



Juliette Carolyn Brooks Herring

Celebration of Life set for Aug. 17.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For anyone who ever attended a fundraiser or charity event, Carolyn Herring was a familiar face. She never sought the spotlight for herself but was always quietly in the background cheering on and supporting her daughter Charniele, a Virginia State Delegate (D-46) since 2009.

“She was my best friend,” said Charniele Herring in announcing a celebration of life for her mother, who died May 11, 2022, at the age of 82 of congestive heart failure. “This has been a difficult loss and is taking me time to process.”

“She was an unsung hero.”

— Charniele Herring on her mother Carolyn

things that we as humans endure.”

Known to her friends as Carolyn, Juliette Carolyn Brooks was born May 9, 1940, in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to Julius Caesar Brooks and Parmis Blane

SEE JULIETTE CAROLYN BROOKS, PAGE 11

Juliette Carolyn Brooks Herring in an undated photo. A Celebration of Life will be held Aug. 17 at The Lyceum.



Carolyn Herring, left, with her daughter, Del. Charniele Herring (D-46).



Carolyn Herring, seated second from left, with her children Dr. Charles Herring, daughter-in-law Dr. Cynthia Mathis Herring, daughter Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), and grandchildren Cameron, Chandler and Crystin.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Duncan Takes the Reins at ACHS

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexander Duncan III has formally taken the reins as Executive Principal of Alexandria City High School effective July 1. The former campus administrator of the Minnie Howard campus since 2021, Duncan was one of two finalists for the position to replace Peter Balas, who left ACHS to lead Wakefield High School in Arlington.



Alexander Duncan III

PHOTO COURTESY ACPS

“Over the past 20 years, I have worked as a teacher and administrator and have made student advocacy a pinnacle of my career’s work,” Duncan said in a statement. “As a proud Titan, with over 10 years’ experience working with ACHS, I have witnessed, first hand, our school’s passion for learning and commitment to students. And I continue to remain optimistic about our future, as well as about the success of our students, community and staff.”

Duncan is a graduate of ACHS, then called T.C. Williams High School. He first joined ACPS as an English teacher in 2007. He has a bachelor’s in English from Johnson C. Smith University and a Master of Science in educational leadership from Trinity College.

“I am so thankful to have the opportunity to expand on all I have learned and experienced to our awesome Alexandria City High School community,” Duncan said. “Over the next few weeks, the administrative team will be hard at work planning for the upcoming school year. We are both reflecting and de-

veloping action steps so we may effectively serve our ACHS community this August and into the school year.”

Duncan also announced that Christopher Speich, who has been the campus administrator of the King Street campus “has elected not to return to ACHS,” but will instead serve as the assistant principal at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

In another shifting of roles, Tiffany Barner now joins the leadership team of ACHS as assistant principal.

Tiffany has been a member of the ACHS school community since 2018. We look forward to Tiffany bringing her strengths of building school culture and climate and instructional leadership to our team,” said Duncan.

ACHS has 4,173 students spread across two campuses. It is the second-largest high school in Virginia.

“I would also like to give a shout-out to Mr. Peter Balas for the wonderful work he’s done leading our high school through our historical expansion,” Duncan said. “He is truly a shining star and I count it an honor to call him a colleague and friend.”

“I am so thankful to have the opportunity to expand on all I have learned and experienced to our awesome Alexandria City High School community.”

— ACHS executive principal Alexander Duncan III

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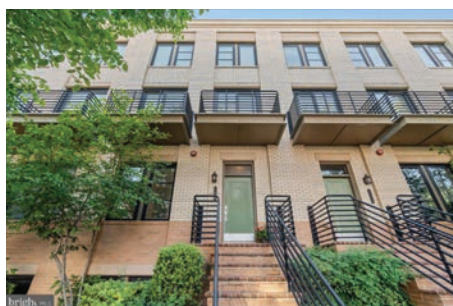
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Model Silence Alexandria School Board members face decision on rights of transgender students.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria School Board members aren't saying much about how they plan to respond to a controversial new model policy from the Virginia Department of Education, which denies the ability of students to decide which pronouns and names they prefer at school. Board members did not respond to multiple requests to be interviewed for this story, although School Board Chairwoman Meagan Alderton issued a brief written statement.

"The board has not yet had a chance to discuss this policy in detail," said Alderton in the written statement, which was distributed by administration officials at Alexandria City Public Schools, who also declined to be interviewed for this story.

The new document released this week prohibits teachers from referring to a student by a different name or pronoun unless parents request it in writing. The long-awaited new model policy was a campaign promise for Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who campaigned on a platform of parents' rights in 2021. It also says students should be required to use bathrooms that match the gender on their official record, even if it conflicts with their gender identity.

"We are very thankful that the governor stuck to his campaign promise and approved these policies defending the rights of parents," said Family Foundation Vice President Todd Gathje in an interview this week. "It's important that we not allow government and government schools to interfere with what they are teaching at home."

Critics say the new model policy is a threat to the privacy and safety of transgender students, and they are urging school board members across Virginia to reject them. They say an important precedent was set after the Gov. Ralph Northam issued a model policy that said schools should re-



Then-candidate Glenn Youngkin campaigns in Market Square days before he was elected governor of Virginia.

