The skies were too sunny, the weather too tempting as scores of people flocked to Old Town over the Memorial Day weekend despite the city’s stay-at-home order that is technically still in effect amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is too pretty a day to waste it at home,” said Kevin Mamon, who gathered with close friends in Founders Park May 23. “A lot of us just graduated from George Mason University and just want to get out. We try to plan something like this every two weeks …. we aren’t really afraid of the virus among ourselves.”

In addition to restaurants offering takeout meals, several non-essential businesses along King Street were open even though Alexandria has yet to enter Phase One of Virginia’s reopening plan. That is expected to begin May 29.

“Reopening is a difficult decision,” said Imagine Artwear owner Carol Supplee, who was in her shop but not officially reopened. “There is a set of tasks to think about and prepare for. We cannot get this wrong.”

Crowds thronged to tourist spots like the waterfront and local parks, most without masks or practicing social distance protocols even though the eastbound lane of the 100 block of King Street was closed to vehicular traffic in order to allow room for pedestrians to spread out.

“We’ve been at home for almost nine weeks now,” said Patricia Carrada, who was enjoying ice cream with Riccardo Capparelli and their son Lorenzo Capparelli. “We work from home but try to get outside and get some sunshine as much as possible.”

Del Ray residents Greg Forbes and Steven Littlejohn enjoy a picnic in Founders Park for the second weekend in a row.

“We’ve been following the social distance guidelines,” said Forbes of their weekend picnics. “Last weekend was the first time we really got out. Today was another gorgeous day so we grabbed some take-out from a local restaurant and

Sunny Skies Bring Out Holiday Crowds

Stay-at-home restrictions to be lifted May 29.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

“This is too pretty a day to waste it at home.”
— Recent college graduate Kevin Mamon with friends at Founders Park

A group of recent graduates from George Mason University gather for a picnic May 23 in Founders Park.
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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Remembering the Fallen

Memorial Day ceremonies scale back during COVID-19.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

The ceremonies were unofficial and scaled back. But on Memorial Day, the gatherings were just as somber and determined that the sacrifice of America’s fallen veterans would not be forgotten.

“We were careful to keep our gathering to no more than 10 people,” said American Legion Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton, who officiated at a ceremony outside the Post 24 facility on Cameron Street. “Many more gathered across the street to observe and join us in honoring our veterans.”

The American Legion normally holds a public ceremony at the Alexandria National Cemetery and local Scout Troops are among the volunteers to place flags at veteran gravesites. But the Legion was informed that the cemetery would remain closed on Memorial Day, even to veterans looking to pay respects to their fallen comrades.

“It’s unfortunate that we were not allowed to place wreaths at the graves of past American Legion commanders,” said District 17 Commander Jim Glassman. “We were allowed in during the week to retrieve some wreaths, which we placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial at Alexandria’s Amtrak station.”

In Del Ray, the Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial saw a stream of visitors during what would normally be a crowded Memorial Day ceremony honoring the 68 Alexandrians who were killed or are missing in action from the Vietnam War. Those names are inscribed next to gold stars in the granite Vietnam Veterans Wall that surrounds a statue of Versace, Alexandria’s Medal of Honor recipient.

“We may not have been able to hold the ceremony we hoped for, but we will never let our fallen veterans be forgotten,” Glassman said.

DPC Making a Difference
Gift cards presented to Carpenter’s Shelter, ARHA.

Members of American Legion Post 24 hold a Memorial Day ceremony May 25 to remember America’s fallen veterans.

Marine veteran Patrick Hawley places a wreath at the plaque honoring Alexandria’s fallen World War I veterans outside American Legion Post 24 in Old Town.

Memorial Day wreaths and flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier located at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Old Town.

Special Forces Association members Ray Oden, Pete Marceau, Jim Hooker and David Jackson visit the Rocky Versace Plaza and Alexandria Vietnam Veterans Memorial May 25 to honor Alexandria’s fallen veterans.

© Janet Barnett/Gazette Packet

Gift cards presented to Carpenter’s Shelter, ARHA.

Members of Departmental Progressive Club joined forces to raise more than $1,600 to donate to Carpenter’s Shelter and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The funds were used to purchase gift cards, which were presented to ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew and Carpenter’s Shelter executive director Shannon Steene May 21 by DPC president Merrick Malone and DPC director of community outreach William Chesley.

