

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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JULY 25, 2024



PHOTOS BY JOSHUA REED/JASON DIXSON PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2024 40 Under 40 honorees pose for a class photo July 18 at the American Physical Therapy Association Headquarters.

40 Under 40 Chamber celebrates 9th class of honorees.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce honored its newest 40 Under 40 class with a July 18 reception at the American Physical Therapy Association headquarters in Potomac Yard.

Now in its ninth year, the induction of this year's honorees brings the total number of award recipients to 367.

Chris Lewis, a 2016 honoree, and 2023 honoree Cecilia Fix served as emcees for the event, which was sponsored by the United States Senate Federal Credit Union with catering by Flavors Catering.

Honorees are selected based on professional accomplishments, scholastic achievements, community impact and personal story. In addition to the traditional 40 Under 40 honorees, the Chamber presented one Youth Honoree Award to Zahra Rahimi, a 2024 Graduate of Alexandria City High School.

This year's honorees include: Lauren Augustine Director of Government and Community Relations for Virginia Tech; Taylor J. Barnes, Barnes Real Estate; Lau-



Honoree Randy Gore of The Campagna Center, left, receives the 40 Under 40 award from Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Haggerty.



Honoree Suzanne Thibeault of Visit Alexandria poses during the awards ceremony.



Honoree Eduardo Villanueva of United States Senate Federal Credit Union.



Honoree Lauren Bealore of Prosperity Now.



Honoree Dominic Turner of Alexandria City Public Schools flanked by his family.

SEE 40 UNDER 40, PAGE 5

Nothing compares to what's next.



River View Estate, Alexandria
\$60,000,000
Heather Corey +1 703 989 1183



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The Bayne-Fowle House, 811 Prince Street, Alexandria
\$8,000,000
Wetherly Barker Hemeon +1 703 965 9613
Karen Barker +1 703 928 8384



408 Lloyds Lane, Alexandria
Under Contract | \$5,999,000
Christie-Anne Weiss +1 202 256 0105
Christopher Ritzert +1 202 256 9241



Potomac River Masterpiece, 11711 River Drive, Mason Neck
\$5,900,000
Donna Moseley +1 703 623 5294
John McNamara +1 703 395 2908



815 Arcturus on the Potomac, Alexandria
Under Contract | \$2,495,000
Heather Corey +1 703 989 1183



10 Battersea Lane, Fort Washington
\$1,645,000
Sharon Wildberger +1 703 597 0374
Heather Corey +1 703 989 1183



200 Longview Drive, Alexandria
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Anita Edwards +1 703 928 7637
Gina Wimpey +1 301 639 9686



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Rewarding Housing Innovation

Biden administration grants \$3.5 million to boost regional affordable housing efforts.

BY JAMES LIBRESCO
GAZETTE PACKET

As voters headed to the polls for last month's primary, the future of city housing was hot on their minds. In recent years, density has been one of Alexandria's most contentious debates. Last year, discourse reached its climax when the city council approved the controversial Zoning for Housing plan, allowing for multi-family housing throughout the city. Now, a \$3.5 million federal grant to Alexandria and its neighboring districts will help expand city efforts to bolster access to affordable housing.

As part of a newly created Department of Housing and Urban Development program dubbed PRO Housing (Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing), regions across the nation had the opportunity to apply for grants.

"HUD was looking for communities that were already doing the hard work to identify what was getting in the way of making more affordable homes," said Marion McFadden, HUD principal deputy assistant secretary.

Out of dozens of applicants from 47 different states, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) – which includes Alexandria – was one of 21 regions chosen for the grant.

"I think it's amazing that the COG was able to get an award," said Jill Norcross, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. "I know it was a very competitive process."

"What made the application stand out was the deep regional work happening," McFadden said. "Over many years now, governments across D.C., Maryland and Virginia have been coordinating. They understand that to address our affordable housing shortage, they need to approach things at a regional level."

"I think the award speaks to the creativity in the region in how we accelerate affordable housing and are able to work together on these issues," Norcross said.

Grant to expand housing supply and lower housing costs, remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson noted that recent strategy breakthroughs may help with further collaboration.

"For the first time, most of the jurisdictions in this region have realized that if we're going to make housing more accessible and affordable, we have to create more housing," Wilson said. "For most people that sounds rather obvious, but that is actually a big revelation."

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Local leaders convened at Alexandria's Spire apartment complex in early July where U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development officials presented \$3.5 million to help remove barriers to housing affordability.

While funds from the federal level usually aim to combat the housing crisis by launching new initiatives, this program is unique. The purpose of the grants is to expand housing supply and lower housing costs, to identify and remove barriers to affordable housing production and preservation.

"This isn't just about 'What are we building and how are we building it?'" McFadden said. "It's taking a step back and saying 'What's getting in the way when we're trying to use the dollars that we receive?'"

Alexandria has already taken some action promoting affordable housing. In December of last year, the city council approved Zoning for Housing, eliminating single-family zoning regulations and allowing for construction of higher-capacity buildings, with the notion that these buildings could contain more affordable units. Nearly three years earlier, in January 2021, the council passed an accessory dwelling unit ordinance allowing single-family homeowners to build additional housing units on their properties. The previous year, Alexandria was one of several regional governments to create affordable housing production targets. With the new grant, Wilson said the city can prioritize these efforts even more.

"Those are the types of things that we've already attacked," Wilson said. "What this

"For the first time, most of the jurisdictions in this region have realized that if we're going to make housing more accessible and affordable, we have to create more housing."

— Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson

grant is going to fund is the next phase of that kind of work."

"One of the things we'll look at is finding out how to make accessory dwelling units easier and cheaper for people to build," Wilson said. "We're also going to look at the next phase of Zoning for Housing, and how we can continue to go through our zoning code and identify those areas that are barriers to people accessing housing."

Wilson also said the city may further explore pairing affordable housing developments with current city facilities, what he called an opportunity to make better use of the space.

These efforts will be coordinated with seven other Washington COG municipalities, including Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William counties in Virginia, and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, and Washington D.C.

"Conceptually, the jurisdictions are all rowing in the same direction," said McFadden. "This is an extraordinary example of collaboration."

However, implementation may vary depending on density.

"It's a regional problem, but there are very locally specific solutions," Norcross said. "Each of the local governments will be able to request funding to help with what would be most meaningful in their communities."

Although the COG was granted slightly more than half of the roughly \$7 million they originally requested, it should not take long before Alexandria and the rest of the DC metro area get to work.

"We're going to have to redo the budgets and figure out how much we're going to allocate to each thing," Wilson said. "Then we'll kick off very soon, probably next year."

"Of course, having the full funding would have been better," said Norcross. "But adapting speaks to the region's ability to cooperate."

"Truly this is continuing the work that the COG has been doing," said McFadden. "I think they're in good shape to hit the ground running with these dollars ... We're excited to see the results."



Xander Conte stars as DJ Huey Calhoun in the LTA production of Memphis.

‘Memphis’

LTA opens 90th anniversary season with award-winning musical.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is celebrating its 90th anniversary season and is marking the milestone with an opening production of the Tony Award-winning musical Memphis, an interpretation of the roots of rock and roll in the ‘50s that is playing now through Aug. 10.

