Victory Center Transformed for Vaccines

High-capacity Covid-19 vaccination site to open in Alexandria as the one year mark in the pandemic passes.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

A large-scale vaccination center for Northern Virginia is slated to open by the end of March at the long-vacant Victory Center with the ability to provide upwards of 6,000 doses per day of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay and Inova Health Systems CEO Dr. J. Stephen Jones joined together March 9 to give a preview of the Inova Stonebridge Vaccination Center, which houses 64 vaccination stations in the 50,000-square-foot space on Eisenhower Ave.

“This is an opportunity to collaborate with local partners on a community and region-wide response to Covid-19,” Jones said. “We will be open by the end of the month and able to administer 6,000 doses a day immediately with the ability to double that depending on the vaccines available.”

The vacant interior of the Victory Center was redesigned to support vaccination stations, vaccination storage, sufficient ventilation and patient flow, and pharmacy space for vaccine preparations. The location at 5001 Eisenhower Ave., allows for easy access for Northern Virginia residents. There are more than 1,400 parking spaces.

“We are excited to have this high-capacity site and are grateful to Douglas Firstenberg and Stonebridge, who generously stepped up to the plate and agreed to partner with the City of Alexandria, with Inova and with Fairfax County to make this facility happen,” Wilson said. “This is obviously not the ultimate vision we have for the future of this facility but appreciate the flexibility and herculean efforts of everyone involved in making this happen so quickly.”

“I feel an overwhelming responsibility to do whatever it takes to get as many people in our community vaccinated as soon as possible.”

— Dr. J. Stephen Jones, Inova Health Systems CEO

The high-capacity vaccination site at the Victory Center in Alexandria will administer upwards of 6,000 doses per day.

City of Alexandria has delivered at least one dose of Covid vaccine to more than 36,000 people; about 17 percent of Alexandria’s population. More than 10,000 City residents have tested positive for Covid; 126 people have died. Register for the vaccine through the Virginia Department of Health at Vaccinate.Virginia.gov.

In Fairfax County, 68,932 people have tested positive as of March 10; 1,052 Fairfax County residents have died. Slightly more than 220,000 people in Fairfax County have received at least one dose of vaccine. Those living in Fairfax County can register at FairfaxCounty.gov/health or through the state registration system.

“In Fairfax County today, roughly half the county is eligible to get vaccinated,” McKay said. “That is over 500,000 people and right now we are getting 19,000 doses per week. That is up from 13,000 a few weeks ago but we have been told by the Virginia Department of Health to expect a major increase in doses in the weeks and months ahead. The importance of this center is knowing that we will have the infrastructure in place to take advantage of every single one of those doses.”

Jones acknowledged the hesitation of
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Starting from a Clean Slate

Governor considers compromise on expungement that has automatic expungement for some misdemeanors and petition-based sealing of the record on some felonies.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

GAZETTE PACKET

Marijuana convictions will be automatically expunged under a bill now under consider-

ation by Gov. Ralph Northam, although convictions for crack cocaine will require missing a day of work and probably hiring a lawyer to go to court and seal the record. The legislation is a compromise crafted late in the General Assembly session by House Majority Leader Charniele Herring and state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who clashed repeatedly over the last year about how the process should work.

“This bill combines both bills to come up with a process for a clean slate for Virginians,” said Herring. “There is some record retention, but still the records will be destroyed after a time.”

House Democrats were pushing for an automatic model of expungement, allowing people to get rid of old drug convictions without having to hire a lawyer and miss a day of work. But Senate Democrats were advocating for a petition-based model, which would allow a judge to review the individual circumstances of each individual case before making a determination. The governor began the session by calling on the two sides to find a compromise during his State of the Commonwealth Address, although he pointedly declined to publicly take a side in the debate.

“It’s time to act during this session to have the robust debate about how to best conduct the process of expunging people’s records,” said Northam in his State of the Commonwealth address. “This will make our system more just and equal. And it needs action this session.”

