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Alexandria Gazette Packet

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MARCH 24, 2022

Women Who Mean Business

Celebrating Local Business Owners

The pioneering spirit that helped give women the right to vote just over 100 years ago is alive and well today as women-owned businesses grow across the city.

Trailblazers in their fields, women-owned businesses now make up 42 percent of all companies in America according to the most recent report from the National Women's Business Council.

During Women's History Month, meet some of the women who help keep Alexandria's retail business atmosphere thriving while dispensing their best advice to others who dream of being their own boss.

-JEANNE THEISMANN



Imagine Artwear owner Carol Supplee

"I have been on King Street for 30 years. Today, more and more women are opening small businesses. We are all supportive of each other. We are a community that stays together and looks out for each other. Getting through the 2008 recession was a challenge and getting through the last two years was the most difficult thing I have ever done. I am grateful we got through it and are moving forward."

Abyssinia Market and Coffee House owner Lily Damtew

"I have been here on Jefferson Street for 6 years. We have Ethiopian coffee, beer and wine from almost everywhere, fresh pastries and cake and breakfast made to order. Being independent and working for myself was always a dream for me. It is a challenge being a single mother with two sons trying to work full time here and being at home but this is what I want to do."



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Charlene Henry of Charlene's Kitchen

"I have been doing this for 18 years. I provide catering and gourmet carry out meals. I also do floral designs and space design for events. My 'Charlene's Experience' includes design, set up, floral, and food layout. Staffing has been a challenge after COVID. As we are getting back on our feet and need staff, potential employees come to you with demands that are not realistic in the food industry, like 9-5 hours. My advice to potential business owners is to do passionately what you like to do. Don't let anybody tell you what you can't do or that you can't succeed."



Tops of Olde Town owner Sheila Mitchell

"I have been in Del Ray for 33 years now. My mother purchased the store in 1987 on the corner of King and West so when we moved here we kept the name. At the time we opened there weren't many Black owned businesses. We've had our challenges but this business is based on prayer and we are continuing to do what we do best - sell hats and suits. We are busy for Easter, horse racing season, Mother's Day and Father's Day. My best advice to potential business owners is to make sure you have the capital to support the business before you even go into business."

Wellness Junction owner Lauren Fisher

"Wellness Junction opened three years ago and is a collective of different health and wellness service providers. I am a psychologist, so I started out as Del Ray Psych and Wellness but expanded to include complementary services like body massage therapy, natural integrated health care and yoga instruction. The vision is to be a community of wellness but also a place where people can come and feel welcome. People may not walk through a therapy door but healing happens in a lot of different ways. My advice to other women who want to open their own business is to not let fear stop you but be smart and strategic. Don't be afraid to dream."



SEE WOMEN WHO, PAGE 4



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OBITUARY

Nelson Greene Jr. *Community leader dies at 79.*

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Nelson Greene Jr., co-owner and president of Greene Funeral Home, died March 14 at his Alexandria home after a battle with cancer. He was 79.

Greene was well-known for his dedicated service in the funeral industry as well as to the many organizations he served in the community, including the Departmental Progressive Club where Greene served as president up until his illness.

“Nelson had the biggest heart and was the most giving person I knew,” said Merrick Malone, who served as an officer with Greene at the Departmental Progressive Club. “He was an incredible asset not just to our club but to the entire city. He



Nelson Greene Jr. died March 14 at the age of 79.

comes from a tremendous family legacy and he advanced that legacy but he was never in anyone’s shadow. He created his own legacy.”

Greene was born Oct 12, 1942, to Nelson Greene Sr. and his wife Gloria. The couple started Greene Funeral Home in 1954 at its current location on Franklin Street. Greene briefly attended Parker-Gray High School before graduating from what is now Duke

Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity and chapter president, as chairman of the Life Membership committee and District Governor of National Funeral Directors & Morticians Association, and on the Scholarship Committee and State President of Virginia Morticians Association, as well as Chairman of the Board.

“Nelson served this community in all kinds of capacities,” added Malone. “Some people may have thought he was gruff but he was never afraid to be a voice against injustice. He was very forceful and a champion in that.”

Added Greene’s wife Donita, “He used to be accused of being grumpy and gruff but he had the sweetest heart in the world. The exterior was just that. Although people thought he was unapproachable, he was a big old teddy bear.”

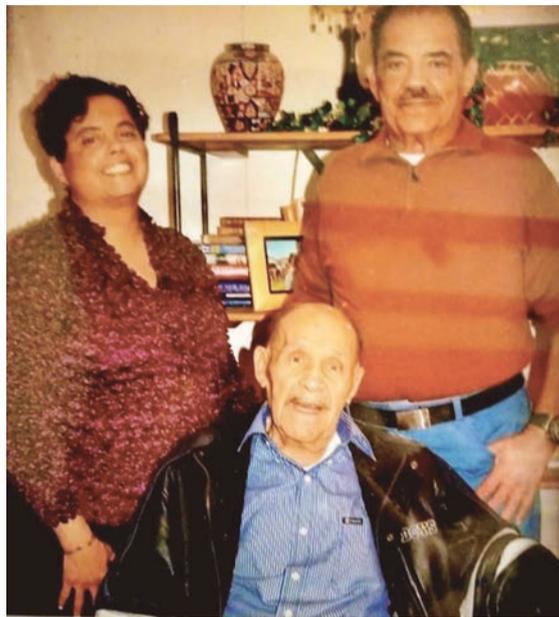
Greene was a founding member of Northern Virginia District of the Virginia Morticians Association and attained his lifetime Certified Funeral Service Practitioner designation. He was a member of Meade Episcopal Church, where served as Licensed Lay Preacher. He also served as Junior Warden eight other times, and as Senior Warden three times. He was a life member of Omega Psi Phi since 1974.

Greene married his wife Donita on July 18, 1998.

“It was the third marriage for both of us,” Donita Greene said. “We always joked that we finally got it right.”

In addition to his wife Donita, Greene is survived by children Nina Greene, Nelson III “Chip” Greene, Derrick Greene, and James (Brooklyn) Washington; grandchildren Justice, Major and Harper Washington; brother Terry F. Greene; and godchildren Carolyn and Cherilyn Tompkins, Barry Monica Hughes and Stacey Leggett. He is also survived by a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Greene will lie in honor at Greene Funeral Home, 814 Franklin Street, on Tuesday, March 29, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Additionally, the family will receive friends at the Callaway Chapel of Episcopal High School, 1130 Thomsen



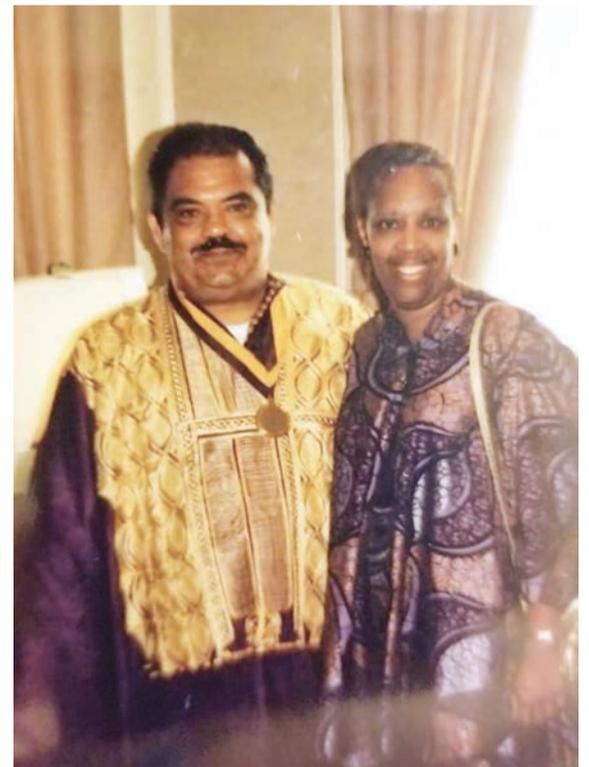
The Greene Family was honored by Senior Services of Alexandria in 2013 for its family legacy of giving to the community. Shown are Nelson Greene Sr., seated, Nelson Greene Jr. at right and Nina Greene at left.



