

Alexandria Gazette Packet

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FEBRUARY 24, 2022



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Congressman Don Beyer (D-8) and wife Megan.



JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums leads off the return of the George Washington Birthday Parade Feb. 21 in Alexandria.



JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

An Alexandria fire truck closes out the George Washington birthday parade Feb. 21 in Old Town. An Alexandria firefighters union has voted to allow collective bargaining representation during contract negotiations with the city.

By George! Thousands turn out for return of Birthday Parade.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The largest and longest running parade celebrating the 290th birthday of George Washington made a triumphant return to the streets of Alexandria following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“What a great day for a parade,” said Allison Glass, who attended with her husband David Hardison and 2-year-old son Patrick. “We had a wonder-

ful time and Patrick enjoyed seeing all the people.” Mother Nature played her part as unseasonably warm temperatures brought thousands out for the parade, which honored local health care workers and first responders, who served as the parade’s Grand Marshals.

Billed as the nation’s largest George Washington Birthday Parade, the celebration dates to 1923 and featured the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums, military marching bands, colonial

“What a great day for a parade.”

Alexandria resident Allison Glass

SEE THOUSANDS TURN, PAGE 8



Sheriff Sean Casey.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

For the first time in more than 40 years, the union representing firefighters, fire marshals and medics in Alexandria have won a seat at the bargaining table overseeing contract negotiations for public employees.

“This is a monumental day for the members of our department,” said Alexandria Firefighters Local IAFF 2141 president Josh Turner. “But it’s also a monumental day for all working people and communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia — we’ve shown that when workers come to-

SEE AFD UNION WINS, PAGE 3



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Quantico Marine Corps Band.



JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Fishburne Military Academy.



PET GAZETTE

PAGES 7 & 10

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AFD Union Wins Vote On Collective Bargaining

FROM PAGE 1

gether, whether they're first responders, teachers, sanitation workers or anything else, that when we work together, we have the power to have a say in the decisions that impact our lives and the lives of the communities we serve. This win puts us in a position to ensure we are providing the best services to the members of our community."

Members of the Alexandria Fire Department will now become the first public sector employees to collectively bargain a contract in the commonwealth since a 1977 decision by the Virginia Supreme Court banned collective bargaining between local governments and their employees.

That changed in May of 2021 when a state law was passed allowing local governments to adopt

"This is a monumental day for the members of our department."

— IAFF 2141 president
Josh Turner

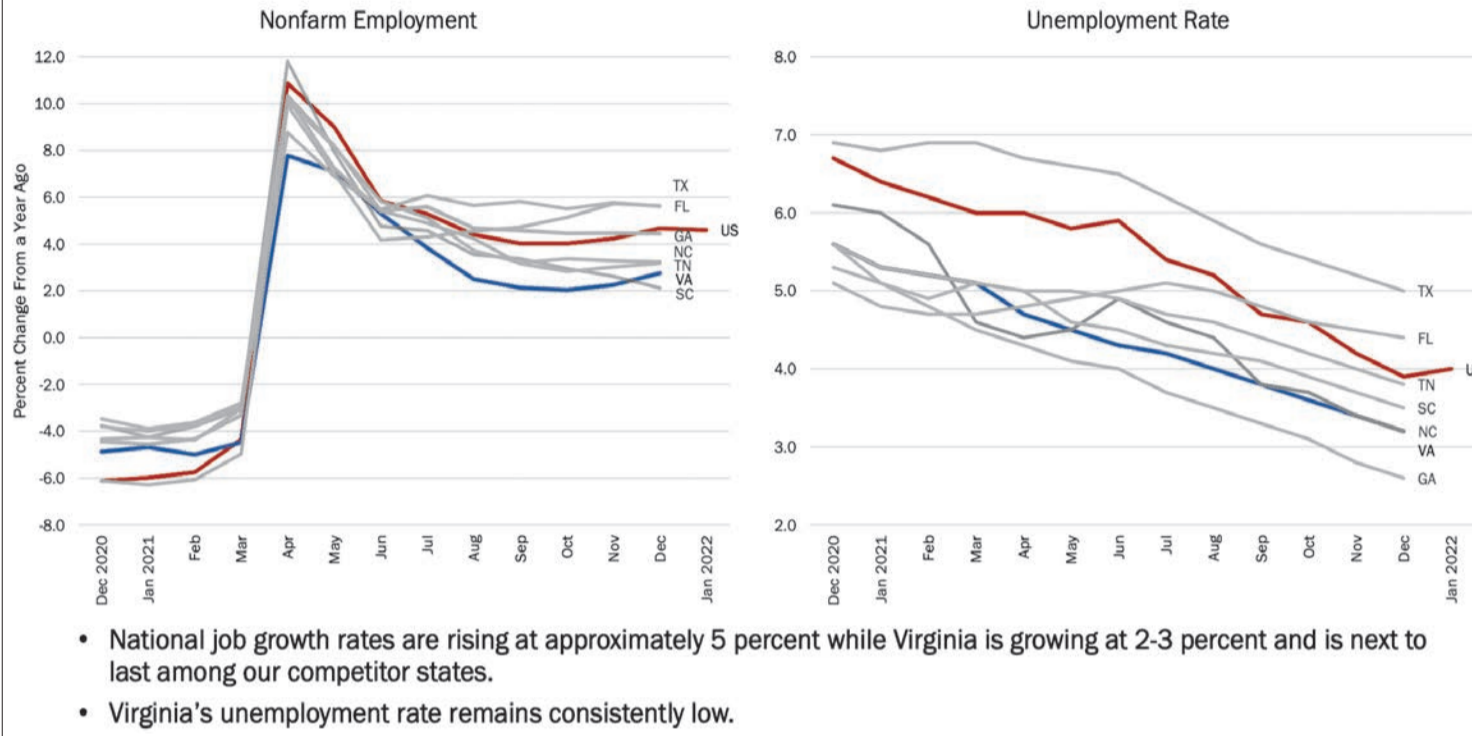
ordinances recognizing labor unions for the purposes of collective bargaining.

"This is a mandate from the workforce" said organizer Jeremy McClayton. "We still have the upcoming negotiations with the city that will run until November, and we still have this year's current budget run by a new City Manager that we are cautiously optimistic about. But anytime you win an election with 99 percent of the vote, particularly in an election as historic and impactful as this, you need to take the time to celebrate with the team first."

Staffing shortages and regional pay competitiveness have been a concern for union officials in recent months. Alexandria began taking steps to address the concern over pay disparities with City Council last October approving a 1.5 percent pay increase for city government employees. New City Manager James Parajon has proposed a fiscal year 2023 budget that provides a 6 percent increase in sworn fire pay.

The vote by IAFF Local 2141 passed by a margin of 163-1, or 99.39 percent. There were 239 personnel eligible to vote.

U.S. AND VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DATA



SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Virginia has sluggish job growth and low unemployment.

Ditch Warfare

House Republicans push for tax cuts; Senate Democrats push back.

