# Alexandria Gazette Jarket

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June 5, 2025

# 'They Are Not Forgotten'

## Gold Star family members join in Memorial Day ceremony.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

old Star family members of Alexandria's fallen Vietnam veterans were among the hundreds who gathered to pay tribute to the city's fallen during a Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Del Ray.

The names of Alexandria's 68 fallen and missing in action service members from Vietnam were read aloud as part of the annual ceremony at the site named for Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam POW Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace.

The ceremony included a wreath laying by members of Versace's West Point class of 1959 and was attended by several Gold Star family members.

Friends of Rocky Versace representative Kevin Rue served as Master of Ceremonies, welcoming those in the audience and introducing the Gold Star Family members in attendance. Gold Star family members included: Reba Bayliss, widow of Capt. Paul Bayliss, and her son Patrick; Sue Harvey, sister of MIA 1LT Larry Lilly; CPT Henry Spengler widow Bette Meuleners and brother James Spengler; Earl Valentine, brother of PVT Jeron Valentine; and Curtis Versace, the sister-in law of Rocky Versace.

The ceremony included the reading of the names of Alexandria's 68 Vietnam War fallen heroes. A volunteer stood by the name chiseled into the stone benches arranged in the chronological order of their death in Southeast Asia (1963 – 1972) and read the name.

Rue emphasized that seven men remain Missing in Action: Rocky Versace, Tony Winkler, Doug Blodgett, Joe Davies, Morgan Donahue, Leland McCants and Larry Lilly. He noted that these seven are a handful of the 1,576 Americans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War.

Two of the men whose names are on the Versace Memorial, Capt. Henry Spengler and Capt. Barry Lockhart, are former MIAs. During a first of its kind ceremony on POW/MIA Recognition Day in September 2024 at the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, a rosette was placed adjacent to each man's name at the Memorial's Courts of the Missing indicating the remains were recovered and positively identified.

Six of Versace's USMA 1959 classmates, joined by members of the Affiliation Class of USMA 2009, presented a wreath at the Versace statue.

Members of the Saint Rita American heritage Girls Troop 1381 led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Miss Arlington 2025 Madison Whitbeck sang the Star



Photo contributed

Classmates of Rocky Versace's West Point Class of 1959 salute during the playing of TAPS after placing a Wreath at the Rocky Versace statue May 26 in Del Ray.



Friends of Rocky Versace representative Kevin Rue delivers remarks at the Memorial Day Ceremony at Rocky Versace Plaza May 26 in Del Ray.



Photo contributed

Former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland salutes as LTC Steve Tracy plays TAPS to close the Memorial Day ceremony May 26 in Del Ray.

Spangled Banner with Bishop Ireton High School student Catherine Cassidy singing America the Beautiful and God Bless America. Lt. Col. Steve Tracy closed the ceremony with the playing of Taps and Deacon Steve Dixon, also from Saint Rita, provided the Invocation and closing prayer.

Dignitaries in attendance included State Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charniele Herring, Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, former Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg, former Alexandria City Councilman David Speck and former Alexandria City



Photo contributei

Members of St. Rita American Heritage Girls Troop 1381 lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance May 26 in Del Ray.

vice mayor Bill Cleveland.

Following the formal portion of the ceremony, Rue on behalf of the Friends of Rocky Versace presented Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins from the Department of Defense to three qualified veterans.

"Capt. Rocky Versace is the U.S.

Army's only Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War whose remains have not been recovered and returned by the communists," said Rue. "This Memorial Day, Rocky Versace and Alexandria's 67 other Vietnam War Fallen Heroes are not forgotten."



## The Alexandria City High School Class of 2025 has diverse postsecondary plans. We wish them luck in their future endeavors!

As of May 28, Alexandria City High School graduates are heading off to the following colleges and military institutions: American University, Amsterdam University College, Arizona State University-Tempe, Augusta University, Bard College, Barnard College, Belmont University, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, Boston University, Bowie State University, Bridgewater College, Brigham Young University, Brown University, Cal Poly, Capital University, Carleton College, Case Western Reserve University, Christopher Newport University, Clark Atlanta University, Clark University, Clemson University, Colgate University, College of Charleston, College of the Atlantic, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University-Fort Collins, Columbia University in the City of New York, Dartmouth College, Duquesne University, Eastern Mennonite University, Eckerd College, ECPI University - Culinary Institute of Virginia - Newport News, Elon University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott, Emerson College, Empire Beauty School - Springfield, Fordham University, Frostburg State University, Full Sail University, George Mason University, Georgia State University, Gettysburg College, Hampton University, Harvard University, Hawaii Pacific University, High Point University, Hobart William Smith Colleges, Hollins University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Indiana University-Bloomington, Ithaca College, James Madison University, Kenyon College, King University, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Liberty University Online, Lincoln University, Livingstone College, Loyola University Chicago, Loyola University Maryland, Macomb Community College, Mary Baldwin University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Marymount University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Miami University-Oxford, Middlebury College, New York University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina Central University, Northern University, Northern Virginia Community College, Norwich University, Old Dominion University, Pennsylvania State University-Penn State Main Campus, Purdue University-Main Campus, Queen's University Belfast, Radford University, Richard Bland College, Roanoke College, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Saint Joseph's University, Sanford Medical Center, Savannah College of Art and Design, Spelman College, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Stanford University, State University of New York (SUNY), Syracuse University, Temple University, Texas A & M University-College Station, Texas Christian University, The George Washington University, The New School, The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, The University of Alabama, The University of Tampa, Tri-Community Adult Education, Trinity Washington University, Tulane University of Louisiana, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, University of Arizona, University of Delaware, University of Edinburgh, University of Houston, University of Kentucky, University of Lynchburg, University of Mary Washington, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus, University of Richmond, University of Rochester, University of San Diego, University of South Carolina-Columbia, University of Southern California, University of St Andrews, University of St Francis, University of the District of Columbia, University of Vermont, University of Virginia-Main Campus, University of Virginia's College at Wise, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ursinus College, Valley Forge Military College, Vanderbilt University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Military Institute, Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, Virginia Wesleyan University, Washington State University, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, West Virginia University, Wilkes University, William & Mary, Winston-Salem State University, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and York College of Pennsylvania.

