

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MAY 25, 2023

Fair Winds and Following Seas



Vice Mayor Amy Jackson and Mayor Justin Wilson, at right, recite the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the start of the Old Dominion Boat Club flag raising ceremony May 21.



Mayor Justin Wilson, center, and vice Mayor Amy Jackson, fourth from left, pose for a photo with members of the ODBC board of governors and other dignitaries at the May 21 flag raising to signal the opening of boating season.

PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

ODBC marks opening of boating season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Old Dominion Boat Club, a waterfront institution in Alexandria since 1880, celebrated the start of the boating season with its annual flag raising ceremony May 21 along the Potomac River.

ODBC Commodore Chris Marino presided over the celebration at the foot of the club's mast, where the U.S., Virginia, and City of Alexandria flags were hoisted along

with the organization's signature burgee.

"A beautiful afternoon at the Old Dominion Boat Club to participate in their annual flag-raising ceremony," posted Mayor Justin Wilson on social media after raising the City of Alexandria flag. "Celebrating generations on our waterfront and the start of the boating season!"

The U.S. Coast Guard's Ceremonial Honor Guard opened the ceremony followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Keith Harmon and invocation by Rev. Robert Monagle. "Fair Winds and Following Seas" was the nautical blessing for safety during the boating season.

In addition to Wilson, dignitaries in attendance included Vice Mayor Amy Jackson and City Man-



Mayor Justin Wilson, center, raises the City of Alexandria flag as part of the annual flag raising ceremony at the Old Dominion Boat Club May 21 along the Potomac River waterfront.



The United States Coast Guard honor guard presents the colors May 21 at the Old Dominion Boat Club flag raising ceremony.



Old Dominion Boat Club board member Bruce Catts and ODBC president Steve Forehand hold the ODBC burgee at the May 21 flag raising ceremony.

ager Jim Parajon.

Now celebrating its 143rd year, the organization was formed with a mission of "the promotion of charitable, community service, athletic, water-related activities and fellowship among its members." With more than 1,000 members, it is the second largest Boat Club in the state of Virginia.

The ODBC flag raising is a long-standing tradition in which the organization publicly shows its appreciation for "our city, our state and our country."

The Old Dominion Boat Club Foundation was established to carry out the philanthropic goals of the ODBC and has provided support to: the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, Alexandria Crew Boosters, Campagna Center, Marine Toys for Tots, Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Alexandria Sportsman's Club, Potomac Conservancy, Potomac Riverkeepers Network, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and Sea Scout Ship 818.

Joining Wilson in the ceremony were past Commodore and U.S.

Army veteran Doug Wood, who raised the U.S. flag, past president and life member Harry Harrington, who raised the Virginia flag, and ODBC president Steve Forehand, who raised the ODBC burgee.

As each flag was run up the mast, former commodore Tom Whalen fired the club's signaling cannon. Just offshore, the Alexandria fire boat Vigilant sent plumes of water skyward in a water demonstration marking the event.

www.olddominionboatclub.com



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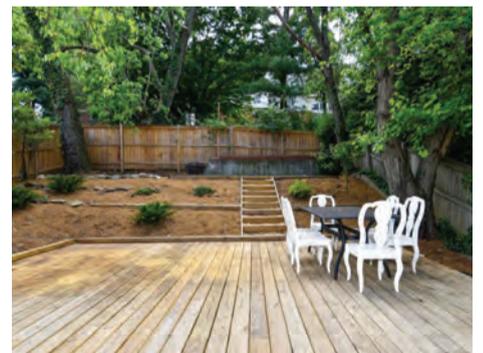
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Train Reaction Officials celebrate opening of Potomac Yard Metro.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Dignitaries from across the region were on hand May 19 as the long-awaited Potomac Yard Metro Station was officially opened, connecting Braddock Road and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport stations on the Blue and Yellow Metro lines.

“I am a proud Alexandrian and former member of the Alexandria City Council and I know firsthand what it took to get here,” said WMATA Board Chair Paul Smedberg. “It was not easy but I could not be prouder to celebrate here with you.”

Smedberg noted that the new station is expected to generate billions of dollars in private sector investment, supporting 26,000 new jobs and 13,000 new residents.

“We can all agree that this station will enhance the connectivity of the fastest growing area in Alexandria,” Smedberg said. “It is very exciting to imagine what is going to become of this station, this city and this region.”

Smedberg was joined by several officials in celebrating Metro’s newest station, including Virginia’s U.S. senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Virginia Tech president Tim Sands and Metro General Manager Randy Clarke.

“Wherever Metro goes, community grows and this is going to be another great example of that,” said Clarke, who noted that more than 1,300 riders had already passed through the station in the first few hours of its opening.

Potomac Yard is Metro’s 98th station and second infill station, built between existing stations. The station is located near Amazon’s HQ2 East Coast head-



Metro General Manager Randy Clarke is joined by WMATA board chair Paul Smedberg, Virginia’s U.S. senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), Mayor Justin Wilson, and other officials in cutting the ceremonial ribbon to open the Potomac Yard Metro Station May 19.

quarters in Arlington with walkable access to the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus and connections to other regional transportation

“It is very exciting to imagine what is going to become of this station, this city and this region.”

— Metro board chair Paul Smedberg on the Potomac Yard Metro station

“As a proud Alexandrian this is great news not just for the city, not just for Northern Virginia, not just for the Commonwealth but for the whole DMV,” Warner said.

Added Beyer, who is also a resident of Alexandria, “This station is living proof of the value of hope, and persistence and relentlessness, and courage and grit.”

The station was initiated by the City of Alexandria and funded by tax revenues and developer contributions generated by planned

new development in the Potomac Yard neighborhood, as well as state grants, loans and regional sources. It is Alexandria’s fifth Metro station, joining Braddock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue and Huntington Station.

“What a great day to be an Alexandrian,” said Wilson, who noted that he was the sixth Alexandria mayor to be involved in the project that was years in the making. “This station is going to change lives forever and we made it happen together.”

www.wmata.com

systems, Bike & Ride facilities, and walking paths to the station from the surrounding area.



Metro General Manager Randy Clarke speaks at the grand opening celebration of the Potomac Yard Metro station May 19.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Potomac Yard station between Braddock Road and Washington Reagan National Airport services the Blue and Yellow Metro lines.

OBITUARY

Gloria Flanagan

SBDC assistant director dies at 70.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The Alexandria small business community suffered a tragic loss as news spread that Gloria Flanagan, the longtime Assistant Director of the Small Business Development Center, died May 15 following a battle with urothelial cancer. She was 70.

