

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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AUGUST 25, 2022

They're Back ACPS students, staff celebrate return to classes.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The familiar sight of yellow school buses filled with students returned Aug. 22 as Alexandria City Public Schools began classes for the 2022-2023 school year.

"We are so excited," said ACPS school board vice chair Jacinta Greene as she greeted families at Cora Kelly School for Math Science and Technology. "The kids are excited, teachers, staff, community – everyone is excited and just so happy to be back in school."

Among those greeting students across the city was ACPS Human Resources Chief Melanie Kay-Wyatt, who takes over as interim superintendent of schools Sept. 1 following the resignation of Gregory Hutchings earlier this year effective Aug. 31.

"As our new interim superintendent, I am excited to welcome our students, families and staff as new opportunities for learning await us all," said Kay-Wyatt in a video message. "I am grateful for this opportunity to serve Alexandria City in this new role and to the School Board for having the confidence in me to lead in this critical time of transition."

Added Greene, "Dr. Kay-Wyatt will be with us through this school year. During this time we will be conducting a national search for a

permanent superintendent."

The signs, banners and festivities were also accompanied by concerns of students.

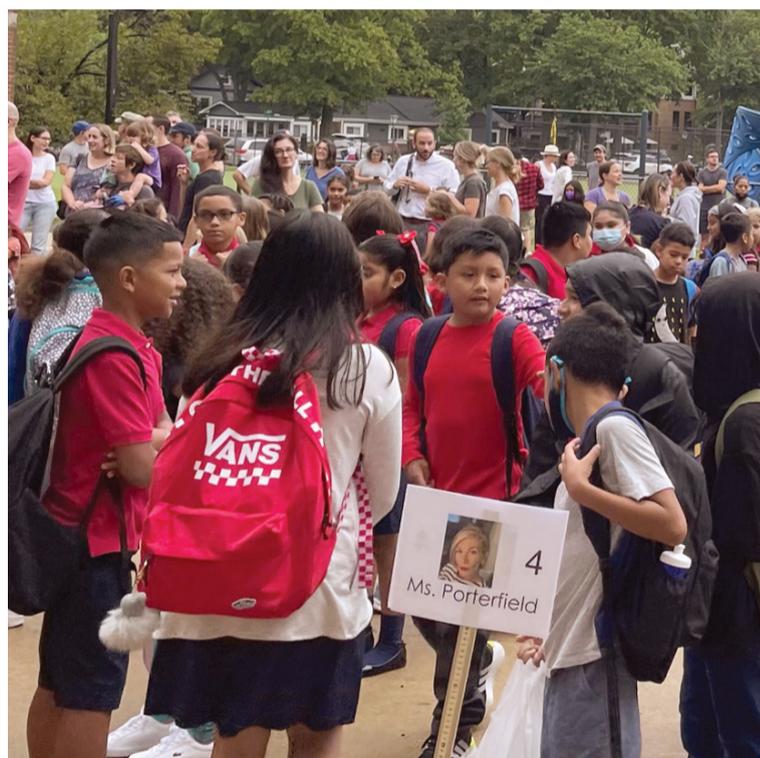
"I am looking forward to a good school year with no violence," said Alexandria City High School student Jamiya Gray, whose friend Lily Ettegui echoed those sentiments.

Still, Greene was optimistic.

"This is a great day and the start

of a great year," Greene said. "Our goal is to have a successful year for every child -- for every child to know that they are prepared and that they have teachers who are willing and able to help them with anything they need."

Said bus driver Tamhugh Hill after dropping off students at FC Hammond, "Today was awesome. I am so excited to see the kids again."



Students line up for the first day of classes Aug. 22 at Mount Vernon Community School.



Fifth grader Walter Reppond-Weisz, left, is joined by family and School Board vice chair Jacinta Greene to celebrate the first day of school Aug. 22 at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Students Lily Ettegui and Jamiya Gray Aug. 22 at Alexandria City High School.



Junior Mondragon with cousins Nelson Reyes and Jonathan Reyes Aug. 22 at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.



Bus driver Tamhugh Hill smiles after dropping off students at FC Hammond Aug. 22.



School Board member Tammy Ignacio welcomes a student on the first day of school Aug. 22 at FC Hammond.



Students celebrate the return to school Aug. 22 at Alexandria City High School.



Principal Jasibi Crews greet students arriving for the first day of school Aug. 22 at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.



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Rethinking Juvenile Justice

Alexandria detention facility may be consolidated as part of statewide effort.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

When Alexandria's juvenile detention center opened on South Whiting Street in 1956, the facility had 30 beds and served as home for wayward teens waiting trial in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. By the 1990s, Virginia adopted a get-tough on crime approach and more space was needed to warehouse all the kids waiting for their court dates. So the Alexandria facility expanded to 70 beds, and Fairfax County built its own detention center with 121 beds.

