



Reconsidering Marijuana Pot is still legal, but the plan to regulate its sale is in jeopardy.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia is now in a marijuana daze. Pot is legal in small amounts, but nobody has a license to sell it. That has created a gray area for lawmakers, who will be considering next steps during the General Assembly session that starts this week.

When Democrats were in power, they created a complicated licensing system that was designed to benefit people who had been harmed by the so-called “war on drugs,” which disproportionately harmed people of color. Those social equity licenses may be in jeopardy now that Republicans are taking control of the House. Republicans are also talking about new criminal misdemeanor charges for possession and forcing local governments to hold referendums for voters to decide if they want to allow marijuana licenses in their jurisdiction.

“This is a common consequence in legislatures when majority control flips from one party to another,” said Jennifer Victor, associate professor of political science at George Mason University’s Schar School Policy and Government. “When partisans don’t agree and they wind up trading off control, it makes it almost impossible to get policy accomplishments done.”

The problem with abruptly halting the policy debate is that policy changes are already in motion. Last summer, public possession of up to one ounce of marijuana became legal for adults. The Cannabis Control Authority has already been stood up, and the wheels of government are already in motion preparing to regulate the new market. So far, lawmakers are not talking about re-criminalizing marijuana for less than an ounce.

“The question in 2022 is not should Virginia legalize cannabis,” said Jenn Michelle Pe-



As of July 1, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is legal in Virginia.

dini, executive director of Virginia NORML. “That was asked and answered in 2021, and is a policy favored by a supermajority of Virginia voters.”

“The question in 2022 is not should Virginia legalize cannabis. That was asked and answered in 2021, and is a policy favored by a supermajority of Virginia voters.”

— Jenn Michelle Pedini,
executive director of Virginia NORML

But some are concerned about a gap in the law between a civil penalty and a felony with no criminal misdemeanor in between. Under current law, if someone is caught with amounts between one ounce and one pound,

they can be charged with a civil penalty of \$25. But possession of more than a pound is a felony, creating no middle ground between the civil penalty and the felony. That’s why some lawmakers are considering a plan that would create a new criminal misdemeanor for amounts between 4 ounces and a pound.

“Whether or not it has to be one that carries a criminal record I haven’t made a final conclusion,” said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), adding that perhaps increasing the dollar amount of the civil penalty might be a way to address this concern. “I think the idea of discouraging larger amounts is worthwhile, and we have to decide the best way to do that.”

WHEN DEMOCRATS were in power, they created a system of social equity licenses designed to counteract some of the damage



Sen. Adam Ebbin (D)

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

done by the failed war on drugs. For example, people who have been convicted of possession of marijuana might end up receiving preferential treatment for licenses. Family members of people who have been convicted of possession could also get priority. Residents of neighborhoods that have been disproportionately policed may also end up getting preferential treatment.

“I never realized the way to get ahead in life was to break the law,” cracked Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) in a tweet about the social equity licenses last year.

Democrats were able to secure a victory for the social equity licenses in the House and Senate, but lingering concerns over the complexities of standing up the new Cannabis Control Authority led to a “reenactment clause.” That means that none of the rules around social equity licenses passed by Democrats will be enacted unless the new Republican majority decides to put their stamp of approval on it. Considering the opposition among Republicans to this part of the plan, a reenactment of social equity clauses seems unlikely.

“You cannot provide preferential treatment lifting up one class or group of citizens without diminishing the rights of another,” said Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-8).

ANOTHER POTENTIAL change Republicans might end up forcing is a change to what is required of local governments. Under the plan approved by Democrats, licenses would automatically be available in all jurisdictions. If a local government wanted to opt out of having licenses, they would have to hold a referendum in which a majority of voters would have to agree to prohibit mar-

SEE POT IS STILL, PAGE 6

Casey Sworn in as Sheriff

Public ceremony canceled due to pandemic.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Sheriff Sean Casey officially took the oath of office Dec. 29 at a private ceremony at his home in Alexandria. The public swearing in scheduled for Jan. 11 was postponed due to ongoing Covid-19

concerns.

“On Dec. 29 I was sworn in as Sheriff of Alexandria by Greg Parks, Alexandria Clerk of Circuit Court,” said Casey in a Facebook post. “I began my term as Sheriff on January 1st. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 I was not able to do a more formal ceremony, so the front yard had to do. Luckily I had plen-

ty of help.”

Casey’s wife Amanda and daughters were by his side as he took the oath of office, replacing Dana Lawhorne, who served 16 years leading the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office.

“The increase in Covid-19 cases in our region has impacted Sheriff’s Office operations and our SEE PUBLIC CEREMONY, PAGE 6

Alexandria Circuit Court Clerk Greg Parks, left, administered the oath of office to Sherriff Sean Casey Dec. 29 at Casey’s home in Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

People Over Platform

A SAMPLING OF TESTIMONIALS FROM MY 2021 BUYERS & SELLERS



"Tracy did a magnificent job helping us find a home in our preferred neighborhood. She has her finger on the pulse of the housing market in the neighborhood and that kind of knowledge is invaluable when trying to find the right house for her clients." – Andy & Ellen F.



"We loved working with Tracy. We are currently on the west coast and did the entire process remotely. She found us a beautiful home in the neighborhood we wanted, went above and beyond with FaceTimes and videos, recommending a great mortgage broker & a great contractor, FaceTiming the inspector and just so many little things that made our home buying experience so positive. She really knows her area and is just such a kind, positive person. She's the BEST." – Crystin & Brandon C.



"Our experience with Tracy selling our home was wonderful. She knows everything about the Waynewood market, provided great ideas on how to best prepare our home for sale and was incredibly responsive to any question we had throughout the process. A great experience from start to finish. Highly recommend her for anyone looking to buy or sell in the Ft Hunt area." – Laura & Mark W.



"Tracy Dunn is an outstanding Realtor. Her combination of smarts, expertise, and strong positive energy puts your interests in the best hands in any market." – Jack L.



