

Alexandria Gazette Packet



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FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Year of The Dragon

Lunar New Year festival returns to Old Town.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The roar of the dragon was heard as Alexandria ushered in the Year of the Dragon with a Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at the Atrium in Old Town.

In 2024, the Lunar New Year will be celebrated Feb. 10, closing out the previous Year of the Rabbit. Also known as the Spring Festival, the holiday celebrates the beginning of a new year based on the lunar calendar. The holiday is typically celebrated for the first 15 days of the lunar calendar. During this time it is traditional to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. The highlight of the Spring Festival is the Lantern Festival, which happens on the 15th and final day which will be Feb. 24.

Now in its second year, the Old Town festival brought together local Asian American vendors and featured performances and cuisine celebrating Asian American culture.

Dancers with the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute



Kelly Budd holds her purchase of a sign of traditional good wishes at the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at The Atrium in Old Town.

performed the traditional Lac Viet Dragon Dance. Members of the Nha Viet Nam Kid-die group performed a modern Vietnamese
SEE LUNAR YEAR, PAGE 6



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Lac Long Quan dance team perform the traditional Lac Viet dragon dance at the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at The Atrium in Old Town.



Traditional cuisine was featured at the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at The Atrium in Old Town.



Musicians with the Selahart Institute perform using traditional Korean string instruments at the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at The Atrium in Old Town.

NEWS

Local Audubon Chapter Votes to Change Its Name

John James Audubon claimed ownership of enslaved people.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Libby Lyons, current president of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV), has already seen 41 different species of birds this morning at Nags Head, North Carolina. She has arrived ahead of the weekend trip organized with the Virginia Society of Ornithology to get a head start. “I saw hundreds of pintails at the Bodie Island Lighthouse and hooded mergansers flying over the water. The avocets were a treat.”

But she has taken a 10 a.m. break to discuss the announcement in the Potomac Flyer released Feb. 1 of the recent decision by the ASNV Board to change the name to remove the reference to John James Audubon.

John Audubon is widely known for his “Birds of America,” painted in the 1800s when he was 35 and containing 435 life-sized watercolors of North American birds. But in recent years it has come to light that Audubon also had a less favorable side.

The newsletter explained, “Many concerns were raised by both supporters and opponents of a name change. These include the need for the organization to be inclusive and welcoming to all Virginians, the potential loss of name recognition and connection with the national Audubon Society and other Audubon chapters and not erasing the many positive contributions that James Audubon made to American ornithology, while also not honoring Audubon’s ownership of enslaved people, collaboration with eugenics research, and scientific dishonesty.”

Tom Blackburn of McLean, past president of ASNV, had a big part in the effort to consider renaming the ASNV. “We started about a year ago when the National Audubon Society decided to look at the issue of renaming the national organization.” He says he thinks a lot of other things came together on the timing of the decision including Black Lives Matter and the incident in Central Park when a white female dog walker called the police and falsely claimed a Black bird-watcher, Christian Cooper, was threatening her after he asked her to leash her dog.

Blackburn says he would have been quite happy if the national Audubon Society had decided to rename itself and the local chapters could have just followed. The national chapter decided not to rename but indicated the local chapters were free to make their own decision.

Blackburn says that as the largest independent chapter of the 610 chapters around the country, it was important for the Audu-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Libby Lyons, President of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, which will now choose a new name.

bon Society of Northern Virginia to evaluate the issue. “I felt that we needed to begin by doing extensive research. I felt some of the things that had been published around the national decision were a little bit too excited, and some turned out to be incorrect.”

The deliberation on whether to change the name included over six months of exploration, including a survey filled out by 481 members and reaching out to a dozen or so other chapters who have already changed their name.

Lyons says, “The survey responses totaled over 25,000 words. It was like a small novel. People were so passionate.”

Lyons says they discovered a survey that had been used by a chapter in Alabama and modified it. She says the ASNV survey found 43 percent of the respondents said a name change would have no effect on their decision to join, 23 percent said it would have some impact one way or the other but 29 percent said it would make them somewhat or much more likely to join.

“The younger and minority respondents felt more strongly about changing the name and we need all hands on deck as we look to the future,” Lyons says. “We need to build an intergenerational and intercultural bridge. Nature belongs to everyone.”

Blackburn says the current membership of Audubon is old and white. “If the average age of an Audubon member is 70, we need other people to support it. We need to look forward five-to-10 years to how we continue to thrive. The demographics of Northern Virginia has changed dramatically in the last few years.”

Connie Ericson, a ASNV Board Member from Arlington says, “I’ve been an Audubon member for a lot of years, and I’m sad to see the name go. It was synonymous with conservation. But all of the information that has come out in the last few years about James Audubon and with so many people in favor of changing the name, it was inevitable.”

She says there were some pretty strong opinions in both directions. She speculates

SEE LOCAL AUDUBON, PAGE 11
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‘You Set the Standard High’

Circuit Court judge Clark retires after 12 years on the bench.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

It was standing room only in a courtroom at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse as the legal community gathered Feb. 1 to honor Circuit Court judge James C. Clark upon his retirement following 12 years on the bench in Alexandria.

“How lucky can one man get?” said Clark, who was joined by family and friends in marking the occasion. “I am so grateful to have my high school friends here along with my family and so many former colleagues.”

A judge for the Alexandria Cir-

“How lucky can one man get?”

— The Hon. James C. Clark at his retirement ceremony

cuit Court of the 18th Circuit in Virginia, Clark was appointed to the court by the Virginia General Assembly and was sworn-in on Jan. 19, 2012. He officially retired effective Jan. 30.

“As a practicing attorney, a sitting judge or in everyday life, you don’t look at other people with fear, anger or quick judgment,” said retired Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Randy Sengel, one of several speakers at the event. “Whoever came before you was listened to with patience and respect. You never came across as being above anyone else in your courtroom.”

Clark was raised in Alexandria, graduating from T.C. Williams High School in 1968. He received his undergraduate degree from Bridgewater College and his J.D. from the University of Richmond School of Law.

Before he joined the court, Clark was a partner at the Alexandria firm of Land, Clark, Carroll, Mendelson and Blair, P.C. His former partner Drew Carroll acted as em-

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The Hon. James C. Clark receives a standing ovation as he is introduced during his retirement ceremony Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.