## News

# The Wall That Heals City to host Vietnam Wall exhibit June 12-15.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

he Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be on display on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial from June 12 - 15.

A three-quarters scale replica of The Memorial, the Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to view the exhibit that has been displayed across the country and provides visitors with an expanded experience from The Wall in DC.

"As a result of closures of streets and the

## "The display includes photos of the 68 Hometown Heroes of those on The Wall from Alexandria."

— Exhibit co-chair Cynthia Long

National Mall for the military parade on June 14th in Washington, D.C., the largest annual event held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was displaced," said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



The Wall That Heals, a three-quarters size replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be on display at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial June 12-15.

Fund. "Fortunately, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial eagerly stepped forward to bring the sanctity and peaceful nature of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the thousands of family and friends gathering to honor their Vietnam veterans.'

The Wall That Heals will be open 24 hours a day and is free and open to the public. It honors the more than three million Ameri-

cans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

A mobile Education Center features videos on the history of the war and the design competition and building of The Wall. It includes examples of things that were carried by soldiers and will feature a motorcycle tied

to an Alexandria Vietnam servicemember.

"Most importantly the display includes photos of the 68 Hometown Heroes of those on The Wall from Alexandria," said local hosting committee co-chair Cynthia Long. "Also on display will be photos of the Hometown Heroes from Arlington and Fairfax

SEE CITY TO HOST, PAGE 10

## High Octane Ball Gala raises funds for local charities.

he stars of Alexandria were out as the High Octane Ball kicked off the Festival of Speed and Style weekend May 17 at Land Rover Alexandria.

Hosted in the showroom of presenting sponsor Land Rover Alexandria, the black-

## "It's great to be able to give back to our community."

— Attendee Darica Fenner

tie affair celebrated Speed & Style while raising critical funds for local nonprofits, including ALIVE!, Community Lodgings and the National Breast Center Foundation.

"This is such a great event, said Old Town SEE GALA RAISES FUNDS, PAGE 10

Photo by Janet Barnett

"Joan Rivers" and Jim Warren at the High Octane Ball at Land Rover of Alexandria May 17. The charity gala raised thousands of dollars for local charities and kicked off the Festival of Speed and Style the following day.





Paula and Herb Berg, former Superintendent of Schools, at the High Octane Ball May 17.

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## Democratic Candidates Vie in Primary

Do you know the **Primary Election** candidates?

> By Susan Laume THE GAZETTE

emocrats will hold a Primary Election on June 17 to select their candidates for Lt. Governor and Attorney General. Early voting is open now through June 14. Virginians go to the polls this November to select new top state officials: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. The slate for the parties' gubernatorial candidates is set: Democrat - Abigail Spanberger; Republican- Winsome Earle-Sears; Independent - Andrew White. Republicans have single candidates for Lt Governor - John Reid, and for Attorney General - Jason Miyares.

## Vote by June 17; in person early voting until June 14; request mailed ballot by June 6.

Many voters may be attempting to differentiate between the candidates who ascribe to the same Democrat party philosophies. In making a choice for your vote, one might consider each candidate's past experience to identify elements important to you. Did he/ she hold a past government office, align with a union, participate with a particular volunteer group or association? Is law experience, a historical development ground for politicians, important to you or are you looking for a different background? Is there a particular issue of importance to you on which the candidate has taken a position?

A brief summary of the six Democratic Lt. Governor and two Attorney General candidates running in the Democratic primary is provided here. To find more in-depth information, see campaign web sites.

### More details

https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/calendars-schedules/upcoming-elections.html

### Local News?

If you find local news coverage helpful, consider donating to help the Connection continue to publish. See GoFundMe https://gofund.me/333a276b

#### DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR LT. GOVERNOR

The lieutenant governor serves as the president of the Senate of Virginia, running the Senate sessions when the body meets; and votes only to break ties. The lieutenant governor is first in the line of succession to the governorship if the governor dies, resigns or leaves office. The elected position was created by the Virginia Constitution of 1851. Between 1776 and that time, a Speaker of the Senate had been chosen by its elected members. The position is part-time with a salary set by the Virginia Constitution at \$36,321. There have been 42 lieutenant governors in history, including during the Confederacy. Some have gone on to serve as governor or to other political offices.

