

Absurd Leverage

Lawmakers to reconsider mandatory minimum for assaulting law enforcement.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For one inmate of a Northern Virginia jail who was in a mood, the presentation of a meal created a buffet of problems. When a law-enforcement officer inserted the tray through the slat in the metal door, the inmate pushed the tray back. The tray fell to the floor, and some of the water bounced off the floor and landed on the officer's shoes.

"And so they charged him with assault on a law enforcement officer because the water hit his shoes," said James Abrenio, a lawyer who represented the inmate.

The inmate was being held on a minor probation violation when the incident happened. But that incident with the water on the shoes created a new problem for him. He was now charged with felony assault against the officer, a charge that comes with a mandatory minimum of six months behind bars. Suddenly that cup of water created a flood of problems that left him drowning in trouble. Abrenio says he would have loved to have brought that case to trial because of the absurdity of the charge, but the indigent inmate was more interested in cutting a deal with



Inmates who accidentally spill water on the shoes of sheriff's deputies can be hit with a mandatory minimum sentence of six months for assaulting a law enforcement officer.

prosecutors than challenging the system.

"Prosecutors know this is absurd," said Abrenio. "Despite that

they have such leverage that they offer a way out of felony and a way out of significant jail time for you to just cop a plea. And that's the

issue."

It's an issue that is dividing Democrats in the General Assembly. During the special session this

year, Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) introduced a bill that would have done away with the mandatory minimum sentence for assaulting a law-enforcement officer. It would have required independent investigations into incidents, rather than allowing officers to react in the heat of the moment. And it would have allowed courts to consider mental illness as a contributing factor to how people interact with police.

"Folks who are mentally ill and have interactions with law enforcement are hurt the most by this," said Surovell. "Because minorities are overrepresented given the way policing currently occurs, it tends to overly affect minority populations who tend to get charged with this a lot."

The bill passed the Senate on a party line vote in August. But a month later, Democrats in the House Courts of Justice Committee killed the bill after raising several concerns. One was that the statute could exclude children, setting aside felony prosecution of juveniles experiencing a mental health crisis. Another concern was that the bill might create harsher penalties for people with autism,

SEE ABSURD LEVERAGE, PAGE 3

Holiday Art Walk Kicks Off in Old Town

Lamp posts adorned with work from local artists.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

From the river to the rails, King Street is adorned in its holiday best as lamp posts have been brought to life with a display of art work as part of the first Old Town Holiday Lamp Post Art Walk.

Mayor Justin Wilson kicked off the inaugural holiday Art Walk Dec. 5 with a ribbon cutting on South Union Street. In attendance were members of the Old Town Business Association and The Art League, who partnered on the project.

Ryan Fowler, CEO of presenting sponsor Boundary Properties, was also on hand for

the kick-off.

The Old Town Business Association collaborated with 25 artists from The Art League to create holiday-themed lamp post art pieces along King Street and select side streets. The self-guided Art Walk will run through Jan. 8, 2021.

"We wanted to honor the artists and thank our presenting sponsor Boundary Properties," said Old Town Business representative Charlotte Hall of the kick-off.

The locations of the art are: 100-1800 blocks of King Street; 300 block of Cameron Street; 100 block of South Union Street; 100 block of South Fairfax Street; 100 block of South Royal Street; 100 block of South St. Asaph Street; 100 block of North Fayette Street; and 1319 Prince Street.

The Torpedo Factory Office Building partnered with the Old Town Business Association as the presenting sponsor of the First Annual Holiday Art Walk.



Mayor Justin Wilson, center, cuts the ribbon to kick off the Old Town Holiday Lamp Post Art Walk Dec. 5 on South Union St. With him are, from left, Deputy City Manager Emily Baker, Suzanne Bethel of The Art League, Boundary Properties CEO Ryan Fowler, and Charlotte Hall of the Old Town Business Association. The outdoor art display runs through Jan. 8 along King Street and selected side streets in Old Town.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



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‘Love Is All You Need’ Mural celebrates KSMET businesses.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Long before the trendy boutiques and celebrity chef restaurants came to town, upper King Street was lined with used car dealers and empty storefronts and considered by many a sketchy part of the city.

But Nina Tisara, a photographer with a studio near the King Street Metro, and Howard Rooks of Mount Vernon Realty, had a different vision for the area. Together they joined forces and in 1991 formed the King Street Metro Enterprise Team, a business organization dedicated to promoting the oft-overlooked part of Old Town.

“The Old Town Business Association predated KSMET,” said Tisara in recalling the beginnings of KSMET. “But Howard and I both wanted to form a business organization that focused on promoting the merchants along upper King Street.”

Eventually KSMET and the Old Town Business Association merged, but not before KSMET and local business owners led a transformation of upper King Street into a lively destination of retail shops and restaurants.

Imagine Artwear owner Carol Supplee was an early member of KSMET. She decided to celebrate the organization by commissioning artist Len Garon to paint a mural on the side of her building at the corner of King and Fayette streets. On Dec. 4, that mural was formally dedicated with city officials and former members of KSMET in attendance.

“I wanted to honor my fellow business owners,” said Supplee. “I had a blank wall and an idea. It was serendipity.”

With a theme of “Love is All You Need,” the mural begins with a rendering of Supplee’s dog Hobbs and ends with the iconic Hard Times Café horse. In between are Sup-



Artist Len Garon, left, is joined by Nina Tisara and Imagine Artwear owner Carol Supplee in a ribbon cutting to dedicate Garon’s KSMET mural Dec 4 in Old Town.

plee with Peggy Amsterdam of the American Freedom Train Foundation, Tisara and former Chamber of Commerce president Red Supplee, Joe Egerton of Arts Afire Glass Gallery, First Night fireworks at the Masonic Memorial, David Martin of Goldworks, a canopy of flowers at King Street Garden’s Park, Ann Hopkins, and the Hard Times horse in honor of founders Jim and Fred Parker.

“Carol’s vision was to celebrate wearable art,” added Tisara, who served as KSMET president in 1991. “In that way we all could become in a sense walking galleries. A brilliant marriage of business and the arts.”



Nina Tisara, founder of the King Street Metro Enterprise Team, known as KSMET and the predecessor to the Old Town Business Association, makes remarks at the dedication of the Len Garon KSMET mural Dec. 4 at the corner of King and Fayette streets.



Former mayor Allison Silberberg, Imagine Artwear owner Carol Supplee, KSMET founder Nina Tisara, artist Len Garon, and Council members Amy Jackson and Del Pepper celebrate the Dec. 4 dedication of the KSMET mural at the corner of King and Fayette streets.