The Hon. James C. Clark, second from left, celebrates his retirement with High School friends Dr. Jonathan Safren, Martin Smith and John O’Connor Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.



The Hon. James C. Clark, second from left, is congratulated by attorneys Kim Stover, Rebecca Wade and Josefina Guzman during his retirement celebration Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.



The Hon. James C. Clark and wife Mary, at right, stand by Clark’s official portrait at a retirement ceremony Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse. With him are son-in-law Steve Haines, son Travis, and daughter Allie Haines holding granddaughter Lucy.



Drew Carroll applauds after unveiling the official portrait of former law partner and retiring Circuit Court judge James C. Clark Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Endorses Planned Sports and Entertainment District in Potomac Yard

In the coming months, Alexandrians have the opportunity to fundamentally shape the future of our city. The announcement of the opportunity for a world class entertainment district at Potomac Yard promises to achieve the goal of maximizing that site.

As longtime supporters of development at Potomac Yard, The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce believes this project is the right choice for the site and will be a catalyst of economic growth in our city for years to come.

As noted on the project's website, the economic and community impact would include 30,000 direct and indirect jobs, 9+ million

square foot entertainment district, including new hotels, retail, residential, restaurants, conference, and community gathering spaces, and roughly 2.5 times the economic output of what would otherwise be built based on current development plans.

The Alexandria Chamber and its member businesses cannot ignore the practical impact of this type of investment in our city.

Further, Alexandria needs to attract innovative projects that expand our tax base. A commercial project such as this would broaden the tax base while allowing the city to maximize other sites around the city.

It is important to note the Potomac Yard site was always designed

to accommodate 20,000 people per day; while this new vision shifts how those individuals show up it remains the right location for large scale development aligned with the Small Area Plan. In addition, there is language in the Master Plan that envisions an entertainment district as a preferred use for the site.

This monumental opportunity is a reminder to the Commonwealth and the region of what we have long known, our city is a great place to live, work and raise a family. We know there are many important conversations to be had, specifically around the impacts to quality of life, transportation, and underserved populations in

our community, and we look forward to participating in those conversations. But the fact remains this project is a once in a generation opportunity that Alexandria should not let pass us by.

We call on the General Assembly to approve the adoption of a Sports and Entertainment Authority, with reasonable legislative oversight, so that Alexandria can get to work on investing in the future of our city.

Ann Harbour, 2024 Chair of the Board, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and **Joe Haggerty**, President & CEO, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Funding for Metro

BY SENATOR ADAM EBBIN

As we near the midpoint of the session, I wanted to update you on one of my major priorities: finding solutions for immediate, and long-term funding for Metro.

With 32 Virginia rail stations and 31 bus lines on our side of the Potomac, Metro plays a vital role in the Commonwealth's economy and serves as a critical component of Northern Virginia's transit network. The entire system generates \$1.5 billion in annual revenue from personal income and sales taxes, which goes to support programs and services across the Commonwealth.

Metro is funded by a complex arrangement of federal, state and local sources

spread across the capital and operating budgets. The capital budget, which is used mainly to keep existing stations, tracks and buses in a state of good repair, is funded by federal sources, state and local funds from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, including funding secured by legislation signed into law in Virginia in 2018. The operating budget, which is used to keep the buses and trains running, is funded by fare revenue and other sources (like advertising), federal pandemic relief funds, and state tax dollars from Virginia, Maryland, and the District. In Virginia, the local governments in Northern Virginia are responsible for paying Metro

and they use a mixture of funds from the regional gas tax, state aid and other local sources to meet this obligation.

The pandemic aid that has sustained Metro since 2020 will be exhausted soon, contributing to a \$750 million operating gap in the FY 2025 budget. Major transit agencies across the country face similar fiscal cliffs. Metro's gap has been driven by lower fare revenue due



Adam Ebbin

to the Yellow Line Bridge Tunnel Rehabilitation project, as well as the rebuilding of 11 Metrorail station platforms in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County.

Unfortunately, the legislative compromise reached in 2018 placed a 3% annual growth cap on how much Metro could ask Virginia's local governments to contribute in operating assistance. Without fur-

With 32 Virginia rail stations and 31 bus lines on our side of the Potomac, Metro plays a vital role in the Commonwealth's economy.

ther action by the General Assembly to lift that 3% cap, along with a significant cash infusion, Metro will be forced to make severe service cuts to close the budget deficit, which would be devastating for Northern Virginia. This would mean the closure of the 10 lowest-ridership stations across the system, and service cutbacks like the closing of stations at 10 p.m. For Metrobus, this would eliminate 67 of 135 routes; and 41 of the remaining 68 routes would see reduced service.

Metro has dug deep and found additional, one time and recurring savings to help close the gap, but regional partners need to do their part. The Northern Virginia Trans-

portation Commission (NVTC), where I serve as a Commissioner, put forward recommendations on Metro funding, accountability and reform, and is studying options for long-term dedicated funding. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) has also brought together staff and elected officials from across the region to find short and long-term solutions.

I am disappointed that Gov. Glenn Youngkin did not include any additional funding for Metro in his proposed Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 budget. If we can't solve this budget gap, we won't have a working Metro system to serve the new Potomac Yard-VT station — and the governor's proposed new arena for the Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards.

I want to extend my appreciation to Sen. David Marsden and Del. Mark Sickles for their proposed amendments to the state budget that would address the operating cap and provide additional state aid to Metro, which would be matched by Northern Virginia local governments. Because these solutions are short-term, I have also introduced SJ 28 to study and develop long-term sustainable funding solutions for Metro and other Northern Virginia transit systems.

It is my continued honor to represent the people of the 39th Senate District. My legislative email address is SenatorEbbin@senate.virginia.gov.

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OBITUARY

Donald Dinan

Alexandria Aces founder dies at 74.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Donald Dinan loved baseball, so much so that he brought the game to Alexandria when he founded the Alexandria Aces in 2006. His passion was contagious as crowds cheered on the team that won the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball League Championship in 2022. On Jan. 29, the sports fan turned visionary died after a period of declining health. He was 74.

"Don was a walking encyclopedia and a wealth of knowledge," said current team owner Frank Fannon. "We would have endless hours of conversation about politics and baseball, two of his favorite subjects."

