

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

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DECEMBER 14, 2023

Let the Games Begin **Monumental move: Caps, Wizards heading to Potomac Yard.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin was joined by officials from the City of Alexandria, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, and JBG SMITH as he announced the framework of an agreement for a public-private partnership to create a \$2 billion Entertainment District in Potomac Yard that will include new homes for the NHL's Washington Capitals and the Washington Wizards of the NBA.

"Alexandria's ability to attract this ambitious project is a direct result of the success of previous investments made in Potomac Yard and across our city," said Mayor Justin Wilson. "Our City Manager Jim Parajon led a talented team, working hand-in-hand with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, to bring us this opportunity. A project this special will help the City realize our collective strategy and the vibrant vision for this neighborhood and for our city as a whole."

In addition to a new arena for the Capitals and Wizards, the new district will be home to the business headquarters of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, an expanded esports facility, a performing arts venue and new retail, restaurant and conference spaces. Assuming the proposal receives the necessary approvals, ground could break on construction in 2025 and the teams would move to Virginia in 2028.

According to the city's press release, the project is expected to catalyze economic growth, generating 30,000 jobs and an economic impact of \$12 billion over the next several decades. This includes millions of dollars over the project term to create affordable housing, offer rental and homeownership assistance, and to invest in transportation improvements and education.

"This exciting new project is the result of decades of thoughtful long-term strategic planning and a clear vision for growth across Alexandria," said Alexandria



IMAGES/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

A rendering of the planned entertainment district in Potomac Yard.

Economic Development Partnership President and CEO Stephanie Landrum. "From the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus to the new Potomac Yard-VT Metro Station, Alexandria has created the ideal environment and location for this exciting project."

The project will be adjacent to the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in the Alexandria portion of National Landing. It will expand Monumental's presence in Northern Virginia, where the company already has its Capitals' practice facility in Arlington, and support more than 650 jobs, 221 events a year, and 180 global partners and

sponsors.

"The proposed Monumental Campus represents a transformative step forward for our fans, our company, and the entire DMV region," said Monumental Sports & Entertainment CEO Ted Leonsis. "I have always believed there is a higher calling in sports — to unify our community, build a lasting legacy over multiple generations, and lift all our neighbors towards a shared sense of prosperity. Today, we deepen that commitment as we enter a phase of rapid expansion in service to our fans, employees, and partners."

The \$2 billion investment will be

supported through bonds issued by the proposed Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority, as well as contributions from MSE. The bonds will be repaid through annual rent paid by MSE, incremental taxes generated by the facility, parking fees, and district naming rights. Monumental and the City of Alexandria will also contribute \$56 million each toward the construction of the performing arts venue. No existing taxes will be used to support the project, and there are no proposed tax increases for local residents.

The development would total approximately 9 million square

feet with the arena to be constructed on a currently unoccupied 12-acre site between the Metro entrance and the first phase of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus.

The site is owned by JBG SMITH and its joint venture partner and will be sold to a proposed Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority.

JBG SMITH serves as the master developer of approximately 55 acres surrounding the project with a total potential development of approximately 8.1 million square feet, of which JBG SMITH owns approximately 1.5 million square feet.

In 2018, Amazon selected National Landing for its second headquarters after conducting an extensive North American search. In June of this year, Amazon unveiled its 2.1 million square foot headquarters and has hired more than 8,000 employees to date in the region.

Alexandria will begin a community engagement process, including a series of community meetings and workshops, which will kick off in early 2024. Additional project information will be shared over the coming weeks, and interested residents can visit monumentalALX.com to sign up to receive updates.



A map of the proposed entertainment district in Potomac Yard.



1117 N Gaillard Street



607 S Saint Asaph Street



801 N Fairfax Street #309 *



509 N Owen Street



804 Parkway Terrace



304 N Pitt Street *



1512 Shenandoah Road



2151 Jamieson Avenue #1601 *



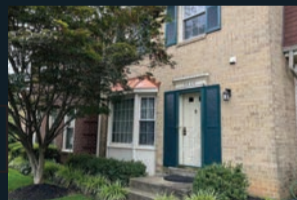
4110 Whispering Lane *



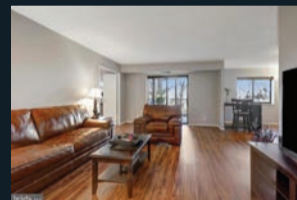
427 S Fairfax Street



4625 36th Street, S #B *



5606 Castlebury Court *



5903 Mount Eagle Drive #206 *



9379 Braymore Circle *



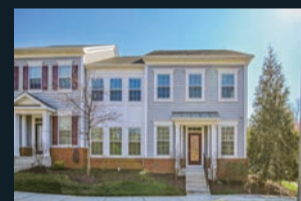
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1318 Duke Street #12



1515 Woodbine Street



3570 Huntley Manor



4606 34th Street



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whose loyalty made 2023 a wonderful year.

- JULIAN BURKE

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‘Freedom Is Not Free’

Youngkin honors local Vietnam heroes Davis and McDaniel.

“Thank you again for reminding all of us that freedom is not free.”

— Gov. Glenn Youngkin in honor of Col. Paris Davis and Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel



Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin, center, stands with Navy Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel (ret) and Army Col. Paris Davis (ret) at the dedication of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke. Davis and McDaniel, both Alexandria residents, are highly decorated Vietnam War veterans.



Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin, center, is joined by Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel, Col. Paris Davis, Commissioner for Virginia Department of Veterans Services Daniel Gade and other dignitaries in preparing to cut the ribbon on the renamed Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel, left, and Col. Paris Davis stand beneath the new sign in their honor at the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Gov. Glenn Youngkin addresses the crowd at the renaming of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



The Virginia Military Institute Honor Guard presents the colors at the Dec. 12 Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center renaming ceremony in Roanoke.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Two of Alexandria’s most decorated Vietnam veterans — Navy Capt. Eugene “Red” McDaniel and Medal of Honor recipient Army Col. Paris Davis — were honored by Gov. Glenn Youngkin as the Virginia Veterans Care Center was renamed the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.

