

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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JUNE 6, 2024

Pride Fair

City celebrates Pride, hosts Drag Story Hour.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds turned out to Market Square for the 7th annual Alexandria Pride Fair as city leaders unveiled a Pride wrapped DASH bus and a rainbow crosswalk on the street in front of City Hall.

The June 1 LGBTQ+ festival kicked off Pride month and included a Drag Story Hour inside the lobby of City Hall.

“More than anything, Pride is a celebration. It is a celebration of our community,” said Mayor Justin Wilson. “It is a celebration of the fact that the LGBTQ+ community is an integral part of Alexandria. It is a celebration that the rich tapestry of Alexandria is incomplete without the LGBTQ+ community. We celebrate that in Pride and we celebrate that all year long.”

Visitors crowded City Hall to attend the popular Drag Story Hour. Outside attendees collected Pride freebies, enjoyed live music and food, created art, posed for

Pride pictures, and learned about LGBTQ+ inclusive services in Alexandria. Free and confidential services were also provided, including confidential HIV testing, mental health and other health-care resources.

The city debuted rainbow crosswalks at the event, located at the intersection of Royal and King streets, while the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) unveiled its first Pride-wrapped bus.

Wilson read a proclamation praising the work of the LGBTQ+ Task Force and noted the work of advocates in the fight for equality in the city’s history.

“It was 38 years ago that Alexandria became the first community in the Commonwealth of Virginia to include gay and lesbians in our human rights ordinance,” Wilson said.

According to the city’s website, the goal of the Task Force, established in 2007, is “to create safe and inclusive service provisions in the city that affirms a person’s sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Said Diana Maurer, chair of the LGBTQ+ task force, “We are fortunate to live in a community where leadership stands by everyone in the community.”

For more information about the City’s LGBTQ+ Task Force and resources, visit alexandriava.gov/LGBTQ.



A group of cyclists prepares for the Pride Ride during the Pride Fair June 1 at Market Square.



Sisters Brie and Aminta Burgett at the annual Pride Fair June 1 at Market Square.



A drag performer reads during Drag Story Hour June 1 at City Hall.



Miguel Contreras and Willie Garrett at the Pride Fair June 1 at Market Square.



The rainbow crosswalk is a permanent public art exhibit at the corner of King and Royal streets.



A drag performer is featured at Drag Story Hour June 1 at City Hall.

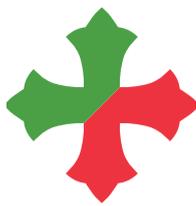


Joyce Bliss keeps cool under her umbrella at the Pride Fair June 1 at Market Square.



Crowds gather in Market Square for the 7th annual Pride Fair June 1

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2024



We are proud of our 118 graduates and their accomplishments!

The Class of 2024 will be attending the following colleges and universities:

Auburn University ♦ Boston College (2) ♦ Boston University (2) ♦ Brown University ♦ Case Western Reserve University
Charleston Southern University ♦ Christopher Newport University (2) ♦ Clemson University (2) ♦ College of Charleston ♦ College of William & Mary (8)
Cornell University ♦ Davidson College ♦ Drexel University ♦ Elon University ♦ George Mason University (2) ♦ George Washington University
Gettysburg College ♦ High Point University ♦ Howard University (3) ♦ Indiana University ♦ Johns Hopkins University ♦ Lehigh University
Long Island University ♦ Loyola Marymount University ♦ Mercer University ♦ Miami University (OH) ♦ Michigan State University (2)
Morehouse College ♦ New York University (2) ♦ Northeastern University (3) ♦ Northwestern University ♦ Providence College ♦ Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ♦ Rochester Institute of Technology ♦ Savannah College of Art & Design ♦ Sewanee: University of the South
Shaw University ♦ Southern Methodist University ♦ Syracuse University (4) ♦ Texas A&M University ♦ Texas Christian University ♦ Trinity College (CT)
Tulane University (2) ♦ Union College (2) ♦ United States Naval Academy ♦ University of California—Santa Barbara ♦ University of Chicago
University of Dayton ♦ University of Florida ♦ University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign ♦ University of Lynchburg ♦ University of Maryland—Baltimore County
University of Maryland—College Park ♦ University of Miami (FL) ♦ University of Notre Dame ♦ University of Pennsylvania (2) ♦ University of Richmond (2)
University of South Carolina (4) ♦ University of Tennessee (2) ♦ University of Texas—Austin ♦ University of Vermont ♦ University of Virginia (8)
University of Wisconsin—Madison (2) ♦ Villanova University ♦ Virginia Commonwealth University ♦ Virginia Tech (2) ♦ Wake Forest University (6)
Washington University in St. Louis ♦ Wesleyan University ♦ Yale University

Operation Overlord

City marks 80th anniversary of D-Day invasion.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was the largest seaborne invasion in history. On June 6, 1944, 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, starting the epic battle known as D-Day in an offensive to take back Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II.

“It is all important to remember what came together in 1944.”

— Mayor Justin Wilson

fighting was fierce with over 4,900 soldiers, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen killed, missing or unaccounted for. But the battle is seen as the turning point in WWII and leading to an Allied victory the following year.

On June 2, the city commemorated the 80th anniversary of D-Day with a ceremony at Market Square. Featured were WWII reenactors, the U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum, the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band and displays detailing the battle on the Normandy beaches of Omaha, Utah, Juno, Gold and Sword.

“I am here to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day and also to honor the women who supported the war effort,” said Honor Flight Network’s Jenny Brawley, who was

dressed as Rosie the Riveter.

The D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The American Cemetery in Normandy is the final resting place of several area soldiers who were killed on D-Day and in the Battle of Normandy during World War II. Mayor Justin Wilson and other city officials will participate in the D-Day 80th anniversary commemoration June 6 in Colleville-Sur-Mer, France.

France was unprecedented in scale. It was the largest-ever coalition of ships, troops, planes and vehicles to attack Adolf Hitler’s defenses in western Europe.

More than 2,500 Americans were killed on D-Day itself with another 73,000 Allied forces killed in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. At least four local soldiers were

among those casualties and are buried at the American Cemetery in Normandy.