Dinan, who co-founded the team with local resident Pat Malone, sold the team to Fannon in 2021 after an ownership that lasted 15 years. As part of the Cal Ripken League, the Aces are an affiliate of Major League Baseball and professional scouts regularly attend games to recruit players for the



Donald Dinan, founder of the Alexandria Aces, died Jan. 29 at the age of 74.

MLB draft.

"We formed the team in 2006 with our first season in 2008," Dinan said when turning over the reins to Fannon, a lifelong Alexandrian and former member of City Council. "Frank has been on the board since day one and due to a lot of reasons, I decided it was time for me to step back and let the next group take over and that's Frank."

Donald Robert Dinan was born Aug. 28, 1949, in Nashua, N.H., to the late Robert and Jeannette (Farland) Dinan. He lived in Ellicott City, Md., from fourth grade through college.

Dinan graduated from Mount St. Joseph High School in Baltimore in 1967. It was there he met his future wife, Amy Littlepage, whom he married in 1978. He went on to earn degrees from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1971, Georgetown University Law Center in 1974, and the London School of Economics in 1975.

A resident of Capitol Hill, Dinan began his



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Aces founder Donald Dinan, left, is shown with Jeffrey DeLaurentis, U.S. Ambassador to Cuba, and current team owner Frank Fannon during a team trip to Cuba for an exhibition series in August 2016.

career at the U.S. International Trade Commission and continued to work in the fields of international trade and the protection of intellectual property. He taught a course in international trade law at Georgetown Law for over 30 years and served as the General Counsel to the National Tax Lien Association.

Dinan was active in DC politics for over 45 years, serving as president of the Ward 6 Democrats and as general counsel to the DC Democratic State Committee. He served on the Democratic National Committee's rules and bylaws committee and represented DC as a super delegate three times at Democratic National Conventions.

In addition to baseball and politics, Dinan enjoyed foreign travel, boating on his boat "Irish Wake," and was an avid Black Diamond skier.

Dinan is survived by his wife Amy, daughter Emma Ellenrieder and her husband,

Matthias, his siblings James Dinan and his wife Elizabeth Miller, William Dinan, Mary Anne Dinan and Barbara Gultinan with her husband Edward. He was predeceased by his parents and a younger brother, Robert Dinan Jr.

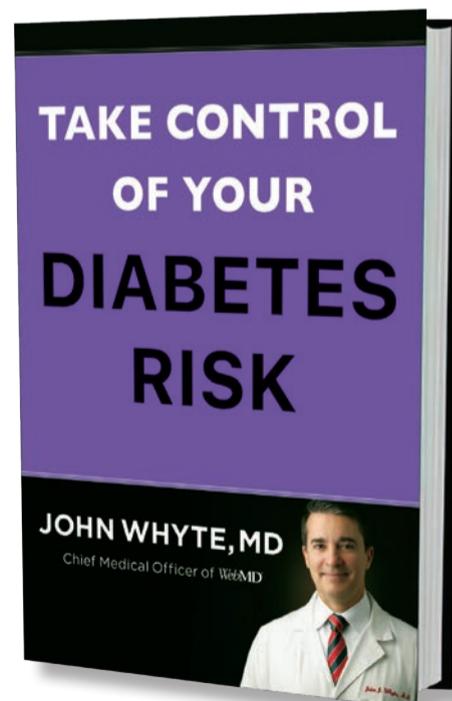
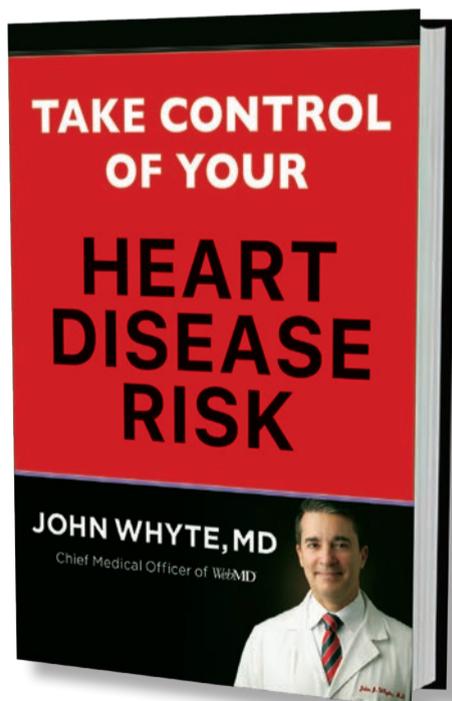
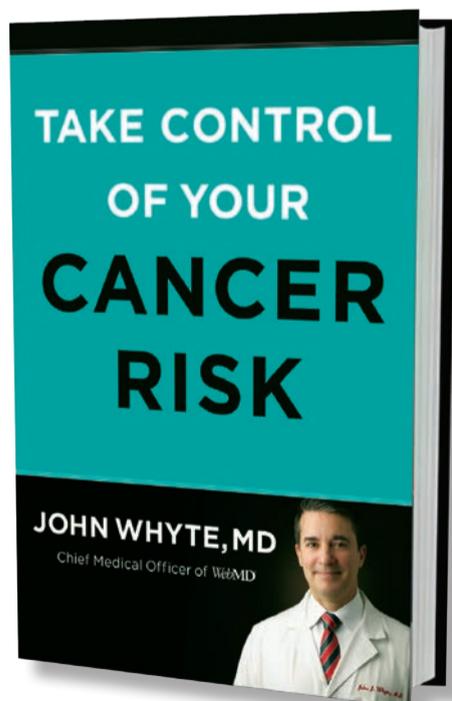
A visitation will be held at DeVol Funeral Home, 2222 Wisconsin Ave., NW, DC, Feb. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Peter's Church, 313 2nd St., SE, DC, Feb. 12, at 9:30 a.m., followed by interment at Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E St., SE, DC.

In lieu of flowers donations be made in his name to Mount St. Joseph High School in Baltimore, or to The Society to Preserve H.L. Mencken's Legacy.

"Don touched so many people in different areas of his life," Fannon said. "He was a true asset to the greater Washington community and he will be missed by all who knew him."

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A lucky red envelope giveaway for youth was held as part of the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 in Old Town.



Performers with the Lac Viet dragon dance team perform at the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 at The Atrium in Old Town.



