

At Last ...

T.C. Williams, Matthew Maury schools officially change names.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The years-long movement to change the names of Matthew Maury Elementary School and T.C. Williams High School came to an end as each school held renaming ceremonies to rid the monikers of men connected to the support of slavery and segregation.

In a June 22 ceremony, Matthew Maury was officially renamed Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School in honor of the lifelong Alexandrian and beloved schoolteacher who died last year.

"This is an exciting moment, an emotional moment and an historic moment," said Gen. Leo A. Brooks Sr. (ret), husband of the late Naomi Brooks. "It is indeed a day to remember. While her loss is difficult for all of us, she has left behind an example for all of us to follow."

Brooks fought for desegregation as a student at Parker-Gray High School and later taught for decades at Charles Houston and Cora Kelly Elementary Schools. The school, originally built in 1929, had been named for Matthew Maury, a Confederate leader and noted oceanographer.

"This is very exciting," said Suzanne Hess, the new principal at Naomi Brooks. "It's an amazing

feeling to be the inaugural principal at a school where there has been such a biased history but now has a future going forward. It is just spectacular."

Gen. Leo A. Brooks Jr. (ret) joined his father at the event honoring his mother. Another brother, Gen. Vincent K. Brooks (ret) was unable to attend.

The School Board voted in April to change the name of Maury Elementary as well as T.C. Williams High School. T.C. was named for

SEE T.C. WILLIAMS, ON PAGE 4



Students unveil the marquee officially renaming Matthew Maury Elementary School to Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School during a June 22 ceremony.



Aliza Cook holds her essay on Naomi L. Brooks that she read at the June 22 unveiling ceremony.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Students gather on the steps of the newly renamed Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School during the June 22 unveiling ceremony.



Students Lily Fanning, left, and Lorraine Johnson unveil the new marquee for Alexandria City High School.

Jinks Announces Retirement City Manager to leave at the end of 2021.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks used the June 22 City Council Legislative meeting to announce his plans to retire by the end of the year.

In a statement released by the city, Jinks said: "I want to thank the current and former Mayors and Members of City Council. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Al-



City Manager Mark Jinks announced that he will retire by the end of the year.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

exandria community in addressing its challenges and creating a better community for all Alexandria residents and businesses."

Jinks went on to note that he will turn 70 years old in 2022 and feels the time is right to "have fresh eyes on the city government to help it continue to achieve and improve."

City Councilman John Taylor Chapman shared the announcement on his Facebook page, which quickly filled up with tributes to Jinks.

"There are so many great things

that would not have happened without Mark's creative leadership," said former councilman and state senator Rob Krupicka. "His calm in the face of chaos demeanor and his progressive vision for the city will all be missed."

Added Jack Powers, a former colleague of Jinks, "I worked with Mark on the Juvenile Detention Center when he was in Arlington and later when he came to Alexandria before I retired. He is a stellar public servant and outstanding person. He has made tremendous

contributions to all of our lives."

Jinks said that the timing is right for this transition as a new City Council takes over in January and begins developing a long-range strategic plan in 2022.

"I want to thank Mark for his many years of service to the city," said Mayor Justin Wilson. "His leadership and management of the city government organization have been exem-

SEE JINKS, ON PAGE 4

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Journey to Freedom

Mount Vernon commemorates Ona Judge, enslaved woman who fled to freedom.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Students from Laurel Ridge Elementary School are joined by members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at the June 19 unveiling of a historical marker at Mount Vernon Estate commemorating Ona Judge, an enslaved woman who fled to freedom.



Laurel Ridge Elementary School student Tessa Tritan unveils a plaque commemorating the life of Ona Judge, a woman enslaved by George and Martha Washington who ran away to freedom, as part of the Juneteenth celebration June 19 at Mount Vernon Estate. Participating in the event are members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Laurel Ridge students who nominated Judge for recognition.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

“Black history is Virginia history and should be taught all year.”

— Fairfax County teacher
Maura Keaney

For years, the nation’s first couple George and Martha Washington pursued Ona Judge, a young woman who in 1796 escaped a life of slavery in the Washington household to live in freedom in New England.

On June 19, as the nation celebrated its first federal Juneteenth holiday, the life of Ona Judge was remembered during the unveiling of a historic marker outside the Mount Vernon Estate where Judge was enslaved as property to Martha Washington.

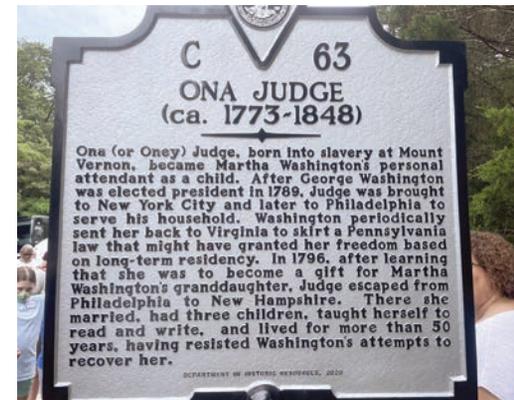
“Black history has been richly and vibrantly told in the City of Alexandria but basically erased here in Fairfax County and other neighboring counties,” said Maura Keaney a Fairfax County Public

Schools teacher who led FCPS students in nominating Judge for recognition with the historical marker. “Black history is Virginia history and should be taught all year.”

Judge’s story was nominated for recognition with a historical marker by the students in Keaney’s fifth grade class at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. The class wrote nomination letters as part of Gov. Ralph Northam’s Black History Month Historical Marker Contest.

According to the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of

A Virginia historical marker in honor of Ona Judge, an enslaved woman who fled to freedom, was unveiled June 19 on the grounds outside the Mount Vernon Estate.



SEE JOURNEY, PAGE 5



Alexandria City Hall is illuminated in celebration of the nation’s first federal Juneteenth holiday.



PHOTO BY CAROL JEAN STALIN

Laurel Ridge Elementary School teacher Maura Keaney left, is congratulated by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for her work on the Ona Judge project during the Juneteenth ceremony at Mount Vernon Estate.



Gen. Leo A. Brooks Sr. (ret), left, joins school principal Suzanne Hess, and son Gen. Leo A. Brooks Jr. (ret) in front of the sign renaming Matthew Maury Elementary School in honor of his late wife, Naomi L. Brooks, during the June 22 unveiling ceremony.