"We are very thankful that the governor stuck to his campaign promise and approved these policies defending the rights of parents. It's important that we not allow government and government schools to interfere with what they are teaching at home."

— Todd Gathje, vice president of the Family Foundation

spect the names and pronouns preferred by transgender students. Many school divisions already had similar policies, and most school divisions failed to consider them at all. A handful of conservative school boards voted explicitly to reject them.

"You can't have it both ways. They are either suggestions and they're optional or they're mandatory and we all follow them," said Del. Marcus Simon (D-53), who introduced legislation that led to the previous model policy. "I think the precedent has

been set that these things are sort of at the discretion of the school board."

NOW SCHOOL BOARDS across Virginia are facing an important choice. Should they adopt a policy in line with the governor's new model policy and deny students the ability to make decisions about their own gender identity? Or should they simply ignore the new model policy altogether? Former Education Secretary Atif Qarni says he's been hearing from school board members across Virginia who are trying to figure out how they want to respond. He says it's important to remember that the model policy is more of a suggestion that lacks the force of legislative command.

"They don't have to adopt these policies at all. They can do some components of them or they could keep the 2021 components if they adopted them in the past. They can flat out ignore them as well," said Qarni. "In order for school divisions to follow exactly what the state says, there has to be an actual bill that passes and it has to say specifically how the pronouns are supposed to be done and how parental notification has to be done. Those things were never laid out in a bill."

School Board members in neighboring Fairfax County have not been as shy as members of the Alexandria School Board to defend the rights of transgender students.

"The Youngkin administration's attacks on transgender students and their families are unconscionable and dangerous," said Fairfax County School Board member Karl Frisch, one of three LGBTQ school board members in Virginia. "We must do everything we can to protect, support, and affirm transgender and nonbinary students so they can focus on learning rather than being distracted by the weight of other people's hate. That starts with standing up to careless political leaders who should know better than to bully children."

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.

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 for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4

Guidance for Home Solar

Solarize Alexandria, a program that provides residents guidance and resources for home solar power systems installation, is holding its annual campaign through Thursday, August 31. During this period, Alexandria homeowners can sign up to receive a free solar satellite assessment of their property and discounted prices from vetted solar system installers.

Solarize Alexandria is part of the broader Solarize Virginia program, a grassroots, community-based outreach initiative managed by the state non-profit Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP). LEAP provides ongoing customer support and education

throughout the Solarize process.

Solarize Alexandria 2023 Webinars

Residents who are interested in learning more about Solarize Alexandria can register for an upcoming Solarize 2023 webinar. Sessions will be held on: Tuesday, Aug. 1, 6-7 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 17, 3-4 p.m.

Tax Benefits for Installing Solar Energy

In addition to discounted solar products offered through Solarize Alexandria, the City provides a real estate tax exemption for qualifying solar installations.

Alexandria homeowners also have

access to federal help to offset initial costs. Congress increased the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC), also called the solar tax credit, from 26% to 30%, as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. This federal credit allows homeowners to deduct a percentage of a solar energy system's installation cost from their federal taxes with no cap on the value.

To learn more about the program, access resources on solar power systems, and sign up for a free assessment, visit SolarizeNova.org. For additional information, contact City Sustainability Coordinator Samantha Heitsch at samantha.heitsch@alexandriava.gov

Aces Dominate Cal Ripken League

Defending champs take top seed as playoffs begin.

BY PETER RAINEY
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

With less than one week left to go before postseason play, the Alexandria Aces have showcased nothing short of dominance within the Cal Ripken Collegiate Summer Baseball League (CRCSBL). As the defending champions from 2022, the Aces, led by fourth-year head coach Chris Berset, have shown no misstep down the stretch of the regular season. With a franchise record 28 regular season wins through 32 games, the Aces have clinched the number one seed in the Cal Ripken League playoffs with three games still left to play in the regular season as of July 19. With the number one seed secured, the Aces will receive a bye to the League Semifinal Series, where they will play the lowest seed remaining in a best-of-three series with two out of three games played at their home Frank Mann Field. If they advance, the Aces will also receive a two-game out of three home field advantage in the League Championship Series.

"We're hitting it really well, and [our] pitchers have been doing a pretty solid job," Aces' standout Cory Taylor, a rising senior from Eastern Michigan University, said in reference to the team's performance. "We just gotta keep rolling and do what we do." Taylor's five home runs on the season are tied for the second-highest total in the league.

The Aces feature talent from across the country, a fun mix that features promising young prospects representing college baseball powerhouses like Vanderbilt and Auburn, as well as underrated JUCO players using summer ball as an opportunity to improve themselves and find their standing against top competition. Aces' catcher Ty Mancha, a rising sophomore from Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, made the decision to join Alexandria's summer ball club alongside his college teammate, pitcher Cade Mattison.

"The Cal Ripken [League]'s got a lot of D1 guys, a lot of guys that have already been in the NCAA system," Mancha said. "It's really cool how they compete, [to] see [what] they do on and off the field, and then either build my game



Cameron Keshock, a sophomore pitcher from Auburn University, helps propel the Alexandria Aces to the number one seed in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.

"We're going to keep playing hard and keep playing good baseball."

— Alexandria Aces player Matt Ossenfort

Dylan Grego, a sophomore infielder at Ball State University, rounds the bases for the Alexandria Aces.