“Hero is a word that is oftentimes overused but today is a word that is wholly inadequate to describe the men that this beautiful facility going forward will be

named,” Youngkin said in addressing the crowd. “Today we honor two incredible souls who across war and conflict defined victory with their unwavering courage.”

Youngkin and other state and local officials, including Mount Vernon resident and Commissioner of Virginia Department of Veterans Services Daniel Gade, were on hand to cut the ribbon officially renaming the center that was first opened in 1992.

“Virginia’s veterans landed on D-Day, they fought in the trenches of Korea, the jungles and camps of Vietnam and the sands of Iraq,” said Gade, a disabled veteran of the war in Iraq. “Today we are

gathered to honor two very special Virginia veterans. I feel a special kinship with them as soldiers wounded in battle share a fellowship of suffering that the uninitiated cannot comprehend.”

Gade shared the heroic stories of Medal of Honor recipient Davis and Vietnam War POW McDaniel, his voice breaking as he recalled their gallantry in combat.

“If one hero wasn’t enough, today we honor two,” Gade said. “My admiration for Eugene ‘Red’ McDaniel goes back to when a 12-year-old me read, read again and reread his book Scars and Stripes. Those stories stuck with
SEE YOUNKING HONORS, PAGE 8



Daniel Gade, Commissioner for Virginia Department of Veterans Services and a resident of the Mount Vernon area, speaks at the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.

LIVING LEGENDS

Nelson Greene Jr. A voice against injustice leaves a legacy of service.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

In the 1950s, being “progressive” may not have had the same meaning as it does today. But it stood for taking a stance, and that was the spirit of Nelson Greene Jr., a founding member of the Departmental Progressive Club who took a stance throughout his lifetime in Alexandria and got things done.

His voice against injustice in Alexandria went a long way and through that, he righted a few wrongs along the way, including his service at the club, three terms on the Alexandria City School Board and work as an adjunct professor in the Mortuary Science program at the University of the District of Columbia. The Departmental Progressive Club works frequently with Carpenter’s Shelter and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to provide food to many of the area families.

In 1954, his father Nelson Greene Sr. started the Greene Funeral Home with his wife Gloria. Greene Jr. took over after his father’s death in November of 2014. Although he had a tough exterior, friends knew him as a big old teddy bear.

“Nelson had the biggest heart and was the most giving person I knew,” said Mer-

rick Malone, who served as an officer with Greene at the Departmental Progressive Club. “He was an incredible asset not just to our club but to the entire city. He comes from a tremendous family legacy and he advanced that legacy but he was never in anyone’s shadow. He created his own legacy.”

Greene briefly attended Parker-Gray High School before graduating from what is now Duke Ellington High School in Washington. He spent three years serv-

“Nelson loved the City of Alexandria. He did what he could to make the city the best it could be.”

— Donita Greene

ing as an officer in the U.S. Army before returning to Alexandria to work in the family business.

“Nelson loved the City of Alexandria,”



PHOTO COURTESY LIVING LEGENDS OF ALEXANDRIA

Nelson Greene Jr. was selected as a 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria.

said Donita Greene, his wife of nearly 25 years. “He did what he could to make the city the best it could be.”

Greene received his Mortuary Science education from John Tyler Community College in Chester, Va., and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia State College.

Greene was well-known for his dedicated service in the funeral industry as well as to the many organizations he served in the community.

He served as National President of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity and chapter president, as chairman of the Life Membership committee and District Governor of National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, and on the Scholarship Committee and State President of Virginia Morticians Association, as well as Chairman of the Board.

When Greene was a member of the school board he supported the various sports programs as a way for high school students to have a good start and to know the value of teamwork. One thing he did was to make sure all athletes maintained a C average at school. This didn’t go over well with some

of the parents but he stood by his rule and in the end, everyone benefited.

Greene also supported the talent shows at school as another way for the students to express themselves. Mentoring young men was a big part of his efforts, and he hoped they would become the next police and firemen in the city.

He was a member of Meade Episcopal Church, where served as Licensed Lay Preacher. He also served as Junior Warden eight other times, and as Senior Warden three times. He was a life member of Omega Psi Phi since 1974.

“Nelson served this community in all kinds of capacities,” added Malone. “Some people may have thought he was gruff but he was never afraid to be a voice against injustice. He was very forceful and a champion in that.”

The Greene Funeral Home is located on Franklin Street between South Washington and South Patrick Streets and the city is considering naming one of the side streets after Greene to uphold the legacy that he and his family have instilled in the City of Alexandria. Donita Greene said this was in the works and is hoping it comes to fruition soon.

Said Donita Greene, “Nelson truly wanted to do whatever he could to help the people in his community.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Man Charged with Murder

The Alexandria Police Department has charged Bisrat Shaga, a 35-year-old Alexandria resident, with first-degree murder in the Nov. 12 stabbing death of a man in the 2700 block of Dewitt Avenue, who was identified as Emmanuel Negatu, 38, of Centreville, Va.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at approximately 4:27 p.m., the Alexandria Police Department responded to a call regarding a stabbing. Upon arrival, APD officers found a 38-year-old male who died inside the location.

This remains an active investigation and the Alexandria Police Department is asking that anyone with information regarding this incident please contact Detective M. Kramarik via phone at 703.746.6650, email at Matthew.Kramarik@Alexandriava.gov, or call our non-emergency line at 703.746.4444. Tips can be anonymous.

Book Themed Dinners to Raise Funds for Scholarships

A new round of Tables of Conscience, book-themed dinners, are planned to raise money for the 2024 scholarships in the names of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas. These dinners will be held in January and February in order to raise the amount needed by March 1, 2024 for two scholarships worth \$3,000 each for two African American Alexandria City High School students.

Three Alexandria Community Remembrance Project members have volunteered to host dinners in their homes for 8-12 people from 6-9 p.m. Those interested in attending will select one of the books listed below and buy a ticket through the Office of Historic Alexandria’s

online ticket system. About a week before the dinner, ticket holders will receive an email with the name and address of the hosts.

