



Business Leader of the Year Stephanie Landrum, second from right, with Burke and Herbert Bank representatives Hunt Burke, Joe Collum, Jane Petty and Walter Clarke at the Best in Business awards Oct. 2 at the Alexandria Westin Hotel.

Best in Business Landrum, local businesses honored.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The stars of the business community walked the red carpet Oct. 2 as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce celebrated the Best in Business awards at the Alexandria Westin Hotel.

Presented by Burke and Herbert Bank, awards were presented in several categories with Stephanie Landrum, president and CEO of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, honored as Business Leader of the Year.

“It’s been a fulfilling 14 years for me,” said Landrum in accepting the award. “I look forward to the implementation of projects like the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus. This is my hometown and I truly love working in Alexandria.”

Virginia Tech president Tim Sands was on hand to salute Landrum and the Alexandria business community.

“This is Alexandria’s biggest night of the year,” said Sands, who presented Landrum, a graduate of the University of Virginia, with a football jersey from state rival Virginia Tech. “We are here to be part of celebrating the city’s brightest stars.”

Awards were presented in several categories, including the Rising Star award for new businesses in the city. This year’s Rising Star honoree was Nicole McGrew for Threadleaf.

“Threadleaf is a women’s boutique in Old Town focused on responsibly made fashion,” said McGrew. “We focus on fair labor, organic fibers and small independent designers and labels that

SEE BEST IN BUSINESS, PAGE 6



Business Leader of the Year and University of Virginia graduate Stephanie Landrum is presented a Virginia Tech football jersey from Virginia Tech president Tim Sands at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Best in Business awards Oct. 2 at the Alexandria Westin Hotel.



Sue Kovalsky, president of the Del Ray Business Association, accepts the Best Nonprofit/Association award from Chamber of Commerce CEO Joe Haggerty and board chair Charlotte Hall at the Best in Business awards Oct. 2 at the Alexandria Westin Hotel.

Uptick in Student Absentee Ballots Might Indicate Higher Turnout

BY IMANI THANIEL
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

In addition to hitting the books this fall, more Virginia college students may hit the polls next month, according to the Virginia Department of Elections.

Virginia Department of Elections data show that 10,923 students in Virginia have applied for absentee ballots this year.

That’s more than double the number of absentee ballot applications (4,878) received in 2015, the last year all 140 seats were up for reelection in the General Assembly, according to Christopher Piper, commissioner of the department.

Residents (including students) have requested 66,219 applications for absentee voting, according to state election data. Records show that 62,605 absentee ballots were filed four years ago. As of today, the state has filed 24,766 absentee ballots; it remains to be seen how many more are returned.

Piper said absentee ballots have increased in popularity.

Last year, voters submitted 287,763 absentee ballots, the highest number of votes in the state during a non-presidential election based on the data available since 1976. The 2008 presidential election had the highest rate of absentee voting recorded in Virginia, with 506,672 absentee votes submitted.

“Using absentee voting is a good indicator of potential turnout, and if you look at previous elections and compare it to today there has been an increase in this election and overall,” Piper said.

Traditionally, voter turnout is highest during presidential elections and drops during state elections.

For instance, 72% of registered voters participated in the 2016 presidential election, but turnout for the 2017 gubernatorial election fell to 48%.

That same year, the second highest number of absentee votes, 496,452, were filed.

Perhaps this election is predicted to spur higher voter turnout in part because it includes over 30 competitive races. Further, redistricting maps gave an advantage to some House Democrats, who hope to wrest back the slim majority Republicans hold — in both chambers.

As of Sept. 30, Virginia had 5,612,769 registered voters. In the 2015 election, nearly 5.2 million residents registered to vote and a little over 1.5 million, or 29%, actually voted.

Erin Burke Brown, the voter registration and turnout chair for VCU Votes, which promotes voter engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University, said it remains to be seen whether young voters will show up to the polls.

“It depends on whether young people are fired up to want things to change and have their voices heard,” Brown said.

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 15. Applications for absentee ballots can be found online or by visiting the local registrar’s office.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is Oct. 29. The deadline to vote in-person absentee is Nov. 2.

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Goblins Coming

Halloween seems spookier now more than ever in Alexandria. There's something about all those skeletons and cobwebs that have invaded the city this year. Maybe it's something in the numbers. Strolling through the archives of the Alexandria Gazette, and you'll come across this nugget from 100 years ago this month.

"The goblins will get you if you don't watch out," exclaimed the *Alexandria Gazette* on Oct. 24, 1919. "For there will be Jack o' Lanterns a plenty in Alexandria on Hallowe'en Day, if the youngsters want them."

Alexandria Gazette editor **Michael Dwyer** noted that farmers across Maryland and Virginia were shipping large quantities of pumpkins to the markets, and "mother will want the pumpkin pulp for pies." He adds all those new novelty stores in the city sell paper mâché lanterns, which he noted have replaced the "old-fashioned, home-made Jack o' Lanterns." Plus, he says, mischievous boys no longer use Halloween as an excuse to fill an old sock with flour and pelt passersby.

"Dignified Alexandria boys have abandoned that trick," he explained.

Along the Waterfront

The transformation of the Alexandria waterfront is taking place so fast it's difficult to remember a time when the waterfront plan was the hottest controversy in town. Tempers flared and the rhetoric was hot. Angry letters to the editor were penned, and fiery campaign speeches were delivered. Ultimately the plan to expand density was approved over fears that the size and scale of development would choke the narrow streets of Old Town.

"Even when I run into some of the harshest critics who were opposed to the redevelopment of the waterfront," says former Mayor **Bill Euille**, "particularly from the Boat Club, they say to me, 'Hey Mister Mayor thanks for what you were pushing for.' People are going to want to oppose something until they see it completed or near completion, then they jump on the bandwagon."

Now that everyone's jumping aboard the waterfront bandwagon, Euille says it reminds him of other times when neighborhood associations and advocacy groups. Specifically, he mentions opposition to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the U.S. Patent Trademark Office.

"And then once it happens everybody says, 'Wow this is really nice,'" he says with a chuckle.

Smooth Sailing

Are rough seas ahead for the port city? Alexandria's captain of industry says the weather's fine for now.

Reacting to a recent report from the Stephen Fuller Institute at George Mason University, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce president and CEO **Joe Haggerty** says he disagrees with the esteemed green eyeshades in Clarendon. He says the warning signs about the economy in recent issues of the Fuller Institute's "Washington Regional Leading Index" are baffling.

"All of our businesses are telling us it's tough to get employees right now," says Haggerty. "The unemployment rate is low, and they're really having trouble getting people in construction and in retail and in restaurants."

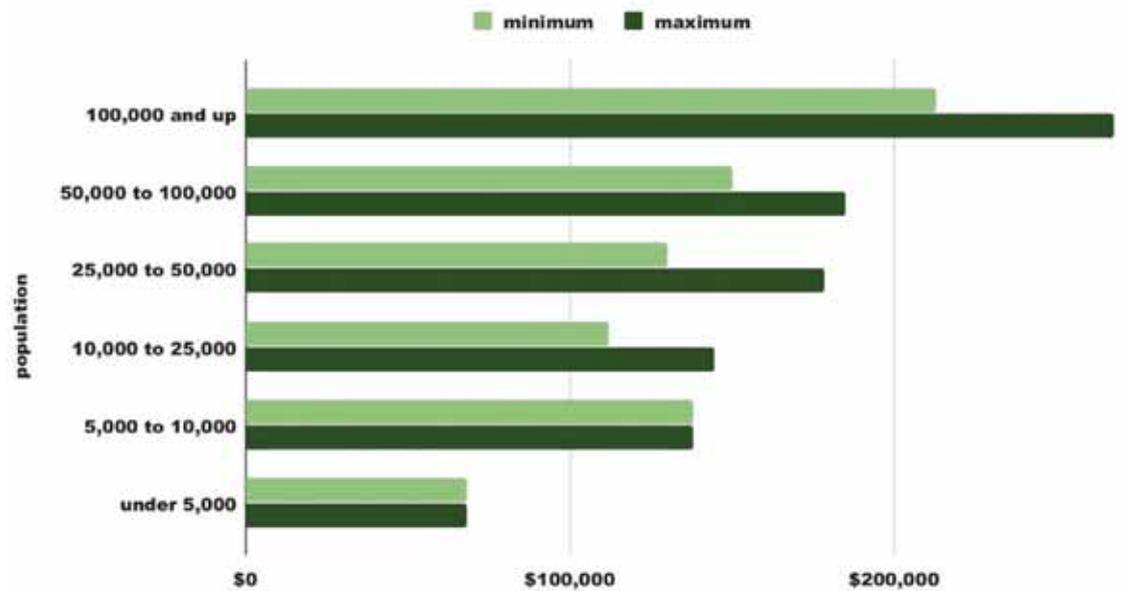
In the old days, sentry boats might sail the Potomac looking for signs of enemy vessels. These days the Fuller Institute has the Washington Region Leading Index, a cocktail of data including retail sales, unemployment claims, consumer expectations and construction permits. Across the Washington metropolitan region, those sentry boats are all returning with dire warning signs. But Haggerty says the view from this side of the river isn't as gloomy.