Now the pendulum is swinging in the other direction.

Courts are more likely to allow minors to stay at home until they day in court, and juvenile detention centers across Virginia are way below capacity. Here in Alexandria, the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center has 70 beds with an average population of 12 juveniles. That's prompting fresh concern that the center might close and move Alexandria juveniles to the Fairfax facility as part of a statewide reassessment of the juvenile justice system. Whatever happens with the Alexandria facility, Virginia's system for juvenile justice is obviously bloated and deeply in need of reorganization.

"This is good news," said state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), a former director of the Department of Juvenile Justice who is leading the reorganization effort. "The fact that we have this few kids locked up in our corrections and detention systems has created this problem, and it is a problem and it is difficult. You're talking about people's jobs and about beloved local programming, and it's difficult to do this. But it is our obligation to spend public dollars in a more efficient and effective way."

This fall, the Commission on Youth is expected to make recommendations to the General Assembly about consolidating space and making more efficient use of resources. That could mean as many as nine consolidations, reducing the number of juvenile detention facilities in Virginia from 24 to 15. Some juvenile detention centers in Virginia have a handful of kids with a fully staffed facility, including a principal, teachers, custodial

Comparison of Services		
Programs and Services available by jurisdiction	Alexandria	Fairfax
Easily accessible transportation	Yes	No
Behavioral and mental health care	Yes	Yes
Care and Custody	Yes	Yes
Education	Yes	Yes
Emergency crisis intervention	Yes	Yes
Family engagement/visitation	Yes	Yes
Gender-responsive treatment	Yes	No
Infrastructure in need of repair	Yes	No
Medical	Yes	Yes
Recreation	Yes	Yes
Reentry	Yes	No
Room confinement	No	Yes
Training in trauma-informed care	Yes	Yes

SOURCE: THE MOSS GROUP, INC.

"Is sending our kids to another jurisdiction for others to care for the right thing? Is that the best for our families?"

— Johnitha McNair, executive director, Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention

McAuliffe and Northam administration," said Sen. David Suetterlein (R-19). "These numbers have been down for some time, but we need to be able to evaluate if that trend is likely to continue or do we expect that will go in the other direction?"

Another potential wild card is the pandemic, which created delays in the court system that may have artificially altered the student-to-teacher ratio at the detention centers.

"The court dockets are obviously behind with scheduling and seeing kids," said Del. Emily Brewer (R-64), who is chairwoman of the Commission on Youth. "That might also have something to do with the children that are also ending up in these facilities. So we may not be seeing the accurate student-to-teacher ratio at this present time."

THE DANGER FACING the commission and lawmakers is taking action that could end up causing more harm. For example, state leaders want to avoid what happened in Pennsylvania, where state leaders dramatically downsized their capacity for detaining juveniles and is now shipping them to other states, including Virginia. Similarly, they don't want to continue financing juvenile detention centers like the one in Charlottesville, which has a facility with an average of five juveniles a day that has an annual budget of \$4 million. That's a cost of \$800,000 a year for each occupied bed.

"We don't want to spend a lot of money to change this facility when ultimately it might be decided to close it," said McNair. "We have to walk a fine line with this because we want to get it right."

Northern Virginia Detention Center



SOURCE: JUVENILE DETENTION COMMISSION OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

workers and a kitchen staff. Now that the number of juveniles being detained has declined dramatically, all that overhead is cause for alarm. But the idea that facilities across Virginia might close is also cause for alarm.

"Is sending our kids to another jurisdiction for others to care for the right thing? Is that the best for our families?" asks Johnitha McNair, executive director of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention. "Nobody is saying we need to lock up more kids so that we are using this facility more efficiently. But we want to be able to serve our children here at the right size."

THE EXCESS CAPACITY at juvenile detention centers across Virginia is creating an opportunity for local governments to locate mental health services, substance abuse counseling and mentoring programs. Some argue co-locating those services at existing detention centers would be a more effective way of handling the situation rather than sending children far away from their families and their support networks. Since the decline of the get-tough-on-crime model of justice in the 1990s, a new way of thinking has emerged stressing the importance of keeping juveniles physically close to their homes.

"The average stay at these facilities is only about 21 days, so you want these close to their homes so they can continue to receive services in a seamless fashion," said Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), who is chairwoman of the Senate committee that would consider the reorganization effort. "If the youth is not physically close to the family, it's hard to have a comprehensive approach. And also many youths are receiving counseling because of ongoing trauma in their lives, so being able to receive ongoing services is really important."