“It is a life changing experience to walk along the beaches of Normandy,” said Mayor Justin Wilson, who will be participating in the 80th anniversary D-Day events in Normandy on June 6. “It is the sacrifice of so

SEE CITY MARKS 80TH, PAGE 11



Jenny Brawley as Rosie the Riveter at the 80th commemoration of D-Day June 2 at Market Square.



World War II reenactors participate in the 80th commemoration of D-Day June 2 at Market Square.



George Washington Middle School students use an inflatable pool to demonstrate the difficulties of the amphibious D-Day invasion.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Mark Ragan and Peter Tuttle at the 80th commemoration of D-Day June 2 at Market Square.



Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities chair Angelique Moss welcomes attendees to the 80th commemoration of D-Day June 2 at Market Square.



Theresa Dagenhart and Kit Stevenson of the Gotta Swing dancers June 2 at Market Square.



California residents Miya Babay and Ander Bordner pose in front of a World War II vehicle on display at the 80th commemoration of D-Day June 2 at Market Square.

NEWS

Primary Colors

Democrats to determine future direction of Alexandria.

Alyia Gaskins
raised: \$150,000
top donors
 \$25,000 from Tiffeny Sanchez
 \$10,000 from attorney Reginald James Brown
 \$10,000 from NOVA Area Labor Federation
 \$10,000 from United Here Local 23
 \$5,000 from Service Employees International Union

Amy Jackson
raised: \$60,000
top donors
 \$6,000 from paralegal Martha Bickford
 \$3,000 from former Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw
 \$1,500 from Bill Rossello for City Council
 \$1,000 from Hoffman Family LLC
 \$1,000 from Kimberly Krenik

Steve Peterson
raised: \$45,000
top donors
 \$10,000 from Sands Capital Management research analyst Michael Sramek
 \$1,000 from John Batel of Utah
 \$1,000 from Stuart Prince, president of residential department at Peterson Companies
 \$500 from Michael Gribbon, managing executive director at American Real Estate Partners
 \$500 from attorney Grayson Hanes

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
 GAZETTE PACKET

The future of Alexandria City Hall is on the ballot this month, when Democrats will select their candidate for mayor. Ever since incumbent Mayor Justin Wilson announced he will not be seeking a third term last year, Democrats have been buzzing about which candidate they want to head into the November election. It's a race that comes at a time when the city is divided over everything from the future of single-family zoning to an ill-fated plan to locate a sports arena in Potomac Yard.

THE CANDIDATE who has raised the most money is Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins. Although she has only been on the City Council for one term, she has built a juggernaut of a campaign. Disclosure forms show she has raised almost \$150,000 — mostly from labor groups that support her position on collective bargaining for employees of local governments. She voted in favor of Zoning for Housing, and she supports bus lanes on transit corridors. When asked about why she wants to be mayor, Gaskins says she wants to be a voice for the voiceless.

"What I want to bring to the table is making sure we are doing the outreach of going out and meeting people where they are," said Gaskins when she announced her candidacy in December. "That's not just coming to City Hall, but that is in their living rooms,

in their backyards, in their parks." On the campaign trail, Gaskins is defending the city's support for an ill-fated arena at Potomac Yard, which collapsed in March. She says she was at the table for negotiations, but she also said it was time to "move on" when the project fell apart. She has the support of the current mayor as well endorsements from former Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and influential labor unions. If elected, she says she would expand jobs for young people and respond more quickly

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 11



Councilwoman Alyia Gaskins says she wants to be a voice for the voiceless.



Vice Mayor Amy Jackson says she wants the city to have more business that cater to families with children.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Businessman Steve Peterson says he opposes Zoning for Housing and bus-only lanes in transit corridors.

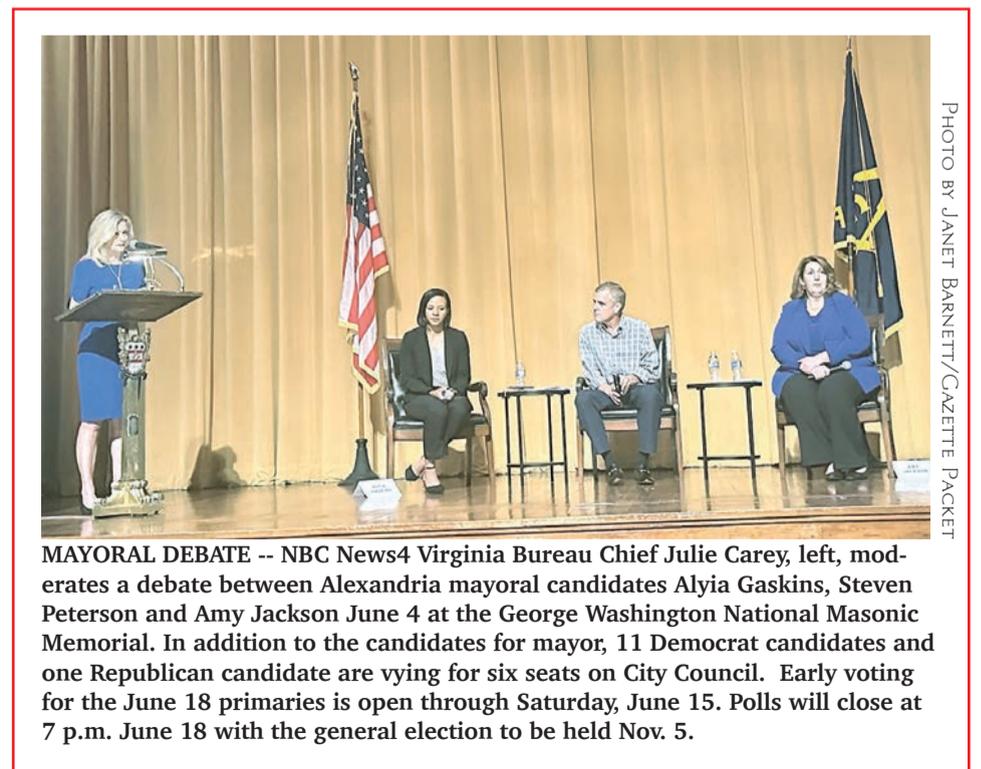


PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

MAYORAL DEBATE -- NBC News4 Virginia Bureau Chief Julie Carey, left, moderates a debate between Alexandria mayoral candidates Alyia Gaskins, Steven Peterson and Amy Jackson June 4 at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. In addition to the candidates for mayor, 11 Democrat candidates and one Republican candidate are vying for six seats on City Council. Early voting for the June 18 primaries is open through Saturday, June 15. Polls will close at 7 p.m. June 18 with the general election to be held Nov. 5.