Absurd Leverage

FROM PAGE 1

although the bill had support from the Virginia Autism Project. The debate happened shortly after the Senate killed a House bill that would have ended qualified immunity for police officers.

“I have learned over the last several weeks that words, definitions and standards matter when we’re talking about these very weighty issues,” said Del. Jeff Bourne (D-71), who introduced the bill on qualified immunity.

“I’ve heard lots of times that we vote on bills, not ideas and so I’d like to get us to a place where we can vote on a great bill that eliminates the mandatory minimums and really captures the essence of what we all know is happening in these instances.”

MANDATORY MINIMUM sentences have become a flashpoint in the conversation about criminal-justice reform, although the effort to rip this one out of the code did not end up working during a special session aimed at improving equity in policing and prosecutions. The six-month mandatory minimum sentence for assaulting a law-enforcement officer dates back to 1997, a time when lawmakers were trying to use the criminal code to crack down on crime. State Sen. Louise Lucas (D-18) introduced a bill that would have made assaulting a police officer a felony. At the time, it was a misdemeanor.

“Can you believe that?” she is quoted in the Virginian-Pilot at the time. “You would think it would be a felony already, wouldn’t you?”

“Prosecutors know this is absurd. Despite that they have such leverage that they offer a way out of felony and a way out of significant jail time for you to just cop a plea.”

— James Abrenio

Her bill passed the Senate but failed in the House. Meanwhile, Del. Donald McEachin (D-74) was working with Lt. Gov. Don Beyer on a similar bill that would have imposed a mandatory minimum sentence for hate crimes. The chambers struck a compromise creating a mandatory six-month sentence for assaulting a

law-enforcement officer or committing a hate crime. Republican Gov. George Allen signed the bill, although now Democrats are rethinking the consequences of the tough-on-crime politics of the 1990s. Earlier this year, Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) worked together on a bill that added gender identity

and sexual orientation to the hate crime bill while also removing the mandatory minimum sentence.

“The governor came out with a policy statement on not supporting minimums,” said Favola in a committee hearing on the bill. Although lawmakers removed the mandatory minimum for hate crimes, the mandatory minimum for assaulting law-enforcement officers is still on the books. Surovell says he plans to introduce the bill again next month, when lawmakers will begin the 2021 General Assembly session.

“It’s my hope that with a more balanced discussion more legislators will be comfortable voting for it,” said Surovell. “The bill got caught up in a lot of discussion

SEE ABSURD, PAGE 14

LIVING LEGENDS

The Dynamic Duo Ginny and Richard Obranovich at the helm of APF.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Police Foundation was originally founded in 2002 to provide health insurance for retiring police K9 dogs. Under the leadership of Richard and Ginny Obranovich, the Police Foundation has grown to now sponsoring wide-ranging programs reaching into all parts of the community as well as working to enhance the effectiveness of Alexandria police officers.

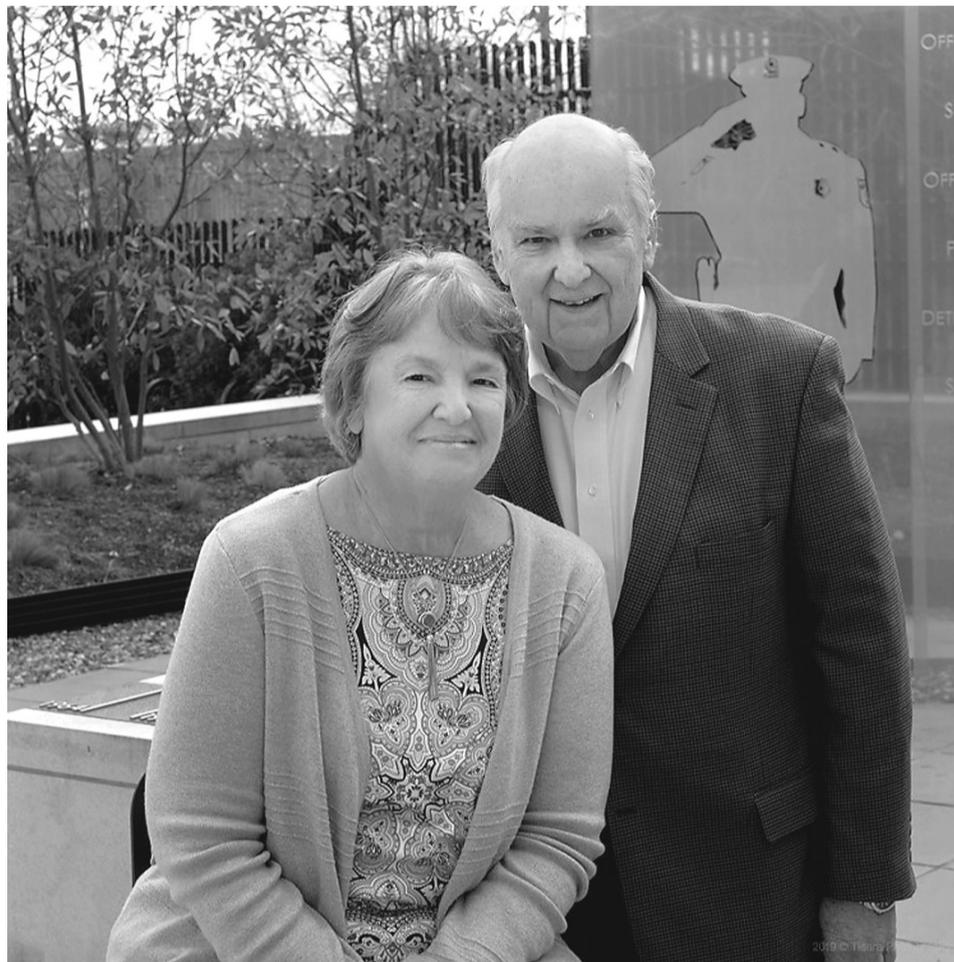
The Police Foundation supports a youth summer camp and sponsors activities to promote community-oriented policing, the 10-week Community Police Academy, Teen Law Enforcement Academy for kids 14-18 years old and a soccer program led by school resource officers. Richard and Ginny serve as volunteer executive co-directors making these programs and opportunities into a full-time job.