PHOTOS BY TESS WILHELM

from it or take stuff away and use it for later."

Aces' Matt Ossenfort, a rising freshman committed to Vanderbilt University out of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, made the trip to the DMV this summer with both development and championships in mind. With the number one seed locked up, the Aces are a step closer to keeping the trophy in Alexandria for another year.

"It's huge (getting the number one seed). We get to play in front of our home crowd now. ... We're going to keep playing hard and keep playing good baseball, as we have all year long." Ossenfort leads the league in home runs with a season total of eight; he's also second in batting average with a mark of .387.

Playoff ball for the Aces is set to begin July 23 at 6:30 p.m. with the League Semifinal Series. As of now, home playoff dates allotted to the Aces are Sunday, July 23, Tuesday, July 25, Wednesday, July 26, and Friday, July 28. Dates can change depending on playoff results and inclement weather. For up-to-date playoff schedule information, follow the Alexandria Aces on Twitter at @Alexandria_Aces or visit the Aces' website online at www.alexandriaaces.org.

"It's good (securing the number one seed); you get yourself some home field, but we have our next goal in mind," Berset said. "We've put ourselves in a good position."



The Alexandria Aces celebrate following the walk-off home run by Vanderbilt University's RJ Hamilton. The Aces are the defending champions of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

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.

Volunteer Opportunities

COMPILED BY VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA (VOLALX)

Register online:
www.VolunteerAlexandria.org

❖ Volunteer Opportunities for Students -- Breaks With Impact (BWI) is a chance for students - grades 6 through 12 - to learn about the issues facing their community and then act. Half-day programs are available in July.

❖ Wednesday, July 19, Become a Volunteer Lead in Emergencies -- Between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m., learn about the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC), how it is activated in emergencies, and what you can do to assist in VRC training and drills.

❖ Help with Back to School Day -- UNCUT Youth needs volunteers to assist with Back-to-School Community Day. Volunteers would help with setup, breakdown, and ongoing assistance throughout the day from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

❖ Saturday, July 29, Share Fire Safety Information and Install Alarms -- Join the American Red Cross to visit homes in East Westover, install fire alarms, and share home fire safety information from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food will be provided.

❖ Beatley Library Group Seeks Board Vice President -- The Friends of Beatley Central Library is looking for a Vice President for its all-volunteer, non-profit board. The Vice Presidency is a 3-year term that assists with event planning and fundraising.


❖ Mentor Girls through the Arts -- Mentor a girl in elementary school with Space of Her Own, an arts and STEM program designed to help them express themselves and step outside their comfort zone.

❖ Help Domestic Violence Victims -- The City of Alexandria Domestic Violence Program is looking for volunteers to answer the 24-hour hotline and assist clients in the guest house.

❖ Prepare Supplies for Children's Playgroup -- The Center for Alexandria's Children offers Learn & PlayGroup sessions for young children and they are looking for volunteers to prepare and clean toys and materials for its weekly sessions.

❖ Skills Connect Projects: Visit <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/skillsconnect/> volunteers to sign up use your skills to help an agency with a short-term project.

❖ Youth and Family Volunteer Opportunities -- for ages 6 to 18. Visit www.volunteerallexandria.org/youthandfamily.





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Celebrate Zissios Without Rewriting History

To the Editor:

I want to congratulate the Gazette Packet on the excellent article on Patricia Zissio, the retiring Lyles-Crouch (LCTA) principal. She is indeed a wonderful person and an extremely talented educational leader. Both of my daughters (now 25 and 27 years old) went to LCTA from first through fifth grade and received wonderful educations.

**LETTER TO
THE EDITOR**

One event that Dr. Zissios held that epitomizes how she always went the extra mile was when she invited the graduating high school seniors who had graduated from LCTA back for a celebration (with cake) and an assembly, where they acted as living proof to the current LCTA students of the success of an ACPS education. Each graduating senior related their post-graduation plans (e.g., the fire academy, a college, the military, etc.). It was a very powerful experience for both

the current LCTA students and the graduating seniors.

I do have one quibble with the article though. LCTA was not a "failing school" as your article states. It was a school already on an upward trajectory. Lucretia Jackson was the principal before Dr. Zissios. She was also a beloved figure in the LCTA community. Ms. Jackson was moved by ACPS Central Office staff to what was then Maury Elementary School (now Naomi L. Brooks Elementary). Ms.

Jackson was moved to save that at-risk school because she had done such a good job at LCTA.

There is no question that we were extremely lucky to get Dr. Zissios as the replacement for Ms. Jackson. Dr. Zissios's leadership ensured the continued success and upward trajectory of LCTA. There is no need to rewrite history to properly celebrate Dr. Zissios.

Louisa Miller
Alexandria

Consider a Private College

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

July 17-22 is a significant week for Virginia as it commemorates Private Colleges Week. The state boasts a robust higher education system, with private 4-year institutions playing a crucial role. While public colleges in Virginia are renowned nationwide, private colleges excel in meeting the educational and professional needs of many Virginians, particularly those underrepresented in public institutions.