Attendees and vendors enjoy the Lunar New Year festival Feb. 4 in Old Town.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Lunar New Year Festival Returns to Old Town

FROM PAGE 1

dance and students with Kha's Karate School demonstrated Vietnamese martial arts.

Students from the Selahart Institute were

among the entertainers, performing on traditional Korean string instruments, demonstrating modeumbuki, or traditional Korean drumming, and performing the traditional

Korean puppet dance of kkokdukaksi.

House of Indonesia with Bali Jegeg showcased various traditional Indonesian dances.

The festival also included craft activities,

face painting featuring Chinese zodiac animals, and a photography station with Vietnamese traditional clothes. A Lunar New Year Market showcased local small businesses.

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.volunteerallexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>

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

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of

the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

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

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CONCERT

The Hunt for the Missing Maestro

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Oh no, the maestro is missing. What to do? The Alexandria Symphony held its first family concert on Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial. When the concert is set to begin and there is no maestro in sight, an impromptu maestro with gray wig slightly askew takes on the task with an opening Rossini Overture.

But soon the intended conductor, played by Enrico Lopez-Yanez, stumbles onto the stage with rumpled clothes and his legs tied together. He immediately calls Sherlock Holmes who instantly appears to take on the task of discovering “who done it.”

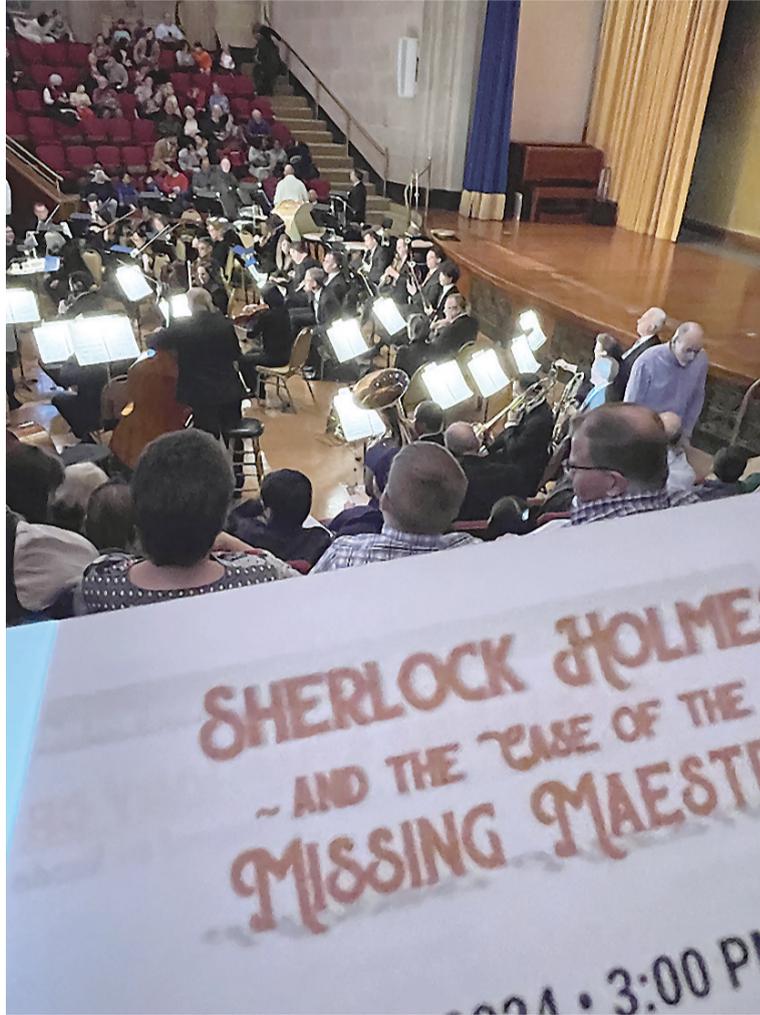
When Holmes asked the orchestra for input on likely suspects, fingers pointed in all directions—the trumpets pointed at the clarinets, the flutes pointed at the bassoons and the violinists all pointed at each other. The loud brass section with its trombones, trumpets, and very big tuba seem to be likely suspects. But they perform a convincing rendition of the “Light Cavalry Overture” to prove they have spent all of their time practicing and couldn’t possibly have had time to capture the maestro.

Holmes works his way through other likely suspects in the orchestra including the woodwind section which convincingly plays the Scherzo from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” and the percussion section with “Funeral March of a Marionette.” After turning his attention to the potential suspects in the audience with his magnifying glass by examining the children row by row who are waving and clamoring for his attention, he turns back to the orchestra.

Finally when no likely suspects have emerged, the maestro has a hunch and discovers it is Sherlock Holmes himself who had abducted him because he had always wanted to try his hand at conducting an orchestra. So with a flourish, Holmes (the real Music Director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in normal times) mounts the stand and conducts Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 7 in A Major Op. 92” to a grand finale with a standing ovation.

In addition to the fun and the learning experience, each child receives a special gift as they leave the concert—a small rectangular white box with a personal magnifying glass compliments of St. Stephen’s St Agnes School. This Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro concert was the first family concert presented by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and played to a sellout crowd at the Saturday performance.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE



The Alexandria Symphony presents its first family concert Saturday, Feb. 3.



James Ross, Music Director of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra playing Sherlock Holmes, inspects the woodwind section with his magnifying glass for clues in the case of the missing maestro.

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Tri Pointe Homes To Open Two New Townhome Communities

The projects add more than 220 new homes in Alexandria.

Tri Pointe Homes, Inc., one of the largest homebuilders in the U.S., will hold the grand opening of two new townhome communities in Alexandria. Eisenhower Pointe will open in the West End neighborhood on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. Del Ray Corner will open in the Del Ray neighborhood in March 2024. These new community openings will mark Tri Pointe Homes' first developments in the City of Alexandria.

"There's a huge demand for homes in the city, and we look forward to offering thoughtfully designed townhomes ... in these popular neighborhoods," says Brad Blank, president of Tri Pointe Homes DC Metro Division.

With limited housing available in the area, these new communi-

ties offer a rare opportunity to live in a new construction home in the heart of the city.

Located in Alexandria's West End neighborhood, Eisenhower Pointe offers luxury four-story townhomes, two-car garages and rooftop terraces. The Cameron collection features two floorplans ranging from 1,917 to 2,705 square feet of living space, two to four bedrooms and up to four-and-a-half baths. The starting base price for the Cameron collection is \$749,900.