"Tracy's tenacity for making things happen is exceeded only by her indelible good nature and unflappable professionalism. Over the course of our search, we saw the full spectrum of the industry. Each encounter was quiet confirmation of why we were thankful to be working with Tracy. Her knowledge of the neighborhoods, experience with the market, and understanding of the subtleties that make one house better than another is unrivaled. Add to that her patience in answering questions, generosity with her time, warmth with our children and drive to find us the right home, and you soon realize that Tracy is the personification of her profession's ideals." – Sara & Jon S.



"Absolutely fantastic Realtor! Tracy is very knowledgeable of the Waynewood/Fort Hunt market, and is the best person to snag you the off-market, inside deal. She is knowledgeable, professional, trustworthy, and incredibly responsive. She worked closely with us for over a year until we found the right house. She proactively communicated with us through countless phone calls and emails, both day and night, to help us purchase our dream home and sell our current home all within a matter of a few weeks. Highly recommend!" – Karen & Chris C.



"As a military family moving across the country, we knew we would buy a house sight unseen so our realtor would need to be our eyes and ears for everything. With her extensive knowledge of the area and complete understanding of our wants and needs, Tracy tirelessly worked to find us the perfect home. The market is crazy, and she was a constant calm and comfort during the whole process. Her honesty and expertise were a joy, and we are so excited to move into our new home." – Sandi & Mike E.



"I would be lost without Tracy! She went the extra mile to find me exactly what I was looking for in the perfect neighborhood. She even connected me with people at the local school. She is great at what she does and I would definitely recommend others use her in the future." – Kate C.



"I will only hire Tracy as my Realtor. She is the best. She was helpful, kind, and efficient. Anyone I know looking for a Realtor, I recommend to use Tracy. She always makes sure you feel comfortable with your new home." – Ahmanda D.



"Tracy is amazing! She knew the house from top to bottom, dropped everything she was doing to show us the house at 6:30pm on a Friday, and was always very responsive. Once under contract, she connected us to all relevant 3rd parties needed to close, including a very thorough and detailed inspector. Now even post closing, she's connecting us with contractors she's used and trusts, staying in communication with us to make sure we love our new home. We couldn't give her a higher recommendation!!" – Mary M.

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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OBITUARY

Bill Stokes International business consultant dies at 57.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bill Stokes, a respected business consultant with a background in international trade and national security issues, died unexpectedly Jan. 3 at his Alexandria home. He was 57.

Stokes was the founder and chairman of the Washington Network Group, a Washington-based organization of senior-level executives and professionals from the private, public and independent sectors.

Raised in Upperville, Stokes moved to Alexandria after reconnecting nearly a decade ago with prominent land use attorney Cathy Puskar, who was his college sweetheart.

“What a great love story, how two people reconnected after so many years and were enjoying this wonderful life they were building together,” said recently retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne.

Former Chamber of Commerce board chair Charlotte Hall was a good friend of the couple.

“When Bill got together with Cathy he got more than Cathy -- he got this whole Alexandria community,” Hall said. “How boring was it to come to events all over the city but he made the most of it. He was always so upbeat and they fit together like pieces of a puzzle. They were perfect for each other.”

William Standley Stokes IV was born Jan. 5, 1964, in Washington, D.C. to William S. (Tommy) Stokes III and Mary Stokes. He was a graduate of The Hill School in Middleburg, Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N.H., and the College of William & Mary.

He also pursued graduate studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University and studied at the University of Trier in Germany and Georgetown University.

Stokes launched his career in Washington, working at think tanks that eventually led him into business consulting. Over the years he worked with a number of U.S. and international clients to address their business, human resources and leadership needs.

He also served as a leadership development coach and mentor to numerous organizations, including the BMW Foundation’s RESPOND Accelerator, the Founder Institute, Accelerate Athens, and the Exonian Mentors program of Phillips Exeter Academy. He is a BMW Foundation Responsible Leader and a past BMW Trans-Atlantic Forum Fellow. Additionally, he served as a Professional Networks Leader for the College of William & Mary.

In addition to his leadership skills, Stokes was known for his sense of humor and zest for life.

“It is unbelievable that he is gone,” said Jen Walker, a close friend of the couple. “Bill would light up a room but it is Cathy that he really lit up. She is a high-profile person and



Bill Stokes died suddenly Jan. 3 at his Alexandria home. He was 57.



Bill Stokes with the love of his life Cathy Puskar.



Bill Stokes and his son Will at the Upperville Horse Show.



Bill Stokes, left, with sister Stormy and brother Claiborne with their mother Mary Stokes.



Bill Stokes and Cathy Puskar as college sweethearts.



The Stokes and Puskar families at a recent gathering.

Bill always kept her laughing. I have never seen her so happy.”

Stokes is a past board member of the George C. Marshall International Center, the World Affairs Council of Washington (executive committee), the Phillips Exeter Academy Alumni Association of Washington (president), and The Hill School Alumni Association (president). He was a founding member of First Tuesday Washington, RecruitDC, and

the International Business Council of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. He served on the board of directors of the German-American Business Association and was director of the Manfred-Woerner-Seminar for German-American understanding, a leading transatlantic exchange program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

In his free time, Stokes enjoyed music, gardens, travel, the Upperville farm and horse

racing. He loved the outdoors and was well-known for his generosity, empathy, devotion to civility and social impact.

“Bill was always so good natured,” said Hall. “He loved having family and friends around and together he and Cathy always showed everybody a good time.”

Added Walker, “They were a great couple and fed off each other.”

In addition to Puskar, Stokes is survived by his mother, Mary Merchant Stokes, of Upperville; his brother, Claiborne Merchant Stokes of Mobile, Ala. (Leder Lamar); sister Stormy Buchanan Dudley (Philip) of Upperville; his son, Will Stokes of Arlington;

and nieces and nephews Peter, Thomas and Forbes, Clara Leder and Tommy. He was predeceased by his father William S. Stokes III.