— Jeanne Theismann

Departmental Progressive Club president Merrick Malone, left, stands with Carpenter’s Shelter executive director Shannon Steene and DPC director of community engagement William Chesley after presenting the shelter with $750 in gift cards May 21 at the Charles Houston Recreation center, a satellite shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

© Will Bailey
Al Fresco Pandemic

By Michael Lee Pope

 Gazette Packet

In normal times, the parking lot behind the Del Ray Cafe gives the restaurant a competitive advantage. Drivers can turn off East Howell Avenue and pull into one of the dozen spaces behind the 1925 house that’s been repurposed into a thriving restaurant. These days, the parking lot is giving the restaurant a different competitive advantage, one that nobody saw coming a few months ago. It’s about to become an alfresco dining spot, a place where the restaurant can set up eight or nine outdoor tables and meet all the requirements of Phase One reopening during a pandemic.

“Eating on a blacktop is not one of the most appetizing things to do. It’s hot, and you smell tar,” said Laurent Janowsky, owner of the Del Ray Cafe. “But people who own restaurants are resilient, and they try to figure out ways to survive. We’re a breed that says we’re not giving up.”

Restaurants across Alexandria are eyeing parking spaces and nearby sidewalks as potential dining spots, places where they can serve outdoor meals in accordance with Phase One of reopening during a pandemic. Restaurant owners and managers say they’re weighing the options, trying to figure out how many people will really want to eat in a parking space. Then there’s the potential cost of buying new equipment for a short-term program that might only last a few weeks. And then, of course, there’s the potential loss of parking. “The landlord is very strict with parking,” said Hugo Salazar at Savio’s Italian Restaurant, which is located in a strip mall on the West End. “So I’m sure that’s not going to be allowed.”

THIS WEEK, members of the Alexandria City Council adopted emergency zoning regulations, relaxing the rules as part of a new experiment to get a sense of how people can avoid dining indoors while maintaining social distancing rules. One of the most noticeable changes will be on lower King Street, where city officials are planning to close the 100 block to traffic through the duration of Phase One. It’s a stretch of road that’s long been eyed as a potential pedestrian plaza, Phase One. It’s a stretch of road that’s long been eyed as a potential pedestrian plaza, an attraction for people across the country.

Now social distancing rules call for five feet between tables, allowing the landlords to serve outdoor diners as long as they can maintain social distancing between tables. For some restaurants, it’s too early to think about it. “I want to see what happens after two weeks and how many new cases come up,” said Jay Chima, manager of Namaste Jalsa, an Indian restaurant on upper King Street. “We want to be cautious. I’m more interested in the safety of my staff and the guests.”

AL FRESCO dining has a long history in Alexandria, where the restaurant scene has been an attraction for people across the country. Back in 2004, the city launched a pilot program that allowed for outdoor dining along King Street. Some criticized the tables and chairs as elbowing out pedestrian traffic, but the City Council made it permanent in 2006. Now social distancing rules call for five feet of “continuous pedestrian access,” a requirement that might be difficult along the tight sidewalks of lower King Street.

“Well that just doesn’t exist,” said Councilwoman Del Pepper. “You can barely find enough room for two people.”

Closing the 100 block to traffic and making parking spaces available to restaurants might allow for some extra space, although the new outdoor dining rules are still an experiment in the new normal. Part of that new normal is reopening after an extended period of quarantine. Restaurants are trying to get their waiters and waitresses to return to the workplace, although some say they’re having a hard time putting together a pandemic workforce.

“Most of my waiters have been with me 25 or 30 years, and they’re all in their 70s now,” said Wendy Albert, owner of Tempo Restaurant on Duke Street. “When I called them to tell them come back to work they said, ‘No I’m retired.’”

The sidewalk in front of Namaste Jalsa offers enough space for a few outdoor tables, but the owner says he has no immediate plans to put up outdoor dining there because he’s worried about the safety of his staff and his customers.

The Del Ray Cafe plans to seat eight or nine tables in the parking lot behind their building on East Howell Avenue.

Sunny Skies Bring Out Holiday Crowds

From Page 1

came here. This park is really spread out -- it makes me feel safe but we still get to watch people and just be outside.”

Along with other local business owners, Supplee is focusing on her reopening plans.

“We will have much of our inventory spaced apart,” Supplee said. “We will have directional signs and a separate way in and a separate way out of the store. We will move our checkout desk closer to the exit. We will have steamers in place to steam anything that will require sanitizing. And it goes without saying that we will have plenty of extra face and hand sanitizer.

Nonetheless, how are we going to know when we’ve done enough?”

If the last two weekends are any indication, visitors will descend on tourist destinations and local businesses once the lifting of restrictions becomes official.

“This is our new way of spending a Saturday night,” Forbes said of his picnics in the park. “It’s not a bad thing. The world is quieter now -- we get to picnic and watch the sunset.”

