balas was appointed principal of Mount Vernon Community School where he served for five years. During these years, Balas worked with staff and community to make MVCS the school division's first and only full school dual language program.

After his years as an elementary principal, Balas was named ACPS Principal of the Year 2017 before transitioning back to the high school to be principal. At ACHS, Balas has led more than 4,500 students and 400 staff

across four campuses in the city's only public high school. It is also the largest and most populous high school in the Commonwealth.

Balas oversees the Graduation Task Force that monitors completion statuses and drop-out interventions. He also leads the educational transformation of tier one instruction

with a focus on student engagement, providing training for the implementation of Kagan Cooperative Learning and Project-Based Learning. He led the school as it

achieved the highest levels of student graduation and lowest levels of drop-out in the school's history.

Balas replaces Wakefield Principal Chris Willmore, who has been promoted to Director of Secondary Education at Arlington Public Schools.

"I am honored to have had the last 22 years with the most amazing students, staff, families and community," Balas said. "I have learned and grown so much. I hope you have found me to be the kind of leader that made a difference in the lives of ACHS Titans. And, it is my true hope that what I often write to others applies to me: Once a Titan, Always a Titan."

**"My time in ACPS has made me a better teacher, leader and person."**

— ACHS Executive Principal Peter Balas

## At Last **Potomac Yard Metro to Open May 19.**

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he long awaited and oft-delayed Potomac Yard Metro Station will officially open at 5 a.m. May 19, bringing Blue and Yellow line service to

**"Bringing Metro to Potomac Yard has been the City's most significant economic development, transportation and climate initiative."**

— Mayor Justin Wilson

the Potomac Yard area between Brad-dock Road and Ronald Reagan National Airport.

"It's not cliché to say, in this instance,

'dreams really do come true,'" said Mayor Justin Wilson in announcing the official opening date while touring the site last month. "Bringing Metro to Potomac Yard has been the City's most significant economic development, transportation and climate initiative. While not always easy, the opening of this station is a monumental achievement for the city, WMATA, and its contractors. But more importantly, this station is the legacy of a legion of Alexandrians who never gave up the dream."

Potomac Yard will be Metro's 98th station and is Metro's second infill station, built between existing stations. The station is located near Amazon's HQ2 East Coast headquarters in Arlington with walkable access to the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and connections to

SEE POTOMAC YARD METRO, PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY WMATA

**Mayor Justin Wilson tours the Potomac Yard Metro Station April 19 prior to announcing that the new station will open May 19 following years of delays.**

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit [www.WeAreAlexandria.com](http://www.WeAreAlexandria.com)

#WeAreAlexandria



**Old Town | \$4,985,000**

Among the finest 18th century houses in Old Town, 210 Duke Street is nestled on a beautiful double lot and was built in the classic Georgian style in 1787. This stunning historic residence was owned by Dr. James Craik, George Washington's physician. Exquisitely restored and renovated, this timeless beauty features expanded living space and well-preserved features. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, original hardwood floors, eight fireplaces, elegant moldings, and arched doorways. The Lobkovich kitchen adjoins a sunny family room overlooking the meticulously planted garden. An attached flounder house serves as an office or artist's studio. At the rear of the garden, there is a Zen-like swimming pool and patio, as well as off-street parking accessed through remote-controlled gray wood double gates. 210 Duke Street.

**Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421**  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)



**Malvern Hill | \$1,400,000**

This happy home with fabulous curb appeal has been exceptionally well maintained, including a new roof in 2020 and a remodeled kitchen. Tucked away in a quiet neighborhood with easy access to Old Town, Metro, DC, and Reagan National Airport. 500 Canterbury Ln.

**Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079**  
[www.laurenbishophomes.com](http://www.laurenbishophomes.com)



**OPEN THUR 5/18, 5-7PM**

**Old Town Village | \$1,100,000**

This beautiful end-unit brick townhome in Old Town is surrounded by trees while being only 3 blocks from King Street and a 12 minute walk to Metro. The open concept main level is ideal for entertaining and overflows onto an expansive deck. 301 S Henry St.

**Lisa Groover 703.919.4426**  
[www.lisagroover.com](http://www.lisagroover.com)



**OPEN SUN 5/21, 2-4PM**

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Built in 1820, living room has built-ins, a separate dining room, and an updated kit with a cozy, wood burning fireplace. Lot's of storage on upper level! Private patio for entertaining or quiet reading. Updates include a gas water heater (2018), washer, and dryer (2023). 423 S Pitt St.

**Sally Z. Harper 703.517.2849**  
[www.sallyzharper.com.com](http://www.sallyzharper.com.com)



**SAT 5/20, 1-3PM & SUN 5/21, 2-4PM**

**Riverside | \$849,000**

This spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home boasts over 2,500 sq. ft., an impressive amount of living space, and offers a perfect blend of modern convenience and classic charm. The location offers the perfect combination of suburban tranquility and urban convenience. 8322 Riverside Rd.

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**U Street/Shaw | \$675,000**

Live where the action happens! This luxe residence features 5 inch natural white oak floors and floor-to-ceiling Windsor Windows + private balcony with IPE decking. Walk Score 99/100. This is luxury living in one of DC's liveliest locations! 1923 9th St NW #4.

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**SAT 5/20, 12-2PM**

**Mount Vernon Triangle | \$665,000**

This 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo features hardwood floors, a modernized kitchen, generous storage, and a separate den! You will discover numerous exceptional restaurants and shops nearby, and yes—this community is pet friendly! 440 L St NW #911.

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Staff of Inova Alexandria Hospital are joined by members of the Board of Lady Managers as the organization celebrates the health care providers May 10 as part of National Nurses Week.



Inova Alexandria Hospital Chief Medical Officer and President Dr. Rina Bansal, second from left, is joined by Francine Barr, Chief Nursing Officer, nurse Winifred Frempong-Boye and Board of Lady Managers president Barbara Wells May 10 as the Board of Lady Managers celebrated the health care providers during National Nurses Week.

## Nurses Week

### Board of Lady Managers celebrates Inova health care workers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**N**urses and staff at Inova Alexandria Hospital gathered May 10 as members of the Board of Lady Managers celebrated the health care providers as part of National Nurses Week.

In 2023, National Nurses Week took place May 6 - May 12 with this year's theme "You Make a Difference." The week is part of the larger National Nurses Month, which is celebrated from May 1 - 31.

Dr. Rina Bansal, Chief Medical Officer and President of Inova Alexandria Hospital, was joined by Chief Nursing Officer Francine

Barr and other nursing and medical staff as Board of Lady Managers president Barbara Wells led the celebration, which included gift bags donated by the organization in appreciation of the health care providers.

Now in its 151st year, the Board of Lady Managers founded the Alexandria Hospital, then known as the Alexandria Infirmary, in 1872. Over the years the all-volunteer organization has raised millions of dollars in support of the needs of the hospital.

In 2019 the Board of Lady Managers supported the hospital's purchase of an O-Arm surgical imaging system, which gives real-time information to a surgical team and protects both patients and providers from overexposure to harmful radiation levels.



Gift bags were provided by the Board of Lady Managers in appreciation of health care workers May 10 during National Nurses Week.

In 2020, the Board of Lady Managers supported the conversion of hospital rooms to negative pressure rooms, which helps reduce the need for ventilators for patients with many diseases, but most notably for patients with COVID-19.

Most recently, the organization donated \$65,000 in support of the purchase of a Brevera Breast Biopsy System, the only device of its kind in the Inova health care system. The device allows the radiologist and technologist to stay in the room with the patient the entire time of a breast biopsy. It produces real-time imaging verification and post-biopsy handling and can speed up a procedure to allow a patient to be released out of compression earlier.

For more information on the history and impact of the Board of Lady Managers, visit [www.boardofladymanagers.org](http://www.boardofladymanagers.org).

## New 'Hospital within a Hospital' Will Treat Critically Ill Patients Needing Extended Stay



The ribbon cutting of the Specialty Hospital within Inova Mount Vernon Hospital on May 16.