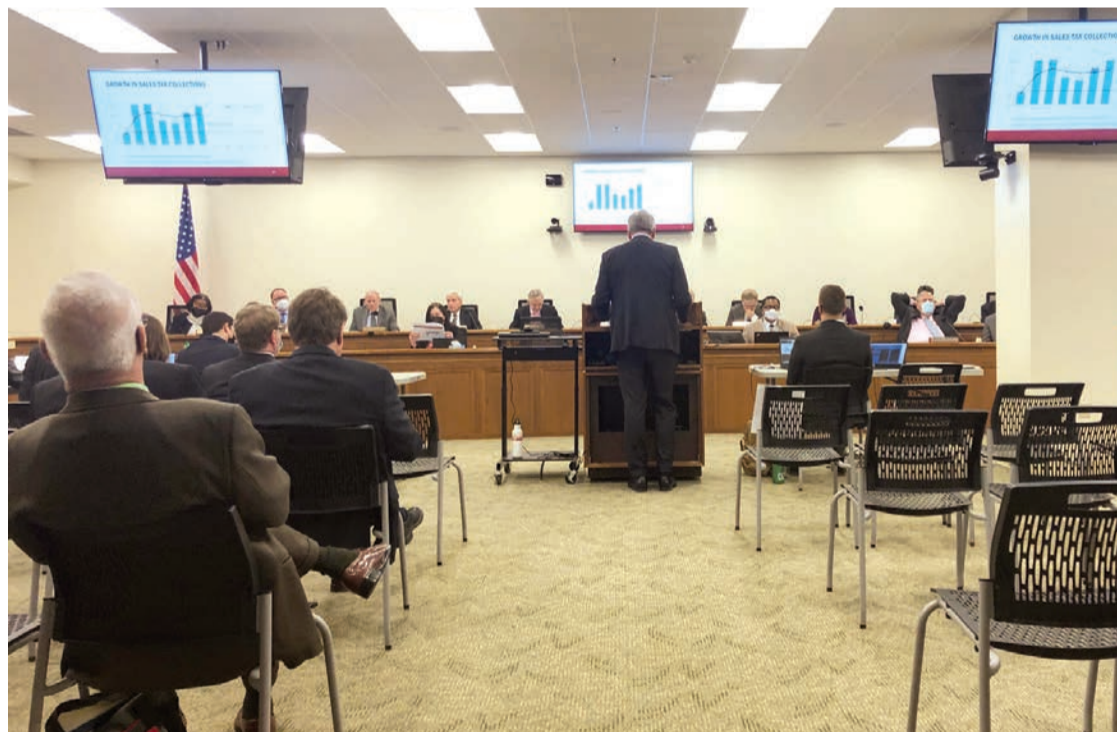
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

On the campaign trail, Glenn Youngkin said Virginia's economy was "in the ditch." Now that he's governor, he's calling for a host of tax cuts he says will jumpstart what he calls a "rip roaring" economy. He wants to eliminate the grocery tax, double the standard deduction and postpone an increase in the gas tax.

But Senate Democrats are skeptical.

"Companies are lining up — let me repeat that — lining up to come to Northern Virginia. Would they be doing that if we were taxing them out of existence? I mean give me a break," said Majority Leader Dick Saslaw this week. "How do you explain that and the fact that virtually none of us here ever get emails saying 'Oh geez you need to cut taxes?'"

During a tense meeting of the Senate Finance Committee this week, newly installed Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings said the cost of government is outstripping economic prosperity. He pointed to data showing sluggish job growth, warning senators that reve-



Secretary of Finance Stephen Cummings presents a bleak economic picture to the Senate Finance Committee this week.

nues are strong because taxes are too high. The governor is hoping the job-growth numbers will be a persuasive argument for Senate Democrats who are skeptical of moving forward with his package of tax cuts.

"We have to be able to explain why we are not growing then because I understand that people are

not complaining right now that 'you're taxing me too much,' but why is it we're lagging all these other states?" said Cummings. "Why are we lagging the national economy? There's got to be an explanation."

THE EXPLANATION for Virginia's languid recovery from the

pandemic downturn might be explained by related data on unemployment. Because Virginia's unemployment rate was so much lower than other states, many experts say, the commonwealth has less ground to reclaim. States that have seen supercharged job growth

SEE VIRGINIA HAS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

‘Known But to God’ Wreath laying held at Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier.



A visitor places a flower at the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier Feb. 21 at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Dozens of observers turned out as the First Virginia Regiment held its annual wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution Feb. 21 in the courtyard of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Visitors were provided with a flower as they entered the graveyard, with each attendee taking part in the ceremony by placing the flower on the Tomb of the Unknown, which was guarded by members of the First Virginia Regiment.

The ceremony follows the traditions of the U. S. Army full honor wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery as well as from descriptions from the Revolutionary War.

The remains of the unidentified man, clothed in a Revolutionary

War uniform, were unearthed in 1826 during the construction of St. Mary's Catholic Church, which is located immediately next to the churchyard of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The body was reinterred in the Meeting House Burial Ground.

The epitaph at the Tomb reads: "Here lies a soldier of the Revolution whose identity is known but to God. His was an idealism that recognized a Supreme Being, that planted religious liberty on our shores, that overthrew despotism, that established a people's government, that wrote a Constitution setting metes and bounds of delegated authority, that fixed a standard of value upon men above gold and lifted high the torch of civil liberty along the pathway of mankind. In ourselves his soul exists as part of ours, his memory's mansion."

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Dozens of wreaths are placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier Feb. 21 at the Old Presbyterian Meeting house.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia has Sluggish Job Growth and Low Unemployment

FROM PAGE 3

are also states that suffered a much higher unemployment rate when the economy shut down.

"A state like Florida that is more tourism and travel dependent was hit much harder at the beginning of the pandemic," said Chris Wodicka, senior policy analyst with the Commonwealth Institute. "If you measure 'recovery' in the way the administration seems to be measuring it, Virginia will look worse just based on that alone."

House Republicans tried to get Virginia to leave the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state compact created to cap and reduce emissions across 11 states. But Senate Democrats rejected that idea, which means

“Companies are lining up — let me repeat that — lining up to come to Northern Virginia. Would they be doing that if we were taxing them out of existence?”

— Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw

Virginia will remain part of the group despite opposition from conservatives who say it's a drag on the economy. Critics of the environmental policy Democrats put in place when they were in charge say mandating green energy is a recipe for disaster.

"RGGI is a real and growing tax on power and companies cannot evade it by taking a third party provider," said Stephen Haner, a senior fellow at the Thomas Jef-

erson Institute. "And until the election there was a strong reason to worry this year could bring repeal of the Right to Work law."

IN THE COMING weeks, Senate Democrats and House Republicans will need to hammer out their differences on tax cuts. The House wants to eliminate the grocery tax while the Senate wants to let local governments keep the option to have a 1 percent sales

tax on groceries. The House wants to double the standard deduction while the Senate wants to study the idea and come back to it later. And the House wants to delay an increase in the gas tax while the Senate rejects that approach.