Christelle and Pablo Carito with baby Julian at Founders Park May 23.
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Phyllis Patterson
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Alexandria Gazette Packet ◆ May 28 - June 3, 2020 ◆ 5
Saluting One of Our Fallen Vietnam Veterans: Raymond Leroy Williams Sr.

By Char McCargo Bah

In Washington, DC near the Lincoln Memorial is a black granite memorial erected for the Vietnam Soldiers who had died in action. On that wall, they listed over fifty individuals from Alexandria including Private First Class Raymond Leroy Williams.

Raymond joined the United States Army after 1963. He was deployed on Oct. 25, 1968 to Quang Tin Province in South Vietnam as a member of D Company 3rd Battalion, 166th Infantry Brigade. His service occupation was light weapons infantry. Within six-months, Raymond ran into enemy fighters. He died of multiple fragmentation wounds on May 13, 1969. He was just 25 years old and he never fulfilled his dreams of going to college and becoming a teacher.

Raymond Leroy Williams Sr., was two years old when a car, three miles south of Alexandria hit his father, Partee (Pertie) Williams. His father died from cerebral concussion and a fractured skull. Raymond’s mother struggled to raise him and his siblings but once he got older, he became responsible for his mother and siblings. This helped him to develop his leadership skills.

Raymond attended Parker-Gray High School and he excelled in his classes. He was a popular student and he belonged to the History Club, The "P" Club (a letter club) and the Art Club, he was also the captain of the football team. His nickname “Pork Chop” came from his love of that particular food. Family and friends who knew him said he wanted to become a teacher. He was given an opportunity by his art teacher to teach her class in his senior year in school. He taught the class for several weeks.

In 1962, Raymond with 59 other students graduated from Parker-Gray High School but Raymond never attended college. He got married in 1963 to Norma Ross. His son, Raymond Leroy Williams Jr., was born in the same year.

His parents were Pertie Williams and Eliza Elizabeth Cheeks. They were married in Alexandria in 1943. Raymond was born at his parents’ residence at 312 Princess Street on March 25, 1944. After the death of his father, Raymond, his mother and siblings moved to 330 South Patrick Street. Raymond’s name shines on the black granite with 57,938 other Americans who were casualties of the Vietnam War at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. He is listed on Panel W25, Line 114. There, he is memorialized as a fallen soldier who won the Purple Heart, National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign medals.

At the time of Raymond’s death, he was survived by his wife Norma; son, Raymond Jr; and daughter, Lisa. His mother, Eliza Elizabeth Cheeks Williams Washington and his siblings, Johnnie, Brenda, Freddie, George, Darlene, Maryland, Juanita, Eddie and Carolyn survived him. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Along with Raymond’s family, we Alexandrians will remember to salute Raymond and all of the fallen soldiers for their sacrifices and contributions they made for the Country and us.


We’ll Get Through This

By Ann Principato

We’ll get through this, Just like Harriet Jacobs did hiding out in an attic for seven years to escape her cruel slave-master. We’ll get through this, Just like Elsa did in Jojo Rabbit living behind a wall to escape the Gestapo. We’ll get through this, Just like I did when I was on strict bed rest for three months due to a high risk pregnancy. Harriet had her grandmother, Elsa had JoJo’s mother and siblings, Johnnie, Brenda, Freddie, George, Darlene, Maryland, Juanita, Eddie and Carolyn survived him. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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**Letters**

### I Received 100% of the Vote

Voting Nov. 5th last year seems like a long time ago especially since our current departure from the norm. But it is true, I actually did get 100% of the vote. On a single ballot. Of course, I voted for myself on the write-in line. So that should give you enough confidence to vote for me next time around for Council. Oh, did I say I was a Republican? We need some of that around here. If we had a couple of folks with an ‘R’ behind their name, we might achieve some semblance of balance in Alexandria, which we clearly do not currently have. I was encouraged recently, given a serious intent to run, to mask my party affiliation, but fiscal conservatism, Pentagon stewardship, and as a former flag officer with an MBA and a masters in secure Information and cybersecurity at a time when it is most needed, would certainly disqualify me. Additionally, masking my affiliation would not be prudent, lacks prima facie integrity, and impossible to do anyway in light of myriad issue positions.

In a perfect situation, I would be running as the Republican candidate from Old Town North. Oh. I forgot again, we do not have precincts, nor ward representation. What we have is at-large acquiescence to a city manager who raises our taxes without representation. Sure, City Council conducts hearings with input from select committees, but take a closer look at their party affiliation and inclination toward special interests. Tax raises after tax raises. Please feel free to examine our Chatham Square HOA annual budgets that support 152 million-dollar plus units where you may observe that we have not raised our fees in over five years. Yet, we possess a substantial reserve surplus and tiered long-term secure investments on behalf of the entire complex. Time for a modicum of change. After all we live in the Port City with our own vintage ship dockside. So, to parrot a pirate parody, a little R’dy, R, R could go a long way here.