COMMUNITY

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE PACKET



Lucas MacPhail is making a double batch of homemade fettuccine for the Alexandria Community Shelter for his Eagle scout project. He estimates this batch will feed six. First step is to break two eggs into a container, mix with fork and add 60 ml water. Then pour into pasta maker.



Next Lucas pours 400 grams of flour into the pasta maker and turns it on as his mother Ann Lyles MacPhail offers suggestions in the background.



After about three minutes the machine begins to extrude the fettuccine.

MacPhail Plans Fettuccine for 100 for Eagle Scout Project

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Lucas MacPhail was going to build a bench for his Eagle Scout project to be located at Lyon Village Community House in Arlington where he lives. “But people would use a bench once in a while, and it didn’t speak to me. I wanted to do something I enjoy and that would be personal.”

So he decided to make 100 meals of homemade pasta for the residents of Alexandria Community Shelter operated by Carpenter’s Shelter in Alexandria where Lucas attends high school. “Making homemade pasta for 100 is something people will remember.”

He and his mother Ann Lyles MacPhail, who is the Assistant Scout Leader for Troop 2535, have been experimenting for a while. Lucas says, “We did a lot of tests. We tried to make the pasta manually, with a hand crank machine and with the current choice which is a pasta machine which mixes and extrudes the dough. We decided the last one made the most sense to make a large batch of consistent dough.”

Lucas says he first made homemade pasta with his grandmother in Illinois three or four years ago. “Her wrists hurt so I did most of the work. It was fun.”

Along the way Ann says, “We broke the machine. Our best guess is that the flour and water sat too long and made a glue to jam the machine. We did some trouble shooting—plugged it in again, soaked all the pieces and pried them apart so we could disassemble the machine without breaking it.”

Lucas says they will be making fettuccine because it is a lot more dense than spaghetti and won’t fall apart in the pot when it is cooking. The pasta will be supplemented with homemade meatballs, spiced up Prego’s spaghetti sauce, garlic bread and green beans. Ann explains, “We investigated making the sauce from scratch but the list of ingredients was long, and there was no way homemade sauce would fit the budget so we’re adding onions, basil, peppers and a bunch of different spices to jars of Prego’s sauce.”

Lucas set up a list of needed supplies and ingre-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Lucas MacPhail in Scout uniform

lients on Amazon as well as a Go Fund Me page, and immediately the donations came in—garlic, the jars of sauce, the spices and ingredients. “But it’s nice to have extra and if we get more donations than we need, we’ll use the extra money to make cookies.”

“He loves to make cookies,” his mother adds.

Lucas and his mother have started making the pasta, and neighbors and friends will join in on Memorial Day. About 20 members of his scout troop will help him in hourly shifts on June 1 and 2 to make the meatballs and sauce and put it all together into the meal for 50 for the first batch and on June 14 and 15 for 50 more to make

the second batch. They will deliver the meals to Alexandria Community Shelter in Alexandria on June 2 and 15, and the older scouts will stay to help serve. “He could have done it all himself,” Ann says, “but the point of this is project management.”

Lucas says he thought about Carpenter’s Shelter because his church, Our Lady Queen of Peace in Arlington, often mentions it. Lucas had made pasta in the past for his confirmation project but it was the boxed kind. “Sure it’s cheaper but not so personal.”

Lucas started Scouts when he was about 5 years old. He says being an Eagle Scout is a family tradition since his brother and grandfather were also Eagle Scouts. “You learn to be successful and get knowledge about a lot of things. And there is the Boy Scout motto ... trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, clean, reverent ... I would like to think we are practicing most of them, especially the ‘clean’ because there will be a lot of that on this project.”

Lucas estimates he will have spent about 100 hours on the dinner. He says the hardest part has been the paperwork and all of the planning. “I have executive functioning problems so this is hard.” Each Eagle Scout project involves writing a proposal and description and a report afterwards addressing what worked and what didn’t, what unexpected problems emerged and how they were solved.

And Ann adds, “Everyone deserves a good homemade meal.”



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City of Alexandria June 18 Election

MEET the candidates



Alyia Gaskins

Democrat for Mayor



John Taylor Chapman

Democrat for City Council



Jesse O'Connell

Democrat for City Council

Thursday, June 13
5-6:30 pm
1319 Prince St Park



REGISTER: FIBRESPACE.COM/EVENT/MEET-THE-CANDIDATES/

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY TUESDAY JUNE 18TH

Authorized by Friends of John Taylor Chapman
www.chapman4council.com

Minnie Howard Reopens

City unveils new \$190M ACHS facility.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria officials unveiled the new Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard Campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony May 29 at the facility on West Braddock Road.

The new \$190 million project increases the capacity of the previous campus from 850 to 1,600 students.

“This is a generational investment, one that we will see and realize the benefit of for generations to come,” said Mayor Justin Wilson.

Located at 3801 W. Braddock Road, the original campus was built in 1954 to accommodate students from grades one to seven. The school closed in the early 1980s due to declining enrollment but later reopened as the ninth-grade campus for ACHS.



ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt welcomes the crowd to the ribbon cutting for the new Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard campus May 29.



The new Minnie Howard Campus of Alexandria City High School, located at 3801 West Braddock Road, officially opened May 29. The \$190 million project features more than 340,000 square feet and will welcome students beginning Aug. 19.



School Board chair Michelle Rief, right, presents a plaque to Alexandria City High School Executive Principal Alexander Duncan III at the ribbon cutting for the new ACHS Minnie Howard campus May 29.

“This amazing learning space will prepare [students] to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.”

— School Board chair Michelle Rief

“Today we open the doors to the future of the high school experience,” said ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt. “The building expands our capacity to serve our students and offers us a unique opportunity to rethink our high school experience.”

The 343,000 square-foot building features state-of-the-art classrooms, a wrestling room, a main and auxiliary gymnasium,

dedicated spaces for career and technical education, multiple collaborative common areas and a greenhouse.

In partnership with the City of Alexandria, the facility also offers early childhood education, a teen wellness facility, student and family resource centers, and an aquatic facility with a regulation-length pool.