Ultimately Herring and Surovell worked together on a mashup of the two bills, taking parts from each version to craft a compromise version for the governor to consider. The version of the bill now on the governor’s desk includes automatic expungement process for nine misdemeanor convictions, including fake ID, disorderly conduct and marijuana possession. It would require a petition to a court to seal the record for more serious charges, like possession of crack cocaine or resisting arrest.

“You have to go in front of a judge and a commonwealth’s attorney, and you have to show you’ve changed.”

— Del. Charniele Herring

“You have to go in front of a judge and a commonwealth’s attorney and you have to show you’ve led a good life and you’ve changed.”

— Sen. Scott Surovell

After more than a year of intense debate, House Democrats and Senate Democrats have crafted a compromise on expungement, which will have an automatic process for some misdemeanors and a petition-based model for some felonies. Under the compromise bill now under consider-

ation by the governor. Some prosecutors say Virginia should end the war on drugs, especially now that marijuana has been decriminalized and is about to become entirely legal. “I don’t think possession of drugs should be a felony. I think it should be a Class One misdemeanor,” said Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter. “If we could amend that down to a misdemeanor or, it’s still a crime but it’s a much less serious one. Then that problem wouldn’t exist.”

The details of the legislation include a delayed enactment, giving lawmakers until October of 2025 to tweak bits and pieces of the process so that it will work in courthouses across Virginia. Misdemeanors offenses that are eligible would go away after seven years, and people would be able to petition to seal the record on felony offenses after 10 years.

The legislation also creates new penalties for third-party vendors, essentially private businesses that buy and sell old criminal records to people doing background checks or opposition research. “That’s an important component of reform here,” said Andrew Elders, policy director for Justice Forward Virginia. “That was a big problem for a long time.”
news

Victory Center Transformed for Vaccines

From Page 1

some to get the vaccine, even as thousands of people scramble every day to try to get an appointment to be vaccinated.

“I know there is still some skepticism among some communities about the vaccines,” Jones said. “Nothing is 100 percent, but these vaccines are too close to 100 percent to be ignored. Critically, every single one of the currently available vaccines have been proven in studies to be 100 percent effective against severe Covid-19 and 100 percent effective against Covid-19 fatality.”

Jones continued, “There are still almost 2,000 Americans dying every single day of this terrible disease. I consider the risk of the vaccine tiny compared to the risk posed by COVID-19. This is the most compelling risk-benefit analysis that has happened in almost 40 years in medicine.”

The state recently expanded the 1B eligibility group to include food service workers. Strict PPE requirements, social distancing and cleaning and sterilizing practices will be observed at the vaccination center, which will be staffed by 64 vaccinators, 30 pharmacists and 20 administrators.

“I feel an overwhelming responsibility to do whatever it takes to get as many people in our community vaccinated as soon as possible,” Jones said. “I feel very strongly that these vaccines are safe, effective and necessary and that everyone who is eligible should get the vaccine as quickly as possible if not for yourself but for your family, your friends and for your community.”

Added McKay, “Continue to practice social distancing, continue to wear your mask, continue to follow CDC guidelines and make the necessary act of charity to get yourself vaccinated when it is your turn.”

In Alexandria:

Vaccine supplies are limited, but you qualify right now if you:

- Are 65+ years old
- Have existing medical conditions
- Work in one of these jobs: Healthcare; Police, Fire and Hazmat; Corrections and homeless shelter workers; Childcare and K-12 teachers and staff; Agriculture; Manufacturing; Grocery store workers; Public transit workers; Mail carriers (USPS and private); Officials needed to keep government working; Cleaning/Janitorial staff; Faith Leaders.

Register for the vaccine through the Virginia Department of Health at Vaccinate.Virginia.gov.

One Year Later …

More than 10,000 City residents have tested positive for Covid; 126 people have died. Register for the vaccine through the Virginia Department of Health at Vaccinate.Virginia.gov.

The Alexandria Sportsman’s Club has debuted a new logo representative of the city’s four high schools.

ASC Debuts New Logo First design change since 1947.