Eisenhower Pointe also introduces the smartly designed Hensley collection of townhomes featuring two floorplans ranging from 1,950 to 2,327 square feet, three to four bedrooms and up to three-and-a-half baths. This collection of homes maximizes interior space



Eisenhower Pointe by Tri Pointe Homes will open in the West End neighborhood on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024. 111 Warburton Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22304

through architecture that creatively connects the townhome's interior walls.

The starting base price for the Hensley collection is \$689,900.

Del Ray Corner at Oakville offers the rare opportunity to buy new construction in the popular Del Ray neighborhood where "Where Main

Street Still Exists." The community features three flexible, four-story home designs featuring rooftop terraces and two-car garages surrounded by the conveniences of Potomac Yards and the charm of Del Ray. These townhomes range from 1,937 to 2,682 square feet of living space with three to four bedrooms and up to three-and-a-half bathrooms. The starting price for homes at Del Ray at Oakville is

\$889,900.

Local Alexandria-based firm Rust Orling created the architecture for both communities. The model home interiors showcase the talent of design expert, author, and Emmy award-winning TV host Bobby Berk of Queer Eye.

For more information or to join the interest list for either community, visit Eisenhower Pointe or Del Ray Corner at Oakville.

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Fill the Fridge for Carpenter's Shelter

Carpenter's Shelter needs help to Fill the Fridge from Feb. 20 to Feb. 24. Your help is needed to fill the refrigerators, freezers and pantries at the Hoffman Center and Alexandria Community Shelter (ACS).

Carpenter's Shelter serves our shelter residents three meals a day, seven days a week. Our community graduates are also able to pick up pantry items from our shelters as they make the transition from homeless to living in an apartment of their own.

Visit <https://CarpentersShelter.org/Fill-the-Fridge> for a full list of requested donation items and donation drop-off hours.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

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

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance

Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU APRIL 15

Exhibit: "Searching for Truth in the Garden" at Freedom House Museum. At Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria. Gonzaga High School's groundbreaking research on slavery, "Searching for Truth in the Garden," found new life at the Freedom House Museum. The traveling exhibition, on view through April 15, 2024, delves into the life of Gabriel, a teenager enslaved at Washington Seminary (now Gonzaga) in 1829. Gabriel's story offers a poignant lens through which to examine the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact.

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/>

JAN. 11 TO FEB. 18

A Delicate Balance Sculpture. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Curated by Jackie Hoysted and produced by Veronica Szalus, A Delicate Balance is an all-sculpture show that explores the idea of achieving equilibrium. Perhaps more than ever, today we have a greater awareness of how everything operates in such a delicate balance - be it ecosystems, politics, relationships or personal well-being. We must navigate life without tipping too much in one direction so that we can strive for harmony, but at times something radical is required to achieve it.

FEB. 2-24

The "Visible Touch: A Look at Texture" exhibit features art that explores texture through physical form or visual illusion. Visitors will be allowed to touch some of the art (pieces are marked). Enjoy the visual and the tactile experience! View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, February 2, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed February 25). DelRay-Artisans.org/exhibits

THURSDAY/FEB. 8

African American Film Series:

"Banker." 2-4 p.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Suite 104, Alexandria. Free admission. In honor of Black History Month, the library will be showing a series of films throughout the month.

FRIDAY/FEB. 9

The Thirteen Presents "Path of Miracles." 7:30 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. In Path of Miracles, British composer Joby Talbot takes the listener on a musical journey on the mystical Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The contemplative progression of the



The Love Is In the Air Exhibit takes place now thru Feb. 29, 2024 at Van Landingham Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria.

Love Is In the Air Exhibit.

At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Gallery 311, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition including jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of February. Visit <https://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/> to learn more about the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association.

Camino is built into the structure of the work, with the four movements of the work titled after the four main posts along the Camino. Talbot incorporates various medieval texts in many languages and musical styles as diverse as those of Taiwanese Bunun people and medieval chant. Paired with projected images of the cosmos by renowned Italian virtual designer Camilla Tassi, The Thirteen's performances of Path of Miracles promise to be replete with beauty and wonder.

FEB. 10 AND 17

Manumission Tour Company Black

History Bus Tour. Feb. 10, 2024, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 12 to 1:30 p.m. and Feb. 17, 2024, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. Tour meets at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Ride with Manumission Tour Company on a 90-minute guided bus tour to visit various African American historic sites in Alexandria. You will hear stories of both enslaved and free African Americans prior to the Civil War as well as understand the stories behind some of Alexandria's most well-known African American historic sites. Sites will include the Alexandria National Cemetery, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, Church Alley, the African American Heritage Park, the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery, Barrett Library and more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Mount Vernon District Town Meeting. 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Mount Vernon. This year's event will be filled with important District information, delicious food and engaging activities for the whole family. Engage and learn about the County budget, public safety and other issues important to you. The popular Exhibit Hall runs from 7:45 - 9:30 a.m. featuring many County agencies and local service providers. Take a moment to check out the KidBiz Young

Entrepreneurs Expo which features many "small" business owners. The Fairfax County Health Department will have flu vaccines available and Public Health Nurses will be onsite to answer your questions about childhood and adult vaccines. The program runs from 9:30 a.m. - noon featuring a "virtual tour" of the District with updates on recently completed, current and future projects, followed by Q&A panels with local leaders and special recognitions. You will hear from Congressman Gerry Connolly, Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon School Board Representative Mateo Dunne and other local elected leaders who will be speaking and answering questions from residents. Special this year we will hear about the state of education funding in the Commonwealth. After the program from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m., join in a Taste of Mount Vernon. Sample dishes from local restaurants such as Dishes of India, Della J's Delectables, Grandma's Famous Kitchen, 2 Jefes Tex-Mex, Domino's, Ruby's Jamaican Kitchen and many more. Join us in-person or stream from your home on Facebook @SupervisorDanStorck and Channel 16 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream>.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

African American Waterfront Heritage Trail Signs Ribbon Cutting.

