



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Audrey Davis, left, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, speaks to the crowd at the July 24 dedication of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network.

'Telling Our Stories'

Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery is the first Virginia site added to African American Civil Rights Network.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

They were fleeing the bondage of slavery. During the Civil War, thousands of African Americans flocked to Alexandria but with living conditions crowded and people arriving sick, many died from disease and deprivation.

In 1864, after hundreds had died, the Superintendent of Contrabands, as the freedmen were known, ordered that a property on the southern edge of town be confiscated for use as a cemetery. An estimated 1,800 African Americans were buried in the cemetery before the last burial took place in January of 1869.

With the federal government abandoning the property, it fell into disrepair and neglect. It would take nearly 130 years for the significance of the property to be recognized. On July 24, a wreath laying officially dedicated the historic Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery's inclusion in the national African American Civil Rights Network.

"The National Park Service is honored to be a part of the African American Civil Rights Network," said Charles Cuvelier, Park Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. "This memorial is about connecting people to places on the landscape, which is really the tapestry and fabric of telling our stories and honoring our heritage through those who have lived experiences today and life experiences of those who have passed before us."

The African American Civil Rights Network is a collection of 57 historic resources that commemorate, honor and interpret the nation's Civil Rights Movement and the continuing struggle for racial equality. The Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery is the oldest and first site in Virginia to be added to the network.

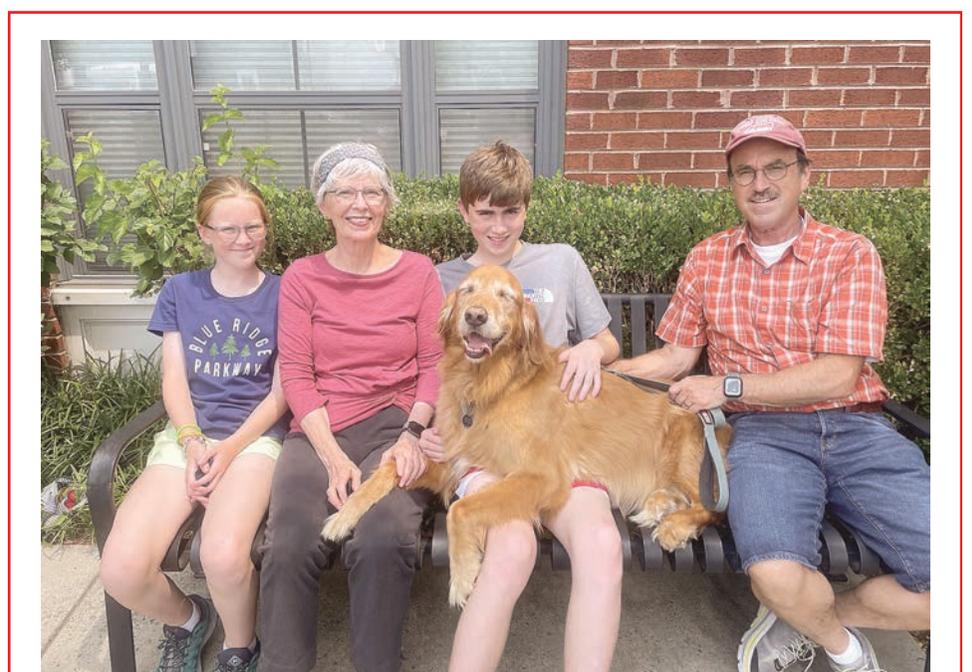
When the U.S. Army established the burial ground for contrabands and freedmen, it became one of the few final resting places of its kind in the country. Shortly after, the

SEE TELLING OUR STORIES, PAGE 8



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the 31st Masonic District gather in front of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial during the July 24 dedication of the site's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Pet Gazette Golden retriever Odell sits on the laps of Megan Paletta, Blair Forlaw, Connor Paletta and Chris Paletta.

SEE A DRAMATIC CAT RESCUE AND MORE PETS ON PAGE 4, 6.