The reason for the dramatic decline in the number of juveniles being detained at these facilities is a matter of debate, and the reason for the decline might end up influencing the kind of recommendation the commission is likely to make. Some say judges have shifted their approach from a get-tough-on-crime model to one that's more focused on the needs of helping children escape the criminal justice system. Others say the reduction is a result of back-to-back Democratic administrations that took an approach unlikely to be replicated by the current Republican governor.

"It's been suggested by some folks that the numbers might be lower than where they likely would be had there not been the

‘I Hate Surprises’ Pat Miller birthday party benefits Domestic Violence Safe House.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Pat Miller hates surprises. And she especially hates being the center of attention. So naturally her friends in Del Ray thought a surprise birthday party would be the perfect way to show their appreciation for the decades of contributions Miller has made to the Alex-

“I thought I was going to a Turkey Trot meeting.”

— Pat Miller on her surprise birthday event benefitting Domestic Violence Safe House



Pat Miller, right, with Ryan and Carol Bailey at a surprise birthday celebration for Miller Aug. 21 at Pork Barrel BBQ in Del Ray. The event served as a fundraiser for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Safe House.



Pat Miller opens gifts at a surprise birthday party in her honor Aug. 21 at Pork Barrel BBQ. All gifts were a donation to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Safe house.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

andria community.

“We really, really wanted a chance to celebrate Pat and her birthday,” said Gayle Reuter, who organized the Aug. 21 surprise party at Pork Barrel BBQ that also

served as a benefit for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Safe House. “We thought if we asked her friends to bring donations for one of her favorite nonprofits, she can’t get mad at us.”

Miller was told she was needed to attend a meeting for the Del Ray Business Association.

“I thought I was going to a Turkey Trot meeting,” said a surprised Miller. “I walked in and heard people start singing Happy Birthday. So of course I turned around and shut the door.”

The Domestic Violence Safe House provided a list of much-needed items and Miller’s

friends were only too happy to comply. Miller opened gifts for the safe house that included gift cards, Trac phones, towels, bedding, clothing and pots and pans.

“Yes, I hate surprises but this has been a good surprise,” said Miller, a Living Legend of Alexandria and founder of the long

running Art of the Avenue arts festival in Del Ray. “I am so grateful for what everyone has done to support the safe house.”

For more information or to donate to the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program, visit www.alexandriava.gov/DomesticViolence



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX DUE OCTOBER 5, 2022

The City of Alexandria has mailed 2022 personal property tax bills to all registered vehicle owners. The 2022 personal property tax rate remains the same as in 2021 at \$5.33 per \$100 of assessed value. Payment must be received by October 5, 2022, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

The Alexandria City Council adopted an Assessment Ratio of 78.8% for Tax Year 2022. All vehicles have received a discount of 21.2% on the market value. Vehicle owners could still see an increase on their specific vehicles compared to last year, as the change in market value varies widely by vehicle model and year. Both the original market value and reduced assessed value are shown on this year’s tax bills.

Payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 34710, Alexandria, VA 22334-0710.

In-person payments are also accepted 24 hours a day at the City Hall drop box on the Royal Street side of the building or in the Treasury Division, Room 1510, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on October 5, 2022, to be considered on time.

Comprehensive information regarding vehicle personal property taxes is available at alexandriava.gov/CarTax.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For vehicle registration or assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email vehicletax@alexandriava.gov. Si necesita ayuda en Español, por favor llame al 311 o 703.746.4311 (Alex311).



PHOTO BY DANIEL HOROWITZ

Made In Alx Exhibit

Daniel Horowitz and John Wasowicz will exhibit their artistic works featuring local points of interest, including Daingerfield Island, Jones Point, and Gadsby’s Tavern, on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MADE IN ALX, 533 Montgomery Street in Old Town North. Horowitz will display his photographs of the marina at Daingerfield Island. Wasowicz will showcase his Old Town mystery series, including “Daingerfield Island” and “Jones Point,” as well as the newly released “Gadsby’s Corner.”

SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY OF ENCORE CREATIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Since its founding, the chorales of Encore Creativity for Older Adults have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

New Season of Singers

Registration is open for Encore Creativity for Older Adults for any adult 55 or older.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

Singing in his church choir as a child and taking a mandatory class in middle school was the extent of Don Greenwood's musical training. Growing up in Arlington, the 74 year old father of two adult sons and one grandchild has always been passionate about music but never took lessons. The extent of this connection to music was singing along with the radio. He pursued a career as an architect with Fairfax County's Building Design and Construction Division and after he retired he began to search for hobbies that were both enjoyable and challenging.

"I didn't want to sit around watching Netflix," he said.

His wife suggested that he consider music and suggested that try Encore Creativity for Older Adults, a choral organization for Adults over 55.