ACPS superintendent Gregory Hutchings, second from right, celebrates the formal unveiling of the new marquee for Alexandria City High School with T.C. alumni Cindy Anderson, City Councilwoman Amy Jackson and former T.C. principal John Porter.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams, Matthew Maury Schools Officially Change Names

FROM PAGE 1

longtime ACPS superintendent Thomas Chambliss Williams, an avowed segregationist regarding public school education.

The formal renaming ceremony at T.C. took place June 23 when the marquee for the new Alexandria City High School was unveiled.

School board student representative Lorraine Johnson and Lily Fanning of the organizations Students for Renaming T.C., did the honors of unveiling the new marquee.

“I am so pleased to see the name change,” said former T.C. Williams principal John Porter. “Titan pride is strong and will continue to positively impact our wonderful community.”

“This is an exciting moment, an emotional moment and an historic moment.”

— Gen. Leo A. Brooks Sr. (ret), husband of the late Naomi L. Brooks

School Board vice chair Veronica Nolan, second from right, speaks at the official renaming ceremony for Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School June 22. She is joined by (from left) school Principal Suzanne Hess, Gen. Leo A. Brooks Sr. (ret), widower of Naomi Brooks, Gen. Leo A. Brooks Jr. (ret), son of Naomi Brooks, and ACPS Superintendent Gregory Hutchings.



Jinks Announces Retirement

FROM PAGE 1

plary, and his financial acumen and creativity in problem solving are unmatched. The results of his work have had – and will continue to have – enormous positive impacts for the city, its residents and businesses for generations.”

Jinks was appointed City Manager in April of 2015. He joined the city in 1999 as Chief Financial Officer, responsible for the city’s budget, finance programs and information technology services.

Jinks served for 10 years in that role before becoming a Deputy City Manager where he oversaw the City’s land use plan-

“There are so many great things that would not have happened without Mark’s creative leadership.”

— Former Councilman and state Senator Rob Krupicka

ning, zoning, historic preservation, transportation, environmental protection, code administration, affordable housing, parks, recreation, cultural activities and museums. His responsibilities included the areas of economic development, project finance and

project implementation.

His accomplishments as City Manager include the planning and funding of the Potomac Yard Metrorail station, the Landmark/Inova Hospital redevelopment plans, National Science Foundation relocation to

Alexandria, creation and preservation of affordable housing, and the management of city operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wilson said that City Council will employ an executive search firm in choosing a successor to Jinks.

“Mark has been a fantastic City Manager,” said Allen Lomax in a social media post. “He is a wonderful professional and public servant. Alexandria is a lot better community thanks to Mark’s leadership.”

Added former City Manager and Jinks’ predecessor Rashad Young, “Mark Jinks has served Alexandria well.”

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Journey to Freedom

FROM PAGE 3

George Washington at Mount Vernon, Ona Judge, often called Oney by the Washingtons, was born at Mount Vernon in around 1774. She was the daughter of Betty, an enslaved seamstress living on Mansion House Farm, and Andrew Judge, a white English tailor whom Washington had hired. Ona Judge fled the Washington home in Philadelphia in 1796 as they prepared to return to Virginia, eventually making her way to New Hampshire. She went on to marry and start a family, evading attempts to recapture her over the years.

“Until three students wrote successful nominations for the new Virginia historical marker, there was not a single Virginia historical marker in all of Fairfax County about a Black man or a Black woman in Virginia history,” Keaney said.

“There were only two in the county about women at all. Through Governor Northam’s Black History Month Historical Marker contest, these students have made a lasting impact in addressing the injustice of the erasure of some Black history stories from the history of Virginia.”

Guest speakers included Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Dr. Erica Armstrong Dunbar, author of “Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge.” Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors attended the event, including Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Jeffrey McKay.

Tessa Tritan, one of the Laurel Ridge Elementary School students who researched and nominated Judge, had the honor of unveiling the historic marker.

“This fuller history at Mount Vernon does not cancel George Washington,” Keaney said. “He is still our first president, still the



JANET BARNETT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck presents flowers to author Erica Amity Dunbar at the June 19 unveiling ceremony of a Virginia historical marker at Mount Vernon Estate in honor of Ona Judge, an enslaved woman who fled to freedom.

Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army of underdogs who beat the mighty British. His meritorious accomplishments are not erased by his moral failings.”

Despite escaping to freedom, Judge legally remained the property of Martha Washington although attempts to recapture her ceased following the death of George Washington in 1799.

“Everyone who pauses now as they walk past this sign will be seeing a different perspective of Mount Vernon and George Washington,” Keaney said. “This Fairfax County woman stood up to the most revered man in the world and was never caught.”

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.

JUNE 28 TO JULY 2

Media-Savvy Digital Movie Makers. Historic Alexandria has created unique virtual programs for rising 6th through 9th graders. Cost is \$130 per week, which includes daily live virtual instruction from 10-11:30 a.m. and additional activities to complete outside of class. Create your own commercial for good! Participants will learn about media and its influence in our life through a tour of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum’s collections, then use their media-know-how to create a Public Service Announcement on a topic of their choosing. From crafting a powerful message to storyboarding to digital movie tips, everyone will be prepared to create an amazing PSA of their own that will be featured during the final session. Scholarships available. To register and get additional information, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.

“DUKE STREET IN MOTION”

The City of Alexandria announces the start of “Duke Street In Motion,” an 18-month

planning and design study focused on ensuring that transit improvements to be made along the Duke Street corridor, from the Landmark Mall area to the King Street Metro Station, will align with users’ needs, wants, and expectations. To meet this goal, the City will host nearly 30 events and activities to gather feedback from those who live, work, and travel along the Duke Street corridor. Provide input by completing a short feedback form by July 31. The feedback form and associated resources will be available online in English, Spanish, and Amharic. Starting June 21, “Duke Street In Motion Week” will feature a series of outreach events. To learn more about the project and ask questions, attend a pop-up event at locations along the corridor or join a virtual project webinar on Wednesday, June 23, 7-8:30 p.m. Registration is required to participate. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the project webpage. Visit alexandriava.gov/DukeInMotion.

