



## 'I Will Always Refuse'

Display chronicles historic library protest.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

It was a peaceful protest, virtually ignored by newspapers across the country. Yet on Aug. 21, 1939, five African American men walked through the doors of the “whites only” Alexandria library in what was one of the earliest protests of the Civil Rights era. A display at the Barrett Branch Library, site of the protest, opened Aug. 16 to mark the 82nd anniversary of the event and honor those who changed the course of the city’s history.

Originally called the Alexandria Library, the present-day Barrett Branch Library on Queen Street was built in 1937 to serve the city’s white residents. African American residents were denied access even though their tax dollars helped finance the library, forcing those interested in reading to travel to Richmond or Washington, D.C., to use libraries there.

William “Buddy” Evans was just 19 years old when he agreed to participate in the protest orchestrated by Samuel W. Tucker, a young attorney determined to establish equal access to community resources. Evans was joined by Tucker’s younger brother Otto, 22; Edward Gaddis, 21; Morris L. Murray, 22; and Clarence “Buck” Strange, 21. One by one, each entered the library and requested a library card. When they were refused, they selected a book and sat down to read in silence.

A few blocks away, Tucker waited in his law office for word on the protest. When a panicked library clerk called the police, Tucker called the media and by the time the five men were escorted out of the building, a crowd of more than 300 had gathered outside.

The five were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, even though witnesses testified the men were quiet and orderly during their time in the library. Tucker defended the men at trial and the charges were dropped after the arresting officer admitted the men had been arrested for their race and not their behavior.

Tucker used the protest to file a



On Aug. 21, 1939, five African American men were arrested for entering the whites only Alexandria library on Queen Street. The peaceful sit-in is recognized as one of the first Civil Rights protests in the nation.



The Robert H. Robinson Library was opened for African Americans at the corner of Wythe and N. Alfred Street on April 24, 1940, in order to maintain the Kate Waller Barrett Library as a whites-only institution. The Alexandria Library system did not begin to integrate until 1959 with full integration taking place in July of 1962. The building is now the home of the Alexandria Black History Museum.

lawsuit to end the exclusion of African Americans from the public library. While a final ruling was never entered in the case, the judge found that no regulation limited the library’s use to whites; it was open to Alexandria residents or

taxpayers.

Despite the ruling, rather than allow black readers into the library, City Council appropriated funds to build a “colored branch” of the library, which opened in 1940 at the corner of Wythe and North Alfred

Samuel W. Tucker, a young lawyer, organized the historic sit-in.



Carl Budwesky, the City Manager at the time of the sit-in, made the decision to arrest and charge the protesters.



Armistead Boothe, the Alexandria City Attorney, prosecuted the case against the sit-in protesters.



streets. Named for a freed slave and beloved Alexandria pastor, the Robert H. Robinson Library was constructed at half the cost of the Alexandria Library, had shorter hours and was filled with second-hand books.

When invited to apply for a library card at the Robinson Library, Tucker refused to settle for the city’s “separate but equal” solution, saying, “I refuse and will always refuse to accept a card to be used at the library to be constructed and operated at Alfred and Wythe Streets in lieu of [a] card to be used at the existing library on Queen Street for which I have made application.”

It wasn’t until the 1950s that Alexandria’s libraries were finally integrated. The Robinson Library closed in 1962 and today is the home of the Alexandria Black History Museum. The groundbreaking sit-in is chronicled in a documentary called “Out of Obscurity,” and copies are available to borrow from the library.

On Thursday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m., Library Director Rose Dawson will interview Matt Spangler, creator of the “Out of Obscurity” documentary about the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In, as part of a virtual presentation commemorating the sit-in. An excerpt of the documentary will be shown at the start of the program.

To learn more or to register, visit [www.alexlibraryva.org/1939-sit-in](http://www.alexlibraryva.org/1939-sit-in).

### Durham to Host Living Legends Event

Newest Legends to be honored Sept. 30.

Monte Durham, fashion director of the TLC hit “Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta,” will be the host of the upcoming Meet the Legends reception Sept. 30 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The reception, postponed from March of 2020, will honor the 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria. Those being honored include: Carol and Ryan Bailey; Frank Fannon IV; Tom and Magaly Hirst; Rosa Landeros; McArthur Myers; Virginia and Richard Obranovich; Bill Reagan; Donald Simpson Jr.; and Lindsey Swanson and Katey Halasz.

Tickets are \$65 per person and include a reception catered by the HomeGrown Restaurant Group with desserts by Alexandria Cupcake. Any pandemic protocols in place at the time will be observed and tickets may be limited.

Tickets are available at [www.alexandrialegends.org](http://www.alexandrialegends.org).

—JEANNE THEISMANN



Monte Durham will be the host of the Meet the Legends reception Sept. 30 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

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U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), City Council candidate Alyia Gaskins, City Council candidate Kirk McPike and Councilman John Taylor Chapman.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

## Whistle Stop McAuliffe launches DNC bus tour at Port City, dodges question about labor.



McAuliffe campaign officials watch as former Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison record a video in front of their campaign bus.



Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe is flanked by Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison, Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, Majority Leader Charniele Herring and candidate for lieutenant governor Del. Hala Ayala (D-51).

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Build Back Better Bus caused quite a stir last week at Port City Brewing, and not just because of the alliteration.

"I was going to do a speech just with all Bs," joked U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8). "Banner, beautiful, bedrock, believable, beneficial, bodacious, brave, bountiful, brilliant, badass. And then I thought this is actually not a morning for alliteration."

It was a morning aimed at shaping the narrative for the coming fall election season. Democratic National Committee Chairman said Democrats would be focused on health care, job creation, infrastructure, child tax credits and tax cuts for families.

But the event in the Port City parking lot also ended up being about dodging a question about a key labor issue — overturning Virginia's controversial right-to-work law, which prevents employers from compelling employees to pay union dues.

Supporters of McAuliffe say the discussion about repealing the right-to-work law is a moot point because the current General Assembly wouldn't put the bill on his desk. But the state Senate is up for grabs in 2023, and a future Senate that has more progressive members could deliver a bill repealing the law on his desk in year three or four of his term, if he's elected.

So does the former governor think it's a waste of time to talk about what he might do if that bill lands on your desk?