The Alexandria Sportsman’s Club has debuted a new logo representative of the city’s four high schools. First organized in 1947, the organization honors high school scholar-athletes with athlete-of-the-month awards and thousands of dollars in annual scholarships.

“This is an opportunity to get our name out there and get some branding for our new look,” said Eva Shea, the first female president in the organization’s history.

“We picked this design because it’s a nod to the ‘old school’ sports pennants as well as the sailing flag for the Old Dominion Boat Club. The ODBC has been the location of the club’s meetings since the organization was formed in 1947.”

Shea noted that the four stars in the logo, designed pro bono by Alexandria-based Williams Whittle, symbolize Alexandria’s four high schools: Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes, and T.C. Williams.

The ASC holds monthly meetings with guest speakers that are free and open to the public.

For information on club events or to become a member, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

– Jeanne Theismann

Photo contributed
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What is ‘Fair’?

OPINION

By Richhawn Adkins Roane

Equity costs - and paying that price will not be fair, but it will be just.

I f Black people had a dollar for every individual, organization, and company that publicly professed a commitment to antiracism and racial equity while holding up vaginal birth, breast feeding, or “fairness,” we could have closed the racial wealth gap ten times over. These performative professions have been derided as “feel-good gestures that cost nothing and shift no power.”

When people talk about fairness in this context, they are usually not motivated by a desire to ensure groups have equal resources, but by an immoral mandate to prevent certain groups from getting resources they don’t “deserve.” It’s particularly shocking when people of faith champion fairness in this way since grace - unmerited and unearned faith - is a foundational principle of many spiritual traditions. Since before inception, our nation has preached a false moral narrative of fairness while enshrin ing discrimination in our founding documents and utilizing the forced removal and genocidal of Indigenous peoples and the forced enslavement and brutalization of African people as building blocks. Fairness is what folk cries when they want to profess racial justice but not practice it, when they want to perform equity and not pay for it.

We need to get over this collective preoccupation with fairness which, at best, is a national myth, and at worse, prompts calls for action or gradualism when swift and unprecedented action is needed.

The policies and practices that got us to 140 million poor and low-wage people (including 3.5 million right here in the Commonwealth), unequal education, health, and socioeconomic outcomes comes for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx folks, and disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color weren’t “fair,” and the remedies that fix these inequalities won’t be either. Justice may not be fair, it is right.

Virginia’s gubernatorial candidates and state legislators will offer up a number of policies over the coming weeks and months, some of which will be designed to address these systemic inequities. The next time you are tempted to ask if a proposal is fair, ask yourself whether the policies that led to the need for the proposal were fair. Not just.

Q: Is it fair to make the admis sion process for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology more equitable?
A: Was it fair for “hard working, deserving children” to be deprived of a spot at TJ because their parents were unable to pay for expensive test preparation or a $100 application fee? Was it fair that some middle schools appeared to be feeders to TJ and others never had students admitted?

March is Brain Injury Awareness month.

March is Brain Injury Awareness month. I share my story to help others who have experienced trauma to the brain to help them and their caregivers recognize some of the signs of a TBI. According to Dr. O’Shanick, common indications of a TBI are loss of balance, inability to track with the eyes, sensitivity to sound, and difficulty with executive functions. All of these challenges can lead to frustration, anxiety, and isolation. But know you are not alone. There is a community at Brain Injury Services who see you and support your transition to live your best life.

Katy Schnitger is the Office Manager and Outreach Specialist at Brain Injury Services. Katy has been involved with BIS since 2010 as a client and as a volunteer with the Speaker’s Bureau. She has been employed at Brain Injury Services since 2015. She has lived in Vienna, Virginia for over fifteen years.

By Katy Schnitger

Brain Injury Awareness: A Personal Story

By Katy Schnitger

(letter to the editor)

How Sad
Letter to the Editor:

How sad that River Farm could possibly be taken over by developers, without any concern for the impact it would have on our beloved community. Over the years River Farm has provided numerous joys and memorable experiences for many of us! The children’s garden, catching crawdaddies in the ponds, weddings, picnics on the beautiful grounds, enjoying the beautiful flowers and art exhibits! The thought of developers building multi-million dollar homes on property once owned by George Washington is so sad!