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SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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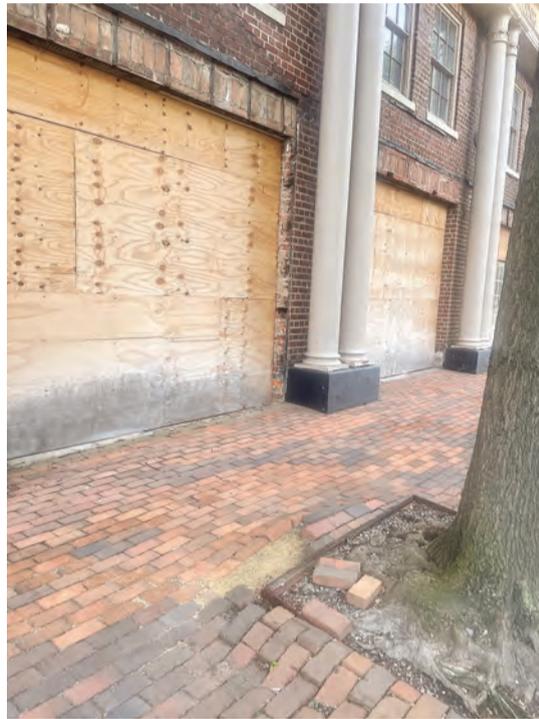
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699 Prince Street Hotel Project: Eyesore? Hazard? Abandoned?

To the editor:
Right in the center of Alexandria, Washington and Prince Streets. Billed as a hotel-retail conversion project. No work has been done for well over a year. The badly damaged sidewalk, exposed demolition, broken windows, graffiti and degraded temporary boarding up make it a highly visible eyesore and a safety hazard. There's even a faded "Hole" sign leaning up against the building. The building and property are accidents waiting to happen. Has the look of an abandoned building project.

Take a look at the temporary shoring supporting much of the upper structure. I'm not an engineer or construction expert, but it sure doesn't look structurally sufficient for what has become the long term. These guys even failed demolition reviews and site surveys in 2019 and early 2020. How do you fail a demolition review?

There are no open building per-



Broken windows and graffiti on a building at the corner of Prince and S. Washington streets.

The first phase of a planned 141-room hotel with ground floor restaurant and ballroom at the Northeast corner of Prince and S. Washington streets was approved in August of 2019. Nearly two years later the building remains boarded up and in disrepair.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

mits. They all expired long ago. The investors have done nothing with the building since at least early 2020.

Here's a challenge to Justin Wilson and others. 699 Prince Street is an eyesore, accidents waiting to happen, and maybe even structur-

ally defective. Let's see some action and results.

John Skibinski
Alexandria

July 1: New Law Day

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Next Thursday is July 1st, and here in Virginia that means that most of the laws passed during the 2021 legislative session will go into effect! In any given year, all laws enacted during a regular session of the General Assembly take effect on the first day of July following the adjournment of the regular session at which they were enacted, unless a different date is specified. Sometimes a law has a delayed implementation and its effective date is later.

This July 1 date corresponds with the beginning of the next fiscal year. However, you may remember that earlier this year in order to complete our legislative business, Governor Northam called a special session. Laws passed during a special session usually go into effect on the first day of the fourth month following the month of adjournment of the special session. In order to prevent laws going into effect on June 1st, prior to the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year, we began our special session on March 1 to keep to the July 1 date.

Below, I highlight just a few of the new laws going into effect next week which will impact our daily lives here in the Commonwealth:

- ❖ The Virginia Human Rights Act will expand to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.
- ❖ The death penalty will be eradicated.
- ❖ The witness signature requirement for absentee ballots will be eliminated during public health emergencies like COVID-19.
- ❖ Electoral boards or general registrars of a county or city will have the option to provide in person absentee voting on Sundays.
- ❖ Temporary voting expansion measures such as ballot drop boxes, my measure for postage-paid envelopes for returning ballots by mail, and curing of absentee ballots will be made permanent.
- ❖ When passing cyclists, if three feet of distance cannot be maintained, drivers must switch lanes when they can do so safely instead of just moving over (this may include crossing double yel-



Krizek

low lines which is already legal, provided it can be done safely when passing others including pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders, and foot-scooters).

- ❖ Bicyclists may ride two abreast in a travel lane instead of in single-file.
- ❖ Simple possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana

by Virginians 21 years of age and older will be legal. I plan to publish an article going more in depth about this legislation, which I worked extensively on as Chairman of the ABC and Gaming Subcommittee.

- ❖ A locality, like Fairfax County, may by ordinance require the removal of clutter from property, except on land zoned for or in

SEE JULY 1, PAGE 13

Let Us Know Your View

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Let's Get Together

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center reopens; HomeAid Northern Virginia helps in rebuilding lives.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center wasn't quite open officially for regular activities, but it didn't stop the regulars from showing up for the ribbon cutting to celebrate the recent renovation on May 25. Senior citizens pushing walkers and chatting with friends returned to the Center to celebrate the renovation after more than a year of closure due to the pandemic, to catch up with each other and to share lunch.

Gloria Velasco, an 84-year-old regular at the Center, says she had been so lonely at home during COVID. She had been coming to St. Martin's for 20 years and has been showing up there every Friday to pray the rosary even though it hasn't officially opened.

"Life is very uncertain now," Velasco said. "You need to see people."

The Center received a major upgrade during closure from a \$44,000 grant provided by HomeAid Northern Virginia. HomeAid is a nonprofit that partners with local social service organizations (in this case Catholic Charities of the diocese of Arlington) to build and renovate facilities by utilizing the expertise, labor and resources of local homebuilders. This renovation grant allowed Catholic Charities to spend their funds on services for those at the Center.

The Center will offer wellness programming, hot, nutritious daily meals and social services when it reopens in coordination with the City of Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services. The Center is located in a 1950s structure and has provided services to seniors for the past 45 years.

During the pandemic, the staff and volunteers delivered meals and social services remotely to those isolated at home as "a senior center without walls." They conducted weekly wellness calls, delivered household supplies, food and activity kits, and helped schedule COVID-19 vaccinations. Anne Coyne, Senior Center program director Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington says, "We can't wait to get everyone back together again — in a responsible fashion — in our brighter, modernized and much improved space."

Kristyn Burr, Executive Director and CEO of HomeAid Northern Virginia, says they began con-



Seniors are excited to see each other and reconnect for the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown began in March 2020.



Gloria Velasco, a 20-year regular, returns to St. Martin de Porres for the ribbon cutting on May 25. "Life is very uncertain now," she said. "You need to see people."



Ribbon cutting to celebrate renovation of St. Martin de Porres Senior Center. Stephen Carattini, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, cuts the ribbon with officials from HomeAid Northern Virginia, Northfield Construction & Development, Trinity Group Construction and Catholic Charities.

struction early last year. "If there was a light in the darkness, it was that the center was closed due to COVID during the construction."

