

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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JANUARY 28, 2021



Jan Buchanan, Executive Director
At Home in Mount Vernon.



Shannon Steene, Executive Director
Carpenter's Shelter.



Stella Hanly, Executive Director Animal
Welfare League of Alexandria.



Cele Garrett, Executive Director
At Home in Alexandria.

'We Are Still Here' Nonprofits adapt during pandemic with virtual events and services, PPP loans, and ingenuity.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, nonprofits have provided a lifeline to Alexandrians across the city. The economic upheaval has created a surge in clients even as organizations are upended from their normal routines.

Yet as the disruption to the nonprofit sector continues, organizations have pivoted, navigating social distancing guidelines and altered fundraising tactics to keep revenue flowing while providing critical services to the community. The leaders of several organizations shared the ways they have coped with the changes.

Shannon Steene, Executive Director Carpenter's Shelter

"The pandemic has been one lesson after another in contingency planning, in trying to figure out how to deliver on a mission when our classic ways of operating can't happen. The social distance requirement has been the biggest challenge for us – figuring out how to provide shelter without putting anyone's health at risk. In addition, for the first time in our history we did not have volunteers in the shelter. Still, we have seen some amazing innovations and resilience from this community.

"Our signature fundraiser is typically one where we gather 450-500 people in a tight space – the antitheses of social distancing. We did a virtual fundraiser in the fall. It did

"The pandemic has been one lesson after another in contingency planning."

— Shannon Steene,
Executive Director Carpenter's Shelter



Candace Beane and Jennifer Kilmer, The Twig.

not raise what the classic fundraiser would have but it did fairly well. I think people responded to the mission -- it wasn't about the actual experience it was about a service that they want to see continue. Staff did many things that were outside of their usual duties but they got it done because someone had to. I feel like I have the best seat in the house to see this community's generosity and I wish others could see what we can do when we band together."

Stella Hanly, Executive Director Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

"I think the biggest challenge for us was

to figure out how to still offer all the services that we provide but do it safely for our staff and our customers. We figured out how to do virtual adoptions, and surrenders are now by appointment only. Our community programs department, which provides services to those who want to keep their animals but are going through some sort of hardship, has grown exponentially because of Covid. Since March we have provided 13,000 pounds of food and supplies to community members, allowing them to keep their animals at home. While it wasn't something we really thought of before, offering more virtual options has proved to be pretty good so we will continue to offer a virtual component. Because of the nature of our business, we cannot work from home so I am very grateful to have staff who have continued to show up during this challenging time and to our loyal supporters that have allowed us to continue to offer our services without slowing down."

Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director Senior Services of Alexandria

"Our client base has more than doubled since March so we are delivering meals to a whole lot more people with a lot fewer volunteers. Fortunately, we have a mobile app that was put in place a couple of years ago that has helped get us through this and provide a much higher level of service than we would have been able to do otherwise. We did have to cancel our gala last year but our sponsors and people who bought tickets let us treat the money as donations so that helped us get through the first few months of the pandemic. We have been active in securing PPP loans and are constantly looking for new ways of getting support from the community. People know the work that we do, so it isn't difficult to justify our need for additional funds. Virtual fundraising is different but it has been successful. We had a very good Oktoberfest and are now planning our virtual gala for March 13. In addition to Gene Steuerle, Barbara Anderson and Bill Euille, we will also be honoring Kate Garvey and DCHS for the work they have done in the community. I don't think Alexandria would have responded nearly as effectively to the pandemic without Kate's leadership.

Cele Garrett, Executive Director, At Home in Alexandria

"A lot of the help that we provide is inside the home so we have had to put that on pause. Tech support is now done by phone and moving furniture or heavy boxes will only be done if we can get in and out of the home quickly. Errand running is even stronger during the pandemic and we never stopped giving rides to medical appoint-

SEE 'WE ARE STILL' ON PAGE 4

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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Fully Baked Alexandria senator leads effort to legalize marijuana in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The so-called “war on drugs” was a failure, locking up generations of Black men and tearing Black families apart. Now lawmakers in Richmond are finally coming around to realizing the damage that the prohibition against marijuana caused in minority communities. Last year members of the General Assembly approved legislation decriminalizing marijuana. This year, they may be on the verge of legalizing recreational use of marijuana — ending the failed war on drugs and adopting new equity measures to address some of the damage it caused.

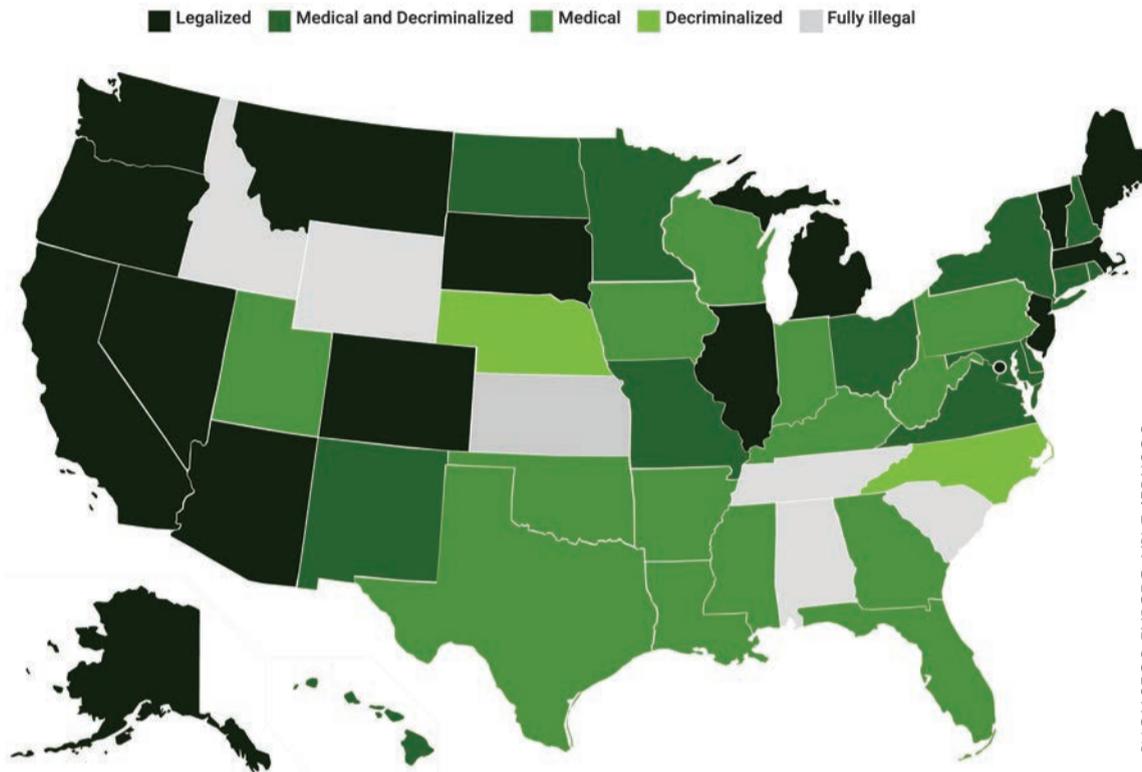
“The prohibition on marijuana has failed both in this commonwealth and in this country,” said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), who introduced the bill now being considered in the Senate. “The question is what is the role of government in telling people what they can and can’t use.”

Lawmakers are working their way through a number of issues, a measure of complexity reflected in the size of the mammoth 500-page bill. The legislation touches on everything from which government agency will regulate marijuana to how the tax revenue is spent and under what circumstances local governments can opt out of legalization. In his State of the Commonwealth Address, Gov. Ralph Northam explained the effort to legalize marijuana was an effort to combat systemic racism in Virginia.

“One of the early leaders of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency was clear that marijuana laws should be written explicitly to target people of color. And so they were, and they’ve been targeting people for years,” said Northam. “It’s time to join 16 other states and make marijuana legal, and end the current system rooted in inequity.”

THE MOVE FROM controlled illegal substance to regulated agricultural product will require a government

agency to issue licenses and oversee a newly created industry. The governor initially wanted that job to be assigned to the Virginia Alco-



SOURCE: DISA GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

holic Beverage Control Authority, an organization created when the failed prohibition against alcohol ended a century ago. Northam argued that using an existing agency would take less time and cost less money than standing up a new agency.