Those, like Greenwood, who find pleasure in music will have a chance to warm-up their vocal chords and start crooning. Encore's new season begins next month with groups in Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery counties.

Registration is now open and students can join either Encore Chorales, a group whose vocalists learn music that spans a wide range of styles and eras or Encore ROCKS with a repertoire that includes true rock & roll music from the 50s through the 80s. Auditions are not required.

Though Encore is open to all singers regardless of their skills or abilities, founder Jeanne Kelly envisioned an organization in which the chorales are filled with serious singers. Since its beginning, her chorales have performed at Strathmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and locations throughout Europe.

"Encore has expectations of our singers," said Kelly, who is now retired. "When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

Chorales are led by professional conductors and rehearsals and concerts are structured to cultivate musical excellence. "My first rehearsal was an eye opener. I felt like a deer in the headlights," said Greenwood.

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"When you age people stop having expectations of you, but I always was quite demanding of the singers and they really appreciated that. It made them feel important."

— Jeanne Kelly, Encore founder

"I didn't have experience with multi-part arrangements. I didn't understand sheet music, but during the rehearsals we deconstructed each song, the conductor gives us feedback so I learned pretty quickly in an environment where you're encouraged."

In addition to music Kelly hopes that Encore singers will find that music protects and strengthens their cognitive abilities and helps them make social connections which are often difficult to build and maintain as one ages.

"When you retire, you gradually drift away from the friends you had at work and you eventually lose those connections," said Kathleen Lyman, a retired Navy captain who lives in Springfield. "I've met new friends through Encore and we often go out to lunch after rehearsals."

Kelly expanded her vision of removing some of the barriers that make music inaccessible to some when she created a choral group called the Sentimental Journey Singers that is free and open to those with dementia, Alzheimer's and other similar conditions and their caretakers. "My mother passed away from Alzheimer's and she always found joy in music," said Kelly. "There was always music in our house and I majored in music."

Greenwood said that his Encore experience motivated him to delve into writing song parodies and satires. "Some people have to get over the hump of thinking that they can't sing," he said. "In retrospect, I wish I'd joined earlier."

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Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

When Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson knelt in the Alabama grass and pierced the ground with a trowel where John Temple was lynched in 1919, she felt an undeniable encounter with a new truth. “For all I know, some of the very dirt we dug was there. What if dirt could talk?” she asked, adding it was a poignant way to connect with Temple.

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, in partnership with the national nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative, further memorializes Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, who were lynched in this city in 1897 and 1899, with a soil collection ceremony on Market Square followed by a trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.

The Equal Justice Initiative Community Remembrance Project requires localities to hold a soil collection and take a pilgrimage to their memorial and museum in Montgomery, Alabama. The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project has decided to connect these two events by bringing the sacred soil on the pilgrimage and delivering it to the Memorial for Peace and Justice with two special ceremonies.

The soil collection ceremony for both men is on Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. on Market Square. Those attending have an opportunity to place soil representing the lives of McCoy and Thomas in jars bound for EJI. The ceremonial soil containers are being built by 8th grade ACPS students.

EJI Executive Director Bryan Stevenson explains the importance of this experience, “In this



The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project will be making a pilgrimage to the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama in October. A limited number of participants can register at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/acrp-pilgrimage-to-eji-montgomery-alabama>.

soil, there is the sweat of the enslaved. In the soil, there is the blood of victims of racial violence and lynching. There are tears in the soil from all those who labored under the indignation and humiliation of segregation. But in the soil, there is also the opportunity for new life, a chance to grow something hopeful and healing for the future.”

In the early morning of Oct. 6, the ACRP pilgrimage will begin. Buses will leave from the Nannie J. Lee Center carrying the EJI

soil jars to Montgomery. The next morning, the McCoy and Thomas soil will be hand delivered to a final resting place during a ceremony at the Memorial of Peace and Justice. Participants will have time to tour the Memorial and then EJI's Legacy Museum. That evening, participants will meet with members of Montgomery's Community Remembrance Project.

On Oct. 8, participants will tour Montgomery's Civil Rights sites. The next day, the group will have the opportunity to tour Selma and

learn about Bloody Sunday. As a group, participants will cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The pilgrimage will conclude with a banquet showcasing foods from the African Diaspora.

The October ACRP Pilgrimage will be a one-of-a-kind community and social justice experience. Space is limited and on a first come basis. Registration closes Sept. 6.

Learn more about the Soil Collection and Pilgrimage (including costs and registration) at: alexandriava.gov/Historic

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.