Nelson Greene Jr., standing center, was a longtime member and president of the Departmental Progressive Club.



Nelson Greene Jr. with granddaughter Harper Washington.



Nelson and Donita Greene in an undated photo.

“He was an incredible asset not just to our club but to the entire city.”

— Departmental Progressive Club member Merrick Malone

Ellington High School in Washington. He spent three years serving as an officer in the U.S. Army before returning to Alexandria to work in the family business.

Greene received his Mortuary Science education from John Tyler Community College in Chester, Va., and holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Virginia State College.

In addition to his service to the Departmental Progressive Club, Greene served three terms on the Alexandria City School Board. He previously served as an adjunct professor in the Mortuary Science program at the University of the District of Columbia. He has served as National President of Epsilon

Lane, on Wednesday, March 30, from 10:30 a.m. until time of Mass of Christian Burial at 12:30 p.m. Inurnment services will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 332 N. Alfred St., Alexandria, Va. 22314.

“Nelson was an incredibly generous and compassionate individual,” Malone said. “He did so much without any recognition. He loved the DPC and its members and we loved him. I am really going to miss him.”

Added Donita Greene, “I so loved that man. He truly wanted to do whatever he could to help the people in this community.”

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Nelson Greene Jr., at right, was known for his dignity and respect during the funeral services he provided.

Women Who Mean Business

FROM PAGE 1



Valerie Ianieri of The Old Town Shop

“Necessity is the mother of invention. Five years ago I needed something that said Old Town or Alexandria on it and could not find it. The Virginia Shop went out of business, as did the Pineapple House. They had all closed. Alexandria is a little nautical, a little political, a little Americana, a little George Washington history, a little hospitality so I pulled in the best of those other small businesses and opened The Old Town Shop. We are now a place to get anything for regional gifts. Our biggest issue recently is the supply chain -- we can’t get custom product. U.S. companies have had challenges getting materials and many of our vendors have gone out of business. But my advice to everyone is to pursue your passion and live your dream.”

“Make sure you have the capital to support the business before you even go into business.”

— **Tops of Olde Town owner Sheila Mitchell**



Robeyn's owner Meghan Herzing

“I have owned the store for three years after working for the previous owners. The shop has been in the Bradlee Center since 1986 in Bradlee and before that on Mount Vernon Avenue. We sell infant and women’s clothing, Girl Scout and Boy Scout attire, school uniforms and toys. Taking over ownership just as COVID hit has been hard but this is what I always wanted to do. Everyone should follow their dream.”



Boxwood owner Joanna Szerban

“My mother had an art gallery in Florida that turned into a beach shop so I had the bug in me to have my own store. A friend had the store in here before me and when she was closing asked me to think about doing something myself. I looked at the space and knew immediately I needed to have it -- it was my new baby. It was scary when COVID hit. I remember crying when we closed our front door and locked it not knowing how long we would be closed. I didn’t know how we were going to pay rent - we were less than a year old. When I listened to my phone messages the next morning, there were five messages from people wanting to buy paint and asking if we did curbside. Selling the Annie Sloan chalk paint is what saved our business. If you want to own your own business, my best advice is to research and go for it because it is so rewarding. It’s a big high when a customer walks out happy.”



Purple Goose co-owner Paula Hoelzel

“I called my daughter 30 years ago and told her ‘we’re opening a store and you’re going to run it.’ I’ve always had an addiction to children’s things and this seemed like the perfect fit. It began so my daughter would have some kind of career and the social side of running the shop really suits her. We started out as consignment but now carry the top boutique lines of children’s clothing. If you come into the store you’ll see that it’s more than a store, it’s an addiction. It also gives us something to do together and keeps a great relationship.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Religious school students of Agudas Achim Congregation of Northern Virginia pose for a photo March 16 following the performance of “Muppet Megillah.”

Celebrating Purim

Observance marks the saving of Jews from execution in Persia.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Students at Agudas Achim Congregation donned their best costumes March 16 to celebrate Purim, the holiday marking the saving of the execution of Jews in 5th century BC in Persia.

“We celebrate Purim in the spring to celebrate the rescue of the Jews of ancient Persia by Queen Esther,” said Chaya Silver, Education and Youth Director at Agudas Achim Congregation of Northern Virginia. “The Jews of Persia were threatened by an evil royal advisor who set out to eradicate the Jewish community of Persia. Esther, who lived in the palace and was secretly Jewish, is inspired by

her Uncle Mordechai, to speak up on behalf of her people even when doing so put her life at great risk.”

As part of the celebration, students performed the theatrical parody “Muppet Megillah.”

“The tradition of doing a theatrical parody that allows the audience to enjoy cheering for the good guys and, quite literally, booing for the villain goes back to the mid-16th century in Europe,” Silver said. “This ‘shpiel’ is one of the ways Jews celebrate Purim.”

Students handled the bulk of the production with teen Jaqui Drobnis acting as director. Other students ran sound, created costumes and worked backstage. The production team in-

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 9



Sylvia Lang and Risa Benson dress in costumes to celebrate Purim March 16 at Agudas Achim Congregation.

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Privacy Advocates Urge Veto

Opponents of facial recognition technology call on governor to reject social-media dragnet.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Police departments across Virginia may soon have the ability to use billions of images scraped from social-media sites like Facebook and Instagram to track down suspects, a development that is concerning to critics who say the technology is invasive and a violation of privacy. The governor is now considering the bill, and critics are urging him to veto it or amend it to require a warrant.

“There’s nothing in the bill that allows any type of surveillance or monitoring,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who introduced the bill. “The technology can only be used if you have a picture of somebody that you want to feed into the algorithm to identify them or identify other people affiliated with them for purposes of investigating a crime.”

At the center of the controversy is a company known as Clearview AI, which is backed by Facebook investor Peter Thiel and gives law-enforcement officials access to billions of images posted on social media. It offers free trials to public employees as a way to land subscribers, and more than 30 agencies in Virginia have used the technology or tested it. Supporters say it’s a way for cash-strapped agencies to fight crime with less money and manpower. Critics say it’s a violation of the Fourth Amendment, which forbids unreasonable search and seizure.

“Our laws have not kept up with technology as it has evolved, and what we see is a clear violation of not only our privacy laws but the Fourth Amendment,” said Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11). “That’s why you’ll find concerns on both sides of the aisle that say we need to be smart about this.”

THE BIPARTISAN VOTE in the General Assembly was far from the normal partisan divide that happens on most controversial issues. The vote in the House was 54 to 42. Republican Speaker Todd Gilbert voted against the bill, and former Democratic Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn voted in favor. Alexandria’s delegation was split, with Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) voting in favor and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D-45) voting against it. The vote in the Senate was more lopsided, 27 in favor and 13 opposed. But the opposition included some prominent Republicans,

including former president pro tempore Steve Newman (R-23). Some of the leading voices against the bill were from the Legislative Black Caucus, although members of the caucus were on both sides of the issue.

“There are neighborhoods where police cars drive by certain spots four, five, six, seven times a day,” said Del. Cia Price (D-95). “And little kids in neighborhoods like the one I grew up in and that I represent know this feeling, and other areas don’t have that.”