According to Ginny and Richard, the biggest challenge when they joined the Alexandria Police Foundation in 2012 was the building of the Fallen Officers Memorial in front of Alexandria Police Headquarters on Wheeler Avenue. The purpose was to create a living, breathing tribute to honor 18 fallen officers beginning with the first constable in 1823. Ginny's first husband, Corporal Charles W. Hill, is one of the officers honored on the memorial. Hill was killed in the line of duty in March of 1989 during efforts to free a teenage hostage.

Ginny says there was dedicated space for a memorial in front of APD headquarters but no City funds were available for construction. Ginny and Richard jumped in. With support of the Police Foundation board and using the same architect and construction company as had been used for the current building, they assisted in raising over \$400,000 to build the memorial. Construction began in 2014 and the Memorial was dedicated on March 28, 2015. Richard says this has been their biggest success so far.

It was not only an important tribute to the fallen officers but it also called attention to the rest of the programs sponsored by the Police Foundation.

The next project was the Cops, Kids and K-9s initiative to promote community-oriented police activities to increase understanding and solidify relationships in the community. One of these efforts partners



Ginny and Richard Obranovich are 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria.

unteer board of directors with fundraising goals. For instance, it costs about \$1,000 a year for canine insurance. There will be eight retired canines by the end of the year.

One of the most popular fundraising events is Karaoke for Cops. In its first year the police chief had just begun belting out "Footloose" when he declared he couldn't sing and brought on a surprise guest - Kevin Bacon - to finish his song. Many people from the community stepped up to the mic as well as officers and the mayor. Three officers sang "I Shot the Sheriff." Tickets were sold to be placed in glass bowls to vote for best voices. Richard said they raised \$3,000 the first year and doubled that amount the next year.

Another fundraiser is the annual show and reception at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, scheduled this year for September. For \$40-50 you get a show and good food which has been donated. This raises about \$10,000 for their programs. Other fundraising efforts include Doggy Yappy Hours and Chicks for Cops, an event attended by all women "except for the Chief."

In an overlapping role, Ginny serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Alexandria Police Department. She says she has about 30 volunteers who perform a variety of functions including fingerprinting for citizens who need it, data entry, patrol translators who ride with officers to handle conversations with non-English speaking citizens when necessary, and volunteers who help with the Alexandria Police Academy.

What's next? Ginny says this is the 150th anniversary of the Alexandria Police Department and activities have been planned for each month. Ginny says the foundation has been asked to do a reception at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial on July 15 as part of the celebration. On July 15th at City Hall (Market Square), the department is planning a program and will take a photo of retired and active officers at the same location as a photo taken 100 years ago. The original Police Station was located on the 100 block of North Fairfax Street, the original site of City Hall, and the original sign is still on the building.

Ginny says she and Richard are good partners in their Police Foundation mission. Through their efforts to foster community-police relationships and enrich the lives of the APD officers, they have added value to all the lives they touch.

cops with kids to shop for a holiday toy at Target. Ginny says about 30 low-income kids are recommended by the officers who know them from working in their communities. The officers take the kids shopping for presents for themselves or a family member.

Richard says by having contact with the kids at a younger age, the officers have a better rapport with the kids when they are older. The community policing efforts extend to providing Thanksgiving dinner to 50 needy families.

And Ginny says a new effort this year was photos with Santa. "It was a huge success. The kids got two presents and a photo with Santa."

Another popular effort was supporting the Alexandria Police Youth Camp, a nonprofit established by police officers that sends 150 kids to a one-week camp every year. Ginny says the Police Foundation funds 20 of those kids who can't afford to pay for camp.

Camp is located in Kilmarnock surrounded on three sides by water with waterskiing, fishing, and crabbing. The officers sign up to attend the camp and serve as counselors and chaperones, creating lasting bonds between officers and kids.

Part of the Police Foundation efforts is focused on holding family events for officers. Recently they held Law Enforcement Appreciation Day where they provided a light lunch for the officers. The Police Foundation also assists with college tuition for officers. Ginny says it isn't always so easy to be a police officer in today's climate, but Alexandria's police force is full of dedicated officers and the Police Foundation tries to recognize the importance of their service.

When Ginny and Richard are not coming up with new ideas to promote officer performance, morale and effectiveness and to foster relationships with police officers and the community, Ginny is challenging the all-vol-

PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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Annual Membership Drive. The Port City Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL), a premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, invites

women with daughters currently in 7th-12th grade, to join its chapter of 200-plus active mothers and daughters who reside in or attend school in Arlington, Alexandria, Springfield, Crystal City, or Washington, D.C. Visit the website: www.nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/portcity/

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ROLLBACK TO PHASE 2**
Due to the upward trend of positive

COVID-19 cases and increasing risk of transmission in Alexandria and its surrounding jurisdictions, Alexandria Library will resume its Phase 2 curbside-only and virtual services until further notice effective Monday, December 7.

Library Curbside Hours:
Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library including Talking Books Service
5005 Duke Street
Monday through Thursday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED
Kate Waller Barrett Branch and Local History/Special Collections
717 Queen Street
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Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday: CLOSED
Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch
4701 Seminary Road
Monday and Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday:

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Law Library
520 King Street, LL34 (by appointment only)
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Giving Thanks!

Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations



This has been a challenging year for all Alexandrians, but it has been especially difficult for many in our community. Through it all, the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations (ACHSO) member organizations and their teams have worked tirelessly to assist area individuals and families in-need.

Thank you to the 52 ACHSO member organizations for all they have done in 2020 and will continue to do in 2021.

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Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia
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Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance
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Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria
Tenants and Workers United
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The Campagna Center
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Another ^{Alexandria} Gazette Packet Community Partner

‘Getting Ready to Cast My Vote’ – Cassie Reddick Whitmore

The 14th Amendment became law in 1919, making it possible for all adults to vote, but Virginia did not ratify the 19th Amendment until 1952. Women throughout Virginia protested for the right to vote and they were allowed to vote in the 1920 Presidential election. The Presidential candidate Warren G. Harding who was favored by African Americans. Cassie Reddick Whitmore was one of those African Americans who registered to vote on Sept. 30, 1920. She was ready for her role as a full-fledged citizen to vote for a President that will help African Americans.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA

It was a rainy day on Nov. 2, 1920; the local newspaper had predicted the day before that the women who are voting should not wear their fancy dress because the weather will be very wet. That predication did not keep Cassie from casting her vote for Warren G. Harding, the man that many African Americans wanted to see in office. He was the man of Lincoln’s Party.

As a homemaker, Cassie must have felt proud by having the right to vote for a winning ticket. When she registered to vote on Sept. 30, 1920, she registered at two precincts: the Friendship and Lee School in Alexandria. She wanted to make sure she was registered.