Consider buying a \$125 ticket based on a book you would like to read and join other Alexandria Community Remembrance Project members to discuss one of these racial justice topics. The book is not included in the ticket price and should be purchased separately from a local bookstore. Consider giving the gift of a social justice experience this holiday season by buying a ticket and a book for someone else.

If you are unable to attend one of the dinners, you can still support the Memorial Scholarships by donating through the campaign page with the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

For Jan. 13, the book is “Slavery By Another Name, the Reenslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II,” By Douglas A. Blackmon.

For Feb. 3, the book is “It’s the Little Things, Everyday Interactions that Anger, Annoy and Divide the Races,” By Lena Williams.

For Feb. 10, the book is, “The Half That Has Never Been Told: Slavery and American Capitalism, by Edward E. Baptist.

No Turn on Red for High-Crash Corridor?

The City of Alexandria is proposing to install No Turn on Red restrictions at several intersections on Duke Street between North Ripley Street and Jordan Street:

- Duke Street and North Ripley Street
- Duke Street and South Reynolds Street
- Duke Street and North Paxton Street
- Duke Street and South Pickett Street
- Duke Street and Shoppes of Foxchase entrance

No Turn on Red restrictions are already in place at Duke Street and North Pickett Street/Cameron Station Boulevard and Duke Street and Jordan Street.

The proposal is part of the Duke Street Turn Calming project to implement near-term safety improvements on Duke Street, which is one of the City’s high-crash corridors. Since 2017, there have been over 150 crashes on Duke Street between Jordan Street and Ripley Street, over a third of which resulted in a fatality or an injury. All 14 crashes involving people walking resulted in injury or death. Improving safety on the City’s high-injury network is key to meeting its adopted Vision Zero goal of eliminating fatal and severe crashes by 2028.

No Turn on Red restrictions are a common treatment nationwide to improve safety for people walking. NTORs also increase safety for people in cars by reducing the risk of angle crashes from drivers attempting to turn right on red. In Alexandria, over 20% of the City’s approximately 250 signalized intersections feature No Turn on Red restrictions, including on similarly busy corridors like Richmond Highway, Washington Street, North Beauregard Street, and other parts of Duke Street.

The proposed No Turn on Reds would be accompanied by Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs), a traffic signal treatment that improves safety by giving people walking a head start into the intersection, before motorists receive the green light. This project also includes the addition of left-turn arrows at select locations as well as turn-calming treatments to slow turning speeds, reduce crossing distances, and improve safety for drivers making left turns.

This Vision Zero initiative is one of many projects to achieve the vision that Duke Street “become a safe, efficient, and desirable community connector for people riding the bus, walking, biking, and driving.” See the Duke Street Projects website to learn more about the other initiatives.

The proposed No Turn on Red restrictions will be presented to the City’s Traffic & Parking Board for a public hearing on Jan. 22, 2024. Additional information is available on the project webpage.



The Sentimental Journey Singers, a choral program for singers with early to mid-stage cognitive change and their care partners, perform at the Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium's annual caregivers conference Nov. 10 at Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE



Lauren Elcesser of ElderLink and Tammi Cave of Fairfax County Family Services' at the 37th annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium's caregivers conference Nov. at Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville.

Dementia Care Consortium

37th annual conference supports caregivers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Hundreds of attendees turned out for the Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium's 37th annual caregivers conference, the largest dementia conference in the region specifically for family members and professional caregivers of those with memory decline.

Held Nov. 10 at Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville, the sold-out conference focused on the theme, When Caregiving Calls: Building a Framework for Resilience, and featured Aaron Blight, Ed.D., as keynote speaker.

Blight is the founder of Caregiving Kinetics and has been recognized as a "Top 100 Healthcare Leader" by the International Forum on Advancements in Healthcare.

Founded in 1986, the Northern Virginia De-

mementia Care Consortium provides educational resources for caregivers who provide care and support at home or in a facility. Sponsors included Goodwin Living, AARP of Virginia, ACC Family & Akota, LionHeart ElderCare & Consulting, Retirement Unlimited, Synergy Home Care and GraceFul Care, who provided free home care services for caregivers to attend the conference.

The Sentimental Journey Singers, a choral program for singers with early to mid-stage cognitive change and their care partners, performed at the conference under the direction of Dr. Mary Ann East, the director of arts for life with Encore Creativity for Older Adults.

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PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



VFW Post 609 Commander Gerald Krueger, left, presents a check for \$1,200 to Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria Gretchen Bulova to kick off a fundraising campaign Dec. 4 to add names to the War Dead Monument at Union Station. Also pictured are co-contributor and VFW Post 609 Auxiliary member Jessica Krueger and Office of Historic Alexandria staff member Mary Bramley.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

VFW Post 609 kicks off fundraising campaign for War Dead Monument.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The coalition of Alexandria Area Veterans Service Organizations formally kicked off a campaign to raise funds for the city's War Dead Monument as Gerald Krueger and his wife Jessica, Commander and Auxiliary member of VFW Post 609, presented a check for \$1,200 to Gretchen Bulova, the Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria Dec. 4 at the monument located at Union Station.

"The War Dead Monument was completed and dedicated by VFW Post 609 and the City of Alexandria in a huge ceremony on Veterans Day in 1940," said Krueger, who is spearheading the fundraising campaign. "Over 2,500 attended the dedication, which included the installation of the American flag pole and a ribbon cutting for the monument itself."

An inscription indicates that the monument was "Erected in Memory of Alexandria War Dead." At that time, the nation had engaged in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I.

A plaque at the site lists the names of 27 Alexandrians who died in WWI with a duplicate plaque on the wall at Gadsby's Tavern outside the entrance to American Legion Post 24. Krueger and the VSO committee are looking to add the names of those who fought and died in conflicts up to and including the Vietnam War.

"This monument was dedicated about a year before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941," Krueger said. "Thus, it seems that for more than 80 years we as veterans and the City of Alexandria have not

added a plaque to honor those Alexandrians who died fighting in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War."

Joining VFW Post 609 in the fundraising drive are American Legion Posts 24 and 1775 and the Association of the U.S. Navy Kenyon Anderson Chapter. Members of the Military Officers Association of America Mount Vernon Chapter and the Nelly Custis Chapter of the Daughters of the American

Revolution have pledged financial support, as has the Alexandria Cub Scouts Pack 301.