"We were hurt by the Metro shutdown, obviously, in Alexandria," he says. "But still half of the retail outlets said their business was up over the last few months."

— MICHAEL LEE POPE

NEWS

Salaries for Virginia Chief Managers and Administrators



source: International City/County Management Association

Nice Work If You Can Get It

Eight Alexandria city officials pull in more than \$200,000 a year.

Alexandria does not have the top paid government officials in the region. But it certainly doesn't have poorest either. According to information received in a Freedom of Information Act request, Alexandria's City Manager Mark Jinks pulls in a cool \$288,000 a year. That's at the top end of the range for local government chief appointed managers and administrators who oversee governments with a population of 100,000 or more, according to an annual survey conducted by the International City/County Management Association.

"When you're looking at the compensation for city managers and county managers, you're taking into account the same kind of factors as you would when you're looking at the CEO of any business," says Martha Perego, director of membership and ethics for the association. "What is the complexity of the work for which they've been hired? You're also looking at the experience of the person you're hired."

Most of Alexandria's top-paid employees are deputy city managers or department heads, although that's not always the case. The second highest paid city employee is the internal medicine practitioner who runs the opioid treatment program and administer physicals in the detox program. Also in the top ten list are three clinical psychiatrists who see patients referred through Alexandria's human services programs.

"There is a national shortage of physicians, especially psychiatrists," says Communications Director Craig Fifer, who makes more than \$170,000 a year. "We continue to face significant competition for these positions from higher-paying jobs in the private sector."

In the Washington region, the top-paid government executives are usually in D.C. Montgomery County and Fairfax County also pull in salaries larger than Alexandria, whereas Prince George's County and Loudoun County usually appear at the bottom end of the list. For a city of 144,000, Alexandria's top salary of \$288,000 salary is generous without being extreme by comparison.

"That does seem high," says former Mayor Allison Silberberg, who was vice mayor when Jinks was hired in the spring of 2015. "But city managers and chief administrators get paid well in our country now, and that's just the reality of the economics."

Alexandria's Top-Paid Employees

- ❖ \$287,504: **Mark Jinks**, city manager
- ❖ \$260,000: **Uzma Mian**, medical supervisor
- ❖ \$243,812: **Joanna Anderson**, city attorney
- ❖ \$220,002: **Ana Lince**, senior clinical psychiatrist
- ❖ \$220,000: **Elia Valladares Juarez**, senior clinical psychiatrist
- ❖ \$208,291: **Bryan Porter**, commonwealth's attorney
- ❖ \$203,085: **Dana Lawhorne**, sheriff
- ❖ \$202,144: **Dean Inouye**, clinical psychiatrist
- ❖ \$199,130: **Emily Baker**, deputy city manager
- ❖ \$199,130: **Debra Collins**, deputy city manager
- ❖ \$199,130: **Laura Triggs**, deputy city manager
- ❖ \$198,840: **Wendel Wu**, clinical psychiatrist
- ❖ \$195,881: **Michael Brown**, police chief
- ❖ \$190,000: **Terry Suehr**, director of project implementation
- ❖ \$189,648: **Catherine Garvey**, director of human services
- ❖ \$182,062: **James Spengler**, director of recreation
- ❖ \$179,496: **Shawnda Howard**, chief HR officer
- ❖ \$177,230: **Rose Dawson**, library director
- ❖ \$175,248: **Morgan Routt**, budget director
- ❖ \$175,248: **Kendel Taylor**, finance director
- ❖ \$175,247: **Yon Lambert**, transportation director
- ❖ \$175,247: **Karl Moritz**, planning director
- ❖ \$174,057: **Vanetta Pledger**, chief IT officer
- ❖ \$173,430: **Jill Schaub**, deputy city attorney
- ❖ \$170,552: **Craig Fifer**, communications director
- ❖ \$170,522: **Thomas Canfield**, special city architect
- ❖ \$169,754: **Gregg Fields**, director code administration
- ❖ \$169,754: **Helen McIlvaine**, housing director
- ❖ \$168,622: **Renee Gordon**, emergency comms director
- ❖ \$168,448: **Jeremy McPike**, general services director



City councilmember Del Pepper, center, reads a proclamation honoring the recipients of the 2019 Ben Brenman Awards Oct. 2 at City Hall. Honored by the Alexandria Archeological Commission were members of the Fort Ward Interpretive Committee and McArthur Myers.

NEWS

Ben Brenman Awards 2019

Fort Ward, Myers honored by Archeological Commission.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

interpretation of history at Fort Ward Park.

The Alexandria Archeological Commission presented its annual Ben Brenman Awards during a proclamation ceremony Oct. 2 at City Hall.

Named in honor of the late Bernard "Ben" Brenman, a longtime Commission chair, the award recognizes businesses, organizations, families, professional preservationists, volunteers, students and other individuals who have demonstrated work or efforts in archaeological investigation, research, site protection, education, public interpretation, open space design, collections, or conservation. Councilmember Del Pepper presided over the awards presentation, reading a proclamation recognizing the 2019 honorees. Two awards were presented, one to members of the Fort Ward Interpretive Committee and one to McArthur Myers.

The Fort Ward Interpretive Committee, consisting of members Frank Cooling, Mary Furlong Minkoff, Carol Johnson, Krystyn Moon, Frances Terrell, Adrienne Washington and Charles Ziegler, was recognized with the Outstanding Interpretive Plan award for their dedication to the ongoing

The committee has implemented interpretive experiences for visitors to the park as a Civil War fort and then as the center of an African American community based on the theme "Bastions of Freedom," which charts the arc of history at the park from Civil War to Civil Rights. Myers was presented with the Outstanding Community History award in recognition of his dedication to the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria's African American heritage.

Through organizations including the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, and the African American Heritage Trails Committee, Myers has worked to interpret Alexandria's history at the Universal Lodge #1, Third Baptist Church and the Historic Waterfront.

The Alexandria Archeological Commission established the Brenman Award in 2007 in honor of the late activist and retired U.S. Army colonel. Brenman was a founding member of the Commission, serving as its chair for 21 years. A City of Alexandria commission, it was the first of its kind established in the country.



Frances Terrell, a member of the Fort Ward Interpretive Committee, and McArthur Myers, hold the Ben Brenman awards following a presentation by City Council and the Alexandria Archeological Commission Oct. 2 at City Hall.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



Public Meetings 2019 Fall Transportation Meetings

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with a brief open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, including:

- Adjustments to Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE)
- Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs (Virginia's Statewide Transportation Plan)
- Adjustments to the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Representatives of the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, during which you may provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.CTB.Virginia.gov.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4 p.m. in each of the locations unless otherwise noted.

<p>Tuesday, October 15, 2019* Richmond District Richmond Marriott Short Pump 4240 Dominion Boulevard Glen Allen, VA 23060 *This meeting will also provide opportunity for comment on the I-95 Corridor Study Plan</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 22, 2019** Northern Virginia District Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Monday, October 28, 2019*** Staunton District Doubletree Hotel Harrisonburg 1400 E. Market Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801 ***meeting begins at 3 p.m.</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 30, 2019 Salem District Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017</p>	<p>Monday, November 4, 2019 Lynchburg District Lynchburg District Complex Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 6, 2019 Hampton Roads District Hampton Roads District Office 7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435</p>
<p>Thursday, November 7, 2019 Bristol District Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210</p>	<p>Tuesday, November 12, 2019** Fredericksburg District James Monroe High School 2300 Washington Avenue Fredericksburg, VA 22401 **meeting begins at 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 13, 2019 Culpeper District VDOT Culpeper District Office 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701</p>

Fall meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning October 15, 2019.