Inova this week opened the new Inova Select Specialty Hospital in partnership with Select Medical. Located within Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, the new hospital celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 16 and will welcome the first patients May 23. The Specialty Hospital is the first of its kind in Northern Virginia, offering specialized treatment to critically ill patients who require an extended stay, but no longer need the intensive care provided in an acute care hospital.

This specialized post-acute service is not currently offered in this region, requiring patients to be transferred to facilities in Charlottesville, Richmond, or out of state. With the opening of the new hospital, patients can now receive specialized care closer to home. All five Inova hospitals will be able to seamlessly transition patients needing this level of care to

the Specialty Hospital, expanding Inova's continuum of care.

This 32-bed hospital will serve patients with specialized needs, including post-ICU patients recovering from chronic, critical illness such as infectious diseases, surgical complications, orthopedic, wound or post-trauma conditions. The hospital will also provide ongoing treatment for pulmonary conditions, neurological disorders, cardiac conditions, or renal disorders. Inova Select Specialty Hospital is licensed as a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH), and will operate as a hospital-within-a-hospital.

Select Medical is one of the nation's largest post-acute care providers with more than 130 specialty hospitals throughout the country. Inova's partnership with Select Medical will ensure the highest standards of care for the community.

For more information, visit [www.Inova.org](http://www.Inova.org).

# Virginia Has Made It Easier To Vote

Early voting, underway through June 17, could increase primary turnout in critical upcoming election.

BY CHLOE WATSON  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE  
RICHMOND, VA.

If it feels like campaign season started earlier than usual this year, it has, with early voting for the primary election already in full swing.

In a primary election, voters will pick their preferred candidate to square off against the other party's candidate in November. All Virginia General Assembly seats, along with other local races, are on the ballot this year.

It is the first time Virginia voters have had the 45-day early voting period before a full legislature election. Voting will continue through June 17 at 5 p.m. for the June 20 primary day.

"That's a big change from the way it used to be in Virginia," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor and director of the University of Mary Washington Center for Leadership and Media Studies. "Where most of the votes were cast on election day, that's just no longer the case here."

Primaries typically have the lowest levels of turnout, he said.

"Most people are looking at planning summer vacations, going to graduations and weddings, rather than showing up to participate in primaries," Farnsworth said.

Virginia voters now have 45 extra days to work voting into their schedule.

"Virginia has made it a lot easier to participate, you can vote early right now," Farnsworth said.

Another key change this election is the use of the new redistricting map for legislative districts.

"The lines have been drawn in very different ways than they existed before the 2020 Census," Farnsworth said.

New boundaries have brought new candidates to the field, and also pushed incumbents into new territory — with new constituents. Or, pushed established candidates into a district where they face a colleague.

"What this has done is created a lot of opportunity for challengers to be competitive, because even incumbents are going to be looking at an electorate that is different than the old electorate," Farnsworth said.

Some Virginia legislators have announced their retirements rather than choosing to run for reelection in the new districts.

This will cause a large generational change in 2023, according to Farnsworth.

"The legislature that takes office next January will be much younger than the current legislature," Farnsworth said. "It will also be a legislature that is less experienced; you'll have many first-time candidates because there are a great deal of open contests this year."

The election outcome will likely impact the rest of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's term. If Republicans keep their House majority and take over the Senate, Youngkin might have a more successful final two years, Farnsworth said.

"That could mean tighter restrictions on abortion, it could mean more tax benefits

for businesses," Farnsworth said. "Those two things are probably at the top of the list of how things would change if there were a unified government in Virginia."

Two years ago, the governor's office and the House of Delegates flipped red and wrested away Democratic control of the legislative and executive branches. Since then, many legislative efforts have failed to pass the brick wall of each chamber.

Even if Democrats keep the Senate and win the House majority there will still be some of the gridlock of the past two years, according to Farnsworth.

Suburban districts will likely influence who gains legislative control, such as Chesterfield, Loudoun and Stafford counties, according to Farnsworth.

Not every district will have a primary election. Some candidates are running uncontested, and some Republicans will hold a convention in certain districts.

Early voting is done weekdays at the local registrar's office. Starting on June 10, voter registration offices will be open for early voting as well. Law requires early voting on the two Saturdays before the primary election day, and gives localities the option to open on Sundays also.

The deadline to register to vote, or update a registration is May 30. Voters can register after that date, but will be given a provisional ballot. The deadline for a ballot to be mailed to a voter is June 9.

Anyone may vote in the primary of their choice for their district, regardless of previous party participation.

A list of Democratic candidates can be found here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/candidate-list/2023-june-primary/Dem-List-of-Candidates.pdf>



PHOTO BY VCU CNS.

A voter shows their early voting sticker. Over 1 million absentee ballots have been requested in Virginia this year.

A list of Republican candidates can be found here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/castyourballot/candidate-list/2023-june-primary/Rep-List-of-Candidates.pdf>

More information on the upcoming election, including voter registration and ballot lookup, can be found on the Virginia Department of Elections website: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/upcoming-elections.html>

Capital News Service is a program of Virginia Commonwealth University's Robertson School of Media and Culture. Students in the program provide state government coverage for a variety of media outlets in Virginia.

## Mayor Wilson Receives 2023 Livable Communities Leadership Award

City of Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson was recognized by the Coalition for Smarter Growth for his work in land use and transit sustainability in the greater Washington D.C. area. Wilson is recipient of the 2023 Livable Communities Leadership Award and was honored for work in elevating the City to a regional standard for walkable, transit-oriented communities.

According to the release, the Frederick & Diana Prince Livable Community Leadership Award is conferred annually to an individual who has made a significant contribution to smart growth in the greater Washington D.C. region. Residents, visitors, and businesses thrive because of smart growth initiatives, which address critical community needs such as services accessibility, sustainable transportation options, and mixed-use development.

Throughout his tenure on the Alexandria City Council, Mayor Wilson supported initiatives which address those principles of smart growth. Today the Redella S. "Del" Pepper Community Resource Center,



Mayor Wilson recognized

SEE MAYOR WILSON, PAGE 15

### BRIEFS

## Participate in Bike to Work Day, May 19

National Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 19 is a free, annual event that encourages the public to consider bicycle commuting as an affordable, fun and environmentally friendly way of getting to work.

Alexandria residents will be among the thousands of area commuters who celebrate Bike to Work Day by cycling to pit stops on their way to work (or back home, if applicable) and participating in special events around the City and throughout the region.

Participants can register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org)

Alexandria pit stops include:

City Hall - Market Square (301 King St.) from 7 to 10 a.m. (City-sponsored pit stop)

Carlyle (300 John Carlyle St.) from 6 to 9 a.m.

Del Ray (2704 Mt. Vernon Ave.) from 6 to 9 a.m.

Fairlington Centre (1711 Centre Plaza) from 6:30 to 9 a.m.

Mark Center North Parking Garage (across from 4825 Mark Center Drive) from 7 to 9 a.m.

National Landing (3030 Potomac Ave.) from 3 to 6 p.m.

The City-sponsored pit stop at City Hall will have grab-and-go refreshments, free swag, 360 photo booth, DJ and more. This year marks the first year back at our largest venue Market Square in front of historic City Hall.

Bike to Work Day is free and open to all commuters; however,

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# NEWS

## Potomac Yard Metro To Open May 19

FROM PAGE 1

other regional transportation systems, Bike & Ride facilities, and walking paths to the station from the surrounding area.

The station was initiated by the City of Alexandria and funded by tax revenues and developer contributions generated by planned new development in the Potomac Yard neighborhood, as well as state grants, loans and regional sources.

Along with private partners, \$370 million was invested and the contractor was awarded a \$213.7 million contract. The station is one of the first rail stations in North America to receive a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) designation from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Years after work officially began, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in December of 2019 with a projected opening of April 2022. Work to tie-in the station and new tracks with the rest of the Metrorail system was not concluded until last November, and trains have passed through the station without stopping as the remaining work continued.