“ABC is the only state agency in the commonwealth that has the experience of regulating a product that is as controlled and also a product that was formerly totally prohibited,” said Brad Copenhaver, deputy secretary for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry. “So we know that we can gain a lot of efficiencies and a lot of knowledge working with ABC.”

When Ebbin’s bill was considered by the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, senators took issue with the governor’s approach. Several senators pointed out that the main goal for ABC is enforcing the state’s monopoly on liquor, and that law-enforcement experience wouldn’t

translate well to helping a new industry regulate and market an agricultural crop. The agency’s lack of diversity was also a problem for a legislative effort guided by equity.

“I think this is too much for ABC to handle,” said Sen. Lionell Spruill (D-5). “We need another agency that has the time and the know-

how to put all the staff together to make this thing work for us.”

THE EXPERIENCE legalizing alcohol is informing how marijuana will be legalized when the governor signs the legislation. Local governments that want to prohibit the sale of marijuana at the local level would need to go through some difficult and expensive steps in order to opt out of legalization. They would not be able to do it with a vote of a city council or board of supervisors. Instead, they would need to conduct a referendum and have a majority of voters approve a new local prohibition against retail locations.

“It will be legal in jurisdictions for a period of time before a referendum could even be held by the locality to determine whether they want to opt out,” said Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-4). “I have some concerns about whether a jurisdiction can take away that right without it being a taking once it’s vested and someone has established a shop.”

Supporters of the legislation point out that local governments must conduct a referendum to implement a local prohibition against commercial sale of alcohol. One of the principles guiding the discussion is that the marijuana le-

galization effort should mirror the alcohol legalization effort a century ago, although nobody is making the case that the newly created Virginia Cannabis Control Authority should hold a monopoly on the product the way ABC controls the liquor market.

“Choosing an opt-out process is just about shifting the process burden to make the default, yes, you can have a business here,” said Ngiste Abebe, a member of the governor’s task force on legalization. “There will be time before the retail shops are allowed to open, so communities that are passionate about not having retail cannabis locations can organize and conduct a referendum before the retail shops open.”

LICENSES FOR SELLING marijuana will be extremely valuable, and lawmakers are keenly aware of the danger posed by creating an industry where Richmond-based Altria would be able to corner the market and exclude Black communities that were devastated by the war on drugs. That’s why the bill includes language created social-equity licenses, making sure the gold rush for Virginia kush won’t go to fat-cat corporate titans who make millions selling cigarettes to teen-

agers.

“I grew up in an area where we have a lot of minority farmers, and quite frankly they’re pretty good at growing pot,” said Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28). “Do those folks have the opportunity to get into this? Or is this just a corporate giveaway?”

This is the part of the legislative debate that’s causing the most concern for lawmakers and advocates. The bill now under consideration attempts to thread the needle between providing a business carve-out for communities that were the target of the failed war on drugs while also creating a market that allows capitalism to thrive and tax revenue to flow. People who follow the industry expect Altria to be waiting for federal legalization, so Virginia could have an opportunity to help small and minority businesses to establish themselves before they face that corporate competition.

“Not only do we have Altria in our backyard, but we have the burgeoning cannabis industry that will be knocking at Virginia’s doors,” said Jenn Michelle Pedini, executive director of Virginia NORML.

RETAIL SALES won’t be the only way people can get marijuana. People will be able to grow plants at home. The current bill allows a total of four plants per household, two mature plants and two immature plants. Republicans tried to strip this provision from the bill last week, but that effort failed as Democrats passed the bill out of the Senate Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee.

“This should be viewed the same as alcohol in terms of you can home-brew alcohol like my grandfather did back in Franklin County,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “There’s consequences for selling alcohol if you make it at home and don’t tax it, and I view it akin to that.”

One of the potential pitfalls with the four-plant limit is that it would apply to a household, not an individual. So if two or more roommates want to grow marijuana plants, they would need to figure out a way to distribute the household limit among themselves. Critics say the limitations create the possibility for a new war on plants.

“The whole four plan thing is a bit far-fetched for home growing,” said Mike Thomas of Grow Your Own RVA. “Cannabis is a medicine, and a lot of clients or patients have more than one medicine, so they would need a plant for pain, a plant for sleep, maybe a plant for appetite.”

“The prohibition on marijuana has failed both in this commonwealth and in this country.”

— Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

“It’s time to join 16 other states and make marijuana legal, and end the current system rooted in inequity.”

— Gov. Ralph Northam



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director Senior Services of Alexandria

Tammy Mann, President and CEO Campagna Center

‘We Are Still Here’

FROM PAGE 1

ments. We have not done a virtual fundraiser to replace our usual fundraiser since our volunteers are so busy helping our members that we can't pull them away to do a virtual fundraiser. Nonprofits like AHA are less publicly visible in the community right now but we are busier than ever. I think that speaks for all nonprofits. You might not see it but everyone is working harder this year. There is always a place for a true fundraiser whether it's virtual or in person but don't kid yourself – a virtual fundraiser is just as labor intensive as an in-person fundraiser – it's just different."

Candace Beane, Jennifer Kilmer, The Twig
Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital

"We decided to be fundraising neutral this year and do what we can to cover our expenses. Our biggest goal was to keep our membership engaged and committed so we continued to have our monthly meetings on Zoom with some outdoor opportunities to meet and social distance. We used this opportunity to look at our overall organization and see where there are opportunities to tackle some things that we haven't had time for before -- in essence doing some house-keeping. We did have to scale back hours at the shop and set up donations by appointment. Our two big fundraisers are The Twig shop and our homes tour. We had to cancel the tour but will be back in Sep-

tember and the shop will be open in the limited hours as we are able. We launched a new fundraising campaign called Together We Ignite Giving, which is aimed at local business, corporations and individuals. That has been good so far and we are excited about that."

Tammy Mann, President and CEO Campagna Center

"We are a direct service organization so everything we do involves having to work directly with children and families in person. The largest challenge is pivoting and trying to find ways to continue our services. Some families cannot work from home and so making certain our services are accessible is a priority. We are one of the ACPS Virtual Plus partners and provide tutoring for students who need to access in-person learning. Our New Neighbors program has been completely online this past semester and we had almost 70 students being supported through virtual English language learning classes. Getting parents more acclimated to technology, getting staff more acclimated to technology – it's been a swift learning curve for us. Fundraising looks very different. We did not have the Scottish Walk this year, which generates over \$250,000 for us. We did a virtual Oktoberfest that was fairly successful but that's been the only virtual fundraising we have done. It would have been a very different reality for us had we not been able to secure a PPP loan to get us

through the early months of the pandemic. But we are still here and proud to be doing the work that we are doing in the community."

Jan Buchanan, Executive Director Mount Vernon at Home

"The pandemic was a sucker punch that caught the world off guard. But when the world closed down, area villages opened wider because staying home suddenly became the safest place to be. Pre-pandemic, our village was a thriving center of activity, hosting in-person events and gatherings each week and providing transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and more every day. All of that came to a halt. We quickly pivoted, taking our activities online using Zoom and setting up a grocery shopping and delivery service using volunteers who were able to get out. Now, more than 10 months in, MVAH has increased its participation in online events almost two-fold. The hard work to ramp up and quickly adapt has paid off. Our annual fundraising event became an online event that was a resounding success, raising nearly as much as the in-person events in years past with much less cost. Seniors have shown their strength and resilience in the face of this pandemic. They have adapted brilliantly and shifted to a new world of technology. And villages like Mount Vernon At Home have demonstrated the vital role these organizations play in helping people thrive in the community."

Health Science Academy to Benefit From Mobile Facility

In fall of 2021, students of the Governor's Health Sciences Academy at T.C. Williams High School will have the use of a state-of-the-art mobile facility designed to develop real-life medical career skills.

Titans enrolled in the Academy will benefit from an Immersive Learning Center — a 40-foot-long classroom/laboratory on wheels that will provide state-of-the-art technology, simulation, and immersive virtual reality and augmented learning experiences.

It comes thanks to a \$700,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia to the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences which partnered with T.C. to establish the GHSA. The money will fund the new Community Medi-Corp Program of which this facility is the centerpiece.