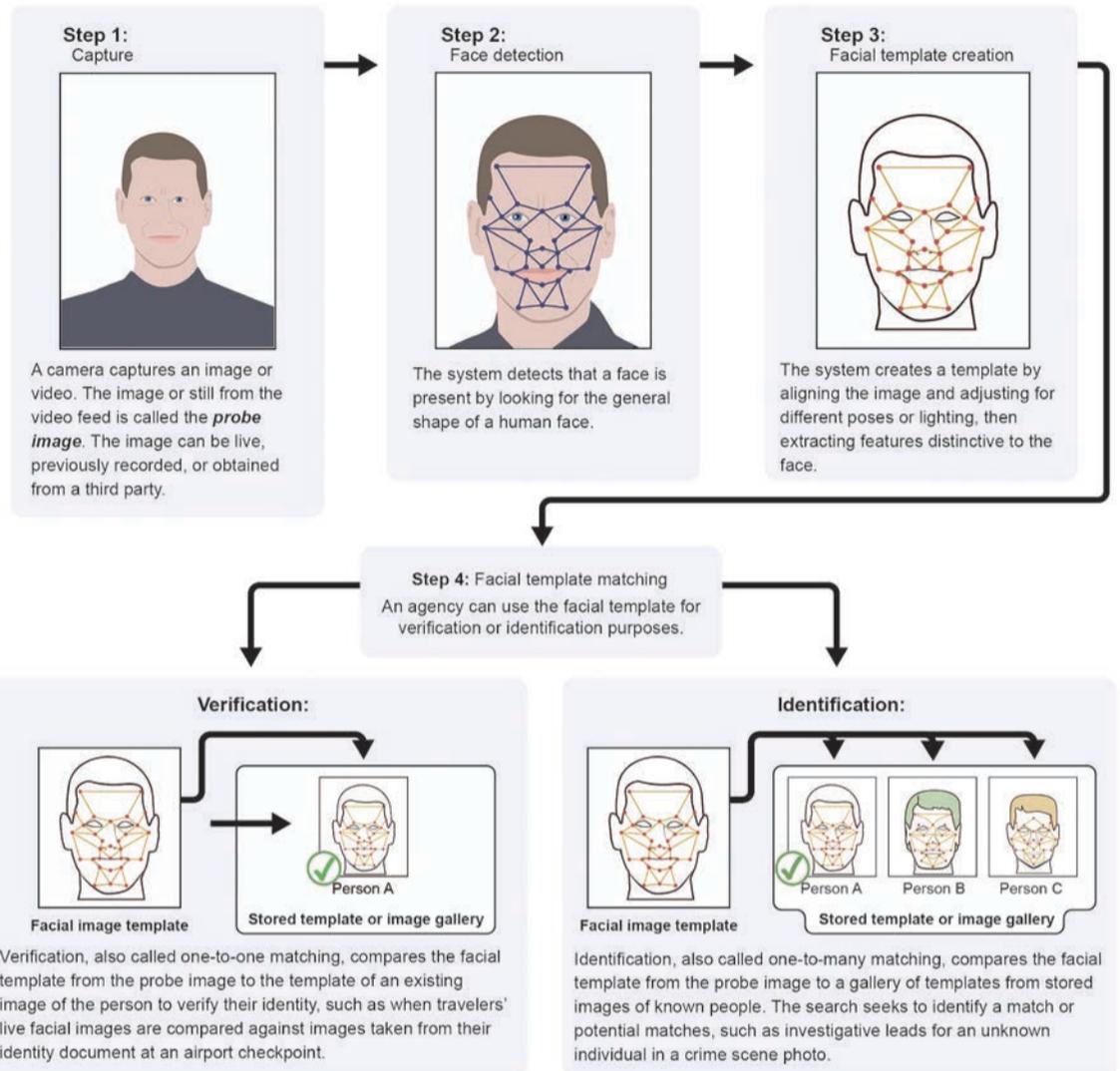
Advocates for the technology say concerns are overblown. Surovell says police lineups have a 40 percent error rate to identify people, so he says facial recognition technology is much more accurate than current methods police use to identify people. As to the idea that police should be required to get a warrant, Surovell says that proposal is unworkable. Before lawmakers took action to prohibit the use of third-party vendors last year, Fairfax County used this technology so often that Surovell says requiring a warrant would be counterproductive.

“Fairfax did this more than 12,000 times,” said Surovell. “The courts can’t even handle 12,000 requests for this. That would be a completely unworkable system. We don’t require a warrant to do a police lineup to identify somebody.”

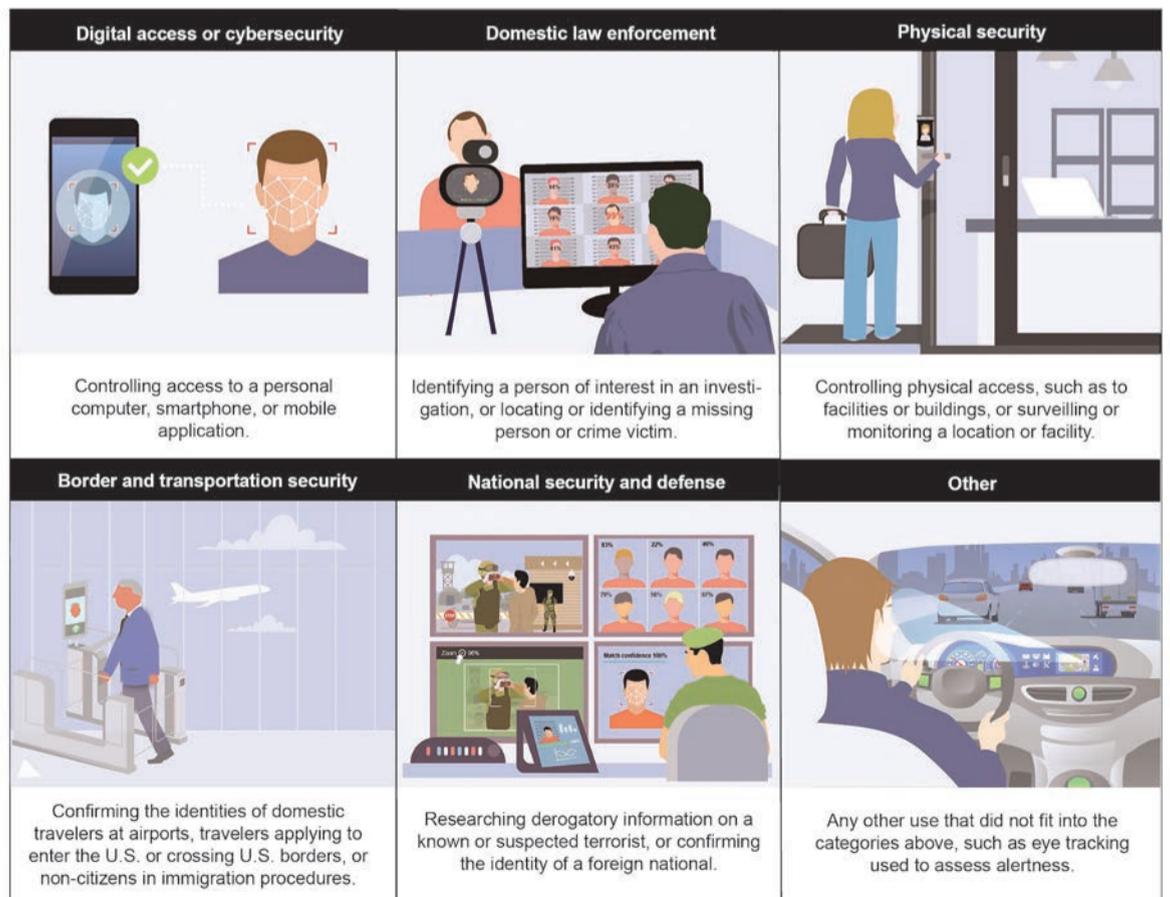
THE HISTORY OF Law-enforcement use of facial recognition technology has been checkered. The Virginia State Police initially denied using the technology, then admitted that four state troopers had been using the company’s facial recognition tools for five months before supervisors found out and shut them down. Police departments in Hampton and Newport News initially denied using the technology, then later admitted that they had. The Alexandria Police Department acknowledges it used the technology in the past, before lawmakers prohibited law-enforcement agencies from using third-party vendors.

“It was only used as a tool to assist officers in finding possible suspects,” said Marcel Bassett, public-information officer for the Alexandria Police Department in an email. “But the match would not be enough to convict or even subpoena anyone.”

Concerns about law-enforce-



Government Accountability Office.



Government Accountability Office.

SEE PRIVACY, PAGE 7



The suspects fled the area in the black four-door sedan pictured above.

USPS Letter Carrier Robbed in Alexandria

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects involved in the armed robbery of a United States Postal Service (USPS) Letter Carrier that occurred on Monday, March 7, 2022, at approximately 11:35 am in the 6800 block of Deer Run Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

The suspects fled the area in the black four-door sedan pictured above. The vehicle did not have any visible registration and is believed to be a 2015-2017 Hyundai

Sonata.