For more than 20 years, Flanagan helped thousands of small business owners navigate the maze of city permits and regulations. Her role and expertise were relied upon even more so following the retirement of SBDC founder and executive director Bill Reagan in 2022.

"Gloria was the first person that most entrepreneurs encountered when they contacted the Small Business Development Center," said Reagan, who hired Flanagan in the early days of the SBDC. "Whether they were an existing business or new entrepreneur with a business concept, Gloria

was someone who put them through a process of analyzing what their challenges were and coaching them through the process of how to solve a problem."

Gloria Brogan Flanagan was born June 2, 1952, and raised in Binghamton, N.Y., and New Brunswick, N.J. She moved to the Washington, D.C. area in the fall of 1970 to attend Georgetown University, where she met her future husband, William Flanagan, on the first day of freshman classes.

The two were married in June of 1975 as Flanagan completed her undergraduate degree in International Affairs and Juris Doctor, both from Georgetown University.

Upon graduation, Flanagan worked in



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gloria Flanagan, Assistant Director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, died May 15 at the age of 70 following a battle with cancer.

"Gloria was really knowledgeable about so many of the details about business formation and setting up a business in the city of Alexandria."

— Former SBDC executive director Bill Reagan

postal rate law at the U.S. Postal Service until the birth of the first of her three children in 1983. She became a stay-at-home-mother until reentering the workforce in the mid-1990s as an aide to City Councilwoman Lois Walker.

After Walker lost her reelection bid in 2000, Flanagan transitioned to working for the Alexandria Small Business Development Center, where she would serve as Assistant Director until the time of her death.

"Lois Walker was one of my mentors, which is how I met Gloria," said Reagan, who hired Flanagan in 2000. "She was really knowledgeable about so many of the details about business formation and setting up a



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

SBDC Assistant Director Gloria Flanagan, center, with SBDC business analyst Jack Parker and former SBDC executive director Bill Reagan in an undated photo. Flanagan died May 15 at the age of 70.

business in the city of Alexandria. Whether it was a website designer, financial analyst or attorney, Gloria would be the one to direct business owners to the resources that we had at the Small Business Development Center. She was by far the most prominent member of the SBDC that businesses would work with."

During her time with the SBDC, Flanagan developed the organization's educational programming and counseled small business owners in areas such as Startup, City Processes, and Federal/State Procurement.

Flanagan lived in the Braddock Heights area for more than 40 years, raising her family there and earning a reputation as a passionate cook, baker and hostess.

"I cannot imagine living anywhere else," Flanagan said in an online profile. "It is the perfect combination of a thriving city with a small-town feel."

Flanagan is survived by her three children: sons William and James, and daughter Kerry; sisters Patricia Frantz of West Chester,

Pa., and Margaret Woods of Wallingford, Pa., and brother James Brogan of Point Pleasant, N.J.; four godchildren; 14 nieces and nephews; and 11 grandnieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband William Flanagan in 2010.

A funeral Mass was held May 24 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown, where she was a parishioner for over 50 years. Interment will take place at Ivy Hill Cemetery in a private ceremony at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Together We Bake or the Father McKenna Center.

"When I retired in 2022, I was able to hear all of the accolades directed at me but it wasn't just me," Reagan said. "I got the accolades but I know that it was because of the work that Gloria and several others had done for businesses. What I am so sad about is that Gloria never had the chance to retire and have that same experience of hearing people come forward to let her know just how much she meant to them and their success."

ASC to Honor Hodges, Coffield

High school athletes to be awarded \$50,000.

Tom Hodges, a standout quarterback at Alexandria's former Hammond High School (class of 1961) and the University of Virginia, will be honored at the 66th annual Alexandria Sportsman's Club Athletes of the Year Awards Banquet May 30 at the Westin Alexandria Hotel.

Native Alexandrian and national sports reporter Jessie Coffield will serve as the keynote speaker.

The event will honor this year's out-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tom Hodges

standing high school athletes and coaches from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School, and Alexandria City High School. The Club will also award college scholarships to meritorious seniors. Since 2016, the organization has given \$245,000.00 in scholarships to students from the four high schools located in the city.

The awards gala will be held at the Westin Alexandria Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$80 each. For more information or to purchase a ticket, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jessie Coffield

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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OPINION

Memorial Day

Remembering the cost of freedom.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 COMMANDER
MIKE MIXON
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Their mission was noble: to evacuate desperate civilians yearning to escape a brutal regime. The 13 U.S. servicemembers who died from a terrorist bombing in Afghanistan in August two years past will not be the last Americans to make such a sacrifice. It is acknowledged though that these 13 men and women represent the best of a generation.

There was Navy Corpsman Max Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio. His high school football coach described him as fearless. He was 22.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal David Espinosa of Rio Bravo, Texas. His mother said he was a good kid who never got in trouble. He was 20.

Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss of Corryton, Tenn. He was a proud member of the 82nd Airborne. He was 23.

Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Darin Hoover of Salt Lake City, Utah. He was serving his third tour in Afghanistan. He was 31.

Marine Corps Corporal Daegan Page of Omaha, Neb. In his youth, he played hockey and was a dedicated Boy Scout. He was 23.

Marine Corps Sergeant Johanny Rosario Pichardo of Lawrence, Mass. She was a member of the brigade's Female Engagement Team, responsible for screening civilians while respecting cultural sensitivities. She was 25.

Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez of Indio, Calif. He was the son of two Sheriff's Department officers. He was 22.

Marine Corps Corporal Humberto Sanchez of Logansport, Ind. He was on the homecoming court during his high school senior year. He died at 22.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz of St. Charles, Mo. He liked to play video games, according to his dad. He was 20.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui of Norco, Calif. He served in Junior ROTC before joining the Marines. He was 20.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal Dylan Merola of Cucamonga, Calif. He had been in Afghanistan for just more than a week. He planned to attend college and study engineering. He was 20.

Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole Gee of Sacramento, Calif. Just days before the attack, she posted an Instagram photograph of herself cradling an Afghan baby with the caption reading, "I love my job." She was 23.

Marine Corps Lance Corporal Rylee McColum of Jackson, Wyo. He had recently gotten married and his young wife was expecting their first child. He was 20.

These 13 came from every background in American society, yet they shared a common goal: to serve America and make life better for others.

From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terror, more than one million American service members have made the Supreme Sacrifice. They died so that we could continue to cherish the things they loved—God, country, and family.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET
American Legion Post 24 Commander Mike Mixon

We are reminded on Memorial Day that brave men and women have always stepped forward to take the oath of allegiance as members of our armed forces, willing to fight and if necessary die for the sake of freedom.