Bill Jacobs
Chatham Square, Alexandria

**Privatize Alexandria’s Public Works Department?**

Alexandria’s public works department, T&ES, is a force unto itself. Responsible for streets and sewers primarily, it’s disconnected
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**NEWS**

**Alexandria Week in Coronavirus**

**Monday, May 25**
Alexandria Cases: 1,754
Virginia Cases: 37,727
United States Cases: 1,622,114
Alexandria Deaths: 38
Virginia Deaths: 1,208
United States Deaths: 97,049

**OPENING NOW:** Northern Virginia will open into Phase 1 on Friday, May 29. Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Alexandria County Board Chair Libby Garvey, and the mayors and chairman of town boards, cities and counties of Northern Virginia, wrote Gov. Ralph Northam on Memorial Day. “We have enclosed the updated May 24th assessment by the five public health directors. They have noted the regional attainment of four of the critical metrics and assessed the need for continued focus on expanding our contact tracing capacity and developing sustainable supplies of PPE. We appreciate the increased testing capacity the Commonwealth has provided for our region and realize that your assistance with testing and tracing in the future will be important to assist us as we move into subsequent phases.

Each of our jurisdictions have been making preparations to support a transition into Phase 1 at midnight on May 28th. We do have two requests for your consideration:

1) As you have stated, we believe there is value for the Commonwealth moving forward together. If the data supports it, we would like the Northern Virginia region to move to Phase 2 in concert with the rest of the Commonwealth when that date is established.

2) The “Stay-at-Home” phase has been especially hard on Virginians with Mental Health Diagnoses, particularly veterans. We ask that you establish direct, accelerated availability of those services immediately for this group.

The letter was signed by Libby Garvey, Chair, Alexandria County Board of Supervisors; Jeff McKay, Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; Ann B. Wheeler, Chair, Prince William County Board of Supervisors; Justin Wilson, Mayor, Alexandria City Council; David L. Meyer, Mayor, City of Fairfax; Derrick Wood, Mayor, Town of Dumfries; Lisa Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon; Bridge Littleton, Mayor, Town of Middleburg; and Laurie A. Dillocco, Mayor, Town of Vienna.

**TESTING EVENTS:** The Alexandria Health Department and the City of Alexandria supported two free COVID-19 community testing events May 25 at Landmark Mall and Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology. Approximately 3,000 drive-through and walk-up participants were tested and will receive results once they are available. Those who test positive for COVID-19 will receive specific guidance from the health department about how to protect themselves and others. The primary focus was for community members who have not previously been able to access testing. These testing sites did not require doctor referrals, appointments, or identification. Spanish, Arabic, and Amharic translators were available. The Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management help fund the effort with significant in-kind support from Alexandria Health Department and the City.

**GRADUATION:** T.C. Williams graduate Noah Lyles, the U.S. fastest man over 200 meters, will be the keynote speaker at T.C. Williams graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 13. The virtual ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m., the date and time originally scheduled for May 23 - June 3, 2020.

**Saturday, May 23**
Alexandria Cases: 1,703
Virginia Cases: 35,749
Alexandria Deaths: 38
Virginia Deaths: 1,159

**ALEXANDRIA PROMISE:** The Alexandria Health Department, in partnership with Visit Alexandria and local restaurant and business associations, has launched the ALX Promise program to help businesses safely reopen as Northern Virginia enters new phases of restrictions. The program is designed to train and support businesses as they begin to reopen and expand operations. ALX Promise is a voluntary measure to encourage businesses to adopt COVID-19 safety standards for employees and customers that exceed the minimum rules required by law.

Each business that takes part in the ALX Promise program will:

- Participate in training with an Alexandria Health Department Environmental Health Specialist on state requirements to reopen.
- Train all employees on the safety measures needed for safe reopening.
- Submit a completed checklist, training record and pledge commitment to ensure the safety of employees and customers. Agree to follow all future applicable health guidance as Northern Virginia enters new phases of reopening.

**HELPING BUSINESSES:** To help Alexandria businesses prepare to reopen once state restrictions are eased, the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) and the City will conduct a series of webinars to share valuable information with business managers and owners. Guidance and regulations to be covered include those from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority, and the City of Alexandria. Separate webinars will focus on information for businesses in the fitness, restaurant and food service, personal care, and brick and mortar retail sectors.