“Bill loved having family and friends around and together he and Cathy always showed everybody a good time.”

—Family friend Charlotte Hall

A visitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 4-7 p.m. at Everly Wheatley funeral home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, in Alexandria. Funeral services will be held on Friday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 9108 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville, Va., followed by a reception at Buchanan Hall, 8549 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville, Va. 20184.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Buchanan Hall and The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association.

“There was a special magic between Cathy and Bill,” added Hall. “They were so full of life and love for each other and they brought that love and laughter into everyone’s lives.”

Senior Services of Alexandria 2022 Gala Honorees

City leaders improving the lives of Alexandria's older adults.

Senior Services of Alexandria's 2022 Gala Honorees have made lasting and significant contributions to improving the lives of older adults in the Alexandria community. This year's distinguished honorees are:

Senior Services of Alexandria Community Leadership Award: The Honorable Redella "Del" Pepper

Senior Services of Alexandria Community Service Award: Janet Barnett, Gerry Cooper, Vanessa Greene

The recipients will be recognized at SSA's gala on Saturday March 5, 2022, where the community will come together for a fun and important evening. SSA would also like to thank The Landing, a new senior wellness-focused lifestyle and community in Potomac Yards, for their leadership and generosity as the 2022 Gala Presenting Sponsor. For more information about the event, including sponsorship opportunities, visit SSA's website at www.seniorservicesalex.org or contact SSA's Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson at executivedirector@seniorservicesalex.org.

"This year's Gala honorees are so special in many ways, said Kerry Donley, SSA's Board Chair. They come from a variety of backgrounds and work experiences, but the one thing they all have in common is their dedication to improving the lives of older adults in our city and making it a caring community for all. We commend them for their generosity and compassion."

Redella "Del" Pepper

Redella Pepper was first elected to the City Council in 1985 and has been re-elected every three years. She retired on January 1, 2022. Del served as Vice Mayor from 1996 to 1997, from 2003 to



2006 and from 2007 to 2009.

During her last term, she represented the City Council on the Commission on Aging, Commission on Information Technology, the Facilities Naming Committee (Chair), Eisenhower Partnership, Carlyle/Eisenhower East, Design Review Board (DRB) and Alexandria Works! Coalition (Co-Chair).

She served as the Mayor's alternate on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board and is a former President of COG's Corporation. Del represented the Council on COG's Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC-former Chair) and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP). She served as the Mayor's alternate on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board and is a former President of COG's Corporation. Del represented the Council on COG's Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC-former Chair) and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP).

Del was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. She received her bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin. She is married to E.J. Pepper, who until he retired, was a practicing psychiatrist in Alexandria. They have a married son, Murphy. He and his wife, Soo, have five children.

Janet Barnett

Janet Barnett retired as Deputy Director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in 2007 having served in a variety of positions during her 32-year career including special events coordinator, the first Center Director at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, and Chief of the Marketing and Enterprise Division. After retiring, she became the Executive Director of Senior Services of Alexandria. During her tenure, she is credited with improved fundraising, and establishing weekend and holiday meals for Meals on Wheels clients and establishing the Friendly Visitors' Program.

She is a member of several boards includ-



ing the Alexandria Police Foundation, Living Legends, Friendship Fire Company, and Agenda Alexandria. She is a member of the Board of Lady Managers and the Rotary Club of Alexandria. She was named as an Influential Woman of Virginia in 2013 by the Virginia Lawyers Weekly and a Living Legend in 2016 by Living Legends of Alexandria.

Janet continues to be active in the community. She is on staff, part-time, at Synergy Home Care, Everly Wheatley Funeral Home and the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Janet is a life-long Alexandrian, having attended Minnie-Howard Elementary School and Francis C. Hammond High School. She holds a BS degree in Management from the University of Maryland, and a MA in Management and Supervision from Central Michigan University.

Gerry Cooper

Gerry Cooper began his professional career with The Stanley Works, now Stanley Black and Decker, after college graduation and worked at Stanley in various financial and manufacturing positions including opening Stanley's overseas operation in Taipei, Taiwan. He retired from Stanley after 35 years in 2001 and started his own business, Asia Tech Source Company in 2002 to provide engineered parts, manufacturing and product development to mid-sized hardware and tool distributors in North America. Gerry introduced inventors to factories in China, then assisted them in developing both their products and their overseas markets.

Gerry and his wife Nancy make their home in Alexandria and Oxford, Maryland. They have two sons and five grandchildren. His volunteer efforts include serving hot breakfasts to needy Alexandrians every Thursday for the past eight years; delivering Meals on Wheels every month; former Board Chair for Senior Services of Alexandria; an Elder in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria; and a member of the Vestry in The Church of the Holy Trinity in Oxford. His



generous philanthropic support has brightened the lives of many in Alexandria.

Gerry was born and raised in Wallingford, Connecticut. He earned a BA in Mathematics from Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and an MBA in Finance from the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut.

Vanessa K. Greene

Vanessa Greene's early career was as a preschool teacher for seven years. She then started her career in working with the elderly as a Senior Program Manager at the former Ladrey Senior Center. In 1993 with the merging of the four East End senior centers, she became the program director of the Charles Houston "Krunch Bunch" Senior Center, remaining until her retirement in November 2021.

During her tenure as Senior Program Director, Vanessa initiated many varied and diverse programs and partnerships with agencies throughout the DMV. They include a 30-year intergenerational program with Burgundy Farm Country Day School, an eight-year intergenerational program with the former T.C. Williams High School with two activities, Cyber Seniors/Cyber Teens Computer Program and partnerships with Marymount and George Mason Universities, and many more.

Vanessa is a 57-year member of Russell Temple CME Church in Alexandria where she serves on several boards and ministries. Vanessa's proudest accomplishment is being the mother of her one and only daughter Kimberley F. Herbert and the ecstatically proud grandmother of her one and only grandchild, Tylar Faith Hayes.