The candidates are:

### Alex Bastani

Worked as an economist for the Department of Labor; served as local union president; experience as an attorney, and character actor. Education: Law degree, George Mason University, 1994; Bachelor, George Washington University. Lives in Arlington.



https://progressivevirginiansforalexbastani.com/

### Dr. Babur Lateef

Physician owner of Advanced Ophthalmology Inc; currently elected as member at large for Prince William School County Board from 2018 to 2028. Education: Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine; Bachelor, Youngstown State



#### Victor Salgado Worked as Senior Litigation Counsel

for the Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section, and as adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center. Education: Law degree from Wisconsin Law School; Bachelor, George Washington



Victor Salgado

University. Lives in Arlington County. https://www.victorforvirginia.com/

## Sen. Ghazala

### Hashmi

First elected to the Senate in 2019; and currently elected as Senator for District 15 with a term through 2028. The first Muslim first Asian and American in the Virginia Senate. Thirty year career as a professor, teaching



Sen. Ghazala Hashmi

at Reynolds Community College, and the University of Richmond. Education: PhD in American literature from Emory University; Bachelor, Georgia Southern University. Lives in Chesterfield County.

https://ghazalaforvirginia.com/

## Sen. Aaron Rouse

First elected to Senate in a special election from 2023 to 2024; currently elected to Senate District 22, 2024-2028. Served as at large member of Virginia Beach City Council, 2019-2022. Former NFL/ professional UFL athlete. Founder of non-profit organiza-



Dr. Dabur Lateef

Rouse

tion, Rouse's House. Education: Bachelor, Polytechnic Institute and State University. Lives in Virginia Beach.

https://rouseforvirginia.com/

## LeVar Stoney

Former mayor of Richmond, 2016 January 2025; first African-American Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth, 2014-2016. Education: Bachelor, James Madison University. Lives in Richmond.

https://www.levarstoney.com/



LaVar Stoney

#### **DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES** FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General of Virginia is the Commonwealth's legal representative and chief law enforcement officer. The primary duties include managing a legal staff, and providing legal advice and representation to the governor, members of the General Assembly, and other state agencies and officials; enforcing state laws, and conducting investigations into various criminal activities. The position is full-time for four years and without term limits. The current salary is \$150,000. The candidates, by law, must be at least 30 years old, a US citizen, and have been a member of the Virginia bar for at least five years prior to election.

The two Democrat candidates are:

## Shannon Taylor

Currently serves as Commonwealth's Attorney for Henrico County, elected in 2011. Serves as president, Virginia Commonwealth's



**Shannon Taylor** 

Attorney Association. Education: Law de- tion. Education: Law degree, University gree, University of Virginia Law School, 1995, Bachelor University of Virginia. Lives in Henrico County.

https://shannontaylorva.com/



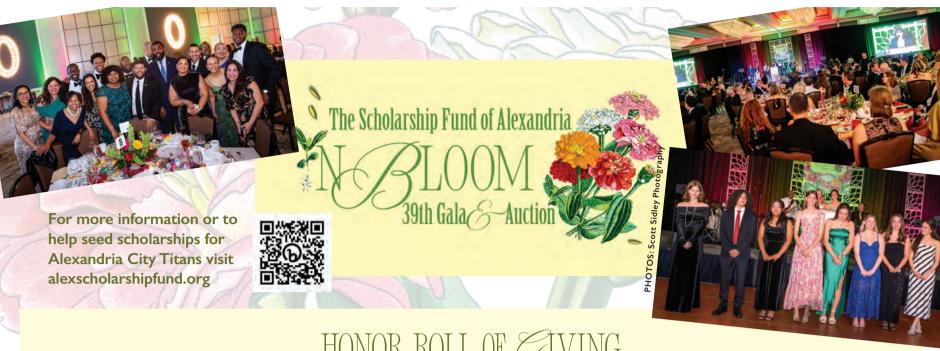
**Jay Jones** 

## Jay Jones Currently a prac-

ticing trial attorney; served as state delegate for District 89, 2018-2021. Formerly an Assistant Attorney General in DC for the Office of Consumer Protec-

of Virginia, 2015; Bachelor, in history and government, William and Mary University. Lives in Norfolk.

https://jayjones.com/The



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## COMMUNITY

# Karaoke With Cops

## Fundraiser to benefit APD camps, K-9s.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

ock It Grill, Alexandria's iconic karaoke restaurant, will once again host the annual Karaoke With Cops fundraiser June 7 from noon to 3 p.m.

Residents are invited to join local dignitaries in taking the stage to raise funds for the Alexandria Police Foundation, which

sponsors programs for police officers, camps and APD K-9s.

"We invite everyone to come out and join Alexandria's finest and the local community in spirit and song as we raise money for the Alexandria Police Foundation," said Charlotte Hall, APF

board president.

Ten percent of food and beverage proceeds will go to the APF to support resources to improve officer performance, morale, and effectiveness; the care and well-being of active and retired APD K-9s; and activities that strengthen police-community partnerships.

Surprise local celebrity battle rounds will be on tap and audience participation and voting is encouraged.

Rock It Grill is located at 1319 King Street in Old Town. 703-739-92274

For more information, visit www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org

"We invite everyone to come out and join Alexandria's finest and the local community as we raise money for the Alexandria Police Foundation."

- APF board president Charlotte Hall



Photo by Janet Barnett/Gazette Packet

Alexandria Assistant Chief of Police Raul Pedroso, left, and retired APD officer Brunie Cofresi belt out La Bamba at last year's Karaoke With Cops fundraiser at Rock It Grill. This year's event will take place June 7 at Rocket Grill from noon-3 p.m.