You may submit comments on any transportation projects and initiatives to OIPI Deputy Director Ronique Day, 1221 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219 or PublicComments@OIPI.Virginia.gov. **Comments will be accepted until November 30, 2019.**

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

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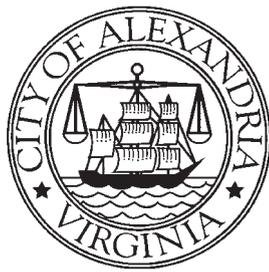
FROM PAGE 1

are hard to find anywhere else.”

McGrew was appreciative of the recognition. “This award means a lot to me,” she said after the presentation. “It shows that when you have an idea, a dream, and when other people like it and appreciate it, it makes you feel good. As an Alexandria resident, it’s amazing to be part of the business community and is a way to connect with your friends and neighbors.”

Other honorees included: Small Business of the Year — Tartan Properties Commercial; Medium Business of the Year — Daniel O’Connell’s Irish Bar and Restaurant; Large Business of the Year — Brandywine Living at Alexandria; Nonprofit/Association of the Year — Del Ray Business Association; Rising Star Business of the Year – Threadleaf; and Overall Business of the Year — The Goodhart Group.

www.alexchamber.com



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2019 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2019

The second half 2019 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by November 15, 2019, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments, or in-person at City Hall or any SunTrust Bank Branch located in the City. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Real estate tax information is available on the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.3902, or email payments@alexandriava.gov.

For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov.

For refuse fee questions, please call the Solid Waste Division at 703.746.4410.

For stormwater utility fee questions, please call the Stormwater Management Division at 703.746.6499, or email stormwater@alexandriava.gov.

The Finance Department is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A drop box located on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. (Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2019 to be considered on time.)



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

Threadleaf owner Nicole McGraw, center, is presented with the Rising Star award from Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Joe Haggerty and board chair Charlotte Hall at the Best in Business awards Oct. 2 at the Alexandria Westin Hotel.



Niamh O’Donovan accepts the Best Medium Business of the Year award for Daniel O’Connell’s Irish Bar and Restaurant at the Best in Business awards from Chamber president and CEO Joe Haggerty and board chair Charlotte Hall.



Patterson Group vice-presidents Brittany Patterson, left, and Phyllis Patterson, right, with Adam Froemming at the Oct. 2 Best in Business awards.

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Republicans Offer Write-in Candidates

Dear Editor:

As your readers may know, every Senate seat (there are 40) and Delegate seat (there are 100) in Virginia's General Assembly is up for election this November 5, 2019. This election will determine which philosophy controls the Virginia legislature: an extreme liberal agenda intent on legalizing the inhumanity of late-term abortions, or a more moderate and conservative philosophy that respects the precious lives of those about to be born. There are other issues too, of course, but none so clear in its delineation of moral right and wrong.

The frustration of Alexandria's moderates and conservatives is palpable. We are a minority population of around 30% with no elected representation. In Alexandria, every elected representative we have is a Democrat. One-party rule on City Council is a given, and Republicans hardly bother to run

for office because the end result is virtually inevitable.

Moderates and conservatives are being represented by not just liberals, but extreme liberals. Three of the Democrat representatives Alexandria has in the General Assembly (Sen. Adam Ebbin, Sen. Dick Saslaw, and Delegate Mark Levine) are ranked as being among the "Coalition of the Radical Left" by the American Conservative Union Foundation's Center for Legislative Accountability. Levine was a co-patron of Delegate Kathy Tran's infamous, but unsuccessful, late-term abortion bill HB 2491. Alexandria City has three different Virginia Senate districts (30, 35, and 39) and two House of Delegate districts (45 and 46). The five Democrat incumbents on the ballot are running unopposed in all districts but one, Senate District 39 with Republican nominee "Dutch" Hillenburg <http://dutchforsenate.com/>, a large district which includes a small portion of Alexandria's West End.

We understand why we have four uncontested offices, but it pains our patriotic hearts. So, we, the undersigned, have decided to be write-in candidates. We identify as Republican, and have been members of the local Republican party for many years. We are not officially endorsed by the Republican party, are not professional politicians or policy experts, and we never intended to run for public office. We are simply fellow citizen-neighbors who are willing to "step into the arena" in this symbolic way. We have no campaign money, so you won't be seeing any campaign advertisements or sample ballots with our names. There is just this. A letter to this newspaper's editor, letting moderates and conservatives know that there is a choice on election day. You can find our bios and district maps at www.alexandriacrwc.org.

We all seem to know that Virginia is at a tipping point. Which values will Virginia represent to the rest of the nation? Will Vir-

ginia protect viable human life, respect law enforcement officers and veterans, increase opportunities for small businesses, promote self-reliance and empowerment through education, and preserve constitutional rights? Or will Virginia support late-term abortion, pick and choose which laws to enforce, discourage entrepreneurs with taxes and red tape, promote identity politics and victimization, and take away citizen's rights to protect themselves and speak freely?

We urge you to vote values, not politics.

Hazel Anne Miller, Senate District 30, Republican, Write-In candidate. (aka "Susie" Miller)

Peter Benavage, Senate District 35, Republican, Write-In candidate.

Eileen Marie Brackens, House District 45, Republican, Write-In candidate.

Gerald Chandler, House District 46, Republican, Write-In candidate

Scooters: Not Ready for Prime Time

Dear Editor:

In the next several weeks, we will see the Alexandria City Council approve a new scooter pilot program for the year 2020. Undoubtedly, this will be a unanimous decision, because the City Council has proven over time to be indifferent to the concerns of citizens, and this scooter program is no exception. This stems from

the patriarchal attitude of the City Council that the City Staff has the best interests of the Citizens when preparing staff work on the recommendation of decisions. This attitude prevails because Alexandria is one of the few local governments in Virginia that doesn't have a "ward system," which results in citizens having no representation at all, and City Council

Members being accountable to no one. Imagine if Congress consisted of representatives at large — who would speak for the concerns of the individual states, and who would champion their interests? In the last year, a number of articles have been written about the numerous reasons why the scooter program is not ready for prime time in our two major business

districts, Old Town and Del Ray. Who are our advocates? The citizens of Alexandria appear to be voices crying out in the wilderness, their concerns falling on deaf ears. This appears to be another case of taxation without representation.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

E-scooters Are Motor Vehicles

In this discussion of E-scooters, we should not lose sight of the fact that they are motor vehicles, which typically bicycles are not (only a few have power-assist designed to ease climbing steep hills). That is where the notion of letting E-scooters drive on sidewalks and otherwise treating them like bicycles breaks down.

As motor vehicles, they should be allowed to do the speed limit on the street, just like any other motor vehicle; they have no business being allowed on the sidewalk. If city hall, echoing E-

scooter companies, believes 15mph is the appropriate speed for street riding, then maybe, especially in Old Town, the speed limit for all motor vehicles should be set at 15mph (except Route 1 [Patrick and Henry Streets] and the Parkway [Washington Street]) so motorists can't carp about being stuck behind E-scooters?

The only thing E-scooters seem to have in common with bicycles is their mutual contempt for following traffic laws. So, if city hall is going to continue the E-scooter pilot program, it needs to charge

E-scooter companies enough to support additional police enforcement, just as the advent of the automobile a century ago put an end to having one constable for the whole town. If city hall is unwilling to hire additional police, then all the E-scooter rules are mere window dressing city hall has no intention of enforcing because it has not provided the resources to enforce the rules governing this disruptive new technology. We would need six additional officers to devote one police FTE to policing E-scooters at all times,

so why not raise the permit fee for each company to a million dollars per year to cover the cost of this additional policing? These are private businesses which should be willing to front that kind of investment. And in the face of such a financial commitment, instead of the risible, concessionary \$5,000 city hall now charges, and the enforcement it enables, many of the folks complaining about E-scooters may find themselves having to hold their tongues.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

The month of October marks Domestic Violence Awareness Month here in the Commonwealth. It was designated as such by the General Assembly in 1989 and is an annual reminder of how important it is for

us to continue to work to prevent domestic abuse and to treat and support survivors across the Commonwealth.