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‘Better Than I Deserve’

Roy Gravatte dies at 84.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

For most people, the cursory greeting “How are you?” elicits a cursory “Fine, and you?” But for Roy Gravatte, it was a chance to show his gratitude in life with his signature response to anyone who asked, “Better than I deserve.”

Gravatte, who divided his time between Northern Virginia and Bethany Beach, Del., died Feb. 15 at his Bethany Beach home. He was 84.

Leroy Trice Gravatte III was born July 23, 1936, in Washington D.C. He grew up in Alexandria and attended George Washington High School, where he rowed for the G.W. national championship crew team. From an early age, he spent summers in Bethany Beach at his family’s vacation home and was a lifeguard for the Bethany Beach Patrol.

After graduating in 1960 from Virginia Tech with a degree in civil engineering, Gravatte served for a time in the U.S. Naval Reserve, then worked at the GSA until creating his own engineering firm, Professional Engineers. Later in his career, his engineering focus shifted to expert witness work in the elevator and escalator industry until his retirement. He was also a licensed real estate broker, where he invested in real estate in the D.C. and Bethany Beach areas.

In 1974, Gravatte purchased the Addy Sea, a historic oceanfront bed-and-breakfast in Bethany Beach, from the Addy family, founding members of Bethany Beach. Through his vision and restoration, it became a premier destination on the Delaware coast and a time in the U.S. Naval Reserve, then worked at the GSA until creating his own engineering firm, Professional Engineers. Later in his career, his engineering focus shifted to expert witness work in the elevator and escalator industry until his retirement. He was also a licensed real estate broker, where he invested in real estate in the D.C. and Bethany Beach areas.

In 1974, Gravatte purchased the Addy Sea, a historic oceanfront bed-and-breakfast in Bethany Beach, from the Addy family, founding members of Bethany Beach. Through his vision and restoration, it became a premier destination on the Delaware coast and a symbol of the Gravatte family legacy in Bethany Beach.

See Roy Gravatte, Page 11
Lawhorne Announces Retirement

Sheriff to end 43-year career in law enforcement.

By Jeanne Theismann
Gazette Packet

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, a life-long Alexandrian with 43 years in law enforcement, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31 when his current term expires.

A 1976 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, Lawhorne, 63, served 27 years with the Alexandria Police Department as an officer and detective before becoming Sheriff in 2006. He is in his fourth term as Sheriff.

“Following 43 years of public service, I have decided to retire at the end of this year when my current term expires,” Lawhorne said in a statement. “This is a difficult decision because it is hard to leave a job that you love and are still passionate about. I have known since I was 14 years old that this is what I wanted to do, and there was not one day where I wasn’t grateful to have this opportunity to serve my city.”

Under Lawhorne’s leadership, the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office expanded educational opportunities for inmates, enhanced public safety initiatives like Project Lifesaver, Away from Home Checks and Drug Take Backs, increased community outreach efforts like the Civic Association Liaison Program and participation in events like First Thursdays, supported Meals on Wheels delivery and assisted with food distribution efforts and achieved continued Triple Crown accreditation from the National Sheriff’s Association.

“Being your Sheriff the last 16 years has been the highlight of my professional career,” Lawhorne added. “I am proud of what our dedicated staff has accomplished, despite the many difficult challenges they face every day. We built positive and productive relationships with our local, state and federal partners and we brought increased visibility to the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office.”

Over the years, the Alexandria detention center has housed many high-profile inmates, such as New York Times reporter Judith Miller, CIA agent Aldrich Ames, 9/11 “20th hijacker” Zacarias Moussaoui, DC Beltway Snipers John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo, Paul Manafort, Chelsea Manning and “QAnon Shaman” Jacob Chansley.