Set in the segregated south of Memphis, Tenn., the show follows Huey Calhoun, a white radio DJ whose love for music transcends the racial norms of the day, and Felicia Farrell, a black singer who can’t break out of the clubs of Beale Street.

When the two collaborate, the golden era of early rock and roll takes flight with LTA newcomers Xander Conte as Huey Calhoun and Khanner Hancock as Felicia delivering mesmerizing performances as their socially taboo relationship powers the plot.

“Memphis is more than just a show,” said director Rikki Howie Lacewell. “It’s an electrifying journey through the intertwined realms of race, romance and the rebellious spirit of rock and roll.”

A rich and raucous score by Bon Jovi cofounder and keyboardist David Bryan propels the book by Joe DiPietro with orchestrations by Bryan and Daryl Waters

The show is loosely based on the story of Memphis disc jockey Dewey Phillips, one of the first white DJs to play black music in the 1950s. The original Broadway pro-

duction was nominated for eight Tony Awards, taking home four including Best Musical Score and the coveted Best Musical of 2010.

In one of the most challenging roles in musical theater, Conte’s summoning of DJ Huey Calhoun is spellbinding. His vocals soar, both in emotion and range from “The Music of My Soul” to the show’s signature anthem “Memphis Lives in Me.”

Partnering with Conte is Hancock as Felicia, a thrilling singer and commanding actress. Hancock particularly shines in “Colored Woman” and “Love Will Stand When All Else Fails.”

Produced by Eleanore Tapscott and Jennifer Thomas, the LTA production of Memphis is overflowing with gifted performers at the top of their game. Of particular note are Otega Okurume as Felicia’s brother and Beale Street club owner Delray, Lavender Brio as Bobby, Kemuel Van Der Puije as Gator, and Nikki Arbiter-Murphy as Huey’s mother Gladys.

Under the musical direction of Scott Richards, the R&B, gospel and rock and roll songs recall the hits of the era. Stefan Sittig adds powerful visuals with dazzling choreography.

When a singer lets loose - and, eventually, they all do - the vocal pyrotechnics turn Alexandria’s Wolfe Street into Beale Street.

Set designer Julie Fischer and costume designer Farrell Hartigan complete the transformation of taking the audience back to a time of social and musical change across the nation.

A talented cast, stirring vocals, athletic dance numbers and expert direction make for a crowd-pleasing evening to usher in the 90th anniversary season of the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

‘Memphis’ is playing now through Aug. 10 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street. For tickets or more information, call 703-683-5778 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW RANDALL

Xander Conte, left, as DJ Huey Calhoun, with Lavender Brio and Peter Fannon in the musical Memphis playing now through Aug. 10 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.



Otega Okurume as Delray and Khanner Hancock as Felicia Farrell in the LTA production of Memphis.



Khanner Hancock and ensemble in the LTA production of Memphis.

40 Under 40

FROM PAGE 5

ren Bealore, Associate Director of Prosperity Now; Brian E. Bender, Withum; Lauren Elaine Brown, Lauren E. Brown LLC; Amelia Chasse Alcivar, Hilco Redevelopment Partners; Kate V. Comfort, Comfort Family Foundation; Sara Crifasi, Levine, Blaszak, Block & Boothby LLP; Toffany Smith Deans, Grounding Work; Erika Dyer, Curley Company; Caitlin Feehan, AlexRenew; Jeanine Finch, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; Patrick Ford, G.I. Johns; Roberto Gomez, Even Scale LLC; Julian Gonsalves, City of Alexandria; Randy Gore, Campagna Center; Erica Gouse Bledsoe, Junior League of Northern Virginia; Joyvell D. Henry, Neighborhood Health; Jackie Huelbig, Basis Technologies; Ashley Nicole Kempczynski, Legal Services of Northern Virginia; Ally Kirkpatrick, Old Town Books; Cameron Lew, Inova Alexandria Hospital; Melissa A. Little, Melissa Little Consulting and Mediation Services; Carrie Masich, Tanger National Harbor; Dr. Amber Mason, Aptivate Educational and Psychological Solutions; Rachel Miller, American Physical Therapy Association; Tarrence Moorer, City of Alexandria; Imani Myers, Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation; Amber Phillips, The Washington Post; Liz Ray, Burke & Herbert Bank LAllegra H. Smith, Public Knowledge; Suzanne Thibeault, Visit Alexandria; Dr. Maya Sukkari, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group; Simmi Kaur



Honoree Roberto Gomez of Even Scale LLC.

Sran, Route 66 Ventures; David L. Ulloa, City of Alexandria; Eduardo Villanueva, U.S. Senate Federal Credit Union; Philip L. Wilkerson III, George Mason University and Positive Philiter LLC; Kirk Wilson Jr., 1799 Prime Steak and Seafood; Dominic B. Turner, Alexandria City Public Schools; Aaron Zajdel, Goodwin Living; Zahra Rahimi, Alexandria City High School.

www.thechamberalx.com



Honoree Tiffany Smith Deans (right) smiles at Honoree Sara Crifasi (left)

PHOTOS BY
JOSHUA REED
JASON DIXSON
PHOTOGRAPHY

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.volunteeralexandria.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.volunteeralexandria.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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Senior Services of Alexandria
(<https://seniorservicesalex.org>)

Has been supporting older adults with services for 56 years!

As we plan for the future, we want to hear from the community on how we are doing and what could we do better.

Please go to
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSASurvey2024>
to complete a short survey.

Your opinion matters – and we look forward to your feedback.

Senior Services of Alexandria Board of Directors

PEOPLE

Patricia Washington: 2024 Business Leader of the Year

In honor of her tenure and recent retirement, The Chamber ALX recognizes Patricia Washington as the 2024 Business Leader of the Year. She will be honored at the 2024 Best in Business Awards, presented by Burke & Herbert Bank, on Oct. 17.

For twelve years, Patricia Washington led Visit Alexandria, which markets the City of Alexandria to tourists regionally, nationally, and internationally, to critical acclaim. Under her helm, the organization has grown Alexandria's reputation as a 'must-visit destination,' bringing hundreds of millions of direct spending dollars into Alexandria's hotels, restaurants and businesses. City of Alexandria sales, meals and lodging tax receipts have grown from \$55 million to more than \$80 million annually, now saving the average Alexandria household more than \$750 a year in taxes.

Since beginning her role as president and CEO in 2012, Patricia led Visit Alexandria to achieve extraordinary milestones including record visitor spending, hotel occupancy, consumption tax revenues, press hits, website visitation, digital marketing impressions, group business, event attendance and membership. Her energetic spirit and forward-thinking leadership were the backbone of these achievements, while her collaborative mindset strengthened and advanced city-wide partnerships that will shine a light on Alexandria's diverse and inclusive community for years to come.

Throughout her tenure, Patricia was responsible for Visit Alexandria's vision, culture, and data-driven content-first marketing strategy. In collaboration with the City of Alexandria and the Office of Historic Alexandria, Visit Alexandria expanded the lens through which it frames African American history through new experiences like the waterfront African American Heritage Trail and expanded marketing to diverse audiences with a "Drop In" campaign launched in 2021, targeting Black travelers and featuring both iconic and new travel experiences. In 2022, Patricia led Visit Alexandria's "Expand Your Alexandria" campaign highlighting the diverse cultures and global cuisine throughout Alexandria's neighborhoods beyond Old Town. She led two rebranding efforts and four brand campaigns. Under her leadership, a newly developed national media relations strategy advanced Visit Alexandria's rich and impactful storytelling, garnering accolades in publications including Travel + Leisure, Condé Nast Traveler, Southern Living and beyond. Patricia worked with the City, community and business partners to sustain and strengthen the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade and the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights, and she created the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival.