The Center hadn't been renovated since the 1950s and it needed a lot of interior work, Burr said. "The rooms had walls partitioned with curtains, and we replaced them with walls which had windows and doors." Everything had been painted "the same blah beige but they chose a really nice blue for repainting — very zen." HomeAid Northern Virginia also created more office space and a separate room for medical care.

Burr said HomeAid has 15 projects under construction, more than ever. "I don't turn down very many projects." HomeAid pairs with a professional builder who will maximize their relationship with subcontractors to donate service, time, and expertise. "Generally 80-100% of the cost of the project is donat-

ed," Burr said.

If there is a gap, fundraising covers the extra. "We have four major fundraising events a year with very generous donors and great Board Members who sponsor their own events.

"We couldn't exist without people. HANV is people based." She explains non-profits don't have a lot of choice of where they are located in facilities, and construction is really expensive. So if HomeAid can help improve their building, they have more to spend on services for people who are often living in poverty.

"And it feels so much better to have nice surroundings. Nonprofits are used to doing so much with so little. We get to help in the process of rebuilding lives."

Welcome Back

Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair makes 2021 return.

Following a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Volunteer Alexandria brought back the popular Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair held June 12 at Waterfront Park. The fair featured local and regional artists and crafters who showcased their pieces across various mediums, including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry and photography.

"This is a great show," said Beth Coast, an Alexandria-based potter and ceramics teacher at T.C. Williams High School. "It's wonderful to be out and about and seeing people again."

www.volunteeralexandria.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN

"It's wonderful to be out and about and seeing people again."

—Ceramics vendor
Beth Coast



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Ceramics artist Beth Coast relaxes during Volunteer Alexandria's Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair June 12 at Waterfront Park.



The Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair returned to Waterfront Park June 12.



Shoppers browse the vendors at the Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair June 12 at Waterfront Park.



Handcrafted items were on display at the Volunteer Alexandria Old Town Arts and Crafts Fair June 12 in Waterfront Park.

Athletes of the Year

Sportsman's Club awards \$40,000 to high school seniors.



Dalbec Barrett
T.C. Williams
Football



Emme Heilbrun
Bishop Ireton
Cross Country/
Track & Field/
Swim & Dive



Anna Hill
T.C. Williams
Crew/Rowing



Laila Jewett
Bishop Ireton
Basketball



Lillian MacBride
T.C. Williams
Crew/Rowing



Megan Munson
T.C. Williams
Soccer/
Volleyball



Bella Obioha
Bishop Ireton
Volleyball/Swim



Tatum Prevost
T.C. Williams
Field Hockey/
Swim & Dive/Tennis



Caroline Surratt
T.C. Williams
Crew/Rowing

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Sportsman's Club has named its 2021 High School Athletes of the year, awarding \$40,000 to 16 area high school student-athletes.

"We had 81 scholarship applications this year," said ASC president Eva Shea. "Each scholarship was for \$2,500 and a committee evaluated the student athletes on their sports achievements, academic achievements, community service, and essay."

ASC began the yearly scholarship in 2005 with one awardee and through the generosity of local donors has grown the program in recent years.

"Through our Holiday Giving Campaign we have been able to increase the amount given as well as the number of scholarships since then significantly," said Shea, who is the first woman to serve as president in the history of the organiza-

tion. "We are very grateful this year during a pandemic that we were able to raise 105 percent of our goal of \$40,000 and award \$2,500 scholarships to 16 very deserving student athletes for college."

The ASC scholarship is open to Alexandria high school seniors from T.C. Williams, Bishop Ireton, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes and Episcopal.

"It was an honor for me to work with the ASC Board of Governors during this challenging year to keep the traditions of ASC alive," she added. "Even though we weren't able to meet and honor the student-athletes of Alexandria in person, we were still able to offer quality speakers through our webinars, including Eddie George, Mark Scialabba, David Knight, Len Shapiro, Tommy Park and the local Athletic Directors. Marion Moon will be the second woman in ASC history to be President this coming year and I'm extremely confident our success will continue under her leadership."

"We are very grateful this year during a pandemic that we were able to raise 105 percent of our goal of \$40,000 and award \$2,500 scholarships to 16 very deserving student athletes for college."

— ASC president Eva Shea



Joshua Hernandez, T.C. Williams, Volleyball/Pole Vault



Michaela Mannel, T.C. Williams, Basketball/
Cross Country



Erika Harwood, T.C. Williams,
Volleyball/Soccer



Caleb Finmore, Bishop Ireton, Soccer



Caroline Winakur, T.C. Williams, Field Hockey



Emma Bates, T.C. Williams, Soccer/Swim
& Dive/Field Hockey



Lawson Laverty
Episcopal
Football/
Lacrosse

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Show Me the Money

Twig donates \$150,000 to Inova Alexandria.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, presented a check for \$150,000 to hospital president Dr. Rina Bansal and Inova Alexandria Hospital Foundation Board Chair Donald Simpson Jr. during the organization's annual luncheon June 15 at the Potomac Riverfront home of philanthropist Joe Viar.

"Every year The Twig steps up and gives a contribution where we need it most for renovations or important nursing programs at the hospital," said Simpson in accepting the check. The donation was part of a \$1 million pledge to renovate the hospital's Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit.

Founded in 1933, The Twig is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds for Inova. The Twig operates a thrift shop in Old Town and hosts the popular Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.

Traditional fundraising was curtailed and in-person gatherings eliminated for the last 15 months due to the pandemic. But members of The Twig persevered and raised \$100,000 for the Inova Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness Plan during a virtual fundraiser in 2020.

In addition to the hospital donation, two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to registered nurses Kenneth Daniels and Haymanot Amogne. Amogne is pursuing a nursing degree at James Madison University with plans to obtain a master's degree in Public Health. Daniels, a nursing administrator at Inova, will study to become a clinical director.

Longtime volunteer Anita Carson was presented with a silver platter in recognition of her 25 years of service to The Twig.

The Twig installed its 2021-2022 officers at the event, including: Mary Schoen, president; Michele Cumberland, vice president/membership; Stevi Allen, recording secretary; Carolyn Menchel, corresponding secretary; Carol Skiba, treasurer; and Carol Lyons, assistant treasurer.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET

Twig members gather June 15 at the home of philanthropist Joe Viar for the installation of new officers and the final meeting of the year.



Twig president Mary Schoen, left, is joined by fellow officers Michele Cumberland, vice president/membership, recording secretary Stevi Allen, treasurer Carol Skiba, and assistant treasurer Carol Lyons at the June 15 installation of officers and membership meeting at the home of philanthropist Joe Viar.