Both suspects are described as males, approximately 5'7-5'9, with thin builds, dark complexions, and 18-25 years of age. Both suspects wore black hooded sweatshirts and black ski masks. The subjects were last seen fleeing east on N. Kings Highway in the direction of I-495.

These suspects should be considered armed and dangerous.

If you have any information about this incident, please contact the: U.S. Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 (say "Law Enforcement")

Privacy Advocates Urge Veto

FROM PAGE 6

ment agencies using the technology with little or no oversight have been building for years, culminating in a new law that went into effect last year. That was legislation filed after the Norfolk Police Department used Clearview's database without the knowledge of the mayor and most city council members, prompting former Del. Lashrecse Aird (D-63) to introduce a bill requiring law-enforcement agencies to have "exclusive control" over every aspect of the program. Because most agencies rely on Clearview AI, she called the bill a "de facto ban."

"Citizens should have control of and awareness of whether or not their law enforcement officers are using this type of technology," said Aird after her bill passed the General Assembly last year. "The immediate baseline-level concern is that these databases have misidentified

people on a large scale, particularly anyone with significant pigmentation, so Black and brown people."

Her concern about false identification is warranted, according to the National Institute for Standards and Technology. In 2019, the agency found a high rate of false positives among women — especially Black women — and African Americans in general. Former Gov. Ralph Northam ended up signing Aird's bill, although he added an amendment exempting the Virginia State Police. Northam also carved out an exemption for airports, where local law enforcement agencies often overlap with federal and state agencies.

"They have a requirement for their law enforcement entities to work with federal entities," said Aird at the time. "So we wanted to make sure this does not conflict with that."

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Budget Remains in Limbo

BY SEN. ADAM P. EBBIN

The General Assembly adjourned Sine Die on Saturday, March 12, 2022 after 60 contentious but rewarding days with a number of legislative decisions and the conflicting House and Senate biennial budget proposals still unresolved. The central cause of this delay was the somewhat unearned but unabated inertia of the recent campaign cycle. Governor Youngkin, who won by a margin of only 63,000 votes, one of the narrowest in Virginia's history, and a House majority that won their seats by a total of less than 500 votes in two districts, entered the session claiming a "mandate" from the voters on their agenda. While the Senate budget prioritizes investing our historic surplus in valuable services, infrastructure, and people while also providing tax relief, the House version is singularly focused

on reducing ongoing revenue to these programs for short term tax reductions. This view has moved us away from compromise and towards the partisan disputes which so often lead to roadblocks.

Things are in limbo – however I expect our experienced budget conferees to soon strike a deal, at which point we will be called back for a special session to take up unresolved legislation and pass a final compromise budget. In the meantime, despite much still to be resolved, there are successes to report.

Some of these include the banning of negative dark money ads in political campaigns, an expansion of state funding for free and reduced fare transit programs, and banning abusive juvenile detention "boot camps." This session we also passed legislation to extend



Ebbin

the popular "cocktails to go" program, train law enforcement officers and hotel industry workers to recognize and support victims of human trafficking, enhance criminal penalties for persons with power of attorney to financially abuse the

elderly in their care, remove sales tax from drugs prescribed by veterinarians, and create penalties and enforcement for the use of loud, altered exhaust systems on vehicles. Importantly, we passed comprehensive legislation to begin much needed reforms to the Virginia Employment Commission.

Several key priorities still remain in "conference committees" where the sticking points between House and Senate positions will need to be hashed out before we return for the Special Session. These include legislation I oppose to create an

incentive package for the Washington Commanders to locate their next stadium in Virginia, which unfortunately I believe will pass. Still up for debate are proposals to create "lab schools" which are public schools administered by public universities, increase rates of reparations for those wrongfully incarcerated, and to expand the membership of our Board of Elections.

For my part, I was glad to get twelve bills to the Governor's desk. While their fate remains unclear until his signature is inscribed on them, I believe each represents strong and needed public policy and merits his approval, even in this hyperpartisan environment.

It is my continued honor to serve the 30th District.

P.S. If you are a member of a civic group or organization and would like me to provide a post-session legislative update in the late spring or early summer, please email my office at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

Overtime in the General Assembly

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Welcome to Spring! I hope you have been enjoying the lovely weather recently and are able to spend some time outdoors after this long winter. And, at the same time I know many of you have been glued to your televisions watching March Madness—the NCAA basketball men's and women's tournaments. It's a crazy fun time and it is good to see some of Virginia's schools participate. Our General Assembly usually is finished by tournament time, but this year we are in our very own "overtime." Indeed, we adjourned last week but without finishing our budget and with a few bills yet to be voted upon out of their respective conference committees.

Each year, following a six-week reprieve after the adjournment of the regular General Assembly session, the Delegates and Senators are called back to Richmond to consider the Governor's amendments and vetoes to legislation. This year's reconvene session will begin on Wednesday, April 27. But, before that happens we have much work yet to do.

As I wrote in my column last week, the Governor and his legislative staff work diligently to act on each bill passed by the General Assembly during the session before the deadline at midnight on April 11th, 2022. During this time, the Governor's office is also arranging

and participating in ceremonial bill signings with members of the General Assembly. It is always an honor to be invited to participate in these momentous occasions as legislation is signed into law and I am hoping that the Governor will include me too as I have 11 bills for him to sign.

Because the General Assembly adjourned without finalizing the new biennial budget, the Chairs of House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations, Delegate Knight and Senator Howell, will use this time to work with the budget conferees on budget negotiations. At some point in the coming weeks, and likely ahead of the reconvene session, the Governor will call the General Assembly back to Richmond to vote to approve the final budget. Remember, the Senate would not agree to extend the session to complete budget work, instead authorizing a special budget session. The biggest sticking point is that the Senate budget includes a repeal of the state grocery sales tax and makes the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refundable. But, the House and the Governor want to include ending the 1% local sales tax on groceries which funds schools and transportation at a cost of \$1 billion a year. And, the House budget does not include the EITC refund.

We are already one of the lowest tax states in the country, but we rely on a more regressive sales tax and a flat income tax so the peo-

ple earning the least are paying the biggest percentage of their income. The EITC refund helps lower-wage earners the most. What the Governor proposed is to double the standard deduction for everyone at a \$2 billion a year cost to the general fund. And, he is now calling for a gas tax "holiday" for a number of months that would have little to no effect on what we pay at the pump, but would have a very big impact on our transit budget, including road construction and maintenance.

While I am supportive of targeted relief such as making the EITC refundable and cutting the sales tax on groceries, which I voted for, I am concerned that these other expansive new tax cuts are not as critical right now as focusing on

other big-ticket items like school construction. Both the House and Senate include school construction funding, but a meager amount considering the scale of the problem — which could be as high as \$25 billion! Yes, you read that right. We have over 1,000 public school buildings that are at least half a century old and each new school costs over \$25 million to build. And yet, the budgets propose around \$500 million, which is a drop in the proverbial bucket when you look at what is needed. This is an enormous problem that cannot continue to be left solely to the localities. There are other pressing needs too, like providing real teacher pay increases not tied to the education funding formula, so Fairfax County

SEE OVERTIME, PAGE 14

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner, Mark Mogle

Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier

Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson

Food Writer
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com
@kitchenrecess

Michael Pope

Senior Reporter
michaellpeope@gmail.com
@michaellpeope

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising

703-778-9431

Publisher

Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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Celebrating Purim

FROM PAGE 5

cluded Evan Fagen, Jacob Benson, Julianna and Jacob Sanchez, Rebecca Weingast, and Rebecca Drobnis.

“All the actors were students in our Religious School in grades two through sixth,” Silver added. “Acting in the spring shpiel has become very popular. The original script by Doug Brook was adapted by me to include new material, songs, some contemporary references, and more roles. We had so many kids who auditioned and everyone was included. The parody used characters from Sesame Street and other PBS children’s programs to tell the story of Purim with humor and fun. The final song of the show reminds the audience that it is up to all Jews to make the world better.”

“This year’s shpiel, two years after the COVID shut down, gave Agudas Achim members, young and old, a great way to reconnect.”