As a dedicated advocate of the arts and philanthro-



Patricia Washington

py, Washington served on the Alexandria Arts Alliance board and Heard, a nonprofit which provides arts services to underserved children and adults. She played leadership roles on the U.S. Travel Association's Destination Advisory Council and the Northern Virginia Tourism Partnership; recent past boards include Alexandria Historic Resources Commission and the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board.

SOME OF ALEXANDRIA'S ACCOLADES DURING PATRICIA'S TENURE

Best Cities in the United States – Travel + Leisure (2024, 2023, 2022)

The South's Best Cities – Southern Living Magazine (2024, 2022, 2020)

Best Small Cities in the U.S. – Conde Nast Traveler (2023, 2022, 2018)

Christmas Town or Holiday Village Accolade – Oprah Magazine, Fodor's, Good Housekeeping, Pioneer Woman, Woman's Day, USA Today (2023-2019)

Best River Walks in the US – Fodor's (2023, 2021)

#1 Best Value U.S. Travel Destination – MONEY (2018)

#1 Most Romantic Place in Virginia – Best of Virginia (2017)

#1 Best City for Entrepreneurs – Entrepreneur (2017)

#1 Most Romantic U.S. City – Amazon (2016)



Katie Shapiro, Guest House Volunteer & Development Coordinator, helps Sharon Simkin carry a midsummer special lunch into the Guest House residence at 1 E. Luray Street.

Guest House Women Enjoy Surprise Treat

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

Claudia Scott and Sharon Simkin, both longtime Arlington residents, along with another friend ventured to Alexandria with a homemade lunch they had spent the morning preparing for 30 women at Guest House on Wednesday, July 17. Both women are Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Food Volunteers and trace their cooking adventures together back to their food coop 51 years ago. In fact, Scott points out the lasagna roll recipe that they used today was from 1987 when she and a friend and their daughters made 200 lasagna rolls for the fall church auction function.

It was a 103-degree day, and they could have baked the lasagna rolls in the car during the half hour trip but as Simkin explained, "We wanted to do something to make the women's recovery journey easier, and good food is always a sure fire winner."

Katie Shapiro, Volunteer & Development Coordinator for Guest House said most days women just make a lunch for themselves to take to their jobs so this homemade lunch prepared by supporters was a real treat. "They are going to love this dessert platter with lemon bars, frosted brownies and coconut cake, and these spinach-ricotta lasagna rolls look delicious."

Guest House provides a residential program for non-violent women offenders who are reentering



Rhonda Bilal, a Lead RSS & Program Assistant at Guest House, comes out to help carry the marinated cucumber salad.

the community. Shapiro explains the community here is really supportive in so many ways. Guest House recently asked for towels and washcloths for the Guest House residents and had a supply in a few days. This spring supporters provided welcome kits full of toiletries and basic undergarments for the new arrivals at Guest House who often arrive with only basic essentials. "When our washing machine broke down several months ago, we got the funds to replace it in 24 hours."

And several times a month local churches and other groups provide a dinner or lunch for the women.

"Anyone who wants to provide a meal for 30 of our women should contact me at katherine@friendsofguesthouse.org. The women will love it."

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CENTENARIAN CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 10
5 P.M. IN THE VOLA
LAWSON LOBBY OF
CITY HALL

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Submit their name by August 13th to be honored at this in person event!



THE
CHAMBER
ALX

Looking for
networking events,
business updates,
and advocacy
support in 2024?
Join The Chamber
ALX now at
thechamberalx.com

Calling all Older Adults 60+

Register Now for the Fall Senior Academy
Sessions Begin Wednesday, Sept. 4

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and the City of Alexandria are gearing up for the fall academies for Alexandria residents and employees. SSA is excited to offer the Senior Academy to Alexandria residents and employees 60 and older starting on Wednesday, Sept. 4. This four-week session takes place every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. The weekly venues will change starting at City Hall, followed by Beatley Central Library, Police Headquarters, and Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

The Senior Academy is a great way to learn about all the services and programs the city has to offer to older adults, how the city operates, and become engaged in your community in a variety of ways. Attendees will hear from different city leaders and non-profits on topics including how the city formulates its annual budget to what recreational activities and continuing education opportunities are available for older adults.

The Academy is free and open to Alexandria residents who are 60+. The class size is limited to 25. Interested participants can request an application by calling Senior Services at 703-836-4414, ext. 110 or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or the city's website at www.alexandriava.gov/Academies

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City to Honor Centenarians on Sept. 10

The City of Alexandria will honor its Centenarian residents at a special event on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. at City Hall in the Vola Lawson lobby. Residents being honored must be 100 or older years of age by Dec. 31, 2024. If you are a Centenarian or know someone who is, we want to honor you! For more information, call Senior Services of Alexandria at 703-836-4414, ext. 110 or visit the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/aging

Aging Well in N. Virginia, for People of Color

SSA will attend the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce and Goodwin Living's "Aging Well in Northern Virginia: a special event for people of color." This event will take place on Tuesday, July 30 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 South Jefferson Street, Falls Church, Virginia.

We all deserve the opportunity to age well — register today at 703-454-8946 or email info@goodwinliving.org

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Tour of Amazon's New Butterfly Garden



Butterfly Garden added to 2.5 acres of Amazon Met Park.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It is a hot July day, and the new Amazon certified butterfly garden is full of the birds and the bees but not a butterfly in sight. But Dillon Clark, Amazon's lead horticulturist explains he saw

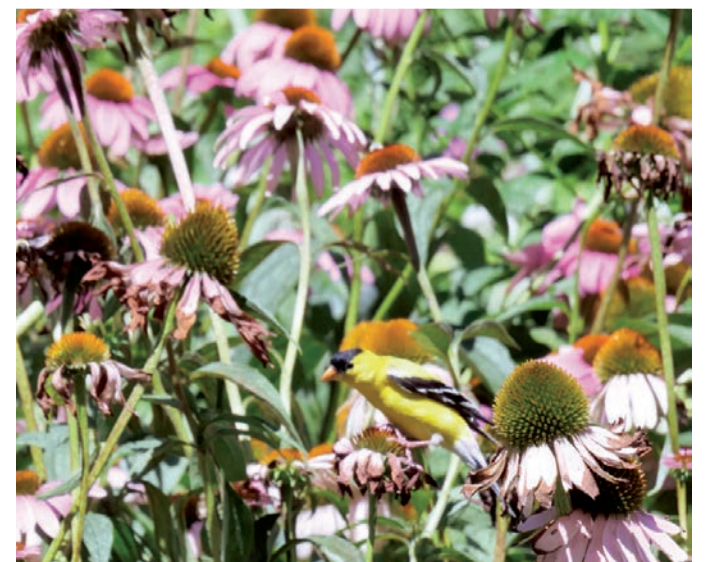
a monarch just last week and that the butterfly migration generally starts a little later in July, and they like swamp milkweed. "We have plenty of that here."