Inova Alexandria Foundation Board chair Donald Simpson Jr., second from right, receives a check for \$150,000 from Twig past president Candace Beane, president Mary Schoen, and treasurer Carol Skiba at the annual Twig membership meeting June 15 at the Potomac Riverfront home of philanthropist Joe Viar.



Inova Alexandria president Dr. Rina Bansal speaks at the June 15 meeting of Twig, the junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria.



Haymanot Amogne received a \$5,000 Twig Nursing Scholarship at the June 15 annual meeting.



Philanthropist Joe Viar, a past chair of the Inova Alexandria Foundation board, hosted the annual Twig meeting at his Mount Vernon area home.



Head of The Class Vocational seniors awarded Rotary scholarships.



Costanza Mangieri, West Potomac Academy.



Andrew J. Muir, Edison Academy.



Lindsey Schulwolf, T.C. Williams

The Rotary Club of Alexandria awarded its annual vocational scholarships to three local high school students who have excelled in pursuing vocational curriculum.

This year's recipients are: Lindsey Schulwolf of T.C. Williams High School, who will study Landscape Architecture at Virginia Tech; Andrew J. Muir of Edison Academy, who will study Computer Science at Drew University; and Costanza Mangieri of West Potomac Academy, who will study Health Science at Longwood University with plans to become a nurse.

The Rotary Club of Alexandria began awarding vocational scholarships in 1993. The organization works with the vocational programs of local high schools to identify students who have excelled in their classroom work, have financial need, and have shown a clear indication of their respective career path which aligns with the local school's vocational curriculum.

www.alexandriarotary.org

— JEANNE THEISMANN

ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Emerges

Cicadas Share Stage with Orchestra Debut.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

The blackened screen slowly fills with cicada sounds, and soon a red-eyed cicada crawls over the score of the “Arrival of the Queen of Sheba.”

As 14 musicians from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) begin to play, the camera focuses in on a hedge of white blossoms, turns to James Ross setting up sheet music in the garden and moves to flashes of the concert donors back together again in person after 18 months.

Melynda Wilcox, President of ASO’s Board of Trustees, says they wanted the viewers to feel like they were on the inside of the production of the concert by showing preconcert preparations and interspersing the concert video with detailed program notes by Ross.

Wilcox says they planned the concert around the theme of the cicadas. As the concert got closer, “We got a little nervous; the cica-

das were delayed but we decided to just embrace it and make it part of the live event.”

James Ross, Music Director of ASO, explains his excitement in sharing the pure joy of being above ground again with the cicadas, “their flapping wings and mating call. It felt like we had come out of hibernation.” Ross explained, “The program is devoted to celebrating your and their emerging from separation, and it feels so good.”

This concert was held in the garden of Dick Blackburn on May 15 and limited in size to a group of donors sitting in pods on the lawn. It was filmed and made available virtually June 9 as a fundraiser with an optional wine and charcuterie from Grape + Bean Rosemont to be delivered to your home. The concert will be available to the public on June 16 at no cost.

Arms flashing, Ross waves in the violas while sporting his garden attire of bright pink shirt and purple tie. “This next one is the group

SEE ALEXANDRIA, PAGE 11



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Maestro James Ross conducts 14 performers from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra in a return to live performances on May 15. This concert will be offered virtually to the public on June 16.

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The Contemporary Delights

Chamber Music will be featured on Thursday, July 1 at 5:30 and 7 p.m. at The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria.

CALENDAR

JUNE 1-SEPT. 25

Quarantine Creations exhibit. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The "Quarantine Creations" art exhibit at the Veterinary Clinics of America Alexandria Animal Hospital (VCA Alexandria), has been extended until September 25, 2021. This exhibit features artwork by local artists depicting personal experiences lived through the current global quarantine. Artwork by Del Ray Artisans members through the Gallery Without Walls program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. More details at: <https://delrayartisans.org/event/quarantine-creations/>

FRIDAY/JUNE 25

Alexandria Citizens Band. 7:30 p.m. Watch members of the Alexandria Citizens Band play your favorite Big Screen Movie Music in a virtual concert streamed. Conductor Mike Evans hosts the show from Alexandria, as members of our brass, flute, and reed sections play the best soundtracks from Beauty and the Beast, Spirited Away, Mary Poppins, the Sound of Music, Harry Potter, the Godfather, Breakfast at Tiffany's, New York New York, Ice Castles, and more. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/alexandriacitizensband>

JUNE 25-26

Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon. 6 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Enjoy an evening of family fun and fireworks along with patriotic music to celebrate our nation's founding. Tickets are available with and without Mansion tours. Access to the Mansion is by guided tour only. Admission: From \$35 for adult members and \$45 for adult non-members; from \$22 for youth members and \$33 for youth non-members. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon.

SATURDAY/JUNE 26

Garden Tour and Ice Cream. 10-11:30am. (Adults) Tour the vibrant summer gardens with a Green Spring Master Gardener docent. Finish at the Historic House lawn to enjoy delicious ices, served with toppings and garnishes. \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code I7Q.APUT) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAYS/JUNE 26

Virtual Watercolor Workshop: Painting a Series. 9:30-11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) In this virtual class you will choose a subject to draw and paint in a variety of ways in a sketchbook. By focusing on a specific subject, artist Marni Maree will help you discover new ways of seeing, painting and designing a page using various drawing and watercolor techniques. During the first session you will learn how to make each page unique and how to push creative boundaries to come up with even more ideas! During the second session, share your sketchbook drawings and paintings, get creative ideas from other students, and get your questions answered. \$104 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code KBK.9J6C) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JUNE 27

Moon Magic. 2-3 p.m. (Adults) The Moon holds us in its thrall, an object of enduring fascination. Explore its many incarnations throughout history, from deity, to feminine symbol...to green cheese! Discover contrasting portrayals of the moon in art, literature, and music, and hear about a future moon-inspired garden feature at Green Spring. Lecture only: \$12/ Optional tea box: \$24. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code 751.KPOP) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JUNE 27

Growing Pride at The Garden. 2 to 7 p.m. At The Garden at Building Momentum, 5380 Eisenhower Ave., Suite C, Alexandria. This event will feature 15 local LGBTQ+ makers and allies set up throughout The Garden with locally crafted goods available for sale. Enjoy local food trucks (including snow cones!), live music, and kids crafting available throughout the event. The event will take place inside the event space, the state-of-the-art workshop and outside on the patio. *Safe Space NOVA is dedicated to providing a safe, accepting, and supportive environment to combat social stigmas, bullying, and other challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

FROM PAGE 10

of three—The Third Brandenburg Concerto for 3 groups of 3 instruments." Wedged in the middle and commissioned by the ASO is "The Fantasy Ritornello," by Jonathan Kolm, a local artist. Ross wonders aloud how Kolm crawled inside Bach's copious brain but kept in solid touch with his own compositional brain.