## COMMUNITY



## Remembering The Fallen

Sheriff Sean Casey, left, Jeremy Lenzer, president of the Retired Police, Fire and Sheriff's Association, and Alexandria Chief of Police Tarrick McGuire pay tribute to Alexandria's fallen after placing a wreath at the fallen officers memorial May 6 in Waterfront Park. Looking for networking events, business updates, and advocacy support in 2024? Join The Chamber ALX now at thechamberalx.com

Photo by Janet Barnett/ Gazette Packet







## THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Scholarship Fund of Alexandria 40th Anniversary Scholarship,\* Alisson A., Ana G., Angel L., Angie A., Asma H., Belen P., Careen M., Daylin H., Diana R., Hana L., Ikra H., Karol D., Katherine B., Kreilys G., Laiba A., Luciana C., Megan C., Mia A.,

Michelle G., Naomi Z., Nghi L., Samah S., Santiago M., Zechariah J., Zeinab Y.‡ Sheriff Jim and Nancy Dunning Memorial

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Technomics Nancy Hylton Merit Scholarship, Yunus M. **Timothy Schuyler Elliott Memorial** 

Scholarship, Mia A. Titans 4 Scholars Scholarship, Ruth K. Titans for Public Service Scholarship.

Krishma M. Walter Scott Downs Memorial Scholarship,

Whitestone & Franklin Scholarship, Tom S. Winn Memorial Scholarship,\* Abigail H., Omer A., Sania A. Yasmin Groehn Memorial Scholarship

Aiyanna D. \* Indicates new scholarship awarded in 2025. ‡ Indicates 2024 Titans 4 Scholars participant.

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## Gala Raises Funds for Local Charities

resident Darica Fenner, who attended with friends. "It's great to be able to give back to our community. And of course the car show is amazing."

A Joan Rivers impersonator served as emcee and narrated the red carpet arrivals.

The centerpiece of the evening was the live auction of a painting by renowned performance artist David Garibaldi. The painting, which depicted a car specially created for the event, sold for \$10,000 to the Yates family, including Jason, Loren and Jason Jr.

-Jeanne Theismann





Cheri Dorfman.



Nelson Gonzales and Dan Via.



Simone Evelyn, Darica Fenner, Ana Dixon and



Tom Kuester, Christina Calloway and Ralph Berthiez.



Ayabaa Ibrahim, Lee Wilson and Zainab Ibrahim.



## City to Host Vietnam Wall Exhibit June 12-15

counties, and Washington, DC."

The Wall That Heals will open Thursday, June 12 at 2 p.m. and close Sunday, June 15 at 9 p.m.

Special events that will be held at the exhibit include an Agent Orange Awareness candlelight event on Thursday, June 12. Visitors will see the replica Wall and In Memory plaque lit in orange candlelight to 10 ♦ Alexandria Gazette Packet ♦ June 5-18, 2025

bring light to the effects of Agent That Heals. Visitors can sponsor Orange exposure on our nation's roses in advance and lay them at Vietnam veterans.

On Saturday, June 14, the annual In Memory ceremony will be held honoring a record high 774 Vietnam veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died.

On Sunday, June 15, the annual Father's Day Rose Remembrance will be held at The Wall the replica Wall and In Memory plaque to honor and remember fathers who served in Vietnam and those that never had the chance to become fathers. Red roses are for those who died in Vietnam, yellow for those who are unaccounted for and white for those who returned home but later died.

rubbings of individual service and thousands of visitors across member's names on The Wall. It the four days," Long said. "We're will be set upon the grassy knoll optimistic local businesses and oroverlooking the National Masonic Memorial.

For the 11th year, USAA is the presenting sponsor for the nation-

"Hosting the exhibit requires the equipment and resources to sup-

Visitors will be able to do name port the hundreds of volunteers ganizations will reach out to us to see how they can help us through in-kind or financial support."

> For more information or to volunteer or donate, visit: www.vvmf. org/the-wall-that-heals-alexan-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News

# Goal!

## City to serve as FIFA Club World Cup 2025 team base camp site.

"Alexandria is proud

and to host Al Ain FC

to be a part of this

global tournament

in our community."

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

IFA, the world governing body for soccer, announced that Alexandria has been selected as one of 34 cities to serve as an official base camp site for the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup 2025.

Alexandria's Episcopal High School will host Al Ain FC, one of the world's top clubs from the United Arab Emirates. The team will stay in and train in Alexandria throughout the group stage of the competition. Its games will be played at Audi Field in Washington,

"Alexandria is proud to be a part of this global tournament and to host Al Ain FC in our community," said Mayor Alyia Gaskins in a statement. "This opportunity reflects the

strength of our city as a great place to live, work, visit and play."

The inaugural FIFA Club World Cup will bring together 32 of the world's top clubs in the United States, including two matches for Al Ain FC at Audi Field.

Matches at Audi Field are scheduled for

June 18, 22 and 26. Soccer fans will be able to take the City Cruises Water Taxi from Old Town to Navy Yard, steps from Audi Field, or connect to D.C. via Metro, Uber/Lyft, bikeshare and more.

"We are honored to welcome Al Ain FC to Alexandria as their practice homebase for

the FIFA Club World Cup 2025," said Todd O'Leary, President & CEO of Visit Alexandria. A total of 63 matches will be played across

SEE SCORE!, PAGE 13





# MEET DR. LATEEF

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— Mayor Alyia Gaskins

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## ENTERTAINMENT

#### MAY 30 TO JUNE 29

"Sing Me a Sea Shanty" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit explores enchanting artworks inspired by the nautical spirit. Exhibit reception on Friday, June 6, 7-9 p.m. to meet the curators and artists. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details at DelRayArtisans.org/ exhibits.