Vanessa is a native Alexandrian, and a product of the Alexandria City school system, graduating from the former T. C. Williams High School in 1972. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from Virginia State College (University) in 1977.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

STARTING JAN. 15

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Recruiting Volunteers. 9-11 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is recruiting volunteers to lead guided tours. Guided tours use the historic tavern spaces to share the stories of diverse people in early America both

shaped and were shaped by the young nation. Training begins January 15 from 9 - 11 a.m. with an in-person workshop, continues with virtual evening classes, and wraps-up with a second in-person workshop in late February/early March. Participants will end the series ready to complete their tour certification. Volunteers with both weekend and weekday availability are needed. A minimum of one shift per month (approximately three hours) is required once training is complete. To apply, submit an appli-

cation online at AlexandriaVa.gov/GadsbysTavern.

MONDAY/JAN. 17

Trail Cleanup. 10 a.m. to noon. At Mount Vernon Trail, 615 Slaters Lane, Alexandria. The Friends of Mount Vernon Trail will be improving the trail near Marina Towers in Alexandria. Volunteers may perform some of the following work: Using pruners and loppers to remove invasive vines; Using hand saws to cut tree branches; Hauling away vegetation and fallen

tree branches; and Picking up trash.

TUESDAY/JAN. 18

Finding Genealogical Records. 1-3 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center and Zoom, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Certified Genealogist Sharon MacInnes will guide you through sources that even experienced genealogists sometimes overlook at Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's January meeting. Register at contact-us@mvgenealogy.org for this free event. Visit the website: <https://mvgenealogy.org/even->

[tListings.php?nm=20#er531](https://www.connectionnewspapers.com/tListings.php?nm=20#er531)

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 26

Community Listening Session. 6-8 p.m. Virtual. Join AlexRenew for the next RiverRenew Community Listening Session. Get a behind-the-scenes look at ongoing construction activity, direct insight from our team, and all the most up-to-date information on the RiverRenew Tunnel Project. Visit the website: <https://www.riverrenew.com/community/community-listening-sessions>

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Talking Baseball

ASC to host Aces manager, owner Jan. 19.

Chris Berset, general manager of the Alexandria Aces baseball team, will be joined by team owner Frank Fannon as guest speakers at the Alexandria Sportsman's Club annual Baseball Night Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Berset and Fannon will give a behind the scenes look at what it's like to run a baseball team and provide insight into the upcoming season. The presentation will be

followed by the scholastic Athlete-of-the-Month awards.

Fannon, an Alexandria Sportsman's Club past president, became majority owner of the Alexandria Aces in 2021.

The Aces are a member of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League that plays a 36-game season during June and July.

Berset is a former catcher in the Cincinnati Reds organization and played collegiate ball at the University of Michigan. Berset is the

owner of Primetime Baseball, an Alexandria-based instructional and developmental facility for aspiring baseball players.

The meeting will be held Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, with complimentary dinner and drinks beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

- JEANNE THEISMANN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alexandria Aces manager Chris Berset, left, and owner Frank Fannon will be the featured speakers at Baseball Night of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club Jan. 19 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Public Ceremony Canceled Due to Pandemic

FROM PAGE 1
community," Casey said. "As a result, I need to fully direct my attention and staff resources to the safety and health of Sheriff's Office employees and inmates at the Adult Detention Center. In addition, I want to limit the community spread of Covi-19."

Casey continued: "I'm deeply honored to now serve as the Sheriff of Alexandria and I appreciate the tremendous support I've received from former Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, my family, community members, and many others. But in considering the meaning of my oath, I recognize the need to forgo a ceremonial occasion and focus our complete attention and resources on public safety and health priorities. Although it's a meaningful tradition, a ceremony is not required and I'm confident that the people of Alexandria, including all of you, who have encouraged me throughout my career, will agree that this is the right decision."

Lawhorne announced his retirement last year after a 43-year career in Alexandria law enforcement.



Sheriff Sean Casey with his wife Amanda and daughters following his swearing in Dec. 29 at the family home in Alexandria.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sheriff Sean Casey's daughters hold the bible as Casey takes the oath of office as Alexandria Sheriff Dec. 29.

"I am deeply honored to now serve as the Sheriff of Alexandria."

— Sheriff Sean Casey

Pot is Still Legal, but the Plan to Regulate its Sale is in Jeopardy

FROM PAGE 1
ijuana sales in their community. Some Republicans say that's backwards.

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

Now Republicans are now talking about flipping that and forcing jurisdictions to opt in instead of opt out. If local government leaders wanted licenses for marijuana sales to be issued in their community, they would have to hold a referendum in which a majority of voters would have to approve licenses for marijuana sales.

"At a minimum, we must ensure that localities will get to decide through a local referendum whether they want marijuana retail

shops in their communities," said Family Foundation President Victoria Cobb. "Pushing back against the deep-pocketed marijuana industry will be a tall order, but we'll do everything we can on behalf of families."

THE INTERSECTION OF drug laws and labor laws will also be part of the conversation in Richmond this year. One of the features Democrats built into the law was a protection for workers in the newly created marijuana

industry. The law Democrats passed ensured workers in the new industry would have the right to collective bargaining.

But along with everything else in the bill, the provision is subject to the reenactment clause that now would require Republicans to agree

"I'm a realistic person, and I don't know that there would be support in the House of Delegates for that," said Ebbin. "So we'll have to work together to come up with something that we can all live with."



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

FLORENCE KING MEMORIAL – A memorial service for former City Council candidate Florence King has been scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 15, at 11 a.m. at the Smith Center of McLean Bible Church located at 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22182. King died Dec. 9 following a brief illness at the age of 74.

Senior Services of Alexandria’s Jan. 20 Virtual Caregiving Workshop: Strategies and Resources for Caregivers of an Older Adult

BY MARYANNE BEATTY
SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA

Every January Senior Services of Alexandria kicks off its monthly “Senior Living in Alexandria” educational programs with a Caregiver Workshop. This year the theme is Strategies and Resources for Caregivers of an Older Adult, and it will take place on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Attendees will learn about AARP’s resources for caregivers, local Alexandria programs, and in-home care options to provide support for caregivers. They will also learn about health options and support for adults aging at home. Presenters include Amber Sultane with AARP; Christine Friedberg, Griswold Home Care; and Nicholas Joseph with the Cherry Blossom

PACE Program.