Currently under design and construction, the mobile resource will rotate between ACPS, Fairfax County Public Schools and Arlington Public Schools. It will create an additional teaching space that will also benefit the health of the community. Students will be able to travel to practice their newly-acquired skills at city health events.

"This will be a wonderful additional resource for our students both to learn in as a classroom but also as a way to get out and implement skills in real life situations," said Michele Coffman, Health Science Academy Coordinator.

Inside the wi-fi enabled vehicle will be a multitude of learning tools from crash carts to mannequins to stations for research to microscopes and blood pressure cuffs, a 3-D printer and laptops.

In some areas, students will be able to conduct laboratory experiments and research, other areas can be set up to receive visitors at community events.

One of the most exciting elements is the use of virtual and augmented reality equipment. Students will wear goggles programmed with software that allows them to take a 3D interactive view of the human body, perhaps peering into an organ for example or rotating a bone. Students can hold a stylus that when held in front of the goggles turns into a scalpel or a pipette, allowing experiments to be conducted or dissections to be carried out.

All 20 laptops will also be

programmed with 3D software that allows images to 'jump' out of the screen.

While only 20 students can use the lab at any given time, it is hoped lessons will be streamed into traditional classrooms.

While working on the mobile unit, another partnership was formed with the Biomedical Mentorship program. Through this program students in the GHSA will have the opportunity to be paired with a mentor in the field and work on a virtual research project.

The GHSA is an innovative partnership between GW and ACPS which was established in 2018 to respond to the region's urgent need to expand training for high-demand health care careers, promote career pathways in health and STEM-focused fields.

The academy offers students numerous career and technical education pathways: in biomedical informatics, medical laboratory sciences, sports medicine, emergency medical services, nursing, and surgical technology. Academy students can earn up to 18 college credits from GW while in high school.

The academy's first cohort of 85 students will graduate from high school in 2022. As many as 400 graduates are expected by 2025. Academy graduates earn their high school diplomas, career-related industry certifications, college credits for coursework, and guaranteed admission to various health professional programs at GW. "We are excited to receive this grant and start work on the collaborative Community Medi-Corps Program and its Immersive Learning Center," said Linda Zanin, EdD, director of strategic partnerships at SMHS. "This initiative will allow students to engage and work together to problem-solve, use virtual technology, and interact with experts in the life and health science fields."

Dr. Zanin added, "our industry, community, secondary, and higher education partners are committed to investing and supporting learning that connects students with real-life learning experiences, preparing them for higher education and the workforce. Our goal is to inspire youth to explore and connect, as we create tomorrow's next generation of health care leaders."

Julian Wilson Everly Sr. Funeral home scion dies at 89.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home is one of the oldest businesses in Alexandria, dating back to 1849, when Benjamin Wheatley opened for business on the waterfront. The family made their own caskets, the first ones resembling ice boxes with ice in the bottom to preserve the body. They were one of the first in the country to do embalming as they helped prepare bodies for troops during the Civil War to preserve them until they could be sent home.

In the early 1920s, patriarch Josiah Stickley Everly entered the picture and began a family tradition that was passed down to his sons, including Julian Everly.

Julian Everly was a mainstay at the business, building the company into a household name throughout the region. On Jan. 12, Everly died at the age of 89.

Julian Wilson Everly Sr. was born Jan. 1, 1932, to Josiah and Ruby Everly. He was born and raised in Alexandria and attended



Julian Wilson Everly Sr. died Jan. 12 at the age of 89.

St. Stephens School and George Washington High School. During his high school years, Everly became a star athlete, lettering in four sports. Everly spent most of his life in Alexandria, where he and his brother John were known as the mischievous “bad boys of Rosemont” in their youth.

It was during this time that Everly met the love of his life, Jean Walker Wiley, and the two were married on Dec. 27, 1952. Everly and his bride spent their first year



Julian and Jean Everly, seated, with Elizabeth Everly Shockley, Wilson Everly and Linda Everly Smith in a 2015 family photo.

of marriage attending Virginia Polytechnic University and Mary Washington College respectively. He enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1953 and following four years of

active duty returned to Alexandria to work with his father and brother at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home.

Over the years, ownership of the business changed hands with

the Everly family purchasing the business from the Wheatley family in 1933. Under the construction guidance of Simpson Construction,

SEE JULIAN WILSON, PAGE 11

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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We Still Need Your Help

Thank you to hundreds who have supported us financially, and with warm words of encouragement.

By MARY KIMM

In 2009, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and after a year-long journey of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, I have been fine. Sometimes I will run into someone (well, I haven't actually been out to run into anyone since March) or talk to someone who will ask, "How are you?" with a tone of concern, and I realize they are wondering about my cancer. (Yes, I did go out for my mammogram. More than a decade cancer-free, thank you!).

2009 was also the onset of steep declines in newspaper advertising revenue, and that has been a pernicious and persistent problem.

Right now, when I hear that tone of concern (or something a little more ominous) with the "And how are the papers doing?" this person is asking about the GoFundMe, and whether we anticipate that we will survive the pandemic.

At the end of 2020, the Connection Newspapers shared a GoFundMe drive that would help all of our papers, including our flagship, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing since 1784, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Arlington Connection, Great Falls Connection, McLean-Vienna Connection, Centre View-Chantilly, Reston and Herndon Connection, and the Burke, Spring-

field, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Clifton, Lorton Connection plus the Potomac Almanac.

We set a goal of \$50,000, and thanks to community support, in

a month we have topped 50 percent of that. Thank you so much.

There is no deadline. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-americas-oldest-newspaper>

How did we get here (I keep asking myself)?

We are facing an existential threat in the combined crises of a long-running decline in newspaper advertising, plus the onset of the pandemic and the economic shutdown that has come with it. (Newspaper advertising revenue overall fell more than 60 percent from 2008 to 2018, well before the pandemic.)

In the first week of the shutdown in March, the drop in revenue for us, and everywhere, was breathtaking.

Fortunately, some long time advertisers have stayed the course and kept our revenues from moving actually to zero.

But many restaurants, retailers and others are also facing an economic crisis that could lead to extinction. We are not the only ones. Businesses, families and individuals floundered for months after early federal help, desperately in need of more help. Now we know more federal help is on the way, but is not here yet.

More than 160,000 businesses in the US closed just between March and August of last

year due to the pandemic, and that number is likely vastly underreported. While local newspapers were already suffering from advertising declines, the loss of thousands of local businesses as potential advertisers is a setback, and not just for The Connection. Event advertising, a mainstay, has disappeared.

Community support has come, through GoFundMe, and other means — many have mailed checks payable to their favorite newspaper, to 1606 King Street, Alexandria, Va. 22314, and others have purchased ads as a way to lend financial support. Words of encouragement and appreciation have also meant so much to all of us here.

So what is the plan? Our GoFundMe, as it continues to grow, will allow us to bridge the operational gaps between a deep valley and the arrival of the funds from the Paycheck Protection Program (through local banks). And that will give us time to grapple with the question of how to reinvent ourselves and create an organization and revenue stream that will sustain us. Our writers and others connected to us are full of ideas.

I'm sure our readers, advertisers and supporters are also. Please let us know.

We are experts at cost-cutting, and that has been a painful, ongoing process.

Now we will embrace a combination of solutions, because just one source is unlikely to unravel the tough situation that we face.

More thoughts next week.

Mary

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abolishing the Death Penalty: Liberal Legislative Twist?

Why am I always the one who has to write letters like this challenging the latest liberal legislative twist? The Democrat governor and the liberals now in charge in Richmond want to abolish capital punishment. The public should look beyond their righteous rhetoric and ask instead whose interests they really are serving.

The bill's Senate sponsor Scott Surovell inadvertently conceded that the bill lacks public support by using as a reason to support the bill the finding that 43% of prospective jurors are disallowed from death penalty cases because their opposition is a disqualification. Since jurors are drawn from voter rolls and other public sources, Sen. Surovell inadvertently admits that 57% of the Virginia public supports the death penalty, so why is he carrying water for the minority which doesn't?