"I've said all along I'm going to

focus on the things that I can actually get done," responded McAuliffe. "Right to work cannot get out of the Senate. It can't get out of committee. It actually got out of the House and was defeated 85 to 13. So what I'm going to spend my time focused on are things I can get done."

McAuliffe said his labor agenda is raising the minimum wage and guaranteeing paid sick days as well

as family and medical leave.

But the non-answer on right-to-work doesn't sit well with labor supporters who believe the existing law allows non-union members to freeloader off the benefits of a union without having to pay union dues.

The non-answer also doesn't sit well with supporters of Republican candidate Glenn Youngkin. They point that McAuliffe said in a previous setting that he would sign a

bill repealing the right-to-work if lawmakers put it on his desk.

"McAuliffe is getting to the point where he knows he's got to get some centrists or some swing voters to win the governor's race," said former Alexandria City Councilman Frank Fannon, a Republican. "Right now I think a lot of the centrists are going to go toward Youngkin, and what McAuliffe is trying to do is get some center."

# Scott Shaw: Business Leader of the Year

Scott Shaw is the 2021 Business Leader of the Year for the Chamber ALX. He will be honored at the annual Best in Business Awards, presented by Burke & Herbert Bank, on Oct. 20, 2021. <https://thechamberalx.com/>

Shaw's contributions to the Alexandria community as a developer, business owner, and philanthropist are extensive. He has devoted his career to restaurant entrepreneurship and business innovation. For the past 6 years, he has served as a Partner of Alexandria Restaurant Partners (ARP). ARP operates nine full-service restaurants, including Vola's Dockside Grill and Hi-Tide Lounge, The Majestic, Joe Theismann's Restaurant, Mia's Italian Kitchen, and Palette 22. This year, ARP opened new waterfront dining options; BARCA and Ada's on the River. Both of which have revitalized Robinson Landing.

Shaw started his foodservice career in high school with a New York style hot dog cart in Florida. After college, he spent a year with Steve's Ice Cream before co-founding Austin-based Amy's Ice Creams. He then joined Creative Management Group, which owned Big City Fish and Café Tu Tu Tango. After serving as a partner with Austin Grills, Shaw



Scott Shaw

founded and served as the CEO of Fishbowl, a venture-backed marketing and analytics company for the restaurant industry. During his tenure, Fishbowl grew to be a 150+ employee company and still serves thousands of restaurants today. In 2016, Shaw joined forces with two Café Tu Tu Tango alums to form Alexandria Restaurant Partners.

"Scott's commitment to Alexandria has been long standing and we're especially grateful for his leadership over the last year and a half where he forged ahead with new ventures and caringly supported his employees," said Joe Haggerty, President & CEO, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.

Outside of the restaurant industry, Shaw established Founders Hall, an adaptive redevelopment of a former warehouse space on Lee Street. He is a co-founder and partner of ALX Community, a co-working space that fosters collaboration and networking amongst its members. ALX Community opened its doors in 2018 and now operates a location on the Waterfront and will open a new space in the Atrium building this fall. Shaw is also the Co-Founder of Art of Elopings, a media company delivering content on small weddings and elopements.

He has served in many community capacities, most notably as Chair of the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. AEDP is a public-private partnership that promotes the City of Alexandria for businesses of all sizes, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and cutting-edge institutions of science and learning. As Chair of the Board, Shaw guides the orga-

nization through creation of strategic plans, overseeing the development of the annual budget, and achieving its mission and goals. Shaw also served as Advisor of the 116 King Street project, a pop-up retail store for digital clothing and lifecycle brands with AEDP. He served on the City Marketing Fund for four years and is a current board member of both the Old Town Business Association and Alexandria Seaport Foundation.

"It is not a coincidence that all of the businesses, organizations, and initiatives he gives his time to have emerged from this very difficult last year, due in large part to his creativity and leadership," said Stephanie Landrum, President & CEO, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership.

In 2017, Shaw founded the Tall Ship Providence Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving Alexandria's rich maritime history through educational programs and entertainment. Through his work, Alexandria is now home to Northern Virginia's only tall ship. Alexandrians and visitors can set sail on the Potomac and learn about the 1769 replica ship.

Scott and his wife Camille live in Alexandria, where they have raised two daughters Isabel and Audrey.

## Amazon Continues 'Right Now Needs Fund' with Additional \$1 Million

To help close the gap in basic-needs support for students and families in Northern Virginia

Launched last year to support 59 Northern Virginia schools during the pandemic, Amazon's "Right Now Needs Fund" gives students immediate access to clothing, hygiene products, and other basic supplies to help them focus on their studie

Amazon will leverage the Fund to kick-start the 2021-22 academic year by giving away backpacks filled with thousands of essential back-to-school supplies to elementary and middle school students.

Amazon will continue its commitment to the Right Now Needs Fund in Northern Virginia for the upcoming academic year with an additional \$1 million investment to support students attending Arlington Public Schools, Alexandria City Public Schools, and Fairfax County Public Schools. The Fund, in partnership with Communities In Schools NOVA, helps remove barriers to learning and works to meet the basic needs of thousands of schoolchildren from underserved communities.

Launched in October 2020 amid the

COVID-19 pandemic, the Amazon Right Now Needs Fund in Northern Virginia was initially made available to students across all 41 Arlington Public Schools and Programs and all 18 Alexandria City Public Schools. In its first year, the Fund provided 8,500 students with immediate access to essential items.

This year, the Fund will continue to provide support for immediate needs like clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies to students in the region. Site coordinators with the nonprofit Communities In Schools NOVA will work with school social workers to distribute Amazon-provided supplies tailored to specific community needs. School social workers and site coordinators will also help support individual school students who could access the Fund for much-needed items throughout the year, from books to winter coats.

Support is provided through prepaid Amazon Vouchers, or Amazon Education Assis-

tance Product Vouchers, which students can redeem online at their convenience. The Fund will also be leveraged to provide educational community programs and events, including tech literacy workshops and career panels.

"Amazon is committed to ensuring children and families from historically underrepresented and underserved communities are supported, which is why we are renewing our Right Now Needs Fund in Northern Virginia," said Andrea Muscadin, head of Partnerships, Right Now Needs at Amazon. "While we have already been able to support thousands of families in the Northern Virginia area, we recognize many families are facing unique challenges as students prepare to return to school in-person."