Bulova and the Office of Historic Alexandria will help verify any names to be added to future plaques.

"The rightful names of those lost in WWII will require some due diligence since it seems the National Archives mixed and matched the 'home of record' addresses of many local vets mixing up Alexandria and Arlington," Krueger said. "And our historians indicate there may be fewer than 10 names for the Korean War Alexandrians."

As such, the first plaque will honor the 68 local veterans who died or are still missing in action from the Vietnam War. Those names have been well researched and documented by Kevin Rue and the Friends of Rocky Versace organization for the Rocky Versace Memorial Plaza in Del Ray.

"We have assured ourselves that we have the correct 68 names of those Alexandria veterans and intend to place the first additional plaque listing their names at the 1940 monument on Memorial Day of 2024," Krueger said.

For more information or to learn how to donate, email Krueger at JerryKrueger@aol.com. The City of Alexandria will issue tax deductible receipts to donors.

"For more than 80 years we have not added a plaque to honor those who died fighting in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War."

— VFW Post 609 Commander Gerald Krueger



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Hanukkah

A group celebrates the fifth night of Hanukkah Dec. 12 at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square. Known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah 2023 began Dec. 7 and ends Dec. 15.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program

will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>

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

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community,

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Christmas Plea: Affordable Housing for All

BY KEARY KINCANNON

As the holiday season descends upon us, our hearts are naturally drawn to tales of compassion, kindness, and the spirit of giving. It is during this festive time that we reflect on the age-old story of Mary and Joseph, seeking refuge on that fateful night in Bethlehem, only to find no room in the inn. The echoes of that desperate search for shelter resonate eerily close to home in Fairfax County, where the pressing need for affordable housing has become an urgent call to action.

According to Fairfax County School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders, there are currently 1,000 homeless children enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools. These are young souls facing the harsh reality of not having a place to call home, a situation that is not unlike the plight of Mary and Joseph all those centuries ago. What will their Christmas be like in the shelters, motels, and homeless encampments where they lay their heads at night for sleep?

Michael is a young man navigating the harsh reality of finding himself homeless and on the streets of Fairfax County. He finds solace and sustenance at Rising Hope Mission Church where he comes for lunch every day and seeks assistance in securing a place to live. He is energetic and resourceful, working two jobs in the retail service industry. He is not unlike many in our community who work hard (often more than full time) yet cannot afford a place to rent. According to the County's Rental Housing Summary, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,755 a month, requiring an hourly wage of \$33.75. Michael is fortunate to make half that salary. His story is a testament to the struggles faced by many in our community who can find "no room in the inn" of Fairfax's affordable housing supply.

While the County has made some recent progress with the opening of 700 new units of affordable housing at North Hill (Mount Vernon), Ovation at Arrowbrook (Dranesville), and Oakwood (Franconia), and the 500 units in the pipeline at Dominion Square West (Hunter Mill), the magnitude of the need is staggering. The Board of Supervisors has set a commendable goal of establishing 10,000 new units of affordable housing



by 2034. However, the harsh reality is that as many as 31,000 units are needed immediately to address the current needs of our community members like Michael and the children in our public schools.

This holiday season, we must open our hearts to the urgent need for affordable housing throughout Fairfax County. It is our moral duty to urge the County Board of Supervisors and our legislators in Richmond to take decisive action on three crucial fronts:

Increase the Supply of Affordable Housing: The demand for affordable housing is overwhelming, and we must respond with an increased supply. It is essential to accelerate the development of new, affordable housing units to provide refuge for those in need.

Increase Funding for Affordable Housing: A dedicated commitment to funding is crucial for the success of any affordable housing initiative. By significantly increasing funding, especially through a robust housing trust fund, we can ensure that the financial resources are in place to support those in need. Fairfax County needs to increase its commitment to affordable housing to two cents on every real estate tax dollar. And the General Assembly in Richmond needs to add \$150 million to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund as recommended by the Virginia Housing Alliance.

Preserve Existing Units of Affordable Housing: As we strive to build new housing units, we must also prioritize the preservation of existing affordable housing. This entails preventing the displacement of vulnerable communities and maintaining the affordability of current housing stock.

This holiday season, let us not

only exchange gifts and gather with loved ones but also extend our compassion to those less fortunate. By advocating for increased affordable housing, we can embody the true spirit of Christmas and ensure that everyone in Fairfax County has a warm and secure place to call home. As we gather around our festive

tables, may our hearts be moved to create a brighter future for all our neighbors in need.

Rev. Kincannon is the Founding Pastor and Pastor Emeritus of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church on the Route One Corridor. He has served on the Fairfax County Governing Board

to Prevent and End Homelessness and currently serves on the County's Affordable Housing Advisory Council and the Steering Committee of Ventures in Community – an interfaith coalition in Mount Vernon. This article reflects his views and not necessarily the positions of the committees on which he serves.

DEL RAY ARTISANS HOLIDAY MARKET

2023

Dec. 1 – 3 | Dec. 8 – 10 | Dec. 15 – 17

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Youngkin Honors Local Vietnam Heroes Davis and McDaniel

FROM PAGE 3

me and have inspired me for nearly 40 years. And in my own darkest hour, when I was maimed and broken in war, I turned to your inspiration.

I prayed with the same fervency to the same great God. I was able to bear up under unspeakable pain because you'd done it before me. Men like you and Col. Davis inspired me then and you inspire me now and it is our honor to name this care center after you."

Youngkin read the Medal of Honor citation for Davis, saying "Heroes like Col. Paris D. Davis remind us that it takes just one to stand, one to lead through service, one whose deeds inspire many."

Said Davis in his remarks, "The name of the veterans center is not about me. It is about the commitment we have shared to support our veterans. This center is a testament to the value we hold dear, the love that we have for America and those who serve to protect our country and who have dedicated their lives to the principle of duty and honor."

In addition to the ribbon cutting, the ceremony featured the presentation of plaques to Davis and McDaniel.