The principal reason for having a death penalty is that it is proportionate justice for serious crimes. Do death penalty opponents seriously believe that execution was not the appropriate punishment for Dylann Roof, whom GQ termed "a most American terrorist" for gunning down participants in a prayer group at an African American church www.gq.com/story/dylann-roof-making-of-an-american-terrorist? Do they doubt his guilt? How about James Alex Fields Jr. who killed Heather Heyer with his vehicle at the Charlottesville riots in August 2017? Fields jerked Charlottesville's liberal prosecutor around and required a full trial, resulting in a sentence of life plus 419 years (does anyone expect him to serve that long?), but in his federal trial, where one of the charges carried the death penalty, Fields pled guilty to all the ones which didn't https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlottesville_car_attack#Investigation_and_prosecution, demonstrating the death penalty's ability to exact justice by making perpetrators own up to their crimes.

Whose interests are these death

penalty opponents promoting in Richmond -- not the 57% which support the death penalty? Maybe then the criminal defense bar and potential perpetrators of the most serious crimes?

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

The Flaws of Landmark

Citizens of Alexandria, the Inova Hospital has decided to pull up stakes and move the hospital to the Landmark area of Alexandria to build a twin tower state of the art hospital of 230 beds, complete with a trauma center, a medical office building as well as 2,500 residential units including some retail. The bill for the city in this endeavor is \$130 million, \$76 million for the sewers and parks etc. as well as \$54 million for the land which will be paid in bonds for 30 years by means of the taxes generated by the development of 2,500 residential units.

In a recent article it was stated by the city that this Landmark development would generate \$778

million dollars over a 30 year term as a result of tax revenues from the Landmark project. Sounds like a winner doesn't it? Well no not really.

I am concerned about the \$130 million dollars that will be spent on this new Landmark project. I am concerned with the need of renovation of our two middle schools Francis Hammond and GW Middle School. I am concerned that our elementary and pre-schools have only two schools that have been renovated – Patrick Henry and Jefferson Houston. Douglas MacArthur next in line with 10 other schools to follow.

The city and school board have a penchant of excessive spending: Jefferson Houston was budgeted for \$36 million allocated for the renovation. The final cost when completed was \$44 million — 18 percent over budget. Patrick Henry, \$44 million promised, finished at \$62 million – 40 percent over budget. And the recent cost of Douglas MacArthur Elementary School is planned at \$96 million vs the original \$66 million – a 45 percent increase. Minnie Howard cur-

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In Virginia: Vaccines & COVID Recovery

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN (D-30)



Ebbin

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), health care professionals, and Virginia's Medical Reserve Corps continue to work overtime to care for those afflicted with COVID-19. This work now involves the distribution of vaccines to prevent future cases. Unfortunately even as we grow our capacity to vaccinate, Virginia, like many other states, continues to see an increase in the number of cases and hospitalizations daily.

In the General Assembly we continue to feel the great burden of the deaths, the fears, and the long-term effects of this virus. Our colleague Sen. Ben Chafin (R-Russell County) passed away from COVID-19 complications just days before our session began, and his empty seat is a continual reminder of the loss far too many have experienced over the last year.

While we must take as many steps as possible to mitigate the damage of this pandemic, the key to beginning our recovery is vaccinations. The good news in Virginia is that we are on the way. At the time of writing, close to 420,000 Virginians have received their first dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

While the vaccine is not mandatory, I strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as you are able, and continue to comply with the recommendations of health experts to wear a mask, maintain social distance, and frequently wash hands to prevent the spread.

Vaccine prioritization is coordinated at a Federal level — through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Defense, in collaboration with state health officials. There is, obviously, high demand for the vaccine and many groups merit early vaccination. To complicate matters, there is only so much of the vaccine available for each state. That said, I am confident that the CDC and VDH are following the science and working hard to ensure that vaccinations are equitably distributed as efficiently as possible based on the schedule developed with the Federal Government. Let me be clear: everyone deserves an opportunity to be vaccinated, and eventually everyone who wants to be will be vaccinated. With the whole world seeking and competing for doses, we are faced with the difficult decision of prioritizing people by definable groupings. In Virginia, this does not speak to any person's merits, but rather to the risk posed to the majority of that pool for contracting and dying from the novel Coronavirus. You can determine when you will get vaccinated by checking your local Department of Health website's phase schedule.

Only thirteen other states have vaccinated more people than Virginia, the twelfth largest state. But the reality is that every state is struggling to meet the demand for vaccines due to the expansiveness of this undertaking and the former administration's handling of the vaccine distribution. The needed stockpile of vaccine doses from the federal government, promised by former President Trump's administration, has failed to materialize. This failure means every state is under-supplied. Right now shot-giving in Virginia is outpacing the supply we're receiving from the federal government. We are administering an average of 19,000 shots per day -- 5,000 more than we're receiving.

I am glad that Governor Northam has responded to this curveball by assigning Dr. Danny Avula to coordinate the necessary work between state health officials, local health departments, hospitals, private providers, and communities. The Virginia National Guard will provide logistical support and help local health departments in the administration of vaccines. The Virginia Department of Health, the Governor's Administration, and Virginia Hospital Association are

coordinating with medical facilities around the Commonwealth to get shots in people's arms. I co-sponsored legislation from Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant (R-Henrico) which will expand locations where vaccines can be distributed and mobilize volunteers to provide vaccines. This emergency legislation has passed the Senate and is headed to the House for their consideration.

The first goal laid out by Governor Northam is to clear all our storage freezers. Medical facilities have been directed to use up everything they have, quickly, to get more. Our immediate target is to move to vaccinating 25,000 people a day. Within a few days, Virginia will meet this goal: by the end of last week, more than 18,000 shots were being given daily. Ultimately, 50,000 people a day will receive a dose. Online tools are being rolled out to answer your questions about the vaccine, to understand your phase of the process, and to register locally. Beyond vaccinations, the pandemic continues to compound other issues in our society and daily lives. We see this as cases of Covid per 10,000 people are higher for Latinos and other communities of color than among White people. We see this as those without a safety net are evicted or threatened with eviction. We see this as food insecurity rises in our communities and volunteers at food banks decline. That is why Virginia's vaccine campaign is rooted in health equity, prioritizing those with an elevated risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19, including those in long term care facilities, people sixty-five or older, frontline workers, the homeless, people with underlying conditions, the incarcerated, and migrant workers.

To address these inequities, I am proposing legislation that will expand the statutory damages a tenant can recover when unlawfully evicted, a trend we have seen growing throughout the pandemic. As a member of the Finance and Appropriations Committee, I have also filed several budget amendments to alleviate the strain of this pandemic. These include:

\$500,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank, to assist with their vital food distribution services in northern Virginia.

Funding to expand Medicaid coverage in relation to COVID-19 to currently underserved immigrant populations. Additional funding to Northern Virginia Family Services for wrap-around services including food, homelessness prevention, and child care.

An amendment to ensure that our Free Clinics are included in new Federally allocated aid dollars.

I acknowledge the frustration many of us feel. We finally have a way to the end of this nightmarish chapter, and that makes any delays, errors, or setbacks all the more exasperating. I would like to thank you for your commitment to protecting one another and for your patience as, one by one, we each receive the protection of a trusted, scientifically proven, preventive medicine.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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Short-term Animal Guests Bring Joy to Those Who Foster Them

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET
GAZETTE PACKET

Picture this: You're sitting comfortably on the couch, working on your laptop computer from home, as five tiny kittens purr and cuddle on your lap, vying for your attention.

That's one way to push through a pandemic.

For roommates Kathryn Hockman and Aya Takai, the litter of five kittens who came to stay for a few weeks at their apartment last fall was just what they needed. "Neither of us had fostered before, but we realized that we suddenly had a lot of time and we love animals, so fostering would be a great way to help them find homes," said Hockman.

Each of the month-old kittens, who had been found orphaned and brought to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), had a distinct fur color and character, led by "Freddy," who was the big boy of the litter, both in size and personality. They renamed the kitten called Chucky as Chunky because she ate so much and often was covered with food particles.

Hockman and Takai set up a playpen for the energetic kittens, from which they quickly escaped, so the pair used plastic panels provided by the AWLA to help isolate them in a specific area. The two women became proficient at swaddling kittens for special baths in the sink, especially to combat fleas. "The AWLA was so responsive," Takai said. "We always felt that if we had a question, there would be someone to respond and help us out."