We must continue to honor the spirit of these heroes. We must share their legacies and tell their stories. The heavy loss felt by Gold Star families is forever.

In the words of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

Today, we are the living, and we are dedicated to continuing the work of those who have gone before us. We are dedicated to preserving the memory of our fallen heroes and declare our unending gratitude and support for their families.

God bless America; and God bless the souls of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation.

Slow Down, Save Lives

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Last week, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) publicly announced the official change of the speed limit from 45mph to 35mph on a seven-mile stretch of Richmond Highway (Route 1), between Jeff Todd Way and the Capitol Beltway. On Tuesday, May 23, new signage was installed and the change went into effect. This is a long-awaited change that I, as your Delegate, am fully in support of. Here's why.

AREA OF VDOT STUDY

VDOT conducted a speed limit study at Fairfax County's request in August 2021 between Belvoir Road and the I-495 ramps, due to mounting concerns about pedestrian and vehicular safety, including several pedestrian crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. During the study period, VDOT held two virtual public meetings to review the

study and its preliminary results in November 2021 and July 2022. VDOT approached this study in an exceedingly transparent way, holding comment periods ahead of and immediately following each public meeting for residents to share their positions on potential changes. Based on the comments of residents who weighed in, a majority of the public favored lowering the limit. These meetings were also recorded and are available on the project website. The study provided recommendations, endorsed by Fairfax County Police, that the speed limit on Richmond Highway between Jeff Todd Way and I-495/I-95 be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph while the speed limit between Belvoir Road and Jeff Todd Way be maintained at the current 45 mph. This recommendation and subsequent public support is a departure from a 2007 VDOT study that examined lowering the Richmond Highway speed

limit. At that time, VDOT failed to recommend any change and the public voiced their opposition.

Crash records for Richmond Highway analyzed during the study (from 2016-2020) were significantly higher than the statewide average. For this stretch of Richmond Highway, during this period, there were 1,203 crashes, including 404 injury crashes and 9 fatal crashes, of which 7 were fatal pedestrian crashes. Just this year, there have been at least 102 vehicle crashes on the Fairfax County section of Richmond Highway, injuring 75 people, according to state data. In March, a 36-year-old woman was tragically killed while simply walking on a sidewalk along Richmond Highway in Groveton after a car hit an SUV and spun off of the roadway, killing her. Fairfax County police noted in their report that speed was a factor in the crash that caused the pedestrian fatality.

Many residents in our com-

munity rely on walking, cycling, and public transportation to get around. The study noted that while pedestrian crossings are present at all but two of the 30 signalized intersections along this stretch, sidewalk facilities are sporadically located and are often disconnected and do not provide a continuous pedestrian access network through the length of the corridor. A significant number of the unsignalized intersections within the corridor do not have marked crosswalks and there is often a considerable distance between marked crosswalks. Many bus stops along the corridor are not located adjacent to crosswalks. This combination of factors results in a significant number of locations where pedestrians cross without signalization. In addition, no dedicated bike lanes are present on Richmond Highway north of Jeff Todd Way. With the

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What Is Going On with Virginia Taxes?

BY DEL. VIVIAN WATTS

First in a series of monthly columns from Del. Vivian Watts

Virginia normally passes a two-year budget and, then, we update it going into the second year. Thus far, even though the second year starts July 1, we've only passed a few technical amendments focused on our rainy day set aside, retirement funds, and federal income tax provisions.

Why the holdup? Essentially, it started last December with a proposed \$1.4 billion-dollar permanent tax cut versus funding K-12 education and the mental health crisis. Resolving the budget has been made significantly more challenging by the federal debt ceiling standoff and efforts to control inflation.

When Gov. Glenn Youngkin proposed his tax cut, state income and sales tax revenues were running well ahead of what was needed to balance the budget. Ever since then, monthly collections have been falling and, now, the total for the first nine months of this budget

year is up just 0.6%.

The good news is that part of the drop in revenue is due to tax cuts we passed last year. Income tax refunds are way up due to increasing the standard deduction and allowing low-income working families to get the federal tax credit. As of April 1, refunds totaling over \$2.5 billion are going back to taxpayers compared to just \$1.1 billion as of April last year.

The month after month fall in state revenues since December has made Virginia Senate and House budget negotiators reluctant to agree to \$1.4 billion permanent tax cuts proposed by the Governor. Added to that downward trend, national speculations about the impact on the economy of an unprecedented refusal to raise the federal debt ceiling are very disturbing. With 30 percent of our workforce dependent on federal spending, resultant job losses will hit Virginia harder than virtually any other state.

Just as our state revenue is affected by federal decisions, local government budgets are affected by Virginia not updating the state

budget. This is particularly true for K-12 school funding. The lower the share the state ends up funding, the more pressure on the local real estate tax. In other words, cuts in the state income tax and in the corporate tax – which are taxes based on ability to pay – may well result in higher local real estate taxes. This isn't good tax policy given real estate taxes are based on the re-sale value of the home – not on

the current owner's income.

Even if the federal debt ceiling crisis is resolved, the federal budget negotiations that follow will still leave Virginia revenues in jeopardy given our military and civilian federal workforce and related private sector support. If, by July 1, Virginia budget negotiators nonetheless decide a tax cut is necessary to get a budget passed that increases funding for educa-

tion and mental health, hopefully, it will be as we did last year: give all taxpayers an equal, one-time rebate. This is far preferable to the House budget that gives a permanent and sizable tax cut of \$1000 and \$1000 to those at the high end. Minimum wage workers will get nothing, most beginning teachers get \$30-\$35, and three-quarters of all other taxpayers get less than \$100.

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.

FAMILIES SOUGHT TO HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Families and individuals from the Washington, D.C.-metro region are being sought to become hosts for international students for 12 weeks, a semester, or an academic year.

Exchange students represent nearly 80 countries and cultures, including Kenya, Ukraine, Egypt, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Chile, Thailand

and more.

AFS-USA, a leader in international high school student exchange for 75 years, is focused on providing opportunities for intercultural exchange that can help lead to a more just and peaceful world.