TUESDAYS/AUGUST 30

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden: Tuesday, 10 - 11 a.m., Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. When Mother Nature can't do it all... Simpson gardeners step in to offer a helping hand. Our Lagerstroemia indica were hit with bark scale so we hand-picked, brushed the trunks and squashed them. The Silphium perfoliatum in the Berm was infested with red aphids which we knocked off with a jet spray from the hose. In the Pollinator bed the Witch Hazel Hammamelis virginiana was hit with Phyllost-

icta hamamelidis a fungus which causes brown lesions on leaves and dieback. We removed the infected leaves on and below the plant. Thanks to EMG Gerry Smolka the pool of stagnant water which accumulates in the well of a Crapemyrtle in the Shade Garden has been emptied through her ingenious use of a turkey baster! And Denise Dieter added a mosquito dunk as an additional deterrent when we are not available to empty the ever wet well. Free. Contact mgnv.org for more information.

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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 10

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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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CALENDAR

REGISTRATION OPEN

2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 10-24. Register online by Aug. 31 at www.nvso.us, \$20 for unlimited events. Go to the website for events, rules, eligibility, photos, past results. For information, email nvso1982@gmail.com.

PHOTO CONTEST

Green Spring Gardens Photo Contest, sponsored by the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS). Photographs will be on public display from Aug. 23 through Oct. 15, 2022. A reception and awards ceremony will be held Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022. Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. For more information, visit Green Spring Gardens or call 703-642-5173.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

NOW THRU OCT. 17

Hummingbird Photo Exhibition. At the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. For those who can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds, a group of local photographers are mounting an exhibition this summer. The title of the show is "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," and it will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach.

NOW THRU SEPT. 10

Yoga Sessions. 12-2:15 p.m. Yoga at the National Museum of the United States Army hosted by Honest Soul Yoga, 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir. Honest Soul Yoga and The Army Historical Foundation invites you to take a moment to de-stress by enjoying an afternoon of yoga at the Museum. Join trained instructors for an afternoon of flow and sound meditation. After class, grab a coffee and some healthy snacks in the Museum Café or take some time to explore the exhibits.

AUG. 19-28

Alexandria Restaurant Week. Throughout neighborhoods in Alexandria including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle, Eisenhower and the West End. For 10 days and two weekends, dozens of restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$25, \$35 or \$45 in-person dinner for one during Alexandria Restaurant Week. This new pricing structure reflects a spectrum of Alexandria's offerings from fast casual to fine dining. Alexandria Restaurant Week showcases the inventiveness of local chefs in neighborhoods throughout the city, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End. From neighborhood



Alexandria Restaurant Week will take place Aug. 19-28 in Old Town Alexandria.



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

"A Bouquet of Hummingbirds," features works from more than 20 area artists and includes hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere.

Through Oct. 17, 2022, free to the public, at the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria.

favorites to restaurants specializing in international cuisine, Alexandria's distinctive collection of eateries offers a variety of flavors for guests to savor. Visit AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Watercolor Workshop – Mosaics. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Marni Maree helps you create a paper "palette" using watercolor paints on various papers. Then, experiment with textures and patterns that you will cut, tear, weave and redesign into a creative work of art! A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$105 per person. Code 30VV762.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Around the World Cultural Festival. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. The Around the World Cultural Festival takes attendees on a day trip around the world and present you the cuisine, culture and traditions of over 40 countries participating at the event held in the expansive Oronoco Bay Park. Visit facebook.com/events/AroundTheWorldCulturalFestival.

SEPT. 2 TO OCT. 1

"The Big 3-0" Members Showcase. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704

Mount Vernon Ace., Alexandria. Features artwork in a variety of media and celebrates Del Ray Artisans 30th Anniversary. Join us for the exhibit reception and anniversary party on Saturday, September 3, 3-6 p.m. The event will be inside and outside (rain date is Sept 10). Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed October 2). Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

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>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Watercolor Workshop - Landscapes. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Artist Dawn Flores helps you translate the beauty of

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

BEST IN BUSINESS AWARDS

HONORING CATHY PUSKAR, OUR BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY BURKE & HERBERT BANK

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Sealed bids will be accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the office of the Northern Virginia District Right of Way and Utilities Division located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, until, but no later than, September 27, 2022 for the following property:

Wooded lot, located at 8846 Ox Road (Tax Map #1062-02-0001C) in the Springfield Magisterial District of Fairfax County, on the corner of Route 123 and Rommel Drive. The lot consists of 0.4484 acre, more or less, land, is relatively level at an elevated grade with a slight slope towards the rear of the property. Percs for a conventional three bedroom septic system.

The value placed on this parcel is \$298,000.00.

Employees of VDOT, their immediate families or any person employed with the valuation and/or acquisition of this property are ineligible to bid. The property is being sold "as is" with conveyance by deed without warranty. For further information and proposals, contact VDOT at the above address or call Jordan Cheresnowsky at (703) 259-2971.