To begin the yearlong \$1 million investment for the 2021-22 school year, Amazon will donate new backpacks filled with thousands of essential school supplies to qualifying elementary and middle schools in North-

ern Virginia.

"These backpacks will help many students, some returning to school in-person for the first time since the pandemic began, start the year with supplies to help set them up for success," said Patrick Brennan, executive director of Communities In Schools NOVA.

Amazon employees will fill and deliver the backpacks to elementary and middle schools across the three districts before the school year begins. "We know a strong foundation in education is essential to a child's success and are proud to partner with Communities In Schools NOVA," said Brian Huseman, Amazon's Vice President of Public Policy. "However, Amazon's contributions are just a small piece of the puzzle. ... In addition to partnering with organizations like Communities In Schools NOVA, we are also actively supporting policies at the federal and state level to address education as a top priority when it comes to the success of students and their families."

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 19

Telling Our Story: The Making of Out of Obscurity. 7 p.m. Virtual. Alexandria Library Director Rose T. Dawson will (virtually) interview Matt Spangler, creator of the Out of Obscurity documentary about the 1939

Alexandria Library Sit-In. This 90-minute program, Telling Our Story: The Making of Out of Obscurity, will begin with an excerpt of the documentary. Participants are encouraged to ask Matt Spangler and Dawson questions. This adult program requires registration.

#### VOLUNTEER WITH AFSS.

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets. Help spread the pedestrian street safety message by volunteering for 2-hour shifts to staff an Alexandria

Families for Safe Streets (AFSS) table at one of the following Farmers' Markets: Dates available: 8/22, 9/18, 10/9, 10/30, 11/6, Nov TBD. West End Farmers' Market: 8/22, Nov TBD. Del Ray Farmers' Market: 9/18, 10/30. Old Town Farmers' Market: 10/9, 11/6. Visit the website: <https://www.alxaffs.org/>

#### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children

Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click on each location to sign up:

Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. [www.volunteeralxandria.org](http://www.volunteeralxandria.org)  
Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services- Volunteer Guardian  
The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. [www.volunteeralxandria.org](http://www.volunteeralxandria.org)



PHOTOS BY TOM ROBERTS

John Moorman, left, presents Alexandria Rotary Club president Pam De Candio with a 1935 edition of This Rotarian Age by Rotary founder Paul Harris during the organization's July 27 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

# 'Service Above Self'

## De Candio takes helm of Alexandria Rotary Club.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

After more than a year of virtual meetings, the Rotary Club of Alexandria gathered in person to formally install Pam De Candio as the 93rd club president at the organization's July 27 meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

"This club has come to mean a lot to me personally," said De Candio, who first joined the organization in 2011. "I have made great friends and we are able to do good works in the community. It's a very special organization."

A resident of Del Ray, De Candio is senior vice president of commercial lending at John Marshall Bank. She graduated from Fort Hunt High School and continued her studies at George Washington University and Georgetown University.

Sergeant-at-arms Peter Knetemann administered the oath of office to De Candio as outgoing president John Moorman officially turned over the reins of the organization.

"This has been a challenging year but still we were able to accomplish a lot," said Moorman, who led the club's weekly meetings and special events via Zoom. "I had a lot of help and a lot of good advice from a great board. I relied heavily on people that were smarter than me and made wise decisions that were always for the best of the club."

Moorman turned over his gavel and presented De Candio with a 1935 edition of The Rotary Way by Rotary founder Paul Harris.

"Pam is going to be a great president," Moorman added. "The club is in good hands and we will keep accomplishing great



Newly installed Alexandria Rotary Club president Pam De Candio talks about her goals for the organization July 27 at Belle Haven Country Club.

things."

In addition to her service as a Rotarian, De Candio has served on the Boards of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Police Foundation, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Art on the Avenue.

De Candio is the fifth woman to lead the Alexandria club, founded in 1928, following Katherine Morrison in 1999, Loretta Sebastian Willis in 2003, Gayle Spurr in 2010 and Joan Renner in 2015.

"So many people have been giving me good advice as I take on this task," De Candio said. "This club is filled with special people with amazing talents and a willingness to help you when you call. I could not be in a better place."

[www.alexandriarotary.org](http://www.alexandriarotary.org)

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## Flooded Again

DrainALX on twitter asks that when Alexandria residents experience flooding on their streets and/or property, and/or sewer backups, that they share on twitter and tag DrainALX.

“I woke up, decided my basement is already a disaster zone, went back to bed. I gave up.” #ResidentReport #InTheirWords #DrainALX



Mason Ave in Del Ray: We regraded our backyard and put in a brick patio to prevent flooding. We bought our home in June 2020 and it's now flooded three times.



“At least 8 of us whose homes line the alleyway next to the uncovered Hooffs Run portion have flood gates/barriers that fit in the doorway. And they really keep the water out ...”



“What it looks like to have part of your life destroyed for the third time in two years.”

“July is typically the world’s warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and month ever recorded,” said NOAA Administrator Rick

Spinrad, Ph.D.

“This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF @DRAINALX #RESIDENTREPORTS ON TWITTER.



Just devastating.

### Response from the City:

Mitch Dillon, PE., Associate Project Manager, Department of Project Implementation, Sent a message to members of the City’s Stormwater Advisory Group. Excerpts:

As many of you are aware, the City experienced another significant storm event in the overnight hours between Aug. 14 and Aug. 15. ... We would like to share the following information about the event which was collected through the City’s newly upgraded rain gauge network. The total rainfall depths across the City ranged from three to five inches. For added context, Alexandria’s average annual rainfall depth is 43 inches. In some areas of Alexandria, the intensity of rainfall during this event roughly equated to that of a 500 year design storm which has a 0.2% chance of occurring per calendar year.

The City would also like to make you aware of the following efforts lead by the City’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (TES) and Public Works Services (PWS) to address the recent storm’s impacts:

**Immediate Maintenance Response** – At the onset of the storm on the 15th of August, City crews mobilized to assess flood conditions and begin triage of public infrastructure. These efforts have continued in earnest following the conclusion of the storm event. In anticipation of additional rainfall this week, Public Works Staff have transitioned to a 24 hour schedule. Residents should expect to see continued citywide efforts focused on investigating flood related issues, cleaning debris, and making public infrastructure safe. Over the course of the upcoming week, the

City will visit and assess critical outfalls, bridges and flow paths. Vegetative debris that has fallen and created blockages will be removed.