Private colleges are often associated with higher price tags compared to their public counterparts. However, financial aid and grant programs help make private colleges more accessible to low-income and underrepresented students. Nearly 50% of students enrolled in Virginia private colleges benefit from Pell Grants — a federal program that provides money to students from low-income households, which does not require repayment. As a staunch supporter of the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program, I

am pleased to highlight that qualified undergraduate students will have access to \$5,000 per year. These grants amount to approximately \$100M annually or 3.4% of the overall state general fund spent on higher education. If the approximately 19,000 TAG recipients were enrolled in public institutions, the cost to the Commonwealth would be considerably higher.

Private colleges are also actively working to address racial inequities in the education system. An impressive 69% of the student populations enrolled in 4-year private colleges come from underrepresented backgrounds, encompassing non-white US citizens and permanent residents, Pell Grant recipients, students over the age of 25, and individuals from localities with low rates of educational attainment. Notably, out of the 23 private colleges participating in Virginia Private College Week, two are Historically Black Colleges and



Krizek

Universities (HBCUs), and one, Marymount University in Northern Virginia, is the first in Virginia to be recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution with student body at least 25% Hispanic.

Being private institutions, these colleges possess the flexibility and resources to effectively tackle economic and racial disparities in education. A Bachelor's degree holds tremendous value for students as it expands their knowledge and enhances their job prospects. According to reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals with a Bachelor's degree earn significantly more per week than those with only a high school education. Private colleges play a pivotal role in assisting individuals from diverse backgrounds in reaping the benefits of higher education.

Beyond promoting equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and low-income individuals, Virginia's private colleges contrib-

ute to society through their diverse degree programs. For example, private institutions account for about half of nursing degrees. They also offer various graduate programs, including a pharmacy school and osteopathic medical schools. These programs and their graduates are central to the health and economy of Virginia as a whole. As a Commonwealth, we greatly value the contributions that private colleges make to our society.

Private colleges are essential in meeting the educational and professional needs of Virginians, particularly those who are underrepresented in public institutions. I wholeheartedly encourage my constituents in high school, along with their families, as well as adults seeking to begin or continue their higher education, to actively participate in the upcoming Virginia Private Colleges Week. You will undoubtedly be pleasantly surprised by the diverse and high-quality educational opportunities available here in Virginia.

<http://civc.org/Our-Colleges/Virginia-Private-College-Week.aspx>

Seeking Alexandrians 100 Years of Age and Older

The City of Alexandria, in collaboration with the City's Successful Aging Committee, will celebrate National Centenarian Day on Sept. 12 at 5 p.m. in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall (301 King St.).

The city will celebrate Alexandria residents who have lived a century or longer. To be eligible, individuals must be 100 years or older by December 31, 2023. Alexandria centenarians who choose to participate in the presentation will receive a certificate

honoring their lifetime experiences and achievements. To participate or submit a nomination, complete an application and social history form by Aug. 15.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Aging for more information.

The Successful Aging Committee includes representatives from Senior Services of Alexandria, St. Martin de Porres Senior Center (Catholic Charities), the Charles Houston Senior Center (Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority) and the City of Alexandria.

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City-wide Food Drive in July

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Volunteer Alexandria is hosting a City-wide food drive during the month of July. Sixteen collection boxes are located through the City from Beatley Library to Fairlington Presbyterian Church to City Hall. All of the food collected will be donated to ALIVE!'s food program. ALIVE! is the oldest and largest safety net in the City of Alexandria dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger. The goal is to make this an annual summer food drive.

A thermometer sits on Payne Street which is being used to record food donations. "The goal is to collect 30,000 pounds of food to benefit families during the summer months when normal contributions of food are down," according to Jen Ayers, Executive Director of ALIVE!. "Since the beginning of the pandemic we've seen a tremendous increase in the number of Alexandrians seeking food assistance."

Ayers says 12-15,000 people each month receive basic groceries. "It is comparable to the peak of the pandemic." She adds that the uptick isn't just kids who are out of school for the summer. "Free lunches for school kids are offered at 5-6 places around the City."

Ayers says that luckily ALIVE! has been able to keep up during the summer months but the shelves are beginning to look bare and they are trying to forestall running out of food.

She explains the operation many volunteers including drivers to pick up the food at the collection sites, to sort and pack it into boxes for distribution as well as translators to help clients understand what is available. "We have translators for Spanish, Amharic, Urdu and lately Pashto."

ITEMS TO DONATE:

- The list of accepted items includes;
- canned meat and fish
- canned vegetables and fruits
- canned beans such as red and black
- oil in plastic bottles

Financial contributions are also welcome to purchase needed food.

WHERE to drop off donations:

- Barrett Library - 717 Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22314
- Beatley Library - 5005 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22304
- Burke Library - 4701 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, VA 22304
- City of Alexandria/City Hall - 301 King St, Alexandria VA 22314
- Department of Community and Human Services - 4850 Mark Center Dr, Alexandria, VA 22311
- Department of Beer and Wine - 2724 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22301
- Duncan Library - 2501 Commonwealth Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301
- Fairlington Presbyterian Church - 3846 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302
- Fitness Together - 300 N Washington St, Suite 106, Alexandria, VA 22314
- Old Town North Community Partners - 901 North Royal St, Alexandria VA 22314

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



ALIVE! volunteers load up boxes of food supplies for their clients.