Obituary

Bettie Tillitt Cobb, age 95, passed away on Sunday, August 14, 2022 in Alexandria, VA. She was predeceased in 2003 by her husband John Edward Cobb, Jr. She is survived by her devoted children Katharine T. Cobb, Patricia G. Cobb, J. Edward Cobb, III; her six grandchildren; and her great grandchild. Funeral services to be held at Christ Church, burial at Arlington Cemetery with details to follow. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Arrangements by De-maine Funeral Home.



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

nature into a watercolor painting by showing how to paint skies, trees, water, mountains and rocks. Learn strategies for building depth and focus in your work using color and value. Get techniques for building texture and masking to preserve the white of the page. A supply list will be emailed before the program. Bring a lunch. \$102 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 68FJJE4

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Forest Bathing Walk in the Gardens. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Experience Green Spring Gardens with all of your senses. Join Ana Ka'ahanui, co-founder of local nonprofit Capital Nature for a slow, meditative walk around the gardens. Contemplative, but more active than meditation, this forest bathing walk will help reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, and enhance mood and creativity. Decompress and feel a deeper connection with the natural world. Bring something to sit on the ground, which may be damp, and a water bottle. \$35 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code Z0Y.ZVJ0

SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

Garden Talk: Fall Veggie Gardening. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Planting a fall vegetable garden will extend the gardening season so you can continue to harvest fresh produce. Many cool-season vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts produce their best flavor and quality when they mature during cool weather. Extension Master Gardeners share tips and recommendations. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3A3.XWES

THURSDAY/SEPT. 15

Old Town Art Walk. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Enjoy a self-guided tour of Old Town Alexandria and explore the fine art and studio crafts found in art galleries and boutique shops on the third Thursday of each month, May to October. The stroll is a great activity after an early dinner, or before enjoying a meal at one of Old Town Alexandria's restaurants. The Old Town Art Walk is presented by the Old Town Business Association.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

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Obituary

"Alfred "Al" Patrick Urquia, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret.) of Alexandria, VA passed away on August 11, 2022, at the age of 94. He was preceded in death by his parents, Candido and Cecelia San Pedro Urquia, his brother William and sister Mary (Lyons). He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Shirley Teaford, son Dr. David C. Urquia (Dorothy Laite Urquia) and daughter Cynthia U. Caravati (fiance Kevin Lake), granddaughters Dr. Lindsey Urquia and Morgan Urquia Poletti (Caio Poletti), nieces Brigitte de Cam-bourg, Francoise Urquia, Debbie Lyons and nephew Dr. Ray Lyons.



Raised in Gary, Indiana, Al was an "All Star" baseball and basketball player at Horace Mann High School. He attended Michigan State University on a baseball scholarship and finished his Bachelor's Degree at Indiana University where he met his future wife Shirley. He began his Air Force career in 1953 serving as Top Aide to several U.S. Surgeon Generals, with overseas tours in Japan, Hawaii, and Wiesbaden, Germany eventually earning the rank Colonel. He finished his Air Force career as a Hospital Administrator at Walter Reed Medical retiring in 1983. After retirement, he worked to support the sport of rowing in Alexandria and Northern Virginia. He served as president of the Alexandria Crew Boosters and the president of the National Rowing Association. An annual regatta is held each Spring at the Occoquan honoring his service.

Family and friends were invited to gather for a visitation at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500

W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. A Catholic Mass was held at the Basilica of Saint Mary, 310 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 10:30 am. Interment at Arlington Cemetery will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to the Alexandria Crew Boosters, P.O. Box 3202, Alexandria, VA 22302"

Obituary

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Four Weeks and Counting



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To invoke one of my late mother's favorite expressions, which most definitely applies to this patient's current tenure in the hospital: "It's enough already." But it's not, unfortunately. It is about slow incremental progress which enables the doctors to contemplate a more substantive plan going forward. The next two steps (not literally) involve the patient being able to breathe on his own, and in so doing, disconnect him from the ventilator. Then, and in what order I haven't a clue, eliminate the need for kidney dialysis. Once the patient can breathe normally and exhibit stable kidney function, he will have succeeded where none of the doctors initially treating him in SICU thought he would. I remember one critical care doctor's assessment of this patient very clearly: "He's the sickest patient in the hospital." (At last check, there are over 900 beds in this hospital.) And yet, here we are, relative calm with the patient getting better every day or so it seems (comparatively speaking). As his recovery continues to improve, a different physician from his treatment past and present: critical care, internal medicine, pulmonology, cardiology, nephrology, general surgery, and burn surgery to the physical, occupational, and respiratory therapists, and of the course all the nurses who have seen him at his worst; and to a man/woman, they are all amazed at how far he's come. Apparently, septic shock is all it's cracked up to be.