The bottom line is that the Senate budget has about \$3 billion more in revenues than the House budget. That could end up meaning less spending on everything from environmental preservation

projects to economic development programs.

The Senate budget has \$278 million more for public education, for example. Cummings says that kind of austerity is needed to make Virginia more competitive with other states, a perspective Saslaw rejected in trademark fashion.

"Listening to you, you'd think we're in the poorest, most bankrupt state in America and everything has gone to hell in a handbasket," said Saslaw.

"Saslaw can't be paying much attention to his constituents if he thinks cost of living and inflation isn't a major problem for Virginia families," said Macaulay Porter, spokeswoman for the governor.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mayor Justin Wilson, center, is joined by Volunteer Alexandria executive director Marion Brunken, right, at the announcement of the organization's annual Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria awards Feb. 15 at Market Square.

The Heart of Alexandria

Florence King, volunteers honored for service.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Florence King, a 2021 candidate for City Council, was posthumously honored by Volunteer Alexandria with the Lifetime Achievement Award during an announcement of the organization's honorees Feb. 15 at Market Square.

Due to the pandemic, the organization canceled its annual Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria awards gala but executive director Marion Brunken was joined by Mayor Justin Wilson in announcing this year's honorees.

King, who died unexpectedly in December, received the Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award. A 30-year resident of Alexandria, King served on countless boards and commissions, including the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Agenda: Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Urban League, the United Way Alexandria National Regional Council, and the city's Commission on Employment.

She was honored as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2018.

Other awardees include: Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Service Award — Eldon Boes; Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Service Award — Linda Thoms; RSVP Volunteer Service Awardee — Barbara Sherlock; RSVP Volunteer Service Awardee — Tami Stuckey; ASCEND Alexandria Youth Service Volunteer



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Florence King has been posthumously honored with a lifetime achievement award from Volunteer Alexandria.

Award — Fatima Eldawah and Ian McDonough; and the Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Service Award — The Alexandria Medical Reserve Corps and the Community Emergency Response Team.

For more information on volunteer opportunities, visit www.volunteerallexandria.org.

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.

ALEXANDRIA CITY MANAGER PROPOSES FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET

On February 15, City Manager James Parajon presented the Alexandria City Council with a proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 General Fund Operating Budget of \$829.9 million, which represents an increase of 7.7% over the current year. The

proposed budget includes \$248.7 million and funds 100% of the Alexandria City Public Schools' (ACPS) request. The City Manager also presented the City's 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2023–2032. The \$2.73 billion CIP includes continued support of ACPS facilities (\$497.8 million), including a new high school, renovation and retrofitting of the 1705 N. Beauregard St. office building for a swing space, and renovation and expansion of two elementary schools. The City Manager's balanced budget proposal is consistent with City

Council's guidance, along with extensive input from the community and City departments. Highlights of the budget proposal include:
 Providing funding for initiatives that build on Alexandria's successes and address emerging issues.
 Maintaining core services that support those who need help the most, particularly as the pandemic continues
 Promoting equity through programs to maximize Alexandria's affordability and accessibility.
 Meeting short-term goals that maintain and strengthen current infrastructure.

Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation Arlington County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 7 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>

Find out about plans to rehabilitate the Shirlington Circle south rotary bridge over I-395 to improve safety and extend the overall life of the bridge. The bridge connects the southbound I-395 collector-distributor lanes and southbound Shirlington Road to North Quaker Lane at the I-395 Exit 6 interchange. The project includes resurfacing the concrete bridge deck and closing deck joints, repairing concrete piers and abutments, repairing and repainting steel beams, adding protective concrete barriers adjacent to piers, replacing bearings, and upgrading guardrails adjacent to the bridge.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/ShirlingtonCircle>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3256 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **March 25, 2022** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Vicente Valeza, Jr., P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Shirlington Circle South Rotary Bridge Rehabilitation" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

State Project: 1250-000-913, B608, P101
UPC: 118832
Federal: STP-5B01 (210)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, March 28, 2022 at the same time.

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OPINION

Working with an Eye Towards Compromise

Progress advances every time we change the law for the better.

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN

After 25 long, hectic legislative days, often beginning at 7:30 a.m. and finishing late in the evening, the General Assembly reached “crossover” last week. As indicated by the name, this is the point where all bills must have passed their house of origin to continue on their legislative journey. For my part, I was glad to pass one constitutional amendment and 75% of my introduced bills out of the Senate (18 of 24) with three additional bills headed to interim studies and commissions for a closer look. Crossover day itself was spent mostly on the Senate floor, as members hashed out the details of complicated legislation and debated some of our more controversial bills. While we continue to meet constantly over the following days to discuss amendments to our two year budget, the brief respite from presenting and reviewing bills allows for some time to develop strategies for legislation passing to the other chamber — this year to a body controlled by the other party. Unfortunately, partisan divisions will cause some bills that passed the Senate with ease to face a quick death in the House. However, relying on carefully cultivated relationships and working with an eye towards compromise, this year offers an opportunity for outsized bipartisan cooperation.



Six of my bills passed the Senate with unanimous support, including legislation to protect living organ donors from employment discrimination, requirements for a seller to disclose any financial interest or pending legal action in property purchases, and a bill requiring comprehensive energy reliability reports from Dominion energy to localities. These bills all stemmed from concerns raised by constituents throughout the year, and often were helped along with their support in committee testimony and advocacy. I was also glad to pass legislation providing an alternative to the sometimes cumbersome witness signature for absentee ballots and to remove a

roadblock to localities' ability to procure electric and diesel transit buses with broad support.

My bills aiming to address gun violence, improve the functioning of the Virginia Employment Commission, and require property surveys to be completed in Northern Virginia historic districts before the purchase of a home, have sparked some controversy, and will likely have to jump some hurdles to make it to the finish line. Despite a broad coalition of support from advocacy groups including NRA and Moms Demand Action, my bill to align Virginia code with federal law on firearms that have had their serial numbers removed caught what is proverbially known as a “fever” on the floor after Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-Virginia Beach), a federally licensed firearms dealer, raised concerns over collectors who owned machine guns being criminalized by the bill, and squeaked by on a party line vote.

I anticipate the Constitutional Amendment I am carrying to repeal the ban on same-sex mar-

riage and replace it with a fundamental right to marry will face strategic opposition in the House, where despite having the votes on the floor to pass, the Speaker assigned an identical House Amendment, carried by Delegate Mark Sickles (D-Fairfax), to a heavily conservative subcommittee where it was killed at 7 a.m. with minimal discussion or debate. This Amendment does a simple, but momentous thing. Our Constitution, the foundational document of the oldest Democracy in the western world, only once deprives citizens of a right — the right to marry the person you love. If passed, it removes that stain, and permanently enshrines this right, safeguarding it for Virginians regardless of their sex or gender, providing a fundamental dignity and equality to our family, friends, and neighbors and reflects the will of a supermajority of Virginians. Additionally, the discriminatory amendment was made defunct by the 2015 Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges, and it is important for our Constitution to reflect the law of the land. I hope the House leadership can be convinced that voters deserve a chance to consider ratifying this amendment at the polls in November.