**DASH EXPANDED:** DASH will begin an expanded schedule, including additional service on key routes to allow passengers to maintain adequate physical distancing on buses. DASH will continue to operate its largest buses, block some seats, use rear boarding to minimize crowding at fareboxes and exposure to bus operators, and clean and disinfect buses daily. Passengers are still required to wear face coverings until further notice. Most routes follow the regular DASH Saturday timetable, with some exceptions. The King Street Trolley remains suspended until further notice.

**PUBLIC POOLS, NOT YET:** All public and private pools in Northern Virginia remain closed under Phase Zero of the Forward Virginia blueprint. Once the region transitions to Phase One, outdoor pools will be permitted to open only for lap swimming, with one swimmer per lane and no gatherings of 10 or more on the deck. Additional information about the timing of Phase One and the operations of City pools is expected in the next week.

**Friday, May 22**
Alexandria Cases: 1,657
Virginia Cases: 34,950
Alexandria Deaths: 37
Virginia Deaths: 1,136

**See Coronavirus, Page 9**
WIDENING SIDEWALK, STAY DISTANCED: The City temporarily widened the sidewalk on the south side of the unit, 100 and 200 blocks of King Street, to allow more room for pedestrians to stay at least 6 feet apart while walking. This change will be in effect until Tuesday, May 26. The sidewalk widening is not a street closure or pedestrian plaza, and is not intended to encourage pedestrians to visit the area or to congregate. Additional signage outdoors and in businesses will remind the public to maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet, wear cloth face coverings, and wash hands regularly. Although restaurants are permitted to sell alcoholic beverages for carryout or delivery, these beverages are intended for responsible home consumption and may not be consumed in public places. The Alexandria Police Department will have increased presence on lower King Street and along the Waterfront to help maintain compliance with the law.

SELF CHECK: COVIDCheck, a new online risk-assessment tool for Virginians to check their symptoms and connect with health care resources, is available. COVIDCheck can help individuals displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19 self-assess their risk and determine the best next steps, such as self-isolation, seeing a doctor, or seeking emergency care. See https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covidcheck/

SNAP ONLINE: More than 740,000 Virginians who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be able to pay for their groceries online and have them delivered, after the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Virginia to participate in an innovative online purchasing pilot program. The program will launch statewide in Virginia on Friday, May 29 with online shopping access available through Amazon and Walmart online.

FLAGS LOWERED: Flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia were flown at half-staff over the state Capitol and all local, state and federal buildings and grounds in the Commonwealth of Virginia to honor the victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic.

NICKEL AND DIMING: U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) introduced legislation to ensure that all National Guard troops activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic receive full benefits. “While the Trump Administration gave an extension, it cynically chose a peculiar date that was later revealed to result in a hard deployment stop at 89 days for thousands of National Guard members – one day short of the 90-day threshold to receive additional federal benefits, like access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits,” according to Warner.

Thursday, May 21
Alexandria Cases: 1,627
Virginia Cases: 34,137
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Alexandria Deaths: 37
Virginia Deaths: 1,099

THE CUMULATIVE number of COVID-19 cases in Alexandria is now 1,627, including 37 fatalities.

EMERGENCY RENT PAYMENTS: The City is providing short-term emergency rental assistance to help Alexandria renters experiencing housing insecurity due to COVID-19 related loss of income. A total of $600 per month for up to three months may be paid directly to property owners on behalf of eligible tenants. Financial assistance will be provided regardless of citizenship status. Visit the COVID-19 Emergency Rent Relief Assistance Program webpage to learn more or apply.

40 PERCENT HURTING: U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Doug Jones (D-AL) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) today introduced the Paycheck Security Program to cover the wages and benefits of employees of affected businesses and non-profits until the economic and public health crisis is resolved. “Right now nearly 39 million Americans are out of work due to the coronavirus. This is hitting working class folks particularly hard, with 40 percent of all workers making under $40,000 out of work right now,” said Warner.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, nearly 39 million workers have filed for unemployment. More than 20 million people lost their jobs in the month of April alone, the most in a single month on record. An estimated 27 million people have already lost their employer-provided health insurance coverage, and millions more could lose coverage before this crisis is over. The unemployment rate is likely close to 20 percent, and could exceed the depths of the Great Depression in the coming months.

The pandemic has also devastated small businesses and sole proprietors. A recent study found that more than 100,000 small businesses have already closed permanently as a result of the health and economic crisis.