Lawhorne earned his Associates degree in Administration of Justice through Ivy Tech Community College and also completed the Executive Leadership Institute offered by the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. His civic service includes the City’s Community Criminal Justice Board, Northern Virginia Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Committee, and the board of Ivy Hill Cemetery.

A lifelong resident of Del Ray, Lawhorne’s statement noted his appreciation for the dedication and support of the ASO public safety professionals, in particular Undersheriff Tim Gleenon, who began his law enforcement career with Lawhorne at the Alexandria Police Department.

But it was his wife and daughters that Lawhorne said have sustained him throughout his career.

“My wife Linda has been the strength behind my success,” Lawhorne said. “The public may not realize what family members must sacrifice so that others may serve.

For their entire lives, our three daughters, Megan, Christine, and Mallory, have experienced the difficulties and the pride of having a father committed to serving and protecting others.”

Lawhorne said that he is looking forward to spending more time with his family, including grandchildren Ryan and Harper.

“Linda and I will continue to be active members of our beloved hometown,” Lawhorne added. “I am fortunate to have accomplished everything I wanted to and while I remain committed to being an active member of this community, I believe the time is right to announce my retirement plans.”

Alexandria Police Department Investigates After Vehicle Was Briefly Stolen With A Child Inside

The Alexandria Police Department is conducting an investigation into a stolen auto and a firearm brandishing incident.

On March 8, 2021 around 8:20 p.m., officers responded to the 3900 block of Executive Avenue and learned an adult male and a child had been in a vehicle that was parked and running. The male then exited the vehicle to briefly run into the building, leaving the child in the backseat. When he returned, he saw a male suspect in the vehicle, driving away with the child still in the backseat. The suspect stopped the vehicle about a block away, jumped out and ran away. The victim chased the suspect for several blocks until the suspect brandished a firearm. The victim then returned to the scene of the incident. The suspect got away.

The child was found safe. There were no injuries reported. This investigation is active and ongoing. Anyone with information about the case is urged to contact Detective Anthony LaRusso at 703.746.6618.

Remember, never leave a child in a vehicle unattended. Always lock your vehicle’s doors. Keep your keys, key fobs and valuables either on your person, hidden or locked up in a safe place.

40 Under 40 Deadline Extended

The Chamber ALX is still accepting applicants for its sixth celebration of 40 Under 40. Applications are extended through March 19.

Nominate a candidate by sending us the candidate’s name and email. Share this with your friends and team.

Apply: https://files.constantcontact.com/4c36e982401/df32c1d3bc4b49-a18a-a5d6e654df.pdf

Self-nominations are welcome.
Scam Call Alert
Calls targeting residents on behalf of police youth camp.

The Alexandria Police Foundation is asking residents to be aware of solicitation phone calls purported to be on behalf of the foundation’s youth camp. The foundation and the Alexandria Police Youth Camp have learned that a company contracted out by the Virginia Fraternal Order of Police, is making calls to residents and business owners in the city asking for donations for the foundation and its youth camp. The Alexandria Police Foundation and the Alexandria Police Youth Camp will never make phone calls asking for donations. The money solicited from these calls does not get returned to the foundation or its youth camp. Alexandria Police Foundation executive director Ginny Obrenovich is asking anyone who receives such a call to contact the Alexandria Police Foundation at 571-225-3948 or email ginnytut@aol.com.

Local Republicans Expect Candidates to Declare Soon

Local Republican efforts to recruit candidates to challenge Democrats in the November elections are proving successful according to party Chairman Pete Benavage. The Alexandria Republican City Committee (ARCC) held an information session via Zoom on March 6 to recruit local Republicans interested in running for office.

“Many attendees are motivated to run in what they view as a pivotal election year,” Benavage said. “Our session served to help them understand the process and how they need to proceed to formalize their candidacy.”

According to Benavage, “There is real opportunity for achieving some political diversity in Alexandria in 2021. Many Democrats and Republicans are dissatisfied with the ... City Council’s positions on a variety of issues including increasing housing density, rising property taxes, and recurring proposals to co-locate housing on public school property. Now there are proposals to unionize our city employees.”