Cassie was the daughter of a former slave. Her mother and grandmother came to Alexandria as contrabands during the Civil War. Their fight for freedom was instilled in Cassie. When the fight for civil rights came her way, she took advantage of it.

Unfortunately, Cassie never lived to see Virginia ratify the 19th Amendment. She died on March 23, 1951. Virginia ratified the 19th

Amendment on Feb. 21, 1952. Cassie was the first female in her family to vote.

After President Franklin D. Roosevelt was selected the 39th President in 1940, Cassie’s three youngest sisters registered to vote on July 17, 1941. Her sisters Mattie Reddick was a cook, Corinne Reddick was a domestic and Mabel Reddick was a dressmaker. All of them registered to vote. Cassie had inspired her siblings to exercise their right.

Cassie, Mattie, Corinne and Mabel were the daughters of Paul Reddick and Elizabeth Alexander. Their parents married in Alexandria, Virginia on March 18, 1869 by S. W. Madden, an early pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church. Paul was from Hartford, North Carolina and Elizabeth was from Loudoun, Virginia. Both of them came to Alexandria during the Civil War. They raised their children at 123 North Pitt Street.

On Sept. 26, 1900, Cassie married Charles Whitmore. Charles worked at the Navy Yard as a driver and Cassie worked at home. They owned their house at 314 ½ South Alfred Street.

Just eight years into their marriage, Charles Whitmore died at home leaving Cassie a widow and the children without a father.

Among Cassie’s siblings, she was the only one who got married. She had one brother and four sisters. Through Cassie’s descendants, her



Cassie’s great-granddaughter, Gale Arlene Brooks Ogden.



Cassie Reddick Whitmore.

family history still lives on, especially through her great-granddaughter, Gale Arlene Brooks Ogden. Gale is the family historian and a member of Alfred Street Baptist Church where her second great-grandparents married in 1869.

Cassie was a trailblazer for women’s rights. She was determined to play her part in history and to fight with other women for the right to vote. She left her family a proud legacy.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, columnist, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

National Park Foundation Hero Award for Warner Award for his efforts to pass the Great American Outdoors Act.

Monday, Dec. 7, at an outdoor and socially-distanced ceremony at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) was awarded the National Park Foundation’s Hero Award by Foundation President, Will Shafroth. The award commemorates Sen. Warner’s work in getting The Great American Outdoors Act, a bill he championed, signed into law.

“As a lifelong advocate of our national parks and public lands, I am honored to be an inaugural recipient of the National Park Foundation’s Hero Award. I am incredibly proud that Congress was able to come together and pass The Great American Outdoors Act this year, which included my bill – the Restore Our Parks Act – that will allocate up to \$6.65 billion to the National Park Service to address

critical maintenance needs at our beloved national parks,” said Sen. Warner. “This bipartisan legislation represents a truly once-in-a-generation investment in our national parks and other public lands that will protect these cherished sites for decades to come. It’s only fitting that we were able to celebrate at the Jefferson Memorial, which will in fact be one of the first projects to receive funding from the new law. Ushering the bill’s passage and eventual bill signing wouldn’t have been possible without the tireless advocacy of the National Park Foundation.”

“As we reflect on Senator Warner’s leadership in passing the Great American Outdoors Act, the National Park Foundation is proud to recognize his commitment to national parks across our nation,” said Will Shafroth, President &



National Park Foundation President Will Shafroth gives the foundation’s Hero Award to U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner at the Jefferson Memorial on Monday, Dec. 7.

CEO, National Park Foundation. “A true park hero, Senator Warner has been a champion for Virginia’s treasured places such as Shenandoah National Park, Great Falls Park, Petersburg National Battlefield, and Fort Monroe National

Monument, among others. He has also been a great proponent for the Foundation’s work to enhance national parks through philanthropy, and we are grateful for his ongoing support.”

SEE HERO AWARD, PAGE 7

Hero Award

FROM PAGE 6

The Great American Outdoors Act is a product of Sen. Warner's nearly three year initial effort to provide relief to national parks in Virginia, where the maintenance backlog currently sits at \$1.1 billion dollars.

In June, the National Park Service released a report that estimated that an average of 40,300 direct jobs and 100,100 direct and indirect jobs would be supported nationally by the Restore Our Parks Act if passed as part of the Great American Outdoors Act. In Virginia, it is estimated that 10,340 jobs would be created or supported as a result of Sen. Warner's push to address the national parks backlog.

In addition, a recent NPS study highlighted the financial impact national parks sites have on Virginia's economy. Last year, 22.8 million individuals from around the world visited national parks in Virginia, spending \$1.2 billion. Additionally, national parks in Virginia helped support 17,300 jobs and contributed over \$1.7 billion to the Commonwealth's economy. Because of the economic impact national parks have on communities across the country, more than 800 organizations have pledged their support for the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sen. Warner's effort to address the maintenance backlog began in March 2017, when he worked with Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) to introduce the National Park Legacy Act, which would have eliminated the NPS maintenance backlog by creating a thirty-year designated fund to take care of maintenance needs at visitor centers, rest stops, trails and campgrounds, as well as transportation infrastructure operated by NPS such as the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Arlington Memorial Bridge. That same year, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced its own

SEE HERO AWARD, PAGE 11

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NEWS

Scholarship Fund of Alexandria Women's Holiday Soirée Raises \$16,000

Local students with financial need rely on community support more than ever.

The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria held its annual Women's Holiday Soiree virtually on Dec. 3 to celebrate women and the power of community. The event, entitled "Hygge for the Holidays" brought nearly 60 women from Alexandria and beyond together via Zoom for toasting, holiday @home entertaining tips and a celebration of how scholarships can change lives for students with financial need.

The Soiree, which has thus far raised \$16,000 for scholarships, featured a signature cocktail-making lesson from The Majestic and Alexandria Restaurant Partners, a holiday floral design tutorial from Lily and Lilacs Floral Design and holiday family meal tips from Mindy's Catering.

"It was so wonderful to see so many familiar faces! I loved seeing longtime scholarship supporters and women who were new to the cause," said SFA Executive Director Beth Lovain. "Everybody turned on their camera, set up next to their sparkly holiday décor and really got in the spirit. It was tremendous fun."

2017 Titan graduate and 4-year SFA scholarship recipient Sugeivis Gomez joined the Zoom. She is in her senior year at Georgetown University, and reflected on how the SFA scholarship had not only enabled her to afford college, but also empowered her to be in control of her future. Gomez also shared the news that upon graduation she will join Deloitte as a consultant/analyst with its public sector practice in Arlington.