"I am humbled and honored at such a high level for this building to be named after me," McDaniel said. "If I had known 50 years ago when I ejected into the jungles of North Vietnam that God was going to use my story in these ways it would have been a much easier ride.

Thank you Governor Youngkin and Commissioner Gade, a man who has given much more than I for his country."

Operated by the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center has 224 beds and provides



Gov. Glenn Youngkin, right, congratulates Col. Paris Davis at the renaming ceremony of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel gives an interview after the renaming of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Regan Davis Hopper with her father Col. Paris Davis Dec. 12 in Roanoke.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Col. Paris Davis gives media interviews following the renaming of the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel poses for a photo with members of the VMI Honor Guard Dec. 12 in Roanoke.

on-site laboratory work, X-rays, physical therapy, podiatry care and many other health care services. It is located next door to the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center. "Colonel Davis, Captain McDaniel

thank you for loving our country," Youngkin said. "Thank you for demonstrating what selfless ser-

vice means. And thank you again for reminding all of us that freedom is not free."



Commissioner Daniel Gade, center, poses with fellow Alexandria residents Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel and Col. Paris Davis Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Col. Paris Davis poses for a photo with staff at the newly renamed Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center Dec. 12 in Roanoke.



Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel with members of his family Dec. 12 in Roanoke.

COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Isis shares the story of Kwanzaa Dec. 9 at the Alexandria Black History Museum.

Kwanzaa

Black History Museum holds “how to Kwanzaa” workshop.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Black History Museum hosted its annual Kwanzaa “How-To Workshop” Dec. 9, teaching attendees the origins, concepts, practices and foods of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa is a seven-day cultural celebration that begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1. The celebration was created in 1966 by Maulana Ndabezitha Karenga, a Maryland native who designed the celebration as a way for African Americans to reaffirm their heritage and culture and their bonds to one another as a community.

Karenga chose the Swahili word “Kwanzaa,” meaning “first fruits of the harvest,” to identify the celebration and to express seven principles that came from the African American value system for life: Unity (Umoja), Self-Determination (Kujichagulia), Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima), Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa), Purpose (Nia), Creativity (Kuumba), and Faith (Imani)

Cathy Riddick described the meaning of the various Kwanzaa principles and symbols before lighting www.connectionnewspapers.com



Cathy Riddick lights the Kinara and describes the meaning of the Kwanzaa symbols Dec. 9 at the Black History Museum.

the Kinara, a seven-pronged candle holder. Isis told the story of Kwanzaa, which was followed by crafts and activities.







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Reenactor Matthew Devor, seated, is surrounded by fellow cannoneers of the 1st Connecticut Light during the Civil War Christmas in Camp Dec. 9 at Fort Ward Museum.



Reenactor John Favors with traditional Christmas desserts at the Civil War Christmas in Camp Dec. 9 at Fort Ward Museum.

Christmas in Camp Fort Ward program highlights Civil War traditions.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The popular Civil War Christmas in Camp program returned to Fort Ward Museum Dec. 9, featuring reenactors in winter camp settings and period Christmas decorations.

The program highlights how Christmas was observed during the Civil War with interactive and living history displays throughout the camp.

“The best way to learn about history is to live it,” said John Favors, a reenactor cannoneer of the 1st Connecticut Light. “This is a living history unit and since Christmas was a special time during the war

“The best way to learn about history is to live it.”
— Civil War reenactor John Favors

we are trying to show what it was like here at the fort.”

A Civil War-era Union Santa Claus, based on an 1863 cover of Harper’s Weekly by artist Thomas Nast, was on hand to greet visitors, who were able to tour the reconstructed Officers’ Hut and visit with soldiers in camp.



Adrian Swart with a decorated Virginia cedar tree at the Civil War Christmas in Camp Dec. 9 at Fort Ward Museum.

“We are here to pay homage to the men and the women who served here defending the nation’s capital during the Civil War,” said Matthew Devor, who portrayed a Sergeant of the Peace of the 1st

Connecticut Light. “We are just enjoying our Christmas here in camp.”

Reenactors interpreted army life in winter camps that were decorated for the season, and celebrated



Visitors enter the headquarters of Santa Claus during the Civil War Christmas in Camp Dec. 9 at Fort Ward Museum.

by opening Christmas boxes from home, singing carols of the period around the campfire, and preparing holiday meals.

Fort Ward is the best preserved of the Union forts in the extensive

system known as the Defenses of Washington. The Museum offers exhibits and public programs throughout the year.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard>



DECEMBER IS PUPPY MILL AWARENESS MONTH IN VIRGINIA!

Puppy mills are dog breeding operations that put profit over the health and well-being of the dogs

GRAPHIC COURTESY VIRGINIA PAWSITIVITY INITIATIVE

Calling for awareness of poor breeding operations in States which source to pet stores in the Commonwealth, Virginia's General Assembly declared December Puppy Mill Awareness Month. Beginning in December 2020, the awareness provides an opportunity for companion animal advocates to remind consumers to be alert to pet sources where breeding and living conditions can not be seen. Virginia's strict breeding requirements have driven large commercial breeding operations from the state, to less regulated regions. Those puppies and kittens are transported for sale in Virginia pet stores.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volun-

ter.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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



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
CARROLL	4780	881	CROSS CREEK RD/ RTE 881	LITTLE REED ISLAND CR #2	11/14/2023
MONTGOMERY	28886	314	DUCK PON DR/ RTE 314	STROUBLES CREEK	11/9/2023
PATRICK	13342	677	WILLIS GAP RD/ RTE 677	EAST FORK JOHNSON CREEK	10/27/2023

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.

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Minimalist Holiday Décor, a la Frank Lloyd Wright

The Pope-Leighey House.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

A three-car, Lionel model electric train with a red caboose buzzes around a 28-inch-diameter track under the six-foot Christmas tree decorated with gleaming vintage glass ornaments. Bing Crosby croons “Silver Bells” from a 33, long-playing record spinning on a turquoise, 1950s replica record player.

For the first time ever, the Pope-Leighey House at Woodlawn, a house designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is featuring mid-20th-century holiday decorations like those of the historic home’s former owners.