Linda App, President of the Commonwealth Republican Women’s Club (CRWC) in Alexandria, said, “ARCC put together an incredibly motivating information session. Speakers included former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland and former City Councilman Frank Fannon. I’m thrilled to say that some CRWC members are among those considering a run in 2021, and others are planning to offer their services to the candidates’ campaigns.”

More information is available at www.AlexandriaCRWC.org.
Trickling Back Into the Classroom

Last week, certain young students arrived for their first day of school in Alexandria Public Schools. This week, some students returned to middle schools and T.C. Williams High School.

“Everyone was so excited to welcome back our students this morning. It has the energy of the first day of school — a mixture of nerves and excitement,” said T.C. Principal Peter Balas. “Seeing students and staff back in our buildings has re-energized all of us. While we may be doing a lot of things differently to ensure safety, it is like the kids had not missed a beat and got right back into the swing of things.

I am truly grateful to our staff for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that we reunited with our students in a smooth and successful manner.”

Superintendent, Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., “This morning we welcomed the second group of students back into our middle schools and to T.C. Williams High School. Our schools were prepared and the administration was excited about seeing the students returning. It’s a refreshing feeling to be back in our buildings and to see our vibrant young people again.”

ACPS has implemented certain CDC guidance regarding ventilation to help reduce the risk for exposure to coronavirus. Proper HVAC operation and maintaining acceptable Indoor Air Quality is a collaborative effort between the offices of Educational Facilities and Maintenance and Custodial Services, according to school system documents. Schools are designed to ventilate outdoor air throughout the day to reduce the buildup of pollutants and odors by approximately 35% outside air.

Why not open windows to assist with ventilation?

From www.acps.k12.va.us/Page/3629:

“Some of our schools have older systems and equipment that have to be closely monitored and balanced.

It is essential that these systems are balanced to provide clean, filtered air into interior classrooms and other spaces. Any deviation from air volume rates and temperature ranges has an impact across portions of the system and the area that it is serving. Thus, temperatures should be maintained through specific set point ranges to ensure the fans, motors, etc. are keeping up with air flow and outside temperature fluctuations. Based on these noted considerations, we are not recommending opening windows within classrooms/throughout the facility, as this brings in unfiltered air with more particulates, pollens, etc. into the interior spaces and destabilizes the air balance and relative humidity levels.

This cross contaminates the filtered and outside air and can elevate moisture levels, increasing the risk of mold growth.”
Roy Gravatte Dies at 84

From Page 7

is still operated by his family today.

While in college, Gravatte married his high school sweetheart, Gail Fitzpatrick, and together they raised three children in their family home in Springfield, Va. Gravatte was an enthusiastic Virginia Tech Hokie, endlessly flying his Hokie flag and dressing in Hokie apparel. He was a Virginia Tech football season passholder until 2019.

Gravatte was an active and dedicated Rotarian, joining the Alexandria Rotary Club in 1996. He volunteered as Santa on King Street each Christmas and in Delaware hosted the annual Christmas breakfast of the Rotary Club of Southern Sussex at the Addy Sea. Gravatte was a member of the Masons, as was his father, and was elected to the Bethany Beach Town Council.

In addition to spending time at the beach, Gravatte enjoyed socializing with friends, an annual birthday party, rounds of golf, dips in the ocean and spending winter months in Florida with his girlfriend of 24 years, Sue Coolsey. A devout Christian, he attended Ocean View Church of Christ, the Beach Fellowship in Bethany Beach and the McGregor Baptist Church in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Gravatte was preceded in death by his parents, Frances Miller Gravatte and Leroy Trice Gravatte II; and his sister Martha Lu Gravatte.

He is survived by his brother, Charles and his wife, Frances; his children and their spouses, Trice and Laurel Gravatte, Gini and Neal Bepko, and Jeff and Sherene Gravatte; his grandchildren, Jessica (and Ian Loch), Tyler, Meredith, Adam (and Allison), Laura, Addy, Jamie and Sarah; and his two great-grandchildren, Rowan and Carter Loch.