#### JUNE 1 TO AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in collage, drawing, mixed media, photography, bead embroidery, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Held at Del Ray Artisans (2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA) unless noted. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer

#### JUNE 2-29

"Vibrancy Unleashed" Exhibit. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition that showcases a stunning array of jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of June.

Participating Artists: Jordana Adelman, Ann Barbieri, Victoria Barnes, Lynn Chadwick, Andrea Cybyk, Eleftheria Easley, Sheila Flanders, Samuel Gyulnazarian, Camille Kouyoumdjian, Michal Mitak Mahgerefteh, Anna Nazaretz Radjou, Rebecca McNeely, Diana Papazian, Catherine Rubin\*, Kellie Sansone\*, Karine Sapondjian, Vita Sims\*, Antonio Scott, Samantha L. Shelton, Pratibha Srinivasan, Hanin Tawfiq, Ana Tkabladze, Dicxon Vergaray, Estelle Vernon,

Guido R. Zanni Visit https://torpedofactory.org/todays-hours/

Karen Waltermire, Dina Wise,

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 7

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

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. Presented by Volunteer Alexandria, the fair features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Over 90+ vendors joined us last year, including food and drink to purchase. For more information, visit Volunteer Alexandria | Arts

SPECIAL TOUR All Lit Up Like a Japanese Lantern The Japanese Aesthetic in Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House

Like a Japanese Lantern takes place on Saturday, June 14, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

and Crafts Festival

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 7

First Annual Summer Palooza. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Summer Palooza promises a day of fun in the sun for everyone — families, dog lovers, environmental enthusiasts and more. Highlights include live music from a favorite local band, Riptide, free food at the Taste of Mount Vernon, a petting zoo with animals from Frying Pan Park, a kids zone and touch-a-truck experiences. Attendees (21+) can also enjoy a beer garden hosted by Bunnyman

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 7

**60 Years of Preservation.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. They're throwing a party to commemorate the historic move of the Pope-Leighey House from Falls Church, VA, to its current home at Woodlawn-a move that saved this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed gem, thanks to the dedication of Marjorie Leighey and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Now it's time to party in true 1960s style! Slip into your best 60s-inspired attire—think mod dresses, bell bottoms, bold prints, and vintage vibes-and get ready for a night of great food, drinks, and live entertainment that will transport you back to the era of peace, love, and preservation! Whether you're a history buff, an architecture fan, or just looking for a groovy time, this is one event you won't want to miss.

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Senior Law Day 2025. From 9 a.m. to 12 noon. At First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria. Featuring "The Cost of Aging: Mental, Physical, Financial, and Legal Perspectives." Join Senior Services of Alexandria and for the annual Senior Law Day! This year, plan to hear from estate planners, financial experts, and senior resource specialists as they share insights on caregiving challenges, healthcare and housing costs, and the essential legal documents everyone should have. The

presentations will include a panel on how to provide caregiving in ways that support and protect the dignity of aging friends and family. Chris Leighton of Hughes & Leighton PLLC will moder-

ate and Heidi Travis and Ashley Wembley from ElderTree Care Management will provide their expert insights on compassionate and effective caregiving. Register by emailing events@seniorservicesalex.org or call SSA's Office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

#### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 11

"The Play That Goes Wrong" Benefit Performance. 8 p.m. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. In this classic murder mystery, things don't always turn out the way they were written. It's curtain time, your leading lady is unconscious. The corpse has disappeared. The actors are tripping over everything. Who moved the scenery? Whose line is it? This is not a mystery - it's mayhem! Admission - \$45, Patrons - \$65, Benefactors - \$125. Proceeds go toward the current pledge of the Board of Lady Managers of Inova Alexandria Hospital to purchase a Glide Scope Core for the hospital's Emergency Department. For tickets, call 703-548-9485 or go to the Board of Lady Managers website http://www.boardofladymanagers.org.

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Like a Japanese Lantern. 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Discover how Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright's Pope-Leighey House. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: https://www.woodlawnpope leighey.org/upcomingevents

#### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

\* On June 19, enjoy traditional African American storytelling and songs reflecting the journey toward freedom at the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices Juneteenth



Grab a Slice of History on Friday, June 20, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

Concert at Market Square then head to Juneteenth Celebration @ The Athenaeum to discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, and poetry readings at the.

\* Keep the celebration going on June 21 and celebrate African American heritage through music, storytelling, food, and family fun at the Juneteenth Festival at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Tours and Museums

- \* Reserve your spot for Specialty Tours: Tell Me Your Name at Carlyle House on June 19, focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations.
- ❖ Head to Mount Vernon between June 19-21 to take part in Freedom Before Emancipation: Family Day for Juneteenth, remembering how enslaved people resisted enslavement and sought freedom before the Emancipation Proclamation.
- ❖ Ride through 90 mins of powerful stories on board an Alexandria Black History Bus Tour from Manumission Tour Company on June 21. Black-Owned Businesses
- ❖ 1799 Prime Steak and Seafood: Dine at this steakhouse, owned by a member of one of the oldest documented African American
- families. Café du Soleil: Relax and enjoy coffee, pastries and classic Frenchstyle dishes at two Old Town locations.
- ❖ AR Workshop: This DIY craft studio offers hands-on classes for creating custom home décor.