Clark's job is to maintain the 2.5 acres of external landscape in Met Park surrounding the new Amazon building (known as HQ2) as well as the 19 landscape terraces located in the building and several special displays. And now there is the newly installed certified butterfly garden rimming the daycare play area next to the building. The inspiration for the design of the original landscape of Met Park was based on a trip to the Smithso-

SEE BUTTERFLY GARDEN, PAGE 9

Amazon headquarters (HQ2) located at 510 14th Street S in Arlington.

PHOTOS BY
SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET



Dillon Clark, lead horticulturist at Amazon HQ2.



Clark points to one of his favorite plants, the carnivorous tropical pitcher plant.



Clark points to the ripe persimmons in the community edible garden.

Met Park has plenty of birds and bees but butterfly migration is yet to come.

Butterfly Garden Added to 2.5 Acres of Amazon Met Park

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE PACKET

FROM PAGE 8

nian's Botanical Garden.

The idea for the butterfly garden originated about five months ago when Tricia Wine, an Amazon staffer and the horticulture staff discovered that the North American Butterfly Association certifies butterfly gardens and that HQ2 already had a number of the native plants that could attract butterflies. Early in June volunteers and staff planted the butterfly garden including swamp and butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, asters, phlox and penstemon digitalis. Amazon planned a grand opening of the butterfly garden for June 20. Although the community event was postponed until fall due to the heat, the butterfly garden opened on schedule and is available to the public.

We begin the tour of the Mets Park area as Clark points to the tropical pitcher plants, which look a bit like a mushroom on a stem and is one of his favorites. He explains there are three different types of this carnivorous plant which digests insects. We walk past the large glass mushroom sculptures. "These light up at night."

Clark explains the Amazon garden concentrates on native plants which they buy from family-owned local nurseries. Clark grew up in the area and remembers as a kid catching butterflies. "I'd come inside with my hands covered with butterfly dust from the wings." He always thought he would end up working in Virginia somewhere but he had no idea he would become a horticulturist at Amazon.

The fence along the park area is rimmed with colorful metal butterflies. As we walk along the path through the garden, large swaths of coneflowers blend in with the black-eyed susan and the bee balm in the sunny spots. A bright yellow male goldfinch buzzes around the coneflowers and in a while is joined by a muted brownish female. If you bend over and listen carefully, you can hear the chirping of a grasshopper rubbing its hind legs against its wing casings in the middle of a bush nearby.

Clark says it is a challenge to keep native plants in a public setting alive and beautiful. "Weekly the weeds are pulled by hand. We don't use any pesticides." He explains Amazon is very environmentally conscious, and they have an irrigation system which is tailored to the needs of each plant. It uses the gray water leftover from the building and, "all trees are on an underground bubbler individually timed and controlled with my



Colorful metal butterflies line the fence around the Amazon garden.

watch."

He bends over. "See the leaf cutter bees and the tiny wasps. We have so many different kinds of bees if you pay attention."

Clark explains that the garden was designed to reflect the local geographical area we live in. "This is the meadow area and this represents the fall line between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains." A mother and her small child sit at the edge of the garden in a shaded alcove.

Across the sidewalk we enter the community edible garden. Clark pulls back the heavy branches of a tall healthy tree. "See the persimmon tree is loaded with fruit." The ripe fruit will soon fall off and cover the ground and be devoured by a variety of local critters. He points to the serviceberry tree that produces purple berries attractive to birds. "Over there are blueberries. Back in the corner is a hazelnut tree and over there is the sassafras bush which used to be used to make root beer."

Clark arrived at Amazon a little over two years ago "at the tail end of construction." He says he had bounced around to a number of different areas like residential and business "but they don't focus heavily on horticulture like they do at Amazon." Clark adds that he has one other horticulturist assisting him now at the Arlington headquarters. But he says the Seattle location has 22 horticulturists to support the greenhouse and



Amazon Met Garden is open to the public including nature-loving bulldogs.

rare tropical plants, the special displays and a live feed of the rare corpse plant which blooms only 2-3 days every couple of years. Its name derives from the odor of the plant which many compare to the smell of death.

He says all displays in Seattle are open to the public, and adds when they open the next expansive area in Arlington he is hoping to bring similar displays and events here as well.

"We love to have people come

and enjoy the garden." The current Amazon Met Park in Arlington including the butterfly garden is open to the public. Met Park is located on the grounds of the building located at 510 14th Street S.

Biden Acts to Maximize Democracy's Chances

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

It's rare when you get to witness history in your lifetime, but today we all were able to witness American leadership at its finest.

Two-hundred-and-twenty-eight years ago, George Washington lived at a time when no man had ever abdicated power for his successor to be chosen by a democratic process.

In 1776, our neighbor put his reputation, his family, his belongings, and his life on the line for an idea called America. Once the

Revolution was over in 1781, he could have allowed the colonies to make him King or Emperor and he demurred.

When he was elected President in 1788, Washington could have stayed as long as he liked, until he died. Instead, he demurred again and gave up power in 1797. He established the tradition in our country that elected leaders can give up power and pass the torch to the next generation. A tradition that has carried on for over 200



Surovell

years until it was attempted to be breached on Jan. 6, 2021.

When the Capitol of Virginia was completed in 1804, there was one statue that belonged in the Rotunda - Houdon's sculpture of Washington completed in 1792. It was placed and never

moved.

Today, President Joe Biden demurred to attempting to hold on to power and he did so to facilitate not just passing the torch to the next generation, but also to max-

imize the possibility that we continue the democracy that we call America.

Please take note of today, make it a learning experience for those in your family, and appreciate the leadership that President Biden showed today. Those of us who live in Fairfax County have a special connection to the father of our country and can take a moment to take in unfolding history.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator and the Majority Leader of the Senate of Virginia.

Surovell was Vice President Kamala Harris' 2020 Virginia Cochair.

Beyer on Biden; Supports Harris

Congressman Don Beyer issued the following statement Sunday, July 21:

President Joe Biden is a great American. Today he made a hard decision few others could have made, showed his character, and put his country first. I am proud of my support for Joe Biden, and proud of his patriotism.

Joe Biden took office amid the deadliest pandemic in a century, the worst economic decline since the Great Depression, and one of the worst attacks on our democracy in American history. He guided our nation back to normalcy and health, presided over the strongest and fastest economic recovery in

history, and achieved bipartisan legislative victories many dismissed as 'impossible' in our divided society.

President Biden's historic record of job creation and low unemployment, the revitalization of our manufacturing sector, the passage of the American Rescue Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act, the Chips and Science Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Respect For Marriage Act, and so many other accomplishments will create an



Beyer

incredible and enduring legacy upon which the eyes of history will look with favor. During President Biden's remaining months in office I will continue to do all I can to help build on his extraordinary record of achievements for the country.

The past few weeks have been very difficult, but I am proud to be a member of a party that tolerates dissent. We are not a cult of personality where any disagreement results in threats or purges. Democrats are not afraid to allow hard conversations and tough choices,

and we are stronger for it.

"In that spirit, I look forward to a fair and open nomination process to choose the next Democratic nominee. As that process unfolds, I will support Vice President Kamala Harris, who already brings strength, compassion, and vision to the office and the ticket. Vice President Harris' leadership and experience make her uniquely qualified to serve as President, and I am proud to endorse her to be President Biden's successor. I look forward to doing all I can in the months ahead to defeat Donald Trump and elect Kamala Harris as President of the United States.