'Thermometer' at Payne Street records food donations toward the goal of 30,000 pounds.



ALIVE! food collection boxes located at 16 sites around the city.

- Sixteenth Tabernacle Beth-El - 634 N. Patrick St, Alexandria, VA 22314
- The Goodhart Group - 106 N Lee St, Alexandria, VA 22314
- Venue Condominium - 925 N Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA 22314
- Volunteer Alexandria - 2202 Mt. Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301
- YMCA Alexandria - 420 E Monroe Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301
- Zweet Sport - 727 N Henry St, Alexandria, VA 22314

Volunteer Alexandria is a non-profit organization that serves as a link between volunteers and local area organizations in need of support. For more information: www.volunteeralxandria.org.



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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
GILES	8514	772	SINKING CREEK RD/RTE 772	SINKING CREEK	6/29/2023
LOUISA	11519	649	BYRD MILL RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	6/16/2023
CHARLOTTE	4966	701	THORNTONS MILL RD	CUB CREEK	6/12/2023
HALIFAX	9223	610	CRYSTAL HILL RD	LITTLE TERRIBLE CREEK	6/12/2023
LUNENBURG	11623	635	ORAL OAKS RD	BEAR ELEMENT CREEK	6/8/2023
GRAYSON	8733	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/7/2023
GRAYSON	8730	58	HIGHLANDS PKWY	CABIN CREEK	6/6/2023

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.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Monochrome Exhibit will be held at Multiple Exposures Gallery in Alexandria now thru July 31, 2023.

NOW THRU JULY 30

Hues Exhibit. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, Gallery 311 - Van Landingham Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Landingham Gallery presents Hues, a juried membership show featuring artworks that showcase artworks that emphasize bold and vibrant colors. The following artists are participating: Diana Papazian, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Abol Bahadori, Jon Kandel, Lynn Chadwick, Rebecca McNeely, Gregory Logan Dunn, Eileen O'Brien, and Andrea Cybyk. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, multimedia works, photography, mosaics, and embellished digital works. Additionally, the gallery offers small gifts, art cards, block-printed totes and tee shirts, and jewelry and unframed works by Tara Barr, Ileen Shefferman, Lisa Schumaier.

teenagers who discover and explore their sexual identities. This alternative rock musical is a timely and timeless story that invites audience members to reclaim the narrative surrounding the often taboo subjects of sexual education, love, and acceptance. Tickets will be available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

NOW THRU JULY 31

Monochrome Exhibit. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. Monochrome, a fine art photography exhibition juried by Sandy Sugawara, features monochrome images from 13 artists: Soomin Ham, Tim Hyde, Clara Young Kim, Irina Lawton, Sandy LeBrun-Evans, Matt Leedham, Francine B. Livaditis, Maureen Minehan, Van Pulley, Sarah Hood Salomon, Alan Sisen, Tom Sliter and Fred Zafran.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

40 Under 40 Celebration. 6-8 p.m. At the APTA Headquarters, 3030 Potomac Ave., Alexandria. Presented by the Jen Walker Team at the American Physical Therapy Association headquarters.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

JULY 24-28

Art Camp. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2023 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and other artful planned activities. During nice weather, campers will even have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. Choose July 17-21 or July 24-28; \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration at DelRayArtisans.org/art-camp

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 5

TUESDAY/JULY 25

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesdays @10. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria. Garden challenges? Extension Master Gardeners will show you simple steps to help with your container garden or your whole yard. Free. No registration necessary.

JULY 25-SEPT. 17

Captured: Plants and Places. 1-4 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Step into the world of plants across the region and in still life at a season-spanning photography exhibit July 25 to Sept. 17 at Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. The lyrical collection "Captured: Plants and Places" features botanical imagery drawn from the Washington area to Maine, including studio photos, intimate outdoor vignettes and landscape scenes. The photographers' varying visions and styles in color and black-and-white invite viewers to explore the wonder of wild and horticultural lands. An opening reception with the artists is July 30 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Atrium at Green Springs Gardens Horticultural Center.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Lesson Zero. 7 to 8 p.m. At Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The United States Park Service presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO for a free show. For additional information see: www.youtube.com/lessonzero and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

AUG. 4-26

The "Treasures of the DMV" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that celebrates the wonders of DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Come see famous and overlooked regional gems from the perspective of local artists. Opening Reception: Friday, August 4, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 27). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

AUG. 5, 2023

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at

Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

JULY

21 King Teddy (Swing)
28 The HalfSmokes (WHFS Playlists/Alternative Rock)

AUGUST

4 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena, Salsa)
11 Collaboration featuring Lori Williams (Jazz)
18 Crack The Sky (Rock)
25 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)

FRANCONIA NIGHTS

CONCERTS

Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

At Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

JULY

19 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
26 Silver Tones Swing Band (Swing Dance)

AUGUST

2 Pablo Perez El Alcalde de la Salsa (Salsa)
9 Alexandria Harmonizers (Chorus)
16 The Nighthawks (Blues)
23 Dave Kline Band (World Jazz Fusion)

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

WATERFRONT MUSIC SERIES

Free Concerts. Wednesdays from 4-7 p.m. At Old Town Alexandria waterfront. Join in the Waterfront Wednesday Music Series featuring a range of music genres by local musicians. Bring a chair or simply stop by to enjoy some beautiful waterside beats. Free. Weather permitting.