A graveside service for Gravatte was held in Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Rotary International or to the Ocean View Church of Christ.
McLean Family Home

Sunny, free-flowing home created by removing walls and adding windows.

By Marilyn Campbell

After relocating to McLean from the West Coast and purchasing a home, the family knew that major changes were needed to accommodate their family, which includes two children. The couple enlisted the help of McLean based interior designer Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design.

“The kitchen was bizarre and had a weird layout,” said architect Sydney Davenport Katz of Barnes Vanze Architects Inc. “There was one large island with two different heights. We regularized the shape of some of the spaces,” she continued. “There were a lot of angled and sloping surfaces that we were able to eliminate.”

Some of the kitchen cabinetry and part of a wall were removed. Floor to ceiling windows flood the room with sunlight. White cabinetry and marble countertops add to the space’s light and airy feel. Morris used a neutral color palette throughout the home, which now includes an exercise room and playroom.

The second floor also called for a design overhaul, says Morris. “The master bathroom had a lot of chopped spaces. It was a bizarre design.”

The original master bathroom had what Morris described as excessive storage space. Some of the closets were eliminated and the drop-in tub was replaced with a free-standing tub.

The home has five full bathrooms, two powder rooms, six bedrooms, including two guest rooms. The laundry room is located on the second floor.

“That project had such good energy,” said Morris. “It always have great memories of it. There are just some projects in life that fall into place and this is one of them.”

“Our main goal was to have an island to feed small children and a space where the family could eat dinner at the table.” — Tracy Morris, Tracy Morris Design
Charles D. Curtis, Sr. of Alexandria, VA passed away 3/2/21 at age 88. Charles is a native of Culpeper, VA. He married Mildred J. (Barringer) Curtis January 12, 1957. He is survived by his wife, Mildred, their 6 children and 11 grandchildren. He enlisted in the US Army and served in the Korean War. He and his wife were owners of CHEC Soda & Ref. Co., Inc. Charles was a member of the Shriners Organization and a Freemason. A funeral service will be held at Culpeper National Cemetery at 1pm on Friday, March 12th in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children — Philadelphia. Fond memories and condolences may be shared with the Curtis family through cloreenglish.com. The Curtis family has entrusted Clore-English Funeral Home with these arrangements.

Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE approving and authorizing the closure of Wales Alley between South Union and Strand Streets, to Vehicular Traffic. The proposed ordinance closes Wales Alley to vehicular traffic, between South Union and Strand Streets.

AN ORDINANCE to amend Title 10 Chapter 4: Stopping, Standing and Parking and Title 3 Chapter 2 Article 5: Payment, Contact and Enforcement of Parking Citations. This ordinance would regulate the parking of vehicles over 12,000 pounds or longer than 30 feet by limiting such parking to 2 hours in commercial business areas unless transfer loading and unloading. This ordinance also contains technical amendments to update the City Code to consolidate, clarify, and more clearly organize parking violation items.