Be Safe! Hurricane Season Started

Purchase tax-free hurricane preparedness products like batteries, generators, 2-way radios, bottled water and tie-down kits Aug. 2-4.

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

Earlier this summer, we saw Hurricane Beryl barrel through the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico as a Category 5 storm, so this is a good time to remind you about preparing your home and family for hurricane season.

In recent years, we have seen severe hurricane season creep ever earlier, with storms starting stronger and more destructive than normal in the face of rising water temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean. Hurricane Beryl is the first Category 5 storm ever seen in the Atlantic Ocean in the month of June since hurricane records began in 1851. Until the formation of Hurricane Beryl, the earliest a Category 4 or 5 hurricane had formed in the north-

ern Atlantic during a hurricane season was July 8.

While we are fortunate to live in Northern Virginia where we rarely experience direct landfall from extreme hurricanes, these storms can still bring intense winds and rainfall that cause significant flooding and property damage. Two hurricanes in recent memory, Irene in 2011 and Isabel in 2003, left a lasting mark on our Alexandria area. Isabel alone caused over \$5 billion in damages from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. Our region experienced wind speeds peaking at 71 mph, resulting in severe tidal flooding and extensive tree damage. Power outages lasting a week



Krizek

or more were common, and Old Town's storm surge surpassed its historic record from the hurricane of 1933.

So, what can you do to stay prepared?

You should learn the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning. A watch means that hurricane conditions are possible, while a warning means that hurricane conditions are expected. Sign up for local alerts and warnings on your mobile device and listen to the local news and weather reports. Learn your community's evacuation plan and identify evacuation routes.

Create your own evacuation plan with a place to stay and a "go bag" full of emergency items, such

as bottled water, snacks, a first aid kit, a flashlight, hygiene items, your medications and a change of clothes. Plan for your entire household including children, people with disabilities and access and functional needs, and pets. Your family may not be together when a hurricane occurs, or you may become separated, so it is important to know how to contact one another and how to reunite. Designate an out-of-town contact who can help your household reconnect. Be sure to practice your plan with your family.

If authorities advise or order you to evacuate, grab your "go bag" and leave immediately. If you are not in a mandatory evacuation zone, you may still decide to leave the area, you may need to move to

SEE BE SAFE!, PAGE 11

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NEWS BRIEFS

Alexandria Police Investigate Construction Site Fatality

Wednesday morning, July 24, at approximately 7:32 a.m. the Alexandria Police Department responded to a construction site in the 5700 block of Duke Street for the report of a person with injury. Inside the enclosed construction site, an adult male worker was fatally struck by a vehicle. The APD Crash Reconstruction Team responded and is investigating the incident. Other City of Alexandria agencies collaborating with the investigation include the Alexandria Department of Code Administration, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, and Department of Project Implementation in coordination with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry. This is an active investigation.

New Clothing & Resource Center

ALX Closet is a new Clothing & Resource Center located at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center (4850 Mark Center Drive, 5th Floor). The grand opening is Thursday, Aug. 1.

ALX Closet is dedicated to supporting Alexandria's children and families in times of emergency or crisis by providing essential items to people in need, ensuring that every child and family has access to clothing and other necessities

Be Safe! Hurricane Season Started

FROM PAGE 10

higher ground, or you may choose to stay in your home. If you decide to stay home, remember that even if the high winds and floodwaters do not reach your home, you may still lose power or water, and you may not be able to leave your home for several days if the roads are impassable. Never drive through flooded areas: even as little as 12 inches of water can carry a vehicle away. Never wade through water: floodwaters can contain dangerous debris like broken glass, metal, dead animals, sewage, gasoline, oil, and downed power lines.

Ensure your home is protected by cleaning drains and downspouts, and anchoring any outdoor furni-

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during challenging times. ALX Closet will be stocked with children's clothing up to size 14/16 (and gift cards, as available); diapers, wipes, formula; and toiletries and hygiene products.

Donations are needed. ALX Closet is accepting donations of brand-new children's clothing (up to size 16), along with gift cards, diapers, wipes, baby formula, toiletries and hygiene products. Donations can be brought to 4850 Mark Center Drive, 5th Floor. Tax-deductible contributions will make a significant difference in the lives of Alexandria's children and families. Inquiries about community partnerships are also welcome to provide the support and resources families need to thrive.

The Center for Alexandria's Children provides prevention, intervention, and treatment programs to protect and heal the city's children and families. The Fund for Alexandria's Child processes requests to provide immediate assistance in the form of basic needs and life-enhancing opportunities to children in foster care and children who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Pop-Up Archaeology

Buried Ships of Robinson Landing Exhibit

Friday, July 26
4:30 – 7 p.m.

Corner of The Strand and Pioneer Mill Way (near BARCA)

A pop-up Archaeology exhibit will allow a look at the Buried Ships of Robinson Landing.

Step inside the temporary Buried Ships of Robinson Landing windowfront exhibit for a chance to see scale models of three 18th century vessel remnants excavated

in 2018 on the same block. Talk with an archaeologist and learn how these ships were used to create new land along the waterfront.

Through a partnership with the Robinson Landing Property Owners Association, Alexandria Archaeology can shine a light on this site's history. Archaeologists

use digital and physical models to compare ship construction and to answer questions about the age and use of the vessels.

"This collaboration with the Robinson Landing Property Owners Association allows us to bring history to life in a tangible and accessible way, fostering a deeper

understanding of our shared maritime heritage," said Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist.

Don't miss this chance to witness history firsthand at the "Buried Ships of Robinson Landing" windowfront exhibit. www.alexandriava.gov/archaeology/archaeology-on-the-waterfront.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

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

ciation 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 donaalrea@aol.com.

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

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

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

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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ENTERTAINMENT

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/>

34TH SEASON OF THE LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association (WMPA) announces the 34th season of its Lyceum Chamber Series, under the guidance of Music Director Laureate Ulysses James. Hosted at the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria, this series promises to offer an array of exceptional weekly performances throughout the summer. All concerts are at 3 p.m.; no tickets required. Suggested donation \$25.

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Ulysses James, Music Director Laureate, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic
Alberto Rodriguez, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra
Martin Garfield-Levine, Music Director, Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra

Caroline Mousset, Executive and Artistic Planning Director

MUSIC SCHEDULE

August 4: Alexandria Baroque
Michael De Sapio, Baroque Violin
John Armato, Lute, Baroque Guitar
August 11: Tapestry Cello Ensemble
August 18: Quodlibet, Flute/Clarinet/Bassoon
August 25: Samuel Runolfson, Cello
September 1: Michael De Sapio, Violin
September 8: Hai Jin, Piano
September 15: John Sutherland Earle: Piano & Friends

LYCEUM CHAMBER SERIES SUMMER 2024 CONCERT SCHEDULE

July 28: Maxim Pakhomov, Piano Works by Schubert, Dvorák, Poulenc, and Rachmaninoff

NOW THRU AUG. 4

Curators' Selects - Artomatic 2024. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Everyone applying to exhibit in Artomatic is accepted. Artomatic 2024, held this Spring in Washington, DC featured over 800 artists. In this Athenaeum show, three representatives of the Gallery selected several artists they had not been familiar with prior to visiting Artomatic. This exhibition features these artists and explains why the curators felt they merited wider recognition.