"Scholarships work. They create opportunities. They provide and open doors for eager and ambitious students like myself. My SFA scholarship provided



Sugeivis Gomez.

me with a stepping stone to endless opportunities," said Gomez. She added, "Please continue to be agents of change so that other boys and girls can take control of their future and their destiny."

"I was amazed at the warmth and community we were all able to share. At this difficult time, I think we really all needed to be together," said SFA Board Chair Priscilla Goodwin. "The pinnacle of the night was hearing from Sugeivis. She shared remarkable insight on how SFA has helped her along the way. She is the embodiment of the promise of our students and of the work that we do. There is great need among our students, but also great promise. It's really important, especially at this time, that we continue to invest in students and

their future."

"We are so grateful to all who made a gift during the event. The far-reaching effects of COVID-19 are having a devastating impact on local families and students with extreme financial need. The scholarships we provide have never been needed more in our 34-year history than right now," Lovain underscored.

All funds raised during the event will go directly to supporting college scholarships for students with financial need in the T.C. Williams Class of 2021. There is a \$5,000 match in effect -- thanks to a generous SFA donor, all gifts made to this campaign will be doubled up to \$5,000.

To make a gift to this campaign, go to <https://tinyurl.com/SFASoiree>

The SFA, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 1986 to help T.C. Williams students with financial need afford college. For the past 34 years, SFA has raised funds to support college access and scholarships for kids with financial need.

Since its inception, the Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$16.5 million in scholarships and helped send nearly 5,000 local students to college.



The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria annual Women's Holiday Soiree looked a bit different this year.

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THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

ENTERTAINMENT

Support Restaurants By Ordering Delivery

To give restaurants an extra boost while still staying home, order from establishments that offer their own delivery service.

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

When it comes to restaurant food delivery, there are two schools of thought: Spend all your dining-out money at the restaurant itself, or spread the wealth by ordering through a delivery service like GrubHub or UberEats. Both roads have their pros and cons, but if you're looking to give the restaurants themselves an extra boost while still staying home, it's best to order from establishments that offer their own delivery service. Here are a few of the top choices.

Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Old Town favorite featuring American fare has been taking to the streets, offering delivery to hungry diners around the area. Order some burgers, ribs, shrimp and grits or pasta, maybe with a pumpkin pie or mud pie for dessert – and don't forget some beers or wine to wash it down. Delivery offered from 4 to 9 p.m. daily. 703-836-4442.

South China Restaurant, 1302 Mount Vernon Ave.

Sometimes, the day calls for Chinese takeout and nothing else will do. When the craving hits, South China in Del Ray has you covered. Spring rolls, kung pao, lo mein, Mongolian beef – it's all here. As are some surprises, such as South China's Malaysian specialties, including Sayang Meehoon (fried rice noodles with tofu and shrimp) and chicken satay. Delivery offered from noon to 10 p.m. 703-549-5099.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 3

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run. At Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Opens nightly 5 to 10 p.m. Ice and Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run will return this year, featuring an ice rink, more than a dozen holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, retail area, food, music and more. The Ice and Lights Village is a short drive from Old Town. Masks are

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RT's, 3804 Mount Vernon Ave.

Need a little Cajun flair to spice up your appetite? RT's has you covered. Feast on crawfish and shrimp beignets, gumbo, etouffee, jambalaya and more in the comfort of your own home. The restaurant offers delivery within a two-mile radius (call and ask if you're not sure your location fits the bill). Noon-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday; noon-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Monday. 703-684-6010.

Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

From pad Thai to pad eggplant, from green curry to red curry to panang, Thanida Thai takes diners on a tour of Thailand – no passport required. Sweet and sour beef, chicken, pork or tofu will add a bit of tang and pop to the proceedings; the veggies chu chee will give diners a silky smooth sauce to accompany an array of vegetables. Don't forget the fried banana with ice cream for a sweet treat. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4 p.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; open until 9:30 Friday and Saturday. 3:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

required in all areas of Ice & Lights except when eating or drinking in the concession areas. Admission: \$8.16 for general admission to Village; \$20.68 for admission with skating; starting January 9, 2021, \$12.19 for skating. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Christmas at Mount Vernon. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Wash-
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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IN THE KITCHEN

Small Business Changes Course in Middle of Pandemic

Mindy's delivery dinners spread like wildfire in Del Ray.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Erin White has just returned from delivering 50 boxed chicken kabobs, couscous salad and cornbread lunches to hospital workers at Inova Alexandria Hospital on Nov. 17. She says the hospitals are suddenly busy again with COVID patients, and the workers are so glad to be recognized and to have a good meal.

Erin and her husband Bobby White, who live in Del Ray, own Mindy's, a catering company based in D.C. in the Palisades. They have dramatically switched gears since the pandemic hit in March. She says, "It was as if someone turned off the faucet. All of the offices who ordered lunch, all the events were suddenly gone." They had just bought out their partners in the business six months before COVID hit. "After 19 years we were ready to start a new era."

The Whites shut down the business until May 1 while they decided how to move forward. All of the employees were furloughed to unemployment. When Mindy's reopened it offered delivery dinners for 2, 4 or more guests on three days a week so they could still do some catering on the weekends.

She explains that they couldn't afford to offer dinners for more than three days because they had to keep the staff at a basic level with a chef and three cooks. "My husband and I do everything else. He makes all of the deliveries. We do the bookkeeping, ordering, and there is still some event planning."

Erin says there have been a few micro weddings. "That's the lingo in the business these days." This kind of wedding will be for 10-20 guests with each dinner plated and served — no buffets. When they arranged a Cherry Blossom riverboat wedding in Alexandria this summer each guest received an appetizer box with three-to-four nibbles or tastes. When they did an Arlington backyard wedding on Vacation Lane in July, they had a buffet but the host had arranged one way in and one way out with groups related to each other entering together.

She says the business they are doing right now allows them to do 30-38 percent of their previous business, "just enough to keep us open." When they started the new home delivery model, they promoted it to their neighbors in the D.C. Palisades neighborhood who knew them.

"Just on a whim we let our friends and neighbors know in Del Ray where we live, and it just spread like wildfire. We mentioned it to some of our friends and boom." Now she says 75 percent of their customers are in Alexandria and N. Arlington." Although the business is based in D.C., she says they pay taxes to the localities where the exchange takes place like Alexandria and Arlington.

Erin continues, "Almost everyone is a repeat customer. We have a woman who has ordered every week for 28 weeks since we started. She says Friday is her favorite day of the week. It is Mindy's day."