The City utilizes Alex 311 to guide and expedite these efforts and encourages all residents to provide the City of Alexandria with their observations through the “Requests and Inquiries” feature within Alex 311. If blockages of public storm inlets or failures of public storm or sanitary sewer systems are identified, the public should use the Sewer Infrastructure Issues request within Alex311 to report the issue.

After Action Report – The City’s After Action Report will further quantify the magnitude of the storm event and its impacts. Spatial depictions of rainfall across the City and heat maps describing the areas which were most severely impacted will be included in the report.

#### New Grant Program

As part of the City’s Flood Action Alexandria <https://www.alexandriava.gov/FloodAction> initiative, the City of Alexandria is launching its new Flood Mitigation Pilot Grant Program application online via APEX <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Permits> on Aug. 30, 2021. Please note this is a change from the original Aug. 15, 2021, anticipated launch date. The delay in the launch date is due to updates being made in the APEX system to ensure a successful user interaction and work flow during the application process. The program offers financial assistance as matching reimbursement grants to property owners who have installed flood mitigation measures on properties impacted by flooding from recent flash flooding events.

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## Alexandria's Students Need Help More Than Ever

Learning disruptions caused by COVID mean that more students than ever need extra reading support, increasing demand for ATC's proven program.

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium (ATC) is launching a \$25,000 Back-to-School fundraising campaign for its literacy program in the upcoming school year. The organization, now in its 25th year, had great success in the 20-21 school year, with 87% of participating first graders achieving grade level reading, a result of over 7,600 "Book Buddies" tutoring sessions. ATC faces increasing demand to help this year's first graders, already academically behind at the age of six because of a kindergarten year like none other.

ATC works with the Alexandria City Public Schools, using a curriculum from the University of Virginia to train volunteers who tutor first grade students in most of the city's elementary schools, including all Title 1 schools. The sessions are one-on-one, twice a week. Paid staff, who are teaching and education professionals, write lesson plans for each tutoring session, monitor students' success and challenges, train volunteers, and collect data to gauge progress.

"This has been a trying time as the lack of in-school classes has put more rising first graders farther behind than ever," said ATC Board Chair Frank Stiff. "Despite the challenges, tutors and staff have stayed true to our mission, and the

students have benefitted."

Tutoring occurred entirely virtually this year, with final results showing that 87% of 155 participating students were reading on grade level, poised for success in second grade. 94% made substantial progress. Of the 155, ATC tutored 122 in its second-ever summer tutoring program, keeping all kids on track and making it possible for 34 of them to move from below to on level reading proficiency.

ATC is ready to get Back-to-School, planning for in-person tutoring and seeking \$25,000 to expand its program and help even more kids learn to read. The learning disruptions caused by COVID mean that more students than ever need extra reading support, increasing demand for ATC's proven program. As ATC heard from teachers this past year: "ATC students improved dramatically. It is absolutely incredible what you guys did for our kids -- you make a tremendous difference. We wish that every struggling student could have a Book Buddy."

Donations can be made via the organization's website at alexandriatutors.org (use the "Donate!" button) or by check payable to the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, 323 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria Virginia 22314.

Let us know about an upcoming event

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AWLA moved from the Payne Street shelter facility in 2002.



The arrival of the Waggin' Wheels surgical vehicle meant the AWLA could help even more animals across the community.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE AWLA

## Celebrating 75 years of AWLA and a Pet-friendly Alexandria

BY ASHLEY SIMPSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's approach toward pets and their care has changed drastically over the last 75 years. Today, people think of animals as members of the family – and not just elements of their households. And this important change in collective perspective is due in large part to the work of animal advocacy and rescue organizations like the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). AWLA celebrated its 75th anniversary in June.

"Over the last 75 years, there has been a growing understanding about animals, both as pets and as animals in our society in general," Gina Hardter, AWLA Director of Marketing & Communications, said. "People today understand more about them, that they are sentient creatures who feel pain and happiness. Naturally, as you learn more about anything, you become more invested in them, and here at AWLA, we are committed to educating the community, which has helped make Alexandria the pet friendly city that we are now."

Alexandria has not always embraced animals with these open arms. It was in 1946 that a small group of residents first established the ALWA in order to confront the conditions of the city's existing animal shelter.

"The AWLA was incorporated in part because people in Alexandria were concerned about how deplorable conditions were at the existing animal shelter," Hardter said. "It got to the point that people were actually breaking into the facility to free the animals, and this was the contingent of people who worked with the city to improve the conditions of animal care."

By the beginning of 1951, the



A community pet receives rabies vaccination and microchip through a AWLA event.

AWLA had assumed full responsibility of Alexandria's animal shelter. With a budget from the city government, in addition to fundraising, AWLA members were able to provide higher quality care to Alexandria's animals.

They wasted no time: in fact, that very January, the AWLA opened a new shelter for local animals on South Payne Street. In its first six months of operation, this facility housed more than 1,000 animals and the AWLA oversaw more than 250 adoptions.

Since then, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has evolved significantly. The AWLA shelters roughly 2,000 animals every year, but it is also much more than a rescue organization. For instance, the AWLA takes great pride in the many animal education programs it executes across the community.

"We really started ramping up our humane education in the nineties, when we started programs to connect with animal lovers and to build animal lovers," Hardter said. "This includes programs like summer camps and visiting school libraries to educate students. Getting information to people earlier

in their lives is something we feel very passionate about."

Over the course of its 75-year history, the AWLA has also expanded its focus so that it goes beyond supporting animals in need of adoption. Rather, all pets are on AWLA's radar.

"In addition to the education component, another big focus is all animals throughout the community – not just homeless animals," Hardter said. "We have enacted programs that help people keep their pets safely at home, because we realize that once an animal is in a home where they are loved, that may not be the end of that animal's story in terms of what they need."

Through these programs, the AWLA offers affordable, and sometimes free, care for animals in the area who already have homes.