The school includes both gender-neutral bathrooms as well as separate men’s and women’s facilities.

Students will begin classes in the new facility on Aug. 19, which also marks the beginning of the Academies at Alexandria City model, which allows students to engage in small learning communities and foster life, college and career readiness.

The model consists of six academic academies for the 2024-25 school year including the science, technology, engineering and math academy, a business and government academy, the education, liberal arts

and human services academy, the visual, performing and applied arts academy, a global studies academy and a general studies academy.

The ACHS campuses will function as a connected network of schools in which students can move between sites depending on schedule and academy focus.

A second phase of the Minnie Howard project will add athletics facilities and tennis courts to the campus.

Alexandria City High opened in 1965 as T.C. Williams High School. Originally named after former ACPS superintendent Thomas Chambliss Williams, it was renamed Alexandria City High School in 2021.

“Our public schools are a public good,” said School Board chair Michelle Rief. “Today’s young people will be tomorrow’s leaders solving tomorrow’s problems and this amazing learning space will prepare them to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.”



City officials and ACPS representatives cut the ribbon to officially open the new Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard Campus May 29.

SENIOR LIVING

Senior Law Day 2024

“Protecting Ourselves as We Age: Essential Personal and Financial Strategies”

Saturday, June 8 – 9 am – 12 Noon (registration at 8:30)

First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria, VA

Senior Services of Alexandria and the Alexandria Bar Association are back again for Senior Law Day 2024. This popular and informative event brings together community partners to share expertise on topics that older adults need to know about.

The presentations will include a panel on protecting against scams, such as investment fraud, imposter scams, online shopping scams, fake

prices, sweepstakes, and lottery scams. There will be a panel presentation on strategies for aging well in Alexandria, as well as a session on legal documents that everyone should have in place including wills, powers of attorney, and advanced directives.

There will also be community partners including local attorneys, health care companies, and city organizations available with literature and staff to discuss their services and programs available to older adults.

Senior Law Day is free and open to the public. Please register now by emailing events@seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA’s Office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Local veterans gather for a photo at the plaque bearing the 68 names of Alexandrians who were killed in the Vietnam War during a dedication ceremony May 27 at the city's Union Station.



A group of veterans from VFW Post 609 listen to remarks at the plaque dedication ceremony honoring those killed in the Vietnam War May 27 at Alexandria's Union Station.



Civil Air Patrol Cadet Zoey Carlos of the Johns Hopkins School of Music sings the National Anthem to open the May 27 dedication ceremony honoring Alexandria soldiers killed in the Vietnam War.

Plaque Dedicated to Fallen Vietnam Veterans

Second plaque dedication to be held June 14 at Gadsby's Tavern.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 609 and American Legion Post 24, in partnership with the Office of Historic Alexandria, memorialized Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War with a plaque dedication ceremony on Memorial Day, May 27.

The plaque bearing the 68 names of Alexandrians killed or missing in action in the Vietnam War was installed at the city's Monument to

the War Dead, located in front of Alexandria's Union Station on Calahan Drive.

"We must honor the bravery and sacrifice of our Vietnam War Veterans," said director of the Office of Historic Alexandria, Gretchen Bulova. "These new plaques serve as a permanent reminder of their service and our gratitude."

In addition to Bulova, Mayor Justin Wilson led a contingent of city officials, who joined members of VFW Post 609, American Legion Post 24 and members of other local



Sue Rampey points to the name of her brother, Robert W. Cupp, on the plaque dedicated to Alexandria soldiers killed in Vietnam at a ceremony at the Monument to the War Dead at Alexandria's Union Station May 27.



Attendees listen to remarks at the May 27 plaque dedication ceremony honoring Alexandrians killed in the Vietnam War.

Alexandria Events Honoring Juneteenth

Highlights of Alexandria's Black history and cultural experiences, including Juneteenth tours and celebrations, museum experiences, Black-owned businesses to support and more.

Highlight Juneteenth Events

❖ June 15-16, 2024:

Manumission Tour Company will offer a Juneteenth African American History Bus Tour. Visit historic sites that tell the story of African Americans in early Alexandria, including several historic African American churches in the city.

❖ June 19, 2024:

Carlyle House, a historic house museum and park, is hosting its annual Juneteenth celebration in collaboration with The Athenaeum, a regional arts organization. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, history and poetry readings.

The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices' lively, interactive concert featuring traditional music, dance, and spoken word anchors the Juneteenth Holiday at Market Square festivities.

❖ June 19 to 22, 2024:

During Freedom Before Emancipation:



PHOTO BY ADEDAYO DAYO KOSOKO FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Contraband and Freedmens Cemetery.

Family Days for Juneteenth, visitors to George Washington's Mount Vernon can learn about Ona Judge, Christopher Sheels and more enslaved people who resisted enslavement and sought freedom before the Emancipation Proclamation.

❖ Find more Juneteenth events here.

Historic Museums

❖ Alexandria Black History Museum (Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19): The Alexandria Black History Museum showcases exhibitions including Preserving their Names: The Black Lives Remembered Collection, featuring digital images and artifacts donated from the community in the D.C. region following the murder of George Floyd. A children's area offers thought-provoking and age-appropriate activities for young visitors. Plus, look for the upcoming summer opening of the Moss Kendrix Collection, spotlighting the D.C.-based market-