According to AARP’s “Caregiving in the U.S. 2020,” for individuals who take on the responsibility of caring for another person through sickness or disability, it can often be challenging to see beyond the individual experience.

As individuals, families and communities continue to confront COVID-19, it is imperative that support is provided to family caregivers. The report also states that one in five Americans (21.3 percent) are caregivers, having provided care to an adult or child with special needs at some time in the past 12 months.

This totals an estimated 53.0 million adults in the United States, up from the estimated 43.5 million caregivers in 2015.

The report also highlights that

more Americans (24%) are caring for more than one person up from 18% in 2015; more family caregivers (26%) have difficulty coordinating care up from 19% in 2015; more Americans (26%) are caring for someone with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia up from 22% in 2015; and family caregiving spans across all generations. During this time, it is so important to know what resources are available.

The workshop is free and open to members of the public of all ages. Please plan to attend whether you are a caregiver yourself or if you know someone who is and would like to learn more about available caregiver support. To register visit Senior Services of Alexandria’s website at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

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The Show Must Go On

CES goes hybrid in 2022 return.



A virtual gaming display at CES 2022.



Doosan Mobility Innovation won two CES 2022 awards for its hydrogen fuel cell-powered drone systems.



Samsung's 55" Odyssey Ark gaming monitor was unveiled during CES 2022.



Hosted by the Arlington-based Consumer Technology Association, CES 2022 returned to Las Vegas Jan. 5-8 in the world's largest consumer technology trade show.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The crowds may have been smaller but the technology no less impressive as the Arlington-based Consumer Technology Association returned to Las Vegas for CES 2022.

Organizers reported an attendance of more than 40,000 with 2,300 exhibitors as the world's largest and most influential consumer technology trade show returned to an in-person event following a pandemic-induced virtual event in 2021.

The pre-pandemic 2020 show counted 171,268 attendees and 4,419 exhibiting companies, including Northern Virginia entrepreneur Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations and adjunct professor at George Mason University.

"This was a no-win situation for us," said West, who has attended and exhibited at CES every year since 1985. "It was not obvious as to what to do and I really wanted to be there this year."

West joined exhibitors like Amazon, Microsoft and Google in bowing out at the last minute due to

rising concerns over the ongoing pandemic.

"I wasn't worried about getting COVID myself since I have been vaccinated and boosted," West said. "I was worried about bringing it back home. I have my 98-year-old father-in-law living with me. If I had brought something back it would have been a disaster for my family so the risk was just not worth it."

West added that he was not concerned about interacting with the crowds during the show itself due to the many safety protocols in place. Attendees had to show proof of vaccination before receiving a badge, and each person got two self-test kits when they registered.

"I fully expect that the show will return to normal for 2023."
— Longtime CES exhibitor Skip West

After attending CES 2020 in person, West participated in last year's virtual event.

"We had a reasonably positive experience during the virtual 2021 event," West said. "We ended up picking up Lowes.com so for us it was worth it but I think generally people were not happy and wanted to return in person."



John Deere unveiled a fully autonomous tractor during CES 2022.



Arlington-based CTA president and CEO Gary Shapiro, right, and CTA executive vice president Karen Chupka open the 2022 CES technology trade show Jan. 5 in Las Vegas.

Prior to the start of the event, CES trimmed the show to three days, down from the usual four, as part of its enhanced health protocols.

But the technology of the future was on full display.

"Innovation came to life this week at CES 2022 with technologies that will reshape industries and provide solutions to pressing worldwide issues from healthcare to agriculture, sustainability and beyond," said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of CTA, the owner and producer of CES, in his closing remarks. "The CES show floor buzzed with the joy of human interaction and a five-sense innovation experience with products that will redefine our future and change our world for the better."

Prevalent throughout the show was artificial intelligence, making products and technologies smarter and customizable. Companies included John Deere, featuring the first fully autonomous tractor, and Beyond Honeycomb, with an AI-enabled robot to prep and cook customizable meals.

BMW demonstrated a color-changing electric car called BMW iX Flow utilizing E Ink technology while GM unveiled the new electric Silverado. Vietnam's first automaker VinFast made its CES debut.

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BMW debuted a color-changing electric concept car called BMW iX Flow utilizing E Ink technology. The vehicle can change its exterior color from black to white and shades of grey almost instantaneously.



Northern Virginia entrepreneur Skip West, shown at CES in 2020, did not attend the 2022 event for the first time since 1985.

were featured in Eureka Park, the startup hub for CES 2022, including the SkyDrive air taxi. The Venetian Expo also featured a first-time European Pavilion highlighting the latest tech advancements from Europe.

West said that he anticipates the show will return to normal for 2023.



LG Electronics, maker of a transparent OLED concept display, was one of several major exhibitors to pull out of CES 2022 at the last minute due to coronavirus concerns.

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JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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nection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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HOME LIFESTYLE

Veri Peri 2022 Color of the Year

Described blue with red-violet undertones, the hue is expected to be on trend this year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Those home accessories or planning a whole-house remodeling project or simply looking to purchase home accessories will have a new color option. Described as a shade of blue with violet-red undertones, Very Peri is Pantone's 2022 Color of the year. The hue, which is expected to be on trend in products that range from home furnishings to runway fashion, is getting mixed reviews from local designers.

"Very Peri isn't a color that I would choose often, or recommend to clients frequently, but I can see why some people would love it," said McLean designer Ashley Hollings,

"I may be in the minority, but I think it's a beautiful color," said North Potomac designer Dana Wiseman of Wiseman Designs. "However, I don't think I'd recommend it to a client. It's a bit too dark for an interior."