Kolm said, "It was a hybrid melding of Bach and myself."

The program concludes with Handel's zippy Concerto Grosso (Alexander's Feast) filled with instrumental interludes, one of which the ASO plays. Ross says, "I honestly misread this and thought it was Alexandria's Feast. I thought what could be better — food and Handel in my hometown. That's what we're all about."

There had been some outdoor concerts around the City in the summer and fall of 2020. But this was the first official time the performers had been together as a formal group complete with rehearsals and fully conducted and able to experience the feedback of the audience.

George Hanson, ASO Executive Director says, "As a performer myself I know a musical performance is a symbiotic event. Performers receive feedback beyond applause. It's so important; you sense the audience response."

Wilcox says their next public event in 2021 will be the annual July concert on July 10 this year, which is the biggest public event for the City.

"This concert has been going on for at least 30 years. I don't know how COVID will affect the turnout but I have the feeling people will want to be there." It is held at Oronoco Park with the City encouraging people to be at all the parks along the way.

She says the program will be a mix of a little something for everybody. Of course there will be the 1812 Overture "but we don't know about the canons yet." There will be the patriotic favorites with the Armed Services salute, which people always like; some Broadway, some entertaining things sprinkled in then and now.

When COVID hit in March of 2020, Hanson said they had the sad duty of informing the ticket holders that all concerts had to be postponed. "We used the word 'postponed' because we planned to deliver what we had promised but we couldn't be sure when."

Ross remembers when COVID hit and the lockdown took place, "I felt vulnerable because it was institutional, the way in which I relate to the world, sharing large concerts."

As weeks went by, it became clear that the entire 20-21 season was in jeopardy. Hanson said they set up a task force to look much farther ahead with the option to make the big step of transporting the entire season into the future 12 months. "We very nearly retained every element of every program."

IN LATE MAY 2020 Goodwin House came to ASO and asked if it was possible to come and play in the courtyard for their residents who may not have seen anyone for a couple of months. Ross says that two different horn players they asked to play in the brass quintet felt it wasn't safe. "I'm a horn player so I played myself to see what it was like. It was so poignant about the invitation." Some Goodwin House residents were able to watch outside with masks, and others looked out the windows.

Hanson says it was such an enormous success they were encouraged to plan other outdoor con-



Several members of the ASO perform an outdoor concert at Goodwin House in May 2020.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

certs in successive weeks with small groups of musicians. Ross says, "We couldn't actually rehearse so we just showed up as a different kind of freelance talent. As more happened we could see how grateful people were to feel the power of music again."

ASO was also able to creatively continue their Simpatico education program for students at John Adams Elementary School. Wilcox says, "It is built on a Venezuelan concept of music for social change. Put an instrument in a child's hands and they develop as part of an ensemble, learn pride, to stick to it, to show up."

Hanson offers some good news. "We just learned that Schlesinger Concert Hall where we perform most of our programs, will be 100 percent capacity. This is the information the had been waiting for, and we will be reaching out in the next few days to our subscribers with information about the program."

Hanson says the regular season will open October 2 and 3 with Beethoven's 9th Symphony "Ode to Joy." November will be a collaboration with the Alexandria Film Festival and December a fairly traditional holiday concert." The season concludes with Rachmaninoff, featuring a brilliant pianist in February, and in April "the last sound you hear will be Brahms, glorious and uplifting."

One of the challenges when COVID shut down the orchestra was financial. Wilcox said they applied for PPP funds and had them in two weeks. "We wanted to show our musicians they are important to us and we have maintained all of our staff at full pay and benefits." Ross adds, "We decided to pay musicians who had scheduled their time for the cancelled concerts. As a time like this, no one suffers more than the arts community."

Ross says the biggest challenge for him was also the biggest boon. "We had to get good at something really fast, to make something happen in 2 days or a week where usually we plan a long time in advance. You can't move on a dime with a big orchestra."

"It became clear pretty fast that we had no chance for a regular season. We had to learn to be nimble, and luckily the Board thinks this way."

ASO is composed of local professional musicians with a pool of over 100 musicians from which they can draw. "Many of the musicians have come from military bands which are extraordinarily competitive so we wind up with some of the best in our community" Hanson continues, "We are regarded as one of the best regional orchestras in the country."

"Live performance is such a critical part of any community. Alexandria has a real gem, the centerpiece of a large tent of performing arts."



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, virtually on Zoom webinar and at 301 King Street, Council Chambers, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314, on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owners of the property located at 2424 Mill Road to construct and maintain an encroachment for two projecting signs that extend vertically more than 4-feet over Stovall Street, at that location (Implementation Ordinance for Encroachment No. 2019-00003 associated with Carlyle Crossing approved by City Council on April 17, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Seminary Hill/Strawberry Hill Small Area Plan chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2021-00002 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment (Implementation Ordinance for Master Plan Amendment No. 2021-00002 associated with Inova Hospital approved by City Council on June 19, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet Nos 031.03 and 039.02 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 4250 Seminary Road from R-20/Single-family zone with proffer to RB/Townhouse zone with proffer and 4320 Seminary Road from R-8/Single-family zone with proffer to RB/Townhouse zone with proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2021-00001 (Implementation Ordinance for Rezoning No. 2021-00001 associated with Inova Hospital approved by City Council on June 19, 2021).

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-7-42 (FEMALE DOGS IN SEASON; ALLOWING DOG TO URINATE, ETC.; NOISY DOGS, OFFENSIVE ODORS FROM DOGS; DOGS PROHIBITED ON POSTED PLAYGROUND AREAS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS) of Article C (DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS) of Chapter 7 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing and empowering the issuance, sale and delivery of General Obligation Bonds to finance City and Schools Capital Projects and the Landmark Mall Redevelopment and to refund certain outstanding Bonds of the City.

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 Tuesday, JULY 13, 2021. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated persons are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask and to practice physical distancing while inside Library facilities. Information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about who is considered to be fully vaccinated can be found here. While the Library will no longer be taking temperatures prior to entry, any persons who are feeling unwell should refrain from visiting Library buildings. Visit alexlibraryva.org/reopen.

ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

The Alexandria Black History Museum is the recipient of a \$243,356 grant from the IMLS Museum Grants for African American History and Culture that will partially fund a multiple year project that will run from July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2023.

"This highly competitive and generous grant from IMLS will enable the Alexandria Black History Museum to digitize, interpret, and make four important archival collections publicly accessible," said Audrey P Davis, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum. Documents, photographs, objects and other materials will be digitized as part of this grant. The digitization process will include creating or updating catalog records and scanning or photographing collections items, resulting in approximately 20,000 records with images for public access. The project will culminate in an exhibition on Moss H. Kendrix to open in the spring of 2023.

CHINQUAPIN PARK RECREATION CENTER TO CLOSE

The City of Alexandria's Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility (3210 King St.) will close Saturday, June 26 through Monday, September 6, for several planned facility improvements and annual cleaning. The scope of the facility improvements requires temporary closure to ensure public safety, reduce cost, expedite the work, and minimize community impact. The work was scheduled to take place during the summer months when the City's outdoor pools are available and there is less demand for indoor swimming. Planned facility improvements and cleaning, which will be complete when the facility reopens on Tuesday, September 7, include: Replastering and cleaning of Chinquapin's Rixse Memorial Pool to improve the longevity, cleanliness, water conservation, appearance, and safety of the pool shell for

several years. Replacement of the pool and locker room tile flooring to improve the safety, cleanliness, and appearance of the pool deck and locker rooms. Removal of wooden pool deck bleachers that have reached the end of their lifespan and can no longer be safely used. Refinishing and painting the pool ceiling to improve appearance, cleanliness, lighting, and air quality. Replacement of flooring in all club rooms and administrative suites to improve the functionality, appearance, safety, and comfort of the spaces. Annual deep cleaning and disinfection of the entire facility to provide a safe and clean space for patrons and employees upon reopening. Long-term, planned improvement projects that will continue after reopening include: Construction of several new universal changing stalls, which will provide more options for individuals and families. Construction of a new lifeguard office, which will create a safer and more functional space for the lifeguard rescue team to assist customers who require medical care. Skylight replacements to eliminate leaks, improve energy efficiency, and improve lighting and appearance. Many of the programs and offerings held at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility will be redistributed: All non-aquatics classes and camps normally scheduled for the summer will be moved to other recreation centers and parks. Swim lessons and water aerobics classes will operate at City outdoor pools. Old Town Pool will operate with extended morning hours to accommodate lap swimming. Valid Chinquapin passes will be honored at all fitness facilities at Alexandria Neighborhood Recreation Centers. Chinquapin passholders will also be provided an option to suspend their pass during the closure. Valid Chinquapin passes and daily admissions will be honored at all City outdoor pools.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR. CENTRAL LIBRARY EXPANDS IN-PERSON SERVICE

Beginning Friday, June 11, Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library (5005 Duke Street) will be open to the public and offering in-person service on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Curbside hours have been reduced and patrons will be able to enter the facility to browse Library collections, use computers and

wifi, and to check out materials. Limited reference services and no passport services will be available during these additional Friday hours due to Library staffing shortages. Barrett, Burke, and Duncan branches will continue to provide curbside-only service on Fridays until further notice.

For more information, visit the website at alexlibraryva.org/reopen.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. 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 donaldrea@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.

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.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

THURSDAY/JULY 1

"Contemporary Delights -- Chamber music." 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Savor the fresh and unexpected! This program contains works with unique instrumentation, featuring mixed chamber ensembles with percussion. Musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra perform contemporary chamber works by Andy Akiho, Yong Nan Park, Kevin Puts, and more. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgarden>

concerts/

THURSDAY/JULY 1

First Thursdays in Del Ray. 6 p.m. At various locations in Del Ray in Alexandria. Held the first Thursday along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, First Thursday is a series of free outdoor street festivals that bring the community together around a fun theme, benefiting a local nonprofit. Order dinner and drinks for carryout from one of Del Ray's local restaurants, stroll the neighborhood and have dinner on your front porch, front steps or

front yard.

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July 1: New Law Day

FROM PAGE 6

active farming operation. Clutter includes mechanical equipment, household furniture, containers, and similar items that may be detrimental to the well-being of a community when they are left in public view for an extended period or are allowed to accumulate.

❖ Workers' Compensation will expand to include the death or disability of firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, law-enforcement officers, correctional officers, and regional jail officers from COVID-19, and COVID-19 will be deemed an occupational disease.

❖ Essential workers will get paid one week of sick leave if they fall ill on the job, and retaliation from employers against workers who take sick leave will be prohibited.

❖ Up to 12-month prescriptions of birth control will be available to people on Medicaid, increasing access to contraception for those who need it.

❖ An end to the ban on abortion coverage plans offered through the health exchange, the first state in the country to do so.

❖ "Games of Skill", also known as "gray machines" found in some restaurants, truck stops and small convenience stores, will be prohibited.

❖ Banquet licensees that are nonprofit corporations or associations conducting fundraisers through an online meeting may ship wine in closed containers to persons for off-premises consumption.

❖ Car manufacturers will be required to sell a certain percentage of electric or hybrid electric passenger cars. Transportation is the leading source of greenhouse gas pollution in the Commonwealth, and this measure is supported by both automobile dealers and the environmental community.

The General Assembly took many of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and crafted and passed legislation that will make the Commonwealth a more just, cleaner, safer, and healthier place to live.

There are many more good measures becoming the law of the land, including legislation that I introduced on behalf of constituents, which you can look up on the Legislative Information System website.

It is my pleasure and honor to represent the good people of the 44th district.

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Obituary



Chandra T. Fitzgerald died on Wednesday June 16, 2021 after brief illness. She is survived by her children, son Pete M. Fitzgerald daughters, Teresa Carter (Wallace) and Donna Batts (Kenny); two grandchildren Delaunte and Jasmine. Followed by nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. She will be forever loved and missed. In lieu of flowers, the family ask that you donate to a charity of your choice.

CALENDAR

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Wait. What?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After each individual appointment with my oncologist, either virtual or in person; all my prescription needs and my next round of appointments are scheduled while I wait. Typically, my oncologist will ask me which days and times are convenient. Our cycle for such responses is every three months, after my quarterly scans. Since it's a regular routine, we've come to know our schedules three months in advance so we can make suitable and available arrangements - both medically and socially so as to not upset any previously scheduled apple carts. It's not that often that any non-cancer activities might conflict with a Wednesday morning in Gaithersburg. Nevertheless, scheduling is preferable to rescheduling. And since time is a wastin', there's no time like the present to smooth out any potential blips on the calendar.