11 a.m. At the New Fishtown sign on the river side of Founders Park, 351 N. Union Street, Alexandria. The African American Heritage Trail Committee invites the public to join in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the installation of new interpretive signs along Alexandria's historic waterfront. The 11 signs and two orientation panels illuminate the history of the African American community in Alexandria over the span of several centuries. A reception following the ribbon cutting will be held in the Overlook Room (#325) on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street.

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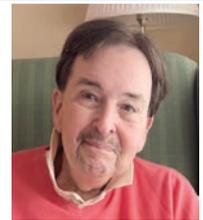
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Obituary



Raymond Stricklen III, U.S. Air Force

I am deeply saddened to announce a life so beautifully lived and a heart so deeply loved, the passing of my dear husband, Raymond Stricklen on February 4, 2024 at 8:33 a.m. after an 11 year path with oral cancer. Raymond's positive attitude, grace, dignity, hope, and fortitude have been exemplary to all.

Raymond was a pilot in the United States Air Force, and he flew the C130 into the eye of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean, and typhoons in the Pacific Ocean. He also piloted the 141 aircraft during Desert Storm. After a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, he did consulting work. He is survived by his devoted and caring wife, Leslie Margaret, after 51 1/2 years of a wonderful marriage. They loved to travel the orient and collect Asian Antiques. They also enjoyed playing golf together. Raymond loved to dance and knew the words to almost every song.

Burial, with full honors, will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Oral Cancer Fund in Raymond Stricklen's name.

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Brown v. Board of Education SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH APRIL 12, 2024

The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the General Assembly to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia between 1954 and 1964 due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance. Beginning in 2024, the scholarship program is extended to their descendants. The program is now open to eligible applicants for the 2024-2025 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

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Obituary

Mark Adam McIlwee, 62 of Occoquan, Virginia passed away at his home on January 31, 2024. He was born in Maryland on May 15, 1961, to Ronald and Julia McIlwee. Mark loved surfing and spending time at the beach. He enjoyed traveling and fishing, along with his love for music and his love for dogs, especially his own, Butch. Including his parents, he is survived by his caring sister, Sandra Hunt (Paul); his niece Meaghan Moreland; his nephew, Timothy Hunt; two great nieces, Layna Moreland and Khloe Hunt. He is also survived by many other family members and friends. Family and friends will be received at Mountcastle Turch Funeral Home, 13318 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge VA 22191 on Friday, February 9, 2024, from 11:00AM to 11:30AM with a funeral service beginning at 11:30AM. A life celebration at the American Legion in Lorton, VA immediately following the visitation. Internment will take place at Riverside Baptist Church Cemetery, 20061 Teman Road, Beaverdam, Virginia 23015 on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 11:00AM.

Obituary

Victoria Brooks

It was Victoria Brooks' dream to die after being struck by a beer delivery truck, leaving her son to sue the Anheuser-Busch corporation and live a life of luxury on a Caribbean island. This was, alas, not to be. Instead, she passed peacefully in her home in Alexandria, VA, holding her son and daughter-in-law's hands—a pretty good second choice. Victoria (Vicki to her friends...and enemies) lived what can only be described as a worldly life. She worked as a hand model, nightclub door-woman, travel agent, and at radio stations and hotels throughout the mid-Atlantic. She was born in Washington DC in 1943 to Herbert and Rhea Wolfe (both deceased). She grew up in Richmond and then Alexandria where she graduated from St. Rita's in 1961. In Manhattan, she lived in walk up with her friend Jackie Summers and their cat, Jerry Silverstein. She was married, divorced, and became a mom in Alexandria, VA in 1982.

Vicki built a family of choice before it was cool. Her house was "the" home for any kid who needed one. It was no rare occasion for her to come home from work to find three kids playing Mario Kart, two others running lines for a play, one eating everything she had bought at the store, and another two dyeing their hair in her bathroom. Those nights ended with a massive dinner and a lot of laughter, with Vicki turning in and leaving the kids to their general chicanery.

Vicki knew the importance of a safe and welcoming home. She opened her doors not just to nerdy theater kids in Alexandria, but to boarders from all over the globe; she hosted students from Japan, Germany, Singapore, Thailand, and many other countries looking to immerse themselves and learn English in America. She never brought one of these students home from the airport without first taking them on a driving tour of DC, a city she adored. She continued to open her home right up until her death.

She loved her friends and family deeply. When told that she would be a grandparent, Vicki literally leapt from her chair and screamed in joy. She never missed a significant moment with her beloved grandsons, Liam and Elliot, whether it was a preschool pageant, an orchestra concert, dive meet, cross country race, school play, or birthday celebration. Even during hospice she insisted on watching a video of Liam's winter play. She loved having her grandsons at her home for sleepovers, gardening, and lots of cookies.

When asked if she wanted a memorial service, Vicki immediately responded: "No way! I don't want to be anywhere near a church, and I don't want people being sad and weird. I want a party." So that's what she's getting! On February 10, 2024, 3-5pm at Whisky and Oyster (Vicki was a BIG oyster fan) in Alexandria, VA, friends and family will be gathering to share a story, a drink, or shuck an oyster or two in Vicki's memory.

When he was growing up, Vicki—who did not go to college herself—told her son that he could do anything, as long as he went to college first. Part of what made this possible for him was a scholarship from the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in her name to the SFA; the family is planning on establishing a scholarship in her memory.

Victoria Wolfe Brooks is survived by her son Allen Carrington Brooks, her daughter-in-law Alisa Quesenberry Brooks, and her beloved grandsons, Liam and Elliot Brooks.

Her memory is a gift, but her presence is deeply missed.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT GAZETTE PACKET

The Hon. James C. Clark listens to remarks during a retirement ceremony Feb. 1 at the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse.

Judge Clark

FROM PAGE 3

cee of the event and the unveiling of Clark's official portrait, which will hang in the courthouse.

In addition to Sengel, other speakers included Circuit Court Chief judge Lisa B. Kemler, retired Circuit Court judge Nolan Dawkins, retired City of Alexandria public defender Melinda Douglas and Clark's son Travis, who is following in his father's footsteps in the legal profession.

"I think so many are here tonight to celebrate no longer having to work with my dad," Travis Clark laughed.

Former Halifax County Commonwealth's Attorney John Greenback, an early colleague of Clark, also attended the ceremony.

"They didn't tell half the stories they could have tonight," Greenback said jokingly. "But seriously, Jimmy is one of the nicest guys you will ever get to meet."