Domestic violence is characterized as a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the

context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship. Forms of domestic violence may be criminal (physical assault or stalking) or not (verbal abuse or financial control). Approximately 27% of women and 11% of men in the United States have experienced sexual violence, physical violence,

or stalking by an intimate partner. Sadly, 31% of all Virginia homicides in 2014 were attributed to Family and Intimate Partner Violence. Thankfully, the number of homicides reported in recent years have decreased since 1999 when data was first collected. This de

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 16



Moving Back: Moving Forward

Passing the Le Refuge tradition from father to daughter

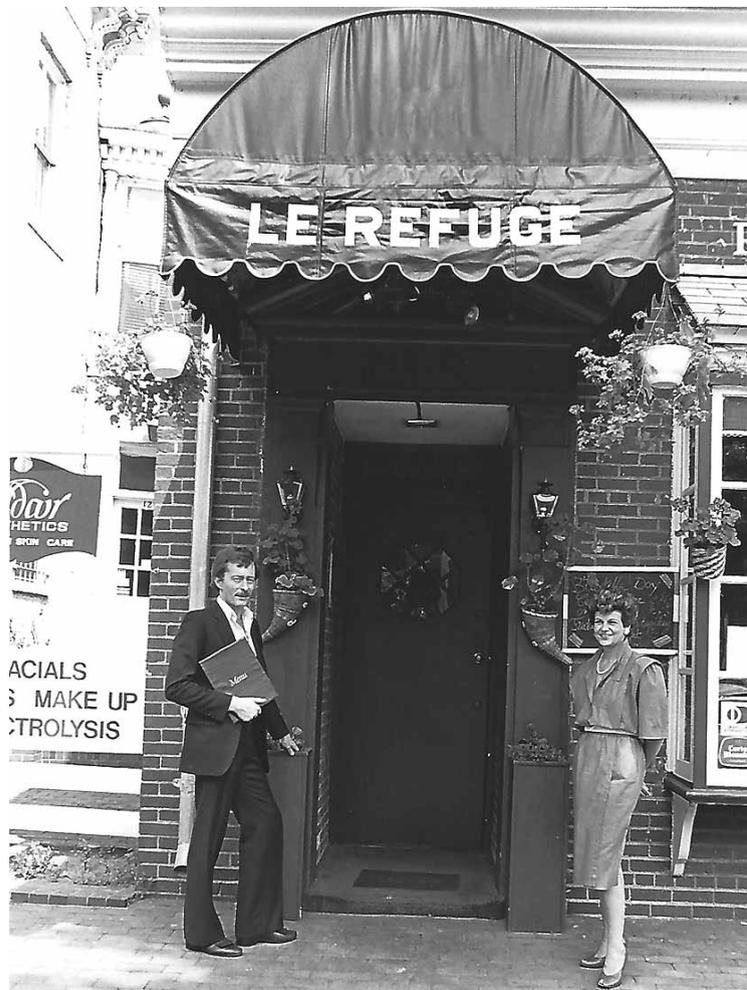
Bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau for the last 36 years sit on shelves on the walls of Le Refuge on Washington Street. They are interspersed with pictures from World War II donated by customers, a wood carving from the grandfather in France and lids from boxes of cheese “that you used to be able to bring back from France.” Anne-claire Fregnan, now full time manager of Le Refuge, points to a wooden lid on the wall; brie was my mother’s favorite cheese.”

Anne-claire says her parents came to America in 1976 and worked in other places, her father at Le Gaulois in D.C. and her mother in the French restaurant that previously occupied the space where Le Refuge is located today. Back then they were wedged between an establishment advertising facials on the corner and a shoe store next door. But Anne-claire and her father think many things in Alexandria seem the same today.

In 1983 Jean Francois Chaufour and his wife Françoise opened Le Refuge. Anne-claire was born two months later. Her father remembers they opened on a Friday night and had 30 covers. “It was crazy because he didn’t know what to expect the first night.” He quickly turned Le Refuge into his concept of “fine dining but in a casual atmosphere.”

But Anne-claire explains her father deviated from the traditional French dining experience because he thought you shouldn’t have to wait between courses. “He thought you should sit down and order a drink and get it right away.” You should be able to have a good dining experience in an hour and a half so you could have a nice meal and then go to the Kennedy Center or Little Theatre of Alexandria. “And he believed your glass of Sancerre or Côtes de Rhône should be priced appropriately.”

Also Chaufour believed in consistency. The menu has changed little since the restaurant opened. Anne-claire says they had bouillabaisse (her mother’s favorite), Dover sole, frog legs and Beef Wellington along with onion soup on the original menu. “We



Le Refuge on opening in 1983 with owners Jean Francois Chaufour and Françoise.

are very well known for our onion soup.” She says, “There is a couple who moved to Ashburn over 10 years ago who still return once a month for the onion soup. ... And you know it can take two hours to get here on a Friday night.”

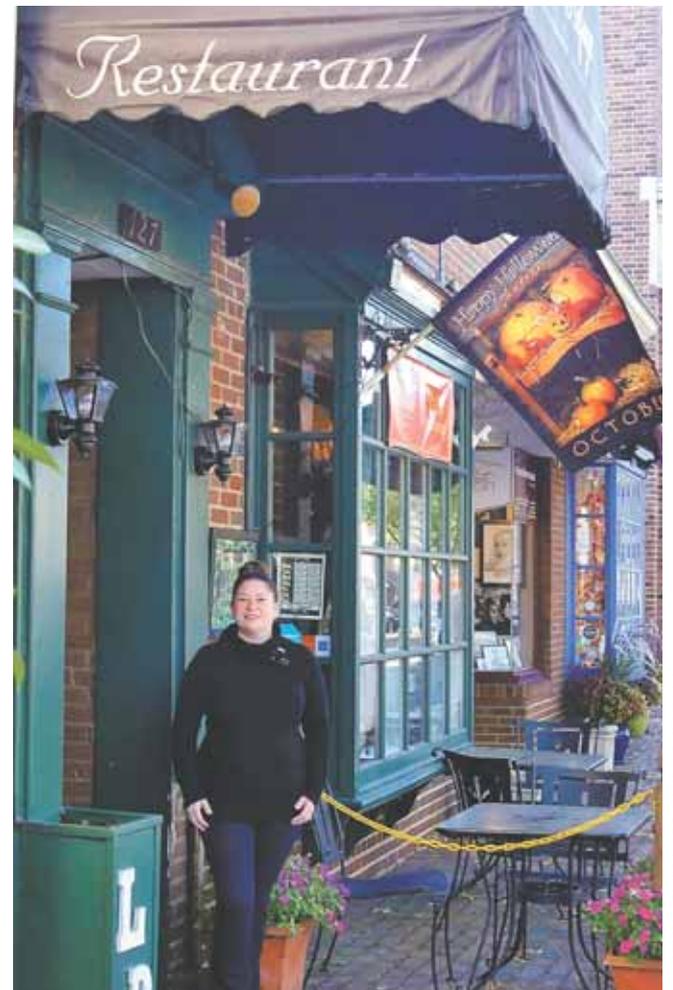
Anne-claire started coming to the restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights when she was about seven years old. “Oh my gosh. I lived in here. I remember the garlic smell hit when you walked in. And people were happy. My mother walked in with a huge smile.” She says, “My parents wanted to create an atmosphere for people who had

worked so hard, a place where you could be with your friends. It was so comforting to so many people.”

“We would all have dinner together at table 30 over there in the corner.” Her favorite dinner was hearts of palm and veal Normandy with cream, mushrooms and brandy. “I would fall asleep on le banquette and my parents would sit chit chatting with the customers. They all lit cigarettes and

SEE LE REFUGE, PAGE 18

Anne-claire Fregnan, her husband, Hugh and their daughter, Savanna



Le Refuge today with daughter Anne-claire Fregnan



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/GAZETTE

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Oysters Meet Oktoberfest at Shirlington’s Shucktoberfest

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

More oysters, more tents, even a food truck: Welcome to the second annual Shucktoberfest, hosted by Copperwood Tavern and taking place in the Village at Shirlington. Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, 11a.m. – 5 p.m.

The event, which has its origins with the longtime Capital City Brewing’s Oktoberfest event, has taken a new angle and gotten new life over the past couple of years as Copperwood has taken the mantle from the fallen Cap City and made the event its own.