— Agudas Achim Congregation Youth director Chaya Silver



Vice president of Agudas Achim Congregation of Northern Virginia Michael Drobnis with his daughter Kyra celebrate Purim dressed as characters from the film “Descendents.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER FEMA'S EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER PROGRAM (EFSP)

The city of Alexandria has been awarded \$62,995 in Phase 39 and \$195,623 ARPA-R in federal Emergency Food & Shelter Funds (EFSP) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Congress created the EFSP program in 1983 to supplement nonprofit, faith based and government organizations that provide food, shelter, rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. Under the terms of the grant from the National EFSP board, local agencies chosen to receive EFSP funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) demonstrate the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. The Alexandria EFSP board has combined the two funding cycles into one grant application for Phase 39 and ARPA-R. Please contact mfloto@uwnca.org to request an application. Grant applications must be submitted to AlexEFSP@uwnca.org by April 8, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION

NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008 are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>



Rabbi Steven Rein dresses as Oscar the Grouch as he celebrates Purim March with the Agudas Achim Congregation.



Performers in the play “Muppet Megillah” alert the audience to boo when Herman’s name is read from the Book of Esther.

The ritual observance of Purim begins with a day of fasting the day preceding the actual holiday. On Purim Jews are enjoined to exchange gifts and make donations to the poor.

“There are four important customs Jews are asked to observe in honor of this holiday,” Silver said. “Listen to a public reading of the Book of Esther, give gift baskets with treats to friends, give tzedakah, or charity, and have a feast on the day of Purim.”

Silver praised the work of the students as well as the support of their families.

“I am always wowed by the incredible talent our young people demonstrate and their ability to make things happen,” Silver said. “I am also deeply grateful to the parents of cast members who not only designed and built our set but supported this way of ‘Doing Jewish’ for their kids. Nothing is better at community building than live theatre and this year’s shpiel, two years after the COVID shut down, gave Agudas Achim members, young and old, a great way to reconnect.”

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'The Cemetery Club'

Poignant comedy opens
March 25 at ACCT.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre is back with "The Cemetery Club," a poignant comedy that follows three Jewish widows who meet once a month to visit their husbands' graves.

The Ivan Menchell play centers around Ida, Doris and Lucille. Each are navigating the different stages of grief, as is Sam, who meets the ladies while visiting his wife's grave. The 1990 Broadway production featured Eileen Herkert and was later made into a film starring Ellen Burstyn, Dianne Ladd and Olympia Dukakis.

"This show is both funny and poignant -- you can be laughing one minute and ready to cry the next," said ACCT producer Marg Soroos. "The characters are real and the script is so well written. It is just what a fun evening at the theater can be."

Patricia Nicklin plays sweet tempered Ida, who is ready to begin a new life.

"I, too, am at the next chapter of my life, the 'third act' as they say," Nicklin said. "Acting in 'The Cemetery Club' has gently forced me to ask the all-important question: Am I doing what I want to with my life, or am I living another's agenda? I hope the audience will take away that age is just a number and friendship is everything."

Joining Ida in the monthly sojourn are Lucille, a feisty embodiment of the girl who just wants to have fun; and Doris, who is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam enters the scene and gentle sparks fly between him and Ida.

"The show isn't really about the cemetery



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

Kirk Lambert (Sam), Kathy Ohlhaber (Lucille), Patricia Nicklin (Ida), and Janice Zucker (Doris) star in "The Cemetery Club," playing March 25 – April 10 at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

or the deceased husbands," said Kathy Ohlhaber, who plays Lucille. "It's about the relationship between the three women. It's so easy to focus on what you have lost or what never was. It's harder to see what is alive in front of you and that is what this relationship represents – embracing the here and now, letting go of the before and navigating forward."

Rounding out the trip of friends is Janice Zucker as Doris.

"Doris is the only one who wants to keep up this 'Cemetery Club,'" Zucker said.

"Lucille has totally moved on since her husband's death and Ida is about to move on from hers but Doris is still stuck in the past with her late husband Abe. I hope that audiences will see that even though someone close to you has died, they are never gone from your mind and your heart."

"This show is both funny and poignant -- you can be laughing one minute and ready to cry the next."

— ACCT producer Marg Soroos

Kirk Lambert is Sam, the local butcher, who meets the ladies at the cemetery and is immediately pounced upon by Lucille. But it is Ida that captures Sam's attention and their budding romance threatens the women's friendship.

"Sam is a reserved, decent, honest fellow who is dealing with the age-old challenges of trying to move on after losing a spouse," Lambert said. "He is torn between the feelings of grief, sorrow, and the guilt and fear of beginning a relationship with someone new."

"The Cemetery Club" is co-produced by Charles Dragonette and directed by Ruben Vellekoop. Meredith Garagiola plays Mildred, a wedding date for Sam.

"The Cemetery Club is an ideal production for our loyal audience looking to our tradition of entertainment, and for lovers of solid theater who are increasingly discovering that we've grown beyond neighborhood boundaries," Dragonette said.

Added Vellekoop, "Hopefully, audiences will understand that everyone moves on in their own tempo and that's okay. And don't go to bed angry: stay up and fight."

"The Cemetery Club" is playing March 25 through April 10 at Aldersgate Church Community Theatre, 1301 Collingwood Road. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit www.acctonline.org.

CALENDAR

WHERE TO SEE CHERRY BLOSSOMS

See cherry blossoms this side of the Potomac, escape to secret gardens and pose in front of colorful murals for the ultimate spring Instagram adventure in Alexandria. See below for a glimpse of some top spring Instagram spots:

- ❖ Alexandria's Own Cherry Blossoms: From delicate white Yoshinos to fluffy pink Kwanzans, cherry blossom trees abound in Alexandria, making for an unexpected photo op along picturesque streets like the 100 block of Wolfe Street.
- ❖ Spring-Themed Doorways: Stroll through Old Town and fine spring adornments on charming doorways. Start scouting at the 500 block of S. Lee Street, 200 block of N. St. Asaph St. or 400 block of S. Fairfax St.
- ❖ Carlyle House Garden: Find yourself spirited away to a secret garden as you explore the quiet oasis behind Carlyle House, a popular spot for engagement and wedding photos.
- ❖ Lush Wisteria Blooms: Wander the white, purple and pink-hued wisteria that hangs from

the Tricorn Topiary Hat at King Street Gardens Park at the 1700 block of King Street or enjoy lavender blossoms overflowing atop a weathered brick wall on N. Royal St.

- ❖ Christ Church Courtyard: Set outside centuries-old Christ Church, the courtyard and cemetery open into a sacred escape filled with magnolia trees, azaleas and more.
- ❖ Vibrant Murals: As flowers bloom in colorful hues, find murals matching in vibrancy, from Civil Rights icons depicted at 607 S. Washington St. to a Michelangelo-inspired painting on 632 N. Washington St. to an ode to Alexandria's bookworms outside Old Town Books.
- ❖ Weeping Cherry Trees: Look for pink weeping cherry trees with sweeping, blossom-filled branches along lower Duke Street.

NOW THRU MARCH 31

Woodlawn's 2022 Needlework Show, Common Threads: Connecting People, Families, and Communities, Past and Present, in person. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The 59th Annual Woodlawn Needlework Show's theme "Common Threads" focuses on the

threads in life that connect us as a community and the commonalities that exist among all people, as demonstrated through the pursuit of craft. Every day except Tuesdays. For more information on the theme and submitting work, www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org. Call 703-780-4000 or email woodlawn@savingplaces.org

NOW THRU MARCH 26

Flora & Fauna Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores the interdependence of plants and animals, combining art with science. Exhibit is open at Noon, Thursdays - Sundays, from Friday, March 4 to Saturday, March 26. It closes at 6:00 pm, except Saturdays it is open until 9 p.m. Visit the website: <https://delrayartisans.org/2022/01/flora-fauna/>

NOW THRU APRIL 4

Outer Space. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N Union Street, Alexandria. Extraterrestrials, galaxies, planets, and anything else beyond the sky are fair game for our artists' creativity. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-

themed work will also be exhibited.

NOW THRU MAY 5

Solo Art Exhibition. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Art & Framing, 694 N. St. Asaph St., Alexandria. Art & Framing will be home to the exhibition "Works from Nature's Jewel Tones: Paintings by Kathleen Callery. The show features 20 of Callery's works. The jewel tones found in nature have been the main inspiration for these paintings--Kathleen Callery.