"We have a lot of programs that are designed to be preventative: monthly vaccine clinics, clinics to provide pets with rabies vaccines and to get microchipped," Hardter said. "It's better to provide these for the entire community at no cost or low cost because that is always going to lead to a better outcome for people and animals. It's about get-



AWLA staff and residents celebrated 75 years of caring for animals.

ting ahead of crises that might arise or preventing them altogether."

The AWLA's official birthday was Monday, June 28, but Hardter said the organization has been celebrating all year, doing what it does best: empowering people to be the best they can be for animals throughout the community.

"The whole year has been a celebration, and we've honored the milestone by getting a lot of new information and services out there," Hardter said. "This was the first year we provided a community wellness clinic for pets and for people. We worked with the health department to provide registration for COVID vaccinations, and more. The idea is that people need to take care of themselves so that they can take care of those who depend on them."

**THIS YEAR**, the AWLA also launched Waggin' Wheels, a mobile veterinary suite, to provide easy and early access to necessary medical treatments.

"Now our own veterinarian can use the Waggin' Wheels van as a surgical suite," Hardter said. "This way, we can get these basic proce-

dures done earlier to help animals get home even more quickly. This is very exciting for us. Later in the year, we plan on using this avenue to do more outreach events. With this service, we are meeting people where they are and forming connections with more of the community."

Now in the thick of summer camp programming, the AWLA staff and large team of volunteers haven't yet had the chance to officially celebrate the organization's anniversary with festivities and fun. They certainly will, but celebration will never interfere with their mission, or their evolution to reach new goals and set new precedents in the world of animal rescue.

"The next 75 years will see us educating the community and figuring out what they are looking for from us," Hardter. "We know things are always changing in terms of what people need both for themselves and for their animals. What we do will be determined on a year-by-year basis. The bottom line will always be growing our organization so that we can continue to help even more animals – and the people who love them!"

PHOTO COURTESY DESILVA STUDIOS

# Alexandria, Va. to Honor Suffragists

**L**andmark Suffragist Court Case was Decided in Alexandria  
 Thursday, Aug. 26 9-9:30 a.m.

Corner of South Saint Asaph and Prince Streets

RSVP online through this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quiet-sentinels-historic-marker-dedication-tickets-166454575115>

The Office of Historic Alexandria and Alexandria Celebrates Women will dedicate a historic marker to recognize the women who bravely endured imprisonment and brutality in their efforts to gain the vote for all American women.

The tabletop marker -- designated as part of the Alexandria Heritage Trail -- was recently installed near the intersection of Prince and South Saint Asaph Streets in Old Town Alexandria. The site housed the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in the early 20th century. The third-floor courtroom was located in the old Customs House, which stood on the corner of South Saint Asaph and Prince Streets. The formal dedication will be held outdoors with a reception and the inaugural guided tour of the new Alexandria Women's History Walk to immedi-



ately follow.

The marker reads:

**Suffragist Prisoners at Occoquan:** In November 1917, 32 suffragists were arrested in Washington, D.C. for allegedly "blocking traffic" on a Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk. They were sent to the District of Columbia workhouse at nearby Occoquan, Virginia. The women were subjected to undue hardships and torture, resulting in the infamous November 14, 1917 "Night of Terror." A number of women prisoners were threat-

ened, beaten and hurled against walls and floors. A few days later, force feedings began. The suffragist prisoners were eventually freed from Occoquan following a hearing in Alexandria's federal courthouse.

**ABOUT THIS EVENT:** In 1917, the "Quiet Sentinels," 32 suffragists peacefully picketing for women's enfranchisement, were arrested in the District of Columbia on a charge of "blocking the sidewalk" and sent to the Occoquan Workhouse. On November 14, 1917, the suffragists endured the infa-

mous "Night of Terror," when many female prisoners were beaten and tortured.

The City of Alexandria, Virginia was, and remains, the location of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; and was the site of the historic federal hearing on November 27, 1917, regarding the brutal treatment of suffragist prisoners held at the Occoquan Workhouse; and where their release from Occoquan was ordered.

In 1917, the Federal Courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia was housed in the United States Customs House, located at the corner of South Saint Asaph and Prince Streets. It was razed in 1930.

Join Alexandria Celebrates Women, the City of Alexandria, and the Commonwealth of Virginia for the formal outdoor dedication ceremony of a historic marker on this site to honor these brave women.

The historic marker, initiated by Alexandria Celebrates Women, was installed by the Office of Historic Alexandria, and recognizes and celebrates the milestone achievements of all American suffragists and the critical suffragist court case that took place in Alexandria.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)

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# Area Campgrounds Offer a Rustic Oasis Just Outside the Beltway

Various levels of camping varies from roughing it in tents, to RV sites with running water.

BY MIKE SALMON  
GAZETTE PACKET

At a time when the travel and vacation industry took a hit from the pandemic, the few campgrounds in Northern Virginia stayed busy as people looked around for something to do within the COVID-19 restrictions.

There are several parks in the Fairfax County Park Authority system and Nova Parks where campers can sit around the campfire, telling ghost stories and roasting marshmallows, but still be a few miles from home.

"It was one of the few things you could do," said Nova Parks CEO Paul Gilbert. "It is an amazing alternative," he added.

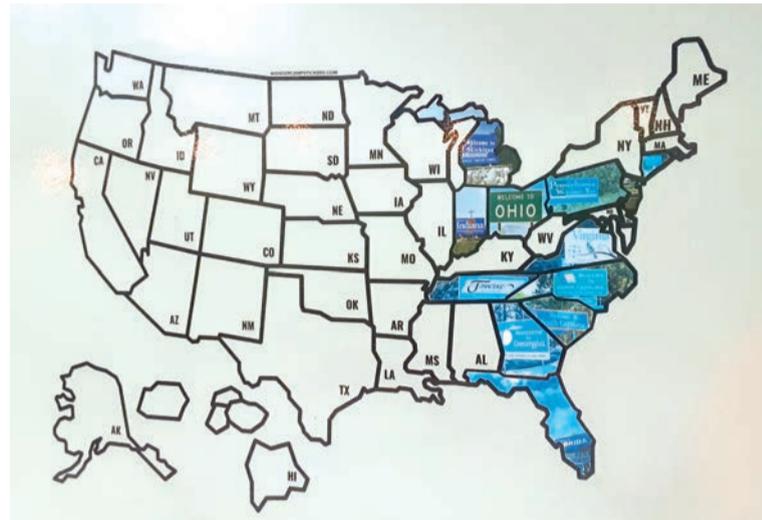
At FCPA, there are campgrounds at Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax, and in Nova Parks, formerly the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, there are cabins, cottages and camping at Bull Run, Pohick Bay and Algonkian Regional Parks in the area.