Mindy's has reinvented their catering business and now delivers seventy five percent of their home dinners to Alexandria and N. Arlington.



One diner has received their Mindy's dinner order of cordon bleu, brussels sprouts slaw and fettuccine with asparagus and peas. They will save the potato leek soup and cheddar biscuits for tomorrow's lunch.

Some folks who live out of town order for customers who live locally. One person from Colorado sends a meal to Alexandria so her mother gets good food every week. "We do a lot of gift certificates, someone who just had a baby, to thank a teacher, to cheer up a sick neighbor."

Mindy's delivers about 100 dinners a week and has the capacity to almost dou-

ble it. They were preparing to deliver about 100 Thanksgiving dinners in one day. "We have never catered Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners in 20 years because that three weeks was always so huge for us with holiday parties."

Now this year those holiday parties are not taking place, and Mindy's is overwhelmed by Thanksgiving orders. Erin says she thinks

things have changed with people not traveling this year due to the pandemic. "They are staying home instead of going to mom's where she cooked the dinner so they are ordering a Thanksgiving dinner this year."

Erin says their food is meant to satisfy a variety of tastes. "We try Italian, Mediterranean, Asian so you can order week after week and not get tired of it." She says they have done 28 weeks of dinners so they will do some rotating. She has enjoyed experimenting, like with the beet and feta salad. And people ask for repeats. "A 13-year-old neighbor walked by our home the other day and said 'I miss your meatloaf' so meatloaf is on the menu of choices this week."

"The dips such as pimento cheese or hot mushroom and caramelized dip have been ridiculously popular." She says beef bourguignon is always one of the top picks the week when they have it, and fish has been a big seller. "I think people are intimidated by cooking fish so we always have choices like scallops, salmon, cod, halibut."

Each week offers several appetizer choices such as interesting and inventive mixed salads, dips and soups; main courses including a beef, a fish as well as vegetarian main course and a choice of two side dishes. A dessert such as s'more bars, magic bars or chocolate covered macaroons from Maribeth's Bakery in Alexandria are also included.

"Maribeth's is in the same shape we are and continues to do wholesale for people who need it. Vendor partners are super important." She said that it's been amazing the community support for local restaurants in Alexandria and Arlington.

On a delivery day Bobby pops out of the lobster truck wearing his apron and his large Irish smile. Erin says Bobby immigrated from Ireland to America in 1988 and became a citizen on St. Patrick's Day in 1996. Erin credits Bobby's Irish gregariousness for much of their success. She says they have two sons, one at William and Mary and the other at George Washington Middle School who have promoted the business through their social media friends.

Erin says that catered food is meant to be transported and then reheated. Also the portions are generous which is how caterers think, 10 percent overage rather than a plated meal. "I think people like this. This means you might have leftovers and things like the curry couscous will keep for the next day. People order the soup which is an appetizer choice but save it for lunch the next day."

Mindy's can't operate long term on its current home delivery model base. "My optimistic hope is that when things go back to normal that we are building a new customer base, that the customers who have been getting home delivery will mention us to their office for lunch or remember us for the 50th anniversary party."

Erin concludes, "making a small business work in this atmosphere is hard but I feel like Alexandria and Arlington embrace the small business owners more than others, and for that we have been very lucky."

NEWS

Hero Award for Warner

FROM PAGE 7

proposal, drawing heavily on the initial proposal from Sens. Warner and Portman. However, the Administration proposal – which was introduced in the Senate as the National Park Restoration Act by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Angus King (I-ME) – would not have established a dedicated funding stream for NPS maintenance.

In March 2018, after extensive negotiations among Sens. Warner, Portman, Alexander, and King, the bipartisan group introduced the Restore Our Parks Act, a bipartisan consensus proposal endorsed by the Trump Administration, to invest in overdue maintenance needs at NPS sites. The bill would reduce the maintenance backlog by establishing the “National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund” and allocating existing revenues from onshore and offshore energy development. This funding would come from 50 percent of all revenues that are not otherwise allocated and deposited into the General Treasury, not exceeding \$1.3 billion each year for the next five years. In February 2019, Sen. Warner reintroduced the Restore Our Parks Act and, the bill was over-

whelmingly approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in November.

In March 2020, following the President’s announcement that he would back the bipartisan Restore Our Parks Act as well as full and permanent funding for LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund), Sen. Warner, along with Sens. Cory Gardner (R-CO), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Steve Daines (R-MT), Portman, King, Alexander, and Richard Burr (R-NC) introduced the Great American Outdoors Act, which would provide \$9.5 billion over five years to the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education to address the deferred maintenance backlog at these agencies. The new law would also provide permanent, mandatory funding for the LWCF, which provides states and local communities with technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve and protect public lands. Virginia has received approximately \$368.5 million in LWCF funding over the past four decades to help protect dozens of national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails and more.

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Legals

Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a license extension between the City of Alexandria and the Tall Ship Providence Foundation for the docking of the Tall Ship Providence in the City Marina.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a five-year license agreement with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation for docking the Maritime Heritage Center at its present location at the Alexandria City Marina.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a license agreement with ALIVE! Inc., to utilize a portion of the City-owned building located at 801 South Payne Street.

PUBLIC HEARING and consideration of an update to the City's Affordable Housing Contributions Policy and Procedures.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of an Amendment to the FY 2021 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development to include funding for Utility Assistance.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, and the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, as amended, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2020-00008. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2020-00008 to address the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on local business.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to Alexandria West Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2020-00004 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No 2020-00004 to amend the height map to allow a maximum height of 120 feet at the southwest corner of North Beauregard Street and King Street approved by the City Council on November 14, 2020.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Chapter 10 (CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION) of Title 12 (EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND WELFARE) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

City Code, Title 12, Chapter 10 provides for the creation, composition, quorum requirements, function and duties of the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission. This Code amendment will better align the Chapter with the composition and goals of the Children and Youth Master Plan, including revision of membership qualifications and removal of several subcommittees.

AN ORDINANCE making supplemental appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for fiscal year 2021. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the adoption of supplemental appropriations for the operation of the city government in fiscal year 2021.

ORDINANCES to grant a telecommunications facility franchise agreement to CELCO partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless; New Cingular Wireless, PCS, LLC ("AT&T"); and CROWN CASTLE. The three proposed ordinances grant telecommunications facility franchise agreements to the providers for use in the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday December 19, 2020. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

HOME LIFESTYLE

Christmas Casual or Go All Out?