In keeping with the house’s style, the holiday décor is uncluttered and simple, by many standards, today’s and Victorian era, for example. No plastic Santas or glittery snowflakes. No bulging mistletoe balls with shiny trailing ribbons. The tree in the living room, standing where former residents, the Leigheys, put it has about 30 glass ornaments, most of them round, tennis-ball size. The children’s bedroom is brightened with colorful, handmade construction paper chains stretched out just below the ceiling. Outside, period lights line the carport and overhang.

In the office, from a 1950s-1960s, sparkly silver tinsel tree, topped with a red bow, dangle more glass ornaments.

“It is a Space Age tree,” explains Shawn Halifax, Woodlawn’s Executive Director, and some celebrants in its day put a color wheel under it to reflect the glass ornaments.

The minimal decorations are consistent with Wright’s design, a practical, minimalist house. Wright thought that “Americans had too much clutter,” said Amanda Roper, Senior Manager of Public Programs and Interpretation. The house has little storage space so the owners could not store large accumulations.

Roper explained that because curators had few records and no photographs of the former residents’ decorations, the staff researched popular trends of the 1950s and 1960s. She gleaned some facts from the residents’ descendants. The second owners were Robert and Marjorie Leighey. A grandson of Marjorie’s niece remembered the Lionel train under the tree. Another descendant identified the tree’s location.

The original owners of the

To Visit

Visit <http://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org>. Holiday tours, Fridays and Saturday evenings, until December 16. Reservations recommended.

house, Lauren and Charlotte Pope, decorated with greenery, probably pine and holly branches from their Falls Church, 1.3-acre, woodsy lot, the house’s original location. They lived there between 1942 and 1949 and bought their son a train.

“It feels like a home,” said Roper. “Many people can relate to it. People can explore the time period and its aesthetic.” Comparing it to other historic sites or traditional house museums that are often heavily decorated for the holidays, “It can be nostalgic for some people,” she said. “It’s something different.”

The House’s History

The Pope-Leighey house is one of the famed architect’s Usonian houses, designed to be affordable, middle-class housing. Lauren Pope could not afford a typical Wright home, going then for around \$650,000 in today’s dollars. Pope, a journalist, asked Wright to design a house for \$5,500, equivalent to \$86,000 today. It ended up costing \$7,000, including the furniture and Wright’s fee.

The house, at 1,200 square feet, has two bedrooms and one bath on one floor. It’s made of bricks, wood, concrete and glass with no drywall, paint or plaster. “The entire house is a study in horizontality, with its flat, cantilevered roof, horizontal board-and-batten walls and built-in bookcases with no vertical support beams,” wrote Lauren Walsler in a 2017 Preservation Magazine article.

Much of the interior is made of natural, honey-colored, cypress wooden planks. Wright did not want the interior to be a series of boxy rectangles. The central living-dining area is an open-floor plan, a combined library and living room with a table for meals or games. Clearstory windows make rooms feel bigger. The kitchen is intended for use by one person.

Wright integrated furniture into the home’s design, to make it blend in and not dominate a space. He designed the beds to be low and without box springs. The doorknobs are unusually high, a



A vintage tree ornament.



The silver tinsel tree in the study.



A 1950s telephone.

form of childproofing, again, the practical touch.

Wright sought to “build with nature rather than against it,” he said, so he included floor-to-ceiling windows leading to an outdoor patio connecting the inside to nature. To enhance affordability, Wright’s design has no gutters, basement, garage or attic.

Robert and Marjorie Leighey lived in the house from 1947 to 1983. The living room was smack in the path of a planned expansion of Interstate 66, so Mrs. Leighey gave the property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to save it. The Trust moved it to Woodlawn in 1964 and granted her life-time tenancy. She lived there until her death in 1983. Because of the unstable clay soil, Woodlawn’s managers moved it 30 feet uphill in 1995-1996.

“Every home should be as unique as the people living in it,” Wright maintained.



Shawn Halifax, Amanda Roper and Elizabeth Reese, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey staffers.



The children’s bedroom has construction paper chains.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

ENTERTAINMENT



First Night Alexandria takes place on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 in Old Town Alexandria.

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/>

NOW THRU JAN. 7
National Treasures | Leanne Fink. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. National Treasures is a collection of oil and cold wax paintings by Leanne Fink that pays homage to the grandeur of America's National Parks. Inspired by the beauty of the natural world, Leanne is known for her visually dynamic landscapes. The Athenaeum Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

DEC. 15-17
Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, December 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
"Breakfast with Santa" will take place every weekend in December, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in three locations in Alexandria: Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Mia's Italian Kitchen, Ada's on the River. Tickets range from \$0-\$65 and include a hearty and festive breakfast feast that will delight your taste buds. Children will receive take-

home treats to continue the holiday spirit at home, while adults can indulge in some celebratory Prosecco. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/breakfast-with-santa-in-old-town-alexandria-by-arp-1039279>

DEC. 16-17
"Holiday with a Twist." Featuring the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, Alexandria; Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Celebrate the Season "Holiday with a Twist" featuring Joshua Banbury, Baritone and Chris Ullman, whistler. Adults: \$20-89; Students \$15; Youth \$5.

DEC. 16-17
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. December 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Alexandria. December 17, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. With James Ross, conductor; Joshua Banbury, baritone. Enjoy this celebration of the season with traditional fare mixed with jazz baritone Joshua Banbury and Alexandria resident and world whistling champion Chris Ullman.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17
Sunday Funday. 3 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center at Episcopal High School, Black Box Theatre, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Sunday Funday will feature a cast of local musical theater talent and singing drag queens, a three-piece band music directed by Marika Countouris, as well as bottomless drinks. Sunday Funday will be hosted by local drag queen and frequent Monumental collaborator Tiara Missou, also known as David Singleton. Individual tickets are \$30. Artist under 35 tickets are available for \$15 (patrons must show I.D. at the door). A table for four guests can be purchased for \$140. Table tickets include preferred seating and either a bottle of wine or champagne. Patrons may pay \$20 for bottomless specialty drinks or \$25 at the door. Tickets are available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31
First Night Alexandria. In locations around Old Town Alexandria. First Night Alexandria, known as the largest family-friendly and affordable New Year's Eve festival of music and more event in the region, returns with its day into night of celebration showcasing performing arts throughout Old Town. The annual event (in its 29th year) will feature a variety of activities, activations, dance parties, live music and more. The festivities kick off at 2:00 p.m. and conclude at midnight as thousands welcome in the New Year.