NOW THRU APRIL 17

Forces Fleeting. At The Athenaeum Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception, Sunday, March 13, 4 — 6 p.m. Artist Talk, Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Forces Fleeting is a mixed-media exhibition of new works by artists Nikki Brugnoli and Anne C. Smith, in the first joint installation by the two longtime friends and collaborators. In very different ways, both women explore the transformative power of landscape, with Brugnoli's gestural screenprint drawings on mylar and wood panels and Smith's dark pencil drawings on stained linen.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Michele Smith Lecture Series. 7 p.m.

At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Presents Bruce Ragsdale Washington at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and the Question of Slavery. George Washington spent more of his life farming than he did at war or holding political office. Learn about Washington's agrarian roots, and his grappling with the practice of slavery as the foundation of the traditional Virginia plantation. Cost: \$60 individual lecture/\$175 series. Discount for members. For more information and to register visit mountvernon.org/michellesmith.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Paradox of South African Art. 7-8 p.m. Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project for a lecture with Dr. LaNitra Berger on South African artist Irma Stern's complex life and work. Dr. Berger will discuss her recently published book, "Irma Stern and the Racial Paradox of South African

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

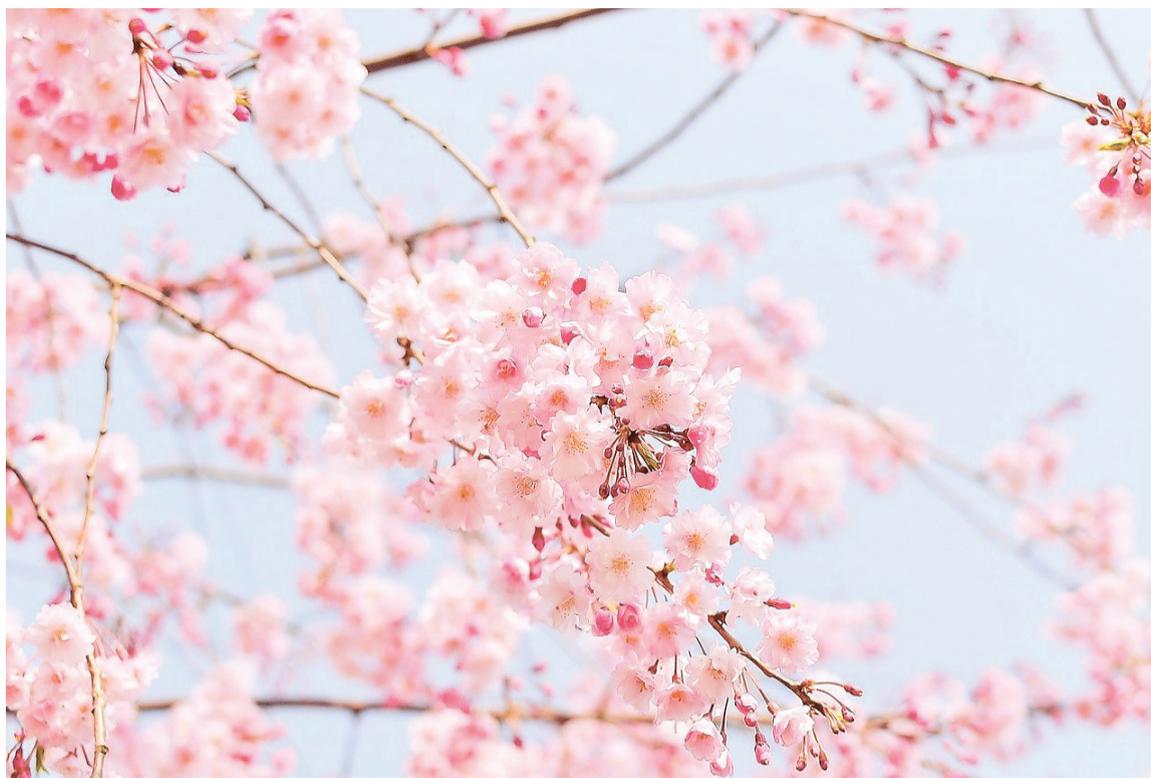
Modern Art: Audacities of Color," which explores how Stern became South Africa's most prolific and controversial painter. Stern depicted the lives of people who are of black, Jewish and mixed race origins, while maintaining a neutral position on apartheid. A discussion with Rabbi David Spinrad, a member of the ACRP Steering Committee, will follow the lecture. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

MARCH 24-26

Used Book Sale. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Book lovers wait all year for this huge used book sale that fills two buildings. The 2022 sale starts Thursday, March 24, 1 - 5 p.m. and continues Friday, March 25, 12 - 8 p.m. and finishes Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Gently used children's books, rare/old books and individually priced books will be in the church building. Books, puzzles, CDs and DVDs will be in the Old Mansion and are priced at \$2 for hardback books, \$1 for large paperbacks, and 50 cents for small paperbacks. Puzzles, CDs and DVDs are \$1 each. Saturday is half price in the Church and \$5 a bag in the Mansion.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

The Fight for Freedom at LOuverture Hospital. 6 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, Alexandria. Learn the inspiring stories of the patients



Cherry blossoms are abundant on the streets of Alexandria.

and staff at LOuverture Hospital and their individual and collective fight for freedom. Due to limited space, advance registration is required. Call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Tell Me Your Name. 5-6:15 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Al-

exandria. Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour. 9 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum, Alexandria. This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into

hospitals, and emancipation. Call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Jillian Matundan and Anne Hills concert. 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Local artist and multi-instrumentalist Jillian Matundan brings an "intuitive grasp of songwriting... catchy riffs, cool poignant melodies and a presence that's at once genuine, earnest and charming" (- Guitar International Magazine) to the stage in combination with one of the most beloved voices of the contemporary folk music scene, Anne Hills, for an evening of intelligent, relatable, sometimes-humorous and always optimistic music. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door for non-members, and a Live webcast will be available (\$20). Visit www.focusmusic.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Garden Talk - Spring Veggies and Herbs. 10:30-11:30 a.m. (16-Adult) Imagine dashing outside to cut fresh basil to make a batch of pesto for your pizza or pick a tomato for your salad. Homegrown herbs and vegetables add so much to our lives, including fragrance and flavor. Extension Master Gardener docents teach you how to plan, plant and harvest a fabulous vegetable and herb garden. \$10 per person. Code HBR.LREB. Register online at www.fair-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

THE CONNECTION
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Special Connections Calendar 2022

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

MARCH

3/2/2022.....Wellbeing
3/9/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
3/16/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2022.....Senior Living
3/30/2022.....Spring Family Fun

APRIL

4/6/2022.....Wellbeing
4/13/2022.....HomeLifeStyle
4/20/2022.....A+ Camps & Schools
4/27/2022.....Senior Living

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Obituary

Obituary



Lois Sweeney Fix, 97, passed away on Wednesday, 25 August 2021, at Patriots Colony Retirement Community in Williamsburg, VA. Sweeney, as she was known to friends, grew up in Whitley County, Indiana, where she lived on a farm and attended Larwill High School. She was active in sports and loved being a cheer leader as well as playing her favorite sport, basketball. She was a Hoosier through and through.

In 1946, Sweeney graduated from Wesley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing affiliated with Northwestern University in Chicago. As a student nurse, she volunteered and served in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, and cared for wounded soldiers and sailors returning from the war. In her off time, she learned how to play bridge and developed a life-long love of the game. As a registered nurse, she served at Chicago's Wesley Memorial Hospital near Lake Shore Drive. Sweeney served as the assistant to the surgeon and his team who performed the second open heart surgery in the country.

Sweeney met her husband-to-be, Joseph E. Fix III, an Army lieutenant home from the Pacific War, in the Windy City on Valentine's Day in 1948 at the Knickerbocker Hotel. They married three months later and started their married life in Rock Island, IL. Over the next 33 years, they moved their family of six over 30 times between Army bases in the United States and Germany. Sweeney was very active in the Officers Wives Club at their different Army posts and served as a mentor to many younger Army wives. From 1973-74, Sweeney served as president of the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Ladies Club in Alexandria, VA.