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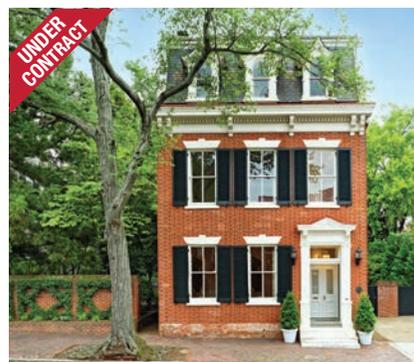
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Drawing the Line

How much should cities and counties be divided among lawmakers?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

For Mason Cook of the Middleridge neighborhood in Fairfax County, the problem of gerrymandering can be understood in an afternoon commute. During a public hearing of the Virginia Redistricting Commission this week, he explained that if he were to drive from his house to his grocery store and then drop off a package at his post office he would have gone through three different House of Delegates districts.

“It makes no reasonable sense,” said Cook. “I would like to implore the redistricting commission to try to keep the south-central area of Fairfax County together.”

Speaker after speaker gave personal testimony about how their neighborhoods are separated into unintelligible pieces and connected with other communities in neighboring counties. Several brought maps to show the strange configurations and shapes created by decades of partisan redistricting, a process that has been guided by elected officials for years.

Now a new Redistricting Commission is about to have a crack at drawing new maps for the House of Delegates, the State Senate and congressional districts. Many voters from Northern Virginia are telling them they don't like the kinds of districts like the state Senate seat currently held by Dave Marsden

“State Senate District 37 currently stretches roughly 30 miles from Centreville to the center of my community,” said Bill Millhouser of Annandale. “District 37 includes numerous disparate communities with completely different issues and needs as it weaves across the county, and I think it's a perfect example of an elongated gerrymandered district.”

ACROSS NORTHERN VIRGINIA, voters say they're unhappy that their cities and counties are sliced and diced in a way that separates them from their neighbors and connects them to communities far away. One example that came up during the public hearing at George Mason University is the 11th Congressional District, which is currently held by Gerry Connolly. It includes Tyson's Corner and Reston, but it also stretches deep into Prince William County all the way to Swans Creek.

“There's no community of interest between Tyson's Corner and Swans Creek in Prince William County,” said Bill Millhouser of Fairfax County. “We hear a lot of talk about voter suppression. These kinds of congressional districts are all about voter suppression, and they make the congressional elections totally meaningless.”

Some argue that splitting communities into multiple districts is actually a good thing. If one lawmaker is apathetic to an issue or disagrees with advocates, they can go to another. Also, members of the General Assembly who are in leadership introduce very few bills, so their local jurisdictions



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the redistricting commission listen to Debora Wake, president of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, during a public hearing this week at George Mason University.

“We hear a lot of talk about voter suppression. These kinds of congressional districts are all about voter suppression, and they make the congressional elections totally meaningless.”

— Bill Millhouser of Fairfax County

can't count on them to include items from their legislative packages. As a result, some say the more the merrier in terms of local delegations. That's not an opinion that was widely shared at the George Mason public hearing.

“I would like to propose that Arlington be represented by fewer delegates and fewer state senators,” said Chris DeRosa of Arlington. “Each delegate would be more fully engaged with the Arlingtonians in his or her district.”

THE CENSUS DATA that will be used to

draw the new political maps is expected to be available in about three weeks. The numbers will offer a snapshot in time, providing a great deal of information about one point in time last year. But the numbers don't tell you much about the growth and development that's in the pipeline — large scale development in Potomac Yard or south Old Town that will bring thousands of new residents to Alexandria will reshuffle the deck in terms of relative population to the declining populations in Southwest Virginia.

“The Census data you're going to be using to draw maps this time are actually based

on data that will be two years old by the time the first election is held using those maps,” said Tom Osborne of Alexandria. “Under-populated districts mean over-representation for those areas, and over-populated districts mean under-representation, and fast-growing areas inevitably end up under-represented during the life cycle of this 10-year redistricting.”

THE HISTORY OF drawing political boundaries in Virginia is full of racism and revenge. In the 1780s, Gov. Patrick Henry tried to draw the congressional districts to deny his archenemy James Madison a seat in the House of Representatives. In the early 1900s, white supremacists in the Democratic Party instituted a poll tax as part of a Jim Crow plan to exclude Black voters from the process. Even after the last redistricting a decade ago, federal courts determined Republicans were engaged in an unconstitutional scheme of racial gerrymandering.