REGIONAL TEAMWORK: Connected DMV is a non-profit regional collaboration across Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia—the DMV. Its participants include local juridictions, federal agencies, industry, community, and academia who work together to advance the region’s opportunities, generate economic development, and shape a stronger future for the well-being of our region. TTask Force will stand up a sub-group dedicated to developing a detailed regional contact tracing position and recommendation. The group also discussed the need for a responsible reopening of public transportation that gradually and safely restores bus and rail service ahead of demand. The Task Force will continue to meet monthly through October with meetings facilitated by Greater Washington Board of Trade President and CEO Jack McDougle. See https://www.connectedmv.org/strategic-renewal-task-force

Wednesday, May 20
Alexandria Cases: 1,577
Virginia Cases: 32,908
Alexandria Deaths: 34
Virginia Deaths: 1,074

WORKPLACE FATIGUE: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided general strategies workers and employers can use to manage workplace fatigue. Workers providing essential services to the community, including emergency responders and health care workers, are working longer hours than usual, working more shifts or even overnight, and leaving less time to sleep and recharge. Long work hours and shift work, combined with stressful or physically demanding work, can lead to poor sleep, extreme fatigue, and increased risk for injury and deteriorating health (infections, illnesses, and mental health disorders). The CDC page also includes training information from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for emergency responders and nurses.

UNTOLD SUFFERING: Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, made a statement on Republican opposition to extending further assistance amid the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic: “This economic collapse is an emergency.

Tens of millions of Americans – one in five workers – just lost their jobs, and government aid is the only thing preventing many from losing their homes or starving. Yet, Republicans want to shut off unemployment benefits, force states to make further, disastrous cuts to crucial services, and sharply reduce access to food programs like SNAP... Removing that support while eliminating access to food, shelter, and health care would inflict untold suffering and could cause widespread civic unrest.”

SNAP CARRYOUT: U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine cosponsored legislation to increase the ability for Americans struggling with food insecurity to receive restaurant meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the COVID-19 Anti-Hunger Restaurant Relief for You Act of 2020—or the SNAP CARRY Act—would expand eligibility for the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) and would make it easier for states and restaurants to participate in the program during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tuesday, May 19
Alexandria Cases: 1,544
Virginia Cases: 32,145
Alexandria Deaths: 34
Virginia Deaths: 1,041

COVID IN CHILDREN: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children is a rare but serious inflammatory condition that affects the heart and other organs in children and could be linked to COVID, according to the Alexandria Health Department. Symptoms in children include fever lasting several days along with irritability or sluggishness, abdominal pain with no explanation, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, red or pink eyes, enlarged lymph node on one side of the neck, red cracked lips or red tongue that looks like a strawberry, or swollen hands or feet that might also be red.

Call your doctor immediately if your child becomes ill and has a continued fever. If your child is severely ill, go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 immediately.

CHEF JOSE ANDRES: World Central Kitchen, a nonprofit food distribution organization founded by chef José Andrés distributed 1.25 million meals to 1.8 million families in the third food distribution organized in Alexandria with help from city workers and volunteers. Local nonprofit ALIVE! also distributed 4,800 pounds of food at the event. This food distribution took place again at Casa Chirilagua on May 21 and will provide food at Ramsay Elementary School on May 28. See City’s Food Assistance webpage.

Alexandria Gazette Packet • May 28 – June 3, 2020 • 9
City Tests 3,000 for COVID-19

Free sites held in areas hardest hit by coronavirus.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
Gazette Packet

The Alexandria Health Department collected more than 3,000 samples from local residents during two free COVID-19 community testing events held May 25 in areas hardest hit by the coronavirus. Drive-through and walk-up participants were provided free tests at sites in Arlandria and the West End. Results will be provided to the individuals once they are available and those who test positive for COVID-19 will receive specific guidance from Alexandria Health Department.

“Tears of joy and gratitude” were the response of one of the volunteers at the Cora Kelly testing site who assisted with the patient registration process. They were so busy and had heard nothing but positive compliments about the way it was running. They were so lucky to have volunteers and staff here to make that happen.

As of May 26, Alexandria has reported 1,785 cases of the coronavirus, 175 hospitalizations and 41 deaths.
Organizing Boxes of Old Photos

The daunting project can be broken down in to smaller tasks.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Stacks of boxes containing thousands of photographs line the walls of the basement in Alice Denson’s Fairfax home. For the past five years, the 73-year old mother and grandmother has promised herself and her family that she would begin the monumental task of sorting and organizing the photos. Still, the boxes stand, covered by layers of dust that grow thicker as the years pass.

“I even have photos of my grandparents,” she said. “I want to leave them in order for my daughter and grandchildren. My daughter has been pushing me start and she’s offered to help since we’re not getting out of the house much these days. She’s even offered to hire someone to help me, but it just hasn’t happened yet.”

Coronavirus-induced stay at home orders have resulted in unexpected free time, particularly for those who are most susceptible to contracting COVID19. Like Denson, many believe that this is an ideal time to sort old photos. Mastering the wherewithal to begin the project is the hard part.