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 14 ildren's Summer Reading Festival

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Fairfax Library Foundation will reprise its highly acclaimed Children's Summer Reading Festival. The festival marks the Foundation's third year hosting the free community event

to encourage summer reading among preschool- and school-age children and to prevent learning loss over summer break. The festival, designed in partnership with Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL), will feature a wide variety of fun activities for children of all ages, including facepainting, bounce houses, balloon and caricature artists, games and crafts, live entertainment, food trucks, and a photobooth.

#### THURSDAY/JUNE 19 Juneteenth at The Athenaeum. 1

p.m. Join them for this year's Juneteenth celebration with poet, author, and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association Poet in Residence, KaNikki Jakarta. The event will be held in the gallery of the Athenaeum. Discover the history of Juneteenth through hands-on activities, art, and poetry readings.

#### FRIDAY/JUNE 20 Civics Pizza Party at Pope-Leighey

House. 5:30-8 p.m. Celebrate Civics Season with (free!) pizza and history! Take a self-guided tour and engage in thoughtful reflection and dialogue about our shared past and its connection to today's movements for justice. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view the new exhibit "Saving Pope-Leighey House: How Marjorie Leighey Rescued Her Frank Lloyd Wright Home."

#### FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Slice of History. 5:30-8 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Celebrate #CivicsSeason with (free!) pizza and history! Take a self-guided tour of Woodlawn and learn about the site's profound legacy of transformation.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## News



Photo contributed

Alexandria will host Al Ain FC of the United Arab Emirates as part of the inaugural FIFA Club World Cup 2025.

# Goal!

From Page II

12 different venues throughout the United States. The tournament's opening game is scheduled for June 14 at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, while the championship final will take place July 13 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

"We're pleased to confirm the Team Base Camp Training Sites that will host qualified clubs throughout the group stage of the first-ever FIFA Club World Cup," said FIFA Secretary General, Mattias Grafström in making the announcement. "These sites and more significantly the people and communities that surround them will welcome the world's best, providing first-class environments and hospitality in support of the teams."

DC United's MLS training center in Leesburg was also selected as a base camp training site for Al Hilal Saudi FC.

Tickets for FIFA Club World Cup 2025 matches are available at FIFA.com/tickets, while every match at the tournament will be streamed live and for free globally on DAZN. com.

## Theogony Is 2024-2025 SNO Distinguished Site; Plus Other Honors

ach year, School Newspapers Online (SNO) offers student journalism programs with outstanding online publications the opportunity to apply to become a SNO Distinguished Site. This month, the staff of Alexandria City High School's publication, Theogony, earned this status.

Before being awarded the title of SNO Distinguished Site, Theogony earned online digital badges in the areas of site excellence, story page design, writing, multimedia coverage and audience engagement.

Representing what SNO sees as the six components of a modern news website, these six individual badges make up the SNO Distinguished Sites program.

In addition to this culminating recognition, Theogony has received 12 Best of SNO writing awards, two JEA/NSPA Comic of the Year national awards (Rozalia Finkelstein), and we have the VHSL Student Journalist of the Year, James Libresco.

**Theogony Names Editors for Next** 

School Year

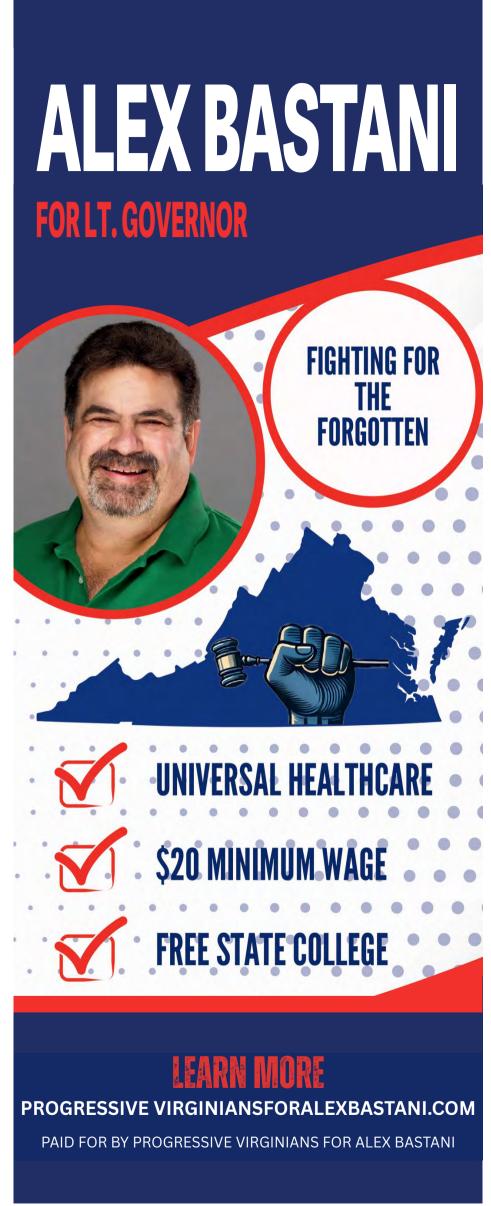
Five seniors and one junior will head Theogony's leadership staff. Theogony, the Alexandria City High School student-run media organization, named its editors for the 2025-2026 school year.

They are winding down an award tour of a year and are excited about taking the student-run newspaper into the future.