Several of Clark's closest friends from high school were in attendance, including John O'Connor, Martin Smith and Jonathan Saffen.

"You are judged by the company you keep and my family and friends are truly priceless," Clark said.

Adding levity to the event, Clark said that "there are things that happen in your life that change the way you think."

He relayed a story of spending a couple of hours on his first day of retirement at a playground with his young granddaughter Lucy.

"I came to realize that day that judges and diapers should both be changed regularly," Clark said to laughter. "And for the same reason."

But it was Sengel who captured the true sentiment of everyone in attendance, saying to Clark, "You set the standard high. All of us here would do well to follow your example."

Local Film Takes a Step Forward in the Streaming World

“There is a Monster,” premiered on Apple TV and Prime Video January 30.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Local filmmaker Michael Taylor spent the last few years honing his film “There is a Monster,” down to perfection but then took it to the next step promoting it and now the film is on the schedule at Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video and Vudu so everyone can see it.

When the film was ready, he reached out to distributors and was recommended to get in touch with Scott Moesta, a producer’s representative who specializes in distribution for filmmakers. Taylor signed a deal and now has “Gravitas Ventures,” behind the process and he’s on his way up in the movie world. On Jan. 30, his film launched on several platforms so now the checks will start rolling in, right?

Not so fast. “That’s the big mystery. This is my first feature film. I don’t know what to expect, but I’m hoping we can all make our money



Local filmmaker Michael Taylor, in the red hat, taking a break on the set of “There is a Monster,” with Joey Collins from Arlington and Ena O’Rourke who plays Carol in the movie.

back and perhaps turn a profit. The movie business is very tough to predict,” he said. Running to the mailbox every day like a kid waiting for his sea monkey kit is not out of the question.

It’s a start though, and he’s happy it’s going this way. In fact, Taylor is working on his next film, which is something he wrote a few years ago and he’s updating it for today’s audiences. This film has a bigger budget and he’s hoping to have more famous faces in it.

“I will shoot that either again in Northern Virginia or Richmond,” he said.

It all started with filming “There is a Monster,” in and around Alexandria a few years ago. In Taylor’s horror film, scenes were filmed around Alexandria and Mount Vernon, where he’s lived in the past. In December 2021 into 2022, there were scenes at the Southside 815 restaurant, Bradlee Medical Center, and a house in Great Falls to tell a story that is indirectly about a real-life disease that haunts many including his sister, who died of the disease.

Locally “There is a Monster,” premiered on March 20, 2023 at the AMC Shirlington 7.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

Not Dying to Find Out



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that The Connection, most of the editions anyhow, are back on their weekly track, I’ll be better able to keep you regular readers interested in Kenny-with-cancer’s status. For the current moment, I am living between a rock and hard place. On the one hand I am a cancer patient who is unable, due to some predictable side effects of treatment: kidney damage, to continue to take the prescribed papillary thyroid cancer medicine that has presumably kept me going for the past three and a half years – when my original non-small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis was changed/corrected. Since the medicine was never a cure, I remember asking my oncologist about the timeline for the medicine’s effectiveness. I was told three years, give or take. I am now four months into year four. Hardly reassuring then that here I am, in year four, having side-effect issues which has led to a cessation of my cancer medicine. And so far as my thyroid cancer is affected, I can’t imagine no medicine will stem the tide. On the other hand, diagnosis to date, to quote my late brother, medically speaking, I have been “the exception that proves the rule.” Meaning, I have survived the ordeal of chemotherapy/cancer treatment better than most, according to my oncologist. However, surviving kidney damage caused by the years of treatment might be another risk/problem entirely. And unfortunately, kidneys don’t get better if I stop the medicine. They just won’t get worse. Which I don’t imagine will be the case with my thyroid cancer. If there’s no medicine to keep the cancer in check, the kidney damage might be the least of my problems. Either way, I may be damned if I do and/or damned if I don’t.

Nevertheless, I’m trying not to focus too much on this reality and my three-year window of effectiveness slamming shut. Throughout my 14-plus years of treatment, often I was not presenting how my oncologist was expecting. I wasn’t reacting as he had anticipated. I was doing much better than he expected then when he “prognosed” a “13 month to two years” life expectancy – at age 54 and a half for me at the initial Team Lourie meeting. As such, the experience has helped me manage my expectations – and fears. I can roll with the punches as I go from one lab result to the next, one scan result to the next. Because so far, due to a possible misdiagnosis (and/or an extremely slow-moving thyroid cancer at that) or a better-than-expected patient reaction to most treatments, I’ve survived nearly 15 years (Feb. 20, 2024, will be my diagnosis anniversary). What this better-than-expected patient experience has taught me is to wait and see, rather than presume the worst. In short, I’m able to wait and see rather than preemptively spend time finalizing my arrangements. However, a side effect with the word kidney in it is somewhat different compared to many of the garden variety (hair loss, fatigue, nausea, et cetera) side effects some of you may be familiar with as often characteristic of chemotherapy. It will be about the time this column publishes on Feb. 7 that I will have received the results of my most recent lab work from Feb. 5th. It’s likely that my column on Wed. Feb. 12 will address the potential elephant in the room: dialysis – or the avoidance thereof, brought about by an ever-increasing creatinine level (a direct result of years of chemotherapy for a lung cancer that didn’t exist, apparently) that is likely confirming irreparable damage to my kidneys (so much so that I’m now being monitored by a nephrologist who has likewise ordered monthly lab work, approximately a half dozen tests or so unique to the kidneys that previously have never been measured). And though I don’t like the sound of any of it, I must keep my powder dry and wait until I see the whites of my doctor’s eyes (if you know what I mean). If I don’t, it means I shouldn’t put my cart before my horse (which I don’t even own) and wait for actual medical confirmation that my ship has sailed. So, until further notice/clarification that I am in some semi-expected medical trouble, that will most likely affect my life expectancy (and not extending it, I’m afraid), I will stay in port and deal with this health storm as I have going back 15 years: underreaction and calm in the face of potentially really bad news. But until it’s really happening, I’m not ‘really’ worried. Nor am I about to woe is me (and I wouldn’t anyway, as you regular readers know). I will keep to my routine, remain positive about the negative and consider that very little of what my oncologist had predicted/anticipated health-wise originally for me has come to fruition (and 15 years of fruition is a long track record). But until it’s a definite, as far as I’m concerned, it’s a maybe. And I can live with maybe.