“While delayed longer than expected, it is exciting to start the countdown to opening Potomac Yard Station for our customers,” said Metro Board Chairman and former Alexandria City Councilman Paul Smedberg. “By adding this infill station to the Blue and Yellow lines, we are anchoring Potomac Yard as a hub for employment, education, housing, and recreation.”

More than 3,750 feet of new track was used to connect Potomac Yard Station with existing Metrorail tracks. According to Metro, the station is expected to generate billions of dollars in new private sector investment over the long term and eventually support 26,000 new jobs and 13,000 new residents.

The station is accessible through the North Pavilion at 3201 University Drive and the South Pavilion at 3001 Potomac Avenue. Both entrances are connected to the station via a pedestrian walkway.

Bicyclists can access the station via the Potomac Yard Trail or Potomac Avenue. Se-

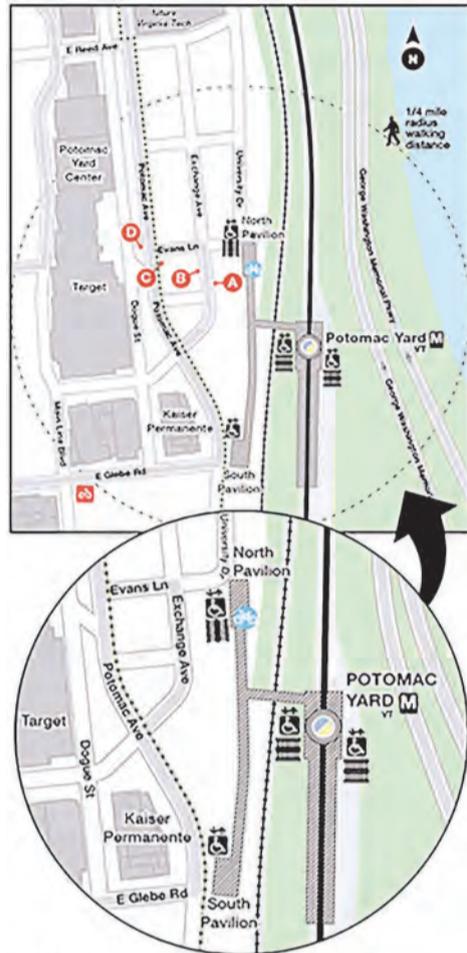


IMAGE COURTESY WMATA

The layout of the new Potomac Yard Metro Station includes North and South Pavilions connected via a pedestrian walkway.

cure bike parking is available at the North Pavilion with room for 49 bikes, with Capital Bikeshare stations nearby.

Metroway and DASH bus stops are located near the North Pavilion entrance. There is no Kiss & Ride or commuter parking available. [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

### 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.

#### FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year. Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact

1-800-AFS-INFO or visit [www.afsusa.org](http://www.afsusa.org) for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit [www.afsusa.org/volunteer](http://www.afsusa.org/volunteer) to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

#### 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.volunteer-alexandria.org](http://www.volunteer-alexandria.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. <http://www.volunteer-alexandria.org/ALIVE>

# 3rd Annual Art Festival ALEXANDRIA OLD TOWN

An Outdoor Springtime Art Festival  
on John Carlyle Square

MAY 20-21  
Saturday 10am-5pm  
Sunday 10am-5pm

300 JOHN  
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- FREE ADMISSION -



## Virginia Makes Strides Against Human Trafficking

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

*Content Warning: Discussion of human trafficking and sexual exploitation throughout.*

*(This is the second of two articles on Virginia's efforts against trafficking)*

To combat human sex trafficking, a proactive and collaborative approach was needed in Virginia to address it. As I wrote last week, it was in 2019, that I took the lead in the creation of a Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator within the Department of Criminal Justice Services through the passage of my bill HB 2576. Since that time, especially thanks to the leadership of this coordinator and further updates to the code, Virginia has made significant strides in combating trafficking. For example, in September 2020, the coordinator applied for, and Virginia was one of only four states to be awarded, a competitive grant by the federal Office for Victims of Crime, which solicited proposals for services for minor victims of sex trafficking. Virginia received approximately \$1.7 million over the period of 2021–2022 to support a wide range of services focused on minors who have been or are at risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking in the western portion of the state.

In the 2021 Special Session, the passage of Del. Karrie Delaney's HB 2133 created a process for survivors of sex trafficking to vacate and expunge some convictions of crimes they were forced to commit against their will. Clearing wrongful convictions and expunging criminal records allows survivors easier access to resources like trauma counseling, housing, education and



Example of an awareness campaign billboard.

employment. That same year, Del. Emily Brewer's HB 2234 established an affirmative defense to prosecution for prostitution for victims of sex trafficking.

To address the decentralization of trafficking-related data collection, in 2022, the coordinator created a data platform called Virginia's Analytics System for Trafficking (VAST). The VAST system allows the Commonwealth to capture the number of human trafficking cases that are being identified and then analyze that information at a deeper level to better understand the risk factors that were identified, the relationship between the perpetrator and victim, the demographics of the perpetrator and victim, the location(s) where the offenses occurred, and more.

In 2022, the Virginia State Police developed a Human Trafficking Unit. Prior to the creation of this unit, there was no official mechanism to report to law enforcement that would support a consistent statewide response. Historically, localities have reported directly to their local law enforcement agencies. Although this is a valid law enforcement reporting process, not all local law enforcement agencies have the knowledge or resources to effectively investigate traffick-

ing cases in a victim-centered and trauma-informed manner. In some cases, investigations of valid cases have not been completed due to the lack of training and resources. The newly established Human Trafficking Unit initiated a public awareness campaign that consists of interstate billboards and a social media presence. This campaign has been designed to be strength-based to encourage community members to report potential human trafficking situations. A reporting tip line will eventually be established; however, at the current time, Virginia State Police is advertising #77 to be used for reporting.

In the recently released 2022 annual report by the coordinator, several recommendations were identified for future legislative sessions, including support for habitual runaways, a state-facilitated certification process for victim services providers, and additional training for school staff on human trafficking and the development of a process for students to request assistance from the school social worker or guidance counselor following lessons on human trafficking. I look forward to continuing these efforts as we do all we can here in Virginia to combat human trafficking and offer necessary support to survivors.

## Thoughts on Civil Discourse in the Wake of Violence

BY KAREN CORBETT SANDERS



Karen Corbett Sanders

I am saddened today as we hear about the violence against two staff members and the destruction of Congressman Gerry Connolly's field office in Fairfax City by a man with a metal bat. When I announced my decision not to run for office again, I cited the increased vitriol, hateful rhetoric, and lack of civility in our public discourse. It is hard to look at a situation such as today, or reflect on the events of Jan. 6, 2021, and not see some correlation between the divisive politics of hate which depersonalize our political foes into caricatures of villains and the acts of violence.

According to her Congressional Testimony on March 31, 2022, Rachel Kleinfeld, a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment, there was an acceleration of political violence between 2016 and 2020 and the level of acceptance and

support for political violence has also increased by members of both political parties. Justifications are steeped in the importance of protecting the traditional American way of life, validity of elections, and other false or misleading narratives. Threats against members of Congress have almost doubled, and hate crimes are increasing, with rates higher in 2021 than in the year following 9/11.

More disturbing than even historic numbers is the broader base of individuals who are involved in these acts of aggression. Acts of aggression like what happened today at Connolly's office are no longer contained to extremist groups, but have spread to lone actors reacting to the rhetoric they are hearing or seeing online, in public meetings and feeling compelled to take aggressive action.

We do not know the motivation of the intruder in Connolly's

office. There have been moments and periods of time, as an elected school board member, where I worried about my colleagues, our staff, and my own safety during official proceedings when emotionally charged issues came before the board.

We do know that each of us can do our part to mitigate these acts. Collectively, we must tone down the divisive rhetoric, vilifying name calling, and character assassination.

The issues before our Federal,

SEE THOUGHTS ON, PAGE 7

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# LETTER

## Structural Changes for School Board?

To the editor:

I just opened the Alexandria School Board's "Structure of the Future" survey. It read eerily like a chapter of 1984. Here are a few examples of the Orwellian doublespeak they are peddling:

❖ Our School Board members will be more accountable if they face the voters less frequently.