Rising seniors Rozalia Finkelstein and Julia Gwin will lead publishing activities on three platforms: print, online, and social media as Co-Editors-in-Chief. The well-rounded team will also include rising seniors Max Carpenter, Nadja Duss, Leo Maucieri and rising junior Isabel Shultz.

Rozalia Finkelstein, a returning editor and rising senior, is thrilled to return to Theogony as Co-Editor-In-Chief. Finkelstein is behind social media design for Theogony and National Art Honors Society social media, and designs playbills for the ACHS Theatre Department. Her

SEE THEOGONY, PAGE 15



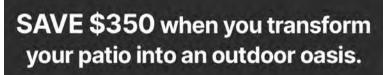




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Legals

Legals



#### **CITY OF ALEXANDRIA FIRST HALF** 2025 REAL ESTATE TAX, **REFUSE FEE AND** STORMWATER UTILITY FEE **ARE DUE JUNE 16, 2025**

The first half 2025 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by Monday, June 16, 2025, to avoid late payment penalty

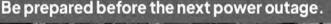
Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City's website at alexandriava. gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Pay in person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, Room 1510, or at the West End Finance Office, 4850 Mark Center Drive, Suite 2011, between 8AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday. A drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on June 16, 2025, to be considered on time.

General real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Detailed assessment, tax balance and payment information is available at realestate.alexandriava.gov.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For questions on refuse fees or stormwater utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at alexandriava.gov/Alex311.

For information on the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Programs for elderly, disabled, and military-disabled residents, please contact the Revenue Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1700, Alexandria, VA 22314, by email taxrelief@alexandriava.gov or by phone 703.746.4800





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## Entertainment

FROM PAGE 12 FRIDAY/JUNE 27

Wright at Twilight. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Enjoy the iconic Pope-Leighey House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Sit back with complimentary snacks and a glass of wine, and watch the changing light bring out the architectural details. Visit the website: https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents

#### JULY 14-18 OR JULY 21-25

Art Camp 2025. Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2025 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and more. During nice weather, campers will have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. Choose July 14-18 or July 21-25 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily). \$350/child; scholarship support available. Registration at delrayartisans.org/art-camp-2025

#### 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.

JUNE

Wed. 4: Scott Thompson is "Buddy Cole" in The Last Glory Hole \$39.50

Sat. 7: The Smithereens with guest vocalist John Cowsill \$45.00

Sun. 8: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50. SOLD OUT!

Tue. 10: Happy Together Tour 2025 Featuring The Turtles, Jay & The Americans, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & Union Gap, The Vogues, and The Cowsills \$109.50

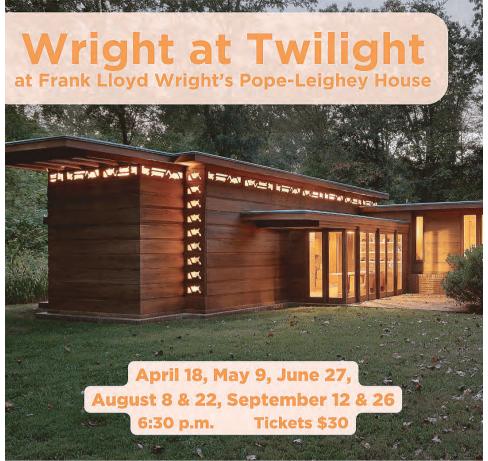
Thu. 12: Robert Glasper \$79.50. SOLD OUT! Fri. 13: TWEET \$49.50

Sat. 14: Tarsha Fitzgerald Presents VOICES OF MOTOWN Father's Day Anniversary Show! \$45.00

Mon. 16: The Musical Box performs Genesis Live \$59.50

Wed. 18: Acoustic Alchemy \$35.00 Thu. 19: Tower Of Power \$89.50

Thu. 19: Tower Of Power \$89.50 Fri. 20: AJ Ghent & His Singing Guitar \$45.00



Visit Wright at Twilight on Friday, June 27, 2025 at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House in Alexandria.

Sat. 21: Ohio Players \$79.50 Sun. 22: Stacey Kent \$39.50

Wed. 25: Tartan Terrors \$29.50 Thu. 26: Peter Asher: A Musical Memoir of the

60's & Beyond \$49.50 Fri. 27: Pieces Of A Dream \$55.00 Sat. 28: Kasey Chambers w/ Sunny Sweeney

Sun. 29: Joshua Redman \$49.50

Wed. 2: Three Dog Night \$95.00 SOLD OUT! 2nd Night Added on 7/29!

Sat. 5: Donnell Rawlings \$49.50 Sun. 6: The Milk Carton Kids \$45.00

Sat. 12: Classic Stones Live! \$35.00

Wed. 9: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy \$65.00 Fri. 11: LAUREL CANYON: Golden Songs of Los Angeles '66-'72 \$39.50 Thu. 17: OMAR with special guest Tabi Bonney \$45.00

Sat. 19: Tell Me Lies – The Fleetwood Mac Experience \$35.00

Sun. 20: Hubert Laws \$55.00 Thu. 24: Hiroshima \$59.50

Fri. 25: The Bacon Brothers w/ Pernikoff Brothers \$69.50 SOLD OUT!

Sat. 26: The Bacon Brothers w/ Pernikoff Brothers \$69.50 SOLD OUT!