Upon Joe's retirement from the Army in 1976, they moved to Old Town, Alexandria. Sweeney enjoyed working at Wilfred-Rodgers Gift Shop on Market Square and traveling all around the world with her husband, Joe. In 1986, they moved to Kingsmill, Williamsburg, where her passion to play bridge was rekindled and she played until the final months of her life. For the past 23 years, Sweeney lived in independent living at Patriots Colony.

Her simple life on the farm near Larwill, Indiana, shaped how Sweeney lived her life and how she treated the people with whom she came in contact. They always came first: her family, her friends, and people she met in everyday living. The faith she nurtured living on a farm grew into the thoughtful caring for soldiers returning from the war, the loving caring for her six children, and passionate caring for her spouse of 48 years. She lived her faith.

Sweeney is preceded in death by her parents, Alvin and Lura Sweeney, Larwill, Indiana, and her brothers James and Stuart, and her sister Eloise Ulshafer; her husband, Major General Joseph E. Fix, III, in 1996 and her son Joseph E. Fix, IV, in 1966. She is survived by her sons Thomas M. Fix, Sr. (Diana) of Yorktown, VA; and COL (retired) Robert G. Fix, Sr. (Debra) of San Antonio, TX; and three daughters, Jane F. Dolinger (Steve) of Atlanta, GA; Holly F. March (Stan) of New Canaan, CT; and Katie F. Fisco (Ron) of Rutherford, NJ.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

A private family burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery in March 2022.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

faxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Civil War Women's Day at Fort Ward. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Learn about the dress, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War from historical interpreters who will present on-going talks, displays and demonstrations. Women's roles on the home front, in camp, and on the battlefield will be explored. Among the featured topics will be soldiers' aid societies and relief efforts that were typically launched by women to support both armies during the war. Call 703-746-4848.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Outlander Tours. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the March premiere of Season 6 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved "Outlander" series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines—such as cascara and dauco seeds—that were featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" novels. The tour also touches on the roles of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. These tours are recommended for people ages 18 and older.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Afternoon Tea: April Fools' Tea. 1-3 p.m. (Adult) Usher in spring with some April foolishness! Discover the origins of the annual celebration of the absurd, its connection to spring, and its traditions, past and present. Hear about some outrageous April Fools' Day hoaxes and practical jokes throughout history. \$38 (lecture + tea); \$15 (lecture only). A traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, and scone with cream and jam. Specially prepared tea boxes to go are also available with advance purchase. Programs are by reservation only. Call Historic Green Spring at (703) 941-7987.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Out of Eden. 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at The Rectory on Princess Street, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. A Journey Through Art Song featuring Shana Oshiro, soprano, Brian Bartoldus, piano and Jodi Beder, cello. Captivating and rarely performed art songs narrate a journey to elevated consciousness of one's connection to the world through Love, in music by Mozart,

Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Jake Heggie, Florence Price and Jasmine Barnes. Shana Oshiro is joined by pianist Brian Bartoldus for classical to contemporary songs showcasing themes of transformation, feminism, and justice. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

APRIL 1-30

Second Life Exhibit. 6 p.m. Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday; 9 p.m. Friday. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. The "Second Life" exhibit features art made with recycled materials. Workshops and events are also scheduled throughout the month. Details: delrayartisans.org/calendar/#event=second-life

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

ALX Dog Walk. Check-in from 7 to 7:45 a.m.; walk from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. Come join the inaugural two-mile ALX Dog Walk along the breathtaking waterfront walk in historic Old Town Alexandria. Walkers and their pooches (or without a pooch) follow the waterfront trail in Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town, head toward the Robinson Landing Pier, where they will parade by a judging panel for fun prizes, and then return to the park for an awards celebration hosted by Monte Durham of "Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta," plus music, hundreds of dogs, treats and more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

APRIL 2 TO MAY 1

Cherry Blossom Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Art lovers are encouraged to stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center throughout April to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios from Saturday, April 2 until Sunday, May 1. Torpedo Factory Art Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Masks are required for all visitors regardless of vaccination status. Visit torpedofactory.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

NSO Concert Series at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Listen to members of the National Symphony Orchestra play during a concert series at Mount Vernon. Learn about the history of Mount Vernon before enjoying intimate chamber music performed by members of the National Symphony Orchestra. All concerts will begin at 7 p.m. and are followed at 8 p.m. by a reception of champagne and chocolates with the musicians. Visit mountvernon.org.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.birchmere.com.

MARCH

Thu. Mar. 24: Euge Groove \$29.50
Fri/Sat. Mar. 25 & 26: The High Kings \$55.00
Sun. Mar. 27: The English Beat \$39.50
Mon. Mar. 28: The Dirty Knobs with Mike Campbell \$45.00
Tue. Mar. 29: Delta Spirit with Palm Palm opening. \$29.50
Thurs. Mar. 31: Joan Osborne

APRIL

Fri. Apr. 1: The Manhattans featuring Gerald Alston \$55.00
Sat. Apr. 2: Bob Schneider with Lauren Calve \$35.00
Mon. Apr. 4: Walter Trout and Tommy Castro & The Painkillers. \$39.50.
Wed. Apr. 6: Lightnin' Malcolm to open for Tab Benoit.
Thu. Apr. 7: Asleep at the Wheel. \$39.50
Sun. Apr. 10: Cowboy Junkies. \$65.00
Mon/Tue. Apr. 11&12: The Bacon Brothers' Out Of Memory Tour. \$55.00
Mon/Tue. Apr. 11&12: Martin and Kelly to open for The Bacon Brothers.
Wed. Apr. 13: Debi Smith (Solo) to open for Gordon Lightfoot.
Thu. Apr. 14: Sergio Mendes. \$69.50
Fri. Apr. 15: Eaglemania - The World's Greatest Eagles Tribute Band \$45.00
Mon. Apr. 18: The Zombies Life Is A Merry-Go-Round Tour w/ Jesse Lynn Madera \$59.50.
Tue. Apr. 19: Del Amitri with Kris Dollimore. \$39.50.
Wed. Apr. 20: Three Dog Night. \$79.50
Fri. Apr. 22: Clarence Bucaro to open for Shawn Colvin.
Sat. Apr. 23: 10,000 Maniacs featuring Mary Ramsey \$55.00
Sun. Apr. 24: Joey Alexander. \$45.00
Mon/Tue. Apr. 25&26: Aimee Mann. \$69.50
Wed. Apr. 27: Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer. \$49.50
Thu. Apr. 28: Raul Malo. \$49.50

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

2022 Women's Leadership Forum. 8-10 a.m. At the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square,

Alexandria. Presented by The Goodhart Group, the forum will bring together women (and men) at all stages of their careers for a morning long program designed to provide interactive discussion, inspiration and professional development. Cost is \$70 for Members | \$90 for Prospective Members | \$325 for 5 Pack of Tickets | \$675

for a 10 Pack of Tickets. Register here: <https://thechamberalx.com/event/womens-leadership-forum>

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

An Evening At River Farm: Celebrating Conservation Heroes.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kegs for Ukraine
The HomeGrown Restaurant Group is holding an ongoing fundraiser for the World Central Kitchen by Jose Andres. Andres is serving more than 180,000 meals daily to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. "We have already donated \$10,000 to help feed these refugees and are hoping our customers will help match that amount," said HRG owner Mike Anderson. All proceeds from the sale of \$10 growlers at each of the HRG restaurants will go to aid Ukrainian refugees. Restaurants include: Pork Barrel BBQ, Holy Cow Gourmet Burgers, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila & Taco, and Whiskey & Oyster.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 12

Changemakers: Safeguarding Our Trees Webinar, a virtual discussion with leaders in forest protection. Learn from dedicated champions of Virginia's tree preservation and regeneration organizations, why safeguarding our trees is vital to land conservation, and what you can do to help. Guest speakers will include:
Melody Starya Mobley, Retired USDA Forest Service Forester, EcoAction Arlington Board Member, Commissioner Forestry and Natural Resources Commission;
Ann Jurczyk, Virginia Director of Outreach and Advocacy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation;
Margaret Fisher, Plant NOVA Natives. Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_11l2y4x6Q-07Tug8k-wTe4w

RECREATION REGISTRATION
Registration for spring and summer classes and activities offered by the City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) will begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 23, for City residents and Friday, March 25, for nonresidents. Spring and summer registration applies to classes, leagues and activities occurring April through August 2022. Registration will be available online and in-person at the Lee Center Registration and Reservation Office (1108 Jefferson St.). For a complete list of options, the Spring and Summer 2022 Program SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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Obituary

Obituary

Arnold Wayne Jones, Sr.
Greer, SC

Arnold Wayne Jones, Sr., died March 2, 2022, in Greer, S.C., of complications after having contracted COVID-19. He was 81.