SEE ALEXANDRIA EVENTS, PAGE 11

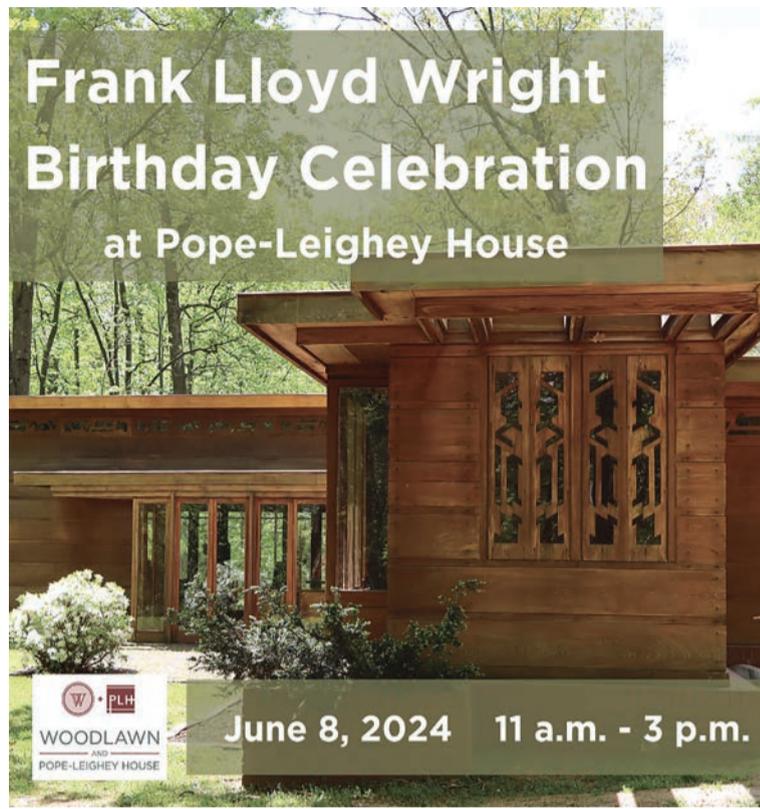
ENTERTAINMENT

POTOMAC HARMONY OFFERS HARMONY & LEARNING!

School may be out in June, but the learning gets started on Wednesday nights at Potomac Harmony chorus rehearsals! Learn the art of 4-part harmony treble singing while experiencing the joy of ringing chords! Together, guests and members will rehearse new music and create harmonies lead by the expertise of our talented director Allison Lynskey. Potomac Harmony members are women and non-binary individuals from all walks of life, live around the DMV, and have various levels of musical and singing experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at The View Alexandria, 5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria. Questions? Contact Jackie Bottash, backrowlead@aol.com.

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://tallship-providence.org/>



The Frank Lloyd Wright Birthday Celebration takes place on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at the Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

Frank Lloyd Wright Birthday Celebration

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Celebrate the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright! Enjoy an open house tour of the Pope-Leighey House and learn about the history of the house and its designer. In the yard, enjoy activities related to Wright's life and work, snap a photo wearing his iconic style of hat, and grab a celebratory bite of cake. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for students (K-12), 5 and under are free.

JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, stone carving, jewelry, resin, mosaics, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

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

JUNE

- 7 Joe Falero Band (Latin Music)
- 14 Chuck Brown Band (Go Go/Funk/Soul)
- 21 Munit Meslin with Qlatse Band (Ethiopian Music)
- 28 The Artimus Plye Band - Honoring Ronnie Van Zant's Lynyrd Skynyrd (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band)

JULY

- 5 Cecily (Soul, Jazz)
- 12 Strutman Lane (Funk/Pop)
- 19 Doc Robinson (Rock and Roll)
- 26 Bio Ritmo (Salsa)

AUGUST

- 2 Eastern Standard Time (Ska and Reggae)
- 9 Project Locrea (World Music)
- 16 Burn the Ballroom (Alternate Rock)

- 23 Deanna Bogart (Blues, R&B)
- 30 Melissa Qinn Fox (Country/American)

AT WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER
9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

JUNE

- 8 South County High School Jazz Band (Youth Jazz Band)
- 15 Beginnings - a Celebration of the Music of Chicago (Chicago Tribute Band)
- 22 Wicked Sycamore (Contemporary Folk)
- 29 Workhouse Fireworks Festival (Ticketed event. Visit www.workhousearts.org)

JULY

- 6 EU Sugar Bear (Go Go/Funk)
- 13 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
- 20 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)
- 27 Bela Dona Band (Funk/Jazz)

AUGUST

- 3 The U.S. Air Force Strings (Alt-country/Roots rock)
- 10 Ocho de Bastos (Latin/Pop)
- 17 Alex Hamburger (Jazz)
- 24 The U.S. Army Band Country Roads (Country)

THURSDAY/JUNE 6

Celebrating 50 years of Guest House. 7-10 p.m. At ALX Community Atrium Rooftop, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Mocktails, music and memories. Join them as they celebrate 50 years of achievements helping 5,000 women reclaim their lives. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

**Same Company, Same Employees,
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TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



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FROM PAGE 8

This year's gala promises to be an evening filled with laughter, joy, and heartwarming moments as we come together to support the incredible work of Friends of Guest House. With live music, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and captivating company, it's an event you won't want to miss!

THURSDAY/JUNE 6

Author Event with David Baldacci. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Virginia Theological Seminary, 3630 Bishop Walker Circle, Alexandria. The Alexandria Library Foundation is excited to host #1 New York Times bestselling author David Baldacci at this year's Author Event and Reception. Mr. Baldacci's latest book, *A Calamity of Souls*, was released April 16 and subsequently landed at #1 on the New York Times Best Sellers List. Mr. Baldacci will discuss his experience as an author; share tales from the road; and talk about the historical significance and research that went into the writing of this book, more than a decade in the making.

JUNE 6 TO AUG. 26

"Nature's Spirit." Nina Tisara's mosaics and Steven Halperson's photographs and etched copper will be exhibited in the Estate House at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. The public is invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. (RSVP: ninat@ninatistara.com). The Estate House is open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Since the Estate House will occasionally close for rental events the public is encouraged to call 703-768-5780, ext. 137, to be certain the exhibit is open for viewing.

JUNE 7-30

"All About Love" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores love broadly: romantic love, love of family, love of pets, strong friendships, etc. Works by dozens of local artists will be on display and available for sale. Opening Reception: Friday, June 7, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/JUNE 8

Summer Huzzah. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Experience 18th-century life at the Summer Huzzah. This summer evening offers 18th-century entertainment, food, music, and more. A special VIP experience includes food and whiskey tastings.

SATURDAY/JUNE 8

Old Town Alexandria Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street, Alexandria. Volunteer Alexandria is thrilled to present the Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair on June 8, 2024, at Waterfront Park located at 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. The fair is free to attend and features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationary, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Featuring more than 80-plus vendors including food and drink to purchase.

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Obituary

Morris Christian "Morrie" Hoven, Jr. December 5, 1935 - May 25, 2024



Morris Christian ("Morrie") Hoven, Jr., a much-beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at the age of 88. Born on December 5, 1935, in Portland, Oregon, to Morris C. and Elizabeth Stout Hoven, Morrie grew up in Pennsylvania with his sister, Karen, who survives him, attending Springfield High School. As a student, he excelled in both academics and athletics, serving as captain of the football team, playing trumpet in the band, and being elected president of his senior class.