❖ Our School Board will better represent Alexandria's neighborhood schools if we elect them

at large. (We ought to be moving City Council to Districts or wards).

❖ And for the ultimate in accountability and representation, they want to align School Board elections with federal elections. Sounds to me like a recipe for burying the serious issues of violence, poor academic performance, and high dropout rates in Alexandria schools under the din of national debate.

The last major change in Alex-

andria's elections came in 2009, when Justin Wilson, who had just lost his Council seat, led the charge to move city elections from May to November. A growing number of residents lament this change – it has resulted in a council that is largely tone-deaf to citizen concerns.

Let's not double down on failure with our School Board.

**Terri Hauser**  
Alexandria

## Thoughts on Civil Discourse in the Wake of Violence

FROM PAGE 6

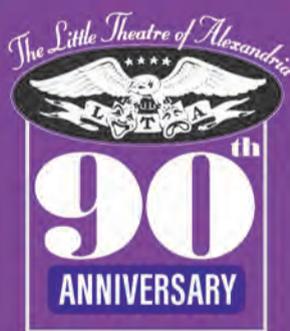
State legislatures, and local governments are too important to trivialize with destructive and non-productive behavior. We must focus on the issues before our policy making bodies that affect the everyday lives of our community members.

We can realize that there are policy areas where groups or individuals may align on individual issues and others where the makeup of a group supporting an issue may be different. However, this is only possi-

ble if the discourse focuses on the content of the policy issues and does not cast aspersions on the character of individuals in a group.

Together we can achieve the American dream of a more perfect union by reinforcing our foundations of civil discourse.

*Karen Corbett Sanders is the Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board. Sanders is not seeking reelection.*



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## THEATRE REVIEWS

### Something Rotten!, July 2022

"Much like the Black Plague, the joy that the Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of *Something Rotten!* emanates is unexpectedly infectious. The show is a Renaissance feast for the eyes, ears, and whatever organ processes jokes, thanks to the set, lighting, and costume design that match the musical's tone – a farce that both riffs on and celebrates traditional tropes – in addition to irresistibly bright performances in both leading and ensemble roles." Alexandria Bowman, *DC Theater Arts*



### Sister Act, January 2023

"Let's face it – nuns – especially the ones of the singing and dancing variety, are just gobsmack funny. There's no way around it. There is something about the gentle poking at convention – even the spiritual type – that provides a guilty feel-good to the theatregoers. In *Sister Act*, the nuns are singing in righteous harmony and shaking it 'like Mary Magdalene.'" Brian Bochicchio, *MD Theatre Guide*



### Mary Stuart, April 2023

"*Mary Stuart* is a powerful production, and it is flawless. You could hear a pin drop in the audience – the story is so fascinating, and the characters' interactions are riveting. The Little Theatre of Alexandria has surprised this reviewer with yet another excellent production and a directorial triumph by Kathleen Barth, who has assembled an impressive cast to manifest her vision." Jordan Wright, *The Zebra*



## LTA'S 2023-24 SEASON

**Freaky Friday** July 22, 2023 – August 12, 2023

**Two on the Aisle, Three in a Van** September 9 – 30, 2023

**Young Frankenstein** October 21, 2023 – November 11, 2023

**A Christmas Carol** December 2 – 16, 2023

**Annie** February 10, 2024 – March 2, 2024

**Murder on the Orient Express** March 23, 2024 – April 13, 2024

**Is He Dead?** May 18, 2024 – June 8, 2024

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

## LTA WATCH AWARD WINNERS

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is pleased to announce its 2022 WATCH award recipients for the 2020/2022 performance years. The award ceremony was held at the Birchmere on March 19, 2023. Congratulations to all of the LTA nominees and winners.

**Outstanding Sound Design in a Musical**  
David Correia – *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*

**Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical**  
Chuck Dluhy as "D'Ysquith Family" – *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*

**Outstanding Lead Actress in a Musical**  
Maura Lacy as "Alice Murphy" – *Bright Star*

**Outstanding Featured Actor in a Musical**  
Noah Mutterperl as "William Shakespeare" – *Something Rotten!*

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# Eagle Festival Brings All Closer to Nature

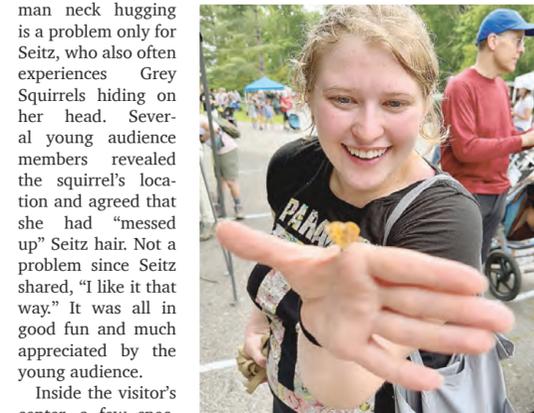
BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE GAZETTE

The Friends of Mason Neck State Park held their annual Eagle Festival on Saturday, May 13. The well-known festival again offered an abundant tribute to nature in a day filled with environmental organization displays, interactive exhibits, bird and critter shows, time paddling on the water, and live music. County, state and federal wildlife agencies, environmental and conservation organizations were well represented providing information on many parts of the natural world from seeds to trees, and birds to small mammals.

Approaching the main presentation tent, one could hear a loud voice saying “he’s coiling around my neck.” A quickened pace revealed that puppeteer, Caroline Seitz, of Kids Nature Shows LLC, was in the middle of introducing her young audience to snakes and some of their behavior. Although northern Virginia snakes include some climbers, human neck hugging is a problem only for Seitz, who also often experiences Grey Squirrels hiding on her head. Several young audience members revealed the squirrel’s location and agreed that she had “messed up” Seitz hair. Not a problem since Seitz shared, “I like it that way.” It was all in good fun and much appreciated by the young audience.



A small butterfly, Harvester (*Feniseca tarquinius*) typically enjoys creeks and stream sides



Eagle Festival goer Erin Carter, of Lorton, took getting close to nature to heart as she walked around the event hosting a Harvester butterfly attracted to her salty hand

Inside the visitor’s center, a few spectacular birds of prey could be seen closer than it’s possible to get to them in the wild. Hodor, a Great Horned owl, and Scarlet, a Barred owl, along with four other rehabilitated raptors from Liz Denison’s Secret Garden Birds and Bees, were calm though surrounded by admirers. Smokey, a Screech owl with Matt Felperin of NOVA Parks, held up the small owl end of the size spectrum. The three owls are well known in the area, often visiting park events. Injuries sustained as adult birds, which would decrease their chance of survival in the wild, have lead to their extended lives as ambassadors of the bird world.

One can’t be sure if the owl’s renowned



Harrison West, 11 yrs, of Fairfax Station, gets a distance view of ducks while watching for the area’s often spotted Bald Eagles



Barred Owl Scarlet shows off her impressive wing span to the delight of those learning about owls from Secret Garden Birds and Bees handlers

keen hearing collected the musical notes of the Difficult Run String Band, playing outside in the morning hours, or the voices of Joe Chiocca and John David Coppola singing in the afternoon. We do know that the bands could be well heard by the human participants circulating between the exhibits outdoors. As hunger for learning turned to hunger for lunch, guests hit a variety of vendors for fair food classics like burgers, hot dogs and fries, plus empanadas, vegetarian treats and the

ice cream truck, welcomed on a warm day. A new exhibitor this year was Covina Fairfax, contracted to turn Fairfax County residents’ waste to energy. Processing approximately 3,000 tons per day of solid waste at their Lorton facility allows them to sell renewable energy enough to meet the needs of about 80,000 homes. Their process combusts solid waste, producing high heat, turn-



Darlene Pick of Woodbridge compares her reach to the wingspan of common raptors

ing water to steam, which is sent to a turbine generator to produce electricity. The solid waste material is reduced to an inert ash that is only ten percent of its original volume, saving landfill space, as well as producing renewable energy in the process.