“Some institutions of civic life have not and do not work for all Virginians,” said Paul Berry, chairman of the Fairfax County Redistricting Commission. “Our collective effort in this process is driven by equity.”

Modern technology has made the process of drawing political boundaries extremely effective for partisan purposes. Lawmakers have access to software that can help them go block by block to rig the outcome of elections with military precision. They will also eventually have access to the latest Census data that will help them understand which areas are growing the fastest and therefore need more representation.

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) spoke at the George Mason public hearing to request the precincts crafted by local elected officials should be the building blocks for the new maps.

“In defining community, please look at precinct lines, not sub-Census tract lines,” said Watts. “I respect the work that is done year in and year out by our local elected boards to define precinct lines. They come as close to respecting community as any building unit I can possibly describe.”

CALENDAR

DEL RAY ART CAMP

Del Ray Artisans invites youth ages 8-12 to Art Camp 2021 for a week of professional art instruction! Campers will have an immersive creative journey: painting, sculpting, journaling and other artful planned activities. During nice weather, campers will even have outdoor time to get fresh air, unwind, and replenish their creative energy. All art supplies are provided. July 26-30; \$325/child; scholarship support available. Registration at DelRayArtisans.org/event/art-camp-2021

THURSDAY/JULY 29

Savory Soiree: “Bold as Brass” - Chamber Music. 5:30 and 7 p.m. At The Secret Garden of the Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. If you've never heard a trombone

quartet or a French horn trio, this is your moment. Hear the noble French horn and the characterful trombone showcase the arresting versatility of their instruments. Featuring Kennedy Center Horn Trio: Wei-ping Chou, Horn | James Nickel, Horn | Robert Rearden, Horn. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Tropical Teas Tasting. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Savor a selection of real and herbal iced teas that will transport you to the tropics. Flavored with tropical plants, fruits, and flowers, these teas are delicious hot or cold. Take home recipes for more exotic teas to blend yourself. Tropical accompaniments served. \$25 per person.

Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (code JIW.B59M) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 31

Around the World Cultural Food Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, Old Town Alexandria. Around the World Cultural Food Festival, the largest outdoor cultural food festival in the Washington, D.C., metro area, celebrating the rich intercultural diversity, will take place in Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria. The participants will have the opportunity to taste authentic traditional food from restaurant vendors while watching a diverse folk show with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Fully Fund Our Libraries

Dear Editor:

Place the rain barrel for the library budget prominently under the new shower of federal funding (Gazette, July 22, "The New New Deal"), please. More than ever, in the post-pandemic world we're gradually entering, the libraries are urgently needed adjuncts to our schools. Students and teachers in search of time lost to COVID want to recover the learning levels reached before disaster struck in March of 2020. The latest resources are always available at the libraries, and in a quiet atmosphere in which the mind can give itself

over to thought and research.

We're lucky in Alexandria to have new immigrants from most countries of the world: they're invaluable for our culture, but they also, at the front end, need the exposure to English that our libraries provide in every conceivable form, including page turners and laugh-out-loud graphic novels. Going from strength to strength, we're also welcoming a lively new Amazon workforce and an exquisitely educated Virginia Tech academic community. As we all emerge from our COVID caves, the libraries offer meeting places not just for study but for all kinds of activities -- yoga, painting, needlework, cooking -- all sorts of laid back ways to meet people.

Each library also has an annual party, open to all.

For pleasure and profit, then, you can't beat our libraries, which by the way are also charmingly attractive buildings. They deserve and will repay all investment, so let's be sure it's generous.

Elisabeth Vodola
Alexandria

This Year's Crop of Potholes

Dear Editor:

As I drive around Old Town, I continually come upon numerous potholes and ruts that have obviously developed over the winter.

Luckily, to date, I have not been the victim of a blown tire or worse. I fully realize that the city does have a pothole repair number and that they are generally attentive in responding to the residents' cries for help. The City's normal repaving plan for its 550 miles of roads is to pave fifty (50) miles each year. This is probably insufficient for this year's crop of potholes and ruts.