Arnie and his twin brother Ronnie were the youngest of seven children, born Jan. 16, 1941 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. A star athlete in multiple sports in high school, Arnie attended the College of William & Mary on a football scholarship. At the start of his junior year, he met Patty Elizabeth O'Doherty, a freshman. They fell in love and married before the start of his senior year. About a year later, they had their first child, a daughter, Kelley, born in Williamsburg on July 18, 1963.

After graduating from William & Mary in 1963, Arnie took a gap year before entering the Army following ROTC training. He was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga. ("jump school") where he was stationed for the duration of his four-year enlistment. While at Fort Benning, Patty and Arnie had their second child, a son, Arnie Jr., born May 26, 1965.

Upon discharge from the Army as a first lieutenant, Arnie took a job as a physical education teacher at McLean High School in Northern Virginia. A few years later, he transferred to R.E. Lee High School in Springfield, Va., where he spent the remainder of his career as a teacher, coach (track and field, football), athletic director and vice principal. During his time there, he received his masters of education from Virginia Tech.

Arnie retired from teaching in 1991, and he and Patty moved to Anderson, S.C., where both lived for the rest of their lives. They enjoyed retirement, traveling frequently to Florida, Mexico, and to visit their son in Dallas, Texas. They also spent much of their time buying and renovating houses, spending time with their pet dogs and cat, and doting over their four grandchildren. In addition, Arnie enjoyed playing golf (a lifelong hobby) at every opportunity.

Patty died Sept. 25, 2015, which devastated Arnie. He may now rest for eternity with the love of his life.

He is survived by Kelley; Arnie Jr; granddaughters Morgan (born 1990) and Peyton (born 1992); and grandsons Keefe (born 1997) and Mac (born 1999).

His service will be held at 11AM on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at the Tyger River Presbyterian Church.

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Cause for Concern?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you've read any of my columns, you might be able to guess the answer. In my mind, it's not so much cause for concern as it is a topic for conversation. The topic being the side effects of cancer medicine/treatment. I remember hearing/reading that as it relates to cancer patients, sometimes the side effects of the medicine so severe/so debilitating that the patient must stop the treatment (which I never have). And in stopping what's managing – so to speak, the tumors, the tumors start growing and the cancer starts spreading and then shortening your life. In the past when I've asked my oncologist what would happen to my stable tumors if I were to stop treatment, he unequivocally stated: "I know what will happen. The tumors will grow." And as you might imagine, tumors growing has been my greatest fear.

Per my last series of diagnostic scans in late Dec. and early March, tumors are stable, and life goes on. I had been anxious about these scans because previously we had reduced the dosage of my thyroid cancer medicine down to 10 mg from the initial 24 mg. We had to do this because the side effects from the medicine was adversely affecting my ability to perform my activities of daily living. Walking upstairs or even a modest incline would take my breath away; as would bending over or even standing over the commode. However, this original maximum dose was keeping the tumors stable. Why risk that just so I can breathe easier?

In talking with my oncologist over the years, I've learned – and experienced, that cancer medicine is constantly adjusted and changed your body reacts negatively. The goal, according to my oncologist is to try and find that "sweet spot" as I call it. That's the spot where the minimum amount of medicine tolerated by the patient is doing the maximum good, and of course, when the side effects are the least impactful. Which is where I've been for the past six months or so: reduced dose, less side effects, while still having "stable" results on my quarterly scans.

Recently however, my breathing has become more labored, even while performing less arduous tasks. My wife, Dina, asked me today, after she saw me pull over in the house and sit down to catch my breath, if I thought I should contact my oncologist and tell him of my recent difficulties because it's new-ish and any new symptoms need to be reported to the doctor.

But lowering my dose yet again really scares me. At some point/dosage, the medicine stops being effective. And I'm not sure if one can experiment with a lower dose and if there are complications/disappointments, simply revert to the higher dose and return to the previous abnormal? My oncologist has also said that he can try to keep me from going down, but once down, he can't likely bring me back up. Ergo, my dilemma.

Obviously, it's prudent to keep the oncologist in my loop; he does kind of have my life in the speaker of his stethoscope and should be apprised of all changes in my health. Nevertheless, a reduction in my medicine could be a turning point in the wrong direction, and one quite frankly from which I might never recover.

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

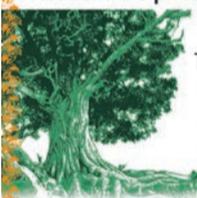
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OPINION

Overtime in the General Assembly

FROM PAGE 8

could increase teacher salaries by 5% without having to pay 80% of it, which is the case now because the state would only pay about 20% under the formula. Getting these tax cuts right and investing in education are both critically important for the budget conferees.

Also continued to the special session were many bills in conference that did not have finalized reports by adjournment. In this interim period, legislators like me will likely meet and make decisions on how to move forward on these bills. For example, my bill HB 764 on regulating poker tournaments for charitable gaming is one of these bills. Its cognate, Senator Bell's SB 394, was already sent to the Governor for consideration, as it passed both

bodies before my version did. I favor his version of the bill, so I may choose to defer to SB 394 and allow my bill to die.

During this overtime period many General Assembly members take this opportunity back in their districts to connect with constituents, hold town hall meetings, and attend many community events. In the week I have been back from Richmond, I have attended a few community events including an exciting tour of the soon-to-open Lee District Community Center and the first game of a little league team I am sponsoring. Of course, I am also using this time to catch up on my full-time job as a charity attorney and I spent some quality time with my daughter as I drove her back to college after spring break.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Guide is available online and printed copies are available at all Alexandria libraries and recreation, nature and arts centers. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to register and for more information about the City's spring and summer recreation programs.

COMMISSION ON AGING SEEKS NOMINATIONS

The Alexandria Commission on Aging is seeking nominations for its annual Excellence in Aging Awards Program to be held virtually on Tuesday, May 10, 2022. The deadline for nominations is April 4.

The COA, which advocates for the needs of older residents in Alexandria, uses the awards to honor individuals — regardless of age — as well as an organization, that has provided service to older Alexandrians or demonstrated superior contributions in advancing issues and projects that favorably affect older Alexandrians.

Award winners will be recognized in four award categories:

Annie B. Rose Lifetime Award – Presented to an individual who has served seniors for at least 10 years.

Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award – Presented to an individual citizen with at least one year of service to seniors.

Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization – Presented to an organization that has made an outstanding contribution to Alexandria seniors.

Public Service Award – Presented to a City employee who has advanced, improved or otherwise contributed to making Alexandria a more livable community for all ages during the course of their job.

To nominate someone and see a list of past award recipients, visit www.alexandriava.gov/aging.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Sen. Mark Warner will host his annual Academy Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a virtual event that will be hosted on Acevents.

The event will offer students, their parents or guardians, and school counselors a comprehensive overview of the United States service academies and their admission processes.

Attendees will have the opportunity to join breakout sessions with representatives from the United States service academies for presentations and an interactive question and answer period. On the main stage, you will hear from representatives from the Virginia congressional delegation about the application procedures for congressional nominations to the academies as well as speakers from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, the University of Virginia ROTC programs, the Virginia Tech

Corps of Cadets, the Virginia Military Institute, and the Virginia Women's Institute for Leadership at Mary Baldwin University. There will also be time to speak in more detail with many of these representatives at their virtual resource tables.

Information on the nomination process for the service academies is available on the Senator's website at www.warner.senate.gov. You may email academy_noms@warner.senate.gov with any questions.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children. Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few ACPS mobile pop-up locations. Click on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services-

Volunteer Guardian. Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an incapacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person's wishes as much as possible. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteer-alexandria.org

RSVP a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteefairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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