Morrie went on to attend Stanford University, graduating with a degree in Economics in 1958. He cherished his time at Stanford, forming many lifelong friends. He was enrolled in the Naval ROTC program, and upon graduation, received his commission in the U.S. Navy. He proudly served his country for two years, an experience he considered a highlight of his young adult life.

In 1963, shortly after relocating to the Northern Virginia area, Morrie founded Hoven Corporation, just as the Beltway was being constructed and outlying suburbs were beginning to develop. For more than thirty years, his company provided drywall, painting, and carpentry services to the growing region.

Morrie was first married to Florence Morrill ("Corkie") Hoven, with whom he had three children: Elizabeth Holloway ("Holly"), Heidi Morrill, and Morris Christian III ("Chris"). Although his first marriage ended in divorce, Morrie remained a devoted father to his children.

In 1995, Morrie married the love of his life, Anne Holcombe ("Holly") Lanou. During their nearly 30-year marriage, Morrie and Holly brought each other boundless joy. Morrie welcomed Holly's two children, Elizabeth Adams Lanou and John Holcombe Lanou, as his newest daughter and son, and their love for each other brought his growing family much happiness. Over the years, Morrie's family expanded to include two sons-in-law, Peter Maillet and Scott Benedict; a daughter-in-law, Teresa; nine grandchildren, Andrew, Katie, Henry, Skye, Fin, Sarah, David, Daniel and Stephen; and two great-grandchildren, Sloane and Sally. For more than 30 years, gatherings at Morrie's much-loved River House were synonymous with family. Through his unwavering love, constancy, and wisdom, Morrie left an indelible mark, inspiring his family to emulate his example.

Morrie was a devoted member of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, where he served in numerous leadership roles, including senior warden, vestry member, and acolyte master. Morrie co-founded the St. Paul's Foundation and led the restoration of the historic 1818 Benjamin L-trobe church, a project that held great significance for him.

Beyond work, family, and church, Morrie was deeply engaged in the local community. Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Morrie was a 32nd degree Mason. He served as president of the Alexandria Athenaeum, board member of the College of Preachers at the Washington Cathedral, and president of Mount Vernon at Home. He was a long-time member of the Alexandria Rotary Club and, for many years, played trumpet in the Rotary Routers Band, an activity he especially enjoyed. Morrie's passion for sports never wavered; he enjoyed playing tennis and golf at Belle Haven Country Club and was a devoted lifelong fan of the Washington Redskins. Loved by all who knew him, Morrie will be remembered for his easy manner, wonderful sense of humor, integrity, reliability, and kindness. He was a great, gentle, and universally admired man whose legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched.

Obituary

Obituary

Mildred Curtis July 5, 1930 - May 30, 2024

Mildred Jean (Barringer) Curtis was born in Salisbury, NC to parents Katherine Pauline (Kimball) Barringer and John Thomas Barringer, Sr. She graduated from Boyden High School and worked at Woodson Law Office as a legal secretary in Salisbury until she accepted a secretarial position with the US Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC in 1954. She married Charles Daniel Curtis, Sr. of Culpeper, VA in 1957 and they settled in Alexandria, VA where they raised a family of 6 children. She served as Vice President for CHEC Soda and Refrigeration Company, Inc. from 1961 until 2018 when business was sold.

Mildred, affectionately known as "Millie" is survived by her 6 children: Deborah J Curtis of Arlington, VA; Charles D Curtis, Jr. (Dan) of Centennial, CO; Jane M Curtis of Nederland, CO; Linda M Sher of Leesburg VA; Karen C Curtis of Berryville, VA; and Katherine P Curtis of Oaktown, VA. She is survived by her older brother, John T Barringer, Jr. of Vero Beach, FL and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, and sister-in-laws. She is survived by 11 grandchildren: Daniel R Curtis of Englewood, CO; Stephanie L Curtis of Santa Monica, CA; Lauren A Holmes of Kansas; Jacqueline K Force of Fairfax, VA; Natalie R Sher, Cameron J Sher and Morgan K Sher of Leesburg, VA. Elle Blick, Spencer Blick, Harrison Blick and Lillie Blick of Berryville, VA.

She is predeceased by her husband, Charles Daniel Curtis, Sr.; sister, Mary Katherine Barringer; brothers, Charles Deal Barringer, James Meredith Barringer, Jerry Lee Barringer, and Richard Kimball Barringer.

She enjoyed gardening, sunshine and the beach. In addition, she enjoyed picking flowers, found a new joy in painting, feeding the wildlife, attending her grandchildren's school/sport functions, traveling, bird watching and participated in a daily exercise program. The time spent at the beach was celebrated annually as family joined together at Emerald Isle, NC for food and fellowship. She collected seashells on her walks along the shoreline as she enjoyed the sea breeze and placed her feet in the ocean water. She was active with her faith attending Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, reading her daily devotional and caring for her "grand dogs".

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Shiners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. Clore English Funeral Home of Culpeper, Virginia is handling the arrangements. Interment will be held at Culpeper National Cemetery on June 4, 2024.

Obituary

Obituary



Floyd Eldo O'Quinn, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and cousin, died in his sleep at home, surrounded by his family, on May 20th, 2024. He lived to be 88.

Floyd was born in Georgia on April 5, 1936 and graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Agriculture. After pursuing further training in mathematics and statistics, he entered work in the U.S. Census Bureau, later working for the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as Metrica Inc. His career as a mathematical statistician took him and his family around the world. His rural upbringing and his worldly experiences colored his life with stories he loved to retell, especially to his grandchildren.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Traudy O'Quinn, with whom he was married for 65 years, and their four children: George O'Quinn (and wife Pamela); Catharina O'Quinn (and husband Sean Austin); Karin O'Quinn; Patrick O'Quinn (and wife Anu). His legacy is carried on by his 8 grandchildren: Michael Gress (and Jordan Vogt); Robert Kyle Gress; Annelise Bronson (and Jayme Bronson); Haily Norvell, Mikael O'Quinn, Margrette Gress, Amanda Norvell, and Jon O'Quinn. Floyd loved all of his great-grandchildren: Loretta Megs (daughter of Michael Gress and Jordan Vogt) Liam and Scarlett (children of R. Kyle Gress); Mariana and Henry (children of Annelise and Jayme Bronson) and he was excited to meet Baby Bronson who is due in July.