July 19 - Vaughn Ambrose and the SJE
July 26 - Amafujo's Moodswings
August 2 - Chris Barrick Vibes and Organ Trio
August 9 - Sol Roots
August 16 - Delta Spur

SUNDAY SOUNDS ON THE PROMENADE

Free Concerts. 11:30-1:30 p.m. At 7 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Yellow Door Music Concert Series presents a musical lineup of artists on select Sundays.

July 30 - Vaughn Ambrose Jazz Trio
Aug. 27 - Trifilio Tango Music

On Aug. 27, in honor of National Dog Day that weekend, Robinson Landing encourages individuals to bring their dog out for a yappy social for play and fun for your furry ones. The full event schedule of Robinson Landing programming is located at www.RobinsonLanding.com/WaterfrontEvents.

JULY 21-23

South Asian Music Festival. The DC South Asian Arts Council Inc, a non-profit arts organization, unveils the 1st ever DC South Asian Music Festival from July 21-23. From the soul-stirring classical vocal and instrumental masterpieces to the mesmerizing Sufi, Ghazal, and Evergreen Bollywood, it promises to be an unforgettable musical journey. Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, open the festival with their enchanting classical traditions on Friday, July 21. Saturday, July 22 starts with a Singing Competition, a showcase of exceptional local South Asian talent, taking the stage. On Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, the exceptional performances continue. Wheaton High School, 12401 Dalewood Dr, Silver Spring, MD 20906 For the full schedule, passes and tickets, visit <https://www.dcsaaci.org>

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.

JULY

Thu. 20: Tab Benoit w/ Anthony Rosana and the Conqueroos \$45.00
Fri. 21: Don McLean "American Pie 50th Anniversary Tour!" \$69.50
Sat. 22: Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50
Fri. 28: Anthony Brown & group therapy \$39.50
Sat. 29: MAYSA \$69.50
Sun. 30: The Stylistics \$65.00
Mon. 31: Joey McIntyre 'Solo Joe Tour' \$45.00

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NVSO Registration Is Open Over 70 Events Offered

Registration for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has opened online at www.nvso.us.

Over 70 events from track and field to croquet and bocce, to swimming and pickleball are on the two week schedule beginning Saturday, Sept. 9 and closing Sunday, Sept. 24. "There are also more than 10 indoor events such as 10 pin bowling, canasta, crossword puzzles, Mexican train dominoes and more," said Herb Levitan, NVSO chair.

Adults 50 years of age and older who live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions (cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William) are encouraged to see the full list of events on the website, www.nvso.us,

After each event, gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded. Most events are played in five or ten year age groups and by gender. The registration fee is \$20 for unlimited events. There are five events that require an additional fee: ten pin bowling; disc golf; cycling; 9 hole, 3 par golf; and orienteering. Members of the general public are welcome to observe those participating. For more information, email, nvso1982@gmail.com.

NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William. To date, 2023 Gold Patrons are Advanced Hearing Services; Aetna; Elancé Luxury Living; Facial Plastic Surgery Center; Goodwin Living; Greenspring Village; Hunters Woods at Trails Edge; The Jefferson; Retirement Unlimited; Sentara Health Plans; and Falcons Landing.

Obituary

Philip Johnson

May 6, 1941 - July 11, 2023



Philip Ronald Johnson passed away on Tuesday July 11th at Sharon Towers, in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 82.

Philip was born on May 6th, 1941, in Washington D.C. to Margaret Irene Heffron and Otis Hayward Johnson. He grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland and Sarasota, Florida. He graduated from St. Stephen's School in Alexandria, Virginia in 1958. After graduation, Philip attended Franklin and Marshall College until enlisting in the Army in 1961. He spent most of his service overseas in Stuttgart, Germany in the Army Intelligence Corp. When he returned from military duty in 1964, he married Suzanne Warfield whom he met in high school.

He soon followed in his father's footsteps and began working in the printing industry for Arrow Printing in Washington D.C. He continued in his printing career for over 20 years, culminating in the founding of Charter Printing Service in 1982, with two partners including Philip J. Boland. Charter Printing grew to become one of the premier printing companies in the Washington DC area, employing over 75 people at its peak.

During his time at Charter, Phil was very involved in a number of community, business and philanthropic endeavors in Alexandria and Washington, D.C.. He served as President of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, the Alexandria Rotary Club and the Printing Industry of Metropolitan Washington. He served on the boards of The Blue Ridge School, The Alexandria Red Cross and Inova Hospital.

He was very proud to be one of the original founders of the Woodchoppers Society, along with his brother-in-law, Courtland L. Warfield Jr. and his good friend John E. Williams. This group went on many exciting camping trips in Virginia, with Phil's son Thomas and Court's son Lee.

When at play Phil enjoyed sailing, playing golf and attending many ping pong parties that were held regularly among their wonderful group of friends in Alexandria. He and Suzanne also enjoyed many weekends and summers at their river house "Glebe Reach" in Lewisetta, Virginia. He loved having his children, Thomas and Liza, their spouses and his beloved granddaughters there as much as possible. The highlight for his granddaughters was to go with granddaddy for the daily trip to the dump, which always included a stop for candy afterwards.