Curators: Elizabeth Brown, Athenaeum Gallery Associate
Twig Murray, Athenaeum Gallery Director
Veronica Szalus, Athenaeum Executive Director

Their Selected Artists: Camron Anderson, Eric Celarier, Ellen Cornett,

12 ❖ ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ❖ JULY 25-31, 2024

Louis Del Valle, Kim Dyer, Rita El-sner, Lewis Frances, Dennis Goris, A.D. Herzel, Martha Holmes, Jenny Kanzler, Phyllis Mayes, Bryan Sieling, Candice Tavares, Christian Tribastone

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.

JULY

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.

JULY

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)

FRIDAY/JULY 26

At Large Performance. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance and Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association at the Athenaeum Present At Large. For the July performance at the Athenaeum, Jane Franklin Dance goes beyond the parameters of a single theme to reveal multiple viewpoints and to celebrate the communal whole of a fleeting moment in time.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Beats, Bites & Brews - Summer Extravaganza. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Featuring Live Beats: Groove to the sounds of summer with live music performances that will set the perfect tone for your sun-soaked day; Delectable Bites: Indulge your taste buds with a variety of summer-inspired bites from local food vendors; Refreshing Brews: Quench your thirst with an array of cold beverages, including craft beers and refreshing summer cocktails in the Beer Garden; Summer Shopping: Explore local artisans and vendors offering a curated selection of summer goodies, from fashion finds to unique crafts.



The Bio Ritmo (Salsa) band will perform on Friday, July 26, 2024 at Grist Mill Park in Alexandria.



Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale takes place Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Musician Clinic. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Music & Arts Store, 4664 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring Jake Sommers and Matt Maxwell who are the rhythm section for Country Superstar Luke Combs. This free event will feature performances, Q&A and autograph sessions.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Author Signing for "Spite House." 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King Street, Old Town Alexandria. John Adam Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of "Spite House" at Hooray for Books. "Spite House" is book 7 of the Old Town mystery series. The story uses one of Alexandria's four spite houses as a model; the spite house in the book is located in the 400 block of Prince Street and owned by Brendan O'Leary.

AUG. 2-31

"The Science of Our Surroundings" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features art that draws inspiration from science and math, with a focus on diagrams, cutaways or cycles that the artist or creator may find particularly fascinating. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, August 2, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 1). Details at DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

AUG. 2-16

ALX Bark Bingo. Come and celebrate Alexandria during the first two weeks of August with a free and fun game of bingo! ALX Bark Bingo is simple to play: 1) Fetch a bingo

card from participating stores that feature a bright yellow box on the storefront; 2) Scan the QR code on the storefront's yellow box to reveal a dog, and 3) Have a match on your bingo card? Pop into the store and get your card stamped! Win with one horizontal/vertical/diagonal bingo and email a photo of your winning card to barkbingo@alxdogwalk.com. Winning cards will be entered into a drawing on 8/19, and four winners will receive a bag of \$300 worth of gift certificates from participating stores! ALX Bark Bingo participating stores include: Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, Bad Ass Coffee of Hawaii, Beeliner Diner, Bellies & Babies, Benny Diforza's Pizza, Boxwood, Cameron Café, District Biscuit Company, The Dog Park, ERA Clothing & Accessories, fibre space, Fiscus Glassworks,

ENTERTAINMENT



Alexandria Restaurant Week takes place Aug. 16-25, 2024 throughout Old Town Alexandria, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End.

Frizzles Hair Salon, Kungfu Kitchen, Lost Boy Cider, Magpie Reclamations, Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop, Pip-pin Toy Co., Taqueria Picoso, Ten Thousand Villages, Today's Cargo, Top it Off Accessories, Whiskey & Oyster, and Zuki Moon. Visit www.alxdogwalk.com

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Back to School Community Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Lorton Community Center, 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. Enjoy a day of family-friendly fun with free giveaways of back to school supplies, food, music, games, hearing, vision and dental screenings, vaccines, the Fairfax County Park Authority Wonder Wagon, exhibitors, touch-a-truck and more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

SATURDAY/AUG. 10

Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale. Throughout Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. One of the longest-running seasonal summer shopping events—Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale—returns to the D.C. region's "Shop Small" destination on Saturday, August 10, 2024, throughout Old Town and Del Ray. The event features dozens of Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts and offering deeply discounted summer merchandise. Learn more at VisitAlexandria.com/SidewalkSale. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/SidewalkSale

AUG. 16-25
Alexandria Restaurant Week.

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Throughout neighborhoods in Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria, Virginia, will offer a \$27.50, \$40 or \$50 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week, August 16-25, 2024. The special \$27.50 offer is a playful nod to Alexandria's 275th anniversary. Find additional special offers and discounts at fast casual restaurants throughout Alexandria during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs and international cuisine in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower and the West End. In early August, guests will find a digital flip-book of menus at participating restaurants on AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/AUGUST 17

Del Ray Bands & Brews Bar Crawl. 12:30- 6 p.m. At Del Ray Business Association, 2308 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Join the fun and vibrant Del Ray community for a special summer event, featuring live music in outdoor restaurant venues along the Avenue! Bands & Brews. This event is being brought to you by the Del Ray Business Association and will benefit a local non-profit. The first 250 registrants will get a swag bag with a 16 oz souvenir collectors cup! Advance tickets are \$15 (\$25 at the door), and include specials on cocktails, beer, and food at each of the 20+ participating restaurants, live music at every venue, trolley transportation, 50/50 raffles, a photo booth, and many more fun giveaways. You must be 21+ to participate in the crawl, but children and families are welcome at family friendly establishments and at the main stage at Pat Miller Square. Visit visitdelray.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24
Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At

Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, downtown Old Town Alexandria. Come and enjoy delicious foods from around the world while watching a diverse folk show with singers and dancers from different countries, then take a break and go shopping from the ethnic artisans and crafters participating in the festival.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

JULY

Thu. 25: Lyfe Jennings \$75.00
Sat. 27: Countess Luann De Lesseps: Marry F Kill! \$69.50
Sun. 28: Peter White \$49.50
Tue. 30: Ladysmith Black Mambazo \$55.00
Wed. 31: Kamasi Washington: Fearless Movement Tour \$69.50 **SOLD OUT!**

AUGUST

Fri. 2: Michael Franks \$65.00
Sat. 3: Michael Franks \$65.00 **SOLD OUT!**
Sun. 4: Michael Franks \$65.00
Tue. 6: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 **SOLD OUT!**
Wed. 7: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 **SOLD OUT!**
Thu. 8: Robert Earl Keen \$65.00 **SOLD OUT!**
Fri. 9: White Ford Bronco \$35.00
Sat. 10: 1964: The Tribute \$45.00
Sun. 11: Trevor Hall: An Evening in a Blue Sky Mind \$65.00
Thu. 15: Keke Wyatt \$65.00
Fri. 16: JON B. \$69.50
Sat. 17: JON B. \$69.50
Sun. 18: The Secret Sisters w/ Jon Muq \$35.00
Fri. 23: Marcus Miller \$69.50
Sat. 24: Kim Waters \$35.00
Sun. 25: Sandi Patty \$59.50
Thu. 29: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones w/ Jon Langford & The Bright Shiners \$45.00
Fri. 30: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00
Sat. 31: Raheem DeVaughn \$85.00

'Spite House' Author at Hooray for Books!