We are so proud of his will to survive and we're constantly reminding him of how amazing his progress has been. Nevertheless, it's not having the desired effect. Oddly enough, the better and more back to normal he gets, the more aware he is of situation/hospital confinement. Though he's hooked up to a lot less stuff (at one time, he had eight different I.V.s connected to his body, plus a feeding tube, a 24-7 dialysis machine, a heart monitor with a 24-7 heart rate, pulse, and oxygen measures, along with a full time blood pressure cup, a ventilator and a wound vac for the leg where the infection that precipitated this near disaster in the first place and what am I forgetting? Something, I'm sure. In addition, his arms are still restrained (because he's pulling at – and out, some of his tubes) and so he can hardly move and certainly hasn't had any food or water down his throat because of the trach tube inserted just below his Adam's apple. And what's worse, as he improves every day and becomes more aware of his current condition, he is becoming increasingly frustrated by his limitations. And what's even worse, we can't do anything about any of it except talk and try to reassure and encourage him. But as they say: "Talk don't feed the bulldog."

Moreover, I know he's sick of us talking, trying to keep his spirits up. We try to keep him current on news, weather, and sports, to the minimal extent to which he's interested. But mostly, he wants his car keys so he can go home. (To say that's not possible is the understatement of the year.) The dilemma is that what's likely to lead most to a speedy recovery and return home, is exactly what he or the doctors absolutely can't rush: time. Until his body/bodily functions become more normal, he can't do anything but lay in waiting, so to speak. There is a television in the room but his interest in watching anything is negligible. We can tell however that his mind is beginning to process information as he's asking more questions, especially the existential kind: "What am I doing here?" But it's only over time that we'll be able to put his thoughts, plans, hopes and dreams into practice. And on his best day, before any of this happened, he's kind of impatient. On his worst days: now, well, let's just say it's becoming increasingly more difficult to placate him (understandably so). He's come so far, but I worry that these next few steps (some literally, actually), might be his toughest yet. However, from what I've witnessed over this last month, I have no doubts that he'll be up and at'em eventually. It just won't be soon enough for him. Still, he's lucky to be alive, really, and you can be sure that we'll tell him, repeatedly.

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

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

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

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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

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

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

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.volunteerallexandria.org
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 ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <http://www.volunteerallexandria.org/ALIVE>
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Obituary

On August 20, 2022, six days before her 70th birthday, our beloved **Kitty Louise (Boland) Ray** of Alexandria, Virginia, passed from this life to the next embraced by her three loving daughters, Megan, Kelsey and Colleen, and her husband of 50 years, Jim. She died at Virginia Hospital Center due to lung complications caused by a new chemotherapy treatment she started in July. Kitty had survived metastatic breast cancer for 30 years, enduring many difficult treatments and side effects with courage, determination, and grace. She was deeply grateful to her family and friends who lovingly supported her on this journey, many through the "Kitty's Crusaders" webpage, and to the many doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who cared for her throughout the years.



In 2000, Jim opened a new law firm in Old Town Alexandria with Kitty as the Office Manager. She contributed hugely to the firm's success with her delightful, funny and personable manner with clients. She was compelled to retire in 2015 when she suffered an aggressive cancer recurrence, but she remained the Office Manager Emeritus for the next seven years and came to the office whenever she could to play with the grandchildren.

Kitty was a kind, warm, friendly, open-hearted, compassionate, and generous person. She was a "real" person in the sense of the "Velveten Rabbit", her favorite book. She made friends easily, and highly valued her friendships, maintaining many for several decades. She was also very funny, often showing a quirky sense of humor. She delighted in making family and friends laugh, occasionally shocking them with her limericks. She was also a great listener and provider of comfort for all, although she could get feisty when she sensed an injustice.

Kitty was an avid reader, theater patron, limerick author, art lover, and ever-curious follower of current events. She and Jim were members of a community book club for more than 30 years. Her passion for books led her to steward a Little Free Library ("Kitty's Book Nook") that Jim built for her in front of their home. Next to the library is Gaga's Reading Bench. She delighted in seeing neighborhood parents sitting on the bench reading books to their children.

Kitty was the proud mother of Megan Jane Nolton (Devin), Kelsey Ann Horowitz (Nick), and Colleen Ray Corday (Cameron), all of Alexandria, Virginia. The greatest joy of her life in recent years has been her grandchildren: Isla June Nolton, Olivia Kitty Horowitz, Ruby Aurora Nolton, Amelia Rose Horowitz, Finn Calder Nolton, Miles Alexander Corday, and soon to be born Baby Corday. She cherished spending time with them, and they adored their "Gaga". She enjoyed the countless photos of them taken by their mothers, and the many artworks produced by them and their mothers. Her home's walls were covered with paintings and drawings created especially for her.