It is evident that the city is totally overburdened this year, therefore they need to step up their game, and need to dedicate more resources to the problem. This is indeed a safety issue that needs the city's immediate attention.

Townsend A. "Van" Van Fleet
Alexandria

Quick Thinking and a Blanket Save Cat Out on a Ledge

BY AWLA ALEXANDRIA

None would have imagined that a moment of supervised balcony playtime would have turned into a precarious situation for a feline friend this past week. One minute, this young cat was playing with her brother, and the next, she found herself stuck on a ledge. Unable to access the window next to her, the cat's mom called the AWLA's Animal Services for help.

Our team came at the problem from all angles. Officer Scott Valdovinos and Officer-in-Training Jennifer Yang prepared to catch the cat from the ground with a blanket while Chief of Animal Services Tony Rankin tried to reach her from the balcony. When the cat misstepped off the ledge our officers on the ground were at the ready and it was a soft and safe landing for the kitty.

Even though the cat appeared to be unharmed, Chief Rankin helped her mom transport her to the animal hospital to make sure she was completely fine - and she was! Our officers were glad they could be part of a successful end to a scary situation. I think most of the story was captured in our post, but I was also very impressed that, while our team checked out the cat onsite and she seemed to be fine, the owner didn't have a car, and so Chief Rankin drove the owner and the cat to an emergency ER to make sure she was safe and healthy - which she was.



The cat slipped off of this ledge but had a soft landing in a blanket held by Alexandria Animal Services Officer Scott Valdovinos and Officer-in-Training Jennifer Yang.

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Aces Advance to Championship Series

Brook leads 10-0 shutout of Thunderbolts.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria Aces have advanced to the finals of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League with a two-game sweep of the Silver Spring Thunderbolts in the semi final playoffs.

The Aces will take on the Bethesda Big Train for the League Championship beginning July 29 at Povich Field in Bethesda at 7 p.m. in a best of 3 series. The Aces will play at home July 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Frank Mann Field. Game 3, if necessary, is scheduled for July 31 at Povich Field at 7 p.m.

The Aces won the first of its semifinal games against the Thunderbolts 4-1 on July 25. In the second game of the series on July 27, the Aces were led by a strong pitching performance by Colton Brook (Stoney Brook University) enroute to a 10-0 victory. Brook went 5 innings and allowed only 3 hits and struck out 4. The Aces combined for 15 hits, led by Mark Kattula (Eastern Michigan University) who went 3 for 3 with 2 RBI's.

If there are rain delays, games and sites will be pushed back each day.

www.calripenleague.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Aces coach Chris Berset is doused by team members in celebration of their 10-0 shutout of the Silver Spring Thunderbolts July 27 at Frank Mann Field to advance to the championship series of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League. The best of 3 series begins July 29 with the Aces playing at home on July 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Don't Feed the Birds: Update on Avian Mortality

In late May, wildlife managers in multiple states, including Virginia, began receiving reports of sick and dying birds that were exhibiting eye issues (swelling, crust discharge, etc.), along with neurological symptoms. Frequently reported species and age classes observed exhibiting these symptoms were young common grackles, blue jays, European starlings, and American robins. Other species of sick songbirds have also been reported but in much lower numbers. No human health or domestic livestock and poultry issues have been reported thus far.

Virginia was one of the first states that received reports of birds displaying eye and neurological signs. As a result, since early June, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, along with other local collaborating organizations, has been documenting dead or sick bird reports and submissions to cooperating wildlife rehabilitation hospitals. From these data, Department of Wildlife Resources was able to target guidance to the areas of Virginia most likely to be affected by this mortality event, which include Alexandria, Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Manassas, Prince William, Shenandoah, Warren, and Winchester.

Since early June, reports of dead or sick birds from the affected areas submitted via the Department of Wildlife Resources's online form have decreased by 50 percent.

Reports of dead or sick birds submitted to the Animal Rescue League of Arlington have also dropped from an average of 17 reports per day in early June to 1.5 reports per day in July. In the last two weeks, cooperating wildlife rehabilitation veterinarians in the affected area and Animal Rescue League of Arlington staff have only reported a total of two observations of affected birds.