Those interested in hosting an AFS Exchange Student are encouraged to contact 1-800-AFS-INFO or visit www.afsusa.org for more information. You can also get involved as an AFS-USA Volunteer. Visit www.afsusa.org/volunteer to get started or learn more about opportunities to make a difference.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED 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.volunteeralexandria.org

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

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Monticello Madness Birding Team Raises Funds for Local Park

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Elizabeth Lyons set out on the path at Monticello Park at 6:30 a.m. on May 4. It was sunny but quite cool when she started. It was her first Monticello Birdathon, and she was determined to see as many birds as possible to raise money for the Stretch the Parks initiative announced May 1. She said the idea is to improve the habitat around the parks by forming partnerships with neighborhoods, conservation groups and other community groups to plant trees, remove invasive species and buy and install bird boxes.

“Usually I am part of a team that works together and visits many locations across the area,” Lyons says, “To do a Birdathon in just one location was new for me.” Monticello Park is a 7-acre neighborhood gem in Alexandria near the Arlington border. It features a walking trail, small stream and old growth forest and is well known as a stop-over during spring warbler migration.

The “drink your tea” call of the Eastern Towhee is the first to penetrate the early morning air. As usual Lyons hears the birds before she spots them. Soon from deeper in the woods she hears the trilling call of the Wood Thrush.

Lyons says she was joined by some great birders for part of the day with Andreas Seitzer in the morning for several hours, then Bob Butterworth midday and Matt Felperin in the afternoon. “We called our team Monticello Madness because when the big rush of migrating birds arrive the deluge of activity and song is delightful madness for bird watchers. She says having all of those eyes and ears really helped because both in the number of species and the number of individuals there weren’t too many birds. “And we were a bit too early for the warbler migration season.”

By the time the day is over she and the team have tallied 52 different species of birds including 7 different warblers. She decides to make one last trip to the top of the park to see if she could see anything flying in from neighboring houses and was rewarded with a flicker as the final bird of the day and bringing the team’s grand total to 54.

Lyons decided to try birding again May 11. “I decided to try it again but this time solo, and I wanted to beat the first day’s total.” After an initial walk of the park she took her thermos of coffee and



PHOTO BY BILL YOUNG

Wood thrush at Monticello Park, one of the first birds heard and then spotted at Birdathon.



PHOTO BY BILL YOUNG

Hooded warbler, one of 35 possible warbler species at Monticello Park.

stool and retreated to the knoll at the top of the park. “I heard a lot of woodpecker chatter and looked up to see an adult Hairy Woodpecker feeding a chick in a tree hole.” She says she retreated because “obviously the parents were upset with me being there.”

Lyons remembers, “The birds did not disappoint. All together I saw 19 different species of warblers—the full rainbow of colors—the blue-winged, redstart, black-throated green, chestnut-sided.”

She said there were times when there were so many calls and so many birds flying around that “I didn’t know what to listen to nor where to look.” In addition to the warblers there were scarlet tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeaks and Baltimore orioles!”

Monticello Park is along the migration route for warblers who fly from South and Central America north every spring to their nesting grounds in the northern US and Canada. They are attracted

to the park as a stopover on their long journey because of the high tree canopy and the small stream for drinking and for bathing their feathers.

The MPNature website, established by Bill Young in 2018, has recorded 35 warbler species in the park. Young says if you visit the park regularly during the spring, a birder has a good chance of seeing 20-25 species of warblers. Although the maximum time for spotting warblers is generally between May 7-17, years may differ due to weather, food supply and other variables, and all the species don’t come through at the same time.

About midday Lyons finally got a good long glimpse of a Canada warbler who popped out of the tree canopy for a few seconds with its bright yellow throat and its chest adorned with its black necklace.

After about 11 hours Lyons was at exactly 54 species and it was getting dark. “A friend told me there



PHOTO BY MIKE POLLACK

Elizabeth Lyons, President of Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV) and Monticello Madness team member.

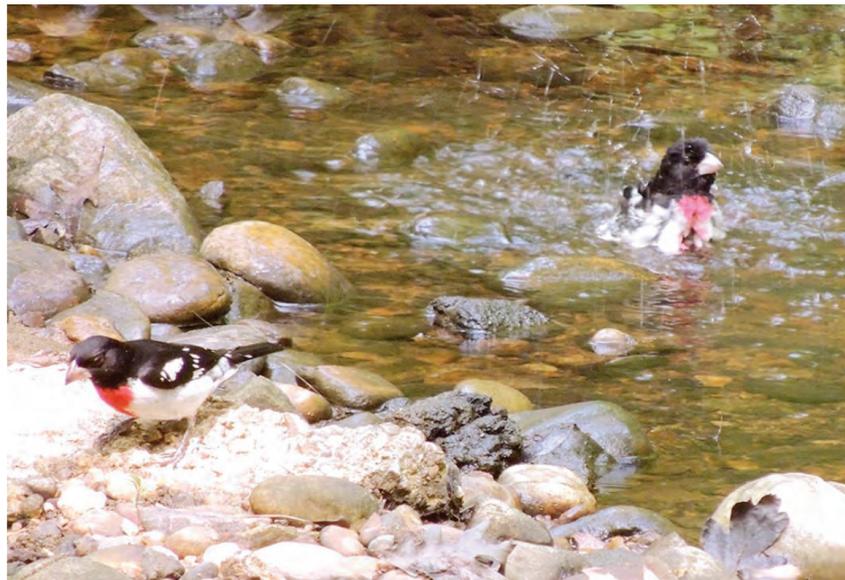


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH LYONS

Rose-breasted grosbeaks bathing in stream at Monticello Park.

was a Hermit Thrush up the hill. I walked up and found it! Then I walked to the top of the hill to better be able to see the sky and saw a flock of Cedar Waxwings swirling overhead. It was 7 pm, and I was

ready to go home. I walked down into the park but just at the bottom heard the familiar call of an Acadian flycatcher. I and another birdwatcher dashed up the hill and spotted it in the dimming light—57

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species.” Lyons, President of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, says she has always been interested in nature so has bird lists back to the 80s and 90s. “But I really

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got hooked in Kenya in 1998.” Then she started birding more locally after 2013 when her kids had fledged “left the nest.” She discovered Monticello Park in 2018.

Lyons started the Stretch the Park Initiative to focus on four local parks including Monticello Park and Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria and Upton Regional Park and Powhatan Springs Skate Park in Arlington.

Stretch the Park is a community-based conservation effort — to help stretch wildlife friendly habitat out from parks, to engage communities to enjoy and conserve their parks, and to help park authorities meet the needs of wildlife and people, be they bird-watchers, dog walkers, runners, or families. Parks mean many different things to many people.

For more information see <https://www.audubonva.org/stretch-our-parks>

Lyons says the donations received from the Birdathon Monticello Madness birding team will go toward supporting projects at Monticello and Four-Mile Run. She says the fundraiser ends June 2 and donations may be made to <https://www.audubonva.org/monticello-madness>.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email FriendsOfAMHC@gmail.com.