Starting monumental and often emotionally charged organizational tasks like sorting a lifetime of photographs can be daunting, says organizer Susan Unger, CPO and Owner of Clutter SOS who specializes in working with seniors. “My clients are often dealing with organizational challenges, medical issues, mental health issues, perfectionism or life crises,” she said.

Life experiences, the very events that photos are meant to capture and preserve, can also be the roadblocks that keep these memories stored in boxes indefinitely. “Photos are intrinsically linked to our emotions and can be tough to get rid of,” said photographer Jody Al-Saigh, owner of Picture Perfect Organizing. “They can even be hard to look through if they bring up a painful memory for someone, so sticking them in a box on a shelf is just easier for some.”

Unlike re-organizing a closet that’s bursting with clutter, photographic items like slides or film are easy to pile-up unnoticed. “Photos are often an obvious clutter, photographic items like slides or film in your collection. You don’t need everything to get in an album, just the goods,” she said. “F is for box which hold photos that add to the story but can be saved separately as needed. ‘C’ is for can, as in trashcan. Discard blurry, bad or duplicate photos, landscapes and any photos you just don’t like.”

“The S,” she says are for photos that are not of the best quality, but that help to tell a story. Those photos should be categorized as an A or B.

“Save, scan and enjoy prints,” said Al-Saigh. “Make albums from prints, put photos in archival storage boxes or sleeves, make backups of scanned images by using a cloud storage.”

“A” is for albums which should hold the best photos in your collection. You don’t need everything to get rid of, just the gems.”

Creating categories such as the year a photo was taken or the holiday it captures can be useful in the sorting process, suggests Al-Saigh. She recommends her ‘ABC’s’ method for deciding which photos to keep and which to discard.

“Tackling the task of organizing decades of photographs and storing them in acid free, archival boxes and photo albums can prevent yellowing and deterioration. ‘A’ is for albums which should hold the best photos in your collection. You don’t need everything to get in an album, just the gems,” she said. “F is for box which hold photos that add to the story but can be saved separately as needed. ‘C’ is for can, as in trashcan. Discard blurry, bad or duplicate photos, landscapes and any photos you just don’t like.”

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“To prevent another photo backlog, “Make a schedule for yourself to do photo maintenance on a regular basis. Maybe it’s monthly, quarterly, or even six months,” said Al-Saigh. “Digital photos are easy to get backlogged because there’s no limit to how many you can take.”

Use moments of unavoidable idle time, such as waiting for a medical appointment and delete unwanted digital photographs. “It’s time better spent cleaning off your phone rather than watching TV in a waiting room or reading an old magazine,” said Al-Saigh.

“Also, be mindful of the photos you take. When on a vacation, take pictures with people that you’ll cherish into the future, rather than a landscape or scenery that holds less meaning.”
MARY LOUISE PALMER (Age 100)

On Friday, May 8, 2020, Mary Louise Palmer, long time resi-
dent of Alexandria, Virginia and active member of Wash-
ington Street Methodist Church, passed away peacefully at
the age of 100 at The Goodwin House in Alexandria, VA.
She was born on Thursday, February 11, 1920 in Mobile, Al-
abama to parents Mary Elizabeth Isaccs and Hugh Wightman
Nash III. She was preceded in death by her husband, George
A Mattison III, her daughter, Mary Lous Mattison Farah
and moved to Houston, Texas in 1954 to establish the Houston Slag Association.

Mary Lou had a passion for charity, over the years serving on the Boards of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Alexandria Hospital Foundation, the Alexandria City Council and the Washington Street Methodist Church Administration. She was also active in the Alexandria Hospital Junior Twig Auxiliary. Her generous heart, vibrant sense of humor and radiant smile will always be remembered by those who knew her.

Mary Lou was preceded in death by her husband Mr. Richard E. Palmer, her sister Dr. Ruth Coffman, her granddaughter Mary Cathleen Palmer and her daughter Debro-

ah’s husband Charles Mills. She is survived by her four children and their families: Dr. Richard N. Palmer and wife Linda of Seattle, WA (Justin Palmer, wife Hennor (Bippo), Megan Stanek and husband David Stanek (Jay and Charles), and Amy Mar-
tini and husband Carlo Martini); Deborah Palmer-Mills of Alexandria, VA; Maurice Palmer II of Charles Town, WVA and Jane Palmer-Miller (Robert); Dr. Mary Palmer-Brown and husband Edwin Brown of Alexandria, VA (Christopher and Matthew) as well as extended family members.

A memorial gathering and celebration of Mary Lou’s life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary Lou’s memory can be made to the Alex-

andria Goodwin House Foundation directed to Hospice & Palliative Care (703-820-1488).