“The main event is obviously the oysters and the beer tent,” said Copperwood Tavern’s Lindsey Shields. And while last year, oysters were in high demand and, thus,

shorter supply than intended, this year Shucktoberfest has ensured a plentiful supply of the bivalves.

“Probably double the oyster tents is going to be the largest difference from last year,” said Copperwood marketing director Mackenzie Ryan. “People were really upset that it took so long ... to get an oyster, so we made that a top priority this year.”

In terms of raw numbers: That means festival-goers will have their choice of 25,000 oysters this year, served a number of different ways, including champagne shooters.

Along with the oysters, breweries will be well-represented at the event. About 50 local and regional craft brewers, including Old Ox, Devil’s Backbone, 2 Silos and Fair Winds, will be on hand to pour their wares for guests. The Meggrolls food truck will

also be on hand for some non-oyster fare.

Shucktoberfest operates on a ticket system. While entrance to the festival is free for passersby, in order to try the food and drink, guests need to belly up to the cash register. Each ticket is \$35, which earns guests 10 tasting tickets. Each ticket is good for a 5-ounce tasting of beer or two oysters.

Coming with a group? Shucktoberfest also offers VIP packages. A \$300 price tag nets guests 80 event tickets to disperse among the group, as well as an eight-person table, eight commemorative beer mugs and a private test. Of five existing packages, two have already been sold, Ryan said.

Shucktoberfest aims to be a family-friendly festivity, and along those lines, the Kid Zone will be hopping. Those young and

IF YOU GO

Shucktoberfest
Village at Shirlington, 2700 S. Quincy St., Arlington
Oct. 19
Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 for a package of 10 tasting tickets; \$300 for a VIP entry.

young at heart can play a round of cornhole or giant Connect Four; little friends can also partake of face-painting and balloon art.

At its heart, the event runs on volunteers, and this year Shucktoberfest sports 200 volunteers from various civic and sport groups, as well as individuals who just want to pitch in. And pitch in they will: Organizers are expecting 3500 to 4500 people, Shields says.

THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE

No one ever visits Hill House, especially not after dark. One of the best ghost stories of our time, this story is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. Come join us – if you dare.

SHOW DATES:
OCT. 19 – NOV. 9, 2019



Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496
www.thelittletheatre.com



Make sure that costumes are fire resistant, use reflective tape and opt for face paint instead of masks to help keep children safe this Halloween. Parents or other adult should accompany children under 12.

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Keeping Children Safe on Halloween

Safety advocates offer tips ranging from costumes to trick-or-treating.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From princesses to superheroes, within the next two weeks, as Halloween approaches, many children will be choosing a costume. As children express their creativity with the help of wigs and light sabers, public safety advocates are encouraging caution both in costume selection and mapping-out a Halloween night route.

“There are several components to safety, first make certain the costumes are well-fitted so they aren’t a tripping hazard,” said Tammy Franks, senior program manager for Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council. “Instead of masks that could obstruct their view try using non-toxic face paint.”

It’s possible to use face paint that it free of toxins, but doesn’t sacrifice a creative disguise, says Aieda Turner of costume supply store Total Fright in Arlington. “Mehron face paint is completely safe and it’s made of aloe vera and cucumber and doesn’t have any alcohol which can irritate a child’s skin,” she said. “Almost all children’s costumes made now, even elaborate costumes, are fire resistant.”

When children are trick-or-treating without a parent, says Franks, drivers should be able to see children, especially if they are wearing a dark costume.

Adding glow-in-the-dark or reflective tape can help. “Children should carry a flashlight or glow stick so that they can see and be seen,” she said. “Parents should make sure that costume is flame resistant and they should add a reflective component.”

The costume itself shouldn’t have accessories that pose hazards, says Franks. “For example, if your costume includes a sword or knife, make it out of foam or cardboard or something flexible,” she said.

When out-and-about trick-or-treating on Halloween, retired pediatrician Julia Baker, MD, advises parents to accompany children under the age of 12. “Parents know their children best and should use their own judgement when it comes to allowing a child to go trick-or-treating [without an adult],” she said. Parents should make a plan with their child

about the route they’ll take so they’ll know where to find them in an emergency situation. They should also agree on the time when a child should be back at home.”

Children should carry a cell phone so that parents can contact them if necessary, says Baker. “Parents should definitely be able to reach their children on Halloween,” she said. “As hard as it might be these days, parents should stress to their children the danger of texting and keeping their head buried in their phones while trick-or-treating.”

Staying in well-lit areas and trick-or-treating with a group of friends can help make Halloween activities safer. “The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween,” said Franks. “Cross the street in cross-

“The same basic rules of pedestrian safety also apply on Halloween. Cross the street in crosswalks, stay on the sidewalk ... and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don’t trip.”

—Tammy Franks, Home and Community Safety at the National Safety Council

walks, stay on the sidewalk instead of running through yards and walk instead of running when crossing the street so that you don’t trip.”

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NEWS

Alexandria Police Investigate A Homicide; Victim Identified

The Alexandria Police Department is conducting a homicide investigation in the 300 block of S. Reynolds St.

At approximately 11:53 p.m. on Oct. 9, police were dispatched to the area for a possible shooting. Upon arriving, officers located an adult male suffering an injury to the upper body. He was transported to a local hospital.

On Oct. 11, the victim, De'shon Jenkins, a 21 year old Alexandria resident, succumbed to his injuries.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Ryan Clinch at 703.746.6673.

This is the second homicide in Alexandria this year.

Tom Lovejoy of PBS Nature Series to Present "A Wild Solution to Climate Change," Sunday, Oct. 20

World renowned expert on biodiversity Tom Lovejoy will present "A Wild Solution to Climate Change" at 1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 20 at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Lovejoy will discuss the dramatic and damaging effects of climate change on the Earth's biodiversity and offer practical and effective solutions for reducing those impacts, as well as how saving carbon-dioxide-absorbing for-

ests can slow climate change.

Lovejoy was later the founder of the PBS series Nature, introduced the term "biological diversity" in 1980, and many consider him the "godfather of biodiversity."

Lovejoy's presentation is hosted by Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church's Climate Action Team. Register at eventbrite.com/e/74578948643 for this free event open to the community. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact climateaction@mvuc.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages “The Haunting of Hill House”

Enjoy a gothic horror production just in time for Halloween.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

No one ever visits Hill House, especially not after dark. When three strangers are invited to join the mysterious Dr. Montague at the eerie house on the hill, not even their darkest dreams could have prepared them for what awaits. Based on the 1959 gothic horror novel by Shirley Jackson, and considered one of the best ghost stories of our time, this story is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging “The Haunting of Hill House” from Oct. 19 – Nov. 9, 2019.

Director Maggie Mumford said she is an absolute nerd about all things Shirley Jackson (novelist), and the novel upon which this play is based is what started that fandom. “I picked it up in October 2016, looking for some spooky escapism, and I was expecting some page turning pulp. But ‘The Haunting of Hill House’ is deep and dark and complex and so, so, so funny.

When I was looking for something creepy to submit to LTA, I wondered if there was a play version of the book—and thank goodness there was! A really good adaptation too,” she said.

In deciding to produce the show, co-producer Stacey Becker said she had never heard of the story before. “We were at a social function at the theater and Alan (Wray, producer) asked me to co-produce this show with him and I happily agreed. In fact, when I realized



The cast of LTA’s “The Haunting of Hill House” in rehearsal.

The cast of LTA’s “The Haunting of Hill House” in rehearsal. The show runs from Oct. 19 – Nov. 9, 2019.

PHOTOS BY STACEY BECKER
THE GAZETTE

what I agreed to produce I was in horror because this is the opposite of my go-to for entertainment. However, I knew that Alan and I would put together a great production team to do justice to this story,” she said.

James Murphy plays the role of Luke Sanderson, the charming cad of the show. “Luke is a well-intentioned, well-educated, good-for-nothing.

Though not explicitly stated in the script, it definitely comes across that Luke has a troubled family history. While his parents were most likely disappointed in the man he became, Luke seems mostly content with his lot in life, and deals with his parental resentment by pushing those memories to the back of his mind and locking them away with the swig of a flask like every other high-functioning adult,” he said.