Friends president and long-time resident of Mason Neck, Hillary Clawson, explained that the Eagle Festival is celebrating its 25th year.



Great Horned Owl Hodor, a frequent ambassador for raptors, seems as interested in seeing his admirers as they are in seeing him at the annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park on Saturday, May 13.

Originally begun by Robert Hartwell, son of Elizabeth S. Hartwell, to honor his mother. She campaigned successfully against large-scale development on Mason Neck in order to preserve the peninsula and protect bird habitats here. The reserve in nearby Mason



Cat Young, 4 yrs old, and her sister Eve, 3 yrs old, check the claws of a larger than life Red Fox at the Friends of Mason Neck State Park annual Eagle Festival on Saturday, May 13.



An uncertain Flash, 4 yrs, who often walks at Mason Neck State Park with owner Mina Guevara, of Alexandria, does not usually encounter a Red Fox quite this large

Neck State Park, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was created in 1969. It was the first refuge created specifically to

protect the Bald Eagle. It was renamed the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge through an act of Congress in 2006.

For more on the Friends group and their events, see <https://friendsofmasonneck-stateparkinc.wildapricot.org/>

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE



Cat and Eve Young traveled over an hour with their grandmother to attend the festival and enjoy a hug with a fox



Truman Farabaugh (left), 9 yrs, of Lorton, finds a shard and an arrowhead while practicing his digging skills under the tutelage of Cynthia Donahue at the Archeology Society of Virginia tent at the annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park on Saturday, May 13.

# Moving Moderately in a Model T

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
THE GAZETTE

To start his car, Ford Chinworth rolls up and removes the fabric cover, lifts the hood, opens the gas line, closes the hood, honks the horn to test the battery, inserts the key, steps on the passenger side running board's aluminum plate, climbs in, retards the spark, chokes the motor, turns the key counterclockwise, presses the starter button with his right heel and moves the throttle down and up. And the motor roars.

This is his routine for getting his 1927 Model T Ford on the road. The car, which he has dubbed "Mt. T," was originally owned by his Indiana grandfather, Clement Chinworth, who drove it until his death in 1949. Chinworth recalls watching the car smoke and backfire in a 1954 Warsaw, Indiana, parade in his childhood.

He and his cousins have meticulously restored it, which required extensive research to confirm the original paint color, fawn gray. It is a gleaming four-seater (some call it a "Fordor") with original cream pinstriping, crank-up windows and a running board on each side.

To keep it working, Chinworth, a Mount Vernon-area resident, drives the car once a week to Burke and Herbert Bank on Sherwood Hall Lane and various other local spots, including U.S. 1. Its maximum safe speed is 38 miles per hour. It will go 48 to 50 mph downhill, but 38 is the highest safe speed, Chinworth stresses. "The Model T is not safe. That's why you go slow. In a real emergency, you pull the hand brake," he explains.

For car shows, when travels to Centreville or Rockville, he avoids the Beltway and takes backroads like Braddock and Centreville Roads, since he is chugging along at 38 mph or slower. "It is possible to judge when you have reached and are driving at the desired cruising speed based on the sound from the engine compartment," he wrote in a driving guide.

## Mass Produced

The Model T was one of the first mass production vehicles. Ford Motor Company made it on the moving assembly line in Highland Park, Michigan, between 1908 and 1927. Ford shipped one to its first customer in 1908 and priced it between \$260 and \$850, according to the company's website. As car manufacturing competition grew in the mid-1920s and gave consumers more choices, Ford ended Model T production in 1927.

Chinworth has mastered the car's operations, documented in



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Ford E. Chinworth's 1927 Model T.



Ford E. Chinworth and his cherished 1927 Model T.

## Information and Events

- ❖ May 20, Antique Car Show, Fairfax, <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/antique-car-show>
- ❖ May 21, Old Town Festival of Speed and Style, Alexandria <https://www.festivalspeedstylealex.com/>
- ❖ June 3, AutoWorks Festival, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, <https://www.workhousearts.org/calendar/auto-works-festival> and Antique
- ❖ Automobile Club of America Show, Fredericksburg, <http://hfraaca.org/>
- ❖ June 18, Annual Classic Car Show and Take Apart a Car, 200 antique cars, Sully Historic Site, Chantilly, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/>
- ❖ August 12, Nation's Capital Model T Ford Club, 50-mile tour in North Arlington, north George Washington Memorial Parkway and Rock Creek Park, <https://ncmtfc.org/>

18 pages of instructions that he penned titled "Starting, Driving and Stopping Mr. T," after having had only a 30-minute lesson when he first got the car. "Nothing is automatic," he notes. "You make everything's that going to happen, happen."

Mr. T has a four-cylinder, 20-horsepower motor, four roll-up windows and three pedals on the floor, from, left to right, the clutch,

reverse and brake. The throttle or accelerator is a stick-like device behind the steering wheel. It has no seat belts, power steering or turn signals. A ten-gallon gas tank is under the front seat. Many Model T's required inserting a stick in the tank to determine available gas, but Chinworth's car has a gas gauge.

For the driver and passengers,  
SEE MODEL T, PAGE 11  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



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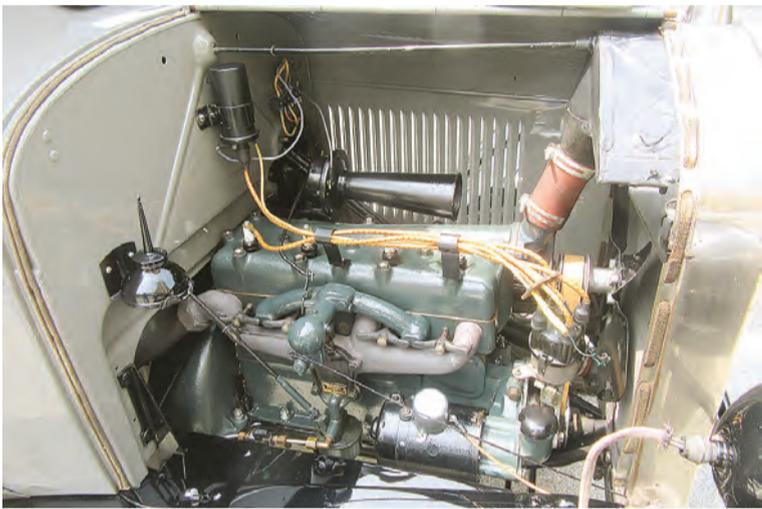
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PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Ford Chinworth lifting the hood.



The Model T's engine.

# Model T

FROM PAGE 10

it's much noisier inside than today's vehicles. "There's only a wooden board between the driver and the engine," he points out. "There are not many moving parts compared to today's cars," he explains.

It always attracts startled looks, admiration, amusement and applause. Chinworth gets questions like "What is the gas mileage?" The answer: 20 miles per gallon.

### Car Collectors

Chinworth is a retired architect who designed private buildings, four Metro stations and U.S. Navy shore facilities. He is secretary of Nation's Capital Model T Ford Club, a chapter of the Model T Ford Club International, which has members in countries like Brazil and Australia. Among the local club of 50 aficionados, members

collectively have 30 Model Ts.

Model T devotees take their cars to shows and the club has tours several times a year in which members drive from five to 30 cars together on preplanned routes, like the Skyline Drive. Chinworth is the Tour Director.

Some Model T-ers participate in what's called "Take-Apart Car" an event in which they have a 1926 Model T pickup truck disassembled to the frame and an eight-person crew must put the vehicle's 13 pieces back together in 15 minutes. Chinworth's team usually does it in eight.

To Chinworth, the car is a cherished family heirloom. His 15-year-old grandson will visit soon and learn to drive it. "It's a great hobby, great fun," he offers, and fondly comments, "I believe he is good to go for another 90 years or so."



The left rear tire and running board.