"As a purple with a blue edge, Veri Peri is cold and bold," said Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design "It's a strong, impressive color, but it isn't welcoming and that's the number one word my clients use when describing their ideal home."

There are those aren't afraid to embrace it, says Cathy McNamara of Dream Interiors in Alexandria. "I'm seeing an uptick in the number of homeowners and designers who are taking risks. Veri Peri is definitely risky," she said. "This was once a color that was only used as an accent, but more and more of my clients are choosing bold colors for whole rooms."

Those who find the color appealing, but want to use it with caution. Veri Peri can add a burst of vibrancy to a neutral interior.

"As a solid color, it would look great on lamps or a quilt in a crisp white bedroom," said Elliott. "It would be a dramatic accent color in an extremely contemporary home, and the only accent color, possibly. It would be effective as a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art."

Though considered by designers to be a vivid hue, Veri Peri can be paired with colors to increase or subdue its vibrancy. "You can pair it with neutral colors like beige or white to balance the shade and provide a calming, comforting effect," said interior designer



PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, is expected to be prevalent in home furnishings such as the sofa in this room which was designed by Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design.



PHOTO BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Annie Elliott of Bossy Color and Annie Elliott Design says Very Peri, color of the year for 2022, can be integrated into a splash of color on pillows, vases, and art.

"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation. If they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."

— Ashley Hollings, interior designer

Michelle Zimmerman of Potomac.

"If you want to make more of a statement, pair it with oranges or yellows, which makes the purple hue pop and appear more vivid," continued Zimmerman. "They're complementary and will create a bold statement."

"To tone down the boldness of Veri Peri, I would pair it with adjacent colors such as red, burgundy, and navy blue," added Elliott. "The cleverest thing about Veri Peri from an interior design perspective is that it will look great with cool gray."

For the past 23 years, experts from the Pantone Color Institute forecasts global color trends and select a Color of the Year.

"I think Pantone picks wild colors on purpose to spark some conversation," said Hollings. "I mean if they picked a boring beige no one would talk about it."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Restaurant Week Is Back



BARCA Pier and Wine Bar.

For 10 days and two weekends, nearly 70 restaurants in Alexandria, Va. will offer a \$35 prix fixe dinner for one or two people during Alexandria Restaurant Week, Jan. 21 to 30, 2022. Special menus are available in-person at all participating restaurants, many with heated outdoor dining available. Fifty restaurants will also offer to-go options in addition to in-person meals. The online menu book makes it easy to browse delicious selections from dozens of Alexandria eateries and enjoy special menus at some of Alexandria's winterized dining destinations or from the comfort of your own home.

New Alexandria Restaurant Week participants include BARCA Pier and Wine Bar, a new riverside eatery which opened in spring 2021 in Old Town featuring Mediterranean tapas, vibrant cocktails and vino galore; Thai Signature, located on King Street and offering dishes inspired by street food in Thailand; The Rub Chicken & Beer, a restaurant pop-up within Hen Quarter in Old Town, specializing in spicy sandwiches and heat-quenching beer; and St. Elmo's Coffee Pub - Old Town North, the Del Ray community hub's newly opened sister shop featuring an industrial-chic layout, lattes and bites in Old Town North. More than 50 restaurants will offer meals both in-person and to-go, including Barkhaus, Del Ray Café, Dishes of India, Rocklands Barbeque and Tempo Restaurant. Others offering in-person dining only include 219 Restaurant, Brabo Brasserie, Elo's Italian and Michael's Little Italy.

Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. Guests will savor the flavors of Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries, from casual neighborhood favorites to elevated date night destinations and beyond.

View the menu flip-book and participating restaurants at Alex-

www.connectionnewspapers.com

WHAT: Alexandria Restaurant Week
WHEN: 10 days and 2 weekends, January 21-30, 2022

WHERE: Neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, Virginia, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End

HOW: \$35 prix fixe dinner for one or two people, available in-person or in-person and to-go

INFO: AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com

andriaRestaurantWeek.com.

Alexandria Restaurant Week Menu Highlights:

❖ First-time participant BARCA Pier and Wine Bar offers heated outdoor riverside seating plus to-go options for their special menu that includes roasted tiger prawns, crispy pork belly and brioche bread pudding.

❖ Barkhaus invites four-legged friends to frolic around the indoor and outdoor off-leash dog park, while owners snack on stuffed dates or fried Brussels sprouts, followed by your choice of flatbread.

❖ Bring date night to Brabo Brasserie for a two-course meal with enticing, French-infused options such as smoked salmon rillettes and moules-frites.

❖ Save room for dessert when you dine in or carry out from Del Ray Café, with sweet third-course treats ranging from Belgian chocolate mousse to beignets with crème anglaise to chouquettes served with dipping sauces.

❖ Warm up on the heated patio at Elo's Italian in Del Ray, with three courses rich in Italian specialties such as garlic focaccia bread, lasagna Bolognese and Limoncello bars.

❖ Dig into a mouthwatering medley of meats from Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, plus your choice of sides including Texas corn pudding, barbecued baked beans and minted cucumber salad.

❖ Head to Tempo Restaurant in the West End for New England clam chowder, a decadent gnocchi entrée and extensive dessert options.



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	Fed Struct Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12333	726	GOLD RUSH ROAD/726 ROUTE	BRUSH CREEK	12/16/2021

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 <https://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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Obituary

Obituary



Reynaldo ("Rod") Rodriguez passed away comfortably at his home in Alexandria, Va. on December 21, 2021. He was born in 1921 in Tampa, Florida to Victoria Gallego and Ramon Rodriguez. He spent much of his youth moving between Tampa and his mother's family home in Havana.