Hockman and Takai are two of the hundreds of families who provide foster care for the AWLA. The program is designed to provide temporary at-home care and enrichment, especially for animals in need of regular medications or health management, animals too young for adoption, and those who need extra socialization. Animals overwhelmed by the bustle of the adoption floor also benefit from a stay in a home, where they can learn to coexist with people and perhaps other pets — and be observed to provide valuable information for the shelter's adoption staff.

A robust program before the pandemic, it has swelled in the past year. In March, as the shelter closed to visitors and many AWLA staff members switched to working from home, the shelter turned to fosters to house most of the animals. One challenge, said foster care coordinator Kimberly Weilnau, was finding fosters willing to take animals for extended periods of time and providing abundant supplies to them to minimize interaction with shelter staff for the safety of all involved.

By the end of March, the majority of the shelter's animals were being cared for in foster homes, said foster care coordinator Elena Carver, including guinea pigs, birds and even a turtle. But as the spring went on, emails and calls poured in from people in need of a quarantine buddy and hoping to



PHOTO BY PATTY VINALL

Patty Vinall's dog Millie, at home with foster kittens Pickles and Peach



PHOTO BY PATTY VINALL

A foster kitten sleeps through a lacrosse game while under the care of Patty Vinall of Annandale.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN HOCKMAN

Work-at-home goes better with foster kittens, according to caregivers Kathryn Hockman and Aya Takai.

help out. "There were a lot of requests for kittens and small dogs," Carver recalled. "For a while we didn't have enough animals to satisfy the demand."

The foster staff split its time between working at the shelter and from home, with no interruption in support for fosters and their animals. They even made home deliveries of supplies to foster "parents" who

could not venture from their houses. The AWLA provides all the basic food and other supplies for animals in foster care.

The pandemic also prompted the staff to develop an online system for orientation of new foster volunteers, to continue to expand the team of foster caregivers and meet the requests of the many interested families. Instead of coming to the shelter, new fosters

now fill out a short questionnaire, then read an informative presentation about what's involved in fostering, followed by a short quiz. "We connect with at least 30 new fosters a month this way, whereas the typical in-person orientation would yield only about half of that number," Weilnau said.

Through it all, the AWLA's regular cadre of fosters continued to work its magic. Patty Vinall has fostered nearly 90 animals since 2016, including cats, kittens, dogs and puppies, in her Annandale home. "I love both puppies and kittens," she said, "though kittens are a lot easier — they usually go right to the litter box." Over the years Vinall has taken on several baby animals in need of round-the-clock bottle feeding and care, including one tiny brown tabby kitten she wrapped in a blanket, placed in a basket and took to her daughter's lacrosse game so she could keep a watchful eye on him.

Vinall often finds her foster kittens curled up asleep in the storage drawers under her bed. Her two dogs (one a former AWLA foster) and pet cat (also a former AWLA foster) take the stream of visitors in stride, her dog Millie often engaging the kittens in play. "When a new one arrives, the pets just seem to say, 'Ok, we've got someone else coming in,'" Vinall said.

Vinall believes the only "lows" in fostering come when it's time to say good-bye to the animals she has come to care about as they ultimately find their new homes. "But there are a lot of highs," she said. "You really bond with them and feel like you're doing something worthwhile."

OPINION

Regional Travel Survey Shows Benefits of Walkable, Transit-Oriented Places

Coalition for Smarter Growth shares Council of Government's report highlights on walkable, transit-oriented places like Alexandria and Arlington.

Biking and Walking:

"Among the key findings of the survey has been the growth in biking and walking in the core jurisdictions of DC, Arlington, and Alexandria. It has also indicated that activity centers with a focused mix of jobs and housing also have higher rates of walking and biking," said Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. "This demonstrates the benefits of the region's efforts to focus growth in walkable, transit-oriented communities in order to reduce the amount we have to drive."

"Unfortunately, the suburban jurisdictions are not showing changes in their mode share from driving to other modes which spells trouble for efforts to reduce traffic and greenhouse gas emissions. However, the survey also shows that 25 percent of car trips are less than 1.7 miles in length, a distance where safe biking and scootering, and walking for the 0 to three-quarter-mile trips, could grow," said Schwartz.

Younger Generations Continue to Drive Less

"The survey also shows a continued decrease in driving by people under age 35, the rising generation that has favored living in walkable, bikeable, mixed-use, transit-rich communities," said Schwartz.

Transit Trips:

"The 2017/2018 survey shows the decline in transit trips that took

place during the boom in ridesharing and when Metro was dealing with significant rail reliability failures. However, it does not capture the rebound that was taking place throughout 2019 as a result of WMATA's hard work to restore the system," said Schwartz.

COVID-19, Telecommuting and Transportation:

"The separate COVID-19 assessment shows that travel on our roadways is still down over 18 percent, which is largely a reflection of the big increase in telecommuting. A lasting increase in telecommuting will likely be enough in our view that we can and should stop widening highways and arterials. The benefits of telecommuting for both work productivity and as a peak hour transportation solution have become clear."

"At the same time, we know telecommuting may impact peak hour transit ridership. If this takes place, it will allow redeployment of service to provide more frequent all-day and also weekend service that will support the essential workforce and all those who seek to own fewer cars and drive less."

"Since telecommuting doesn't address most of the three-quarters of our region's trips that are non-work trips, we need to create more '15-minute' neighborhoods with services within walking or biking distance. To do so we need to make it safer, more convenient or more enjoyable to get around without driving. 'Slow streets' and expanded pedestrian zones and temporary bike facilities that have been piloted during the pandemic can be scaled up in appropriate locations to make walking and biking

SEE REGIONAL TRAVEL, PAGE 11

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria thanks the following restaurants for supporting the Project Sticker Shock campaign to prevent youth alcohol access in our community. These restaurants placed bright warning stickers reminding adults of the legal consequences of providing alcohol to individuals under the age of 21 on pizza delivery boxes.

THANK YOU RESTAURANT PARTNERS!

**Atlantis Pizzeria and Family Restaurant
Lost Dog Cafe - Alexandria
Quattro Formaggi**

Learn more about our work preventing youth alcohol use and how to get involved at PreventItAlexandria.org

This program is made possible through a grant funded by Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority.

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Legals



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Section 5-6-230 (AUTHORITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE), Section 5-6-233 (STORMWATER UTILITY FEE), and Section 5-6-238 (PETITIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT) of Article C (STORMWATER UTILITY) of Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. The proposed ordinance amends Section 5-6-233(c) to increase the stormwater utility fee from \$140 to \$210 for the stormwater utility fee bill due June 15, 2021 and \$280 for the stormwater utility fee bill due November 15, 2021 and contains administrative or clerical amendments necessitated by this amendment.

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 February 27, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

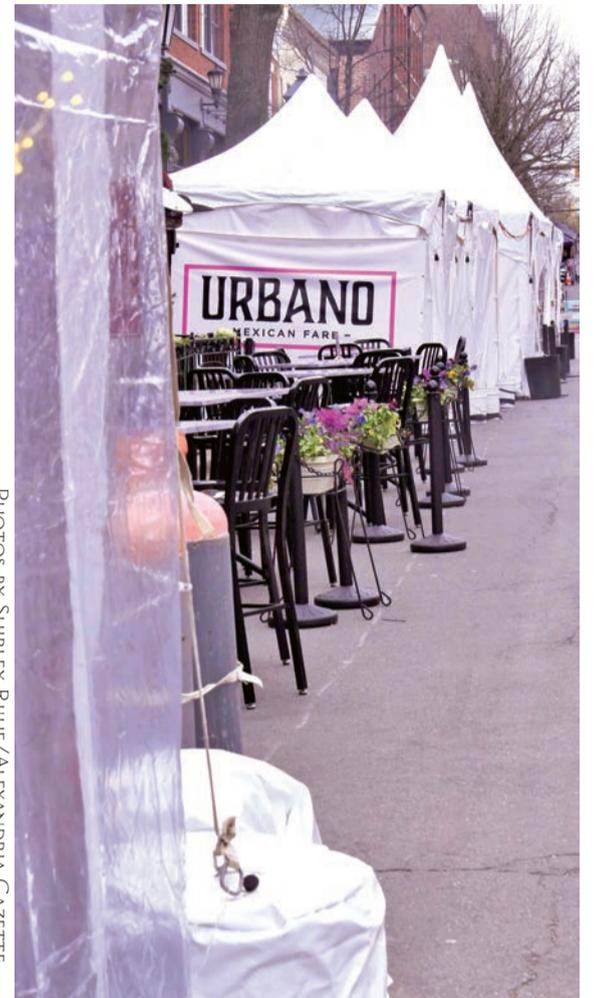
IN THE KITCHEN



Celia Hernandez packages fresh rigatoni as it drops from the pasta machine at Mia's on Monday, Jan. 25. Rigatoni Bolognese is one of the main course choices on their Restaurant Week menu.