Department of Wildlife Resources is working with the various wildlife health labs involved in this investigation, as well as the other states involved in this mortality event. Diagnostic investigations of this nature can be prolonged, due to the wide range of testing possibilities, and because of this no definitive cause(s) of illness or death have been determined at this time. Experts are utilizing all possible diagnostic avenues including toxicology (herbicides, pesticides, etc.), viral, bacterial, and parasitology.

Department of Wildlife Resources continues to recommend that people discontinue bird feeding in the affected areas until further notice. For the remainder of the state, DWR advises removing bird feeders anytime multiple dead birds are observed on a property over a short period of time. Feeders and bird baths should be disinfected with a 10% bleach solution (one part bleach mixed with nine parts water), rinsed with water, and al-

SEE AVIAN MORTALITY, PAGE 10



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Pawsome Pets

From restaurants to hotels to dog parks, Alexandria is a pet-friendly destination with families eager to enjoy the outdoors with their favorite four-legged companions.

“Odell is a golden retriever that is spoiled rotten,” said Chris Paletta, who was out with his wife Blair Forlaw and grandchildren Megan and Connor Paletta. “He doesn’t pay taxes, is neurotic and drives me crazy. People always come up to me and say ‘my dog is friendly’ and I say ‘mine is not.’ But he is a part of the family.”

Pet owners from across the city share photos of their beloved companions.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Flash Winston Bones with Jay Palermino in Market Square July 22.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO COURTESY DESILVA STUDIOS

Alexandria’s amended ordinance on dog barking became effective on July 6.

The Sound of Silence

New barking ordinance provides clear specification about dog noise in Alexandria.

For many years, when Alexandria residents inquired about a loud dog in their neighborhood, their first question was “Isn’t there a law against it?”

Until July 6, 2021, Alexandria ordinance section 5-7-42 declared it unlawful for a person to keep a dog who would “bark or howl to such an extent as to annoy any resident.” The Animal Services division of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) would work to assist residents who had complaints about dog noise, but with such little clarity about what types of noises were “annoying,” their role focused more on education and amelioration.

AWLA’s Chief of Animal Services Tony Rankin recalled, “The language from the previous ordinance was so vague that it really became unfair to owners. That is why it was ultimately deemed unconstitutional, and the City of Alexandria decided to update it.”

But this lack of specificity also failed to address larger problems. Dogs might bark for a variety of reasons, including boredom, but sometimes barking is an indicator of a larger issue. Animals who were outside in inclement weather might be barking to be let back indoors. Dogs might bark because they sense an intruder on their property or because someone inside the home needs assistance. And certainly, they might also bark because they see a particularly stealthy squirrel sneaking through their yard.

The Animal Services team would try to gather as much information as possible: the time of day a dog was barking, the length of time of that barking and if the reporter knows the circumstances of the barking. They could take that information to the residence and try to talk to the pet owners to address the situation.

“Most of the pet owners we spoke to were

receptive to the advice we would give to help lessen the noise,” said Rankin. “They thought we were there because they were in trouble, but our goal was to be professional, polite and to provide suggestions that might help.”

An amendment to this ordinance, passed earlier this month, provides greater detail to what is considered “annoyance barking,” defining windows of time and length of noise periods that might be considered excessive, as well as circumstances in which those guidelines might not apply. The full language of this ordinance and additional information can be found at AlexandriaAnimals.org/Dog-Noise. This amended language was the result of years-long efforts by the Alexandria City Attorney’s Office, working closely with the AWLA’s Animal Services team, the Alexandria Police Department and members of a Noise Ordinance Review Committee to ensure the amendment provided a greater level of detail to help officers respond to requests from the community. The new language also features provisions when dog noise is allowed, including if a dog is experiencing pain or injury, protecting itself or property or is an on-duty police dog.

“While our primary focus will still be to provide all parties with information and resources to best address barking situations, this new amendment will give us more detail to observe and enforce infractions throughout the city,” said Rankin.

AWLA Executive Director Stella Hanly concurs. “The focus of the AWLA is to help the animals and the people of our community. This amendment means we can better support residents who have concerns about dogs in their neighborhood, but we also have the capability to help those pet owners respond to complaints and ensure those dogs are receiving the attention they deserve.”