AT POHICK BAY, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members in a big recreational vehicle-type camper. The camper was hooked up to water and electricity, and the campfire was the central gathering spot. Although campers at Pohick can only stay up to two weeks, their "Welcome to the Nelson's" sign was up.

"It's like saying 'this is us,' in a welcoming way," said Ryan. They were right up the hill from Pohick Bay, and if there were any fisherman amongst the campers, they could just go down the trail and cast their line in. Pohick Bay has catfish, bass, crappie and other game fish.

Ryan's son is a resident of Woodbridge, right across the Occoquan River, but to them, the campsite was a vacation. "Truly a treat for me," said Ryan. She's not alone either. According to the numbers, the popularity of camping is soaring too at Nova Parks. In FY2020, there were 10,910 nights of camping vs 13,800 in FY2021, and a projected 15,000 in FY2022. "That is a huge uptick for one year," Gilbert said.

Pohick Bay Regional Park's family campground features 150 shaded sites -- 100 with electric 50/30-amp hookups and 50 tent sites.



Campers track the states they've visited on a map on the side of the RV.

Pohick has three campgrounds: family campground, youth and non-electric which was for tent campers who are closer to "roughing it."

Burke Lake Campground is open daily beginning Friday, April 9. Last night to camp is Saturday, Oct. 30. Lake Fairfax camping is open March to November.

At Nova Parks, the variety of campsites available at Bull Run Campground are RV sites with electric only service, RV sites with full-service (which includes sewer, water and electric), rustic cabins and group camping areas. All campsites have a charcoal grill, fire ring and picnic table. There are two bathhouses in the campground that offer hot showers, sinks, toilets and laundry facilities. The camp store sells camping supplies, snacks, ice and firewood and is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fees range from \$31 a night to \$55 a night.

At FCPS, the busiest season is fall, followed by spring. Summer sees regular RV visitation but the tent usage drops off due to the heat, they said.

Nearly eighty percent of FCPA campers are from the DMV area. The others are from just about anywhere in the country. The close proximity to the nation's capital makes Fairfax County a destination location for both RVs and tourists while they are in town.

### Camp Culture and Nomadland

The camping culture may have gotten a boost from the recent movie hit "Nomadland." The plot is about a woman in her sixties em-

barking on a journey through the American West after losing everything in the recent recession, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad. Although the limit at Nova Parks campgrounds is two weeks, the folks in Nomadland find ways around stay-limits and other conventional rules. The movie, starring Frances McDormand, won three Oscars.

There is a two-week limit at FCPA too, but in the off season between Labor Day to Memorial Day, campers can stay the maximum of 28 consecutive nights.

One way to get free camping is to work at the campground as a camp host, and in FCPA, there is a three-month contract, and the host "provides services for the benefit of the campground," said Brad Jackson, the assistant park manager at Pohick.

It's a year-round effort with each camp host putting in a 16-20 hour week cleaning cabins, bathrooms, campsites and even manning the check-in counter in the office but then the site fee is waived, Jackson said. In Nomadland, the camp host job was one way they got by, and the other was working for Amazon.

At Lake Fairfax, Campground Hosts serve as a "live-in" host for a four week period, the park website said.

On occasion some campers may become a little loud after quiet hours. Generally the campground host resolves these behavioral situations, park officials said. Fairfax County Police support the campground operation with routine patrols through the Fairfax County parks.



This RV was from California.



A couple of cabins are part of the camping experience at Pohick Bay.



Pohick's assistant manager Brad Jackson.

PHOTOS BY  
MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION



At Pohick Bay, Vanessa Ryan was in from California to camp with her family members.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## How Sweet It Is Carlyle restaurants win commercial beautification awards.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

For 18 months, businesses across the city have adjusted to an ever-changing pandemic landscape, and none more so than restaurants. As sidewalks gave way to expanded outdoor dining options, city neighborhoods took on a new vibe and on Aug. 6, the Alexandria Beautification Commission recognized two Carlyle restaurants with a special commercial beautification award.

Sweet Fire Donna's and Tequila and Taco, both of the HomeGrown Restaurant Group, were presented with the top award "for demonstrating business resilience while providing a wonderful customer experience by creatively embracing their outdoor environment during unprecedented times."

"We all owe the city and [Mayor] Justin Wilson for allowing us to build these parklets," said Sweet Fire Donna's owner Donna Anderson. "We appreciate the recognition from the Beautification Commission and our neighbors, who have voiced how the parklets have been a great addition to their neighborhood."

Morgan Babcock of the Carlyle Council provided the funding for the award-winning parklets.

"We could not have done this without Morgan," added the HomeGrown Restaurant Group's "Mango" Mike Anderson, who constructed the parklets.

Nominations were comprised of feedback from the community and Commission members who toured the city looking for candidates who represent the best of beautification by bringing the indoors outdoors in Alexandria during COVID-19.

Wilson and City Councilman Canek Aguirre presented the awards to Anderson and her staff. Honorable mentions went to Cheesetique in Del Ray; Fontaine Caffe and Creperie in Old Town; Ramparts Tavern and Grill in North Ridge; and Silver Diner in the West End.



Honorable mention: Cheesetique -- Del Ray.



Honorable mention: Silver Diner -- West End.

**"We appreciate the recognition from the Beautification Commission and our neighbors, who have voiced how the parklets have been a great addition to their neighborhood."**

— Sweet Fire Donna's owner Donna Anderson



Chelsea Anderson and Donna Anderson, center, of the HomeGrown Restaurant Group, receive the commercial beautification award Aug. 6 on behalf of Carlyle restaurants Sweet Fire Donna's and Tequila and Taco from Mayor Justin Wilson, right, and City Councilman Canek Aguirre.



Honorable Mention: Fontaine Caffe and Creperie -- Old Town.



Honorable mention: Ramparts Tavern and Grill -- North Ridge.