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Drivers Needed. Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to cancer.org/drive.

Farmer’s Market Volunteers Needed. To volunteer for the Farmer’s Markets, email Brian Morreale, brianmorreale@gmail.com

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@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Caregiver Corner

Services Help Older Adults Stay in Their Homes.

BY DEBORAH TOMPKINS JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

Dear Caregivers: Statistics tell us, and we know from our own conversations and experiences, that as our loved ones age into their 70s, 80s and beyond, most prefer to stay in their own home rather than move into a care facility.

“Yes, most people want to stay at home,” concurs Pamela Austin, with the City of Alexandria’s Division of Aging and Adult Services. “This division is designed to help adults do just that — stay safely and supported in their homes.” The Division works in concert with other agencies such as Senior Services of Alexandria, other nonprofit providers and various other City agencies.

Austin says the first step is to call their office where a specialist will begin the process of gathering information and completing an assessment.

Information and Referral -- 703-746-5999. “We do like to get calls from the person who might need services,” said Austin. “Caregiv-

ers may make the call to us as well. However, we will want to speak directly to the prospective client, when and if possible. We would like their involvement early on as well as their consent to receive our services.”

“We coordinate the support if the older adult needs and wants assistance. Most people, once they come on with us, stay with us. The timeframe that we will support them is usually unlimited,” Austin adds.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services acts as the City of Alexandria’s Area Agency on Aging. If you are not in Alexandria, call your local social services department to find the Area Agency on Aging in your city or county. These agencies assist adults age 60 and older.

In Fairfax County, see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging>

ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING:

Once a care specialist completes a thorough assessment by phone, if there is a need to move forward, the next step is a home visit.

The home visit will determine if your loved one can perform their daily living tasks, for example, bathing, dressing, toileting and feeding themselves. The ability



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Division of Aging and Adult Services representative Pamela Austin, left, speaks with Deborah Tompkins Johnson about caregiving options for older adults.

to prepare meals on their own, do house-keeping, laundry, manage money and phone usage are additional key activities that are assessed.

Available In-Home Services: Besides managing the initial intake, the Division of Aging and Adult Services offers programs or information on adult day centers, recreation, light home cleaning and personal care to name a few. And in coordination with partners, older residents can receive support like transportation assistance and Meals on Wheels delivered through Senior Services of Alexandria. These are just a couple of examples.

Though support is offered, if the client at some point cannot navigate the activities of daily living, then they might want to consider transitioning to a level of care that is outside the home.

MOVING FROM HOME: Apartments, condominiums, retirement communities, or independent living facilities are options for some. But many will move into an assisted living community. Assisted living is generally private pay and often includes meals, housekeeping, laundry service, social and recreational activities, round-the-clock

emergency care/response and medication monitoring.

For a very limited number of people moving into assisted living, a grant option could be available to supplement costs.

Auxiliary Grants: These grants — which cover basic room and meals in an assisted-living facility — are available only to those with lower incomes. According to Virginia’s Department of Social Services, the grant should be sought prior to admission

to an assisted living facility. If the older adult meets the income requirement, then further information will determine their eligibility. Still, the availability of these grants is limited and all facilities do not offer them.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: 703-324-5861. Finally, adults in long-term care facilities or those receiving long-term care in the community can request an ombudsman when quality of care is questioned or the client has complaints. An ombudsman assists clients in resolving issues with the facility or agency providing services. The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is available in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City and County, Falls Church and Loudoun.

“We coordinate the support if the older adult needs and wants assistance.”

— Pamela Austin,
Division of Aging and Adult Services



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Principal of The Year

MVCS's Burrell-Aldana honored as region's best.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Liza Burrell-Aldana, Principal of Mount Vernon Community School in Del Ray, was celebrated as the Washington Post 2023 Principal of the Year during a May 4 ceremony with the Alexandria City Public School Board and city officials.

Burrell-Aldana was selected from 16 finalists in D.C., Maryland and Virginia and is the first Alexandria educator to win the honors.

"I have to thank the leadership of the school division because it is that support that drives us every single day," Burrell-Aldana said. "It motivates us to do our very best and brings recognition for everybody -- for our students, who are amazing, for our families, and for our leadership. Without you we would not be here."

Burrell-Aldana was named principal of the school in 2017. School Board chair Meagan Alderton praised Burrell-Aldana for her leadership and for making history as a woman of color.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Liza Burrell-Aldana, Principal of Mount Vernon Community School, was honored May 4 as the Washington Post 2023 Principal of the Year.

"Liza Burrell-Aldana has made history as the first Alexandria City Public School principal to be

SEE REGION'S BEST, PAGE 15

Krizek

FROM PAGE 6

noted limited pedestrian and cycling-friendly infrastructure on Richmond Highway, we must do more to ensure their safety on the roadway.

Survival rates of pedestrians hit by a car increase significantly when speeds are lowered from 45 to 35 mph: from four survivors in ten to seven in ten as documented by the highly respected AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. For pedestrians over age 70, the survival rate increases from two-in-ten to five-in-ten when the speed limit is lowered to 35mph.

Improving road safety, including minimizing pedestrian and cyclist crashes, is a multifaceted issue that will take work and cooperation from our state and local leaders, law enforcement, and the public. Reducing the speed limit along this portion

of Richmond Highway is an important step towards this goal. While not analyzed during this study, Richmond Highway will see significant change during the next decade with the completion of the Route 1 Widening Project in 2028 and the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in 2031. Many pedestrian and cycling improvements will be included in both of these projects to accommodate increased safety for our growing community. In the meantime, pay attention to your speed and keep your eyes on the road. Arriving at your destination a few moments earlier is not worth losing your life or ending someone else's.

If you are interested in reviewing the complete results of the VDOT speed limit study, you may do so on the study website at https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/route_1_speed_limit_study.asp.

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Remembrance Students.

\$5000 in Scholarships Awarded

Equal Justice Initiative and Alexandria Community Remembrance Project honor Alexandria City High School Students.

Alexandria City High School students committed to racial justice were honored in City Council Chambers on Saturday, May 20, 2023 by the City of Alexandria and ACPS school leadership, the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project and the Equal Justice Initiative. <https://eji.org/about/>

Three students were awarded a total of \$5000 in scholarships from EJI, the national non-profit, based in Montgomery, Ala., for essays exploring racial disparities in health care, modern day lynchings and a historic narrative that makes it a crime to be Black. At the same event, Mayor Justin Wilson, members of City Council, and ACPS School Board members celebrated the 40 Alexandria City High School students who have worked with ACRP to acknowledge and remember Alexandria lynching victims Joseph McCoy (April 23, 1897) and Benjamin Thomas (August 8, 1899).