Frank and Nancy Camm stop by Mia's on King Street during restaurant week to pick up their favorite diavola square pizza. Frank says, "it's thick and chewy and charred around the edges."



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE

The first block of King Street is lined with transparent heated tents for outside dining.

Anything You Want During Alexandria Restaurant Week

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

It's a cold Monday morning Jan. 25, but Frank and Nancy Camm are on their lunch excursion to pick up their favorite pizza at Mia's on King Street during Alexandria's Restaurant Week. The Camms used to be frequent in-person Alexandria restaurant diners until Covid hit. Now they have switched to carry out instead. Frank says they have a list of 12-15 regular spots including City Kitchen, Delias, The Warehouse, Smokin' Kow BBQ, Haute Dogs, and Cheesetique in Del Ray. "It was time for Mia's."

Bill Musante, one of the managers at

Mia's, says that despite the pandemic they are generally full on weekends with reservations but he points out the tables are six-feet apart so they can accommodate fewer people. "And if we are full, people request to eat outside. We have lots of heaters. And people in Alexandria love their dogs and still want to come out and eat."

Dave Nicholas, an Alexandria Restaurant partner, says business at Mia's has been good "but I always add 'considering.'" He says "to go" orders have me up for the loss of half of the seats. He points to the food case just inside the front door that offers short rib or mushroom lasagna and homemade rigatoni. "We make the lasagnas in individual dishes instead of big pans and sell a ton of those

to go."

He says they have pivoted and changed things, and they have a lot of loyal customers.

The soft plop of fresh rigatoni hits soundless from the stainless steel pasta machine as Celia Hernandez works in the upstairs kitchen. She is packing individual rigatoni servings for the Rigatoni Bolognese Restaurant Week special. Nicholas says the choice for the \$49 three-course meal for two includes choice of a Caesar salad or their hallmark giant meatball for appetizer, the bolognese or eggplant parmesan for the main course and panna cotta for dessert.

More than 60 restaurants are participating in Alexandria's Restaurant Week this

year during an expanded 17-day period from January 22-February 7. The set price for a three-course "to go" meal is \$25 for an individual or \$49 for two. This year half of the participating restaurants are offering lunch as well as dinner specials.

The restaurant offerings range from City Kitchen's menu of fresno artichokes or Vermont goat cheese as appetizers with spinach gnocchi, chicken pot pie or pork chop with cherry bourbon sauce for main course and devil's latte cream cake to Dishes of India's appetizer of punabi samosa and main courses of shaljam gosht or pahadi murg tikka tandoori as with mango rasmalai for dessert.

Check visitalexandriava.com for more information.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU FEB. 7

Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. More than 60 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$49 takeout, delivery or curbside pick-up dinner for two during Alexandria Restaurant Week To-Go. New this winter, more than half of these restaurants will offer a \$25 takeout dinner for one in addition to the \$49 for two deal. This expanded offering was created in response to popular demand from single diners during Alexandria's first Restaurant Week To-Go in August 2020. New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include Aldo's Italian Kitchen, an Italian eatery on Eisenhower Ave.; Barkhaus, Alexandria's new dog bar; Carlyle neighborhood eatery Pasara Thai and The Alexandrian hotel's new restaurant King & Rye. Restaurants

offering to-go deals for one and two people include Los Cuates, Rus Uz, Sonoma Cellar, Village Brauhaus and more. View the menu flip-book and make reservations at www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or 703-838-5005.

JAN. 27 TO MARCH 24

Wednesday Morning Study Group. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Via zoom. Fairlington UMC 3900 King St., Alexandria. Join in a nine-week study of Laudato Si: Caring for Our Common Home, the groundbreaking encyclical letter by Pope Francis on climate issues and a Christian faith-based response. Visit the website: www.fairlingtonumc.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Edward Ball, Life of a Klansman: A Family. 7-9 p.m. For whites, to have a Klansman in the fam-

ily tree is no rare thing. Demographic estimates suggest that fifty percent of whites in the United States have at least one ancestor who belonged to the Ku Klux Klan at some point in its history. Edward Ball, a descendant of a Klansman, tells the story of his ancestor. Free, but registration is required here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GgCCIDY1TG6qTmLpy460g

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Sense of Place. 7 p.m. Presented by Jane Franklin Dance and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association. Virtual presentation. Featuring: Jane Franklin Dance - Philip Baraoidan, Carly Johnson, Kelsey Rohr, Amy Scaringe, Brynna Wilde. Tickets: FREE with donations accepted (\$10 suggested minimum to help JFD & NV-FAA) Registration is required. Info: <https://www.janefranklin.com/sense-of-place>

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Eight Essential Tips for a Deer-Resistant Garden. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Deer can turn a vibrant garden into a sea of chopped stems and damaged trees.

Designer Karen Chapman offers eight key solutions that go beyond pungent chemicals and unattractive fencing. Register with code K5B.884N. Virtual programs will be conducted via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

A link will be emailed to registered participants prior to the program. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktates using the program code, or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Julian Wilson Everly Sr.

FROM PAGE 5

the family took on the task of building a new funeral home on Braddock Road, which opened in 1959.

As leaders in the industry, Everly was one of the first to hire female funeral directors. In the early 1970s, Everly served as Funeral Director and Manager of Everly Funeral Home in Fairfax. He remained there until his retirement in 1994. In total, he served over 40 years as Funeral Director, Manager and Co-Owner of the family's Everly Funeral Homes.

In addition to his work in the funeral industry, Everly spent 34 years in the Coast Guard Reserve. He retired in 1991 out of CG Station Still Pond in Warton, Md., having risen in the ranks from Seaman to Master Chief Petty Officer/XPO. He continued to support the Coast Guard and promote boating safety through the Coast Guard Auxiliary until 2018.

Everly was a QE Vessel Examiner and expert at tying knots, spending many hours instructing others in the skill of tying knots. He was named Auxiliary Coast Guardsman of the Year having contributed 65 years of service to the U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition, Everly supported his community for over 63 years as a member, volunteer firefighter, and leader at a multitude of fire stations including U.S.C.G. Training Center Cape May, N.J., Fire Department Station 59; City of Alexandria: old Truck & Engine Companies 2 & 3, Alexandria Rescue Squad (Captain), Friendship Fire Company; Fairfax County: Franconia Volunteer Fire Department (Chief), Penn Daw Fire Department, Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, West Springfield Fire Department; and Callao Volunteer Fire Department.

Everly was one of the first volunteer Battalion Chiefs in Fairfax County and was instrumental in developing the training and operating specifications for boating rescues



Brothers John and Julian Everly

in Fairfax County. He supported his communities as a member of the Fairfax Rotary Club, Scottish Rite, Lion's Club and Masonic Order.

When not at work, Everly enjoyed the family's Cedar Knoll Farm in the Shenandoah Valley, and his retirement home along Wicomico Creek in Callao, Va. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, farming, horseback riding,

boating and his ever-rotating collection of trucks.

"Dad was known for his casual wear of white, knee high socks and sturdy sneakers with denim shorts, held up by bright orange suspenders under a plaid shirt with a

steady supply of mint Lifesavers in his pocket," said his daughter Linda Everly Smith. "He was also known for the comical removal of his teeth at the dinner table and expensive, but never working hearing aids."

Everly is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jean Wiley Everly; Children - Elizabeth

"He was known for the comical removal of his teeth at the dinner table, and expensive, but never working hearing aids."