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## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

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

Jurisdiction	Fed. Struc. Id.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
LEE	10897	662	RTE 662	SIMS CREEK	4/12/2023
BOTETOURT	3421	636	BEAVER DAM RD/RTE 636	BEAVER DAM CREEK	4/6/2023
LOUDOUN	11384	850	PICNIC WOODS RD	MILLTOWN CREEK	4/4/2023
ALBEMARLE	875	810	DYKE RD	LYNCH RIVER	4/3/2023

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](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

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

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# Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival Returns

**John Carlyle Square**  
May 20 – 21

This weekend, May 20 -21, marks the return of the Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival. The outdoor fine art affair takes place in John Carlyle Square on May 20 - 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Featuring a juried selection of artwork from local and national fine artists, visitors to the free, outdoor event will see thousands of handmade, exquisite pieces of art across every medium, including life-sized sculpture, paintings, jewelry, pottery, textiles and more. The popular springtime event mirrors the caliber of works found during the September Alexandria Old Town Art Festival, which has been consistently voted by Sunshine Artists Magazine as one of the top-ranked art festivals in the nation.

**WHAT:** 3rd Annual Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 from 10 am to 5 pm

**WHERE:** Old Town Alexandria in John Carlyle Square, Navigational: 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Free and open to the public  
[www.ArtFestival.com](http://www.ArtFestival.com)

Kensington, Md. glass artist Jennifer Beaudoin Moffitt began her artistic career in cold-fusion glass jewelry-making, creating exquisite, iridescent works of wearable art. During the pandemic, she started experimenting with glass oil candle making, with masterful results.

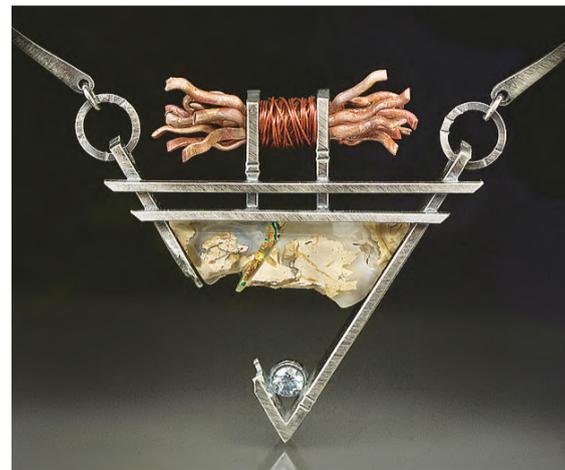


Sidney Carter, painter.



Sculpture by Maduka Uduh

Washington, D.C. painter Tara Good captures local landscapes on canvas through a combination of acrylic and molding paste to add depth and texture to each piece. Every D.C.-focused work – from large-scale paintings to small, gouache framed art – contains her signature impressionistic perspective.



Original jewelry of every style, shape, design and medium will be on display during the Alexandria Old Town Springtime Art Festival.



## Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

By HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

A beloved coffee shop returns; a popular restaurant eyes a metamorphosis; and a new-to-town shake shop is looking for your best over-the-top recipe to feature on its menu. There's so much happening in the Alexandria food scene this month; let's dive in.

### Abyssinia Market and Café reopens

After a temporary shutdown, Abyssinia Market and Café at 720 Jefferson Street has reopened its doors to customers in need of caf-

feination, treats, and a friendly atmosphere.

"Great news. I'm very happy to announce that we'll be reopening the coffee shop (last) Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Our regular hours will be posted on our door. All beer and wines are on sale (and) everything must go. Thank you for all the love and support you showed us," a café rep posted on social media last week.

The shop, whose faithful following stood at attention during the pandemic when owner Lily Dامتew's mask policy sparked vitriol and violence from one resident, has become a darling of South Old

Town, and news of its recent closure rippled through its fanbase. Now, customers can breathe a sigh of relief that their beloved shop is back in action.

### Café 44 rebranding, to expand into Jula's Café

A victim of its own success? Perhaps. And, thus, Café 44 is expanding its footprint – and changing its name – in a summertime project that, the restaurant promises, will have no impact on customers as work takes place.

"My, how we've grown," begins an announcement on Café 44's website. "... This exciting expansion includes a state-of-the-art

commercial kitchen, a customer-facing raw bar and charcuterie bar, a central bar with a view of the Capitol and the Potomac, a private dining room, a wine room, a social media nook, and so much more."

Phase one of the project at 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 401, is underway with a late-June ETA; phase two, which encompasses the existing Café 44 space, is slated for completion by September.

### The Crazy Mason looking for special Alexandria creation

As reported in these pages earlier in the year, The Crazy Mason cometh to 716 King Street – and the shop needs your help to con-

coct its "Signature Crazy Creation" for the new Alexandria location. The milkshake shop, which specializes in over-the-top shakes teeming with the likes of cookies, waffles, cupcakes and more, features locally themed creations on its menu – and is looking for the perfect recipe to reflect Alexandria.

To participate, submit your best proposal to the shop's Facebook page – and may the best shake win!

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).

## CALENDAR

### NOW THRU JULY 15

**Alexander D'Agostino:** "A Shrine for the Forgotten" Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D'Agostino, presents "A Shrine for the Forgotten." The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation,

and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.

### NOW THRU MAY 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](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### NOW THRU MAY 28

**Tribute Art Exhibition.** At The Torpedo Factory, Van Lanningham Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Lanningham Gallery presents Tribute, a juried membership show featuring

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

# Vocal Fellows Combine Diversity and Talent

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

The challenging week is about to begin for the artists in the Vocal Fellows Program: six-hour long rehearsals, networking, feedback, and mentorship from high-level professionals in preparation for three concerts May 19-21.

The four Vocal Fellows for 2023 started working with their mentors in January on how to prepare for these concerts. They received their music over a month ago so they could begin to familiarize themselves with the selections. Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director of The Thirteen which is sponsoring the Vocal Fellows program says, "We are busy, busy, busy."

The Vocal Fellows Program was begun in 2019 by The Thirteen. Robertson said this year there were around 15 applications. "It was a competitive year. There are a relatively small number in this field. And he says "There were a number of talented applicants we weren't able to choose."

The Vocal Fellows Program offers fellowships to "early career singers from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural or other demographic groups that are underrepresented among professional singers of vocal ensemble and oratorio music." Robertson says, "We wanted to help our field better look like the people we hope to reach." He explains, "This issue of equity and access isn't apparent especially in oratorio and classical ensembles. This is an existential issue for performing arts."

Robertson says, "From our perspective we go in to share knowledge. The Vocal Fellows are working with a set of musicians at the highest level of their field." But the advantages of participation in this program extend well beyond the performance experience. He explains the fellows make valuable professional contacts.

"Last year's fellows told us how important



Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director of The Thirteen.

## Vocal Fellows

### The Flowering of Days performances:

- ❖ Friday, May 19 at Episcopal High School Chapel in Alexandria;
- ❖ Saturday, May 20 at St. Paul's Church K Street in D.C. and
- ❖ Sunday, May 21 at Bradley Hills Church in Bethesda.

### This year's Vocal Fellows:

- ❖ John Solomon Collins—bass-baritone
- ❖ Sea Han—soprano
- ❖ Jared Marshall—countertenor
- ❖ David Morales—tenor

Sea Han says, "I would like to learn tools to maintain a sustainable but fulfilling collaborative music career. I would also like meeting new, cool people — as this group seems to have a surplus of."

John Solomon Collins says, "I have the platform to show that diversity within classical music performance should be embraced and respected more. Through this program, I can show children who look like me that we can be part of this industry as well, and that we can do anything we put our minds to."

Robertson has long focused on performing music by underrepresented, women and people of color.

The Thirteen is in its 11th season. It was originally envisioned by Robertson as a group with 12 singers and a conductor. But he says since then ambition has outstripped the name, and now they perform with 8-50 as required by the specific music. Robertson's creative programming has been recognized by a number of critics, and his performances are part of concert series and college programs throughout the United States.

Robertson concludes, "This program is near and dear to my heart. Hopefully we can play a role in their early careers as we make sumptuous beautiful music."



David Morales, Vocal Fellow.