Shannon Labadie plays the role of Eleanor Vance, who comes to

Hill House looking for a different life. “She has spent all of her adult life caring for her ailing mother, with whom she had a ‘complicated’ relationship (to say the least). Searching for adventure and also determined to make her own choices for the first time in her life, she embraces her new life in Hill House, despite all the warning signs. However, as events in the house become more centralized on her, she realizes it is harder to escape her past than she thought,” she said.

Kathy Ohlhaber plays the role of Theo, the antithesis of Eleanor. “Although she seems to have it all together at first glance, her persona runs deeper than red nail polish and a verbose attitude – she holds her own secrets, dreams and self-doubts. Like many on-stage characters, she is complex, merging a loving, mothering attitude towards Nell with sassy sarcasm and an artist temper. She also has

psychic capabilities, which adds another dimension to her,” she said.

Danielle Taylor plays the role of Mrs. Dudley, the housekeeper. “She’s a woman of few words who doesn’t like people very much. Taking care of Hill House gives her a certain level of job security since there aren’t any other people around willing to do the work. It also allows her to set her own work terms, which she greatly approves of,” she said.

Kirk Lambert plays the role of Arthur, a macho lapdog. “He is the headmaster of a boys’ school in New England. He is arrogant, full of himself, super macho, and a bit of a buffoon—the kind of person people make fun of behind their back,” he said.

He added: “Arthur brings some levity to the dark and ominous House as buffoons are wont to do, and along with the brilliant Mrs. Montague, gives the audience a

chance to laugh amid the fear, chills, and horror.”

Pat Nicklin plays the role of Mrs. Montague, a formidable and dominant woman who is a fervent believer in her ability to communicate with the “loving and suffering” spirits residing in Hill House. “She arrives with her ‘friend’ and sidekick Arthur Parker, a headmaster of a boys’ school. They use a planchette, otherwise known as a Ouija board, to summon the spirits and cause chaos in their wake,” she said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging “The Haunting of Hill House” from Oct. 19 – Nov. 9, 2019. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$21 and \$24.

The theater is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the Box Office: 703-683-0496 or visit the website at www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: “Emotional Support: Animals.” Through Oct. 27, daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Kiln Club artists wax poetic on “Emotional Support: Animals” in the wholehearted exhibition of the exotic and domestic. Visit www.scopegallery.org or call 703-

548-6288.

Art Exhibit: Twilight Zone. Through Oct. 27, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Art Inspired by The Twilight Zone” is a collection of work inspired by the classic television series. An opening reception is planned for Friday, Oct. 4, 7-9 p.m. Fee admission. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Art Exhibit: Day of the Dead. Through Nov. 3, at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents its juried show, Day of the Dead. Neighbors in Mexico and Central America celebrate Day of the

Dead. It is a joyful time that helps people remember the deceased and celebrate their memory. The colors and vibrancy of this holiday inspire artists of the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

“Board | out of our minds!” Through Nov. 10, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. “Board | out of our minds!” relates to the games we play. The included works exhibit the creative means in which people developed board games to reflect their thoughts and

reflections on the role of chance in life. While some are actual games, some refer to the role of games in life. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing

many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

OCT. 1-31

Ghost & Graveyard Tour. Nightly at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays second tour at 9 p.m. Departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Follow an 18th-century costumed guide by lantern

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

light through the charming streets of Alexandria's historic district known as Old Town. On this tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. You will also hear about unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Appropriate for ages 9 and up. No pets please. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$14 for seniors, military and law enforcement; \$10 for children. Visit the website: alexcolonialtours.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 18

Garden Talk-Putting the Garden to Bed. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Enjoy the break from the summer heat as you head back into the garden for some end-of-season maintenance. Learn from Extension master gardeners what you need to do to ensure that your plants are well prepared for the cold weather, what needs pruning, what needs transplanting and what needs mulch. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 493.0654 or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Electric Vehicle Showcase. 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Join Environment Virginia for an electric vehicle (EV) car show to celebrate environmental, consumer, and public health benefits of cleaner cars. Come learn about the cars of the future and Virginia's transition to electric cars. There will be an opportunity to test drive a variety of electric vehicles on the market, ask EV owners about their

experience and even board an electric transit bus. RSVP if you would like to showcase your electric car by emailing ereynolds@environmentamerica.org. Visit the website: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2448766682008935/>

Woodlands and Wetlands Tour.

10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring's wilder side. Take a docent-led tour through the Virginia Native Plant Garden, woodland stream valley and ponds, and learn how we protect these special places. Hear about plants and wildlife, and view remnants of a globally-rare magnolia bog. Admire the fall display with refreshments at the pond gazebo. \$15/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 900.4C7F or call 703-642-5173.

Puppet Show.

10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. At Oswald Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Tickets are \$6. Beech Tree Puppets perform The Giant Turnip. An old man and his wife lovingly tend their garden and grow a vegetable so large they can't pull it up by themselves. This whimsical folktale is sung and told with hand-crafted rod and shadow puppets. The story celebrates caring for the earth and working together. Visit alexandriava.gov/WebTrac.

Civil War Shelter Program.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Can you tell a Sibley tent from a dog tent? How did Civil War soldiers stay warm in camp? Find out the answers to these questions and more when Fort Ward Museum presents the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

Partners in Art

Join a collegial group of artists to share goals and get feedback on artwork. Monthly meetings include discussions on exhibit opportunities, the creative process and the local art scene. Artist can bring 1-3 works – complete or in progress – for feedback. All skill levels and media welcome. Donations (\$1-3) appreciated. Monthly on the second Monday, 2-4 p.m. and fourth Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/partners-in-art for more.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAWN WYSE HURTO

Participants in Partners in Art meet to share their goals and get feedback on their artwork.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Mount Vernon Farmers Market

The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

FROM PAGE 13

living history program Civil War Shelter. This interpretive program will explore a variety of tents and shelter for Civil War soldiers. Reproductions of some major types of period tents will be set up and explained by Union Army interpreters, and Fort Ward's furnished Officers' Hut, a typical military structure in the Defenses of Washington, will be open to the public. A variety of camp life accessories, furnishings, and heating methods for military accommodations will also be displayed and discussed. Contact Fort Ward Museum at 703-746-4848.

24th Annual Art Safari. 12-5 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. An Alexandria tradition for almost a quarter-century, Art Safari returns for a day of hands-on activities for kids and families. Dozens of artists lead budding art enthusiasts in exciting and creative projects throughout the building. Dress to get a little messy. This event is perfect for children ages 5+. Younger children may need some extra help but will still have a lot of fun. Call 703-746-4570 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Floral Design Workshop-Fall Flowers & Foliage. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Enjoy autumn's rich colors and textures by bringing them into your home. Learn how to create a unique, take-home floral design that celebrates the season with the help of professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn tips and tricks of the trade to practice on your own designs at home. \$39/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 30F.C61A or call 703-642-5173.

Fix-It Clinic. 2-4 p.m. At Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Bring in your broken items and receive free guided

assistance from volunteers. First-come, first-served. Services include fabric mending, jewelry repair, lamp/small electrical appliance repairs, silver polishing, and more. Contact Sharon Wasserman at 703-768-6700.

Sopranessence Fall Concert. 3-4:30 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Sopranessence kicks off its fifth season with "Let's Start at the Very Beginning..." (Root to Blossom) by revisiting our roots and sharing some of our favorite songs from past shows. From dueling Divas to the harmonies of Puccini, your favorites are sure to be here. Cost is pre-sale thru Oct. 18: \$20 General Admission; \$18 for Seniors/Military; \$10 for Youth. At-the-Door: \$25 all tickets. Visit the website: www.sopranessence.org

Country-Western Dance. At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Trial memberships available at door for member level entry fee. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. For more information see www.nvcwda.org.

Specialty Tour: Death at the City Hotel. 7-9 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission: \$20. The City Tavern has been the site of many historic events, but also of macabre ones. This special tour explores the stories of the people who breathed their last breath at the hotel and the scenes surrounding them. Bring your friends and raise a glass (drink provided) to those who have come before, from a famous actress to Civil

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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At Long Last, Augie's Reopens on King Street

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

It's almost a law: Every renovation project takes longer than expect. In the case of Augie's Mussel House and Beer Garden, what was intended to be a springtime reopening has become an autumnal one, but Common Plate Hospitality partner Chad Sparrow says the wait was worth it.