He is deeply missed and forever cherished.

A memorial service to celebrate Floyd's life will be held Monday, June 10, at 11:00AM.

Please view his obituary and funeral arrangements at www.everlywheatley.com/tributes/Floyd-OQuinn

In lieu of flowers please donate to University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Scholarship Program www.ufl.edu/cals/

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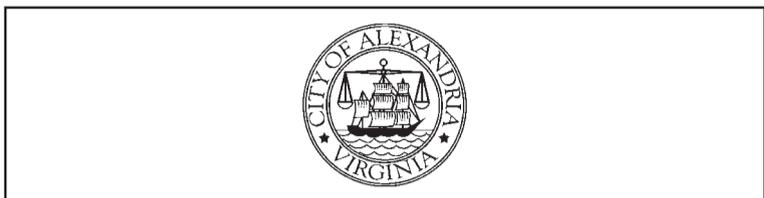
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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARINGS

Pursuant to Section 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene on the following days to hear complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of equity or uniformity in assessment, errors in fact in such real estate assessments, or that the real property assessment is not assessed at fair market value. Upon hearing such complaints, the Board is legally authorized to INCREASE, DECREASE OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments.

Participants can attend via Zoom Webinar or in person in room 3008, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Notification of any meeting cancellations will be posted at alexandriava.gov/realestate. The 2024 hearing dates currently scheduled are:

June 24th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
June 25th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
June 26th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

July 1st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 2nd – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 8th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 9th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 10th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 15th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 16th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 17th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 22nd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 23rd – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 24th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 29th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 30th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
July 31st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

August 5th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 6th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
August 7th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 12th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 13th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
August 14th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 20th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
August 21st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 26th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 27th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
August 28th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

September 9th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 10th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
September 11th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 16th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 17th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

September 18th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 23rd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 24th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
September 25th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
September 30th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 1st – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
October 2nd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 7th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 8th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
October 9th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 21st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 22nd – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
October 23rd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 28th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
October 29th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
October 30th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

November 4th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 5th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
November 6th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 12th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
November 13th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 18th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
November 19th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
November 20th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

December 2nd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 3rd – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
December 4th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 9th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 10th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
December 11th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 16th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
December 17th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
December 18th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The deadline for filing an appeal is June 3, 2024, however, this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments for real estate that was newly constructed pursuant to Virginia Code 59.1-3292.

Dockets for each hearing may be obtained by contacting the Office of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall Room 2600, Alexandria VA 22313, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, via e-mail realestate@alexandriava.gov or by calling 703.746.4646.

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Alexandria Events Honoring Juneteenth

FROM PAGE 7

ing pioneer who revolutionized how African Americans were depicted in the media in the mid-20th century.

❖ Freedom House Museum, Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19: This national historic landmark features three exhibitions showcasing Alexandria's Black history and the Black experience in America. Learn about the experiences of the enslaved and free

Black people who lived in — and were trafficked through — Alexandria, plus stories from the Civil Rights Movement and more.

Black-Owned Businesses

❖ Hen Quarter: Gather a group at Hen Quarter for a mouthwatering family-style brunch and Southern fare in the heart of Old Town.

❖ PIES Fitness Yoga Studio: Take a restor-

ative yoga or dance class at this inclusive, trauma-informed studio just steps from Alexandria's key Black history sites.

❖ Harambee Books & Artworks: Browse a unique selection of books and hard-to-find classic literature by and about people of African descent, plus exclusive artworks and fashionable apparels at Northern Virginia's first Black-owned bookstore.

Explore more Black-owned businesses here.

Plaque Dedicated to Fallen Vietnam Veterans

FROM PAGE 7

Veterans Service Organizations in re-dedicating the 1940 Monument to the City's War Dead.

"Memorial Day is a day of national recognition to recognize and honor those military personnel who, in defense of our nation and its values, gave the ultimate sacrifice in war," said VFW Post 609 Commander Col. Gerald Krueger (ret). "Today we are here to rededicate our City of Alexandria's 1940 Monument to the City's War Dead from all Wars and to dedicate a plaque honoring the

68 Alexandrians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War."

The Monument to the City's War Dead was originally dedicated on Veterans Day in 1940.

Krueger and Bulova worked together in leading the campaign to fund the placement of the plaque at the Alexandria War Memorial. A second duplicate Vietnam War Veteran name plaque will be dedicated on the wall of the Gadsby's Tavern building at 400 Cameron Street on June 14 (Flag Day) at 6 p.m.

The coalition of VSO organizations will

continue to raise funds with plans to place plaques honoring Alexandria's fallen soldiers from World War II and the Korean War.

"We honor all those who deferred their dreams and answered the call to fight and win America's wars," Krueger said. "Let us remember the bonds we still have with the military personnel who have gone before us, who selflessly served our country and paid the ultimate price. And so it is that we honor today these 68 Alexandria heroes by placing their names in perpetuity on this memorial plaque as a tribute to them."

City Marks 80th Anniversary of D-Day Invasion

FROM PAGE 3

many in Alexandria, so many in the Commonwealth of Virginia, so many around our nation and around the world that we commemorate today."

Northern Virginia soldiers killed in action and interred in Normandy include Sgt. Charles Couse, SSgt. Clyde H. Harris, and William E. Lumsden. Pvt. William H. Fisher, also killed in action, is among the names on the cemetery's Tablet of the Missing.

The event marks the 14th annual celebration, planned and executed by the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee. The city of Caen, in western Normandy, was the center of some of the heaviest fighting after the Allies landed on the nearby beaches that marked the beginning of the end of World

War II.

Sponsors of the event included Wegmans, Alexandria Toyota, Hilton, Doug and Wendy John, Alexandria Radio Club, Your Hobby Place and Kona Ice of Fairfax.

"In 2024, at a time when American resolve, when world resolve to tackle tyranny and to tackle those who would sow chaos on the European continent, it is all important to remember what came together in 1944," Wilson said. "Eighty years ago it was the resolve of America and its allies to push back tyranny, to push back fascism that ensured that for much of the last century we have had peace and prosperity. That is what we honor and commemorate."