John Solomon Collins, Vocal Fellow

Jared Marshall, Vocal Fellow

Sea Han, Vocal Fellow

this program is and how much they felt appreciated and valued.

They admitted there is a problem." Robertson explains this referral-based economy is difficult.

The Vocal Fellows will perform with The Thirteen in concerts featuring Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir and works by

Nathaniel Dett, Amy Beach, Maurice Ravel and more. Robertson says, "It is a pretty sophisticated program." The Flowering of Days performances will take place on Friday, May 19 at Episcopal High School Chapel in Alexandria; Saturday, May 20 at St. Paul's Church K Street in D.C. and Sunday, May 21 at Bradley Hills Church in Bethesda.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

artworks that pay tribute to a cause, event, or subject that has special meaning to them personally. The following artists are participating: Diana Papazian, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Jon Kandel, Nancy Ramsey, Rebecca McNeely, Lisa Schumaier, Gregory Dunn, and Ileen Shefferman. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, multimedia works, photography, ceramics, and sculpture.

### NOW THRU JUNE 11

**Women's Work.** At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In Women's Work three artists, Kirsty Little, Donna McCullough, and Kathryn McDonnell use non-traditional media to explore concepts related to the role of women in the arts and society. Each with a strong

voice, the artists come together to offer a surprising and cogent statement about the place females have in our current world. Artist Talk: Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.

### THURSDAY/MAY 18

**2023 MVBA Free Offensive Development & Shooting Clinic.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parker Lane, Alexandria. For Boys and Girls ages 9-14 years old. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-mvba-free-offensive-development-and-shooting-clinic-tickets-626514380377>

### THURSDAY/MAY 18

**Solo Lights.** 7 p.m. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Join composer-pianist Martin Graff (Trips for Piano) and singer-songwriter Taisha Estrada (Nostalgia Ajena) for a luminescent evening of original music made to move your soul and light your imagination.



The Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour will be held May 19-21, 2023 at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

### FRIDAY/MAY 19

**Flowering of Days, Martin:** Mass for Double Choir. 7:30 p.m. At Episcopal High School, 1200 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Written in

1922 at the beginning of the inter-war period, Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir was to sit in a drawer unperformed for more than forty years until its premiere in 1963. Of

his decision to let this modern monument lie dormant, the Swiss composer remarked: "I considered it... as being a matter between God and myself." Filled with political turmoil and societal optimism in equal measure, the interbellum was also a time of artistic innovation. In addition to the Martin Mass, The Thirteen and our Vocal Fellows explore the art of this period through works by Dett, Beach, Ravel, and more.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic.** 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The Ulysses James Celebration Concert Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Music Director Laureate Ulysses James returns to the podium for a Season Finale program of his favorite

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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**CALENDAR**

FROM PAGE 13  
works with musician friends. Visit  
the website: wmpmusic.org.

**MAY 19-21**  
**Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Now is the time to purchase tickets, as Saturday already has sold out. Bring a blanket and relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River while sampling wines from Virginia's finest wineries. Guests also will enjoy live music from Bruce Ewan and the Solid Senders. Doors open at 6 p.m. each night, and The Shops at Mount Vernon and Wine Valet Service are open until 8:45 p.m. The first floor, second floor, and cellar of the Mansion will be open until 8:30 p.m. Admission: Friday: \$49 for members; \$59 for non-members; Saturday: \$53 for members; \$63 for non-members; Sunday: \$43 for members; \$53 for non-members. Visit: mountvernon.org

**SATURDAY/MAY 20**  
**Port City Brewery's Pop-Up Spring Makers' Market.** 12-5 p.m. At 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. Featuring over 30 Artists, Creators, and Makers. Port City Brewing Company in partnership with Made in ALX announced a Spring Pop-Up Market, featuring local artisans and makers showcasing their handcrafted products, perfect for providing a spring refresh for the home as we welcome the upcoming season and kick-off summer. The event will feature over 30 artists displaying their crafts in a diverse family-friendly local pop-up market that will take place in Port City's parking lot. Items available range from jewelry, home décor, woodcrafts, candles, wellness items, children's play and much more. For a full slate of artisans scheduled to participate in the pop-up visit, MadelnALX.com.

**SATURDAY/MAY 20**  
**Green Spring Gardens:** Spring Garden Day - The Big Plant Sale. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria. Here's your chance to work with Arlington/Alexandria Extension Master Gardeners to choose the perfect plants for your garden! If you are planning to start or add to a native plant collection, they will help with plant selection, planting advice, and answer all your questions. In addition, there will be artists, food vendors, and bake sales. This event is hosted by Friends of Green Spring Gardens (FROGS). Free. Questions? Telephone FROGS at 703-642-5173 or email info@friendsofgreenspring.org.

**SATURDAY/MAY 20**  
**Green Spring Garden Day - The Big Plant Sale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. What gardeners in the know call "THE big plant sale" - a highly popular event with over 40 vendors of popular, rare, and unusual plants including natives, edibles, and trees. Attendees also enjoy local artists, on-site food vendors, and a bountiful FROGS Bake Sale. Visit the website for a complete vendor list at www.friendsofgreenspring.org

**Legals**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology that their Annual Business Meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, in room S103 of the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Drive, Chicago, IL, on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 12:00PM U.S. Central Time.

**ABC LICENSE**  
Rubia's LLC trading as Rubia's, 2309 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-1327. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nicole Jones, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

**Obituary**

**Joseph Vincent McKenna, 40**, of Alexandria, VA, passed away of natural causes on May 3, 2023. He was born to Antoinette McKenna on November 4, 1982 in Alexandria, VA. Joseph was a lifelong Alexandrian. Joseph McKenna is survived by his identical twin brother, Edward McKenna, sister-in-law, Nanette McKenna, step-nephew, Gavin Newell, mother, Antoinette McKenna, stepfather, Kiernan Corbett, sister Genevieve "Nina" McKenna, and brother-in-law, Max Rickard. A viewing will be held at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA on Monday, May 22nd from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. A funeral mass will take place at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA on Tuesday, May 23rd at 11:30 a.m. The interment will be at Ivy Hill Cemetery on Tuesday, May 23rd at 2 p.m. All are welcome to a reception following the interment at Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Flowers and condolences may be sent to Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22302. Donations may be sent to Habitat for Humanity in Joseph's name. <https://www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Joseph-McKenna>

**Obituary**

**Phyllis Gigante Chong**  
Born into a US military family, Phyllis experienced numerous moves across the US and Europe during her early years. She was born in Germany in 1948, graduated from high school in Vicenza, Italy, and went to twelve different schools in the United States during her K-12 years. An excellent student, Phyllis attended the prestigious Tufts University in Boston where she received a degree in Psychology. She went on to receive a Master's in Counseling from St. Mary's in South Bend, Indiana. Phyllis became a commissioned officer in the US Army, receiving special commendation as a sharp-shooter, attending the Command and General Staff College, reaching the rank of Major, and eventually retiring from the Army Reserves. After leaving the military, she moved to South Korea, where she served as a top administrator of the American Red Cross in South Korea. Throughout her life, she retained a love for all things Korean, including its art, food, culture and people. In her free time, Phyllis enjoyed artistic hobbies such as weaving, knitting and quilting. She was also an avid reader who enjoyed sci-fi and mystery novels. Phyllis dearly loved her two children and her two dogs. She is survived by her son David Chong, her daughter Maria Chong, her sisters Beth Gigante Klingenstein (Kal), Laura Gigante Luft (Rene), Julie Gigante Rizzo (Tom) and numerous nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, James and Olga Gigante, and her sister Donna Honsinger. Service will be at Arlington National Cemetery on May 25, 2023 at 1pm.

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# Mayor Wilson Recognized

FROM PAGE 4

which opened in April 2023, serves as a centralized hub for all Alexandrians' health and human services needs in Alexandria West. On Friday, May 19, the Potomac Yard – VT Station will open and provide three major City neighborhoods walkable access to the region's Metrorail system.

In the coming decade, the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and Inova Hospital Complex will engage the community through mixed-use development and 21st Century innovation.