A tradition that started in 1994, First Night Alexandria has become a staple in the region to bring in the New Year as an affordable event filled with a lineup of entertainment and activities. Proceeds from the event supports Alexandria's middle and high school students' activities with a musical background in choir, orchestra, and band.

New this year:
Twilight Fireworks - This year's celebration will feature a twilight fireworks display at 6 p.m. on Alexandria's waterfront geared to families who want to enjoy the show with their kids and loved ones. First Night Alexandria will also still host an abbreviated encore display of the New Year's fireworks at midnight on the waterfront.

Fun Hunt - Add adventure, exploration, and education to the last day of the year! After 5 years, the Fun Hunt returns with new ways to enjoy an afternoon in Old Town Alexandria. Ticketed guests have the opportunity to turn a day of Fun and entertainment into potential prize winnings. The adventure concludes at the Block Party at Market Square just prior to the Twilight Fireworks.

Daytime Block Party - Join us at Market Square from 4 - 6 p.m. for a time of music, a "Cool Happy New Year" demonstration and special fun just prior to the new Twilight fireworks display.

For more information visit www.firstnightalexandria.org

JAN. 5-27
"Visions of Resilience: Art for Climate Justice" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans,

2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, in partnership with the Changing Planet Justice Foundation, raises awareness about climate change and its impact on marginalized communities. By conveying issues through the universal language of image, we encourage action towards a just, climate-friendly future. Reception: Friday, January 5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed January 28). DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/FEB. 3
Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. When the orchestra is ready to begin their concert and suddenly discover the Maestro is nowhere to be found they begin to panic. Thankfully the world's greatest detective is available and agrees to take the case. All the musicians are suspects and thus Sherlock Holmes must investigate each of the instrument families to deduce who is behind the mystery. With Enrico Lopez-Yanez, Guest Conductor.

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

DECEMBER
Wed. 13: Jon McLaughlin w/ Bobbie Lee Stamper & Leo Sawikin - 2023 Holiday Tour \$29.50
Thu. 14: Carbon Leaf \$45.00
Fri. 15: Carbon Leaf \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
Sat. 16: Pieces of a Dream \$49.50
Sun. 17: Luther Re-Lives: Holiday Concert featuring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$49.50
Wed. 20: A John Waters Christmas \$59.50
Fri. 22: Tarsha Fitzgerald Presents "The Voices" Christmas Show \$35.00
Sat. 23: A Very MAYSA Christmas \$69.50
Fri. 29: Hank Williams Tribute featuring Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Daryl Davis, Jake Blount, Robin & Linda Williams, Patrick McAvinue, Alex Lacquement \$35.00
Sat. 30: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
Sun. 31: New Year's Eve with The Seldom Scene & The Porch Delights -7:30pm- \$49.50

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Obituary



Cathryn Lorraine Bradshaw Langstaff of Alexandria passed away peacefully surrounded by family on October 18, 2023. Born in Galena, Kansas, in 1929, she moved to Washington, D.C., in 1948, where she met Morton Langstaff. They shared 57 wonderful years together and raised three children in Alexandria at their home in Rosemont. Cathryn, and her late husband Morton initially resided in Arlington, VA, before making Alexandria their permanent home in 1962. Cathy and Morton Langstaff shared a deep love of music. She will be remembered as a wonderful hostess, including memorable New Year's Eve jazz parties. Cathy's life was marked by an active lifestyle, strong family bonds, and an abundance of love and faith. She enjoyed her career as a civil servant and maintained a deep commitment to Trinity Episcopal Church. Cathryn is survived by her sister, Billie DeGraff; her children daughter Molly Langstaff (Alexandria, VA), son Bradshaw and daughter-in-law Kerry Langstaff (Royal Oaks, CA), and daughter Kathryn Langstaff and son-in-law Dr. Stuart Cowan (Berkeley, CA); her two granddaughters Kelly Langstaff and Sophia Cowan; and great-grandson Jud Somerville, all residing in California. She was preceded in death by her granddaughter Kaitlyn Langstaff. A celebration of her life will be held on January 6th, 2024 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 2217 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA. Cathryn will be laid to rest at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery alongside her beloved husband Morton. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in support of Molly Langstaff can be made online at <https://www.trinitychurcharlington.org/online-giving>, specifying "Molly Langstaff Support." See full obituary on-line at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/cathryn-langstaff-obituary?id=53706730>

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Virginia PRESS Association

Award Winning Newspaper

Wildlife in Bronze Glow at Nepenthe Gallery

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

Otters are secretive and elusive, but “Sexy Otter” is reclining in a seductive, odalisque pose front and center at the Nepenthe Gallery.

The otter is a cast bronze sculpture that, along with five others, attracted around 50 admiring fans on Dec. 7 to the gallery’s weekly wine and cheese reception.

Nepenthe is featuring sculptures by David Turner, who with his father, William, has created over 500 limited edition bronzes and over 175 public commissions now in over 130 places across the country. One of their wild geese sculptures stands in Limerick, Ireland, and they shipped an alligator to the Swiss Alps. Their pieces range from mice to dolphins, from bison to bears. The pieces at Nepenthe are priced from \$480 to \$8,600.

The show also includes a great blue heron, a blue crab, a scallop, a stalking fox and “Fussy Duckling.” The Turners, who have a foundry, gallery and studio in Onley on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, have specialized in wildlife sculptures since 1983. The pair captures “the beauty and motion of wildlife in bronze,” says their website.

“Art and marine life are our passion,” Nepenthe Gallery co-owner Carrie Garland told the attendees. On the Turners’ pieces, “They are special,” she said.

Special Guest

The evening’s special guest was Dr. Derek Aday, Dean and Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) at the College of William and Mary. Citing “global environmental change,” he said, “We are at a critical period for coastal communities,” adding, “We are your solutions partner.”