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a portion of the public right-of-way at Oakville Street, between Swann Avenue and Fannon Street (VAC No. 2020-00005). The proposed ordinance vacates a 24,389 square foot portion of Oakville Street, between Swann Avenue and Fannon Street, due to changes in the street network in the development.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and repeal Sheet Nos. 074-03 and 074-04 of the “Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia,” adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the properties at 416 South Alfred Street and 431 South Columbus Street, from FC/High Density Apartment Zone, and R01 Glarbon Street, 450 and 510 South Patrick Street, and 900 Wolfe Street from RB/Townhouse Zone to RMF/Residential Multifamily Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2020-00000.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2020-00000, to rezone the property at 416 South Alfred Street and 431 South Columbus Street, from FC/High Density Apartment Zone, and R01 Glarbon Street, 450 and 510 South Patrick Street, and 900 Wolfe Street from RB/Townhouse Zone to RMF/Residential Multifamily Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2020-00000.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and repeal Sections 5-139.1 (DWELLING ACCES-SORY), 5-141 (DWELLING UNIT), and 5-146 (FLORID AREA) of Article II (EXCEPTIONS), Sections 7-101 (PERMITTED ACCESSORY USES), 7-103 (USE LIMITATIONS), 7-202 (PERMITTED OBSTRUCTIONS), and 7-203 of Article VII (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS) and Section 11-1302 (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS OF ARTICLE XI (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS)) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment herefore approved by council as Rezoning No. 2020-00003.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning Ordinance No. 2020-00003, to amend the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendments herefore approved by City Council in the Old Town Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2020-00007 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment. The proposed ordinance accomplished the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2020-00007 to amend Map A, Alexandria West Land Use Map, to note that the land use designation for the applicable parcel is CRMU-H and to amend Map A, Alexandria West Height Limits Map, to note that the maximum allowable height for the application portion of the applicable parcel is 90 feet, approved by the City Council on February 26, 2021.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and repeal Sheet No. 011.01 of the “Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia,” adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 4898 West Braddock Road, from RA/Multi-family to CRMU/H-Commercial Residential Mixed Use (High) Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by council as Rezoning No. 2020-00003.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2020-00003, to rezone the property at 4898 West Braddock Road, from RA/Multi-family to CRMU/H-Commercial Residential Mixed Use (High) Zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by council as Rezoning No. 2020-00003.

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, March 20, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CITY CLERK.
BY KENNETH B. LOUIE

I realize I’m cancer-centric, especially in these columns, but for some reason that center-

ticity didn’t acknowledge my February 27th cancer anniversary. That day, in 2019, was when I

was originally diagnosed with stage IV, non- small cell lung cancer, the “terminal” kind. I

remember well. It was a Thursday. It was the initial Team Lourie meeting with my soon-to-be

new best friend: my oncologist. A week or so before I had received the first information - from

my primary care physician, that my life was about to change: the results from the previous

surgical biopsy confirmed a malignancy. It’s rather an awkward dynamic to meet someone -

for the first time, who immediately becomes the person who will control, manage and in effect,

be responsible for whether you live or die, and for how long. From then on, he becomes the

most important person in your life; a person who is now entrusted with your most precious

asset: your health.

It was not an unfamiliar experience for me meeting someone cold and attempting to build

rapport. Forty two years earlier, that was my modus operandi. Whether in person or over the

telephone, I have regularly been engaged in this kind of pattern to your future life ended the moment

of trust and honesty in order to reach a shared

goal. Previously, it was about making a sale;

now it was about understanding options and

agreeing on a course of treatment. However,

the one major difference between these two

paradigms, was control, or rather the lack thereof.

Cancer was now in control as compared to my

life as a salesman where I chose it because it al-

lowed me to be in control. I was asked, when I

called, scheduling appointments, et cetera.

Soon it became apparent, I was no longer in

Kansans anymore. I was in the hands - figura-

tively speaking, of my oncologist - in Maryland: my new boss. If I wanted to live beyond the

13 month to two year” prognosis, it would have to be as attentive and compliant as possible.

Target of our short-term-type of relationship, we have persevered together, which has en-

abled yours truly to acknowledge, albeit a week or so later, an amazing achievement: 12 years

and still living. Not that my circumstances have become de rigueur, hardly; especially since the

thyroid cancer diagnosis of late has put into

doubt many of my original non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis. Apparently some few

inquiries, it appears unlikely that we can litigate the past any more than we can guaran-
tee the future. It seems that once a cancerous type, will be a part of my life and likely a part

of my death as well.

I’m surprised how it’s (my life) all turned out and grateful to whoever for what I’m not en-
tirely sure: Nonetheless, somehow it’s worked

and grateful to whomever for what I’m not en-

certain. Nevertheless, somehow it’s worked

and down and all-round, emotionally, physical-
diagnosis is all about change, ceding control,

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16  Alexandria Gazette Packet  March 11-17, 2021