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Deborah and Frank Homberger with Ralphie and Randy.



Lois and Clark with Jon Miller.



Riley sitting shotgun with Tom Santry.



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	VA Struc No.	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
WYTHE	1086	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	GALENA CREEK	7/7/2021
WYTHE	1093	52	FORT CHISWELL RD	STREAM	7/7/2021
HANOVER	6016	617	SPRING RD	SOUTH ANNA RIVER	7/6/2021
SMYTH	6345	800	ST. CLAIR CREEK RD	ST CLAIR CREEK	7/3/2021
RICHMOND (M)	8034	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	6/24/2021
SCOTT	6505	617	SHELLEYS RD	BRANCH	6/17/2021
BUCHANAN	1060	460	RIVERSIDE DR	LOONEYS CREEK	6/15/2021
BUCHANAN	1107	T1012	RAILROAD AVE	LEVISA RIVER	6/15/2021
WISE	6219	630	SOUTH MOUNTAIN RD	BAD CREEK	6/11/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit www.virginiadot.org and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.



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4 Dates to Circle in August

By HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

International cuisine, a cat café's first birthday, a beer dinner and Alexandria's summertime celebration of restaurants – the month ahead is shaping up to be a busy one. Here are some of your best bets.

Around the World Cultural Food Festival, July 31

This festival may be getting in just under the wire as July comes to a close, but it counts as a first-weekend-in-August event nevertheless. Take a trip around the world without leaving the city with this food festival, which will highlight international cuisine and beverages from various countries. Admission is free; food and drink available for purchase. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Oronoco Bay Park. <https://www.aroundtheworldfestival.com/>

Celebrate Mount Purrnon's First Anniversary, Aug. 1

Turning a year old is a milestone in any business's life, but hitting the anniversary mark in the middle of a pandemic is a feat worth celebrating doubly. Mount Purrnon, Old Town's beloved cat café, hits the mark this weekend, and the business intends to celebrate in style. Drop by to sip champagne, enjoy beer, wine and cider flights, enter to



7-year-old sisters Merry and Marlee are sweet and super chill, says Fancy Cats & Dogs Rescue Team. Meet them and many other cuties at Mount Purrnon Cat Cafe and Wine Bar in Old Town Alexandria. Fancy Cats & Dogs Rescue Team offers an adoption special until the end of August, with Fees waived on bonded pairs ages 1+, and on all cats ages 8+.

win fun prizes with every reservation, visit with Mount Vernon's Martha Washington and more. Noon-6 p.m. 109 S. Alfred St. <https://www.mturrnoncatcafe.com/events>

Alexandria Restaurant Week, Aug. 20-29

It's that time again! The city's summertime Restaurant Week pulls back into port at the end of August, and hungry diners across the region will once again sample all manner of special tasting menus and other deals that local restaurants are offering. From City Kitchen to Cheesetique, Pasara Thai to Piece Out, the options are plentiful and the deals compelling. <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/>

Beer Dinner at Hops n Shine, Aug. 26

In tandem with the city's Restaurant Week festivities, Hops n Shine is hosting a beer dinner near the end of the month. Guests will partake of a three-course dinner, which will make use of the \$49-per-couple Restaurant Week pricing, and add on a guided beer tasting featuring beverages suitable for pairing with the meal. Reservations recommended. 7 p.m. 3410 Mount Vernon Ave.

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

'Telling Our Stories'

FROM PAGE 1

cemetery became the site of Alexandria's first known Civil Rights demonstration.

Following the burial of 118 U.S. Colored Troops in the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery, U.S. Colored Troops protested and petitioned for their fellow soldiers' right to be buried at what is today Alexandria National Cemetery. As a result of their action, the soldiers were reburied in Alexandria National Cemetery.

The July 24, 2021 dedication included a wreath laying by the 31st Masonic District, a reading by a representative of the United States Colored Troops, and remarks by Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley and Audrey Davis, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum.

"We are so proud to be honored by the National Park Service and to be the first Virginia site included with the Civil Rights Network," Davis said. "It is so important to us that people are now recognizing the petition as one of the earliest Civil Rights actions in Alexandria. While it is not the earliest, it is a very, very important organized fight for Civil Rights by African Americans and we are very proud of that."

The Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial is located at 1001 S. Washington St.

www.alexandriava.gov/FreedmenMemorial



Marquett Milton, right, speaks to attendees as a representative of the 1st U.S. Colored Infantry following the July 24 dedication of the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial's inclusion in the African American Civil Rights Network.



District Deputy Grand Master C.J. James, right, and Worshipful Grand Historian McArthur Myers of 31st Masonic District place a wreath at the Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial July 24 as part of a dedication including the site in the African American Civil Rights Network.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Kismet Healthy Foods LLC trading as Kismet Modern Indian, 111 N Pitt St Ste 12, Alexandria, VA 22314-3107. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sachin Mahajan, Managing Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Bedridden in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It all started innocently enough: on Crystal Beach in Galveston Texas while enjoying a family vacation. Due to 11 years of chemotherapy, I have neuropathy in both feet. As a result, I never walk barefoot, especially on a beach, unless of course, I go into the water. Which on the Saturday before last. I did. When I returned to my beach chair, with my feet all sandy and wet, I elected not to put my sneakers and socks on for the 50-yard walk back to our accommodations. Oh (literally), how I wish I had.

Not 10 feet from the end of the beach was a narrow strip of road (tar, concrete, I can't remember) which we had to cross to reach the grassy margins which would then take us to our house. No sooner had I stepped left, right, left, that I felt like a buffalo which had been shot on the Great Plains, as I immediately collapsed onto a neighbor's yard swearing in pain as I landed; as the heat of the pavement seared through the bottom of both feet. As I sat on the grass with my heels clenched and my toes pointing skyward, I thought, "I'm not going to be able to walk the 25 yards to our house." Somehow, within a few minutes, I summoned up the strength to stand and somehow I managed to hobble my way home. (I'll spare you the details of the excruciating pain I endured walking up the 20+ wooden steps to get inside our house.)

The following day, I remained inside with my feet off the floor and my socks on angling for some kind of relief. The only times I had to move (to visit the bathroom) were sheer torture. Later that day, I relented and let my wife, Dina, look at my feet. She removed my bloody socks and recoiled in horror. To say it wasn't a pretty sight isn't really stating the obvious. It's stating that I was oblivious. I suffered through the rest of the night, taking only Extra Strength Tylenol for pain. It didn't really work. The next day we drove to Urgent Care.

I was seen within 15 minutes of my arrival. The physician's assistant on call removed my socks and assessed the damage. He said I had second degree burns on the soles of both feet. He prescribed an antibiotic pill, a pain pill and some medicinal cream. The cream was to be smeared on a non-adhesive bandage which then was to be placed on the affected areas and wrapped with a self-sticking, ace-type bandage which was to be changed twice a day. I was given my prescriptions and a set of crutches. Soon I was out the door - via a wheelchair, and then Dina drove us across the street to a pharmacy where we picked up our goodies. Finally, we had a treatment plan and relief was in sight. Oh (literally) how I wish it were so.

The next day was our last day of vacation. Of course I was no use to anybody as the house was cleaned and everyone packed their stuff as the cars were loaded with luggage (and back down those same 25 wooded steps). It was nearly three hours later (after a two-hour car ride) with Dina driving (don't tell the car rental place) as I squirmed in pain, until we arrived at our airport gate with yours truly getting wheelchair assistance.

Circumventing lines to drop off baggage and pass through security, with haste and super efficiency, we eventually were deposited at Gate A17 in plenty of time to make our departure. Unfortunately, the pain had not really subsided. In my mind I knew I was going to Urgent Care later that night after we arrived home in Maryland. These painkillers couldn't kill a fly let alone the pain from a second degree burn. (We were seen that night at a local Urgent Care around 11 pm. They confirmed the diagnosis, but they prescribed a more serious painkiller: percocet. Which so far hasn't stopped the pain. Duller it, maybe?)

Back at the gate, while we waited to board, a woman came over to sit next to where I had stretched out across two seats to minimize the pain. Dina explained to her the reason why I had my legs outstretched was because I was injured. She smiled and said: "Would you mind if I ... ? Stay tuned to this space for "Still Bedridden in Burtonsville" publishing Wednesday, August 4th.