With only four weeks left in session, we have our work cut out for us. What lies next for my bills will depend on the coming days, as they begin to be referred by Speaker Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) to subcommittees and committees and face hearings and votes. Some, those that Delegates introduced on similar policies, may have to be finalized in a Conference Committee. From these bipartisan groups often emerges compromise. Though progress may not always appear to proceed at the rate we may desire, it advances every time we change the law for the better. I hope to be reporting on such changes in a few weeks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worrying About Local News

The Connection Newspapers' recent financial challenges, coupled with the disappearance of standard features such as letters to the editor from recent issues, has a lot of us worried about the future of the U.S.' oldest newspaper in continuous publication, (Alexandria Gazette Packet) so seeing letters to the editor supplementing legislator's op-eds in the Feb. 17 edition is a welcome sign, like the first daffodil as winter melts into springtime.

A clearly frustrated Sen. Scott Surovell recounts the partisan divide over pandemic restrictions and laments three Democrat senators crossing over to vote with Republicans to scale them back. The Virginia Senate, although much smaller than the U.S. Senate, is blessed to have not one, but three, Joe Manchins! The Connection Newspapers' current financial plight has a great deal to do with how pandemic restrictions

have impacted the business climate and is indicative of why we need to move beyond pandemic restrictions to understanding that the coronavirus, like influenza and other diseases, is endemic. The pandemic restrictions imposed in 2020 and in varying degrees still ongoing are historically unprecedented. During other pandemics folks went about their normal activities, aware of heightened risk (coronavirus deaths have been remarkably stable at 2% of diagnosed cases) greatly minimized by vaccines readily available for a year.

By contrast, Sen. Adam Ebbin's op-ed focused on fixing the Virginia Employment Commission. One wonders why, only now, Sen. Ebbin, who has served in the legislature for nearly two decades, has suddenly realized that the Virginia Employment Commission lacks funding for “long-planned, much needed system upgrades” eight years of Democrat governors ignored. Do common folk who don't belong to organized pressure groups or can't afford lobby-

ists have to ring the phone off the hook, as frustrated unemployment insurance applicants had to do, to get their legislators' attention?

Billions of dollars of federal pandemic aid flowed into the Commonwealth. How much of it did the legislature devote to adding staff to the Virginia Employment Commission to handle the sudden spike in claims or invest in actually acquiring these “long-planned, much needed system upgrades”? Instead, Sen. Ebbin concedes that the current administration is forthrightly addressing long-pending questions, as two of

Joint Audit & Legislative Review Commission's recommendations are expedited and legislation is finally -- but belatedly -- being offered to rectify various faults in unemployment insurance administration. A better caption for Sen. Ebbin's op-ed might have been “Better Late Than Never”!

Dino Drudi
Alexandria

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DESILVA STUDIOS

Dog parks can be fun for canines and humans, and observing proper “petiquette” can make the experience even more enjoyable for everyone.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DIRTY PAW PHOTOGRAPHY

Cats over 4 months of age must be licensed in the City of Alexandria, and it’s important to make sure your cat has an ID in case they get out of your home.

Petiquette: Being a Good Pet Neighbor to Animals and Humans

BY CAROLINA LEON-DUARTE
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ALEXANDRIA

The ASPCA estimates that more than 23 million households added a pet to their family since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. That means a lot more new furry neighbors in our communities. Whether this is a family’s first time having a pet or their 40th, having a pet should be an experience that brings joy to your life and your community. Here are some top tips on being a good pet neighbor while keeping everyone in the community safe and happy.

According to the Animal Services team at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), the most common call received is about dogs who are not on leashes. Dogs who are on public property outside of dog parks are required by the City of Alexandria to be on leashes. Owners who have well-behaved, friendly pets may not foresee the is-

ssues that can occur with off-leash pets. Their dog may approach another dog who could be reactive or fearful, leading to negative interactions or even an injury-causing fight.

Even if your dog is friendly, you should always ask other pet owners if it’s okay for your dog to greet theirs before approaching. While it’s hard to imagine anyone in the world who doesn’t love dogs, the reality is that some people might be afraid of them or just indifferent — and there’s nothing wrong with that. AWLA’s Chief of Animal Services Tony Rankin advises, “By putting your best leash forward, both pet and non-pet owners can enjoy our beautiful city in peace.”

Being attentive to our dogs when visiting one of the city’s many dog parks is just as important as when they’re out on a walk. Some dogs visit the park for a chance to run and play, and some dogs may be there simply for some off-leash time. While dogs visit dog parks for different reasons, being mindful of how our dogs interact with other dogs and

people can ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone.

Pets out of doors also lead to another common complaint — pet waste. Stepping in pet waste is not just a quick way to start a bad day, but improperly disposed pet waste pollutes waterways and negatively impacts our wild neighbors. One pet owner’s action can also affect how other pet owners are viewed and treated by neighbors, leading to overall tension in a neighborhood, so it never hurts to double-check for an extra waste bag or two before leaving the house with your dog.

Our wild neighbors are also impacted by domestic cats. While Alexandria law permits cats to be outdoors, due to the dangers cats could encounter when outdoors, the AWLA recommends that cats be kept inside. If cats are permitted to be outside, you can help to protect birds and small mammals by having your indoor/outdoor cat wear a bell or other noisy item on their collar to alert other animals to the cat’s presence. Ensuring that the

collar has identification on it will help neighbors know that the cat has a home and will help you reconnect with a cat who becomes lost or trapped.

Whether it’s required by law or just by etiquette, every pet owner has the opportunity to be a good pet neighbor to their community. By practicing good “petiquette,” you make Alexandria a safer, healthier and happier home for all residents, whether they have two legs or four.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria’s only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global pandemic, the AWLA has established a virtual adoption process and is operating a Pet Pantry that provides pet food and supplies to community members in need. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Drive Up Rabies, Distemper and Microchip Clinic

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is hosting a Drive-Up Rabies, Distemper and Microchip Clinic for dogs and cats at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter! The clinic will be BY RESERVATION ONLY. The cost for rabies and distemper vaccinations is \$15 per pet and for a microchip is \$10 per pet. The clinic will run from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Up to two pets can receive vaccines and/ or microchips during a 5-minute appointment. Sign up at AlexandriaAnimals.org/RabiesClinic.

To ensure we are observing the best safety protocols for our human and animal visitors and our staff, all attendees

will be required to comply with the following guidelines:

All human attendees over the age of 2 years must wear a mask at all times.

You must arrive by your scheduled time, or we will not be able to serve you.

Owners will not be permitted to enter the building.

All dogs must be on leashes; cats must be in carriers. If you need a leash or carrier, please contact us at community@alexandriaanimals.org prior to the event.