In a city-wide proclamation, the youth were deemed the “Remembrance Students,” and were challenged to keep up the work and move it forward.

“These students will continue to represent Alexandria and the Remembrance Project and honor the lives of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas after graduation, by telling the whole truth of our history and working to further the cause of equity and social justice for all people...so that our city may be an example for all,” Mayor Wilson read the proclamation to a crowd of at least 60 people.

EJI Project Associate Deksyos Damte, announced the winners of the EJI Racial Justice Essay Contest. Third place went to ACHS freshman Ayesha Anwar who wrote about the fatal consequences caused by racial disparities in healthcare. ACHS freshman Rena Cooper landed in second place with her research into modern day lynchings. EJI judges ultimately chose London Jones’ essay, “How Did We Get Here?” on the



London Jones

plight of Black teenage boys wrongfully accused of crimes for first place. The ACHS junior plans to use the \$2500 scholarship to go to an HBCU to study the Humanities.

Jones said she was shocked when she heard her name called as the First Place winner. After receiving the award, Jones read her moving essay aloud, at times through tears.

“I’m extremely grateful for having this opportunity and for being recognized by such inspiring figures,” Jones said. One of those influential leaders, she referenced, is EJI Founder Bryan Stevenson, an attorney who works to overturn death sentences of the wrongfully convicted.

EJI organized and judged the essay contest that Alexandria Community Remembrance Project and Alexandria City Public Schools launched this past Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Students in grades 9-12 were eligible to enter by researching a racial justice topic and submitting an essay between 800 and 1000 words by March 17, 2023. ACRP partnered with Alexandria City High



London Jones, ACHS Junior and first place winner with Equal Justice Initiative representative Deksyos Damte.

PHOTOS BY JEFF HANCOCK

School, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, and the Alexandria Library to offer writing and editing support to students wishing to enter the contest. Ten ACHS students submitted final essays and EJI selected the three scholarship winners.

EJI sponsors the Racial Justice Essay Contests for public school students to advance the efforts of local Remembrance Projects. The contests are designed to invite community members to learn and engage in conversations about the history of racial injustice. Alexandria Community Remembrance Project is part of EJI’s Community Remembrance Project, which supports community coalitions

across the country in memorializing victims of racial terror lynching and fostering meaningful reflection about the legacy of racial violence.

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) is a city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion. Learn more about Alexandria’s Remembrance Project and the essay contest here.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/alexandria-community-remembrance-project>



Pete Balas, Executive Principal at ACHS introduces London Jones.



Pete Balas, Executive Principal at ACHS and London Jones share a hug.

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU JULY 15

Alexander D'Agostino: "A Shrine for the Forgotten" Exhibition. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Baltimore-based solo artist exhibition recipient, Alexander D'Agostino, presents "A Shrine for the Forgotten." The work explores queer histories and images, through performance, installation, and reclaiming material from queer archives and other cultural resources related to the historic marginalization of LGBTQ people.

NOW THRU MAY 27

The "Prints in May@DRA: Exploring the Possibilities" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery features traditional printmaking techniques such as reliefs, intaglios, monoprints and handmade prints with mixed media, along with artworks created using computer graphics programs and other objects enhanced with block prints or imprints. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed May 28). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

NOW THRU MAY 28

Tribute Art Exhibition. At The Torpedo Factory, Van Lindingham Gallery, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association's (TFAA) Van Lindingham Gallery presents Tribute, a juried membership show featuring artworks that pay tribute to a cause, event, or subject that has special meaning to them personally. The following artists are participating: Diana Papazian, Samantha Shelton, Guido Zanni, Jon Kandel, Nancy Ramsey, Rebecca McNeely, Lisa Schumaier, Gregory Dunn, and Ileen Shefferman. Artworks include original hand pulled prints, original paintings, multimedia works, photography, ceramics, and sculpture.

NOW THRU JUNE 11

Women's Work. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. In Women's Work three artists, Kirsty Little, Donna McCullough, and Kathryn McDonnell use non-traditional media to explore concepts related to the role of women in the arts and society. Each with a strong voice, the artists come together to offer a surprising and cogent statement about the place females have in our current world. Artist Talk: Sunday, June 11, 2 p.m.

MAY 23-JUNE 25

Kandinski. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Kandinsky" which will run from May 23, 2023-June 25, 2023, featuring fiber art interpretations of Kandinsky's paintings.

FRIDAY/MAY 26

Garden Talk - Gardening for Bees. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Bees are under threat from habitat loss, pesticides and climate change. Bees do more than make honey. Honey bees are also responsible for pollinating about one-third of our daily diet. Extension Master Gardeners show you how to attract and nurture bees by growing a

variety of plants that support them. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code 3F6.OJ4Y.

FRIDAY/MAY 26

Historic Garden Tour.

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, Alexandria. Discover the history of the Lee-Fendall garden from its 18th century beginnings to the present. Learn how the use and appearance of the garden has changed over time and see recent efforts to restore the garden and create an educational space and urban wildlife habitat. Call (703) 548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

Lee-Fendall House

Events: Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour of Alexandria. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 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. Tickets are \$15 per person and must be purchased in advance. The tour is limited to 12 participants and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Walking tours take place rain or shine, so wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Call (703) 548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org.

TUESDAYS, MAY 30

Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, Tuesdays @ 10 - What Bugs You? 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Simpson Park Demonstration Garden, 420 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria. What can homeowners do that is kid safe, pet safe, environmentally responsible, and budget friendly to control those pesky mosquitoes, ticks, and other garden pests that emerge in the spring? And, what about those naughty invasive plants? Stop by the garden from 10:00-11:00 every Tuesday morning where you can get answers to these questions and more from Extension Master Gardeners. Each month, a different "garden of the month" will be highlighted that can inspire ideas for your own garden or even a favorite container.

JUNE 1-AUGUST 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. For children and/or adults, free and paid programs are offered. Sign up for what inspires you! Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/creative-summer



Women's Work – Jane Franklin Dance will be held on Friday, June 2, 2023 at The Athenaeum in Alexandria.

JUNE 2-25

The "American Patchwork" exhibit.