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

As with many traditions, the pandemic is altering celebrations. Whether extravagant and lavish, minimalist and understated or somewhere in between, inspiration for holiday décor abounds. A group of tastemakers are offering an array of design ideas to make any home merry and bright this season.

Ease and Simplicity

"You can go casual and let yourself off the hook this year," said Amy Rutherford, owner of Red Barn Mercantile in Old Town Alexandria. "Just iron your tablecloth and linen napkins, forage for greenery to put in a vase and call it a day."

Understated décor is one of the themes that Sustainable Designer, Zelda Elisco of Abigail-Elise Design Studio is encouraging this season. "Decorate your mantle with a garland of greenery and wooden beads for the perfect minimalist look," she said. "Arrange the perfect holly bouquet in a large glass vase."

"If there's one thing we've learned from the pandemic, it's to simplify," added Anne Walker of Anne Walker Design and Farm & Feast in Potomac, Maryland. "Focus on what's really important. This principle applies to design as much as it does to life."

A stunning tablescape doesn't have to mean lavish and fussy, says Walker whose designs often incorporate reindeer antler candle holders and laser-cut wood Christmas trees in soft shades of beige. "The lack of embellishment allows each element to have a huge impact. A beautiful dining table is so restful in its simplicity [and] invites you to linger in peaceful, elegant spaces she said.

Find inspiration in nature

While a daylong shopping spree in search of the most festive dining accessories might not be feasible this year, creating a tablescape with natural elements allows for simplicity while maintaining elegance.

"Grab a magnolia leaf and write a name on it for a place card and attach it to your napkins with twine. Simple twine is always a fun way to wrap napkins," said Rutherford. "When you get your Christmas tree they have extra branches lying around. Pick up some of those and line them down the table. Sprinkle in candles, and fresh fruit like pomegranates, apples or oranges with cloves, which smell nice and are really pretty."

"Evergreen is a beautiful smelling green and lasts a long time," added designer Tina Yaraghi of The Enchanted Home. "I love mixing it in with fresh cut boxwood and eucalyptus. Keep a spray bottle with tap water on hand to spray every few days."

Natural elements can also be used to add color. "Try adding a vase filled with cranberries or hurricane candle holders to a tablescape, suggests Yaraghi. "You can place it in the center of a festive wreath. I also add fresh greenery in a little mint julep next to each place setting, which is such a beautiful and elegant touch."

"Votive candles add understated elegance and are a must have for any holiday table," she continued. "There nothing like the glow of candlelight [mixed] with greenery is always a beautiful look and I will often add faux white berries for a little something extra."



PHOTO BY THE ENCHANTED HOME

Etched hurricanes mixed with greenery and pinecones create an elegant tablescape.



PHOTO BY COURTNEY THOMAS, THE PICKET FENCE

Tiny Christmas trees made from bottle brushes add a splash of color to holiday décor.

A Twist on Traditional Accessories

Dining tables aren't the only spots to add Christmas cheer. "Fill your mantle with different styles of bottle brush trees in varying heights and put a wreath above it" said Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke, Virginia. "Bottle brush trees, which, as the name suggests, are made of the brushes that you use to clean bottles. They're popular this year. They were big in the 1950s, so they're kind of retro. You can also display them in groups of three or five and make a forest."

"Christmas villages have been really popular this year," continued Thomas. "Those are fun but for a side table, console or on a shelf."

There's Nothing Wrong with Extravagance

Even using decorations that you already own, simple doesn't mean lackluster. "Even if you normally go full tilt with glitter and glamour during the holidays, try something new this year," said Walker.

"For table settings, I say go big or go home," said Yaraghi. "I love bringing out all my silver, china, crystal. The more the merrier and if not for the holidays, then when?"

"Get a beautiful centerpiece and line the table with pretty candles," said Rutherford. "Embrace the moment, embrace it even though it might be your immediate family and not the 30 people you usually host. Go all out. Just because it's the four or six of you doesn't mean you can go all out."

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The waiting list for the Annie B. Rose House will open for new applications on Monday, January 11, 2021. To qualify you must be 62 years of age or an adult with a disability. To apply please visit our website at www.anniebrosehouse.com and click "Apply Now". We will not be accepting any applications in person. You must apply online. If you are already on the waiting list you do not need to reapply.



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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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Obituary



Our beloved **Rosalie Reamy Pulman Harrison**, from Alexandria, VA passed away on Thursday, December 3, 2020. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She is survived by her daughters Deborah (Roger) Bullock and Sue Ellen (Joe) Bonifer, grandchildren, Jed (Charmian) Bullock, Jacob (Marie) Bullock, Jaime (Dylan) Hullinger, Kelly (David) King, and Jesse aka Bumper Grant, and great-grandchildren, Cyril, Kenny, Eddie, Hallie, Brody, Bear, Kylee Rose and Summer.

She was preceded in death by her husband George Edward Pulman and then William Harrison. Rosalie moved to Colonial Beach, VA at a young age and graduated from Colonial Beach High School where she played basketball all four years. She moved back to Alexandria, VA after graduating high school. She worked for City Hall in Alexandria, VA in the finance department for 34 years. After retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and donating her time to Meals on Wheels. Forever in our hearts. A graveside service will be held December 11, 2020 from 10:00AM - 11:00AM at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, 21530 Coltons Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609.

Obituary

Announcements

Announcements



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Announcements

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-Werner Heisenberg

“Medican’t” Take It Anymore



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The non-stop - or so it seems, television advertising letting all of us viewers know that the 2020 Medicare Open Enrollment window is about to slam shut is nearly over. For those of us age 65 or older, this is not an opportunity to ignore. And given the frequency and repetition (the commercials are repeated, rarely ever different), at least on the channels that I watch (maybe that's the problem?), I feel like Bill Murray reliving his previous 24 hours endlessly in the movie, “Groundhog Day.” However, unlike the movie, I can't do anything to undo what is constantly bombarding me on television. Switching channels during the commercials wouldn't really help because usually I'm watching a specific program - in between the commercials, and switching back and forth seems like too much effort. Besides, I might lose the continuity of the program I'm watching if I were to mis-time my switch. I suppose I could mute the commercial but I've heard Joe Namath - and others talk about the “give back benefit,” the “zero dollar premiums in your area,” and the possible additional benefits: “vision including contacts, hearing aids and batteries, home-delivered meals, dental and rides to your doctor's appointment” so often that even if I couldn't hear Joe actually promoting, I would still hear what he's saying in my head since I've probably heard it already a hundred times since the enrollment period began.