— Linda Everly Smith on her father Julian



Julian Everly, center, with his wife Jean, left, mother-in-law Lucille Wiley, and his father Josiah Everly circa 1952.

(Marc) Shockley, Linda (Jeffrey) Smith, Julian Wilson (Ramona) Everly, Jr.; Grandchildren Juliann; Jamie; Justin (Jaclyn); Jessica (Joseph); Lauren (Mario); Allison; Brayden; Terrin (Bryan); Amber; Tanner (Jamie); Brittany; Tristin (Kyle); Casey (Gio); Great Grandchildren Hailee; Mary; Leslie; Austin; Deveraux; Paityne; Parker; Colin; Lucy; Jayce; Mason; Landon; Addison; Leah; Larissa; Karsen; Mia; Arianna; one cousin Fred-

erick Everly; sister-in-law Carol T. Everly; nephews Josiah and John Everly; and many nieces, nephews, close family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Josiah Stickley and Ruby Louise Everly; and brother, John Clark Everly.

Services for Everly were private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, P.O. Box 320065 Alexandria, VA 22320.

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NEEDLES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT PERMANENT MEDICATION DROP BOX LOCATIONS.

Regional Travel Survey

FROM PAGE 9

more pleasant and safer, helping foster the 15-minute neighborhood concept here in the Washington region. These policies have also helped local businesses, improving customer access by replacing unneeded parking with curbside pick-up, outdoor dining facilities, and expanded pedestrian zones."

COVID-19 and Air Quality:
"The big drop in driving also resulted

in big drops in harmful ozone and particulate pollution demonstrating how much our unhealthy air is a result of our driving.

It demonstrates a very critical reason we should be investing in cleaner forms of transportation and reducing the amount we have to drive."

See more at www.mwcog.org/events/2021/1/21/transportation-planning-board/

SENIOR LIVING

Sorority Sisters Celebrate Vice President Kamala Harris

Joy, tears and hope about this historic moment in history.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Wearing their sorority's signature strand of pearls and clothing in shades of pink and green, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority members, Martha Coleman and Shirley Dickerson Taylor were filled with awe and jubilation as they watched their sorority sister and fellow Historically Black College and University (HBCU) alum Kamala Harris, sworn in as Vice President of the United States.

Both women are decades-long members of the sorority and are now part of the Zeta Chi Omega Chapter, which is made up of women from Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax counties. Local members supported Harris' election and say their emotions include pride and optimism, for older members as well as younger.

"As someone who participated in the Civil Rights movement of the 60s, I get emotional just thinking about this huge accomplishment and how far we as a people have come," said Coleman, who has been a member for 53 years. "The idea that a woman of color, who attended an HBCU, and who was raised by a single parent is now our Vice President is mind boggling."

"I was overcome with joy and happiness to witness this historical day," added Taylor, who has been a member for 63 years. "The tears flowed as I watched Soror Kamala take the oath and become the Vice President of the United States."

"I witnessed something that I never thought I would witness in my lifetime, said 68-year old Linder Gibson who lives in Montgomery County. "I was overwhelmed. "This lets me know that my little granddaughter can grow up and become anything she wants to be, even President."

Those who joined AKA at Howard University felt a special connection.

"She has been an inspiration for many, said Linda Elaine Newman, who has been an active member for 43 years. "I was doubly proud because I am also a graduate of Howard University. Her positive accomplishments have given good recognition to HBCUs and our beloved sisterhood."

"From the standpoint of being a black and Asian woman it was a monumental moment," added Patricia Wallace, who has been a member for 55 years. It was astounding since, in both these cultures, women were deemed to be on the bottom rung, thought of as property and second-class citizens. Now the glass ceiling has broken."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter has been in existence for more than 60 years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

"Golden" members of the Arlington/Alexandria chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, who joined the sorority before and during the Civil Rights Movement, shed tears of joy as they witnessed the historic swearing-in of Vice President Kamala Harris.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN MCCOY

Robin McCoy, is a 40-year member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and serves as the chapter's president.

"Tears of joy flowed down my face as I watched the first woman, the first woman of color and my sorority sister take the oath of office for the Vice President of the United States of America," said Robin McCoy, who is a 40-year member and serves as the chapter's president.

Many felt a sense of optimism about the possibilities that would be conveyed to the young women and girls in their families.

"The swearing in of my soror Kamala Harris filled me with sadness, joy and delight," said Margarette Peterson, who was initiated in 1959. "Joy came to my heart to know that my granddaughter would continue to grow up in a better world. ... I was filled with sadness because it has taken so long for a black woman with outstanding qualifications to be recognized. I dried my tears and took a



PHOTO COURTESY OF TIA SMITH

Tia Smith wore pink and green on election day to celebrate Vice-President Harris' victory. Both women are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority

picture ... proudly in my Golden Soror tee shirt."

"I thought of my 10-year-old granddaughter's future in a country that has elected the first woman as Vice President, who happens to be Black, who happens to have been shaped by our founders at Howard University, and who happens to have been the recipient of the unflinching support from women all over America," said Tia Johnson. "My granddaughter's future was looking brighter. Vice President Harris' election provides the answer that all things are possible."

The Arlington/Alexandria chapter includes older members that range in age from 60 to 90. Many thanked a higher power for the victory.

"I was overcome with a flood of emotions

and ... a tremendous feeling of gratitude that God allowed me to live long enough to witness this historic moment: the first woman, the first Black, the first Asian American, the first HBCU graduate and the first AKA to become Vice President of the United States of America, a heartbeat away from the most powerful office in the world," said Lula McLain Hicks who was initiated in 1968. "In that moment, Vice President Harris represented every member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and our 113 years of service to humankind."

Wanda Smith, who joined the sorority 42 years ago, said the swearing-in underscored the lyrics of the official hymn of AKA: "By merit and culture we strive and we do things that are worthwhile. And with a smile we help each other for we know there's no other like our sisterhood," she said.

"Yes, I cried and thanked God."

"As someone who participated in the Civil Rights movement of the 60s, I get emotional just thinking about this huge accomplishment and how far we as a people have come. The idea that a woman of color, who attended an HBCU, and who was raised by a single parent is now our Vice President is mind boggling."

— Martha Coleman,
Arlington/Alexandria chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha

For Aretha Marable Cunningham who was initiated in 1973, the ceremony offered optimism. "I feel extreme joy, relief, excitement, and hope for our country, the United States of America."

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

rently assessed at \$180 M for construction. So the question remains – our remaining 12 schools need to be fixed, the price tag could be in excess of \$1 billion Dollars. How can we reconcile laying down \$130 million at Landmark when the schools are a mess? The return on the investment in the Landmark project for the city over 30 years is quoted as net \$600 million, a partial payment at best. Where do the remaining funds for school construction come from?

I am concerned about the number of tenants that will occupy the 2,500 units that the city will build and the number of cars that these units will occupy. Let's assume the units house 2 individuals with 2 cars, the 5,000 people with 5,000 cars will overtake the roads at Landmark and spill over to Duke Street creating severe congestion and gridlock. Duke Street is already the most congested street in the city and the city is seeking to make it worse. The city in an attempt to mitigate congestion will declare "eminent domain" over the Duke street corridor in order to tear up sidewalks and store fronts in order to place a new third bus lane east and west which will not mitigate the issue of congestion if these residential units are built in such mass numbers.

Where are the schools that will support this Landmark community? Tucker is at full capacity. Where do we build another school? There must be students in the residence of 2,500 units. However according to the city plan there is no need for a school at this location. How can this be?

While we are on the subject of schools, building another high school is an absolute necessity. T.C Williams alone is unable to support the capacity of current high school students. The addition of Minnie Howard is not the answer. The issue of T.C. Williams's use of total virtual teaching during this pandemic was necessary due to the inability of sufficient distancing; the school is too small it can no longer function at this student level. The city needs to examine the placement of a new high school at the site of the old hospital which embraces some 30 acres of land.

The city has been negligent in its performance of school capacity and school academics. We build for high density; we build towers for apartments; towers for corporations and we let the schools crumble. Our taxes are high wherein does the money flow. Potential buyers look at homes then notice the academic level of our school and walk away—it shouldn't be that way.