At age nineteen, right out of high school, Rod enlisted in the Florida National Guard. Soon thereafter, with the onset of World War II, he volunteered for the US Army's first airborne units when he joined the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, later known as the 503rd Regimental Combat

Team ("RCT"). He became a first scout for his unit and participated in four combat operations of which three were combat jumps. The first two jumps took place in New Guinea, namely the Markham Valley and the island of Noemfoor. The third and final jump was on the island fortress of Corregidor situated in the middle of Manila Bay. General McArthur had made the retaking of Corregidor a high priority in his liberation of the Philippines. The 503rd made one of the most daunting and dangerous airborne assaults of WW II, when they jumped from five hundred feet to retake the island. Rod was in the first drop of paratroopers to make the jump. The 503rd RCT was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation in recognition of this achievement and also was bestowed with the nickname "the Rock Force". Rod spent the final months of the war in a "supposed" mopping up operation in the mountains of Negros Island which, in reality, turned into a fierce war of attrition against a Japanese unit three times the size of the 503rd. Rod was the recipient of a bronze star and a purple heart. He was one of six men of his original twelve man squad to survive the war. Later in life, this experience would lead to him being interviewed and quoted in a number of books written on the WW II South Pacific campaign.

As a result of his combat experience, Rod was determined to live a life that was worthy of the sacrifices made by his "brothers" who did not return from the war, and this became the touchstone for his life. Under the GI bill, he attended University of Georgia and majored in Economics. Learning became a vocation and he would eventually undertake graduate studies in Economics at both Georgetown University and George Washington University. He remained a voracious reader and learner for his entire life. After college, Rod worked for the Department of Commerce as a senior Economist specializing in Latin American trade relations where he worked for twenty-five years. He traveled throughout the region and was instrumental in the negotiation of numerous trade agreements. After his retirement, he worked for a number of years with the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington to encourage constructive US policies towards Latin America. In his early years in Washington, Rod took up tennis and continued to play until age 89. He was an active member of Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria for over sixty years.

In large part due to the brutality of his combat experience, Rod believed in war only as a last resort. He protested against US involvement in the Vietnam War as well as in Nicaragua in the 1980s. He believed strongly in justice and equity, participating in the March on Washington with Martin Luther King in 1963 and advocating for immigrant rights. From watching the challenges of his Cuban community in Ybor City in the 1920s and 1930s, he had a deep appreciation for immigrants and took a special interest in their lives.

Rod was known by friends and family as a gentle, adventurous and generous soul who was always happiest surrounded by his family. He leaves behind his son, Richard ("Scott") Rodriguez of Tampa, Fla.; daughter, Louisa ("Lucy") Rodriguez and son-in-law Robert ("Bob") Ruggiero of Rye, NY; and four grandchildren: Eliza and Alexander Ruggiero and Hannah and Landon Rodriguez. He was predeceased by his beloved granddaughter Dana Ruggiero.

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ENTERTAINMENT

4 Spots for Outdoor Dining This Winter

BY HOPE NELSON
 GAZETTE PACKET

It's déjà vu, all over again: A second winter of trying to find outdoor-dining locations as covid cases spike once more. Fortunately, Alexandria's restaurants are well-prepared to answer the call. From noodles to tapas, tacos to beer, here are some of the city's best warmest spots.



Yunnan by Potomac, 814 N. Fairfax St.

Sitting streetside at Yunnan by Potomac is actually more exotic than it seems – the restaurant has worked hard to make the outdoor-dining environment a welcoming, cozy place, despite it running alongside Fairfax Street in an erstwhile parking area. Plop down at one of Yunnan's beckoning tables, order up some bao buns and the mixian noodles of your choice, and let the brothy goodness warm you up even in the cold of winter.

Barca Pier and Wine Bar, 2 Pioneer Mill Way

At first blush, a pier overlooking the Potomac River may not seem like a wintertime delight. But with Barca's plentiful heaters, plus plastic sheeting to block the river's wind, you'll find yourself toasty-warm in no time as you peruse the

restaurant's extensive wine list and tapas choices. And a pro tip: Don't forget to ask for the dessert menu. The Crema Catalana is a decadent delight worthy of some room in your stomach.

The Garden, 1503 Mount Vernon Ave.

When life gives you wintry weather, find yourself an igloo and wait it out. The Garden is a great place to do just that. Light, bright and airy in the spring and summertime, it becomes a winter wonderland with the mercury drops, all lights and fire pits and, yes, igloos just waiting for you and your friends.

Tequila and Taco, 540 John Carlyle St.

Tacos and margaritas – they fit in with any season, really. Carlyle's Tequila and Taco is ready for the cold weather with a heated patio. Order a piping-hot fajita bowl, something from the everyday brunch menu or, of course, a plate of tacos. Let the spice warm you up inside and the heaters warm you on the outside.

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.

CALENDAR

JAN. 7-29

Little Monsters Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Little Monsters" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery features artists' interpretation of their own little monsters—from scary to funny. Check out related workshops. Gallery hours are Thursday 12-6 p.m., Friday 12-9 p.m., Saturday 12-6 p.m., and Sunday 12-6 p.m. Details at: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/event/little-monsters>

NOW THRU JAN. 23

Post-Grad Residents Exhibition. At Target Gallery, Alexandria. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space at Torpedo Factory Art Center, celebrates the work of the Post-Grad Resident artists—Eliza Clifford, Lindsey Kircher, Danny Varillas, and Nicole Wandera—in 2021 Post-Grad Residency. The exhibition will be on view through Sunday, January 23, 2022. Target Gallery is in Studio 2 in the Art Center, located at 105 N. Union St., Alexandria.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

LESSON ZERO. 9:30-12:30 a.m. At 710 King Street, Alexandria. Village Brauhaus presents the music of Oasis recording artist LESSON ZERO. For additional information see www.youtube.com/lessonzero

and www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

Friendship Firehouse Museum Special Open Hours. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Learn about the Friendship Fire Company's fire fighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. The museum is located at 107 South Alfred Street. Families with young children will be given take-home kits, including a fire helmet and activities (while supplies last). Purchase Advanced Timed Arrival tickets at alexandriava.gov/shop

STARTING JAN. 15

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Recruiting Volunteers. 9-11 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, part of the Office of Historic Alexandria, is recruiting volunteers to lead guided tours. Guides are trained to use the historic tavern spaces to share the stories of diverse people in early America who both shaped and were shaped by the young nation. Training begins January 15, 9 - 11 a.m. with an in-person workshop, continues with virtual evening classes, and wraps-up with a second in-person workshop in late February/early March. Participants will end the series ready to complete their tour certification.