Mary Lou will be cremated at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria and her ashes interred with her husband in the family plot at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon, Virginia. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the timing of the service will be determined at a later date and posted in the newspaper.

By Tanya Edwards

Looking for Lonely Seniors...

A s we continue to stay at home and remain safe, feel-
ing of loneliness and isolation might be setting in, especially for older adults who live alone or are confined to their living space.

By Tanya Edwards

Looking for Lonely Seniors...

in a residential facil-
ity. Senior Services of Alexandria is connect-
ing these folks with a “Friendly Visitor” to talk with about how they are doing, and to provide companion-
ship.

SSA’s Friendly Vis-

tor Program started in 2014

in place; literally using the same

costly projects

by the city. Because its presumptive con-

ergy hit our city, we took

… pairing isolated older adults with volunteers for weekly visits. Over 100 pairs have been matched and nu-

chances have been formed. When the COVID-19 pandem-

ic hit our city, we took

our program virtual

and now our Friendly Visitor pairs are meeting by phone, and sharing notes of encouragement to keep a smile on our seniors’ faces.

Volunteers for SSA’s nutrition programs, Meals on Wheels and Groceries to Go, confirm that there are more older adults who could use a friendly visitor. That is why we have been reaching out to the Alexandria community to recruit volunteers who want to help make a difference during this time of crisis. We have been very pleased at the response received so far.

Here is a short testimonial from one of our newest volunteers, Shari-

“…a very kind lady! She loves

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ELECTRICAL LANDSCAPING
GUTTER IMPROVEMENTS

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In two days I will have completed four weeks on my low iodine diet (no chocolate, no salt, no dairy, no bread with four days remaining until my one-shot hospital admission and subsequent seven-day medical quarantine at home. If I remember correctly the substance of the hour — "radioiodine therapy," my eating can return to its previous abnormal. I just have to hope that the supermark

ter shelves are fully stocked that day. Unfortu

nately, in our present pandemic pressure cooker, the chances are above average that my heart's desire will be missing and not in action.

To assuage any anxieties I have concerning this non-military "D-Day" type invasion by yours truly, perhaps I should try and set an appoint

With the store manager for my local Giant Food to prepare them for the onslaught and provide a list of my demands. I know they're open and sensitive to customer requests as under

differently circumstances, I have made them with excellent results.

These requests would not be for items unfamiliar to my inventory. It would be more about dotting all the "i"s and crossing all the "t"s and avoiding any slip-ups to guarantee as much as possible the delivery of my future medication possession.

Though I'm not a commercial customer, I am nonetheless in the desired demographic, the one who primarily makes the food-buying decisions in our home and who's interest and consumption of said items would make me most definitively a person of interest.

The items to which I finally refer are branded by Nabisco, Keebler, Hostess, Dunks, M&M/Mars, Entenmann’s and Tastykakes. I won't sell-indulge myself any further by offering any more specifics as I'm still almost a week away from "the return." But suffice to say, it's likely any adolescent would offer fairly similar details if asked. However, in addition to the availability

ability to provide reliable sugar sources, there is one extremely important challenge remaining: the actual shopping. Given my underlying lung cancer and/or thyroid cancer, I am an ideal target for the covid-19 virus over age 65, lung disease and a weakened immune system. In fact, I hit the trifecta. As a result, and according to Dr. Birx's most recent press briefing about the virus, Maryland, my state of residence, is one of the few states not exhibiting the kinds of statistical data lines that many other states are.

Ergo, by order of Dina Lourie, I am under lock and key. And while under lock and key I will not be doing the shopping — and buying. I therefore will be unable to soothe the savage beast raging inside me.

That's not to say. I won't see a family size bag of Nabisco's Double Stuf Oreos Cookies on her shopping list, it's more that I won't see any other Kentucky preferences on that list. Nor is it likely that while in-store, she'll wander around the pertinent aisles — as I might, and update me by phone on what other potentially interesting items might be stacked on the shelves/end caps. And quite frankly, if she were to surprise me with some other Kentucky necessities, she would likely monitor my intake ("Kenny, what happened to that bag of Oreos I brought home yesterday") and my joo de vie would be mort. Not exactly would she be denying a dying man his last wish, but for a few weeks at least, after such a long, world-record-breaking interval (for me, anyway) of not eating any of my go-to, let me have some time to myself. Granted, it won't be pretty, but it's not entirely your business.

After all, if the roles were reversed, I would definitely do the same for you. Desperate times call desperate/uncharacteristic measures. What's good for the gander would certainly apply to the goose. Please don't look up this future briefing, just leave me to my own devices, for a bit, anyway.

-Kenny, author is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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McEnearney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

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