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

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Obituary

Obituary



Kenneth Warren Jorgensen, 92 of Zelenople, formerly of Ellwood City and Alexandria, passed away at Allegheny General Hospital on Monday, July 19, 2021.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 13, 1928, Kenneth was the son of the late Johannes and Evangeline Harnes Jorgensen. At the age of 17, Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After boot camp, Kenneth was assigned to Camp David where he had the honor to guard both President Truman and President Eisenhower. While stationed in Washington D.C., he met Leatrice Koach on The Mall, who later became his wife of 70 years. Leatrice passed away on February 6, 2019. After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Kenneth graduated from Eckles College of Embalming at Temple University in Philadelphia. He was employed by Joseph Gawlers & Sons in Washington D.C. from 1959 until his retirement in 1993. While at Gawlers, Kenneth had the privilege to serve many of our country's leaders. He conducted the funeral service for President Woodrow Wilson's wife, Edith. He was also at the White House with Jacqueline Kennedy the evening of the assassination of President Kennedy to help arrange his state funeral. That same evening, he was at the Naval Observatory where he oversaw the preparation of President Kennedy's body.

A loving father, Kenneth is survived by his 3 daughters, Vicki Jorgensen of Alexandria, VA, Melanie (C.M. Callahan) Jorgensen of Jonesville, VA and Heidi Jorgensen-Murphy of Sun City Center, FL, 2 grandchildren, Sean (Amy) Jorgensen Callahan of Salt Lake City, UT and Caitlin Jorgensen Callahan of Knoxville, TN and a great granddaughter, Eliza Leigh Callahan.

Besides his parents and wife, Kenneth was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Brian Murphy and a nephew, Richard Burns.

An Interment Service will be held at Lillyville Church Cemetery on Saturday, July 24 at 10 A.M. for both Kenneth and Leatrice by Pastor Dr. William Guy of Wurtemberg Presbyterian Church.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Joseph A. Tomon, Jr. Funeral Home & Crematory.
www.tomonfuneralhome.com

Don't Feed the Birds: Update on Avian Mortality

FROM PAGE 5

lowed to air dry. Generally, for the health of wild birds, it is a good practice to disinfect bird feeders and baths at least every two weeks.

If you encounter sick or dead birds in Virginia, please submit an event report at dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/bird-mortality-reporting-form/. For additional information on this mortality

event, please visit dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/2021-bird-mortality-event/.

To dispose of dead birds, place the bird(s) in a plastic bag, seal, and discard with household trash or alternatively bury them at least 3 feet deep. Department of Wildlife Resources will continue to update the public on diagnostic results and provide guidance once the mortality event is believed to be concluded.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 3

singers and dancers from countries around the world. They are presenting ethnic cuisine from Greece, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru and Turkey and traditional performances from Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Grenada, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Peru, Romania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Turkey.

MONDAY/AUG. 2

Storytelling in the Garden. 9-9:45 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Parents and children can spread out a picnic blanket or just find a comfy spot in the grass to settle in and hear the park's storytellers tell a tale. There are new stories every other week throughout August. After the story, take some time to explore the gardens, ponds and Historic House at Green Spring. The program is designed for everyone in the family from age 2 to adult. All attendees must register. The cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 703-642-5173.

AUG. 6-28

"Together" is an exhibit by Del Ray Artisans' outstanding volunteers and board members, who make Del Ray Artisans an organization that fosters community and promotes creative expression and artistic endeavors. Come celebrate their dedication and enjoy their artwork. The "Together" exhibit runs August 6-28, 2021 at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm,

Saturdays 12-6pm, Sundays 12-6pm (Closed on August 29). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. At 100 block of South Alfred Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Friendship's 247th birthday. Visit the historic Friendship Firehouse Museum, learn about fire safety past and present and see City firefighting equipment up close. There will be displays by community organizations, craft vendors, and food and beverages available. Children receive free Friendship fire hats. For COVID safety, museum entry will be staggered during the Festival. For more information see <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse> and <https://www.friendshipfireco.org/>.

THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

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