At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernone Ave., Alexandria. Features art that highlights the diversity of cultures, landscapes, and artistic styles that make up the American experience. The exhibit broadly explores and captures the patchwork spirit of the United States and her people. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Reception: Friday, June 2, 7-9pm. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](https://www.delrayartisans.org/exhibits)

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Women's Work – Jane Franklin

Dance: NVFAA at the Athenaeum. 7:30 pm. At 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance returns to the Athenaeum with works that respond to the current exhibit Women's Work in coordination with the exhibition by visual artists Kirsty Little, Donna McCullough, Kathryn McDonnell. Visit the website: <https://janefranklin.com/performances>

MOUNT VERNON NIGHTS

Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria

JUNE

3 Wicked Sycamore (Contemporary Folk)
10 Let it Flow Band (R/B, Soul)
17 The Box Tops (Pop, Rock)
24 Kadencia Orchestra (Bomba, Plena, Salsa)

JULY

1 Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes (Blues)
8 Robin and Linda Williams (Folk)
15 DuPont Brass (Soul)
22 Rebekah Todd (Rock, Soul, Blues)
29 Scott Kurt & Memphis 59 (Southern Rock)

AUGUST

5 Incendio (Latin)
12 The Gibson Brothers (Bluegrass)
19 Mariachi Estrellas (Mexican folklorico)

26 The 19th Street Band (Country Rock)

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. Volunteer Alexandria is thrilled to present the Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair. The fair features local and regional artists and crafters who showcase their pieces across various mediums, including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography, and more. Visit the website <https://www.volunteerallexandria.org/events>

JUNE 3

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. 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 and large

paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

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.
MAY
Wed. 24: Chrisette Michele \$69.50
Thu. 25: Chrisette Michele \$69.50
Fri. 26: Bela Dona Band \$39.50
Sat. 27: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw \$39.50 (Rescheduled from 3/17/23) SOLD OUT!
Sun. 28: The Seldom Scene & Larry Keel Experience \$35.00

JUNE

Fri. 2: Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy \$45.00 (Resched from 3/4/23)
Sat. 3: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$59.50

Sun. 4: Leonid & Friends \$59.50 SOLD OUT!

Tue. 6: RIOPY \$29.50

Fri. 9: Marcus Miller \$69.50

Sun. 11: TWEET \$45.00

Tue. 13: America \$119.50 SOLD OUT!

Wed. 14: America \$99.50 SOLD OUT!

Fri. 16: NRBO \$45.00

Sat. 17: Atlantic Starr \$59.50 SOLD OUT!

Sun. 18: Atlantic Starr \$59.50

Tue. 20: Happy Together Tour 2023 featuring The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Vogues, The Classics Iv, And The Cowsills \$99.50 SOLD OUT!

Thu. 22: The Voice of The Moody Blues JUSTIN HAYWARD with Mike Dawes \$79.50

Fri. 23: Tarsha Fitzgerald Productions Presents "THE VOICES" Tribute To Motown \$35.00

Sat. 24: After 7 \$75.00

Fri. 30: Newmyer Flyer Presents The Songs of Burt Bacharach & Hal David \$39.50

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Obituary

Obituary

Legals

Diane Brown October 16, 1942 - May 2, 2023



Diane Dowling Brown of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away and went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 2, 2023, while lovingly surrounded by her two sons, David and Daryl Hodgkinson.

Diane was born in Detroit, Michigan, on October 16, 1942. In 1945, she moved with her family to Columbia, Tennessee. After graduating from Central High School in Columbia, Diane attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and Master of Arts degrees in theater and journalism. She remained an avid Gators fan throughout her life.

For more than forty years, Diane was a much loved and highly respected teacher of English and theater in public schools in Gainesville and Lawtey, Florida; Jonesport and Bar Harbor, Maine; Blue Ridge and Cobb County, Georgia; and Alexandria, Virginia. She was recognized as Teacher of the Year in Georgia. On multiple occasions, her theater productions won national recognition and her theater students frequently earned prestigious awards at national competitions. Over the course of her extraordinary career, Diane positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people.

Diane was much admired by all who knew her as a lively and gracious person who was constantly giving of her time and talents. Whenever someone needed help, she unselfishly responded. She also was an eager volunteer with numerous civic agencies, including the Senior Center in Alexandria, Virginia, and the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Throughout her life, she was a devoted Christian, and most recently was a member of the Alexandria Presbyterian Church where she served with numerous ministries.

Diane had a particular love of adventure and fun. She regularly traveled throughout the United States and internationally with friends, family, or on her own. She would seek out camping trips whenever possible, and was an avid sports fan enthusiastically attending and following professional and college sporting events.

Diane was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Brown and her parents, James and Ethel Dowling. She is survived by her son David Hodgkinson and his wife Sandy and their five children - Jamie, Luke, Jack, Lex, and Jude; and her son Daryl Hodgkinson and his wife Darcy and their two children - Peter and Mark. She is also survived by her brother, Michael Dowling and his wife Sarah.

A service for family and friends who wish to celebrate Diane's life will be held at Alexandria Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. on June 3, 2023.

Obituary

Obituary

James 'Jim' Derrington

James "Jim" Hoyt Derrington passed away peacefully at home in Alexandria, Virginia on May 14, 2023 after a long illness.

Jim was born in Beaumont, Texas to Hoyt and Lucille Derrington on April 23, 1942. He was raised in Monett, Missouri where he attended Monett High School. After graduating from the University of Missouri, he moved to Washington D.C. and soon after settled in Alexandria, Virginia, where he raised his family and made his home.

Jim worked for the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a patent examiner for 37 years. He made life-long friends with his colleagues at the USPTO and enjoyed many spirited debates over the years with them. Jim was also active in civic issues, passionate about city development, and enjoyed tutoring children in mathematics.

Jim had a great love for music, golf, the Washington Commanders, baseball, and a good drink with friends. He travelled extensively and spent many summers in Stonington, Maine, his favorite destination.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Barbara Ross, who died in 2016.

Jim is survived by his two children, James Derrington, Jr. and Lauren McCunney, his daughter-in-law Amy, his son-in-law Courtney, his sister Susan Richardson and her husband Steve, and his three grandchildren, Olivia Derrington, Arlo McCunney, and June McCunney. He took great joy in making his grandchildren laugh and he thought they were perfect. Jim is also survived by his joyful companion, Patty Shaver. Jim and Patty shared several great years together before Jim's illness and she was a constant presence at his side during his battle.

During his long, hard fight with cancer he showed courage in facing great challenges and never complained. He exhibited the integrity and honor in which he lived his whole life. In his final days, Jim was surrounded by family and friends from near and far, who will continue to honor him by living their lives to the fullest.