Vaccinations offered:

Rabies – for dogs and cats

DA2PP – Canine Distemper-Adenovirus Type 2-Parainfluenza-Parvovirus vaccine, for dogs

FVRCP – Feline Rhinotracheitis-Calici-Panleukopenia vaccine, for cats

Cost: \$15 per pet for both or either rabies or DA2PP/FVRCP

Microchips: PetLink Microfindr microchips - for dogs and cats

Cost: \$10 per pet

All cats will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. Dogs with a current rabies vaccination are eligible for a 3-year rabies vaccination. If requesting a 3-year rabies vaccination for your dog, you must bring a copy of your dog’s current rabies certificate (not the rabies tag) to the Clinic. Dogs must be over 5 months to receive a Distemper vaccine.

Once you have registered, the AWLA will

contact you via email to complete registration paperwork ahead of the clinic. Payment can be made by cash, check or credit card on the day of the event. For questions, email community@alexandriaanimals.org.

Virginia law requires that all dogs and cats four months of age and older have a current rabies vaccine. Residents of the City of Alexandria are also required to license dogs and cats four months of age and older. Information about licensing can be found at <https://alexandriaanimals.org/licensing-your-pet/>.

The Vola Lawson Animal Shelter is located at 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

Thousands Turn Out for Return of Birthday Parade

FROM PAGE 1

reenactors and community and historical groups marching along the mile-long route.

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields (ret) kicked off the parade with a powerful rendition

of the National Anthem. He was joined on the reviewing stand by George and Martha Washington, portrayed by Brian Hilton and Kari LaBell, Mayor Justin Wilson and other local politicians and dignitaries.



Acting Chief of Police Don Hayes.



USMC Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields (ret) sings the National Anthem.



A neighborhood family from the Berg.



David Hardison and Allison Glass with son Patrick Hardison, 2.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



American Legion Riders.

The return of the George Washington Birthday Parade Feb. 21 in Alexandria



Kena Shriners.



General George Washington and American Legion Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton.



Former City Councilman Frank Fannon and son Jackson, 6.



Sons of the American Revolution, George Washington chapter.



Old Dominion Boat Club.



Cub Scout Pack 680.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISSMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

General George Washington (Brian Hilton).



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Janet Barnett, chairperson of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Selection Committee, introduces recipients of the Rev. Ben Lynt Distinguished Community Service Award, former Councilwoman Del Pepper and former Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, at the Association's annual meeting Feb. 21 at the Westin Hotel Alexandria. The Association assists in the preservation of the historic fire engine house on South Alfred Street and provides scholarships and other benevolent and philanthropic services to the Alexandria community.



Volunteer Louis Hofheimer and members of the ACHS Key Club.



Clowning around from Kena Shriners.



Alexandria American Legion Post 24.



First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line.



A cannon from the First Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line



A float celebrates health care workers and first responders.



American Heritage Girls Troop VA0325.



Departmental Progressive Club.

PET GAZETTE



Moscow 2003.

From Moscow To Alexandria

Journalist Lisa McAdams was covering the international cat show in Moscow, Russia, in 2003 when four-month-old Bella reached out with her paw to touch her and stole her heart. Now 19 years old, Bella has lived for the last 15 years in Alexandria, Virginia, with Lisa and her husband, Michael Collins, who affectionately refer to her as “the Czarina!”



Bella with Lisa McAdams in February 2022



Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn gets some work done, while family cat Princess Carolyn opts for a nap. She was a 13-year-old rescue when she was adopted by his family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALCORN FAMILY



Now going on two years old, Samson and Mishka were “pandemic puppies” along with their nine other siblings – born in the fall of 2020 in West Virginia to their mixed-breed mother, Sadie. In November, 2020, Sadie and her brood landed in the care of Animal Welfare League of Arlington <https://www.awla.org/>, who ultimately placed all eleven puppies into different foster homes in groups of twos and threes. In December 2020, the lucky brother and sister were adopted by a pair of next-door neighbors – Alyssa Tope and Galina Ginzburg of Arlington.



David Griffin, Ana Claudia Griffin, Poppy of Alexandria
 “Poppy is a Basset Hound and is almost 1.5 years old. We got him from Peru which is where my wife (Ana, pictured) is originally from. He loves to chew any sticks he finds and really enjoys walking around Old Town. We also go to Blackjack Dog Park off Route 1 almost every day and he loves playing with other dogs.”

Juno has been a resident of Arlington for almost 6 years. Her eight sons and two daughters live all over the country, but a few still live in Arlington. She cries when she is reunited with anyone in her family — no matter the species. Like any new mother, she had a makeover when the pups were all gone and she could stop nursing them, finally, and getting her figure back, could dress up again.

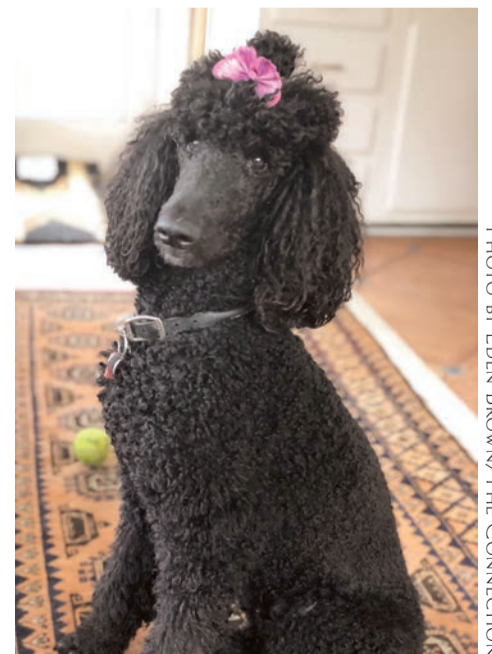


PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

APPETITE

As Pop-Up Closes, Umbrella Dry Drinks Moves to Its Second Act

By HOPE NELSON
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

Next week marks the end of the first act for Umbrella Dry Drinks, Old Town's first nonalcoholic bar and bottle shop. The pop-up shop, which has called the Seedling Collective at 121 S. Royal St. home for the month of February, is the brainchild of Sam Kasten, and is really the answer to what she identified as a hole in the market.

Kasten, who has been sober for nearly four years, longed for a place where she could purchase tried-and-true nonalcoholic drink options by the bottle, as well as a place where she and her fiancé could enjoy more than just a glass of soda water when they went out for a night on the town.

"When I was ready in my recovery to start venturing into the world of nonalcoholic drinks, we started trying different options" but could only order online, she said. "Which can be a real hit or miss. Many times it was a miss. I was like, man, I wish there was a shop where I could go and buy these things instead of having to order online."

Kasten readily admits that she has no business background – but she had a dream. And last fall, after taking a 10-week course taught by Chris Marshall, the owner of the alcohol-free Sans Bar in Austin, Texas, she was ready to take the plunge, and Umbrella Dry Drinks was born.



Happy birthday to our first president, says Umbrella Dry Drinks on Instagram. @umbrelladrydrinks Cherry lime margarita! featuring @ritualzeroproof tequila, red tart cherry juice, fresh lime juice & a little simple syrup

"The day after my course ended, I launched Umbrella," Kasten said.

In mid-January, Kasten noticed that the Seedling Collective, which showcases new small businesses with a rotating schedule, had canceled its contract for February.