John Adam Wasowicz will be discussing and signing copies of "Spite House" this Saturday, July 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hooray for Books at 1555 King Street in the heart of Old Town.

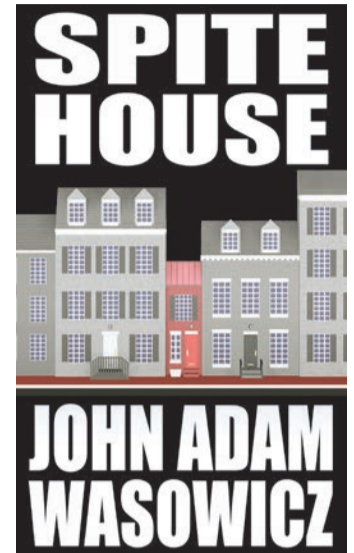
Local author John Adam Wasowicz will present and sign his latest mystery for grown-ups, "Spite House."

Like the previous six books in Wasowicz's Old Town Mysteries series, Spite House is set in Old Town Alexandria.

When defense attorney Mo Katz agrees to defend Roxie Neele as she stands accused of murdering her neighbor with a poison cupcake, he discovers that Roxie has an ulterior motive: she believes that together, they can use her legal defense to unmask a serial killer hiding in plain sight.

The book takes its title from the "spite house" in which Roxie lives. Also called alley houses, these narrow structures are known for being built to spite the neighbors. Four of them currently stand in Old Town Alexandria.

Hooray for Books! will have copies of "Spite House" available for purchase at the event



Cover of "Spite House"

Ongoing Alive Volunteer Opportunities

FRESH PRODUCE GLEANING- TUESDAY MORNINGS

Join the Friends of Urban Agriculture/Plot Against Hunger Glean Team. Help harvest fresh produce for our neighbors. The Glean Team harvested over 22 tons of vegetables in 2023 to share with DC metro area feeding programs.

Who: Individuals who love to be outdoors, are in good health, able to lift 15 lbs, work outdoors in heat and cold. Minors (12-17) are welcome when accompanied by parents or guardians. Groups are especially welcome when we are offered large fields of sweet corn, zucchini, squash and potatoes to harvest.

Where: Local farms inside the DC Beltway, within 40 minutes of Arlington/Alexandria.

When: Tuesday, July 30.

Meet at 7:15am and start harvesting at 7:30am. We glean on Tuesday mornings (and Thursdays reserved as rain days and bumper crop harvests) through the summer until the end of October.

Questions and RSVP: Please direct inquiries to Puwen Lee, lepuwen@gmail.com.

See more Alive volunteer opportunities at <https://www.alive-inc.org/we-need-volunteers-alexandria-va/>

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NEWS

15th Annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale

One of the longest-running seasonal summer shopping events, Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale, returns on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, throughout Old Town and beyond. The event features more than 60 Alexandria boutiques stepping out of their storefronts and offering deeply discounted summer merchandise across women's fashion, consignment, fair-trade goods, artwork, plants, home décor and more.

First-time sidewalk sale participants include Galactic Panther Art Gallery, Look Again Resale Shop, Indus Imports, Madame Coco Emporium & Everything Chocolate, Pippin Toy Co., The Genius Genus, The BEST Gift Shop and Zen Press Juice. Discounts of up to 75% off are available at boutiques including Lotus Bloom, Boxwood, Red Barn Mercantile, The Old Town Shop and more.

Shoppers can head to the Old Town Pop-Up Art Market at 101 N. Union Street to peruse offerings from Fiscus Glassworks, Bashford & Pitt, CalmConnectWell, Alexandria Schmeling Fine Art, Papazian Design and The Pink Reef from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nearby, stroll Mount Vernon Avenue during the Del Ray Vintage & Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shoppers are invited to follow a map of participating stores along Alexandria's red brick sidewalks for end-of-summer savings from locally owned boutiques. During the week of the event, the map will be posted online at AlexandriaSidewalkSale.com, accessible via a QR code on posters at participating stores and available in print for pickup at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street.

Alexandria Sidewalk Sale is produced by Visit Alexandria in partnership with Old Town Business and the City of Alexandria.

Visit AlexandriaSidewalkSale.com for more information and store hours.

CALENDAR

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16	17	18	19	20	21
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Let us know about an upcoming event
connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Investigation Continues Concerning Dog Deaths

Three dogs deaths are linked to Alexandria PetSmart boarding facility.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is continuing to wait for final necropsy results on the dog, Clark, involved in the initial complaint against the PetSmart PetsHotel on July 1, 2024, and hope to have the results, as well as some insight into the dog's cause of death, within the week.

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria Animal Services team was contacted on July 1, 2024 regarding the death of a dog while being boarded at the PetSmart PetsHotel located at 3351 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, Va. AWLA Animal Services team has been working on this investigation since. The dog's body was sent for a necropsy (animal autopsy) on July 2, 2024 to hopefully determine what led to the dog's passing. AWLA is still awaiting the final results of the necropsy.

Since the complaint, the Animal Services team members have been visiting and inspecting the PetsHotel every two days. The team has also requested numerous records from PetSmart and are interviewing employees. PetSmart has been cooperating with the investigation.

Since the initial complaint, there have

been two additional individuals who have come forward with similar claims. In both cases, the two dogs experienced illnesses and subsequently died within a week of being boarded at the PetsHotel. However, the dog's bodies have been cremated, so AWLA is unable to have necropsies performed. All three dogs boarded at the PetsHotel during the same timeframe.

The third dog (Lily) involved in this case stayed at the PetSmart PetsHotel from June 18 through June 22. On June 22, a PetSmart employee took Lily to the emergency veterinarian after she began showing signs of illness/medical distress, according to AWLA. The emergency veterinarian contacted the owner to let them know they had the dog in their care, had done what they medically could for her, and Lily was ready to be discharged. The veterinarian also recommended Lily go somewhere other than back to the PetSmart boarding facility, citing her older age. Lily was approximately 16 years old. Lily went to stay with a friend of the owner's for a few days following the veterinary visit, then died on June 26, 2024, after returning home with the owner.

Lily was cremated (as was Blue), so there

is no way to determine the exact causes of death for Blue or Lily. The investigation is still waiting to hear back from the attending veterinarians for both Blue and Lily to discuss their examinations and findings.

"Given all the information we have currently, we do not suspect any active cruelty or intent to harm animals on the part of any PetSmart employees," said AWLA in a statement. "However, this continues to be an ongoing investigation."

According to AWLA, animal boarding facilities, unlike animal shelters, are not subject to annual inspections by a state agency, and instead are only subject to inspection if a complaint is filed. The complaint filed on July 1, 2024, was the first to be investigated by our agency at this location.

Animal guardians should do extensive research when choosing any animal-related boarding or sitting services or facilities, AWLA says. Find a list of things to consider and ask when choosing an animal boarding facility here.