Sun. 27: Judy Collins \$59.50
The 29: Three Dog Night \$95.00 2nd

Tue. 29: Three Dog Night \$95.00 2nd Night Added! (7/2 is Sold Out!)

Wed. 30: Sheila E. & The E-Train \$69.50 Thu. 31: Dave Koz And Friends Summer Horns 2025 featuring Dave Koz, Marcus Anderson, Jeff Bradshaw, Leo P and Evan Taylor, plus Marcel Anderson \$95.00

## Theogony Is 2024-2025 SNO Distinguished Site; Plus Other Honors

From Page 13

free time is mostly taken up by babysitting and doodling in the margins of notebooks.

Julia Gwin is a rising senior and will be returning for her third year on the Theogony staff. After serving as the News Editor during the 2024-2025 school year, Julia is excited to step into her new position as Co-Editor-In-Chief for this upcoming year. Outside of Theogony, Julia is on the ACHS field hockey team and plays the drums for a local band.

Max Carpenter, a rising senior, will return to Theogony as the Opinion and Satire Editor for the 2025-2026 school year. He initially joined Theogony as a staff writer in 2022 and then as an editor in 2023.

Outside of his journalistic efforts, he is the co-president of the Model United Nations Club and works to give young people a voice through the Alexandria Mayoral Youth Forum. In his free time,

Max enjoys reading Marx and playing video games. Max's favorite news outlets include The Onion, Peoples Dispatch, and Democracy Now

Nadja Duss is a rising senior returning for her third year on Theogony and second year as an editor. She is looking forward to serving as the Features editor for the 25-26 school year. Outside of Theogony, Duss plays on the AC girls tennis team, is the President of the Marine Conservation Club, and plays lead guitar in a local band.

Rising senior Leo Maucieri will return for his third year on Theogony and first year in a leadership position as the Tracking and Circulation Manager. He has previously served as a staff writer, and is looking forward to another year of serving on Theogony. Outside of Theogony, Maucieri is part of the AC boys tennis team, works at a sandwich shop, and volunteers at his church as an audio-video tech.

Isabel Shultz is a rising junior, returning for her second year on Theogony. For the

25-26 school year, she will serve as the News Editor. Outside of Theogony, she is a library intern and is involved in community service for the city of Alexandria. Additionally, she enjoys art and music in her free time. Shultz is thrilled to continue telling the stories of the city through news.

Theogony has submitted multiple articles for consideration in online and print competitions sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association and the National Education Association.

SNO started the SNO Distinguished Sites program to eliminate ambiguity and delineate standards of excellence for an online student news site. Last year, 74 schools earned all of the badges and the honor of becoming a SNO Distinguished Site.

To see the outstanding work of the journalism staff of Theogony, please visit https://actheogony.com.

## Accidentally Not on Purpose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Other than not getting a handicapped sticker for my car - which I briefly considered back in the early daze of my cancer life, or affixing a "new driver, please be patient"-type bumper sticker on the rear of my car to provide me some leniency and/or latitude behind the wheel, I've never "weaponized" my affliction as a means of avoiding us meeting by accident. Nevertheless, it's becoming increasingly clear of late that even a short drive (seasons notwithstanding, although winter does provide unique challenges) to my local Giant (less than 1.5 miles) shouldn't encourage this driver to put on the blinders. I have to respect the fact that there are plenty of other drivers who regard these local-type errands as a bit of a race.

"Drive defensively" is a phrase which has been drilled into our driving heads for as long as I can remember in an attempt to prevent drivers meeting by accident. Although plenty of accidents can't be prevented/avoided, at least we drivers can be alert and not increase the likelihood that we'll meet unexpectedly, shall we say. Which means paying attention when behind the wheel and not taking our local errands/routines for granted because there are many other drivers who will. This also means not to fuss with the radio or the windows, keep your windshield clear and your wiper fluid full, buckle up, and most importantly keep your eyes focused on what's ahead, not behind you or to the side.

However, a major design upgrade to automobiles of late that I have finally embraced are the radio's controls being relocated from the dash to the wheel. No more looking down and to the right, generally describing, to adjust your radio preferences. I was guilty of that misdirected focus much too often. Finally, I have started pressing the radio's buttons on my wheel. Now I can increase/ decrease volume and search up or down the radio dial all while keeping my eyes on the road; especially when you consider the number of satellite stations on your car's radio. A search, if done manually, could take more than a few seconds, time when you're not paying strict attention (or any kind of attention for that matter). Eliminating that manual temptation has enabled me to keep my attention where it belongs: on the road and away from the radio. As such, I feel so much more in control, even without my handicapped tag or new driver bumper sticker.

Still, most of us living in the suburbs need a car for commuting or "erranding." Walking to and from or using public transportation eliminates these car-related distractions (Duh!). Unfortunately, much of suburban life requires - or works better/more efficiently with an automobile at your disposal. Therefore, it makes logical sense to behave/drive responsibly since the regularity/frequency of driving in your car increases exponentially the chances (I didn't say likelihood) that you might get into an accident. Logically thinking, why not make a commitment to the activity which exposes you to your greatest risk of death or disability: driving your car.

If any of these accidents could be predicted/planned for, you would, as my friend Beverly refers to it, be called an "on purpose." Since it's rare that these driving actions occur on purpose, why not act your age and drive like you have a future. Sure, we have a present, but as I know all too well, your future is hardly guaranteed. As in the game of Monopoly, and the overall game of life, it's usually riskier to take a "chance" than it is to grab an "opportunity."

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



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