SEE DRY DRINKS, PAGE 14

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City of Alexandria FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET



A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget is set out below.

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget for the City of Alexandria.

The March 7, 2022 Budget Public Hearing Meeting of the Alexandria City Council is being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of City Council and staff are participating either in-person or from a remote location through a video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed by the public through: Zoom hyperlink (below), broadcasted live on the government channel 70, and streaming on the City's website.

Budget Public Hearing:

The Webinar will open at 5:00 PM to allow individuals to join while the Public Hearing will begin at approximately 5:30 PM. If you wish to use Zoom to watch this meeting or to address Council, you must register first. Those wishing to address Council should also submit a Speaker's Form using the link below.

Registration link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_elh--t6tS4-aBA5tvUvx6Q
Webinar ID: 962 0990 9808
Webinar Passcode: 031432
Dial-in number: 301.715.8592

Speaker's Form:

<https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2020-VIRTUAL-City-Council-Speakers-Form>
Those wishing to address Council should submit a Speaker's Form. Submission of written statements is encouraged. Please sign up after the docket is created and you are able to verify the meeting date on the City's website. If the docket is not posted, you will have to return at a later date to complete the speaker's form in order to speak at a Council meeting.

Public Comment will be received at this meeting: All persons wishing to speak before City Council must complete a Speaker's Form (see link above). If you have a prepared statement or written comments for the record, you may email it to the City Clerk at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov. Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the City Clerk. When your name is called to speak, the Zoom host will prompt you to unmute your microphone. If you are participating via smartphone, press *6 to mute/unmute your microphone. You will be called on by your name or the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. When you are finished speaking or at 3 minutes (whichever comes first), you will be muted again. If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use the "Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Input" form (linked below). Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Written Comment Form: <https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-FY2023BudgetInput>

Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council meeting may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838.5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. City Council meetings are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. Individuals requiring translation services should contact the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov or at 703.746.4550. We request that you provide 24 to 48 hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. Please specify the language for translation when you make the request.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2023

| | General Fund FY 2023 | All Funds FY 2023 | Capital Improvements FY 2023 |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| City Council | \$780,202 | \$780,202 | |
| City Manager | \$3,595,652 | \$3,595,652 | \$63,123,000 |
| City Attorney | \$3,962,270 | \$3,962,270 | \$130,700 |
| City Clerk and Clerk of Council | \$445,515 | \$445,515 | |
| Circuit Court Judges | \$1,578,424 | \$1,578,424 | |
| 18th General District Court | \$150,597 | \$150,597 | |
| Clerk of the Circuit Court | \$1,724,607 | \$1,789,607 | |
| Commonwealth's Attorney | \$3,082,278 | \$3,449,720 | |
| Court Service Unit | \$2,041,921 | \$2,103,821 | |
| Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court | \$87,827 | \$87,827 | |
| Other Criminal and Justice Services | \$4,243,826 | \$5,064,315 | |
| Registrar of Voters | \$1,380,974 | \$1,380,974 | |
| Sheriff | \$33,108,086 | \$33,515,235 | |
| Finance | \$13,669,117 | \$14,737,498 | \$1,007,000 |
| General Services | \$13,825,172 | \$14,069,595 | \$94,517,600 |
| Human Rights | \$1,058,712 | \$1,096,955 | |
| Information Technology Services | \$14,680,230 | \$15,204,922 | \$14,704,862 |
| Internal Audit | \$421,639 | \$421,639 | |
| Management and Budget | \$1,694,499 | \$1,694,499 | \$642,200 |
| General Fund Debt Service (City) | \$41,170,131 | \$41,170,131 | |
| Debt Services (ACPS) | \$31,941,000 | \$31,941,000 | |
| Non-Departmental - Contingent Reserve | \$1,874,170 | \$1,874,170 | |
| Non-Departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other | \$17,377,914 | \$24,082,839 | |
| Human Resources | \$5,242,697 | \$5,242,697 | |
| Communications & Public Information | \$2,273,131 | \$2,273,131 | |
| Office of Organizational Excellence | \$265,842 | \$265,842 | |
| Performance Analytics | \$745,267 | \$745,267 | |
| Fire | \$56,041,648 | \$60,368,620 | \$2,226,400 |
| Code Administration | \$0 | \$8,484,717 | |
| Emergency & Customer Communications | \$9,605,631 | \$9,715,773 | |
| Police | \$64,665,633 | \$67,310,247 | |
| Health | \$8,181,893 | \$8,339,780 | |
| Community and Human Services | \$58,702,629 | \$104,309,337 | |
| Community Policing Review Board | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | |
| Other Health Activities | \$1,279,936 | \$1,279,936 | |
| Housing | \$7,850,577 | \$12,185,005 | \$8,406,000 |
| Economic Development Activities | \$7,657,894 | \$7,657,894 | |
| Project Implementation | \$0 | \$2,329,900 | \$44,478,900 |
| Planning and Zoning | \$6,978,855 | \$7,588,857 | \$619,000 |
| Historic Alexandria | \$3,923,620 | \$5,034,361 | \$125,000 |
| Library | \$8,070,360 | \$8,430,590 | |
| Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities | \$26,793,489 | \$29,482,742 | \$17,812,400 |
| Transit Subsidies | \$43,351,782 | \$54,486,968 | |
| Transportation and Environmental Services | \$40,559,224 | \$90,425,001 | \$108,677,559 |
| Other Educational Activities | \$15,750 | \$15,750 | |
| Schools | \$248,737,300 | \$345,837,487 | \$204,685,100 |
| General Fund Cash Capital | \$34,546,300 | \$34,546,300 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$829,884,221 | \$1,071,053,609 | \$561,155,721 |

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website (alexandriava.gov/budget).

PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget includes no change in the real property tax rate from \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 8, 2022 meeting, at 7:00 pm and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.33 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; Business tangible property, including office furniture, fixtures, computers and unlicensed vehicles are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value and machinery and tools are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value; Privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU FEB. 28

Hunt for Washington. A fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from www.washington-birthday.com at home and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com any time before the end of the day on February 28. There are prizes and mementos associated with this event! Free.

NOW THRU FEB. 28

American Legion Post 24 Run, Walk, n' Roll. This George Washington Birthday Commemorative event is intended to build community and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional resiliency of participants—veterans and non-veterans alike. This month-long event during February 2022 encourages participants to run, walk and/or roll on their own for at least 24 miles in increments and routes they choose. Registration is \$24. Visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Alexandria/GWB24Run-WalkRoll> for more information.

NOW THRU MARCH 6

Artist's Exhibition: Oenone Hammersley and Darren Smith. At the Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Artists Meet and Greet, Sunday March 6, 2 — 4 p.m. Oenone Hammersley's paintings depict abstract water patterns in mixed media on canvas and wooden panels. The panels are cut to resemble water cascading or waves breaking. Darren Smith uses his creative vision while leading the foreign-language editions of National Geographic Magazine. He applies the same skills to making his handmade photo collages. The Athenaeum Gallery is open Thursday to Sunday 12 to 4 p.m.