Phil is survived by the love of his life, Suzanne. They met in 1957 while Phil was attending St. Stephens and Suzanne was at St. Agnes School. They have been devoted to each other for over 65 years and have been married for 58 years. Thomas and Liza recently had the opportunity to read over 500 love letters they wrote to each other, beginning in high school, through college and Phil's service in the Army. These letters serve as a testament of their commitment and love for one another that has endured for 65 years. Our family is so blessed and grateful to have these beautiful letters.

Phil is also survived by his children, Thomas (Julie), Liza Duncan (Lad), his four beautiful granddaughters Emily Bailey (James), Hannah Johnson, Frances Duncan and Lucy Duncan, and his great grandson Hart Hayward Bailey. He was preceded in death by his brother Otis Hayward Johnson, Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 pm on Thursday July 27th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314 with a reception following at St. Paul's. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to:

Sharon Towers
Office of Philanthropy
5100 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 282210

Their dedication to mom and dad has been immeasurable.

Obituary

Obituary

Obituary

Legals



Timothy "Tim" Allen Lutz of Alexandria, VA passed away peacefully on July 10, at 75 years of age. He was born June 12, 1948, in Canton, Ohio to the late Glenn and Jane (Myers) Lutz. Tim received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Baldwin Wallace College, and Master's Degree in Music from George Washington University. Beginning his 42-year educator career in the Alexandria City Public Schools in 1970, he served as director of Elementary bands, founding director of the Alexandria All-City Band, and the High School Director for Symphonic, Jazz, Pit Orchestra, and Marching bands.

With trombone as his specialty, he performed in the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, and donated his musical gifts to performing for church services and various ensembles. Becoming a Lutheran through marriage to his late wife Ginger, he was an active member of St Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA. He lived out his faith by supporting Lutheran Marriage Encounter, St. Mark's Sunday School, serving on and was President of the church council, and a member of the bell choir.

As a dedicated father and family man who supported the activities of his wife, sons, and grandchildren, he made time to visit and foster special relationships with distant family and friends. He was especially known for his humor and ability to make others laugh with his puns, "dad-jokes," and Donald Duck impressions.

Being a lung transplant recipient during his final years, his life was improved and extended to enjoy time with his family and friends, and continue to share his gifts. Our family wishes to express our heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and care our father received from the INOVA Fairfax medical staff over the past four years.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Virginia "Ginger" Speagle Lutz, and brother Phillip Lutz. He is survived by his two sons, Allen (Melissa & 1 grandchild) and Matthew (Katherine & 3 grandchildren), and sister-in-law Wilma Lutz.

Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 22, at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC. Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, August 19, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Springfield, VA. Memorial donations are welcomed in support of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society www.givenow.lls.org, and the Lupus Research Alliance www.lupusresearch.org. Online condolences and memories may be made at www.everlywheatley.com.

ABC LICENSE

Silverstone Alexandria Owner LLC trading as The Landing Alexandria, 2620 Main Line Blvd., Alexandria, VA 22301-3081. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Retail Wine and Beer On and Off Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tammy Cummings COO. Date notice posted at establishment: July 7, 2023. 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.

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Juliette Carolyn Brooks Herring

FROM PAGE 1

Brooks. She became curious about piano when she was visiting her cousin down the street and saw her taking lessons.

“Mom was struck by what she described as ‘the beauty’ and asked her mother for lessons,” Charniele Herring said. “She started playing at the age of 8 and never stopped. Indeed, in 1958 she enrolled at Tennessee State University and studied performance piano.”

Combining her passion for piano and love of children, Herring earned a B.S. in Music Education in less than four years and started her master’s studies before graduating Tennessee State University in 1962. She was also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

“Mom’s first job was in Tennessee, where she would travel in her pink and white 1958 Ford from school to school teaching children music,” Charniele Herring said. “The schools in which Mom taught were still segregated despite the Brown decision. Black students were impacted by segregation and lack of equal investments. Some of her students were still in one room schoolhouses and had no instruments. Mom had a small budget and salary and used most of these sources of funds to purchase instruments for her students.”

In 1963, Herring married Charles Herring and continued to teach music in schools that would hire “trailing spouses” -- partners of active-duty service members.

Herring became an advocate for former military spouses, working on Capitol Hill to secure benefits for spouses and children of service members. She proudly wore her button “We Served, We Deserve.” As a result of her work, the protections of the Uniform Services Former Spouses’ Protection Act and healthcare benefits for ex-spouses and children remain in place today.

“She was an unsung hero,” Charniele Herring said. “She never looked for recognition but she was always doing drives and getting supplies for military families. She never talked about it, she just saw something that needed to be done and did it.”

In addition to music, Herring loved to travel, taking road trips and jetting off to Scotland after she traced some of her roots back to the European country. She also enjoyed painting and dancing, often joining her daughter in dance classes until she was 75.

“One of her biggest joys was watching my brother play sports and travel around the country to see him play football for Duke University,” Charniele Herring said.