Kitty also loved to travel with Jim, around the U.S. and in Europe. Among their great joys was bringing their daughters along on many memorable trips in the hope of passing the travel bug onto them. Kitty strongly believed that travel is the best educational experience. They had long planned a grand trip to London for the whole family, including grandchildren, in August 2020, but regrettably it had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Kitty had been hoping that the trip could be revived for 2023.

Kitty and Jim were born in the same maternity hospital in Albany, New York in 1952, and became sweethearts in high school. They married on August 12, 1972 and moved to Ithaca, New York where Kitty worked for Cornell University while Jim attended college. In 1974, they moved to Alexandria, Virginia. Kitty earned accolades working for the U.S. House of Representatives and later for the U.S. Senate, while Jim attended law school and began his legal career. In 1982, Kitty decided to become a full-time mom and dedicate herself to building a loving family with Jim. She threw herself into every activity that involved or interested her daughters, including school groups, Girl Scouts, sports, arts and crafts, and theater, always committed to raising caring, strong, creative and well-rounded children. Through these activities, she met other mothers who became her dear friends for the rest of her life.

Kitty desperately wanted to continue sharing her spirit and life force with her family and friends, but after 30 years of constant battering from cancer treatments, her body could take no more.

In addition to her husband, daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren, Kitty is survived by sisters Julie Pickup (Walter) of Monee, Illinois, Patricia Pinchback of Albany, New York, Mary (Cassie) Hollner of Denver, Colorado, and Michael Boland, Sr. (Mary) of Cooperstown, New York. Her parents, Clarence and Dorothy Boland of Albany, New York, are deceased. Kitty was also considered a sister of Jim's siblings: Edward J. Ray (Mary Sue) of Cohoes, New York, Kathleen Marsch (Henry) of Clifton Park, New York, Sharon Ryan (John) of Clifton Park, New York, Kevin Ray (Mary) of Clifton Park, New York, and Sheila Hollner (William) of Clifton Park, New York.

Family and friends are invited to share in the celebration of Kitty's life at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 on Sunday, August 28, 2022 during the hours of 2:00-6:00 P.M. A funeral service will be conducted at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria, Virginia, 22308 on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. Burial will be at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302 on a plot selected by Kitty last year.

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Villamay | \$1,349,000

With an open floor plan, 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, this home boasts unparalleled craftsmanship. Escape to the outside oasis where lounging in the gazebo or taking a dip in the saltwater pool is a relaxing getaway at home! 7210 Burtonwood Drive
Jeffrey Cann 703.717.1932
www.JeffreyCann.com



Bush Hill Woods | \$1,295,000

Exquisite colonial with 5,000+ SF of living space, 5 bedrooms, & 3.5 baths. 2-story great room with gas fireplace flows easily into the updated kitchen with bar seating & adjacent breakfast area. Wonderful screened porch overlooks the backyard. 5726 Barbmor Court
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
www.RebeccaMcCullough.com



Old Town | \$1,250,000

Modern brick end townhouse featuring 3 uniquely designed levels with 9'+ ceilings & 2 deeded parking spaces. Natural light reaches all levels from a skylight. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. High-end kitchen, large living room, and private, fenced, stone patio. 108 N West St
Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460
www.KlanciVanderhyde.com



Carlyle Towers | \$575,000

Expansive 20th floor city views, a spacious layout & tons of amenities await the new owner of this 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo. It has beautiful hardwood floors and the charming brick sunroom is perfect for work or relaxing. Reserved parking & storage. 2121 Jamieson Rd #2007
Ann McClure 301.367.5098
www.AnnMcClure.com



Dumfries/Virginia Commons | \$538,900

Incredible opportunity for turn-key home with impressive list of updates in highly desirable location. This beautiful, contemporary split-level home boasts the best of traditional and modern living, sitting on 0.23-acre lot backing to trees. 16820 Francis West Ln
Christine Robinson 245.925.7100
www.RobinsonChristine.com



Franconia Village | \$529,900

Large 3-level, all-brick townhouse convenient to the Van Dorn Metro Station. Hardwood floors on the main & upper levels. Freshly painted. Recently remodeled primary bath. Finished lower level with family room, full bath, & laundry/storage area. 5716 Thomas Edison Ct
JaneEllen McLaughlin Saums 703.861.3523
www.JaneEllenSells.com



Parkfairfax | \$399,000

Convenient one-level living in the heart of Parkfairfax. Beautiful hardwood floors, open concept kitchen, updated bathroom, two spacious bedrooms, ample storage, and large private patio! 3 community pools, exercise facility, tennis courts, & more! 3717 Lyons Ln
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
www.RealtorHeidiB.com

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