As I sit and write this on Tuesday, Dec. 1, the end is near however: Dec. 7, 2020. On that day the senior-centric advertising party (solicitation) will be over. Then the commercials will cease and desist - for now, only to return next year in November when the 2021 Open Enrollment period begins anew. Perhaps I'll be more inclined to act then. After all, I am their target audience. However, my being a senior with a pre-existing condition: cancer, limits and complicates my options. In addition, changing plans means changing doctors and though change can often be a good thing, for me, considering my life occasionally hangs in the balance, change might not be a good thing. In fact, it could be a downright bad thing. I mean, my oncologist has kept me alive for almost 12 years since my Feb. 27, 2009 non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis. Granted, there may have been a slight revision of my diagnosis since three surgical biopsies performed earlier this year confirmed that what I actually have is papillary thyroid cancer. Nevertheless, changing now seems counterproductive, sort of. The damage is already done. I'm not sure there's much to gain now that a second opinion has similarly confirmed my updated diagnosis and has agreed with my current oncologist's treatment plan: Lenvima for me. But I do feel there's much to lose: nearly 12 years of treatment/experience with my present provider. And even though I understand that medical records can get transferred, I still feel I'd be putting myself at risk by forfeiting the knowledge that has been accumulated by the doctors who have been treating me/ managing my care.

I imagine it's typical that a patient's survival depends in part on their emotional and psychological make-up. And of course on the doctors and staff that have been responsible for their care. And though I am not unaware of the possible mistake/blip on my medical radar with respect to my actual diagnosis, I still feel that I should stay on the horse on which I rode in on, if you know what I mean? Switching plans would mean switching doctors, staffs, procedures, et cetera. And I'm just not sure if I'm emotionally (there's that word again) equipped to deal with such upheaval in my life/care.

All of this being said - and sort of anticipated, listening to all those Medicare Open Enrollment commercials has made Kenny a very dull boy, and an aggravated one at that. I'm not sure I can take much more of it. Thankfully, mercifully, the commercials will stop after Monday, Dec. 7. Although I think Joe did an excellent job promoting his cause, I'm afraid it's fallen on deaf ears. Now that I mention that, I wonder if my current provider offers hearing benefits.

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

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

ington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Visit Mount Vernon this winter to participate in holiday activities and meet special guest Aladdin the camel. Learn about camels and George Washington's interest in exotic animals during Camel Talks, offered Friday through Sunday beginning on November 27. Specialty tours give guests a deeper look into the holidays at Mount Vernon. During the tour “Mrs. Washington's Mount Vernon,” hear Martha Washington discuss the day-to-day planning needed for a busy holiday season. The “Holiday Dinner for the Washingtons” tour shares how food was grown, preserved and served during the holidays. Mount Vernon is open 365 days a year, including on Christmas Day. Admission: \$23 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit mountvernon.org/christmas

(480 King Street, Alexandria) is transforming into a Winter Wonderland. In addition to general courtyard seating with heat lamps and holiday décor, new this year, book an igloo for private dining for up to eight guests. This is ideal for social distancing as you are only in the space with your party, and the area is sanitized between parties. The igloos will each have heaters as well as the option to play your own music via a Bluetooth speaker. The igloos will be reservation required with a \$50 rental and \$100 food and beverage minimum. The rental will include a hot cocoa and cookie bar. For food and beverage, enjoy a tapas style menu with a southern twist and, of course, festive cocktails. Reservations can be booked online or via info@kingandrye.com, available as of December 2, 2020. Visit kingandrye.com/event/winter-wonderland

NOW THRU DEC. 20

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2021 calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags. Free admission. Market is December 4-6, December 11-13, December 18-20. Fridays 6-9pm and Saturdays & Sundays 11am-6pm. Please wear a face mask and maintain 6' personal space. Located at 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2020

DEC. 5 THRU JAN. 8

Old Town Business Holiday Lamp Post Art Walk. Along King Street and select side streets, Old Town Alexandria. The arts are alive in Old Town this holiday season with the debut of its first-holiday art walk. Don't forget the exceptional shopping and dining Old Town Alexandria has to offer. Old Town Business collaborated with 25 artists from The Art League to create holiday-themed lamp post art pieces along King Street and select side streets. A map of the artwork will be created so folks can stroll the art walk at their own leisure. Lamp Post Art will be located in the following areas.

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

DEC. 1-31

Small Works Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. “Small Works, Great Joy!” an all-member, all-media show of compelling small-scale works by our artists, priced affordably for holiday shopping. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

STARTING DEC. 1

ArtWalk. At various locations along King Street (Union to Diagonal), and select side streets, Alexandria. Old Town Business Association is partnering with The Art League of Alexandria to offer a holiday themed ArtWalk in Old Town along King Street (Union to Diagonal) and select side streets. Each block will feature a work of art adorning a lamppost. Maps may be found at oldtownbusiness.org beginning December 1, 2020. Keep an eye out for holiday trees located on both upper and lower King Streets. Visit oldtownbusiness.org

NOW THRU JAN. 30

Winter Wonderland. At King & Rye's courtyard

Absurd Leverage

FROM PAGE 3

about law enforcement, but in reality it's more about how law enforcement interacts with people with mental illness and people in crisis and mandatory minimums, which are well documented to have zero effect deterring crime.”

Testifying in support of the bill during the special session, Virginia Autism Project president Teresa Champion said nobody is advocating in favor of attacks on law enforcement. She described arguments that the bill would be threatening to law-enforcement officers as “damaging hyperbole,” adding that she hoped lawmakers would hear the voices of the disabled as part of the deliberations over the bill.

“Many individuals with disabilities do not have what is called purposeful control over their bodies,” said Champion. “My own son

has a tick disorder where he spits constantly. That's assault under this law.”

The Virginia State Police say they're concerned the bill would create a loophole for people who attack law-enforcement officials but do not inflict bodily injury, opening the door to the potential that officers who successfully block a punch won't be able to prosecute offenders. The Virginia Sheriff's Association said deputies across Virginia view the bill as diminished support for law enforcement. Republicans are united in their opposition to the bill, which received zero Republican votes in the House or Senate during the special session.

“I'm concerned that this bill will basically declare open season on police officers,” said Del. Ronnie Campbell (R-24). “I just think it's bad for law enforcement, and it sends the wrong message to the public.

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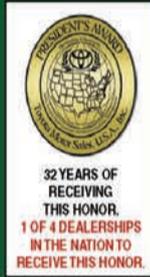
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