Bill Goff
Alexandria

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Obituary

GLORIA ARLENE BUCKINGHAM BEATTY



Gloria Arlene Buckingham Beatty passed away peacefully on January 16, 2021 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She was born in Providence, Rhode Island on July 5, 1928. She was the only child and daughter of the late Earl Richmond and Ethel Shaw Buckingham. She was preceded in death by her youngest son, Bruce Buckingham Beatty and her husband, Robert Dunn Beatty.

Gloria was a gracious and devoted daughter, wife, mother and friend. Her vivacious personality and zest for life rewarded her with many life-long friendships throughout the country. She loved entertaining her friends and family with many delicious meals on holidays and special occasions. She also loved her canine friends and companions, especially her shelties, Jenny and Twinkie.

Gloria traveled extensively with her husband Bob, a former US Army Artillery Officer, and resided in many locations in the United States and Europe. She never met a stranger wherever she traveled or lived. Finally moving back to Alexandria, Virginia with Bob in 1973 for a second tour of duty and retiring in 1983, Gloria remained very active working in retail, playing bridge and mahjong, having lunch and shopping with friends, and visiting her children and their families in Maryland and NC.

For many years, she was employed by the former Village House dress shop of Alexandria, Virginia and loved traveling to New York on fun buying trips with her dear friend and owner of the store, Helen. She attended the Baptist Temple Church and was a member of the Dorcas Sunday School class.

She was past Worthy Advisor of the Providence Assembly #1 Order of the Rainbow for Girls and a past Grand Officer and Recipient of the Grand Cross of Color.

Gloria is survived by son, Robert Dunn Beatty, Jr. of Rock Hill, SC; daughter, Brenda Beatty Dunaway (Douglas) of Charlotte, NC; her four grandsons, Robert Earl Beatty, Lance Buckingham Beatty, Robert Griffin Dunaway and Richmond Rivers Dunaway; and her 3 great grandchildren, Vittoria Artemisia, Vesta Beatrice and Flavius Aetius Beatty.

A Memorial Service will be held to celebrate Gloria's life on Saturday, February 20th at 3:00 at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria.

Her burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a future date pending notification from Arlington.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to The Shriner's Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114 or The Pediatric Burn Care Center, Shriner's Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02112

Obituary

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Reoriented



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or to quote my high school baseball coach: "Reorientated." A cancer diagnosis, especially a "terminal" one, can cause that. However, what I'm addressing this week is money: what to do with what you have when you didn't expect you'd still have it. And by 'have it,' I mean you're still alive and you still have some control over what to do with it.

What this previous paragraph questions is what to do with the money you've accumulated your whole life after you've outlived your original prognosis, which for my non small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "13 months to two years." The timer began in late February, 2009. I was aged 54 and nearly a half. My widowed mother had just died the previous December after reaching her 86th birthday. My father had died almost exactly two years earlier, at the age 87. Given my parent's at death, I figured/planned on living into my mid-eighties. That all changed when Team Lourie met the oncologist who has now been treating me going on about 12 years.

All my life, pre-cancer and post-cancer, I've paid attention to money: working for it, saving it, spending it and financially-planning it. As I became older, my needs expanded and so too did the sum of money I needed: college, car, wedding, house and then retirement. Now at age 66, 42 as a husband and 12 as a cancer survivor, the future has unexpectedly, given my prognosis, become my present.

During the early years of my diagnosis, I didn't really know how to spend the money I had saved: on the here and now because I was diagnosed as terminal and saw no future in depriving myself or to simply continue living my life spending/saving money as I always had. I chose the former because to me choosing the latter would have been giving into my cancer diagnosis.

Well, almost 12 years have passed since late Feb., 2009. Much has happened. None more significantly as has been my re-diagnosis to papillary thyroid cancer, stage IV, from the previous non small lung cancer, also stage IV. Though my particular type of thyroid cancer is terminal (the sole effective medication has a three-year-ish effective window than there's nothing available), I do have less of a lung cancer diagnosis hanging over my bank account. And yet, the money issue has raised its ugly dilemma once again. Rather than living with death occurring at any time, I now have a bit of a timeline: three years, but with an indeterminate one to follow. Before I had a definite that turned into a maybe. Now I have a maybe that's sort of turned into a definite. As such, once again, do I spend like I'm dying or spend/save like I'm living? The further complication is I'm basically retired and now having to make decisions which have been a lifetime in the making that for many of those years didn't have to factor in cancer and an adjusted, shall we say, life expectancy. It's challenging to determine how much money you're going to need when you can't predict the future. I mean, I'm living proof.

Being the baby of the baby - of the family, I'm pretty much the end of the line dating back approximately 150 years to Russia. And since we have no children, there's no one to pick up my slack. I can't run out of money because I'm responsible for my own slack. I can't presume that I won't outlive my resources any more than I can predict my cancer-affected demise. A demise and a quality of life that could be enhanced if I were to spend a bit of the money I do have, mindful always of the consequences however.

I realize, more than most, that there's no time like the present. Nevertheless, I still want to believe I have a future. After all, it's worked (kept me alive) for nearly 12 years. Perhaps I still have another 12 left to live. If so, I'm going to try and treat myself a bit more often this time. I don't see any future in depriving myself.

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

COMMENT ON WILKES STREET PARK

The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) is seeking public comment for the proposed design of Wilkes Street Park. The proposed redesign of the 0.7-acre park was presented at the Park and Recreation Commission on January 21, 2021. The community is encouraged to review the proposed park design and provide input via email until Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

In the summer of 2020, RPCA began the park redesign process using community input provided through two surveys. The park has been redesigned in compliance with the South Patrick Housing Affordability Strategy, which includes park improvements, such as play areas, seating, and open passive areas that will be designed to be accessible and accommodate all ages and abilities. For comments or questions, contact Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II, at ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5494. Comments will be accepted by email until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Visit the project website at alexandriava.gov/116143.

UPLAND PARK PROPOSAL

The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities presented the proposed design of Upland Park, a new 0.8-acre park in Alexandria's West End, to the Park and Recreation Commission on January 21, 2021. Upland Park includes a mix of amenities, such as a naturalistic play area with vertical climbing elements, a dog run, seating that is built into the site, a central lawn, a walking loop, and a promenade. The park is being designed and built by the Upland Park Developers and will be built in two phases concurrent with the development of Upland Park neighborhood. The park design follows the Beauregard Small Area Plan, the more detailed subsequent Beauregard Design Guidelines. The public may provide comments to the Planning Commission at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 2 and to City Council at its monthly public hearing on Saturday, March 13. Written comments may also be provided directly to the Planning Commission and City Council in advance. Contact Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II, at ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5494.

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

The Life of George Washington in Four Acts: Act I. 7-8 p.m. Virtual meeting. Join George Washington virtually every Friday in February as they engage the audience in a Q & A session. In Act I on February 5, "By the Miraculous Care of Providence", he will share thoughts and reminiscences about his life from ca. 1743, when he was 11 years old, to the eve of the American War of Independence in 1775. Cost is \$20 admission per event or \$60 for admission for all four Acts. Offered by the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7

George Washington's Alexandria. 2-3:30 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory, 101 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This 90-minute guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. The tour begins behind the Torpedo Factory's south entrance and in front of Vola's Dockside Grill at 101 N. Union Street and reservations required. Reserve your slot on Eventbrite at WashingtonBirthdayEvents.eventbrite.com. Visit the website: washingtonbirthday.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 16

Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting. 1-2:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Award winning writer

and educator, Ric Murphy, discusses his recent book, Section 27 and Freedman's Village in Arlington National Cemetery, at Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's February meeting. Murphy is the National Vice President for History, for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society. His recent book explores how

Arlington House, a slave plantation and home of Robert E. Lee, became a military camp for Federal troops, a freedmen's village and farm, and America's most important burial ground. Non-members are welcome to attend one program a year without cost. Register no later than February 12 by emailing your name and address to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and can provide a donation receipt for your mileage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City's most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria's top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com.

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

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil (Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov) at 703-324-4547.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

Arts and Crafts Festival. Volunteers are needed on June 10 to help with the event including: greet and check-in vendors, children's area, clean up and tear down and beer tent. Shifts are available between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org/ for more.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

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