FRIDAY/FEB. 25

Tell Me Your Name. 5-6:15 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria, the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations, and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

Garden Artists: Fleeting Masterpiece Program. 1-2 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Participants 5 and older can explore the temporary art of Andy Goldsworthy, and use rocks, leaves, branches and even ice to create a personal, fleeting nature masterpiece. All attendees, including parents, must register. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

Washington Symposium. 1 p.m. The George Washington Masonic National Memorial hosts leading

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

scholars of the life and legacy of George Washington. The theme of the 2022 George Washington Symposium is "The Political Education of George Washington, 1758-1774." The George Washington Symposium is held annually to honor Washington's birthday by providing the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Admission is free and free parking is available.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

George Washington Birthday Gala. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:30 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$200. To purchase tickets, visit <https://gwmemorial.org/>. Tickets are limited.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

Winter Garden Tour: Green Spring Up & Down. 10-11:30 a.m. (Adult) Extension Master Gardener docents lead a tour of Green Spring's winter landscape. View some upper demonstration gardens, then take the garden path less travelled to explore the naturalistic lower garden areas: the Virginia Native Plant Garden, woodland stream valley, and ponds. Finish at the Historic House with warm drinks. Tour involves a steep slope with loose gravel. \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code V9N.BJOT.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26.

Great Woody Plants for the Home Garden. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (16-Adult) Green Spring horticulturist Brenda Skarphol highlights beautiful flowering shrubs that grow well in Virginia home gardens. Get to know seasonal standouts for winter and spring. Learn the culture and care of these beauties and how to best showcase them in your garden. The program takes place outdoors. \$18 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code JC2.FE9S.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

Garden Talk: Get Ready for Spring. 10:30-11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) Spring garden maintenance in Northern Virginia begins in winter and is a terrific way to shake the winter blahs. It's time to prune, transplant, fertilize, mulch and prevent weeds. Extension Master Gardeners give tips for selecting plants and starting seedlings. \$10 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code B58.AJW9.

SUNDAY/FEB. 27

"George Washington's Alexandria" Tours. 2 to 4 p.m. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues, in-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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Obituary

Obituary

James D. Anderson Obituary

Rev. James "Jim" Desmond Anderson, 88, of Alexandria, VA and Chestertown, MD died peacefully at home surrounded by family on February 4, 2022. He is survived by his wife Winifred Guthrie Anderson. They shared 67 years of marriage.

Born in Christiansburg, Virginia on February 9, 1933, he was the only son of Sarah Margaret Harden and Walter Willard Anderson. Jim was a proud graduate of Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Ill. in 1951 and received a Naval ROTC scholarship to join the Northwestern University Class of 1955. Upon graduation from Northwestern, Jim served in the United States Marine Corps before entering the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Following Seminary, he served parishes in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Palm Beach, Florida, and Arlington, Virginia before joining the clergy of the Washington National Cathedral. He served as Assistant for Parish Development to Bishops Creighton and Walker. Prior to his retirement, he worked on the development of the Cathedral College of the Laity. In addition, he consulted with the leadership of congregations in the Diocese of Delaware. At the time the Rt. Rev. Cabell Tennis served as the bishop of Delaware. A voracious reader and scholar, Jim authored several books on revitalizing local churches and received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1997.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son Walter of Staunton, Va., son Mark and his wife Cynthia (Lyons), of Alexandria Va. and son Kent and his wife Kathja (Pieper) of Columbus, Indiana; six grandsons, two granddaughters and four great-grandsons. He is predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Walter's wife Catherine (Cunningham).

He was a member of St. Paul's Church in Rock Hall, Md and spent many years of his retirement working closely with St. Martin's Ministries in Ridgely, Md. Jim enjoyed his life on the Chesapeake Bay, sailing, reading, spending time with his ever-growing family and watching many sunsets.

The memorial service and burial will be family only. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made in his honor to the Winifred Guthrie Anderson Early Childhood Scholarship Fund at Evanston Township High School, online at supporteths.org or by mail to the ETHS Foundation, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston IL 60201.

Legals

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP) ACTIVITY - VRP SITE 00719

Hoffman Town Center Blocks 4 & 5
2410 and 2460 Mill Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

VRP Participant:
HTC 4/5 Project Owner, LLC
7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

The purpose of this notice is pursuant to the public participation requirements of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP, 9VAC20-160-120). VRP site investigation activities have been completed at Hoffman Town Center Blocks 4 & 5 (City of Alexandria Tax Map Nos. 072.04-03-39 and 072.04-30-40). The property occupies approximately 6.03 acres of land previously improved with a parking lot and is currently being redeveloped with three multi-story residential buildings with ground-level retail. The property is enrolled in the VRP as VRP Site 00719. The VRP Participant, HTC 4/5 Project Owner LLC, is in the process of completing the remedial activities in order to request DEQ to issue a Certification of Satisfactory Completion for the VRP Site.

Environmental investigations conducted at the property between 2016 and 2018 have detected the presence of petroleum, semi-volatile organic compounds and metals in the site's soil and/or groundwater above respective screening levels. The extent of the contamination has been characterized and based on sample data the soil impacts were primarily restricted to the fill material beneath the site. The distribution of groundwater contaminants indicated that the metal exceedances were likely the result of naturally occurring groundwater conditions in this area, rather than the result of a specific release at the site.

A Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was prepared to determine the potential risks associated with the detected contaminants. The participant removed the majority of fill material from the site as part of the redevelopment activities in accordance with applicable disposal regulations. The participant is also proposing to institute engineering and institutional controls to mitigate onsite risks to human health. The engineering control includes the use and maintenance of hardscape and/or two-foot of clean soil at the surface across the property. The institutional control consists of a restrictive covenant on the property that will prohibit the use of groundwater at the VRP Site for any purpose other than environmental testing and monitoring and dewatering in compliance with regulations. This restrictive covenant will be recorded in the real property records for the VRP site.

Any person who would like to receive additional information for, or provide comments on, the above must do so in writing within 30 days from the date of this publication. Comments or requests for additional information must be submitted to:

David Bookbinder
ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC
14026 Thunderbolt Pl., Ste. 100
Chantilly, Virginia 20151
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dbookbinder@ecslimited.com

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M&M/Mars, Nabisco, and Hostess, Et Cetera

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Consider yourselves advised. Eighteen months or so into my treatment for thyroid cancer and the dry-mouth I've been "side-effecting" has not diminished one bit. In fact, it's gotten worse in one respect: the missing saliva or whatever it is causing this chronic condition, directly impacts your product line and dare I presume, your profits as well. Chocolate, miscellaneous cookies and snack cakes do not satiate like they used to. The constant dryness makes eating certain foods difficult. And as a result, less desirable, and not purchased nearly as much.

How much impact can one individual's changing eating habits have on a company's bottom line? I don't want to boast, but I have a long history of buying and re-buying the same foods repeatedly. If any of these three brands had frequent-buyer incentives when I was growing up, I would have saved my parents thousands of dollars at the supermarket. I recall my mother regularly collecting green stamps for something; I'm sure she would have saved box tops or whatever to earn additional discounts or a baker's dozen type of freebee.