Mayor Justin Wilson addresses the crowd at the 80th D-Day Commemoration June 2 at Market Square.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Democrats to Determine Future Direction of Alexandria

FROM PAGE 4

to resident concerns. One of her first goals would be to focus on public safety.

"It starts with a plan. Right now, we don't have a strategic plan," said Gaskins. "We have a lot of different things we are testing and trying, some that are working and some that may not be working. And so the first step for me would be to clearly articulate and work with our officers on that plan."

MANY RESIDENTS who have not been thrilled with the direction of the city during the Wilson era are excited by the campaign of Vice Mayor Amy Jackson. Although she voted in favor of Zoning for Housing, she tried to delay the elimination of single-family only zoning. And although she initially voiced support for the ill-fated Potomac Yard arena, she was a vocal opponent after surveys showed widespread opposition. Unlike Gaskins, Jackson has been critical of bus-only lanes on transit corridors.

"I grew up here," she explained during her campaign kickoff in January. "When I grew up, it was about going to a mall and hanging with your friends. We don't have a mall for the kids to go to."

During a recent forum hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, she said city policies can't turn on a dime "like the Titanic." But she also says she wants to continue forging partnerships in the community and pressing for body-worn cameras on police officers. She says she will let voters set her agenda rather than dictating it to them. If elected, she says, he would work toward increasing affordable housing and public safety. Her first goal would be to expand businesses that cater to families with small children.

"Bradlee Shopping Center is not a mall," said Jackson. "And it might be having the problems it's having because we don't have Landmark Mall, and we don't have other places for our kids to go and hang out."

THE PRIMARY also features a newcomer to Alexandria politics, a developer whose company oversaw the creation of National Harbor. He raised the least amount of money, and he was unable to attend the debate hosted by the Alexandria Democratic Committee because of an accident that created a health concern. Earlier this week, he appeared at the George Washington Masonic Memorial to speak to a forum hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

"I know my way around the boardroom," he said. "I know how to do big business."

On the campaign trail, Peterson presents himself as someone who is the polar opposite from the direction of the city during the Wilson years. He was opposed to the ill-fated arena at Potomac Yard. He is against Zoning for Housing. He is against dedicated lanes for buses, and he is hoping that voters fed up with City Hall will give him a chance.

"I'm not a professional politician," said Peterson, adding that he wants to limit his time in office to three or six years. "Then I'll move on."

Diversion Before Immersion



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Soon, as in approximately one hour, I will begin my new thyroid cancer treatment regimen: two pills twice a day and one other pill once a day. This pills are what's called "targeted therapy," as opposed to chemotherapy. There are no trips to the Infusion Center and no other needles. It's me and the pills, at home. The prescription says that I am to take the pills either an hour before eating or two hours after eating. Moreover, that schedule should remain consistent: what pills I take when. As for side effects, there are many. However, the two most likely effects are a skin rash and nausea; medications for which I've already picked up at the pharmacy along with the two cancer drugs. I am locked and loaded as they say — ready to do battle, so to speak. When will I know if this protocol has been effective? It's been my 15 1/2 years of cancer treatment that has led me to this conclusion: what I feel or don't feel, generally speaking, is not necessarily an indicator of good or bad. The tale of the tape will manifest every quarter when I lie down for my recurring PET scan. This scan may only be a moment in time, but what a moment! The oncologist summarizes the radiologist's report and advises Team Lourie what the immediate future holds. Typically, this is an in-person sit-down with my doctor. Though I will have received the report in advance of this meeting, there is a lot of medical jargon contained and until the oncologist summarizes it for me, I am at a loss to say definitively whether my warranty has been extended or not.

Over these years, I have been treated with many cancer drugs, some infused, others in pill form. I have received chemotherapy and have taken "targeted therapy." The treatments had various side effects and resulting quality of life. When changing medicines, the doctor can't know for sure how the patient will react living forward. In fact, my oncologist has suggested to me on more than one occasion - when a medicine change was warranted because the cancer had spread; that if I was feeling good, it might be time to take a break from treatment and take that vacation I'd always dreamed of. His thinking: there's no telling if I'll feel better or worse in the future with the medicine change. Despite his suggestions, I have never stopped treatment unless the oncologist mandated it for some health reason, (kidney damage, as an example as a particularly problematic/current side effect). And so today, we restart. And since I will likely have cancer stories to share, the rest of this column will not be about cancer. It will be about my pet peeve in life: drivers who back into parking spaces rather than pulling in head first.

I have asked friends about their preference. Many do prefer backing in. For the life of me I can't see it. The opinions I received were not the least bit compelling, especially considering the neck-turning and side-splitting (almost literally) challenges of backing in when headfirst offers no such difficulty. Craning my neck and twisting it from side to side to judge the space between my car and any adjacent cars just so when I leave the space, I'll have a clear path out. Granted, it is a clearer path than the headfirst parker, but I maintain that the difficulty of backing out into the common area of the parking lot pales in comparison to the demands of trying to back into a much narrower space. What's the rush anyway? What's the emergency that compels the backwards parker to need a quick unencumbered exit? Whatever time/convenience they feel they gained driving forward exiting their parking space, they definitely lost with the time it took to back in. Moreover, when a headfirst parker exits, he/she has the entire width of the common area (driving aisles) to back into compared to the contrastingly narrow space for the back parker to navigate in the first place. The process may be slower, but I'm sure it's not nearly as slow as the driver who backs in.

It seems much ado about nothing. What is the back-parker worried about anyway? Does the driver have "A need for speed?" This isn't "Top Gun" and the driver isn't Tom Cruise. It's the mundane task of driving, and even more mundane task of parking your car in a parking lot in a timely manner. I don't get the strategy. To me, it's a colossal waste of time. It's this kind of minutiae that regularly occupied my mind pre-cancer. My mind isn't as free now to meander when my cancer world is interfering. Ordinarily, my droning on about the kind of non-cancer/non-serious stuff that I am writing about this week was my operandi. My diagnosis changed all that. It became difficult to write about anything other than cancer. That's because a cancer diagnosis has a way of taking over one's mind and body. And given the precarious situation that I find myself in now: papillary thyroid cancer and stage IV chronic kidney disease, I may feel less inclined to write about nonsense, and even less amused with my circumstances.

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