"We've completely transformed the space," Sparrow said. "It's unrecognizable from what it was before."

What it was before, historically, was Le Gaulois, that longtime bastion of French fare that closed in 2009. After a series of openings and closures from various businesses afterward, Augie's took over the space last year and immediately opened its patio for seasonal dining while the interior renovations took place.

Now, at long last, the indoor dining room has opened anew, and with it the patio has seen a rebirth, too.

"We've gotten so many great modern looks while actually adding in a lot of history," Sparrow said. Such looks include signage from the old Alexandria Marine shop; a bar consisting of crushed glass (mainly from empty Yuengling bottles) formed into an epoxy and lit up; and above the bar, "there's an old wooden beam that we pulled out of the Potomac River" near



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUGIE'S MUSSEL HOUSE AND BEER GARDEN

Augie's outdoor patio, which is dog-friendly, is destined to be a popular dining and drinking space even when the temperatures dip.

Robinson Terminal that's probably a couple 100 years old, Sparrow said. "We sanded it and sealed it and put some lights into it and put it above the bar. It's a really cool feature."

The upstairs dining room has "more of a formal setting," while still remaining fairly casual, Sparrow said. The downstairs, meanwhile, takes on more of a higher-end sports-pub feel.

But what guests are really there for are

the food and drink. And in those lanes, Augie's is ready too. The restaurant offers 10 different types of mussels, from the classic (with garlic, onion, tomato and white wine) to the Eastern shore (with corn, sausage, crab broth and Old Bay), "which I think are going to be the biggest sellers," Sparrow said. Along with mussels, guests can munch on housemade pretzels with beer cheese, five different kinds of wings, and heartier fare like ribeye steak, steak

IF YOU GO

Augie's Mussel House and Beer Garden
1106 King St., Alexandria
Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday.

tartare, tuna tartare, and more.

Admittedly, a sports-bar feel doesn't take root without a robust drink menu. Augie's is offering up 35 beers on tap and another 40 bottles and cans, as well as a craft cocktail program and wine.

And though the indoor dining rooms have geared up just in time for the weather to turn cooler, the patio is still poised to be a popular place.

"It's definitely where everybody first goes to," Sparrow said, even when the cooler temperatures take hold. "We're hoping to be a nine- or 10-month-a-year patio."

Following a soft launch event and a quiet opening on Oct. 7, Augie's officially opened to the public on Tuesday, Oct. 8, and so far, Sparrow says, the reception has been positive.

"We have a great staff and really happy with the feedback we've gotten so far," he said on the eve of Augie's reopening. "But the true test is coming in a couple days."

Between the mussels, the history-meets-modernity vibe and the thriving bar scene inside and out, there's a good chance Augie's will pass the exam.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

APPETITE

Gaulois, that longtime bastion of French fare that closed in 2009. After a series of openings and closures from various businesses afterward, Augie's took over the space last year and immediately opened its patio for seasonal dining while the interior renovations took place.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

War soldiers. You won't look at this historic corner of Alexandria the same again. Call 703-746-4242. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov/events.aspx

Concert: The Spheres. 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NVCC Campus, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Choral Society Celebrates its 50-year anniversary. Featuring composers Gabriel Fauré (*Requiem*), Ola Gjeilo (*Sunrise Mass*), and Alexandria's Jonathan Kolm (*Pieces of Night*), all set for choir and strings. Brian J. Isaac is the Artistic Director of the Alexandria Choral Society (Alexandria), the Williamsburg Choral Guild (Williamsburg, VA), and the Founder / Artistic Director of Church Circle Singers (Annapolis, MD). Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 19-20

Mount Vernon Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Celebrate the autumn season with 18th-century activities for the whole family at Mount Vernon. Take a horse-drawn wagon ride and play colonial games on the bowling green before heading to the Pioneer Farm to observe 18th-century demonstrations and greet General Washington. Find your way through a straw bale maze and listen to the Itinerant Band play colonial tunes. Sightseeing cruises are offered at half the regular price. Admission: Included in general admission (\$20 adults; \$12 youth). Visit the website: www.mountvernon.org.



Art Exhibit: Emotional Support: Animals.

Kiln Club artists wax poetic on "Emotional Support: Animals" in the wholehearted exhibition of the exotic and domestic. The exhibit runs Sept. 30-Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily and Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Visit www.scopegallery.org or call 703-548-6288.

OCT. 19-NOV. 9

"The Haunting of Hill House." At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Get spooked by "The Haunting of Hill House," based on Shirley Jackson's 1959 gothic horror novel. Considered one of the best ghost stories of our time, this tale is a chilling and mystifying study in mounting terror. Show times: Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Admission: \$21-24. Visit the website: thelittletheatre.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

A Wild Solution to Climate Change. 1 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. World renowned biologist Tom Lovejoy will present "A Wild Solution to Climate Change." Lovejoy, founder of the PBS series *Nature*, will discuss the dramatic and damaging effects of climate change on the Earth's biodiversity and offer

practical and effective solutions for reducing those impacts, as well as how saving carbon-dioxide-absorbing forests can slow climate change. The talk is hosted by Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church's Climate Action Team. Free and open to the public. Register at eventbrite.com/e/74578948643. Contact climateaction@mvuc.org.

Hurricane Dorian Relief Concert. 4 p.m. At Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Benefit concert to raise money for Hurricane Dorian relief efforts in the Bahamas. No tickets for this concert. A free-will offering will be received and people give whatever they can. There will be a post-concert reception in the seminary's Welcome Center.

TUESDAY/OCT. 22

Twilight & Tipple Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare

chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/
The French Perspective. 7-9 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$10. The Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee invites you to a lecture: The French Perspective on the 100 Years War. Shakespeare's Henry V depicts the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years War (1337-1453) as a heroic English victory against improbable odds. However, the battle made little difference and the war should actually be read as the story of Joan of Arc's resistance, a settled civil war and how the French state emerged from the challenge of foreign invasion stronger and more unified <https://shop.alexandriava.gov>

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 23

Quarters of Confinement Talk. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Cost is \$5. The Alexandria Historical Society and the Office of Historic Alexandria present a lecture by Douglas Sanford, Professor Emeritus of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. Sanford will discuss research outcomes for the Virginia Slave Housing Project, a long-term effort to document, interpret, and preserve slave-related buildings across the state. While cabins and quarters represented white attempts to control aspects of enslaved African Americans' lives, these occupants altered the structures' interiors and yards to their own ends, finding ways to foster families and their own society. Visit the website: <https://alexandriahistorical.org/events/>

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

A Cappella Concert. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. The Georgetown Saxatones will perform everything from alternative to pop to soul. Tickets \$10 sold at the door. Free for Athenaeum members. RSVP to admin@nvfaa.org

FRIDAY/OCT. 25

Canine Halloween Cruise. 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron Street, Alexandria. Admission: \$24.99 for adults; \$15.75 ages 2-11; infants and dogs ride free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com or call 703-684-0580.

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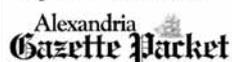
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OPINION

**Domestic Violence
Awareness Month**

FROM PAGE 8

crease may be attributed to an increase in awareness, which is a step in the right direction. In order to continue combatting this crisis, we must promote awareness of domestic violence so that victims know they are not alone and that there are local organizations that will protect their anonymity and ensure they receive the help they need.

In 2016 in Fairfax alone, 1,605 emergency protective orders were issued against family or household members for acts of family abuse involving violence, force or threat, and 258 children were provided with Emergency Shelter with their parent or guardian.

Across Virginia, 5,732 adults and children received 191,759 nights of emergency or temporary shelter to escape domestic violence. Every month in Fairfax County, domestic violence hotlines receive over 240 calls with approximately a quarter of those victims requesting family abuse protective orders. Between 2010 and 2015, over 400,000 calls were an-

swered by domestic and sexual violence hotlines in Virginia.

In my day job as the General Counsel for Christian Relief Services here in Alexandria, I work every day to assist domestic violence survivors and their families find safe, stable, and affordable housing while they get back on their feet. Our Safe Places program works with survivors in Fairfax County to help them become self-sufficient through financial planning, counseling, and legal aid. We assist survivors regardless of income, language spoken, or immigration status. Through this work, I have seen what a growing problem domestic violence has become, and have also been exposed to many things we can do legislatively in the Commonwealth to continue fighting against domestic abuse.