### CALENDAR

#### AUG. 6-28

"Together" Art Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. "Together" is an art exhibit (August 6-28, 2021) of works by Del Ray Artisans' outstanding volunteers and board of directors. Celebrate their dedication and enjoy their artwork. Visit <https://delrayartisans.org/event/together>.

#### THURSDAY/AUG. 19

Summer Garden Tour and Tea to Go. 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adult) Tour the vibrant demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with dazzling plant combinations and tales of Green Spring past and present. Tour only: \$12/ Optional tea box: \$24. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/)

partakes with program code (code 03T.8AQS) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

#### AUG. 20-29

Alexandria Restaurant Week. For 10 days and two weekends, more than 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$49 in-person and/or to-go dinner for two during Alexandria Restaurant Week.

Nearly 50 of the restaurants will

offer solo diners a \$25 in-person and/or to-go dinner for one in addition to serving the \$49 dinner for two. The online menu book makes it easy

to browse selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries and enjoy special menus in-person or from the comfort of your own home. View the menu flip-book and view participating restaurants at [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).

#### SATURDAY/AUG. 21

Summer Safari. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (5-Adult) Salamanders, snakes, toads, turtles... summer is their favorite season and all are out and about. Come on a safari to explore the habitats and activities of these creatures and more! Binoculars and magnifying  
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

# ENTERTAINMENT



Barca Pier and Wine Bar also offers dock service. Pull up to Robinson Landing to be assisted by the Robinson Landing dockmaster, for an hourly fee.



Lena's Oasis, located on top of the Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap parking deck.

## 4 Restaurants With Weather-Resistant Outdoor Dining

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

In the Before Times, it was easy to know what to do in the face of extreme weather: Dine indoors. But now, as the delta variant of the covid-19 virus continues to work its way through the country, many diners are still leery of the dining room.

So what's a hungry Alexandrian to do when extreme heat or wet weather take their toll?

Answer: Choose their locations carefully.

### Barca, 2 Pioneer Mill Way

It may be broiling-hot in the sun, but the weather on Barca's pier is nice and cool. The Potomac River certainly assists in this climate control, and the gauzy rooftop pitch-

es in too. (Pro tip: Bring sunglasses or a hat regardless – the sun is still quite bright!) So with the temperature adjustments out of the way, you can enjoy the food, starting with an array of tapas (don't miss the papas bravas and its decadent aioli) and perhaps moving on to a sandwich.

The weather is positively crying out for a glass of white wine – to complete your meal, don't deny the call.

### Yunnan by Potomac, 814 N. Fairfax St.

Is the drizzly weather getting you down? The tents outside Yunnan by Potomac may not be able to withstand a deluge, but they can certainly handle some light rain. (Your trusty "Appetite" columnist has tested this out herself.) And the mixian specialities at Yunnan by Potomac also fit the rainy mood: With steaming bowls of brothy soup as well

as salads and lettuce wraps, noodles are at the forefront of the proceedings.

Do yourself a favor and order some bao buns and dumplings to accompany the feast and you'll chase those storm clouds right out.

### Cafe 44, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 401

With Café 44, you've got weather protection in two different ways: The overhang on the balcony both shades from sun and keeps you dry from rain. Feeling the heat? Cool off with a refreshing cocktail (the Mule 44, a takeoff of the Moscow Mule, is always a winner) and then dive into your meal. The flatbreads are always a hit – go simple with a Quattro Formaggi or more complex with the Garden Truffle – and don't ignore the entrée salads, from the seafood Cobb to the Potomac peach.

### Lena's, 401 E. Braddock Road

Since its arrival on scene last year, Lena's Oasis has taken outdoor dining to a new level. The Oasis takes diners to a place far, far away, while never leaving the city limits (or darkening the doorstep of an indoor restaurant). In fact, diners never leave the parking deck, taking up residence on the top floor. But don't worry – this isn't a tailgating experience as much as it is a fine-dining excursion. The space is transformed into a feast for the senses, and the food a feast for the taste buds. You'll spy some of Lena's favorites – the giant meatball, anyone? – alongside an array of pastas, pizzas and salads. It's been a long year. Live it up.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

glasses will be provided to aid you in your summer safari. All attendees must be registered for this program. \$8 per person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) (code AQ9.67LK) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 26

Outdoor NSO Strings. 5:30-6:30 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra celebrate summer. Last Stand Quartet returns to offer a program of stimulating music for string quartet. Then hilarious duo "The String Thing" leads a Guess the Composer Challenge. Test your knowledge of the great works of classical music – and see



Alexandria Restaurant Week will be held Aug. 20-29 and feature more than 70 restaurants.

if special guest Jeff Weisner can keep his NSO colleagues on their best behavior. Cost is \$42. Visit the website: <http://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts>

[com/secretgardenconcerts](http://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts)

### FRIDAY/AUG. 27

Jane Franklin Dance Season Kick-

Off. 7:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Engage with art and dance and find synergy that activates and connects you with the community. An August 27 in-person performance at NVFAA at the Athenaeum gets the season underway. Tickets \$20. Visit <https://www.janefranklin.com/kick-off>

### SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Crystallized Floral Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m.. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Flowers aren't just pretty to look at – they can be fun to eat, too. At the "Crystallized Flower Workshop," discover the beautiful Victorian art of crystallizing flowers. Follow simple steps to sugarcoat a variety of edible blooms and petals to use as gorgeous garnishes for desserts and other dishes. Take home your candied creations, along with decorat-

ing ideas and tips. This program for adults runs from 10 to 11:30 a.m., and refreshments will be served. The cost is \$40 per person. Call 703-642-5173; or visit Green Spring Gardens.

### SEPT. 3-25

The STIGMA exhibit features art that shines a light on stigma—how it feels, how it can affect and/or disrupt lives, how it can be overcome. Stigma affects many different people in many different ways including those with mental health disorders, HIV, homelessness, disabilities, and more. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm (Closed September 26). [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

### Announcements

The memorial service for Mary Louise Palmer (1920-2020) will now be held Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 at 10:00 AM in the Goodwin House Alexandria chapel (4800 Fillmore Ave, Alexandria, VA 22311).