VIMS, based in Gloucester, Virginia, conducts research on ocean and estuarine science, educates scientists and provides scientific advice to policy makers, industry and the public. Chartered in 1940, VIMS is one of the largest marine research and education centers in the country. Their 500 employees research topics like shellfish aquaculture, water quality, habitat restoration, sea level rise and coastal resilience. VIMS returns “\$4 for every \$1 the state invests in VIMS,” Aday maintained. VIMS provides scientific advice to local wetlands boards, including Fairfax County’s, when the boards consider permit applications for certain land-disturbing activities and construction near tidal water bodies.

Nepenthe Gallery

Carrie and Jim Garland, high school sweethearts, opened the Nepenthe Gallery in 2022 in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center at 7918 Fort Hunt Road. Nepenthe in Greek means “a place of no sorrow.” The gallery offers a range of paintings, sculptures, drawings and photography from many genres, including

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Sexy Otter, by David Turner.



Blue Crab, by William Turner.



Great blue heron, by David Turner.



Derek Aday and Susan Maples from VIMS.



An enthusiastic, art-loving crowd.

More Information

www.nepenthegallery.com
www.turnersculpture.com/
www.vims.edu

works by master photographer Renee C. Gage. Jim oversees the gallery’s frame shop.

The Turners

The Turners use what’s called a “lost wax process of bronze casting.” This requires multiple steps involving a clay model, a rubber and plaster mold, hot wax, a ceramic mold and bronze ingots melted at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

In Washington, D.C., their public commissions include a flying bald eagle at the

National Zoo; a bald eagle and two eaglets at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall; and a heron pair at Hamilton’s Restaurant.

Others include “Whitetail Bucks” (life size), at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville; “School of Lookdown Fish” at the Virginia Aquarium, Virginia Beach; “Dolphin Fountain,” (life size) Mystic, Connecticut; “Black Bear Family,” Philadelphia Zoo; “Baby Giraffe,” Detroit Zoo, Michigan; and “Dance of the Dolphins,” Ocean City, Maryland.

Alexandria resident Stetson Tinkham, a former VIMS Board member, went to the reception to “keep up with VIMS,” he said. Melissa Narins attended “to support our community, enjoy art and learn about VIMS,” she said. “Nepenthe is a great addition to our community and here we can see beautiful art.”

Ho Hum



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The totally wrong attitude to have, if even for a second. What I am specifically referring to is my reaction the result of my PET scan from Nov. 27, that I wrote about a few columns ago. The column entitled “Uncertainty” was “much ado about something” since it was written before the results of a potentially life-changing scan was known. Well, the results came electronically as they always do. Initially, the patient receives the actual report from the radiologist (written in medical jargon) that is also sent to the doctor. Typically, I’ll receive the report before my oncologist has even had a chance to read and review it meaning I’m left to my own non-medical devices to try and interpret its meaning. Subsequently, I will receive an email from my oncologist deciphering the report and breaking it down into language I can understand. That language, fortunately said the following: “Scan looked good.” And with that three-word summary, I can once again breathe normally and return my seat to its upright position and live a semi normal life, that is until the next medical hurdle which in the cancer world comes around regularly. Nevertheless, I never look gift oncologist in the stethoscope so I will rejoice until that next hurdle. But to the extent, one takes amazingly good news like I received today with a grain of salt - because I’ve received mostly good news over these last nearly 15 years since I was diagnosed, is a colossal error in judgment. No doubt you’re familiar with the expression “any port in a storm?” Cancer is not just ‘a storm,’ it’s category five hurricane with tornadoes on the side.

Still, after so many years of treatment/scans, et cetera based on my original stage IV non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis, with its “13 month to two years” prognosis - given in late Feb. 2009 at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, I have learned to take nothing for granted and to cherish each and any bit of good health news with a shaker full of salt. However, in an attempt to minimize any anxiety waiting for results and furthermore to try and think positively and powerfully to affect those results, one can hope/anticipate even, that the results will be the kind the patient can live with, pun intended. But until one reads those few words or hears those words over the phone or receives them in person from your oncologist, it’s impossible to go about your business as per usual. It’s sort of a mental road block. Oh sure, you can compartmentalize that anxiety, but such life-affecting news can only be delayed for so long. Eventually, and much sooner than later - if you know what’s good for you, you have to face your demons and access your email/call your doctor. Ignoring your cancer-related news/lab work/scan result only buys you so much time. There is no future pretending that the results don’t matter somehow. They matter. Your life’s at stake. You can take your time, but not too much of it.

This column’s title has more to do with the patient’s reaction after the fact, the fact being that your “scan looked good.” Thankfully. Because cancer is one of the scariest words. It means trouble with a capital “T.” Just because one has had a reasonably - and unexpectedly good run, as I have doesn’t mean for a second that health circumstances can’t change (I didn’t say won’t. I’m no fool). One can never lose sight of their medical roots, so to speak. I received a “terminal” diagnosis at age 54 and a half - not three months after my widowed mother died had at age 86, that I would probably not live to age 57. Not having thought about my own death too much, instead having been focused on my parent’s deteriorating health, I kind of thought I’d live to at least the ages that they did, 87 and 86, respectively. Hearing my prognosis was disappointing to say the least. To say the most it was surreal, which is a word/description often associated with incredible/unbelievable/out-of-the-blue news like being told you’re going to die in the next two years. Then, when you don’t die in those two years, and lo and behold, you’re still being cancer-treated/scanned nearly 15 years later, it occasionally becomes easy (certainly wishful thinking) to begin to take it all in stride, as if its normal/no big deal. This column is meant to remind me that the absolute last thing my recurring scans are is normal/no big deal. Every day I’m alive, especially given my medical history is a ‘big deal.’ And the biggest deals are the days when I receive encouraging/stable scan results which enable me to extend my warranty (euphemistically speaking) and remain in the game a little bit longer. And when I go through this identical experience next June (awaiting the results from my next scheduled PET scan) or next week when I have my first renal ultrasound, I must be mindful of how lucky I’ve been and how grateful I should be, always. Taking any of it for granted is the last thing I should be taking.

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

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