To apply, submit an application online at AlexandriaVa.gov/GadsbysTavern.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Winter Lecture: Hidden Gardens. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Throughout history, many splendid gardens have been abandoned and lost, unknown and unseen for decades and even centuries. Join Green Spring historian Debbie Waugh in viewing stunning gardens around the world that have been rediscovered and painstakingly restored to their former grandeur, and hear their fascinating stories. Consider the important work underway today to restore and conserve historic landscapes. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code RBO.J19U.

MONDAY/JAN. 17

Playing with Resin. 6-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn the ins and outs of prepping for and mixing resin, and how to use it as an adhesive, a covering, or the main medium. For details and to register: <https://delrayartisans.org/event/resin-january-2022/>

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So Long Old Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As of Wednesday, Dec. 8, the 2000 Honda Accord, which I inherited from my widowed mother 13 years ago, nearly to the day, was officially “totaled” by an insurance adjuster. After my mother died in 2008 leaving the Honda ownerless, I took possession. As I recall, on Dec. 24, 2008, I went to the Montgomery County administrative offices in Rockville and paid my dues (taxes, actually). And though I’ve had miscellaneous car repairs over the years - fortunately, nothing which was too drastic or expensive, I’ve not had to make one monthly car payment in almost 13 years. For a non-car person like me, not having a car payment for that many years trumps all negative considerations.

As written about in the “Oh Deer” column a few weeks back, the end of our association (the Honda and mine) was unexpected and for my money - literally, quite unnecessary. The Honda was our back-up/second car. Maybe it was driven 5,000 miles a year, almost exclusively local and most often, it sat in the driveway minding its own business. Now, I’ll have to upgrade and consequently incur a new monthly car payment. A car payment I don’t want and an extra expense I certainly don’t need. Though I’ll be receiving a settlement check from the insurance company, it won’t cover the cost of a new car. In fact, it will barely cover the amount of down payment. And as any of you similarly impacted by a car accident where your car is “totaled” know, the math rarely ends up in your favor, especially if the “totaled” car was old and payment free.

But more to the point if this column. The Honda was one of the last remaining physical links to my parents, particularly my father, who died in early December 2006. He was the driver in the family and the Honda was the only car in the family so most images and feelings I have about my father and a car were from this 2000 Honda Accord, the last car he owned/drove. As such, when I sit in the driver’s seat, I remember my father. And I also remember the front of one of his birthday cards which said: “When they made you, they broke the mold.” Open card: “You should see what they did to the mold maker.” We all laughed. I gave him that card on his 65th birthday dinner which we all celebrated at Jimmy’s Harborside Restaurant (his favorite) on the wharf in Boston on or about Sept. 23, 1984 (his actual birthday). It was a memorable occasion to be sure, especially when my father opened the card and shook it to see if any money would fall out.

And though I still have lots of enduring memories of my father (I still wear his winter gloves as well as an old collard short-sleeve Polo shirt of his - which amazingly sort of fits), nothing conjures his memory and is so physically enveloping - literally, as the front seat of the car where when driving, he spent the last years of his life. And now that feeling/his presence is gone.

I imagine I’ll get reconnected to his memory every month for the next 36 at least, when I make my new car payment. It won’t quite be the same as sitting in the Honda payment free. Nevertheless, I’m sure I’ll still feel a car connection to my father. After all, I’ll be driving a car that he helped me buy.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROS

Aldersgate Church Community Theater will present “Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition) Jan. 14-23 in the Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. For tickets visit www.acctonline.org.

Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition)

ACCT returns to live performances Jan. 14-23.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Many moons ago in a far-off place, Queen Aggravain decreed no couples could marry until her son, Prince Dauntless, found a bride. Can Winnifred the Woebegone, a simple swamp princess looking to win the heart of Prince Dauntless, pass the impossible test Queen Aggravain has in store for her?

Such is the tale of Once Upon a Mattress (Youth Edition), an adaptation of the beloved musical designed for young performers and running Jan. 14-23 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

“We thought really carefully about what show would work during COVID,” said director Julia St. Pierre.

“We wanted a musical but needed to limit it to 21 kids. We needed to find a fun show that had a small ensemble and ‘Once Upon a Mattress’ really met all the elements we needed. It has great characters and a fun fairy tale theme with a twist that makes the show irresistible.”

With music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer, the much-acclaimed musical was the right fit for ACCT as the company returned to live performances.

“It was important that we get started after having to be dark since early 2020,” said St. Pierre, who also serves as music director. “ACCT is such a community and carrying on the tradition and children’s program was so

important to us.”

Cody Yeatman plays the role of Prince Dauntless.

“Dauntless is a prince but not really what you would think of when you hear the word ‘prince,’” said Yeatman. “He’s more of a puppet figure for his mother but he doesn’t know that he’s a puppet. He’s like a little kid in an adult body. Blunt, naive, and very open with his emotions.” Maggie Campione takes on her first lead role as Princess Winnifred.

“Princess Winnifred is from the swamps and not what you expect from a fairy tale princess,” Campione said. “She is very loud, strong-willed and passionate. But she is also extremely kind and cares about all those around her. Unfortunately, though, the queen despises her.”

The show opens Jan. 14 and runs through Jan. 23 in the Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. Tickets are \$15 and a COVID-19 policy requires a mask at all times while inside the UMC building. Seating will be socially distanced.

“I hope that audiences will have a good laugh and simply enjoy themselves,” said Lauren Allen, who plays the Queen. “We have been missing live theater for nearly two years now, so if they leave with half as much of the joy and excitement that we have felt being able to perform onstage in front of a live audience again, then the show will have been a success.”

For tickets or more information, visit www.acctonline.org.

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