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

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### Obituary

### Obituary



#### Marie Arnette Pearson Shockley, 83

**Marie P Shockley, 83**, of Marietta Georgia, passed away on May 10, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Marie was born on April 5t, 1938 in Alexandria, Virginia; the only child of Jessie and Ida Pearson. After graduating from Virginia State, she began a life full of travel. She worked for over 30 years in the Federal Government, taking her from the DC area to Atlanta. After retiring, she fulfilled a life long dream of joining and completing a tour with the Peace Corps in Namibia. She was a constant volunteer at various organizations and enjoyed helping others.

Marie is survived by his Daughters Ciara Arnette and Karen Shockley; two grandchildren Anita Crumlin and Michael Crumlin.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to her many friends, coworkers and volunteers for including her in their life and invite them "Celebrate her Home" service will be held September 14th at 11 am at Saint Joseph Catholic Church - 711 North Columbus Street Alexandria, VA 22314. The celebration will be live-streamed and available for attendees to Zoom and participate.



## Back to School

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## Hopping and Hoping



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I approach my four-week anniversary of “the burning,” I do so with cautious optimism that one day soon, I’ll be walking upright once again and doing so without the assistance of my walker. No more leaning over at the waist to grab the walker’s waist-high grab bars. No more pulling/pushing myself up as I try to gain leverage in order to balance my weight so as not to fall backwards or to the side. And finally, once standing, no more hopping on my right foot as I favor the left; the location where the podiatrist pointed to and said at our last appointment: “You can see where that is ground zero;” meaning, the worst of the burn. And four weeks later, ‘ground zero’ is still ultra sensitive and not bearing too much weight. The emergency room doctor had said the healing will “likely take weeks, not months.” And four-plus weeks into my recovery, I would say her assessment/prediction was spot on. But I’m not there yet. I’m somewhat better than I have been, but I’m still not ready to solo. Although I did drive for the first time yesterday. It was no problem (my driving foot is my right foot so pressing on the pedals was not the least bit painful. However, if there had been a clutch involved, I wouldn’t have been up to driving). Still, success, and a feeling of independence once again.

Fortunately, the clown shoes that the local emergency room provided finally are proving to be useful. The strappy, cushiony, black, open-toe sandals with the thick white soles I’m now wearing all day were designed to give the foot breathing room along with some support. However, in the early weeks following “the burning,” when I placed my foot in the sandal, the insole felt rough as if it were tearing up the bottoms of my feet, exactly where the second degree burns had occurred. Since it seemed like it was hindering my recovery, I rarely wore them and instead put on thick socks (over the bandages lined with medication) and walked around on the heels of my feet while attempting to keep the balls of my feet (where the burns were) elevated and off the floor. It enabled me to mostly get around, but now, being able to wear the sandals, I’m much more ambulatory.

And so it finally feels as if the worm has turned, as they say. The sole on my right foot is exhibiting all the proper signs of new skin having formed and is a few days away, according to my nurse-wife, Dina (who has been bandaging my feet up to three times daily since “the burning”) of returning to its pre-burned status. As such, I am nearly able to put all my weight on my right foot as necessary as I continue to favor the “ground-zero” left foot. However, if I ever inadvertently place my full weight on my left foot, I am transported emotionally back to July 17 when I first stepped on that hot pavement. I don’t exactly see stars, but I certainly feel pain until I lift up that left foot and start to hop on my right. Oh, what a relief that is, as I attempt to retrieve my bearings and find some place to sit, immediately.

That being said, I am most definitely on the mend. Getting on my feet, still with the aid of my walker, doesn’t conjure the same fear and loathing and pain as it once did. Urges to visit the bathroom are no longer delayed as much as possible. Nor are they fraught with anxiety and exasperation concerning the effort required to make the short walk to water the closet, especially in the middle of the night when the house is dark. But today, I can just about see the future (and a return to normal/independence) which may include a visit to close friends who live in Ocean City, Maryland, a k a the beach. And when I do, I’ll certainly be upright and walking normally, but I won’t ever be barefoot, inside or out. I can’t take any chances. As slow as my recovery has been, I don’t suppose its pace has anything to do with my underlying medical condition: thyroid cancer. Nevertheless, I don’t see any benefit to stressing my immune system anymore than is absolutely necessary. It already has more than enough to do attempting to keep the cancer in check.

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOACTION ARLINGTON

As part of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges’ Heat Watch project, EcoAction Arlington volunteers (from left) Marissa O’Neill and Aisha Husain joined Executive Director Elenor Hodges, holding sensor devices that measure ground level heat.

# Universities Measure Heat Disparities in Virginia

## Marymount professor and student join ‘Heat Watch’ effort to measure heat disparities in Virginia.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

Enduring dangerously high temperatures, Marymount University student Susan Agolini and biology professor Bader Hakami spent a day working as community scientists. The collected data that will help locate northern Virginia’s heat islands, urban areas that experience higher temperatures than suburban neighborhoods.

Volunteers from Northern Virginia, including students, faculty and representatives from EcoAction Arlington and the Virginia Department of Forestry, recorded air temperatures and humidity using handheld thermal sensors. Their work was part of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges’ (VFIC) Heat Watch project.

“The information that we gather can better inform policymakers and urban planners as they allocate funding for green spaces and invest in urban designs that can minimize the heat islands,” said Susan Agolini, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biology, Marymount University.

More than 20 students, faculty and volunteers from northern Virginia joined the project as part of their commitment to protecting the environment.

“I participated in ‘Heat Watch’ because I wanted to give back to the community,” said Bader Hakami, a nursing student at Marymount. “I learned how the heat-mapping process is conducted and most importantly how the information might be put to good use for the environment.”

July 2021 was the world’s hottest month ever recorded, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Centers for Environmental Information. ‘Heat Watch’ was conducted on July

“Information that we gather can better inform policymakers and urban planners as they allocate funding for green spaces and invest in urban designs that can minimize the heat islands.”

— Susan Agolini, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biology, Marymount University

15.

Previous VFIC collections have revealed temperature differences as significant as 16 degrees between the coolest and hottest areas. Heat islands are often found in low-income communities, says Agolini.

Poor housing conditions including lack of air conditioning and small living spaces put these communities in danger of heat-related illnesses and deaths.

“Being aware of these heat islands can also help health care providers and advocates know which areas, and therefore populations, are going to be most susceptible to heat-related health issues,” she said.

Angelino estimates that the group will be able to identify heat island within the next eight weeks.

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