Services were handled by Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jim's name to the Campagna Center or the American Cancer Society.

ABC LICENSE

Rubia's LLC trading as Rubia's, 2309 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-1327. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Nicole Jones, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the Association for Clinical Oncology that their Annual Business Meetings will be held in Chicago, IL, in room S103 of the McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Drive, Chicago, IL, on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 12:00PM U.S. Central Time.

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Region's Best

FROM PAGE 11

named the Washington Post Principal of the Year," Alderton said. "But she has made history in many ways. How powerful it is to see a woman in leadership and to see a Latino woman in leadership honored in this way."

MVCS, an elementary school with grades K-5, is the only fully dual-language school in the ACPS system. More than half of the roughly 860 students are Hispanic with many English language learners from Central America. Since 2017, the English-Spanish dual language immersion school requires that students take half their classes in Spanish and half in English.

Burrell-Aldana, 48, started at MVCS in 2014 as an assistant principal and oversaw the school's development into a dual-language school.

Born in Colombia, Burrell-Aldana was inspired by her parents to become a teacher. She taught in Colombia before earning a scholarship to study for her master's degree at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vt.

Upon finishing her studies, she moved to Virginia, teaching first at a private school in Vienna and moving to a public school after she became a U.S. citizen. She recently completed her doctorate at Virginia Tech.

"Dr. Burrell-Aldana has more than 25 years of experience as an educator," said Alderton. "Today, 25 years is a big deal. The profession is really hard and people are struggling to hang on. We are grateful to have Dr. Burrell-Aldana with us."

Nathan Hershberger, a teacher at George Mason Elementary School, was recognized as a finalist for the Washington Post 2023 Teacher of the Year.

"There are so many amazing teachers in



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Nathan Hershberger, left, a teacher at George Mason Elementary School, was recognized May 4 as a finalist for the Washington Post 2023 Teacher of the Year by acting ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt.

this city so for me to get this recognition is really an honor," Hershberger said. "I am still in shock but thankful to ACPS for giving me the opportunity to be the teacher I know I can be."

Police: Pedestrian on King Street Killed by Drunk Driver

The Arlington County Police Department arrested a driver in a fatal pedestrian crash that occurred on the evening of May 22, 2023. A 38-year-old man, of Columbia, Md. has been charged with DUI/Involuntary Manslaughter. He is being held without bond in the Arlington County Detention Facility.

At approximately 10:04 p.m., police were dispatched to the 4800 block of King Street for the report of a crash with injuries involving a pedestrian. The pedestrian was transported to an area hospital and pronounced deceased. She has been identified as Susan Hamlin, 71, of Aptos, Cali.

The preliminary investigation indicates the driver of the striking vehicle was traveling eastbound on King Street when he struck the pedestrian as she was crossing the roadway. As a result of the on-scene investigation, the driver was taken into custody on suspicion of driving impaired.

This remains an active investigation and anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact Detective L. Bello at lbello@arlingtonva.us or 703-228-4166. Information may also be reported anonymously through the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

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CENTRE VIEW

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

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

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

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

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Winging It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Without my wingman, my recently deceased brother, Richard, I have no doubt that living forward, there will be many occasions when I would have loved to consult the manual; that manual being my older, wiser, more experienced, and reliable brother. If ever there was an ideal resource to have at the ready, I nominate – in arrears, my brother, Richard. Losing his counsel, compassion and understanding of most things KBL (me) seems almost like a physical loss/handicap because the emotional loss is so massive (to quote the Brits), it feels physical, if that makes any sense?

And unfortunately, losing a foundational piece of your emotional architecture is not easily replaced. Let me be more specific: it's impossible, never to be replaced, always a void, and I feel diminished somehow and less interesting by his death. Though we weren't exactly joined at the hip, we were entangled nonetheless with all manner of likes, dislikes, preferences, motivations, and most of all: familial responsibilities; to one another, our deceased parents (every day one of us visited them for a few hours when they lived in Leisure World), our wives and miscellaneous other extended family (neither one of us had any children).

As close as Richard and I were, that bond was solidified even more during our parent's brief stay in Maryland. When our parents first arrived in Maryland, my mother was unexpectedly in a wheelchair, unable to walk at all. It wasn't physical, but emotional, she didn't have the physical strength. Something happened when she boarded the plane for Washington, D.C. from Florida. After months of pills (to treat her presumptive depression), we took a more aggressive route: E.C.T., electroconvulsive therapy. After only four treatments, my mother regained her form and once again, became the mother she had always been: loving, nurturing and focused on her family.

A few months after my mother's recovery, my father suffered the first of his two strokes. Though he wasn't totally incapacitated, speaking, as often happens, became challenging for him. Given these two conditions, Richard, and I both felt our place, as often as possible was with our parents. We had encouraged their move from Florida with this exact scenario in mind: what if something happened to them? How could we manage their care long distance? We couldn't so they agreed to move north. And without any hesitation, Richard and I happily welcomed their arrival and remained committed to our parents for the rest of their lives.

As a result of this arrangement/commitment, Richard and I spoke at least once a day for a parental update. And as you can imagine, life got way more complicated after my father had his first stroke. Though my mother was back to her old self (affectionately referred to), she had her own challenges: she had suffered hearing loss due to nerve damage years earlier and it had taken a toll. She (I can still hear my father admonishing me: "Don't call your mother 'she'") really couldn't take care of my father any longer so we ended up hiring a live-in caregiver, Maria, who was, as we were fond and sincere in saying, "an angel of mercy." She couldn't have been more kind, loving and dedicated to my parents. She treated them with respect and dignity and enhanced their lives; especially as their health failed. Still, Richard and I didn't convince our parents to move to Maryland to leave them alone with a caregiver, no matter how wonderful she was, so we alternated our days (evenings actually) and did a split-shift on Sundays (Maria's day off) for the rest of our parent's lives to assure them that there would always be family in the house.

When my brother went into septic shock in mid-July, Vanessa (his wife) and I organized a similar daily schedule to what Richard, and I had committed to for our parents. And after six weeks of his being in a coma of sorts, and on a ventilator, a dialysis machine – and so much more, he finally woke up. A month or so later he was transferred to a rehabilitation hospital and a few weeks after that he was discharged. I met Vanessa and Richard at home to help her transport him into their home. He could barely walk. Given his initial prognosis (not good), it was a miracle that he was home. Vanessa didn't need me to come over every day, but I certainly called Richard once a day, at least. And so it remained that way for the next two months or so until he died at age 73. I lost so much more than a brother, I lost part of my universe, too.

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

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