Prior to being elected as Mayor of City of Alexandria in 2018, Mayor Wilson served eight years on the Alexandria Council. He serves as the Senior Director of Supplier Management at Amtrak and holds a BS in

## BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

registration is required. Register before the day of the event and pick up your free commemorative t-shirt at your selected pit stop. Bike to Work Day is part of the City's observance of National Bike Month.

Visit alexandriava.gov/GOAlex for more information about Alexandria's Bike to Work Day and National Bike Month.

## Bring a Kid to a Park, May 20

Saturday, May 20, Alexandria residents can bring their kids out to local parks to celebrate the 13th Annual Kids to Parks Day, a day of outdoor exploration organized by the National Park Trust. This holiday, recently recognized in a proclamation from Alexandria City Council, encourages youth to discover and explore parks, learn about park stewardship, outdoor recreation, STEM, and the history of the country and its national treasures.

Residents are encouraged to explore a new-to-them park anywhere in the city, play a game of tennis or pickleball, ride a bike, discover the plants and wildlife that call our city home, and more.

For more information on Alexandria's Parks and Park Amenities, visit alexandriava.gov/parks/kids-to-parks-day-2023.

For more information on the National Parks Trust and Kids to Parks Day, visit park-trust.org/kids-to-parks-day/

## Civil War Camp Day at Fort Ward

Learn about soldier and civilian life during the Civil War, and enjoy a regimental band concert, at Fort Ward Museum's annual Civil War Camp Day on Saturday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Suggested donation is \$2 per person, and \$5 for families. The event is weather dependent.

The annual living history event features military and civilian reenactors in camp settings in and around the historic fort. The program includes camp life activities, infantry and artillery drills and firing demonstrations, equipment displays, and civilian impressions.

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Information Systems from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sanders-Henn Community Hero awardees included Michelle Krocker from Northern Virginia, smart growth community advocates Kyle Reeder and Bernard Holloway from Prince George's County, Tina Slater from Montgomery County, and Kim Hosen from Prince William County.

The Coalition for Smarter Growth is dedicated to making the case for smart growth. Their mission is to advocate for walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, D.C. region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

The 2023 Livable Communities Leadership Awards event was held on Tuesday, May 16, at the Old Ebbitt Grill Atrium.

Among the living history units participating are the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Co. K, and the 1st U.S. Artillery, Co. D.

Special interpretations include a U.S. Army Quartermaster tent, a Union company surgeon, a Northern schoolmarm who interprets 19th-century education and pastimes for children, and a soldier in the reconstructed Officers' Hut portraying the daily routine and living quarters of an officer in the Defenses of Washington.

At 3 p.m., the 8th Green Machine Regiment Band will perform a concert of Civil War music on the Museum lawn. This historical brass ensemble, sponsored by George Mason University, presents music of the 19th century on authentic period instruments.

Fort Ward is the best preserved of the Union forts that comprised the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The Museum features programs, events, and exhibits throughout the year. Fort Ward is located at 4301 West Braddock Road in the west end of the City of Alexandria. Visit forward.org.

## May Is Preservation Month

During May, preservation month, communities celebrate local historic preservation. The City of Alexandria has been a leader in the field of historic preservation, from the creation of the country's third oldest historic district in 1946 to the start of Alexandria Archaeology in 1961. All tickets and reservations can be made at alexandriava.gov/Shop.

## Specialty Tour: Peeling Back the Paint Layers

Every Saturday in May 9:30 a.m. \$15 per person, \$12 OHA members

Explore Gadsby's Tavern Museum top to bottom, including spaces rarely opened to the public, and understand how the buildings have changed over time. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your camera! Tour begins in the shop of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street.

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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 and both made our survival possible. We now await a 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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## A Break in the Action



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When all is scheduled and done, it will have been four months between my last scan in early March and my next regularly scheduled scan in early July. As of today's date, April 26, 2023, I am approximately seven weeks past that early March scan and 10 weeks or so from the next scan. I am, to invoke a formerly familiar "CB" phrase, "in the rocking chair, good buddy." Meaning that I am enjoying being in the middle. Other than taking my 50-plus daily pills and getting my obligatory every-four-week lab work, I am on easy street: minimal cancer-related activities or responsibilities. For a cancer patient undergoing treatment and being scanned regularly, this kind of stress-free interval is as good as it gets. (Though I certainly realize that being told by your oncologist that you're in remission would be ideal, I live in the real world of managing expectations. Being told you have a "terminal" illness will do that to you. Moreover, having your cancer diagnosis change from lung cancer to thyroid cancer - after surviving nine years of treatment will likewise make you steady-on and cautiously optimistic. Still a cancer diagnosis looms large and is unpredictable. And each scan presents a patient with reminders of how tenuous one's grip on life can be. Minimizing this anxiety and/or rationalizing any cancer demands to allow you to try and live a semi normal life - without being totally preoccupied with your disease/life expectancy is the true prescription for success. No guarantees of course but as the doctor in Miles City advising Augustus McCray said in the third night of "Lonesome Dove" as to whether Gus would allow "sawbones" (as he called him) to cut off his remaining leg: "I assure you, sir, the alternative is grim.")

Aside from the 10 days my wife, Dina and I spent in Ne-gril, Jamaica in 1978, this interval is yet another honeymoon - of sorts: an escape/diversion from the everyday which for a cancer patient undergoing treatment might be more like every minute. Nevertheless, it's not as if I'm totally preoccupied with my health status (as in every second), but one is never far, emotionally, from the underlying, all-encompassing circumstances of your life: having an incurable form of papillary thyroid cancer for which the life-sustaining medication I take every day has a three-year-ish shelf life/effectiveness. And my three years-ish are up in the fall. What happens then? God only knows, literally. (I know from experience not to ask/discuss scenarios with my oncologist and endocrinologist. It's generally wait and see. I imagine, they know the options. Sharing them with me now however seems premature. They don't like to get too far ahead of the patient vis-à-vis options/what's next? I've asked and this is the answer I've received most often.)

Fortunately, that three-year timeline is not hard and fast. It's a median-type measure. Some shorter, some longer. And most importantly, every patient is unique and the miscellaneous interactions between your medicine and your body/tumors is not cast in stone either. Everyone is different, and the doctors don't really know if your differences are enough to win the day and survive past your window which supposedly is closing. This reality permeates my subconscious - and consciousness as well. And even though I've been told and understand all of this, somehow, I've got to ignore it, and somehow delude myself into thinking I'm more than a statistic and the fall of '23 has no more meaning to me than any other than it's around my birthday, wedding anniversary, my brother's birthday, and my parent's birthdays and their respective dates of death and even the time of my Bar Mitzvah all those years ago. Adding my cancer-medicine-affected timeline to this rather impressive list of significant events in the fall seems a bit too much to bear. As such, I will choose not to. (Though I realize that ignoring any of this won't really solve the problem/inevitability of it, I likewise don't see how focusing on a negative - me dying, can have a positive impact on me living. And I refuse to be a victim of my own circumstances.)

And right now, being/living in the middle of an extended interval between scans when I'm not stressing nor waiting for results, enables me to damn the torpedoes and live (try to anyway) full speed ahead. I will not be dragged down - nor bogged down either. I will enjoy any port in this unexpected storm (no cancer history in my immediate family as well as being a lifelong non-smoker) and let the scan results and the presumptive ineffectiveness of my cancer medication fall where they may. As I've often said, if and when anything bad happens, it will be bad enough when it does happen so that I'd rather not put the cart before the horse and make it bad now. I'd just as soon ride off into the sunset after something bad happens, not before. I don't see any advantage to getting to the front of the line. Until that line becomes obvious to me, I'm happy to bide my time, mind my own business and try (quoting Richard Pryor) to "keep some sunshine on your face."

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

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OPEN SUN 5/21, 1-3

**Waterford | \$1,990,000**

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**Berrywood | \$974,900**

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SAT 5/20, 1-3PM

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SAT 5/20 & SUN 5/21, 2-4PM

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