And I certainly have experience living with ‘maybe.’ When my oncologist first met Team Lourie and reviewed with us my previous eight weeks of diagnostic testing with a pulmonologist, thoracic surgeon, general surgeon and pathologist (X-Ray, CT scan, PET Scan, surgical biopsy) with the results all indicating/confirming non-small cell lung cancer stage IV, I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. When we asked the oncologist about my chances of survival, he was very discouraging: “2% live beyond two years.” Mind you, I was 54 and a half, had never spent a day in hospital; was a lifelong non-smoker with no cancer in my immediate family; and yet I’m receiving this doomsday scenario: living 30 years less than my recently deceased parents (my father died at 87 and my mother died at 86).

I had always figured I would at least live as long as they did. Then I was being told statistically that I’ll be lucky to make it to age 57. Now, I’m hearing similarly ominous words. On my next birthday, I’ll be age 70. I believed the doctors then as I believe them now. Still, I’ll try not to take it personally and presume facts not in evidence. Life is for living, not anticipating dying.

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

Local Audubon Chapter Votes to Change Its Name

FROM PAGE 2

that we live in a diverse area, very urbanized, and it might be a different decision in some of the smaller rural chapters.

Bill Young, a well-known local bird watcher from Arlington who has co-created an extensive website of Monticello Park in Alexandria says, “I actually was indifferent and it wouldn’t upset me to leave the name. But of the two arguments, changing it was a little stronger. I don’t understand how young people think but if they are upset by the name I understand.” He says, “Perhaps I’ve been hardened. It’s not a hot button issue for me. There is so much anger all over that I think people are looking for outlets. I’m not sure it translates into action.”

Lyons says, “The most important thing that everyone had in common was they were all on board about the best thing that would help us in protecting birds. With climate change and the rate of development we need all the help we can get to protect birds.”

As they move forward, the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will reach out to determine a new name for the ASNV chapter which encompasses all of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties, and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY WILLIAM YOUNG
Pileated woodpecker, symbol of ASNV, taken at Roosevelt Island.

portions of Fauquier, Loudoun, Rappahannock and Spotsylvania counties. Lyons said they had already received suggestions for a new name from 100 people, and there is a link in the newsletter for further suggestions.

Lyons says, “We plan to move forward in the next several months. We need to make sure we have a strategy for branding and connecting with people to make this a success. One of the serious concerns is lack of

name recognition when we choose a new name for our organization.” She says a number of chapters have chosen a name which combines their geographical location with the words Bird Alliance. The first was Golden Gate Bird Alliance; others include Detroit Bird Alliance and Chicago Bird Alliance. “If we choose one name and galvanize around it, it will be more recognizable.

She speculates the new name should probably contain the word bird and many people believe that the word society has an unfavorable connotation and should be dropped.

On the other hand, Blackburn says, “We do a whole lot more than watch birds. The name needs to reflect more of our mission.” He says, “There may be another incredibly good name out there we haven’t thought of.”

Lyons says a number of people thought the name change issue was just a nuisance and distracting from other more important work. “But our local chapter is moving forward with a number of exciting initiatives. We are hiring a volunteer coordinator and will continue our Stretch the Parks activities, expanding the number and variety of nature outings and putting up a Spanish channel on our website. I think we’re changing, which is great.”

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Old Town | \$2,495,000

Located on a picturesque street in the SE Quadrant, this exquisite home was completely gutted and expanded in 2020. All new top to bottom, including electrical, plumbing, roof, HVAC and 3-story addition with no detail overlooked. The main level features a stunning gourmet kitchen with French doors to a side patio with pergola and built-in gas grill with storage and refrigerator drawers. The front of the home showcases a lovely formal dining room and living room with woodburning fireplace, while the back of the home offers a sought-after family room and mudroom both with access to the outdoors. The upper level provides 5 stylish bedrooms, 3 full baths, and a magnificent laundry center. The full basement – dug out to 9-ft ceiling height – features radiant heated floors, an egress window, and plumbing for a full bath. 405 S Fairfax Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Bishop's Crest | \$1,549,000

Originally a model home, it shows with custom features including gorgeous flooring & lighting, copious trimwork, oversized windows, and exquisite curb appeal. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, finished lower level with second kitchen & bedroom suite. 1409 Dade Ln
Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
www.tracybdunn.com



Fords Landing | \$1,499,000

Spacious and light-filled townhouse in Old Town's premier waterfront community. 3 bedrooms + den, 3.5 baths, and 2-car garage. Main level living area with built-ins and a gas fireplace, dining room, and kitchen with breakfast room and balcony. 3 Franklin Street
The BBZ Group 202.520.4274
www.BBZgroup.com



OPEN SAT 2/10, 2-4

Groveton Woods | \$515,000

This lovely 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath home was the former model and features custom finishes that add style throughout. The primary suite with sitting area, custom closet, and spa-like bath doesn't disappoint. Single car garage & fenced side yard. 7109 Mason Grove Ct #2
Sandy McMaster 571.259.2673
www.sandymcmaster.realestate



OPEN 2/8, 5-7; 2/10 & 2/11, 1-4

Majesty West \$1,599,900

The epitome of sophisticated modern design! End unit with elegant finishes, an open layout great for entertaining, tons of natural light, dream kitchen, gracious bedrooms, and spa-like baths. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2-car garage, 2,858 square feet. 1305 Wilkes Street

Lisa Groover 703.919.4426
www.LisaGroover.com



OPEN SAT 2/10, 12-2

Cambria Square \$975,000

This 4-level, 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome with a 2-car garage has been meticulously well maintained. Sunlit main living level with 10-ft ceilings. Gourmet kitchen with large island and pantry. Family room boasts a wet bar and 2-sided fireplace shared with the rooftop terrace. 132 Cambria Walk

Judy Radvanyi McVey 703.405.9456
www.judyandbarbara.com



OPEN SAT 2/10, 2-4

Duke Gardens \$575,000

Tucked away on a quiet street off Duke, this well maintained, 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath, end unit townhome offers the best of city accessibility with the tranquility of a suburban neighborhood. 3 levels including a fully finished basement. Expansive corner lot with mature trees. 57 S French St

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