During this next session, I plan to put forward a bill that will increase the penalty for any person who deceptively installs or places an electronic tracking device and uses that device to track the loca-

SEE DOMESTIC, PAGE 17

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Domestic Violence

FROM PAGE 16

tion of any person without their consent. With the increased availability of GPS devices, this method of stalking is being used more and more by intimate partners to track and control their victims. This is especially concerning if victims are attempting to leave the relationship and escape to a safer location. Currently, tracking an individual without consent is only a Class 3 misdemeanor, which is on par with unintentional damage to property or a monument and only is punishable by up to a \$500 fine. Harsher penalties should be put in place to deter this dangerous behavior. Continuing to allow this in Virginia with minimal punishment puts lives at risk.

Something that everyone can do to support life-saving work preventing domestic abuse is to purchase a "KIDS FIRST" or any Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) specialty license plate through the DMV, which I have written about in the past, participate in the tax write-off program, or send tax deductible contributions to FACT's office in Richmond. FACT was created by the General Assembly in 1986 to serve as a partnership between the public and private sectors to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of a wide spectrum of family violence.

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of domestic violence, and you want to talk about options and resources available, call the 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-360-7273.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SAFETY

Free Medication and Firearm Locking Devices. The City of Alexandria is offering free locking medication boxes and firearm trigger or cable locks as part of Lock and Talk Northern Virginia. Alexandria residents and employees may call 703-746-3436 to obtain these free life-saving devices. Suicide can be prevented. Anyone at risk of suicide, or who knows someone at risk, should get help right away. Call PRS CrisisLink at 703-527-4077, text "CONNECT" to 85511 or call City of Alexandria Emergency Services at 703-746-3401. For life-threatening situations, call 911 immediately.

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Obituary

John Laurence (Jack) Rafuse: 12/24/1936 - 10/11/2019



John Rafuse passed away October 11, 2019. He is sorely missed by his loving wife of 56 years, Patty; his children Jon, Heather, and Amanda; his grandchildren Abby, Sam, Melia, and Caleb; his sister Fances and her children; his retriever Gatsby; and close friends and neighbors.

Family came first for Jack. He and Patty met, married, and spent summers on Cape Cod. Patty made him happier than he ever thought possible -- their devotion continues to inspire all who know them. He encouraged his children to follow their distinct paths; they carry his love into the world. They all miss his smart, funny, warm presence immensely.

Born in Boston on December 24, 1936, to Laurence and Mary Rafuse, Jack was a graduate of Stonehill (BA) and Notre Dame (MA, PhD) and matriculated at Harvard's Kennedy School. Jack's career began with government service in the Navy Department, the Federal Energy Administration, the White House Energy Department, the Office of Management and Budget among others. In 1977, Jack moved into the private sector and spent 27 years at UNOCAL. After retiring in 2003, he applied his analytical and problem-solving skills as a consultant. His faith and Catholicism were guiding lights throughout his life and career.

Funeral services were private; a memorial will be held on Cape Cod in 2020. The family suggests donations to Eldredge Library in Chatham, MA.

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No Soap. Radio.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This is a punchline to a joke I heard 50-plus years ago during my adolescence. I never knew what the actual joke was, but somehow it was thought to be funny. And so too was it funny the other day when preparing to take a shower at home, I noticed that the bar of soap waiting for me in the shower was razor thin and insufficient for the task at hand. I then opened the bathroom vanity where I knew I had back up and saw there was only one bar remaining. It was the last hold-out of an eight pack I had bought many months ago. As Maurice Chevalier sang in the movie "Gigi": "Ah. I remember it well."

And remember it well as I remember other similar bulk-type purchases. Sometimes, being diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer interferes in the most unusual way. When I buy things or make arrangements

when the use/benefit is in the future, I'll often wonder if I'll still be alive to actually derive the benefit from this day's commitment. As involves the soap; that day in the supermarket aisle, I was really looking for a two- or a three-pack, not an eight-pack, hesitating to over-buy when I may under-use. I suppose if I had plenty of money and fewer financial concerns than I do now, I wouldn't have given this soap purchase any thought at all. But I'm me, not somebody else.

And sometimes, I don't want to be me. I'd rather be somebody else. Somebody else who throws a bit more caution to the wind. Somebody who damns the torpedoes and goes full speed ahead. Somebody who's a bit fast and furious and less slowky, if I can invoke metaphorical Comcast turtles into the conversation. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (at the beginning, too), I may not be Sammy Davis Jr., but "I Gotta Be Me."

And 'me' is someone who doesn't throw caution anywhere, has never sworn at a torpedo and loves turtles, especially when they beat hares. My approach to this excruciating cancer ordeal is to keep my glass half full, compartmentalize, be positive about the negative and not "Live Like You Were Dying," as sung by Tim McGraw, but to live like I was living. Which to me has meant to live normally as if I didn't have stage IV lung cancer, with no bucket list or urgency about anything; and to assimilate having cancer into my life as just another variable, like the weather or the Red Sox bullpen.

Unfortunately, and it might just be me (Oh, really), but this kind of soapy mundane minutiae does occupy (I'm not saying pre-occupy though) my world. But it doesn't necessarily occupy it because I have cancer. It occupies it because I'm more like my mother than I am my father and cancer or not, it's what I do. And being exactly who I am in spite of my diagnosis is how I've rolled through these last 10-plus years. It's been a living for which I remain extraordinarily grateful and to be honest about it: amazingly lucky.

Moreover, I make the same jokes, with or without punchlines, do the same impressions, invoke the same popular culture references and make decisions as I always have. In addition, I allocate resources, juggle funds and plan for the future while being mindful of the present likewise as I always have. My diagnosis certainly defines me, but I try not to let it control me. Still, its reality seeps into every decision I make, from soap to nuts. It's the elephant in the room and the pebble in my shoe (actually that's the neuropathy in my feet).

Still I have to take things in stride - or else. When I saw that last remaining bar of soap, it conjured memories of the tightrope I have to walk (Leon Russell not withstanding). And it gave me pause: Wow, I made it through that entire pack. Now what? Soap. No radio. And so it goes.

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

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NEWS

Le Refuge Tradition

FROM PAGE 9

had after dinner drinks."

She points in one direction ten feet to the wall and says, "That was the smoking section." She points ten feet to the wall in the other direction and says, "That was the non smoking section." Today it is all non-smoking. Her father would make the drinks and work the door on the weekends. "That was back when they had the Rob Roy, French 75's and old fashioned cocktails. But the Cosmo has stuck and the dirty martini and Manhattans." And she adds that today people flock for their signature drink which is made with peach schnapps, champagne and fresh raspberries.

Anne-claire says her father brought his recipes with him to Le Refuge. He had worked in luxury hotels in England and the South of France "and he had almost a gift." He had baked and cooked all the time as a kid. His own favorite menu item is the liver with caramelized onions with a veal demi glace sauce.

Now Chafour has gradually stepped out of the management of the restaurant due to health issues and has turned the reins over to Anne-claire who works with her husband Hugh Fregan. Hugh's parents had owned Maison de Crêpes in Georgetown and Alexandria, and he remembers living over the restaurant for years.

Anne-claire now manages the everyday operations, ordering the fresh meat every day and fish, choosing the wines and letting them age "because that's what he did." She had started working as a server in the restaurant when she was 18 and then gradually moved into part-time management when her parents would return to France for three months. "I didn't sink the ship." But she acknowledges the assistance along the way of Ricardo, an irreplaceable employee, who has been with Le Refuge for 31 years.

Anne-claire says they have a lot of regulars including a woman who has been dining there two-to-three times a week for twenty years. But they also get a lot of new customers, some from France. "With the internet you can stretch your information. You can even see our location from France on Google maps." She adds that Le Refuge is number two out of 900 restaurants on Trip Advisor.

As the restaurant moves forward, Anne-claire says, "I have absorbed a lot of my father's ideas. I was raised with his concept, and I think he is proud that I embraced it on my own."

History may be repeating itself. Anne-claire says their seven-year-old daughter, Savanna, now comes to the restaurant on Saturday mornings and puts the fresh flowers on the tables and fills the ice buckets." She explains, "Ricardo gives her two dollars. Savanna loves it. Maybe a third generation will follow, keep going and not changing it."

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