<https://alexandrianimals.org/ongoing-investigation-concerning-dog-deaths-at-alexandria-petsmart-boarding-facility/>

Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge over I-395

The Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395 closed 10 p.m. Sunday, July 21, and will reopen 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 28 for work related to the bridge rehabilitation project, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

The bridge connects the southbound I-395 collector-distributor lanes and southbound Shirlington Road to North Quaker Lane at the I-395 Exit 6 interchange.

Drivers are being detoured via the follow-

ing routes:

Southbound I-395 general purpose lanes: Ramp to Seminary Road (Exit 4), eastbound Seminary Road, ramp to northbound I-395/Washington, northbound I-395 general purpose lanes and the Exit 6/Shirlington ramp back to Quaker Lane

Shirlington Road/Campbell Avenue: Ramp to southbound I-395/Richmond, southbound I-395 general purpose lanes, ramp to Seminary Road (Exit 4), eastbound Seminary Road, ramp to northbound I-395/

Washington, northbound I-395 general purpose lanes and the Exit 6/Shirlington ramp back to Quaker Lane

The work is part of the project to rehabilitate the Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395. The project, which will improve safety for drivers and extend the overall life of the bridge, is scheduled for completion in mid-2025.

Drivers are reminded to use caution when traveling in active work zones. Be alert to new traffic patterns and limit distractions.

"Excuse Me, Sir"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm guess I'm invoking Robert De Niro from the movie, "Taxi Driver," when I ask, rhetorically: are you talking to me? But it's not my television that I'm talking to, nor do I have a loaded gun in my hand. If I have anything in my hand, it's the television remote so no one, including anyone appearing on my television set is in danger. If I had an anger management problem - which I don't, I might get angry at all these people; young, old, and in between who insist on addressing me respectfully as 'sir.' 'Sir' is my father. 'Sir' is someone older than me. It can't possibly be me. I mean, I know cancer can take a few years off your appearance at the very least (and a few years off your life expectancy at the most), but I can't be 'sir' to anybody, can I? Certainly, I realize that I'm older now than I've ever been, but 'sir?' Really?

And though I readily admit to having been addressed in this manner previously, after all I am almost 70 and a 70-year-old person should be treated respectfully - as in respect your elders, and I do realize I am an 'elder,' nevertheless, the recent barrage would be an exaggeration, let's call it an uptick, of 'sirs' spoken in my direction has been a bit off-putting. Enough to think it grist for a "Kenny Column," as it's referred to at the Connection, and so here it is in all its self-indulgence - which I try, very hard by the way, to avoid.

As I've written previously about my column: it's not important that I'm writing it, it's important that it's being written about. And to summarize succinctly what exactly I'm writing about this week, I am writing about a figurative Rubicon that has been crossed: the line/time when I am the one being called 'sir,' rather than the one who is doing the calling. Don't get me wrong, I am not unhappy being called 'sir.' It's more that it's jarring in a way. Jarring in that, in my self-assessment, if there are people older than me, it doesn't feel proper to be called 'sir.' Those people and I can't be addressed similarly. If we are, then I must be, at least to a very large segment of the population that person, and/or older than I want to believe I am. In my head, I don't feel as if I'm almost 70 (in fairness what does age 70 feel like in a 70-year-old's head). I feel like I've always felt. Granted I am ever-more convinced of my age every time I must bend over and tie my sneakers. I swear I don't know what happened. Suddenly, I can't do a million things I took for granted doing with ease. The other day I picked up a baseball to throw it to a neighborhood kid who was playing catch. I barely got it to him in the air. My whole life, that's never been a problem. Now, it's not just a problem, it's a near impossibility.

As "Dirty Harry" made famous: "A man has to know his limitations." And a man of a certain age, begins to have limitations. Limitations which don't exactly enhance one's quality of living. And not that I haven't experienced some of these limitations before, it seems that being called 'sir' as frequently as I have been of late, is bringing some of these age-realities home to roost. Maybe I've been cooped up in the house too much lately? Maybe I need to get out and stop being chicken about going places? It's not as if someone is going to call me for a foul. If anything, they're likely to call me 'sir.' Now, after writing this column and fleshing out more of my feelings, being called 'sir' is not so bad. Being called "terminal" is worse. I ought to know.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

❖ Support Group in English, every Monday, 6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401

Wythe St.

❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

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

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

ONGOING

Be Heard at the City's Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city's website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

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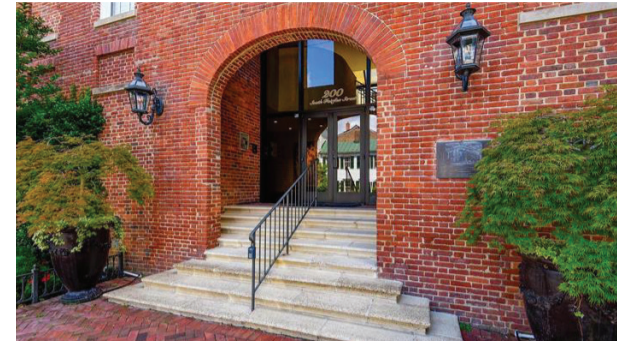
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Annette Hinaman 571.216.4411
www.AnnetteHinaman.com



Old Town | \$1,050,000

Beautiful 2-bedroom townhouse in sought after location. Tiered gardens, 2-story porch, sunken family room, 12' ceilings, raised hearth, stone fireplace, open kitchen, large bedrooms, parking, and lower-level multipurpose room. 914 S St Asaph St
Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney 703.785.5619
www.MaryTaylorRealtor.com



Old Town | \$899,000

Think Paris, London, or Florence, easy 1-level living with views of history nestled in the heart of Old Town. This updated 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom treasure in the boutique Green's Steam Furniture Works Condominium has 1 garage space & extra storage. 200 S Fairfax St #7
Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com



White Oaks | \$849,000

This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom, 2-level brick home on a quiet cul-de-sac features hardwood floors, a large deck, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, and a fenced-in yard. Close to Metro, I-495, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, Huntley Meadows Park, and more. 7200 Popkins Farm Rd
Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802
www.WendySantantonio.com



Kirkside | \$835,000

Unique 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers 1,800 sq. ft. of living space on one level! Large eat-in kitchen adjoins family room with exposed brick wall & gas fireplace, living room with gas fireplace. Sited on spacious 1/3 acre lot fenced on 3 sides in the backyard. 7614 Range Rd
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
Jamie Arnold 703.835.5892



Porto Vecchio | \$519,000

Price reduced! Spacious 1-bedroom pied-a-terre has over 900 square feet, large terrace, updated kitchen and bathroom, separate storage unit, parking space, and exclusive amenities.
 1250 S Washington St #120
Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
www.MaryTaylorRealtor.com



River Farms | \$629,900

Beautiful 4-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom spacious brick end-unit townhome. Large eat in kitchen features new quartz countertops, new appliances and a cozy fireplace. The bright living room with bay window connects to the formal dining room. 8231 Cedar Landing Ct
Miriam Miller 703.598.6619
www.MM-RealEstate.com



Mill Stream | \$639,900

Spacious 3-bedroom townhouse with generous rooms, updated baths, fireplace, huge deck, plus lower-level rec room that opens to a patio. Convenient location near shops, grocery stores, library and major commuter routes. 306 Cloudes Mill Way
Mary Taylor & Pat Tierney 703.785.5619
www.MaryTaylorRealtor.com



The Seasons | \$230,000

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