In addition to her daughter Charniele, Herring is survived by her son, Charles L. Herring Jr. MD, daughter-in-law Cynthia Mathis Herring MD, and grandchildren Cameron, Chandler and Crystin Herring.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, Aug. 17 at noon at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. In lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the George Mason University Juliette Carolyn Brooks Herring Memorial Scholarship Endowment. <https://advancement.gmu.edu/JCBH>

“The scholarship fund has been established to go to an undergraduate music education major, in need, who will follow in her steps bringing beauty, music and joy to children,” Charniele Herring said.

A reception will follow the Celebration of Life service.

“Mom had a great sense of humor,” Charniele Herring recalled of her mother. “She kept me laughing a lot but also kept me grounded. She was proud of my accomplishments but also let me know when my slip was showing. She always wanted to make sure I stayed on the right track. I will always carry with me her sense of purpose and working for the greater good.”

City Receives Planning Award

The City of Alexandria has received the 2023 Red Clay Development of the Year Award from the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Virginia) for its work on the redevelopment of the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Power Plant. The planning award recognizes the City’s proposal to transform the site from an underutilized brownfield into a sustainable, active community.

“The redevelopment of this site is about more than constructing buildings; it’s about building community,” said Mayor Justin Wilson. “This award reflects the hard work and vision of City staff and of the members of our community who have driven this process.”

APA Virginia’s annual Red Clay Award is presented to development projects that exhibit the values of great planning. This includes the creation of great places to live and work through infill development, building rehabilitation, brownfield redevelopment, downtown revitalization, and similar projects.

The City has worked with project developer and owner Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) to revitalize the shuttered coal-fired power plant site (formerly GenOn) and create a vibrant mixed-use development with more than five acres of open space, arts space, affordable housing, and a coordinated sustainability strategy. Since the beginning of 2021, the City and HRP have worked together, alongside members of the Alexandria community, to develop the design framework and other elements to bring these innovative plans forward.

“Hilco Redevelopment Partners is committed to transforming this extraordinary site into a sustainable redevelopment that will reinvigorate and reconnect the community to the waterfront in Old Town North while creating economic growth and opportunity,” said Roberto Perez, Chief Executive Officer of HRP.

For more information about the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Power Plant Redevelopment, visit the project webpage.

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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 been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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The Context Was Clothes



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of the mundane tasks that falls to the family members of a recently deceased person is what to do with his or her clothes – and when to do it. For my sister-in-law, Vanessa, the process was not as excruciating as with others I’ve known. Having lived in the same house for nearly 30 years, keeping my brother’s clothes in some sort of stasis as a means of honoring/memorializing his memory was not important to her. She has plenty of reminders of Richard. In fact, she has his ashes in an urn she keeps in the adjacent/Richard’s bedroom, the room where Vanessa discovered my brother lying on the floor that final morning of his life. The room where Vanessa performed CPR on him while a 911 operator instructed her what to do. Can you imagine?

It was in this room, on his bed, where Vanessa had laid our Richard’s summer wardrobe for me to pick through. While I hesitated, Vanessa assured me, as I would have guessed, that Richard would have wanted me to have these hand-me-downs-of-his-lifetime. And though it felt awkward trying on his pants, shirts, shorts, shoes, et cetera, it sort of felt cathartic in a way wearing things I had seen him wear. It also provided some light moments as we all joked about how much clothing he had accumulated.

Another predictable task for survivors is to find and organize old photographs of the deceased. Eventually, after the period of grieving has passed, looking through the old photographs conjures up more pleasant memories as the pain of loss begins to subside and you eke out a smile or two. It’s an important transition suggesting that there is a future after all, despite this tragedy.

Before we arrived, Vanessa had been going through some old boxes and found a newspaper article about my father. He was 69 and a half and nine months or so away from retirement. On Richard’s bedside table lay a brown 5 x 7 manilla envelope. I opened the envelope, per Vanessa’s encouragement and there was a folded edition of the Middlesex News, the local community newspapers from Framingham, Ma., where my parents had lived for 17 years before retiring to Florida. Across the top, I could read the faded and yellowing date: Feb. 18, 1989. I opened the fold and in black and white saw a picture of my father sitting at his desk in their Framingham appointment holding one of his many jewelry sample cases. The headline above his picture? “Turning Gray to Green.” The article was about the “financial clout” seniors had – as a specific market for advertisers and businesses’ to target, and a lucrative one at that.

It was a rather lengthy article, nearly have a page in a broadsheet on the inside with my father’s picture on the outside beneath which was “captioned” “Barry Lourie at his Framingham home.” He was one of six “elders” interviewed/quoted in the article. As I read through the article, I took notice of my father’s quotes. As I read – and reread his quotes, I could almost hear him talking. In addition, I was focused as well on his words/speech patterns trying to glean any familiar jargon or speech pattern, as my father had a unique way of expressing himself. Reading him speak like that was time-travelling for me. It was the first time I had heard his voice/read his words since his death on Dec. 3rd, 2006, nearly 17 years ago. I only wish my brother and I could have shared this feeling together. Interacting with my father like this was like a gift from God, and so unexpected. This jolt of a memory transported me back in time. It occurred while I was sifting through my recently deceased brother’s clothes. Go figure. I’ve often heard it said that clothes make the man. In this experience, clothes made the memory, and a memory I will cherish forever. Almost as if my brother’s premature death was not totally in vain.

It has just so happened that a couple of good things have come from Richard’s death. None more important than the reconnection I shared with my father.

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

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