Growing up, I had dessert with breakfast, lunch, after school/midafternoon, dinner and once more before bedtime. Five desserts daily. Part of the reason for this rigorous routine – which I thoroughly enjoyed, was my mother's desire to follow the regularly advertised calcium advisories for children to have strong bones: eight glasses of milk per day. And the way to get children to drink all that milk, at least in my mother's house, was to give us all that chocolate. Which brings me back to the point of this column. Though my chocolate consumption isn't nearly the same now (I know. How could someone keep up that pace?), it is still ample, to say the least, the very least. But unfortunately, I'm simply unable to maintain my life's work.

I blame this squarely on the thyroid cancer drug I've been swallowing every morning since Sept. '19. (In the interest of not defaming a drug/pharmaceutical company, I will not name names.) But there cannot be any other logical explanation. The only variable in my life these last 18 months has been this daily dose. And though initially the treatment didn't curb/impair my chocolate consumption, it seems the cumulative effect of over 500 pills ever since (my re-diagnosis from stage IV non-small cell lung cancer to stage IV papillary thyroid cancer being the cause) has led to this unpalatable condition.

For me, I'll adjust, though I'm not happy about it. There are other desserts, snack cakes and candy (specifically jellybeans of late) which will likely fill the void. But it will be a void, nonetheless. And that means less money going to these big three. I wouldn't say my lack of demand is going to affect the number of eight-hour shifts the manufacturers schedule, but if any line employees want to take early retirement, given the slack, it might be advisable to accept their offer. On the other hand, Jelly Belly's profits will likely increase.

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

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CALENDAR



The Artist's Exhibition: Oenone Hammersley and Darren Smith will be held now thru March 6, 2022 at the Athenaeum Gallery in Alexandria.

FROM PAGE 13

including Christ Church, Light Horse Harry Lee's house, the Lord Fairfax home, Washington's townhouse, Gadsby's Tavern, Duvall Tavern, Wise's Tavern, the Carlyle House, Market Square, Ramsay House, the Apothecary Shop and Gentry Row. To register, visit eventbrite.com and search George Washington's Alexandria. Free.

SUNDAY/FEB. 27

Live Piano Dinner: 5:30-7 p.m. At The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Enjoy three courses of culinary delights from Poland accompanied by French champagne and wine during this evening of Chopin in the Atrium. Thomas Pandolfi joins us for the second time at The Rectory on Princess Street. He will debut our 1928 Grand Haines Piano in

the glass-enclosed atrium. Cost is \$185. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Bald and Golden Eagles

On March 2, Friends of Dyke Marsh can learn about bald and golden eagles at our 7 p.m. Zoom meeting when Jeff Cooper, a Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) wildlife biologist, will give a talk. He will explore eagle biology, recent research, the bald eagle's recovery and the importance of the Chesapeake Bay region to bald eagles. Since 2009, there have been three known active bald eagle nests in Dyke Marsh. The Haul Road nest pair fledged one young in 2019 and two in 2020 and 2021.

The program is free and open to the public. Visit www.fodm.org to register.

Dry Drinks

FROM PAGE 11

"I booked it literally that night. I had no idea how I was going to pull it all together, but I just started ordering inventory."

And about that inventory: The selections have grown by leaps and bounds over the past few years. Gone are the days of O'Doul's, Fre, or, yes, soda water being patrons' only choices for an alcohol-free experience. Forget that. Whiskeys, absinthe, beers, wines, sparkling wine: They're all there, and they're all good.

"In the past one to two years, the non-alcoholic beverage industry has really taken off. There are so many options out there that are actually good!" Kasten said.

Some of Kasten's favorite brands include Lali, an alcohol-removed wine, and Gruvi, a beer brewer from Colorado. But one of her all-time favorites is Noughty, a nonalcoholic sparkling wine that's incredibly similar to the alcohol-infused version.

"I have fooled people in my family" with it, Kasten laughs.

The majority of brands that she carries are women-owned and founded, Kasten

says, and she's made a point of doing a lot of local events with other women-owned small businesses.

"It's not even the drinks for me; it's about building this community that's not centered around alcohol," she said, adding that it can be very lonely being a sober person in an alcohol-centered environment. Having shops and bars like Umbrella Dry Drinks, which set their sights in another direction, is a way to spark community in a new, alcohol-free way.

At the end of the day, Umbrella's mission is to "provide sophisticated nonalcoholic options to those who wish to stay dry," Kasten said, and though the pop-up shop at Seedling Collective closes its doors next week, it's only the start for her and her business.

With the long-term goal of landing a permanent space firmly in her mind, Kasten is hammering out the final details for her next temporary spot in Old Town, ideally staying nearby on South Royal Street, which she'll announce soon.

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.

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OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

Arlington | \$1,875,000

Classic Craftsman style home with a spacious front porch in Lyon Village. Special care has been taken to honor its original design. Features include four bedrooms, three and a half baths, a spectacular gourmet kitchen with family room and primary suite addition, renovated baths, gleaming wood floors and 1-car garage. Lovely flagstone patio garden with koi pond. Truly a Commuter's dream! 1604 N Cleveland Street

Julian Burke 703.867.4219
www.JulianBurke.com



OPEN SUN 2/27, 2-4

Milway Meadows | \$939,000

Bright open floor plan perfect for living and entertaining. Large addition for family room, office, dining room, or au pair suite. Gorgeous private yard, hot tub, tons of storage, oversized 2-car garage. Walk to school, pool, library! 7519 Cornith Drive
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.robinarnoldsells.com



OPEN SAT 2/26, 12-2

Rosemont | \$850,000

2-bedroom, 2-bath updated bungalow. Light-filled living room boasts high ceilings, built-in bookcases, and gas fireplace. Renovated kitchen with high-end appliances. Screened-in back porch. Fabulous basement. 1 W Oak Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



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Wayne wood | \$779,900

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Potomac Valley | \$725,000

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Kirk | \$649,000

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Midtown Alexandria | \$395,000

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Nethergate \$725,000

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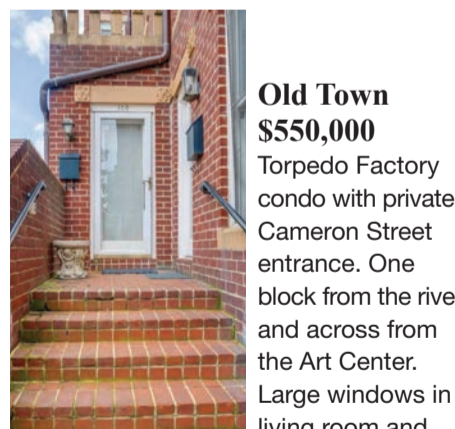
OPEN SAT 2/26, 1-3

Old Town \$590,000

Renovated 2-level, 1-bedroom, 1.5-bath townhome offers a cozy main level with high beams, and a powder room. New kitchen boasts stainless

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