When we were scheduling this week's on-site day at the facility back in March, we knew we were going to Montana this month. The original Wednesday, June 16, when I should have been scheduled for my scans, was not totally inconvenient but it was the day before we were leaving town. No problem. My health comes first so I was ready to okay the 16th. Then my doctor suggested that I wait a week, until the 23rd, the day after I will have arrived home, because he said "Nobody wants to get bad news before a vacation." It seemed the lesser of two evils so I decided on the 23rd. Then it hit me: "What bad news?" Not that I have been particularly symptomatic of late or have emailed my oncologist every step of the way. Hardly. But I can't believe my oncologist's suggestion was totally innocent. Though he most definitely meant well (he's always talking about quality of life), it unfortunately ruffled my feathers and got me thinking about results and consequences - and of course, life expectancy. And since bad news travels fast, I didn't see a point in speeding it up. Whatever will be will be and there's nothing I can do about any of it before my vacation which somehow affects my results after. If I've learned anything during these 12-plus years in the cancer world, it is that there's no need to hurry things along. Cancer works at its own pace and being flexible in the face of such imminent danger is the only way to roll.

But that's the dilemma we seriously ill/diagnosed patients experience. Do we delay the inevitable or do we naively hope for the best. I mean, how much respect do we give cancer? Somehow, we have to live our lives and occasionally "damn the torpedoes." And if we're not able to find a break in this very serious action, I imagine our wherewithal living forward might be adversely affected. Cancer has a way of getting under your skin (no pun intended) and then seeping into your subconscious. Before you know it, "the cancer" as "Forrest, Forrest, Gump" said will likely make you a very dull boy or a "dismal Jimmy" as the Brits say.

I chose to throw caution to the wind and live my life with the usual weight and not compound an already heavy burden by having my scan results emailed to me while I'm on vacation. I'm pretty good at compartmentalizing but I saw/see no reason to test my credentials. As a cancer patient, if I'm being honest/realistic, something bad could happen to me. I don't see any advantage to making matters worse, potentially, by forcing the issue.

I think why I'm focusing - and possibly over-reacting, to this presumptive unpleasantness, is that it hadn't ever been suggested to me before by my oncologist in quite this context. Oh sure, he's talked about my health and various percentages of survival but this last meeting, its directness caught me off guard. Sure we all laughed, but for a moment it raised the stakes and reminded me how fragile our existence is. I'm a very positive person so I can usually fend off most emotional trauma. In fact, the title of one of my earlier columns was "Positive About the Negative." And though I've been quite able to keep my "terminal" diagnosis in perspective, hearing 'nobody wants to get bad news before a vacation' may be considerate to suggest, but some things are better left unsaid, especially to a cancer patient.

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

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SENIOR LIVING

95 and Counting

Seniors who are 95 and older reflect on life and offer advice to younger people.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRIAM HALPRIN

103-year-old Miriam Halprin enjoys a deli sandwich during her first outing since the coronavirus pandemic began says that she credits her long life to positive mental outlook, good genes, a good laugh and an extremely high degree of vanity.

"Always keep a positive attitude and a sense of humor."

— Miriam Halprin

95-year-old Howard Eisenberg says he was carded recently and asked to provide proof of his age as he boarded a train on his way to visit his 80-year-old girlfriend.

"Three different conductors carded me. I said, 'Look, isn't my gray hair enough?' The conductor said, 'Nope, that could have started at 40.'" They insisted on seeing my driver's license and 'boy, was I proud."

What's the secret to a long life? Three local seniors reflect on their lives and share their accomplishments and their advice to younger generations.

Born in Manhattan, Eisenberg, who now lives in Alexandria, began his lifelong career as a writer while doing a stint in the military.

"I started writing at 18. WWII had just ended and my captain learned that I'd had a couple of years of college. He said, 'PFC Eisenberg, the Nazis who were in this barracks left a mimeograph machine and a typewriter here. Write me a newspaper to improve morale.' You don't say no to your company commander, so I wrote 'The Rifleman.'"

Eisenberg, who recently completed the script for a musical, says he's been a writer ever since. "I've written for radio and television. I've written magazine articles, he said. "I shared magazine and book bylines with my amazing late wife, Arlene."

To him, age is just a number and he says he has no intention of retiring. "There is so much to write about that I don't plan to quit until my fingers break off in the computer keys," he said. "And then I'll try dictating."

He has three children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. "I have to do a bit of math to keep track of progeny," he jokes.

Eisenberg doesn't attribute his longevity to genetics. "My mom only reached 62 and my dad his mid-70s," he said. "But those were meat-and-potato days. You ate what tasted best, not what was good for you."

Instead, he attributes his good health to prioritizing nutrition and taking vitamins. A healthy diet and regular exercise are two habits that Eisenberg attributes to hitting the 95+ mark. "Down with sugar and white flour," he said. "The more colorful the food



SMITH DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY
Howard Eisenberg

the better."

Broccoli, spinach, asparagus, yams and low-fat, sugar-free ice cream are among the foods that he enjoys. "Of course, this is common sense, not prescription," he said.

Inquisitiveness is a trait that Eisenberg advises younger generations to acquire. One of his regrets is not being bold enough

to ask questions when he didn't understand something in his youth.

"I joined my outfit as an infantry replacement and they gave me a bazooka, which I'd only fired twice and that was in basic training, he said. "I didn't remember how to shoot it but was sadly too embarrassed to ask guidance from one of the Battle of the Bulge seasoned veterans. Big mistake."

"So when a machine gun nest stopped us and the captain shouted, 'Bazooka up front,' I was momentarily frozen in place," continued Eisenberg. "The GI carrying bazooka rockets saved me. He turned and ran to the rear with the ammo and I had to chase and tackle him. By the time I got back with the ammo the machine gun was kaput."

This experience taught him the value of seeking as much information as needed to gain the understanding necessary to complete a task.

"You may not carry a bazooka, but there will be many times at different stages in your life when you won't know how to do something. Don't be a shy guy or gal. Ask questions, ask questions, ask questions. Ask until you're sure you understand. Then do it."

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This classic stone/stucco 1930s update has everything. Features large living room, gracious dining room, eat-in kitchen and family room/office. 3 large bedrooms, 2 full baths and roof-top deck overlooking the private yard. 6022 Fort Hunt Road **Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984** www.JanetPriceHomes.com



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